

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

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IDAHOBIT Day



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YCH mural opening



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Yea students walk to school day



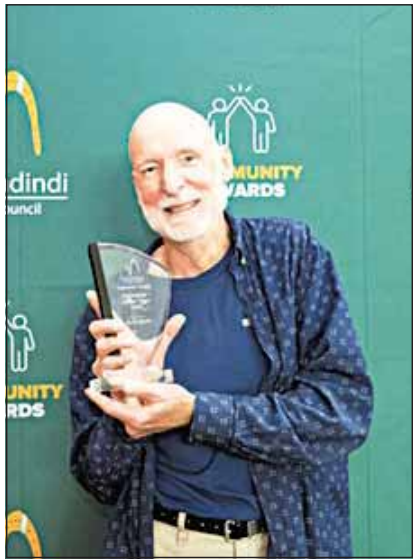
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Weekend sport



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Community Award winners



Volunteer of the Year Ron Litjens. -S



Senior Volunteer of the Year Margaret O'Connell. -S



Young Volunteer of the Year Layla Calder. -S



Community Group of the Year, UGFM Radio Murrindindi Inc. More information on page 13. -S

Emergency Services Volunteer Fund levy to go ahead

THE Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) legislation was passed in Victorian Parliament last Friday in a late sitting of parliament after gaining the crossbench support of the Greens, the Legalise Cannabis Party and the Animal Justice Party.

The legislation was heavily opposed, with emergency services and volunteers gathering in protest on the steps outside parliament.

The legislation will come into effect from July 1, in the form of a rates increase for all Victorians. It replaces the outgoing Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL).

Under the new legislation, the variable rate for residential primary place of residence is 17.3 cents per \$1000 of capital improved value (CIV). This is up from 8.7 cents per \$1000 CIV under the FSPL.

Primary producers will have to pay 71.8 cents per \$1000 CIV, up from 28.7 cents per \$1000 CIV under the previous levy.

With questions around where the money will be going, and how much of the funds will actually make their way back to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), the state government has made guarantees.

A Victorian Government press release reads "After consultation with councils, emergency services and the Victorian Farmers Federation the Labor Government will also: Reduce the variable rate for Primary Production Land from 83c/\$1,000 Capital Improved Value (CIV) to 71.8c/\$1,000 CIV, reducing the liability payable by farmers; guarantee in legislation that 95 per cent of VICSES and CFA funding will come from ESVF and 90 per cent of Fire Rescue Victoria's (FRV) annual funding will come from the levy.

"Legislate to make it clear that every single dollar collected from the levy must be spent on emergency services; boost transparency by reporting annually how much money has been collected by the ESVF and how that money will be spent; commit to working on an implementation package for local councils, including funding for the Municipal Association of Victoria; provide partial rebates of the ESVF for farmers eligible for the infrastructure grants program in the government's drought support package."

The press release also provides details around volunteer rebates.

"Because our emergency services volunteers give our state so much, eligible CFA and VICSES volunteers and life members will be able to access a rebate, administered by the Department of Government Services," the press release reads.

"Eligible volunteers include all active VICSES and CFA Operational and Support Volunteers. To be eligible for the rebate, volunteers will need to have served for at least 12 months, have passed probation, and not be suspended on disciplinary grounds or have taken a leave of absence for the duration of the preceding 12 months."

With the help of this new levy, the Victorian Government has pledged to invest money into a rolling fleet replacement program.

"Through the ESVF, the Labor Government will invest \$110 million to deliver a rolling fleet replacement program for VICSES and the CFA, and now Fire Rescue Victoria," the press release reads.

Included in the first round of new Next Generation Medium Rescue Trucks for

VICSES are the townships of Alexandra and Kinglake.

Opposition to this new levy has been well documented. "Instead of hitting our farmers with higher bills through the Emergency Services Tax, the Allan Labor Government must provide them with support," Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) State Councillor Paul Denham voiced the concerns of emergency services.

"The new levy will collect an extra \$610.9 million in 2025-26 financial year, jumping to an extra \$765 million from 2026-27," Paul said.

"Of that, only \$50 million in new spending has been included in the budget. That equals eight per cent of the extra money in year one, and just 6.5 per cent in year two. In other words, in the first year of the new tax, only eight cents from every extra dollar raised is going to volunteer emergency services, dropping to just seven cents in the future.

"There has been no other uplift to CFA budget, which has gone down every year for the past five years. In other words, taxes are going up, but CFA's budget has been going down. Ninety-five per cent of CFA's 2024-25 budget is \$320 million, 95 per cent of SES's budget is \$71 million.

"Therefore, after factoring in the extra \$50 million, CFA and SES expenditure will represent just 27 per cent of the total revenue collected by the new levy in year one, and just 25 per cent of the total from year two onwards. In other words volunteer agencies will represent only one quarter of the levy being collected, so don't say it's for volunteers."

Mayor comments on ESVF and support for farmers

by Mayor Damien Gallagher

MURRINDINDI Shire Council remains deeply concerned about the introduction of the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) and the impact this new levy will have on rural communities, particularly our farmers who are already under significant financial pressure.

While we acknowledge that recent changes to the levy, including a reduction in the rate for Primary Production Land and rebates for eligible CFA and SES volunteers, reflect the outcome of strong advocacy by Murrindindi and other rural councils, these measures do not go far enough.

This additional tax compounds the burden on farmers who are already contending with rising costs, dry conditions, and limited feed availability. For those not eligible for infrastructure grants or volunteer rebates, there is little relief. The timing of this levy could not be more difficult.

Council has consistently raised concerns about the design and fairness of the levy. While all communities rely on emergency services, the current funding model places a disproportionate burden on rural communities, particularly small to medium primary producers with multiple land titles. The exemption for emergency service volunteers on their primary place of residence offers limited relief and does little to address the broader impact on farming families.

We acknowledge the importance of properly resourced emergency services and the extraordinary efforts of our local volunteers. But this must not come at the expense of the viability of farming and rural life.

Council will continue to advocate for a fairer and more sustainable approach, one that supports both our emergency services and our communities to thrive.

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

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Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject
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Approved - PP 10000292

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Letters to the Editor

Volunteers dinner

ON behalf of U3A Murrindindi, I would like to express my thanks to Murrindindi Shire Council. I attended the presentation dinner for volunteers in Yea on Friday evening, May 16, and was struck by the manner in which the mayor and councillors were present at the event.

They were at the door to welcome each guest by name. They were the ones who picked up the plates and took them to the kitchen. They were the ones who walked around with desserts, and the ones who visited each table to ensure that people were enjoying the evening.

The mayor and councillors witnessed their role of service to the community. They were there to serve rather than be served. It is heartening to see leadership that is aware and so engaged with the community in which they work.

My congratulations to the many people nominated in each volunteer category and to those who received an award. The generosity of volunteers is admirable.

Deirdre Penhale, Alexandra

Wind farms

THERE has not been any news on the FERA wind farm proposal for many months, but today the state government, through VicGrid, have released the draft 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, and the Strathbogie Ranges are not included in the draft Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

This is good news and we thank everyone who made a submission to the VicGrid consultation.

While the absence of an REZ does not prevent a developer from making a proposal in this area, it does add conditions that make it much harder to proceed.

Our team will work to find out more on the limitations that FERA may face with their proposal and keep you updated on any new developments.

You can access all of the documents related to the Victorian Transmission Plan directly

from the VicGrid web site, engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

Darryl Otzen, secretary,
Strathbogies Responsible Renewables
Community Group

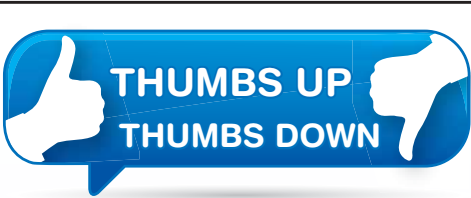
Jumping the Gun

AS evidenced by many letters to this paper it has been a rude shock for many rural residents to now being forced to into kerbside waste collection at significant additional cost. Council state the change is forced on them due to new state government policy. They also claim a community consultation process has justified it. The first reason is actually wrong. Council appears to have acted on ambiguous wording in draft service standards and regulations associated with the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. These have not yet been finally issued. Hence there is no current legal requirement to make this change. Based on my recent correspondence with the responsible state government department it is highly likely the final issue will not force councils to impose mandatory collection services.

Clearly the community consultation process on the issue of compulsory waste collection with rural residents has been inadequate. Virtually everyone without kerbside collection found the delivery of the new bins a surprise. If a consultation process was run how many rural residents out of the total affected were actually involved? And why should views of those unaffected by this change have any weight in this process?

I suggest council suspend the changes to compulsory kerbside collection until the actual requirements are known. If there is no requirement for mandatory collection I see no reason to do this as a blanket change. Compulsory kerbside collection for rural residents should only be made with proper justification and overwhelming demand on a route by route basis. This process should be the same as say that of upgrading a common access road at cost to affected residents.

Murray Ross, Acheron



THUMBS DOWN: To Reddrops supermarket in Yea for cutting down three beautiful trees at FoodWorks in Yea. They create cool and shade in the summer.

THUMBS DOWN: To the local shire council who agreed to the chopping down of the trees outside FoodWorks Yea. Absolutely unacceptable.

THUMBS DOWN: To Molesworth Recreation Reserve Committee of Management for not advertising their upcoming elections within the correct time frame to allow fair process to all local communities as well as users of the park.

THUMBS UP: To the gents at Yenckens. They are always so helpful, giving advice on tools and how to finish my projects.

THUMBS UP: Congratulations Koa. What a fantastic effort collecting a silver and bronze medal at the Victorian State Swimming Championships in Melbourne recently. So proud of you.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

The Yea Chronicle

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Weekly Weather

May 21 - May 27, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

	DAY	LOW	HIGH		DAY	LOW	HIGH	
	Wednesday	4	16		Wednesday	3	17	
	Thursday	5	17		Thursday	4	17	
	Friday	9	19		Friday	9	19	
	Saturday	9	16		Saturday	8	16	
	Sunday	8	15		Sunday	8	16	
	Monday	7	14		Monday	7	14	
	Tuesday	6	13		Tuesday	7	13	

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.25	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.21am Mon	0.45	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	7.44am Mon	0.10	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.21am Mon	0.41	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	8.20am Mon	0.17	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.32	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	10.00am Mon	0.39	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.78	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	-0.08	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.09	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	7.09am Mon	0.79	steady	
**ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025				

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra.....	0.1mm
Buxton.....	1mm
Eildon (AWS).....	0.4mm
Flowerdale.....	0.6mm
Jamieson.....	N/Amm
Kinglake.....	14mm
Lake Eildon.....	3mm
Mansfield.....	N/Amm
Taggerty	0.2mm
Yarck	0.2mm
Yea.....	0.4mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	277m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	59.3%
Metres below full supply.....	11.9m
Daily inflow	200ML
Release.....	1100ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	55%

The Yea Chronicle

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
Thumbs up/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

Yea and Taggerty receive Energy Resilience Community funds

TWENTY-EIGHT councils and community groups across Victoria will receive close to \$1 million from the second round of *AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund*.

Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie, said the Energy Resilience Community Fund, which provides Energy Resilience and Education and Literacy Grants, supports projects that will help build long-term community energy resilience and provide support to communities during severe weather events.

"We know how important energy is to our communities' and customers' lives. When severe weather or other emergencies happen, this becomes even more important," said Mr Linnie.

"We are actively investing in our network to improve reliability and resilience. Through these grants, we're pleased to contribute further to help build community energy resilience and assist people to stay connected and safe during prolonged outages and emergencies," he said.

AusNet established the \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund following the storms in February last year, to support projects across AusNet's electricity distribution network in eastern and north-eastern Victoria, and Melbourne's north and east.

The round two recipients include the Taggerty Community Progress Group who received \$49,800 for a Solar Hybrid Microgrid at the Community Hub which will act as an emergency hub for community members. The microgrid will give community members access to refrigerators for medication and food storage, electricity for individual medical appliances and mobile device charging. Yea Community House also received \$49,300 to purchase a self-contained commercial food trailer, to enable preparation, cooking and the transport of meals during emergency events.

Grants for the next round open on Monday, May 26. For further information go to ausnet.com.au/ercf



Peter Weeks congratulating Trevor Evans (centre) with VICSES Goulburn Broken Unit Support Team Operations Manager Chris Brockwell. -S

Trevor Evans appointed new controller of Alexandra SES

THE Alexandra State Emergency Service (SES) Unit has officially welcomed Trevor Evans as its new Unit Controller, taking over from long-standing leader Peter Weeks.

Trevor brings with him over 12 years of SES experience and more than two decades of service with the CFA, where he served as both a strike team leader and crew leader.

His SES operational experience includes responding to numerous road crash rescues, requests for storm assistance and both the 2019 and 2022 flooding events.

Originally from Balmoral SES in the Western District, Trevor joined Alexandra SES in 2016 and became Deputy Controller in November 2024.

He now steps into the top role following Peter Weeks, who held the position for an impressive 11 years.

Peter, one of Victoria's SES most dedicated volunteers, has been a member of the Alexandra Unit since its early days as the Civil Defence Service more than 50 years ago.

He was recently awarded the prestigious Emergency Services Medal in recognition of his service.

"I'm incredibly humbled to be handing over the reins to Trevor," Peter said.

"He's got the experience, the humour, and the heart to lead the team, I know the unit will continue to thrive in his hands."

Trevor, who is a chef by trade and also works in maintenance, is also a proud father of three. His son recently joined as a CFA volunteer and his daughter is in the Army Cadets.

"A lot of what we do comes down to teamwork and community," Trevor said.

"There's serious work involved, but there's always room for a laugh, and that's what keeps us going."

The Alexandra SES Unit is looking forward to this new chapter under Trevor's leadership, while celebrating the incredible legacy of Peter's service.

Peter now holds one of the deputy controller positions, alongside Judith Blakeney and Shannon Mitrow.

A remarkable fossil found

THE Yea area is famed for its baragwanathia fossils, fossils of the earliest vascular land plant found in the world, dated to around 415 million years ago. The site is recognised as being of international significance.

Mansfield Shire is now getting in on the action, with local fossil hunters finding evidence of amniotes, dating to 354 million to 358 million years ago. The fossil footprints show that the lizard-like amniotes evolved at least 40 million years earlier than first thought, in the early carboniferous period. At the time, swamps were full of amphibious animals including sharks, and bony fish started appearing.

Amniotes are the ancestors of birds, reptiles and mammals. It raises the possibility that amniotes emerged in Gondwana rather than in the northern hemisphere. The land mass of Gondwana included South America, Africa, Antarctica, Australia, Zealandia, Arabia, and the Indian subcontinent.

For a time, amniotes were the dominant land vertebrates, quickly diverging into two groups, sauropsids (including all reptiles and birds) and synapsids (monotremes, marsupials and placental mammals including humans).

The fossil footprints were found on the banks of the Broken River (known as Berrepit, in the local Taungurung language) by Craig Eury and John Eason, both of Jamieson. They emailed a photo of it to Flinders University palaeontologist Professor John Long, who conducted significant research and recently published an article in the journal, *Nature*.

The hunt is now on to find the bones of an amniote.

CFA protest at Spring Street

BY the time this newspaper goes to print, local CFA brigades will have taken part in the rally against the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) at Parliament House. There will be extensive coverage of this in the next edition.

In the lead-up, members from three brigades indicated their plan to attend, including Terip Terip, Yarck and Acheron, however there are also likely to be attendees from other brigades.

A Facebook post from Yarck CFA states, "now is the final chance to have this levy reversed, and it is going to take every single one of us volunteer or not. Numbers are the Key. Even if you're optimistic, back your mate like we do on the fire ground support each other and make the trip. We give up so much time during the fire season, let's find one more day on Tuesday and make a stand

together, side by side shoulder to shoulder and get this disgracefully fire service levy reversed not only for ourselves but for all Victorians. It's a multi agency protest so let's fill the streets with red and yellow alongside the people that give so much to this state but get so little in return. It's one day everyone, it's a big ask considering the challenges we all currently face but enough is enough and we have to do something big."

Acheron CFA announced, "Acheron CFA members have decided to attend the protest rally on Tuesday against the Emergency Services and Volunteer Levy in support of farmers and our fellow CFA members. As such, Acheron Fire Brigade will be taken offline. I want to assure the community that arrangements have been put in place to ensure sufficient coverage of our patch. Extra resources will be responded if required. With

that said, the majority of CFA members across Victoria are farmers and without them, CFA will be a toothless tiger, if CFA survives. This is dire for the farmers and dire for the future of CFA. My brigade decided that we need, must, and want to stand shoulder to shoulder and say we are here for you, to our farmers and fellow CFA members, just like they were all here for us when we needed them on Black Saturday."

Buxton CFA posed a series of questions to government and stated, "Should any members of our brigade choose to participate in protest actions, in support of farmers or others, the brigade will endeavour to maintain our response capability, bearing in mind that, as a volunteer brigade, any response to emergencies is subject to the availability of our members who also have lives to live."



ALL HOURS

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- Eildon • Marysville and districts

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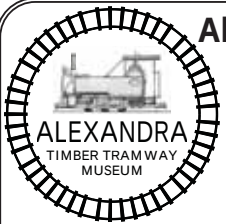
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and Steam Train Rides

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10am to 3.30pm

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All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
[/alexandramuseum](https://www.facebook.com/alexandramuseum)
or by contacting ☎ **0427 509 988**

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Cindy McLEISH MP

STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON



 **CindyMcLeish.com.au**

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





Murrindindi Shire Council and guests celebrated IDAHOBIT Day with a flag raising and morning tea on Saturday, May 17. IDAHOBIT is the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersex Discrimination and Transphobia. The event was an opportunity to show our support for the LGBTQIA+ members of our community. LGBTQIA+ people in Australia still experience disproportionate rates of bullying, harassment and discrimination. As part of our shared community vision, we strive to create an inclusive community, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all. -S

COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital
5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands

UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale/Hazeldene

UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099

1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057

2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

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.

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*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Yarck Rural Fire Brigade AGM will be held at 6.30pm at the Yarck Hall. All welcome.

MONDAY, MAY 26

Yea Water Tigers AGM will be held at 6pm at the Yea Community House. General meeting will follow at 6.30pm. enquiries to secretary at yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com or phone 0459 248 488, new members welcome.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Molesworth Caravan Park will hold a public meeting at the community hall at 7pm for the purpose of nominating a Committee of Management for the next three years. For further information, nomination forms and declaration forms can be obtained from Helen Willard on 0435 320 317 or via email secretary@molesworthreserve.com.au

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Friends of the Library Alexandra and District Inc AGM will be held at 6pm at the Alexandra Library. Nomination forms for committee positions are available from the library or from the secretary proctor@virtual.net.au. For more information contact 0423 043 564.

ESVF questions

THE Victorian Government was asked a series of questions regarding the Emergency Services Volunteer Levy. Unfortunately, answers were not provided before our newspaper went to print but will be included in an upcoming edition. The questions are listed below.

What is an active CFA or SES member? How is it defined?

What is a CFA or SES life member? How is it defined? My understanding is that this varies from brigade to brigade.

Who determines the eligibility for the rebate?

Where is the administrative burden for processing the rebate placed? On the individual, brigade, CFA/SES district office or head office?

Given that only seven cents in the dollar raised through the ESVF is going to the volunteer services, why is the word 'volunteer' included in the name of the levy?

Given that various organisations to be funded through the new levy were previously funded via consolidated revenue (including Triple Zero Victoria, the State Control Centre, Emergency Management Victoria, Emergency Recovery Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria and Fire Rescue Victoria), and given that Victoria has received a windfall increase in its share of GST revenue this year (up \$3.7 billion), will tax-payers be paying a reduced amount of tax (as this is now being paid for through the levy)? Or is this a double-dip on tax payers?

How will the ESVF solve the issue of the 700 plus single cab tankers in the CFA, where volunteers are exposed to the conditions (including mid-winter snow, rain, and extreme heat) and have limited safety should there be a rollover or a burn over? How many of these will be replaced in the next year? (Noting that a new heavy tanker costs around \$460,000).

Will any low quality CFA stations be replaced through the levy?

Given that there is a rebate reduction for people in drought declared areas, will people who also volunteer with the CFA or SES be able to apply for the rebate twice? How will this be handled?

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.

Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala
0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

Sunday Service time 11am

Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday, 10am to 11am - all welcome

Father Mario Hendricks
Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew
0459 402 547

St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm

Immaculate Conception Parish
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am

Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest
Ph 9717 6482

St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea

Sunday Service 10.30am

Colin Whiteway
Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road, Kinglake West. 9716 2330

Council responds to bin concerns

by Murrindindi Shire Council

THANK you for the opportunity to provide clarification in response to the recent Letter to the Editor, 'New Bins'. We understand that changes to waste services can prompt questions, especially in rural areas where different systems have worked well in the past. Council is committed to supporting our community through this transition with clear and accurate information.

Why the service is changing

The updated kerbside service aligns with the Victorian Government's *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. While the new statewide standards are not mandatory until 2027, councils are already expected to provide separate streams for general rubbish, recycling, glass, and food and garden organics (FOGO) where it is reasonably practicable.

Murrindindi Shire Council has taken a proactive approach by aligning its new service contract (beginning June 30) with these upcoming requirements. This helps reduce future transition costs and ensures value for ratepayers by securing more favourable processing rates particularly as recycling and organic waste are significantly cheaper to process than landfill.

Who is required to receive the service

From June 30, any properties with a dwelling located along an established collection route will be required to receive a kerbside collection service. This is not a local decision, it is a requirement under state legislation. Where kerbside collection is not reasonably practicable, such as in more remote or inaccessible locations,

alternative options like our Resource Recovery Centres will remain available.

About exemptions

While Section 23 of the *Circular Economy Act* does allow for limited exemptions, these are only granted in very specific circumstances, such as where a property is not within the compulsory collection zone. This provision is not intended for individuals to opt out of receiving council services they do not wish to use.

Council has already included these exempt groups (as they exist) in council's policy. Council has excluded properties and individuals that we cannot viably reach with a kerbside service, and there are exemptions or alternate arrangements for multi-dwelling properties. For more information visit council's kerbside collection service policy page.

We're here to help

We know that changes like this effect people differently. Detailed information about both the current waste services and the upcoming four-bin model is available on council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Our-four-bin-kerbside-service

Council's approach has been guided by state legislation, expert advice from Recycling Victoria, and feedback from the community. Council remain focused on delivering a kerbside collection service that is environmentally responsible, cost-effective, and designed to meet the future needs of the shire.

We appreciate the opportunity to clarify this and thank the community for their ongoing engagement.

Red Cross offering a new service in the shire

NATHAN Brown, Red Cross Manager Community and Business Operations (Victoria and Tasmania) spoke about their operations in Murrindindi Shire.

Unfortunately, the Red Cross vehicle was taken from Murrindindi Shire due to financial considerations. Nathan said, "That was a really hard decision for us because that was, from the Red Cross perspective, our only real service within the wider community, but

the thinking was that it could be serviced by other areas, on trips through to Melbourne or vice versa."

He added that there's a focus on regaining funding for the service. "We'd love to get that program back up and running," Nathan said, and they are actively advocating in that area.

He added, "While transport is gone, we do have the opportunity now of the Visiting Volunteer program in the aged care space as

well. What we've been able to do is to transfer those volunteers who were patient transport drivers into becoming visiting volunteers, providing that social and emotional support to people, particularly for those sitting in My Aged Care package program, the Commonwealth Home Support Package."

They currently have six volunteers ready to go within Alexandra and are looking to place them with clients.

They're looking for people who just need a bit of social contact, who want to sit down and have a cup of tea with somebody and have a chat.

All of the costs for the volunteers are covered, including petrol and public liability. They try to match volunteers with people who live nearby. They're looking to expand the program across the shire, and would be more than willing to take on volunteers in Yea or beyond and to match them with people locally.

Nathan said, "You really do strike up some beautiful relationships and friendships."

They are looking for a broad array of volunteers, both male and female, as they have a diverse client base. They are particularly keen to find people who can commit to three to 12 months or more.

If people would like to receive visits and they live in an aged care home, they can talk to the staff. The staff can then contact redcross.org.au/visitor

It can also be arranged via a case manager for their Home Package. It's all free of charge.

The Red Cross are also looking to expand their emergency services capabilities in Murrindindi. He said, "It's the one area within Victoria that we don't actually have a dedicated emergency services team. They're doing a bulk recruitment campaign in May, during the National Volunteer Week. There are half a dozen opportunities to attend an information session online and learn more and then apply to become an emergency services volunteers.

"As Red Cross volunteers we attend relief centres, in the case of an emergency, and provide psychosocial first aid and post emergency support, doing checks and those sorts of things afterwards."

To find out more about Red Cross, visit redcross.org.au or to volunteer, email volunteer@redcross.org.au, or phone 1800 733 276.

Opposition to fisheries cuts

THE Victorian Opposition has tabled a petition in Parliament, signed by more than 21,000 Victorians, demanding that the Victorian Government "scrap its planned gutting of fisheries compliance and enforcement."

The government is planning to reduce the number of fisheries officer positions.

Locally, this could impact the Northern Region, including Snobs Creek where fisheries oversee Lake Eildon. Statewide, 35 roles will be cut, reducing overall staffing from 192 to 157.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish MP said, "Recreational fishing and boating are enjoyed regularly at Lake Eildon, the

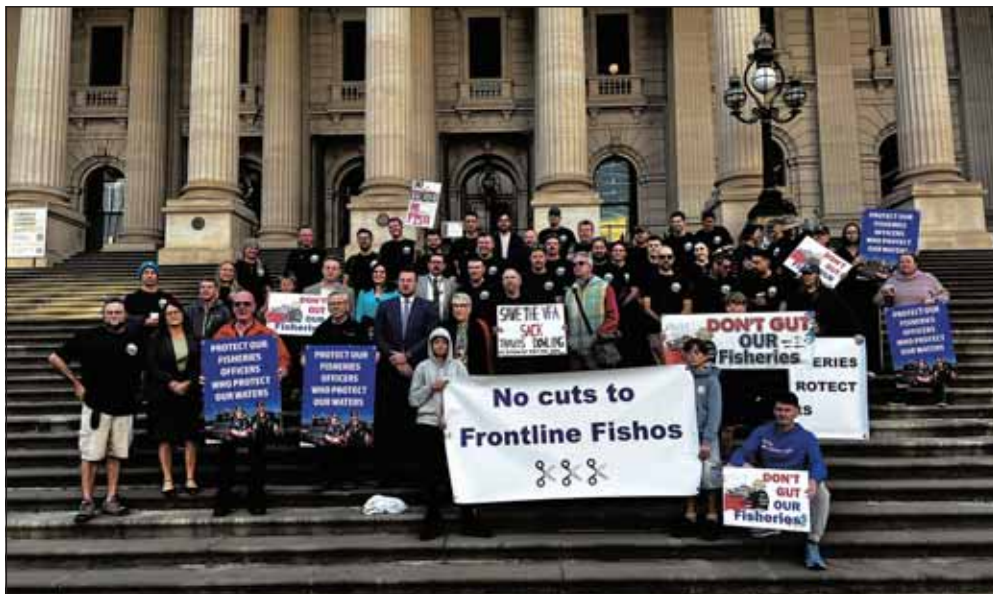
Goulburn Valley River and surrounds. The majority of recreational anglers comply with regulations which is largely due to the presence of officers who enforce and educate.

"Instead of protecting Victoria's precious marine environments, Labor is rebranding fisheries officers as 'engagement officers' in an attempt to conceal cost-cutting measures.

"Without inspections and oversight, it opens the gates for illegal fishing and environmental damage. It is a slap in the face to responsible anglers who do the right thing."

More than 50 fisheries officers and industry stakeholders gathered on the steps of Parliament House to protest the decision to reduce funding and staffing in an already under-resourced and overburdened sector.

There are expected to be 35 jobs cut statewide, dropping staffing from 192 to 157. Current vacancies in key regions won't be filled. All fisheries officers will be reclassified as 'fisheries engagement officers'. There are currently just over 50 active officers, down from 72, 20 years ago. The Central region accounts for over 50 per cent of enforcement activity in Victoria.



The protest on the steps of Parliament House. -S

Remembering those lost to family and domestic violence

THOSE who lost their lives to family and domestic violence are being remembered during May's Domestic Violence Prevention Month with services and rallies held across the state.

On May 7, National Family Violence Remembrance Day, the annual 2025 Safe Steps Candlelight Vigil was held. The vigil acknowledges victim-survivors of family and domestic violence and provides a platform for survivors to share their stories and remember those lost.

State Liberal Leader, Brad Battin, and Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Cindy McLeish, attended the vigil with fellow colleagues, David Southwick and Renee Heath, alongside survivors to pay their respects and reflect.

Crime Statistics Victoria reported 98,816 family violence incidents were made to police in 2023-24, increasing from 93,111 cases in 2022-23.

Troublingly, 62.4 per cent of youth victims is the child of a perpetrator, with the average age of the youth victim being 12 years old.

In Murrindindi Shire 187 family violence incidents were reported in 2023-24. Sixty-three clients received homelessness services, while 10 were emergency department patients as a result of family violence.

It was also reported that 16,571 victims of domestic violence were women aged between 25 and 39, and 15,717 women aged between 40 and 64.

Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Cindy McLeish, said, "Women are being killed in horrific circumstances. As a community, we need to strive to do better. Despite investment from the state government, things aren't turning around.

"Families fleeing domestic violence too often have nowhere safe to go due to the lack of emergency accommodation available. Young people are trying to escape a rough homelife with limited resources to turn to because many services are exhausted.

"We honour the memory of those we lost as a result of domestic or family violence," Ms McLeish said.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON OUR DRAFT ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN



In accordance with section 54 of the Road Management Act 2004 and part 3 of the Road Management (General) Regulations 2016, Murrindindi Shire Council will be conducting a review of its Road Management Plan which applies to all municipal roads within the Shire.

The purpose of the review is to ensure the standards and priorities related to the inspection, maintenance, and repair of Council managed roads remain appropriate, considering Council's operational budgets, community expectations, and service delivery priorities.

For more information, to make a submission, and to read the current Road Management Plan 2021 and draft Road Management Plan 2025, you can:

- visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/rmp
- email to assets@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
- addressed post to Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra VIC 3714 Australia
- visit one of Council's Library and Customer Service Centres

Submissions must be received by 5.00 pm on Thursday 12 June 2025.

Renewable Energy Zones

THE Victorian Government has released draft plans and maps for the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). The plan identifies seven regions as being suitable for wind, solar farm and battery storage development over the next 15 years.

There are areas titled Central Highlands and Central North among the seven regions identified, covering seven per cent of Victoria, however these are unrelated to Murrindindi Shire. The Central Highlands area is to the west of Ballarat and the North Central area is between Bendigo and Shepparton.

There may however be an upgrade to the transmission line running from Eildon to Bright, to be known as the Eastern Victoria Reinforcement Program.

To provide feedback on the Developing the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, visit engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District **Community Bank®** Branch

YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners Esme, Clara, Oscar, Hendrix, Sophie, Axl, Brooklyn, Kalese, Axel, Matthew, Cillian and Ella. All students have been showing resilience with their learning, beautiful manners and being responsible. Well done to you all.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by **Bendigo Bank**

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Isla, Ava, Toby, Oreti, Quinn, Ivy and Ainslie on receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by **Bendigo Bank**

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Artist Mark Klein cut the ceremonial ribbon to officially open the book mural. -BD

Cr Sue Carpenter speaking about why she chose her book to be on the wall. -BD

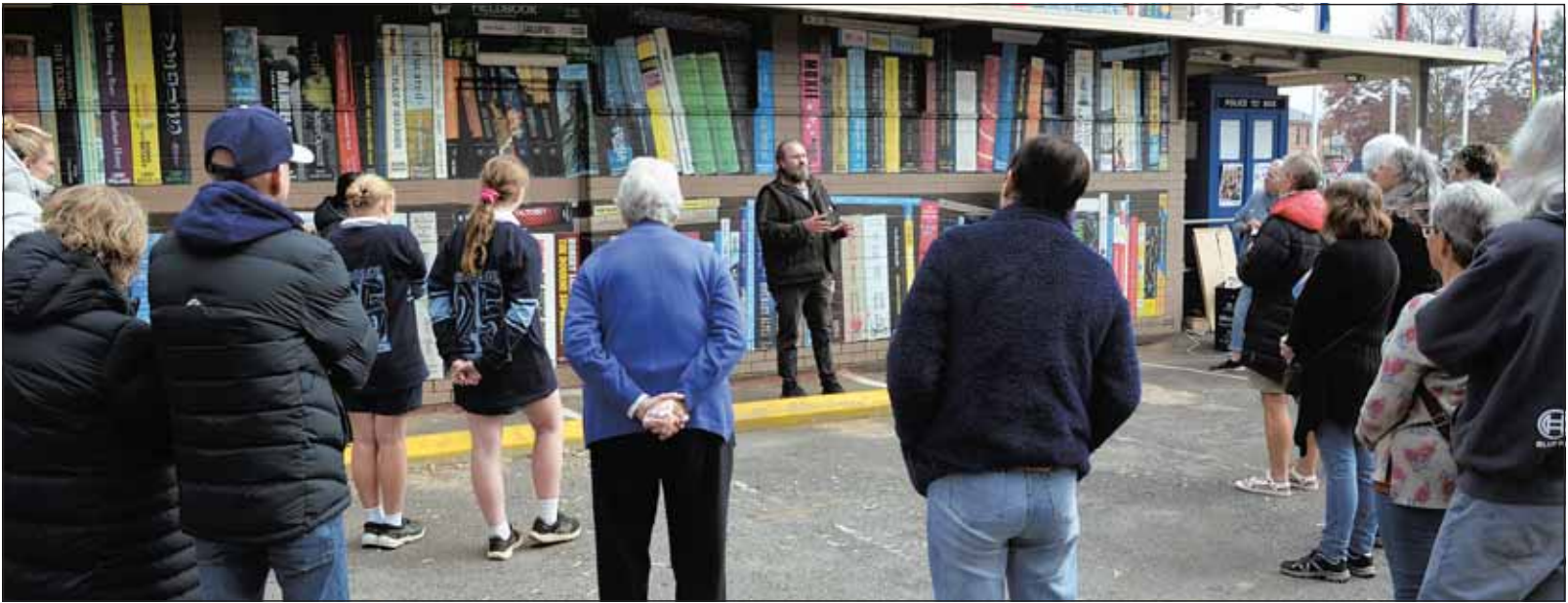
Yea Community House book mural opened

THE Yea Community House wall mural of books selected by the community was officially opened last Friday by the team from Yea Community House and artist Mark Klein.

The ceremonial red ribbon was cut by Mark, and he talked briefly about how the mural came into existence.

The Yea Community House team presented Mark with a canvas, on which were printed photos of the mural.

A small crowd of locals attended the opening to admire the colourful art. Murrindindi Shire Councillor Sue Carpenter spoke about why she chose her book to be painted on the wall.



Natalie and Carly from the Yea Community House presenting Mark Klein with a canvas with pictures of the mural. -BD

A small crowd admiring the open mural on the wall of the Yea Community House. -BD

We just need some rain

THE most common phrase, heard right across the shire at the moment, is “We need some rain,” but what does the data say?

When reading the following data, bear in mind that the March rainfall totals are largely the result of one significant rainfall event, rather than consistent rainfall across the month.

Eildon fire tower

In January, the Eildon Fire Tower recorded 11mm, February 19.2mm, March 91.6mm and April 13.6mm. Total 135.4mm. Mean 175mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest for that month since 2013, when 0.2mm was recorded. The January mean is 46.2mm.

The February total was higher than last year, when 9mm was recorded. The January mean is 36.6mm.

Bureau of Meteorology provide forecast information

SENIOR Climatology Specialist at the Bureau of Meteorology, Dr Zhi-Weng Chua, provided the following information about recent and expected rainfall in Murrindindi Shire.

Recent rainfall

Rainfall has been below to very much below average for the last 24 months for Murrindindi and surrounds. Deficiencies are most severe over the last one to 12 month periods.

The last time a May to April (12 month) period was this dry for the Central North district was in 2018 to 2019.

May-to-date has also been very dry, and weather forecasts suggest the remainder of May is likely to observe below average rainfall. Current year-to-date rainfall has been only around 40 to 60 per cent of the expected average.

Long-range forecasts

Looking further ahead, for June to August, rainfall is likely to be within the typical range for Murrindindi and surrounds. This means that a range of outcomes are equally possible, including above, below or near-average rainfall. Long-range forecasts are updated every Thursday on bom.gov.au/climate/ahead

The March total was the highest for that month since 2012, when 112.6mm was recorded. The March mean is 42.2mm.

The April total was the lowest since 2013 when 8mm was recorded, however the data for 2023 and 2019 are missing from the dataset. The April mean is 50mm.

The mean for May is 54.9mm. By May 14, only 0.8mm had been recorded.

Yea

In January, Yea recorded 43.3mm, February 28.2mm, March 25.5mm and April 22.1mm. Total 119.1mm. Mean 171.1mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest since 2023 when 8.4mm was recorded. In 2024, January’s total was 185mm. The mean for January is 42.2mm.

The February total was the highest since 202 when 54.9mm was recorded. The February mean is 37.5mm.

The March total was higher than last year’s 11.6mm but down from 2023 when 79.5mm was recorded. The March mean is 49.8.

The April total was the lowest since 2021 when 18.7mm was recorded. The April mean is 49.8mm.

The mean for May is 56.4mm. By May 14 this year, 3.6mm had been recorded.

Marysville Post Office

In January, Marysville recorded 23.6mm, February 34.6mm, March 114.8mm and April 26.5mm. Total 209.5mm. Mean 286.2mm.

The January rainfall total was the lowest since 2013 when 15.8mm was recorded. The January mean is 64.9mm.

The February total was the highest since 2023 when 43.4mm was recorded. The February mean is 55.9.

The March total was the highest since 1989 when 131.2 was recorded. The March mean is 96.8mm.

The April total was the lowest since 2007 when 24.1mm was recorded. The April mean is 96.8mm.

The mean for May is 133.5mm. No May data was available from the Marysville post office, but the golf course recorded 5.8mm for the month by May 14.

Alexandra Post Office

In January, Alexandra recorded 12.3mm, February 14.5mm, March 94.9mm and April 11.9mm. Total 133.6mm. Mean 182.9mm.

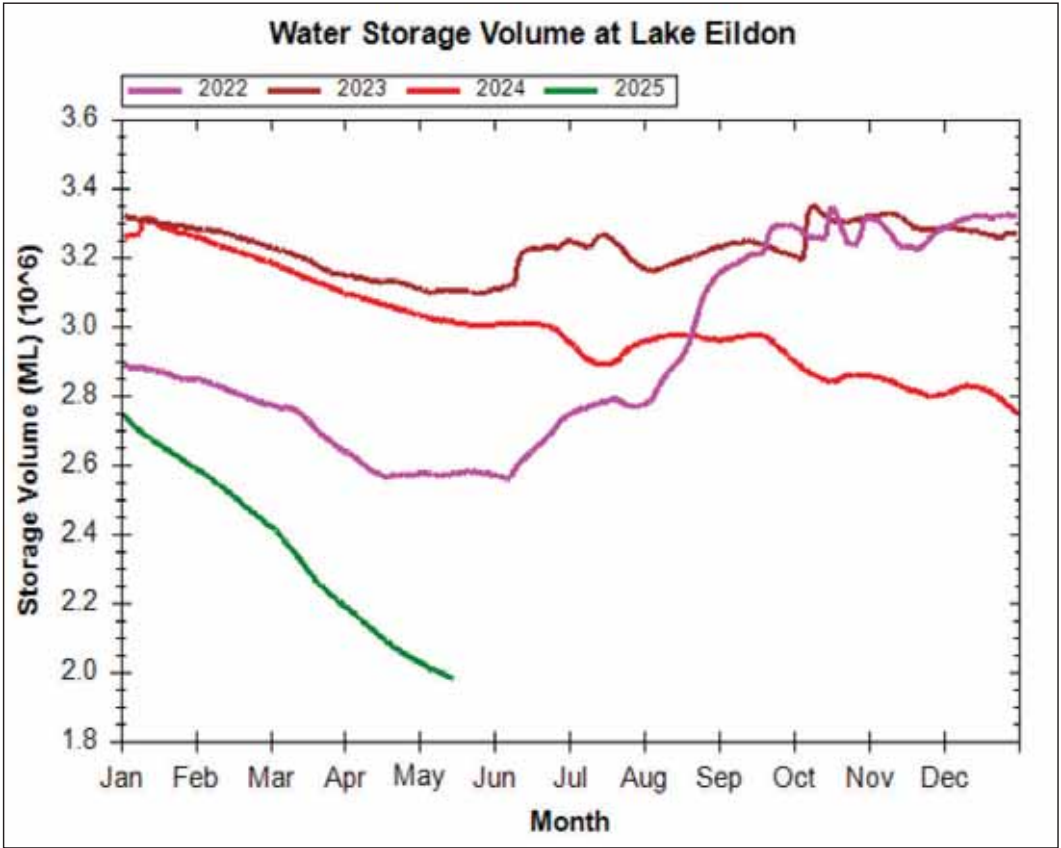
The January rainfall total was the lowest since 2013 when zero rainfall was recorded for the month (2022 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The January mean is 43.1mm.

The February total was the lowest since 2018 when 4.3mm was recorded (2022 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The February mean is 38.5mm.

The March total was the highest since 2012 when 128.4mm was recorded (2021 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The March mean is 48.5mm.

The April total was the lowest since 2019 when 7.2mm was recorded (2021 to 2024 missing from the dataset). The April mean is 52.8mm.

The May mean is 63.4mm. By May 14 this year, 0.3mm had been recorded.



A graph showing the water storage levels at Lake Eildon across the past four years. -Goulburn Murray Water

Lake Eildon storage

Lake Eildon’s storage level has dropped from 63.2 per cent full on April 14 to 59.6 per cent on May 14.

Around the Goulburn Murray Water region, the storages on May 13 were 54.01 per cent full. Storage levels are particularly low in the Bullarook Creek areas, near Clunes and Newlyn, sitting at under 20 per cent.

Consider taking shorter showers and avoid using the sprinkler on the garden. We don’t know when the rain will arrive.

Some drought resilience support announced

THE Victorian Government is providing some funding to farmers impacted by drought and dry conditions, including support to deliver on-farm infrastructure grants and increase resilience into the future.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced a further \$15.9 million to help more farmers and communities over winter, expanding support to farmers in 13 more Local Government Areas (LGA) on top of those backed as part of the \$13.5 million drought support package announced in September. Unfortunately, Murrindindi Shire is not included in the list of LGAs to be supported, but all they will get is access to a Small Business Financial Counsellor, a mental health program, access to Agriculture Victoria’s farm business technical and decision-making support, and further funding for the National Centre for Farmer Health.

The package will continue for the existing 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across south west Victoria and expand it to all West Wimmera, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians, Hepburn, Moorabool, Ballarat, Towong, Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast, Cardinia, Baw Baw, Casey, South Gippsland, and French Island.

The press release states, “This drought package will support small businesses in impacted LGAs through the appointment of a Small Business Financial Counsellor.

“Acknowledging the impacts of the dry conditions across Victoria on farmer mental health, a new program will be made available state wide to help communities come together and support farmers under stress.

“The government will extend its partnership with the National Centre for Farmer Health by investing \$900,000 through the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* to deliver ongoing services and resources to the farming community.

“Agriculture Victoria’s farm business technical and decision-making support will also be made available state wide, supporting farmers to manage the impacts of increasingly difficult seasonal conditions.”

The press release also states, “This package brings the government’s direct drought support to \$29.4 million, on top of the \$10.2 million investment through the Future Drought Fund program, and \$4.1 million for the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

“Agriculture Victoria will continue to monitor conditions in the critical period leading up to spring, ensuring support is getting to farmers who need it most.

“This follows from the Labor Government’s announcement of partial rebates on the ESVF for farmers eligible for the infrastructure grants program in the government’s drought support package.”

For further information on the range of financial, technical and wellbeing support available to drought impacted farmers, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or phone 136 186.

Drought support urgently needed in State Budget

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad has told Parliament the state government must commit to urgent and comprehensive drought support measures in the state budget.

Ms Broad said the extended dry conditions are putting immense pressure on farming families and rural communities.

“Many farmers are struggling to access basic necessities to keep their operations going. They are experiencing dwindling water supplies and financial stress and facing emotional exhaustion,” Ms Broad said.

“I have heard from farmers and residents who are finding it increasingly difficult to purchase hay and feed for their livestock. Prices have skyrocketed and supplies are becoming scarce. Without adequate feed,

farmers face heartbreaking decisions about destocking or reducing herds.

“Water security is a critical issue. Families are having to purchase truckloads of water just to keep their homes and farms functioning.

“Many are juggling mounting debts while their incomes dwindle. They are also fearful of the government’s proposed Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. The new charges will mean thousands of dollars to some families.”

Ms Broad said farmers protested on the steps of Parliament and outside Premier Jacinta Allan’s Bendigo office in a desperate bid to highlight their opposition to the levy.

“I acknowledge that some assistance measures are currently in place, but this

is simply not enough given the scale of this crisis. Last September the government announced a \$13 million package to help farmers, while South Australia is providing \$73 million in freight subsidies, mental health support and emergency tax rebates. We need a comprehensive package of support.”

Ms Broad said, “Farmers are the backbone of our state’s food production and a vital part of our economy. When farmers suffer, so does the rest of our state. The action I seek is for the minister to provide immediate targeted help to drought affected areas, including but not limited to subsidised fodder and feed supplies for livestock, subsidised water supply for agriculture purposes and financial assistance with fodder and water delivery.”

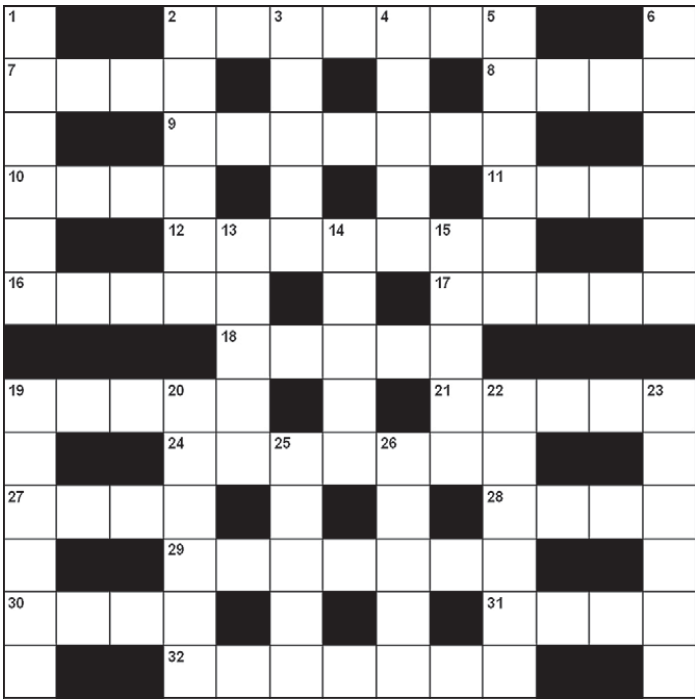
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 10

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 2. Lures with rewards.
 - 7. A position of leadership.
 - 8. Make a portrait of.
 - 9. French for white.
 - 10. Crazy!
 - 11. A personal view.
 - 12. Trapping and capturing.
 - 16. Brief and concise.
 - 17. Having the leading position.
 - 18. Small three-masted sailboat.
 - 19. Artistic quality.
 - 21. Ranked in a certain class.
 - 24. Had an ambitious plan.
 - 27. Squeeze the juice from.
 - 28. Choose at random.
 - 29. Spread through.
 - 30. Feel great anger.
 - 31. Christmas season.
 - 32. Began again.

- DOWN
- 1. A Swiss house.
 - 2. Decorate with raised design.
 - 3. Jewelled headdress.
 - 4. Desert plants.
 - 5. Snow vehicle.
 - 6. Towards the middle of.
 - 13. A connected series.



- 14. One trained in Jewish law.
- 15. Mother-of-pearl.
- 19. Confirm the truth.
- 20. Meddle with.
- 22. Set of numbers to be added.
- 23. Lag behind.
- 25. Incidental benefits of the job.
- 26. A kingdom.

Math Square

	x		+		11
-		x		-	
	-		x	9	-70
-		-		÷	
	-	6	÷		3
-6		50		1	

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.

Sudoku

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.

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

Support for farmers

THE following list of support services and programs available to farmers and people living on the land is provided by Murrindindi Shire Council. Further information can be found at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Business-Services-and-Permits/Agriculture-Resources

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) offers free, confidential and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. A Rural Financial Counsellor can visit farmers at their place of business and can assist with business planning, creditor negotiation, cash flow management, accessing government and industry support programs and referrals to other professional services. To connect with your closest service call 1300 771 741 or vist tinyurl.com/4h7jreky

Farmers in financial hardship may be eligible for the Commonwealth Government’s Farm Household Allowance (FHA), a fortnightly payment. A Rural Financial Counsellor can help farmers to understand eligibility and apply for the FHA. Visit tinyurl.com/538bmkmk

Farmers may be able to access low-interest loans through the Commonwealth Government’s Regional Investment Corporation (RIC). For more information contact Regional Investment Corporation or your financial counsellor. Visit ric.gov.au

The National Centre for Farmer Health has a range of resources and services for emotional and social wellbeing and farm business support. Call 5551 8533 for support or visit farmerhealth.org.au

National Debt Helpline is a free service available to Australians to assist them in getting their finances back on track. They can assist with assessment of your current situation, setting up payment plans and more. More information is available from the National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007 or visit ndh.org.au

Contact the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316 to find out about Australian Government support services available to farmers and rural communities.

If you are experiencing hardship, call council on 5772 0333 and request to speak with a Rates Officer who can discuss what assistance is available to you.



-Issam Barhoumi

Governments juggle to distribute drinking water

ANNOUNCED on April 4, Minister for Water Gayle Tierney placed an order for 50 gegalitres of water from the Victorian Desalination Plant, based on independent advice from Victorian water corporations, which takes into account water storages levels, future demands and forecast climate conditions.

This decision follows Geelong storages hitting a six year low of 42.2 per cent and the first double digit annual decline in

Melbourne’s water storage levels since the Millenium Drought.

Melbourne’s water storages are at 78.1 per cent compared with 91.5 per cent at the same time last year, a difference of 230 billion litres.This decline is due to below average rainfall in Victoria over the past 12 months.

Melbourne’s population grew by 140,000 last year, putting pressure on water supplies. Melbourne uses 50 to 70 gegalitres more water than what is captured in reservoirs from rainfall each year.

The decision to order desalinated water is made each year based on yearly weather changes and expert advice from our water authorities.

Regular desalinated water orders are a normal part of Melbourne’s drinking water supply, helping to top up storages and provide a buffer in the event of severe drought. They also support surrounding regions including South Gippsland and Geelong.

The recent hot and dry conditions, including Victoria’s driest summer in more than a decade, are expected to continue through autumn increasing our reliance on stored and desalinated water.

The Victorian Desalination Plant can provide up to one-third of the Melbourne’s annual water demand, underpinning supply not just for Melbourne but also surrounding areas including Geelong and parts of Gippsland.

To date, the Victorian Desalination Plant has produced 455 billion litres of fresh drinking water for Greater Melbourne and regional areas.

Even with the desalination order, Melbourne’s household water bills will remain among the cheapest in Australia.

Cryptogram

Girls names

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7													11					20							

S A A N S A N A N S

20 19 5 7 15 7 11 3 20 24 23 18 22 7 11 3 7 26 26 25 14 23 11 5 20

N

11 23 18 22

Word Search

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

Girls names

- BELINDA
- DANIELLE
- ELIZABETH
- ETHEL
- ISABELLE
- JANE
- KAREN
- MARIE
- ROSEMARY
- RUBY
- SALLY
- SUZANNE

VFF slams government over new levy

DESPITE strong opposition from the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF), the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and farmers from all corners of Victoria, the Victorian Government’s proposed Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund (ESVF) last Friday passed a vote in Parliament.

The VFF is deeply disappointed by this outcome and remains gravely concerned about the impact this levy will have on farmers, who are already under significant pressure from drought conditions and broader economic challenges.

While the government has announced a 16 per cent reduction in the levy for farmers and a temporary pause for those in drought-declared areas, these concessions do little to ease the broader burden that will be felt across regional and rural Victoria.

“The sheer reality is that this levy will create a crippling financial burden to farmers,” VFF President Brett Hosking said.

“This decision shows a clear disconnect between our state government and the day-to-day realities faced by those on the land.

“It almost feels like the worse this drought gets, the harder the government pushes to take more from farmers,” he added.

The VFF will continue to advocate for a fairer, more sustainable approach to funding emergency services, one that doesn’t disproportionately penalise the very communities that rely on them most.

EPA says to be careful what you burn

AS the weather cools and conditions for burn offs in regional areas improve, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria is alerting the agricultural sector in particular, not to mix their prunings and felled timber with other forms of waste.

“We issued several reminders last year after receiving reports of farms, orchards and vineyards mixing their legitimate burn off materials with waste like treated timbers, plastics and other common farm waste that should have gone to a licensed landfill or recycling facility,” EPA Regional Operations Director Martha-Rose Loughnane said.

“Disposal of waste by burning is illegal. Common farm waste, like treated pine posts, agricultural plastics, hessian, concrete, metal, waste tyres and mattresses, must be disposed of lawfully and at a place that is licensed to accept it,” she said.

EPA has a handy guide available from its website on farm waste management, just visit epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/iwrg641-1

“Everyone has a duty to protect the environment. That means that if we find anyone mixing waste into their legitimate burn off material, EPA can take action, and we can issue fines of more than \$9000 for burning anything other than vegetation-sourced matter like timber and crop stubble,” Ms Loughnane said.

“No smoke is good for you, but smoke from burning farm waste like old tyres and treated timber can lead to harmful effects on human health, particularly for people with asthma or other lung conditions, older people, pregnant women, babies and young children,” she said.

Learn what can and can’t be burnt from EPA’s farm waste guide to avoid being a nuisance to your neighbours, causing a hazard to the environment or getting a fine from EPA.

You can report pollution to EPA’s 24 hour pollution hotline at 1300 372 842 or online at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution

Twin lamb disease

by Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer

AS we move towards winter sheep producers may begin to see cases of pregnancy toxæmia or twin lamb disease in their ewes.

Twin lamb disease occurs when ewes have an inadequate energy intake during the last four to six weeks of pregnancy. During this final period of pregnancy, ewes’ energy needs to increase substantially, as she is providing energy for both herself, and her rapidly growing lamb.

Ewes that are carrying twins are particularly susceptible, hence the name. In fact a ewe carrying twins has one and a half times the energy requirements of a ewe with a single lamb, and more than twice the energy requirements of a dry ewe.

Sheep fed in containment areas generally require 10 to 16 per cent less energy compared with animals walking around paddocks looking for feed. An outbreak of twin lamb disease is often triggered by stress and environmental conditions that cause a low intake of food such as during yarding or holding off feed or severe weather conditions.

Affected ewes usually appear dopey, blind and unresponsive. The condition may progress over several days. The presence of affected ewes is an indication that all is not well in the remainder of the flock.

Many other ewes may also be sub-clinically affected and may progress to



Pregnant sheep are the victims of twin lamb disease, due to insufficient energy intake in ewes. -S

become further cases of twin lamb disease. Twin lamb disease occurs because of a breakdown of body fat at a rate with which the ewe’s liver is unable to cope.

As a result, on autopsy an affected ewe’s liver will appear swollen, yellow, crumbly and greasy. Affected ewes can occasionally be successfully treated by an energy-rich drench such as glycerine provided the drench is given during the early stages of the disease.

More importantly, good quality supplementary feeding should be given to those ewes most at risk. Increasing the

ewe’s energy intake through appropriate ration formulation during the last eight weeks of pregnancy can prevent twin lamb disease.

For further advice please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria Veterinary or Animal Health Officer. Further information on ewe nutrition can be found at feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au

For more information and support during drought and dry conditions visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or by calling 136 186.

Massive yarding for Autumn Feature Sale

by Bailey Dixon

THE Elders Autumn Feature Store Sale took place last Wednesday at the Yea Saleyards, with an enormous yarding of over 4500 cattle.

Prices remained strong despite the large number of cattle being sold, potentially due to the looming drought conditions and farmers reducing their herds to survive.

Average price per head for the day was \$1167, with an average weight per head of 310.4 kilograms. Doing the maths reveals an average price of 376 cents per kilogram (c/kg).

There were some 2794 steers sold on the day, with over 2500 of that being Angus. Top price per head was \$2400 with the top weight of 638 kilograms, making for 376c/kg.

The top heifers out of over 1700 female cattle sold for \$1830 with a top weight of 480.9 kilograms. This was slightly above both the average price per head, and the top price for steers, sitting four cents per kilogram higher at 381c/kg.

The Yea Saleyards turned over \$5.3 million at the Autumn Feature Sale.

The next sales in Yea are the Elders and Nutrien Store Sale on Friday, June 6, and the Alex Scott and Staff Store Sale on Friday, June 13.

STOCK REPORT 14 MAY 2025			
Elders Autumn Feature Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	4,551		
Average \$ per head	\$1,167		
Average weight per head	310.4 kg		
Top price per head		\$2,400	\$1,830
Top weight		638 kg	480.9 kg
Turnover	\$5.3 million		

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MATH SQUARES

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Exhibition of Development Plan – SMITH STREET YEA

Land:
6489 Melba Highway, Yea – Lot 1 TP 558411

Proposal:
A draft development plan has been prepared for land located at 6489 Melba Highway, Yea.

The plan has been prepared by the applicant to indicate the site assessment, layout, servicing and conditions for the future use and development of the land.

Planning controls:
Zoning: Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)
Overlays: Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 2 (DPO2)

The Development Plan Overlay requires that Murrindindi Shire Council approve a development plan before any planning permit is granted for any use, development or subdivision of the land.

Where the development plan is available for inspection:
The draft development plan can be viewed online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/developmentplans or in person at Murrindindi Shire Council offices in Yea, Alexandra, and Kinglake.

Date for submissions:
Submissions to the draft development plan must be in writing and sent to Murrindindi Shire Council by Friday, June 20, 2025
Email to: planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
Post: PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714

Enquiries:
Planning Unit, Murrindindi Shire Council (03) 5772 0333.

DEATH NOTICES



ELENIUS, Leif

23/01/1934 –
01/05/2025

Sincere sympathies are extended to Judy from members of the Yea Bowls Club on the sad loss of her husband.

Leif was the immediate past President and an esteemed member of the YBC.

SELOVER, Wendy Lee (Jacobs). 20/08/1924 – 13/05/2025. Our dearest Wendy left the stage for the final time after more than 100 years of fun, shared experiences and love. She was a pivotal part of our family and will be greatly missed by us all. Warmest thanks to ADH Palliative Care and Kellock Lodge for their care and compassion. Louise, Ruth, Cornelia and our families.

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MEETINGS

MOLESWORTH CARAVAN PARK.

Notice is given of a Public Meeting to be held at 7pm on May 27, 2025 commencing at the Molesworth Community Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three and no more than nine persons as the Committee of Management for the Molesworth Caravan Park for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on June 30, 2025. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting the secretary, Helen Willard 0435 320 317 or via email at secretary@molesworthreserve.com.au.

YEA Water Tigers Amateur Swimming Club AGM. Meeting will be held at Yea Community House. Monday, May 26 at 6 pm. All positions declared vacant. General meeting will follow at 6.30 pm. Enquiries to the secretary: yeawatertigerscommittee@gmail.com, 0459 248 488. New members welcome.

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MEETINGS



Friends of the Library Alexandra & District Inc.

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 6pm at
Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra.
New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee positions available from the library or from the secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au.
For more information please phone 0423 043 564.

SITUATION VACANT



Local Producer, HIGH VOLTAGE

Are you a natural organiser with a love for the arts and community?

We're looking for a Local Producer to help deliver HIGH VOLTAGE—a large-scale, high-energy community music performance happening on Sunday, September 7 in Yea.

This unique event, led by artist Joseph O'Farrell (JOF) in collaboration with Yea Arts and the Murrindindi Shire Council, will unite guitarists, singers, dancers, choirs, and creative groups across the region in a joyful celebration of local talent.

We're seeking someone who is:

- Organised, calm, and friendly
- Comfortable managing schedules, venues, and communications
- Confident speaking with participants and stakeholders
- Skilled with spreadsheets, emails, and basic digital tools
- Available in the lead-up to September and for key rehearsals

Contract fee: \$4,000, Part-time, flexible hours

You'll be the go-to person on the ground—connecting people, smoothing logistics, and helping to make this unforgettable performance shine. Email yeaartsinc@gmail.com to receive a Position Description or access via our website yeaartsinc.org

To express your interest, please send an application in one PDF addressing the Key Selection Criteria in the position description outlining your experience and why the role excites you to yeaartsinc@gmail.com

Deadline Friday, June 13, 2025

Inspire grants support local schools

SKYLINE Education Foundation, which provides support for VCE students across Victoria, has received a \$150,000 Inspire Grant from the Bank of Melbourne Foundation.

The foundation supports students from a variety of schools around metropolitan, regional and remote communities, including Alexandra and Yea.

The funding will be used by Skyline Education Foundation to empower high-potential students facing social and economic adversity to complete their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) by providing educational, emotional, and practical support, including payment of school fees and transformative learning experiences.

Skyline CEO Samantha MacRae said the grant would be transformative for students often facing generational disadvantage.

“This grant helps ensure that a young person in regional Victoria, Melbourne’s outer suburbs, or a remote town has the same opportunity to succeed, graduate, and shape their future filled with hope and opportunity, regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances,” Ms MacRae said.

St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations jointly announced the recipients of these 2025 Inspire Grants, awarding a total of \$1.2 million to five exceptional charities dedicated to improving educational outcomes for disadvantaged young Australians.

The grants aim to support innovative programs that enhance educational achievement among young people facing challenges such as low socio-economic status, geographic isolation, and systemic barriers, including those from First Nations communities.

“Funding to address educational inequity in Australia is essential to help ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to thrive,” Sally-Anne O’Brien, CEO of the St.George, BankSA, and Bank of Melbourne Foundations said.

“Disadvantage can significantly impact a student’s educational outcomes from an early age, and without intervention, the gap continues to grow.”

Transport announcement falls flat

THE Victorian Government has announced that they are “focused on what matters most, real help for regional Victorian families to ease the cost-of-living. The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* will make public transport free for everyone under 18, everywhere in Victoria.”

It’s understood that school buses are free in the region, if attending the nearest school, so this announcement will have no impact. In terms of other free public transport for children, Murrindindi is a virtual desert in terms of public transport, so the difference here will be negligible. A better way to ease the cost-of-living in the area would be to abolish the Emergency Services Volunteer Levy and to provide significant drought support for farmers.

The government’s press release states, “We’ve been putting money back into the pockets of Victorians with our regional fare cap, which has already saved Victorians more than \$132 million in its first two years. Now we’re going further. Families right across Victoria doing it tough, every dollar counts. From January 1, 2026, hundreds of thousands of families will save up to \$755 a year per child. It’s a massive investment to put money back in the pocket of families who are doing it tough. A yearly student pass currently costs \$755, but from next year children aged under 18 can travel for free. For a family with three children under 18, that’s a saving of \$2265 each year. Two years ago, it would cost kids \$15.96 to travel a return trip from Ballarat to the MCG, from next year it will be free. A return trip from Bendigo to Melbourne would cost kids \$24.08, from next year it will be free. More than one million young Victorians and their families can benefit from the new youth myki from 1 January 2026. Cards will cost \$5 and will be valid until the child turns 18.”

None of this makes any difference in our area.



Last Friday Sacred Heart Primary School and Yea Primary School braved the fog and walked to school for National Walk Safely to School day. -S

Don't burn toxic treated wood in your fireplace

THE weather is cooling rapidly and the draw towards woodfire heating grows stronger, yet it's important to remember to be careful of what you burn.

All wood will burn, but some treated wood can prove toxic to humans when burnt, as chemical fumes are released when it heats up.

This scenario is especially dangerous with open fires, chimineas or when treated timber is used as barbecue fuel, as smoke inhalation is more likely to occur.

The preservative copper chrome arsenate (CCA) contains copper, chromium and arsenic, and was commonly used to treat timber for preservation from 1933 onwards.

Copper and arsenic in the preservative protect the timber from insects and fungi,

while the chromium reduces the risk of the chemicals leeching out.

According to the BetterHealth website, "The ash from burnt CCA-treated timber can contain up to 10 per cent (by weight) arsenic, chromium and copper.

"Swallowing only a few grams of this ash can be harmful. Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea and a 'pins and needles' feeling in the skin."

Identifying treated timber, whether it is treated with preservatives or has merely been contaminated by other substances or chemicals such as paint, can be difficult.

A common source of treated timber is wood that has been used for some form of industrial

project, such as timber used in the building of a house, fence materials, sleepers, etcetera.

Softwoods like pine that have been out in the weather for more than a year and haven't rotted will have been treated with life-extending preservatives.

It's not just wood that has been treated with preservatives that you have to be cautious of. Timber can be untreated but still be contaminated by outside sources.

Railway sleepers are more than likely contaminated by oil and grease dripping onto them from the trains that run along them, and wood that is laying around in yards may have accidentally been coated with insecticides.

According to the Firewood Association of Australia (FAA) "as a general rule you should

be suspicious of any old or waste timber that you cannot confirm as being untreated.

"While the lure of free firewood from old building material, or cheap firewood from old rail sleepers might be appealing, it is not worth risking your own health or that of your family and neighbours, just to save a few dollars.

"If you are not certain whether a piece of wood has been treated or contaminated do not burn it. Never ever burn old rail sleepers as firewood," the FAA says.

It is best to stick to firewood that you know is safe to burn, as cheap alternatives with unknown previous use can prove to be a health risk.

Men's shed grants out now

THE Victorian Government is providing new grants to strengthen men's sheds across the state.

Last week the Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence announced that applications are open for the 2025-26 Men's Shed Funding Program.

More than \$860,000 is available to build new sheds, upgrade or extend existing facilities, and purchase machinery and equipment to help sheds grow and thrive.

The program prioritises projects that tackle social isolation and deliver real value for local communities, especially

in areas with limited spaces for people to come together.

With more than 360 men's sheds across Victoria, these spaces continue to provide connection, inclusion and support for men who might otherwise be at risk of isolation.

The state government's Men's Shed Funding Program has provided more than 500 grants to support sheds and support the Victorian Men's Shed Association.

For more information or to apply, visit providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program

Grants to manage invasive species

THE Victorian Government has announced the opening of round four of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program, which will help community led organisations build the skills and resources to manage invasive species in their area.

Grants of \$10,000 up to \$50,000 are available for projects focused on managing established weeds and pest animals.

This new round of funding totaling \$637,000 will allow groups to develop and deliver community education programs

and action for up to two years and can include up to \$10,000 for capital items.

Capital items can include monitoring technology and weed and pest management equipment, such as monitoring cameras to track feral pigs, hoes to eradicate serrated tussock or bait laying equipment to manage rabbits. Equipment for demonstration and education such as projector screens may also be eligible for funding.

Applications for this grant round will close on Friday, July 4. For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

Row row row your boat safely down the stream

WITH some reports of recreational kayak and canoe users being spotted travelling down the Goulburn River without the required safety equipment, it is a timely reminder to be aware of the rules and regulations before you hop aboard.

Life Jackets are to be used when paddling on the water. Children under 12 are required to wear a life jacket at all times when they are on a vessel that's moving. For children, the use of lifejackets with crotch straps are crucial as they prevent the lifejacket from slipping off and stay securely in place. This is especially important travelling along the Goulburn river as people can get tangled in reeds. With the conditions of our local rivers they can be unpredictable when it's travelling with high levels and flowing fast, you need to have a life jacket that can be quickly released if you run into trouble on your travels.

According to Victoria Police life jacket laws are enforced by marine authorities. Penalties apply if occupants are not wearing life jackets when required. Penalties can also apply to the owner and masters of vessels.

Adhere to life jacket laws by ensuring you are wearing the correct life jacket type at all times, your life jacket meets the required standards, and you have enough life jackets for everyone on board, and they are correctly maintained.

If you are new to kayaking you need to be aware how conditions change quickly,

apart from wearing life jackets other safety measures you can take is to make sure your kayak or canoe is fit for purpose, be aware of the vessels limitations and your own.

Make sure your kayak has hand toggles, bulkheads, a pump, compass/map, spare paddle, deck lines and a firm-fitting spray skirt. You also need a way to remove any water entering vessel, such as a small bucket.

Making up an offshore paddling kit for your travels is a great idea to ensure your safety and any passengers. These kits include a way to call for help, this can be a mobile phone in a water proof bag or a VHF marine radio, or personal locator beacon. A first aid kit, some water and food, warm and dry clothing in a waterproof bag and items to repair your vessel if need be. A tow rope is also a great idea for your off shore kit, usually around the length of 15 metres is recommended, however you need to practice these methods of trying to rescue and being rescued before entering your vessel and starting your adventure.

When you start learning to kayak and canoe its best to understand capsizing prevention skills, this includes support and bracing strokes, it is advised if you fall out stay with the kayak. Some methods to help your self if you fall out is the paddle float rescue, roll or re enter and roll, and the eskimo roll. You can research these methods online or ask people with kayak knowledge that may be able to teach you these methods.



Cr Sandice McAulay presenting nominee certificate to Robert Burns. -S



Lilah Galbraith performing. -S



Soloman and Lacey. -S



Mayor Damien Gallagher presenting the 2025 Community Awards. -S

Murrindindi Shire 2025 Community Award recipients

THE 2025 Community Award winners were officially announced at a special volunteer appreciation event in Yea on Saturday, May 17. More than 120 volunteers and representatives from volunteer-led groups across the shire gathered to celebrate the spirit of volunteering and recognise this year's nominees.

Mayor Damien Gallagher presented the awards to this year's recipients, acknowledging their dedication and contributions to the community. Guests shared a meal prepared by Blue Ribbon Catering, with refreshments from local producers.

The evening featured live music, with young musician Lilah Galbraith performing as guests arrived, followed by a set from Solomon and Lacey. The event also included an address from Kylie Cairns, president of the Alexandra Football and Netball Club, who shared her experiences and reflections on the impact of volunteering.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher spoke with heartfelt appreciation on the night. "Our volunteers are the embodiment

of the vibrant community spirit of our shire," he said. "All our Community Award nominees are active, approachable, and inspirational. They are hardworking team players, mentors, and problem solvers who invest time and effort, displaying empathy, effective communication, and conflict resolution skills. Their recognition is a testament to their partnership with other volunteers, working towards the best outcomes for our community. As we proudly announce the winners, remember that every volunteer is a winner and deserves to be celebrated."

Volunteer of the Year – Ron Litjens

Ron is a dedicated community leader whose expertise and kindness have significantly improved various initiatives across Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Yea, Alexandra, and beyond. His roles include modernising processes at the Flowerdale Community House, leading 2030Yea, contributing to Landcare and the Yea Wetlands, and performing quiet acts of kindness, making him an invaluable resource

and role model.

Senior Volunteer of the Year – Margaret O'Connell

Margaret has been a pivotal figure at the Toolangi Castella Community House since 2003, leading numerous volunteer initiatives and recovery efforts after the 2009 fires. She has also launched the nationally recognised Nifty Fifty fitness program, spearheaded the Community Garden, and organised the Toolangi Festival, fostering community pride and resilience.

Young Volunteer of the Year – Layla Calder

Layla has been a dedicated volunteer at the Flowerdale Opportunity Shop for five years, managing social media, providing tech support, and assisting with shop operations. Her commitment, leadership, and positive attitude have made her a role model and an invaluable asset to the community.

Community Group or Initiative of the Year – UGFM Radio Murrindindi Inc

UGFM has been a vital community radio station for 30 years, providing local broadcasts, supporting artists, and delivering essential news and emergency information across Murrindindi Shire. Their dedication to community service, especially during crises, and their efforts to foster community spirit through events and training, make them invaluable to the region.

Council also recognised Dawn Sundblom and Kath Hedger, who each received a certificate of special commendation in honour of their lifetime of achievement in volunteering.

A special mention to Gail Dollimore, who was recognised as a nominee in two categories (Senior Volunteer of the Year and as part of the nominated group Tri Active Life), a testament to her outstanding commitment across the community.

Read more about this year's recipients at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communityawards

SPORT

Sixty-four bowlers at Yea Bowls Club

by Maurie Finn

THE Yea Bowling green was packed to capacity on Saturday for the annual FoodWorks Fours Tournament.

The event has become so popular that some entries had to be put on an emergency list but there were no late withdrawals so, unfortunately, they had to miss out.

The format for the day was three games of eight ends with points scored for a win and for the number of ends won.

Teams came from far and wide including Avenel, Bendigo, Bennettswood, Eildon, Healesville, Kilmore, Merrigum, Broadford,

Wallan, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction and the local teams from Yea.

Before players took to the green, Maurie Finn, Yea Bowl's Club President, welcomed all players and gave a tribute to Leif Elenius, who recently passed away.

Leif was the club's immediate past president who had been responsible for organising the Fours Tournament over the last few years.

The bowling was high class with a lot of division one bowlers playing including Mathew O'Brien who has just been named Bowler of the Year in the Premier League representing the Moonee Valley Bowls Club.

The overall winner of the day was Yarra Glen collecting \$1000 prize money. Second place went to Kilmore taking away \$500 prize money and third place went to Yarra Junction \$200 prize money. The best last game winner was the Broadford team collecting \$100.

Good old-fashioned hospitality was provided by the members of the Yea Bowls Club including a beautiful lunch. The greens and surrounds were presented in prime condition with many comments from visitors that it is a showcase for the town.

The event could not go ahead without the support of local businesses and major sponsors.



Measuring was required for some ends. -S



Yarra Glen with Cathie from FoodWorks Yea presenting prize money. -S



Second-place Kilmore with Cathie from FoodWorks Yea presenting prize money. -S



Third-placed Yarra Junction with Cathie from Yea FoodWorks. -S



Many bowls were on the jacks. -S



Players on the green. -S



The best last game team from Broadford with Cathie from Yea FoodWorks. -S

Round three blue sky day for winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

IN weather more like summer than winter, clear blue skies and glorious sunshine, teams across the district met for their round three matches in Euroa, Benalla and Mansfield last Monday.

Wappan welcomed Mansfield on their home courts and Wappan's Anna Speirs, Jenny Bell, Rhonda Carpenter and Carol Watts found their range in the opening sets.

Mansfield's Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Natalie Bergsma and Sophie Yencken matched them with high quality hitting and the sets went one each way, with one game the difference.

Wappan gained control in the next pairings as players tired in the hot sun. Mansfield were set a task needing to win both final sets, however Wappan found their best form to take both, including the shortest and the longest set of the day eventually resolved in a tiebreaker.

Wappan won 5/45 to Mansfield 1/29 propelling them into second spot on the EDLWTA ladder.

Euroa met Terip for their contest and Kristen Darcy, Lyndall Bigland, Judy Sands and Faye Mollison had all the answers against Terip's Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Phoebe Macdermid and Kass Thomas.

Euroa won 6/48 to 0/22 to take top spot on the ladder.

Creighton's Creek and Delatite also enjoyed the Euroa grass courts and Delatite's Karyn Fraser, Carolyn Murray, Jo O'Brien, Deb Mims and Loretta Armitage combined well in lengthy rallies. Both teams hit low hard balls.

Chris Ellis, Deb Seach, Sue Vaughan and Lyn Johnson took the first three sets for Creighton's Creek, but Delatite hit back hard taking the next two with Deb gaining movement and timing the ball superbly to finish her day with an ace.

Creighton's Creek 4/40 defeated Delatite 2/27 for a top three finish.

Benalla hosted Seven Creeks in a hard-fought match which included two tiebreakers and two eight to six contests going each way. Seven Creeks' Rowena Ellis, Nicola Enright, Gayle Furphy and Mary Kelly had the edge against Benalla's Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell, Julie Brook, and Wendy Maxwell on their home turf winning 4/45 to Benalla's 2/35.

Round three ladder: Euroa 26, Wappan 19. Creighton's Creek 18, Terip 17, Moglonemby 16, Seven Creeks 11, Mansfield seven, Delatite four, and Benalla two.



Yea Reserves

Seville 16.10-106 defeated
Yea Reserves 3.6-24

Will Schwab will not be taken down. -S



Ben Keyzer holds the ball with his life. -S

Yea senior women

Seville 6.7-43 defeated Yea Senior Women 4.4-28



Airlie Madden has her eyes on the prize. -S

Supporting more women and girls and sport

THE Victorian government is supporting more women and girls across Victoria to get involved in sports with a new round of grants announced for community sports clubs.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced more than 130 grants as part of *The Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program, benefitting more than 11,500 individuals.

The program delivers grants of up to \$10,000 to community sport and recreation clubs to help inspire women and girls to take part, including new women's programs, opportunities for club leadership roles and other on and off field options.

Since 2018, *The Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program has provided more than 700 grants totaling more than \$3.7 million for community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across the state.

For more information about Change Our Game programs, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au

NJ Murray trophy at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

SATURDAY saw 18 players in the second and final round of this year's NJ Murray trophy at the Yea Golf Club.

Winner of the day's stableford was Sam Wright (26) on countback with 39 points from second Bill Dredge (25). Third was John Phillips (16) with 36 from Peter Johnston (16) fourth on 35.

Jonathan Fisher was nearest the pin on the 14th and Tom White won the club award. In the ladies' stableford with nine players, Cindy Armstrong (25) continued her recent good form to have 36 points and a win from Di Elliott (26) second with 34 points.

Winner of the NJ Murray Trophy was Bill Dredge. He won on countback from first round leader John Tanner who also had 69 points over the two days. Third was Gary Pollard with 68 points.

Wednesday saw over 30 golfers in competition with 18 men starting in the fog at 8.30am. Fifteen ladies also played on the day.

Winners of the men's three-person Irish Stableford were Mic Sheather, Gavin Houldcroft and Rob O'Halloran with 74. Runners-up were Gary Pollard, Alan Pell and Brian Priestley with 73.

Third were Martin Lowe, Brian Simmons and Sam Wright on 69, nearest the pin on the 11th.

Club award winners were Bob Glenister, Anthony Coleman and Peter Johnston. Individual winner was Phil Armstrong with 37 points from Gary Pollard 35.

In the ladies' competition Khai had a day out with 42 points with Di Elliott second with 40.



Player Jordyn Beattie in the rain. -S

The Chronicle Sport



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*Seniors player Jack Rennex.*

Yea Seniors

Seville 13.12-90 defeated Yea Seniors 3.4-22*Seniors player Zac Fawdry. -S*

International adventures for Flowerdale local

TAYLA Street, a 25 year old motorcycle racer from Flowerdale has been selected to represent Australia in July at two International events in Croatia. The events include the FIM Women's Speedway Academy and the FIM Women's Speedway Gold Trophy.

These events will take place at Stadium Milenium in Croatia and bring together the top female speedway riders from across the globe.

Tayla explains, "Speedway is racing on a big oval track and you can only turn left, and these bikes have no gear, or no brakes. They're pretty cool for the way that they turn by sliding pretty much. Speedway was founded here in Australia."

For the past 14 years, Tayla has been involved in motorcycle racing competing across Road Racing, Dirt Track, Track, Long Track, Flat Track and Speedway at top level events across the country. The passion for riding started when Tayla started riding at age three, "I was three years old, on a QR50, a little Honda."

This latest opportunity is Tayla's first international venture, she has raced nationally from the countryside, going as far as Queensland, Northern New South Wales, and Victoria, representing Flowerdale and Victoria.

Tayla has had to work the hard yards to get where she is today, especially when she experienced a bit of speed bump last year.

"Well, I was racing in Gunnedah, in New South Wales, one hour from Tamworth. It was on a hard oil track and I was riding my Honda, I had a really good Saturday. I was top of the charts and sitting in third place in a women's class...then on the Sunday, first race of the day, literally at around 10am, I didn't get a very good start. I came out of the gate around fourth and I had another rider come up behind me from fifth or sixth. He just crashed off the front and took my front wheel out and I just went over the bars and yeah, it broke my back.

"Fortunately, I didn't need surgery, I was very lucky in that case. I sustained compression fractures in my spine. I was very lucky it was in between my shoulders, so I didn't need a brace or a halo, which was good. So I'm very thankful...also thankful that it was in between my shoulders because it's a pretty meaty area and you can build up the muscle. and that was with about three months of recovery, I was working really hard with my osteo, and we worked on heaps of exercises to make sure my back was strong and get me back into racing.

"In the time that I was healing, I was not able to defend my national title or my state title that was undefeated for five years. That was a shame. That was a tough pill

to swallow but it was a resilient building exercise I guess.

"I was off the bike for about three months, and then I slowly got back into it, naturally, it took a fair while to get my confidence back. It probably, started to come back, probably end of January and pretty much got back to faster than what I was before, which is really good. It's been a nice little uphill climb of general success and just happiness. I guess I say your biggest challenges make you as a person," Tayla said.

For Tayla to get to this exciting international adventure she is trying to raise \$35,000 to cover the trip. Tayla set up a Go Fund Me page on May 14 with a \$10,000 goal and within 24 hours she had managed to raise just under \$5000.

"I've been blown away with the local support that I received within 24 hours. it's definitely makes me feel so appreciative of the community that I'm in," Tayla said.

On Tayla's Go Fund Me page, she puts it simply, "This is about more than just bikes and trophies. It's about pushing limits, breaking barriers, and showing the next generation especially young girls that big dreams are worth chasing."

When speaking in the interview Tayla adds, "It's a really great opportunity for not only just women in speedway, but women in motorcycle racing who have something

*Tayla Street is gearing up to take on Motorcycle Speedway in Croatia. -S*

to look up to. When I was racing, I didn't really have someone like that, in track or speedway it was mostly over in Europe and we didn't have this sort of women's world championship. So, it's all very new.

"I think it's something really special for the younger generations to have those powerful figures to look up to and go, this is possible. I can do anything if I put my mind to it."

To learn more about Tayla's story or donate to get her over to Croatia to compete in the 2025 FIM Women's Speedway Academy and FIM Women's Gold Trophy in Croatia visit gofundme.com and search up *Help Tayla Street Compete at 2025 FIM Speedway Worlds*.