

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, October 1, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Local government roundtable



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VicGrid releases draft guidelines for renewable energy projects

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

guidelines were an important step in the right direction.

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

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

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

Dr Haines welcomed VicGrid's confirmation that projects from developers

who fail to meet these standards will not be approved.

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

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

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



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Keeping you informed

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

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



**Helen
Haines**MP

Wangaratta: 117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta | 03 5721 7077

Wodonga: 79 High Street, Wodonga | 02 6024 6284

helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au | helenhaines.org

Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677



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Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

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

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

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The Yea Chronicle

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Murrindindi criminal incidents down 10.2 per cent

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

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

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

Yea saw the highest number of criminal incidents with 87, ahead of Alexandra on 70, Eildon on 47, Kinglake on 42 and Flowerdale on 24. Although Yea was ahead, it was still down on the previous year which saw 108 offences in Yea and 100 in Alexandra.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free travel for seniors through annual Seniors Festival

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

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

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers. Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au Contributions will be edited and/or published at the Editor's discretion. We request that this section not be used as a slander attack on persons, businesses or property

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	12.00pm Mon	2.21	steady	Below Flood Level	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00PM Mon	0.57	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00PM Mon	0.64	steady	Below Flood Level	
Home Creek at Yarck	10.01AM Mon	0.20	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.05AM Mon	0.50	steady	Below Flood Level	
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	11.00AM Mon	0.28	steady		
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	12.00PM Mon	0.63	steady		
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00PM Mon	4.30	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00PM Mon	0.46	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00PM Mon	2.22	steady	Below Flood Level	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00PM Mon	0.33	steady	Below Flood Level	
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	2.38	steady	Below Flood Level	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.00PM Mon	1.18	steady		
*ISSUED AT 12:54 PM AEST MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025					

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather

October 1 - October 7, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY

LOW

HIGH

DAY

LOW

HIGH

Wednesday

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Wednesday

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Monday

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21

Tuesday

9

18

Tuesday

9

18

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra 4mm

Buxton..... 3mm

Eildon (AWS)..... 2mm

Flowerdale..... 3mm

Jamieson..... 2mm

Kinglake..... 7mm

Lake Eildon..... 2mm

Mansfield..... 2mm

Taggerty 2mm

Yarck 0.6mm

Yea..... 1mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....276.12m

Capacity as at 9am Monday.....56.9%

Metres below full supply.....12.78m

Daily inflow3000ML

Release..... 6200ML

Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....73%

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

Road maintenance blitz across Victoria: Opposition concerned

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

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

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

"The last Liberal National Government cut roads maintenance funding and jobs.

We're getting on and delivering the biggest single-year investment in road maintenance in Victoria's history."

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

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

The blitz will target the state's busiest travel and trade routes, helping to get millions of

people and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of freight to and from their destination smoothly.

In Murrindindi Shire, upgrades will include the Melba Highway in Glenburn, Maroondah Highway in Buxton, Whittlesea-Yea Road in Flowerdale, and Heidelberg-Kinglake Road in Kinglake.

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

While in metropolitan areas, the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, Leakes Road, Normanby Road, the Warburton

Highway and Boronia Road will also see upgrades for smoother journeys.

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

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

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

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

A Parliamentary Budget Office Report shows the government spends significantly less than New South Wales and Queensland on arterial road and bridge maintenance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Library funding for Murrindindi

MINISTER for Local Government Nick Staikos recently announced \$48.1 million has been allocated through the latest round of the Public Libraries Funding Program to promote education and innovation among young Victorians.

Murrindindi Shire Council libraries will be receiving \$165,805.

The program was established to provide annual funds for councils, regional library corporations, Connected Libraries Ltd, My Community Library Ltd, Your Library Ltd and Vision Australia, and supports a range of essential community activities and services delivered every day across 293 branches statewide.

This includes everything from physical and electronic collection of items, information technology facilities, delivery of library and outreach programs, and the raft of other services provided by public libraries across Victoria.

Libraries are no longer a place just for borrowing books. They are places where the community can access e-resources, wifi, computers, meeting rooms, art spaces, and diverse child, youth, and adult programs.

Public libraries are vibrant community hubs that offer a safe space for social interaction, digital connection, lifelong learning and rich, cultural experiences.

Since 2015, the government has invested more than \$498.5 million through the Public Libraries Funding Program.

Mr Staikos said, "We are supporting our terrific community libraries and the endless access to knowledge, social connection and entertainment they offer all Victorians.

"Our libraries offer so much more than books. They foster lifelong learning and contribute to the connections that strengthen and enrich Victorian communities."

Victorian Public Library Ambassador Andrea Rowe added, "With this funding, libraries can continue to inspire creativity and foster learning in communities right across Victoria."

The funding allocated for Murrindindi Shire libraries is relatively low compared to other local government areas. When questioned about this, a Local Government Victoria spokesperson said, "The Victorian Government is supporting our community libraries and the endless access to knowledge, social connection and entertainment they offer all Victorians. We've provided more than \$524 million over the past 10 years to support Victorian public library services across the state."

The Public Libraries Funding Program (PLFP) provides annual, recurrent funding to all Victorian councils and regional library services. Allocations are based on a transparent formula which considers factors such as population and local service needs, meaning funding will differ from one LGA to another.

Public Libraries Funding Program allocations are based primarily on the population of each local government area.

Over the past 10 years, Murrindindi Shire Council has received more than \$1.5 million through the Public Libraries Funding Program, more than \$60,000 through the Premiers' Reading Challenge Book Fund to support participation in the annual Premiers' Reading Challenge, and \$180,700 from the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program.



DAYLIGHT SAVING: Spring is springing, and it's also time to spring forward by an hour. Don't forget to put your clocks forward on Sunday, October 5. For some people, who shall remain unnamed, this will mean that their car clock is finally correct again. -Kmtextor



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

Haines hosts local government roundtable

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"This program offers vital ongoing funding for local infrastructure.

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

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

Out&About

WHAT'S ON?

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

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

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

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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.

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

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Menzies invites you to an afternoon gathering to celebrate Senior's month. Bring a friend,

Murrindindi Shire Council September meeting

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

Open forum

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

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

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

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

Adoption of Boundary Creek Open Space Concept Plan

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

Adoption of Rural Roadside Conservation Management Plan 2025-29

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

End of Year Report Capital Works 2024-25

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

Councillor reports

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

enjoy afternoon tea and a social support information session. RSVP by Monday, September 29 for catering. 5772 1888 or email social.support@menziessupport.org.au

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Free LEAP community lunch. Help shape a stronger, safer and more resilient Eildon, Rubicon and Thornton. 12.30pm

is underway.

Cr McAulay reported that the Yea Structure plan will be coming to the October council meeting. The Domestic Animal Management Plan has recently closed for consultation, with the issues of an off-lead dog park and cat curfews being flagged. She was also pleased to attend Alexandra's successful 20th ELF Reading Day.

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

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

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

Cr Gallagher reported that council was invited to participate in a Municipal Association of Victoria delegation to Canberra to represent the advocacy agenda of Victorian councils and he and CEO Livia Bonazzi attended. Council was represented at the Taungurung Local Government Forum hosted by Campaspe Shire Council. The forum adopted a Walking Together statement. Murrindindi Shire Council was also represented at the Indi Forum in Wangaratta, which had representatives from the nine local governments of the electorate. Council is proceeding with awarding a contract for the construction of Key Worker Housing in Twenty First Street, Eildon, while planning approval for the Eighth Street site is subject to the outcome of a Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (VCAT) appeal, causing a delay.

CEO report

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

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

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

Lake Eildon Hotel, 190 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon. Community bus pickups available from Eildon, Rubicon and Thornton. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leaplunch for more information. Registrations close Saturday, October 4.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

More funding for making local roads safer

THE Victorian Government is making a \$210 million investment in the Safe Local Roads and Streets program to help reduce road trauma.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne last week announced more than 200 projects will support councils with up to \$2 million to develop, design and deliver safety upgrades on local roads, intersections and precincts.

"We've funded more than 200 projects to help local councils to deliver safer streets where local communities needs them most," Ms Horne said.

The funding will allow local councils to deliver a range of upgrades to improve safety on local roads including pedestrian crossings, intersection upgrades and speed-calming measures.

In Murrindindi Shire, McMahons Road in Kinglake is receiving funding for a raised priority crossing.

Local governments manage 87 per cent of Victoria's roads and the program supports the development and delivery of road safety infrastructure projects on these roads that many people use every day for travelling to school, work and around the local community.

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program will support council's capacities to plan, fund and deliver road safety improvements on these roads.

The Safe Local Roads and Streets Program is boosting safety and supports the state government's 2030 Road Safety Strategy which aims to halve deaths by 2030 and put us on a strong path to eliminate all road deaths by 2050.

The state government delivered record roads funding last year and this Budget delivered even more. The \$976 million Better Roads Blitz will fix potholes and upgrade road surfaces right across Victoria.

Further information on the program can be found at transport.vic.gov.au/news-and-resources/projects/safe-local-roads-and-streets-program

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

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

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

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

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

The NASBO program offers free, confidential mental health coaching designed specifically for small business owners, including farmers and agricultural operators, without the need for a GP referral.



Leila McDougall. -S

It supports early intervention for work and life pressures, helping individuals feel better, get well, and stay well.

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

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

Community comes together for R U OK? Day

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

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

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

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

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

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "Spending time together, checking in on each other and sharing experiences is vital for our mental health and wellbeing. These events reminded us that even small gestures, like asking 'Are you okay?', can make a real difference. It was great to see so many members of our community involved in these events. Thanks to all our event supporters and everyone who joined us to share a meal, watch a film and connect with neighbours. You helped make these evenings meaningful."

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

Council contributes to regional action on climate change

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

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

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

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

and value for our residents, while building resilience for the future.

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

One standout project has enabled Murrindindi Shire Council to switch to 100 per cent zero-carbon electricity through a joint purchasing arrangement with 50 other Victorian councils. This initiative has reduced emissions and delivered direct financial savings of around \$12,000 per year, money that stays in the community rather than being spent on higher bills. These savings are expected to continue over the life of the new partnership.

Another community-focused project is *Goulburn Murray Solar Savers*, which helps households and businesses access quotes from fully vetted providers for a wide range

of expert-assessed energy efficiency products and services. These include solar and battery systems, split-system heating and cooling, induction cooktops and insulation. Learn more on council's website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/GMSS

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

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

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

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

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

Council is now calling on local organisations, community groups and businesses to share identified skills needs that the capacity building project may help address, such as governance, fundraising, event delivery or volunteer management, so the remainder of the program can deliver the greatest benefit before it concludes in June 2026.

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

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

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

Adrian Hurley, Director of Goulburn Valley Plumbing Pty Ltd, attended the tender writing workshop run by Ben Madgwick, Managing

Director of Public Sector Contracts. Adrian said he found the workshop valuable and informative.

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

Anthea Forbes, a volunteer at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre (AVIC), attended the volunteer expo. She said the event was a success and had helped grow their volunteer team.

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

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

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

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

they need most so we can shape the remainder of the program for maximum benefit."

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT

Cindy McLEISH MP

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Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen

03 9730 1066 CindyMcLeishMP

cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au

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



A holistic view of ‘the good life’

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

THE winner of our September Let’s Eat \$50 voucher was Louise Edward from Alexandra. Louise will be having a \$50 feed on us at Kinglake Pub.

Be sure to get your entry form from this edition for your chance to win a \$50 meal at the venue advertised in this edition of Let’s Eat; It’s our treat.



Let’s eat; it’s our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

Email.....

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

Kinglake Pub - Strath Creek General - Philip Lobley Wines

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

Alexandra Newspapers,
43 Grant Street or
PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household

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



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and wine

Bookings preferred
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PHILIP LOBLEY WINES
YEA VALLEY



philiplobleywines.com





Let's eat, it's our treat



The Kinglake Pub. -S



Inside the restaurant. -S

Kinglake Pub going from strength to strength

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The outdoor deck. -S

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 The General Strath Creek
 thegeneralstrathcreek

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The General at Strath Creek. -S

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

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

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

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

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

"We had no hospitality experience," Prue said.

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

A country store reimaged

Working with acclaimed Byron Bay designer Louella Boitel-Gill, local builder

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

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

A one-stop shop in a one-store town

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

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



Some of the fabulous food on offer. -S



A wide variety of produce is available. -S



Alfred Vella working on a project at the Flowerdale Men's Shed. -S

Fred Vella the storyteller

ALFRED Vella is a proud member of the Flowerdale Men's Shed, joining in 2019 when he moved to the area to be closer to one of his sons and granddaughter.

He started his life in the Latrobe Valley in 1953, in a town that no longer exists called Yallourn.

"I love telling people that I was born in the Yallourn open cut, because if you were born in the Yallourn hospital, eventually the Yallourn hospital was removed, as was the whole township of Yallourn, and it became part of the open cut," Alfred said.

"It happens that there's a place where you can go to this lookout and look out over the restored open cut, where they've sort of restored it, but not to the level it was. So you can stand there and just imagine that I was born in fresh air, as were all the other children who were born in that era in that area, because that was the only hospital."

Alfred joined the State Electricity Commission (SEC) on his 17th birthday as an apprentice. He worked there until 1996, going from apprentice to tradesmen to three other levels of operating a power station. He became a unit controller, which is running the whole power station, after eight to 10 years in the SEC.

"My marks weren't great, but they were good enough that I could have gone to RMIT to be a computer programmer. But my brother said, 'if you're going to do that, you're going to have to study and stuff, and so far you've shown no inclination that way'," Alfred said.

"He convinced me to become an apprentice, so I became an apprentice refrigeration mechanic. And he said to me, 'you'll end up in the same job as me because you're smart enough. But you just don't do it at school, you don't study and stuff'."

Alfred had multiple children with his partner at the time, before getting divorced and travelling around Australia on and off from 1999. He received a large severance package from the SEC which supported this.

"Originally it was in a swag. I had a swag and a family tent, and at first I took both of these, because when it's really cold a swag inside a tent is nice. And then I bought what's called an active camper or a slide-on camper. That's what I've still got on my 4WD," he said.

His children are all grown up now, and he has grandchildren. One of his sons and grandchildren lives in Flowerdale, and Alfred has lived next to them since 2018.

He joined the Flowerdale Men's Shed in 2019 to be part of the community and spoke about what the men's shed means to people.

"There's some people who come for it to replace their normal work routine.

They work on something, stop for a cup of tea and a chat, work some more and then stop and have lunch. Instead of work, well, it's work for something they want to do," Alfred said.

"Others just come for a cup of tea and a talk. Some that have a background in running organisations, become president, secretary or that sort of thing, because it keeps their mind active.

"I was on the committee, and you know, I got a few things done that I would have thought would be good for us to do. Then there was sort of a committee change, to where it was not very progressive, and I just moved on. So now I'm just a member, but I still have input and still give my view on some things to do with the shed.

"If you want to work with wood, we've got all the machinery to work with it. Drop saw, bench saw, etcetera. You can join to do things, but also people that have just retired. All of a sudden they've got this time, so by joining, they can come have a cup of tea and a biscuit and talk, or that sort of thing."

He also now tells stories to his granddaughter, just like he used to when his children were little. He became known around their hometown as Fred Vella the storyteller, even being recognised years later by the sibling of one of the children he told stories to.

"The other thing about my life is that when my kids went to Yallourn Primary School, the same one I went to, being a shift worker, I would on average work about 120 days per year, leaving 240 days off. So, I was a man that liked helping at the school and participating. Back then you didn't have many men do those sorts of things. I was often picked to go on nature walks or bus trips, those sorts of things with the boys and girls," Alfred explained.

"On one such trip to Healesville from Yallourn North, all the kids had had a great time. But what kids tend to remember is the end of the day, and the end of the day is basically a boiling bus ride back north. And I was sitting next to my son and his friend and to cut out the boredom, which I used to do on a regular basis, I'd make up children's stories.

"So I was just there talking to my son and his mate, and when I had a deep breath and looked up, the three kids in the seat in front were hanging over the seat, looking at us. I've turned to look behind, and there were three kids on the seat behind me that were stood up and listening. I looked down the aisle more and there's a teacher there, staring and listening. He suggested I come to the school and tell children's story. I became the children's storyteller," Alfred concluded.

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Crossword

ACROSS

1. A heap of things all laid on top of each other.

3. A person regarded as greedy.

5. A mark left by the healing of injured tissue.

8. A man who speaks on behalf of others.

11. Inquire or research deeply for information.

12. Wander from a direct course.

13. Place apart or cut off from others.

18. A sharply pointed end of an instrument.

20. Leave an aircraft rapidly, using a capsule.

21. One who arrives after things have started.

22. An urban area that is smaller than a city.

23. Make a really good attempt.

24. Avoid and stay away from deliberately.

DOWN

1. A feeble imitation of something.

2. And finally, the item at the end of the list.

4. Having no ability to move or react.

6. An informal photograph that is not posed.

7. Prove statement to be false or incorrect.

9. An unintentional omission or mistake.

10. The centre of a flowing body of water.

14. The prevailing mood of a gathering.

15. Understand the reasoning of something.

16. A severe shortage.

17. Taken without the owner's consent.

19. A clergyman in charge of a parish.

Volunteers enjoy famil
to timber tramway

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

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

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

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

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

Word Search

Sudoku

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

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

Fruit & Veggies

APPLES

CARROT

EGGPLANT

GRAPEFRUIT

MANDARIN

ONION

ORANGES

PINEAPPLE

POTATOES

PUMPKIN

TOMATOES

ZUCCHINI

Difficulty: Hard

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

Maze

Math Square

	-	2	-		-8
-		-		+	
	+		-	8	1
-		+		+	
	-		x		-41
-6		1		24	

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.



Cyber series: Social media laws

by Melinda Pullen

THE social media tech giants might be digging their heels in but whether they like it or not in Australia on December 10, the age restrictions for social media use will be coming into effect for children under 16 years. The Government are still finalising the full list of social media platforms in the ban, they have said it will include most major platforms such as TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Reddit and X.

On Wednesday, July 30 it was announced that Youtube will now be added to the list of banned sites and platforms for under 16 year olds.

Previously Youtube was exempt, however Youtube kids will be exempt from the ban. This was after Esafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant recommended it be included in the list of banned sites and platforms when the draft rules were released earlier this year.

The *Online Safety Act 2021* has introduced an obligation on age restricted social media platforms to prevent the use of social media for children under 16. This obligation is part of a broader strategy to create safer digital spaces.

These upcoming changes aim to strengthen current measures protecting young users having access to harmful social media content. These also include persistent notifications that have an overwhelming impact on a child’s sleep, attention, learning, and stress levels.

Currently the minimum age for social media use is 13 years of age, with this change coming soon it will give an opportunity for childrens’ brains to develop further before tackling the demands of the online world.

According to the Australian Human Rights Commission “studies suggest that excessive social media use can interfere with healthy brain development, sleep, and academic performance. The proposed law supports a safer developmental environment.”

These new laws are not in place to hold parents or the child to account if the law is broken, it’s more for the platforms to follow the new law and find solutions to prevent under age children accessing their platforms.

The government has said applications such as Messenger Kids,

WhatsApp, Kids Helpline, Google Classroom will not be part of the ban as they are considered “out of scope.” The full list of exempted platforms has not been finalised yet.

The future of these services may change though, take for example Messenger Kids, a free messaging and video calling app designed for children under 13 years of age. On the app store it says for four years plus with an age range generally for six to 12 years of age. As soon as a child reaches 13 they are taken off the application, so will this age be extended since previous expectations was to transition to other applications such as Facebook?

Messenger Kids came out in 2017 but became a great form of communication for our children during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a social outlet for children outside of the virtual classrooms. These children five years later are nearly reaching the age where they will lose these services too if the age isn’t extended on these applications.

Some of the younger generation may argue, how is it okay during a pandemic and then now we see the damage it caused we better do something?

These new laws will come as a relief to parents and carers as they have seen the impact of social media on their children and the tragic outcomes seen in the media due to harmful social media use.

Obviously, children aren’t going to be happy with the upcoming laws and the safety commissioner has made the following suggestions to make the transition easier.

It’s important that parents and carers help under 16s by talking openly about the age restrictions, finding out how they currently use social media and how that may be impacted by the new law, as well as encouraging them to seek help if they need further support for their health and wellbeing.

Find eSafety tips for parents and carers on how to start hard-to-have conversations, as well as information about parental controls and managing time online. This can be found at esafety.gov.au

Headspace (Australia National Youth Mental Health Foundation) also has helpful advice surrounding the upcoming age restrictions, you can find this at headspace.org.au

Cyber series: Dealing with sexual extortion

by Melinda Pullen

THERE is an ever-increasing form of blackmail that is mostly directed towards children having disastrous outcomes as they see no other way out if they’re targeted. This is sexual extortion, also known as sextortion.

This form of blackmail is when a person is threatens that nudes or sexual images and videos will be shared unless you follow their demands. They can also threaten this by using fake images generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

According to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE) said offenders may even attempt to capture sexual images of a young person while they are on live stream or video, sometimes without their knowledge. This is also known as ‘capping’.

“Fear, coercion and manipulation keep the crime going. In addition to the threats and coercion, victims often feel like they have done something wrong and will be punished by parents or carers or prosecuted by police if their actions are discovered.

“Right now, Australia is experiencing a global trend of offenders predominantly targeting teenage boys to send sexual images and threatening to share them unless they pay.”

For a child to be a victim of sextortion all it requires is access to the internet. The platforms can include social media, interactive gaming apps and messaging services.

Warning signs of sextortion in children

According to Victoria Police some signs that an online predator is scamming or targeting your child can include: finding pornography on your child’s computer; your child receiving phone calls from people you do not know or your child is calling numbers you don’t recognise; your child is spending a large amount of time on the internet and changing the screen or turning the computer off when you enter the room; they are receiving gifts or mail from people you do not know; your child becoming withdrawn or displaying behavioural problems. This includes unexplained increase in levels of fear, anxiety or anger; a drop in your child’s school performance or grades; self-harming ideations or actions, and unexplained sense of urgency to leave home or meet someone.

Protecting your family and reducing the risk of Sextortion

Education starts early, having that conversation about how people fall into the trap of sextortion scams and general online safety creates awareness and it’s also important to reiterate to your child/ teenager that if they fall victim to these scams they are not at fault.

To reduce the threat of sextortion happening to you or your loved ones there are some simple



Always monitor the platforms your child uses on their devices. These can include social media, interactive gaming apps, and messaging services.

measures you can put in place to better protect your online environment. These include: cover cameras on digital devices with a sticker or tape when you are not using it; avoid uploading compromising, intimate or sexual photos or videos; consider what data you store on your mobile phone or send via social media; be aware that online dating profiles and any other online profile can be fake; be careful what you send online to anyone, even if you have met them in person; do not send compromising, intimate or sexual photos or videos of yourself to anyone; review your social media privacy settings and make sure they’re as private as possible; protect children by keeping all computer/phone use to common family areas, and install parental controls on mobile devices to prevent calls or texts to strangers.

In relation to sextortion, Murrindindi Senior Sergeant Marc Hodgson said, “It is not something that is prevalent within the Murrindindi Shire. This type of offending, like all cybercrime, is something that people should be aware of so that they can adequately protect themselves and take steps to ensure they adopt good online security practices.”

If you are under 18 and have been a victim of sextortion report it to ACCCE at accce.gov.au/report and if you are over 18 the crime can be reported to Esafety, local police or crime stoppers.

If you or someone you know needs support, if you are under 25 years you can contact Kidshelpline or if you’re over 18 you can contact lifeline. Telling someone you trust can help you fix things and get the right help you need.

Yea Garden Expo wrap-up

THE Yea Garden Expo has come and gone and left many happy gardeners and vendors in its wake, and some tired Rotarians.

It’s hard to believe that what started as an idea nine years ago, has become one of the Rotary Clubs most successful fundraisers. But it is so much more than that. With around 1200 people through the gates over the two days, despite the cooler weather, the event attracted people from all over Victoria, who came to purchase so many items for their gardens, in preparation for spring.

Garden Expo Director Tony Jacobs is very pleased to have a loyal group of vendors (many who book multiple sites) who return year after year with quality plants and products to sell, and that is part of the attraction for the attendees. They know what to expect and are happy to attend and stock up in readiness for spring planting in their gardens. Vendors such as Squatting Frog have so many plants to sell, they purchase three sites. The chicken lady is another very popular vendor.

The event is so much more than a fundraiser for Rotary, as so many other community groups benefit. Limestone and Murrindindi CFA units handle all the parking and are remunerated by the Rotary Club.



District 9790 Governor with Rotary Club of Yea President Darryl King. Emma visited Sunday and helped out at the gate, plant creche and in the Wetlands Café. -S

The Yea Wetlands Café did a roaring trade in soup and scones and monies raised will go towards weed management in the wetlands. The Yea Garden Club raised funds from a second hand book stall and Yea Pottery Club sold items.

Many people are involved in making the event a success, with special thanks to the Murrindindi Shire for their support via a



Some of the many helpers in the Yea Wetlands Café, Judi Newman, Gidget Knight, Cath Zerbe, Liz Fitzgerald and Judi Marshman. -S

grant. Rachel and Peter from Yea Garden Centre donated a raffle prize and were also vendors and Yenckens in Yea kindly donated the wheelbarrow for all the donated garden products in the raffle.

The raffle winners have all been notified. The winner of the wheelbarrow and garden products was Alison Cardno from Kinglake,

the winner of the garden products was Jennifer Maguire from Warburton, the winner of the Yea Garden Centre voucher was Andrea Steiner from Alexandra, and two Isa brown hens were won by Louise from Murrindindi.

Happy gardening everyone. Lock in the first Saturday of the September school holidays 2026 for an action repeat.

The Farmer's Ag News

Hunting wild aurochs

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

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

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

It is likely that they evolved in Asia, migrating north and west, eventually

appearing in Western Europe, North Africa, the Indian subcontinent and East Asia.

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

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

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

In the early Holocene, during the first agricultural revolution when many human cultures began undertaking agriculture instead of hunting and gathering, taurine

cattle developed. The size of the cattle also began to reduce at around this time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Agriculture industry tracking for 2030 farm gate output target

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

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

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

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

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

"We've had a number of wins for the sector, including the extension of the Regional Investment Corporation Loans, the shelving of the 'Biosecurity Tax', the passing of the long-awaited legislation to establish a nature repair market, and government commitment to develop a National Food Security Strategy.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Show caution to weeds from introduced fodder

Richard Smith, Dairy Extension Officer

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

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

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

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

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

Agriculture Victoria is providing a free and tailored service to suppliers, transporters and

farmers to help them to efficiently navigate the permit requirements to bring feed into Victoria while managing biosecurity risks.

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

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

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

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

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

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Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

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GVW customers invited to share feedback in annual survey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

MATH SQUARE

1	-	2	-	7	-8
-		-		+	
3	+	6	-	8	1
-		+		+	
4	-	5	x	9	-41
-6		1		24	

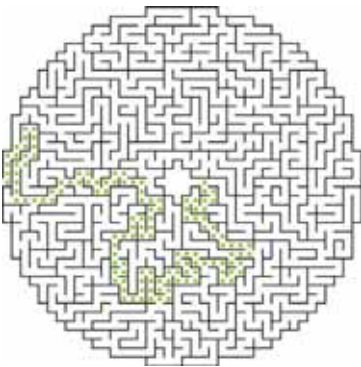
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SUDOKU

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

MAZE



KIDS MATH SQUARES

9	+	4	+	5	18
-		-		-	
7	+	8	-	6	9
-		+		-	
3	+	1	-	2	2
-1		-3		-3	

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MEETINGS

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

SITUATION VACANT



ALEXANDRA SECONDARY COLLEGE

Admin/Teacher Support

- 3 days a week, 9am to 3.20pm, negotiable
- Remuneration is pro rata from full time range of \$56,580 to \$72,460 depending on experience

Enquiries and requests for a position description and Key Selection Criteria to Nigel Lyttle on 0427 511 983 or Nigel.Lyttle@education.vic.gov.au

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

MEETINGS



MERTON AMATEUR TURF CLUB Inc ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Further Information

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



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

Notice of Annual General Meeting

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

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

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

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

MEETINGS



Redgate Alexandra Branch of the CWA of Victoria Inc.

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

TO RENT/LEASE

ALEXANDRA, for rent/lease an ideal office/shop. Disabled access and easy parking. Shop 1, no. 2 Bakers Lane. Cheap rent. Call Chris 0427 723 081.

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DEATH NOTICES

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

MOSS, Patricia Margaret (Pat)

25/11/1937 - 22/09/2025

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

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

DEATH NOTICES

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

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



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SITUATION VACANT



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- Support scheduling
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Keep up with cancer screening and health checks

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

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

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

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

“We are still seeing repercussions from the pandemic of people not keeping up to date with their health checks and cancer screening,” she said.

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

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

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

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

“Without the screening program, who knows what may have happened? Because it was detected through screening, the treatment was successful and now I’m able to enjoy life again.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October Mailman

by the Left-handed Banjo

Across dusty plains the mailman rode

A precious letter in mailbag stowed.

The sun was hot the road was dusty

His lips were parched, his voice was husky.

He’d travelled far to bring the mail

There was no choice, he could not fail

Australia Post says ‘We deliver’

And he a humble letter giver.

His horse was spent from such a ride

The mailman gently stroked its side.

A slow dismount, a little rest

A bit more strength a bit more zest.

Then slowly push towards the hill

On which the destined home stood still.

With his last steps he reached the landing

To blonde-head boy the letter handing.

Inside the house a great uproar

As brother and sister the importance saw.

The letter opened the note was read

(never mind the mailman dead!)

The letter from their Grandpa said:

‘Don’t be surprised if I do say

It’s the first of October on this day’

‘A pinch and a punch’ to this rowdy bunch!’

As on breakfast they all munch.

And as they holler to each other

(Which includes their precious mother):

The angels gently the mailman lifted

Along with his horse the angels shifted

And carried him back to whence he came

And on his coat next to his name

A note they pinned with hands so tender

The note it read: ‘Return to sender’

Epilogue

And if you stand on yonder hill

The mailman horse’s hooves ring still

The message clear the message plain,

Grandpa has won again.

No pinching and punching,

Just wincing and munching,

On breakfast just crunching!

Lawn and order

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

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

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

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

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

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

Support for local and independent journalism

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteering offers purpose and connection for seniors

FOR many seniors, the decision to volunteer goes far beyond filling spare time, it’s about staying connected, feeling valued, and contributing to the wellbeing of their community.

With Australians living longer and healthier lives, more people are discovering that retirement does not mean slowing down. Instead, many older residents are taking the opportunity to give back through volunteering, finding purpose in roles that keep them active and socially engaged.

Local community organisations, charities, and service clubs continue to highlight the important role older volunteers play. From assisting at op shops and delivering meals, to mentoring young people and supporting local events, seniors bring a wealth of skills and life experience that cannot be replicated.

Health experts say volunteering can also boost mental and physical wellbeing. Staying socially active reduces the risk of isolation, while the routine and responsibility of helping others encourages a sense of belonging. Studies have linked volunteering with lower stress levels, improved mood, and even longer life expectancy.

For many seniors, the friendships built through volunteering are just as valuable as the service itself. Working side-by-side with others creates strong social networks and ensures older community members remain connected. In regional and rural towns in particular, volunteers often form the backbone of essential services and local initiatives.

There are countless opportunities for seniors to get involved. neighbourhood houses, libraries, and health support groups all rely heavily on volunteers, and most are eager to welcome older participants. Many organisations offer flexible hours, making it easier for retirees to contribute while balancing family, hobbies, and travel.

Whether it’s lending a hand at a food bank, coaching a local sporting team, or simply making phone calls to check in on isolated residents, every act of service makes a difference.

For seniors, volunteering is not only about helping others, it’s a proven way to stay connected, active, and purposeful. It remains one of the most powerful tools for healthy ageing and building stronger communities.

Seniors turning to technology to stay on top of their health

MORE seniors are discovering that smartphones, apps, and wearable devices are not just for the younger generation, they’re valuable tools for staying healthy, active, and connected.

Across the country, older Australians are increasingly using technology to monitor their wellbeing, with many finding it easier than ever to track important health information. From step counters and heart-rate monitors built into smartwatches, to medication reminder apps and telehealth consultations on smartphones, these digital tools are helping seniors take control of their health.

Health professionals say wearable devices can provide a simple way for older people to keep an eye on everyday fitness. Many watches and fitness bands count daily steps,

track sleep patterns, and even alert the wearer to irregular heart rhythms. Some can send emergency alerts to family members or carers if a fall is detected, a feature that offers reassurance to both seniors and their loved ones.

Smartphone apps are also growing in popularity, with easy-to-use programs that remind users when to take medications, record blood pressure readings, or manage appointments. Video calling apps make it possible to see doctors and specialists without leaving home, while others encourage relaxation through guided breathing or mindfulness exercises.

For those new to technology, community centres, libraries, and senior groups often run workshops to help older residents learn how to

use smartphones and apps confidently. Once familiar, many find the tools not only useful but enjoyable, especially when they connect to family through video chats or share fitness milestones with friends.

While adopting new technology may feel daunting at first, experts recommend starting small, perhaps downloading one health app or trying out a simple fitness tracker. Over time, these digital aids can become part of daily routines, promoting independence and peace of mind.

For seniors embracing smartphones and wearables, the benefits go beyond convenience. They provide a modern way to stay active, safeguard health, and remain connected to the people and services that matter most.

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

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

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

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

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

To follow Trev's journey visit Trevs story on facebook or visit trevsstory.com



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



Helen and Trevor Renison. -S



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

Tradie mental health matters

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORT

Dazzling Darren's Four in a Row

by Maurie Finn

DARREN Sherman has certainly enjoyed the Yea Pharmacy Monday Bowls.

In teams that are selected randomly, Darren has been part of the winning team for the last four weeks in a row: back to back to back to back. The Brisbane Lions,

Darren's team, have now done the same.

The Monday Triples, a popular event, has attracted lots of participants over recent weeks with the weather warming up; as has the Thursday pairs event with new bowlers who are most welcome to come and play.

On Monday during lunch, Neil Rieschick, ran a coaching session

on the finer points of bowling including placement of the mat. Terry Muller spoke about Pennant Selection and selectors being open to discussion with players at any time. He also explained the new Rookie Roller program designed for primary age school children. A representative from Bowls Australia will be on hand to help us get started soon.

At the end of the day, David from Yea Pharmacy attended while prizes were presented and briefly outlined services available.

The annual Yarra Glen challenge over 21ends is on this coming Saturday, October 4.

It acts as a practice match for the upcoming Pennant season which commences on October 18.

For the third year in a row the Yea Bowls Club steps up a division following recent success.

The monthly 60 and Over event recommenced last Thursday with two Yea teams competing at Seymour. While not successful they were very competitive and are looking forward to next month's event.



Last week's Winners with David from Yea Pharmacy, Angela Finn, Maurie Finn and Darren Sherman. -S



September 15 winners Terry McInnes, Darren Sherman, and Jeff Green. -S



Winners on the September 8, Darren Sherman and Rodney Pitt-Wood. (Absent Howard Geldard) -S

The Chronicle Sport

Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Winner Alan with Jennie. -S

The Bruce Kindred Cup at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

THE Grand Final holiday saw the sixth Bruce Kindred Cup conducted at Yea Golf Club. Thirty-four golfers participated in the stableford/four ball best ball events with participants encouraged to wear their footy colours.

Winners of the day were Jo Clayton with 43 points for the Ladies stableford, Alan Pell with 39 points for the Men's Stableford and Jo and Paul Clayton with 47 points in the four ball best ball. It was fabulous to have Jennie Kindred available to present the winning trophies.

Full Ladies results: Runner-Up Cindy Armstrong 36, third Vicki Clements 35. Mens Results: Runner-Up Russ Wealands 38, third Paul Clayton 37. Four ball best ball results: Runners-Up Greg and Vicki Clements 44 countback, Phil and Cindy Armstrong 44. Nearest the pin: Second David Ngo, 11th Steve Rumney and Vicki Clements, 14th Zach Pell and Vicki Clements, 18th Greg Clements.

Saturday morning saw 15 members play a stableford event before the grand final. Winner of the event was Kevin Coghlan (21) with 39 points from second Mic Sheather (21) with 36 points and Anthony La Grutta (20) was third with 35 points. No nearest the pin on the 18th and Bill Dredge took out the club award.

Wednesday saw a Par three day at Yea with hole length and stroke index based on Kyabram Parklands Par three course. Winners were Khai Mohammed Noor for the Ladies and Martin Lowe for the Men both with 39 points.

Second for the Ladies was Di Elliott with 36 from equal third Di Holdsworth/Cindy Armstrong with 35. Mic Spagnolo was second for the men with 38 countback from Anthony La Grutta third. Bill Dredge was nearest the pin on the 18th and Mic Sheather won the club award.



Jo and Jenny. -S



Greg and Vicki Clements -S



Winners were Khai Mohammed Noor for the Ladies and Martin Lowe for the Men both with 39 points in last Wednesday's match. S



Jo (left) and Paul (Right) with Jenny (Middle) looking pleased with their winnings for the day. -S



Sharon Grogan and Miranda Gill in their footy colours. -S



Tony and Nicola Rule. -S