

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

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The Yea Railway Market was held on Saturday, in glorious weather. -Plymouth Dale Photos

Where is the AI revolution taking us?

THE artificial intelligence revolution continues apace. Image generators proliferate, and as of last month, some video generators have the capacity for characters to speak dialogue. You can even upload your own image and star in your own film. You want to hear your own voice speaking the dialogue? There's programs that can analyse what you say and update the generated dialogue accordingly. If you want someone else to star in your film, perhaps someone from Hollywood or a long departed relative, that is possible too.

While this means that a lot of people will have a lot of fun, it also means that scams will get much better, so be warned.

Chatbots are proliferating. When you try to contact a company, many websites will direct you towards a chatbot helper. If you want to talk to a real life person, well wait in the queue.

Large language model (LLMs) text has started popping up at the top of Google results, but it certainly doesn't stop there. People have not just been asking questions of bots such as ChatGPT, but they have also been developing strong relationships with them.

Such bots are not entirely trustworthy, as they provide predictive text which is not always accurate. Depending on the programmed parameters, they may also

make negative suggestions. There have been reports of chatbots suggesting that people harm or kill themselves. In short, they should be approached with caution and skepticism.

New AI CCTV is available which can identify threats in shopping malls, and the video is searchable via clothing and other descriptions applied.

Chain stores such as Kmart and Bunnings have been in trouble with the Information Commissioner over the use of biometric data such as facial recognition, however many people use facial recognition to unlock their phones.

Artists, writers, musicians, photographers and others have had their creative outputs scooped up by AI companies without recompense, for a profit-making enterprise. The Productivity Commission suggested in August that there be a copyright law exemption for AI, prompting criticism from those whose work has been taken without consent. In the meantime, large publishers and music companies are making deals with AI companies.

As for robots, there are some predictions that nearly everyone will have a humanoid AI robot at home in the 2030s, while others say that there could be more than a billion humanoids in use by 2050. At least there

won't be any more fights over who does the washing up.

But when there's nothing left to do, what will humans do? Luxuriate or die of boredom? What will be the mental health impacts when there's nothing left to strive for? And will the economic boon be adequately shared with the populace?

It appears likely that there may be GDP increases for Australia through the use of AI, but how will this be passed onto the workers displaced? After all, the World Economic Forum estimated that 22 per cent of current jobs globally will face disruption by 2030.

There are also fears of techno-feudalism developing, with big-tech owners as our overlords.

Theorists have suggested that a Universal Basic Income (UBI) may be the only real option as more jobs disappear, but if it is implemented in Australia, how long will it take? If it's not implemented quickly, how will potential income inequality be handled? While UBI sounds a bit like socialism, it is in fact something entirely new as socialism focuses on workers owning the means of production, while UBI is a redistribution of wealth.

A spokesperson Australian Government Department of Employment and Workplace Relations was asked about these challenges. They responded, "Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) recently published *Our Gen AI Transition*, Australia's first national, whole-of-labour market study focused on the potential workforce opportunities and challenges presented by generative artificial intelligence (Gen AI). The study and its recommendations offer a framework for employment and skills policy to respond to gen AI and future technologies.

"The report highlights the need for broad digital and AI capability uplift to enable Australia's transition over the medium term with key findings showing that gen AI is more likely to augment human work than replace it, with many roles remaining secure against automation.

"Reforms have built a responsive, industry-led vocational education and training (VET) system driven by data, collaboration and shared stewardship. The National Skills Agreement, Jobs and Skills Councils and Jobs and Skills Australia are positioned to address AI-related skills and workforce challenges, with initiatives already underway.

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We thank you for your continued support

More road safety upgrades grants available

THE Victorian Government is providing grants to councils to help boost safety, reduce road trauma and deliver smoother journeys for more Victorians.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne announced on Tuesday, September 30 the second expression of interest stage of the four year \$210 million *Safe Local Roads and Street Program* is now open to all 79 local councils across the state.

With almost \$25 million in funding available this year and more than 200 projects approved so far, councils can apply for grants of up to \$2 million for additional projects to develop, design and deliver critical safety upgrades on local roads, intersections, and precincts.

Successful applications will be determined based on merit to deliver targeted road safety upgrades across the state.

Additional projects will continue to be funded over the coming months as the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and Department of Transport and Planning work together with local councils to finalise local road safety upgrades.

Local governments manage 87 per cent of Victoria's roads with motorists depending on them every day to travel to school, work and around their local community.

The *Safe Local Roads and Streets Program* will help to build councils' capacity to plan, fund and deliver road safety improvements on local roads, and provide an important contribution to reducing road trauma for all Victorians.

The program is bolstered by the state government's 2025/26 \$976 million road maintenance blitz which is underway and the largest single-year investment in road maintenance in the state's history with 70 per cent of all the funding going towards regional roads.

Fire inspections to begin soon

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

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

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

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

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

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

Boundary Creek Open Space Concept Plan adopted

MURRINDINDI Shire Council adopted the Boundary Creek Open Space Concept Plan at its meeting on September 24, setting a clear direction for the future of this important community space in Yea.

The four hectare site, located along Boundary Creek and adjacent to the Yea Springs Estate, was created through land provided to council by the estate developer, as part of a public open space contribution. Council assumed management of the site in 2024 and recognised the need for a long-term plan to guide its development and care.

The concept plan was shaped through community input, including drop-in sessions and an online survey. Feedback highlighted strong support for a space that encourages passive and active recreation, and informal gathering. The community also prioritised improved accessibility, including safe walking links between Yea Springs Estate and the town centre, protection of the creek corridor environment, and better emergency access.

Features of the plan include nature-inspired play elements, picnic areas, seating, walking paths, and landscaping that reflects the natural character of the site. The plan also

supports future connectivity with nearby residential developments and aligns with broader planning goals in the Draft Yea Structure Plan.

The concept plan was prepared with funding support from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and developed in partnership with Landscape Architecture and Urban Design Consultants, Michael Smith & Associates.

Adopting the plan gives council a clear guide for planning, funding advocacy and maintenance programming. Early-stage works are estimated at \$123,860 in capital items, with additional ongoing maintenance costs to follow.

Cheviot Ward Councillor and Sustainability and Assets Portfolio holder Cr Sue Carpenter said the plan provides long-term direction for an area already valued by the community.

"We've had some really helpful feedback from the Yea community about what they'd like to see in this space. Residents are looking for somewhere simple and welcoming, where they can walk the dog, take the kids to play, or just sit and enjoy the outdoors. This plan takes those ideas on board and gives us clear direction on how we can make the area safer, more accessible and better connected to the rest of town.

"This plan gives us a solid foundation, but delivering the improvements will take time and resources. Council will be advocating for funding to make sure we can bring the elements of the plan to life," Cr Carpenter said.

"We recognise that this area is subject to flooding, so our focus is on low-impact improvements that can withstand potential inundation without sustaining damage, while enhancing the natural values of the area and creating safe, inviting spaces for residents and visitors."

To view the adopted concept plan and learn more, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/boundarycreek or call council on 5772 0333.



Community engagement on the Boundary Creek Open Space Plan on July 19. -S

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

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

There are several companies in Australia that can convert your classic Land Rover, Beetle, Combi or MG B to an electric car. Ditching the internal combustion engine, gearbox, fuel tank and adding an electric motor, batteries and a controller generally results in better performance, less servicing and cheaper to run miles well into the future.

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

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

Join 2030Yea at *Yea Cruise Night*, Saturday, October 11 from 5pm to dark to talk about electric car conversion, and take a look at a Mitsubishi i-MiEV that has an upgraded battery to extend its range.

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



Gareth's electric vehicle. -S

School is back, slow down

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

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

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

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



How to electrify a Classic Car

Stall and Classic Car display

Saturday, October 11, 5pm until dark
Yea Cruise night on the median strip

Become a member of 2030Yea Community Energy now.
Go to our webpage at 2030yea.com.au and follow the prompts.

Enquiries and bookings, text or call 0428 969 366 2030yea.com.au
2030yea@gmail.com 2030Yea @YeaCommunityEnergy



The team from Yarck CFA. -S

COMMUNITY DIARY

Yea District Hospital
5736 0400

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale/Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



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.

There's still time to Get Fire Ready

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

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

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

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

October 12

Trawool Fire Station 10am to 2pm.

October 25

Koriella, Fawcett Hall, 10am to 3pm.

October 18

Eildon CFA at Eildon Bakery 8am to 1pm.
Yea CFA, Boundary Creek Boulevard between Jordan And William Hovell Way, 4 to 8pm.

October 26

Flowerdale Fire Station, 10am to noon.
Buxton Fire Station, 10am to 4pm.

October 31

Glenburn Community Hall, 6 to 10.30pm.
Taggerty Oval, 9am to 1pm.

October 19

Strath Creek-Reedy Creek CFA station, 10am to 2pm.
Narbethong CFA Station, 11.30am to 2pm.

Previous

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

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

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.

OCTOBER

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Menzies invites you to an afternoon gathering to celebrate Senior's month. Bring a friend, enjoy afternoon tea and a social support information session. RSVP by Monday, September 29 for catering. Call 5772 1888 or email social.support@menziessupport.org.au

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Free LEAP community lunch. Help shape a stronger, safer, and more resilient Eildon, Rubicon, and Thornton. 12.30pm Lake Eildon Hotel, 190 Sugarloaf Road, Eildon. Community bus pickups are available from Eildon, Rubicon, and Thornton. Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leaplunch for more information. Registrations close Saturday, October 4.

2030Yea-how to electrify a classic car. Stall and classic car display 5pm until dark. Enquiries and bookings 0428 969 366.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

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



Some of the team from Lake Mountain. -S



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

A large donation to Murrindindi Community Food Share

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Maintenance works

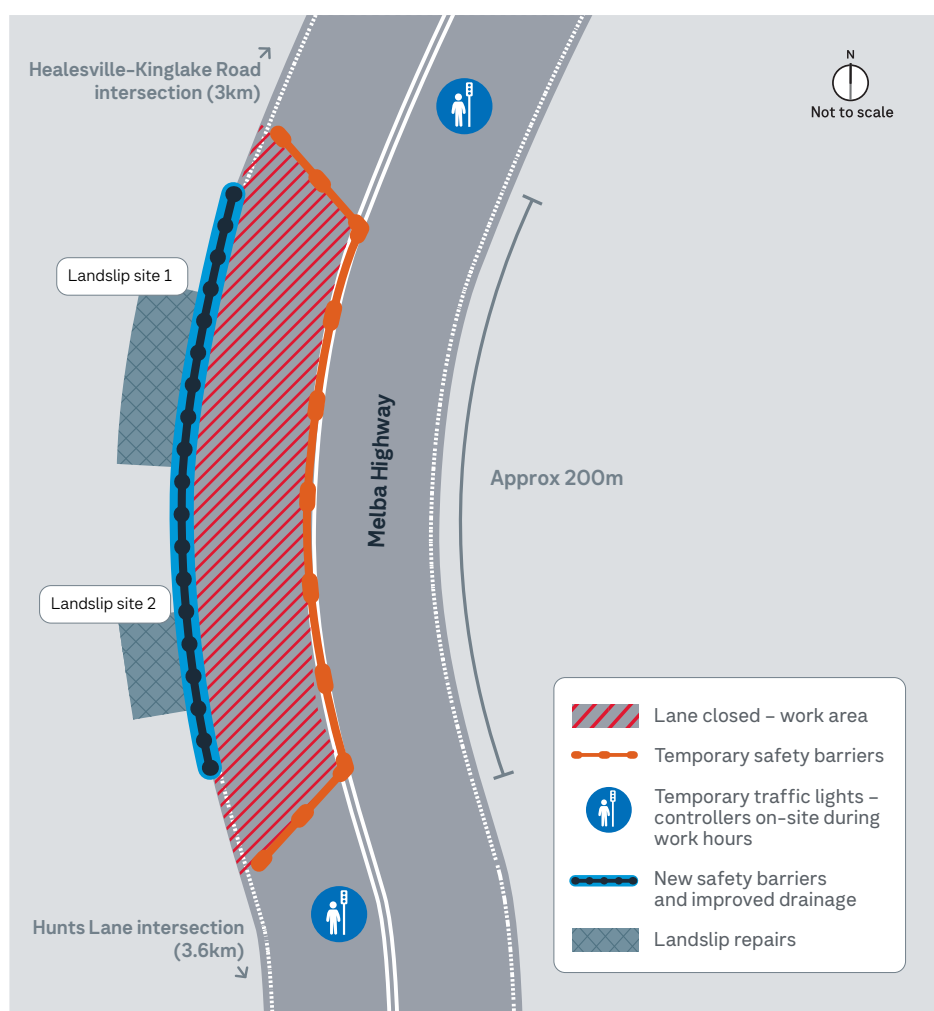


Lane closed Melba Highway

From Monday 13 October to end of January.

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

Plan ahead and allow up to 20 minutes extra time.



Fire agencies simulate major bushfire response at Shepparton ICC

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

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

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

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

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

The day featured two incident management teams

working in shifts, with a mid-day handover to simulate live operational transitions.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Tyrrell seeking improved repairs on regional roads

AS part of her campaign to improve the road network throughout her electorate, Member for Northern Victorian Region Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has questioned the Victorian Government on the quality of the workmanship by contractors responsible for repairing damaged Victorian roads.

Ms Tyrrell has been a constant advocate for the repair of many regional roads throughout Northern Victoria and last month called on her constituents to contact her with details of specific roads that needed urgent attention.

Ms Tyrrell's office has been inundated with complaints from constituents as a result and she has highlighted these concerns in regular contributions in state parliament.

"Almost as often as I hear from my constituents about damaged, neglected roads, I also hear about the unsatisfactory road repairs carried out by contractors employed by the state government," Ms Tyrrell said.

"I hear stories of these works crumbling, potholes reforming and rough surfaces reappearing within weeks, sometimes days, of so-called repairs being completed."

To improve the standard of the repair work on regional roads, Ms Tyrrell called on the Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne to implement an inquiry into the poor workmanship to hold contractors responsible to account.

"Repairs lasting only a few weeks is not value for money; they should be fixed correctly the first time, with no corners cut and no need for almost immediate repairs," Ms Tyrrell said.

"The shoddy workmanship we are seeing on rural roads is appalling and I call on the Minister to take action to ensure our roads are repaired and repaired properly."

Prepare ahead for thunderstorm asthma

ASTHMA Australia is urging people with asthma or hay fever to take steps now to protect themselves, as south-eastern Australia enters its high-risk thunderstorm asthma season.

Thunderstorm asthma events are well documented in south-eastern Australia and can create high-risk conditions for people with asthma and hay fever. In this region, grass pollen typically peaks in November.

During thunderstorms, rain and moisture can cause pollen grains to absorb water and rupture into tiny sub-pollen particles (SPPs), and storm-driven winds then push these small particles down to ground level, where people may inhale them.

Chris Pearce, GP and Asthma Australia board member, said, "For people with asthma, thunderstorm asthma can escalate quickly and be life-threatening. Now is the time to check your asthma control with your GP, use your preventer as recommended and make sure you have an up-to-date Asthma Action Plan, which formalises how to manage asthma and what to do if symptoms worsen."

He also has some advice for those using a blue reliever inhaler. "Most people with asthma would take their reliever out with them because symptoms can flare when they are exposed to triggers like grass pollen. We want to make sure people with asthma are up to date with best practice. The latest asthma

guidelines recommend against relying on a blue reliever inhaler alone. Anti-inflammatory relievers containing both a preventer and reliever medicine are now recommended in place of the blue reliever alone.

In the devastating 2016 Melbourne Thunderstorm Asthma event, more than 3500 people sought emergency care and 10 lives were lost. Most presenting to hospital during this event didn't have a doctor diagnosis of asthma, yet of these people, almost half reported symptoms suggestive of the condition.

Dr Pearce said, "People with hay fever can also be affected during thunderstorm asthma events, even if they've never been diagnosed with asthma. Those who are sensitive to grass pollen, or wheeze and cough at night or get short of breath when grass pollen is high should prioritise seeing their GP to make sure they are assessed for asthma.

"It's also important to keep a close eye on high-pollen and storm forecasts. You can check grass pollen levels using the AirRater App which provides real-time forecasts and warnings, to help you plan your day," he said.

Who is at risk?

People with asthma, particularly if it is poorly controlled.

People with asthma symptoms, even if undiagnosed (e.g. wheeze, shortness of breath, night coughing).

People with hay fever (especially triggered by ryegrass pollen).

How Victorians can prepare

Asthma Australia recommends the following steps:

Check your asthma control. Book a review with your GP, ensure your preventer is used at least daily as prescribed, and have an up-to-date asthma action plan.

Keep your reliever close by.

Manage hay fever. Take recommended treatments to reduce sensitivity to pollen, including nasal steroids.

Stay informed daily at the National Pollen Forecast Service PollenForecast.com.au or the AirRater app airrater.org

Be prepared during storms. On high pollen and storm days, stay indoors where possible, close windows and doors, and keep your reliever inhaler handy.

More information

For resources and support, visit asthma.org.au or call 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462) to speak with an Asthma Educator.

Automated pollen counters for detecting thunderstorm asthma

SIX new automated pollen counters will be part of an expanded and more sophisticated thunderstorm asthma risk forecasting system in 2025, keeping Victorians safer on high-risk days this grass pollen season.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas last week visited the State Control Centre to encourage Victorians to be prepared by using Victoria's world-leading Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma Risk Forecast System, now available online until December 31.

"We want everyone to stay safe this pollen season, and with these high-tech upgrades, more Victorians can now stay informed and put their asthma action plans in place on high risk days," Ms Thomas said.

Replacing manual traps, the new automated pollen counters use advanced imaging to deliver faster and more accurate data, giving Victoria a nation leading tool to strengthen forecasting and health alerts.

Providing a three-day forecast for Victoria's nine weather districts, the system will indicate a low, moderate or high risk, alerting people when they should avoid exposure outdoors to reduce demand on emergency services.

Thunderstorm asthma typically occurs between October and December when certain thunderstorms cause grass pollen grains to burst into tiny particles, which can be inhaled deep into the lungs and trigger asthma symptoms.

Those most at risk are encouraged to take any prescribed medication, follow their asthma action plan and be alert on higher-risk forecast days, closing windows and avoiding outdoor exposure during wind gusts and storms.

The launch of the forecast system in 2017 followed the world's largest epidemic thunderstorm asthma event in Melbourne on November 21, 2016, that tragically resulted in

10 deaths and thousands of people developing breathing difficulties in a very short time.

The new pollen counters are part of a joint investment with the state government investing \$2.97 million to deliver the modernised system, supported by a \$2.4 million contribution from the Federal Government through the Disaster Ready Fund which includes funding for a further three pollen counters in ACT, NSW and SA.

Federal Minister for Emergency Management Kristy McBain said, "Through our government's flagship Disaster Ready Fund, we're proud to support jurisdictions like Victoria to minimise the risk of thunderstorms for asthmatics through earlier warnings in time for the higher-risk weather season."

To access the daily forecasts and health advice, visit the betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstorm-asthma or the emergency.vic.gov.au

Know the legal firewood collecting methods

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

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

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

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



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



Sign up to save a life

WITH more cardiac arrests in Victoria than ever before, Ambulance Victoria (AV) is encouraging Taggerty and Eildon residents to learn or refresh their cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.

A cardiac arrest occurs when a person's heart suddenly stops pumping blood effectively around the body.

This October marks the sixth year of AV's state-wide Shocktober campaign, which is dedicated to improving cardiac arrest survival rates.

Ambulance Victoria Hume Director Regional and Clinical Operations Narelle Capp encouraged locals to learn CPR, how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) and know where their closest defibrillator is located.

"Shocktober is about giving Victorians who have a cardiac arrest a better chance of returning to their loved ones," she said.

"CPR and defibrillation are critical. Every day, around 21 Victorians suffer the medical emergency but only one in 10 survive. For every minute CPR is delayed, survival decreases by 10 per cent.

"Cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere, at any age, health or fitness level, and often without symptoms.

"Our message is simple. You don't need to be a paramedic to save a life, just remember to call (Triple Zero 000), push (Perform CPR) and shock (use an AED)."

Narelle also encouraged locals to sign up to be a GoodSAM responder.

GoodSAM is a mobile app that connects patients in cardiac arrest with a nearby volunteer who is

willing to start hands-only CPR while paramedics are on their way. There are currently more than 17,300 GoodSAM responders across Victoria, but we need more.

Last year, AV paramedics and first responders were called to 7545 cardiac arrest patients. Victoria has the best cardiac survival rates in Australia and the third best anywhere in the world.

AV will run Call, Push, Shock sessions in Taggerty and Eildon during Shocktober and locals are encouraged to attend. The Taggerty session is on Tuesday, October 7 at 6pm at Taggerty CH@T, and the Eildon session will be on Tuesday, October 28 at 10am at the Lake Eildon Visitor Centre.

For information about Shocktober, the GoodSAM app and how to learn CPR and use an AED (defib), visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/shocktober

Farm Drought Support Grants

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



Apply now:
**ruralfinance.
com.au/grants**

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

VICTORIA
State Government



Council News



October 2025

Fire season inspections to begin soon

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

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

Free business networking brunch in Yea

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

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

Children's Week Storytimes

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

Story time sessions:

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

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

Free lunches for Seniors in October

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

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

Free Green Waste in October

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

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

Office closure for training day

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

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

All offices will reopen as usual on Thursday 16 October.

Urban Tree Strategy open for feedback

Council invites residents to provide feedback on the draft Urban Tree Strategy, which aims to enhance tree diversity and sustainable management.

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

Free community dinner for Strath Creek LEAP

Calling all Strath Creek and surrounds community members. Join us for a free community dinner and conversation about creating a Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) for Strath Creek on Saturday 25 October from 6.00 pm at Strath Creek Hall, 10 Ferguson Street, Strath Creek.

A LEAP helps communities prepare for and respond to emergencies, supporting self-reliance for up to 72 hours after an event. Have your say, connect with neighbours, and help build a stronger, safer community.

Register by 18 October so catering can be provided, at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leap

Get in touch
5772 0333

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Stay informed

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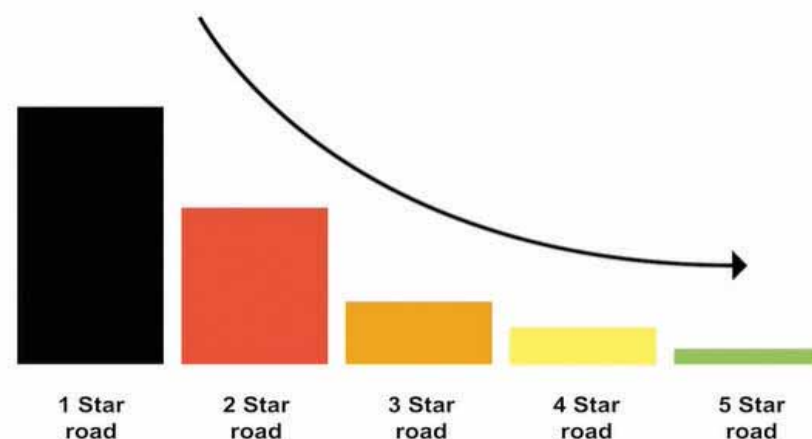
AusRAP's Goal

AusRAP's national safety target for 2030 is at least 80 percent of all travel on roads rated 3-stars or higher



The infographic showing AusRAP's goal.

Each Star Rating Boost Halves Serious Crash Risk



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

Most Murrindindi Shire roads rated one star

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

Murrindindi Shire does not fare well.

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

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

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

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

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

The entirety of Taggerty-Thornton Road is one star, as is Marysville Road from Narbethong to Marysville, and Marysville-Wood Point Road.

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

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

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

Most of Broadford-Flowerdale Road is one star.

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

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

When contacted about the issue, a Department of Transport spokesperson said, "The AusRAP data is supporting the Victorian Government to invest in road safety

infrastructure upgrades where it is needed most, on roads with the highest crash rates and traffic volumes.

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

"The ratings highlight the significant safety benefits that have been achieved through the delivery of life saving road safety infrastructure initiatives such as the deployment of flexible safety barriers along our highest risk roads."

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

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

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

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

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

Improvements in recent years are the result of initiatives including the Victorian Government's Safe System Road Infrastructure Top 20 Program, which saw 1700km of flexible safety barriers and other safety infrastructure installed along 20 of Victoria's highest risk roads, as well as the Next 16 Program, which installed road safety infrastructure along the next 16 highest risk roads.

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

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

They are continuing work to lift the safety of one and two star roads through measures such as shoulder sealing, audio-tactile line marking and targeted safety barriers, which deliver strong safety benefits. Speed reductions are also considered as an effective way to manage risk. Speed limits are set on a case-by-case basis in line with our Speed Zoning Policy.

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

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

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

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

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Fees waived for farmers over next financial year

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dairy farmers will receive a discount on their 2025/26 licence fees which will be reflected in their milk payments from dairy manufacturers. Farmers don't have to apply, they will receive a refund in their next milk cheque. Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFS) is working directly with manufacturers to apply this discount.

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

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

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

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

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

Australian sheep flock declines

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

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

Production and slaughter

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

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

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

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

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

Exports and global demand

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



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

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

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

Live export

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

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

Recent changes in the regulatory landscape have prompted some producers to reassess their business models and explore alternative market pathways.

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

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

Looking ahead

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

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

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

On the global front, tight supply from New Zealand and steady international demand are expected to support export opportunities for Australian sheepmeat. While domestic consumption may come under pressure from elevated prices, Australia's position as a reliable, high-quality supplier remains strong.

Have your say

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

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

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

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

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

Safety warning prior to hay season starting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“We run plastic over the flooring which stops moisture from coming up into the hay which prevents damage to the hay but also prevents the risk of water ingress, particularly in heavy rainfall periods during summer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

New agents on the block for Yea cattle sales

THE October Combined Store Sale took place on Friday, October 3, at the Yea Saleyards, with the new agents in town the talking point. Adding Victorian Livestock and Property (VLP) to the mix, alongside Elders, Nutrien,

and Alex Scott and Staff, the cattle sale saw a large crowd in attendance. Some 2562 cattle were yarded, though the prices were slightly lower than previously. The average price per head sat at \$1489, with

the average weight per head 309kg. This equalled out to an average of 482c/kg. Steers made a top price of \$3040 with top weight of 575kg, averaging out at 529 c/kg. Meanwhile heifers had a top price of

\$2020 and top weight of 415kg, averaging out to 487c/kg. The first row of cows and calves reached a top price of \$3100, with most of the pens sitting above the \$2000 mark.



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



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

STOCK REPORT 3 OCTOBER 2025				
Combined Agents Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	2,562			
Average \$ per head	\$1,489			
Average weight per head	309kg			
Top price per head		\$3,040	\$2,020	\$3,100
Top weight		575kg	415kg	
Turnover	\$3.7 million			



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

THRIVE

- Lifestyle
- Wellbeing
- Health



Leading Humanity Care is all about people

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

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

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

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

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

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

Too many families have been left frustrated by providers who don't return calls, don't listen, or treat people like a number. LHC believes that has no place in care. Every person deserves dignity, respect, and real support that makes life easier, whether it's a friendly face for a coffee and chat, help with daily living, or a reliable worker to get you to appointments.

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

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

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

To find support for yourself or someone you know visit leadinghumanitycare.com.au to access a referral form, or you can book a chat with a free, no-obligation consultation to help you explore how LHC can best support you.



Leading Humanity Care director Harris Faiz. -S

You can also email you query to info@leadinghumanitycare.com.au or call 1300 809 143.

Dindi Chiropractic ready to serve the community

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

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

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

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

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



At Leading Humanity Care, we support locals to live safely, comfortably, and with dignity at home. As a trusted NDIS registered provider, we offer tailored support across **Disability** and **Aged Care**.

Our Services Include:

- ✓ Community Nursing
- ✓ Personal care | showering, dressing, grooming
- ✓ Companionship & social/community access
- ✓ Transport to appointments & outings
- ✓ Meal preparation & shopping assistance
- ✓ Household tasks | Cleaning, Laundry, Gardening
- ✓ SIL - Supported Independent Living
- ✓ Support for seniors to remain independent at home

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Dr Jaimi Mckeown
(B.HealthSc/B.AppSc)

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We utilise the Gonstead Method

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15B High Street, YEA (03) 7076 2767

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

Colouring Page



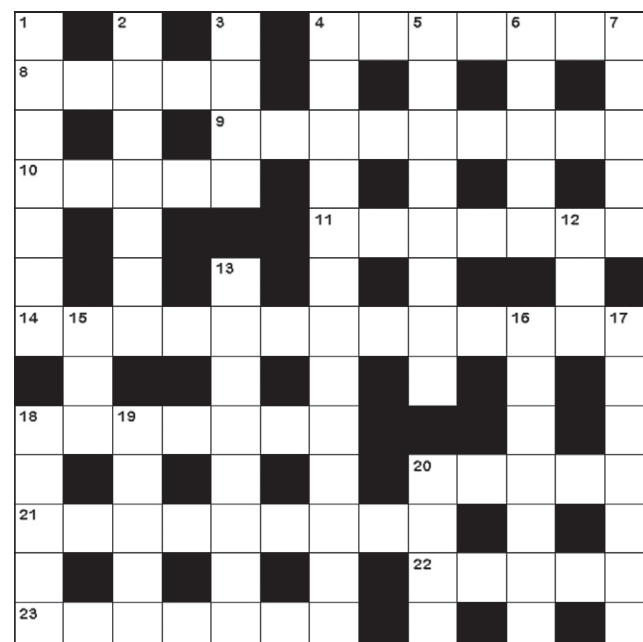
Crossword

ACROSS

- Makes a loud ear-splitting noise.
- Take fish or game in a forbidden area.
- Absolutely required and not to be used up.
- Many times at short intervals.
- Made less concentrated by adding water.
- Excessively sensitive and unpredictable.
- Gather in the ripened crops.
- Neatly brief and to the point.
- Any liquids suitable for drinking.
- Fill with surprise and astonishment.
- Completely demolished the car.

DOWN

- Assign to a duty or a position.
- A childish outburst of bad temper.
- The time an action is to be stopped.
- Deprived of the basic necessities of life.
- Declared a situation void or invalid.
- A legally binding decision issued by a court.



- A dish of cold vegetables or fruit.
- A distinctive period in time.
- Involving intelligence rather than emotions.
- Estimated time of arrival.
- A rising current of warm air.

- Pointed out and compared a similarity.
- An established pattern of behaviour.
- Focus one's attention on something.
- A male monarch or emperor of Russia.

Word Search

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

TV Shows

CRIMINALMINDS MRSBROWNSBOYS
DOCTORWHO NEIGHBOURS
FAMILYGUY STARTREK
GILLIGANSISLAND THEADDAMSFAMILY
HOMEANDAWAY THENANNY
KATHANDKIM THESIMPSONS

Math Square

	×	7	-		6
-		+		+	
	-		-		-10
+		×		÷	
	-	1	+		8
4		12		11	

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.

Word Search

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

Words starting with "Y"

YACHT YESTERDAY
YAK YIELDING
YARN YOKE
YAWN YOLK
YEARLY YOUNGSTER
YELLOW YOURS
YELPING YOUTHFUL

Math Square

	-		+		-2
-		-		-	
2	-		-		-8
+		+		+	
8	+		+		17
12		11		-2	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Jokes

Q: What is a robot's favourite snack?

A: Computer chips

Q: What do you give a scientist with bad breath?

A: Experi-mints.

Cryptogram

Holiday destinations

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
				21				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
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Sudoku

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

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.

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Our history:
Flowerdale
Public Hall
official opening

Yea Chronicle, Wednesday, January 29, 1913

THE new Public Hall and Library at Flowerdale was officially opened on Friday night last, the occasion being celebrated by a grand ball which was a pronounced success.

The hall, which is situated on the main Whittlesea Road (close to the Glenfern Hotel) is strongly built, well ventilated, and measures 25 x 40. The stage is perhaps, a trifle large, and the space occupied by it could be used to better advantage in the auditorium. The site on which the hall stands was generously donated by Mrs Doherty.

The building was erected at a cost of £120 (a government grant of £33 being received towards the cost. Portion of this grant will be used in the purchase of books for the library. The residents have responded liberally to the appeal for financial assistance, and only £50 now remains to be paid off.

The hall was erected by Mr Hiscock, who received much assistance from the people of the district. The building will be a boon to the people of Flowerdale, and they are justly proud of it.

The opening festivity was largely attended, visitors being present from Spring Valley, Kinglake West, Kilmore and Yea. The interior of the building was lavishly decorated, this work being undertaken by Mr Moore and ladies. The floor was an ideal one for dancing, and although the large crowd made it rather uncomfortable for dancing, everyone took their little bumps in good part, and entered into the joy of the evening with zest.

Mr Bates junior officiated as master of ceremonies, and in this, capacity he proved himself a past master. Drury's Band from Kilmore provided the music. The comestables for the supper were provided by the ladies and were dainty and galore.

After justice had been done to the good things, Mr George Matchett after thanking the public for their hearty support, introduced Cr Carver. That gentleman, with his usual modesty, claimed no honour, and gave all the credit of having such a fine hall to his fellow committeemen who, he stated, had worked so hard and achieved so great a success.

The building would fill a long felt want in the district, and it would now be possible to hold public and social meetings without trespassing on the privacy of anyone. He advised the young people to form themselves into a club or society and work together until the whole of the debt was paid off. He specially mentioned what had been done for the Homewood Hall.

He also suggested the advisability of forming a debating society where the young men might learn to become public speakers. It gave him much pleasure in declaring the hall open.

Mr O C Hillear congratulated the committee on the splendid gathering and the public on their fine hall and also gave some sound advice as to the working of the hall committee. The speaker also made special reference to the excellence of the floor which was prepared by Mr Bates.

Mr Scott of Kinglake also spoke and said that as secretary of the Kinglake Hall he was in a position to speak of halls and their management with some authority. Their hall (Kinglake) he said, was never in debt, and they had received £150 from the government at various times. He concluded by advising the committee to keep worrying the government until the hall was free from debt.

The dance was kept up until the 'wee small hours. The piano was kindly lent by Mr G Matchett.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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A	T	W	D	E	A	F	E	N	S
P	O	A	C	H	I	N	D	A	
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MATH SQUARES

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SUDOKU

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1	6	9	7	4	2	8	3	5

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
2	5	18	25	21	10	1	3	9	4	22	15	7
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
12	6	13	16	17	20	26	24	14	8	23	11	19

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6	-	9	+	1	-2
-		-		-	
2	-	3	-	7	-8
+		+		+	
8	+	5	+	4	17
12		11		-2	

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MEETINGS



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

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

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

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

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

SITUATION VACANT



**Assembly Line Workers
and Forklift Drivers
(Full-Time), Alexandra
Monday to Friday, 7am – 3.30pm**

Glencoe Group is currently seeking reliable and hardworking Assembly Line Workers and Forklift Drivers to join our team in Alexandra on an ongoing full time basis.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manual handling tasks
- Machine operation (training provided)
- Production line work
- Use of hand and power tools
- Following strict safety procedures
- Working at designated stations to meet daily targets
- Ensuring products meet quality specifications
- Maintaining a clean and safe work environment (good housekeeping)

Essential Requirements:

- Previous experience on an assembly line
- Experience using hand and power tools
- Ability to work well in a team
- Good physical fitness (able to stand and lift throughout the day)
- Reliable, punctual, and self-motivated

To apply, call 9728 8866 during business hours or email your resume to gavin@glencoeigroup.com.au

BIRTHDAYS

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

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MEETINGS

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

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



**Like us on
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SITUATION VACANT



Expression of Interest – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

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

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

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

Key Responsibilities:

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

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



Advertising Sales Consultant Part time position - 3 days p/w

Package: Base + performance based commission

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd is one of the oldest newspapers in Victoria, and the oldest in the Murrindindi Shire, first publishing in June 1868. We are seeking a sales representative to service a portfolio of existing clients and source new business within the distribution area of *The Alexandra Standard* and *The Yea Chronicle*. System training will be provided to the right applicant.

This is not a work from home role

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

What the job involves:

- . Advertising sales including weekly and monthly features
- . Full on job training will be provided to the successful applicant using our booking system, contacts, feature selling, pipeline selling
- . Assisting with weekly paper distribution
- . Some admin assistance may be required.

What you need:

- . Dynamic customer service
- . Excellent communication skills
- . Excellent knowledge of all Microsoft programs
- . To be friendly, helpful and motivated
- . To be a great team player
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- . Ability to work under the pressure of weekly deadlines and be able to multi task
- . To be punctual and professional with a strong work ethic
- . Have initiative and be well organised
- . Be able to problem solve and brainstorm
- . To be methodical and thorough, with attention to detail
- . A willingness to learn many aspects of the business
- . Drivers License
- . Be respectful of clients and team members

How to apply:

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

Classifieds

DEATH NOTICES

HALLIGAN, Lola
04/03/1936 - 27/09/2025
Loving wife to Lance (dec).
Loving mother to Gregory (dec), Colin, Debra, Brett, Allison (dec), and Tim.
Loving grandmother to Grant, Bryce, Rachael, Teagan, Ashleigh, Connor, Tom, Rhian, Fraser, Keilah, Zoe, Xavier.
Loving great grandmother to Maeve and Jackson.
Always in our hearts.

HALLIGAN, Lola Grace. Passed away peacefully, September 27, 2025, aged 89. Goodbye's the saddest word we'll ever hear. Such treasured memories. Deb and Tony, Bryce and Poppy, Rhian, Keilah and James.

HALLIGAN, Lola Grace. 04/03/1936 - 27/09/2025. Loved sister of Lynette. Aunty of Kelly and Melinda. Loving memories.

HALLIGAN, Lola. Loved sister in law of Glenda (dec) and Lou (dec). Fond auntie of Michael, Sharon, Rose, Colleen, Jocelyn, Stephen and their families. Many happy memories of our holidays at Yarek.

LIVY, Terence
23/10/1943 - 25/09/2025
Loving husband to Roselyn.
Father and father in law to Michelle and Wayne, Suzanne and Jason, Stephen (dec) and Bronwyn.
Grandad to Reece, Vanalyn, Kyle, Mattei, Alwyn and Edric.
Always in our hearts.

MOSS, Patricia (Pat). 25/11/1937 - 22/09/2025. Mum reunited with dad. Passed away peacefully. Loving mother of Rosalie, son in law Tony. Nan to Carly, Mathew and Branden. Adored nanna Pat to Isla, Sophie, Isaac and Macey. A very special lady gone but never forgotten. xxx.

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NICHOLLS, Wendy Marie
21/03/1938 - 26/09/2025
Dearly loved wife of Arthur (Dick) (dec). Dearly loved mum of Stephen and Wayne, and daughters in law Mari and Judy. Much loved 'Gran' of Maddie, Sean and Mia.
"Do not cry for me that I am gone, be happy I was here."
Funeral arrangements TBA.



PIGDON, Ken
04/04/1961 - 02/10/2025
Loving husband of Vicky for 46 years.
Father of Carlye and Justin.
Father in law of Rhiannon.
Pa of Blake and Jack.
Pa Numb nut of Charlie and Zoey.

FUNERAL NOTICES

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

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



Police lawns to “remain unkempt”

IN light of the news that Victoria Police will no longer be employing external contractors for garden maintenance and lawn mowing at any of their stations, Police Media were contacted for further information.

Unless police do the gardening work themselves, then the gardens and lawns are likely to become overgrown and unsightly.

In light of this, what training if being provided to police to do the gardening? What OHS training if being provided to police to do the gardening? What equipment budget is allocated for each station? How is fuel storage being handled? And how will police mowing lawns be alerted to emergencies, given the volume of the mower, hedge trimmers, etcetera.

Victoria Police responded, “Like many organisations, Victoria Police continues to operate in a challenging fiscal environment.

“As a result, it is important that existing funds are prioritised towards continuing to keep the community safe.

“This has resulted in Victoria Police currently opting to cease all ground maintenance at police stations.

“There has been no directive for police officers to maintain lawns and gardens surrounding stations, with the expectation grounds will remain unkept during this time.

“If grounds require urgent maintenance due to a safety concern, this will be undertaken by the company normally contracted to deliver this service.

“Victoria Police continues to assess its budgetary position for the 2025-26 financial year and beyond.”

David Southwick, Shadow Minister for Police, said, “The Allan Labor Government has cut \$50 million from the police budget in the middle of a crime crisis, left the force 2000 officers short, and now is forcing police to cut their own lawns as part of another budget slash.

“Police should be solving crimes and keeping our streets safe not cutting grass. No wonder 46 per cent of crimes go unsolved when sworn officers are being pulled off the beat for gardening duties.”

Melba Highway rubbish

CONCERNS have been raised about the large piles of rubbish littering the Melba Highway on roadside stopping areas within heavily wooded areas. This type of behaviour is very disappointing. Responsible disposal of rubbish is everyone's responsibility.

The Department of Transport (DoT) have been contacted by a reader a large number of times in recent months, but nothing has been done.

When asked about the issue, a DoT spokesperson stated, “We urge everyone to dispose of their rubbish responsibly and be mindful of the impacts roadside dumping has on the environment.

“Our crews carry out regular maintenance inspections of the arterial road network to ensure it remains safe and clear of any hazards.”

It's understood that they're expecting to have rubbish cleaned up along the Melba Highway near Kinglake Road in the coming weeks.

To ensure the safety of crews while removing dumped rubbish, sites must first be inspected to make sure these materials are being disposed of safely and carefully.

As there are many road maintenance demands at any time, work that has the greatest impact on improving public safety is given the highest priority.

The department encourages community members to report illegal dumping to EPA Victoria by contacting 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).

Motorbike crash survivor highlights importance of protective gear

RYAN Leitch, 21, was lucky to survive when he crashed his motorbike going around a bend on the way home from his basketball refereeing job.

He hit a ditch, launching his bike into an electrical pole and then he flew through a fence, ending up at the bottom of a tree in someone's garden. When Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedics arrived soon after, they weren't sure he'd make it.

“There were bits of motorbike smashed all over the grass in front of the property and a big hole in the fence. Ryan was five or 10 metres into the property under a tree, not in a good way,” paramedic Robert Van Der Toorren said.

Ryan suffered injuries including multiple complex fractures to his pelvis and right arm; further fractures to his skull, eye socket, face, ribs, femur and hip; major right lung contusions; a pneumothorax (collapsed lung); significant internal bleeding, including a mild bleed on the brain; and fluid surrounding his heart.

At the scene, he received critical, life-saving care from specialist mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) and advanced life support (ALS) paramedics.

MICA paramedics gave Ryan a trauma-specific medication to stop internal bleeding and manage his blood pressure, oxygen therapy and significant pain relief medication. They also applied a pelvic splint, multiple limb splints and spinal immobilisation.

Ryan had given himself the best chance of survival, by wearing protective gear including a helmet and full body leathers.

“Wearing all his protective gear saved his life,” Robert said.

“While the crash broke his bones, his gear saved his brain and his skin.”

It is Motorcyclist Awareness Month and AV and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) are encouraging motorbike riders to take their safety seriously and always wear a helmet that complies with safety standards and protective clothing.

“I've been to plenty of motorcycle incidents where people haven't worn protective gear and they definitely come off second best,” Robert said.

“You're always more vulnerable on a bike, so doing everything you can to protect yourself is the single best thing you can do, regardless of length of journey or the weather.”

A bit over a year on from his crash, Ryan is back at work after relearning how to walk, to co-ordinate his body mechanics and to use his right arm. Learning how to manage and live with his pain, his brain



Ensure that you wear protective gear when on your motorbike. -Astra

injury and psychological consequences of the crash continues.

“I treated my recovery like it was life or death for pretty much 12 months,” he said.

“Cognitively, my brain is healing and I'm trying to find myself a bit, and work out my priorities in life. I want to get back on a motorbike eventually. It's never going to be as a form of transport again and not as often, but I want to ride at least one more time.”

Recently, Ryan was able to say thank you in person to one of the paramedics who helped save his life.

“The paramedics showed me more love and compassion than you can expect from anybody. They didn't give up on me and that's something you can't ask for,” he said.

He urged other motorbike riders to ride safely, not only for their sake but for those around them.

“Consider the value of your relationships before you ride, because you are always taking a risk going out on a bike,” Ryan said.

“Adjust your behaviour to do everything you can to make sure you come home safely to your loved ones.

“If you take a high risk, you're not really the only one taking it. It will impact everyone around you if something goes wrong.”

TAC CEO Tracey Slatter said tragically, motorcycle riders are overrepresented in road trauma.

“Motorcyclists face significantly higher risks when incidents occur on the roads, so it is essential that both drivers and riders take shared responsibility for road safety and play their part in protecting one another,” she said.

Learn more about staying safe on a motorbike on the TAC website.

RDA appoints new deputy chairs and members

REGIONAL Development Australia (RDA) is continuing to support regional Victoria to thrive with 58 new and reappointed committee members and deputy chairs announced.

The new appointments will help Victoria's six RDA committees grow strong and confident regions, driving economic success that links government, businesses and communities together.

Committee members were selected for their business expertise and understanding of their respective regions, bringing experience from local government, private businesses, local communities and not-for-profit sectors.

New deputy chairs were selected for their knowledge, expertise and leadership and will join the RDA Chairs to deliver positive change across the state.

Each RDA committee will deliver a 2025-2026 Business Plan to help diversify and grow its regional economy. The plans are tailored to each region, including collaboration to support industries such as agribusiness and tourism.

The new committees will build on previous RDA successes, including supporting regional communities to transition to renewable energy, grow skilled workforces and advocate for improved digital connectivity in regional Victoria.

The RDA program is an Australian Government Initiative, with over 50 committees throughout the country aimed at supporting regional growth and prosperity by identifying opportunities across industries, businesses, communities and government.

Victorian RDA committees are a partnership between the Australian and Victorian governments, supported by Regional Development Victoria. The committees operate in the Barwon South West, Gippsland, Grampians, Hume and Loddon Mallee regions and Melbourne.

Each Victorian RDA committee is involved in developing submissions, providing strategic advice to government and supporting regional investment attraction.

To find out more, visit: rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-development-australia

RDA Hume committee
Chair: Brett Luxford; deputy chair: Linda Nieuwenhuizen.
Members: Mike Dalmau; Claire Ewart-Kennedy; Grant Jones; Robert Tanti; Geraldine Christou; Katie Bowker; Samar Patel; Werner Vogels; Katherine (Kate) Coffey.



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

Yea Cruise Night is back

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

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

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

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

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



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

Where is the AI revolution taking us?

Continued from Page 1

“The Australian Government has programs in place to assist workers facing job loss, including those displaced by AI. Retrenched workers and their eligible partners have immediate access to tailored employment services under the Early Access initiative and can register with a Workforce Australia Provider for support.

“Workforce Australia can provide services including reskilling, finding and applying for jobs, and relocation assistance. An on-the-ground transition support network, comprising representatives from DEWR national, state and territory offices together with Job Coordinators can assist retrenched workers to connect with local support services.”

The Australia Government’s Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) is also actively researching and studying various aspects of artificial intelligence.

A spokesperson for DISR said, “AI is an important tool that will improve the lives and livelihoods of Australians, but its potential will only be realised when used in a safe and responsible way.

“The Australian Government is taking an integrated approach to capturing the opportunities of AI while building trust in the Australian community.

“We are also working with international partners to progress global research on technical AI safety and shape global frameworks to reflect Australian values.

“AI is governed by both economy-wide and sector-specific laws, at both Commonwealth and state and territory levels. These include online safety, consumer and privacy laws.

“The government released the Voluntary AI Safety Standard (VAISS) in 2024, which provides practical guidance to business on how they can adopt AI safely and responsibly.

“This includes ensuring there are processes to identify bias and minimise the effects of bias in AI systems.

“The government takes its responsibility to keep Australians safe seriously. In partnership with industry, the government has acted to ban the availability of ‘nudify’ and undetectable stalking tools that cause harm and undermine trust in this new technology.

“The National AI Centre is delivering tools and resources to support companies to develop and adopt AI responsibly.

“The Australian Government is considering its approach to the regulation of the use of AI in high-risk situations. It is important that we get the balance right,” they said.

Tips for kayaking safely

DURING a recent incident in the Goulburn River near Alexandra, three kayakers were able to be rescued when their kayak submerged because they took the right steps to ensuring their own safety. It is advisable that anyone planning to set out on a kayaking adventure as the weather warms up have some basic knowledge of the activity.

Safe Transport Victoria has a set of rules that must be followed when kayaking. To begin with, everyone must wear a fitted personal floatation device (PFD) when kayaking, to allow them to stay afloat in the water if they run into trouble.

It is also suggested that people have some way to remove water from their vessel, whether that be a container, a collapsible

bucket, bilge pump, etcetera, and a length of strong rope that can potentially be used for towing.

Having a method of calling for help is absolutely essential. The people stranded in the Goulburn River used a mobile phone in a waterproof bag to call Triple Zero, but a very high frequency (VHF) marine radio or personal locator beacon works too.

If you are a beginner, before going on grand kayaking adventures, start small and practice. In a safe environment, namely a small, calm body of water, practice bailing and getting back into your kayak, perfect how to navigate your kayak, such as propelling it forward and turning using different strokes, and become familiar with your vessel.

Research how to move your kayak safely across currents, and how to spot and avoid submerged obstacles. For instance, an upstream V in the water means there is shallow water over an obstacle ahead, while a downstream V means a potential chute or passage between obstacles. Watching YouTube videos on kayaking techniques is a great way to guide you into this excellent outdoors activity.

When setting out on your kayaking adventure, whether that be in the calm and expansive waters of Lake Eildon or the narrow and fast-flowing Goulburn River, take a friend with you wherever possible. Having two people in an emergency situation is better than being stranded alone, unable to call for help.

Failing that, if you have to go alone, tell people where you are going and give them a timeframe for your journey. If you don’t show up on time, they can call to check-in or call for help.

Always check the weather before setting out, and stay away from logs, branches, and anything overhanging the body of water you are paddling in.

Though this might seem like a lot of information when beginning your kayaking journey, following these tips could save you a lot of trouble in the long run. But remember to enjoy your time kayaking. It is a good physical sport that can give you scenic views of remote locations from a completely different perspective.

Are we facing another Triple Zero outage if there's a big storm?

BACK in February 2024, a severe storm resulted in a power outage across much of Murrindindi Shire for several days, and Triple Zero access ceased for around 24 hours for most of the population in the LGA. It was pure luck that people didn't die during the outage.

Optus and Telstra were asked to outline any changes to the resilience of phone/internet infrastructure in the area and whether longer-lasting back-up power infrastructure has since been installed.

In short, should another similar storm occur, are we facing the same scenario?

Optus

An Optus Spokesperson said, "Optus has made significant investments to strengthen network resilience, and has a number of solutions to deploy in case of power outages and/or natural disasters: Standby power solutions including over 200 fixed generators, and a significant number of portable generators which can be installed at critical sites as required which are complemented by portable fuel pods that can extend generator supply by up to five days. Critical Power eXtender batteries which can support service continuity across clusters of mobile sites during power failures. Battery resilience program, uplifting batteries across sites and increasing spare kit availability for rapid replacement when required. Fibre resilience and microwave resilience on critical sites, main and standby backhaul using either fibre or microwave. When we construct new coverage sites, we assess risk scenarios such as flood and fire risk.

Fishing club grants available

THE Victorian Government is giving local fishing clubs and associations the chance to reel in funding grants to help improve their facilities and attract new members.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos announced applications will open on Wednesday, October 8 for the 2025/26 round of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program, encouraging clubs to apply for their share in up to \$600,000.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways, from clubroom and facility improvements to providing fishing tuition for multicultural groups, women and First Nations people, as well as open days, training, events and running guest speaker nights to share skills and attract new members.

In the most recent round, 32 clubs and associations netted grants of up to \$10,000, made possible through the \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Victoria plan.

Minister Dimopoulos said, "Fishing gets people outdoors and helps build stronger connections in the community. We want to encourage more Victorians to fish more often. We encourage fishing clubs to consider applying for a grant, to help attract new members and share the many memorable experiences fishing can offer within their communities."

Applications for the grants are open until Sunday, November 30. To learn more and to apply, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs

"Should we lose the site, we can also deploy support in the following ways: Satellite-powered mobile base stations (SatCats), which are easy to deploy during natural disasters, with high bandwidth and 4G/Wi-Fi connectivity with the ability to deploy Cell on Wheels (COWS) to stand up services following a natural disaster. More temporary rapid-deployable mini sites that are purpose-built for emergency evacuation centres. We have also tested and have committed to investing in drone technology that can be quickly deployed to restore connectivity in hard-to-reach area. We optimise the network to provide better services to customers. This involves measures to extend battery life of the mini sites and tilting mobile antennas to provide greater coverage."

Telstra

Telstra Regional General Manager Jenny Gray said, "We know how important it is to stay in touch during natural disasters and we have backup systems using a variety of technologies that keep services running after power goes out.

"We have more than 20,000 network sites across the country and we rigorously assess what's the best backup solution for each of them. We also continually review our sites to ensure their backups are working as expected, and upgrade them when needed.

"We also recently conducted battery and power system upgrades at Flowerdale, Castella and Strath Creek as well as delivering mobile network upgrades to increase capacity

at Flowerdale South, Marysville, Pheasant Creek and Killingworth.

"Our network sites can use the same amount of power as 10 homes every day though, so disruptions will occur if power's out for a long time in your area.

"When that happens, we work closely with authorities to ensure we can get into affected areas and bring services back online as soon as it's safe to do so. This includes deploying portable generators to bring sites back online while power is being restored in the area.

"This isn't just a telco issue. It's an industry one, and that's why everyone, including energy companies and government agencies, need to work together to solve this national problem. This includes ensuring the power grid is also as resilient as possible."



Brown treecreeper. -Chris Tzaros



White-throated treecreeper. -Russell Jones

Spot a treecreeper during Aussie Bird Count

THE Aussie Bird Count, which involves observing and counting birds that live near you, in your garden, the local park, by the river or even outside your office window, is on this month.

It's a great opportunity to head out and see if you can spot a treecreeper, the bird species featured this month in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's Year of the Tree Hollow.

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the hollow-dependent brown treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus*), attributed its name to its habit of spiralling up tree trunks to probe and prise the bark for larvae, insects and other tasty morsels.

"Large old trees are important for birds like the brown treecreeper as bigger trees, with their broad trunks and plentiful branches, contain more surface area which translates to more feeding opportunities," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"It's much more energy efficient and safer for a brown treecreeper, as it is for most birds and animals, to meet their energy requirements from one large tree with plenty of bark and food, than it is for them to undertake high risk and high energy consuming movement to several smaller trees for the same result.

"While the brown treecreeper spends a great deal of time climbing the trunks and limbs of trees to probe the bark for food, it also searches the ground for its next meal, demonstrating the value of and need for 'messy' ground layers of sticks, logs and shrubs where its insect meals reside."

Brown treecreepers are highly sociable birds and will often live and breed communally. With the assistance of the broader

Brown Treecreeper community, the breeding pair build their nest in a tree hollow in a large old tree, using pieces of twig, grass, leaves, bark, dung, animal fur and sometimes even pieces of human litter.

Also tree hollow dependent is the white-throated treecreeper (*Cormobates leucophaea*), which resides in more heavily timbered forests unlike the brown treecreeper which prefers open woodland.

"Where the brown treecreeper spends time on the ground foraging for food, the white-throated treecreeper rarely descends from the treetops," Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

"If the territories of the two birds do overlap, they tend to feed from different species of tree as the white-throated treecreeper will select trees with looser tree bark to prise beneath. This way, they avoid stepping on each other's toes.

"Unlike the brown treecreeper and their many helpers, the female white-throated treecreeper builds the nest in a tree cavity lined with bark, fur and hair and incubates the eggs on her own, but both sexes care for the young."

The BirdLife Australia Aussie Bird Count is on from October 20 to 26, where participants spend 20 minutes counting and recording the birds they see. The event is designed for all ages and skill levels.

The data collected helps BirdLife Australia understand local bird populations and trends, contributing to conservation efforts and there's the chance to win prizes, visit aussiebirdcount.org.au

The Year of the Tree Hollow is supported by the Victorian Government through the Our Catchments Our Communities stewardship program.

Victoria's duck abundance survey about to begin

THE Game Management Authority (GMA) will begin its annual survey of Victoria's game duck population on Tuesday, October 21.

The survey will be conducted by wildlife biologists, who will record the presence, species and number of game ducks at more than 850 waterbodies across Victoria, including wetlands, farm dams, sewerage treatment plants, streams and rivers. The survey will also include ground counts where the helicopter is unable to operate.

Satellite imaging will be used to determine how much water is in game duck habitats in Victoria,

which informs an estimate of the total abundance of each game duck species in the state.

The GMA is continuing this research as part of the Victorian Government's Sustainable Hunting Action Plan. The results from the survey will be used as one of the key inputs to support Adaptive Harvest Management for setting sustainable duck hunting arrangements each year.

GMA Research Principal, Dr Jason Flesch, said regularly collecting data is critical to understanding what drives the abundance and productivity of game duck populations.

"Results from this survey will help to accurately estimate total game duck abundance, based on the environmental conditions at the time," Dr Flesch said.

"This research is the most comprehensive survey of game ducks undertaken in Victoria. It benefits wildlife conservation by increasing our understanding of the ecology of Victoria's game duck populations and the health of their habitats."

The 2025 survey is scheduled to take place from Tuesday, October 21 until Saturday, November 8.

The flight schedule may change from day to day, depending on weather conditions or other factors.

Residents in surveyed areas may see a helicopter flying at low levels for a short time and for no longer than is necessary. Disturbance to livestock will be minimised or avoided. The safety of people and livestock is a priority.

The results of the survey will be published on the GMA website in 2026.

For more information, including a map of the proposed flight path, visit gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research

Iconic Alexandra Cox Plate Meeting coming soon

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

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

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

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

lunch specially created by the Thornton General Store.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Yea – Yarra Glen Bowls Club annual tournament

LAST Saturday, 16 members travelled to Yarra Glen to take part in the annual competition between the Yea and Yarra Glen Bowls Clubs, which has now taken place over the last few years, restoring an old tradition.

The format for the day was to play a Pennant style competition of four players in a team playing two bowls each for a total of 21 ends. The idea is to give players a chance to practice their style before the Pennant season commences in a couple of weeks.

Yarra Glen welcomed Yea bowlers and explained that although competition was prevalent the main aim was to have an enjoyable day.

All teams were evenly matched with the number of ends won fluctuating during the game.

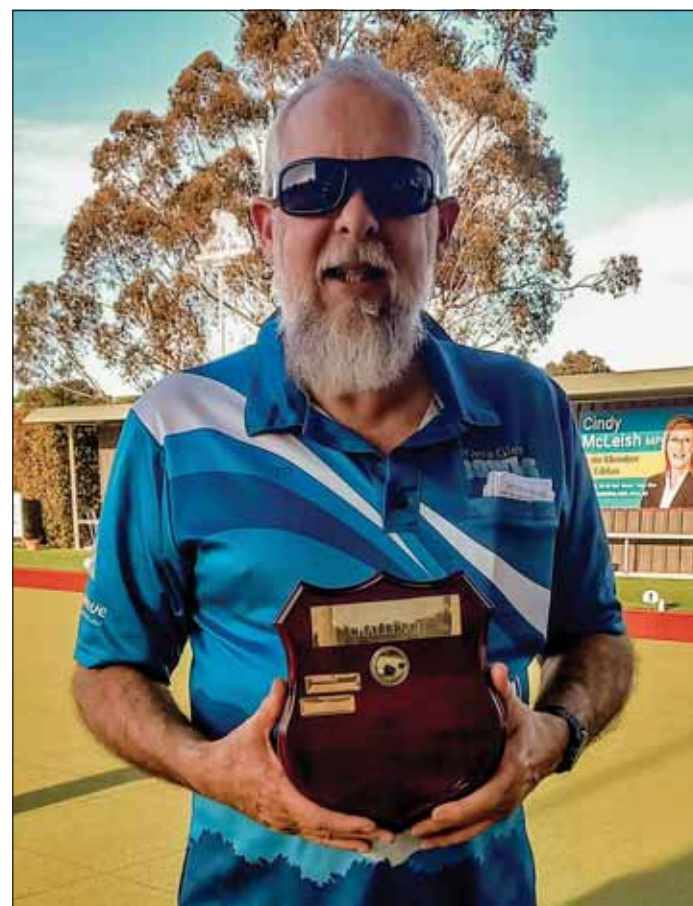
With a couple of new players and others playing in positions they don't usually play in, it was great to see how well they managed.

Unfortunately for Yea, Yarra Glen came out on top with a two-shot win, the final score being 78-76 giving them the chance to claim the trophy until next year's challenge.

The weather was ideal and the opportunity to share a sausage in bread and a drink at the end of the game made for a very pleasant day.



Doug from Yea Bowls Club making the presentation of the Trophy to the Yarra Glen Bowls Club. -S



Trevor from Yarra Glen Bowls Club happily receiving the Trophy. -S

The Chronicle Sport

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Many thanks to Rob and Miranda Gill for painting and gardening at the front of the clubrooms. It looks fantastic. -S

First Round of Men's Championships at Yea

by Alan Pell

LAST Saturday was a beautiful spring day at Royal Yea Golf Club with 30 players in the first of three rounds playing a stroke event. Winner of the day with a nett 68 was Sam Wright (29) with new playing member Paul Heyen (28) with nett 69 second. Third having a nett 70 was Michael Spagnolo (eight). Nearest the pin was another new playing member in Jim Redmond on the second. Rob Gill took out the club award.

Progressive leading scores in the Championship (gross scores off the stick) are in A Grade: Michael Spagnolo 78, Andrew Bohn 79, Rick Wills 81, Alan Pell 84. B Grade: Zach Pell 88, Peter Johnston

90, Neil Peterson 91, Martin Lowe/Anthony La Grutta/Tony Rule/Greg Clements/Kevin Coghlan all on 92. C Grade: Phil Armstrong 94, Russ Wealands 95, Sam Wright/Steve Rumney 97.

In the ladies stroke event, new Captain Vicki Clements (24) had nett 69 to win from Sharon Grogan (25) with nett 71. Third with nett 73 on countback was Judi Newman (36) from fourth Jan Wealands. Jan was the nearest the pin on the second.

Wednesday mixed four ball best ball results

THE cooler temperatures were no deterrent for the 26 members and guests who contested the Mixed four ball best ball event on Wednesday. With Royal Yea Golf Course in top notch

condition, some great golf was played with excellent scoring across the field. Leading the way were Bill Dredge (24) and Carolyn Webber (43) who combined for an amazing 50 points.

Not far behind were Anthony La Grutta (20) and Yearling Meadows visitor Brian Scattergood who recorded an excellent 47 points. Greg Clements (18) and Sharon Grogan (25) filled third place, scoring a very respectable 46 points.

New ladies Captain Vicki Clements showed great prowess off the second tee to take out nearest the pin, Phil Armstrong won the men's nearest the pin. The club award went to experienced duo Gary Pollard and Mick Spagnolo.



Bill Dredge and Carolyn Webber. -S

Yea Tigers hit prime time television

YEA Football Netball Club was featured on an episode of Channel Seven's *House of Wellness* program hosted by Melissa Doyle and Shane Crawford.

The segment spoke about the Yea Cattleman's Club was approached by a client to see if they could help out the football club. Three agri-businesses in town donate product and time and sell the cattle for no

commission and have raised a bit under \$40,000 this year for the football team.

Peter Armstrong Yea Tigers club president spoke about the club going into recess in 2023 and the journey back onto the field.

The community spirit was highlighted in the episode and how it's the core of every country town.

Yea women's footy coach and former AFLW Carlton player Jess Kennedy was also interviewed about coaching the first ever season for the women's football team.

Jess spoke about when she signed on there were 14 players for the team and encouraged them to get more numbers on the ground, and how they got into the finals. Jess explained how women's footy is slowly evolving in

country towns and holds high hopes for footy in Yea and other areas as well.

If you want to catch the episode of the *House of Wellness*, you can find it on the seven plus streaming service.