

# The Gea Chronicle

Wednesday 9 September 2026

editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

alexandranewspapers.com.au

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## KIDS TEACHING KIDS

Students learning about the Murray Darling Basin.

MORE IMAGES FROM THE EVENT ON PAGE 10.



## Chadband farewelled from council

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## Kids Teaching Kids

Page 10

# Councillor recognised for civic leadership

MURRINDINDI Shire Councillor Sandice McAulay has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to civic leadership and the community at the 2026 Mary Rogers Awards. The awards celebrate the contribution and achievements of women in local government and recognise outstanding civic leadership across Victoria.

Cr McAulay received the highest number of nominations for the Mary Rogers Award, reflecting the high regard in which she is held following almost a decade of civic leadership characterised by com-

## Cr Sandice McAulay nominated for Mary Rogers Awards

passion, integrity and a commitment to bringing people together.

First elected to council in 2016, Cr McAulay has served as Deputy Mayor and two terms as Mayor, providing leadership through some of the most challenging periods experienced by the Murrindindi community, including the COVID-19 pandemic, significant economic transition and the 2026 bushfires.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said, "Cr McAulay's recognition reflects her untiring commitment to com-

munity, her ability to bring people together during challenging times, and almost a decade of service characterised by empathy, integrity and a genuine desire to improve outcomes for the people of Murrindindi.

"Sandice has an ability to build bridges, listen to different perspectives and work respectfully through complex and sometimes difficult issues. That approach has earned her enormous respect across our organisation and community.

"We saw those qualities particu-

larly strongly following the 2026 bushfires, when Sandice was a visible and trusted presence for residents, businesses and farmers. She listened, advocated and worked to make sure the experiences and needs of our communities were heard."

Cr McAulay has championed economic development and opportunities for local businesses, community resilience and sustainability, emergency preparedness, community infrastructure and inclusive

participation, and supported major strategic initiatives. She has also been a strong advocate for equity and inclusion.

Cr McAulay is a long-standing CFA volunteer and emergency management advocate and has served for several years on Council's Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee.

"On behalf of Council, I congratulate Sandice on this well-deserved recognition and thank her for her continued contribution to Murrindindi Shire," Mayor Gallagher said.

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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

NEM

NORTH EAST MEDIA

LOCAL NEWS AND MEDIA

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES: Alexandra Yea

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Saturday

8 - 20

8 - 21

Sunday

12 - 21

11 - 21

Monday

11 - 21

11 - 22

Tuesday

7 - 17

7 - 17

RAINFALL:

7 days from 9am Monday

Alexandra

16mm

Buxton

12mm

Eildon (AWS)

17mm

Flowerdale

22mm

Jamieson

45mm

Kinglake

8mm

Lake Eildon

27mm

Mansfield

N/Amm

Taggerty

31mm

Yarck

18mm

Yea

4mm

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level

277.15m

Capacity as at 9am Sunday

59.7%

Metres below full supply

11.75m

Daily inflow

7,500ML

Release

600ML

Eildon Pondage

46%

DEADLINES

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Wednesday 2pm

Classifieds

Monday 12noon

Editorial

Monday 9am

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submitted via email to

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or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers

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All letters must contain writers name, address

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Deadline for Letters to the Editor is

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# ADH questioned about amalgamation

THE amalgamation of Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health (EH) was announced last week following a long lead time.

The boards of both ADH and EH formally recommended the voluntary amalgamation to the Victorian Department of Health and the Minister for Health on Monday, February 16.

In light of the recent decision, ADH board chair Kim Flanagan was asked the following questions: How will ADH be represented in decision-making at EH? Has an ADH board member been appointed to the EH board? How soon will dialysis become available at ADH? What other services will become available at ADH in the next six months? Will or has the ADH board been disbanded? What level of autonomy will there be for the ADH CEO? Has Claire Palmer's CEO role been made permanent or does she remain acting CEO? Is the CEO role being abolished? Will all staff be retained?

Mr Flanagan responded, "The voluntary amalgamation of Alexandra District Health (ADH) and Eastern Health is about strengthening local healthcare and ensuring the Alexandra community continues to have access to high-quality, sustainable health services close to home.

"Planning is already underway to expand services available locally, and we look forward to sharing more detail with the community as these plans progress.

"Importantly, local leadership at Alexandra will remain in place. This was a confirmed safeguard within the boards' recommendation and the Minister's decision, ensuring there continues to be strong local leadership and connection with staff, patients and the broader community.

"The voluntarily amalgamated health service will have one CEO, supported by local leadership at Alexandra. Governance will transition to a single board structure, with local representation forming part of the new governance arrangements. Further detail will be shared as these arrangements are finalised.

"All staff will be retained as part of the amalgamation, providing continuity for our people and the community they serve.

"Our focus ahead of the transition on November 1 is on bringing the two organisations together smoothly, continuing to deliver the health services local people rely on and identifying opportunities to strengthen services locally," he said.

## Kim Chadband farewelled from council

A FAREWELL celebration was held last Thursday at the Yea Council chambers, on the retirement of Kim Chadband.

Donna Slevin provided the farewell address. She said, "We're here to celebrate Kim and to thank her for the incredible contribution she has made to our communities, our organisation and all of us who have had the privilege of working alongside her.

"Kim, the impact you have had across our region is nothing short of remarkable. Your work has touched so many projects and initiatives that it's impossible to list them all, but some stand-out examples include your dedication to recovery work, securing funding for the Yea Wetlands, the Ghin Ghin Bridge project, the fencing around the Yea Recreation Reserve, the walking paths at Nagambie, the restoration of Merton Hall, and support for the Nagambie Rowing Club. And these are just a very small sample of the many projects you have helped bring to life.

"What makes these achievements even more special is that they are not simply projects on a list. They are lasting improvements that strengthen communities, connect people and create opportunities for generations

**WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT: Kim Chadband (centre) with Darryl King and Donna Slevin.**

to come. Your passion, determination and commitment to making a difference have left an indelible mark on our region.

"Beyond your professional achievements, I would also like to speak about the person behind them.

"I knew Kim prior to joining council, but over the last eight months I have had the pleasure of getting to know both Kim and John much better. Through that time, I have seen first-hand your kindness, generosity, warmth and genuine care for others.

"Beyond being a wonderful colleague, you have become a true friend, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to work alongside you and get to know you. Your warmth, humour and genuine nature brighten every room, and your willingness to support others never goes unnoticed. Those qualities will be greatly missed.

"Kim, your legacy is not only

in the bridges, halls, walking paths, wetlands, recreation reserves and community facilities that you have helped improve. It is also in the relationships you have built, the people you have supported and the lives you have touched along the way.

"You have had a lasting impact, one that will not be forgotten.

"And knowing you as we do, this is not really goodbye. I have no doubt that your commitment to community will continue, and that you will remain involved in recovery efforts and volunteer work. Making a difference is simply part of who you are.

"On behalf of everyone here, thank you for your dedication, your friendship, your generosity and your unwavering commitment to our communities. We are better for having worked with you, and our region is stronger because of your contribution.

"We wish you and John every happiness and success in this next chapter. May it be filled with new adventures, good health, laughter and all the things that bring you joy.

"Please join me in raising a glass to Kim, thanking her for everything she has given our communities, and wishing her all the very best for the future."

## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

| Station Name                    | TIME       | HEIGHT | TENDENCY | FLOOD CLASS       |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------|----------|-------------------|
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)  | 8.00AM Mon | 1.01   | steady   | below flood level |
| Rubicon River at Rubicon        | 8.00AM Mon | 0.73   | steady   |                   |
| Acheron River at Taggerty       | 8.00AM Mon | 1.09   | steady   | below flood level |
| Home Creek at Yarck             | 7.27AM Mon | 0.43   | steady   |                   |
| Yea River at Devlins Bridge     | 5.40AM Mon | 0.70   | steady   | below flood level |
| Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd    | 8.00AM Mon | 1.62   | steady   |                   |
| Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin     | 8.00AM Mon | 3.88   | steady   |                   |
| King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale | 8.00AM Mon | 0.72   | steady   | below flood level |
| Goulburn River at Trawool       | 8.00AM Mon | 1.63   | steady   | below flood level |
| Sunday Creek at Tallarook       | 8.00AM Mon | 0.39   | steady   | below flood level |
| Goulburn River at Seymour       | 8.00AM Mon | 2.00   | steady   | below flood level |
| Whiteheads Creek at Seymour     | 8.00AM Mon | 1.41   | steady   |                   |

\*ISSUED AT 8.39AM AEDT MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH 2026



# Eildon Primary School prepare for concert

EILDON Primary School has been busily preparing for its upcoming school concert, *Dude, Where's My Cow?!*, which will take place on Thursday, September 10. Written by the students themselves, this fun and creative production promises to be a wonderful celebration of their imagination, teamwork and talent.

Students have been engaging their creative sides as they take on a variety of roles throughout the production. From performing and script writing to designing sets, creating costumes, learning songs and dances, and developing stagecraft skills, there has been plenty for our students to get involved in.

Junior students have also been working with the Eildon Community Craft Club to create frog masks for their performance. The school is incredibly grateful to Kylie, Wendy and the Craft Club members for sharing their skills and helping the students bring their ideas to life. This has been a wonderful opportunity for the students to connect with members of the community and learn new skills.

With rehearsals well underway, excitement is building throughout the school as students put the finishing touches on their performances. We look forward to welcoming our families and community members on the evening, as the talented students take to the stage to share their hard work, creativity and, hopefully, solve the mystery of *Dude, Where's My Cow?!*



UPPER GOULBURN LANDCARE NETWORK: The organisation will use their \$25,000 grant to support bushfire recovery efforts and replace fencing lost in the 2026 Longwood bushfire.

# Yarck funded by Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR)

SEVENTY-one not-for-profits and community groups have received funding from FRRR in the latest round of the foundation's flagship Strengthening Rural Communities grant program. In total, \$1,025,724 will go toward community-led projects valued at more than \$2.4 million.

In line with FRRR's strategy, funding is being directed primarily to remote, very remote and underserved rural communities.

Even the funding awarded to inner regional locations will benefit smaller towns and outlying districts with fewer services and institutions and less ability to raise funds locally.

Locally, funding was awarded to Upper Goulburn Landcare Network in Yarck for Fencers without Boundaries. The project will support bushfire recovery by rebuilding farm fencing lost in the 2026 Longwood bushfire, improving livestock security, environmental recovery,

farm resilience and community wellbeing. They received \$25,000.

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program is always open. Not-for-profit groups seeking funding are encouraged to carefully read the guidelines to ensure that the project aligns to FRRR's strategic and donor priorities, and that the group is eligible.

Call 1800 170 020 or visit [frrr.org.au](http://frrr.org.au)

# Transformer fire causes blackout

A BLACKOUT occurred on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 1, impacting Taggerty, Rubicon, Buxton, Narbethong and Marysville.

It seems that the blackout was the result of a transformer fire on a pole.

Buxton and Narbethong CFA Brigade were paged to attend the fire. The transformer self-extinguished after one of the overload switches cut the current. The situation was monitored by the CFA and communicated to the energy company.

A special mention to one of the younger members of Narbethong Brigade who turned out on their bicycle, showing great commitment.

# Correction

Per the article 'concerns over potential quarry on Killingworth Road', this newspaper would like to apologise for the mistakes contained therein. We inadvertently said Kinglake Road residents' group instead of Killingworth Road residents' group. We would also like to clarify that Nick Anderson was speaking on a different matter than the proposed quarry, namely a subdivision at 6489 Melba Highway, just south of Yea.

# Provide feedback on council's Draft Municipal Recovery Plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting community members to help shape the next phase of recovery by providing feedback on the Draft Murrindindi Municipal Recovery Plan for the January 2026 Bushfires.

Feedback closes on Thursday, September 17.

Recovery began immediately after the fires and has continued since. Communities, volunteers, local halls and recovery hubs, council, government agencies and service providers have worked together to support affected people and restore access to roads and properties, reopen key community facilities and provide practical recovery assistance.

The draft plan builds on this work and reflects feedback gathered through recovery hubs, community meetings, recovery groups and direct engagement with affected residents over recent months. It also serves as a public record of the impacts of the January 2026 fires and pro-

vides a framework for medium and longer-term recovery across the shire.

It includes actions for people and wellbeing, buildings and infrastructure, agriculture, business and the visitor economy, environment and biodiversity, Aboriginal culture and healing, and communication and advocacy.

The January fires caused deep and lasting impacts across Murrindindi Shire. One person lost his life, around 1600 private properties were affected, and 217 homes were destroyed. Farms, livestock, wildlife, businesses, roads, bridges, the Great Victorian Rail Trail and the natural environment were also lost or severely damaged.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said the draft plan was an important opportunity to ensure the longer-term recovery effort reflects community priorities.

"Recovery did not start with this plan and it will not end with it. An enormous amount of recovery work has taken place since Janu-

ary, led by fire-affected communities, volunteers, council, agencies and recovery partners.

"This plan is about listening carefully to what people have lived through, what they are still carrying, and what practical support is needed now and into the future," Cr Gallagher said.

Council is asking people to check whether the plan reflects their priorities, local needs and practical barriers. Feedback can be as detailed or as simple as people choose.

The plan proposes that the Murrindindi Municipal Recovery Committee, which currently includes a range of government agencies, be expanded to include six community representatives.

These representatives will be appointed through an Expression of Interest process and will provide a link between the community and council.

The plan also proposes regular updates on recovery actions at quarterly council meetings. Com-

munity members can continue to contact their local councillor with any concerns or feedback about recovery efforts.

"Community representatives and local recovery groups will help us understand whether actions are making a practical difference, identify emerging needs and adjust our approach as circumstances change," Cr Gallagher said.

People can read the draft plan and provide feedback through council's engagement website at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/draftrecoveryplan](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/draftrecoveryplan)

Feedback can be provided online, at pop-ups, through established community groups across the fire-impacted area, or by attending online information sessions.

In person chats will be at Yea Library, September 10, 9.30am-12.30pm; Kinglake Library, September 15, 1-4pm; and online sessions will be on September 9, 1-2pm and 6-7pm.

Printed copies of the plan and printed feedback forms will also be available at the Yea and Alexandra Council offices.

Cr Gallagher said council understood that providing feedback may be difficult for some people, particularly where the fires continue to affect daily life.

"Some people may want to share a lot, and others may only want to tell us one thing that would make a difference. Both are valuable," Cr Gallagher said.

"The most important thing is that community members are heard respectfully, and that their feedback helps guide recovery decisions, advocacy and communication in the months and years ahead."

Council will consider all feedback before the final plan is presented to a council meeting later this year. It will publish a *What We Heard Report* explaining the main themes, what changed and why some matters could not change.

COMMUNITY DIARY

LOCAL RADIO FREQUENCY

- **UGFM 106.9** Alexandra / Lake Eildon
- **UGFM 98.5** Marysville / Lake Mountain
- **UGFM 88.9** Yea / Highlands
- **UGFM 98.9** Flowerdale / Hazeldene
- **UGFM 94.5** Kinglake Ranges

COMMUNITY GROUPS WEEKLY

- **Tue** Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas
- **Wed** Oasis Church, free coffee connection Ph 0408 123 581
- **Thu** Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
- **Fri** Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall
- **Fri** Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas PH 0422 225 801
- **Sun** Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
- **Sun** ALANON meeting; 5.30pm St Johns Hall. Ph 0402 428 086
- **Sun** AA meeting; 7pm St Johns Hall. Ph 1300 22 22 22.

MONTHLY

- **1st Mon** St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
- **1st Wed** Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
- **1st Thu** Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
- **1st Sun** Crop/Produce swap 10.30am--noon @ Embassy of Ideas
- **2nd Tue** Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
- **2nd Wed** Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
- **2nd Wed** Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
- **2nd Thu** Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
- **2nd Sat** Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
- **3rd Wed** Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
- **3rd Thu** Alexandra Ladies Probus 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
- **3rd Thu** Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
- **3rd Sun** Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
- **4th Wed** Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
- **4th Thu** Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
- **4th Thu** Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888
- **Last Fri** Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 0409 819 040

Contact Alexandra Standard and Yea Chronicle to add your event on 5772 1002 or email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au. 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.

THUMBS UP  
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN

Since Omnia took over Menzies for the aged how do they expect us oldies who don't do internet banking to pay our bills? No cheques, can't pay at the office, can't pay at post office and must pay at a bank which we have none. It is a quandary. Please come up with a solution.

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

# Haines talks post, critical infrastructure and communications

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines visited Murrindindi Shire last week, conducting various meet-ups with locals to hear their concerns.

In an interview conducted outside the Yea Post Office, she was asked about what she has been working on regarding Murrindindi Shire.

She explained, “We’re here today talking about Australia Post and postal services here in Yea, and I’m seeing this right across the electorate of Indi, but more broadly across rural and regional Australia, where there are threats that our post office services could be withdrawn, that our franchisees are being pushed at every level from Australia Post into a business model that makes running a business unsustainable.

“I’ve been campaigning very strongly in the parliament against this. We need our postal services not just for post, which is critical of course, but we need it for banking because our banks have left town, and we need it for our community engagement. It’s a place where people come and connect. It’s absolutely critical because if we lose the post office we then we lose more things in town. No post office, you start losing shops and other services... I’ve put in a detailed submission into the inquiry.”

People will have notice parcel lockers being installed around the shire and beyond. Helen said, “I think one of the challenges is working out, well, do we resist parcel lockers or do we say, okay, parcel lockers are the modern thing?”

“Let’s make sure those parcel lockers are attached to the post office and not down at some car park miles away where people don’t then come and use the post office.

Parcel collection is part of the post office income stream and parcel lockers which are located a distance from the post office takes that away.

On the other hand, if the parcel locker is attached to the post office site, then the post office operators receive less rather than nothing. As Helen said, “Less is better than nothing.”

Much also depends on the post office footprint on the land and whether there is room.

Helen added, “So postal services and banking services remain a constant issue. I think the other big issue of course is the long tail of bushfire recovery.

“We know from past experience it’s not all over once it’s over. It’s years actually and I’m going around several places today.

The slow rate of the clean-up, and the exclusion of some people from the program is also a concern.

Helen said, “And there’s different streams of clean up according to what your insurance policy says. I’ve been working very



LISTENING POST: Member for Indi Helen Haines discussing local concerns in Yea.

closely with Murrindindi Shire on this.

“My big campaign from a federal perspective is that when a critical piece of infrastructure like the Fawcett Bridge is destroyed in a bushfire, it’s no good to build back the same thing. [It goes back to] Breakaway Bridge in Acheron. The bridge is still not there.

“I’ve put in submissions to the Victorian Inquiry. I’m standing up in parliament talking about this constantly. The biggest handbrake though, from my perspective as your Federal member, the commonwealth can’t do the betterment piece unless the state government asks them to.

“When you look at Fawcett Bridge, there is a clear case that they need to build it back better than the one they had. But the state government won’t contribute. They have to contribute 50 per cent and they won’t do it. The Commonwealth can’t do anything unless the state makes the application... This is playing out everywhere. I’m on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Inquiry. I’m on the Committee for Regional Australia. Everywhere I go, all over the nation, it’s exactly the same story.”

In addition, she spoke about the communications challenges during the Longwood fire.

“This has been a campaign of mine since I became an MP,” she said. “I’ve been pushing, pushing, pushing on temporary disaster roaming. Essentially if you’re with Telstra and your tower gets burnt, you’ve got no communication, even though there might be an Optus tower some by which has signal. I’m pushing the government to make sure that the telecommunications companies share the signal, not just for SOS, because it’s not just SOS. You need to tell your family to get out, or you need to let somebody know that you’re all right. You need to be able to receive the warnings.

I’ve put in private members’ legislation about this. There’s a big bill before the parliament. We’re hoping for a debate next week. I’ve been working very closely with the Minister’s office to write into that bill, to amend it to make it law that they have to do this. Now she’s very reluctant to do that, but there’s other amendments in there. She’ll give me some.

“But in the meantime, the telecommunications companies are promising we’ll have temporary disaster roaming. I don’t believe it till I see it. But you’ll hear from me loud and clear once we get that. I’m looking for an announcement in October, November.”

Generators at some of the phone towers only hold a minimal level of fuel, so when there’s a blackout, there may be coverage for some time, but often not for the entirety of the blackout. This became particularly pertinent during the Longwood fire and associated blackouts.

Helen said, “I’ve put legislation before the Parliament about this. There is a program which funds battery backup and diesel backup. I’ve been campaigning hard but it’s not hard to identify the most at-risk sites in the country and Indi’s one of them.”

# 81 per cent would wait too long

A CFA survey has found most Victorians living in bushfire-prone areas understand leaving early is the best way to protect themselves and their families during a bushfire, but most would wait too long to act.

CFA's annual post-season bushfire community survey found 88 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that leaving early was the safest option.

However, 81 per cent indicated they were unlikely to leave until fire was threatening the landscape. Concerningly, 12 per cent indicated they would stay and defend.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Hefferman AFSM said the results showed important bushfire safety messages

are reaching communities, but there was still work to do.

"It's encouraging to see so many Victorians understand that leaving early is the safest way to protect themselves and their family," Jason said.

"But knowing that leaving early is safest and knowing when to act are two different things. Leaving early means leaving the area before a fire starts, not when you can see flames or smell smoke.

"CFA's position is clear, do not stay and defend."

The results also showed 93 per cent of respondents have a bushfire plan, but only 13 per cent have it written down.



"A good plan should cover when you will leave, where you will go and what you will do if your preferred route is no longer safe. Writing it down and placing it somewhere you can see it can make a

huge difference during an emergency," he said.

Expectations of emergency services also remains high, 63 per cent believed they were likely or very likely to receive assistance from fire trucks to defend their property, while 77 per cent expected emergency services to tell them when to leave.

"During a bushfire, we cannot guarantee a fire truck will be at every property," Jason said.

"Don't wait for a fire truck or a verbal warning from firefighters to act. Download the Vic Emergency App, set a watch zone, listen to emergency broadcasters and monitor social media

and the CFA website for updates.

"With hot and dry conditions expected across much of Victoria this spring, now is the time to prepare.

"The best way to prepare now is to attend a Get Fire Ready event this October, speak with your local brigade, understand your risk and make sure your plan is ready before a fire starts.

"Last year, we saw 537 brigades directly engage more than 40,000 people about fire safety at Get Fire Ready events. This year we're hoping to increase that number."

For more information about Get Fire Ready, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready)



LINE MARKING: The new disabled parking space outside Buxton Hall.

## Line-marking completes Buxton Hall Maintenance Appeal

THANKS to a break in the recent wet weather, the driveway area in front of the Buxton Memorial Hall received a refresh on Friday, August 28, with new line-marking completed.

The original line-marking, completed when the hall was refurbished around 2010, was so faded that the parking spaces were indistinguishable. There was also a need to include a dedicated disabled zone to the parking area and clearly indicate one-way traffic flow from Maroondah Highway towards Buxton Rise.

When council established the new community parking area in Buxton Rise, behind the hall, the original disabled parking space for the hall was removed. As a result, it was decided a new disabled space should be provided in front of the hall and Buxton Progress Association (BPA) sought funding assistance from council through their Quick Response Grant program.

The line-marking works were added to the Buxton Hall Maintenance Project, in addition to the recently completed external painting and installation of an additional garden tap. The Maintenance Project has been funded through a very successful community fund-raising appeal.

Murrindindi Shire Council awarded \$1000 in the grant request which has topped out the \$12,000 appeal target. In applying for the grant, BPA was assisted by council's Assets team, with advice on the disabled parking zone layout, and received guidance from the Community Wellbeing team in submitting the grant application.

BPA would like to thank everyone from the Buxton and wider Triangle community who contributed to the Hall Maintenance Appeal. Just on \$12,000 has been raised from individuals, community groups and council.

This has enabled the outside of the hall to be repainted, an external tap installed at the rear of the hall, and now the parking area to be refurbished and a dedicated disabled parking space added.



Everyone experiences menopause differently.

Many women experience symptoms for a number of years before reaching menopause.

Symptoms vary and may include: trouble sleeping, brain fog, hot flushes, low mood, anxiety, fatigue, irregular periods, dry or itchy skin, joint pain, or low libido.



Australian Government

If you're wondering about menopause, there's information and support at [health.gov.au/menopause](http://health.gov.au/menopause)



CHURCH SERVICES  
- ALEXANDRA

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish  
Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.  
Presbytery 0468 810 871  
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 4.30pm  
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am  
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,  
Loving Life  
118 Grant Street, Alexandra  
0408 123 581  
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL  
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street , Alexandra  
Pastor Daniel Kriss  
Services 10am every Sunday  
Phone 0400 282 536  
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

A Christian community part of the Baptist  
Union of Victoria  
Sunday 4.30pm service  
Kids program during school term  
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,  
Alexandra  
Contact - 0438 642 559

CHURCH SERVICES  
- YEA

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 4.30pm  
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

# Enrol for the Kinglake Ward by-election

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is encouraging Kinglake Ward residents to make sure they are enrolled to vote and that their details are up to date ahead of the upcoming Kinglake Ward by-election.

The by-election will elect a new councillor to represent Kinglake Ward following the resignation of former Councillor Jodi Adams in August.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) will conduct the by-election, with the electoral roll closing at 4pm on Wednesday, September 23.

Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said, “Having a local Councillor representing the interests and priorities of Kinglake Ward is

incredibly important, and I encourage everyone who is eligible to participate in the by-election.

“The first step is to make sure you are enrolled and eligible to vote before the roll closes. I encourage people to visit the VEC website to check their eligibility and enrolment requirements.

“Local government makes decisions about many of the services, facilities and issues that affect our communities every day, so this is an important opportunity to have your say on who represents Kinglake Ward,” he said.

To vote in the Kinglake Ward by-election, you need to be enrolled for Kinglake Ward. This includes eligible voters enrolled on the Victorian electoral roll

who live in Kinglake Ward. Some people who own property in Kinglake Ward but live elsewhere may also be eligible to enrol and vote in the by-election.

Enrolment requirements vary depending on your circumstances. If you live in or own property in Kinglake Ward, check your enrolment status and whether you need to take any action before the enrolment deadline. You can do this by visiting the VEC website [vec.vic.gov.au/voting/current-elections/murrindindi-shire-council-kinglake-ward-by-election](http://vec.vic.gov.au/voting/current-elections/murrindindi-shire-council-kinglake-ward-by-election) to check eligibility and enrolment requirements before the electoral roll closes.

The election will be conducted entirely by post. Ballot packs will start being mailed to enrolled voters from Monday, November 16, with voting closing at 6pm on Friday, December 4.

People interested in standing as a candidate will have an opportunity to learn more about the election process, with a candidate information session scheduled for Wednesday, October 14. Candidate nominations will open on Monday, October 19 and close on Tuesday, October 27.

For more information about the Kinglake Ward by-election, including key dates and links to VEC information about enrolment and voting, visit council’s Voting in the Kinglake Ward by-election webpage [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Elections](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-Elections)

FREE BARBECUE: Louise Flowers enjoying a chat at the free barbecue with Caolan and Imogen.

## THE POWER OF AN R U OK? CONVERSATION

NEW research has revealed that one in three people underestimate the difference they can make by asking someone if they’re okay, yet the vast majority of people who have been asked felt supported and positive about the experience.

The message is simple: ‘If you’re thinking it, ask R U OK? Any Day’ and start a conversation that can change a life.

As Australia approaches R U OK?Day on Thursday, September 10, the organisation is encouraging people to act when they think someone they care about might be struggling.

Held on the second Thursday of September, R U OK?Day is the nation’s annual Day of Action, reminding people across Australia that meaningful conversations don’t have to be perfect, but they do need to be genuine and happen regularly throughout the year.

Lach Searle, CEO of R U OK?, says the findings show that while most people care deeply about others and have the best of intentions, they might still hesitate to ask. He wants to reassure everyone that you don’t need to be an expert or have all the answers.

“So many people want to help but sometimes they hold back because they’re not sure whether checking in with someone will really make a difference,” said Mr Searle. “What this research tells us is that asking ‘Are you okay?’ is often more appreciated than people realise and while a conversation might not solve everything, it lets them know they don’t have to face life’s ups and downs alone.

“If you’ve noticed someone doesn’t seem quite themselves, trust that instinct and reach out,” said Mr Searle. “A genuine conversation might help turn around someone’s day, support them through a difficult week, or be the first step towards getting through a tougher time.”

R U OK? is here to help with the four steps of an R U OK? conversation’ framework, ALEC (Ask, Listen, Encourage action, and Check in). They also offer free resources to build your conversation confidence and skills.

Principal Psychologist Rachel Clements says the findings challenge the misconception that checking in with someone

won’t make a difference.

“Meaningful support doesn’t require expertise,” Ms Clements said. “What matters most is making time to ask, listening without judgement and being present.

“If you’re thinking about someone’s wellbeing, that’s reason enough to check in. A simple conversation can help someone feel seen, heard and supported.”

Your conversation could change a life. Visit [ruok.org.au](http://ruok.org.au) to access free conversation tips, resources and support.

Alexandra recognised the importance of RU OK? Day with a movie event at the Alexandra Shire Hall on Friday, September 4. A free barbecue was provided prior to the screening of the films, *Sketch* and *Tinā*. People were then invited to stay for a coffee and chat after the event. There were also some practical wellbeing tips provided by local mental health professionals.

The event was supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government’s 2025 Drought Support Package.

## Promised \$6m fix for shire roads

THE state Liberal Nationals have promised that Murrindindi Shire will receive \$6 million to fix and upgrade local roads and bridges under a restored Country Roads and Bridges Program.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said the commitment will provide the shire with \$1.5 million every year for four years, giving council certainty to tackle priority local road and bridge projects across the shire.

The Liberals and Nationals have committed \$5 billion commitment to repair and rebuild Victoria’s state roads, eliminate one million potholes and restore a proper, planned system of preventative road maintenance. The original program was abolished by Labor in 2015.

Ms McLeish said, “Murrindindi received \$1 million a year under the former Country Roads and Bridges Program and we saw that money turned into real projects in our local communities.

“It helped council tackle road and bridge works that otherwise would have remained on the wish list for years.”

Projects supported through the former program included major bridge works at, ironically, Breakaway Bridge at Acheron and the Goulburn River crossing at Ghin Ghin.

Country Roads and Bridges funding also supported Murrindindi’s broader bridge program, including works at Taponga Road at Eildon, McGuigans Road at Kanumbra and Allendale Road at Strath Creek.

Council records also show funding allocated to Creightons Creek Road, with savings subsequently redirected to the Williams Lane intersection realignment at Buxton.

“These aren’t lines on a government spreadsheet. They’re local roads and bridges used by our farmers, families, school buses, businesses and emergency services every day,” Ms McLeish said.

“Murrindindi has hundreds of kilometres of local roads to maintain but nowhere near the revenue base of a metropolitan council.

“Labor abolished a program that worked. We will bring it back and increase the annual allocation from \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

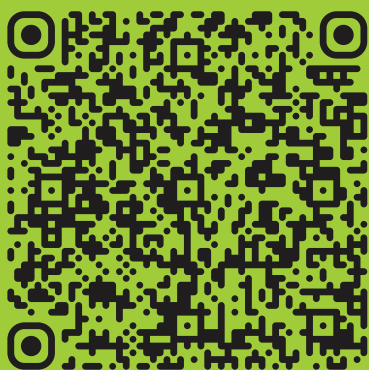
“That means a guaranteed \$6 million over four years for Murrindindi.

“We’ve seen what this program can deliver.

“Now we’re going to bring it back and get our local roads and bridges back on track.”



Don't buy a  
**clunker**  
**shitbox**  
**lemon**  
**regret**



No matter what you call it,  
learn the essentials when  
**buying a used car**

[consumer.vic.gov.au/buying-a-used-car](https://consumer.vic.gov.au/buying-a-used-car)

GOULBURN FISHING FESTIVAL HOOKS VISITORS



HAPPY FACES: Ada with mum Eliza, from Bendigo.  
PHOTOS: Anne Richey



FACE PAINTING: Mahli having her face painted by Mr Balloonatic.



EDUCATION: Jason and Verity from Goulburn Murray Water.



SNAKE HANDLING: Peyton with a remarkable yellow and white snake.



NOT SCARED: Juliette holding a snake.



KEEN ENTHUSIAST: Very happy with her catch.  
PHOTO: Kerry Hellsten



ALEXANDRA SES: Jess and Caroline.

Alexandra RSL

Upcoming event



NATIONAL

PEACEKEEPERS DAY

Monday 14 Sept 2026

A commemorative service will be held at the Alexandra War Memorial, Leckie Park on Monday 14 September 2026 at 11AM.

The service will include a commemorative address and wreath laying, followed by light refreshments at the Alex RSL.



FISHING: Rachel and Leah fishing at the Eildon Pongape.



SNOBS CREEK HATCHERY: Rhiannon and Jules from VicFish.



WELL-ATTENDED: The Eildon stadium filled with visitors.



The 2024 Melbourne Cup with owner of Knight's Choice, Rodney Bain, and Probus Past President Gary Tuck who also has an interest in a well known racehorse.

TEAM COLOURS: Probus members John, Ruth, Jenny, Jeannie (old time umpire), Jan, Marg, Gary, Judy, Vivienne and Suzy.

# Footy and Melbourne Cup fun at Probus

LAST Thursday was Footy Finals Fun Day at Yea Probus. Most wore their team colours and the theme for the day was all things football.

The president gave a short history of the Yea Football Club and the old Waranga North East League. The Probus Choir, *The Mommas and Poppa*, sang a specially written football song by John Handsaker. Sandy's joke had a football theme and all enjoyed party pies and sausage rolls for morning tea.

Much fun team rivalry was enjoyed but it was obvious that Collingwood team colours dominated the assembly.

The guest speaker for the morning was Rodney Bain from Seymour. Rodney started as an apprentice with Sloan's Radio in Seymour and one of his jobs was attending to the public address (PA) system at the Seymour Cup. His boss was also interested in horse racing and trained some horses so gradually Rodney started to take an interest too.

Later in life he watched as his son worked seven days a week and had no other life so talked him into buying a young racehorse, "just to at least give him an interest and at least one day a week off work when he attended the races with his horse."

There first horse was a major winner in many well-known races throughout Eastern Australia but mysteriously died when about to try for the Melbourne Cup. Rodney and son heard of another young horse which had loads of potential, but it was a small horse.

They took the punt in buying 'Knights Choice' and put him out in the paddock "to grow a bit." He didn't grow any bigger, but he was a goer on a good track and was soon winning everything, always coming from behind at the last moment.

A Hong Kong businessman offered them \$2.5 million for him but they decided to keep him and try him for the Melbourne Cup in 2024, which 'Knight's Choice' won.

Rodney bought the winning 2024 Melbourne Cup to the Probus meeting last Thursday to the delight of all members, with many taking the opportunity to have a photo taken with this prestigious trophy.

A great story of an ordinary Aussie battler winning the grandest racing prize of all time.



## Victorian bushfire insurance consultations

### Talk directly with your insurer about your claim

Insurers will be available for free face-to-face consultations with policyholders impacted by the January bushfires.

#### Harcourt

- Tuesday 15 September
- 10am to 4pm
- Harcourt Leisure Centre

Anglicare Victoria Financial Counselling and Rural Financial Counselling Victoria West will also be present

#### Alexandra

- Wednesday 16 September
- 10am to 4pm
- Alexandra Shire Hall

Primary Care Connect/Financial Counselling will also be present

#### Euroa

- Thursday 17 September
- 9am to 3pm
- Euroa Recovery Hub

Primary Care Connect/Financial Counselling will also be present.

Insurers' return to these regions remains a core part of our ongoing commitment to supporting communities impacted by extreme weather through the recovery process.

Scan here to book your appointment





ROSELLA SONG: Our Lady of the Way students sang a song titled ‘Eastern Rosellas’.



EVENT SUPPORTERS: Organiser Zanni Waldstein (green skirt), with representatives from Murrindindi Shire Council, Park Victoria and Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority.



PRESENTATIONS: The students had the opportunity to develop their presentation skills.

# Kids Teaching Kids at the Yea Wetlands

THE much-loved annual event, Kids Teaching Kids, took place at the Yea Wetlands on Tuesday, September 1.

The student-led event has the children selecting a topic related to the environment. They then research the topic in the weeks leading up to the event and create presentations. They then present their topics to students from other schools participating from the area.

Over 100 students took part on a beautiful sunny day, learning from each other in the beautiful surrounds at the Yea Wetlands.



PUPPETEERS: Students from Sacred Heart Primary School with their puppets.



CROSSWORD: Students made the games themselves.



HELEN HAINES: The Federal Member for Indi provided a short address to the students.



A STAGED EVENT: The students were thoroughly engaged with all of the presentations.



GAMES: There were lots of games for the students to play.



STUDENTS CONCENTRATING: There was no chance for any of the students to become bored.



WELCOME TO COUNTRY: The children were welcomed to the event by students from Buxton Primary School.

# Bushfire recovery challenges discussed at Fawcett Hall

PEOPLE from the bushfire-impacted Fawcett and Yarck areas took the opportunity to discuss the bushfire recovery challenges with Member for Indi Helen Haines on the morning of Wednesday, September 9. The session was originally intended to last for half an hour but went much longer as Helen asked the people around the table about their experiences. The discussions outlined in this article occurred with the consent of the participants.

There was of course much discussion about the need for betterment funding for the bridge at Fawcett, as well as other fire-impacted wooden bridges in the area. This has been discussed at length previously, but as yet no solution has been found. The state government needs to trigger the betterment funding and without this, the Commonwealth's hands are tied. The community is also unable to raise the state's portion of the funds to trigger the Commonwealth support, as state money and support is required under the legislation. Helen is planning to continue lobbying for changes to the legislation, noting that the Breakaway Bridge at Acheron has still not been rebuilt following the 2022 floods.

One of the residents, Lars, spoke about losing faith in all government bodies during the fire recovery. They ended up doing everything themselves instead of waiting for the government to help with the clean-up.

He was however very pleased with Murrindindi Shire Council, approving their planning permit in three days.

He said, "But state government, and federal for that matter, they offer to come and clean up for you, and then you have to submit your life story. You have to go through Centrelink. You don't have to be registered there. It's just madness. And then it takes seven months." They wanted all of the financials of their business.

Another of the significant challenges raised was that people were ineligible for grants when they are farmers but have off-farm income. There is also a lack of mental health support for people aged 18 to 25 in particular.

Fiona said, "I think that my anger towards government is not going to go away any time soon. It's not just the fire. We've been up here for 12 years now and we've just seen systemic failures for many years... about the withdrawal of services, police, fire, roads. You only got to walk in town and see that businesses are disappearing. It's just been ongoing. And I think the bushfire just highlights the systemic failures that have been going on for many, many, many years, and the constant feel that we're just dismissed and ignored. We were abandoned... We were collateral damage for Alexandra."

A member of the Fawcett CFA Brigade spoke up, saying, "We all got told to leave Yarck and head into Alexandra to protect township and Scott our captain said I've got my own community to protect. He's a legend. The four of us came



out here. We opened the gate and protected the hall because we knew we were going to need this hall down the track for recovery... We had no support. There were three trucks on the way. We could have saved more houses down in Fawcett. But they all got redirected to Alexandra and Scott was not happy."

Fiona said that they called triple zero twice saying that their house was on fire, but that no-one came. "If that happened in Melbourne, there'd be an outrage," she said. "How dare does any government place more value on someone who lives in a built up area than us? I lost my business. that I've been running for 11 years, burnt to the ground, nothing could be saved. Our offices, gone. Our livelihoods almost gone, that we've spent decades building. Government doesn't give a s.t."

She commented on the Nepal tragedy and said, "All we're seeing is the government funding all that. What about us? What about its own citizens? And all we're seeing is the Big Build in Melbourne and all this corruption. And we can't even get a simple bridge."

She added, "If it wasn't for Sam and everybody helping out, we probably wouldn't be here."

Sam spoke of losing 18 people she had worked with during the 2009 Black Saturday fires, and while noting that the fires can't be compared, "It's de da vu. The people that have survived 2009, they've wrapped themselves around me, and I'm always so conscious when I talk about stuff that they're reliving because we're now going through it. And I know some things have changed, but when you look right across it, nothing has changed. And I think that's the frustrating thing."

Fiona also commented that the volunteer brigade system in South Australia has better procedures than Victoria.

Sharon, secretary of the Yarck Hall Committee of Management, spoke about her losses during the fire, and said that it took

six months for the Emergency Management Victoria-arranged clean-up to occur at her property. Fortunately, she had a good experience with her insurance company, unlike Bron, also in the room, who still hasn't had her insurance claim resolved.

Sharon was concerned about people who are forbidden from rebuilding on their blocks as they can't set the residence back 100 metres from the road due to the block size. She believes that people should be able to rebuild on the footprint of their former house.

Sandy said that they looked into the clean-up support but more than 50 per cent of their income if from off-farm, so she and her partner cleaned up the property themselves. They're now pivoting from livestock to hay. She was very upset with the government response, saying, "There's no urgency on recovery."

She said that for the hall, "The only thing we got from a federal aid perspective was PPE. My understanding is that the federal government has essentially a warehouse of supplies, a stockpile for emergencies internationally. I understand that there are other states that have similar stockpiles for emergencies within their own state. We don't... There's no Victorian stockpile."

She said of the clean up, "There are still people who are only just now getting their clean-up in September."

There were also wide concerns among the group that it took too long to have caseworkers on the ground. People were calling about getting a case worker and were being told that someone would get back to them in 30 to 60 days. They also found that the emergency recovery number became confusing because people didn't know what they needed and what was available. There was also the challenge of the loss of corporate memory in the recovery space as people change jobs or roles within government organisations.

Annaliese spoke about how

she came to live in the area, and their home which was lost in the fire. Despite all of their losses, Annaliese was keen to say, "We just need a bridge."

She spoke about her experiences on the day of the fire as a volunteer with the Koriella CFA Brigade, and how they couldn't go down the side roads on the day because they may have become trapped.

She found some of the police after the first to be difficult. For example, her husband needed to travel from Fawcett to Mansfield and they refused to allow him to travel along the highway. They instead sent him along Spring Creek Road and along Coles Road to reach the Highway just prior to Bonnie Doon, a much more dangerous way to go, given the fire damage.

When she had a callout, the police were telling her to find an alternate way to reach the station, the problem being that there is no viable alternative.

One of the people commented that they knew the highway had been cleared as a relative had been involved in making it safe. They went to Alexandra from shopping and the police wouldn't let them back through. She instead travelled along Whanregarwen Road to Molesworth, because locals know how to get around. Whanregarwen Road hadn't been tree-assessed and wasn't safe in the same way as the highway.

Their family also struggled to get through the roadblocks to help. It can be a difficult balance for police, trying to keep people safe and prevent looting.

While some have suggested a local permit, Helen was sceptical about whether this would help, given the challenges in the Albury area during COVID-19.

Sam Hicks, president of Fawcett Hall Reserve Committee of Management, said of the bridge, "I'm not giving up on this."

She said, "I know it's just not about this bridge, it's about all the timber bridges."

She also spoke about the time

and effort, including letters and meeting, that have gone towards the lobbying for the rebuilding of the bridge.

"Meeting after meeting," she said. "I'm sick of the lip service... Our bridge, Newman's, all the bridges in the road and the other bridges. I'm not asking for \$200 million."

She added, "We don't want to be Acheron." The Breakaway Bridge in Acheron has still not been rebuilt four years after the major flood in 2022.

Some in Fawcett are unable to access their homes when there has been rainfall as the fords put in place after the fire, in lieu of a bridge, flood.

There was general agreement that Murrindindi Shire Council's councillors and staff have been supportive around the recovery effort, with Mayor Damien Gallagher, Cr Sandice McAulay and Cr Paul Hildebrand.

"They care," one of the participants said, with others voicing agreement.

The participants said that the 'community-led recovery' is working well, as it is developed from the bottom up and provides personalised attention to people's needs, however there needs to come a time when volunteers hand over reins. "Someone needs to be there to pick up and support the volunteers as they move forward," one of the participants said. Local knowledge also needs to be passed on.

Around five to six months elapsed after the fire before they were able to close the door for recovery and it was staffed by volunteers the whole time.

Sandy said, "Community-led recovery is community are doing it and they're doing it themselves. They're reaching their networks. They're reaching out, getting donations. They're doing all of those things as all of us in the halls have done. But there does need to be a point in time so people can step back and it can transition. Not take over, not come in and allow bureaucratic rules to start to transition."

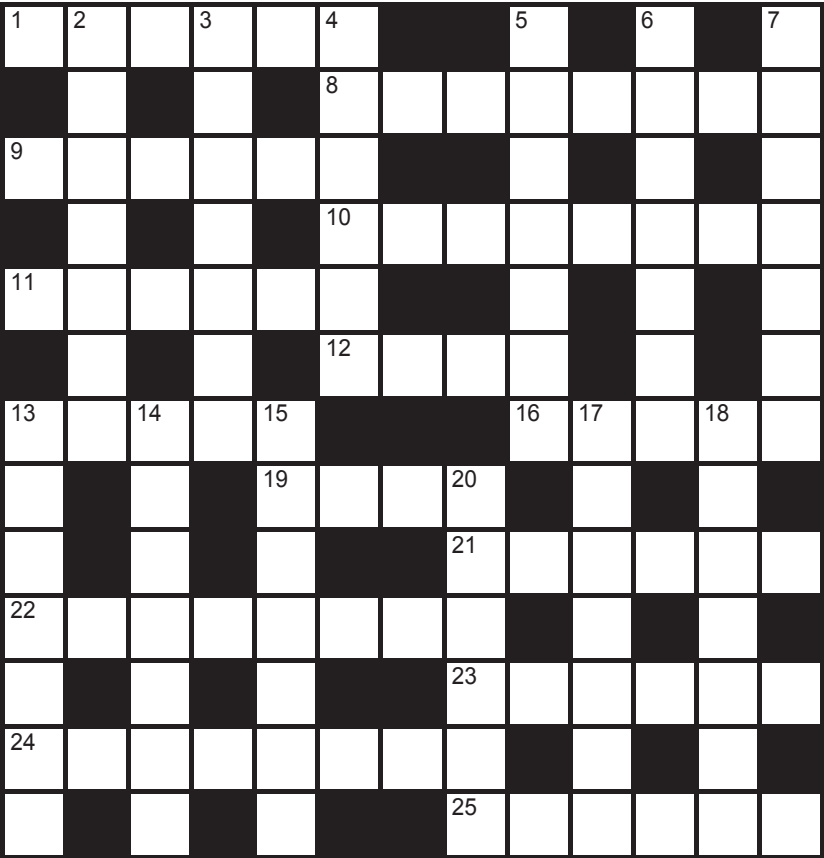
There was also a discussion around what donations are needed at particular points in the recovery process. Sandy said, "The reality is, the next time there's an event, it's going to be the people that step up that are not on the committee, on the plan, haven't read the plan, haven't had the training. It's whoever is there, people just step up and to have some resources to help you do that, I think is incredibly valuable... Skilling volunteers, providing them with information and support in an accessible manner, and the same of providing people who have been impacted in an accessible, information in an accessible manner, not thousands of posters around them, which is all the white ones."

Fawcett Hall are planning a thank you event for the more than 300 individuals and 78 businesses and organisations which supported them during the recovery.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

1149

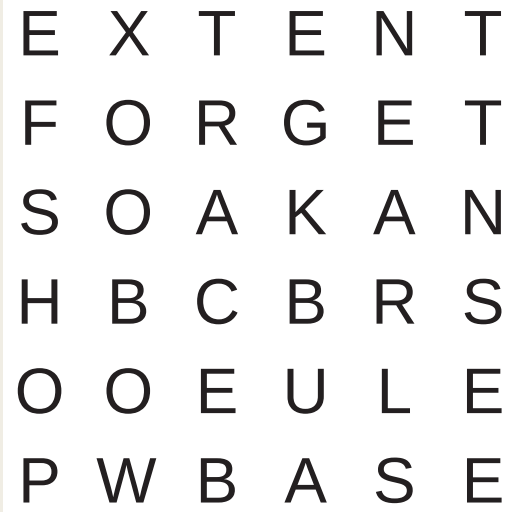
- ACROSS**
- 1 To pretend or feign, is to do what (6)
- 8 To be boldly rude, is to be what (8)
- 9 To be talented, is to be what (6)
- 10 To be enraged, is to be what (8)
- 11 Which term means kind or merciful (6)
- 12 Which Nevada city is noted for quick divorces (4)
- 13 Subdivisions of a larger religious group (5)
- 16 Who liberated the Hebrews from Egypt (5)
- 19 Name a US frontier gunfighter, buffalo hunter, gambler and lawman, Wyatt ... (4)
- 21 To be mixed with extraneous matter, is to be what (6)
- 22 Pertaining to forward-thinking, combative manoeuvres (8)
- 23 To be derived from vinegar, is to be what (6)
- 24 A language's character set, letters for written form (8)
- 25 To make certain, is to do what (6)
- DOWN**
- 2 What is lack of success (7)
- 3 Name a passage taken from a book (7)



- 4 To be more orderly, is to be what (6)
- 5 What is ennui (7)
- 6 What relates to a scale of temperature (7)
- 7 Artist's workrooms are known as what (7)
- 13 Pertaining to three dimensions (7)
- 14 An idea derived from specific requirements (7)
- 15 Name a course of study for advanced graduate students (7)
- 17 Who was married to Eurydice (7)
- 18 Which term means back in time (7)
- 20 Who ordered the crucifixion of Christ, Pontius ... (6)

MINI WORD FIND

449



Find the following words in the grid. They may be read in any direction, even diagonally. Some letters are used more than once.

- |      |        |        |       |
|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Able | Extent | Near   | Soak  |
| Bag  | Focus  | Ore    | Trace |
| Base | Forget | Pocket |       |
| Bow  | Gas    | See    |       |
| Burn | Hob    | Shop   |       |

WHICH WORDS

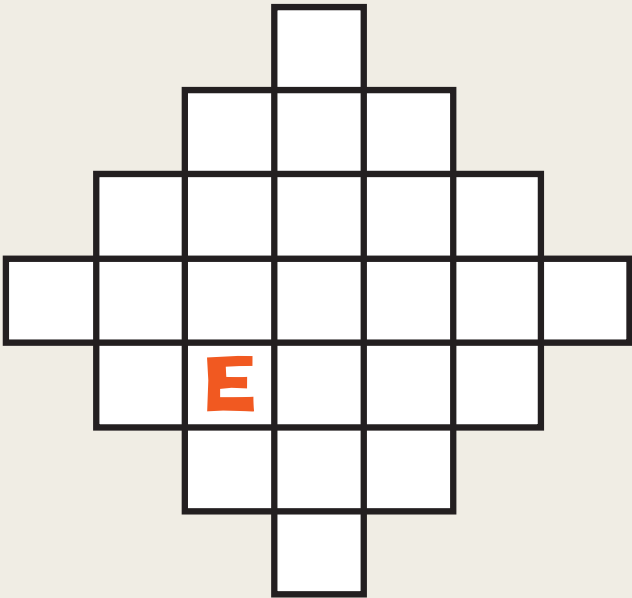
- 1 **HALCYON**
- (a) Calm
- (b) Having much hair
- (c) Holy
- 2 **IMPETUS**
- (a) Moving force
- (b) A contagious skin disease
- (c) Lack of piety

E-EQUATIONS

459

Letters A to Z have a number value. Some are shown in the right-hand cells. Create remaining values using clues in centre cells.

|   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| A | I÷A | 4  |
| I | J+M |    |
| J | V÷J |    |
| L | J×A |    |
| M | A+V | 13 |
| R | I-R |    |
| V | J×J |    |



BIYWORD

189

Build it yourself using the clues and each of the twenty-four letters once only to form ten words: five across and five down. A key word (bold clue) builds on the letter set in the grid.

- CLUES:**
- Attention-seeking hammer (5)
- Black (abb) (3)
- Fish (3)
- Fly-past (7)
- Guided (3)
- Papua New Guinea (3)
- Person being paid (5)**
- Scratched with a key (5)
- Trite (5)
- Upset (7)

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
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149

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QUICK THINK

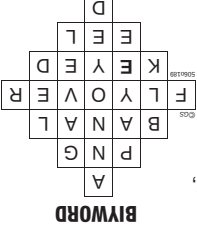
459

Solve the crossword.  
Each answer has four letters.

- |                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>      | <b>DOWN</b>   |
| 1 Appealing        | 1 Veneer      |
| 5 African antelope | 2 Impulse     |
| 6 Taj Mahal city   | 3 Rubber ring |
| 7 Swarm            | 4 Quiz        |

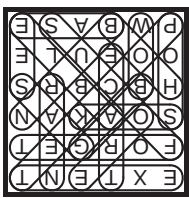
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SOLUTIONS



**QUICK THINK**

1 (a) Calm 2 (a) Moving force



**WHICH WORDS:**

1 (a) Calm 2 (a) Moving force

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 |
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| 5 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 6 |
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| 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 |
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| S | E | C | T | I | N | S | O | L | E | N | T | I | N | C | E | N | S |
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| L | T | R | A | R | E | S | U | R | E | S | U | R | E | S | U | R | E |

# High prices and new mental health support at Yea cattle sale

THE September Combined Agents Store Sale was held last Friday at the Yea Saleyards, with prices climbing as people look to restock with lower weight cattle.

Some 1500 head of cattle were yarded, with the average price per head sitting at \$1872 and average weight at 326.5 kilogram, making for an average of 573 cents per kilogram (c/kg).

Andrew Hill from Elders Yea provided a rundown of the sale.

“It was a wintry sort of a yarding, mixed quality. The yarding wasn’t quite as good as previous sales, but overall the sale was dearer across the board,” Andrew said.

The heaviest pen of 500kg steers made \$2800. The 400-plus kg steers made from \$2100 to \$2550. In the 300kg steers range, they made \$2100 to \$2200, which is around that 600c/kg mark; very solid money.

“You come down to those 200kg Angus steers, \$1800 to \$1900, which there’s quite a few pens that made that, which comes out at 700c/kg. And there was some cattle



**ON-SITE HEALTH SUPPORT:** The various organisations promoting the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local team at the Yea Saleyards last Friday. Pictured are staff from Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Dementia Australia and Murrindindi Shire Council.

PHOTO: Bailey Dixon

sold at just over 750c/kg, which is just huge,” he said.

“The demand for those younger, sweeter cattle with the right breeding and quality. They’re very, very popular at the moment. People are restocking and that’s what they want to buy. They come and buy those young steers, park them out. The spring’s shaping up very well.”

In terms of heifers, 416kg heifers made from \$2140 to \$2500. 400kg heifers at \$2050, then down to 380kg heifers at \$2070, which is good money. 360kg heifers made around \$1800. The 320 kg cattle were round about \$1620, \$1670.

“And then down to those 270kg cattle to 240kg heifers. They’re this side of \$1550, which is again over

600c/kg,” Andrew said.

“Some of those heifers, which have been sitting around the high 400 and 500c/kg for a while, but this sale, they’ve all kicked into that 550, 570c/kg. Same as the steers, they’re getting into those 640 and 700c/kg depending on quality.”

Buying support came from processors, feedlots, as well as

the local area. Cattle went as far abroad as Swan Hill, Echuca, Wangaratta, Euroa, Kyneton, Bendigo and Korumburra.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) were also in attendance promoting the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Local initiative.

This new initiative is a team of local providers offering free telehealth support and outreach services. The bushfire recovery team will be operating out of the Yea and Alexandra Hospitals, providing personalized support, listening and connecting people with the support they need.

The Murrindindi Mobile Health Van was also on-site, as were Murrindindi Shire Council and Dementia Australia, who offer free dementia support for those affected by this challenging condition.

The next cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards will be on Friday, October 2, with the October Combined Agents Store Sale.

# How many kangaroos are around, sport

THE Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) will be conducting their biennial kangaroo population surveys across Victoria from September 5 to 30.

The surveys are conducted from the air, meaning that helicopters will be flying at low altitudes and slow speeds to count kangaroos. Flights are carefully planned to avoid houses and livestock.

These surveys help improve DEECA’s understanding of Victoria’s kangaroo population and help inform wildlife management decisions.

Across the state, there are three different species of kangaroo: Red, Eastern Grey and Western Grey.

The Eastern Grey kangaroo is common, found across most of Victoria, with a grey-brown coat and silver-grey chest. They can stand up to two metres tall and weigh up to 90 kilograms.

Western Grey kangaroos are found in the north-west and western parts of Victoria, overlapping habitats with the Eastern Grey in some regions. They have a thicker, brownish-grey coat and darker grey-brown face.

They are slightly smaller and stockier than Eastern Greys.

The Red kangaroo is limited to the far north-west corner of Victoria, with males coated in brick-red fur, and females having a bluish-grey coat. They are the largest species of kangaroo.

In the 2024 kangaroo population survey conducted by DEECA, statewide estimates predicted there were around 2.09 million Eastern Greys, 212,000 Western Greys, and 39,000 Red kangaroos. This made for a total kangaroo population of around 2.34 million roos, down from an estimated 2.41 million in 2022.

The survey broke down estimated kangaroo populations by region, with Hume estimated to have 771,000 Eastern Grey kangaroos in 2024 and no Western Greys.

Kangaroos, along with all native wildlife, are protected in Victoria under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. While kangaroos are a protected species in Victoria, there are situations where they can cause damage and negatively affect farmers, regional communities and biodiversity,

leading to DEECA undertaking population control.

Kangaroo Management Plans (KMP) are developed to address risks when kangaroos are impacted by urban development, becoming displaced or landlocked.

Kangaroos are strongly attached to their home range and are reluctant to vacate an area. This can become problematic when land within their home range is subject to development, and they need to disperse to other adjacent areas.

While kangaroos may use the nearby areas, it is uncommon for kangaroos to move entirely out of their home range, even when development is occurring. This can result in kangaroos becoming landlocked, trapped on all sides by development, etcetera. Displacement and landlocking of kangaroos can cause adverse animal welfare and human safety issues.

These can include: Traffic accidents; damage to pasture, crops, gardens and fences caused by kangaroos; negative impact on vulnerable native vegetation or ar-

eas undergoing revegetation due to kangaroo grazing; competition for grazing with livestock on farming properties; kangaroos becoming aggressive towards people, usually when individual animals have regular contact with humans.

DEECA can issue Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCW) under section 28A of the *Wildlife Act 1975* for the control of kangaroos where they are demonstrated to be damaging pasture, crops or other property or impacting on biodiversity values.

Any person wishing to control wildlife, including kangaroos, on their property is required to apply for an ATCW. Management techniques for kangaroo populations include fertility control, fencing, scaring and culling.

To apply for an ATCW, visit [vic.gov.au/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations](https://vic.gov.au/wildlife-management-and-control-authorisations)

Chronic phalaris toxicity is also majorly affecting Victoria’s kangaroo population.

Kangaroos can develop chronic phalaris toxicity, or ‘staggers’, as

it is commonly referred to, which causes neurological damage in animals that have eaten Phalaris grasses (also known as canary grass). Phalaris is a common pasture crop that when grown under certain conditions can be toxic to animals that graze on it.

Symptoms commonly seen in kangaroos that have chronic phalaris toxicity poisoning include muscle tremors and abnormal or erratic movement, such as repeated falling over, giving the appearance that the kangaroo is drunk or staggering.

Currently there is no known treatment for this condition in wildlife and unfortunately animals severely affected often require euthanasia or humane killing for animal welfare reasons.

If you suspect a kangaroo with chronic phalaris toxicity poisoning, please contact your local vet or a wildlife rescue organization.

For further information about the kangaroo population survey, contact DEECA’s Customer Contact Centre on 131 186.



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# Rebuild costs surge

THE cost of rebuilding homes after extreme weather is rising faster than inflation with the biggest increases concentrated in the materials and trades needed most after disasters, according to new analysis released today by the Insurance Council of Australia.

Published as part of the Insurance Council's annual *Insurance Catastrophe Resilience Report*, the analysis highlights the growing economic cost of extreme weather and the increasing pressure it is placing on housing supply, construction costs and insurance affordability.

Data from Cotality's *Cordell Construction Cost Index (CCCI)* shows building costs rose around 30 per cent in the five years to March 2026, against CPI growth of about 24 per cent over the same period.

The sharpest increases occurred in the materials and trades most relied upon after disasters, with many costs rising at more than double

the CPI. Roof tiles increased 77 per cent in five years, more than three times the rate of CPI. Windows, plaster, plywood, copper piping, structural steel, cement and concrete climbed between 37 and 48 per cent. The cost of roof, windows and plaster products, elements commonly damaged by hail, storms and cyclones, saw some of the largest increases. Labour costs followed a similar trend, with roofers and glaziers recording the most significant wage growth.

Rising rebuild costs are placing pressure on insurance premiums, and this pressure is sharpest where the weather is worst.

Beyond the inflationary impact, the cycle of rebuilding and repairing homes damaged by extreme weather is diverting the materials, trades, and construction capacity needed to increase housing supply.

Between 2022 and 2026, insurers received more than

400,000 claims to repair or rebuild homes damaged in declared events, at an insured cost of \$11.3 billion.

In 2025 alone, declared events damaged 145,392 homes, almost as many as the 172,657 new homes completed nationally that year.

More generally, the report shows that in 2025-26 seven declared events generated more than \$3.98 billion in insured losses, up more than \$1.7 billion on the previous year.

ICA CEO Andrew Hall said, "Inflation in building costs is adding real pressure to the cost of premiums year on year. Every insurance claim draws on the same builders, trades and materials needed to deliver new housing, stretching an already constrained construction sector even further.

"The building sector has called out sustained labour shortages, higher electricity costs, and climbing prices for specific building materials as the key drivers of

inflation in Australia.

"Shifting market demands for AI data centre construction and the 2032 Olympic Games will add further demand into an already stretched sector.

"Combined with the exposure to high-risk weather in fastest growing regions of the country, Australia is in urgent need of a plan to tackle both the resilience and the costs of housing over the long term.

"Resilience investment, stronger homes and smarter planning decisions, combined with producing more skilled labour are critical to bringing downward pressure on these costs.

"Resilience investment is not just good disaster policy, it's good housing policy that stacks up economically.

"Australia will not tackle the housing shortage while disasters keep pushing existing homes back into the repair queue, which is why resilience investment must be a core part of the government's national housing strategy."

## Seasonal letter from the FFMVic Chief Fire Officer

By Chris Hardman AFSM,  
Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire  
Management Victoria

VICTORIA is facing one of its warmest and driest spring outlooks in some time, increasing the risk of an earlier and more active fire season across parts of the state.

For Forest Fire Management Victoria, preparing for bushfires is a year-round job. Across parks and forests, our crews work every day to reduce bushfire risk through fuel management, preparedness activities and maintaining the capability to respond quickly when fires occur.

This year's seasonal outlook reinforces why that work is so important.

Throughout spring, we will continue working with our emergency management partners to monitor conditions and undertake fuel management and preparedness activities in the lead-up to summer.

We are also preparing our people and equipment for the season ahead so we can respond quickly when and

where bushfires occur.

With more than 1800 frontline personnel, specialist emergency management staff, firefighting vehicles, heavy machinery and a world-class aerial firefighting fleet, our focus is on detecting, responding to and containing bushfires as quickly as possible to minimise impacts and help keep communities safe.

Everyone has a role to play in preparing for the season ahead. Victorians can do their part by having a bushfire plan, downloading the VicEmergency app and staying up to date with Fire Danger Ratings.

If you're visiting parks and state forests, please take extra care with campfires and always know and follow the rules.

Together, we can all play a part in reducing bushfire risk and helping keep Victorian communities safe.

Visit Forest Fire Management Victoria for more information about how we're preparing for the bushfire season.

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# Be asthma-ready this spring

AS temperatures rise and Victorians look to spend more time outdoors, Ambulance Victoria is reminding the community to get ahead of the season and update their asthma action plans.

Spring conditions often present allergens and triggers for people living with asthma, and if unmanaged or not prevented, it can develop into a serious health concern.

Ambulance Victoria Director Emergency Management Dale Armstrong said early preparation is key.

"Asthma affects people of all ages and while it can become life-threatening, it is usually well managed when people understand their triggers and have an up-to-date asthma action plan," he said.

"An asthma action plan is one of the most important tools for managing your condition. It helps you recognise worsening

symptoms early and know exactly what steps to take."

Common spring triggers include pollen, dust, air pollution and thunderstorms, while indoor irritants such as mould, dust mites and fumes from gas cooktops can also contribute to asthma symptoms.

Thunderstorm asthma is thought to be triggered by a unique combination of large amounts of grass pollen in the air and a certain type of thunderstorm. For people who have asthma or hay fever, this can trigger severe asthma symptoms.

Symptoms to be mindful of include wheezing, shortness of breath, coughing and chest tightness.

"It can be easy to become complacent if you haven't experienced symptoms for a while, but asthma doesn't disappear," Dale said.

"That's why we encourage Victorians to check their

medication, review their action plan and book in with their GP before symptoms become a problem."

Adults should review their asthma action plan at least once a year, while children's plans should be updated every six months.

Asthma can also develop for the first time in adulthood. People experiencing persistent allergy or hay fever symptoms, such as a runny nose, itchy eyes or ongoing congestion, should speak with their GP about appropriate treatment and whether further assessment is needed.

"Taking simple preventative steps now can help people stay healthy and active throughout spring, while also reducing avoidable demand on ambulances and hospitals," Dale said.

"Always follow your asthma action plan, but if you are

having difficulty breathing and your reliever medicine is not helping, call Triple Zero (000) immediately."

For non-emergency care and advice, Victorians can access a range of alternate healthcare options, including: Virtual Emergency Department (VED) at ved.vic.gov.au, providing free video consultations with emergency doctors and nurses from anywhere in Victoria, 24 hours a day; Urgent Care Clinics, offering treatment for a range of non-life-threatening conditions; Nurse-On-Call on 1300 60 60 24 for free health advice from registered nurses, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and Local GPs and pharmacists, who can provide timely advice, treatment and support for ongoing asthma management.

Victorians should monitor the epidemic thunderstorm asthma risk forecast on VicEmergency from October 1 to December 31.



BE AWARE OF CONDITIONS: Ambulance Victoria is reminding people about thunderstorm asthma. PHOTO: Pixabay

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**Notice of intention to grant licence for the purpose of grazing/riparian management.**

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to grant a licence under Section 130 of the Land Act 1958 to:

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Further information or comments can be lodged with the Crown Frontage Property Officer, Rowie Simpson on (03) 8508 3012 within 14 days.

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**AGM**

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FUNERAL NOTICES

**REGAN**

A funeral to celebrate the life of Len Regan will be held at the Maranatha Hall, Lyons Street, Yea on Friday, September 11, 2026 commencing at 11am.

A burial at the Yea Cemetery will follow.

**McCormack FUNERALS**

Peace of mind

# Rural Councils Victoria seeks greater rural investment

RURAL Councils Victoria (RCV) has launched its statewide ‘Invest in Rural Victoria’ campaign, calling on all political parties and candidates to commit to greater investment in rural communities ahead of the Victorian election.

The campaign was launched in Swan Hill during the 2026 Rural Councils Victoria Forum, which brought together dozens of mayors, councillors and community leaders from across country Victoria.

At the centre of RCV’s election platform is a call for the establishment of a \$1 billion Rural and Regional Victoria Productivity and Growth Fund to support housing,

economic development, community infrastructure and stronger local councils.

The campaign is also calling for extra and sustained new funding for country roads, including both state and locally-managed roads.

RCV Chair Cr Rob Amos said more than one million Victorians live outside Melbourne and the big regional cities, and rural communities are a key engine room for the Victorian economy.

“Rural communities power Victoria. We grow the food, generate energy, attract visitors and support industries that benefit every Victorian, yet too often, rural Victoria is

being asked to do more with less.”

Cr Amos said the campaign was about securing ongoing investments that will boost liveability and economic activity in rural areas.

“Across Victoria there are projects ready to go. We have housing projects waiting to proceed, community facilities crying out for renewal and expansion, and economic development opportunities poised to create jobs and growth.

“We just need the Victorian Government to invest more in rural Victoria.”

The high-level campaign will be supported locally with community

signage at sites needing increased state investment and local meetings with election candidates and MPs.

Rural Councils Victoria is a non-partisan advocacy organisation representing the state’s 35 rural councils.

“This campaign is timed for the election, but it’s not about politics. It’s about outcomes,” Cr Amos said.

“Our message to all politicians and policymakers is the same: if you respect rural Victoria, you need to invest in rural Victoria.”

RCV is encouraging people living in country Victoria to join the campaign by visiting [ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au/invest](http://ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au/invest)

## Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

By HONORARY SECRETARY  
MIKE JENNINGS

THE week opened with the bridge players in action on Wednesday before Friday’s business meeting.

Matters arising from the Treasurer’s report included the increasing cost of the sundry items the members use each week, such as refreshments and office costs. A motion to increase the meeting entrance from \$2 to \$3 effective immediately was proposed and accepted unanimously.

Future activities discussed included an excursion to Healesville RSL for Morning Melodies on Tuesday, October 14. The entertainment is a Shirley Bassey tribute. A list is on the front desk for those interested in adding their names. June won the FoodWorks voucher.

After the formalities, the members enjoyed a Bingo session then refreshments. The members completed the afternoon with games of 500 and UNO. New members are always welcome. Head along on a Friday afternoon. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.



TIGHT COMPETITION: Nathan and Liane on the court for round eight of term three at Alexandra Squash Club.

# Competitors steadily improving at Alexandra Squash Club

By ANDREW BROWN

**Monday competition**  
**Team Two versus Team Four**

Lachie versus Holly: Holly is improving week by week, but so is Lachie. Both have come a long way since the beginning of this season, but Lachie’s powerful drives placed him at a great advantage, and he cruised to victory, 87-34.

Will (fill-in) versus Laura: A close game that was entertaining to watch. Will took the first three games by narrow margins. Laura fought back to win the final game; a valiant effort but not enough to overcome Will’s lead. Will wins 60-52.

Stuart versus Chris: An enthralling point for point battle in which the final result came down to the final point at the final second. Stuart was winning points with perfect serve placement and clever front court boasts.

Chris was returning shots that he

shouldn’t have been able to reach with amazing backhand flicks and winning points with deft, soft touch. Chris took the prize 60-59.

Andrew versus Daniel: This match was emblematic of the ongoing rivalry between these two players. Extended and desperate rallies throughout the four games, the lead changing back and forth regularly. On this occasion it was Andrew just ahead at the end; 54-52.

**Team One versus Team Five**

Eric versus Bec: A great battle throughout and another match that demonstrated the progress players are making in their squash skills.

Bec battled boldly but Eric edged her out in each game and claimed an 11-point win 62-51.

Randy versus Jessica: An entertaining spectacle for spectators. Randy appeared to be forging a victory, winning each of the first three games.

Then Jessica fought back. A strong final game enabled her to

sneak past Randy by the narrowest possible margin. Final score 62-61.

Simon versus Mick: Despite some hard hitting from Mick, Simon played with the finesse we’ve come to expect from him and won each of the four games and ultimately the match. 77-45.

Wednesday competition  
**Team One versus Team Five**

Nicole versus Jordan: Nicole employed an effective strategy of placing the ball in the back corners of the court, but Jordan seized upon any mishits, driving past his opponent and then dropping shots short.

Jordan’s technique worked well for him, taking him to a 67-52 victory.

Jess versus Matt: Matt is playing some good squash. Jess worked hard and drew the third game. There were some hard-fought rallies throughout the match, but it was Matt who enjoyed the win, 64-49.

Michael M versus Michael H:

15 points all at the end of the first game.

Then Michael H moved ahead by tightening his shot placement until a lovely drive by Michael M brought the crowd to their feet. Lovely forehand drives from Michael H in the third game. Some amazing rallies in the fourth. Michael H kept edging ahead to finish with a 64-48 win.

**Team Two versus Team Four**

Nicole (fill-in) versus Beth: Playing her second game in a row didn’t slow Nicole down. This was an entertaining contest, with the lead changing each game and the rallies getting longer the longer the match went on. At its conclusion there was only one point separating the contestants. Beth’s victory 57-56.

Liane versus Nathan: Sunday night practice sessions are paying off for Nathan, demonstrated by good ball placement, particularly along the wall. Liane fought back in the final game but by then Nathan’s victory had been secured. 73-40.



WINNERS ARE GRINNERS: Phil Armstrong won the Monthly Medal with 86 off the stick nett 68.

## La Grutta hot on Armstrong’s tail in close Yea competition

By ALAN PELL

WITH predicted rain for Saturday only 13 men contested the Monthly Medal at Yea Golf Club. Shining through the event was Phil Armstrong (18) with 86 off the stick nett 68.

Second was Anthony La Grutta (16) nett 71, third with nett 75 was Rick Wills (11). Phil was also nearest the pin on the second and he and Alan Pell won the putting with 24 putts each. Paul Heyen won the Club Award.

The Ladies’ Monthly Medal was won by Sharon Grogan (23) with a nett 76.

Last Wednesday’s Stableford saw Luke Gregory (8) with 35 points win from Mic Spagnolo (10), Gary Pollard (15) and Anthony La Grutta (16) all on 32 points. Brian Simmons was nearest the pin on the second and Alan Pell won the Club Award.

The Ladies’ Stableford was won by Khai M-Noor (38) with a fine 35 points from Sharon Grogan (23) 31, Judie Newman (39) 27 and Miranda Gill (18) 27.

## SPORT

# Alexandra Football Netball Club supporting CFA and community

WHEN fires impacted communities across the region earlier this year, Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC) did what community clubs do best; it opened its doors.

For several months, Rebel Park became home to Blaze Aid, providing a base for volunteers who worked tirelessly to help local landholders begin the long process of recovery. It was a significant undertaking for the club, but with some of its own players, sponsors and volunteers directly affected by the fires, standing beside the community was never in question.

That commitment also captured the attention of Western Bulldogs players Tim English and James O'Donnell.

After hearing about the club's involvement with Blaze Aid, Tim and James travelled to Alexandra for the traditional ANZAC Day clash between Alexandra and Yea, keen to support the two communities and help raise funds for their local CFA brigades.

The pair generously gave their time throughout the day, signing merchandise, posing for photographs and meeting supporters. They also addressed Alexandra's senior players before the game, creating a memorable moment inside the rooms ahead of one of the club's most significant fixtures of the season. But their visit was about far more than bringing two AFL players to Rebel Park.

With the support of the Western Bulldogs, signed jerseys and an extraordinary inner-sanctum experience for four people were donated for auction. The experience included reserved seating, access to the on-field warm-up, participation in the guard of honour and entry to the post-game rooms.

The money raised through those auction items has now been donated to the Alexandra and Yea CFA brigades, returning the generosity of the day directly to the volunteers who stood on the frontline when both communities needed them most.



**SPORT GIVING BACK:** Alexandra CFA representative Haydn Simpson receiving the brigade's donation from AFNC President Kylie Cairns. A Yea CFA representative was unable to attend.

Alexandra CFA representative Haydn Simpson is pictured receiving the brigade's donation from Alexandra Football Netball Club President Kylie Cairns. While a representative from Yea CFA was unfortunately unable to attend the presentation, the club has also passed Yea's share of the funds on to its brigade.

For AFNC, this donation brings an important community effort full circle.

The fires affected people at the very heart of the Club. Blaze Aid volunteers then made Rebel Park their home while helping the district recover.

Tim English and James O'Donnell heard that story and chose to lend their support, and the Alexandra and Yea communities came together on ANZAC Day to turn that support into something tangible.

Football and netball clubs are of-

ten measured by what happens on the scoreboard. But their true value is revealed away from it, in the doors they open, the people they bring together and the way they respond when their community is doing it tough.

Alexandra Football Netball Club is immensely proud to have played its part and to now give something back to the CFA volunteers who give so much to all of us.

## Busy period ahead for Marysville golfers with AGM and various competitions

By LESLEY RUNDLE

LAST Thursday the nine holers played stroke on the front nine holes at Marysville Golf Club and the winner was Lloyd Flaherty (9) with nett 37. Heather Jenkins (10) was a close runner up with nett 38. Lloyd won the nearest the pin on the fourth hole and Mark Alexander won on the ninth hole.

The Saturday weather forecast for Marysville was for '25 mm of rain and strong winds' which obviously put the fair-weather golfers off playing, but the small field in fact enjoyed 18 holes in reasonable weather with no rain and just a moderate wind. The golfers played a stroke round for the September monthly medal.

The ladies' medal winner was Sabrina Stow (25) with nett 74 on a countback from Gail Leigh (12). Peter Lilley (16) won the men's medal with nett 73 from Keith Atwell (15) with nett 76. Just two of the four nearest the pins were won with Travers Stow winning on the ninth and Richy Clark on the 11th. Richy also won the Golden Shot. Peter Lilley won the putting.

Members are reminded that the club AGM will be held next Saturday, September 12 at 8.45am in the dining room and are encouraged to attend this important meeting. The club raffle will be drawn at the AGM and all raffle tickets must be returned to Steve Coker before the meeting.

After the AGM the men will play a stroke round for the final of the Barton Cup and the ladies will play a stableford game. The Captains Trophies will be presented after play to the daily winners. Qualifiers for the final of the ladies' Barton Shield on Saturday, September 19 are Sabrina Stow, Gail Leigh, Lesley Rundle, Heather Jenkins, Beverley Bellman, and Fiona Wright.

The Goulburn Valley Water Standpipe Cup is being held at Mansfield Golf Club on Saturday, October 3. It is an Ambrose game and two teams of four from Marysville will be playing in the event. Those members who are not travelling to Mansfield will play a stableford round at Marysville.

Due to the Standpipe Cup the dates for the Marysville Men's Championships are October 10, 17 and 24 and for the ladies the dates are September 26 and October 10, 17 and 24. (Best of three rounds).

The mystery of the flippers found in the bin on the 16th tee as mentioned last week has unfortunately not been solved.

## Rosemary Parker overwhelms the competition after ladies' games hiatus

By DAVE SILVERMAN

A BIT of fine weather and they come out of the woodwork at Alexandra Golf Club. Well, a few more than they've been getting, anyway.

There was a field of nine for last Tuesday's Stableford round, which is a step in the right direction, and with the forecast tending towards fine and mild, the club are hopeful that more players will join them very soon.

Brad Newton made his return a memorable one, taking the win with 35 points. Leo Dynes was second with 34, just pipping Russell Purcell on a countback. Leo also claimed nearest

the pin on seven, and 17 went to Brad, while rundown vouchers went to John Greator and yours truly.

Finally, the ladies have managed to get a game in, and it was a small, but high-quality field of six who turned out to vie for the September Monthly Medal. In the end, it was Rosemary Parker, picking up where she left off before the deluge, who took the win and the medal with a score of 101 nett 77, well clear of her nearest pursuer, Sharyn Petrzela, who carded a nett 84.

Rosemary also recorded the fewest putts, with 32, and Sharyn took nearest the pins on two and 18.

The author knows that golfers

spend a fair bit of time talking about the weather, because it does play a big part in the game, but Saturday the club had pretty much all there was during their four-hour round, starting with threatening overcast, then a fine, sunny spell, horizontal rain, followed by more sun.

But the seven players who toughed it out all made it through pretty much unscathed, except maybe for Billy Wind's umbrella, which succumbed in very short order.

And so to the actual golf. A stroke round, the prize the September Monthly Medal, sponsored by H G Turf, attracted a field of just seven, and was played on a course made

quite heavy by the overnight rain.

The winner, with a very good score of 87 net 71, was the latest up-and-comer, Will Simpson. Will has come up through the junior program and has now made the transition to the big time, Alexandra style. Congrats, Will.

Second place went to James Kidd with 78 net 73, and Russell Purcell was third with a 96 nett 77. Jimmy Kidd took the nearest the pins on two and 12, John Steer claimed five, and 18 went to Will. Visiting player Tyson Darley, who just happens to be Russell's son-in-law, had the fewest putts, and of course Will took home the Monthly Medal.

**WINNERS ARE GRINNERS:** The number 64 car driven by the three-hour endurance winners Dale and Russell Smith from Melbourne's eastern suburbs.  
PHOTO: Imageworx Photography



# Smiths win enduro

■ The respected father-son duo claimed victory at the Alexandra Speedway

By DEAN THOMPSON

ALEXANDRA Speedway roared into action on the evening of Saturday, August 29 with the annual three-hour endurance teams' event plus Junior Sedans and Standard Saloons.

After a gruelling race with many of the pre-event favourites quests for victory undone by tyres, and damage through the race, Dale Smith, who by his own teammate's admission did most of the racing, won with his father Russell Smith much to the delight of their fellow competitors when it came to event presentations.

Alexandra put in place a new concept for the weekend where instead of qualifying for position, the fans would get involved with their children and the children would select team numbers from a bag, and that team would then start in the position they were drawn.

With a twist, Karl Dingly the Chief Steward of the event and Rod Meakins an Alexandra life member, put together \$300 dollars and offered the team of Nathan O'Brien and Josh Barber a deal to take, if they swapped positions with last drawn team of Kellie Latham and Josh Service, the \$300 would go to the Royal Children's Hospital as a donation.

Nathan and Josh did not hesitate to accept the deal and place themselves last, just a terrific gesture all round by Karl and Rod and then Nathan and Josh to accept.

In support racing prior to the three-hour enduro, Junior 1200cc Sedan competitors held their feature race in which Victorian champion Jaylin Knight defeated, Kobi Knight and Lucas Magor. In Standard Saloon racing, a last cor-

ner pass by longtime club stalwart Wayne Sheerman on visiting racer Colin Connolly, seen him snatch victory at the finish line by 0.072 of a second with Leigh Gooding coming to the line in third.

The Enduro then began with the top 10 line up of Latham and Service, then Jasmin Molloy and Lucas Conder, Nathan Miles and Andrew Mitchell, Wayne and Travis Ramsdale, Alexandra town locals Luke and Will Fallon, Darren O'Brien and Scott Chippindall, Jarrod Hughes and Steve Mitchell, Caleb Lincoln and father Colin Lincoln, Andrew Cormack and Conway Fry, and Anthony Sharam and Danny Eastham.

At the tail of the field were fancied teams such as O'Brien and Barber who took to the rear of the field challenge, plus David Donegan and Ian Thomsen on the second last row, Brendan and Damien Miller from position 20, and defending champions Shane O'Brien and Lennie Bonnici from 18.

When the green flag dropped, Josh Service grabbed the lead and led lap one from Andrew Mitchell and Travis Ramsdale with the Miller's moving up six spots into 14th on the first lap. The Lincoln's who had begun in seventh and eighth, were in third by the end of lap two and moving into second not long after. At the 10-lap mark Service had led every circulation with Team Lincoln's in second then Team Fallon's, then Brad Warren and Dave Hutchinson, and team Ramsdale's. The team of Hughes and Steve Mitchell had already suffered damage and tailed the field.

Team Lincoln took the lead at lap 12 from Service and the Millers moved into the top five. With cars having mechanical issues and tyres popping of the rims or just going

flat, the field yo-yoed up and down in terms of positioning. At lap 20 the Lincolns still held the lead from Service with the Millers now in third.

The pit stops started to begin for many of the capable of winning teams around lap 24 where the Ramsdale and the Fallon's for example entered the pit lane for a change over, the Lincoln's pitted on lap 25 handing the race lead back to Josh Service who would soon tag in Kellie Latham.

At lap 30, Service had not yet pitted although everybody knew it was coming. Lennie Bonnici was in second and Dale Smith in third ahead of the Gareth Wilson and Dave Barrie combination. That pit-stop for Service had not yet eventuated with 40 laps on the board.

Incredibly in an endurance race hard on the body despite, the safety belts and constricted seat that locks the driver in place, along with Bonnici, Dale Smith and some of the back of the field starters, the drivers were showing incredible durability with the O'Brien and Barber combination from 26th to fifth.

Service still led at lap 50 from Bonnici and Smith. With Jak Brennan and Matt Shankland, a new entry into the top five before Service headed to the pits on lap 53. With a larger fuel tank capacity, Bonnici soldiered on from first while Donegan and Thomsen hot the top five and were in third. Bonnici pitted to hand the reigns to teammate Shane O'Brien on lap 60. Smith held the lead until lap 84 before pit stops handed the lead to the Fallon's who had pitted earlier.

The Miller's hit the lead for the first time of the race for them on lap 76 and had like other teams been racing patiently to get to the

front avoiding non-necessary contact trying to pass cars they know they can fly by in a better spot. The Brennan/Shankland combination was in third spot at this stage.

It was at lap 126 that the Millers pitted and still returned to the track in second place incredibly. The Fallon's led from the Millers, Donegan/Thomsen, the Smith's and Shane Roycroft and Lee Beach who had recovered from early race mechanical inconveniences.

A couple of laps later the Donegan/Thomsen combination hit the front of the race with the Smith's up to second, the Fallon's back to third. Dale Smith snatched the lead again on lap 133 with the Fallon's and Roycroft/Beach teams in the top three.

Combinations such as Danny O'Brien and Rob Bushell found time in the top three as those cars that had formed the fast top 10 broke down or made scheduled stops. At lap 170, the Smith's still held the lead from the Fallon's, Donegan/Thomsen and the Ramsdale's and now O'Brien and Bushell.

From there the Smiths were never headed, had an easy change over between son back to father with no idea how in front they were when Dale's car started to cough. Russell raced the closing laps to the end where they had completed 216 and finished ahead by nine laps from the Ramsdale team, with Donegan/Thomsen in third place, Latham and Service fourth and Danny O'Brien and Rob Bushell in fifth, 13 laps down on the leader.

Just outside the top 10 were the likes of the Fallon team, the Miller's, Brennan and Shankland, with Sharam and Eastham delighted to be in the top 10 as were

Chippindall and Darren O'Brien in seventh.

After race presentations included awards to Wayne Sheerman, Jaylin Knight and the Donegan/Thomsen team for their team and car presentations. Plus, to Shane Roycroft and Lee Beach for being in the 10th spot at that time of the 69th lap of the race.

A huge honour was then bestowed on the race winners, when their peers voted them the most respected competitors of the event, as he accepted this acknowledgement, Dale Smith started by mentioning that such an award takes more significance than any race winning trophy can, in which Russell Smith concurred, it is nice to be recognised for where they stand in the racing community.

Onto the presentations and while the top five all had a host of mentions and comments to make; it came back to the winners of the Smiths who were truly humbled to have finally made a huge win like this.

Dale had won in recent seasons many Sports Sedan racers including state series rounds, and the odd club feature here and there. For both himself winning the race with his father, and for his father Russell winning it with his son, nothing can top the feeling they had at that moment, perhaps except marriages and having children.

With the event in the books, Alexandra Speedway now look forward to their season proper beginning for 2026/27 on November 14, with the new Go Green for mental health day featuring a Go Green for 50 laps Sports Sedan feature, Production Sedans in a state series event, Standard Saloons, Modified Sedans and Juniors.

**The respected father-son duo claimed victory at the Alexandra Speedway**

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# The Yea Chronicle Sport



# Terip ladies progress

Through to finals after last round of the winter tennis home and away season

## FAREWELL AND A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED AT YEA BOWLS CLUB

By MAURIE FINN

RECENTLY a large crowd gathered at the Yea Bowls Club to farewell much loved life member and past President Leonard Sheahan. Leonard has moved to Mercy Health at Keon Park.

A guard of honour was formed in a moving gesture for Leonard as he came forward to receive his departing speech from Club President, Maurie Finn.

John Quinlan, representing the Yea Racing Club, also spoke of Leonard's involvement as Treasurer, and as someone who was always prepared to step up to get things done.

Peg O'Connor who recently celebrated her 90th birthday was recognised for her long-time membership and voluntary work including an eight-year stint as Treasurer. Peg was presented with a lovely cake to continue her 90th celebrations.

Both Leonard and Peg expressed their appreciation of how welcoming the Yea Bowls Club had made them over the years and the contact with members was a large part of their lives.

**MOVING AWAY:** Leonard Sheahan saying goodbye to the Yea Bowls Club and the Yea community.



By DEB MIMS

IT was a magnificent day for the final round of the Euroa District Ladies Winter Tennis Association (EDLWTA) home-and-away season. Mansfield's Team Wappan finished convincingly on top and, with a bye, used the opportunity to practise ahead of next week's semi-finals.

### Mansfield versus Creightons Creek 3, 33 - 3, 32

Team Mansfield hosted Creightons Creek, with Michelle Pigdon filling in for Carolyn Murray who was needing to rest a sore shoulder, teaming up with Cathie Anderson. Struggling to get into the groove they went down to opposition, Lyndall Bigland and Ros Doxey, while next door, Mansfield's Dynamic Debs, Deb McCormack and Deb Mims came out on top with their set against Kerry Hewlett and Jill Hayes.

With Deb Mims still making the come-back slowly but surely, Loretta Armitage teamed up with Anderson, winning their set against Doxey and Hayes. With Pigdon and McCormack going down to Bigland and Hewlett, it was two sets a piece with the games even going into the last round.

A battle to be the winner on the day ensued, with Mansfield and Creightons Creek taking a set each in the last round. Mansfield came out on top by one game.

### Euroa versus Moglonemby 3, 37 - 3, 42

With Euroa's courts being home ground for both Moglonemby and Euroa, it was a matter of who was going to

supply the always delicious post-match food. That fell to Euroa and another tight battle then played out. Euroa's Faye Mollison and Julie Harrington were up against Moglonemby's Sue Vaughan and Marlene Hanrahan, who were too strong on this day taking the first set.

Triona King and Mary Kelly evened up the sets by winning theirs against Robyn Johnson and Lisa Krepp. The next two rounds had a set going each way, one set being a tie breaker, with the final score going down to the number of games. This went Moglonemby's way with coming out on top by five.

### Terip Terip versus Benalla 5, 47 - 1, 27

Terip Terip hosted Benalla and was too strong for Benalla taking five of the six sets. Judy Sands who filled in for Terip teamed up with Terip regular Phoebe McDermid, taking the set off Claire Sharp and Maureen Jewell in a tight battle.

Also a fill-in for Terip, Meg Ford played alongside Jenny Martin, but they were too strong for Marg Clode and Wendy Maxwell, also claiming the set. Sands and Ford lost in a tie breaker against Sharp and Clode, the only set Benalla won for the day.

And so, for the end of the home and away season, it is good luck to the four teams playing off next week, vying for a spot in the Grand Final.

Mansfield Club will host the semis with the Grand Final being played off at Euroa on Monday, September 14.

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