

# Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, October 9, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS EDITION -  
LIFT OUT PAGES 11-14

## ALEXANDRA CFA 150 YEARS OLD

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



# Purely operational

THE Department of Health is still insisting that there has been no change to eligibility for Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) for local patients requiring dialysis sessions with the Minister for Health's office declining to comment on the matter.

In a response to questions from this newspaper regarding the withdrawal of patient transport services by Ambulance Victoria, a media advisor to Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Health, stated that Ambulance

Victoria has been asked to respond as it is "an operational matter."

An email later in the week from Ms Thomas's office claimed that the existing rules ensure Victorians who require clinical care during transportation will continue to be and those who don't require this additional monitoring or supervision, a large range of community and statewide based options are available.

Meanwhile the local community has reacted to the news Alexandra residents who need kidney dialysis will have to find their own transport to Seymour for treatment. A later announcement from Ambulance Victoria that the service would continue as normal of at least the next two weeks has also added to the confusion.

One dialysis patient posted online that they have secured non-emergency transport

adding that they hoped the service would be permanent.

In response to community concerns, Murrindindi Shire CEO, Livia Bonazzi, met with a group of citizens last week to investigate options for the impacted patients. Following the meeting council will have discussions with local health providers and the department.

For those who don't require clinical monitoring or care during transportation to medical appointments, community transport providers are available - particularly for those who may be unable to use public transport, taxi services or seek support from family and friends.

A government spokesperson has claimed that there is a large range of options available in regional areas stating that patients can connect with local travel options via information provided on the Better Health Channel website or via a hospital social worker when they are booking their appointment.

More information on community transport providers available in specific regions can be found at [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupports/community-transport-providers](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupports/community-transport-providers)

## A week for seniors

NEXT week U3A celebrates Seniors Week with five days of free activities for seniors, commencing on Monday October 14.

The week promises dancing, games, Tai Chi, a group walk and a craft day that includes making a sheep, titled "Ewe Can Do it".

The theme for Seniors week is "Explore Engage Evolve" and on Friday October 18 there is a 5pm screening of "Mamma Mia The Movie" at the Alexandra Town Hall. Everyone is encouraged to come along and eat cake and sandwiches after the musical.

This event is proudly sponsored by Foundation Murrindindi. For more information email: [info@murrindindieastu3a.org.au](mailto:info@murrindindieastu3a.org.au) or phone 0456 583 611. Community members are invited to join U3A members in their Senior Festival Celebrations. So go along and have fun celebrating being a senior.



Alexandra author, Pamela Thompson, is pictured here with her newly published book 'The Art of Body Bits'. Read the story on page 5. -BD

MURRINDINDI FOOD AND WINE INC

## MURRINDINDI HARVEST CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 16TH NOV 2024 - YEA RAILWAY PARK - 11-4

This one-day event in Yea will be a showcase of Murrindindi produce including food stalls, cooking demonstrations, workshops and many opportunities to 'Meet the Maker.'

It's Free!



[murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au](http://murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au)



**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Yea & District Memorial Hospital** 5736 0400

**In an emergency dial 000**



## Letters to the Editor

I write to correct the record in the Letter to the Editor from Tom Collins in the Alexandra Standard and Yea Chronicle (October 2, 2024). It was disappointing to read my position on the conflict in the Middle East misrepresented so severely.

Like many Australians, I condemn the attacks on Israel on October 7 last year by Hamas and call for the return of all hostages. And like many Australians, I am appalled by the ongoing loss of life in Gaza, the suffering of innocent people, the destruction of critical infrastructure including hospitals and the obstruction of food and medical supplies. The

spread of this conflict to other countries and the continued loss of life is distressing to me, and I know to many others.

As your Independent MP, I am using my position as an elected representative to push for an immediate and lasting ceasefire and immediate humanitarian aid, calling on the Australian Government to act in favour of lasting peace across the Middle East.

I have voted in the parliament to recognise Israel's right to exist and its right to defend itself, and I have also voted in favour of ceasefire in Gaza - working for peace does not mean supporting terrorism.

I condemn any violence which targets civilians, no matter the perpetrator of violence. There can be no acceptance of war crimes in any conflict and the international community must call out such actions.

My thoughts are with the communities here in Australia who are deeply and tragically impacted by the conflict. I hope that as a community we continue to discuss this issue with respect and empathy, and work towards maintaining a safe, peaceful and cohesive society.

*Dr Helen Haines MP,  
Independent Federal  
Member for Indi*



**THUMBS DOWN:** To tradies who say they can do a job but are unable to complete the work to a solid standard. Beware of workers who offer to perform a task but don't have the knowledge to do the job properly, spreading concrete through my garden and acting unprofessional on the job site.

**THUMBS UP:** Thanks to Andy on the 684 bus on Wednesday, October 2. Your help is much appreciated.

**THUMBS DOWN:** Disappointing to read that the race club is now not allowing BYO. This makes great day out a lot less affordable to many racegoers and families. Hopefully numbers don't dwindle because of this.

**THUMBS UP:** To Tom Collins. I was about to pen a very similar article about the terrorist groups Hamas, Hezbollah, Hutis supported by the 3 Independent Labour flunkies. Pocock, Haines and Wilkie. You said it well.

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](mailto: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.

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING**  
[reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

**MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS** Karen Morrison  
[manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
[accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

**ADVERTISING** - Jo  
[1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

**TRADES** - Mary  
[trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

**EDITOR** Anne Richey  
[editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
(Bailey) [journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
(Milly) [reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

**SPORTS**  
[sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714  
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Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

## How voting in local council elections works

WITH ballot packs being mailed out to residents of Murrindindi Shire this week, it's worth considering the way that voting works for local council elections.

According to the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), local council elections in which there is only one candidate being elected (per ward) use the preferential vote counting system.

This means that voters choose candidates on their ballot paper by numbering all the boxes in order of preference, with number one being their most preferred.

The first number on the ballot paper is the vote that really matters, with the other preferences holding little regard, except in the case of no candidate receiving enough votes.

To be elected to council, a candidate must have over 50 per cent of all first preference votes, called an absolute majority.

According to the VEC website, "if no candidate has an absolute majority, we conduct a preference



distribution. The candidate with fewest votes is excluded and their votes are passed on to other candidates according to voters' preferences. This process is repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority."

With multiple candidates standing for each ward in Murrindindi Shire, all residents will need to vote in this year's council elections. Voting closes at 6pm on Friday, October 25, with November 15 being the latest date that the results will be declared.

**PUBLISHERS**

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**IT'S NOT OKAY**

To yell at our staff.  
To swear at our staff.  
To be rude to our staff.  
To abuse our staff in anyway.  
To be disrespectful to our staff.  
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If you do, we have the right to ask you to leave our office and we may contact the police, or we may disconnect your call.

If you have a problem or complaint, we are happy to listen if you discuss this with us politely, please don't take your anger out on us.

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	2.10	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.62	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.20am Mon	0.81	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.00pm Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.28am Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	10.03am Mon	0.95	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	4.30	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.53	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	2.18	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.33	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	2.32	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.10am Mon	1.21	steady	

**\*\*ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2024**

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
can be submitted via email to  
[editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au) or  
[reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers  
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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

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

Like us on Facebook

**Weekly Weather**  
October 9 - October 15, 2024  
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	19	Wednesday	7	20
Thursday	5	21	Thursday	6	21
Friday	5	17	Friday	7	18
Saturday	5	21	Saturday	5	20
Sunday	10	22	Sunday	10	22
Monday	10	21	Monday	10	22
Tuesday	12	22	Tuesday	12	23

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	8mm
Buxton	26mm
Eildon (AWS)	10mm
Flowerdale	16mm
Jamieson	32mm
Kinglake	10mm
Lake Eildon	17mm
Mansfield	10mm
Taggerty	22mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea	16mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	285.27m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	86%
Metres below full supply	3.16m
Daily inflow	2500ML
Release	5500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	46.20%

**Standard**

**DEADLINES**

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
Thumbsup/down	Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or  
[reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

We thank you for your continued support



# Statue now restored

THE Queen Alexandra statue, also known as the Princess Alexandra statue, in Alexandra's Jack Shiel Gardens has been restored after extensive work that involved the sculpting of a new marble head by a stone mason with the expertise in the style of the original.

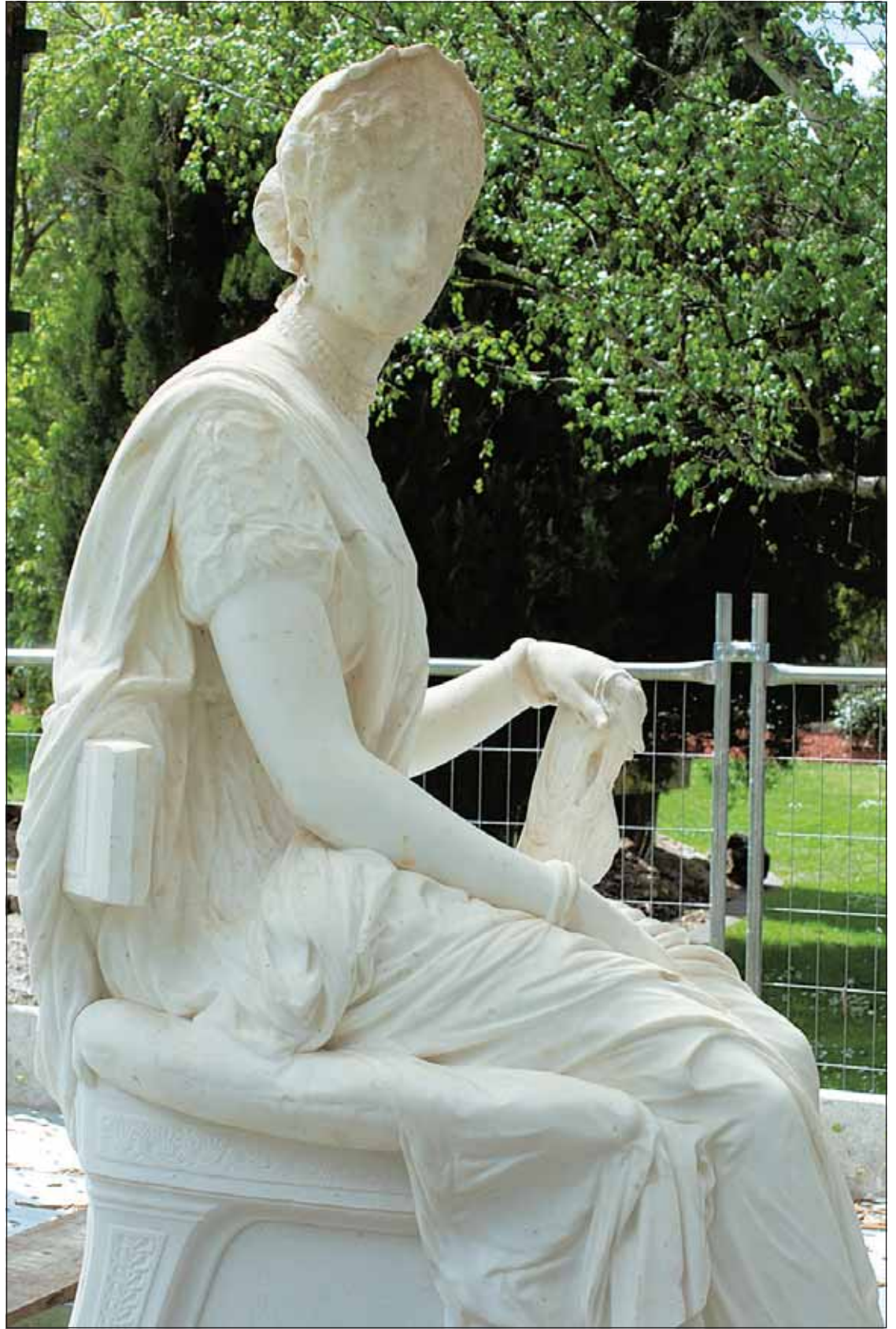
The statue's head was removed in an act of vandalism earlier this year and following an extensive search the repairs were conducted with assistance and guidance from an experienced conservator.

The statue is on permanent loan to Alexandra from the National Gallery. It was created by English sculptor Charles Summers. The Princess Alexandra Statue is made of white Italian marble, and was

completed in Rome as part of a commission for Sir William J. Clarke in 1876.

Sir William commissioned Charles Summers to sculpt four large statues in marble of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert, and the then Prince and Princess of Wales (later Edward VII and Queen Alexandra) for presentation to the Melbourne art gallery. The Princess Alexandra Statue was the artist's last sculpture.

At the time, Murrindindi Mayor Damien Gallagher expressed concern over the the recent act of vandalism adding that the statue commemorated Queen Alexandra as the Princess of Wales and was a monument to the shire's history.



Back and intact. The statue is again ready for public display.



Sculptors finalise the installation of the statue.

## Call to bridge the gap

THE Victorian Government is running out of time to start and complete promised road works before the end of year on Gilmore's Bridge along the Goulburn Valley Highway, according to the Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish.

Ms McLeish has questioned the minister as to when road surface repairs and bridge

rail repairs were scheduled to occur and how long repairs were expected to take.

"The minister responded minor abutment works and minor road surface maintenance activities are required in both directions of Gilmore's Bridge on Goulburn Valley Highway which are "projected to be completed in late 2024. The minister has three months left to ensure repairs are made and

finalised. They better stop mucking around," Ms McLeish said.

"Meanwhile, road users continue to burst tyres driving on the deteriorating surface. The guard rail at Gilmore's Bridge is falling apart and has become a real eye sore, not to mention a hazard. It is obvious that Labor can't manage money, cannot manage projects and it is road users who are paying the price," she added.

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HICAPS: Health fund rebates claimed on the spot.  
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**Marysville Market**  
 Sunday, October 13 from 9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls are back along with distillers, cakes, sewing notions, pottery and handcrafts.  
 Live music and sausage sizzle.  
 Text 0429 421 939 to book a stall

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**YARCK HOTEL'S Melbourne Cup Luncheon**

**YARCK HOTEL**

**Tuesday 5th November 2024**  
 Prepaid tickets \$75 pp or \$90 on the day  
 Kids 12-17yrs \$20  
 Tickets include a free drink on arrival and door prizes

Race day attire, the fancier the better  
 Doors open 11am

- Charcuterie to start followed by a BBQ and dessert.
- Exciting raffles with proceeds to go to Yarck CFA
- The Yarck Hotel Magic Mile (the race that stops a very small town!)
- Sweeps
- Fashions on the Field
- Main races televised
- Lots of free giveaways
- Live Music 3 - 7pm
- Courtesy bus to get you home safely.

Doors open to the public after the race that stops a Nation!

You can buy your tickets now by direct credit to Lawrenda Pty Ltd  
 BSB: 06 3385 Account No: 10704735 | using reference surname and mobile number  
 Your ticket will be sent via SMS or see our friendly staff at the Yarck Hotel or the Yarck Produce Store

Yarck Hotel | 6607 Maroondah Highway Yarck, VIC 3719 | yarckhotel.com.au



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

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- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Thornton Shell
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



**Church Services**

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

**CATHOLIC**

Immaculate Conception Parish  
Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.  
Presbytery 0468 810 871  
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm  
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am  
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

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Contact: Ps Steven Turner  
Ph: 0413 127 283  
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY**

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37 Grant Street, Alexandra  
Pastor Daniel Kriss  
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Phone 0400 282 536  
mccbc.com.au

**THE VINE**

A Christian community of the Baptist  
Union of Victoria Sunday 4.30pm service  
Kids program during school term  
St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,  
Alexandra  
Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone  
0481 472 152

# Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

be held at 7pm at the club rooms. Everyone is welcome. For details contact Kylie Cairns or Ray Steyger.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28**

Embassy of Ideas AGM will be held at 6pm at 3 Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

Yarck Hotel are holding a Melbourne Cup Lunch. Commencing at 11am. Race day attire, the fancier, the better. Prepaid tickets available from Lawrenda Pty Ltd or visit the hotel or the produce store for tickets. See ad in this edition for payment details. Doors open to the public after the cup.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Murrindindi Harvest Celebration Yea Railway Park 11am-4pm.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**

Eildon Golf Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the golf club. For more details email [rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com](mailto:rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13**

Round 13 Yea Skate Park, skate, scooter, BMX, roller skate. Registration and warm up 10.30am. Competition starts 11am. All ages event. No drugs, alcohol, cigarette and vape free.

Marysville Market is on from 9am-1pm. All your favorite stalls, distillers, cakes, sewing notions, pottery and much more. Text 0429 421 939 if you would like to book a stall.

Mitchell Shire Concert Band, annual Seymour concert. 2pm at Seymour College Arts Centre. Tickets available from [trybooking.com/CVHII](http://trybooking.com/CVHII)

\*\*\*\*\*

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 14**

Operation Christmas Child is on again. It runs from today through until October 18. Oasis Community Church, 188 Grant Street, Alexandra from 10am-4pm. Tea and coffee supplied, main packing day, October 17. Help pack a box for underprivileged children around the world. All supplied provided. \$12.50 per box or donation. For full details contact Judy Peters 0458 991 855.

\*\*\*\*\*

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22**

Yea Arts Inc AGM will be held at the Yea Butter Factory at 7pm. all welcome. To vote, you must be a paid up member. Enquiries to Adam Dennis 0488 670 077 or [YeaArtsInc.org/AGM](http://YeaArtsInc.org/AGM)

Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will

**COMMUNITY DIARY**

Local Radio Frequency	
UGFM 106.9	Alexandra / Lake Eildon
UGFM 88.9	Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.5	Marysville / Lake Mountain
UGFM 98.9	Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5	Kinglake Ranges

**WEEKLY**

Tues	Art Group (Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue	Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed	Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu	Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri	Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun	AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086
Sun	Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun	Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
Thu	7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri	Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

**MONTHLY**

1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri	Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455



For a \$5 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.

# Check those smoke alarms

THE Country Fire Authority (CFA) is reminding residents of the importance of checking their smoke alarms, advising that this simple act could be the difference between life and death in the event of a house fire.

With an average of 3000 house fires in Victoria each year, the importance of functional smoke alarms cannot be overstated.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan stressed the importance of regularly testing smoke alarms to ensure they work properly.

“Without a working smoke alarm, you may not wake up in time to escape safely in the event of a fire,” Mr Heffernan said.

“We recommend testing your alarms monthly. It’ll take only a few minutes of your day and could save lives.

“The more coverage of smoke alarms you have in the home, the more likely you are to wake up, so have them installed in the bedroom, living area, the hallway, even the games room, you can’t have too many.

“It’s a good idea to install smoke alarms powered by 10-year lithium batteries, a small investment that will provide reliable protection for a decade.”

## Annual General Meeting



**7:00pm Tue 22 October**  
**Yea Butter Factory, 13 Rattray St Yea**

All welcome - to vote you must be a paid-up member.

- President’s report and financial report
- Election of President, Secretary, Treasurer
- Election of Committee members
- Afterwards, stay for light refreshments

**More info: [YeaArtsInc.org/AGM](http://YeaArtsInc.org/AGM)**

Adam Dennis, Secretary 0488 670 077

JOIN NOW



ONLY \$15





A crowd gathered at the Alexandra Library to celebrate the launch of Pamela Thompson's new picture book. -BD

## Pamela Thompson publishes picture book

PAMELA Thompson visited the Alexandra Library last week to celebrate the publication of her first children's picture book, 'The Art of Body Bits'.

A crowd gathered to see her new book, and Pamela talked about the road to publication, which was quite a challenge, and thanked everyone for coming. Tea and snacks were served for those in attendance.

The book tells the story of a young boy who collects random items, particularly 'body bits' like leftover hair, etcetera. Pamela explained that the premise for the book was inspired by her brother, and his habit of collecting random things in his pockets.

'The Art of Body Bits' has been published by Austin Macauley Publishers in London, who told Pamela that her "work was found to be hugely entertaining, amusing read, perfectly suited for a young audience."

"Undoubtedly this piece is one that children and their families will enjoy sharing together time and time again."

Signed copies of this book are available from Pamela for \$20, with all proceeds going to the Embassy of Ideas. You can contact her on 0438 055 972. After her copies are sold, 'The Art of Body Bits' can be purchased online.



Pamela Thompson showed off extracts from her new picture book. -BD

## Pet vet survey open for feedback

THE Lost Dogs' Home is launching Victoria's biggest pet vet survey.

The cost-of-living crisis is also hitting veterinary practises hard, forcing them to increase prices to cover costs and it is understood this is making it difficult for some people to pay their vet bills.

Director of Veterinary Services at the Home, Dr Jessica Wilde, said it is important that as many people as possible participate in the survey.

"We want to hear from every Victorian who has a furry friend in their life about their experiences paying vet bills," Dr Wilde said.

"The survey results will help us to advocate for and develop low-cost vet services for people and their pets doing it tough. This includes the Lost Dogs' Home Mobile Low-Cost Vet Clinic, which will launch in the second half of 2025. This clinic will provide subsidised veterinary services to vulnerable communities in Melbourne and regional Victoria."

Dr Wilde said rising costs of veterinary supplies are forcing vets to increase their prices, creating a challenging situation for pet owners seeking care, but it's important to recognise that this adjustment comes from a place of necessity rather than a lack of compassion for their patients.

The most recent Victorian Pet Census found that 45 per cent of respondents saw cost as a barrier to using vet services.

"To make sure we provide the right services for maximum relief and support to people and their pets, doing it tough, we are asking Victorians to share their experiences with us through this short anonymous survey," Dr Wilde said.

"The Lost Dogs' Home is also advocating for the Victorian Government to offer low-cost desexing, registration and microchipping to support people to maintain pet ownership."

To take part in the survey go to [dogshome.com](http://dogshome.com)



AusNet

### Have your say on upgrades to the local electricity network.

AusNet is currently seeking feedback on funding to maintain and upgrade its electricity distribution network over the next five years.

**This funding will support:**

- ✓ a safe, reliable and more resilient network
- ✓ keeping up with customers moving to all-electric homes and electric vehicles
- ✓ customer service improvements
- ✓ more renewables, including large and small renewables like rooftop solar.



To view a copy of the draft proposal and provide your feedback, scan the QR code or visit: [communityhub.ausnetservices.com.au/engage](http://communityhub.ausnetservices.com.au/engage)



# Alexandra Heritage Machinery Festival

THE Alexandra Heritage Machinery Festival took place on Saturday, October 5.

There was a variety of old machinery on display, and the steam train was taking people for rides. A decent crowd attended.

Peter Aumann, vice-president of the Alexandra Timber Tramway, spoke about the event.

“The steam train is a 1909 Fowlers steam train. We have a driver experience on a dual-control Kelly and Lewis diesel locomotive. Lots of people have been taking the opportunity to drive a train for real,” Peter said.

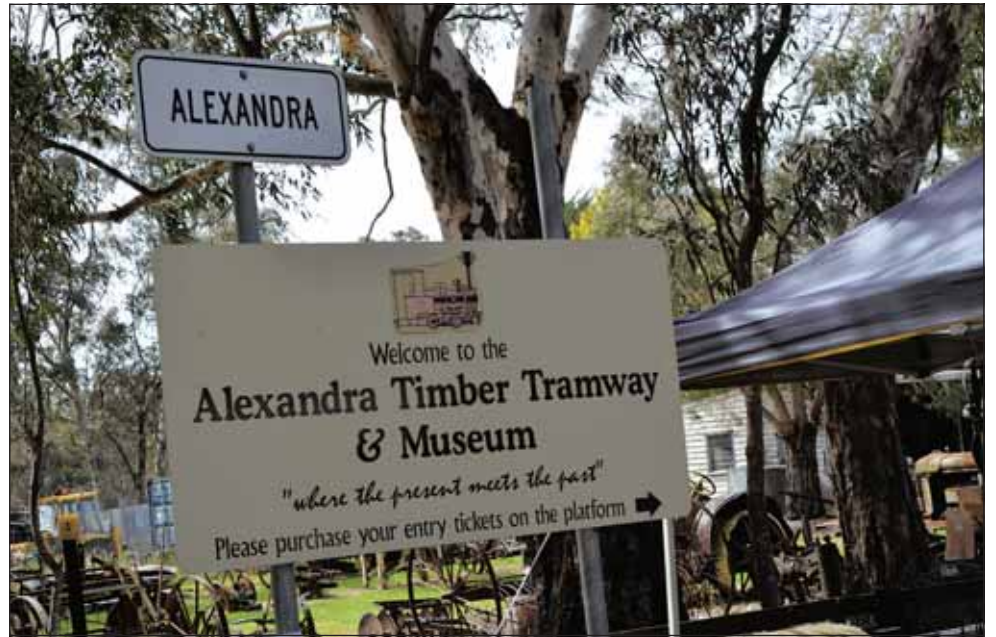
“We have a blacksmith that is offering experiences as well, you can go in there and do some blacksmithing. He’s got lots of stuff for sale.

“We’ve got a vintage haybale machine, making traditional rectangular bales. And multiple exhibits from all over the state, even from NSW and a couple from South Australia.

“There’s engines that run on petrol, oil, kerosene, gas. We’ve got steam engines that run on wood or coal. Engines that are up to 120 years old, and we’ve got miniature donkeys as well.”



Passenger rides were taking place on the day at the Alexandra Heritage Machinery Festival, with the steam train taking visitors for laps around the track. Pictured are John Olsen, Chris Holmes, and Carl Hopkins, who helped make this happen. -Photos by BD





## MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



### FREE LUNCHES FOR SENIORS IN OCTOBER

To celebrate the 2024 Victorian Seniors Festival and promote active ageing and social participation, Council is hosting a series of fun, free lunch events for seniors throughout the Shire in October. Join us to hear from guest speakers and enjoy a special performance by musician Steve Paix!

#### Event details:

- Tuesday 22 October in Kinglake
- Thursday 24 October in Marysville
- Wednesday 30 October in Yea
- Thursday 31 October in Alexandra

Last year these events were a hit, so bookings are essential. Registrations close at 12 noon on Monday 14 October. To register, visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniors2024](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniors2024)

### CHILDREN'S WEEK LIBRARY PROGRAMS

From 21 – 25 October 2024, Council will be running environment-themed Story Time sessions at Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake Libraries for Children's Week.

- Monday 21 from 10.00 to 10.30 am at Alexandra Library
- Tuesday 22 from 10.30 to 11.15 am at Kinglake Library
- Tuesday 22 from 10.30 to 11.30 am at Yea Library
- Thursday 24 from 10.00 to 10.30 am at Alexandra Library
- Friday 25 from 10.30 to 11.15 am at Kinglake Library

For more information, contact Council's Children's Services Unit on 5772 0333 or email [customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

### UPCOMING MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION TRAINING

Council and Prevention United are providing training sessions aimed at promoting mental health in our community. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn valuable skills and strategies to support mental well-being.

This training is specifically designed for individuals who work or volunteer with community groups, organisations, and services.

There will be two half day introductory workshops and two full day masterclasses. For more details and to register, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/preventionunitedtraining](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/preventionunitedtraining)

### THE MOBILE LIBRARY IS 'ON THE ROAD'

Join us for an evening, real people talking about real books, eBooks, magazines, films and more.

- Taggerty, 16 October, 7.00 pm
- Toolangi, 23 October, 7.00 pm

Please RSVP by calling 5772 0333.

### SLEEP AND SETTLING INFORMATION SESSIONS

Join our FREE Sleep and Settling Information Sessions, facilitated by our dedicated Maternal and Child Health experts. Topics include frequent overnight waking, bottle dependency, bedtime or nap refusal, cot to bed transition and catnapping.

- Tuesday 15 October - 15 The Semi Circle, Yea

Reserve your spot at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch)

### JOIN OUR TEAM - VACANT POSITIONS

As one of the largest employers in our region, the benefits of working for Council include opportunities for career development, great working conditions, a positive and supportive working environment and the opportunity to contribute to your community.

Council is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- Parks and Gardens Officer - multiple positions
- Infrastructure Maintenance Officer - multiple positions
- Aquatics Lifeguard - Eildon and Marysville

To find out more, please visit Council's Vacant Positions page at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions)

### FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Council is offering free green waste disposal at our Resource Recovery Centres in the lead-up to the fire season, during October and November. This is a great way to remove your unwanted green waste and fuel loads on your property without having to burn off.

We would like community members to start getting ready and thinking about what can be done now to make sure we're all prepared ahead of this fire season.

For more information on preparing for fire, visit the CFA website at [cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare)

You can also find information to help you prepare at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/prepareyourproperty](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/prepareyourproperty)

### PURRFECT CARE PROGRAM - APPLY NOW

Council is running a program for valid Pensioner Concession Card holders in our community who care for any cat, whether owned or stray. The program includes free desexing, microchipping, worming, vaccination and registration services.

Eligible Pensioner Concession Card holders are encouraged to submit an online application before 6 December 2024 at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/catcareprogram](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/catcareprogram)

For any assistance, contact us on 5772 0333.

### STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news) or follow us on Facebook.

### GET IN TOUCH

[customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](https://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333



# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

NO report was available for the Elders and Nutrien October store sale by the time this paper went to print.



Molesworth farmer John Sinclair with some of the cattle he was selling on the day. -BD



The Yea Saleyards were packed with people for this month's store sale. -BD

STOCK REPORT 4 OCTOBER 2024			
4 October 2024 Store Sale (Elders/Nutrien)	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	3,132		
Average \$ per head	\$1,242		
Average weight per head	351.51kg		
Top price per head		\$2,500	\$1,710
Top weight		685.7kg	527.5kg
Turnover	\$3.77 million		



People were kept dry under the saleyard roof, despite the dreary weather on the day. -BD

### The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



Sponsored by

**Alexandra Grain Store**  
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

A family-owned local one stop shop for  
**Plumbing, Irrigation, Farm, Stock and Pet Supplies.**

46-48 William Street Alexandra 5772 2110 alexgrainstore@gmail.com

### SAVE THE DATE

- OCTOBER 11, Yea Saleyards  
POSTPONED
- NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards  
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 8, Yea Saleyards  
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards  
Weaner Sale
- NOVEMBER 29, Yea Saleyards  
Weaner Sale
- DECEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards  
Store Sale
- DECEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards  
Store Sale
- JANUARY 10, 2025 Yea Saleyards  
Weaner Sale
- JANUARY 15, 2025 Yea Saleyards  
Weaner Sale



Alexandra locals Alan and Jo Robinson were selling some of their steers on the day. -BD

## OCTOBER PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for September, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The October theme is **'Transportation'**.

Sponsored by

**5772 1405**  
79 Grant Street Alexandra  
Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com  
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire





Murrindindi Shire Council CEO Livia Bonazzi presented to the parliamentary inquiry, of which Member for Indi Helen Haines is a member. -S

## Council gives evidence to parliamentary inquiry

THE Rural City of Wangaratta and Murrindindi Shire Council have told a parliamentary inquiry about the challenges facing regional and rural local councils, including maintaining services from a small ratepayer base and attracting workforce.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport is holding public hearings to examine and report on challenges impacting local governments and their delivery of services to the community. The two local councils appeared at a hearing in Wallan on Thursday, September 26.

Member for Indi Helen Haines is a member of the committee and attended the hearing on Thursday.

“Fixing our roads, building critical infrastructure to support more new homes and providing childcare, aged care, disability and local health services are all so important to people in Indi. That’s why this committee’s work is important,” Dr Haines said.

“I have increasingly heard from councils that a range of factors are making it

more difficult to fulfil these roles in our communities and people are missing out.

“The issues include the small ratepayer base in regional areas, difficulties accessing federal funding for capital works and attracting a skilled workforce, an increase in service demand as our population ages and an increase in the cost of building and maintaining important infrastructure due to inflation.

“Hearing from local councils means local experiences are heard by the committee,” Dr Haines said.

“At the hearing we heard from Rural City of Wangaratta about the importance of federal grants for key projects, but they emphasised that accessing this funding should be simplified and the requirements for co-funding addressed.

“Murrindindi Shire Council shared valuable insights about the challenges they face with servicing a dispersed population and retaining a skilled workforce, and the cost-shifting from state governments to local governments. They want to see more Commonwealth funding quarantined for rural councils, with an equitable and transparent grant allocation system.”

Dr Haines said the committee was seeking to find solutions to ensure the sustainability of local councils.

“This committee is about looking at ways we can ensure that our local councils can continue to enable thriving regional communities. The challenges regional, rural and remote councils face are different from metropolitan equivalents, and it’s important we tailor solutions with this in mind.

“As a member of the committee I worked hard to ensure our region had its voice heard, and this local hearing means committee members see and hear from local representatives firsthand.”

Other local governments from Indi who have made a submission to the inquiry are Indigo Shire Council, Wodonga City Council and Mansfield Shire Council.

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport will continue to hold hearings for the inquiry. You can read all submissions and transcripts of evidence on the committee’s website.

## It’s time to be cyber aware

A NEW cyber safety check tool has been developed by the state government to help Victorians learn more about keeping their personal information safe and secure.

The new tool is available on the Service Victoria app and the safety check asks users questions about their online behaviour and habits such as creating strong passwords and using multi factor authentication. Once the user completes the check, they are given tailored advice on how to improve their cyber safety behaviour.

As cybercriminals become increasingly sophisticated, understanding how to safeguard personal information online is more important than ever.

Research done by the StateGovernment shows that only 39 per cent of people are using strong passwords, 33 per cent have multi factor authentication turned on and 48 per cent have enabled automatic updates.

As part of Cyber Security Awareness Month Victorians are encouraged to learn about the simple steps they can take to reduce their cyber risk and safeguard their personal data.

These simple steps include using long and unique passwords; turning on multi factor authentication; turning on automatic software updates guarding against phishing.

The state government launched a password strength tester in May for Victorians to test passwords and receive advice on how to make them stronger, so far nearly 45,000 passwords have been tested through this tool.

Both the password strength tester and the cyber safety check can be found on the Service Victoria app. Both tools are anonymous, secure and no information is collected, tracked or stored.

Victorians can learn more about being safe online by visiting the dedicated website for online safety advice. The website has a range of information on passwords, multi factor authentication, updating devices, and online scam awareness.

For cyber safety information and advice and to check your online behaviour visit [vic.gov.au/stay-safe-online](https://vic.gov.au/stay-safe-online)

FSA/DETS/2045

**Best Start**

**Best Life**

## Four-Year-Old Kinder is becoming Pre-Prep.

In 2025, Pre-Prep will be available for 16-30 hours per week in Murrindindi Shire. Pre-Prep means more time to develop important social and emotional skills. Learning through play helps children explore, solve problems, communicate and create, while making friends – getting them ready for school and life.

Enrol for 2025. Speak with your preferred kinder service or local council today about how to register for a place or to learn more visit [vic.gov.au/pre-prep](https://vic.gov.au/pre-prep)



# Marc Hodgson the new Senior Sergeant in Murrindindi

NEW to the role of Senior Sergeant, Marc Hodgson joined the Murrindindi Shire police force on September 23. He is taking on the role of co-managing the Murrindindi police units alongside Senior Sergeant Noella Bannon.

“I’ve come from Heidelberg, so northwestern Melbourne. This is my first experience with country policing, so started here September 23, last week. It’s very different to metropolitan policing, but there are lots of great opportunities to learn and people have all been great,” Marc said.

“My title is senior sergeant, and my role is to co-manage the Murrindindi cluster of police stations, which encompasses Marysville, Eildon, Yea, Kinglake, and Alexandra, with the other senior sergeant, Noella Bannon. So we’re co-managing the cluster to make sure that everyone is healthy and happy, and that we’re delivering a policing service to the community.”

Marc is new to Murrindindi, having worked in the suburbs of Melbourne and Melbourne itself, as well as in the Yarra Ranges. Now he has made the switch to working on this side of the Great Dividing Range.

“I’ve had no work relationship with Murrindindi Shire, but I’ve holidayed in the shire, so camping in some local areas. It’s a beautiful place, a beautiful part of the state. There’s a large volume of people that come through on the weekends, whether it’s to go to the snow, or to camp or hike or 4WD or whatever. There’s a lot of things to attract people to the area,” he said.

With over 20 years in the police force, Marc has spent time as both a uniformed police officer and a detective. He joined late, in his early 30s, having spent his early career out of school working in a bank.

“I’ve been just over 20 years in the job. So I’ve split that between general duties policing, a lot of that in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne and through the Yarra Ranges and in Melbourne itself, and some time as a detective. I was in the Crime Investigation Units at Yarra Ranges, as well as Darebin, which is based out of Preston in northern Melbourne.

“So I split my time pretty close to 50-50 between detective work and general duties policing, which is uniform policing. I got promoted to sergeant at Heidelberg Police Station, north of Melbourne. I was there for about five years before getting this job and being promoted to senior sergeant.

“I always had an interest in the police force, and in law enforcement, and just decided that I would give it a go and see if I could do it. Twenty years later, here we are,” Marc said.

His key focus for his new role is “providing an efficient police service delivery to the community of Murrindindi. Looking at how we roster, how we staff, so that we can respond when we need to to incidents that happen in Murrindindi. We can respond to them and make sure that the community is kept safe.”

Marc also spoke about a policing forum coming up on October 10 at the Mansfield Golf Club that encompasses most of the Benalla police catchment area. It is running from 12.30 to 3.30pm, and provides an “opportunity for the community to come and ask us about any issues that they’re experiencing.

“I look forward to engaging with as many people as I can come in contact with from Murrindindi,” Marc concluded.



Senior Sergeant Marc Hodgson, who is now co-managing the policing efforts in Murrindindi Shire alongside Senior Sergeant Noella Bannon. -BD



## Careers Advisor sessions from




**Sessions held on Friday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th October; 10am – 3pm**  
(4 x 1hr One-on-one sessions)



**Alexandra Community Hub**  
38A Downey St, Alexandra



**MURRINDINDI HEALTH NETWORK**





# ALEXANDRA CFA 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



## The Alexandra Fire Brigade- The start

ON Monday, February 2, 1874, the brigade conducted its first monthly meeting with Captain Radford Huddle as officer in charge, in excess of 20 members attended.

To this day, the Alexandra Urban Fire Brigade still conducts its meetings on the same day each month, the first Monday, with monthly meetings having been conducted continuously since 1874.

A few months later in May 1874 the main street again suffered when another outbreak of fire caused the loss of additional buildings, however, reports indicate the formation of a fire brigade, with discipline, expertise and training, paid dividends as this fire was contained after a prolonged battle. There had, however, been some problems as Captain Huddle and three members resigned immediately after the incident.

Regular training for members had commenced and records indicate a common drill was for the fireman to don their new red uniforms, form up and march to the racecourse where a member climbed a tree and others then had to supply continuous supply of water, using buckets, to the top of the tree.

By June 1874, Maurice Raphael, local real estate agent and auctioneer, had become

captain. Raphael had been a member of the Ballarat Brigade earlier and is credited mostly of the early development. He was also involved in many other local organisations. Sadly, he died, aged 46 in 1877. His tombstone at the Alexandra cemetery indicated his parents names as Phillip and Elizabeth and he had 17 brothers and sisters.

In the years that followed the brigade prospered and towards the turn of the century the members of the Alexandra Brigade became involved in the demonstrations (later known as championships) all over the state. The brigade was very successful winning many trophies, firefighting equipment, though very basic was accrued, and amounted to the items including axes, kerosene torches, uniforms ladder, canvas hose, hydrants, branches/ nozzles and a wire strainer.

The erection of a fire bell on a small tower in the main street near the library, adjacent to the UT Creek, was a major move forward to alert the brigade members to the existence of a fire call. A continuous tolling of the bell indicated an urban fire call, and three tolls followed by a pause was the message alerting residents of a bushfire in the district. This historic bell is nowadays situated in front of the existing joint emergency services facility in Shamrock Street Alexandra.

Urban firefighting capabilities escalated significantly with the laying of water mains throughout the central town area in 1900. Around this time, the brigade acquired a hose reel. This equipment, still used in Fire brigade championships today, and remaining available currently for the Alexandra Urban Fire Brigade, enables a few hundred metres of 64 mm to be taken to a fire scene, with hydrant, branches and nozzles. Very effective, however the disadvantage being the reel had to be pulled by firefighters to the scene, either running or walking and usually panting. It could often prove a problem when the fire was uphill from the fire station, and the Alexandra Station was located in one of the lowest areas in town. Pity help the members if the call was up the hill to the hospital or the catholic church.

The earliest recollection of the Alexandra fire shed is a building located in Perkins Street behind the library. The brigade also hosted demonstrations in the same area, near the shed, for many years, this being the running track for many visiting brigades until the 1960's.

To better coordinate urban fire brigades throughout Victoria the Country Fires Board was formed in 1891, however the Alexandra Fire Brigade decided to stay as an unaffiliated brigade until January 1, 1911.

### Alexandra Fire Brigade

*Alexandra and Yea Standard and Yarek, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express (Vic. : 1908 - 1949), Friday, April 22, 1910*

A MEETING of residents interested in the movement and of volunteers was held at the library on Wednesday evening to meet Chief-Officer Marshall, of the Country Fire Brigade Board.

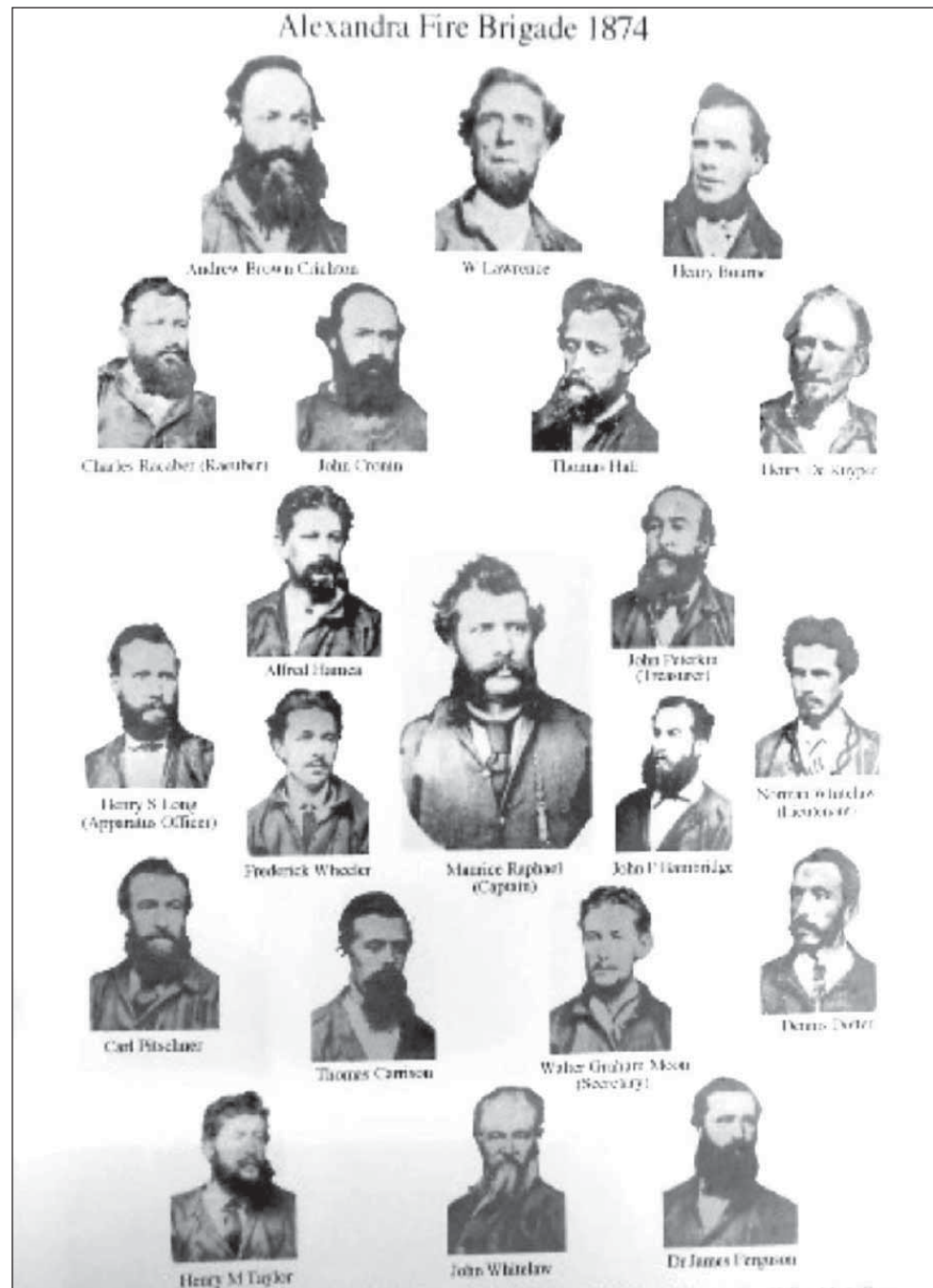
Mr. R. Willam briefly introduced the Chief Officer who then spoke at some length to the volunteer upon the subject of Fire brigade work. The brigade will consist of four office and 11men; officers to be a captain, lieutenant, foreman and secretary. The Chief-Officer suggested that a piece of land be acquired, not necessarily in the main street, and a building of 22ft. by 50ft, be erected upon it. The board would probably be prepared to give £50 or £60 towards such erection.

At the end of the year the men would be supplied with uniforms at a cost, of about £40, and the brigade would then come under the control of the Country Fire Brigades Board.

A maintenance grant would be allowed at the rate of £15 a year; £11 for allowances and £4 for supplies. A reel is being built for the Alexandra brigade at a cost of £20, and all other necessary appliances had been ordered.

At the close of, the evening Mr J.Clark moved a vote of thanks to the Chief-Officer. Mr Marshall, in reply, stated that in coming to Alexandra he was but doing his work, and that he hoped to be back in August or September to give the firemen a good night's practice with the appliances.

The volunteers are holding a meeting on Monday, May 2, to elect their officers, and form the brigade.



The original Alexandra Fire Brigade in 1874. -S



**Congratulations Alexandra CFA for 150 years community service**





# ALEXANDRA CFA 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



## Three Shops Destroyed

*Alexandra and Yea Standard and Yarck, Gobur, Thornton and Acheron Express (Vic. : 1908 - 1949) Friday, September 17, 1926*

THE loud clanging of the fire bell about 2 o'clock on Tuesday morning aroused the people of the town from their sleep (at least those who had retired to rest, as there were many folk who had just barely arrived home from the dance in the Shire Hall), and Grant Street soon presented an animated scene.

The fire apparently broke out in Mrs. E. O'Donnell's drapery shop, on the opposite side of the street to the "Standard" office. The flames quickly spread to the shop adjoining Mr. Verrier's produce store, and later on to the unused shop at the bakery, on the other side of Mrs. O'Donnell's shop.

At one stage it looked as if Mr. Cowie's shop and Mr. Cookson's office would be gutted. If that had happened, then Mr. Alf. Stillman's garage and all the buildings up to the Alexandra Hotel would have shared the same fate. Fortunately there was no wind.

When members of the Fire Brigade arrived on the scene there was considerable loss of time owing to difficulty in locating the fire plug. When at last the hydrant was fixed, and the hose screwed on, the pressure of water was found to be weak. However, notwithstanding this handicap, the fire was attacked from the roof of Mr. Cowie's shop, and after about half an hour's work it became evident that there would be no extension of the fire beyond the old unused bakery shop.

The fire bell was rung by Mr. Strickland, an employee of Mr. Vial. He was working in the bakehouse, which is slightly to the rear of Mrs. O'Donnell's shop, when he heard a crackling sound, and on investigation found that a fire was burning in Mrs. O'Donnell's shop. Mr. Verrier's stock was insured for £200 and Mrs. O'Donnell's for £200. Mr. Vial had a number of bags of flour damaged by water and heat, and he estimates his loss at £50. He had no insurance. Mr. Verrier considers that it will take £75 more than the insurance to cover his loss.

The premises, which were of brick, formed one building. They were part of the Hill estate and are owned by Miss Weymouth. The building was insured for £450. This includes the bakehouse and shed.

A word of commendation is due to Lieut. Hubbard and the firemen under him. They did good work. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Shortly after 1am on Tuesday Mrs. O'Donnell stopped at her shop on the way home from the dance in the Shire Hall, in company with some other ladies. The other ladies passed on, and Mrs. O'Donnell entered the shop and picked up a parcel (a pair of boots) that she was to deliver to a person going out into the country. No matches were struck inside the shop; only a match outside on the footpath, which was struck for the purpose of locating the keyhole.

After Tuesday morning's experience it is quite evident that the fire plugs in the town must at once be opened up and properly marked. A few minutes more delay in locating the plug opposite the fire in Grant Street and Mr. Cowie's shop, Mr. Cookson's office, Mr. Stillman's garage and private home, Miss Pease's shop, Mr. Collis's shop and dwelling, Miss Bossing's fruit shop and all the wooden buildings at the Alexandra Hotel would have been destroyed. There is a "white" peg near the "Standard" office, which is supposed to

indicate that the plug is distant so many feet. It is absolutely misleading, as the plug is 6 or 7 ft. out of line, and it was covered with earth.

Another matter that requires attention is a plan whereby a full head of water can be directed to the section where the fire is located. At Tuesday morning's fire only one hose could be used, as the main was apparently unable to supply two hoses. The present main from the reservoir to the town is too small (being only four inches in diameter), and is no doubt badly corroded inside.



*Alexandra Fire Brigade attending a shop fire smoke extraction in Alexandra. -S*

150 years

**Congratulations  
and thank you  
Alexandra CFA!**

**Helen  
Haines MP**  
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI



helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au  
117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta 03 5721 7077  
79 High Street, Wodonga 02 6024 6284  
www.helenhaines.org

Authorised by Helen Haines 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677      Advertisement

### Storms: Alexandra Fire Brigade report

CHRIS Lynch, captain of the Alexandra Fire Brigade, said that their activities started with a 38 degree day and unstable atmosphere, so they were on high alert for fire outbreaks. This then turned into storm relief.

When storms arrived, the SES takes over, so the CFA worked alongside them, helping with tree removal.

They also had a few lightning strikes around that they kept an eye on. Taggerty, Buxton and Acheron fire brigades turned out to a fire on Connells Creek Road where lightning had struck a tree and the fire had spread into the grass.

Chris commented, "Things were made quite difficult when, one, we lost power and two, when our communication systems went down. We had to put a fair few things in place because Triple Zero went down. We had several backup plans, not only for us

to receive calls but places like the hospital as well. Eildon, Marysville, Alexandra and Yea Fire Stations were open 24/7 for people to come in and charge phones and make outside contact. We had a station manned for the majority of that until the power came back on."

There was also a small house fire where someone had left something on the stove. A neighbour ran to the station to alert the brigade. Fortunately, there was little damage, "but it proved to us that we need to have these things in place for us to get communications through, especially emergency calls."

He added, "It was a bit of a nightmare across the board, really."

He was very pleased with the way that the members of the brigade adapted to the changing situation.



# ALEXANDRA CFA 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



## A close shave for Alexandra Fire Brigade

ALEXANDRA Fire Brigade is one of many CFA brigades facing up to a challenging month, with members taking part in a variety of fundraising and awareness tasks for the annual Movember campaign for men's health.

Volunteers from the brigade will enter November with a clean face, after shaving down at the end of October to start this year's campaign anew.

Alexandra Fire Brigade secretary Brenton Doyle-Smith said this will be the second time the brigade has signed up as a team.

"I'd been doing it for a few years with the support of the brigade, so it was great when a few others in the brigade put their hands up and said they'd get amongst it as well," he said.

"My father was struck with prostate cancer a couple of years ago and thankfully he's recovered but I really see this as a way that myself and the brigade can just give a little bit more to the community.

"I've never really been able to grow a good moustache but it's always been a good conversation starter."

While the hairy facial feature is front and centre for Alexandra Brigade, Movember includes a variety of ways to get involved with some people taking on challenges such as running or walking targets, and others organising events to fundraise and start conversations.

"We're encouraging others in our brigade and in the community who may not

necessarily want to grow a moustache to still be a part of it and get people involved," said Mr Doyle-Smith.

"This is about raising awareness, speaking up when something's not right, and just making sure you go and get yourself checked out mentally, physically, and emotionally.

"It's very important for those in emergency services as well, whether they're paid, volunteer, or otherwise, to be able to speak up and make sure they're ok.

"Our brigade does a variety of fundraising efforts throughout the year such as Movember, the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb, and Good Friday Appeal, but we can really only be so proactive because we have such a strong and supportive community around us."

CFA brigades from Pakenham, Horsham, Ballarat, and Mount Martha are among some of the Movember teams that have already signed up, while many other CFA volunteers are taking part as individuals.

Registrations can be made at [movember.com](http://movember.com) with participants to raise funds and awareness throughout this month.



The Alexandra Fire Brigade members taking part in Movember, along with some of the children of the brigade. -S



Alexandra and Yea CFA brigades held a combined live fire training session in Alexandra on the evening of Wednesday, February 1. More images on page 14. -AR



Alexandra Brigade Competition Team. From left to right: Gordon Simpson, Kevin Ware, David Kneeshaw, Allan Robinson, Carl Peers, and Pat Phehan. -S

### Minister praises CFA effort

Alexandra and Eildon Standard, Wednesday, February 18, 2009

POLICE and emergency services Minister Bob Cameron has praised the efforts of the CFA firefighters across the state, who over the weekend contained 370 grass and scrub fires.

"While eight major fires continue to burn across the state, CFA Brigades worked hard over the weekend to control 370 grass and scrub fires burning in their home areas," Mr Cameron said.

"The fire season is not over yet, and with record dry conditions and little rain all Victorians must remain vigilant about the threat of fire."

CFA fire fighters attended 277 grass fires on Saturday and 93 on Sunday.

"Firefighters are working hard on the bushfires as well as on the home front to prevent larger new fires," Mr Cameron said.

"Victorians are proud of the work being done by firefighters across the whole state."



Celebrating

# 150

years

of the Alexandra CFA

**Cindy McLEISH MP**  
State Member for Eildon



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



# ALEXANDRA CFA 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



## Alexandra Fire Brigade awards night

ON Saturday, November 5, the Alexandra Fire Brigade held their 2022 awards and medal presentation evening hosted by the Alexandra Football and Netball Club in their new facility providing food and bar service.

Eighty people attended the event with 40 awards being presented, ranging from five year certificate to 55 year service medals and life membership.

Groups within the brigade in attendance were the brigade management team, operational fire fighters, fire equipment maintenance team, auxiliary brigade, Alexandra Group and many other members, along with partners, family and friends.

Special guests to the event were Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Sue Carpenter and shire CEO Livia Bonazzi, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Stephen Keating, group officer Shannon Frith, and SES representatives Peter Weeks and Judy Blakney.

John Rogers received the 30 year medal and life membership and Bob Flowers received a 35 year medal.

Both Rod Hanscomb and Mike Coward received a 40 year medal, while Gordon Simpson received a 45 year medal.

Bruce Luckman, Kenneth Argent and David Kneeshaw each received a 55 year medal.

Brenton Doyle-Smith spoke about the Alexandra Fire Brigade's current fundraising focus for Movember, with a

team of nine members growing a moustache to raise awareness towards men's health. On November 7 the fundraiser had raised \$3233.

If anyone is interested in donating towards the team, visit the Alexandra Fire Brigade Facebook page and follow the Movember links, or cash donations can be made at Simpsons Fuels Alexandra.

The brigade would like to extend a thank you to the many local businesses that donated goods and vouchers for lucky door prizes for the night. They are very grateful.

Andrew and Ayden Embling with Haydn Simpson ran an auction of some donated goods on the night. The goods were a fire pit from Elders Yea, Blundstone boots from Embling Rural, and \$300 Simpsons fuel voucher. \$1700 was raised from bidding along with an additional \$400 from attendees. The proceeds of the auction were donated to the Movember team.

Community businesses were presented with certificates of appreciation for their support over the year. The businesses that received an award were Alexandra Automotive for donating servicing towards operational vehicles, Sabre Pastoral for donation of produce towards the 2022 truck and ute show fundraising stall, the Alexandra Opportunity Shop for continued support and donations, and the Pavloff family for donation towards supporting the awards event.

The Alexandra Fire Brigade would like to thank and congratulate all members for their continued efforts in all aspects of the brigade and especially members receiving service awards over the evening.

If your home, farm or business is looking for fire equipment or fire equipment servicing, contact Bruce Luckman on 0418 574 660. Some of the proceeds from the fire equipment maintenance team working in the local community come back into supporting the Alexandra Fire Brigade directly.

If you want to become a part of the Alexandra Fire Brigade visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa) to start your journey or visit them on a Sunday morning at the station to discuss how you play a part in a variety of roles. They will also be attending the upcoming Alexandra Show.



The trophy won by Alexandra Fire Brigade Class C, 6 Men Hose and Reel event won at the Ballarat Demonstration in 1912. -MP



The joint facility opening in January 2000. -S



THANK YOU  
ALEXANDRA CFA

Congratulations on  
150 years of service

Murrindindi Shire Council would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Alexandra CFA for your unwavering dedication and service to our community.

This year marks an incredible milestone - 150 years of service. Your bravery, commitment, and tireless efforts in protecting our residents and properties are truly commendable.

Thank you for your continuous support and for being a pillar of strength in times of need. Your hard work and sacrifice do not go unnoticed, and we are appreciative of everything you do. Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone and here's to many more years of outstanding service.



### Cindy McLeish's message to Alexandra CFA

TO all Current, Past and Life members of the Alexandra Fire Brigade

Congratulations to the Alexandra Fire Brigade on celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary, marking a remarkable milestone of 150 years of service to the community.

What a marvellous achievement for this amazing group of dedicated volunteers who have been bravely serving their community in times of need and putting countless hours into training to ensure they are always prepared to tackle any emergency. From mastering new firefighting techniques to staying up to date on safety protocols, the brigade truly embodies what it means to serve with courage and dedication.

#### A message from Alexandra CFA captain

FOR the Alexandra Fire brigade this is an amazing milestone, and for me what an honour it is to be captain during this time, and I wish to thank every member including families that have been part of this journey. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication and a fair commitment and for that I couldn't be prouder of this brigade. The brigade also thanks the Murrindindi Shire Council for its valuable support over the years.

Chris Lynch  
Captain, Alexandra Fire Brigade

This brigade has been an integral part of Alexandra's history, providing vital emergency response and firefighting services at building fires, grass fires or the unpredictable and raging bushfires since its inception in 1894. Most recently, the memory and devastation of the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires which will permanently be in our minds.

Whenever I have visited the brigade at the station or in a marquee at an event, I'm always impressed with how professionally it is run and how welcoming everyone is. I often see volunteers out in the community, with the truck or a burning 'cooktop' proudly on display, engaging with the locals about all things fire safety.

This momentous occasion brings together past and present members of the brigade to reflect on their shared accomplishments and successes. It is a chance to honour the hard work, training and dedication of all those who have served in the brigade throughout its long and storied history, and to show appreciation for their selfless commitment to keeping Alexandra safe.

Here's to another 150 years of outstanding service from the Alexandra Fire Brigade.

I extend my very best wishes to the Alexandra Fire Brigade on this significant occasion. May they continue with the great work they do for the community of Alexandra for many more years to come.

Sincerely,  
State Member for Eildon  
Cindy McLeish





## Never leave your cooking unattended

VICTORIA'S fire services are reminding the community never to leave cooking unattended as it remains the leading cause of fires in the home.

CFA responded to around 250 fires that started in the kitchen across the state last year, an increase of 20 from the previous year.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said unattended cooking was one of the most common causes of preventable house fires.

"We know a fire in your kitchen can cause extensive damage and high level injuries, and unfortunately we saw this occur four times last year," Jason said.

"We know that 6pm is the peak time for fires, and most are due to unattended cooking or mechanical failure.

"Make sure your kitchen appliances are in good working order, and ensure your stove top, grill, oven, rangehood and cooking area are free from built up grease, dust and oil.

"While most fatal fires occur in sleeping areas, it is important to note that most residential fires start in the kitchen."

Fire Rescue Victoria Deputy Commissioner Community Safety Joshua Fischer said it was essential to maintain awareness and pay close

attention to the stove when cooking to reduce the risks of a fire starting in the kitchen.

"Cooking is a part of everyday life, but no one can afford to be complacent about the fire safety risks. Ensuring you don't leave your cooking unattended may save your life and property," Deputy Commissioner Fischer said.

"If a fire does start in the kitchen, turn off the stove if it's safe to do so. Use a fire extinguisher or fire blanket only if you are confident to use them. Evacuate everyone

from the home, close the kitchen door if safe to do so, and call Triple Zero."

Deputy Commissioner Fischer said all Victorians should have working smoke alarms powered by a 10 year long life battery in all sleeping and living areas of their home.

"If affordable, we recommend installation of interconnected smoke alarms, so when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound throughout the house," Deputy Commissioner Fisher said.

## Transform your Life with Amanda Pippas

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Helping clients clear their own personal blocks that have held them back in life, Amanda said "Working on this people feel

empowered to take back control bringing them freedom, excitement and joy back into their lives."

Unlike traditional therapies that focus on talk therapy and keep the client focused in the conscious mind, because of Amanda's expertise in hypnotherapy, and being in private practice for over 20 years, she helps her clients get to the root cause of their issues through unlocking the *subconscious mind*, clearing limiting beliefs and creating profound breakthroughs.

Amanda consults from her rooms in Taggerty and also offers online sessions, NDIS plans are accepted. To arrange your complimentary 20 minute call and find out how best Amanda can help you, visit her website at [amandapippas.wordpress.com](http://amandapippas.wordpress.com) or call 0409 173 105.

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## Here for You

### OCTOBER COMMUNITY UPDATE

### BE THUNDERSTORM READY THIS SPRING

With thunderstorm season starting on October 1st, the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) urges people who experience asthma and hay fever to prepare now.

**What Is Thunderstorm Asthma?** Thunderstorm asthma is a rare weather-related event that primarily occurs during spring, but can extend until December, aligned with the grass pollen season. It happens during storms when grass pollen is broken into tiny particles and inhaled. These particles can trigger sudden, severe asthma attacks, particularly in those with asthma or hay fever.

**Who Is at Risk?** You are at higher risk if you:

- Have hay fever
- Have a current or a history of asthma
- Have undiagnosed asthma

**How to Protect Yourself:**

1. Use your preventer inhaler as prescribed and as directed especially in Spring.
2. Manage hay fever with advice from your GP or pharmacist.
3. Monitor daily pollen forecasts via Vic Emergency website or APP.
4. Be Prepared: Keep asthma action plans up to date and ensure you have enough medication on hand like inhalers and antihistamines.

Act now to stay safe this thunderstorm season. Thunderstorm Asthma can be serious. Make sure you're prepared this season.

- Talk to your GP about an asthma action plan
- Ensure you have enough medication
- Keep an eye on the weather and pollen forecasts

For more information and resources on thunderstorm asthma, visit:

[www.gvhealth.org.au/public-health-unit](http://www.gvhealth.org.au/public-health-unit) or  
[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstorm-asthma](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstorm-asthma).

For more information on Asthma Action Plans visit:

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/asthma-action-plans](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/asthma-action-plans)



### BOLO OCTOBER REPORT (Be On the Look Out) GASTRO

Gastroenteritis (gastro) is a bowel infection that causes diarrhoea and sometimes vomiting. The vomiting may settle quickly, but the diarrhoea can last up to 10 days.

Most children do not need to take any medicine for gastro; however, it is important that they drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated.

Gastro is spread easily, and is more common and severe in babies and young children. Babies under six months old can become dehydrated very easily and need to be checked by a GP if they have gastro.





# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 18

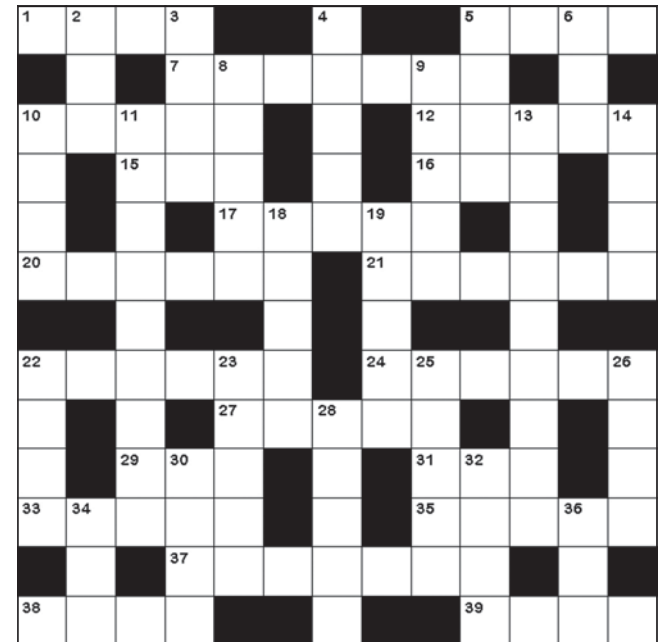
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Small military vehicle with four-wheel drive.
- A workbench clamp.
- The duration of being away.
- A dealer in stolen property.
- Fit for a queen.
- Fish that looks like a snake.
- A metal-bearing mineral.
- A comic entertainer.
- Make calm or tranquil.
- Go back to a previous state.
- An open savoury tart.
- A long angry speech.
- A person who is older than you are.
- A contribution to State revenue.
- Begin to seem older.
- A separate part of a whole.
- Relating to or affected by tides.
- Makes one understand properly.
- An unexpected slide.
- Docile and easily managed.

### DOWN

- The first woman.
- A single step in walking.
- An everyday greeting.
- Change direction abruptly.
- A division of an ocean.
- Emit wind noisily through the mouth.



- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- Opponents in war.
- Discuss the terms of an arrangement.
- Brought into existence.
- A lean to the side.
- Flat and even.
- Put pen to paper.
- A witty remark.

- Put a spell on someone.
- Feeling or showing extreme anger.
- Morally bad and wrong.
- Draw up an outline or sketch.
- Succeeded at easily.
- The point of an argument.
- Irritate and annoy.
- Direct toward an intended goal.



Alexandra District Health launched the Murrindindi Mental Health Professionals Network in November 2023.

# Recognising mental health

THIS year's World Mental Health day, held on October 10, is themed 'It's Time to Prioritise Mental Health in the Workplace.'

The need for mental health services is well known, with over 10 per cent of Murrindindi Shire residents currently experiencing a mental health condition. Alexandra District Health (ADH) has a small mental health team of qualified professionals who responded to approximately 150 people in need of referral, support or therapy in the 2023-24 year.

Risk of psychological injury is a consideration in all workplaces, so preventing burn-out among health professionals is an important mental health strategy for health organisations. Successful and continued delivery of mental health services requires healthy mental health clinicians and this is best achieved through providing healthy work environments.

To strengthen the local mental health workforce ADH launched the Murrindindi Mental Health Professionals Network in

November 2023. This local network is run in partnership with the national Mental Health Professionals Network (MHPN) and currently has 23 members from both private and public services with diverse backgrounds including a doctor, psychologist, occupational therapist, social worker, nurse, art therapist, music therapist, grief counsellor, allied health assistant and family support worker.

Breakfast meetings are hosted at Alexandra District Health at least four times a year and include either a presentation by a guest speaker or a focussed discussion on a particular issue, and general sharing of resources and information between members. Recent topics covered include Family Violence, and Men's Mental Health, with the next meeting (held in late October) exploring Borderline Personality Disorder.

If you would like further information or would like to join the Murrindindi Mental Health Professionals Network please contact ADH on 5772 0900.

## Word Search

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

## Cryptogram

### Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
21				17				2

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				25				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		18					

	<u>E</u>		<u>O</u>		<u>A</u>	:
8	17	11	25	4	21	
	<u>U</u>		<u>I</u>		<u>E</u>	
	12	18	2	17	13	

## Types of Pasta

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| BUCATINI | MACARONI  |
| DITALINI | ORZO      |
| FARFALLE | PENNE     |
| FUSILLI  | RAVIOLI   |
| LASAGNA  | RIGATONI  |
| LINGUINE | SPAGHETTI |

## Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

## Math Square

	+	9	-		8
+		x		+	
	+		+		14
+		-		+	
	+	2	+		11
9		61		18	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

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### CRYPTOGRAM

WERONA : QUIET

### SUDOKU

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### MATH SQUARES

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3	+	7	+	4	14
+		-		+	
1	+	2	+	8	11
9		61		18	

## DEATH NOTICES

**COOKSON, Geoff.**  
Alexandra Group of fire brigades would like to send our condolences to June and family. Geoff served as Group Officer 1976-86. He was also a long serving officer/member of Whanregarwen Fire Brigade.

**MURPHY, Glenis May.**  
29/04/1939 - 05/10/2024  
Passed away at Alexandra District Health. Wife of Neil (dec). Loved mum to Robert and Janet. Grandma/nana to Brendan, Jacqueline and Michael. Greatgrandma to Oliver.  
Finally at Peace.

**O'LEARY, Annette Frances (McSwiney)**  
14/07/1939 - 1/10/2024  
Adored wife of John (dec). Died peacefully in the Yea hospital surrounded by her seven daughters Carolyn, Kate, Marie-Therese, Elizabeth, Fiona, Ruth and Jane. Mother in law to Simon, Cameron, John, Charles, Bryce, Harry and Byron. Cherished granny of Annabelle, Genevieve, Jack, Harriet and Tom, Ben, and Eliza, Prudence, Finn, and Ruby, Claudia, and Will, Mac, Zara, and Charlotte, Edward, and Lachlan.  
"Go gentle into that good night."

## MEETINGS

The Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will be held at the club rooms at 7pm on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. Everyone welcome. Any queries please contact Kylie Cairns or Ray Steyger.

## PETS & LIVESTOCK

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## FUNERAL NOTICES

**MURPHY, Glenis May.**  
A funeral service to celebrate the life of Glenis is to be held at Murrindindi chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 commencing at 11am. Followed by a private cremation.  
McCormack FUNERALS  
1800 080 909  
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

**O'LEARY, Annette Frances (McSwiney)**  
The funeral service to celebrate the life of Annette Frances O'Leary (McSwiney) will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 3 The Parade, Yea, on Friday, October 11, 2024 commencing at 11.30am.  
Private cremation.  
McCormack FUNERALS  
1800 080 909  
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

## DEALS ON WHEELS

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## NOW HIRING FINANCE OFFICERS

The Reddrop Group are looking for Finance Officers to join our Finance Team based at Alexandra FoodWorks.

The positions are full-time (38 hour week) with hours normally 9am until 5:30pm, however, some flexibility is available. Part-time hours may be considered for the right applicant/s.

Our Finance Officers are responsible for a broad range of tasks including supplier invoicing, balancing daily sales, data management and problem solving.

Ideally we are looking for people who have good computer skills, can work well as part of a team or unsupervised, are reliable and have good communication skills. An ability to multi-task and prioritise work, as well as be attentive to detail and accuracy is also vital.

Experience or knowledge of the finance area, such as knowledge of GST and general ledger accounts would be an advantage, however, it is not essential and we are happy to provide training to a candidate that shows enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

To apply for a position, please email your covering letter, resume (with references), and contact details to [jobs@reddrop.com.au](mailto:jobs@reddrop.com.au)



## TENDERS



HVP Plantations (HVP) is seeking Expressions of Interest from experienced contractors to provide services as follows:

**Location:** Gippsland and North East Victoria (Kinglake, Narbethong, Benalla, Ovens Valley and Upper Murray)

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Multiple contracts are available

**Commencement:** July 1, 2025  
**Term:** Up to 3 years

For additional information, parties must register their interest by Friday, October 11, 2024 via email to [rori.hazeldine@hvp.com.au](mailto:rori.hazeldine@hvp.com.au)

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

October 14 -18  
10am - 4pm

Oasis Community Church  
118 Grant Street, Alexandra  
Tea and coffee supplied everyday.  
Main packing day, Thursday October 17.  
Lunch provided on this day.

Help pack a box for underprivileged children around the world.

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\$12.50 per box or donation.

For more information please call Judy Peters 0458 991 855.

### AKADEMOS CAR RALLY October 20, 2024

Please be advised that a car rally will be conducted in the surrounding forests of Alexandra from 8am to 6.30pm.

This motorsport event is sanctioned by Motorsport Australia with approvals from FFMV, Murrindindi Council, VicRoads and Victoria Police.

Temporary road closures will be in place on selected tracks in the Rubicon State Forest and Black Range forest including sections of Eildon Warburton Road, Snobs Link Road, No 5 Track, Browns Road, Quartz Creek Road, Blue Range Road, Gravel Pit Road, Camerons Road and Black Range Road.

Advisory signs will be placed on affected roads four weeks prior to the closure.

Spectating will be available at locations during the event.

Guides will be available on the day from Alexandra Football Ground.

For further information, please contact Event Director, Natasha Swan, on 0427 309 349.



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# Species saved at Snobs Creek

EGGS from the critically endangered Moroka galaxias have been laid in a captive breeding program for the first time at the Victorian Fisheries Authority's (VFA) Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery.

VFA Chief Executive Officer Travis Dowling said this marks a significant turning point in the journey to save the species, found in a single population in the Alpine National Park.

"Small-bodied native fish like Moroka galaxias are the foundation of healthy

aquatic ecosystems and the conservation hatchery at Snobs Creek is making projects like this possible," Mr Dowling said.

"Our next steps are to establish two new populations of Moroka galaxias in rivers where they've become locally extinct, putting our eggs in different baskets for their protection."

Broodstock were sourced by the staff from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research from a two-

kilometre stretch of headwater stream across their remaining range in a tributary of the Wonnangatta River near Dargo.

The small population of fish was then transported to Snobs Creek in insulated containers with a supply of oxygen. The eggs were laid and fertilised by the broodstock and will go through a period of incubation before hatching as juvenile fry, which will take two to three years to reach maturity and grow to approximately eight centimetres in size.

They join several other endangered or critically endangered aquatic species from across Victoria being bred at the conservation hatchery, including the Glenelg freshwater mussel, the south-western Victorian blackfish, and the southern purple-spotted Gudgeon.

Captive breeding populations, alongside restocked wild populations, mean additional safeguards in the case of future fire, flood, drought or predator invasion events, moving them away from the brink of extinction.

## Photo competition to celebrate agriculture

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has recently opened its popular national photography competition, ahead of National AgDay next month.

NFF President David Jochinke said the competition attracts hundreds of entries each year.

"It's a real highlight of AgDay celebrations to see the amazing snaps of life on the land from every corner of this beautiful country," Mr Jochinke said.

"I encourage everyone to send in their photos and videos over the next few weeks; there are some great prizes on offer."

First place will receive \$2000, second place is awarded \$1000, and runners-up receive \$500 each.

"There is no age or skill limit on entries, the judges are just looking for imagery

that celebrates Australian agriculture," Mr Jochinke said.

Images must be uploaded to the AgDay website to be in the running.

Participants are also encouraged to share their photos on social media using the hashtag #AgDayAU.

The theme "Grow you good thing!" is again the catch cry for this year's AgDay.

"National AgDay is a fantastic celebration of everything that makes the agricultural industry so special," Mr Jochinke said.

"You can show your support on the big day by attending or hosting an event, taking part in the photo comp, or by proudly donning some 'I love farmers' merchandise."

National AgDay falls on Friday November 15. For more information, visit [agday.org.au/](http://agday.org.au/)

## Farmer worries on the rise

THE National Farmer Priority survey results have been released and the National Farmers Federation have said a growing number of farmers love what they do in their communities however, industry sentiment is deteriorating with half of farmers less positive about the future of family run farms.

One thousand and twenty-six farmers across Australia had their say on the survey and it showed farmers are worried about a wide range of policy pressures, with biosecurity, the market power of supermarkets, and federal environment laws topping the list.

Farmers are worried about farmer sentiment towards the Federal Government's policy agenda has continued to slide by up to 39 per cent in the second National Farmer Priorities Survey by the National Farmers' Federation in partnership with Seftons.

The survey found heightened levels of concern across a range

of issues compared to last year, up by an average of eight per cent across all metrics.

Biosecurity topped the list of concerns with 94 per cent of farmers voicing concerns. The market power of supermarkets and processors fell to a close second place at 93.9 per cent. Federal environment laws ranked third at 92.5 per cent, both up more than 10 per cent on 2023.

The largest swings in concern levels, compared with 2023, were seen towards biosecurity (up 12.7 per cent) and live sheep exports (up 12.2 per cent).

There has been a steep decline in farmers' confidence in the Federal Government, with ratings across four sentiment measures deteriorating by an average of 32 per cent in the past 12 months. This includes one in 10 believing the government has a positive plan for the farming sector, a drop of nearly 38 per cent from 2023.

However, in good news the survey found 89 per cent agree

with the statement "I love what I do" and 78 per cent say their community is a "great place to live," with those measures rising by 18 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

NFF President, David Jochinke said, "The results are unsurprising. Critical issues like the live sheep export ban, biosecurity tax and water buybacks have weighed heavily on farmers.

"Particularly telling are the results around the live sheep exports. Despite only 10 per cent of respondents hailing from WA, it rated as one of the highest areas of concern.

"This clearly demonstrates when bad policy infiltrates one sector, it puts every other sector on notice that they could be next.

Mr Jochinke added, "With meaningful engagement from the government together we can build a more positive outlook for Australian agriculture and reach our shared goal to be a \$100 billion industry by 2030."



# Stock dogs met the challenge

THREE events run simultaneously with yard dogs working sheep through their paces; cattle endeavouring to harass each dog in a small paddock; and the big open spaces of stylish dogs casting 'way out' in a paddock to collect a few sheep and controlling them through three unique obstacles.

The Australian Utility Stock Dog Society Inc. held their most recent 'Stock Dog Challenge' at Glenaroua Vic. on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September. Jan Evans hosted the event and supplied both sheep and cattle. A great team of volunteers, along with the Glenaroua local fire brigade ensured that procedures ran smoothly. Breakfast was served along with tea and coffee and barbecue lunches. At the end of each day competitors with their winning dogs took out sashes, trophies and a total of \$4000 prize money.

Craig Ogier from Gisborne Vic. with his dog 'Roustabout Itchy' took out the major event on Sunday, and Jeremy Lim from Holbrook NSW with his dog 'Homebrook Cessna' won on Saturday. The two stockmanship awards went to Tim Cavill from Alexandra Vic. and Craig Ogier.

Darren McAinch from Yanakie Vic. judged the paddock sections and local judge, Brian Leahy judged the yard sheep sections throughout. Ian Bates from Markwood and Rod Cavanagh from Yea judged the cattle section on each respective day.

The AUSDS Inc. organisers were very pleased with the event and look forward to many more 'Stock Dog Challenges'. Further information and full results can be found on the AUSDS Facebook page and on the Society's website [www.ausds.org](http://www.ausds.org)



Paddock work kept the dogs busy



The dogs were active in the yard work.

## SPORT

### Colourful gardens for Alexandra golfers

by Elizabeth Goss

THE lovely spring weather continues, wonderful for golfers and wonderful for the colourful local gardens.

Steve Darmody was the winner on Tuesday with (23) 38 points. The runner-up was Michael Bossonnet with (11) 36 points on a countback from Thomas Gibbs with (18) 36pts. Nearest the pin on the seventh and 17th went to Nick Emmerson. Ball rundown: Leo Dynes, Nick Emmerson and John Greatorex.

Wednesday's ambrose was won by Ruth Worland, Sandy Wettenhall and Bronwyn Howell 80 (24.3) 55.6. Tournament season is back and three of the ladies, Ruth Worland, Sandy Wettenhall and Mor Gale represented the club at Euroa's Bowl during the week. Next

Wednesday October 9 is stroke, monthly medal, count your putt, also the first round of the championships.

It was a stableford round on Saturday. The winner was a visitor, Gregory Murphy with (8) 35 points on a countback from Leo Dynes with (20) 35 points. Next came Greg Millard with (16) 33 points on a four-way countback from Trevor Biffin on (14) 33 points, John Greatorex had (18) 33 points and Frank Devries also with (27) 33 points.

Nearest the pin on the fifth went to Leo Dynes, on the seventh to Jared Sloane, on the 12th to Trevor Biffin and on the 18th to Russell Purcell. Next Saturday, October 12, the first round of the club championships will be played followed by the annual meeting.

### Lots of giving on charity day

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday both the men and the ladies played a stroke round for the October monthly medal and the first round of the club championships. The men's medal winner was Adam Littlejohn (21) with nett 73 followed by Andrew O'Shea (7) on a countback from Keith Atwell with nett 75. The ladies winner was Jody Doran (12) with nett 74 and Gail Leigh (11) was the runner up with nett 75. The nearest pins were won by Clint Sillett, Jody Doran and Adam Littlejohn who also won the golden shot. Andrew O'Shea won the putting with 23 putts.

During presentation members welcomed new member Liz Matthews to the club and former member Clint Sillett and his son and caddy, Cooper to the competition. Saturday was also a charity day with all competition fees and raffle money going to a local charity and members were pleased to donate \$500

to the Foundation Murrindindi Foodshare Program.

This Saturday both the men and ladies will play stroke for the second round of their club championships. Members and visitors are reminded that having entered the daylight saving period the Saturday tee off time will be 9am for 9.30am.

Last Thursday five ladies played in the Euroa Bowl. Congratulations to the Yea team for winning the Bowl and to Helen Howard and Lesley Rundle for gaining some Dalhousie Player of the Year points. This Thursday Marysville will host their Ladies Tournament with golfers from a number of Dalhousie clubs attending.

On Saturday, November 9 the club is celebrating the opening of the back nine holes 50 years ago with a golf competition and a dinner. For further enquiries contact Jody Doran on 0412 654 555 or email [enquiries@marysvillegolfandbowls.com.au](mailto:enquiries@marysvillegolfandbowls.com.au)

### Golf rain, hail and shine for Eildon

by Puttomatic

TWENTY players enjoyed a par round at Eildon last Saturday, finishing up just as the heavens opened on a mostly pleasant day.

A wet finish saw Phil Dally enter the club rooms with a handy +4 to take first place honours. Two behind and securing runners up was Peter McNair on a count back to John Beale with both players having a +2. The ball run down went to Ken Coller, Micheal McLear, Rod Taylor, and Micheal Lynch.

Micheal McLear took the prize for nearest the pin on the par four third (second shot), Dennis Seamer the 11th, Kerry Power on the 12th and John Monteath the 14th.

The fifth went unclaimed as did the eight for birdie. Rod secured the prize on 15.

Leigh Munro was the entry draw winner, Micheal McLear the swindle recipient while Dennis Seamer had his name drawn for the elusive joker draw.

This Saturday, October 12 will be a Stableford aggregate round with draw partners.

The following Saturday, October 19, the Eildon Golf Club will once again host the Wendy Newman Memorial Day in a four ball best ball stableford round. Please join in and celebrate this wonderful day and catch up with family and friends at plays end to pay tribute to this long time and missed Eildon member.

Until next time, take care and happy hitting.



**SPORT**

# FOOTBALL NETBALL ANNUAL AWARDS



*C Grade Best and Fairest Kate Broadway. -S*



*Under nine most consistent Joey Creed. -S*



*Under 10 most consistent Bodhi McKenzie. -S*



*Life Member Sharon Hedger. -S*



*Fifteen and Under Alex Red Netball Award Winners. -S*



*Fifteen and Under Alex Black Netball Award Winners. -S*



*Reserves Best and Fairest Robert Andrews. -S*



# FOOTBALL NETBALL ANNUAL AWARDS



D Grade Best and Fairest Ashlee Frankcombe. -S



Under 12 Football Award Winners -S



Under 14 Football Award Winners. -S



Thirteen and Under Alex Black Netball Award Winners. -S



A Grade Best and Fairest Caitlan Haggis. -S



B Grade Best and Fairest Sarah Skehan. -S



Thirteen and Under Alex Red Netball Award Winners. -S



THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



## 2024 presentations for Alexandra Football Netball Club

by Ray Steyger

### 2024 Senior Presentation Night

LAST Saturday, October 5, a very well dressed and enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Peppers Marysville Conference Centre for the Alexandra Football Netball Club's Senior Presentation Night, everyone enjoying a two-course meal, awards, slide show and hospitality.

The Dream Team Player Auction winners were announced, Sue Haggis's team gathering the most points followed by Daniel Crane's team in second. The club says congratulations and thank you to Katherine Quinsee and Michelle Jack for organising the auction event and ongoing collection of data during the season.

President of the Ladies' Committee, Kath Hedger thanked all of the Ladies' Committee members and helpers during the year and presented a cheque to the club.

Ray Steyger presented the President's award to Kath Hedger in recognition of many decades of ongoing service and volunteer hours at the club. The Barry 'Sprague' Thompson Clubman award sponsored by Anita and Greg Rennie was awarded to Jake Steyger.

The coaches each presented their respective awards in each grade of football and netball and a very big thank you to all the trophy sponsors for their support of the club and to Hedger Constructions for supporting the under 18 aged netballers and footballers to attend the event.

In recognition of many years volunteer service as a player, supporter, sponsor, helper and coach, Sharon Hedger was presented with Club Life Membership.

The club thanks all the staff at Peppers Marysville for their hospitality and also thank you to everyone for attending to make it a great and memorable event.

### D Grade

Best and fairest: Ashlee Frankcombe; Runner-up best and fairest: Maddy Northmore and Rose Hurrey; Most determined: Emily Van Lierop; Most consistent: Caeley Palmer; Coach's Trophy: Emily Irwin.

### C Grade

Best and fairest: Kate Broadway; Runner-up best and fairest: Lizzie Butcher; Most determined: Taylor Dean; Most consistent: Emilian Del Conte; Coach's Trophy: Holly Wheelhouse.

### B Grade

Best and fairest: Sarah Skehan; Runner-up best and fairest: Ashleigh Peers; Most determined: Aleesha Kerr; Most consistent: Jessica Shaw; B and C all rounder: Brodie Wheelhouse; Coach's Trophy: Mikaela Krijt.

### A Grade

Best and fairest: Caitlan Haggis; Runner-up best and fairest: Teagan Halligan; Most consistent: Ellie Hedger; Coach's Trophy: Sarah Mooney.

### Reserves

Best and fairest: Robert Andrews; Memorial Trophy: Tom McKinlay; Runner-up best and fairest: Michael Coombs; Most consistent: Lachlan Collard; Most determined: Nate Kerle; Most improved: Josh Crane; Best first year: Luke Wal; Coach's Trophy: Thomas Kendall.

### Seniors

Best and fairest: Harry Kelly; Runner-up best and fairest: Josh Edwards; Most consistent: Tom Boots; Most determined: Tom Massey; Most improved: Lachlan Nankervis; Best first year: Luke Spence; Coach's Trophy: Riley Frankcombe.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the club announced the re-appointment of senior coach Nick Wal for the 2025 season in Outer East Division One. Other football and netball coaching positions are advertised over the next couple of weeks, expressions of interest to be forwarded to alexfootball@virtual.net.au by Monday, October 21. The Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will be at 7pm on Tuesday, October 22 at the club rooms. Any enquiries can be directed to Kylie Cairns and Ray Steyger.

### 2024 Junior Presentation Trophies

ON Sunday, October 6, the Alexandra Football Netball Club's social rooms were the venue for the 2024 Junior Presentation function for under 11s, 13s and 15s netball and under nines, 10s, 12s, 14s and 16s football teams. A very large crowd of players, parents, grandparents and supporters enjoyed presentations of trophies, medallions and assorted gifts. The club gives a big thank you to the trophy and medallion sponsors and Eildon Bakery Café for catering support.

The Andrew Whitling Volunteer Award was presented to Todd Galloway and the David Welch Memorial Award was presented to Paul, Erin and Hudson Brooks.

The club says congratulations to all the players, thank you to the coaches and their respective support staff, to all the canteen and Thursday dinner volunteers on a great job and everyone that contributed during the year to assist our junior football and netball

teams complete a successful season in the Goulburn Murray Junior League Seymour. Thank you to Michelle Jack for the photos during the year and the powerpoint display.

### Football Under nine

Most consistent: Joey Creed; Most improved: Koby Williams; Best team player: Harvey Hill; Coach's Trophy: Nate Broadway.

### Under 10

Most consistent: Bodhi McKenzie; Most improved: Benjamin Cavill; Best team player: Nate Carter; Coach's Trophy: Logan Kerr.

### Under 12

Best and fairest: Eli Van Lierop; Runner-up best and fairest: Harish Balansag; Most determined: Charlie Broadway; Most consistent: Eli Weeks; Most improved: Mitchell Kidd; Best utility: Nathan Webb; Best first year player: Logan Reid; Coach's Trophy: Beau Nash.

### Under 14

Best and fairest: Jaidyn Dimech; Runner-up best and fairest: Jayd Bennett; Most determined: Aiden Campbell; Most consistent: Josh Northmore; Most improved: Hamish Wilson; Best utility: Fletcher Van Lierop; Best first year player: Harrison Christie; Coach's Trophy: Chase Hilder.

### Under 16

Best and fairest: Toby Lucas; Runner-up best and fairest: Will Granter; Most determined: Heath Sutcliffe; Most consistent: Matt Wal; Most improved: Will Ross; Best utility: Jayden Valentine; Best first year player: Jaime Shawcross; Coach's Trophy: Bailey Bastion.

### Netball Under 11

Best and fairest: Charli Stephens; Runner-up best and fairest: Summer Edwards; Most improved: Havana Fereday; Most determined: Bella Lamaro; Coach's Trophy: Lillian Savage.

### Under 11 Red

Best and fairest: Zoe Collier; Runner-up best and fairest: Jayde Stewart; Most improved: Ashleigh Francis; Most determined: Ruby Birmingham; Coach's Trophy: Delilah Van Lierop.

### Under 13 Black

Best and fairest: Ella Palmer; Runner-up best and fairest: Charli Edwards; Most improved: Indiana Hoornweg; Most determined: Holly Williams; Coach's Trophy: Chloe Woehl.

### Under 13 Red

Best and fairest: Tilly Miljkovic; Runner-up best and fairest: Megan Kendall; Most improved: Ivy Miljkovic; Most determined: Bella Twitchett; Coach's Trophy: Eadie Gibson.

### Under 15 Black

Best and fairest: Ashlyn Newman; Runner-up best and fairest: Ashlee Collett; Most improved: Taya Barkley; Most determined: Cassie Kidd; Coach's Trophy: Chelsea Webb.

### Under 15 Red

Best and fairest: Marli Collier; Runner-up best and fairest: Ava Carr; Most improved: Eva Twitchett; Most determined: Ava Krijt; Coach's Trophy: Zoe Mullins.



It was a big night for the Alexandra Football Netball Club when the annual awards were presented. Pictured are the Under 16 Football Award Winners. For more winning pictures turn to pages 22 and 23. -S