

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, June 5, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

Central Highlands consultation gets a two out of nine

AN interview with the Chair of the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement regarding the Future of the Central Highlands Forests was requested on six occasions, April 10, April 18, April 29, May 6 (in person), May 8 and May 22.

On May 22, the media advisor suggested that questions could be submitted in writing. Through Facebook, the community was asked whether they had particular questions around the engagement process or the upcoming VEAC report.

The following nine questions were asked.

For Chair of the Eminent Panel, Karen Cain: 1. Why were Murrindindi's public meetings (Marysville on April 23 and

Alexandra on May 6) held so close to the final report due date? 2. Why was the 'sticky note' methodology chosen as the method of in-person consultation? 3. What response do you have to people who believe that the engagement process was too short and inadequate?

For Minister Dimopoulos: 4. Why are the Chair of the Eminent Panel for Community Consultation and the Chair of VEAC both on the Great Outdoors Taskforce, in addition to creating the report/research into the Future of the Central Highlands? 5. Will public access to land and activities currently undertaken in the Central Highlands be maintained? 6. If a National Park is implemented across the

Central Highlands, how will it be operated and funded?

For the Chair VEAC, Mellissa Wood: 7. Why were no Murrindindi Shire or region representatives included in the Eminent Panel, beyond Indigenous groups? 8. Can Murrindindi Shire residents be reassured that their opinions from the public meeting will be considered in the report? 9. Have there been any economic impact studies undertaken in the communities which would be impacted if a National Park was recommended and/or declared?

Unfortunately, few of these questions were answered.

This is the response received.

A DEECA spokesperson said, "The Great Outdoors Taskforce is different to the Eminent Panel and it has not yet started its work to assess State forests in Gippsland and North East Victoria."

In answer to question 4, they said, "The taskforce is Chaired by Lisa Neville, and membership includes people with a wealth of experience across recreation, tourism, communities, environment, transition, public policy development and engagement processes. This includes Terry Robinson from Destination Gippsland, Graeme Dear from Victorian Fisheries Authority, Mellissa Wood from VEAC and Karen Cain from the Eminent Panel. It is appropriate that individuals with this vast experience and knowledge be utilised to help inform government decisions on the future of public land management in Victoria."

Question 5 was vaguely answered with, "No decisions on the future use of state forests in the Central Highlands has been made and we look forward to receiving the Eminent Panel's report."

Eminent Panel Chair Karen Cain responded to her questions with, "The Eminent Panel has heard firsthand from more than 1000 people at nine open community sessions, including at Marysville and Alexandra. The panel is listening to all voices and perspectives on the future of our Central Highlands forests as we now start the important work of preparing recommendations to government."

The following information was provided as background. "At [the community] meetings valuable feedback was received and is being collated including short written submissions recorded through the facilitation process. Data is also being collated from the EngageVic website, with more than 60,000 unique page visitors and 14,000 unique survey responses. Numerous recreation and interest groups across Murrindindi Shire were also part of more than 60 in depth targeted engagement sessions.

We were also advised that "The questions to VEAC were misdirected, for clarification the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council conducted a scientific assessment of forest values in the Central Highlands. Along with community consultation this work is a key consideration of the Eminent Panel when preparing its report for the government."

These responses show no respect for transparent government, due process, or the communities which could be heavily impacted by the decisions made regarding the future of the Central Highlands.



There are three miniature ponies at Gunyah animal sanctuary. More on page 19. -AR

★OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JUNE 10★

EARLY DEADLINES APPLY FOR JUNE 12 EDITION

CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES - 2PM FRIDAY, JUNE 7★
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

★EDITORIAL, SPORTS, THUMBS UP/DOWN AND
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - 10AM MONDAY, JUNE 10★
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au AND sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EGN and TRADES advertising deadlines remain unchanged.



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000



Letters to the Editor

Alexandra Veterinary Clinic closure

AFTER 37 years of commitment and dedication to the health and wellbeing of animals large and small in the Murrindindi Shire, we announce our retirement and the closure of the Alexandra Veterinary Clinic.

For almost four decades, after purchasing the clinic from the late Bob Tate in 1987, it has been our privilege to devote our time and efforts, working tirelessly to provide the best care to our patients and support our community.

Our journey at the Alexandra Veterinary Clinic has been a rich and fulfilling journey. We have been privileged to meet many kind and thankful clients. Over that time, we have seen many new pets join their owners and helped the transition at the end of their time. Thanks in no small part to our dedicated

staff that have helped over the years. Many a young vet has started their first job working at the clinic, gaining valuable experience in a wonderfully varied mixed rural environment. This clinic is renowned for having the most diligent and professional staff, with a special mention of Sue Powell and Raeleen Yuill, who have spent their entire working life at this clinic.

As we embark on the next chapter of our lives, it is with both joy and nostalgia that we announce our retirement and the closure of the Alexandra Veterinary Clinic, effective June 30.

To our community, we extend our deepest thanks for your unwavering support and trust over the years. It has been an honour and a privilege and we will carry the memories of our time together in our hearts always.

If medications or scripts are needed during June, please contact the clinic early to ensure continuity of medications.

For patient histories, please email alexandravetclinic@gmail.com with your name, address and pet's name.

With warm regards and best wishes for the future.

Doug and Anne Norman

Save our hospital

MY husband was in the Yea hospital for two months at the beginning of COVID-19. The specialist and Dr Martin cared for him there rather than the COVID-19 filled hospitals in Melbourne. Where else can you get a personalised service like this?

This is a local hospital for the local community so that they do not have to travel 150 kilometres to the nearest medical hub. Closure of this small rural health service would be a tragedy for many in our community, particularly the elderly and those reliant on public transport.

Our hospital is also the largest employer in Yea, closure of services will result in further

economic decline, at a time when everyone is hurting financially.

Please save our hospital.

J Forde, Yea

Water quality

WELL, there we have it in black and white. Our lake and river water is not fit for human consumption under Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) management (Mansfield Courier, May 29).

"Customers are reminded that water supplied by GMW is not suitable for human consumption without first being properly treated."

What an indictment of that manager of our water. How is it that water from our mountains and forests is not able to be consumed as potable water? This shows failure of our water supply managers, and our catchment or watershed managers, who apparently don't understand that water flows from the top of the catchment to the bottom, and is affected by how all that land is managed.

That's why we must have (1) National Parks and State Forests managed primarily for quality water yield; (2) foresters who are first and foremost stewards of the trees and land; (3) farmers who minimize nitrogen and phosphorous use; (4) have run-off monitored by GMW, with penalties for bad land use practices; and (5) responsible deer hunters who take the whole carcass and dispose of the guts and bodies responsibly.

We cannot continue to pollute our waterways and lakes, causing blue-green algae outbreaks and opt out of responsibility by saying, 'Don't drink the water. It isn't safe any more'.

Ed Adamson, Diploma of Agriculture and Master of Environmental Science, Merrijour

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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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 Eildon (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 5772 1057

Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666

Fri Commutea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257

1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

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

2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988

2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946

3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.

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

4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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.

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

We thank you for your continued support

Weekly Weather
June 5 - June 11, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	13	Wednesday	9	13
Thursday	6	16	Thursday	6	15
Friday	5	16	Friday	5	16
Saturday	6	15	Saturday	5	15
Sunday	8	15	Sunday	8	15
Monday	7	14	Monday	7	14
Tuesday	5	12	Tuesday	5	13

Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
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

Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.11	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.49	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00am Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.49am Mon	0.21	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.26am Mon	0.51	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	8.22am Mon	0.67	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.40	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.45	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	0.92	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.27	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.55am Mon	1.20	steady	

****ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024**

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	28mm
Buxton.....	52mm
Eildon (AWS).....	30mm
Flowerdale.....	28mm
Jamieson.....	52mm
Kinglake.....	26mm
Lake Eildon.....	35mm
Mansfield.....	63mm
Seymour.....	30mm
Taggerty.....	32mm
Yarck.....	37mm
Yea.....	23mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	286.43m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	90.3%
Metres below full supply.....	2.47m
Daily inflow.....	950ML
Release.....	900ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	69%

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.
To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

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.

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

Goodies at the woodies



Alexandra Community Shed / Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild have recently opened a new shop and are welcoming visitors to drop by and take a look, perhaps to purchase a special gift or something just for you. The shop is being operated by secretary Denise Blount and is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 2pm. -AR

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

FRIDAY'S social meeting followed the usual agenda with the addition of an interesting presentation by Nathan Doveton from the Bakers Lane Podiatry Centre which held the members attention and answered some good questions. Thank you to Nathan for his time.

Treasurer Dave had us smiling with Comedy Corner and Ron spun the wheel with winners of the chocolate being Marg, Leanne and Brenda. Roma won the pumpkin donated by Brenda. A big thank you to Brenda and to Leanne, who donated some hand sanitizer and John Roget for the cumquats.

By the time you are reading this report the committee will have met and the carpet bowlers will have regrouped after a few weeks' break. Friday will be time for the monthly business meeting commencing at 1pm as usual. For details of what we are up to please email secretaryadsc@gmail.com. Meanwhile, keep smiling and stay safe.

Conviction for truck driver on ice

DARRON Antees has pleaded guilty to being on ice during the Glenburn crash that killed 20-year-old model Saxon Fernandez in 2023. The court also found that he was driving while suspended and the incident occurred.

The *Herald Sun* reported that Mr Antees pleaded guilty in the Seymour Magistrates' Court to driving under the influence of meth, driving while suspended and possessing meth.

Mr Antees was found not at fault for the collision which killed 20 year old Camberwell man Saxon Fernandez.

The investigation by Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives found that Mr Fernandez entered Mr Antees' lane, causing the collision.

Mr Antees suffered minor injuries as a result of the collision.

The truck driver told Magistrate Allison Vaughan that he would be pleading guilty to the three charges.

Mr Antees told Ms Vaughan that his licence was suspended due to unpaid fines and he was not aware of the suspension as he had just changed address.

Ms Vaughan told Antees, "You must learn from this, the grief and the trauma will have a significant impact on you".

Mr Antees was convicted, had his licence suspended for a year and will have to pay a \$2000 fine to the court fund, according to the report.

Murrindindi Health Network unveils new website to empower local careers and community

IN a move to address workforce shortages and enhance professional development in the Murrindindi region, the Murrindindi Health Network has launched its highly anticipated new website, murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au

This initiative marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between six key community based organisations. These include: Menzies Support Services, Alexandra District Health, Murrindindi Shire Council, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, and Kellock Lodge Alexandra. Together, these entities have embarked on a mission to elevate employment, training, and career development opportunities

for the local community, supported by the Victorian Government.

The new website aims to be a comprehensive resource for residents of the Murrindindi region, offering detailed information on job openings, fully funded training placements, professional development courses and career pathways. This digital platform is designed to be accessible and user friendly, ensuring that community members can easily find and take advantage of the myriad opportunities available to them.

Since its inception, the Murrindindi Health Network has been dedicated to empowering individuals at all stages of their careers, from school leavers and those returning to work,

to individuals looking for a career shift. The partnership with the Victorian Government has already paved the way for the provision of up to 100 full qualification training spots, the creation of numerous job opportunities, and the introduction of a wide range of professional development courses across the region.

As the Murrindindi region embarks on this exciting journey, the launch of murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, innovation, and community spirit.

Don't miss the chance to explore new career paths, develop invaluable professional skills, and contribute to the flourishing of the Murrindindi community.



**MURRINDINDI
HEALTH
NETWORK**



Explore Career Opportunities with Murrindindi Health Network!

Visit our new website to discover job openings, funded training, and professional growth opportunities.

Join forces with leading local organisations to enhance your career in the Murrindindi region.

murrindindihealthnetwork.com.au



Visit us now and shape your future!

Affected by a recent major emergency?

You may be eligible for recovery support.

For more information vic.gov.au/recovery





THE ALEXANDRA-EILDON-MARYSVILLE
Standard
INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK GOBOO, TAGGERTY THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

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- Mansfield Newsagency
- Merton General Store
- Metro Narby
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Shell Thornton
- Yarck Meat and Produce
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

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Out & About

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*.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 AND 9

Alexandra Speedway is on this weekend. 100 lap derby, standard saloon cup and VSC 1200 juniors. Gates open at 1pm.

Alexandra Timber Tramway is running diesel trains on Saturday and Steam trains on Sunday from 10am-3.30pm.

MONDAY, JUNE 10

The Alexandra Standard office will be closed due to King's Birthday Long weekend. See front page for advertising deadlines.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Alexandra Community Shed/Eildon and District Woodworkers Guild Inc AGM will be held at the guild clubrooms in McKenzie Street. For further information contact Max 0419 653 991

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

ADH invites you to Winter Wellness community event, at Alexandra District Hospital 5-6.30pm. Includes winter warming soup. Contact ADH for full details 5772 0900.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Online clearing sale - Multi vendor sale. Ends, Monday, June 17. Inspection day June 12 at

noon. For full details see ad in this week's edition of On The Land or contact Andrew Embling 0418 266 038.

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Let's Talk: A space for men. Yea Shire Hall, from noon, concluding at 2pm or stay until 3pm for a chat. Free entry, free pies, plenty of guest speakers. This event is for men, boys and anyone with an interest in the issues impacting men and boys. Network with community peers, discuss challenges of being a man in 2024, learn tools to improve relationships, unlock your community leadership potential. Register with the bar code in the ad in this week's editions or email communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

COVID-19 impacting Kellock Lodge

TANIA Hunter, CEO of Kellock Lodge has advised that Kellock Lodge has been affected by the marked rise of community transmission of COVID-19 with over half of Kellock's population affected in the last two weeks.

Ms Hunter said, "Fortunately, with the timely support of our local GPs we have been able to administer antiviral medication and can report that all affected are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.

"Kellock Lodge considers that all residents of aged care have the right to visitors. During an outbreak we restrict visitors to a named representative and offer support to those who would like to visit electronically via Facetime, Zoom or similar platforms.

"At all times when visiting aged care, please remember to undergo a Rapid Antigen Test

prior to your visit. When visiting at Kellock Lodge you will be asked to present the test and discard it on entry.

"We ask for your support. If you don't feel 100 per cent, don't visit residential aged care facilities. Our community is vulnerable and COVID-19, Influenza and RSV are highly contagious.

"We must also remember our incredible staff who choose to work in regional aged care. The additional strain of an outbreak puts increased strain on a workforce that already puts in an incredible effort because they care. Our whole community matters."

There are currently no COVID-19 cases at Darlingford and Upper Goulburn Nursing Home or at Rosebank in Yea, part of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH).

There is also no COVID-19 in YDMH's acute facilities.

Jo Forrest from Darlingford advised that, "Visitors are always allowed. Visitors' entry requirements include completing a RAT test (provided onsite) prior to entry and showing evidence of the negative test to the registered nurse in charge, or the administrator on duty."

Visitors also need to wear the face masks provided, and sign the entry register. Practicing good hand hygiene is vital to keeping residents safe at all times.

Elizabeth Sinclair, CEO of YDMH, said, "Visitors to YDMH are required to undertake a COVID-19 test before coming in and our staff also test regularly. It is of primary importance that we protect those most vulnerable."

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Contact: Ps Steven Turner
Ph: 0413 127 283
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE VINE

A Christian community 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



THUMBS DOWN: To those who burn off on still, foggy mornings and on days when the fog does not lift. The smoke has nowhere to go and pollutes the area all day.

THUMBS DOWN: To the businesses and organisations who say they'll get back to you and you are forever chasing them up.

THUMBS DOWN: To the organisers of the Beanie Festival. People could not pay cash and get their beanie and take it home with them. They had to return some hours later to collect it. That's maybe okay if you live close by, but it's not well thought out.

THUMBS UP: To whoever organised the replacement of street signs in our district. They are now legible.

THUMBS UP: to the innovative staff at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre on your new look. Well worth a visit for locals too, they have a wonderful array of home made cards, local produce, etcetera, along with a great assortment of gifts.

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

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

Breakaway Bridge update

AN Emergency Recovery Victoria Spokesperson was asked about the funding options available for the rebuilding of Breakaway Bridge in Acheron. The bridge was destroyed in the October 2022 flood event.

They responded, "In partnership with the Commonwealth Government, the Victorian Government has allocated nearly \$2 billion in funding in response to the October 2022 Victorian floods.

"Through the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, local governments are being supported to undertake emergency recovery and immediate repair works to bring essential public assets, like bridges and roads, back into full service."

"Fourteen flood-affected Victorian councils, including Murrindindi Shire Council, are approved for priority betterment funding to improve roads, bridges and footpaths damaged by the October 2022 floods."

"The Victorian Government continues to work with the National Emergency Management Agency to determine any additional support required for flood-affected communities."

Andrew Paxton, Director Community and Development at Murrindindi Shire Council responded, "We are encouraged by both Ministers' comments regarding what the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) will cover under Category B claims, particularly the intent to allow for alternative approaches to reconstructing essential public assets, including to improve disaster resilience.

"We will continue to work through the DRFA claim process in conjunction with the state government, which provides the first level of assessment and response on these projects. Ultimately a decision on the funding for Breakaway Bridge will be the responsibility of both state and federal governments.

"Council understands the importance of this bridge to residents, visitors, businesses and the wider community, and has been advocating on behalf of our community to reach a workable solution.

"The most recent engineering reports submitted to the state government indicate that the costs of extending the existing bridge to meet the northern bank of the Goulburn River and of constructing a new bridge would be in the vicinity of \$2.75 and \$8 million respectively.

"Bridge experts have indicated that extending the existing Breakaway Bridge structure would be a temporary solution and that it will likely fail in a major flood, so the \$2.75 million spent on this repair would be lost in the flood waters.

"The only sensible solution is to secure government funding to provide a long-term solution for the community. We welcome the support by the Federal and State Ministers for Emergency Services, the Hon Mr Watt and the Hon Ms Symes, as we progress through the DRFA process to achieve an optimal outcome.

"We will continue to keep the community informed on the progress of our advocacy and funding outcomes and look forward to working with the Victorian and Australian Governments to build back more resilient community infrastructure."



Breakaway Bridge was destroyed in the October 2022 flood event. This image is from shortly after the event. -S

Council asks community to help plan for the future

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting community input as it looks ahead to the next four years and celebrates the achievements.

They are inviting the community to reflect on the progress made to date on the Council Plan 2021-2025 and actively inform the next Council Plan 2025-2029.

A progress report has been released, showcasing some of the key projects and initiatives council has delivered, along with some background documents describing the changes since the community set the 10 Year Vision in 2021.

People can share their thoughts by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at the Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. A copy of the progress report is also available to read at these locations or online.

Council is encouraging community members to attend upcoming 'Warm Bowls,

Hot Topics' sessions where council officers will be facilitating in person discussions and capturing feedback. These sessions will be held in the following locations:

Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake, July 8, 6.30 to 8.30pm.

Yea Council Chambers, 15 The Semi Circle, Yea, July 10, 6 to 8pm.

Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road, Marysville, July 11, noon to 2pm.

Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street, Alexandra, July 15, 6 to 8pm.

Come and enjoy some soup while you chat and share your ideas. Council are also offering an online session for those who can't attend in person.

During June and July, council staff will be attending community events around the shire, discussing the project and seeking feedback.

By providing your feedback by July 21, you will also go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FoodWorks vouchers.

For more information and to get involved, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "Every four years, council prepares a Council Plan to guide the work we do for people who live, work and visit our shire. It's important we hear from as many people in our community as we can to help shape the path forward for the next four years. We want to know what you think about what we've been doing. Have we been focusing our efforts on the right areas? What other things should council be doing in the next four years? Your feedback is valuable to us as we plan for the future and help inform candidates for the 2024-28 council. Together, let's ensure our efforts truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our community."

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Winter Wellness Community Event

Join us in our preparations for a healthy Winter! We'll be talking about supporting our immune systems, our mental health and staying well during the Winter months. Enjoy a hearty cup of soup and have a chat.

Wednesday, June 12
Alexandra District Health,
12 Cooper Street, Alexandra
From 5pm - 6.30pm

Included!! Delicious winter warming soup

Guest speaker from Ambulance Victoria

If you have any questions please call Melissa Storey on 5772 0900

Winter wellness with Alexandra District Health

THERE are a number of preventable illnesses that are more common during the winter months. This year Alexandra District Health (ADH) are running an inaugural Winter Wellness Campaign to support the local community with their preparations in the lead up to winter.

The aim is to reduce the instances of these avoidable illnesses and increase everyone's overall comfort and enjoyment of the winter season. It is also hoped this will reduce avoidable hospital presentations

via early planning and action by those in the community with existing health concerns.

ADH is visiting local primary schools for a refresher in hand-hygiene, delivered as a fun, interactive session with the students. If you have children at one of the local primary schools ask them for some tips when washing your hands and see what they learned.

There will also be a free community event offering delicious winter warming soup with speakers from ADH and Ambulance Victoria.

The discussions will focus on supporting physical and mental health during winter. This is designed to be a quick, informative and social event so why not pop along for a cup of soup and a chat on Wednesday, June 12 from 5 to 6.30pm.

If you would like to learn more about this Winter Wellness Campaign please call ADH on 5772 0900 and speak to Melissa Storey, Health Promotions Officer or Rebecca Clark, Manager Training and Development. They look forward to seeing you there.

Hotel Quarantine (business losses) class action

IF you operated a business in Victoria in 2020, you may be eligible to join the Hotel Quarantine (business losses) Class Action.

The class action seeks compensation for retail businesses as a result of the 'second-wave' lockdowns that occurred in Victoria from July to October 2020. The Plaintiff

alleges that the lockdowns were a result of negligence in the hotel quarantine program.

Any person who wishes to make a claim in any settlement of the Hotel Quarantine Class Action reached between the Plaintiff and the Defendants at the mediation in November 2024 for loss suffered as a result

of the Defendants' conduct must complete a registration form by 4pm on July 8.

If you believe you may be a class member, it is important that you read the further information available at hotelquarantineclassaction.com.au as soon as possible as it may affect your legal rights.

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NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT

Murrindindi Shire Council

The land affected by the application is located at:	2456 Goulburn Valley Highway ALEXANDRA, (Lot: 1 TP: 875977)
The application is for a permit to:	Use and development of land for Rodeo and equestrian-style events (Place of Assembly) consisting of two (2) major events (8,000 patrons) and ten (10) minor events (up to 300 people) annually, display Promotion Signs, reduction in car parking requirements, and camping by competitors.
The applicant for the permit is:	Alexandra Events Corporation Limited
The application reference number is:	2024/3
You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by visiting our website via the following web address:	murrindindi.vic.gov.au/PlanningComment

Native timber support available now



Native timber harvesting has ended in Victoria but support is still available.

Native timber businesses, workers and communities can continue to access a range of support including:

- **The Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program** –including payments and training, 1:1 case management, employment services, health and wellbeing support.
- **Business support** – including exit packages and funding to help diversify.
- **Community support** – health and wellbeing services and community development planning and funding.

For more information:

- Forestry Transition hotline - 1800 318 182
- Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program - 1800 122 001 vic.gov.au/forestry

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.

An objection must be sent to the responsible authority in writing, with the full name and postal address of the objector and include the reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available at its office for any person to inspect during office hours free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: 19 June 2024

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

The Planning Unit can be contacted on (03) 5772 0333 or by emailing planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au.

Sandice McAulay: What is it like being a councillor?

COUNCILLOR Sandice McAulay has announced that she won't be standing in the next council election. During her time with council, she has not only been a councillor but has also been mayor and deputy mayor, making her the perfect person to talk to find out more about what people might expect if they make the decision to stand in the local government elections.

What should new councillors expect when they start in the role?

I suppose it depends on why you stand. In our council, our members haven't tended to be aligned with any political parties, which makes it a lot easier. Even though local government is a political entity, I still don't feel like a politician. Hopefully, you can expect that it will be neutral in terms of political alignment, so you can actually talk to whoever the people are that are in power and you can use that to the best advantage.

Our council is probably a bit more down the track of informing new councillors about what it's like to be a councillor and all the governance. That came in last time, for the new councillors. You would expect about six weeks of really intensive governance training. It was really good and mind-blowing.

One of the things I would recommend is you get yourself organised right from the start, if you're going to be paper-based or if you're going to be electronic based, get yourself organised right from the beginning so that you can refer back to notes.

How much time each week needs to be devoted to the role?

I would say about 18 hours per week if you're a councillor, and you could easily double that or even more if you're a deputy or a mayor. There are a lot of events, and most are voluntary, but if you really want to hear what your community's about, it's good to get out and meet all the other ward councillors as well.

It's pretty overwhelming to begin with. There's the governance side and there's the formalities and the legal requirements. There would probably be at least a full day of reading each week, and then of course, you've got your monthly meeting and your weekly briefings.

When you go into your first meeting or your second meeting, you actually feel very informed. It's a really good process of gearing you up so that you actually have all of the information and you feel enabled when you're actually making a decision around the councillor table.

How robust are the discussions outside of council meetings?

Fairly robust. There's a lot of information-gathering, so you can ask for as much information as you like. It's important that you haven't made a decision until you actually go into the council chambers, because there's an opportunity for the community to speak, for community members to talk to items that are on the agenda or other items, so you might get given new information when you hear a community member speak. I have personally

gone in and thought, I'm fairly well down this avenue of thinking, and I'll listen to someone and go 'Ah, that's a completely different side to what I had heard' and I'm maybe going to vote the other way. It's important to go into meetings with an open mind. As much as you have your own personal opinions, you really have to put them to the side and listen to all sides of the story. There have been times when I have actually voted against what I personally feel, because it was in the best interests of the community or whoever was concerned. That can be really hard. It can be really, really challenging.

Is this one of the hardest aspects of being a councillor?

Because you make decisions based on people's desires and dreams, and sometimes you have to go against that because, you know, you find that you could agree with what they want and we could do that, but it could actually cost them more in the long run because it could go to VCAT. If you give them a false sense of council approval, it might not be approved in the long run and could well be out for thousands of extra dollars. You've got to be mindful of that as well.

How do you handle conversations with people in the shire who have strong opinions on different matters?

People can often come up quite angry, or phone you all hours of the day or night, because it's something that's close to their heart and they're usually quite stressed. I think the biggest thing is (a) Answer the phone or have that conversation, and just be frank. If you say 'I don't know', most people will understand that and they'll say, 'Well why not?' and I'll say, 'It's not something I've got knowledge on at this point in time, but I will find out.' And it's really important to get back to those people or for the officers to get back to those people and give them as much information as is available. That's how I learnt in the first four years, someone would ask me a question and I'd say 'no idea' and rather than just handing it on to an officer, I would actually then sit in that meeting and that was the biggest way of me learning.

What do you think you've learnt about yourself during your time as a councillor?

That you don't actually have to agree to work together. On many occasions, councillors don't agree with each other, they don't even have the same philosophy, but you do have to directly work with each other and be respectful of the differences around the table because that's how good decision-making happens. If I had all people the same as me, it would be very boring. The biggest thing is to listen to all sides of the conversation and then do your research.

With the ward boundary changes, it appears that Cathedral Ward might expand into Acheron and Whanagarwen. What are your thoughts on that?

The first offer was that they were going to expand across to Toolangi, so I was very pleased that they actually took the recommendation from council to go north.



Sandice McAulay. -S

Murrindindi will be an interesting one, how that fits in. But having said that, as a councillor, you represent your ward as well, but you've also got to have your bigger picture. You've also got to be able to be aware of what the issues are and often I'll get called up from different parts of the shire because it might be my portfolio or it's something that people know I'm interested in and I might have more information about. Yes, there's the physical side of that, but at the end of the day, you have to represent the whole shire.

What will you miss about being a councillor?

Being on the pulse. Knowing what's happening and being part of it, and just the education, the camaraderie. Sometimes it's okay to disagree and still keep friends with people around the table. And I love working with the officers because in our council, we've got really, really good officers who have the community at heart. We're all part of the community. We all work in the community that we live and work in, and I think that's a beautiful thing about our council. We have got a really nice council.

Are there any particular skills that people need as a councillor?

You do gain a lot of things. Lots of training is offered, there's conflict resolution, there's how to read spreadsheets, how to look at financial reports, how to run meetings. There's a whole lot of information. I think the most important thing that I took in was the ability to read quickly. It's really important to be well organised. If you've got a filing system, it doesn't matter how it is, you've got to be able to find things. You might have had a conversation six months ago or two years ago, and if you've got a good search system and filing system, you can find that information. Document the conversations you have. Write copious notes on everything you hear. You don't know when that information might come in useful.

The other thing is, it doesn't matter who you talk to, there's always a personal bias, and I think it's very important to remember that when you're listening to someone, there is always another side to the story. Before

you go off, make sure that you've at least had the opportunity to listen to what the other side is. Just interpreting that information, someone can misinterpret it and come up to you and say things, and if you've actually gone and found out, you can say 'I think you've misunderstood what was said in this case.' Sometimes, that interpreting can be really important as well.

You've really got to navigate your way through the communication pitfalls. It's important to listen to the two sides, or three or four sides often.

When you are the mayor or the deputy mayor, you get told how awesome and wonderful you are, and then when you're no longer mayor or the deputy mayor, you don't get told that much. It's the five minutes of fame. Don't get too caught up in it. Be mindful that it's an honourable position but with position comes big responsibility. People are very respectful, but at the end of the day, you're just there trying to do your best job and don't get too carried away with it.

What's next for you, after you finish this term?

Oh, who knows? There will be lots of big decisions and I will probably be looking for work as well, in the next couple of years. But there's definitely an escape away for about a month in the motor home.

Would you recommend being a councillor?

I can recommend going on council for at least a term. Give it a go. It's great to have on your CV. I have learnt so much about governance. It helps in all the other committees that I work in, and you meet some great people around the community, people I would never have got to meet otherwise.

Also remember that wherever you go, there's always food. Be mindful that there will always be food offered to you and if you don't want to look like a balloon by the end of the term, don't imbibe the five scones that are offered to you. Have a glass of milk before you go to a function, otherwise you'll eat your way through. Take a bottle of water with you too. It's always good.

Delivering for our community

My office assists thousands of constituents with Centrelink, Medicare, NDIS, My Aged Care, telecommunications and immigration issues.

If you need help with any Commonwealth service, please email, phone or visit my office.



Helen Haines MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

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

MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Mums and caregivers, are you navigating the beautiful yet challenging journey of breastfeeding? We're here for you!

We offer latch troubleshooting, milk supply guidance, bottle feeding tips and solid and finger food instructions.

Connect with us via:

- Telehealth: Connect with us virtually from the comfort of your home.
- Outreach Visits: We'll come to you! Available every second Tuesday.

For more information or to book a session, call Susan on 0436 659 910. This service is run by our dedicated Maternal & Child Health nurses.



REFLECTING ON COUNCIL'S PROGRESS

As we approach the end of the current Council Plan, we invite our community to reflect on our key areas of progress and help shape the strategic direction for the next four years.

A Progress Report has been released, showcasing key projects and initiatives we have delivered.

Your feedback on our progress is important as we start to prepare our new Council Plan for 2025-2029 and we'd like to hear from as many people in our community as possible.

You can share your thoughts by filling out an online feedback form, or by completing a paper form at our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. A copy of the Progress Report is also available to read at our Centres.

We will also be hosting "Warm Bowls, Hot Topics" sessions where you can chat with Council officers in person. These sessions will be held in the following locations:

- Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road
 - 8 July, 6.30 to 8.30 pm
- Yea Council Chambers, 15 The Semi Circle
 - 10 July, 6.00 to 8.00 pm
- Marysville Community Centre, 31 Falls Road
 - 11 July, 12 noon to 2.00 pm
- Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street
 - 15 July, 6.00 to 8.00 pm

Come and enjoy some soup while you chat and share your ideas. We are also offering an online session for those who can't attend in person.

By providing your feedback by 21 July 2024, you will also go in the draw to win one of three \$100 FoodWorks vouchers.

For more information and to get involved, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/ourprogress

STAND FOR COUNCIL

Want to stand up for change in your community? With the next council elections being held in October this year, consider standing for council and be part of the change you want to see.

In partnership with Victorian councils, Municipal Association of Victoria is delivering information sessions for the community and prospective candidates. These sessions can be attended either in-person or online. The sessions cover information about the role of a councillor, the electoral process and campaign tips.

Session dates:

- Tuesday 11 June: Goulburn Ovens Murray Session 1
 - Host: Strathbogie Shire Council
- Wednesday 12 June: Goulburn Ovens Murray Session 2
 - Host: Mitchell Shire Council

Register at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/standforcouncil or give us a call on 5772 0333 to get involved.



DRAFT KERBSIDE SERVICES POLICY - HAVE YOUR SAY

Did you know, Council will be introducing a four-stream waste system from July 2025? As part of this system, we'll be adding a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and a Glass recycling service. The FOGO bin (green bin) will be collected weekly and will allow residents to dispose of food scraps like citrus, dairy, bread, meat and bones, alongside garden waste. The Glass bin (purple bin) will be collected monthly.

Our draft Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy proposes the FOGO service as optional for properties in the Rural Zone and mandatory for properties in the Defined Urban Zone (township areas).

To learn more about the draft Policy, including proposed changes to the collection route, opt in options for commercial properties and how and where waste charges will be applied, and to have your say on the Policy, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside

SUBSCRIBE TO 'MURRINDINDI MATTERS' E-NEWS

Council would like to thank everyone who entered our e-newsletter naming competition. The top four name suggestions were Murrindindi Matters, Dindi Digest, wawa Dindi and The Yarn. As we received quite a few suggestions for both Murrindindi Matters and Dindi Digest, we selected the winners at random.

To stay up to date with the latest news from Council, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/enews

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

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5772 0333

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

Bendigo Bank

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Carter has been a good leader and role model in the junior classroom.

Keep up the great work, Carter.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Xander displayed integrity and cooperation in his work this week.

Well done.

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Elias Wright – Foundation

Elias consistently shows the school values. He is a friendly and caring member of our school community, and is always kind to those around him. We are proud to have you in our learning community Elias.

You are a star.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

Bendigo Bank

No more beef over beef | New bushfire strategy envisions future

CATTLE Australia (CA) has welcomed China's reinstatement of export approvals for five out of seven Australian beef export processing plants, which have been suspended from supplying product to China since 2020.

Cattle Australia Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ivar Bisseling, said industry advocacy groups such as the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) and the Federal Government should be applauded for tirelessly advocating for the lifting of the suspensions.

"AMIC and the beef production supply chain peak industry bodies, in CA and the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), have worked tirelessly over the past four years, advocating on behalf of the beef industry and lobbying to Ministers of three different agencies, including two different trade ministers, two secretaries and three department secretaries," Mr Bisseling said.

"It has been a long haul, and the job isn't finished yet, but this step by China to reinstate these facilities is a great outcome for the processing companies involved, the beef producers and lot feeders who supply them, and the entire Australian red meat supply chain.

"We appreciate the efforts of Australian Government Ministers over the past four years to engage with their Chinese counterparts on this matter, and acknowledge the Federal Government's ongoing commitment to work with industry to resolve the suspensions on the remaining two exporters.

"It is the role of governments to open markets for Australian products, not close them, and to develop supply chains in conjunction with industry, and this is a great

example of industry and government positively collaborating to achieve a tremendous outcome with an important international customer.

"We look forward to all establishments soon being able to export beef to China without restriction, and the resumption of full and unfettered trade with one of our key trading partners. This positive step today creates the opportunity to open new avenues of access to the Chinese market, for not just the beef industry, but Australian agriculture as a whole."

Murrindindi Shire to launch Pre-Prep in 2025

MURRINDINDI Shire is one of Victoria's first local government areas to transition Four-Year-Old Kinder to Pre-Prep, and enrolments are now open for 2025.

Led by qualified teachers, Pre-Prep will provide a longer program of quality play based learning in the year before school, with four-year-old children in the local government area eligible for 16 to 30 hours of kindergarten each week, up from 15 hours, as the roll out progresses.

The extended hours give children greater opportunities to socialise, learn through play and prepare for their formal educational journey.

Free Kinder is available in Pre-Prep programs at both standalone (sessional) and long-day care centres. Families who enrol their children at a long day care centre will receive a fee offset.

Like the roll-out of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten, the delivery of Pre-Prep will be gradual to provide time to build additional infrastructure and grow a

strong and stable workforce to successfully deliver the reforms in partnership with the early childhood sector.

The roll-out of Pre-Prep will start in 2025 in six municipalities, which include, Ararat Rural City, Gannawarra Shire, Hindmarsh Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Northern Grampians Shire and Yarriambiack Shire, before expanding to other LGAs progressively in following years.

Victorians have embraced Three-Year-Old Kinder, which last year saw 89 per cent of eligible children enrolled. Once Pre-Prep is rolled out across Victoria, children will have access to 1800 hours of funded kindergarten before starting school, comprising 15 hours per week of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten and 30 hours per week of Pre-Prep.

If you're interested in learning more about Pre-Prep, visit the Pre-Prep information booth at the Grant Street Market, Alexandra, on Sunday, June 2 or visit vic.gov.au/pre-prep

challenges. Now more than ever, a shared approach for managing bushfires is required.

Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy is a joint commitment by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and other land and fire agencies on the direction of bushfire management in Victoria over the next 10 years.

It articulates an agreed strategic approach to managing bushfire in Victoria and spells out that everyone has a role to play in bushfire management.

For individuals, communities and businesses, this means staying informed and taking responsibility for their own safety and wellbeing to improve levels of emergency preparedness and build community resilience by understanding bushfire risk and being prepared for bushfires, preparing properties for the bushfire season, creating a fire plan and acting on it when required, and keeping up to date with emergency and fire danger warnings and acting as advised by emergency authorities.

The strategy sets out objectives across seven key domains: people and community safety, critical infrastructure and economic resilience, Aboriginal self-determination, ecosystem resilience and nature conservation, informed decision-making, shared responsibility, and capability and capacity.

It brings together the work already being done with community, local government, scientists and industry, with the work that needs doing over the next decade.

It reflects the \$500 million investment the Victorian Government made into reducing

bushfire risk following the 2019-20 bushfires, and considers how to mitigate and respond to bushfire on all land types, whether public or private. This includes what resources are needed, and how they will be used by government department or agency, municipal council, or landholder.

The strategy builds on two years of consultation. DEECA heard directly from Victorians they wanted greater transparency about government decision-making and a voice in how DEECA reduce bushfire risk, strengthen resilience and support recovery. The strategy is supported by a rolling three year implementation plan and Victoria's Bushfire Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework.

Together, these products will not only drive accountability, but also make sure Victorians can have a say in designing actions taken into the future. They'll allow measurement and reporting on progress against agreed outcomes, maximising investment and driving continuous improvement.

The strategy was developed in response to recommendations from the Inspector-General for Emergency Management's *Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season* and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office's audit into reducing bushfire risks.

Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy and supporting documents can be viewed online at vic.gov.au/fire-strategy

How many ATMs at the moment?

THE Murrindindi Shire spans over 3881 square kilometres and in the 2021 census it was recorded that 15,197 people reside in the shire, so why is it so hard to access your cash where you live?

Physical banks are the place you used to go to deposit money, withdraw money, talk to a staff member about your financial situation. There are only three of them left in the shire. One is in Yea, one in Kinglake and one in Marysville, and bank agents working out of non-bank premises. These are the same institution, Bendigo Bank, including the Yea and District Community Bank.

There are just over 10 ATMs listed in the Murrindindi Shire, and some banking services with Australia Post.

The four big banks have rejected the area completely, as we all know. The National Australia Bank (NAB), Australia and New Zealand Bank (ANZ) and Commonwealth Bank (CBA) have all exited the area.

It was recently announced that the ANZ branch in Lilydale will close its doors on Wednesday, June 19, and the closest southerly branch will then be at Eastland in Ringwood. There is also a branch in Mansfield. The nearest ANZ ATMs are in Lilydale (for the moment) and Mansfield. ANZ banking transactions are not currently available at Australia Post offices.

The nearest National Australia Bank branches are in Mansfield, Healesville and Chirnside Park, but they do retain an ATM in Alexandra. Banking is also available at Australia Post offices.

The Commonwealth Bank has branches in Healesville and Mansfield. They have an

ATM in Yea. Banking is also available at Australia Post offices.

There are Bendigo Bank ATMs in Eildon, Marysville and Yea.

ATMX ATMs are run by Armaguard, an organisation recently bailed out of their financial woes by the Australian Banking Association, and operated by Suncorp Bank. There is one in Alexandra. There are also a number of ATMs at businesses in the shire.

In the recent *Bank Closures in Regional Australia* report that was tabled in Parliament on May 24 it was recommended that the Australian Government adopt a policy recognising access to financial services as an essential service. To this end, it should commit to guaranteeing reasonable access to cash and financial services for all Australians. So, with hardly any banks and minimal ATMs operating in the area what happens when the one of the two ATMs in a town, or the only ATM in a town, stops working, especially on a peak season weekend? Not only is it a lack of financial services to locals but its also a big inconvenience to visitors who want to spend money in our towns.

At a recent community market, not all stores had payment squares for purchases and that is completely understandable when people are raising money for charities and small community groups with bake stalls and sausage sales. Tourists were inconvenienced as the ATMs in town weren't working all weekend. It seems locals are just used to it these days and have back up plans if need be.

With such a low level of banking services and ATMs in the area, there is a need for these services to be reliable to customers for day to day living as that's all there is to keep cash circulating.



RESPECT IS CHALLENGING GENDER STEREOTYPES IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

RESPECT STARTS WITH A CONVERSATION

Find out how to start the conversation.
Scan the QR Code.



**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE
INDEPENDENT MEMBER**



A vacancy exists for an independent member of the Murrindindi Shire Council Audit and Risk Committee.

The appointment will commence in August 2024 for an initial term of three years ending 30 June 2027. Council provides an honorarium which is currently set at \$2,000 per year.

Council is looking for someone with a strong understanding of corporate governance, financial reporting and enterprise risk management. The ideal candidate will have experience serving on similar committees or boards for either public or private entities or Not-For-Profit organisations.

The following areas of expertise are preferred:

- local government experience or familiarity
- financial planning and management
- enterprise risk management

To be considered for this role, you need to submit an expression of interest detailing your skills, qualification and experience and your resume to hr@murrindindi.vic.gov.au by close of business 17 June 2024.

For further inquiries please contact Amanda Vogt on 5772 0333 or via email governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Landcare for all ages



Eildon Primary School's new bus. -S

Eildon Primary's new bus

EILDON Primary School now has its own 20 seater school bus. The school purchased the bus last year and has recently achieved bus operator accreditation status through Safe Transport Victoria.

The bus travels daily from Eildon to Thornton along the front road and back to Eildon along the back road each day, picking up and dropping off students along the way. It can also be used to transport

students to camps and excursions, making them more affordable for the school's wonderful families.

The bus will help maintain good school attendance and arrive at Thornton at 8.15am and 3.45pm each day. For further details or to book a seat on the bus, please contact the Eildon Primary School office on 5774 2074 or speak to our friendly bus driver John at the Thornton bus stop.



The Intrepid Landcare group after one of their events. -S

EXACTLY five years ago, The Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare (UGIL) group was developed. The first event was basically a meet and greet and to capture people's interest.

Once COVID-19 hit, forms of meetings included online events, and luckily because it was regional Victoria some events could still occur being outside at various times throughout the pandemic. Now some years later the group is out in full force helping the environment any way they can.

UGIL is targeted at the 18 to 30 year old groups, filling the demographic between the Junior Landcare which is primary and secondary students and the traditional Landcare group that is generally retirees with a little more time on their hands. Either way, everyone is contributing to the cause.

Currently the group has five continual attendees and over time there has been big interest with up to 20 people attending events on and off over the years. Members are mainly from Murrindindi Shire and at times there has been helpers from Seymour, Mansfield, Euroa, and Melbourne.

A member from the group, Annette Cavenagh said, "Mostly projects we do are carried out in the Murrindindi Shire. We have done work at Merton as well. We want to capture as many people as we can, so we are pretty flexible. This year we have had a canoeing and weeding event up to Strathbogie, and March was Clean Up Australia Day in Yea at the wetlands and showgrounds."

"If there are any young people who want to get involved and be part of taking environmental action in the community get in touch," Annette said.

For more information visit, Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare group on Facebook.



Some tree guard maintenance performed by Intrepid Landcare Group. -S

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- A journey of -

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from The Alexandra Times to The Alexandra Standard
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Local students encouraged to enter Parliamentary Prize

LOCAL school students have been encouraged to enter the annual Parliament of Victoria's Parliamentary Prize competition, with a chance to win \$500 for themselves and \$1000 for their school.

Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad said the competition was a great opportunity for students to have their say on an issue they feel is important and consider what they would say to Parliament if they were a Member of Parliament.

"Entries are now open for students in years five to 12 for this year's Parliamentary Prize. All that students need to do is submit a video of themselves presenting a Member's Statement," Ms Broad said.

"A Member's Statement is an opportunity for elected members to make a brief statement in State Parliament on matters of interest or concern to them and the people living in their electorate and can be up to 90 seconds long.

"Students entering the competition can record themselves or use an animated avatar if they prefer.

"This is a great project for students to undertake on their own or complete as a class project with their teacher.

"It's an opportunity to help raise the profile of issues in their community that are important to them, their families, and friends.

"My interest in politics came from an opportunity to participate in a parliamentary internship when I was a student, and I want to encourage more young people to get involved and learn more about our democratic processes."

Entries close on Friday, June 14.

For more information on the competition including entry terms and conditions visit parliament.vic.gov.au/teach-and-learn/parliament-prize/

Real Estate GUIDE

Keeping Victorians energy safe

THE state government has tightened the reins with *Energy Safe Victoria's* powers so Victorian customers are protected from dodgy retailers.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced the new obligations on energy companies, increased penalties, and enhanced powers for *Energy Safe Victoria* are now in effect following changes to energy safety legislation last year.

These changes will protect Victorians by ensuring the energy regulator has the right tools for preventing accidents, investigating incidents and ensuring safety compliance in the Victorian energy sector.

The amendments apply to the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*, *Gas Safety Act 1997* and *Pipelines Act 2005* and came into effect on May 16.

Major energy companies who breach general duties now face significantly larger penalties of up to \$1.66 million, while those found guilty of non compliance with accepted Electricity Safety Management Schemes, Bushfire Mitigation Plans, and Gas Safety Cases can face fines of up to \$1.11 million.

An owner or operator of electrical installations, such as renewable energy generators including solar and wind farms and big batteries, will now also have duties

and obligations in line with other major electricity companies.

Energy Safe Victoria and the Minister for Energy and Resources will also now have additional powers to force energy companies to rectify any breaking of energy safety laws without taking them to court by using enforceable undertakings.

Electricity suppliers and gas companies must preserve the sites of certain incidents until directed by *Energy Safe Victoria* and can now hold items seized under investigation for 60 days.

The changes also increase the period within which *Energy Safe Victoria* can commence prosecution, from three years from when an alleged offence occurred, to three years from when *Energy Safe Victoria* becomes aware of the alleged offence, ensuring no company can avoid being held to account due to a technicality.

This work follows on from the independent review of Victoria's electricity and gas network safety framework, which focused on strengthening the capabilities and regulatory approach of Victoria's energy safety regulator.

To see the Grimes Review's final implementation update visit energy.vic.gov.au

Safely heating your home this winter

WINTER is here and if you haven't already lit your fire, the time is well and truly near. When it comes to building a fire and being an effective fire to warm your home, good firewood is required and using good fire building practices.

The Australian Home Heating Association recommends the following tips to avoid potential hazards: only use newspaper, dry kindling and all natural or organic fire starters; never start a fire with gasoline, kerosene, or charcoal starter; do not burn wet or green unseasoned wood, many wax and sawdust logs are made for open hearth fireplaces only; check your wood stove or fireplace insert operating instructions before using artificial logs; if you use manufactured logs, choose those made from 100 per cent compressed sawdust and build hot fires. For most appliances, a smouldering fire is not safe or efficient.

For fireplaces and wood burning stoves they need to have regular service and maintenance

to keep your home as safe as possible. Without looking after your wood heating appliances creosote can build up and block your flue which can potentially lead to a flue fire. Other maintenance can include checking the condition of door seals, baffle plate and firebricks. Check for bird nests in or near your flue in the roof cavity. Regularly remove ashes in a metal container.

CFA recommends chimneys are to be cleaned, inspected, serviced every two years.

Once you've assessed your fireplace and make sure it's as safe as possible, safety measures need to take place once it's lit, it pays especially when young children are in the home to have a fire guard in front of the fire. This also prevents sparks and wood falling out and causing injury or fire.

Never dry clothes or have flammable items close to the fireplace, having it positioned at least one metre away reduces the risk of fire.

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Apprentices helping speed up the housing process

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) Managing Director, Jocelyn Martin is pleased about the financial incentives for employers to take on an apprentice.

"Without an employer, there is no apprentice and the financial incentives that have been in place have proved invaluable to helping the construction industry to access more workers," Ms Martin said.

"HIA sought the continuation of these incentives. The shortage of skilled trades remains more acute than at any time prior to the pandemic and is a barrier to increasing supply of new homes.

"The Federal Government's \$11.3 billion *Homes for Australia* plan and commitment of \$90.6 million to support fee free training for apprentices, pre apprenticeships and skills

assessments for overseas workers, will assist in addressing the shortage of skilled trades people and increasing supply.

"The boost to investment in more social, affordable and community housing alongside infrastructure and skills funding boosts is another contribution to increasing the supply of homes.

"The \$1 billion towards unlocking key infrastructure delivery by states and territories including water, electricity, sewer infrastructure is an important step to unlocking land for new homes.

"HIA has called on the government to double its infrastructure funding for states and local councils to enable them to get homes shovel-ready faster, so it is pleasing to see this included in the budget" concluded Ms Martin.

Country roads take me home

THE number of city dwellers choosing a life in the regions has hit a 12 month high, with the latest Regional Movers Index (RMI) showing metro to regional relocations have surged in the first quarter of the year, now sitting at 20 per cent above the pre-COVID average.

The RMI is a partnership between Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) and the Regional Australia Institute (RAI), which analyses the quarterly and annual trends in people moving to and from Australia's regional areas.

Data from the just released March 2024 quarter RMI shows internal migration across the nation has soared in the first three months

of the year, with the regions recording their fifth biggest quarter of influx from city-slickers in the last six years.

Regional Australia Institute (RAI) CEO, Liz Ritchie, said the figures show the nation's regional renaissance is far from over, with 24 per cent more people moving from the city to regions, than the other direction.

Commonwealth Bank Regional and Agribusiness Executive General Manager, Paul Fowler, noted that in the 12 months to March 2024, areas within a 150km radius to a capital were among the most popular for metro movers.

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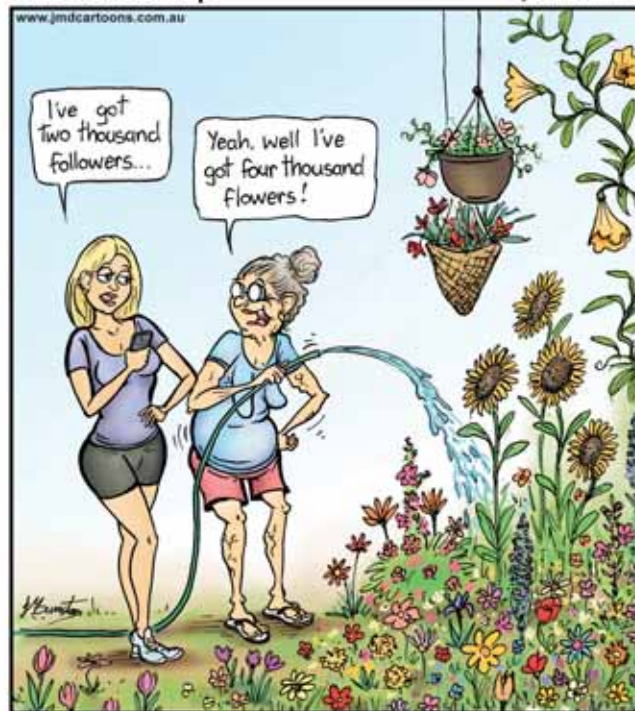
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King's Birthday Long Weekend

CFA vehicles on display at truck show



A new tanker. -S

CAPTAIN Chris Lynch of the Alexandra CFA Brigade, spoke about the new light tanker the brigade will be receiving in the future, and the brigade's presence at the Alexandra truck show.

"Latest information we have from CFA fleet suggests that we've got a light tanker, which is a part of our vessel grants, due between July and August. It's called a light tanker, crew cab, 2000 litres of water, and a nimble vehicle to enable us to get into tight areas of the bush in our patch," Captain Lynch said.

"We have some new vehicles coming to CFA that will be on display at the truck show. A new ultra heavy tanker, a brand new heavy four point four tanker which will replace a 34 C at Wallan. The light tanker, of which a prototype will be shown off at the show.

"At the truck show, the brigade will also be having a community safety trailer with general information for home and land safety. Alexandra Auxiliary Brigade will have a food stall at the truck show, with sausages and hamburgers, supported by the Thornton Butcher and local Alexandra Butcher.

"In the near future we are looking to receive a new light tanker, three years in the making."

Adding to the topic, Commander Paul Brislin commented on the rollout of new vehicles and the CFA's presence at the truck show.

"There are some new appliances coming into Murrindindi Shire. Alexandra Brigade will be receiving a new light tanker that is in the build phase at the moment, due for delivery later this year.

"Another light tanker in the build phase is going to Flowerdale. Across the Mitchell Shire we have just a heavy tanker, a 44 C, going online. There is still stuff in planning and we are aware of the ageing vehicles, it all comes down to watching them build it and whatever point in time due to budget," Commander Brislin said.

"We are organising a significant display at the Alexandra truck show, fairly wide range and a new truck that went online today will be on display, an ultra heavy tanker, a new prototype light tanker which is very similar to what Alexandra will be getting at the end of the year, and many things to look at.

"It's also an opportunity to bolster recruitment as it's a concern. We need more volunteers," he said.



One of the local vehicles which will be in the CFA display. -S



A new ultra-heavy tanker. -S

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King's Birthday Long Weekend

Biggest Victorian race of the year for sedan fans this weekend at Alexandra

by Dean Thompson

ALEXANDRA and District Speedway Club's annual '100 Lap Derby' for speedway sedans is the feature event this coming Saturday and Sunday and has attracted a stellar line up to compete packed with local heroes, some of Victoria's best in many disciplines of speedway and a couple of Americans keen to be the first ever driver from the USA to win the big race with a history that spans decades in Alexandra.

From Trevor Peters in 1975 to Damien Miller in 2023, the event known as the 'Bathurst of Speedway' has seen many of the greats compete, with none greater than Nev Eltze from Horsham, having won the event eight times. Only one driver from outside of Victoria has won the event, Tasmanian

Maurice Jones in 1984, and never has a driver from overseas stepped foot on the great race's podium.

This year's event attracts over 90 entrants to do battle in the big race. Some of these include David Donegan, a frequent visitor to the United States who competes in similar endurance events, and Billy Meazell III and Wally Beaty racing under his team of three cars.

The event's current champion, Damien Miller, leads many drivers that could win and listing a few of them here does not mean that anybody not listed cannot win. Anything can happen in the great race and usually does. Miller's brother Brendan is another outstanding driver and is part of the track preparation crew at Alexandra and knows every nook and cranny of the track drivers

will compete on come Saturday. Add in Tony Moule, a former national Sprintcar champion and winner of this event, Dylan Barrow a Modified Sedan, and Super Sedan racer of significant ability, especially in Modified Sedans where he has put himself among Australia's best.

Four-time event champion Lennie Bonnici from the nearby Nagambie club won his four all in succession. Darren Forrest a quick man at the derby always putting himself in the mix for the big race he and everybody else is so fixated on winning. Jamie Lock the Victorian Sports Sedan champion, Shane O'Brien a winner two seasons ago, Matt Nelson a star in every class he competes in and a multiple state champion, Luke Fallon a local Alexandra resident and businessman with four wins to his name also.

Warrick Taylor the fastest man ever around the dirt circuit dog leg track the competitors race on this weekend, Brad Warren the wheel man who can and does steer everything he gets behind the wheel of very well, David Donegan and his merry band of Americans as mentioned above, the two from a state unknown as far as the Alexandra event is concerned however with plenty of experience running much longer endurance events in the USA on short dirt tracks, and visiting from Western Australia, former Alexandra member Lenny Bates is another to keep an eye on and even with this short look at potential winners this weekend, there are plenty left out.

Racing is on at Alexandra this Saturday, you can arrive Friday night and stay all weekend, leaving on Monday morning for the trip home.

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King's Birthday Long Weekend

In support action the Standard Saloons annual 'Kings Birthday' Cup weekend feature event will be held with a strong list of entrants that includes Brodie Ardley, Mitch Blencowe, Matt Leek, Andrew Miles, Brad Hill, Rhys Lansdown a former Victorian champion and Wayne Sheerman as just some of the front running competitors out of a terrific field once again. Sheerman, an Alexandra favourite, is currently in a run of bridesmaid results in the state title, however he is keen to end the season with victory in front of home crowd fans.

Junior Sedan competitors in the Victorian Speedway Council 1200cc Sedans will also compete on Sunday only with star drivers including Andrew Mitchell, Blake Beach, Riley Taylor, Chase Doherty, Brad Marshall, Xander Baxter, and Will Fallon with Beach, Marshall and Fallon representing Alexandra. Other drivers in the race from the host club of Alexandra include Jaylen Knight, Brody Barton, Dayne Murdoch, and Maddy Beach.

For the kids there is the annual 'One Lap Derby' bike race around the Speedway track plus for some extra entertainment this season there is a handbag race. There are music acts across the weekend on stage and an overall great camping atmosphere with pit fires, and the usual trek campsite to campsite to chat with friends and competition.

Racing begins on Saturday from 1pm at Gordon Street Alexandra with a planned 9.30pm finish and again on Sunday from the same start time. Enquires can communicate via Facebook messages to the club.

Entrance cost for two days is \$150 for a family of two adults and three children between the ages of 10 and 16, with all children under 10 free. Adults on their own is \$60, concession holders are \$30 and children not entering on a family ticket are also \$30. For one day of racing only, halve the price for any of the tickets required.



Car number six is driven by Damien Miller, while car number 64, Dan Smith, goes on the attack. -Louise Norman

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King's Birthday Long Weekend

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Some of the women at the training day. -S

A successful training day for CFA women

A TRAINING day was held at Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre (VEMTC) Wangaratta for female firefighters on Sunday, April 21.

Fourteen female members of the CFA attended from across four of the North East districts, including three from Murrindindi Shire.

The day started with a meet and greet, followed by a briefing for the day. Once the day's activities were run through, participants suited up in personal protective equipment (PPE) and headed out to the training pad.

The day saw five pad instructors commit their Sunday morning to supporting female CFA members. The CFA thanks Mark Kohler, Ed Martin, James Stephens, John Mahoney and Mick Gidman.

The group was divided into two groups, with one starting at the petrol station prop and the other at the gas impingement shield, where basic pumping was undertaken to supply fog branches.

The scenario on the petrol station prop was focused on a car fire, a rescue and isolating the gas supply and use of a fire extinguisher.

There was instruction on best practices for pumping, water pressure requirements, and connecting to a hydrant.

The groups swapped scenarios over the morning's sessions.

The afternoon session provided the opportunity to take part in an internal search and rescue scenario in the two storey building filled with 'smoke'. Two members had the opportunity to update their breathing apparatus (BA) skills during this scenario.

Great feedback was received from all attendees that it was an informative and educative day, as well as those in attendance having a fun experience together.

The CFA gives thanks to Richie Gardner and the pad operators and again to the pad instructors.

The day was a District 12 Women's Network event to support women firefighters to develop their skills.



The juniors conducting a line search with the SES. -S



The triangle juniors getting a run down about the SES rescue vehicle. -S

Triangle juniors learn what SES has to offer

INSPIRED by Wear Orange Wednesday a fortnight ago, the following week the Triangle juniors CFA group headed over to Marysville to visit the local State Emergency Service.

Members of the SES gave a presentation about the tasks undertaken by the local SES volunteers followed by a look over the rescue vehicle. In somewhat chilly conditions, the juniors were also shown how to conduct a line search.

Triangle juniors meet on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm fortnightly during the school terms. For more information contact trianglejuniors@buxtoncfa.com



Female CFA members extinguishing a fire. -S

More ways to take out the trash

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is pleased to announce the introduction of a new four bin kerbside collection service, starting July 2025. This new service aims to enhance waste management practices, aligning with the Victorian Government's policy requirements to improve recycling services, reduce landfill waste, and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

The four bin service will include the following bins, collected at different frequencies:

A general waste red bin, collected fortnightly; a mixed recycling yellow bin, collected fortnightly; a food and garden organics (FOGO) green bin, collected weekly; and a glass recycling purple bin, collected monthly.

To determine the most suitable service model, council engaged with the community in late 2022, receiving valuable feedback from over 200 residents. The overwhelming support for the four bin service helped shape the design of the service.

Now, council is seeking further input from the community on the finer details of the services, as outlined in the draft Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy. This policy includes proposed changes to collection routes, mandatory zones for the four bin service, optional FOGO service zones, and opt-in options for commercial and industrial properties.

Residents are invited to provide feedback on the draft policy by visiting Murrindindi Shire Council's online engagement platform, The Loop, at the-loop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside

You can also attend a pop-up event or register for an online community conversation session. Feedback closes on Sunday June 23.

Council will provide additional guidance to ensure the community understands these changes and how to adapt to the new collection services when they are introduced next year.

Council's Sustainability, Assets and Emergency Management Portfolio Councillor, Karine Haslam, said, "Council is preparing to transition to a four bin collection service from mid-2025. We aren't alone in this change, with all other Victorian councils required to introduce four stream household disposal system in line with the state government's policy.

"While we've decided on the format and frequency of our kerbside collection services, based on feedback gathered from the community in late 2022, we'd like to see what our community thinks about some of the finer details outlined in our Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy.

"This policy will guide the roll out of the four-bin services so it's important we get valuable feedback from our residents to make sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible.

"We're also planning a comprehensive education campaign to help our community make the most of the new kerbside collection services. We are excited to move our shire closer towards a circular economy, for the benefit of our community and the environment," Ms Haslam said.

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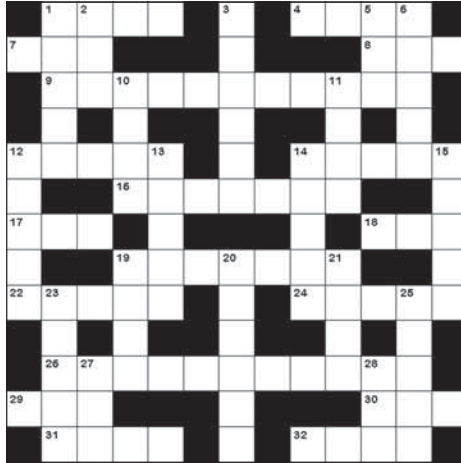
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 21

Crossword

ACROSS

1. A small enclosure for sheep.
4. Part of a three-piece suit.
7. Set of enforceable rules.
8. A slippery, viscous liquid.
9. Aggressive and argumentative.
12. The absence of war.
14. A mock attack.
16. The male ruler of an empire.
17. Apply pressure and friction.
18. A mongrel dog.
19. Concerned only with yourself.
22. Declare under oath.
24. Having a mouth-watering flavour.
26. An accomplished fact.
29. A geological period.
30. Not new.
31. Torn part of a ticket held as a receipt.
32. Green semiprecious gemstone.



DOWN

1. A story about legendary persons.
2. Be obliged to pay.
3. Waggle and squirm.
5. A male descendant.
6. Person of great strength or achievement.
10. Add a dash of spirits to a drink.
11. At all times.
12. The sounds of a contented cat.
13. A glowing piece of wood left from a fire.
14. Force onto another.
15. Running late.
19. Ribbon worn around the waist.
20. Intensely passionate.
21. Healthy and robust.
23. Erodes from long use.
25. The name of a book.
27. Common fluffy household pet.
28. A sign of agreement.

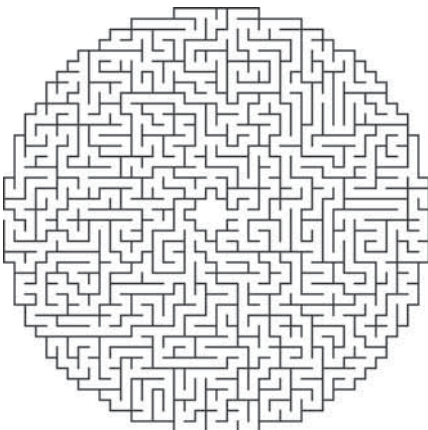
Word Search

JUNE 8
WORLD OCEAN'S DAY

- CRAB SHARK
- DOLPHIN SQUID
- EEL STINGRAY
- LOBSTER TUNA
- OCEAN WALRUS
- SEAWEED WHALE

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

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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.

Cryptogram

ABORIGINAL WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25				15				1								23							8		

20 A A A : A A E
 20 25 3 3 25 4 25 25 4 25 12 19 15 7



Aunty Lee Healy did the Welcome to Country at Buxton Primary School. -S

Celebrating National Reconciliation Week 2024

BUXTON Primary School hosted a memorable event to celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2024 in partnership with Murrindindi Shire Council.

The event, held at Buxton Primary School, was a day filled with learning and celebration. The program included a heartfelt message from Mayor Damien Gallagher and Principal Sarah Irving, Welcome to Country from Aunty Lee Healy, a song performed in Language by the talented students, a guided tour of the Warrk Warrk Trail, and a delightful morning tea.

The participation in this event is part of council's ongoing efforts to respect and celebrate the cultural heritage of our First Nations Peoples. Council is grateful for the community's support and looks forward to future events that promote reconciliation.

In 2018, Taungurung language and culture became the Language Other Than English (LOTE) program at Buxton Primary School. The students use Taungurung language daily in class for greetings, acknowledgements, and other learning tasks. This school community fosters a strong understanding of, and connection to, the Taungurung concept of custodianship of the land.

For information on Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/reconciliation or call 5772 0333.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "National Reconciliation Week is an opportunity to learn, to grow and to understand. Our goal is to progress together in harmony. This year's theme is timely, 'Now, more than ever'.

"The learning opportunities for young people in Buxton are outstanding and the strong collaboration between Principal Sarah Irving and Aunty Lee Healy is to be celebrated.

"In the spirit of reconciliation, council acknowledges the thousands of years of stewardship by the First Nations Peoples over the air, water, and land that we now know as Murrindindi Shire. This week, in particular, we pay respect to generations of Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung elders, as the keepers of culture and identity of the longest thriving civilisation on earth.

"I am heartened by the enthusiastic community participation in the National Reconciliation Week events throughout the shire in 2024 and the active efforts of so many to realise our community's vision of vibrancy, resilience, diversity and inclusivity."



Yea Primary School students attended the event and were interested in the QR codes on the Warrk Trail at school. -S



Mayor Damien Gallagher was present at the Reconciliation Week event. -S



Two of the horses housed at Gunyah. -AR



A 13 year old sheep. -AR



One of the turkeys at the property. -AR

Gunyah sanctuary calls for donations

GUNYAH Animal Healing Sanctuary, a haven for animals in need, is facing a critical financial crisis and is at risk of shutting its doors permanently.

Established 24 years ago by Kathy Munslow, Gunyah has single-handedly provided a loving home and essential care to over 70 rescued animals, many of whom have come from traumatic situations.

The sanctuary, like many charitable organisations, has been severely impacted by inflated costs of living over the past few years. The effects being felt in both increases in costs to run the sanctuary, in conjunction with the decrease in donations from public supporters.

Donations dropped significantly after supporters started feeling the financial strains of inflation, and despite efforts to cut costs and prioritise essential items, Gunyah is struggling to meet its financial obligations, as vet bills, volunteer support and sanctuary infrastructure have become increasingly difficult to action due to budget restrictions.

The team of amazing volunteers developed a website, created sponsorship opportunities,

and Gunyah merchandise, which have brought in much-needed funds, however, it's not enough.

Without immediate intervention, the sanctuary may be forced to close, leaving its 70 plus hoofed, feathered, and human residents without a home and care. The sanctuary needs to raise a minimum of \$60,000 per year to cover feed and nutrients for the animals, vet bills, and infrastructure. A figure that the sanctuary has fallen short of since the pandemic.

Struggling with her own health issues, Kathy expressed her deep concern, stating, "I can't even bring myself to think about animals going without essentials or Gunyah having to wind up after helping animals in need every single day for the past 24 years."

Gunyah is making a heartfelt appeal to the community for support. A small donation, equivalent to the cost of a cup of coffee a month, can make a significant difference in keeping the sanctuary operational. All donations, whether one-time or recurring, are greatly appreciated and will help ensure that Gunyah can continue its vital work.



Kathy with one of the horses. -AR

To donate and learn more about Gunyah Animal Healing Sanctuary, visit gunyah.org

The sanctuary is also introducing Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities for businesses to join Gunyah in making a positive impact on the lives of animals in need.

Kathy said, "Our passionate supporters already go above and beyond to donate what

they can. However, I believe that there are businesses out there that share our passion for animals. I also believe our team can provide social and financial benefits in return, as we believe in supporting those who support us."

For more information on corporate sponsorships, visit: gunyah.org/corporate-sponsorship/



A turkey posing for the camera. -AR



Kathy Munslow. -AR



A happy pig. -AR



Another of the turkeys. -AR



One of the many goats at Gunyah. -AR



One of the miniature ponies. -AR

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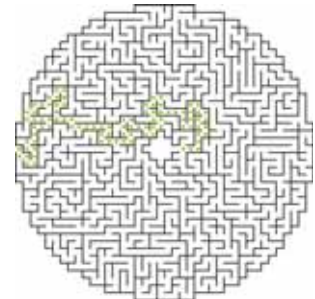
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E	R	A		I		O	L	D	
S	T	U	B		J	A	D	E	

MAZE



SUDOKU

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

CRYPTOGRAM

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

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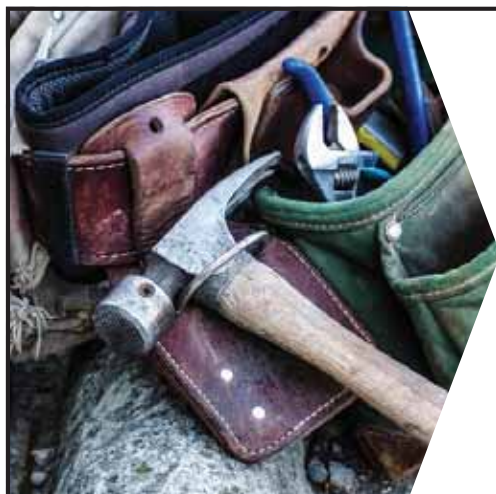
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BOARD, Ian Craig

18/12/1962 –
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FUNERAL NOTICES

BOARD, Ian

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Ian will be held on Friday, June 14, 2024.

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The Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the guild clubrooms, McKenzie Street, Alexandra. All welcome. Any business items must be in writing and submitted to the secretary no later than Tuesday, June 4, 2024 which is seven days prior to the AGM.

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Changing the laws and culture

VICTORIA has implemented all 227 recommendations of the Royal Commission to family violence. Reforms include opening 36 Orange Doors, providing immediate and simple access for women escaping violence and establishing the nation's first dedicated prevention agency, Respect Victoria.

Announced last week, a new package of reforms will change laws, change culture and deliver new support for victim survivors when they need it most.

The package will drive action at every stage by better responding to victims when violence occurs, delivering a stronger justice response that holds offenders to account, and continuing Victoria's world leading prevention response, stopping violence before it starts.

The Victorian Government will implement changes to ensure Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIOs) keep victim survivors safe for as long as they need, and avoid the retraumatising steps of reappearing in court. Currently, most FVIOs are between six and 12 months long. Victims can be required to return to court, retraumatising them in the process.

The government will introduce a presumption of a new minimum length for FVIOs, providing enduring protection for victim survivors. It'll put the focus on perpetrators and their behaviour, instead of requiring victims to prove they're not safe, again and again.

The government will also make changes to the service of FVIOs, so that protection can start sooner and putting a stop to perpetrators who deliberately avoid being served.

The government will work with Victoria Police and the courts on a proposal to give police the power to issue longer family violence safety notices.

The stalking offence will be changed as informed by the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Stalking Report and improvements will be implemented to Personal Safety Intervention Orders, with legislative changes to be introduced into the parliament in 2025.

Advice will be sought from the Judicial College and Sentencing Advisory Council regarding guidance for magistrates on sentencing for breaches of FVIOs to ensure they are responding to community expectations.

When it comes to changing our culture, building on the recommendations of the Royal Commission, the government will deliver new action to stop violence before it starts.

The Respectful Relationships curriculum is delivering age appropriate lessons to students in all Victorian government schools and many non government schools, promoting respect and healthy relationships early.

More intensive training and support for staff across 1199 schools will be provided, and all remaining non-government schools will be invited to join, supported by startup funding and professional learning.

This in hope will counter the influence of Andrew Tate types by making sure more boys and young men have the right role models to build positive behaviours, expanding the Modelling Respect and Equality (MoRE) program.

Already being piloted in 100 schools, the program will be rolled out to 240 more, delivering intensive training to help 'MoRE Champions' establish a culture of healthy masculinity, as part of Respectful Relationships.

New learning resources will also be developed to help schools teach kids how to safely navigate online, providing age appropriate lesson plans on toxic masculinity, hate speech, pornography and coercive control. This will help parents and carers too by delivering more advice and resources from trusted sources.

Mandatory training will also be added to Victoria's RSA training requirements, teaching staff how to identify and prevent sexual assault and harassment in venues.

Respect Victoria will also launch a new advertising education campaign later this year, aimed at promoting healthy attitudes among boys and young men, including a strong focus on social media.

The best way to keep victim survivors safe is to keep perpetrators in view, so perpetrator accountability will be strengthened with a boost in case management, and more follow ups after behaviour change programs to make sure men who complete these programs are not lost to the system.

Building on existing efforts to keep women safe in their homes, the government are also supporting a 'Safe at Home' pilot by McAuley Community Services for Women, providing rapid safety planning and wrap around support to help women who are at risk of becoming homeless due to family violence.

A boost to the Personal Safety Initiative will support more victim survivors with measures such as home alarms, security assessments, external lighting, locks, fencing upgrades, security screens and personal duress alarms.

Where women can't stay safely in the home, the community housing sector will be able to draw funding under the Commonwealth's \$1 billion National Housing Infrastructure Facility, for crisis and transitional accommodation for women and children fleeing family violence, including more core and cluster models.

The government will also improve and upgrade the Central Information Point, which is an Australian first that consolidates information about a perpetrator of family violence into a single report, making the system easier and faster to use, so hardworking family violence workers can get the information they need sooner.

This package will deliver a new Justice Navigator pilot to make sure survivors of sexual assault can easily navigate support, recovery and justice options.

It will also deliver increased therapeutic support for children and young people to help with healing and recovery, alongside a boost in targeted legal services for victim survivors from communities who face additional barriers, like multicultural and First Nations families.

These new announcements build on reforms while accelerating efforts to drive down violence. The third Rolling Action Plan under *Ending Family Violence: Victoria's 10 Year Plan for Change* will be released later in 2024.

A Ministerial Action Working Group will continue to examine how to further keep women and children safe. The government will also continue to work through National Cabinet to deliver nationwide change.

Make a lifesaving impact in Eildon



The Ambulance Community Officer (ACO) recruitment afternoon, held at the Eildon Community Centre. -S

ON Saturday, June 1, Ambulance Victoria (AV) hosted an Ambulance Community Officer (ACO) recruitment afternoon at the Eildon Community Centre.

An engaging session was presented as attendees were informed about the important role ACOs play in community healthcare and boosting the

town's capacity to respond quickly to emergencies.

ACO's are first responders, who are employed on a casual basis to work 'on call' in rural and remote communities where the ambulance caseload is low and the ambulance branch is not staffed by multiple paramedics on a full-time basis.

They are trained to provide advanced first aid, support qualified paramedics and perform early interventions that can be critical in stabilizing patients during transport to hospital.

ACO's are indispensable members of their communities and play a vital role by providing

essential pre-hospital emergency care and support.

For members of the community that missed the session and have an interest in becoming an Ambulance Community Officer, more information can be found at ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder

Daylight shines on drink driving

ACCORDING to new Victoria Police analysis one in five drink drivers fined in Victoria was caught during daylight hours and half of the detections were on a weekday.

The force is warning police are out anywhere, any time to make sure motorists aren't over the limit. It comes amid a danger month on Victoria's roads with 29 people killed in May last year with alcohol a contributor in multiple deaths. So far this May, 12 people have died.

Figures show about 1200 of the near 4900 drivers caught drink driving in the last financial year were nabbed between 6am and 6pm and more than 400 were caught between 6am and noon alone.

Victoria Police has been scheduling special daytime and early morning operations to keep drink drivers on their toes and remind all drivers police are out testing for alcohol anywhere, any time. The force conducts three million breath tests every year.

Not only do police deploy their booze bus fleet statewide but every police car also has breath testing capability.

The analysis show the night, 6pm to midnight, remains the most prolific time for drink drivers on the road with 1900 detected followed by midnight to 6am when almost 1800 were caught.

Saturday accounts for the most detections of any day with 1200 ahead of Sunday, Friday and Thursday.

About 400 drink drivers were caught on a Monday and 350 on a Tuesday.

Most drink drivers fined, more than 40 per cent, recorded a blood alcohol content between 0.07 and 0.10. About a third blew between 0.05 and 0.07.

Anyone caught drink driving faces heavy fines and a loss of licence. First-time drink drivers alone face a \$577 fine and being disqualified from driving for three months even for low level readings.

Figures analysed, covering July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 included only drink drivers who received a fine, which applied for readings up to 0.15.

Those with higher readings must go to court where a magistrate imposes a fine and driving disqualification period. About a quarter of all fatal crashes involve a driver or rider over the legal blood alcohol limit of 0.05.

Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir, Road Policing Command said, "People might think drink driving is something that only occurs after dark but this data shows there's a lot of offending in the day. That's why police are out breath testing motorists around the clock.

"If you think you can run the gauntlet, be it day or night, think again...The consequences of a being involved in a crash are even more serious and last a lifetime. Drinking and driving simply isn't worth the risk."

Ensuring no drop in drop bear populations

THE National Koala Monitoring Program (NKMP) includes people from all over Australia, working together to monitor and help native koalas.

The program is a partnership between the CSIRO and the Australian Government, with the latter providing funding of \$10 million over four years for the program.

Two apps are used in the NKMP to monitor the koala population, both by citizens and researchers. The *Koala Counter* app is used for collecting survey data, while *Koala Spotter* is an app that is used for reporting koala sightings.

The program engages community, citizen scientists, First Nations people and researchers.

Quantitative biologist and CSIRO senior research scientist Andrew Hoskins leads the program. He spoke to the ABC about the benefits of getting the community involved in monitoring native koalas.

"Everybody knows what a koala looks like. They're really easy to identify, but they're really hard to spot. This makes monitoring them even harder," Mr Hoskins said.

"It's super exciting to work on a national-scale program that allows people to provide information in a useful and usable way that then we as scientists can make best use of to inform conservation of such an iconic species.

"[Working with citizen scientists] is efficient and it's also really inclusive because it lets anybody access and contribute information to the program in a meaningful way."

Data from the program can be used to inform local koala management strategies.

For more information on the National Koala Monitoring Program, visit nkmp.org.au/



Koalas are sighted and reported by the public in the National Koala Monitoring Program, which then helps with keeping the population safe and vibrant. -Ethan Brooke

Adult men make up more than half of injury hospitalisations

THIS story contains information some readers may find distressing as it refers to data about self harm and deaths by suicide.

Adult Australian men made up more than half of both injury hospitalisations and emergency department injury presentations during 2021-22, new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows.

Injuries affecting men in Australia: A closer look, examines injuries in adult men aged 19 and over in 2021-22, as well as 10 year trends since 2012-13. It explores injury rates and comparisons across demographic groups and geographical areas, identifying the main cause of injuries in each group. It also identifies specific causes that predominantly affect men compared to women and examines three causes in more detail which includes, contact with objects, transport and intentional self harm.

In 2021-22, there were almost 239,000 injury hospitalisations among adult men, this is 54 per cent of all injury hospitalisations, and 8700 injury related deaths. Falls (84,139)

caused the most injury hospitalisations overall in 2021-22, comprising 35 per cent of all injury hospitalisations. This was followed by contacts with objects (19 per cent) and transport (14 per cent).

Rates of injury hospitalisations during 2021-22 were highest among men aged 75 and over (5600 per 100,000) than any other age group.

"Among adults in Australia in 2021-22, men represented 56 per cent of all injury presentations to emergency departments (671,000 cases)," AIHW spokesperson Dr Sarah Ahmed said.

"This higher rate of injury can be explained at least in part by the fact that men are more likely to engage in risk taking behaviours and activities."

Rates of injury presentations to emergency departments were highest among men aged 19-24 than in any other age group (10,600 per 100,000), followed by men aged 75 and over (7800) and men aged 25-44 (nearly 7400).

Contact with objects caused between 36,600 and 48,900 hospitalisations yearly over the past decade. Age-standardised rates increased from 428 per 100,000 in 2012-13 to 485 in 2021-22. Injuries caused by objects primarily occurred while working and were most frequent in the home.

"Contact with tools and machinery represented 30 per cent of injuries from contact with objects in men, and was also the leading cause of object related injury in men aged 45 and over," Dr Ahmed said.

"Men were over three times more likely than women to be hospitalised for injuries caused by contact with objects."

About 80 per cent of all object related injury hospitalisations comprised contact with tools and machinery, contact with knives, glass and other sharp objects and contact with blunt objects such as doors, walls, trees, rocks and sporting equipment.

The three most common cause of injury hospitalisation due to tools and machinery

involved contact with non powered hand tools (2119), powered saw (2087) and powered grinder (1972).

"The number of injury hospitalisations caused by falls has steadily increased since 2012-13. The age standardised rate increased from 673 to 790 injury hospitalisations per 100,000 adult men," Dr. Ahmed said.

Among adult men, those aged 19-24 were most likely to be hospitalised for transport injuries. For motorcycle riders, the injury rate was highest in men aged 19 to 24 (close to 200 injuries per 100,000) and decreased with age.

Intentional self-harm caused over 7,500 hospitalisations in adult men in 2021-22 and 2300 deaths. It represented the seventh leading cause of injury hospitalisation in men and the second most common cause of injury death behind falls (3013).

If you or someone you know needs mental health assistance you can contact Lifeline on 131 114, MenLine Australia on 1300 789 978, and Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636.

Murrindindi Shire Council set to change ward boundaries

THE ward boundaries for ten Victorian councils will be altered in time for the 2024 elections following a review by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), and Murrindindi Shire Council is part of the new changes.

The state government has accepted the VEC's final reports and recommendations, ensuring fair and equitable representation through the new ward boundary arrangements.

Under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the number of voters per councillor in a ward should not vary by more than 10 per cent from the average number of voters per councillor for all of the wards.

In February, the VEC advised that 10 councils were projected to have at least one ward with councillor to voter ratio imbalances at the time of the October 2024 elections.

In April, in accordance with section 17 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Minister for Local Government asked the VEC to conduct ward boundary reviews for these councils.

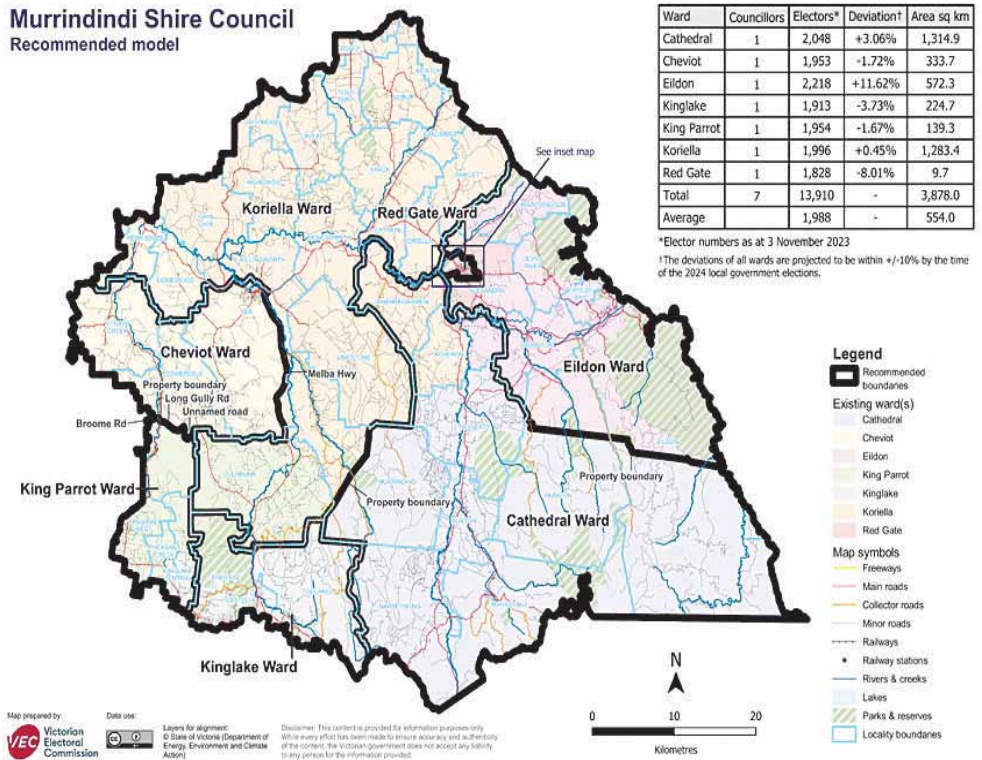
The VEC's reviews have been completed in time to allow for candidates and the VEC to implement the necessary planning ahead of the general elections in October this year.

The 10 councils that will alter their ward boundaries include Bass Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Boroondara City Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Greater Dandenong City Council, Loddon Shire Council, Murrindindi Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, and Wellington Shire Council.

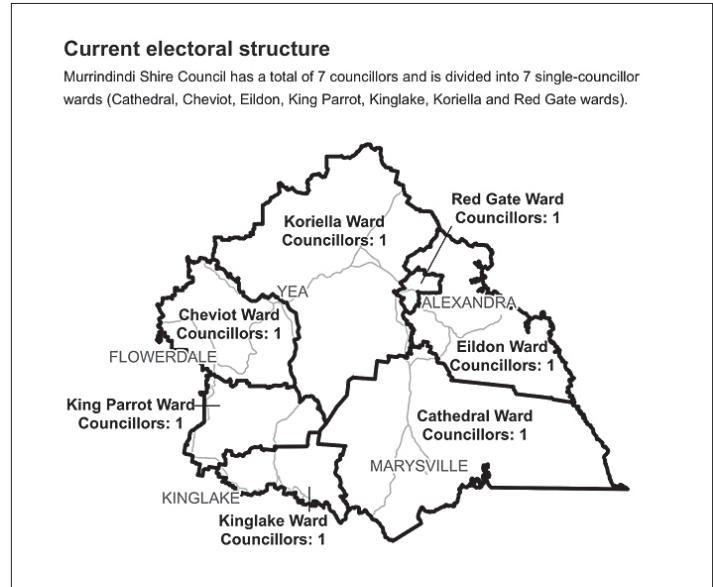
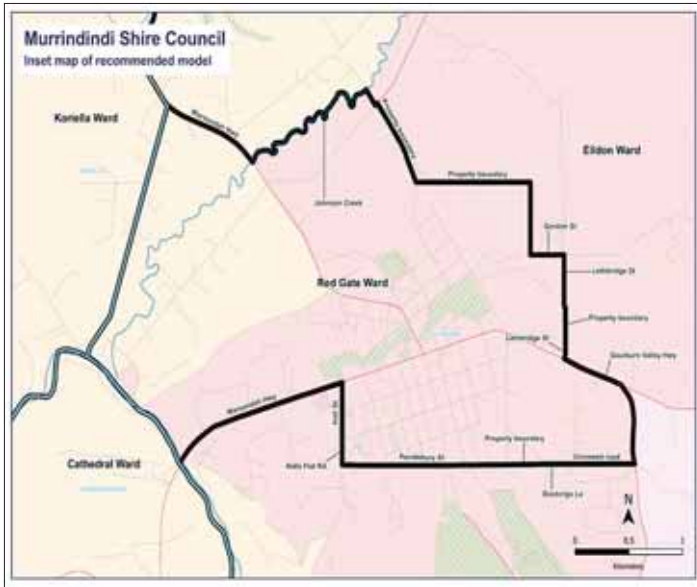
The ward boundary details are available at localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-governance

Appendix 1: Map of recommended model

Murrindindi Shire Council Recommended model



The map of the recommended model for Murrindindi Shire Council boundary changes. -S



The current electoral structure. -S



Rhiannon Sandford. -S

Molesworth local wins agriculture scholarship

RURALBIZ Training is delighted to announce that Molesworth local Rhiannon Sandford has secured a full-fee scholarship to undertake the AHC50116 Diploma of Agriculture with RuralBiz Training (RTO 90782).

RuralBiz Training offer nationally accredited, flexible online training designed specifically for farmers, and have a range of agriculture-related courses on offer. Rhiannon and her husband Conrad began farming four years ago on a property that they lease from their family. They have a commercial Angus herd, currently joining 110 cows and heifers.

Rhiannon's passion for agriculture and sustainable land management was evident in her application, as was her desire to improve her farm business management skills.

Rhiannon said: "Growing up watching Mum on the farm, it embedded in me a

deep respect for the role of farmers in land management, and the belief that farmers deserve recognition for this.

"I wanted to promote this stewardship and went on to work alongside agriculture in Landcare and Natural Resource management. Increasingly, I find myself drawn back to agriculture but lacking knowledge and skills.

"Now, working on the farm and trying to make sustainable and viable farm decisions, RuralBiz's Diploma of Ag offers immense opportunity to improve our farm business and at the same time strengthen my understanding, planning and business acumen to seek an ongoing role in Australian agriculture."

Only two scholarships are awarded each year and applications are very competitive Australia wide, with only students who are living in outer regional, rural and remote areas being eligible to apply.

The second scholarship was awarded to Ms Darcie-Lee Ashton from Cloncurry, Queensland.

Sarah Mosley, CEO of RuralBiz Training said, "For years we have been developing flexible, self-paced learning opportunities designed specifically for farmers who don't have the time, or resources to leave the farm to pursue further education so we have developed our courses, so they don't have to.

"We are thrilled to welcome Rhiannon as a scholarship recipient, her passion for agriculture and sustainable land management is representative of the kind of students we have, and we look forward to watching Rhiannon develop her farm management skills as she studies with us over the next two years."

Strong results for Alexandra Juniors

by Ray Steyger

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams returned to Rebel Park for round seven of the 2024 season, hosting Tahbilk and Broadford Euroa in football while the Black and Red netball teams hosted Tahbilk, Broadford and St Marys teams. The under nine and 10s football had games with Tahbilk but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

Under 12

Alexandra 14.13 – 97 defeated Tahbilk 2.0 – 12

Penstock Pastoral: Nicholas Benson; Essence Coffee Lounge: Dusty Fitzpatrick; FoodWorks: Logan Reid; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Nathan Webb; Coach: Harish Balansag.

Under 14

Alexandra 2.11 – 23 defeated by Tahbilk 4.7 – 31

North Central Construction: Aiden Campbell; Essence Coffee Lounge: Levi Campbell; FoodWorks: Aleksander Powell; Alex Bakery and Café: Jayd Bennett; Coach: Fletcher Van Lierop.

Under 16

Alexandra 14.11 – 95 defeated Broadford 3.3 – 21

Nutrien Harcourts: Will Granter; Essence Coffee Lounge: Xavier Keenan; FoodWorks: Jesse Winch; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Matt Wal; Coach: Will Ross.

Netball

Under 11

Alexandra Red 14 defeated St Marys 8
FoodWorks: Delilah Van Lierop; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ashleigh Francis, Coach: Jayde Stewart and Lila Friswell.

Under 13

Alexandra Red 22 defeated St Marys 18
FoodWorks: Bella Twitchett; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Eadie Gibson, Miljkovic Family: Ivy Miljkovic.

Under 15

Alexandra Red 49 defeated St Marys 3
FoodWorks: Abby Miljkovic; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Zoe Mullins, Miljkovic Family: Nikita Lyttle.

Under 11

Alexandra Black 2 defeated by Tahbilk 16
FoodWorks: Lilian Savage; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Havana Fereday, Coach: Bella Lamaro.

Under 13

Alexandra Black 26 defeated Tahbilk 10
FoodWorks: Ella Palmer; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Koa Parker; Coach: Chloe Woehl;

Under 15

Alexandra Black 25 defeated by Broadford 31
FoodWorks: Ashlee Collett; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Cassie Kidd; Coach: Ashlyn Newman.

The club gives a very big thank you to the above award sponsors for their continued support of junior footballers and netballers in 2024.

Next Sunday, the Alexandra junior football and netball teams have a league Bye for the long weekend. The club is operating a hospitality venue at Rotary Park so if anyone can assist please contact Ray Steyger.

The following weekend, Sunday June 16, the junior football and Alexandra Black netball teams travel to Broadford, Alexandra Red netball teams travel to Yea and the under 16 football team travels to Seymour.

If anyone can assist with the canteen on home games during the season please speak to Melissa Crane to go on the roster.



Alexandra under 12 player Charlie Broadway kicking the ball. -S



Bailey Baiston (presumably) just having kicked the ball. Or doing ballet. -S



Matthew Waxiel chasing the ball in the Alexandra under 16s category. -S



The under nine's pack chasing the ball. -S



Do you think the Seymour player had enough pressure from the Alexandra under nines? -S



Eli Weeks reaching out to catch the ball, with huge pressure from behind. -S



Alexandra junior netball players moving the ball. -S



This looks like piggy in the middle, but it's actually the Alexandra junior netballers passing the ball down the field. -S



Going for the shot in junior netball. -S

SPORT

Intense Squash pennant results



James G scrambles for the ball versus Charlie. S

By Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Eels versus Redfins

JAMES G versus Charlie: James held better court position in the first two games before Charlie began hitting longer to steal the momentum and the next two games. In the final minutes James went for a comeback but couldn't reign in the deficit leaving Charlie the winner. 60 to 54.

Justin versus Daniel W: A true battle. No one led by more than three points at any time. Justin snuck ahead in the end to win the match. 61 to 59.

Daniel K versus John: Daniel was on fire again. Not even the 'ever reliable' John could douse the flames. Daniel had all the tricks and pin point accuracy at his disposal to cruise to victory. 78 to 47.

Cods versus Yabbies

Kelly versus Lee: Great rallies and sneaky shots by both players. Kelly ended the match holding a few more points to take the match. 62 to 46.

Jared versus Pep: Pep's experience got the best of Jared in the first three games. Although Jared got the last game, he couldn't quite get the win. Pep was victorious. 58 to 56.

Jim versus Andrew: Jim found the zone and punished Andrew's wayward shots for the first three games. With only pride to play for, Andrew reversed the script for the final game to claw back twelve points, but the damage had already been done. 65 to 48.

Thursday Comp

Cherry Ripe versus Crunchie

Beth versus Aiden: Claiming the first two games Aiden was not messing around. Beth evened the game three for a draw causing Aiden to come back with a vengeance, taking the last game with a 10 point lead. Aiden

crushed his opponent. 72 to 47.

Kristelle versus Lucas: Both players struggled with their serves against the wet wall. Balls were ricocheting at unexpected angles. Lucas adapted better, taking three games and the match. 69 to 60.

James W versus Michael: The wet walls didn't stop these two from having a cracking match. Michael stole game two, but James was too good overall, winning the match. 68 to 60.

Jaffas versus Smarties

Travis (fill in) versus Sam: Travis took a couple of weeks off which

did not help his game. Both players are improving, but Sam is speeding ahead and it showed in the result. Sam won with an impressive lead. 76 to 52.

Jodie versus Jack: With a player dropping out Jack has stepped up to the plate. Having never seen him play, Jodie didn't know what to expect. Jack didn't disappoint and absolutely thrashed Jodie. 70 to 37.

Ruth (fill in) versus Stuart: A close match with see sawing games. Both players were determined to take the win. Ruth crept ahead to take the win. 63 to 61.

Marysville golfers still active heading into winter

by Lesley Rundle

WHILE the Dalhousie district events have mainly gone into recess, the Saturday syllabus at the club continues throughout the year.

Last Saturday, golfers played a stroke round for the June monthly medal and the ladies round included the fourth and final qualifying round for the Barton Shield. The final will be played on Saturday, September 7. The men's winner was Mark Bambery (24) with nett 71 on a countback from Brian Worcester (19). The ladies winner was Gail Leigh (10) with nett 74 and the runner up was Heather Jenkins (18) with nett 80. The nearest the pins were won by Richie Clark, Ray Jones and Pat Orwin who also won the golden shot. This Saturday both the men and ladies will play a stableford round. Tee off is at 10am and any visitors who are spending the long weekend in the district are welcome to play in the competition.

Last weekend members Jody Doran and Mim Page played in the Golf Australia par three event at Parklands Kyabram. They enjoyed the weekend, the golf and socialising with many ladies from the Dalhousie District and further afield. Members thank Jody and Mim for representing Marysville at this event.

The annual Avenel Plate is on June 13 and five Marysville ladies will be playing in this event. This is the final Dalhousie Ladies Bowl or tournament until early September.

Terip Terip tops the ladder in tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

THICK fog shrouded the courts in Mansfield for the start of both matches last Monday week. Terip and Benalla hosted Seven Creeks and Euroa for a sunnier start.

Players, initially reluctant to leave the warmth of the clubhouse, ventured out and the sun eventually peeped through. By midday blue skies became the backdrop for another glorious day of tennis.

Wappan and Mogloneby worked hard all day in the typically extended contest the Mogloneby women are renowned for. Wappan's Rhonda Carpenter and Kimberley Marsden, playing her first match in the competition, found their range together, winning eight to two against Mary Kelly and Lyn Johnston. Wappan's Anna Speirs and Jenny Bell enjoyed a much longer tussle of baseline hitting against Judy Sands and Marlene Hanrahan who took the set eight to six.

Fun and frivolity filled the contest and Wappan took the next two sets eight to three and eight to five but Mogloneby won the next eight to three. Finishing long after others had left the court, the final lengthy set

ultimately went Wappan's way eight to four for the win 4/41 to 2/30.

In the other match, a home derby between Delatite and Mansfield, Michelle Pigdon, Keira McDonagh, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham were victorious 6/48 to 0/20.

Michelle and Karyn battled it out in hard hitting rallies against each other with Mansfield coming out on top. Delatite had included Natalie Bergsma into their side, and she gained confidence with low fast drives, and with partner Deb McCormack took their set to a tiebreak. Despite a calf injury Keira battled through successfully completing all her sets.

Over in Benalla, Euroa's Chris Ellis, Faye Mollison, Lyndall Bigland, Jenny Tehan and Ruth Nolan put on a master class against Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Helen Checucti and Wendy Maxwell defeating them 5/47 to 1/26.

Terip took all the sets against Seven Creeks 6/48 to 0/20 cementing their top spot with 51 points.

Ladder: Terip 51, Euroa 40, Seven Creeks 40, Benalla 36, Mansfield 35, Creighton's Creek 30, Wappan 27, Mogloneby 19, and Delatite two.

First winter monthly medal at Alexandra

by Elizabeth Goss

IT was good to see John Mosely back on Tuesday, May 28, and in the winning seat with a great (19) 43 points. The runner-up was John Greatorex (19) with 35 points and third was Leo Dynes (20) with 35 points. Nearest the pin on the 18th went to Brad Newton. Ball run down: Bert Newton and Bruce Caldwell and Frank Devries.

Wednesday, May 29, was an Ambrose event for the ladies. The winners were Marg Fahey (22), Julie Lyon (22) and Sandra Morris (54) with a total of 63.6. They were also nearest the pin on the 18th.

The men's June Monthly Medal ended with a draw last Saturday. The winner for the day was Russell Purcell 87 (16) 71 on a countback from the runner-up Jared Sloane 80 (9) 71. Next came Daniel Burns 88 (16) 72 on a countback from Chris Hutchings 90 (18) 72 followed by Luke Heard 75 (2) 73.

Nearest the pin on the second went to Daniel Burns, on the fifth to Russell Purcell, on the seventh to Brendan Smith, on the 12th to Michael Bossonnet and on the 18th to James Kidd. John Steer had the fewest putts with 27. Next Saturday, June 8, is stableford.

Alexandra Seniors smash Yarra Junction



A stunning leap by Jake Keath to mark the ball. -S



Alexandra senior Nathan Georgiadis contesting for the ball. -S



Cooper Phillips charging with the ball for the Alexandra reserves team. -S



Dylan Jack bending over backwards to mark the ball. -S



Alexandra A Grade player Belinda Shaw playing the ball low. -S



Caitlan Haggis reaching for the ball with all her strength. -S

Close match against Seville for Thornton Eildon

by Scott Whitehead

**Thornton/Eildon 1.6 - 12
defeated by Seville 6.4 - 40**

THE Thornton/Eildon Women's Football Team took on Seville last week in women's football at the Thornton Recreation reserve. With both teams yet to score a win for the season and perfect conditions for football the game was set to be a close contest.

Captain and newly crowned member of the Women's Outer East 'Community Bank' team of the week, Rose Kealy, won the toss and elected to kick to the town end before dominating once again in the ruck. Tahnee Heard showed her maturity around the stoppages but was hindered by the new holding the ball interpretation leaving the

free kick count and score in favour of Seville at the end of the first quarter.

Suede Croad returned from a hamstring injury and kicked truly early in the second term reducing the margin to five points. Thornton/Eildon had control of the football for most of the quarter but couldn't capitalise missing two relatively easy shots in general play. The margin at half time was 11 points in the away team's favour.

Imogen Taylor in her first game of football for Thornton/Eildon roughed up her opponents with some impressive "don't argue" that Dusty Martin would be proud of and drove the ball deep toward the home team's forwards but Seville's backline was too experienced and repelled all of Thornton/Eildon's attacks on goal.

Zoe Karditsis was moved into the backline at half time to limit the scoring opportunities for Seville, but the move wasn't enough to stop the opposition who again outscored the home team with two majors to nil.

With injuries and fatigue setting in, the last quarter became a real slog for both teams. Lilly Bossennet continued to enjoy her return to football and was the recipient of some fast ball movement but was unable to convert a set shot at goal. Lilah Galbraith persisted on the wing throughout the day while age was no barrier for Kelly Fitzpatrick who wowed the home team with her fast feet and evasive skill. In the end the margin was far too big for Thornton to reel in seeing them lose by 28 points.

The competition has now hit the halfway mark and while Thornton/Eildon are yet

to hit the winners' list the improvements have been well noted. Opposition teams are often heard saying how hard it is to play Thornton/Eildon and are relieved when the final siren sounds.

Awards this week: Simpsons fuel voucher: Suede Croad; Coaches Award: Imogen Taylor; Club Sport award: Lilly Bossennet; Club Meal voucher: Zoe Lee.

Next week there is a league general Bye and there will be no games.

Training is on Monday and Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Dinner is available on Thursday night at 7.30pm for \$15. If you wish to be a part of the team as a player, supporter or sponsor please follow the Thornton/Eildon District Football and Netball club Facebook page or email tedfnc@outlook.com

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Alexandra Seniors smash Yarra Junction

by Ray Steyger

FOOTBALL

RESERVES

Alexandra 8.10-58 defeated Yarra Junction 6.5-41

ALEXANDRA travelled to Yarra Junction last Saturday for round eight of the Outer East League 2024 division one season. The reserves took to the field with a number of changes, kicking four goals to one in the first quarter with both teams adding a goal in the second quarter in a bruising contest. The Eagles were fierce in their approach, sometimes incurring a yellow card but the Rebels stayed focused and maintained their advantage in an even second half, not rewarded on the scoreboard for their good work.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen: Lachlan Collard; Ampol fuel card: Michael Coombs; Alexandra Hotel: Joshua Crane; Buxton Hotel: Nate Kerle; Sportspower: Thomas Kendall.

Seniors

Alexandra 22.20 - 152 defeated Yarra Junction 4.1 - 25

THE seniors ran out to contest the George Steiner Cup and got the scoreboard ticking over with six goals to one before adding eight unanswered goals in the second quarter to take a handy lead at half time. The Eagles worked hard in the second half but the Rebels were able to run the ball and increase their margin with eight goals to three, Josh Edwards kicking six with Ted Watkin and Will Stewart adding four each.

Awards: Incentives: Josh Edward, Matthew Peric, Harry Kelly and Nathan Georgiadis. Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award: Ross White.

NETBALL

A GRADE won 52 to 46. Incentive: Ellie Hedger; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Caitlan Haggis; Alpine Butchery: Lucy Grage-Perry;

B grade lost 29 to 34. Incentive: Sarah Skehan; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Ellie McDonald; Alpine Butchery: Ash Coombs.

C grade lost 9 to 35. Incentive: Lizzie Butcher; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Brodie Wheelhouse; Alpine Butchery: Emilian Del Conte.

D grade won 28 to 8. Incentive: Maddy Northmore; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Emily Van Lierop.

The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot will be worth \$800 this week so come along and buy some tickets at \$1 each but you need to be at the club rooms at 8pm for the draw, meals available at the junior and senior sittings.

Also last Thursday, club secretary Kylie Cairns presented a cheque for \$2000 to Alexandra RSL President Bob Benghamy which are funds raised at the gate on the Anzac Round when Alexandra hosted Powelltown.

In round nine this week, the Rebels return to Rebel Park and host Seville for two games of football and four games of netball as part of 'Truck Show Weekend,' this being the only fixture in the league played for the weekend, the remaining games played the following Saturday. On Saturday night, the club will have the Dream Team Auction and everyone is invited to come along and enjoy the day and club hospitality. On Sunday they will have a hospitality venue at Rotary Park as part of the truck show. Please contact Ray Steyger to go on the roster.

Thursday night dinners are available after training with main course and sweets, adults \$20 and kids \$15, all are welcome.



Kylie Cairns presented a cheque for \$2000 to Alexandra RSL President Bob Benghamy. -S

Rebels appealing league sanction

THE Outer East Football Netball league, as an affiliate of Australian Football League (AFL) Victoria, took part in the Community Club Sustainability Program (CCSP) salary cap reviews and audit of all 2023 grand finalists across their three divisions.

These reviews were carried out in three stages by AFL Victoria Integrity Officers following the 2023 finals series.

Each of the six clubs were required to provide additional information following stage one of the integrity reviews. At the completion of stage two with further information being submitted, four were found to have satisfied the CCSP criteria, with two clubs required to enter stage three.

The two clubs who entered stage three, were Alexandra Football Netball Club (FNC) and Emerald FNC.

At the completion of stage three, the integrity officer's investigation found that breaches had occurred and submitted a report with these findings to the Outer East Football Netball board for their consideration.

The Outer East Football Netball board, upon considering the recommendations, accepted the findings and charged each club with the breaches. Both clubs then attended disciplinary hearings, to answer the charges related to breaches of the CCSP rules.

The disciplinary hearings took place on Monday, May 6. Both clubs were represented at the hearings, to respond to the charges. Following the hearings, the disciplinary hearing Panel found that Alexandra Football Netball Club (FNC) had breached rule 4 b ii and 2 a i. For the former, Alexandra FNC was issued with a reprimand and for the latter,

they were fined \$40,000 of which \$15,000 was suspended for three years, pending continuing compliance with the rules, as well as losing four premierships points for the 2024 season.

Emerald FNC were also found to have breached rule 2 a i and were fined \$8000, as well as receiving reprimands for two other rule breaches.

Rule 2 a i states, 2. Player payments not to exceed allowable player payments; a. subject to any guidelines that may be issued from time to time or in any particular case by the Outer East Football Netball; (i) a club shall not in any football year, give or provide to or apply for the benefit of, or offer to give or provide to or apply for the benefit of, any player or any associate of a player any player payments or cause or offer to cause any player payments to be so given, provided

or applied if the aggregate of all the player payments given, provided or applied by the club or any associate of a club, would exceed the allowable player payments for that club for that football year.

If Outer East Football Netball accept the Disciplinary Hearing Panel's findings and the clubs will be penalised as outlined above.

Outer East Football Netball said that they "have committed to supporting all club volunteers in administering the CCSP, so potential breaches are identified early and addressed accordingly before any audit takes place. It is our role to support and assist clubs."

It is understood that Alexandra FNC has lodged an appeal against the decision, and that there may have been a misunderstanding of the rules and regulations.