



Dangerous storms impacted the Murrindindi Shire area on Tuesday, February 13. This large tree fell on the Maroondah Highway between Alexandra and Acheron. It was one of a great many trees which fell in the area, impacting power supply, as well as phone and internet services. -AR

Storms cause havoc across shire

PETER Weeks, Alexandra SES Controller, was asked how busy the SES had been during last week and he responded with a laugh, "Very."

Two storm fronts came through on Tuesday afternoon. The first built up very quickly, across about an hour, so there was little warning. A lot of lightning was associated with the front, particularly around Wandong and Yea, and certainly a lot of wind.

The top speed measured by the Eildon fire tower was 119k/h and at Mt Wombat, it was 120k/h. Most towns in the shire lost power due to trees falling on powerlines. There were issues right across the Victorian electricity grid, largely due to the failure of six transmission towers.

One house on Whanregarwen Road lost its roof during the storms, landing in a paddock beside the house. Another house in Gobur lost about 50 tiles off the roof.

There were also about 100 trees down on roads and driveways just at Terip Terip, on Yarck Road and Gobur-Kanumbra Road, through to Top Road. Creightons Creek Road was closed due to the number of trees down.

Marysville SES were kept busy with tree clearing, and VicRoads contractors cleared trees at Buxton, Narbethong, Taggerty, Acheron, and between Molesworth and Yea on the Melba Highway.

The Alexandra SES cleared trees predominantly around Alexandra and up on the Yarck Road. The Alexandra and Yarck CFAs assisted the SES with jobs locally.

The Alexandra SES also assisted council with power for their radio communications.

Peter estimated that by Thursday afternoon, they had done about 25 jobs locally due to the storms, but jobs were still coming in.

They had contingencies in place with the council to provide relief centres if needed. They spoke with the council and they provided WiFi and internet at the Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake offices, and also people were able to charge their phones at those locations.

The CFA also provided phone charging at Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Eildon.

Fortunately, there were no injuries or vehicle accidents during the storms of their aftermath. They were called to a steep angle rescue in Gooram, but it turned out that the vehicle had been there for a few days.

There were also many trees down around the Limestone area, and Peter commented, "Council assisted us greatly with all of the council roads."

Powerlines came down on Halls Flat Road, which kept the power off at Alexandra Secondary School for an additional day, along with homes in that area.

For most people in Alexandra, the power came back on at about 12.45am on Thursday morning. For most people in Yea, the power resumed at 7pm on Wednesday, but some parts of Yea remained without power for longer.

Speaking on Thursday, Peter said, "There are a lot of places around the district that still don't have power."

One of the challenges was that it was hard to get through to the power company to report issues.

Peter said, "The biggest issue was that the mobile phone towers and the NBN all lost power because the batteries went flat. We had radio communications set up between the hospital, the SES, the radio station and the CFA. It was something that we put together after the 2009 bushfires. Our landlines continued to work, the old copper landlines, enabling us to continue to provide internet. We were also using satellite for WiFi."

"We also lost our local CFA, police, SES and ambulance base station. We were relying on more distant base stations to provide coverage, but we've got our own radio system locally that we used, so that got us out of trouble."

"We were also monitoring the UHF CB radio. We put that in place locally on Wednesday when the phones all went down. We monitored that overnight, in case people had a Triple Zero emergency where they couldn't use their phone, so we had radio communications with the emergency services in Melbourne so we could provide support for anyone who was in trouble," Peter said.

"We could see it all happening slowly and it all fell over. It didn't surprise me in the slightest that it happened, so we were fairly well prepared for it. When it happens, it throws everyone into panic because all of a sudden, their phones don't work. You know what people are like with their phones these days. It's like their umbilical cord."

The Alexandra SES also supplied the Alexandra Hospital with a satellite phone for emergency communications, and Yea Hospital received a satellite phone from the SES region.

SP Ausnet had 204,000 customers off at the peak across their area, and on Wednesday morning, it was still 188,000.

The SES Hume region said that Alexandra SES was one of the busiest in the area during and after the storm.

Advice for the future

Peter's advice for a similar circumstance in the future was that people have a battery powered FM radio with spare batteries, or listen to their car radio. All of the information was being provided via UGFM. It was vital for getting the information out.

Peter also suggested that a CB radio can be a good back-up when phones go down. Having an emergency kit is advisable, which can cover you for at least three days. It might include water, food and batteries. The SES website provides further ideas about what to include in an emergency kit.

Petrol can also be a problem, as bowsers won't work unless the petrol station has a generator. People can keep fuel in reserve but it doesn't last well so it can be cycled through the lawnmower, for example.

Having cash on hand is also important for such situations, as phone and internet outages can mean that people are unable to pay using cards, including for fuel where the petrol stations have generators.

Standard The Xtra Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au
43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

PUBLISHERS

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material. Print Post Approved - PP 10000292

Independently owned and operated and in no way associated with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire



Letters to the Editor

Shire survey

ON Tuesday afternoon, February 13, a couple of hours after I had lost all power and internet connectivity, I received a designated spam call on my mobile phone. Normally I just let these calls ring out and they never recall, but in this instance, I answered the call.

The caller, a woman, indicated she was calling from National Field Services and was conducting a survey on behalf of

Murrindindi Shire Council. I eloquently and quickly terminated her call.

I'd suggest to the shire, its executives and councillors, that they give no weight to any survey results obtained by a designated scam phone call.

They ought to be considered silly, inaccurate and frivolous when obtained by a designated scam caller, and simply a waste of resources.

John Kennedy, Yea

[The community were advised of the phone survey on Facebook and in the February 7 edition of this newspaper. -Ed]

Weather

AT 5pm on Tuesday, February 13, I was on the outskirts of Yea heading home to Alexandra from Melbourne and driving in some of the worst weather conditions I have endured in many summers. I mused in forlorn hope, surely it can't get much worse than this. It did.

The weather gods decided to unleash upon us its Armageddon as the second front hit with bloody minded volatile vengeance. Mayhem followed as we were brought to a standstill.

Bloody hell, what next? In a heartbeat, the best of spontaneous community spirit was on display and not just the once but on two occasions the road was cleared of fallen trees by unsung heroes with chainsaw, pick-ups and tow ropes. With many willing bodies, strong arms, an unswerving commitment to beat the prevailing odds, a bunch of dyed in the wool, red-blooded Aussie blokes did, they beat the odds. Many stranded, worried, threatened and emotionally tired motorists were freed, got moving, arriving home safely to their families.

The following day, as the aftermath dawned and was pitifully realised with no power, phone services and communication networks all out on mass, I was called into the UGFM studio to assist logistically in

keeping our community regularly informed as a State Emergency Broadcaster. The ensuing qualified authority advice throughout the day was consistent: the power will be out for two, three maybe four days, such is the structural devastation to the six power transmission towers at Anakie.

In fact, Victorian Emergency Management Commissioner, Rick Nugent, warned it could potentially take up to a week for some houses and businesses to get their power back.

That afternoon, I relocated back to Melbourne until power was restored, with an expectation of returning home, possibly, on the weekend.

At 3.03am on Thursday morning, my iPhone pings with an SMS message from AusNet Good news. The power for my NMI had been restored.

How can that be? The short answer is simple, we were hoodwinked and that is putting it civilly. We, our broader community were summarily ejected from the energy grid.

How so? It is clear the fragility of the energy grid has played a major role with load shedding taking a lead role with widespread blackouts, as evidenced with our state vigorously importing power from Tasmania, NSW and South Australia, driving up the wholesale price in our state to the market maximum of \$16,600 a megawatt hour from the norm of about \$160 a megawatt hour.

While the green zealots will continue to extol their virtues of saving planet Earth from alleged climatic change by eradicating Australia's miniscule Co2 emissions, sending the Australian economy to hell in a handbasket, do not lose sight of the reality that a virtue signalling green zealot is incapable of saving the planet but is most capable and demonstrably so, in taking from you, your very own greenstuff multiple times ... \$100 notes.

John White, Alexandra



THUMBS UP: Thank you to all the businesses in Alexandra and Eildon who did their best to remain open after the terrible storm on Tuesday. Without FoodWorks, Grant Street Grocer, the pharmacy, the newsagent, and Kev at Rounda Cafe, we would have endured much more hardship and annoyance. You have our gratitude.

THUMBS DOWN: To the people backing out of the centre parking in Grant Street.

THUMBS DOWN: To council for not opening free green waste until Saturday, four days after the storms.

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

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

Available from these retail outlets

- Alexandra FoodWorks
- Alexandra Newsagency
- Alexandra Newspapers
- Shell Buxton
- Eildon Grocer
- Alexandra Endeavour
- Hazeldene Store
- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- 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

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:

regional media connect

Country Press AUSTRALIA

Audited Media Association of Australia

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.62	steady	below minor
Acheron R at Taggerty	12.00pm Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	11.41am Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	11.56am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.51	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.50	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.28	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.59	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	11.03am Mon	1.17	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.69	steady	

****ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2024**

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 Xtra Chronicle

Weekly Weather

February 21 - February 27, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	20	31	Wednesday	20	31
Thursday	15	33	Thursday	14	34
Friday	10	21	Friday	11	21
Saturday	9	22	Saturday	8	22
Sunday	12	26	Sunday	12	26
Monday	12	25	Monday	12	25
Tuesday	15	28	Tuesday	15	28

Standard

The Xtra Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	22mm
Eildon (AWS)	8mm
Flowerdale	15mm
Jamieson	N/Amm
Kinglake	15mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Mansfield	4mm
Taggerty	26mm
Yarck	8mm
Yea	21mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	288.01m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	96.4%
Metres below full supply	89cm
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	59%

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

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

Thief in Thornton



Police released this image of who they believe may be able to help with their enquiries. -S

POLICE are investigating a theft which occurred at approximately 4am on Friday, February 9 in Thornton.

Police have released an image of a person they believe may be able to assist their enquiries.

The person is described as male, dressed in dark blue denim jeans, black runners, khaki coloured hooded zip up jacket and black gloves. The male was wearing a face mask, black FXD beanie and had a black backpack on his back.

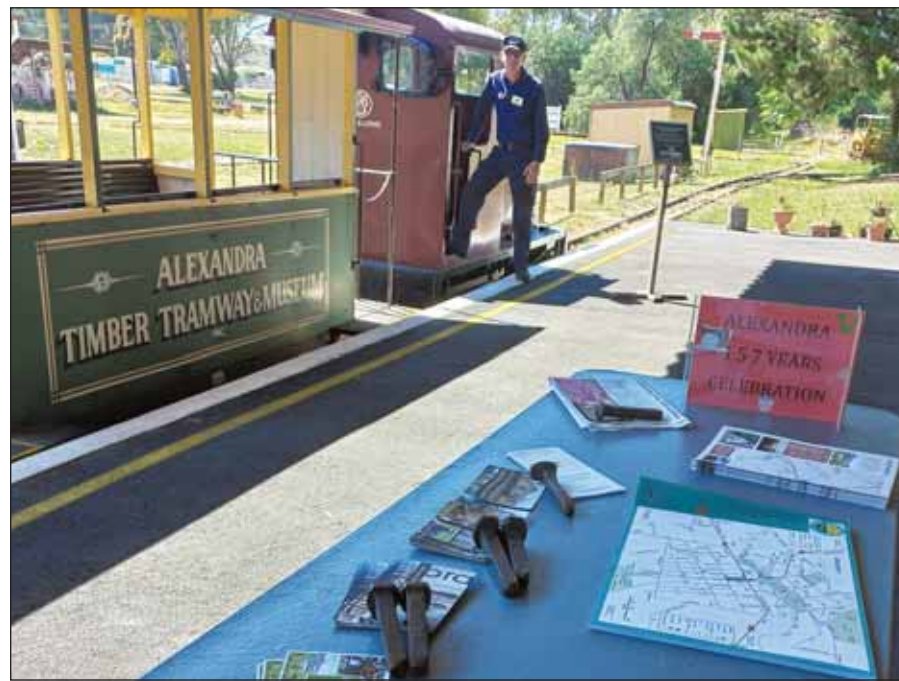
Police are also seeking the identify of occupants of a dark coloured SUV vehicle that was driven along a service road adjacent to the Goulburn Valley Highway near the intersection of Taggerty-Thornton Road at approximately 5.30am on the same day.

If you have any information relating to this incident, please contact Alexandra Criminal Investigation Unit on 5772 1667 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Timber Tramway celebrates 157 years



Platform crew member Gail Bransden with the display table for Alexandra's 157 year celebrations, celebrated on Saturday, February 10. -S



Diesel train driver Robert Eames. -S

Time to clean up after the storm

IN response to the extreme weather event last week, on Tuesday, February 13, Murrindindi Shire is offering residents free disposal of household green waste and bulk food waste at their resource recovery centres from Saturday, February 17.

Items eligible for free disposal include fallen branches and trees from the storm, and perished food, with no limit on volume per load or trips per customer per day.

The service is available for a week from Saturday, February 17, and will then be assessed on community needs.

For more information contact council on 5772 0333.

Alexandra and District Seniors Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

AFTER the storm on Tuesday and the power cut, it is nice to be back to normal summer weather with the Friday social meeting well attended and the members enjoying a sing song at the end of the meeting, before the lovely refreshments and games of 500 and UNO.

A big thank you to Marg, Marion and Dave for sorting out the extensive library, getting the books into alphabetical order. It makes it much easier to find your favourite author now.

The committee meet up next Tuesday and will be discussing where to go on the next excursion so watch this space for details.

For details of club activities please come along to the Bayley Street club room on a Friday at 1pm or call Mike on 0456 456 263. Meanwhile, keep smiling and stay safe.

ALEXANDRA MUSEUM
STEAM TRAIN RIDES
 Sunday, February 25,
 10am-4pm
alexandratramway.org.au
 0427 509 988
 Station Street Alexandra

BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES PT. LTD.
ALL HOURS
 • Alexandra • Yea
 • Eildon • Marysville
 and districts
 Offering a caring and professional service throughout the the Murrindindi Shire
 A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS
 Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214
 Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

McCORMACK FUNERALS
 Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra
1800 080 909
 Andrew, Robyn and Brooke
Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
 Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas
 Obligation free appointments
 Pre-paid, pre-arranged,
 personalised funeral and memorial services
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

GET YOUR POSTERS PRINTED WITH US
A2 Colour \$30 per copy
 (594mmx420mm)
A1 Colour \$40 per copy
 (594mmx841mm)
 235gsm gloss photo paper
PLEASE NOTE: files must be supplied in high resolution eg: 300dpi
 Alexandra Newspapers
 P.O. Box 5, Alexandra, 3714
 43 Grant Street, Alexandra
 Phone 5772 1002 | Fax 5772 1603
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Every drop counts
Be water wise

It's everyone's responsibility to use water wisely.
Together, we can save a lot.
 Always follow the Permanent Water Saving Rules, they're designed to help you save water every day.

1
FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES
 Must recirculate water

2
VEHICLES CAN BE CLEANED AT ANY TIME USING A BUCKET
 Or with a leak-free handheld hose with a trigger nozzle

3
SPRINKLERS AND WATERING SYSTEMS
 Can only be used between 6pm and 10am

4
USE A BROOM OR A BLOWER TO CLEAN HARD SURFACES
 Like pathways, decks, concrete or driveways

5
LEAK FREE HOSES CAN BE USED AT ANY TIME
 But they must be fitted with a trigger nozzle

For more tips to save drips, visit: www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/every-drop-counts

GOULBURN VALLEY WATER



ELECTRICIAN
Grimshaw Electrics
 For all your electrical and communication requirements
 Peter Donald
0429 808 596
 REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

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*.

clearing sales. Alexandra and Acheron. Contact Embling Rural, for full details 0418 266 038.

Suicide Awareness Group will meet from 9.30-10.30am at Yea RSL, Snodgrass Street. This is a free gathering and will take place every fourth Saturday of the month. For further details contact Jacky 0417 907 278.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29
GOBUR – online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concludes March 4 at noon +2 min increments. Inspection on Tuesday, February 27. 9.30am-2.30pm. Contact Embling Rural for further information 0418 266 038.

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 / Hazeldeane
 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 1300 222 222
 Sun Alanon Recovery Phone 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 Communitea 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 Café 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 Probosc 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 walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 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.

Free green waste and bulk food disposal is now available at council Resource Recovery Centres. For further information contact council on 5772 0333 or email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
 Yea-Kinglake RSL ordinary general meeting will be held at the RSL Hall at 11.30am. Enquiries to 5796 9353.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25
 Long Lazy Summer lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon. Noon - 4pm. Three course lunch featuring local produce, free flowing bubbles from Snobs Creek Estate. Spectacular views. Accommodation available. Bookings essential 5774 2631.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2
 Alex Races Rocks. Music, racing, fun for young and old. Gates open at noon. countryracing.com/alexandra

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22
 MULTI VENDOR - online

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24
 Public meeting, Buxton Memorial Hall at 2pm. To form a Buxton Open Spaces Committee. For further information email secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au

Smile, you're on camera

DRIVERS who use their mobile phone or don't wear a seatbelt are getting caught as new data reveals that Victoria's mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras have nabbed tens of thousands of people during their first six months of enforcement.

wearing seatbelts, and 30,231 drivers using mobile phones.



30,231 Victorian drivers have been caught using mobile phones while driving in the past six months. -Ed Poor

The Victorian Government has rolled out six distracted driver cameras as part of the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, which aims to save lives and reduce trauma on our roads.

Drivers face penalties of four demerit points and a \$577 fine when caught using a mobile phone while driving, and three demerit points and a \$385 fine for not wearing a seatbelt correctly.

not wearing a seatbelt, that's just over a quarter of all vehicle occupants where seatbelt status was known.

For more information about Victoria's road safety cameras visit vic.gov.au/cameras-save-lives

Delivered as part of a \$33.7 million invested, the distracted driver cameras have been detecting offences across the road network since July 1, 2023, using AI enabled cameras to capture high resolution images of drivers with images then passed to a human verifier to further assess before an infringement notice is issued.

The growing network of camera trailers regularly move around so drivers are unaware of where they will be at any given time and with the cameras monitoring motorists for around 8000 hours each month and moving across 162 locations in rural and metropolitan areas.

Distracted driving is a major contributor to serious and fatal collisions with research showing that more than half of drivers have used a mobile phone while driving which can increase the risk of crashing up to ten times compared to an alert driver.

More than 140 drivers and passengers killed on Victorian roads in the last five years were

From July 1 to December 30, 2023, the cameras detected 53,105 offences, including 16,499 drivers and 6375 passengers not

impacted by blackouts and bushfires over the past 24 hours.

"I want to thank our tireless emergency services workers who continue to support communities across Victoria during a challenging and difficult time for many Victorians.

"With Labor having been in power for the past nine years, it must take responsibility for the state of Victoria's transmission network and the multiple warnings that have largely been ignored.

Concerns over electricity grid security

CONCERNS have been raised over the vulnerability of the state's electricity supply, in light of the damage caused by Tuesday's storms.

impacted by blackouts and bushfires over the past 24 hours.

"Labor has been unable to manage the state's energy supply and all Victorians are paying the price.

Leader of the Opposition, John Pesutto, stated, "My thoughts are with... the hundreds of thousands of Victorians who have been

"More than 500,000 households and businesses had their power cut yesterday in the largest power outage in Victoria's history and thousands will wait days, if not weeks, to have it restored.

"The Victorian Government must explain the exact cause of the outage which left households and businesses exposed. It must also explain when all Victorians can hope to have their power restored and what steps it is taking to ensure we don't have a repeat of these incidents.

Get your building plans printed with us

A2 Black & White \$2 per copy
 A2 Colour \$5 per copy
 A1 Black & White \$5 per copy
 A1 Colour \$8 per copy

Alexandra Newspapers
 P.O. Box 5, Alexandra, 3714
 43 Grant Street, Alexandra
 Ph 5772 1002 Fax 5772 1603
 Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

"These blackouts again highlight the vulnerability of the state's energy supplies. Widespread storm damage brought down ageing transmission lines, while the Latrobe Valley's Loy Yang A plant trip mechanism sent it offline, temporarily sending the wholesale power price up to \$16,600 per megawatt hour.

"It is the responsibility of the government to ensure a reliable, secure and affordable power supply is available for all Victorians."

"However, this situation was not unforeseeable or unavoidable. Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio has been repeatedly warned about the vulnerability of the transmission network during weather events by industry experts.

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President, Emma Germano, added, "Farmers and regional Victorians remain stranded, powerless and in some cases burnt out almost a day after terrible fires and thunderstorms. The impact on our industry and regional communities is immense and once again have been left to pick up the pieces.

"The network is particularly vulnerable to weather events, where wind can bring down transmission towers not intended to withstand intense downdrafts. Newer standard transmission towers were much more robust against yesterday's weather event, while older towers were brought down.

"Victoria is still feeling the impact of one of our largest ever power blackouts and the complete lack of planning and resilience by the government is once again crippling our state. We must do better."

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

Storms: council statement

THE recent storm event on February 13 caused significant damage and disruptions including widespread power, internet, and telecommunications outages affecting entire townships across Murrindindi Shire. Council worked hand-in-hand with the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) who is the lead agency for this type of emergency.

Council's operations crews quickly got to work to address over 110 community requests for assistance, clearing fallen trees, debris, and tree limbs from roads, pathways, and public areas.

The key task was to keep roads safe, clear and accessible for emergency and essential services. Please be mindful as you travel throughout the shire as crews are working along roads and roadsides and council appreciates the community's patience while they attend to recovery works.

Key council sites are equipped with generators, and they have the capability to establish satellite connections to restore vital internet and telecommunication connectivity at strategic locations. This allows for continuity of operations.

Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea provided residents with a place of respite, ability to have a cuppa and a chat, recharge their devices, access support services and communicate with family and friends during the most critical times.

Council staff commented that the libraries were buzzing with people and lively conversations, and that despite the circumstances, those who visited the centres were in good spirits.

Council opened shower facilities at Leckie Park, Alexandra, and all pools across the shire, to welcome residents without power to access hot showers.

To assist residents with their clean-up efforts, council is also offering free household green waste and bulk food waste disposal. This is for items such as fallen branches and trees from the storm, and perished food.

The Municipal Recovery Manager also supported affected residents with referrals to available services and assessing their eligibility for state government emergency

relief payments, which are available to people whose homes were impacted by storm damage.

The team engaged with a wide range of affected individuals and families, ensuring they were connected to appropriate state government services and support mechanisms. Efforts were made to document the full scope of the storm's impact on the community and to provide guidance on maintaining safety during the recovery period.

Council's communications unit shared updates on power outages from AusNet Services, information on impacts to council services, as well as additional services on offer for affected communities, and provided advice on topics such as food safety and coping without electricity for an extended period of time.

Council published critical communications on council's social media, website, and in local print media where possible. They shared information and liaised with UGFM Radio who issued periodic updates, keeping residents without power, phone or internet connection, informed as the event unfolded.

Council promptly reached out to the Ministers for Emergency Services and for Local Government to outline the extent of damage and disruption in our shire and advocate for appropriate support for the shire's communities.

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank local emergency services, volunteers, police, and council officers for their incredible efforts in responding to this storm event.

The community's resilience is continually tested with severe weather events like this, particularly over the last few years. It's in our nature to move on quickly, from one event to the next, without taking the proper time to check in on our own health and wellbeing. We know that these types of events can cause stress and anxiety, and it is ok to seek out some extra support.

We encourage you to check in on family, friends and neighbours and ask how they are going. There are also a range of resources available to support you if you just need a bit of extra help. A list of wellbeing support services are available on council's website.

Storms: Alexandra Fire Brigade report

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

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

They also had a few lightning strikes around that they kept an eye on. Taggerty, Buxton and Acheron fire brigades turned out to a fire on Connellys Creek Road where lightning

had struck a tree and the fire had spread into the grass.

Chris commented, "Things were made quite difficult when, one, we lost power and two, when our communication systems went down. We had to put a fair few things in place because Triple Zero went down. We had several backup plans, not only for us to receive calls but places like the hospital as well. Eildon, Marysville, Alexandra and Yea Fire Stations were open 24/7 for people to come in and charge phones and make outside contact. We had a

station manned for the majority of that until the power came back on."

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

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

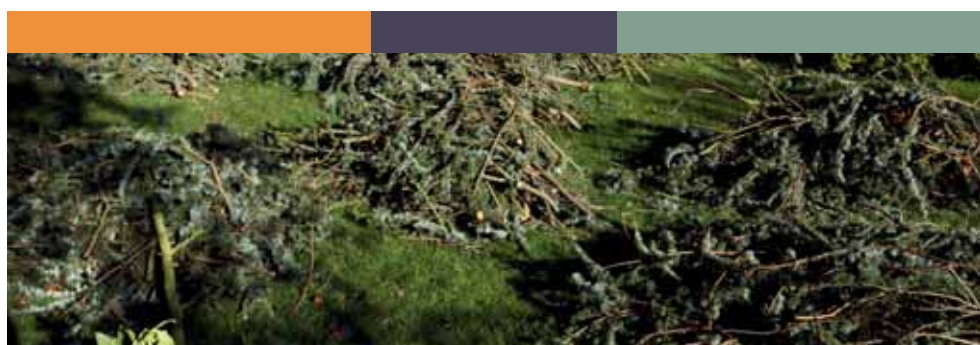
He was very pleased with the way that the members of the brigade adapted to the changing situation.

Alexandra District Health prepared for weather event

DURING the power outage last week, Alexandra District Health had generator power which provided full power coverage for the hospital.

Business continuity plans were in place for the weather event, updates and responses were able to be undertaken to ensure continuity of services.

Mobile connectivity was lost on Wednesday, February 14, and a contingency plan was prepared for potential loss of landline and internet services.



STORM EVENT - FEBRUARY 2024 FREE HOUSEHOLD GREEN WASTE AND BULK FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL

In response to the storm event on 13 February 2024, Council is providing free disposal of household green waste and bulk food waste at our Resource Recovery Centres.

Items eligible for free disposal include:

- fallen branches and trees from the storm
- perished food

To find your closest Resource Recovery Centre, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC

For more information, please contact Council's Waste team on 5772 0333 or email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



JOIN GOULBURN VALLEY WATER'S CUSTOMER PANEL

Our new Customer Accountability Panel will be a key customer voice in planning for our future and reflecting on our promises and actions.

We're seeking expressions of interest - here's your chance to be involved.

The panel, a broad representation of our entire customer base, will meet annually. You don't need any experience in the water sector - we'll provide everything you need to participate.



Find out more about the panel and submit your interest by scanning the QR code.



Expressions of interest close Friday 8 March.

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra


ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL**Emmett W - 5/6A**

Emmett has shown the school value of Care this week. Emmett, thank you for taking such great care of your buddy. You have such a kind and caring attitude towards our younger students. We are proud to have you in our learning community.

Emmett, you are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nell has had a brilliant start to school. She is a great listener, focused learner and a kind classmate.

Great effort Nell.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lilly and Henry displayed Integrity and Resilience in all of their work this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Logan for the Principal's Award as he is the first one to offer to help with anything that is being done, or doing things without needing to be asked. He is friendly and polite to all staff and students. Logan is doing his best with all the learning tasks we have completed so far.

Well done, Logan.

Student of the WeekProudly supported by
Kingslake branch


Seeking members for a Buxton Open Spaces committee

THE Buxton Progress Association (BPA) are holding a public meeting at the Buxton Memorial Hall at 2pm on Saturday, February 24 for the purposes of forming a new Buxton Open Spaces committee.

BPA president, Paul Denham, said, "This has all come about because the previous shire CEO, Craig Lloyd, decided that the new Local Government Act was coming in and he moved committees of management from being a delegation from the council to a delegation from the CEO. He didn't want to have all the committees under his responsibility. Against the advice of the BPA, he decided that they would disband the committee of management, but they then, on the same token, asked if the BPA, as the only incorporated association in the town would take on the previous responsibilities of that committee in an advisory capacity."

Prior to Paul's term as president, the BPA took on the challenge and they have worked with council for the past two or three years to agree on a memorandum of understanding.

"Thanks to Michael Chesworth taking on the role and bringing a fresh pair of eyes to it, he actually expanded the proposal to not just cover the previous two reserves that the committee looked after, but all open spaces in Buxton," Paul said.

This is more in keeping with council's Open Spaces Strategy.

Paul explained, "The new committee will have an advisory role to council

through the BPA, to advise council on management of the Meeting of the Waters, the Buxton Recreation Reserve and the new reserve in Waters Place. They're the three which are specifically mentioned. It also allows them to talk about any other spaces, such as town entries and the like."

The BPA have drafted some terms of reference, which are available by emailing secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au

The finalisation of these terms will be left to the committee once it has been formed, but it is envisaged that the committee would meet at least three times per year.

"But if they take on a project, and there's one particular project that we will ask them to do, which is about opening up the Steavenson River between Mareeba Avenue and the Steavenson River bridge on the Maroondah Highway. We've done some groundwork with council. Most of the parties involved are in agreement. We would give that task to the committee, so committee members would have some level of expectation that they would help with those sort of projects," Paul said.

"It's like anything. You put into it what you can. We don't expect them to be meeting monthly or anything particularly onerous."

There may be the occasional working bee, maybe one or two each year, but committee members don't need to commit to being there as long as they are being managed. The old committee

used to conduct a working bee once a year at the main reserve and in its later days down at the Meeting of the Waters. Council has responsibility to maintain the reserves, but the bushland reserve along the Steavenson River at the main reserve has traditionally been looked after by community working bees. However, since the November 2023 floods, the area is beyond any work that a working bee could do.

"That's where again, the committee would hopefully work with council to say, 'Well, what are we going to do to get this fixed,'" Paul said.

"The agreement actually provides that the committee can work at an operational level directly with council staff.

"We're really happy with the memorandum of understanding. The purpose of the committee is to put the MOU into effect.

"We are saying to people, if people know of someone, tap them on the shoulder. If anyone is interested, send an email to secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au indicating their interest in being on the committee. The idea is that there be at least five people but no more than nine."

Prospective members don't have to live or work in Buxton, although it would be beneficial. The people could be from somewhere else in the Triangle but have a connection to Buxton, or a recreational property owner particularly if they live near one of the three reserves, for example.

Grants available for Youth Fest

IN September this year Youth Fest will kick off, and its been announced that \$220,000 is available to assist in delivering up to 110 events across the state for and by Victorians.

Grants of \$2000 are available for youth organisations, local government and schools to partner with Victorians aged 12 to 25 to create a wide variety of events for young people in their communities.

Youth Fest will support young people to organise and deliver events, showcase their skills, share ideas, build social connections, and expand their networks.

In 2023, the Youth Fest program delivered 111 activities focused on art, music, sport and theatre, as well as recreational and community festivals, giving young Victorians the chance to have their voices heard.

Minister for Youth, Natalie Suleyman said, "We're proud to support this wonderful program. Youth Fest is so important for sharing the voices of young people and celebrating everything they contribute to Victoria."

"Youth Fest gives young people from across our state the opportunity to come together, build social connections and lead positive change."

Applications are open until March 15. To apply and find out more visit youthfest.vic.gov.au

Community Accessibility seeking volunteer drivers

VOLUNTEER drivers play a vital role in assisting the community's vulnerable people with their transport needs.

Community Accessibility is seeking volunteer drivers in Murrindindi Shire who are willing to get involved to help support the evolving transport needs of the community.

Community Accessibility's transport service is a volunteer-supported community service. They are committed to providing transport support to older people, people living with disabilities, and those who have difficulties accessing other forms of transport.

"Volunteers play a vital role at Community Accessibility, and we are always in need of caring, compassionate volunteers to help carry out our mission," Jan Hay, Volunteer Coordinator for Community Accessibility Inc, said.

"We aim to offer a much-needed service within our community, assisting local residents in getting to appointments and commitments both within and outside of the area, or for rural residents of surrounding communities to come into town for appointments and programs," Ms Hay said.

Volunteering for Community Accessibility is easy and flexible. Anyone with a driver's licence can volunteer, and

opportunities are open to females, males, and youths.

"Volunteer time is very flexible and relaxed. This service depends on volunteers who want to be a part of a very social volunteering opportunity and those who enjoy driving. All Community Accessibility volunteers receive induction, training, a uniform and ongoing support. We are looking for volunteers who can offer any amount of time. We have opportunities that range from as often as daily to as little as monthly," Ms Hay said.

"I get much pleasure, and I am always filled with gratitude because I get to help people and give back to my community. I also like that it's easy to volunteer, and we have a volunteer coordinator to go to for anything we need", Simone, Community Accessibility Volunteer Driver, said.

"The Community Accessibility transport services would not be possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers. We would not have the wonderful opportunities and programs for the greater community if it were not for them. Our volunteers are what makes it all work."

For more information on volunteering opportunities, contact Jan Hay, Volunteer Coordinator at Community Accessibility on 1300 704 530 or email volunteer@communityaccessibility.org.au



Yea's volunteer drivers, Val Howard and Simone Sier. -S

Homewood Fire Brigade to celebrate 111 years of service

AS part of the upcoming Homewood Progressive Dinner, several Homewood Fire Brigade members will be recognised for their service. There will also be a celebration of 111 Years of Homewood Fire Brigade, originally known as Homewood-Dairy Creek Bush Fire Brigade.

It was originally assumed that the brigade was formed in 1941, however CFA District 12 staff member Pip Johnston discovered through some sleuthing that the brigade was actually formed on Friday, January 24, 1913.

An excerpt from *The Yea Chronicle*, found on Trove, is as follows:

Bush Fire Brigade Formed at Homewood

"A large and representative meeting was held in the Homewood Public Hall on Friday last to consider a request from the Yea River Bush Fire Brigade, that Homewood and Dairy Creek graziers join with the Yea River graziers.

"Cr Drysdale occupied the chair.

"After discussion it was decided to form an independent brigade to be called the

Homewood and Dairy Creek Bush Fire Brigade.

"A constitution was drawn up, and various officers were appointed: Cr Drysdale, president; A Gill, honorary secretary; and W Scholz, treasurer.

"The Homewood Hall was fixed as the headquarters of the brigade."

The article was a wonderful piece of history recovered for the fire brigade.

Come and join in celebrating this history at the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, March 23.

The evening begins with entrees at 4921 Yea-Whittlesea Road at 5pm then dinner, dessert, and presentations from 6.30pm at Homewood Hall, Homewood Road, Homewood.

Adults tickets are \$45, high school age \$35, and primary school age \$20.

For catering purposes, tickets must be purchased prior to the event. Scan the QR code on the Homewood Progressive dinner flyer, visit trybooking.com/COMIL or call Jo on 0458 367 753 or Brett on 0408 399 900.

COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024

Nominate a community member, group or initiative!

Do you know someone who's made a significant contribution to our Shire? Would like to recognise the efforts of a local community group or initiative?

Nominations for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards are now open! Previously called Citizen of the Year Awards, this year we're focusing on the wonderful people who volunteer in our community, and just like last year, Award winners will be announced and celebrated during National Volunteer Week (20-26 May 2024), providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate the contributions of volunteers in our community.

So, what are you waiting for? Nominations are now open for the following Award categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group or Initiative of the Year

Visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards to nominate an individual or group for an Award.

You can also pick up a paper nomination form from our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, as well as the Mobile Library.

Nominations close on Sunday 24 March 2024.



This is a recurring gathering taking place every fourth Saturday of the month for anyone bereaved from suicide. This support group is run by volunteers of Lived Experiences and welcomes anyone aged 18 years and over.

Support groups are a space to connect with others, self reflect, discuss challenges, share experiences and self help strategies.



Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9.30am till 10.30am



Meeting Room, Yea RSL, 26 Snodgrass Street, Yea



FREE

For further information, contact
Jacky (Founder) - 0417 907 278 or Steve (Secretary) - 0412 334 521
visit our website at gvsag.org.au



ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Call for fair land access rules for farmers

TASMANIAN and Victorian peak representative bodies are calling for fair land access rules in the face of rapid renewable energy developments taking place over agricultural land.

TasFarmers and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) last week released the *Farm Access Code of Conduct* which is aimed at promoting respectful and sensible infrastructure development on agricultural land.

TasFarmers President Ian Sauer said the organisations were partnering in their advocacy efforts in response to the abysmal treatment of farming communities across the two states dealing with the construction of new transmission lines.

“This is a direct response to the lack of respect shown by those who want access to agricultural land across Australia towards farmers, their land and their livelihoods.

“We want to see the Code of Conduct adopted by anyone, be they Government Business Enterprises or the private sector to ensure farmers’ rights are protected,” she said.

VFF President Emma Germano said renewable energy and transmission projects needed to be properly planned.

“In many cases this land is highly productive, supporting and sustaining regional communities as well as being critical to our nation’s food security. This land is scarce and cannot be replaced.

“Planning projects properly and consulting communities means there is less chance of having to use compulsory acquisition laws to ram projects through.”


Mr Sauer and Ms Germano have jointly written to federal energy minister Chris Bowen seeking a meeting to discuss

options to adopt the Code’s principles into harmonised national and state based laws.

“We are offering an open hand to government asking them to work with us and respect the people who grow our food so we can all deliver for the national interest.

“Government must realise that if farmers and communities aren’t treated with respect, then they reserve their right to delay these projects whichever way they can. That will mean the government will have no chance of meeting their ambitious renewable energy targets,” Ms Germano said.

“Respect the rights of farmers and regional Australians and we will be happy to work together to achieve positive outcomes.”





Tarcombe Herefords

50th Annual Production Sale
WEDNESDAY March 6, 2024 - 1pm

(on property using the Helmsman Buying System)

Selling:-
★ 4 Horned Bulls
★ 37 Polled Bulls
★ 23 PTIC Heifers

Tim Hayes 0439 257 693
temagong@bigpond.com
J-BAS 6
Lots can be viewed at herefordsaustralia.com.au

Mick Curtis 0428 953 222
Scott Meehan 0428 952 536

Anthrax detected at second property

LAST week, anthrax was detected at a second beef cattle property in the Shepparton region, following an initial detection at a neighbouring property the week prior.

Unfortunately one cow has died at the second property, while the remaining livestock are being vaccinated. A total of 10 beef cattle have died across the two properties.

Agriculture Victoria veterinarians and animal health staff are working closely with livestock owners in the region to assist with surveillance and vaccinations if necessary.

Victoria’s Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Graeme Cooke said the second detection was not unexpected in northern Victoria, particularly during summer, assisted by the long survival of the anthrax bacteria in soil.

“Local farmers, veterinarians and Agriculture Victoria are well prepared to handle these incidents, with quarantine and biosecurity arrangements in place and vaccinations underway for potentially exposed livestock,” Dr Cooke said.

Anthrax is not a concern for the public as it does not spread rapidly and is not contagious for humans. There is no general public health risk associated with anthrax and risk is confined to people who handle dead livestock such as farmers, veterinarians and knacker workers.

The Department of Health undertakes risk exposure assessments of individuals who have potentially been exposed and may offer treatment depending on the risk assessment.

There is no impact on local produce or food safety.

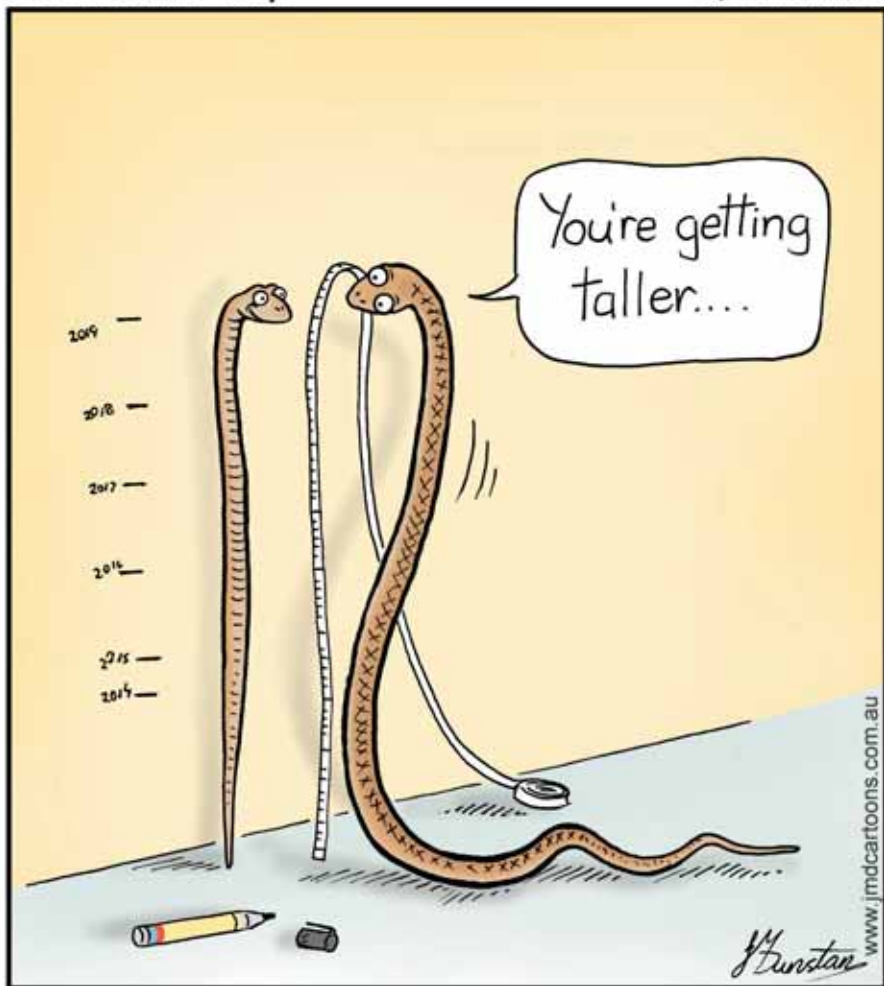
Farmers are urged to report any cases of unexplained deaths to the 24 hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888, to your local vet, or to Agriculture Victoria animal health staff on 136 186.

Anthrax has occurred intermittently in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland in recent decades. In Victoria this is often in northern areas of the state, but historically it has been recorded across all of the state in farming areas. The last detection of anthrax in Victoria was in sheep in February 2022, near Swan Hill.

An Anthrax factsheet on the Agriculture Victoria website is available answering frequently asked questions and providing more information.

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan




Sponsored by



Alexandra Grain Store
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

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

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



Recipe kindly submitted by Jane Laws Redgate CWA

Rhubarb and tomato chutney

INGREDIENTS
1 tablespoon olive oil
1½ tablespoons black mustard seeds
1½ tablespoons ground cumin
½ teaspoon ground cloves
1½ tablespoons ground coriander
2kg chopped tomatoes
400g chopped onions
1 teaspoon salt
2 cloves crushed garlic
2 cups raisins
1 cup brown sugar
1 cup brown vinegar
700g chopped fresh rhubarb stems

METHOD
1. Heat oil in large pan, add seeds and spices, cook stirring until fragrant
2. Add tomatoes, onions, salt, garlic, raisins, sugar and vinegar.
3. Stir over heat without boiling until sugar is dissolved.
4. Simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally for about 35 minutes or until mixture is thick.
5. Stir in rhubarb and simmer uncovered, stirring occasionally for about five minutes or until soft.
6. Spoon hot chutney into hot sterilised jars, seal immediately.
7. Makes about 8 cups (2 litres).




PHOTO COMPETITION

Only a couple of weeks left to submit your photo competition entry for February, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

February’s theme is ‘your choice’ - feel good February. Full details in last week’s edition.




Your Locally Owned Rural Store

(03) 5772 3110
54 Grant Street Alexandra
DRIVE THROUGH AVAILABLE
emblingrural.com.au

Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

Get your business moooving.....



Advertise in the Alexandra Standard and Yea Chronicle.
Contact 5772 1002

Know your pay rights when it comes to natural disasters

FLOODS, bushfires, storms and earthquakes have all impacted Murrindindi Shire in the last year. These events can not only cause devastation, workplaces are forced to shut down due to a lack of electricity, phones or internet. What rights do workers have?

It pays to check work agreements and awards if you were unable to attend work and you need to find out where you stand when it comes to getting paid.

If you don't have entitlements existing within your workplace, the Fair Work Ombudsman said, "It pays to look at state or territory based advice assistance available to affected employers and employees. State or territory workplace health and safety laws also provide for a general duty of care towards employees that should be considered."

If a business must be temporarily closed as a result of a natural disaster or emergency, in some cases for the employer, the Fair Work Act 2009 (FW Act) allows employers to stand down employees in certain circumstances when the employee cannot be usefully employed. This includes where they can't be usefully employed because of a stoppage of work for which the employer cannot be reasonably held responsible. This may include work stoppages caused by natural disasters, such as bushfires or floods. An employer is not required to make

payments to an employee for the period of a stand down but may choose to pay their employees if they wish.

Under the Fair Work Act, employee stand down provisions do not apply during a period when an employee is taking authorised paid or unpaid leave, such as annual leave, or is otherwise entitled to be absent from work, such as on a public holiday.

Hopefully before it comes to standing down an employee in circumstances out of their control such as a natural disaster or emergency, the employer will consider other options such as inviting employees to take a period of accrued paid leave such as annual leave. Alternatively, if there are multiple worksites and not all sites are affected, consider voluntary work sharing arrangements, such as employees at non-affected sites offering to take paid leave while their position is temporarily filled by someone from an affected site. Where appropriate, consider flexible arrangements like working from home, which we all know how to do these days.

With emergencies like last week, there is extra pressure on families when there are school, daycare, and kindergarten closures, which results in employees requiring time off work to care for their family. Employers should keep in mind the health and wellbeing of their staff when granting access to

leave entitlements, especially in cases like these.

If you're involved in the disaster relief effort, an employee can request to volunteer their time, but it must be through a recognised emergency management body. These bodies can be the State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the RSPCA, in respect of animal rescue during emergencies or natural disasters. Under the national employment scheme, employees who recognised as part of these groups are entitled to take unpaid community service leave.

Fair Work Australia does advise that an employee who wants to take a period of community service leave must tell their employer as soon as practicable, including the period or expected, period of the leave and, if required by their employer, provide reasonable evidence of the reason for the leave.

For peace of mind and for future reference, do your research and be familiar with your workplace entitlements for occasions that we all experienced this last week. It will be just a little of bit reassurance in an uncertain time.

For any more information on where you stand if your workplaces experience closures due to an emergency or natural disaster, visit services.dffh.vic.gov.au or call 1300 650 172

Ruffy meeting discusses proposed wind farm

ON Sunday, February 11, the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) held a meeting at Ruffy to discuss the proposed wind farm being created by FERA.

Sixty people were in attendance to hear about the work the SRRCG has undertaken on behalf of the community during 2024 as well as other biodiversity projects within the region.

The group believes the impact on biodiversity, as well as the on the cultural heritage, landscape and waterways, means that the industrial scale wind farm and transmission lines proposed by FERA are not suitable for the region.

It has invested in activities such as a Southern Greater Survey as well as promoting the use of iNaturalist as a means of recording the biodiversity in the Strathbogies. The group plans to work constructively with FERA to ensure these findings are included in any Environment Effects Statement.

The attendees were particularly interested in the outcomes of 2023 Greater Glider Study that highlighted the fragility of the glider population and its habitat. The need to preserve large, old trees as well as the road and riparian wildlife corridors linking remnant forest areas was evident and is essential to prevent any

further habitat fragmentation. The Hughes Creek Catchment Collective also gave an overview of the bird surveys that have been conducted annually since 2019.

A presentation on iNaturalist Strathbogie Nature Atlas Project (SNAP) illustrated the diversity of wildlife in the region, and it was particularly pleasing to see the recent growth in koala sightings. There were some great photos of wedge tail eagles, gang gang cockatoos, brush-tailed phascogales, yellow tailed black cockatoos and boobook owls, to name a few.

The group has uploaded 280 observations from SNAP to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas to ensure ready access for consultants conducting the FERA Wind Farm Project's ecology survey work. The community is encouraged to upload any fauna and flora observations into iNaturalist.

The community was given an overview of the issues with both renewable developer and site selection that appear to be widespread within the industry as highlighted by the Dyer Community Engagement Review Report to the federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Further details on the work being undertaken by the Group and biodiversity projects can be found at their website, srrcg.com

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to emergency.vic.gov.au

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Tuesday's storms caused widespread damage across the region



Ken Bristow clearing his property. -AR



The tractors were certainly on the move on Wednesday, following the storms. -AR



SES members clearing a fallen tree following Tuesday's storms. -S



Hard at work on the chainsaw, clearing a fallen tree. -AR



A broken powerline on Halls Flat Road caused the power outage in the immediate area, including Alexandra Secondary College, to last longer than the rest of Alexandra. -S



Tree debris on the side of the Maroondah Highway, on the northern side of Buxton. -AR



A home's power connection destroyed in the storm. -S



A fallen tree on Mareeba Avenue, Buxton. -AR



There were plenty of fences needing repairs. -AR



A tree over powerlines. -S



A water tank carried away by the wind. -S

Real Estate GUIDE



Certainty for tradies in the housing industry

WITH the passing on the closing loopholes bill in parliament the federal government has confirmed that independent contracting arrangements in the residential building industry will be unchanged.

HIA Managing Director, Jocelyn Martin said, "HIA has worked with the government to ensure long standing contracting arrangements in the residential building industry are preserved. With 80 per cent of the workforce in the sector based on independent contracting, HIA were intent on ensuring the Bill maintained a person's right to work for themselves.

"HIA raised concerns with the new definition of employment, specifically how that would impact independent contracting arrangements in the residential building industry. The measures as passed provide some comfort that the status quo for independent contractors can be maintained.

"During our consultation with the government, the Minister committed to giving HIA the opportunity to work directly with the Fair Work Ombudsman to develop industry specific information and advice to support the industry navigate these reforms."

Ms Martin added, "The residential building industry is just starting to turn a

corner after the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic begin to dissipate, now is not the time for further disruption via complex regulatory changes that simply add a layer of uncertainty and risk.

"Measures that also passed through Parliament that will empower the Fair Work Commission to deal with business to business arrangements and excessive increases in penalties remain of concern

and will simply act as a disincentive to run a business and employ staff.

"HIA stands by the government's commitment to build 1.2 million homes over the next five years, but we need a flexible, and buoyant housing industry coupled with policy settings that make employing attractive. Complex and cumbersome change will only serve to do the opposite," Ms Martin concluded.



Independent contracting of tradespeople remain unchanged following consultation. -S

A call for stable and reliable housing policies

WITH the obvious undersupply of housing, the commitment to the housing accord to build 1.2 million much needed homes over the next five years is welcomed.

HIA Managing Director, Jocelyn Martin welcomed the news, however she is weary when commentary and "threats" on further changes to tax settings is acting as a deterrent to the productivity of the increasing house supply.

"This is coupled with the uncertainty from interest rate rises, new complex industrial relations reforms on businesses, the introduction of widespread changes to the building code and layers of approvals and regulatory change.

"This is all coming together to substantially affect market confidence and is reflected in building activity data which is indicating decade low numbers for future new home construction," Ms Martin said.

"Building businesses are feeling swamped and heavily weighed down by this constant attack on changing rules and increasing complexity, and at a time when we need more skilled workers, we are seeing more people leave our industry than enter it.

"It is time all parts of Government came together, to work in a coordinated way to commit to providing stable and reliable policies, and measures to support and grow the building industry, with the ultimate goal of building these much needed homes.

"New housing is already one of the most highly taxed and regulated sectors in the economy, and any further increases to tax settings or increased regulatory complexity would only make that situation worse and ultimately result in less homes being built.

"Increasing the supply of housing is the key to addressing affordability. This will involve adequate release of land for new dwellings, increasing the density of housing in metropolitan areas, unlocking further land and infrastructure investment in regional areas and supporting investment in new housing.

"The focus needs to be on how we get more slabs poured that will result in the keys getting in the front doors of buyers' and indeed renters' pockets quicker," Ms Martin said.

Seeking fairer contracts for builders and consumers

Master Builders Victoria CEO Michaela Lihou said she welcomes the review which the government is currently undertaking into the Domestic Building Contracts Act (1995) with consultation set to close on February 28.

"The building and construction landscape has changed markedly over the past few years and we're all aware of the supply constraints and pricing challenges that the pandemic delivered. While thankfully some of those issues have started to settle, we still need more flexibility than our current fixed priced contracts for everyone's protection," she said.

"Nobody wins when inflexible contracts and price increases beyond a builder's control, push builders over the edge."

MBV argues cost escalation provisions should be inserted in new Domestic Building Contracts, and they should be extended to contracts both above and below the contract value of \$500,000.

"We'd also like to see discussions with banks to facilitate the use of cost escalation clauses and allow for more payment stages to ensure ongoing cash flow, given we know

the devastating impacts that cash flow blockages can have," Ms Lihou said.

In an attempt to strengthen Australia's still inconsistent supply chains, MBV is calling on the Government to support the development of a permanent working group, similar to the UK's Product Availability Group.

"This group would utilise information from manufacturers and trade associations to track supply and demand and create and improve the accuracy of live data for the delivery of residential, non-residential and civil infrastructure," Ms Lihou said.

"As they have found in the UK, ongoing communication throughout the supply chain is essential to assist with reliable delivery dates and to manage expectations about any shortages or allocations."

"We're also calling for all the recommendations in the Supply Chain Review Report to be supported and for the Victorian Government to continue to engage with the industry with a commitment to deliver tangible outcomes."

Funding and support for business and cash flow training specific to the construction

industry, and additional funding for the Victorian Small Business Commission to support independent dispute resolution services, are also on MBV's shopping list.

For the commercial sector, MBV is suggesting a review of Victorian Government contracts to drive greater efficiencies and risk allocations to be shared more equitably between the government and industry across commercial and residential projects, with increased standardisation of contracts.

"And given the size, scale and economic impact of Victoria's building and construction industry, 12.7 per cent of the state's Gross Domestic Product in the past financial year, we're also asking the government to consider creating a dedicated government-led construction leadership council to be established to promote long-term industry collaboration to achieve common goals," Ms Lihou said.

"We also believe as one of the largest sectors in our state's economy, our industry deserves a dedicated Minister for Building, Construction, and Infrastructure to oversee future strategy and the growth of our industry," Ms Lihou added.

 OBrien Real Estate

Sales | Rentals | Lifestyle | Acreage

When it comes to your real estate needs nobody does it better than OBrien Real Estate Alexandra!

Get a FREE appraisal on your home or investment today.

- Professional customer service.
- Clear communication.
- Honesty and integrity.
- Teamwork.



Find out now

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

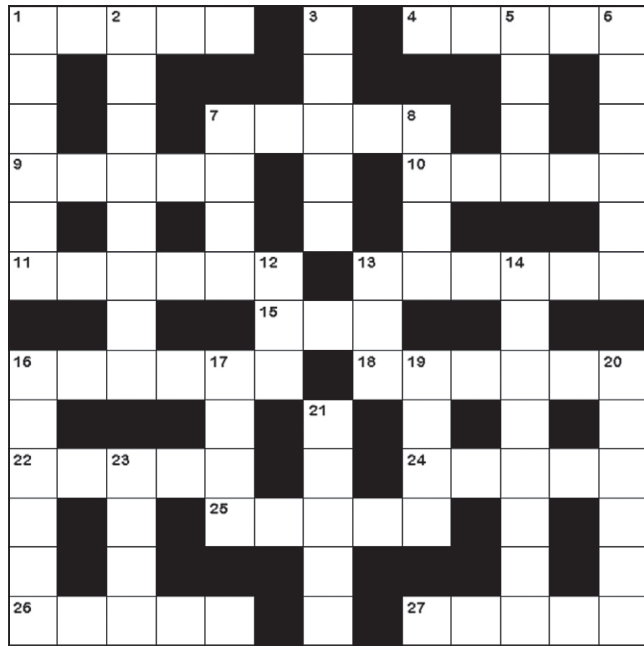
Crossword

ACROSS

1. Wrinkle your forehead.
4. Green spot in a desert.
7. Payed out money.
9. A squeaking sound.
10. A mistake.
11. Loving and indulgent.
13. Dangerous acts.
15. A single thing.
16. A blue-violet colour.
18. Burrowing marsupial.
22. Legally punishable.
24. Mix up or confuse.
25. Stuff with a spicy paste.
26. A secret rendezvous.
27. Cover with liquid before cooking.

DOWN

1. Compelled to comply.
2. Took offence.
3. A search.
5. Go bad.
6. Gains points in a game.
7. The rind of a fruit.
8. Something typed.
12. A thick messy substance.
13. Make clothes by stitching.
14. Unimportant people.
16. Brought from a foreign country.



17. A deep yellow colour.
19. Using speech rather than writing.
20. Multiply by three.
21. Take delight in.
23. All of a nation's warships.

Word Search

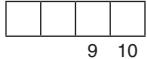
Popular Australian Dog Breeds

- BEAGLE
- BOXER
- BULLDOG
- CAVOODLE
- CHIHUAHUA
- DACHSHUND
- DALMATIAN
- KELPIE
- POINTER
- ROTTWEILER
- TERRIER
- WHIPPET

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

Double Puzzle

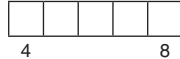
EZLA



OMB



MSAWR



DHREA



COLNYO



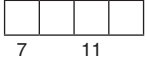
ANBD



NGGA



ESNT



Maths Squares

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

4	×	6	+		31
+		+		+	
	×		-		-2
+		+		+	
	×		+		26
16		9			20

Sudoku

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.

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

Vale Joan Coles

Eulogy delivered by Joan's goddaughter Robyn Battle on behalf of Joan's sons, Andrew and David.

JOAN May Coles was an amazing woman, larger than life, zany, colourful, kind, generous, intelligent, artistic, she had a wicked sense of humour and was a real dag who brightened everyone's life with her laughter and exploits.

This is to honour this wonderful woman with laughter, joy and great memories.

Joan was born on October 13, 1933, in East Malvern to Sue and Harold Hodgson. She lived in Ormond for several years before moving to Murrumbena where she attended the local primary school for two years.

Her father suddenly became ill with tuberculosis and tragically died aged 31 in 1940 when Joan was aged seven. During this time her mother was working full time and struggled to care for Joan so she was sent to live with her grandmother in Banambra, near Omeo, for several years. After returning home her grandfather died and her grandmother moved in with them to look after her.

At that stage, Jan came to live with them as a baby and became Joan's beloved little sister.

Joan's mum remarried to a bank manager of the State Savings Bank of Victoria and they moved to Yea in the late 50s. Sadly he also passed away and Sue had a nervous breakdown. She moved to friends in Marysville to recover and worked in the post office there. When her health improved, she had so loved her time in Yea, that she decided to move back there, working at the Yea Butter Factory as a Bookkeeper and built a house where she lived until her death in 2000.

During this time, Joan went to Corowa Girls School. She left school at 15 and did a pre-nursing course in a Child Minding Centre in Richmond for 12 months and then began her training as a nurse with the Melbourne School of Nursing, working at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Children's, Fairfield and The Women's. This is where she met all her lifelong friends, who she still kept in touch with, and her dearest friend Elza, and became godmother to her daughter Robyn.

Another great friend was Jenny Shugg who she often stayed with when she went to Melbourne. They remember constantly hassling her about her poor choice of shoes but she didn't care and they eventually gave up.

Joan's love of lemon tarts, pavlova and chocolate was also a concern as she was a diabetic, but she said she'd just give herself more insulin to compensate.

At 21, she left for overseas travelling with five friends, working and touring around Europe until she required emergency surgery to have her appendix removed in Italy.

On returning to Yea, she met her husband Ian, holding their nuptials at Scots Presbyterian Church and where both boys were christened. They moved to a dairy farm in Killingworth, where they lived for five years and welcomed sons Andrew and David there. They eventually they made the decision to move back to town.

After David turned three, Joan went back to nursing where she worked at Yea Hospital as a charge nurse, when it was a busy regional hospital with Emergency, Midwifery and Surgical Wards, and then took on the role of Director of Nursing, working there for 37 years.

She was instrumental in getting Rosebank built, organising many fund raising events so the town had their own aged care facility.

Sadly after turning 60 she was more or less told to leave and this caused her a great deal of sadness in her life.

They lived in a house beside the hospital in Miller Street for 37 years, which was very convenient for work, until Ian's death when Joan made the decision to move to something smaller.

She bought a beautiful unit in High Street and lived there with her beloved cat, Evie, and her garden which she loved until declining health meant she moved into Kellock Lodge in Alexandra last year.

She had many lifelong friends. Val Borrie was a shining light in her life and we have many great memories of visiting their pig farm.

Robyn remembered Val telling her at Joan's 80th birthday that she was so lucky to be Joan's goddaughter and I should treasure every moment I had with her.

Another important person in her life was the amazing, and equally wicked, Judy Henwood who was often her partner in crime, her treasured friend, confidante, taxi driver and right hand woman driving her to appointments, shopping, and later from Alexandra to Yea for Naughty Nannas, a group of "young ladies who meet for lunch every Thursday at Mint and Jam."

These ladies are the most gorgeous group who keep you in fits of laughter. They are all zany and very unique. Joan would have been so lost and lonely without Judy and these wonderful ladies.

Over the years, Joan was an active member of the Yea Probus Club, a competitive tennis player, and a member of the gardening club, winning numerous awards with her flower arrangements at the Yea Show.

Her life was focused around her family, her garden, her friends and her craft work. She knitted and crocheted for charity and anyone who asked, and in later years took up painting and pastel work, many of which adorn the walls of her friends.

The birth of her two grandchildren, Sarah and Matthew, enriched her life and brought her great joy.

Joan (or Dolly as she was affectionately known) could always be counted on to make people laugh, happy to dress up and join in anything irrespective of what others thought. This included forming a group with some of her feisty nurses called the *Panadolls* and going on to portray the *Village People*, Joan being the smouldering soldier, to raise money for the hospital and hostel.

They even got to perform on stage with the real *Village People*. She also got to share the stage with Dame Edna where at some point she put a gladioli up Dame Edna's dress and the comment was that next time "it would be better if she didn't upstage her." All in jest of course.

Dolly Parton was also another persona of Joan's, and she brought great joy to all who saw her. Even just prior to her death she talked with one of the staff, who also worked at Kellock, about how cute Dr David's bum was at the Alexandra Hospital.

Sadly, Joan's life ended abruptly after suffering a severe stroke, but she always said that she had had a great life and wouldn't change a thing. Her two boys, Andrew and David, and her grandchildren were the loves of her life, and she was so very proud of each of them.

We would like to sincerely thank all the amazing and caring staff at Kellock Lodge who looked after Joan recently, some of whom visited her in hospital and told us how much she was loved and appreciated by them, and how much influence she had had on their lives. Bona, a special friend from Kellock visited her in hospital to say goodbye and remarked she'd lost a special friend who she was going to be lost and lonely without. Their care and support of Joan and her family was incredible.

And to the staff at Alexandra District Health, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful care, support, empathy and love you gave all of us during this very sad time. You all made such a difference to us, with your constant offers of food and drink (although no alcohol was offered, the chocolates were yummy) nothing was too much trouble. You guys rock.

Joan was and will always be remembered with love, laughter and affection by all who were privileged to know and meet her. Our memories of her will always live in our hearts. The world is truly a much sadder place without her in it.

Thank you also to everyone who visited her in hospital to say goodbye, my daughter Mel for the photo collage, McCormacks Funeral Directors for all your support, Ann for delivery of the service and to everyone who attended the memorial or sent messages. It has helped immensely to know Joan was loved by so many.

Finally, to Andrew and Judy who were with me every day beside Joan till her passing you are all truly appreciated.

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

AIR CONDITIONING



AIR2AIR
CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

Commercial and Domestic
Airconditioning and Refrigeration
Service and Installation

Your one and only local trusted



Authorised Dealer

Scott Phelps 0431 331 085
www.air2aircon.com.au

Licence: 49182
RTA: AU32342



BRICKLAYING



BRICK and BLOCK LAYING

New homes
Renovations
Extensions
Landscaping

KIRK
0409 336 327

CONCRETING

Fleetwood Concreting
If it's concrete you need, phone Mac!

Any style - any size

- Driveways • Paths • Slabs • Foundations
- Steps • Crossovers
- Plain • Coloured • Stencil • Slate or • Exposed Aggregate

All excavations and concrete cutting

Phone 0418 534 973

ELECTRICIANS

Sunnyboy Electrical Services

EILDON

Domestic, Commercial and Solar
Electrical Installations

New Houses and Renovations

0498 196 986

ANIMAL SERVICES



Taggerty Vet Clinic

Dr Rebecca Parth
BVSc

0403 012 996

All Animals
Large & Small

Consultations strictly
by appointment

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

Benny's Bricklaying

EMC0049

◆ Brickwork ◆ Concreting ◆ Tiling ◆ Paving

Ph. D. Appelman
0417 588 549 5772 1602 A/H

Alexandra

**BRICKLAYING
CONCRETE & PAVING**

No job too big or too small
Free quotes

Call Jarrod, James and Corey

0409 190 502

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

BUXTON EXCAVATIONS

- House and Shed Sites
- Side Cuts / Driveways
- Drainage / Erosion Works
- Dams / Vegetation Mulching
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- 20 Ton Excavators
- 3 Ton Excavator
- Quad Axle Float



Darren
0447 198 740
Barney
0488 016 820

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-60s

Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured



SCOTT HILL
Registered Builder
0439 730 824

- NEW HOMES • EXTENSIONS
- RENOVATIONS • DECKS
- SWIMMING POOLS

info@hbiconstructions.com.au
hbiconstructions.com.au

REGISTERED Building Practitioner member

RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

CONVEYANCING

**CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY
TRANSFER SPECIALISTS**

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

EARTH MOVING

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers
Backhoe ~ Water Carts
Low Loader ~ Tipper
Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951
keathsex@bigpond.com

ELECTRICIANS




J. WILLIAMS ELECTRICAL

- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- SPLIT SYSTEMS
- UNDERGROUNDS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- NEW HOMES
- MAINTENANCE
- BREAKDOWNS

0439 842 030

GLAZIERS



**DINDI
GLASS & GLAZING**

- Residential And Commercial Glass Replacement
- New Work
- Quality Double Glazing
- Mirrors
- Splash-Backs
- Shower Screens
- Pet Doors Into Single And Double Glazed

Rob - 0439 141 812

BIN HIRE

RUBBISH REMOVAL

• DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

- Builders Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- Household Waste
- 3m Bins

Alexandra SKIP BINS
22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA

CALL SIMON GOODMAN
0409 997 632

BUILDING & RENOVATIONS



**TAYLOR
ENGINEERING + DESIGN**

Building Design
Interior Design
Structural Engineering
Soil Reports + Site Classification
Surveys, Site Plans + Setouts
Land Capability Assessments
Bushfire Management Reports

PROJECT ENQUIRIES

www.tayloreng.com.au
enquiry@tayloreng.com.au
03 5753 6607
Mansfield, VIC 3722

BLINDS & CURTAINS

CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA

PH 57722 152
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA e.chookies@virtual.net.au



FREE Measure & Quote
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

CHIMNEY SWEEPING



**ALEXANDRA
CHIMNEY SWEEP**

Solar Panel Cleaning
Annual cleaning recommended

Phone David 0475 396 772 or
Robyn 0413 299 154

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



E-TEC

Electrical Technology

- Eco Smart Electrician • Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds • Electrical Design
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations

Grid Connect / Off Grid / Batteries

Ph 5751 0000
info@e-tec.net.au
www.etecelectrical.com.au

EMC0060 Rec N° 12906



**REDGATE
ELECTRICAL**

TRY THE NEW SERVICE IN TOWN

0455 317 553

24 HOUR CALL OUTS • REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU

The ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

facebook.com/
AlexandraNewspapers

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

PHONE 5772 1002

GLAZIERS

ALEXANDRA WINDSCREENS & GLASS

Servicing the Murrindindi Shire for 35 years

★ on site 24 hour service ★

- ★ Automotive glass ★
- ★ Household needs ★
- ★ Shower screens ★
- ★ Shop fronts ★

Ph Steve Heard
YOUR LOCAL GLAZIER
0427 577 839

MECHANICAL REPAIRS

Alexandra Motorcycles



- RWC licenced tester
- Tyre fitting service
- Road, Enduro, Quad repairs
- Servicing for popular brands • Honda spare parts

VACC MEMBER
65 Downey Street (near secondary college)
PH 5772 1045

SERVICE STATIONS



Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953 with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business. Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs with Mobil and Prolube lubricants, greases and solvents.



Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop



0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

PANEL BEATERS

ALEXANDRA PANELS & TOWING

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP
Bianca and Giles Wright

5772 1904
alexandrapanels@gmail.com
3 BUNDERBOWEIK STREET

AFTER HOURS
0483 051 192



KITCHENS

Can design and build...

Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design, Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries, Creative design and quality, vanities, wardrobes

0409 146 465
38 Johnston St, Alexandra
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

PLUMBERS



- NEW AND RENOVATION WORK
- ROOFING, GUTTER AND SPOUTING
- SEPTIC AND DRAINS
- LICENSED BACKFLOW DEVICE TESTER
- MAINTENANCE AND BLOCKED DRAINS
- JET CLEANER AND DRAIN CAMERA

85 Betts Road, Yea 3717
0417 356 428 | 0408 973 278
Master Plumber member 35 years - License No. 17255
info@armstrongplumbing.com.au

LEGAL SERVICES



Lawyers and Town Planning Consultants
Angelina Bell – Principal Solicitor
0448 793 795
admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

Louise Brennan BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

1560 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra
Mobile 0418 414 875
Phone 5773 2298 Fax 5773 2294

TRAVIS CAPP Lic. No. 37388 PLUMBER & GASFITTER Your plumbing specialists

- New Homes • Roof & Gutters • Sewer & Septics • High Pressure Sewer Jetter
 - Drain Camera • Pipe & Cable Locator
 - Water Tanks • Solar HWS • Wood Heaters
 - Excavators, post hole, rock breaker, trencher & tip truck hire
- 0419 553 803
Email tcplumbing@bigpond.com

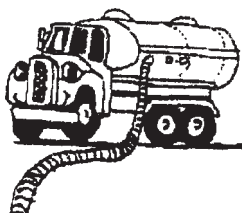


ANDREW WOOD
0488 559 091

DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, GAS FITTING, HOT WATER SERVICES, SEWER, SEPTIC, HEATING & EMERGENCY SERVICE

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SEPTIC TANK & GREASE TRAP CLEANING



EPA LICENCED
~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841 EFTPOS & Credit Cards Accepted
0419 131 958

SHEDS

HAYSHED/MACHINERY SHED SALE

- 18m x 9m x 4.0m(h).....\$14,700
 - 24m x 12m x 4.5m(h).....\$24,000
 - 30m x 15m x 5.25m(h).....\$47,400
- If standard sizes don't suit, we'll make it to your requirements.
*Prices are for roof only, ex. yard & inc. GST

CALL NOW for a FREE quote
VIC: (03) 5821 4399 www.telfords.com.au

TREE REMOVAL



- Insured
- Experienced
- Qualified
- Reliable
- Competitive

TREE & STUMP REMOVALS
Servicing Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires
5778 9603 JASON 0413 671 066

TREE SERVICES

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

- Commercial and residential block clearing
- Deadwood and weight reduction
- 24-hour emergency call outs
- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- 3.6 Tonne excavator
- Insurance works
- Storm damage

FULLY INSURED

Andrew Bates: 0488 990 393
Kate Hill: 0407 555 440



Advanced TREE CARE

Servicing N.E. Victoria

- ✓ Tree Removal ✓ Chipping ✓ Qualified Climbers & Arborists ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Falling ✓ Mulching ✓ Stump Removal
- ✓ Tower Hire ✓ Free Quotes

Please call Michael on 0449 810 683 (03) 5778 7479

WATER BORING

WATER BORING

No water, no charge after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

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

DOUBLE PUZZLE

ZEAL, MOB, SWARM,
HEARD, COLONY, BAND,
GANG, NEST
GROUPS OF ANIMALS

MATHS SQUARES

4	×	6	+	7	31
+		+		+	
3	×	1	-	5	-2
+		+		+	
9	×	2	+	8	26
16		9		20	

SUDOKU

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



having a celebration?

need invitations?



CALL NOW!

5772 1002
or email us on
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Boz Miljkovic
Mechanic

Alexandra Automotive
VACC

61 Downey Street, Alexandra
Ph (03) 5772 3232

- General Car Servicing
- Repairs & Tuning
- Batteries
- Road Worthy Certificates
- Disc & Drum Machining
- Front Ends & Suspension

SEPTIC TANK & GREASE TRAP CLEANING

EPA LICENCED
~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841 EFTPOS & Credit Cards Accepted
0419 131 958

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!
Fax 5772 1603 or Email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Classified information

Office hours

Alexandra

Monday – Friday 8.30am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads – proofs not supplied
Display – will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required when placing the advertisement. Cash, cheque or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation or authority from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled when sold.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the microchip identification number and a source number of the animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared numerous times and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

BARGAINS UNDER \$100

FERRETS hand reared 10 weeks old, 3 black jills, 4 white jills, 3 black hobs \$50. Ph David 0413 299 154

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWNLAYERS - POL, \$28 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

FROM J.R. CARSTEIN "SUGAR"

"To all those I've known, sorry I didn't get the chance to say Goodbye, but know, it's been a pleasure." 08/08/1948-21/01/2024

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
Alexandra
Treadmills, X-trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.
PH:0407 231 377

MEETINGS



Yea-Kinglake RSL
Ordinary General Meeting. RSL Hall, Friday, February 23, 2024 at 11.30am. Enquiries to secretary 5796 9353.

DEATH NOTICES

BUCKMAN, Frank
23/08/1934 - 11/02/2024
(late of Alexandra)

Husband of June, father of Robbie, Gail and Leigh (dec), grandfather of 11, great grandfather of two.

A Thanksgiving Service for Frank's life will be held at the Uniting Church, Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine on Friday, February 23 at 2.30pm.

To join us at the service via livestream please visit Frank's tribute page on the website of Mount Alexander Funerals.

We will bring him back to Alexandra to be buried, with a graveside service at the Alexandra Cemetery at 11.30am on Monday, February 26.

We would love you to join us at either service.

He made life beautiful by unselfish deeds, generous thoughts for other's needs, happy, smiling, always content, and respected where ever he went.



DEALS ON WHEELS



2004 TOYOTA LANDCRUISER

100 series, Sahara model. V8-4700. Petrol motor. Reg YIV 950. Sunroof, 7 seater, grey leather seats and interior trim, silver platinum duo - both in unmarked condition. 260,000 kms with full Toyota book service history since purchase. Vehicle fitted with Ironman premium alloy bull bar with Meteor LED driving lights, day time driving lights. Also 12,000lb Ironman winch. Toyota heavy duty tow hitch. This vehicle is a rare example cared for by an aged owner. Located in Eildon. Price \$35,000 Ph 0419 206 410

The remarkable story behind the newer section of the Alexandra Library

THE Alexandra Library is a well-loved institution in the town. It incorporates a historical building with a newer one, providing a range of interior spaces and services.

The story of how the newer building came into existence is an interesting one. John Sharwood, one of the instigators of council purchasing the land for the new building, explained the story of how the library changed for the better.

The area between the old library and UT Creek, on Grant Street, was a plant nursery for many years.

John explained that he and wife Pam "had an affliction for going to nurseries because we're both interested in gardens. We used to go there quite often and Pam would buy some plants."

After the nursery closed, the site became a machinery hire business. When that too closed, "a for sale notice went on it for the land," John said. He guessed that this occurred around the year 2000.

"When going into town, Pam and I, but particularly Pam, would say 'It's such a wonderful site. That would be a wonderful sport for the library to have more space. If somebody buys it, they could put a retail premises there or do something, and the library could never extend. The library is the absolute heart of the town, where a lot of the decisions are made and people would group and have meetings.'"

Pam and John decided that John should go to the shire council and ask that they buy it so that the library could extend. Unfortunately, council turned it down due to the expense. John recalled that the vendor wanted \$80,000 or \$90,000 for the block.

Pam and Joh discussed it further and they decided that they should get a committee together to see if they could raise some interest and get some money to help purchase the land.

John approached Maurice Pawsey and said, 'I think we ought to do something about this' and he said, 'Now, who's going to be president of Rotary next year?' It was Brian Stevenson. They rang him and asked whether he had a major project in mind for his year. They suggest that it could be raising money to buy the land for the library. Brian said that he thought it was a very good idea.

John explained, "At this stage, Pam and I said that if we couldn't do anything, we

would buy it and give it to the council. We had a meeting with the local ward councillor Graeme Matthews and we organised a public meeting in the shire hall. On the way into the meeting, I said to Pam, if there are six there, I'll be bitterly disappointed. If there are 26 there, I'll be thrilled to bits. Anyway, we went to the meeting and there were about 30 people. Maurie Pawsey had prepared a talk, which he gave, and I gave a talk, and we said what our aim was. We had forms made out saying that people could donate to the appeal or make a commitment over three years, giving some amount of money every year for three years. We distributed the forms.

"We managed to raise at that meeting about \$18,000 in commitments. Then we kept the appeal open. Finally, I think we raised between \$60,000 and \$70,000 over the period. We sort of forced the council into providing the money to buy the site. In that time, the cost of the site increased... But it was a wonderful outcome.

"The council applied for a grant from the government, and they got a really good grant with regards to the building of the new library," John said.

The new library was constructed by Landmark Constructions from Benalla, who did a very good job.

"At the opening of the building, there was a story told by somebody about, I think it's in the history of Alexandra, in 1872 when the library was opened, how the procession of horses and all the dignitaries came down to the opening of the library. I got up and made a speech and said, well, I can tell you another procession that went in, and I told the story about the fundraising to purchase the land for the new section of the library," John said.

"The Rotary Club all backed it, and we did it with the necessary publicity and it's been a huge success. The library is still the centre of activity for so many groups in town. We couldn't do without our library.

"It's such a wonderful town and a wonderful ethic of improving and being behind everything that's good in the town. You can't fault it," he added.

The land purchasing project "stirred up the town, no end. If the library didn't own that land, they were stuffed, really."

Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of many in town, and in particular John and Maurie, the library was able to expand to become the centre of activity that it is today.

Northern Victorian Women get a boost for sport

THE Victorian Government is encouraging women and girls in Northern Victoria to get involved in sports as applications have been announced for the 2023-24 *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available to support community sport and recreation clubs or organisations to increase participation, build capability, promote gender equity and support the professional development of women volunteering and working in community sport.

In this round of the program there's also a strong focus on supporting club or organisation initiatives that encourage the equitable inclusion of women and girls from all backgrounds and experiences.

The program is part of the Government's *Change Our Game* initiative, working to make sport more accessible, increasing local participation and providing opportunities for all Victorians to be leaders in their local sporting community.

Now in its seventh year, the *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* program has provided more than \$2.2 million towards 461 grants that have benefitted community sport and active recreation clubs and organisations across the state.

Together with the Fair Access Policy, launched by the Labor Government in August 2022, *Change Our Game Community Activation Grants* provides a great opportunity for clubs and organisations to extend equitable access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure, and build participants skills and knowledge.

These grants are part of the Government's \$18.8 million investment in the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation and the *Change Our Game* initiative since 2016.

Applications for this program close at 5pm on Monday, March 4. For more information about *Change Our Game* programs visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au

Perfect conditions for the Eildon Twilight Market



People cooling off with a nice cold beverage at one of the many food and drink stalls on the day. -MP



The weather was glorious at the Eildon Twilight Market on Saturday, February 17. -MP



Liz from Dindi Bee Supplies. -MP



The Navy Band. -MP



Ashleigh Davon singing. -MP



Shyla getting her face painted. -MP



The Navy Band belting out some great hits. -MP



Kerrie, Ken, Ron and Sue from the Eildon RSL Sub Branch. -MP



Marianne and Ben Ward enjoying all the market had to offer. -MP



John Haslam and Sue Aitken at one of the market entry tables. -MP

St Pats Cup ready to go

by Denis Smith

SUNDAY, February 25, St Pats Cup will be the last run under the Larkfield banner. The club has been very grateful for the support of the Hargrave family over many years, and will still run a race in memory of Frank Hargrave, a stalwart of the club for many years. It is believed that the company who have taken over the running of the Larkfield property, Ulumna, are interested in sponsoring the St Pats Cup in the future.

The Sunday race date means that many who play sport or work on a Saturday have a chance to attend and bring their families to this family friendly event. All children's activities, from face painting to pony rides to games and activities organised by the professional Kelly Sports group are free. The canteen run by Sacred Heart School and the bar run by local volunteers will raise valuable funds for the school and local charities. A charity raffle will also be conducted on the day.

Horse numbers are always good at Yea with great support from trainers in Bendigo, Seymour and Kilmore. Thompson Racing from Kilmore are sponsoring an event and will bring horses who will be cheered on by a large contingent from Macs Hotel Kilmore,

a sponsor for many years. Hopefully young Kilmore rider Tyson Barton, who has now also taken out a trainers licence will bring a couple of horses to Yea.

In the cup, hostilities will resume when last year's St Pats Cup winners Willetts, trained and ridden by Bendigo couple Aileen Vanderfeen and Craig Kirkpatrick will take on Yea Cup winner for 2024, Anything but, trained in Sale by the evergreen Reg Manning. Reg will bring a truckload of horses for the supporting events, as should leading trainer Troy Kilgower, who may have Continuation and Street Swagger to contend the Cup. Seymour trainer Don Dwyer is always a strong supporter of Yea, so all looks set for a great days racing.

Another highlight of the day will be the Fashions on the Field with junior categories between races one and two and senior categories, including a category restricted to a Murrindindi couple only, to be run between races two and three.

Club president, Denis Smith, announced that a special rate of \$10 cash at the gate admission for age pensioners will apply. "This concession was lost during the COVID-19 years with online bookings and the introduction of early bird admissions,

but the club has realised that not all elderly people are computer savvy and are offering this on the day concession."

There are still several shaded sites and umbrellas available to book online, so it is not too late to get a group together for a day at the races. Visit countryracingvictoria.com/yea to book.

A bus will be run from Alexandra, Yarck and Molesworth from 10.30 am and a town bus from the caravan park and local motels to the track commencing at 11.10am, then running continuously. Patrons should book online or contact the club early to book.

"The club does realise the unfortunate and controversial late cancellation of the November event did trash our brand to an extent, but hopes that the locals will come back to support this final event, especially as it is our charity day" said Mr Smith.

"Unfortunately one of the KPIs for securing race dates is the ability to draw a crowd, so the club is looking for support from Yea and district locals at what is forecast to be a beautiful fine day".

Gates at the racecourse open at 11am Sunday with the first race around 1.10 pm and the last around 4.40pm.

Merton went down to Rovers

Rovers United Bruck 4/209 defeated Merton 10/66

by Rohan Berriman

AN undermanned Merton cricket side travelled to South Wangaratta to take on Rovers Bruck United on Saturday. Rovers won the toss and batted making 4/209 with D Shaw making a fine 107 not out and R Parsons 48 James Benton 2/27 and Henry and Rohan Berriman one wicket each the only wicket takers in what was a tough day in the field.

Merton were never a chance of victory against an experienced bowling attack giving limited opportunities to score on a slow outfield, James Benton again lead from the front top scoring with 24 Rohan Berriman was the only other batsmen to reach double figures with 10.

Merton all out in the 34th over for 66. Rovers, Ned O'Kane with 3/8 the best bowler. Thanks to Greta Cricket Club for helping out Merton with three players on permits and Rovers helping out on the day. It doesn't get any easier for Merton when they take on top side Benalla next Saturday at Benalla.



Will Benton for Merton vs Rovers. -S

Marysville Golf Report

by Lesley Rundle

HAVING completed the 2023/4 FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters series, it was back home to Marysville Golf Club last Saturday for the golfers who played a stroke round for the February monthly medal and the first round of the Ladies Barton Shield.

Weather conditions were perfect, and the course was looking stunning thanks to Kellan Fiske and his band of volunteers. The ladies winner was Sabrina Stow (22) with an excellent nett 69 and the runner up was Jody Doran (11) with nett 77. The men's winner was Peter Lilley (16) with a great score of nett 68 followed by Ross Ansell (12) with 70 nett. The nearest the pins were won by Ray Jones, Richy Clark and Keith Atwell who also won the Golden Shot. During the presentation, former member and Buxton resident Hellen Elliott and her partner Garry were welcomed.

There is a working bee at the club on Wednesday, February 21, beginning at 9am. Help with work around the clubhouse, the gardens and the course would be greatly appreciated.

On Thursday, February 22 a number of Marysville ladies will play in the Alexandra Ladies Bowl the first of the 2024 Dalhousie club events.



All of the Marysville winners in the Murrindindi Masters on February 10, with Cathie Harper. -S

On Friday, February 23, from 4-8pm another session of Barefoot Bowls will be held at the club. For just \$5 a head everyone is welcome to go along and enjoy a social game of bowls, enjoy a drink at the bar and some free snacks. All equipment is supplied. Other Barefoot Bowls dates for the diaries are Friday, March 8 and March 22. Thanks to Jody Doran, Duncan Talbot and Mim Page for supervising this initiative.

On Friday, February 23, the Yea Golf Club and Romsey Golf Club will be hosting a new event organised by the Dalhousie District. A twilight nine hole competition will take place and open to all players with

or without a handicap. Golfers will tee off from the 10th tee anytime between 4-6pm. For more information golfers can refer to the Dalhousie District website or Facebook page.

In coming weeks, the Marysville golfers will host a number of annual events and members are asked to keep an eye out for the details regarding these challenges. The Liesfield Memorial 4BBB will be played on February 24, The Sandy Wilson ladies bowl on March 14, The Lakeside Challenge on March 16 and The Tour Elephants on March 23.

Alexandra Squash Club round two results

by Kristelle Leary

Thursday competition

Cheesecake v Lamington

ELI v Sam: Coming out strong, Sam took the first game with a good lead. Eli turned the tide to take the second game before Sam put his foot down to take the last two games and the victory 86 to 53.

Kristelle v Lucas: A tight match. Drawing in the first game, Lucas pulled away in game two and three. Kristelle found her groove in game four but didn't quite take the lead. Lucas for the win 57 to 55.

Derrick v James W: Plenty of quality shots. Both competitors ran each other around the court. One great match to watch. At the end of this close match, James had prevailed 58 to 53.

Gelati v Trifle

AIDAN v Blake: Blake dominated the first half of the match. Attempting to close the gap Aidan took the third and fourth game, but Blake had raked up too many points and took the match 70 to 57.

Dean v Rob: These two have great potential and had a close match. Each game was tight, but Rob won the majority of the games and was victorious 60 to 53.

John v Phil: As poised as could be, John let Phil do the bulk of the running. Phil put in a good match, but John won the match with ease 73 to 41.

Monday competition

Antipasto v Spring Rolls

TRAVIS v James G: Travis has come into the competition firing on all cylinders. James took two games, but some overly relaxed shots gave Travis the chance to pounce and win the match 59 to 53.

Justin (fill in) v Simon: It can't get closer than this. Justin came out and won the first game, quickly followed by Simon taking the third and fourth games. Justin pulled it together in the final game to create a draw. 57 to 57.

James W (fill in) v Michael H: Point for point in the first two games. Michael was doing well and took the first three games. With nothing to lose James came out on fire in the fourth game to take a big win and turn the match around to win by one point. What a triumph 57 to 56.

Bruschetta v Dumplings

LEE v Kelly: A well matched competition with some great rallies. Kelly was always able to pull away at the end of each game to take all four and the match. 58 to 42.

Andrew v Michael M: The first three games were close, but Andrew proved too strong in the last game and won the match 63 to 42.



James W waits for the ball to rebound. -S

SPORT

Around the ground cricket wraps

A grade

Pyalong 8/187 defeated Alexandra 10/105

by Tim Polson

SATURDAY saw Alexandra A grade cricketers take the long drive to Pyalong for round 14. Pyalong won the toss and electing to bat.

N Hendricks and W Ellis took the new ball for Alexandra, which saw W Ellis take first blood in the second over, with a great in-swinging delivery which hit Pyalong's Matt Pratt on the pads to be dismissed for 0.

From there, Pyalong knuckled down with J Pryor and D Snowden putting on a partnership of 66. Alexandra captain L Ronalds and club president D Waixel were the next change in bowlers which saw captain Levi take the wicket of Pyalong captain J Pryor with a blinder of a catch off his own bowling. D Waixel put on a great display of bowling from the opposite end but was unlucky with Alexandra dropping two catches off his bowling. Pyalong again played strong making their way to 3/112.

M Waixel and J crane were the next to take the ball. Both started very strong but it was J Crane who got the break through, clean bowling Pyalong's D Snowden who put on a strong 55. Very next ball J Crane hit Pyalong's number six on the top and was given out for 0.

Matt Waixel cleaned up the tail with a great spell of bowling taking 3/11 of seven. Pyalong finished their innings on 187.

The change of innings saw S Whitehead and W Ellis open the batting attack. S Whitehead got off to a flyer hitting a four of the first ball batting with intent to chase down the big total. W Ellis was the first to go in the second over with a leading edge that floated up to be caught at point. S Whitehead continued his attack until he was caught behind for 12, which saw Alexandra 2/16.

J Ferrier and D Waixel settled the ship taking Alexandra to 40 but were both then dismissed by the strong Pyalong.

The middle order of J Reynolds (14) and T Polson (13) showed some resistance but were soon dismissed. J Crane put on a strong display of batting to top score on 17, but in the end Pyalong were way too strong and took the win dismissing Alexandra for 105.

ALEXANDRA BATTING: Scott Whitehead; c&b: Matthew Pratt; 12. Will Ellis; c: Jamie Biagioni b: Jason Ryan; 0. Darren Waixel; c: Daniel Sowden b: Jason Ryan; 8. Jordan Ferrier; b: Mitchell Wittig; 14. Matthew Waixel; st: Daniel Sowden b: Jamie Pryor; 1. Levi Ronalds; lbw: Mitchell Wittig; 11. Jason Reynolds; b: Jamie Biagioni; 14. Tim Polson; c: Dermott Clancy b: Jamie Pryor; 13. Banjo Fitzpatrick; lbw: Jamie Pryor; 0. Joshua Crane not out; 17*. Nathan Hendricks; b: Jamie Biagioni; 4. Extras; 11 3WD 1NB 3LB 4B 0P.

36.3 overs.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-4 Will Ellis, 2-16 Scott Whitehead, 3-14 Jordan Ferrier, 4-40 Darren Waixel, 5-53 Levi Ronalds, 6-55 Matthew Waixel, 7-77 Tim Polson, 8-77 Banjo Fitzpatrick, 9-81 Jason Reynolds, 10-105 Nathan Hendricks.

Yea v Seymour

Yea Tigers 4/118 defeated Seymour 116

N Beattie 44 no, C Sutherland 30no. T Ward 3/23, D Thompson 3/30.

B grade

Alexandra 9/96 defeated Tallarook 10/94

by Michael Mawson

THE B grade team put itself in contention for finals with a win over Tallarook that for much of the match looked to be an easy rout but soon turned into a tense photo finish.

There were a few changes from last week's team, Darren Waixel went up to A grade to allow Mat Wal to come back down to B grade. Jacque Snyman came in as a last minute addition. The team also welcomed

the debut of leg spinning chef, Thayananth Sathasivam. Thaya for short.

Pre-match, the normally batting friendly pitch had been moistened by a big overnight dew. The Alexandra captain, Michael Mawson won the toss and unusually decided to field. This looked to be a rare sensible decision when Tallarook's innings lurched to 6-25.

Thaya was immediately in the thick of things when he took a catch of Mat Wal's bowling in the second over. The next five batsmen had trouble negotiating the slow bouncing pitch and spooned catches. This culminated in 'Yobbo' Andrews taking screamer off his own bowling to dismiss R Melville.

P Schipano was the pick of the batsmen with a patiently accumulated 36 runs, including Tallarook's only boundary. He was run out with the score on 79. When Mat Wal took his third wicket and Harrison Christie took his second, Tallarook were all-out for 94.

Mawson also chimed in with a wicket and Ben Geldart claimed a scalp during an economical spell of bowling. Jamie Shawcross saved many vital byes with his wicket keeping and this would make an important difference in the match.

In reply, The Redbacks came out firing. This was due to an aggressive carefree innings from Jacque Snyman who showed Tallarook how to hit boundaries and bludgeoned seven of them on the way to a quickly made 34 runs. In response to Snyman's onslaught, Tallarook chose the tactic of criticism, rather than set fields or take catches.

Snyman and Mawson saw off the opening bowlers and took the score to 52. An easy victory was in sight until Mawson played a rash shot to a huge outswinger from B O'Donnell and was bowled. This precipitated a collapse and O'Donnell took another four wickets with his deceptive bowling to have The Redbacks in a spot of bother at 5-66.

Yobbo blunted his natural inclinations, dug in and played a patient innings while his batting partners fell by the wayside. Jamie Shawcross made four, survived a close run out decision and then holed out.

Shannon Galloway came in at 7-83 and survived several close appeals as well as the ball actually hitting his wicket without dislodging the bails. His zero not out was the most important non-score of the season.

The odds had swung Tallarook's way and then a wicketkeeping mistake caused the ball to hit an on-field helmet and award five penalty runs to the home team. Yobbo fell with score on 93. This created the scenario in which Alexandra's tailenders had to find two runs and Tallarook had to find two wickets.

Thaya came in and immediately played on. Kelly Fitzpatrick came to the crease. B Dundon needed one wicket for a hat-trick and a win. Unfortunately, the bowler bowled a no ball to level the scores. He then bowled another one two balls later to hand victory to The Redbacks.

Well done to the B grade team for winning the match on the back of fielding pressure and making the most of good fortune when batting.

Under 13

Alexandra 112 defeated Tallarook 104

by David Dimech

ALEXANDRA under 13 cricketers hosted Tallarook at home at Leckie Park on Saturday, February 17, with an overcast and damp morning for cricket. Alexandra won the toss and elected to bowl.

Lucas Crane opened the bowling and ended with two wickets. Aiden Campbell bowled well, also securing two wickets. Harrison Christie and Dusty Fitzpatrick pitched in with a wicket each.

Logan Conway bowled well and also took two wickets. Charlie Broadway, Riley Cole and Nathan Webb bowled good overs and



Jaques S (Kallis) top scoring for Alexandra. -S



Captain Michael M leads the way. -S



Tayo bowling on debut for Alexandra B grade. -S

the team eventually bowled Tallarook out for 104 runs.

Alexandra came into bat with Dusty Fitzpatrick and Logan Conway opening making a collective 30 runs with Logan finishing not out. Lucas Crane and Harrison Christie contributed with the bat making a collective 28 runs.

Charlie Broadway and Will Donahue contributed with the bat with a handy 13 runs for the team. Aiden Campbell, Riley Cole and Nate Broadway contributed as the score to be chased was reached with one over to spare, the team making 112 runs.

On Saturday, February 24, Alexandra has a bye and wait excitedly to see who they face in the semi finals.

ALEXANDRA BATTINGS; Michael Mawson; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 15. Fill in; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 34. Matthew Wal; c: Jason Rudge; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 0. Benjamin Geldart; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 5. Harrison Christie; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 6. Robert Andrews; b: Braeden Dundon; 7. Brett Christie; c:? b: Matthew Archibald; 3. Jaime Shawcross

c:? b: Matthew Archibald; 4. Shannon Galloway; not out. 0*. Fill in; b: Braeden Dundon;

Kelly-Anne Fitzpatrick not out; 0*. Extras 22 6WD 3NB 2LB 6B 5P. 24 overs.

Mixed results for Alexandra bowlers

by Marie Evans

THE last round of pennant bowls was played across all divisions with mixed results for the Alexandra Bowls Club at the weekend. Saturday saw a full green with both pennant sides at home. Division four had a good win over Seymour Bowling Club, division six lost to ladder leaders Yea. Midweek division three played away on Tuesday and lost overall but had one good winning rink.

Saturday's game provided the opportunity to present an eight shot badge to David Nicklos, Bob Mayfield, Trevor Stewart, and Christine Mayfield. They won all shots on an end earlier in the midweek season against Seymour VRI. The Over 80 badges (OBEs) were presented to Terry Livy and John Blamey. John started bowls when he was 75, which shows it's never too late to take up the sport of bowls and to be successful.

Midweek division three played away to Avenel who were third on the ladder. Alexandra decided to completely re-arrange each rink as they were not in contention for the finals. This gave the opportunity for players to try out for different positions.

Trevor Stewart (skip), Ray Mathieson, Luke Chapple and Bob Mayfield had an excellent win. Congratulations to Luke who filled in on the day and played some great bowls. They trailed five to 12 on end 10 but won the next six ends to lead 17 to 12. It was 21 to 20 at end 22 with Alexandra winning the last two ends to win 25 to 20.

Not such good news on the other two rinks. Doug Cooper (skip) Christine Mayfield, and David Nicklos required a substitute from Avenel. They won seven out of the 25 ends. John Blamey (skip), Coby Petersen, Pauline Gilmore and Marty Manning won nine ends. The season is now over for Midweek Division Three.

Saturday division four played at home to Seymour who were sixth on the ladder. The best winning rink was Greg Gilmore (skip),

Larry Scott, Marie Evans, and Lauren Gilchrist. They won 17 out of 25 ends, including a five shot win on end 22. The final score was 30 to nine.

John Cujic (skip), Doug Cooper, Bob Benghamy and Ben Gilchrist also had a win. They won 18 ends. It was 10 all on end 11. Alexandra led 15 to 10 at the break. Seymour won four shots on end 17 to trail 17 to 19 but Alexandra won the last five ends to win 26 to 17.

David Nicklos, Bob Mayfield, Andy Tobias, and Christine Mayfield had the closest winning game. They won 13 ends. They led 10 to seven at end six. They increased the lead 19 to 10 by end 13. Seymour had reduced that lead by end 19 to only trail 19 to 20. Alexandra led 24 to 21 on end 22. It was 24 all on end 24. A one shot

win on the last end gave Alexandra victory 25 to 24.

Graeme Matthews (skip), Ken Argent, Scott Ferrier and Denice Chisholm won eight ends. They trailed four to 18 at end 16 but won the next three ends to be 10 to 18. Seymour led 19 to 12 on end 21. The final result was Seymour 23 to Alexandra 13.

The overall went to Alexandra 94 to 73. Division four will now play Dookie in the elimination final next Saturday at Nagambie. Alexandra will be looking for an improved outcome compared to the last time these sides met. A neutral green may assist.

The end of season ladder for division four is, Eildon 209, Euroa 175, Dookie 171, Alexandra 164, Tallygaroopna 141, Seymour 124, Shepparton Park 109, Tatura Hilltop 104, East Shepparton 99. Eildon played

at home against Euroa in the last game of the season and won three out of four rinks and the overall 104 to 76. They meet again next Saturday at Nagambie to see who goes straight through to the grand final or to the preliminary final.

Division six played Yea who have been clear ladder leaders throughout the season. Alexandra lost the three rinks. John Blamey (skip), Mark Stone, Rodd Petersen and Malcolm Gill had the closest game losing 14 to 19. Roselyn Livy, Karen Jackson Pauline Gilmore, and Janice Dunston lost. Ray Mathieson, Trevor Stewart, Terry Livy, and Rob Roach also lost.

The final four for division six is Yea, Euroa, Moorooopna, Shepparton Park. Next Saturday, they will play their finals at Dookie Bowling Club.



Best winning rink in division four: Greg Gilmore, Lauren Gilchrist, Marie Evans and Larry Scott. -S



Winning Rink in the Midweek Pennant: Luke Chapple, Ray Mathieson, Trevor Stewart and Bob Mayfield. -S

Alexandra golf news

by Elizabeth Goss

THE Alexandra Tuesday golfers had a pleasant day and luckily were home before the storms. The winner with a good score was Brad Newton (10) 40 points followed by the runner up Dave Silverman (9) 37 points. Third was Steve Darmody (23) 34 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to John Greatorex, on the 17th and on 18th to Brad Newton. Ball run down: Lea Doyle and Russell Purcell.

On Wednesday morning the ladies arrived to find the course extensively damaged by the storms, trees down and debris everywhere. A few extra obstacles for players to negotiate but a great deal of work for our wonderful volunteers. The winner was Sue Malcolm (44) 33 points. Barb Doyle was the runner up with (18) 32 points. Next came Judy Pearson (25) 31 points and fourth Judy Lyon (24) 30 points. Nearest the pin on the fifth went to Marg Fahey and Ruth Worland with both in the hole on their second putt, on the 12th to Donna Meggitt and on the 18th Ruth Worland. Ruth also won the nine holes. Wednesday, February 28 is a Par round.

The Saturday's Stoke round was won by Mike Holohan 73 (10) 65 on a count back from the runner up Jan Petrzela 91 (26) 65. So, a playoff for Monthly Medal. Luke Heard was third with 70 (2) 68 on a three way count back from Brendan Smith 75 (7) 68 and James Kidd 75 (7) 68. Nearest the pin on the second went to James Kidd, on the fifth to Brendan Smith, on the seventh to Jan Petrzela, on the 12th to Mike Holohan and on the 18th to Ryley McDonald. Fewest putts went to Shane McGorlick and Luke Heard with 26. Saturday, February 24 is a Stableford round.



R Chomiczewski, H Wain, I Uthenwoldt, B Elliot, J Wheelhouse, P Smitheram, T Cannon, S Hall, L Cain-Barber, M Collins, I Sutcliffe, M Aldenhoven, P Kelsall, C Fox, G Lund, G Davies and G Barber. -S

Eildon take home three Minor Premierships

by Paul Smitheram

EILDON Bowling Club capped off a fantastic year last week, finishing top of the ladder in division four Tuesday pennant, division four Saturday pennant and division seven Saturday pennant, setting up for a great final series starting this weekend.

On Saturday, division seven got up over Seymour by five shots to clinch the very tightly contested ladder race and division four extended the insurmountable lead by beating second placed Euroa at home: three rinks to one and 26 shots up.

Congratulations to Lynn Cain-Barber, Mick Collins, Paul Smitheram and Richard Chomiczewski who got a very rare eight shots on the very last end of the final home and away series game. I am sure they will remember that for a long time.

Eildon head to Nagambie to play Tuesday and Saturday pennant finals and we wish them well.



R Chomiczewski, L Cain-Barber, M Collins and P Smitheram. -S

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ISSN 2200-6478



Murrindindi Little Ath's shine at Victoria's Regional Championships

OVER the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, the Little Athletics Victoria regional track and field championships, held in Shepparton, witnessed an impressive showing from Murrindindi Centre athletes. Despite the challenging weather conditions, 16 determined athletes from Murrindindi showcased their skills and dedication on the field.

The intense competition brought together athletes from various parts of the North Country region, providing a platform for Murrindindi Centre's finest to demonstrate their prowess. Among the participants were both seasoned competitors and newcomers, with some athletes representing the club at the regional level for the first time.

The weekend saw an extraordinary display of personal best achievements, with 36 out of the 54 events competed resulting in athletes surpassing their previous records. This remarkable feat underscores not only the talent but

also the hard work and dedication put in by the athletes leading up to the event, culminating in a total of 17 medals for the club.

Behind these outstanding performances lies a testament to the athletes' dedication and commitment to their craft. Many of them had invested countless hours training at home or down at the track, often sacrificing their Thursday nights in addition to the regular Saturday club days, to hone their skills and push their limits. Moreover, the Shepparton athletics track, renowned for its excellent facilities, provided the perfect stage for these athletes to showcase their talents and strive for excellence.

In addition to the athletes' efforts, special acknowledgment is due to the parents who volunteered their time and support during the weekend championships. Whether serving as track marshals, call room officials, long jump pit rakers, or in other roles, their contributions were instrumental

in ensuring the smooth running of the event.

As the dust settled on the Shepparton track, Murrindindi Centre athletes left their mark, not just with their performances but also with the invaluable experience

gained from competing at the regional level. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to aspiring athletes and a source of pride for the Murrindindi community.

The club extends its heartfelt congratulations to Declan Baker,

Levi Campbell, Chase and Clay Hilder, Amelia Kociancic, and Koa Parker for qualifying for the State Track and Field championships to be held on the long weekend in March. If you see them practicing down at the track, be sure to give them a cheer.



14 of the 17 Murrindindi athletes who competed at Regionals. -S



The smile says it all on Charlotte Boulton's face after taking out bronze in the under 13 girls Javelin. -S



Declan Baker in the high jump. -S



Cate Caswell in the centre, pushing hard in the 200m sprint. -S

ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024

Gates open at noon

ALEX RACES ROCKS

- Music
- Horse racing
- Tote & Bookie services
- Fun for young and old

GA from \$15
Concession \$10
ON LINE BOOKINGS PREFERRED
country.racing.com/alexandra

ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB INC



Declan Armstrong (right) floating on air in the 100m sprint. -S