

Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, February 28, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Swing bridge to officially open after 45 years

by Cr Damien Gallagher,
Mayor, Murrindindi
Shire Council

THE Rotary Park Swing Bridge in Alexandra will officially open at a ceremony on March 2, acknowledging the contribution of a local legend, Ted Norris.

The event which commences at 3pm will be attended by current and former members of the Rotary Club of Alexandra and every person in Alexandra and surrounds is invited to mark the historic event.

In 2022, Alexandra Historical Society's Joy Burchell launched a project to recognise the 1978-79 construction of the bridge. The project involved discussions with several locals, the Rotary Club of Alexandra, council, and with the key figures who drove the late 1970s initiative.

Murrindindi Shire Council proudly supports the initiative and has erected a plaque at the northern end of the bridge recognising the construction of the Murrindindi landmark.

Rotary Park - A Brief History

A number of properties were donated to Rotary to facilitate the park now enjoyed by so many in Grant Street, Alexandra. From the Vickery/Grant Street corner:

The first property was owned by Mr Collis (shoe shop owner). For some time, he refused to sell. Eventually the property was donated. Mr Collis donated the property (now home to the Victorian Truck Drivers' Memorial) on the condition that a rose garden be planted in honour of his daughter, Rose. The house was demolished by Ian Newman and most of the materials used in the construction of a farm shed at his property at Fawcett.

The next property, heading 'up' Grant Street from the Vickery Street corner was owned by Andy Christie and

hosted a house which was relocated to 'Reefton Park', at the entrance to Thornton (from Alexandra), a property today owned by Spring Creek Beef.

A third property owned by John Bulmer consisted of a weatherboard shop with a house at the rear. An adjoining shed and yard on the block were occupied by Bob Gillespie as a farming equipment business. A laneway separated the house and shop from the UT Creek. Bob Gillespie of course has provided the iconic bugle call of The Last Post and Reveille in Leckie Park, Alexandra, for many past ANZAC Days.

The Rotary Park Swing Bridge

At a regular Rotary Club meeting in Darmody's Hotel, Alexandra, in 1977, Ted Norris discussed with fellow Rotarian, and then President, Roy Lew Ton the perils of children contending with traffic over the UT Creek Bridge (Grant Street) and proposed instead that the parks could be joined by a walking bridge. Ted drew a sketch of the bridge that evening, at the Rotary meeting.

Roy Lew Ton's friend, an engineer in Bright, completed the computations and worked on the design with Roy and Ted. Building business partners, Ted Norris and John Craven periodically inspected the works and oversaw construction.

Timber for the structure was sourced from Alan 'Bull' Gilmore's farm at Thornton. The timber is grey box (eucalyptus microcarpa). Local, George Steele, who worked with the SEC, sourced wire ropes and John Dunn's tractor was used to assemble the bridge while Bernie 'Bluey' Comte provided chains for the works.

Lloyd Gould provided, from his mill, all of the sawn timber decking boards.

With 100 per cent volunteer labour, the project

took one year to complete at an approximate cost of \$5000 (about \$33.5k in 2024 terms). Mrs Wynn's Bakery provided morning teas and refreshments to the volunteers.

Although revered and appreciated, the bridge was never officially opened.

The Story of Ted and Lynn

Ted and Lynn met in Alexandra with both having historical family links to the town. The couple ran the Rotunda Café from 1970 to 1974. At the time, the café was named 'Sirron', being 'Norris' spelt backwards. They soon joined, and made an indelible mark on, the Rotary Club of Alexandra.

Lynn, along with Bill Price, Peter Dent, and Alan Weeks, started Alexandra's branch of the Victoria Civil Defence Organisation (CDO), which is today known as the State Emergency Service. Lynn was a radio operator with the Alexandra CDO. Ted was a volunteer in the Alexandra Ambulance Service. Lynn would field radio calls to the ambulance service and Civil Defence Organisation from their Sirron Café.

Ted and Brian Cleary designed the unique steel support structure of the barbecue rotunda in Rotary Park, Alexandra. It was identified that a structure requiring no central support would be required to enable an open design. Ted's design for the rotunda rectified the issues with the existing barbecue area (still standing) in Rotary Park which relies on 'anti-social' central brickwork to support the structure.

Ted is an accomplished builder with a mind like an engineer. He was deployed by Kubor Earth Moving to Papua New Guinea in 1974 to build bridges along the 455km highway from Hagen to Lae. He also developed military Bailey bridges for vehicles up to five tonnes.

Thank you, Ted and Lynn Norris, for your generosity to the Alexandra community over the course of your lives of service.

Following the official opening of the Rotary Park Swing Bridge at 3pm on March 2, the Rotary Club of Alexandra will be hosting its annual Music in the Park event in the nearby Rotary Park sound shell, Grant Street, Alexandra. All are welcome to celebrate both events.



Ted Norris. -S

THE ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRA PRESENTS

MUSIC in the PARK

It Is What It Is
Dave Beattie
Alexis Farley

Tayla Arnett
Tahlee Christie



FREE EVENT ROTARY PARK ALEXANDRA
Saturday 2nd March 4 pm - 8 pm

BYO Picnic - Sausage Sizzle. Drinks available
Little River Wines, The Wandering Star Co Coffee Van



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Letters to the Editor

Cashless society

WHEN the tin rattlers are out on Good Friday, raising vitally needed money for the Children's Hospital, will they have an EFTPOS machine attached to their tins? Just asking.

Val Lethbridge, Alexandra

Excuses

IN last week's Standard, a great letter described the highly

commendable actions of our SES volunteers during and after the recent damaging storms. Sadly, in the last paragraph was the oft-repeated fossil fuel-funded media script of 'not our fault' and the cost of replacing fossil fuel energy. They are excuses for climate inaction wrapped in looking-glass culture war rhetoric. Australia is the world's 10th highest per capita CO2 emitter.

You say, 'But Australia has such a small population (0.33 per cent of the world's population), our contribution is negligible.' Sadly, as a nation, we are the 19th highest (0.91 per cent) CO2 emitter of the UN's 193 member states.

In 1824 the French physicist Joseph Fourier hypothesised that gases in the atmosphere trapped heat and could be changed both by the earth's natural evolution

and human activity. Now 200 years later we are witnessing the opening act of earth's natural forces unleashed due to our burning of fossil fuels. Climate change is not politics or a culture war but the unbending laws of physics. Ignore the physics and humanity will not see the encore.

Data source: ourworldindata.org

Ray Wynn, Devils River

Ausnet update regarding storms

A LARGE number of residents and businesses in Murrindindi Shire were impacted by power outages during and after the storms of February 13.

The outages coincided with load shedding as a result of damaged transmission lines.

Ausnet were asked whether Murrindindi Shire was impacted by load shedding, or whether all outages were the result of line damage.

A spokesperson from Ausnet advised that no load shedding occurred in Murrindindi Shire during the week of the storms.



THUMBS UP: To the amazing library staff who allowed us to charge our phones when we had a power outage. Also, we were able to enjoy a cuppa and site and chat in air conditioned comfort.

THUMBS UP: To Paul at the Snobs Creek Bar and Bistro in Eildon for the friendly and attentive customer services.

THUMBS UP: To Cathedral Landcare for the invitation to view the film 'Rachael's Farm', a thought-provoking semi-documentary that explores alternative thinking about farm practices.

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

Standard

Available from these retail outlets

- Alexandra FoodWorks
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- Alexandra Newspapers
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- 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:



Many smiling faces at Intergenerational Playgroup in Alexandra. The group started last Tuesday, February 20. -S

Weekly Weather

February 28 - March 5, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	18	35	Wednesday	18	36
Thursday	14	29	Thursday	14	30
Friday	14	30	Friday	14	30
Saturday	10	24	Saturday	10	23
Sunday	10	24	Sunday	10	23
Monday	12	27	Monday	11	27
Tuesday	15	27	Tuesday	15	28



RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	1.00pm Mon	1.62	steady	below minor
Acheron R at Taggerty	1.00pm Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	10.21am Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	8.24am Mon	0.52	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	1.00pm Mon	0.50	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	1.00pm Mon	0.47	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	1.00pm Mon	1.29	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	1.00pm Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	1.00pm Mon	1.60	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	11.02am Mon	1.16	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	1.00pm Mon	3.71	steady	

**ISSUED AT 1.15PM ON MONDAY, 26 FEBRUARY 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	1.5mm
Eildon (AWS)	0.4mm
Flowerdale	0mm
Jamieson	8mm
Kinglake	5mm
Lake Eildon	30mm
Mansfield	5mm
Taggerty	2mm
Yarck	2mm
Yea	2mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	287.87m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	95.9%
Metres below full supply	103cm
Daily inflow	7500ML
Release	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	77%

Standard

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Successful planned burns in the shire



ON Sunday and Monday, February 18 and 19, Forest Fire Management (FFM) completed fuel reduction burns in the Murrindindi Shire.

Weather and forecast conditions were suitable to ignite a 3.6 hectare fuel reduction burn at Mount Slide Road in Toolangi, a nine hectare fuel reduction burn at Paradise Plains Road in Marysville and a 6.3 hectare fuel reduction burn at Gilberts Gully Track in Marysville.

A FFM spokesperson said "All burns were successfully completed with the help

of local CFA Brigades.

"Reducing forest fuels means fires are less intense and slower to spread, making it more likely that firefighters can contain bushfires before they impact people, property and the environment. Planned burning is part of FFMVic's year round program to reduce size, intensity and impact of future bushfires to communities and the environment.

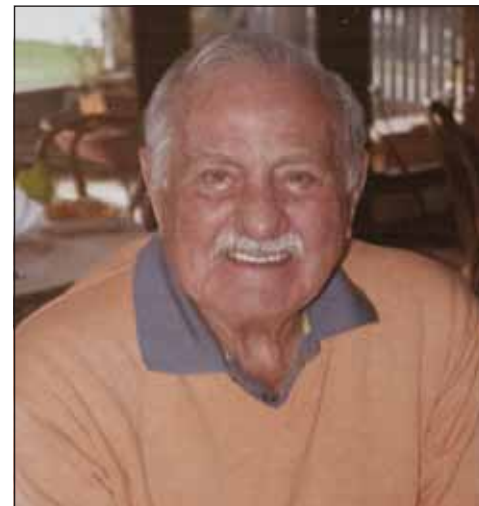
"FFMVic works closely with the Bureau of Meteorology to assess weather conditions, such as humidity, temperature,

and wind speed, and only carries out burns when the conditions are suitable, and it is safe to do so.

"Planned burns are ignited where they will achieve the greatest impact to reduce the risk of fires. FFMVic also undertakes mulching, mowing, slashing, and spraying, builds fuel breaks, and upgrades and maintains the public land road network to help keep communities safe," the FFM spokesperson said.

Information on planned burns near you can be found at vic.gov.au/plannedburns

Happy 90th birthday Joe Cooper



Alexandra local, Joe Cooper, is celebrating his 90th birthday today, Wednesday, February 28. Many happy returns, Joe. -S

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

FOR the past couple of weeks, carpet bowls coordinator, Ron, has been in hospital so the hall has been quiet on a Tuesday afternoon. The club hopes to be back in action shortly and are looking for more players. If you are interested in learning the skill of carpet bowls while enjoying good company please give Mike a call on 0456 456 263.

The bridge players have enjoyed a few hands on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and would also welcome new players.

Friday's social meeting was well attended and after the usual agenda items, treasurer Dave had the members smiling with the jokes and Steph spun the wheel for the chocolate draw.

Members were saddened to hear of the passing of a former member, Sandy MacIntosh. The club's sympathy and best wishes go out to family and friends.

The meeting concluded with vice president, Marg Hall, giving a short presentation and telling of her life from coming to Australia from England, her teaching career and her foreign travels. So many members have interesting tales to tell and all are looking forward to the next story.

As most of the committee are unavailable, this week's committee meeting is postponed.

After the formalities, the members retired for the usual refreshments and card games. The usual first Friday of the month business meeting will be held this week. If you would like to know what is happening at 51 Bayley Street, please give Mike a call or come along on Friday at 1pm.

Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Come down to enjoy some Music in the Park

THE Rotary Club of Alexandra is looking forward to presenting Music in the Park on Saturday, March 2, from 4 to 8pm at Rotary Park in Alexandra.

The event is free of charge and you can bring along your own picnic, or enjoy the sausage sizzle and drinks that will be available for purchase. Little River Wines and The Wandering Star Co Coffee Van will also be in attendance.

There will be a great line up of performers this year for everyone to enjoy, including Dave Beattie, Tayla Arnett, Tahlee Christie, It Is What It Is, and Alexis Farley.

Dave Beattie has lived in Alexandra for 10 years, and played in rural Victoria for a few years in his younger years. Dave has a keen interest in all things music and follows many talented artists playing the rural scene. Dave's mainstay is country rock, playing oldee gold tunes like Neil Diamond, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Crowded House, and pop songs, too many to mention.

Dave is from a country background, from Shepparton originally, and Melbourne, where he took up music early in his life when Countdown was on a Sunday night on the black and white television. Now, he is happy to play a few tunes for us and entertain a crowd, because he's not ready

to give up the strings just yet.

Tayla Arnett found a love for music and singing at a very young age. She began singing lessons with her local music teacher at the age of nine and joined the music program that was offered to her in primary school. Growing up in a small town was the perfect backdrop for her to nurture her talent and create her own entertainment by learning every song on the radio.

Tayla started off by singing covers songs, but over the past has gotten into writing her own music inspired by life experiences, the people around her, and her favourite artists. Tayla takes on every musical opportunity she can and has done many performing gigs at different places such as markets, mini festivals, cafes, concerts and more. Ever since Tayla discovered her passion for singing she dreamt of making a career out of it and sharing her own music with others.

Tahlee Christie has always had a love for music and says it's a huge part of her life, and has been since before she could remember.

"I started learning piano when I entered high school and fell in love with it. Around two years ago I finally found the courage to sing out loud to others, I was very nervous at the start, but now I live and breathe it.

Wherever I go you'll find me singing or humming a little tune to myself," she said.

"Last year I took up guitar and taught myself the basics. I love country music and that is the genre that I enjoy singing. I have written a few songs and have some in the making at the moment. My biggest idols are Taylor Swift and Lainey Wilson, they really inspire me."

Local Taggerty band, It Is What It Is, have played everywhere from Marysville to Molesworth but mostly Taggerty. Playing a mix of songs from the last 50 years, plus a couple they've made up themselves, you will find yourself rocking along to the groove.

Artist Alexis Farley grew up in a household where music is a constant feature. Alexis can often be heard singing some of her favourites around the house. Recognising her ability to match the pitch and structure of multiple songs, she has been encouraged to channel those skills and recently commenced singing lessons with Gary Soloman, performing to a crowd for the first time at the end of year student concert in December.

There is a such a great lineup, come along and enjoy a relaxed musical night in the park.

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Out & About

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Alexandra Rotary Club presents Music in the Park, Rotary Park, Alexandra from 4-8pm. Sausage sizzle, drinks available, wine and coffee for sale or BYO picnic. Dave Beattie, Alexis Farley, Tayla Arnett and Tahlee Christie.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Alexandra District Netball Association AGM at 6pm at the Corner Hotel. Contact Stef 0423 233 423 for full details.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Yarck Mechanics institute and Library Inc will hold a public meeting at The Yarck Hall from 7pm. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate the Committee of Management. Finger food and drinks at 6pm prior to meeting. Contact Sharon 0407 879 612 for further details and enquiries.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Alexandra and District Open Gardens will hold their AGM at 4pm at the Embassy of Ideas, all welcome.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Alexandra Community Hub AGM will be held at 5.15pm at the Historic Court House. To register email admin@alexhub.com.au or call Sue on 5772 1238 (Monday-Thursday).

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 / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5	Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY

Tues	Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue	Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed	Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu	Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri	Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun	AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 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	Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1 st Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 st Sat	Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
1 st Sun	Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2 nd Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 nd Sat	Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2 nd Sat	Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Sat	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 rd Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
3 rd Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 rd Sun	Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4 th Tue	Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th Thu	Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri	Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455



For a \$5 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of what groups are available in the community, when they meet and a contact phone number.

Brewing up an economic buzz in Murrindindi Shire



Participants of the Coffee and Commerce event gather for a group photo, showcasing the spirit of collaboration and community engagement. -S

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

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 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

ON Tuesday morning, bright and early in Alexandra, 60 local businesses and community leaders gathered for a vibrant morning of networking and discussion at the Coffee and Commerce event held at On Point Brewery. Organised by Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc (MFW) the event aimed to foster collaboration, share insights, and explore opportunities for economic growth within Murrindindi Shire.

The event kicked off with a warm welcome from Rob Mitchell, President of MFW, who set the tone for the morning's agenda. Attendees were treated to engaging presentations from key speakers, including Bess Nolan-Cook, CEO of Tourism North East, (TNE) who delved into the significance of tourism for the region.

Bess highlighted the newly unveiled 10 year Destination Management Plan for Victoria's High Country, emphasising its role in driving positive outcomes for the local visitor economy. The plan focuses on five product pillars, cycling; the Victorian Alps; nature; food, drink and produce; and arts, cultural heritage, and events. Bess noted that in 2022 there were five million visitors to the high country and that there were \$2.3 billion in expenditures by the domestic market. Murrindindi Shire itself received 1.2 million visitors.

Gina Elliot who is the Industry and Product Development Manager at TNE then spoke about the programs and work she does with operators to enhance their visitor experiences and flagged upcoming workshops that businesses may wish to be part of.

Following TNE's presentation, attendees received updates on the 2024 Business Resilience Project from MFW. The project, which focuses on recovery, networking, and capacity building, aims to support businesses across various sectors within Murrindindi Shire. Attendees were encouraged to contribute their ideas for future workshops and networking events, underscoring the collaborative spirit of the initiative. Upcoming initiatives, including a Jobs Expo in May and a 12 month support local campaign, aimed at further empowering the local business community.

Ben Harnwell, Manager of Economic Development at Murrindindi Shire Council, took the opportunity to discuss council's efforts in promoting economic development, including an update on the Shaping Murrindindi's Future project. Ben provided insights into the development of council's new Economic Development Strategy, designed to support existing and new businesses while leveraging the unique

strengths of the shire.

The five priority areas identified were visitor economy, agriculture and food production, business support, sustainable future, and prosperous communities. The draft Economic Development Strategy and two-year Action Plan will be made available for community input in April 2024.

In his closing remarks, Rob Mitchell, President of MFW, expressed gratitude to participants from across the region who attended, speakers, supporters, suppliers, and hosts for their contributions to the event's success. He thanked the Murrindindi Shire Council and the Victorian State Government for their support.

Emcee for the breakfast and the secretary of MFW, Sam Hicks, concluded, "In 2024, we are encouraging all businesses to be part of the three initiatives of the business resilience project and as we navigate the challenges of small business and seize the opportunities that lie ahead. We look forward to a year of growth, collaboration, and resilience."

For more information about upcoming events and initiatives, please visit murrindindifoodandwine.org.au or via social media.

The proof's in the weaner prices for Riddellvue



The Riddellvue Angus top selling bull. -S

THERE are few better indicators of a producer's program than results at saleyards, where the top two pens of cattle sold at the Yea January weaner offerings were Riddellvue-blood, according to stud principal Ian Bates.

"We had one client whose steers averaged 360kg, which is pretty high for this time of year, so we are seeing good results," he said.

"Obviously everyone wants a bit more for their cattle, but it is heading in the right direction, so moving forward this year things should stabilise with better pricing."

By investing in Riddellvue Angus stud genetics producers can be confident they are on the right track, and when you team proven results with the improved market conditions and what Ian describes as an "unbelievably" good season, bull buyers should have plenty of confidence leading into Riddellvue's annual autumn sale.

The stud will offer 36 Angus bulls and 20 females on Thursday, March 14 at Markwood, Victoria.

The 2024 sale will feature three new sire lines, including Ellingson Three Rivers from the US.

"Ellingson ranch I follow quite strongly, it is a good genuine ranch in North Dakota breeding in tough conditions with an excellent female herd," Ian said.

"The Three Rivers bull carries a bit of birthweight but to me his progeny are true cattleman bulls, structured right, with plenty of volume and I think they will do really well."

Baldrige Alternative is the other prominent US sire in this drop of bulls.

"I've used a couple of different sires out of the Baldrige herd and the 'Alternative bull' goes back to Poss Easy Impact and Poss Total Impact which is another ranch in US that is doing really well with great progeny," Ian added.

"Baldrige Alternative has a good spread of numbers, a heifer bull through to a big 600 day weight and carries a bit of marbling and great eye muscle."

Local sire, Texas Topgun has also been utilised, with Ian describing the bull as having a good number-set and being well suited to his program.

"I never feed bulls up too much, so people are welcome to view them in their real skin by private inspection prior to sale.

"I like to grow them naturally and they'll come on a lot in the next couple of months."

Riddellvue held its first female sale last May, selling 20 lots to a top of \$7000 and averaging \$3688.

They will now offer females at both of their annual on-property sales, including this March when nine mature three-in-one cow packages, pregnancy tested in calf and with calves at foot, and 14 PTIC heifers will go under the hammer.

"They've got similar genetics to the bulls so there are plenty of good opportunities there," Ian said.

"Moving forward we will introduce females in all bull sales

- spring calving in autumn and autumn calving in spring.

"The herd is at a good balance and retention rates are high, so it gives us a chance to offer some quality females out into the industry."

Last year's autumn bull sale was the first offering from Riddellvue at their new King Valley location, having made the move from Alexandra early in 2023.

In March they sold 23 bulls to a top of \$15,000 and averaged \$7717, while in the spring 21 bulls averaged \$6675 and sold to \$12,000.

Ian said the move north has been positive for the stud, and the herd continues to improve, with the females coming through the herd being "quite exciting".

"I like to breed genuine bulls, it is nice to go through a season and not have anyone come through with breakdowns. I get great feedback throughout the year with phone calls of we love this bull, temperament is fantastic, calves are really good," he said.

"And if you buy the bull I'll get it to you, free delivery Australia wide, so don't be afraid to come and have a look."

Riddellvue's fourth annual autumn bull sale will be held on Thursday, March 14 on-property at 153 Markwood-Tarrawingee Road, Markwood, and integrated with AuctionsPlus, with the auction at 1pm.

For the latest news and sale updates, please visit riddellvue.com.au or Riddellvue Angus Facebook and Instagram Page.

Pans turn full circle



Raw 44-gallon drums in 2009, before their conversion to steelpans. -S



Steelpans on their way to Auckland, New Zealand, in 2024 -S

FIFTEEN years ago, shortly after the 2009 Victorian bushfires, a trailer load of 44 gallon drums donated by VIP Packaging was collected in Western Melbourne and headed to Tullamarine Airport to pick up Werner Egger, a Swiss steelpan maker who had volunteered to come to Australia and make a complete set of steelpans for the newly formed Pans on Fire steelband. He stayed for three years and made several sets of pans for the many steelbands that were formed in our district.

Fast forward to 2024, and some of those pans were now in the same trailer taking them back to the airport for a trip to New Zealand. The reason for their trip was that an Auckland based steelband had lost all their pans in late 2023, when fire ripped through their rehearsal rooms, destroying the building and all their pans. A call went out for help in the Australasian steelband community for replacement pans, and Marysville's Pans on Fire was only too willing to assist, given

all the help they had received in 2009 when they were most in need of help in their recovery process.

But while they were happy to donate the pans for free, they soon discovered that the cost of sending 200kg of musical instruments to NZ was not trivial. So in desperation, they called the NZ Consul General's Office and explained the situation and asked if they could assist. And assist they did, contacting various companies to find ways to transport the pans. Within a couple of weeks, they advised that Air New Zealand would be happy to transport the pans for free, given the generosity involved in the donation, with Mainfreight handling all the ground transportation and freight handling.

Pans on Fire would like to thank Air NZ, Mainfreight and the NZ Consul General for helping to get their NZ steelpan colleagues back on their feet again. It's good to see the ANZAC spirit alive and being well practiced.

ANGUS GENETICS DESIGNED TO BUILD QUALITY HERDS



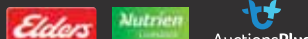
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OPEN DAY
WEDNESDAY
6TH MARCH
10am - 2pm
BBQ Lunch



Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Havana Fereday - 5/6B

Havana shows the school values every day and is to be especially acknowledged for her caring attitude to others. She looks out for her friends and peers. She even takes care of her teachers. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Havana. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Carter has been trying his best in all areas of his learning and making great progress.

Congratulations Carter.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Jake and Lucy showed terrific respect and integrity in all of their work this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Zahlia has shown tremendous growth in all areas of learning. Her positive mindset affords her to push through challenges and has proven to be a great role model. Zahlia's soft and gentle nature is appreciated by her peers in the classroom and at play. She is a true team player.

Congratulations Zahlia on a beautiful and living example of our Gospel values.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Getting youth involved in local brigades

NOW the school term is well underway, the Triangle Junior Fire Brigade is back into the swing of things. So far, the group consists of seven youths with ages ranging from 11 to 16 years, from the triangle area including Taggerty, Buxton, Marysville, Narbethong and Granton, and the organisers are calling out for anyone in this area to join.

The group is run by Will Koster, Greg Lawrence, Kellie Fielder, and Carmel Denham who makes sure the children don't go hungry on the night.

A couple of weeks ago the group suited up and got to learn about water, including how the fire hoses work and adjusting the water flows, and learning the difference of what type of water flow is used for in various scenarios.

Last week the group took a tour of where the recent control burns took place in Marysville, in order to be familiar with what a fire ground looks like, and to learn the very important procedure of a burn over drill.

Will explained, "A burnover drill is when you put the truck into defensive mode by closing windows, vents, pulling down the fire shields, and putting on protection sprinklers, which is what you do if your truck is at risk of flames hitting."

This group isn't a competition brigade, which most junior brigades are. Will said "We are more about teaching the children about what they need to do if there is a fire, teaching how fire behaves, how to read maps and communicate via radio."

The radio practice was well received by the group. Will explained an effective technique used, that not only taught how to use the radio but the important message of effective communication.

"We split the group up in two, and they had to communicate to each other



Last week the juniors went out to see the recent control burns in Marysville. -S

what I had built and how to do it. It showed them that if there is any room for error there will be error. If you don't give clear and concise instruction there will be a mistake," Will said.

Children aged between 11 and 16 can sign up to be a part of junior brigade, and once they are 16, they can stay on until 17 years old.

These sessions are great to encourage future members down the track, however if that doesn't happen that's okay because the youths have gained a better understanding of how brigades run, what happens with fires and how to help themselves if things go wrong. It can also be a great way to build confidence and leadership skills.

CFA juniors is on fortnightly throughout the school term on Wednesday nights from 6.30pm at Buxton CFA Station. For any questions call Will Koster on 0497 501 730.



The juniors getting experience with the fire hoses and their different pressures. -S

Community grants

THE Dyson Group of Companies, incorporating the legendary Cobb & Co brand, is pleased to announce the launch of the next round of the Dysons Community Grants.

The program was been established to provide grants in support of the many sporting, educational, welfare and community groups around Victoria, and to date more than 80 grants have been distributed.

Program Manager, Grant Deacon, said the program aims to support a range of community-based organisations at grass roots level.

"The Dyson Group is very happy to be able to support so many community groups. We are pleased that our grants can make a difference to so many people who work and volunteer with these groups by helping them with their special projects."

There are two rounds of grants annually, each with \$10,000 available (maximum grant \$1000). Eligible organisations include pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, sporting clubs, not-for-profit groups, charities, welfare agencies, local societies and volunteer emergency services.

Grant said, "so many community groups rely on volunteers to deliver their services. We are so grateful for their work and excited to be able to support them. The applications we receive demonstrate the aims and achievements of so many hard-working people."

The next round of grants opens on March 1 and closes on March 31. Details can be found at dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants

Phone tower providers respond to connectivity issues during storms

DURING and following the storms which occurred on February 13, people in many parts of the shire lost connection to phones and internet, in addition to or following the loss of electricity.

In many townships, Triple Zero was unavailable through the SOS service on mobile phones for close to 24 hours, as all of the phone towers were offline.

Telstra

Telstra Regional General Manager Steve Tinker said, "The severe storms in Victoria knocked out power in a number of areas, which affected some of our services.

"Our network sites need power to run. We have power backup built into almost all our network sites and they kept services running in many places long after the storms swept through. They however can't last for extended power outages.

"Our hardworking teams on the ground worked around the clock to restore services, and all our mobile sites in the state were back online by Sunday, delivering coverage to our customers.

"We know how important it is to stay in touch during times like this and we worked to get everything back to normal as quickly as possible."

In July, 2023, Telstra announced that they're working with Starlink to deliver LEO satellite connectivity to provide voice and fixed broadband services in remote and hard to reach places.

They also recently announced that during 2024, they will be working towards a trial of direct to handset (DTH) satellite service for basic connectivity (initially text only) when they are outside of our terrestrial mobile network coverage.

DTH lays the pathway for outdoor connectivity for basic mobile services, starting with text messages before eventually voice and low-rates of data, may

be possible from some of Australia's most remote locations.

For the most part consumers won't need to buy a specific compatible phone to send an SMS over DTH, as it will take advantage of technology already inside modern smartphones.

People with an Apple iPhone 14 or newer may have already experienced an emerging version of DTH connectivity with its Emergency SOS mode, which allows people to send text messages to an emergency responder through LEO satellites to request help.

There remain limitations to the technology to be aware of as it continues to be developed.

This technology will initially support text, and in the longer term, voice and low speed data to smartphones across Australia, albeit outdoors, and with a clear skyline.

Support for good quality voice and low speed data will require a next generation handset which supports the 3GPP NTN standard.

When contacted about the local phone and internet issues, the Australia Communications and Media Authority provided the following response:

"There are no regulatory obligations relating to the use of batteries and generators. Mobile network operators such as Telstra and Optus have no requirement to notify the ACMA regarding the installation of this equipment.

"However, the ACMA is aware that network operators undertake activities to improve network resilience, and this may include the use of batteries and generators. The network operators are best placed to provide information on the steps taken to manage a network outage and to improve network resilience.

"The Australian Government has taken active steps to increase the resilience of

Australia's telecommunications networks, to help prevent, mitigate and manage outages during emergencies. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' website provides resources regarding the range of measures being undertaken to improve the resilience of communications networks. Visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-communications-arts/phone/improving-resilience-australias-telco-networks.

Importantly, it should be noted that mobile network operators such as Telstra and Optus have a range of regulatory obligations in relation to network outages and the handling of emergency calls.

Under the Telecommunications (Emergency Call Service) Determination 2019 (the Determination), network operators are required to notify the emergency call person (Telstra) as soon as practicable after becoming aware of a significant network outage.

Under an associated registered Code, telcos are encouraged to make information available to the community on the status of their networks in instances where their networks have been seriously disrupted and there is a direct impact on the emergency call service.

Optus

OPTUS were also contacted about their phone tower outages. An Optus spokesperson said, "Due to a severe storm causing power outages across Melbourne and parts of Victoria, some customers in the Murrindindi Shire experienced service disruptions.

"Optus collaborated closely with local disaster management groups and strategically positioned generators and a SatCat across the state to bolster key mobile sites' operational activity.

"A number of our sites in the Murrindindi Shire area were impacted by the storm, however the mobile site at Kinglake stayed online due to battery back-up until the power was restored.

"Our dedicated field technicians worked in tandem with the electricity utility companies to prioritise the restoration of service.

"Despite the challenges, our field technicians accessed affected sites and restored service as soon as it was safe to do so.

They added, "The majority of our mobile sites have back-up power with batteries or fixed generators which come into action when power is lost to a community. They last several hours, however during a weather event such as in Victoria, the back-up power source can also run out.

"Optus has a suite of measures to both prepare and use in the aftermath of a major weather event. These include field teams trained in restoring power by deploying generators and setting up SatCats. Once power comes back on in one area, we move these resources to where they are needed next.

"Working closely with the government and local power companies is crucial during this period to determine where resources need to go next.

"In the instance of an emergency, customers should still attempt to dial Triple Zero. As is always the case, when there is no power, all networks are impacted and Triple Zero will not work on any network.

"We extend our sincere apologies to affected customers and express gratitude for their patience."

Like Telstra, Optus is also working with SpaceX to enhance connection, particularly in regional areas, using LEO satellites.

Review to examine February storms

THE Victorian Government has said that it will commission a supplementary independent review into the electricity distribution system response to the February 2024 storms, led by a panel of independent experts, not politicians.

The independent review will focus on the operational arrangements and preparedness of energy distribution companies to respond to these extreme weather events.

This will include the distribution businesses management of the incident as well as the timely and effective restoration of supply. It will also compare the operating models of energy network companies.

It will also investigate if there were any material opportunities that could have enabled a more rapid reconnection of customers, such as the availability of field crews and technical expertise through the use of mutual aid agreements and resource sharing within Victoria, or from interstate resources.

The panel will investigate communications with customers, the effectiveness of information platforms and services, such as outage trackers, and preparedness to administer relief to impacted communities.

The Victorian Government will also be seeking assistance from the Australian Energy Regulator for information regarding the energy resilience requirements of energy infrastructure companies.

The final scope of the independent review will be given detailed consideration and it will build on the work of the Electricity Distribution Network Resilience Review that followed two storm events in 2021 and focused on the resilience of physical grid infrastructure.

On February 13, Victoria experienced a catastrophic storm event that damaged 12,000 kilometres of powerlines and poles across the state's electricity distribution businesses, causing power outages that

impacted more than 500,000 homes and businesses.

As the climate changes catastrophic events and destructive weather patterns will become more frequent and more extreme and it is critical electricity distribution networks are able to mitigate, manage and recover quickly from these events.

This review will be undertaken in addition to investigations from Energy Safe Victoria into the tower collapse and the Australia Energy Market Operator into system response and security.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio said, "We want to get to the bottom of exactly what has occurred, and an independent review will ensure that private distribution companies learn valuable lessons from what happened as climate change leads to more extreme and destructive weather events.

"This review will be conducted by experts, not politicians, and complement the work done following the 2021 storms to make sure our energy network can handle extreme weather events."

The announcement of the review came after lobbying from the Opposition.

Leader of the Opposition, John Pesutto, said prior to the government's announcement, "We know that the government received a number of reports leading up to last week warning them about the fragility of our transmission network. We need to take whatever steps are required to avoid a repeat of these incidents."

Shadow Minister for Energy, Affordability and Security, David Davis, added, "Victorians have every right to expect secure, affordable and reliable power. What we saw last week is completely unacceptable and we need a reliable and robust transmission system that will withstand events including storms."

WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW 2024

The Victorian Electoral Commission is conducting a review of Council's ward boundaries.



At the request of the Minister for Local Government, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is reviewing Murrindindi Shire Council's internal boundaries (wards).

These types of reviews happen when the number of voters per councillor is forecasted to be outside the legislated +/- 10% tolerance in one or more wards at the next local council election. This makes sure each voter is represented equally.

You're invited to have your say on the proposed ward boundaries, outlined in the VEC's preliminary report, and how well they represent your community.

You can share your views in writing and draw a map of your preferred ward boundaries. This is known as a submission.

Submissions are now open and close at 5 .00 pm on 13 March.

For more information on the review and to have your say, visit the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au/murrindindi or you can scan the QR code below.



Keen expectation for Lake Eildon assessment around flooding

by Upper Goulburn Catchment Association

FARMERS downstream of Lake Eildon are keenly awaiting the outcome of the Department of Environment Energy and Climate Action's assessment of the operating arrangements of Lake Eildon to reduce flooding downstream.

The assessment is due out in March 2024, after the release was delayed from December 2023, and is considering options to create more 'airspace' to buffer against intense rain events and mitigate flood risk.

The review was initiated after the devastating October 2022 floods when Lake Eildon spilled, causing a 'dam-release flood' of 38,000 megalitres per day on top of already swollen tributaries downstream.

It is hoped that changes will be made to Eildon operations on the grounds of economic, social, climate change and legal considerations.

Economic and social

The economic impact of flooding on farms, towns and community infrastructure from flooding is massive. The cost of the 2022 floods to the LGAs of Murrindindi, Moira, Strathbogie and Mitchell was calculated by Deloitte as \$610 million. The damage is immediate; and recovery is long and slow. The cost of this damage is born not by the dam manager but by those directly impacted, the rate payers in affected LGAs and the taxpayers of Victoria.

The psychological and physical toll on people living down the Goulburn Valley below Eildon is also very real. In 2023, there were a number of minor floods caused by the release of water from Eildon as the lake topped out again, exacerbating stress levels. It's also a statement of the obvious, that floods kill people. Now, in the middle of summer (23/24), Eildon remains at over 96 per cent of capacity and threatens everyone's livelihoods and wellbeing again through the winter and spring of 2024.

Climate change

Climate change forecasts predict that Victoria can expect 'more intense downpours', the evidence of the last few years suggests this is becoming a reality. The Victorian Government has recommended that the community must adapt and build resilience in the face of these changes.

Dam operators (such as Goulburn Murray Water) and government agencies need to heed to this advice and alter dam operating policies to meet the changing climate challenges. Creating more 'airspace' or a

'flood compartment' seems a rational change to dam operations and will build community resilience in the face of more intense rainfall events. To not make a change to operating procedures in the face of climate change predictions would be negligent.

Legal

Section 122ZL of the Water Act - Functions of Storage Managers, states that water authorities "must have regard to developing and implementing strategies to mitigate flooding, where possible."

Aiming to have Eildon full on October 1 each year (just as the intense spring rains are expected) does not demonstrate compliance with this legal obligation. It is an action that creates floods rather than mitigates.

Water authorities have suggested that the "where possible" caveat discounts Section 122ZL legal obligation. However, dams such as Eildon have endless possibility to mitigate flooding. GMW could, for instance, adopt the Wivenhoe Dam operating procedures and utilise 50 per cent of the dam's capacity as a 'flood compartment' to absorb flooding rains and protect downstream communities, not that landholders are calling for this. Farmers are hoping to see the 100 per cent full target on October 1 changed to 90 per cent on December 1. This would clearly demonstrate compliance with Section 122ZL of the Water Act.

Straw Man Argument

Water authorities often put up a 'straw man argument' claiming that we have a binary choice: flood protection or water security. They try to pitch irrigators against those seeking flood protection, a divide and conquer strategy. But we are one and the same. Those of us getting flooded are irrigators and customers of the same water authorities.

A change to operating procedures is only going to come into effect in wet years. By experience, the lake only fills in wet years or after a series of wet years, when water availability is high and water values are low. In these periods, there usually remains a strong inflow through December for further water harvesting.

We live on the river and utilize the water to grow food for all Victorians; but flooding us every few years is counterproductive. We strongly believe that with a more nuanced approach to dam operations, we, in the Goulburn Valley, and the wider Victorian community can be better protected from floods without compromising water security.

Haines introduces Bill to stop major party rorts

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines has introduced a Private Members' Bill to Parliament to reform how Commonwealth funding is managed to increase fairness, transparency and accountability. The Accountability of Grants, Investment Mandates and Use of Public Resources Amendment (End Pork Barrelling) Bill 2024 seeks to end 'pork barrelling' by increasing transparency and accountability of Government spending of taxpayer money in grant programs.

Pork barrelling is the practice of directing government funds to projects in marginal electorates to win votes, without regard to evidence of the project's merit.

"Taxpayer money should be spent on the needs of communities not the wants of the major parties," Dr Haines said. "Funding decisions should be evidence-based, with grants awarded on merit and need."

"At election time, the major parties use taxpayer money to shore up votes in marginal seats. Rorting grants programs wastes money and destroys public trust in government processes."

Dr Haines has worked closely with the Centre for Public Integrity to draft the Bill, which would require all grants programs to have clear and publicly available selection criteria; ensure robust reporting to the parliament to increase accountability; and create a parliamentary committee with oversight of grant administration and guideline compliance.

"At its best, pork barrelling is maladministration, at its worst its corruption. The solutions I have put forward in this Bill are practical reporting measures that ensure that the parliament, and the public, know how funding decisions are made, and why grants are awarded," Dr Haines said.

Where are all the tankers?

AS Victoria is in the midst for the potential of dangerous weather including the prospect of bushfires, the state government has failed to deliver on a key pledge to upgrade CFA heavy tankers to assist firefighting efforts, according to the Opposition.

In June 2020, the Victorian Government committed to deliver a new fleet of 48 heavy tankers to replace aging single cab tankers by late 2023.

These heavy tankers were described as "state of the art firefighting vehicles", outfitted with modern equipment including electronic monitors and electric rewind hose reels and would allow a full crew to sit within the cabin.

Despite its promise and warnings of a dangerous bushfire season, the government has admitted it has delivered only 20 of the 48 tankers to the CFA, with the rollout of the remaining 28 tankers not expected to be completed until later this year.

Leader of the Opposition, John Pesutto,

said, "Once again the government has failed to deliver on its promises and this has left many communities across Victoria vulnerable."

"Last week we saw storms and blackouts impact hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses across the state and fires tear through communities... with devastating consequences."

"Labor ignored warnings that our energy network was vulnerable to such events and now it has broken a promise to ensure local communities are properly resourced to deal with the threat of bushfires," Mr Pesutto said.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Richard Riordan, said, "Labor's broken promise affects communities right across the state including areas that were hard hit by last week's extreme weather."

"There is no excuse to be so ill prepared and once again Victorians are paying the price for Labor's mismanagement of our emergency services," Mr Riordan said.

Million Paws Walk at Eildon

RSPCA's Million Paws Walk will be back in Eildon on May 26 for the 30th anniversary of the first-ever Million Paws Walk.

Thousands of pups and their owners will hit the pavement across Australia to raise vital funds to help the RSPCA end animal cruelty, and the organisation is calling for residents and businesses to get involved in this year's event.

More than 6000 people and around 9000 dogs are expected to participate in Million Paws Walk events across Victoria.

RSPCA Victoria CEO Dr Liz Walker said the funds raised at every walk helped end animal cruelty, one step at a time.

"We're very excited to see the amazing dogs at this year's Million Paws Walk and can't wait to meet their families and friends," Dr Walker said.

"The money raised at these walks helps us care for the thousands of animals coming into RSPCA shelters every year, including those seized by our Inspectors."

"Eildon is in our Inspectorate's South-East region, which received 1288 reports of animal cruelty while 269 animals were seized by or surrendered to our inspectors."

"The community support our Inspectors see every day keeps them going, so it's wonderful to be celebrating these fantastic events like the Million Paws Walk."

"Communities like Eildon are vital to our mission to end cruelty to animals, and there's no better way to help out than a fun and dog-friendly environment like your local Million Paws Walk."

Locals interested in volunteering or businesses interested in running a vendor stall at this year's Eildon Million Paws Walk can register at MPW@rspcavic.org.au or call 9224 2222.

Registrations for participants at the 30th Annual Million Paws Walk are now open, with a 'barking-mad' discount of 60 per cent available until March 27.

Head to millionpawswalk.com.au to register for your local walk and start fundraising.

The Eildon Million Paws Walk will be at the Eildon Pondage on Sunday, May 26. The event will start at 10am, with the walk itself commencing at approximately 10am. The event will finish at noon. Tickets are available at millionpawswalk.com.au/eildon



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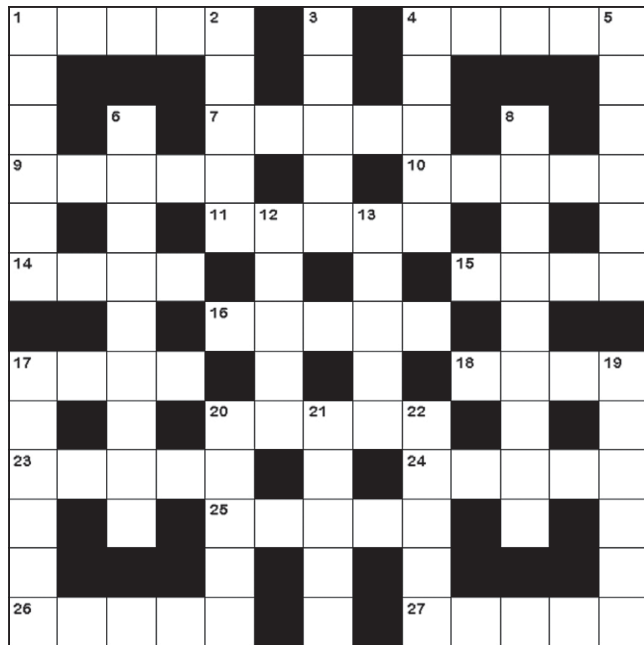
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 13

Crossword

ACROSS

1. He lived in a whale.
4. Stay with as a guest.
7. Wash off the soap.
9. Take a life.
10. More intense.
11. Religious songs.
14. The abominable snowman.
15. Extinct bird.
16. Give a fright to.
17. A curve in the road.
18. Scottish Highlander's skirt.
20. A secret store.
23. Young owl.
24. Register as a competitor.
25. Extra room added on to a caravan.
26. Unmitigated cheek.
27. The first time in public.



DOWN

1. Employed to ride a race horse.
2. Extremely unkind.
3. Toxin from a snake.
4. Thoughts and ideas.
5. Evening dress for men.
6. In an obvious manner.
8. Criminals who set fires.

12. Cruising boat with sails.
13. People who study excessively.
17. Stopped functioning.
19. The goal to aim for.
20. Organise, and carry out an event.
21. Irritate and harass.
22. Was cursed.

Word Search

Fairy Tale Characters

- ALICE
- BELL
- CINDERELLA
- ELSA
- FIONA
- GEPPETTO
- MERIDA
- MULAN
- RAPUNZEL
- SHREK
- TINKERBELL
- URSULA

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

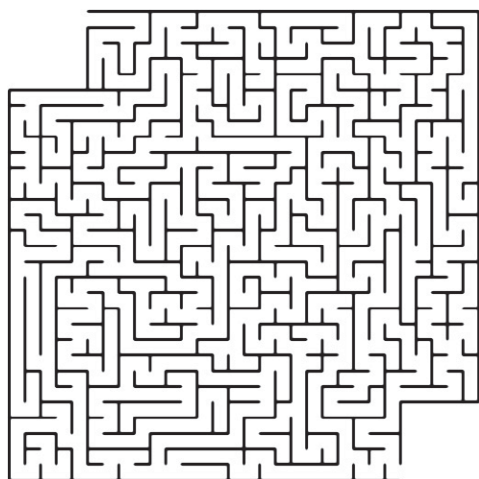
Double Puzzle

UMMERSS CAVTAINO BCHEA MIISGWNM
 10 13 4 6 5 3 11

OGFL RUSAEQBEB IPMGACN
 1 7 2

SHUNNIES
 8 9 12 1 2 3 4 D Y 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

Maze



Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

Why does a leap year have 366 days?

by Bhagya Subrayan, PhD Student in Physics and Astronomy, Purdue University, First published in *The Conversation*

YOU may be used to hearing that it takes the Earth 365 days to make a full lap, but that journey actually lasts about 365 and a quarter days. Leap years help to keep the 12 month calendar matched up with Earth's movement around the Sun.

After four years, those leftover hours add up to a whole day. In a leap year, we add this extra day to the month of February, making it 29 days long instead of the usual 28.

The idea of an annual catch-up dates back to ancient Rome, where people had a calendar with 355 days instead of 365 because it was based on cycles and phases of the Moon. They noticed that their calendar was getting out of sync with the seasons, so they began adding an extra month, which they called Mercedonius, every two years to catch up with the missing days.

In the year 45 BCE, Roman emperor Julius Caesar introduced a solar calendar, based on one developed in Egypt. Every four years, February received an extra day to keep the calendar in line with the Earth's journey around the Sun. In honour of Caesar, this system is still known as the Julian calendar.

But that wasn't the last tweak. As time went on, people realized that the Earth's journey wasn't exactly 365.25 days – it actually took 365.24219 days, which is about 11 minutes less. So adding a whole day every four years was actually a little more correction than was needed.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII signed an order that made a small adjustment. There would still be a leap year every four years, except in 'century' years, years divisible by 100, like 1700 or 2100, unless they were also divisible by 400. It might sound a bit like a puzzle, but this adjustment made the calendar even more accurate, and from that point on, it was known as the Gregorian calendar.

What if we didn't have leap years?

If the calendar didn't make that small correction every four years, it would gradually fall out of alignment with the

seasons. Over centuries, this could lead to the solstices and equinoxes occurring at different times than expected. Winter weather might develop in what the calendar showed as summer, and farmers could become confused about when to plant their seeds.

Other calendars around the world have their own ways of keeping time. The Jewish calendar, which is regulated by both the Moon and the Sun, is like a big puzzle with a 19 year cycle. Every now and then, it adds a leap month to make sure that special celebrations happen at just the right time.

The Islamic calendar is even more unique. It follows the phases of the Moon and doesn't add extra days. Since a lunar year is only about 355 days long, key dates on the Islamic calendar move 10 to 11 days earlier each year on the solar calendar.

For example, Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting, falls in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. In 2024, it will run from March 11 to April 9; in 2025, it will occur from March 1-29; and in 2026, it will be celebrated from February 18 to March 19.

Learning from the planets

Astronomy originated as a way to make sense of our daily lives, linking the events around us to celestial phenomena. The concept of leap years exemplifies how, from early ages, humans found order in conditions that seemed chaotic.

Simple, unsophisticated but effective tools, born from creative ideas of ancient astronomers and visionaries, provided the first glimpses into understanding the nature that envelops us. Some ancient methods, such as astrometry and lists of astronomical objects, persist even today, revealing the timeless essence of our quest to understand nature.

People who do research in physics and astronomy, the field that I study, are inherently curious about the workings of the universe and our origins. This work is exciting, and also extremely humbling; it constantly shows that in the grand scheme, our lives occupy a mere second in the vast expanse of space and time, even in leap years when we add that extra day.

Time to put a ring on it

LADIES, get down on one knee, because history says Bachelor's Day is here. The Irish tradition, which is also known as Ladies Privilege, gives women permission to propose to men on the Leap Day, February 29.

The tradition is based on a legend of Saint Bridget and Saint Patrick. It stemmed from an agreement Saint Bridget had with Saint Patrick in the fifth century. The history books say that Bridget complained to Patrick that women had to wait too long to marry because men were slow to propose. Patrick offered for women be allowed to propose one day every seven years, but Bridget negotiated this down to every four years.

In Ireland, their custom allows women to initiate dances and propose marriage. However, if the man refused the proposal, he was expected to pay up by giving gifts such as gloves, gowns, and by the mid-20th century, you didn't miss out, you got a fur coat. For giggles, he may have also perform a juggling trick on Easter Day.

The tradition also has seen late February marriage proposals since it was seen to be undesirable to be unmarried during Lent.

In Scotland from 1288, monks made it into an actual law that women could in fact propose during leap years, however, they must sport a red petticoat while doing it, and if you refused, there would be a fine that could be a kiss or gifts. This law was supposedly created by Queen Margaret at the tender age of five.

In 1860, the United States got on board when American essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson noted that his daughter spoke about a Leap Year dance where men sit around waiting to be invited by the women. In the early 20th century, cartoons were released that depicted women using aggressive measures such as the use of nets and guns to capture men in their traps.

These notions fizzled out in the 1980s when it was recognised that women were more equal in relationships.



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For the month of March we are running our photo competition with the theme, 'Bulls'. To enter simply send in your name, address, phone number with your photo to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au (files cannot be smaller than 1mb or exceed 10mb and must be of printable quality), or PO Box 5 Alexandra Vic 3714 or you can drop it off at *Alexandra Newspapers* 43 Grant Street Alexandra. The winner will receive either a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. Entries need to be received by March 31, 2024.

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T&Cs - Photos must be taken by you in the last 12 months, unedited, and taken within the Murrindindi Shire area. No more than three entries per person and professional photographers, employees of Alexandra Newspapers and their family, are ineligible from entering.

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Recipe kindly submitted by CWA

Maria's Spaghetti Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1kg premium mince
- 3 x onions finely chopped
- 1 x teaspoon of hot chilli powder (optional)
- 1 x tin of chopped tomatoes
- 1 x jar of Dolmio Spicy Pepper Sauce
- 1 x dessert spoon of minced garlic
- 1 x cup of heavy red wine
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Shaved parmesan for garnish

Herbs (fresh if you can - generous amounts)
 Basil, Oregano, Parsley, Thyme.
 If you only have dried use three teaspoons of each

Method

- Sauté finely chopped onion and add mince and cook thoroughly
- Add spices, tomatoes, pepper sauce, red wine and cook.
- Serve with shaved parmesan.

You may have left overs of spaghetti sauce and it's great on toast with shaved parmesan and chopped parsley.

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The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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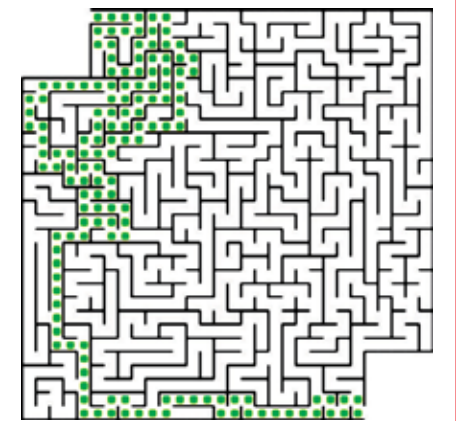
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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT OPEN GARDENS

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 4pm.
at Embassy of Ideas, Alexandra.
All welcome.

Yarck Mechanics Institute and Library Inc Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING

To be held at Yarck Hall on March 14, 2024 commencing at 7pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate no less than three and or more than nine / persons as the Committee of Management for the Yarck Mechanics Institute and Library Inc for a term of three years. The current committee's term will expire on April 26, 2024. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged to nominate.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting. For further enquiries please contact the Secretary, Sharon Fox on 0407 879 612.

Please join us for finger food and drinks at 6pm prior to the meeting.

ALEX DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOC. AGM

DATE 06 MARCH 24
TIME 6.00PM

LOCATION Gold Fields Room, Corner Hotel, Alexandra

Stef Jager - President - 0422 233 423 alexdistrictnetball@gmail.com

All positions will be declared vacant so come along and join a committee that is passionate about running our local indoor junior and open aged netball competitions.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR JUNIOR NETBALL

Students keen to play in the Junior B - Primary School - Grades 4 - 6 & Youth Mixed - High School Y7-9 Competitions, please scan the QR code and fill out the expression of interest form.

Any questions please email: alexdistrictnetball@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting

Monday, March 25 2024, 5.15pm
Historic Court House
38A Downey Street Alexandra

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Email admin@alexhub.com.au to register your interest or call Sue on 5772 1238 (Mon to Thurs) for more information.



DEATH NOTICES



MUNN-Thompson (Stone)

Pamela (Pam) Kaye
31/10/1950 - 23/02/2024
Daughter of Leo and Rae
Youngest of nine

Passed away peacefully with her family around her at the Northern Hospital. Loving wife of John of nearly 43 years of marriage. She was my rock, best friend and lover.

Loving mother of Belinda, Wayne and partners, Jason and Meagan. Loving stepmum of Gary and Simone and partners, Kelly and Michael. A wonderful nan to Mikaela, Ayden, Josh, Riley, Khai, Summer, Lawson and Lily.

You are no longer scared or confused anymore. We hope that you are having a wine /smoke and lots of laughs with the rest of your family. Until we meet again, we love you lots. Rest in Peace XXX

Funeral to be advised.

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My hometown of 78 years and for Peter 60. We moved to Espom, Bendigo area yesterday, February 27 with wonderful memories to take with us. - Pauline Brooks.

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St Mary's students keeping cool before their events start at cluster swimming. -S



Yea Primary School students taking a break between races. -S



Buxton Primary School's participant Ella Fitzgerald. -S

Cluster Swimming at the Yea Pool



A young medallist from Sacred Heart Primary. -S



Four young winners from Alexandra Primary School.



Marysville Primary School students from left to right, Nate, Jasper, and Lucas came second in the freestyle relay. -S



Alexandra Primary School children having a fun day of swimming. -S



Some of the cheerful Alexandra Primary School students at Cluster Swimming, held at the Yea Pool on Thursday, February 16. -S



Jayde Stewart from Marysville Primary School came second in Backstroke. -S

SPORT

Little and big athletes smash records in season final

IN A whirlwind of cheers, laughter, and some seriously impressive athletic feats, the little athletes of Murrindindi brought the house down in their final Saturday session of the season. Under the backdrop of perfect weather, the morning kicked off with a warm-up, featuring a race walk focus, then sack races, egg-and-spoon relays over hurdles, the children showed off their agility and teamwork with gusto, leaving a trail of giggles in their wake that set the tone for the magical day ahead.

However, it wasn't just the kids stealing the show; parents were roped into the action too, encouraged by their pint-sized coaches to tackle events like shot put, javelin, and the ever-competitive 60m dash. A special nod goes to Renee Drysdale for orchestrating the parent events with flair, and the much-anticipated Murrindindi Little Aths 'gift race', which delivered its fair share of thrills.

Amid the fun and games, centre records were awarded to rising stars Kai Goonan under six for discus, Clay Hilder under 11 boys shotput, Ivy Duncan under 8 girls 700m, Tyler Cavil under 7 boys 500m, Shiloh Clancy under 7 girls 500m and Declan Baker for equalling the under 12 boys high jump, these athletes etching their names into the annals of little athletics history. Let's not forget the incredible efforts by Levi Campbell and Abi Caswell on obtaining 25 PBs in a season and also to Declan Baker for 20 PBs proving that with determination, anything is possible.

Credit must be given where it's due, and the grounds, meticulously prepared by Darren from the cricket club and adorned with perfectly painted lines courtesy of Louise Cummins, provided the ideal stage for the day's festivities. And, who could forget president Kim Williams, whose barbecue skills turned hungry athletes into satisfied champions with each sizzle and flip.

As the season draws to a close, the excitement shows no signs of waning, with Phil Campbell's training sessions set to continue for those heading to State Competition on the March long weekend, and mark your calendars for March 22, when the AGM and end-of-season presentation night promises to be a celebration to remember, honouring the remarkable achievements of all Murrindindi Little Athletes on and off the field.

In the world of Murrindindi Little Athletics, every Saturday is a triumph, but this final session was truly something special, a perfect blend of competition, camaraderie, and sheer joy that will be remembered long after the last race is run.



One of the heats in the Murrindindi Little Aths 'gift' race. -S



Awards recipients centre records Ivy, Tyler, Clay, Declan, Kai, Shilo. PB medals Maverick, Darcy, Ethan, Zoe, Jake, Cheyenne. 20 PB's Declan, 25 PB's Levi and Abi. -S



Friends Cheyenne and Cate love starting the weekend with an athletics session. -S



Phil Caswell coming home strong in the parent and child 300m walk race. -S

Assistance for sporting clubs available

THE Emergency Sporting Equipment grant program is available to assist sport and recreation clubs and organisations to replace or repair essential sporting and first aid equipment that has been lost or destroyed as of consequence of fire, flood, significant storms, theft, or criminal damage.

Grants of up to \$1000 are available towards the replacement or repair costs for lost or damaged equipment that is owned by the applicant organisation.

To be eligible you must be able to obtain a police report for involving theft or criminal damage, quotes which correspond to the equipment requested for funding. If already purchased, proof of payment including receipts, bank statements and invoices and evidence of the incident and the equipment that has been lost or destroyed.

Applications can be submitted up unit May 31, or until funding is exhausted. For more information visit sport.vic.gov.au



The Parents 60m dash was won by Jim Anderson, second Stuart Collier, third Sharell, fourth Phil Campbell. -S



Friendships are the real gold at Murrindindi Little Aths, Levi Campbell, Declan Armstrong and Chase Hilder push each other all season but always celebrate each other's achievements. -S

Alexandra, Yea and Mansfield Cricket teams 1948-1953

Supplied by Glen McMaster



Yea - Alexandra - Mansfield Country Week Team 1948
Back Row: R. Owen, A. Penrose, I. Byrne, J. Coonan (Vice Captain),
Front Row: W. Jeffery, W. Allen, Neil Garlick, C. Pollock (Captain),
Miss Judy Byrne (Scorer), T. Jeffery, G. Wilson, E. Greatorex.



Yea - Alexandra - Mansfield Team 1949
Back Row: R. Owen, J. Coonan, Miss Judy Byrne (Scorer), T. Jeffery, E. J. Smart (Manager), R. Luelf, B. Robinson,
Centre Row: I. Byrne, A. Penrose, G. Lewis (Vice Captain), G. Wilson,
Front Row: N. Purcell, W. Jeffery, C. Pollock (Captain), Neil Garlick, W. Allen.



Yea - Mansfield - Alexandra Cricket Team 1950
Back Row: J. Reardon, G. Wilson, W. Hennebery, I. Byrne, E. Smart Esq. (Manager), R McDonald, R. Luelf, R. Owen,
Centre Row: W. Jeffrey, Neil Garlick, Miss Judy Byrne (Scorer), C. Pollock (Captain), H. Docking, A. Redfern,
Sitting: G. Lewis (Vice Captain), A. Penrose.



Yea - Alexandra - Mansfield Country Week Team 1951
Back Row: B. Goodear, N. Phillips, R. Luelf, R. Owen, E. J. Smart (Manager), I. Byrne, W. Reardon, P. Russell, K. Oliver,
Front Row: Neil Garlick, C. Pollock, W. Hennebery, Miss Judy Byrne (Scorer), J. Stevenson (Captain),
G. Lewis (Vice Captain), W. Allen.



Yea - Mansfield - Alexandra Country Week Team 1952
Back Row: G. Deas (Umpire), B. Goodear, A. Cleeland, P. Patterson, K. D. Bryant (manager), W. Reardon (Umpire),
Front Row: C. G. Pollock, P. Russell, J. Stevenson, Neil Garlick, R. Owens, W. Jeffrey,
Sitting: G. Oliver, G. Lewis



Yea - Alexandra - Mansfield Country Week Team B Grade Premiers 1953
Back Row: P. Russell, K. D. Bryant (manager), W. Reardon, G. Oliver, G. Lewis, A. Penrose, L. Nicholas,
Front Row: J. Bradley, I. Byrne, Joan Byrne, C. G. Pollock, Pat Garlick (Scorer), Neil Garlick, J. Williams.



B Grade Country Week Premiers 1953 Celebrate
Left to right: Jim Bradley (Alexandra), Geo. Deas (Alexandra), Pat Russell (Yea),
Basil Goodear (Alexandra), Bill Jeffrey (Yea), and Neil Garlick (Yea).

SPORT

Yarck Adult Riding Club a hit with riders and spectators



Annabelle, Jess, Jess, Belinda and Elissa being briefed prior to their jumping lesson. -S

THE Yarck Adult Riding Club (ARC) hosted its February Rally, drawing in riders and spectators alike for a day filled with equestrian excitement and camaraderie. Under the expert guidance of equestrian instructor Janelle Pitts, 13 riders took part in a series of engaging lessons tailored to enhance their skills in dressage and jumping disciplines.

The morning kicked off with three separate dressage lessons, providing participants with invaluable insights and techniques to refine their performance. Following this, riders had the opportunity to tackle poles and small jumps, honing their skills from the previous lesson. As the day

progressed, the challenges escalated with a larger jumps lesson, pushing riders to new heights literally.

Adding to the charm of the day was the idyllic weather, boasting a pleasant 26-degree backdrop that perfectly complemented the activities. Amidst the lessons, riders and spectators alike enjoyed a cuppa and morning tea, courtesy of Miffy. A big thank you goes out to Heath Vine for organising the equipment trailer.

The Yarck ARC prides itself on being a small and welcoming club, offering a plethora of monthly activities ranging from dressage, poles, and jumping lessons to trail rides,

games days, and social gatherings like dinners. For those interested in experiencing the benefits of riding within this supportive community, day insurance is available, making it easy for newcomers to join in on the fun. To learn more about upcoming events or to inquire about membership, individuals can contact the club secretary at 0488 079 038.

The success of the February Rally underscores the vibrant spirit and inclusive ethos of the Yarck Adult Riding Club, reaffirming its position as a hub for equestrian enthusiasts to come together, learn, and grow in their passion for riding.



Jo and Miffy enjoying time with their four legged friends at Yarck ARC rally last Saturday. -S

Good win for Alexandra bowls

by Marie Evans

THE Bowls Pennant Finals were played at Euroa on Saturday and the Elimination final could have gone either way. It was a fantastic result for Alexandra Bowls Club with the division four side defeating Dookie Bowls Club and moving into the preliminary final on March 2.

It was one all in the home and away games but a neutral green at Nagambie Bowls club took any home green advantage out of play. All eyes were on the scoreboard which showed the four rinks running score and ends played. Throughout the game it indicated that very few shots separated the two sides and at one stage towards the end of the four games it was 91 shots all.

The best winning rink for Alexandra was David Nicklos (skip), Bob Mayfield, Andy Tobias and Christine Mayfield. They won 16 ends. It was 16 to five up for Alexandra at end nine. They had picked up six shots on end nine and were well in front by end 16 - 26 to nine. Dookie won the next four ends to reduce the Alexandra lead 26 to 15 on end twenty. Alexandra won four out of the last five ends to win 35 to 16. The four shots they won on end 25 was a sealer for the overall. Excellent bowling from every player.

Greg Gilmore (skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist also had a win. They won the first six ends to lead nine to zero. It was 11 to one on end nine. Dookie won the next three ends to trail six to 11. Alexandra won the next two ends to lead 14 to six. Dookie had reduced that by end 17 and it was 12 to 14. However, some excellent bowling from Greg Gilmore had a comfortable lead of 21 to 12 by end 20. Despite losing three out of the last five ends Alexandra won 24 to 17.

Graeme Matthews (skip), Ken Argent, Scott Ferrier and Denice Chisholm played the closest game.

They were eight to three up on end eight. However, Dookie won the next three ends to lead 11 to eight. They had increased that lead by end 15, to be 15 to 10 in front. Alexandra won the next three ends to lead 16 to 15. It was 19 all on end 22. Dookie won singles on ends 23 and 24 and Alexandra won a single on end 25 to lose 20 to 21. A great game.

John Cujic (skip), Doug Cooper, Bob Benghamy and Ben Gilchrist faced some tough opposition and won nine ends. They trailed after end five and were unable to get the momentum back. Dookie won 38 to 17. It was not enough to win the overall and Alexandra won the game 96 to 94. Congratulations to all division four players on a great day of bowling where every shot in either a winning or losing rink got Alexandra across the line.

In the other division four game being played at Nagambie was between Eildon and Euroa. Eildon had a great season finishing on top of the division four ladder but their opponents Euroa played the Nagambie green with great success. They won three out of the four rinks to win 103 to 70. Euroa are straight through to the grand final. Alexandra will play Eildon at Euroa next Saturday in the preliminary final.

In other finals, local bowls clubs had mixed results. Eildon's Division Seven played Mooropna Golf also at Nagambie and lost 44 to 33. They will play the preliminary final against Rushworth who defeated Seymour. The game is at Euroa next Saturday. Yea's division six side has won through to the grand final defeating Euroa 57 to 54. They will play the winner between Mooropna and Euroa. Seymour VRI is through to the grand-final in division three after defeating Rushworth 105 to 86. Seymour's Division two will play the preliminary final against Tallygaropna after losing to Shepparton Golf 107 to 81.



Best winning rink Andy Tobias, David Nicklos, Bob Mayfield and Christine Mayfield. -S

Pennant was not the only bowls played this weekend and Alexandra's Pairs Champions travelled to Euroa to play in the Goulburn Valley Champion of Champions. Each game is knockout and played over only 15 ends. Bob Mayfield and Ben Gilchrist defeated Nagambie's G McEwan and L Wakenshaw 13 to eight in round one. They defeated S Edwards and R Smith 14 to 11 in the next round. However, they lost to M Williams and C Boswood from Kyabram, in the semi-final. Both Kyabram players are in the Kyabram Division One side. A fantastic effort from the Alexandra Champions and the club congratulates them.

Lauren Gilchrist and Christine Mayfield played H Chapman and J Dixon from Kyabram in the first round and lost 26 to nine. Both said it was a great experience. Well done to both players.

Club games are in progress and players should check the board to see who you are playing and arrange your respective games. Good bowling.

Stroke round for Eildon golfers

by Puttomatic

WELCOME to the Eildon Golf Club weekly report. Last Saturday was a stroke round and February monthly medal; it was also the 2023 medal of medallist final and, the final round of the 2023/24 summer cup.

Congratulation to Dennis Seamer who won the day with a nett score of 71 to take out the monthly medal and the medal of medallists, hot on his heels was Grant Walters with a nett 72 and coming in third place Colin Long and Kerry Power both with nett 74.

Other winners were nearest the pin on the 11th and 12th was Phil Dally, 14th Kerry Power, no winner on the fifth, Wayne Kupke and John Rachcoff both were able to secure birdies on the birdy hole eighth no birdies on the 15th this week.

Next Saturday will be a sixers competition and our Ben Hall memorial round. This is one of our special rounds of the year where we are pleased to commemorate and celebrate our past and founding members. We hope to see a great turn out for one of our special days. See you at the club.

Successful St Pats Cup for Yea Race Club

by Denis Smith

THE weather at Yea for the Larkfield St Pats Cup was perfect on Sunday for picnic racing and a good crowd turned up for the traditional charity day at Yea, supporting the Sacred Heart canteen and bar and the local charity raffle.

Fashions on the Field again proved popular as well as the free children's activities and Chelsea's face painting. Between races on the day, the crowd under the trees were entertained by popular local musician Kane Vincent.

This season the club has alternated Kane and the Adam Dennis band Dusty Dogs at

meetings to appeal to patrons who may not be hard core racing fans, and it seems to have worked.

Bookmakers reported good holds in the end, the racing provided all the highlights and stories. Yea Cup winning rider Dylan Dean rode his first career treble starting off with the first two races, the first on Wray The Grey, a striking looking horse trained at Seymour by Steve Noble. His second winner Jenni from Avalon, is owned and was strapped by the trainer Paul Worthingtons daughter Janelle. As she was struggling to buy the horse, her parents stepped in and brought it for her as a 30th birthday present.

Race three proved to be an all female affair, with Jody Thompson Racing from Kilmore sponsoring the event won by six year old mare Sky Warrior trained by Rebecca Weymouth and ridden by apprentice Sophie Clayfield.

Jockey Dylan Dean bounced back again in race four riding El Chilla for a very happy Colin Davies. Since 1984 Colin had trained many winners in town, including group winners but he was very happy to come to Yea for the first time and win with El Chilla after the owner, Colin's wife had been trying to persuade him to move the horse on.

That race; the Frank Hargrave Memorial, was sponsored by Ruth Hargrave who also sponsored the final Larkfield St Pats Cup. The property, owned for many years by Frank and Ruth Hargrave, is now moving to a new management company Ultima.

The Larkfield St Pats Cup proved to be the race of the season with the first three horses over the line separated by less than a head.

A very brave ride by leading picnic rider Sean Cooper on All To Creedy saw him call on the Sister Olive handicap (3000 metres) winners stamina to make the race a true staying test and give Seymour trainer Don Dwyer his first St Pats Cup.

Last years' winner Willetts flashed home but failed by a short half head to catch the winner, with Popeye the Sailor making up a three way photo.

With his confidence up Sean Cooper made up for Strong Lady's unlucky fifth at Woolamai to give himself and Don Dwyer a double for the day. There was a lot of common ownership in both of Dwyers winners so the presentation stage was very busy.

After a disappointing start to the season with the controversial last minute stewards cancellation of the November meeting, Yea Racing is hopeful that the two wonderful cup events conducted in January and February will inspire locals and visitors to support these great local events.

Benalla too good for Merton

by Rohan Berriman

Merton 9/108 defeated by Benalla 2/118

MERTON travelled to Benalla to take on the top side at the showgrounds turf wicket. Merton batted first making 9/108 Ross MacKinnon 39 and James Benton 13 the top scorers.

Benalla captain S McLeod 4/11 made scoring tough for the visitors on a lush outfield. Benalla opener Josh Hart 40 and Brett Pollard 30 hammered any loose bowling while Merton missed a few chances in the field. The undefeated home side cruised to victory in the 23rd over. MacKinnon and Henry Berriman the only wicket takers.

Thanks again for a few fill in players who helped out the Merton side. The season final match at Merton is this Saturday versus the inform Yarrowonga.

Hopefully Merton can scratch together a side for this match with the 2004 and 2012 premierships sides in attendance celebrating their achievements in the Alexandra/Euroa leagues.

MERTON BATTERS: Ross MacKinnon b: Cooper Binon; 39. Rohan Berriman (c) c: Craig Williams b: Matthew Priest 11. James Benton c: Brett Pollard b: Stewart McLeod 13. Harry Craddock lbw: Dale Stratton 1. Fill-in run out: Craig Williams 0. Noah Whitta c: Leigh Pollard b: Stewart McLeod 1. Henry Berriman c: Craig Williams b: Stewart McLeod 7.

Fill-in b: Leigh Pollard 1. Fill-in not out 9*. William Benton b: Stewart McLeod 2. Fill-in not out 2*. Extras 22 14WD 4NB 0LB 4B 0P. Total 9/108 (36 overs). Fall of Wickets 1-32 Rohan Berriman, 2-78 Ross MacKinnon, 3-81 Harry Craddock, 4-85 Player, 5-88 Noah Whitta, 6-93 James Benton, 7-99 Henry Berriman, 8-101 player, 9-108 William Benton.



All Too Creedy (inside), trained by Don Dwyer and ridden by Sean Cooper wins from last year's winner Willetts (outside), ridden by Rob Kirkpatrick. The middle horse, Popeye The Sailor, was a head away third. -S

Cricket report

**A Grade
Alexandra 10/180 defeated
Avenel 10/128**

by Darren Waixel

ON a glorious Saturday afternoon the Alexandra A grade team ventured over to Leckie Park to take on Avenel in a fight to not be wooden spooners. It was also Scotty Whitehead's last home game for Alexandra. He is finally hanging up the boots, so he says.

Avenel won the toss and elected to bowl, because they thought the green wicket would play to their advantage. Little did they know that the curator had prepared a Scott Whitehead friendly wicket. Scotty opened with Tim Polson and got Alexandra off to a fantastic start. Both players playing shots all over the ground.

Tim Polson was the first to go out with an LBW so plumb it needed to be in a SPC can. Scott continued on his merry way and ended with a wonderful 44 runs before he was unluckily bowled. Scott and young gun, Josh Crane, put on a fabulous 31 run partnership. Josh Crane went on to make a really good 20.

As wickets fell, brand new dad, Justin Leary came to the crease, turning back the clock somewhat, with a swashbuckling 29. Some late cameo's from Matt Waixel and Levi Ronalds, plus a generous serve of sundries, got Alexandra all out for 180 in the 44th over. A special mention to D Validares, who was the pick of the Avenel bowlers with five for 40.

Avenel started the run chase with Will Ashton bowling some severe



Well bowled Rob A, in the B Grade match. -photos by Peter Geldart

heat and old man Waixel, opening from the other end, showing his six different shades of slower ball. Levi Ronalds and Justin Leary then took up the attack and wickets started tumbling. After the drinks break, the keepers were changed so that Josh Crane could get a bowl. Levi picked up one wicket, Justin (coming off six weeks of being a new dad) bowled a lazy five overs, picking up three for 10. New spin sensation, Thaya, sent down seven overs, bamboozling Avenel, picking up two for 20.

Josh Crane also picked up two for 14 and Alexandra bowled Avenel out for 128. A really good win for the boys and a great win for Scotty.

Next week is the Kelly Snyman Ladies Day at Leckie Park. This event is held in memory of Kelly Snyman and in support of womens cricket. Everyone is welcome. We will have a marquee and nibbles. There will be a ladies versis kids mini cricket match after the main match. Hope to see you all there.

Alexandra 180 (S Whitehead 44, J Leary 29, O Valladares 5/40) def Avenel 128 (J Byers 46, D Lowis 18, J Leary 3/10, J Crane 2/14)..

**Eastern Hill 4/216 defeated
Yea Tigers 10/97**

Eastern Hill 4/216 (B Bryant 60, B Speechley 59) def Yea Tigers 97 (T White 22, J Lincoln 18, D O'Sullivan 3/9, T Rudd-Schmidt 3/16)

**B Grade
Pyalong 8/139 defeated
Alexandra 4/143**

by Michael Mawson

AFTER making it into the top four last round, the B grade team has all but finished its season by squandering a dominant position against Pyalong.

After the Redbacks travelled on the long expedition to the farthest corner of the SDCA (Seymour District Cricket Association) Pyalong's captain won the toss and elected to bat. The start of the Pyalong innings was disastrous for the home team as Ben Geldart and Nathan Hendricks tore through the top-order and the score was as a measly 4-26 after Terry Hall took a catch at mid-on.

Kris Barnett and Andrew Hiscock stabilised the innings with a 40 run partnership. Their batting efforts were assisted by several dropped catches and creative umpiring. The partnership was broken when Brett



"Oh no", Banjo.

Christie showed his much younger teammates how to take a spectacular catch. Sixteen runs later, Jamie Shawcross ran Hiscock out with some inspired wicketkeeping that caused a running mix up.

Pyalong's remaining batsmen played a highly defensive, dour game that added 28 runs in 14 overs, with a large portion of those being extras. These tedious runs would later prove to be vital.

Run outs from the fielding of Yobbo Andrews and Banjo Fitzpatrick helped to wind up the Pyalong innings.

During the tea interval, the Redbacks captain had trouble finding a team member willing to open the batting with him. This indicated a team mindset that would contribute to a calamitous run chase.

Pyalong's opening bowlers were a handful for the Redback's batsmen. Michael Edward's big inswing dismissed Michael Mawson with an LBW on the toe on the full. Wickets then fell in quick succession as the rest of the batters fell by either snicking balls that they should have ignored or by playing prematurely aggressive shots. Damien Zoch's fast bowling claimed five wickets.



Kelly keeps another one out.

Geldart and Banjo Fitzpatrick provided some resistance. Andrews played a quickfire cameo innings characterised by daring running between the wickets. His dismissal typified The Redback's day. Andrews played a cut shot that went between the hands of Hiscock at point. The ball then bounced off the Pyalong fielder's foot and rose vertically for a catch.

At 9/58 a terrible thrashing looked imminent; however, the veteran pair of Kelly Fitzpatrick and Brett Christie dug in. Fitzpatrick stoutly defended while Christie smacked the ball around with his antique bat. As runs accumulated, Pyalong's players became more and more nervous until Fitzpatrick was dismissed with the score on 93.

Despite the loss, each Redbacks player can claim to have made a positive contribution to the team. It is a matter of getting everything to work together.

The B grade team can still make finals; however, this requires the unlikely combination of a win over Eastern Hills two and losses by Pyalong and Yea.

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Alexandra Golf Club Ladies Bowl

by Elizabeth Goss

PLAYING in rather hot conditions the first Bowl of the Dalhousie ladies season took place at Alexandra on Thursday. The highlight of the day came from the Alexandra second team of Marg Fahey (22), Ruth Worland (17) and Brenda Lopez (27) who won back their own bowl with 106 points. The A Grade winner was Ruth Worland (17) 39 points, the B grade winner Maggie Wright (24) 39 points and the C grade winner was Sharon Grogan (29) 33 points. Cheryl Anderson won the vets 37 points. Thanks must go to the volunteers, with the course in immaculate condition despite the recent storms. Also, to all the people involved in preparing and running the day, especially to captain Helen Findlay, and to the Thornton Store for the generous vouchers for prizes.

Paul Martin was the winner on Tuesday with a pleasing (29) 43 points. The runner up was John Mosely (20) 40 points and in third place was Todd Galloway (21) 36 points. Nearest the pin on the 17th and 18th went to Brad Newton. Ball run down: Greg Millard and Leo Doyle.

Wednesday was a 4BBB Stableford round. The partnership of Ruth Worland (17) and Sandra Morris (54) gave them the winners spot with 48 points. Marg Fahey (22) and Barb Doyle (18) were the runners up with 45 points. Nearest the pins on the second and seventh went to Julie Lyon and on the 12th to Ruth Worland. Wednesday, March 6, is Stroke and Monthly Medal.

There was a rather depleted field on Saturday as many of our golfers were away being challenged by some different fairways. The winner for the day at Alexandra was Steve Darmody (22) 39 points. The runner up was Nick Emmerson (21) 37 points and Dave Silverman came in next with (nine) 34 points. John Steer claimed all three nearest the pins. Saturday, March 2 is a race meeting and the course will be closed. On Sunday March 3 a Match Play Knockout is on the syllabus.



Ruth plays a backhand against Oli. -S

by Kristelle Leary

Thursday competition

THE night nearly didn't happen for squash players. Halfway through, the power went out and everyone was ready to go home. The power soon came back on, and the night continued as planned.

Gelati v Pavlovas

AIDEN v Beth: Coming out strong Beth took the first game with a good lead. Aiden closed the gap, winning the second and third game, but Beth sealed the victory by winning game four 59 to 53.

Dean v Jodie: Dean put in a good effort, matching Jodie point for point in the third game. However, Jodie's experience earned her three games and the match 61 to 47.

John v Stuart: Always on top of things, John took it all in his stride and won the match with a solid lead, much to Stuarts disappointment 78 to 48.

Cheesecake v Trifle

ELI v Blake: Eli came into the competition on a high. Blake managed to draw the last game, but he couldn't stop Eli from taking the other three for a brilliant victory 71 to 55.

Kristelle v Rob: Kristelle couldn't get her head into it for game one, but she pulled it together to win game two. The power went out at the start of game three and the night was presumed finished... The power came back on in time for Rob to draw game three and dominate game four for the win 77 to 49.

James W (fill in) v Phil: Putting in a valiant effort, Phil kept his point deficit in each game low. However, James still won each game and the match 70 to 45.

Monday competition Antipasto v Dumplings

OLI v Ruth: Ruth toyed with Oli to see how far he could run. Ruth was too good and outplayed Oli with her experience. 67 to 40.

Croquettes v Spring Rolls

MICK v James G: Mick jumped out of the blocks with a convincing first game. James clawed back the second game. Extending his lead, Mick took the last two games to win the match 71 to 49.

Jared v Simon: Played an excellent game. Simon was just too good for Jared, taking all games in a clean sweep. Simon was victorious 75 to 39.

Jim v Michael H: A seesawing start, Jim cruised through the first game, but Michael hit back in the second. From there on it was point for point, but Jim slowly edged ahead to win the match 55 to 46.

Liesfield Trophy match played at Marysville

by Lesley Rundle

IT was a glorious day weather wise on Saturday when golfers gathered to play a 4BBB game in memory of Matthew, James and Elizabeth Liesfield and many others who lost their lives in the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

Matthew and James were keen young golfers who had played in the February monthly medal event on the morning of February 7, 2009. The Liesfield Trophy match is played annually and is much sought after by all players. For a number of years uncle and aunt of Matthew and James, Marianne and Colin Easton, have travelled to Marysville from their home and farm near Ararat to represent the family and to present the trophy to the winners. Sadly, due to the fires around the Ararat area and many road closures they were unable to attend on Saturday but hopefully

members can welcome them back next year.

The winning pair on Saturday was Margaret Blair and Adam Littlejohn with 44 stableford points. Each of these players had won the trophy previously with different partners but were thrilled to combine well on Saturday for another win. The runners up with 42 points were Lesley Rundle and Colin Davies. The nearest the pins were won by Gail Leigh, Ray Jones and Steve Berry who also won the Golden shot.

After play, president Steve Coker thanked all those members who assisted with the recent working bee and reminded members that there will be another one held in a few weeks' time.

On Thursday, February 22, in hot conditions five Marysville ladies played in the Alexandra Bowl. Congratulations to one of the Alexandra teams for winning the

bowl. Marysville members Helen Howard and Margaret Blair won some Player of the Year points and Mim Page won a nearest the pin. Thanks to the Alexandra ladies for organising the event. The Dalhousie ladies event this week is the Hidden Valley Bowl and a number of Marysville members will be attending.

This Saturday, March 2, both the men and the ladies will play a stroke round for the March monthly medal and the first round of the Summer Aggregate.

The ladies are already busy planning for the Sandy Wilson Bowl which will be played on Thursday, March 14 and are hoping to welcome a number of ladies from other clubs for a stableford game. Members are asked to please leave donations for the raffle in the meeting room at the club. Details of the event are on the flyer on the Dalhousie District Golf Association website.



Winners of the Liesfield Trophy, Adam Littlejohn and Margaret Blair. -S