

# 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, April 24, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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## Interim 2022 flood report released

THE interim report from the state Legislative Council's Environment and Planning Committee into the 2022 flood event in Victoria has been released.

The report included the following findings.

**Finding 1:** The complexity of processes associated with flood recovery financial supports exacerbated the distress of some flood-impacted individuals, families and businesses. Some communities experienced delays to immediate relief and some were potentially deterred from claiming assistance which would have facilitated recovery.

**Finding 2:** Despite the availability of a wide range of grants and financial support programs, the support available does not

always effectively align with the actual needs of affected individuals and communities.

**Finding 3:** In Northern Victoria, the broader issues of housing availability, affordability and suitability in the region created additional strain in housing flood-affected people. These issues underscore a systemic challenge extending beyond the immediate emergency response.

**Finding 4:** In Northern Victoria, the October 2022 flood event has seen the prolonged submersion of land and infrastructure resulting in extensive damage and erosion. The damage of the floods has been widespread including the tragic loss of life, displacement of residents and damage to thousands of homes and businesses.

**Finding 5:** There is a pressing demand for comprehensive community support, including practical measures, and a critical necessity for increasing support mechanisms addressing emotional and mental impacts for an effective emergency response.

**Finding 6:** Timely insurance processing is crucial for easing financial strain and expediting post-disaster rebuilding. Delays or inadequate coverage prolong hardships, hindering recovery for individuals and communities.

In forming the interim report, the committee received 429 submissions from Campaspe Shire, and the second highest number of submissions came from Murrindindi, with 36 submissions, ahead of Greater Shepparton,

Gannawarra, Loddon and Greater Bendigo. Despite this, the committee looked at the experiences of residents of Echuca, Rochester, Seymour and Shepparton most closely. A total of 880 submissions were received.

While the interim report commences the committee's discussion of recovery needs in northern Victoria, the final report will make recommendations to the Victorian Government, and will include the causes and contributing factors to the October 2022 flood, including planning, governance, flood mitigation, flood warnings and SES responses.

The committee noted Lake Eildon's filling target and said, "Releasing water from dams can be a significant mitigation measure. However as noted above, some stakeholders from the flood affected areas in Northern Victoria attributed some blame to the water releases for the magnitude of flooding their towns experienced. Water releases at Lake Eildon and Lake Eppalock is discussed further in the Final Report."

Tim McCurdy, the Shadow Minister for Water, criticised the Allan Government for its slow response, noting that many communities are still waiting for appropriate support 18 months on from the floods.

"Regional communities continue to miss out on the funding required to upgrade local infrastructure, making vital improvements that could help prevent severe infrastructure damage and save lives in a future flood event," Mr McCurdy said.

The Nationals Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad spoke on the issue as part of the regional sitting. Ms Broad is a member of the committee undertaking the inquiry.

She said, "It is time Victoria looks to the example of states like Queensland and builds back better to ensure that we are better prepared for disasters in future."



On Sunday, April 21 Buxton Fire Brigade its 80th birthday. More images and information on page 16. -MP



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## THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN

**THUMBS UP:** To the UGFM presenters in all ways, including Peter Weeks and Peter Rice for keeping us right up to date and informed regarding local emergencies, etcetera, and also the music presenters, the Akubra Hat Man, Ray Mathieson, Sylvia, etcetera, and all other program people. Just cannot name them all. What a lucky and wonderful community radio we have here.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the knockers here in our shire about what we need and what we don't have. Open your eyes and get off your respective posteriors and volunteer. Get cracking and value what we have.

**THUMBS UP:** To the 'behind the scenes' committee people who get behind football, netball and cricket, and too the wonderful Rebels caterers. Who can fault the potato cakes? Well done to all the volunteers.

**THUMBS UP:** To the Alexandra Standard for keeping us right up to speed with all local events. We are so privileged to be part of the Shire of Murrindindi, just don't take it for granted please.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the people who can't mind their own business and allow others to get on with their lives.

**THUMBS UP:** To Gail, our local men's barber. A definite VIP in Murrindindi Shire. Best wishes Gail on your retirement. You are an institution in our shire and kept our blokes looking absolutely 'spiffy'. You will be sorely missed. Good luck and best wishes in your retirement. Hope you have a wonderful time.

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

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

## Letters to the Editor

### Breakaway Bridge

IN last week's paper there was an article on the Breakaway Bridge. It would seem that several people that should have been there saw fit to not attend. I refer to Jacinda Symes, the minister for emergency services, Cindy McLeish, our Liberal representative, and Dr Helen Haines, our federal representative, plus four councillors.

It would appear that there is little or no interest in the problems faced by this shire. This bridge needs to be in place with no more delays as it joins two major highways plus the main street of Alexandra. A complete new bridge with less pylons, no patch up jobs as in the past.

The time it takes for emergency services to get to the other side via Alexandra or Taggerty and Thornton could only spell a disaster in the making. Depending on direction people could be trapped between the problem and the river.

This bridge is needed as it supports essential services. Cut the garbage talk and get it replaced, number one priority, as this bridge was destroyed in October 2022. Enough time has taken place to have it sorted and started, if not finished. So let's see a bit of commencement take place and stop making excuses.

*Chris Petersen, Alexandra*

### Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary  
Mike Jennings

ANOTHER week passes with the bridge players in action and the usual well attended social meeting on Friday. Among the apologies was Ian Weeks who phoned from Box Hill hospital to advise that the doctor thinks he may have had a mini stroke. We wish him well and we need him back to lead Friday's sing song.

The usual agenda items were followed by Comedy Corner with 'Snowman' jokes sent in by Josie. The chocolate winners were Josie, June and Roma.

The members then played bingo with an unusual occurrence when Barbara won the first two games on the same card. Refreshments, 500 and UNO followed before all went home.

The committee meet up at 11 am on Tuesday and a business meeting will follow on Friday, May 3. The table is booked for Morning Melodies at Lilydale International on Wednesday, May 1. If you haven't got your name down, be quick. A reminder, the club welcomes new members so read the Facebook page or come along to the Bayley Street clubroom on a Friday at 1pm. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

### Central Highlands forest consultation

AS part of the consultation with the community on the future uses of the Central Highlands forests, the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement will be visiting Alexandra.

The event will be on Monday, May 6 from 6 to 8pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall.

The panel is set up specifically to talk with people and organisations to understand values and priorities for forests in the Central Highlands. This includes talking with local communities about forests in their local area. These conversations will inform recommendations to the Victorian Government on future use and management of state forests.

For more information or to provide online feedback, visit [engage.vic.gov.au/central-highlands-forests](http://engage.vic.gov.au/central-highlands-forests)

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### RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	1.00pm Mon	1.53	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	1.00pm Mon	0.46	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.03pm Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	11.51am Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.25am Mon	0.49	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	11.22am Mon	0.55	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	1.00pm Mon	3.62	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	1.00pm Mon	0.45	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	1.00pm Mon	1.21	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	1.00pm Mon	0.31	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	1.00pm Mon	1.52	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.58pm Mon	1.16	steady	

**\*\*ISSUED AT 1.45PM ON MONDAY, 22 APRIL 2024**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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## Weekly Weather

April 24 - April 30, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	6	15	Wednesday	6	15
Thursday	6	15	Thursday	8	15
Friday	5	18	Friday	5	17
Saturday	6	20	Saturday	5	18
Sunday	7	18	Sunday	7	18
Monday	6	17	Monday	6	17
Tuesday	6	17	Tuesday	6	17

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### DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	4mm
Flowerdale	5mm
Jamieson	0.2mm
Kinglake	14mm
Lake Eildon	3mm
Mansfield	2mm
Taggerty	3mm
Yarck	1mm
Yea	0.8mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

### LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	296.77m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	91.6%
Metres below full supply	2.13m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	2600ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	83%

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## DEADLINES

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

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

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

We thank you for your continued support

# Buxton Primary ANZAC commemoration

ON Tuesday, April 16 the students at Buxton Primary School placed poppies at the base of the flagpoles outside the Buxton Memorial Hall. The day was chosen to coincide with Cuppa Time at Buxton Hall.

The poppies were knitted by Buxton resident, Carmel Denham, who saw

active service during the first Gulf War as part of an Australian medical unit on USNS Comfort. Carmel is a member of the Returned Nurses RSL Sub-branch and the Marysville RSL Sub-branch.

One of the students gave an Acknowledgement of Country, in the Taungurung language, before each

student placed their poppy in the garden. The children wrote messages on tags attached to the poppies and a number read out their message before placing the poppy in the garden.

The senior students will attend the ANZAC Day commemorations in Marysville on Thursday, April 25.



Students from Buxton Primary School placed poppies at the base of the flagpoles outside Buxton Memorial Hall on April 14. -S



Happy birthday to John Sharwood who turned 90 on April 17. The event was celebrated at Alexandra Rotary, where John has long been a valued member. -S

## Who's driving that truck?

DRIVERLESS trucks will be on two major Melbourne roads during a six month trial of the new technology.

The trucks will be used from Port Melbourne to Dandenong, using the M1 from the West Gate Freeway through to the Monash Freeway, including CityLink, and will only operate from 10pm to 5am to avoid traffic congestion. A second route will be added in the future.

Each of the driverless trucks will have a specialist driver and an engineer on board, as well as an accompanying pilot vehicle. The trucks are designed to operate entirely without the input of a driver. The use of driving software means that traffic conditions up to one kilometre ahead are available.

A similar trial, lasting just three weeks, was undertaken by Transurban in 2022.

Transurban is also the organisation behind the current trial.

Victorian Tippers United (VTU) secretary Luke McCrone told the Daily Mail in 2022, "Transport provides more than just financial security for over half a million people in Australia, it also provides a sense of purpose for people. Any roll out of job killing driverless trucks needs to bear that in mind."

## End of summer for Alexandra Lions Club

The Alexandra Lions Club celebrated the end of summer with their April dinner meeting at the Corner Hotel.

Given good weather over the summer period their events over recent months have been very good. For a change all of the race meetings were held in decent weather as well as the pool party, the spring and easter fairs, and Christmas events.

Along with this, past district governor attended as installing officer to induct two new members. Yvonne Lievens as well as Gordon Eagle were inducted to become the newest club members. Both have shown new enthusiasm in participation in club events. The attached picture is of the installation of Gordon, with Yvonne seated at the dinner.

If anyone would like to assist the community contact Ray on mobile 0438 808 586 and you will be made very welcome as part of the Lions Club team.



The installation of Gordon, with Yvonne seated at the dinner.

## Letter of condolence

MURRINDINDI Shire Council wrote the following letter of condolence to the Mayor, Councillors and Community of Waverley, in light of the tragic stabbing attack in Bondi.

To the Mayor, Councillors and community of Waverley,

Our condolences.

We write with sadness to express our deepest sympathies to you and your entire community for the tragic loss of life, and the pain the families, the community, and all those involved will sadly endure.

As an inclusive, compassionate community we know the impact of the Bondi Junction tragedy will be deep, the hurt profound, and that the shared journey ahead will not be easy. However, we trust in the power and resilience of your community to come together and support each other during the challenging period of healing ahead.

You are not alone. Our community shares your loss and grief at this time. Our thoughts are with you now, and through the period of healing ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Damien Gallagher, Mayor, and Murrindindi Shire Councillors, and shire CEO Livia Bonazzi.

## Return to neutral conditions

ACCORDING to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the tropical Pacific Ocean has made a return to El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions.

This means that neither El Nino nor La Nina are active. However, regular rainfall and

temperature forecasts are not based on El Nino and La Nina forecasts.

The latest long-range forecast, along with showing a return to neutral conditions, predicts that temperatures are likely to be above median for most of Australia.

Clearer indication of the likely winter 2024 forecast is expected by the bureau later in autumn.

For more information on the weather, visit the Bureau of Meteorology website at [bom.gov.au/](http://bom.gov.au/)

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[alexandratramway.org.au](http://alexandratramway.org.au)  
[facebook.alexandramuseum](https://facebook.com/alexandramuseum)

### Murrindindi Jobs Expo

Monday 6th of May 2024  
11am - 5pm  
Alexandra Football Club

Skill development, networking & resource sharing.  
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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.

[amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:amilestone@murrindindi.vic.gov.au), or visit [shapingmurrindindifuture.com.au](http://shapingmurrindindifuture.com.au)

Andrew Embling 0418 266 038.

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SEE THIS EDITION FOR SHIRE WIDE ANZAC DAY SERVICES.

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**DISPOSAL OF GREEN WASTE IS FREE DURING APRIL;** Domestic quantities of garden waste, if not mixed up with other materials, needs to be no longer than 1.5m and less than 25cm in diameter. [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste)

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**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24**

Join in on information sessions to learn more about Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project and see how you can get involved in the next stage. 10am-1pm at MiRA Marysville. For more information contact Allisha Milestone 0458 758 379 or email

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**

Yea-Kinglake RSL AGM will be held at the RSL Hall at 11.30am. Enquiries to the secretary 5796 9353.

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 27**

You are invited to the open of *The Life of Anne Frank* at the Alexandra Library, at 11am. RSVP by visiting [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/annefrank) or call 5772 0333.

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**TUESDAY, MAY 2**

Online clearing sale estate of Ray Smith. Commencing at noon, concludes on Monday, May 6 at noon. Machinery, farm sundries, electrical tools and more. Approximately 370 lots. Phones online; [emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions](http://emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions). For full details contact

**MONDAY, MAY 6**

Murrindindi Jobs Expo is on again. 11am-5pm at the Alexandra Football Club. Skill development, networking, resource sharing and plenty more. Free business booths and spaces available. Locally catered event. [murrindindifoodandwine.org.au](http://murrindindifoodandwine.org.au)

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**THURSDAY, MAY 16**

Eildon Events Inc will hold their AGM at 5pm at the Eildon Tennis club rooms. For more information or a nomination form to join the committee email [eildoneventsinc@gmail.com](mailto:eildoneventsinc@gmail.com).

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**SUNDAY, MAY 19**

Alexandra Bowling Club AGM will be held at 11am. Presentations and lunch will be held following the AGM.

**COMMUNITY DIARY**

Local Radio Frequency	
UGFM 106.9	Alexandra / Lake Eildon
UGFM 88.9	Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.5	Marysville / Lake Mountain
UGFM 98.9	Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5	Kinglake Ranges
WEEKLY	
Tues	Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue	Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed	Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu	Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri	Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun	AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086
Sun	Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun	Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
Thu	7.00-10pm SES. SES/CFCA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri	Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
MONTHLY	
1 <sup>st</sup> Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 <sup>st</sup> Sat	Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
1 <sup>st</sup> Sun	Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sat	Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probud Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun	Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4 <sup>th</sup> Tue	Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4 <sup>th</sup> Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 <sup>th</sup> Thu	Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri	Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

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

## New president for business and tourism group

ON Tuesday, April 16, Maureen Thurston became president of Marysville and Triangle Business and Tourism (MTBT). Two and a half days later, after various meetings, she found time to be interviewed about her new role.

Maureen spent much of her career developing strategies for a lot of different organisations. She said, "Without having a sense of a destination, you never actually get there... It's not about me at the end of the day, by any stretch of the imagination, it's about the individuals we can pull together and build together as a collective."

job description about how you embed a culture of creativity and inclusion and innovation in an organisation that is made up of technicians in accounting and auditing.

She joked that she feels like she's jumping between the fire and the frypan.

Maureen's career has been in product design and was trained to look at an environment or the needs of the stakeholders and then design the right product, environment, experiences or services to meet those needs. As a result of her experiences, she tends to look at everything as an object of design, and believes that there are many opportunities ahead for MTBT.

From there, she took up a role with Aurecon in Melbourne. She was asked to undertake the same task with their organisation, becoming Chief Experience Officer. She was living on a boat in Docklands, with Maureen and her husband previously being in the marina business in California. When COVID-19 hit, they found living on a boat challenging and sold their properties in California, and started looking at local properties. Maureen and her husband also own a recreational retreat resort in British Columbia, Canada, which they are in the process of selling.



*New Marysville and Triangle Business and Tourism president, Maureen Thurston. -S*

The other office-holders for the organisation are pending. She said prior to being elected that she would like to take the next few weeks to go out and learn from the organisation's different constituents in Marysville, Taggerty, Narbethong, Buxton and everywhere in between to gain an understanding of what the organisation needs to achieve, and then in turn, provide a chance for them to get to know her, and some of the thing that the organisation is striving to achieve. They will then be able to identify the people with the skills and capabilities which will allow them to move forward.

Maureen grew up in New York, and has lived in many different locations in the USA during the course of her career.

She admitted that she didn't know the Murrindindi Shire well, having only travelled through it once, many years previously. She found an advertisement for a small log cabin nestled on top of a hill. She decided that she wanted to live there and bought it sight unseen as she couldn't visit it due to the lockdowns. She was relieved to find that it hadn't been Photoshopped and "literally fell in love." It reminded her of her childhood in upstate New York, growing up in the woods.

She noted that the member numbers of MTBT have dwindled in recent years, and she is keen to make the organisation more inclusive, as well as holding the meetings in different locations. The first meeting appears likely to occur in Taggerty.

She has also started her own companies, and is aware of the challenges that small businesses can face. She was running a consulting practice in California in 2007 and encountered a company in Sydney with some interesting intellectual property (IP). She invited herself to join them and crafted a six month program to review their IP and look at their business and then licence their product for the USA. After about four months, she fell in love with the opportunity in Australia, and the opportunity ended up lasting for five years. She helped to build the business from about six people to about 40, and was eventually purchased by Accenture.

She's now keen to become a part of the local community and to see it prosper. She noted that she has an active ABN and is running a private consulting practice.

Traditionally, Taggerty wasn't a part of MTBT, but in recent years, they were "welcomed with open arms." The organisation will be looking at a re-naming, as the current name puts Marysville first and then the Triangle, and having Triangle first seems more appropriate.

At her going away party, she was invited to join Deloitte by their Chief Strategy Officer of the time. He said, "I don't know what it is you do Maureen, but I'd like you to do that here in Deloitte." She was able to write her own

She will be looking to people to contribute to what might be possible for MTBT, and asked for the community's patience while she asks the question "why?"

She is particularly keen to find out what the constituents would like MTBT to achieve, and is looking to develop a 'mission critical' list of to-dos over the next few months. This will include a mission, a strategy and a plan.

During the next couple of months, her focus will be on getting to know people and the lay of the land, understanding that we live in an ecosystem

with shared needs as well as unique ones.

Previously, MTBT was heavily tourism focused with the organisation providing accommodation bookings, for example, however this has now shifted due to online booking services. She said that while this was the right choice for the time, it's now time for a refresh of the view of what is required.

She's concerned that the Triangle area needs representation more so than just Marysville-centric. If only tourism is looked at, then it ignores the wider ecosystem. Not all of the businesses are tourism focused, but there are also some which support tourism businesses. She wants to see respect and support for everyone in business.

She is questioning how to bring more tourists to the area, how to get them to stay longer, and in the longer term, how can the Triangle entice people to move to the area? The aim is for the area to grow and prosper. Housing and staffing are key issues.

"If we put our heads together, what can we come up with that allows us to look at the short term concerns with a longer term appreciation of where it is we need to build towards," Maureen said.

## Church Services

- ANGLICAN**  
**St Johns Alexandra**  
 9am Eucharist each Sunday  
 Children welcome.  
 Rev Mario Hendricks -  
 Rectory 0435 953 777
- 
- CATHOLIC**  
 Immaculate Conception Parish  
 Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.  
 Presbytery 0468 810 871  
 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm  
 Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am  
 Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am
- 
- UNITING CHURCH In Australia**  
 St Andrews, Downey Street,  
 Alexandra  
 Worshipping, Welcoming  
 Sharing the transforming love of  
 Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday  
 Contact 5772 2362
- 
- OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
 Loving God, Loving People,  
 Loving Life  
 118 Grant Street, Alexandra  
 Contact: Ps Steven Turner  
 Ph: 0413 127 283  
 Meeting every Sunday @ 10am
- 
- MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 37 Grant Street, Alexandra  
 Pastor Daniel Kriss  
 Services 10am every Sunday  
 Phone 0400 282 536  
[mccbc.com.au](http://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

## Temporary closure for Whanregarwen Road

WHANREGARWEN Road will be temporarily closed for road works on Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30.

The road works are delivered under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), following damage to the road in the October 2022 floods.

According to the council website, the road works on Whanregarwen Road are the last scheduled works for the Murrindindi Shire regarding flood damaged roads. All other road works have been completed.

The works will start at 7am on the Monday and are scheduled to finish at 5pm on the Tuesday.

The DRFA is jointly funded by the Australian Government and the Victorian Government.



The tractor fire being extinguished by a volunteer from the CFA. -S

# Tractor fire at Narbethong

TUESDAY, April 16, just after 4pm, Buxton and Marysville Fire Brigades responded to support Narbethong Fire Brigade at a reported tractor on fire between Buxton and Narbethong.

Buxton Tanker One responded with two compressed air breathing apparatus (CABA) qualified members and was followed up by Buxton Tanker Two with additional crew including a further CABA qualified member. Narbethong and Marysville brigades were enroute shortly after Buxton.

FireCom advised responding appliances that a tractor was on fire in a paddock off the Maroondah Highway. It was reported that the fire had not spread to the paddock and it was green and eaten out.

Buxton Tanker One reported black smoke showing from as far back as Williams Lane and upgraded all appliances to Code One

Emergency Response. Upon arrival one member donned breathing apparatus while a hose line was deployed with the help of a member who had arrived ahead of the appliances. Narbethong tanker was close behind and crews worked to rapidly deploy the initial attack line.

As always, all three brigades worked as a cohesive team but, unfortunately, the tractor was well alight and was a total loss. This was despite the efforts of the member who was first on scene and wasn't able to quell the fire with the tractor's nine litre extinguisher.

It was beneficial that the farm property has their property number clearly displayed, in both directions, on the highway. Being able to locate driveways along the highway is vital to dealing with any emergency. Big numbers on a contrasting background that can be seen from both directions is best for locating properties.

## More funding for mental health initiatives in remote, rural and regional areas

NEW partners have joined the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal's (FRRR) *In a Good Place* program (IAGP).

Additional funding is now on offer to support mental health projects in remote, rural and regional communities, thanks to new supporters of FRRR's *In a Good Place* grants program, with grants of up to \$20,000 now available.

First established in 2018 with the support of CCI Giving, the program's focus has been on supporting community-driven initiatives that reduce social isolation, increase social participation and connectedness, and increase help seeking for people within rural, regional and remote communities who are at risk of, or are experiencing, mental health issues.

Now the IAGP program is expanding, adding a stream focussed on farmers and farming communities, following the recent National Farmer Wellbeing Report, which

was presented at a recent mental health and wellbeing forum, hosted by National Farmers Federation (NFF).

The Report revealed that in recent years, 45 per cent of Australian farmers have felt depressed, with 64 per cent experiencing anxiety. The causes of this are many fold, but top among them were weather or natural disasters (47 per cent), financial stress (36 per cent) and inflation and cost pressures (35 per cent). Add to this that 76 per cent of Australian farmers believe that the role they play is undervalued by the Australian public and it's not hard to understand why farmers and farming communities are experiencing declining mental health.

The report called for additional funding and support, which prompted six new partners to join FRRR's IAGP program, alongside CCI Giving, Macdoch Foundation, Jibb Foundation, Morris Family Foundation, Norman Family Foundation and Rebecca Gorman and John Sevier.

These funders have committed to the program for three years, ensuring dedicated funding for farmers and farming communities from 2024 to 2026. In total, \$1,063,000 has been committed over the next three years.

FRRR's CEO, Natalie Egleton, said that the insights shared by farmers and farmer advocates, reaffirm the relevance of the *In a Good Place* program, and the role it can play in supporting the wellbeing of farming communities.

"These firsthand experiences and insights, highlight the need for investment in projects that promote preventative and responsive mental health approaches in farming and agriculture dependent communities.

"Critically, the additional funding will help to address gaps in services by upskilling people locally and bringing in experts, so that locals in farming communities can better support one another."

The expanded program supports a range of approaches that are preventative or responsive in nature, reduce social isolation by increasing social participation and connectedness, and reduce stigma surrounding mental health by encouraging open discussion and supporting self help seeking. Communities of less 10,000 will receive priority.

Grants of up to \$20,000 are available from a funding pool of at least \$290,000. Grants are available via two streams, these include, community wellbeing, by focussing on mental health and wellbeing within remote, rural and regional communities and farmers and farming communities, by supporting mental health and wellbeing of farmers and the communities they live in.

Applications are via an expression of interest process, with EOIs due April 30 with final applications for those shortlisted due May 15. To learn more visit [frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place](http://frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place)

## Past Olympians from Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire has fielded a number of athletes for the Olympics over the years, and with the build up to the Paris 2024 Olympics in full swing, now is the perfect time to recall their exploits.

The most successful Olympian from the shire, Bill Roycroft from Flowerdale, won two bronze medals and a gold medal across his years of equestrian events. He competed in all the summer Olympics spanning from 1960 through to 1976 in the equestrian category. In 1960 he won gold in the team event, and took home a bronze medal for the 1968 team event and the 1976 team event.

Laurie Morgan, born in Yea, competed with Bill Roycroft in the 1960 summer Olympics, winning gold alongside Roycroft in the team equestrian event, and winning gold for himself in the individual competition.

Winter Olympian, Andrew Paul, was born in Alexandra and competed in the 1984 and 1988 winter Olympics. He placed 50th in the 10km biathlon in 1984, and 47th in the 20km

biathlon of the same year, marking his best results for the sport.

Ray Weinberg, born in Alexandra, competed across various athletics events in the 1948 and 1952 summer Olympics.

Born in Yea, Matt Gray competed in the archery category in the 1996, 2000, and 2008 summer Olympics. In 1996 he finished fourth in the team event, and finished 26th in the individual competition. These were his best results across the years.

Casey Wright stands as the most recent athlete, originating from Alexandra, and competing in the 2018 winter Olympics and the 2022 winter Olympics. Her feats in the skiing category include placing 63rd in the sprint event in 2018, and 16th in the 2022 team sprint.

If anyone has any links to people competing in the Olympics this year, call us on 5772 1002, or email [editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

## HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Council's draft Economic Development Strategy is now ready for review!



**Council is inviting community and business to provide feedback on our draft Economic Development Strategy, to help guide the future of our local economy.**

From October to November 2023, we engaged the community to better understand how Council can support industry and employment growth in Murrindindi Shire through a five-year economic development strategy.

Community feedback supported the identified priorities and outcomes for the Strategy. There were 34 ideas shared and over 100 participants at the pop-ups held across the Shire. This feedback helped us shape the draft Economic Development Strategy.

The draft Strategy outlines the key priorities, outcomes, and initiatives to be undertaken, drawing upon local strengths, and addressing specific challenges. Council will develop a two-year rolling Action Plan to deliver the Priority Outcomes.

To review the draft, scan the QR code or visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economicstrategy](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/economicstrategy)

**Feedback closes on Sunday 12 May 2024.**



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## Proudly supporting Student of the week

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### ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Asher Mullins**

Asher always shows the school values. She is a kind and caring friend who is always willing to help others. She always does her personal best in class. She is dependable and approaches her leadership position with dedication and determination. Asher, we are proud to have you in our learning community. You are a star.

### BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Isla has been building her resilience and ability to bounce back from challenges.

Keep up the great work Isla.

### EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Henry and Shayla** have displayed the school values of Cooperation and Integrity.

Well done.

### ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Mireia has had such a fantastic beginning to grade three. She aims high in her learning by first giving things a go, checking in and then challenging herself to the next level.

Mireia is a great friend who looks out for others. Such a kind, thoughtful student to have in our school.

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



## Four bin service starting July 2025

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

The four bin service will include the following bins, collected at different frequencies: General waste in the red bin, collected fortnightly. Mixed recycling in the yellow bin, collected fortnightly. Food and garden organics (FOGO) in the green bin, collected weekly. Glass recycling in the purple bin, collected monthly.

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

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

Residents are invited to provide feedback on the draft policy by visiting [theoop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside](http://theoop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kerbside)

People can also attend a pop-up event or register for an online community conversation session. Feedback closes on Sunday, May 19.

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

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

system in line with the state government's policy. While we've decided on the format and frequency of our kerbside collection services, based on feedback gathered from the community in late 2022, we'd like to see what our community thinks about some of the finer details outlined in our *Kerbside Waste and Recycling Services Policy*. This policy will guide the roll out of the four bin services so it's important we get valuable feedback from our residents to make sure the transition goes as smoothly as possible. We're also planning a comprehensive education campaign to help our community make the most of the new kerbside collection services. We are excited to move our shire closer towards a circular economy, for the benefit of our community and the environment."

## CFA grants

THE Victorian Government is supporting the hardworking volunteer emergency services with the equipment and upgrades they need to keep Victorians safe.

Minister for Emergency Services, Jaclyn Symes, joined local volunteers to officially announce the opening of applications for this year's \$15 million Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) and thank them for helping during the response to the October 2022 flood event.

"Victoria's emergency service volunteers go above and beyond to protect the community during an emergency. These grants are all about helping ensure they have the latest equipment to do what they do best, protect communities and save lives.

"These grants have been going for more than 20 years, and we're proud to continue the legacy that they leave and I encourage all eligible groups to apply," Ms Symes said.

VESEP is an annual grant program that supports Victorian emergency services volunteer groups to purchase essential equipment or make facility improvements so that they can continue their vital work.

## Prep enrolments open for 2025

THE Victorian Government has opened enrolments for the 2025 intake of Prep students, encouraging families to plan their applications for their preferred school as their children prepare to start their primary education.

Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, today announced enrolment applications are open until Friday, July 26, giving families time to plan, visit schools and get the information they need to apply.

"Planning for your child's education is exciting – we're making sure families have

the most up-to-date information to enrol their children at our fantastic primary schools," Mr Carroll said.

Students have guaranteed access to their designated neighbourhood school.

"We're making sure all Victorians have access to first-rate schools close to home so that students have every chance to thrive at school," Mr Carroll said.

Parents and carers will receive offer letters back by Friday, August 9, while applications received after Friday, July 26, will be considered by schools as they are received.

Families with children in Year Six will receive a Placement Information Pack at the start of term two, which includes an Application for Year Seven Placement Form, which will need to be submitted by Friday, May 10.

Families applying for places at their local government school from the start of term two can now also access the recently updated Find my School website, which gives parents and carers the latest information on school zones.

The Find my School website allows families to find their designated neighbourhood government school and other government schools nearby, giving them clarity on what their government school options are for their children.

It now includes six new government schools set to open in 2025, along with small changes to existing government school zones to reflect changes in school provision and adjustments to improve accessibility for all students.

Schools can be found by typing in a residential address or searching by school name or categories such as primary, secondary, or specialist school.

To find your local school zone, visit [findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://findmyschool.vic.gov.au) and to learn more about the enrolment process, visit [vic.gov.au/starting-school](http://vic.gov.au/starting-school).



Some of the beautiful food that the attendees enjoyed. -S



The event was held among the deciduous trees at Morning Mist. -S



The High Tea in Eildon donation table. -S



Over \$2200 was raised at the event and will be donated to breast cancer research. -S

## High tea fundraiser for breast cancer research

FIFTY guests attended the inaugural High Tea in Eildon event, which was held in the beautiful gardens of Morning Mist on a perfect autumn afternoon with blue skies and sunshine. This was in support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) is Australia's leading not-for-profit organisation funding world-class breast cancer research towards a vision of zero deaths from breast cancer. Since the inception in 1994, NBCF has invested around \$200M into more than 600 world-class research projects across Australia. There is still work to do.

Presently, over 3200 people will lose their lives this year. Nine plus Australians will die every day and over 57 are diagnosed daily.

When you support NBCF, you're supporting targeted breast cancer research across the spectrum. There are many ways to become involved, this is just one.

Cindy McLeish, MP for Eildon, attended the event in support of this worthy cause.

There was a fabulous variety of delicious treats both savoury and sweet for guests to enjoy. Everyone took advantage of the perfect weather and had a stroll around the gardens.

As this was a new venture, the numbers were capped at 50. Tickets sold out as soon as the event was mentioned, and there was no need to advertise.

Events like this do not just happen. There is a lot of thought and planning to ensure everything runs perfectly.

The tables were beautifully set with handmade tablecloths and napkins, which ticks the Murrindindi Shire waste policy of reuse, reduce, recycle. Event organisers thank Nanny Jan and her helpers for making these, saying they will be used on many occasions, are great for the environment, and there is no throwing them out.

There were many donations from both businesses and community members, such as a voucher from White Lotus at Narbethong, gift hampers, succulents in teacups, and a pot of home-made jam to take home. Beautiful home-grown proteas on every table, thanks to the Thornton General Store. A fabulous hand painted sign by Kati Lansell. Community groups also assisted by providing all the necessary equipment.

Lastly, the event organisers thank their tireless helpers, Kerrie, Sue A, Sue S, Sandy, Wendy, Eyrnn, Moira, Angella, Elly, Karine, Ken and John, for their great team work. From an idea to a successful fundraiser. A total of \$2201 was raised.

The next event will be the Biggest Morning Tea in Eildon in May. This will also be a fundraiser for the NBCF.

## Native timber support available now

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

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

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

For more information:

- Forestry Transition hotline - 1800 318 182
- Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program - 1800 122 001 [vic.gov.au/forestry](http://vic.gov.au/forestry)



## ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2024



The following services will be held across Murrindindi Shire to commemorate ANZAC Day on Thursday 25 April 2024.

### Thursday 25 April

#### Alexandra

Dawn service at 6.00 am at Leckie Park Memorial.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the RSL Hall for a march to Leckie Park Memorial, Vickery Street for 11.00 am service.

#### Eildon

Private service at 10.15 am for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home.

Assemble at 10.50 am for 11.00 am service at Cenotaph, Utah Place

#### Flowerdale

Assemble at 10.45 am for 11.00 am service at Flowerdale Community Hall, 3380 Yea-Whittlesea Road, Flowerdale. Refreshments to follow.

#### Glenburn

Assemble at 5.45 am for 6.00 am dawn service at Glenburn Community Centre (opposite the Glenburn Hall, 3876 Melba Highway, Glenburn).

#### Kinglake

Dawn service at 5.30 am, followed by traditional gunfire breakfast at St Peter's Community WW1 Memorial Church, Kinglake.

Service at 10.00 am at the Lions Club ANZAC Memorial, Kinglake Community Centre, 436 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake (entry via Extons Road).

#### Marysville

Assemble at 10.30 am at corner Murchison Street and Lyell Street for a march at 10.40 am to the Marysville Cenotaph for 11.00 am service.

#### Strath Creek

Assemble at 8.45 am for 9.00 am service at Strath Creek Pioneer Reserve Memorial, Glover Street, Strath Creek.

#### Yarck

Wreath laying service at 10.00 am at the Yarck War Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway, Yarck.

#### Yea

Private service at 9:45 am at Yea Memorial Hospital for Rosebank Nursing Home residents and family.

Assemble at 10.45 am at the Yea Cenotaph for 11.00 am service.



# ON THE LAND



Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Disastrous fire ant consequences without urgent action

THE report of the Senate inquiry into fire ants, released on Friday, April 19, called for an urgent review of funding and other changes to the response program if Australia is to win the battle to keep the country fire ant free.

The inquiry found that there would be 'disastrous consequences' for Australia's natural environment and economy if eradication was not successful.

If the highly invasive fire ants are not eradicated from the massive infestation area in south east Queensland, all Australians will suffer their impacts.

For the last 23 years the government-funded eradication program run by the Queensland government has had multiple setbacks due to limited funding, slow decision-making and unnecessary secrecy.

The committee confirmed that eradication remains possible, but warned that unless

major changes are made to the response program, the ants will continue to spread.

The committee made clear that 'current resources and funding are unlikely to meet that eradication goal' and recommended an urgent review of funding and the program's structure.

Reece Pianta, Advocacy Manager at the Invasive Species Council, said, "The senate committee report is a call for our government to boost fire ant eradication efforts. While the report makes it clear that the eradication program has successfully slowed the spread of fire ants, that approach is not a solution. The evidence to the committee was damning. There's now no excuse, the government must conduct an urgent review of fire ant eradication funding."

"The Prime Minister and Minister Murray Watt and state and territory governments must act on these urgent recommendations to get fire ant eradication back on track.

Governments that let fire ants spread will be judged harshly by future Australians. This report comes on the heels of new economic modelling that fire ant impacts in Australia will exceed \$2 billion per year."

The report titled *Red imported fire ants in Australia: Don't let this come back to bite us* contained 10 recommendations and received unanimous support from the cross-party Senate committee.

The recommendations call for an alternative independent agency or commission for fire ant eradication program delivery, a rapid review of current funding to ensure it is sufficient and uninterrupted to get the job done, greater eradication program transparency and a public awareness campaign, an increased investment in research on emerging fire ant eradication techniques, more resources for public self-treatment of fire ants in the infestation zone, and increased compliance to control fire ant movements in freight.

### Your favourite recipe

Do you have something you love to cook for your family, something you cook all the time, or grandma's family recipe? Send it into us and we will publish it to share with our readers. Attach a photo (if you have one); send your name and if you have a little 20 word description about your recipe, share that with us too.

Send recipes to [manager@alexandriane newspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandriane newspapers.com.au)

### CAVEAT Online Clearing Sale A/C ESTATE RAY SMITH

**Commencing:** Thursday, May 2 – noon  
**Concludes:** Monday, May 6 – noon (+2 min increments)

**Inspection day:** Wednesday, May 1 - 10am – 3pm  
**Pick up day:** Thursday, May 9 - 9.30am – 4pm

Machinery, farm machinery, farm sundries, electrical tools, fencing, furniture and books  
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### The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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### PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for April, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

The April theme is 'changing trees'.  
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[facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/](https://facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/)

Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

### SAVE THE DATE

**May 3 - Yea Saleyards**

Free flu vaccination  
Combined Agents - Store Sale

**June 7 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents Store Sale

**July 5 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents Store Sale

**August 2 - Yea Saleyards**

Combined Agents Store Sale

**Get in touch**

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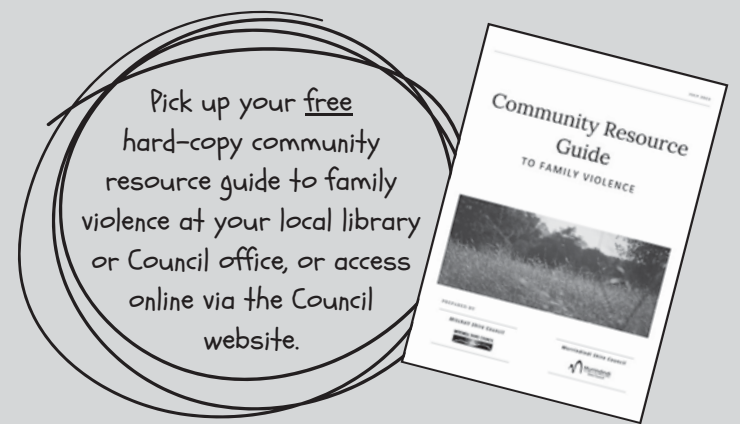
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# A Little Respect

Creating space for conversations in our community about important topics related to relationships, gender equality and family violence prevention.



Lee has worked in a variety of fields spanning multi-national corporations, social non-profits and Local Government. She is passionate about raising awareness of important issues in the local community, particularly related to gender equality and family violence. Lee operates with curiosity over conflict and believes we all have something to learn from one another. Lee's work aligns with her studies in law and criminology, but mostly with her lived experience as Victim-Survivor. She recently spoke at a state-wide Local Government Forum headlined by Grace Tame, and is currently the Free From Violence and Gender and Diversity Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council.

## Topic of the month: Andrew Tate

Andrew Tate is the latest in a string of influencers peddling ideas about male supremacy. He is a self-described misogynist and is currently being detained on charges related to alleged sexual assault and human trafficking. Despite these giant red flags, he has a massive following of men and boys looking to emulate his supposedly flashy 'alpha male' lifestyle in which he exploits women, whom he refers to as 'intrinsically lazy'. But don't worry – Tate also describes himself a 'good guy'. Yep, Tate says he genuinely cares about and wants to 'protect' women – presumably, from men like... Tate? If you think this is scary and a backwards step for gender equality, you're not alone.

## Reader question of the month

*I am concerned to witness the increasing influence of Andrew Tate among the student population in our Shire and the wider community. As a parent, I am worried about my daughter's experience in the classroom and about her general safety. Why are boys finding Tate's views appealing and what can we do to challenge their thinking without alienating them? –Concerned*

## Answer

In aligning with Tate, these boys are seeking reassurance and belonging above all else. They want to feel important, like we all do. As some boys (and men) see minorities gaining ground (even though some are very much losing ground) in their valid fight for equality, these boys/men may feel threatened or 'othered'. Some of them feel they are being framed as 'bad guys' when they want to be seen as 'good guys' by default. Followers of Tate believe the rhetoric that they are under attack by those advocating for equality, and that if others gain more rights, they will somehow lose theirs, which simply isn't true.

This isn't to say Tate doesn't raise real issues relevant to men, including increased male suicide rates, loneliness and relationship struggles. The problem is that he frames the cause of these issues as being directly related to feminism. In other words, he thinks women are to blame for many struggles faced by men today. This is also untrue. It is a society rooted in patriarchal and gendered stereotypes that dictates men (and women) behave in certain ways, that is the problem. Men should be able to express vulnerability and feel safe in their peer groups when they do. There are many studies already out there on the Andrew Tate problem but unfortunately there is no precise roadmap on how to really counter his destructive views. In other words, there is no quick fix. Coming to the table with facts seems to no longer be an effective tool in educating young people, and alarmingly, many older people too. Because, if you're not saying the things that Tate fans want to believe, they will simply opt into an alternative reality that makes them feel more validated, comfortable and powerful.

But, if in response to Tate, we only call boys out (i.e., shame them for their views in front of their peers), we will only push them further to the fringes, leaving them feeling so isolated, so on the edge of things – that it just reinforces a belief that they are entitled to retaliate to this exclusion with aggression or even violence. So maybe, just maybe, if we call these boys in, invite them (and ourselves) to get curious about the source of these ideas – perhaps with support, they can begin to imagine a kind of belonging that doesn't push anyone down or out.

We all have a responsibility to raise one another up, especially young people. It may be frustrating to do this work gently, but gentleness and kindness is exactly what we want to see young men fostering. There is a strength in that. Let's ask and really hear the answers about what boys find appealing about Tate's ideas. From this place, we can start to unpick what it is boys want to feel, not just what they say in front of other boys. More often than not, what we'll uncover is fear, loneliness and a desire to feel connected. Surely, we can work with that.

The Tate problem is not the role of just one person to fix, nor is it up to women alone to solve. All of us, especially men, need to rally and commit to joining together to create safer communities and safer conversational spaces for boys. And beyond this, we must agitate for our leaders to do the same. Yes, it is uncomfortable and yes, it is worth doing.

*\*This article is supported by peer reviewed research.*

## Let's Talk: A Space for Men

Thursday 20 June, Yea Shire Hall  
12.30- 2.30 pm

Men's mental health is vitally important. Men and boys need more spaces to talk about the things that impact them. Nobody gets everything right all the time and that's okay! We invite men, boys (and anyone with an interest in the issues facing men and boys) to join together for this exciting event and FREE leadership opportunity, headlined by keynote speaker Tarang Chawla. Guest Cr Damien Gallagher, Murrindindi Shire Mayor, an expert from the Men's Project, a local sporting club leader, as well as some other local blokes you might know, will also be part of the panel. Scan the QR code to secure your place.



## Next month: celebrating IDAHOBIT Day

*How our differences strengthen the community*

For many of us, we have things that make us unique and different. Things that make going into a new environment feel overwhelming. This is why we need days like the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), which is held annually on 17 May. What are your thoughts on IDAHOBIT Day? Do you think communities understand the link between IDAHOBIT Day and creating safer spaces for everyone in our Shire? Is there an experience you would like to share around this? We'd love to hear from you! Simply email [communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) to get in touch. Your identity will remain anonymous.

## Getting support

Call 000 in an emergency or if you are in immediate danger.

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 737 732
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?' website: [areyousafeathome.org.au](http://areyousafeathome.org.au)

# Wind farm: The winds of change for Murrindindi?

## Wind farm: Fera

ANDREW Lawson was unfortunately unavailable for an interview to coincide with the interview with Darryl Otzen from the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group, however he supplied some information and we hope to have an interview with him in next week's edition.

According to the information Andrew supplied, "This year will see a lot of investigation and assessment take place."

Reports, information and advice are being developed regarding the area's biodiversity and ecology, including the identification of no-go areas, cultural heritage, desktop geotechnical and bushfires. These will inform the siting of turbines and infrastructure to avoid areas of highest sensitivity or constraint.

The second group of reports include an expansion upon the biodiversity and ecology, cultural heritage, bushfire and desktop geotechnical studies, as well as noise and vibration, preliminary landscape and visual impact assessment, traffic, water and hydrology, desktop aviation, land use planning and consultation planning. These will be prepared in relation to the micro-sited layout plan.

Following the earlier desktop investigations Biosis conducted an Initial Field Survey to review the preliminary turbine and access track site inspections (late November, Early December 2023). The group inspected the turbine locations and potential access roads to identify any potential ecology issues.

Andrew advised that five to six locations may require further investigation (potential relocation or deletion) but the vast majority were located in farmland and appeared not to have any ecology issues.

The information said, "To ensure that all key ecology elements are included in the detail surveys we met with the Landcare and Environmental group representatives from across the project in February in Yea. These meetings have been constructive and progressed to engaged discussions and good sharing of information. We have set up a portal for local ecology information to be uploaded. Following the meeting Biosis will finalise the Survey Protocol's for project Birds and Bats studies."

The preliminary Cultural Heritage desktop study is also programmed to start in the second quarter of 2024.

Fera have also put together a draft charter and have the outline of a Community Consultation Plan coming along.

The information stated, "Having conducted quarterly public sessions at Ruffy and Upton Hill through 2023 we have looked to continue in 2024 with local events where we can participate and have time to explain and discuss the project. Last weekend, we set up a stand at the Farming Expo in Seymour over the three days (Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14) and will seek similar events through the year. This approach was a success with strong support for the project across the three days."

Andrew appears to be referring here to the Alternative Farming Expo in Seymour.

The text also states, "In March, Robert Gardiner presented to the Yea 2030 group (following in on from my presentation to the group last August). We have had meetings in Euroa and with BEAM and remain keen to meet with all interested groups in the area. Equally we have continued our meetings

with local residents across the turbine and transmission areas."

Broadford Environmental Action Movement (BEAM) Mitchell Environment Group states on its website, "Our members are engaged in supporting sustainable outcomes in government projects, advocating for our local region, supporting green initiatives and generally causing a fuss about protecting the environment."

It is unclear which group Fera met with in Euroa as no advertisements could be found.

The information also said, "Everyone had a good day at Cherry Tree [Wind Farm on November 25, 2023] with 40-45 attendees. Virtually to a person they all came up and said they enjoyed the visit. I wish all community sessions were as positive and well received across the community."

"We set up a stand at the Seymour [Alternative] Farm Expo from Friday, April 12 to Sunday, April 14. The expo was well attended, and we had good opportunity to talk with people over the three days. A strong success. In total we talked with 318 people. We set up a survey and sought people's views on climate change, renewable energy and their views on regional renewable projects including whether or not they supported the local Cherry Tree and proposed Seymour project. Below are some of the main survey results."

The first question was, a scale of one to 10, (one not at all to 10 extremely) how much do you think climate change threatens your personal health, the weather and impacts drought / floods? Twenty-six people gave it a 10, 14 a nine, and 22 an eight.

Over 50 per cent of people felt 'somewhat familiar' with renewable energy sources and almost 30 per cent said they were 'very familiar'.

Sixty-four per cent of respondents had implemented renewable energy systems in their homes. Of those, around 44 per cent did so for cost savings and 38 per cent to help combat climate change or for the environmental impact.

Sixty-six per cent of respondents said that were 'very supportive' of wind or solar regional projects, and 17 per cent 'somewhat supportive'.

Eighty per cent of the people at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo said that they supported the "local Cherry Tree [Wind Farm] and proposed Fera wind project."

Information was also provided on transmission alignment. It stated, "A key focus is continuing the investigation of the transmission alignments to connect the project. We are focussed on two alignments with the aim of narrowing down to a single alignment over the coming months. The target is to have the transmission alignment by the end of July."

"There continues to be a lot of activity across all areas on the project and 2024 will see the detailed investigations across all the reports required for planning. Robert Gardiner (lives in Yea) and I have been working away on route option for the transmission lines."

"We developed an agreement for the transmission alignment landholders. They are significantly more generous than the state government announced flat \$200,000 or \$8000 per annum payments. The approach is to provide an offer [which] is attractive and provides a strong incentive for hosting transmission lines."

## Wind farm: opposition

THE Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) are strongly opposed to Fera's proposed 'Seymour Wind Farm' in the Murrindindi and Strathbogie areas. SRRCG held an information session at the Country Club Hotel in Yea on Saturday, April 20, which 209 people attended.

Speaking prior to the event, Darryl Otzen, Secretary of the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG), stated "Fera have not made any public statements basically since May last year."

He said that Fera committed to having quarterly community consultation sessions. One was held in February 2023, another in May 2023, and one in August 2023 "with a primary school lecture on climate change... Probably two third of the people got up and walked out in disgust," Darryl said. In November 2023, people were invited to view the Cherry Tree wind turbines up close, but Darryl commented that they're half the size of the ones planned for the local 'Seymour' project. The February 2024 didn't happen, and there's been nothing since.

Darryl said that at the February 2023 meeting, "[Fera] said we have already signed up eight landowners. We have enough land already to make this project viable. We are building a power station. That to me wasn't a consultation, that was a confrontation. It was a very heated meeting, that first meeting."

He said that on the Fera website, there's been an update to their investigation area for the transmission line route, where they appear to be looking down Whanregarwen Road.

Darryl said, "What people are actually doing is going around showing the good people of Yea district a map with multiple powerlines all over it that covers both east and west of Yea." This includes Molesworth, Native Dog Road, Murrindindi Road and Ghin Ghin Road from Highlands down to Ghin Ghin, and south to Glenburn and Murrindindi.

He said that they have been showing this map to individual landholders in the area, and is uncertain of the colour coding and whether these areas are under serious consideration.

Darryl was asked for his thoughts around the fact that wind is a renewable energy with potential negative impacts in terms of land usage and visual amenity. He responded, "The objection to the communities is against the sheer scale of the development. It's an industrial development of 80 to 100 very large wind turbines."

Darryl said that while it's not pristine land, having been extensively cleared in the past. Much effort has been put into revegetation, and there is unique granite in the area which is extensively studied by universities.

Fera is required to conduct an environmental survey and have engaged Biosis. Their report identified a number of endangered or critically endangered species in the area immediately impacted by the proposal.

He said that consideration needs to be given to what it will do to the environment, not just the visual impact, although the latter may have an effect on tourism-based businesses. He believes that any works done will run



A wind turbine. -Rabih Shasha

into the Hughes Creek and this will have a huge impact on endangered wildlife, such as the Macquarie perch. Darryl believes that hundreds of kilometres of roads will need to be built for the project, on private properties, as the towers will need to be a minimum of five kilometres apart.

The committee has no issue with wind farms, or renewable energy in any form. He said wind turbines are "amazing machines." He said that the state and federal government preference is for wind farms to be offshore. There, they will become a natural reef, and no harm will come to whales or other sea creatures.

Darryl said that the scale and siting of the current project is the issue, and he pointed out that there's nowhere to really connect it. The renewable energy zones are all centred around terminal stations, and there is no terminal station near this project apart from South Morang and Dederang, on the Victoria-NSW transmission line which run through Murrindindi Shire near Alexandra. A terminal station would therefore need to be constructed, bringing disruption, and three to five years of planning.

Darryl also discussed the removal of the right of third parties to appeal to VCAT over renewable energy planning decisions. He said that the Planning Minister "has introduced the Victorian Development Facilitation Program, which is basically a fast-track program for infrastructure projects, it doesn't need to be renewable projects, it could be housing, it could be other infrastructure. Eligible projects can apply directly to the minister, and the minister will assess and directly sign off on that project. It doesn't go through the planning department and there is no process for appeal to VCAT. The only appeal you could make at that point would be to the Supreme Court."

Eligibility includes a requirement that the project be financially viable and start development within 12 months. For renewable energy projects, the financially viable requirement has been removed.

He also noted that in February, the Community Engagement Review from the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commission (AEIC) was released. The AEIC spoke to communities about their engagement with renewable energy developers. The report asked, 'How do renewable energy developers engage with communities' and the answer was, 'They don't'. Developer ratings were considered. VicGrid has taken up the opportunity to audit land in the state to determine whether particular areas are suitable for renewable developments.

A survey was recently conducted via Engage Victoria to develop the Victorian Transmission Plan, where the community could place markers on a map and make comments. VicGrid are developing a transmission plan based on this, with a draft due mid-year.

Daryl suggested that Fera may build multiple 132kw lines instead of a single 330kw line, coming from multiple substations within their project, connecting to a single point on the main grid. Instead of having a big lattice tower, they would have mono-poles, possibly 35 metres tall, and due to the cable weight, they would be close together. "As a result, the visual impact is not much different to having those big towers," Darryl said, adding that a clear-felled easement would be needed beneath each powerline, and "they want to run multiple lines."

He believes that the impact of the alternative solution is "probably worse" than the single powerline.

## Submissions sought on Lake Eildon Houseboat regulations

THE *Water (Lake Eildon Recreation Area) (Houseboats) Regulations 2013* manage houseboating on Lake Eildon. The houseboat regulations are put in place by the Minister for Water. The regulations allow for the use of houseboats on Lake Eildon and lay out what houseboat owners must do.

The regulations describe requirements for licencing, managing black water from on board toilets, and managing houseboat greywater discharge into the lake.

The houseboat regulations will sunset on June 11.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has been working in partnership with Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) to review and remake the current houseboat regulations. This has involved working with the houseboat community and interested stakeholders in a co-design approach.

They are now seeking public feedback on the draft *Water (Lake Eildon Recreation Area) (Houseboats) Regulations 2024*. Lake Eildon is home to over 700 houseboats.

The focus of the consultation is on the regulations for managing greywater and the way these regulations are implemented.

You can have your say on remaking Lake Eildon Houseboat Regulations by visiting

the Engage Vic website now until May 9 to complete the survey or make a submission.

A Houseboat Community Drop-In Session is being held at the Eildon Tennis Club, 6 Eildon Road, Eildon on Friday, April 26 from 10am to noon.

To find out more and to make a submission, visit [engage.vic.gov.au/lake-eildon-recreation-area-houseboats-regulations](https://engage.vic.gov.au/lake-eildon-recreation-area-houseboats-regulations)

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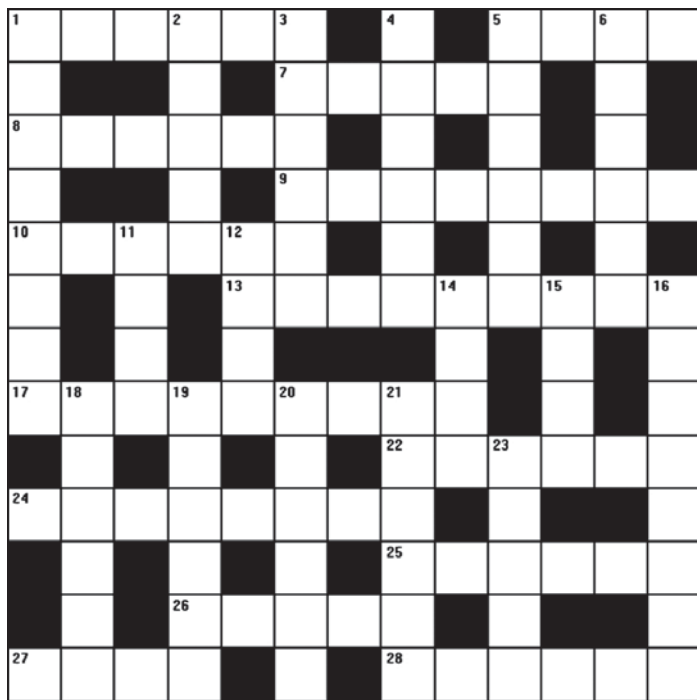
# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 14

## Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 1. A narrative song.
- 5. A stunted tail.
- 7. Take on a certain form.
- 8. A religious retreat.
- 9. In a frugal manner.
- 10. A Scottish design.
- 13. A favourable position.
- 17. Person who arrives before others.
- 22. Land surrounded by water.
- 24. Reflected and twinkled.
- 25. Fire breathing mythical beast.
- 26. Strip of water made for boats.
- 27. Small casks.
- 28. The full amount.



**DOWN**

- 1. OK, but unpleasant.
- 2. Truck designed to carry heavy loads.
- 3. Blocked up.
- 4. A musical composition.
- 5. A thoroughfare.
- 6. Free from obstruction.
- 11. A toothed wheel.
- 12. A polite name for a woman.
- 14. Bobs up and down.
- 15. A song for a solo voice.
- 16. Proof.
- 18. Relating to the Alps.
- 19. Words to a song.
- 20. Arranging into stacks.
- 21. A brain-teaser.
- 23. Jumped out.

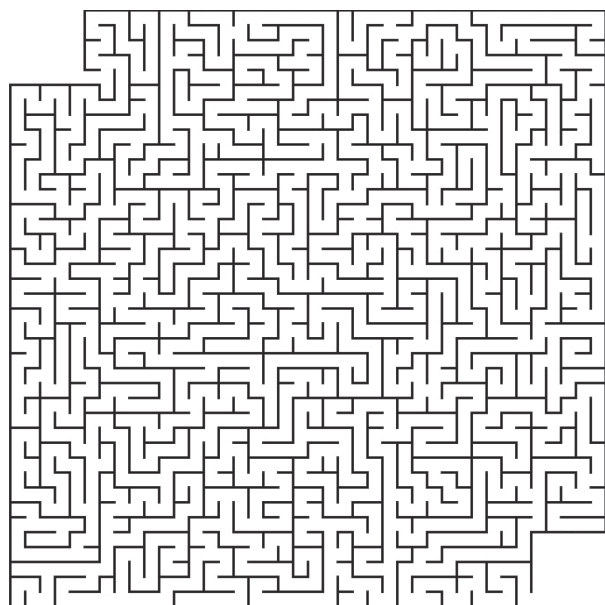
## Word Search

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

### ANZAC DAY

- APRIL      DAWN      PEACE
- ARMY      FORGET      POPPY
- BISCUITS      LEST      SERVICE
- COURAGE      MEDALS      SILENCE

## Maze



## Sudoku

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

**Difficulty: Very Hard**

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.

Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

## Math Square

	-	7	-	8	-14
x		x		÷	
	-		-		-5
+		-		-	
	+		x		39
11		15		-3	

**Fill in the missing numbers.**

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



The well getting a much needed clean up and load of gravel. -S

# St Ronan's Well gets a makeover

RECENTLY a civil gesture to repair and clean up the historical St Ronan's Well on the Black Spur took place. It not only made it safer for people stopping at the well, but it also restored its beauty.

Michelle Van Der Linden from BoostWake Wake Boat Hire said, "We drive past the well every weekend and multiple times at that, we have noticed alot of rubbish and can't believe it. My husband Gary said, one day I'm going to tidy it up."

In previous weeks during the family's travels, they were stopped right near the well during a car accident.

"A lady was there picking up rubbish which was great. We ended up going back and made it all safe, mended some parts that were leaking, tidied it all up and put a load of gravel down and made it more attractive for everyone," Michelle said.

The project took the family almost a full day, plus \$200 worth of gravel to give it the final special touch. Well done to Gary, Michelle and their son Brodie.



St Ronan's Well prior to the works. -S



St Ronan's Well has a new lease on life. -S

## How to report potholes online

THE condition of local roads is a big deal, given it impacts the safety of shire residents. VicRoads is giving citizens the opportunity to report potholes on their website.

Head to [vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue) to report road issues that are not an immediate threat, such as small potholes, signs that have fallen over, faded linemarking, etcetera. To report urgent road hazards that present an immediate danger, call 13 11 70.

On the website, select a category for feedback from the drop-down list. For potholes, select the category Road and Traffic Hazards. Then select a subject from

the second drop-down list (road conditions/ potholes, bridges and structures, road signs, etcetera).

Once you've made your selection, click next, and a new page will open up. On this page there is space to write a comment on the subject, such as the condition of the road, as well as space for providing the pothole's location address, and details to contact you if further information is required.

Fill out all the required fields by typing the information. After that, just click the button at the bottom of the page that says submit feedback or enquiry to lodge your report.

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Have you considered getting a tracker for your wayward pet? -Sheila Sund

## Keeping your pets on track

HAVE you ever become annoyed at all of the lost pet posts on Facebook community pages, and have you then been mortified to discover that you had to post one yourself? Fortunately, there's a way around it. Pet GPS and bluetooth trackers are available for your favourite furry escape artist.

A wide range of trackers are on the market, offering extended ranges and real-time tracking.

There are two main types. Bluetooth trackers connect to your phone, but only have a range of 30 to 40 metres. This means that if your pet runs away, the tracker may not be helpful at finding them. On the upside, they're low-cost, the batteries are long lasting, and are generally small and lightweight.

GPS trackers use both GPS and mobile connectivity, so satellites make it much easier to find your missing pet. The range

is unlimited, and as an added bonus, you can also see how active your pooch has been during the day, to ensure that they're getting enough exercise. The GPS trackers are connected to your phone or other device via an app. With a GPS tracker, you can also set up a safe zone (such as your backyard) and receive a notification if your pet steps outside of this zone. Be aware that some GPS trackers charge a monthly fee while others are free. They also only work where there is mobile coverage.

GPS trackers will also require much more frequent battery charging than Bluetooth trackers. They are priced at around \$70 to \$250.

If you do decide to get a tracker for your pet, make sure that it is a suitable weight for the dog. You don't want your chihuahua trotting around with a brick attached to its collar.

## Sad end to motorbike rider search

A LARGE search was conducted around Jamieson and Mount Terrible over the weekend for a missing dirt bike rider. More than 70 volunteers were engaged in searching for the man, who had been missing since Friday, April 19.

Sadly, the body of missing man was been located on Big River Road, Enochs Point, about 1.40 pm on Sunday, April 21.

It is believed he was involved in a motorbike crash and the 58 year old died at the scene.

The exact circumstances surrounding the crash are yet to be determined and police will prepare a report for the coroner.

Police would like to thank the volunteers involved in the significant search that had been conducted.

## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

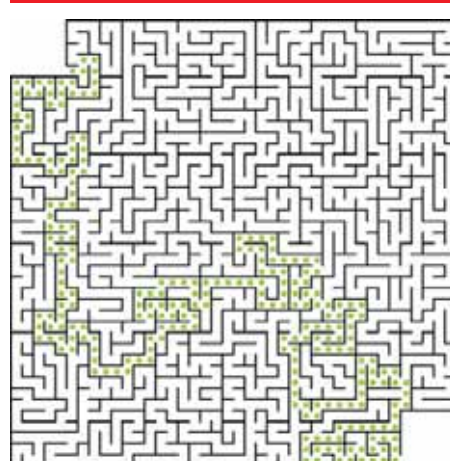
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#### FUNERAL NOTICES

**CASELL,**  
Laurance Allan

The funeral service to celebrate and pay tribute to Laurance Cassell will be held at Scot's Church Hall, Station Street, Yea on Wednesday, April 24 commencing at 1pm. Following the service the cortege will proceed to the Yea Cemetery.



#### PETS & LIVESTOCK

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#### DEATH NOTICES

**CASELL,**  
Laurance Allan  
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14/04/2024

Passed away peacefully at Rosebank Nursing Home in Yea aged 90 years.

Loving husband of Lesley for 66 years.

Loved and loving father of Leanne and Rick (dec), Sharyn and Tom and Alan and Dale.

Proud and loving grandad to Luke and Daniel, Jason, Jayde, Morgan and Madelyn.

Great grandad to Luna and Darcy; Ted, Grace, Murphy and Nina.

Loved and remembered always.

#### DEATH NOTICES



**SMITH, Alan**

On behalf of Alexandra District Health, we express our heartfelt condolences on the recent passing of Alan Smith.

Alan was a dedicated founding member of the ADH Community Advisory Committee and will be fondly remembered by ADH staff and board members.

May he rest in Peace.

#### MEETINGS



**Yea-Kinglake RSL**  
Annual General Meeting. RSL Hall, Friday, April 26, 2024 at 11.30am.  
Enquiries to secretary 5796 9353.

#### MEETINGS

**THE ALEXANDRA BOWLING CLUB AGM** will be held on Sunday, May 19 at 11am. Following the AGM, presentations will be held, and lunch will be provided. General Business for the AGM must be in writing and submitted to the secretary one week before the AGM.

#### EILDON EVENTS INC. AGM

will be held at the Eildon Tennis Clubroom, Eildon Road, Eildon on Thursday, May 16 at 5pm. We would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining our committee. For more information or a nomination form, email eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

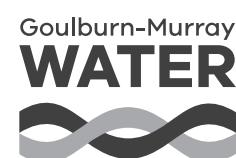
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## SITUATION VACANT

### WSS609 – Senior Storage Officer (Mechanical Experience) – Lake Eildon



Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is Australia's largest rural water corporation responsible for storing, managing and delivering water across most of northern Victoria. GMW provides more than 39,000 services to about 25,000 customers in its operating region.

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Based at Lake Eildon, you will join the Eildon Storages team located within the Water Storage Services (WSS) Division. You'll work as part of a small team providing support to the ongoing operation and maintenance activities associated with the storage.

This role will support the Storage Team Manager with the following responsibilities:

- Operate and maintain Water Storage assets and associated equipment instrumentation and systems
- Have experience in mechanical fitting, and confident with your skills
- Able to work with high attention to detail and quality
- Perform and coordinate asset maintenance activities
- Support the development and review of asset maintenance plans and assist in the implementation of asset management systems and processes

If you have a willingness to learn about water storage management requirements, have general knowledge of occupational health and safety regulations, enjoy performing maintenance activities, and are available to work weekends and after hours when necessary, we'd like to hear from you.

#### What do you need?

- Experience as a Mechanical Fitter
- Drivers Licence
- Ability to work on a rotating roster

The successful applicant will be required to live in within 1 hour of Lake Eildon office/depot to participate in future standby rosters. GMW accommodation is available if the successful applicant resides further than 1 hour. Overtime and standby allowances apply if when required.

#### Benefits

- Live and work in a beautiful regional environment.
- A competitive salary - classification B Band \$69,724 - \$80,716 in line with Goulburn-Murray Water 2021 Enterprise Agreement.
- Agile, inclusive and responsible culture is the foundation of our organisation where people are offered excellent opportunities to grow, learn and advance in their careers.
- GMW are committed to encouraging our employees to reach their full potential, while valuing and respecting them as individuals.
- GMW offer flexible working and are always open to discussing your individual needs so that you get to create your own experience with us.
- Great time to make the move to regional Victoria for a different lifestyle, career opportunities and challenge.

For more information or to view the position description please visit our website

[www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)

Applications close **Sunday 5 May 2024**. To apply for this role please complete the GMW application form provided on our careers page and email together with a copy of your current CV to [recruitment@gmwater.com.au](mailto:recruitment@gmwater.com.au).

GMW is an equal opportunity employer supporting diversity and inclusion in the workplace. GMW encourages people with diverse backgrounds, experience and perspectives to apply. We welcome applications from people with disability and aim to provide an inclusive and accessible workplace. If you need any help with the application process or would like to discuss reasonable adjustments to support you to take part in an interview, please contact: [recruitment@gmwater.com.au](mailto:recruitment@gmwater.com.au)

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## SITUATION VACANT

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- Location:** Eildon campus.
- Status:** Initial 12-month contract.

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- Salary:** \$51,909 p.a. + 11% superannuation. Reasonable overtime will be offered which can be taken as a 25% salary loading equating to \$12,977 p.a. by agreement.
- Time Fraction:** Full-time, 1.0 EFT.
- Location:** Eildon campus.
- Position Status:** Initial 12-month contract.

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#### TO APPLY

Visit the Careers at Holmesglen section of our website at <https://www.holmesglen.edu.au/about-us/careers>

**Like to know more?** Please contact General Manager of Holmesglen at Eildon – Rozanne Lawton PH: 5774 2631 or email on [rozanne.lawton@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:rozanne.lawton@holmesglen.edu.au).

If you require specific support to apply for this position, please contact the Human Resources Department on 03 9564 1813 and we will work with you to identify the best way to assist.

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# Narbethong CFA recognised for 2019-2020 fires contribution

DURING Buxton Fire Brigade's 80th anniversary open day on Sunday, April 21, the efforts of four members of the Narbethong brigade, during the 2019-2020 fire season, were recognised with presentations of National Emergency Medals.

Ceremonies were conducted around Victoria last year to present medals to emergency services workers who had contributed to the suppression of the devastating fires that impacted the eastern states over the 2019-2020 fire season. CFA volunteers from Alexandra Group deployed to Queensland and New South Wales as well as the north-west of Victoria.

Last year, when the CFA presented medals in District 12, the Narbethong brigade opted for their medals to be collected by former CFA Board Member and VFBV District 12 State Councillor Paul Denham.

Narbethong Captain Robert Bean asked that the medals be presented during Sunday's activities. The recipients were James Bisset, Rob

Bean and Steve Shultz. A medal for the late Eamon Flaherty was presented to Rob and will be passed to Eamon's family.

The National Emergency Medal is an award given for sustained service during a nationally significant emergency, or to other persons who rendered significant service in response to such emergencies.

The medal was established by Queen Elizabeth II in October 2011. The medal is awarded for events specifically set out by regulation or may be awarded upon the recommendation of the National Emergency Medal committee for significant service.

The National Emergency Medal is a circular medal, ensigned with the Australian Coat of Arms. The obverse depicts a central image of a golden wattle branch. Surrounding the image at the edge is a further depiction of the flowering wattle. The centre of the reverse has the same border as the obverse, but in the centre it details by inscription the award and the recipient.



Buxton CFA Captain Paul Denham, Narbethong's James Bisset, Rob Bean and Steve Shultz, and Mayor Damien Gallagher. -S

The National Emergency Medal ribbon colours match the colours of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal ribbon. The colours of the ribbon are gold and eucalyptus green. Gold symbolises the

Australian sun, optimism and hope. Eucalyptus green complements the symbolism of the medal design. The seven gold coloured bands represent Australia's six states, with the seventh representing the territories.

Those who performed service during the 2019-20 Australian bushfire season and met certain criteria are recognised by the "Bushfires 19-20" clasp.

## Planned burns on fire this autumn

HUNDREDS of Victorians are taking the opportunity to undertake private burn-offs as fire restrictions continue to ease across the state.

Country Fire Authority (CFA) and partner agencies will be making the most of cooler autumn conditions to conduct fuel reduction burns to lower bushfire risk for communities, while farmers and private landholders will capitalise on favourable temperatures to ignite stubble burns on their properties.

Over the weekend, wind conditions will prevent smoke from dispersing, with smoke expected to linger over the city and parts of regional Victoria into next week.

CFA Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan, said although CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) work closely with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Bureau of Meteorology to keep smoke impact as low as practically possible, smoke in our regional and rural areas can come from a number of sources.

"Along with the important planned burns that are conducted in our forests, parks and reserves led by FFMV and the many kilometres of road, rail and council reserve burns that are led by CFA, this

time of year also sees a large amount of smoke coming from the necessary burn-offs that our farmers and rural property holders undertake," Jason said.

"These are part of traditional farming practices where burning off of crop stubble is often needed to kill off weeds and return nutrients and carbon back into the soil."

As the weather cools, smoke will also come from the many thousands of wood heaters households rely on for their autumn and winter heat source.

"This localised smoke or smoke haze can often be misinterpreted as coming from planned burns from a long way away, but this is not always the case," Jason said.

"As the weather conditions continue to allow for lower intensity burning, we will look to conduct the most suitable planned burns to ensure that our dependant native bush and grasslands are benefitting to avoid much more devastating bushfires.

"Our CFA brigades have already treated over 3,600ha of land this year, helping make at-risk communities safer, with more to come over coming weeks."

Landowners are urged to continue registering their burn-

offs at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au) so that if someone reports smoke to Triple Zero, the incident will be cross-checked on the register.

For the latest information about when and where planned burns are occurring near you, residents are encouraged to sign up to Planned Burns Victoria at [plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au](http://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au) and download the app.

If you do see smoke and want to know if it is a planned burn or a fire, visits the VicEmergency App or visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au).

Detailed information about smoke forecasts, current air quality in your area and health advice can be found on EPA's website.

Keep your burn off safe and legal: Check fire restrictions in your area and always register your burn at [firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://firepermits.vic.gov.au) or by calling 1800 668 511; check and monitor weather conditions, particularly wind; to avoid unnecessary calls to emergency services, notify your neighbours beforehand; leave a three-metre fire break, free from flammable materials around the burn; have sufficient equipment and water to stop the fire spreading; never leave a burn-off unattended, stay for its entire duration; if your burn-off gets out of control, call '000' immediately.

## Think smart when obtaining firewood

THE autumn season of firewood collection is currently open until June 30. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) are strongly encouraging people who rely on firewood as their sole source of heating and cooking to plan for their firewood needs early to ensure they are using firewood in the most efficient way possible.

Firewood collectors can only collect trees or parts of trees that are already on the ground. There is no cutting down, breaking off and damaging a tree or shrub regardless of whether it is dead or not.

Maps of local firewood collection areas can be found at [ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region](http://ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region)

Some of these areas have been subject to recent planned burning, Darren Skelton, Program Manager Media and Communications from the Hume Region assured firewood collectors, "Once the planned burns are declared safe, people are free to enter the firewood collection areas. Only a small proportion of areas available for firewood collection have been subject to planned burning."

It is necessary to follow guidelines of firewood collection as you are not permitted to collect firewood within 20 metres of any rivers, creeks, lakes and dams. Video surveillance cameras are operating in state forests to monitor any illegal activity and the conservation regulator works with DEECA and Parks Victoria to conduct patrols in forest areas.

If people are found to break the law with illegal firewood collecting, serious penalties apply including on the spot fines. Fines can include up to \$8261 or up to one years imprisonment.

If you don't have the means to get out in the designated firewood collection to collect your wood for the season and it must be purchased, it is important to do your research to ensure you aren't obtaining illegally sourced firewood.

There are many ways to purchase firewood locally and many services are advertised on local social media site. It pays to research of who you're dealing with if you go down this path.

Firewood merchants should source from a wholesale supplier, commercial wood lot or from private land with permission of the landowner.

To avoid supporting illegal firewood operations, questions you should be asking before purchasing include, where does your wood come from. They should be able to easily provide this information to customers.

Ask the question of why the wood is cheap. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Finally, ask if you can get a receipt for your purchase. If the merchant can't provide a legitimate tax receipt with a business name and ABN listed, it's another red flag for you to avoid the sale.

Shutting down these dodgy dealings is reducing the significant impact on the environment. DEECA urges people that if they see any offence take place to contact 136 186.

## The Piano's Secret launched

LOCAL resident Anne Larkin launched her novel, *The Piano's Secret*, at the Alexandra Library on Monday, April 22.

The book tells the story of two sisters, willed the estate of an uncle in 1930. The sisters didn't know that they had an uncle, let alone an estate.

They dive headfirst into the puzzle of who their mysterious relation was and how he ended up with a sapling growing through his piano. They begin to unravel the mystery through a series of diaries.

The estate's mystery is interwoven with their Uncle James's life story, which unfolds as each clue is pieced together.

Along the way, Marie and Andrea unravel the clues left behind and forge new and unexpected relationships that promise to be long-lasting.

The book is currently available on Amazon and in print.



Anne Larkin at the launch of her book, *The Piano's Secret*. -VG



The audience at the book launch. -VG





Buxton CFA's 80th birthday cake. -MP



Kylie Comte from Seymour presenting community safety information to everyone who attended the event. -MP

# Buxton Fire Brigade celebrates 80th birthday

ON Sunday, April 21 Buxton fire brigade celebrated a remarkable milestone, their 80th anniversary.

The well attended event took place the day after Saturday night's 80th anniversary dinner which included the well deserved service award presentation to brigade members.

The CFA recognises a member's service in one or more brigades, including service as a junior member, with the award of a certificate for not less than five years of efficient service followed by service medals for each subsequent five years of efficient service to the Authority.

CFA Service medals comprise an antique bronze medal, ribbon bar and lapel pin awarded after 10 years of service. For every subsequent five years of service, the award comprises the antique bronze medal complete with a ribbon bar showing number of years served. Similarly, the lapel pin displays the number of years served. Each increment has a distinct colour.

At Buxton's anniversary dinner, Commander Justin Dally presented the CFA service awards accompanied by Captain Paul Denham AFSM.

Firefighter Mark Jones received a five years service certificate, Lieutenant Isaac Sims was presented his 10 year service medal, treasurer Marianne Menz received her 15 year service medal and in a sterling effort has been treasurer for all but two months of her time in CFA and the brigade, Lieutenant Brian Denham was presented his 25 year service medal, ex-Captain and current Alexandra Group Officer Shanon Frith received his 25 year service medal, and ex-Captain Stan Lerner was presented his 55 year service medal.



Past and present Buxton residents having lunch together and sharing stories and a laugh. -MP

The following members received their CFA Service awards in conjunction with being honoured with award of Life Membership: brigade member Wayne Briggs for 35 years of service, firefighter Ken Carlton for 45

years service, and ex-Captain Peter Cureton for 55 years service medal.

Well done to all and congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone.



Alex Symons loved being a firefighter for the day. -MP



The District 12 Rehabilitation Unit, this group operates out of Seymour and covers our district. If there is a fire, the crew leader or captain calls for their support if needed. The unit then comes out and does assessments on fire fighters during an event, including referring them to a doctor, hospital or other supports if needed. -MP



The District 12 rehab unit was there on the day to do health checks. -MP



Many local agencies came along and displayed their emergency service vehicles, including this truck from Alexandra. -MP



A vintage Willys Jeep on display at the Birthday celebrations. -MP



Visitors to the Buxton Fire Brigade. -MP

## SPORT

# National Street Stock Champion wins Victorian Production Sedan Title at Alexandra

by Dean Thompson

ALEXANDRA and District Speedway Club played host to the 2023 / 2024 Victorian Production Sedan title on April 20, with the sole South Australian in the field taking victory in the big race. This was a race that was filled with thrills and heartbreaks before Nathan Brackstone-Thorne passed the chequered flag to be declared the winner. Other winners on the night included Nathan Shortis in the Goulburn Ovens Sedan Association series round, Xander Baxter in Junior 1200s, Blake Beach in Junior New Stars, Matt Nelson in Street Stocks, Ian Thomsen in Sports Sedans, and Jasmin Molloy in Ladies Sports Sedans.

After winning all three heat races in the Junior 1200cc Sedans, Xander Baxter would rip around Alexandra Speedway to claim a victory in the final ahead of Alexandra member Brody Barton, Tylor Claridge, Dayne Murdoch another from the host club and Chase Doherty.

Alexandra members Luke Fallon, David Donegan, and Ian Thomsen all shared heat race wins in the Sports Sedan class before Thomsen led every lap in the final to back up his last start win at Alexandra in the Power series events. Thomsen defeated Donegan, Denni Reid, rookie racer Lachlan Pottage of the Alexandra club and Tim McKenzie.

Matt Nelson, a winner of multiple state championship races himself, led the charge for Alexandra in the Street Stocks winning all three heats and then the final in a perfect night of Street Stock racing for him. Leigh Gooding finished the final in second with Tyler Barton, Troy Polley and Mat Bishop rounding out the top five. Along the way Nelson put in the record books a new one lap time of 21.169 seconds and a twelve-lap time of four minutes and 43.161 seconds.

Ladies competed under the name of Ladies Sports Sedans at Alexandra for the first time and Kayla Mannix, Cobie McGraw



Nathan Brackstone-Thorne won the Victorian Production Sedan title. -photo by Louise Norman, Napier Photography

and Mannix again shared the three heat race results. Starting from the second row in the final Jasmin Molloy would move to the lead of the race by lap four, however Mannix and McGraw kept the pressure on the leader. The three Ladies cleared out from the field in a twelve-lap final with Leah Orgill in fourth almost a complete lap behind those at the front. In record time Molloy would hit the finish line just six hundredths of a second ahead of Mannix and .217 of a second in front of third placed McGraw in a new best time for the Ladies across twelve laps of five minutes and 23.522 seconds with Orgill finishing in fourth and Emma Threlfall fifth to round out the top five.

Racing returns to Alexandra Speedway on May 11 with Junior Sedan Promotional Association events, a Ladies Standard Saloon series round, plus more.



Nathan Shortis won the Goulburn Ovens Sedan Associated Series round. -photo by Louise Norman, Napier Photography

## Alexandra Golf Club report

by Elizabeth Goss

AUTUMN had arrived last week with cold and windy weather at the Alexandra Golf Club. At least the autumn colours acted as compensation and playing golf can warm one up.

Last Tuesday's winner was Paul Martin (27) with 38 points. The runner-up was Graeme Emmerson (23) with 36 points. Next came John Greatorex (20) with 34 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Graeme Emmerson, on the 17th to Paul Martin and on the 18th to Graeme Emmerson. Ball run down: Nigel Waterhouse and Frank Devries.

A Parr round on Wednesday for the ladies. The winner Bronwyn Howell won with (42) +6, way ahead of the rest of the field. The runner-up was Sue Greatorex (24) -1. Next Wednesday is stroke, Monthly Medal and count your putts.

Some important finals were played during last Saturday's stroke round. Ali Hutt won the Summer Cup with 277 and Luke Heard won the Bob Dodge Golden Putter with 105 over the best four rounds out of five. The winner for the day was Todd Galloway 85 (19) 66 and the runner-up was Ali Hutt 81 (13) 68. Next was James Kidd 77 (7) 70, then Shane McGorlick 84 (13) 71 on a count back from Jarrard Williamson 87 (16) 71.

Nearest the pin on the fifth went to John Steer, on the seventh to Luke Heard and on the 12th and 18th to James Kidd. Luke Heard had the fewest putts with 26. Next Saturday is a stableford round.

## Peter McNair hogs podium spots at Eildon

by Puttomatic

LAST week the Eildon Golf Club saw 21 players compete in a stableford multiply bring your own partner on a sunny and near perfect day for golf.

The club congratulates Peter McNair and Colin Long for taking out the honours with 59 points. Peter McNair also doubled up with Phil Dally to take out second place with 56 points. Ball runs winners were Brad Newton and Rosemary Parker with 53 points, Ken Coller and Leigh Munro with 48 points and John Rachcoff and Michael McLearn also with 48 points.

Nearest the pins for the week, Kerry Power with his second shot on the third, John Rachcoff on the par three, 11th Leigh Munro on both the 12th and 14th, no winner on the fifth, also no birdies on the birdie holes of eighth and 15th this week. Other winners for the week included the entry draw being taken out by Dennis Seamer and Dennis also had a win with the swindle. Kerry Power correctly picked out the joker.

The club also congratulates the pennant team who had a good win on Sunday over Strathbogie 4-1. The club thanks Peter McNair for providing a delicious afternoon tea. This Saturday is a stroke round and the April monthly medal, teeing off at noon.

## Stableford round at Marysville

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday in glorious autumn sunshine the men and ladies played a stableford round at the Marysville Golf Club. The players enjoyed being surrounded by some stunning autumn-coloured trees and the beautiful red fly agaric fungi under which there were no fairies.



Golfers enjoying the autumn colours. -S

The ladies' winner was Heather Jenkins (18) with 34 stableford points and the runner up was Lesley Rundle (31) with 32 points. The men's winner was Alan Howard (17) with 35 points on a countback from Adam Littlejohn (22). The nearest the pins were won by Steve Berry, Peter Lilley and Ray Jones who also won the Golden Shot. Next Saturday the men will play stableford for the second round of the Barton Cup and the ladies stableford round winner will win the Mavis Hadfield Trophy.

Last Monday some Marysville ladies travelled to Wonga Park to play in the Heritage ladies Bowl and on Thursday to Lancefield to play in their ladies tournament. The ladies enjoyed the events and thank The Heritage and Lancefield ladies for their hospitality. This week three ladies will play in the Mansfield Bowl.

On Sunday the men played Alexandra in the fourth round of the Pennant competition and Marysville beat Alexandra three matches to two. The club congratulates Alan Howard, Steve Coker, Richy Clark, Keith Atwell, and Peter Lilley on their victory. They next play Strathbogie at Eildon.

This week the ladies' pennant team had a bye but will play Seymour at Broadford on Monday April 29.

Members would like to congratulate Brian Worcester who on Saturday night at the Buxton CFA dinner, held at the club, was awarded a Life Membership of the Buxton Fire Brigade. Brian has 54 years' experience as a firefighter and driver and routinely assists with maintenance of the station and regularly attends meetings and training. Congratulations Brian.

# Junior teams spread out for away games

by Ray Steyger

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams headed off in different directions for round two of the 2024 season, travelling to Nagambie, Seymour, Shepparton and Yea for games of football and netball. The under nines and 10s football had a game at Yea, but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring so there

is no win or loss for that category.

## Football Under 12

**Alexandra 5.9 – 39 defeated Yea 1.0 – 6**

Penstock Pastoral: Harry Winch; Essence Coffee Lounge: Lucas Creed; FoodWorks: Hudson Brooks; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Harish Balansag; Coach: Declan Baker.

**Under 14  
Alexandra 15.15 – 105  
defeated Yea 2.1 – 13**

North Central Construction: Tybar Reid; Essence Coffee Lounge: Jayd Bennett; FoodWorks: Mia Heard; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Logan Conway; Coach: Maverick Burchall.

**Under 16  
Alexandra 1.1 – 7 defeated by  
Shepp Notre Bears 23.25 – 163**

Nutrien Harcourts: Matthew Wal; Essence Coffee Lounge: Bailey Bastion; FoodWorks: Heath Sutcliffe; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Toby Lucas; Coach: Jayden Valentine.

## Netball Under 11

**Alexandra Black 21 defeated Yea 2**

FoodWorks: Bella Lamaro; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Summer Donohue; Edwards Family: Lainey Martyn.

## Under 13

**Alexandra Black 10 defeated by Yea 21**

FoodWorks: Holly Williams; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Indi Hoornweg; Edwards Family: Tehya Vine.

## Under 15

**Alexandra Black 9 defeated by Yea 36**

FoodWorks: Asha Kaiser; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ashlyn Newman.

## Under 11

**Alexandra Red 18 defeated Tahbilk 8**

FoodWorks: Delilah Van Lierop; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ricki Birch.

## Under 13

**Alexandra Red 17 defeated by Tabilk 20**

FoodWorks: Ruby Friswell; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Tilly Miljkovic; Miljkovic Family: Zeldia Van Lierop.

## Under 15

**Alexandra Red 81 defeated St Marys 3**

FoodWorks: Tahlia Malone; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Ava Krijt; Miljkovic Family: Zoe Mullins.

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

Next Sunday, the majority of the junior football and netball teams have a bye, but they do have the following games to be played at Rebel Park: Under 16 football, Yea v Seymour at noon; under 16 football, Alexandra v Echuca at 2pm; under 11 netball, Alexandra Red v Seymour; under 13 netball, Alexandra Red v Seymour; under 15 netball, Alexandra Red v Seymour; under 15 netball, Alexandra Black v Yea.

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

## Second game of season for Thornton Eildon women's team

by Scott Whitehead

THE Thornton Eildon Women's Football Team headed away to the Woori Yallock Recreation reserve for their second game of the season. Having played Woori Yallock only weeks before in a practice match the girls were hoping to improve on that result and the disappointing loss the previous week at home against Wandin. The game was to be a twilight match played under lights in front of a residual crowd left over from the senior men's game. Again, the focus from the coaching staff this week was to be supportive of each other and most of all to have fun.

**Thornton Eildon 0.4 – 4 defeated  
by Woori Yallock 11.9 – 75**

Rose Kealy again led the charge winning all ruck contests in the first quarter, but the

centre clearance work of Woori was far too experienced which led to them leading by four goals at quarter time. Despite the lead, the Thornton girls promised to increase their effort, led again by Issy Weston and Teneille Collins, Thornton managed to restrict Woori to three goals in the second quarter.

Sensing the win was going to be a huge task after half time coach Tash Hay again pleaded with the girls to bring the energy they had at training during the week to the game. Abbey Coolahan, in only her second game for the club, showed amazing endurance stopping Wandin's leading goal kicker Emily Spicer from scoring in the second half after kicking three majors earlier in the game. First season player Billie Ross also had a great quarter gaining many possessions around the ground and Amy Campbell showed her experience,

clunking marks and fueling the engine room around stoppages.

With the lights taking full effect the girls began the last quarter after the coach made a promise of 20 push-ups each from the coaching staff if they were to score a goal. This inspired the girls, firstly winning the ball out of the middle and hitting the scoreboard in the first minute but unfortunately the result was only a minor score. Emily Kerr and Ash Butter fought hard in defence throughout the game and with the ball mostly down the end of the Woori forwards they amassed many possessions. The second half for the Thornton girls was much better, restricting Woori Yallock to six scoring shots to three, but were unable to score a major for the second week in a row.

The result again was not in favour of Thornton this week but they look forward to the chance of a win at home against Warburton-Wesburn next week. This game will also be a celebration of Kelly Fitzpatrics 50th game. Kelly will be the second female footballer to play 50 games for Thornton so head along at noon to show your support. The game is also an ANZAC round, where both teams and their supporters will reflect and commemorate all "Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peace keeping operations" and the "contribution and suffering of all those that served".

**Awards:** Amy Campbell, a Simpsons fuel voucher; Rose Kealy, a club dinner voucher; Abbey Coolaha, a \$20 coaches award; Billie Ross, a club training pack. Training is on Monday and Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Dinner is also available on Thursday night at 7.30pm for \$15. If you wish to be a part of the team as a player, supporter, or sponsor, please follow the Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball club Facebook page or email [tedfnc@outlook.com](mailto:tedfnc@outlook.com)



The Thornton girls prior to Saturday's game with their canine mascot for the day, Bindi. -S

## Term two squash begins in Alexandra

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday competition Redfins v Trout

Daniel W v Pep: A CLOSE match starting with a tied game. Pep took the next two games with a narrow margin. A big fourth game saw Daniel come from behind to take the match. 64 to 61.

John v Derrick: Great shots and play from both players. Derrick managed take all games to clock up a few extra points in each game to take the win. 57 to 44.

Eels v Cods

Justin v Jared: Justin raced to an early lead with a twelve-point margin after two games. Jared turned the tide taking the third and fourth game but couldn't pull it together for the win. Justin took the victory. 65 to 60.

Daniel K v Jim: Daniel was not messing around. His reflexes and placement were perfection, taking all four games and the match with a resounding lead. 83 to 36.

### Thursday competition Cherry Ripe v Aiden

Beth v Aiden: Out of the gate Beth took the first two games. Aiden claimed the third game with a lead only to lose it in the fourth with a one-point loss. Beth was the winner. 57 to 56.

Kristelle v Lucas: Close games throughout. Going into game four there was a three-point lead in Lucas's favour. The intensity stepped up in the final game. Kristelle scraped together enough points to win. 66 to 62.

James W v Michael H: A fine line between loss and victory in this match. Two games each with seesawing wins. James kept it up and came out victorious. 63 to 62.

### Jaffas v Smarties

Blake v Sam: Sam was in great form tonight. Blake attempted to stay in the match but lost out in the end. Sam won with a solid lead. 68 to 39.



John waits for a rebound off the left wall. -S

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# Standard Sport



SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Away games for Alexandra seniors

by Ray Steyger

### Football Reserves

**Alexandra 4.6 – 30 defeated Warburton 19.15 – 129**

ALEXANDRA Football Club travelled to Warburton last Saturday for round two of the Outer East League 2024 Division One season, the reserves taking to the field after the women's football game between Warburton and Officer. The Burras, premiers for the last couple of years, showed their experience and polish as they added to the scoreboard each quarter but the Rebels never gave in and worked hard to the final siren.

**Awards:** Shepparton Volkswagen: Harry Reed; Ampol fuel card: Luke Wal; Alexandra Hotel: Tom McKinlay; Buxton Hotel: Nate Kerle; SportsPower: Josh Crane.

### Seniors

**Alexandra 15.12 – 102 defeated Warburton 6.5 – 41**

THE seniors welcomed Angus Smith to replace the injured Steve Steiner, the Rebels starting with five goals to one going uphill in the first quarter before adding four goals to three in the second quarter. The match was physical after some close contests including the second semi-final last year, the Rebels adding three goals to one in the third quarter before repeating that in the last quarter, the game halting halfway through the quarter after an incident that left Lucas O'Sullivan motionless on the ground. Play was stopped and did not resume as Lucas remained on the ground receiving medical attention and awaiting an ambulance. The game was called off, with the scores at the time being the final scores.

**Awards:** Incentives: Josh Edwards, Matt Peric, Ben Cooper and Nick Meehan; Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award: Neil and Annie Robinson.

### Netball

**A GRADE** lost 21 – 64: Incentive: Jazmin Collett; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Caitlan Haggis.

**B GRADE** lost 17 – 61: Incentive: Maddy Richards; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Jess Shaw.

**C GRADE** lost 11 – 61: Incentive: Georgia Smith; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Brodie Wheelhouse.

**D GRADE** lost 21 – 25: Incentive: Rose Hurrey; Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer: Ashlee Frankcombe.

THURSDAY'S Rebel Raffles started last Thursday and the club thanks its sponsors. The winners were Des Rasmussen, Ray Steyger, Dylan Jack, Brad Kidd, Dan Crane and Elizabeth Kidd. The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot will be worth \$400 next week



Maddy Northmore in D grade. -S



Ellie Hedger in A grade. -S



Brodie Wheelhouse in C grade. -S

so head along and buy some tickets at \$1 each but you need to be at the club rooms at 8pm for the draw. Due to the ANZAC Day public holiday, there is no training on Thursday and no meals this week.

For round three on Saturday, April 27, the club is very proud to work with the Alexandra RSL to celebrate the ANZAC spirit as they host Powelltown for games of football and netball, all entry fees collected and money raised at the gate go to the Alexandra RSL to support their important work within the community. There will be a line up of players and officials between the reserves and seniors football matches with the Alexandra RSL members acknowledging the ANZAC spirit. The club also thanks its sponsors, Murrindindi Shire Council and Alexandra Newspapers for their support. After the games the 'Dream Team' auction will be held, lists will be available on the day with the auction to commence around 7pm, open age football and netball players are grouped, all earning points during the season and at the club and league presentation functions. The group with the most points earns their owner 50 per cent of the pool raised at the auction, the second group earns their owner 30 per cent of the pool with the winners announced at the club senior presentation function on Saturday, October 5. It is worth studying the form guide especially with a number of new players in all grades of football and netball.

The club is seeking assistance and needs volunteers so if you would like to help with home game tasks including scoreboard, canteen, bar work and maintenance amongst other things, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.



Ted Watkin in the Seniors match. -S



Luke Wal in the Reserves match. -S



Michael Coombs in the Reserves. -S



Mitch Parker in the Seniors. -S