

# Standard

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

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, June 19, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Kirsten and Karam from the Alexandra Police Station recently visited the Alexandra Scouts for a meet and greet talk with the children and parents. It was a great opportunity for the community to get to know some of their local police members, and also ask some funny or interesting questions. Following the talk, Karam (also known as Constable Magic) performed a number of magic tricks for the kids. The talk and magic show was loved by all in attendance. -S

## Hospital amalgamation accusations and denials

ON Friday, June 14, Shadow Minister for Health, Georgie Crozier, released a statement saying, "Victorian patients and regional communities are paying the price for Labor's financial mismanagement as the Allan Labor Government admits health services will have their funding cut."

"[On Friday, June 14] Minister for Health, Mary-Anne Thomas, confirmed at least 20 health services across Victoria would have their funding cut, reportedly by up to 30 per cent."

"This confirmation comes as the Allan Labor Government continues to progress its secret plan to forcibly amalgamate health services which will lead to a loss of services and job cuts."

She added, "Labor must come clean on their secret plan to cut funding and amalgamate health services across Victoria."

"The Allan Labor Government has admitted it will cut funding to at least 20 of Victoria's health services which will make it impossible for them to continue to serve their community."

"Labor's priorities are all wrong. Premier Jacinta Allan can find the money for a \$200 billion train line in Melbourne, but not the money to keep local health services up and running."

On the same day, ABC News ran a story about rural hospital funding. It said, "More than 20 regional Victorian health services have been told their budgets will be slashed by up to 30 per cent in the coming financial year, the ABC understands. A member of a regional Victorian hospital board says 25 health services have been told they will receive

cuts to their grants and will have to draw on reserves into 2025. The source, who does not want to be identified for fear of repercussions, said hospital bosses were shocked to learn of the planned cuts at a meeting between hospital chief financial officers and the health department on Thursday."

When contacted about the concerns raised, the state government released a statement, saying, "The Allan Labor Government is focused on patients, not politics, injecting more money into our health system than ever before."

"[Friday's] media reporting about health funding, pushed along by the Shadow Health Minister Georgie Crozier, is categorically false."

"Ms Crozier's conflation between hospital funding and our health services plan is also misleading. These are not related and there is no secret plan."

"In the 2024/25 financial year alone, more than 25 per cent of the state's entire budget will be invested into our health services, with a total of \$20 billion in operational funding to be delivered to our hospitals."

"The Victorian Budget 2024/25 is delivering a new multi-year investment, with an extra \$8.8 billion to ensure health services can continue delivering world-class care."

"This will mean in the next financial year alone our health services will share in an additional investment of \$1.5 billion for 2023/24 and more than \$1.8 billion in 2024/25."

"In true Liberal National fashion, the ongoing spread of misinformation and lies about hospital funding has some communities

concerned, but these lies could not be further from the truth."

"There is a sector-wide increase in funding budget-to-budget from last financial year, including a significant lift in the price paid to deliver care."

"This approach is in response to requests from hospitals for increased funding and budget certainty to better meet changing healthcare needs, as well as funding that reflects their activity levels."

"It is an important reset that aims to provide greater sustainability and transitions away from the previous model during COVID-19, where health services were paid for activity that was not being delivered."

"This new funding will ensure services can plan further in advance using available resources to achieve the best outcomes for all Victorians."

"All health services have been asked to work with the Department of Health to ensure government funding is focused on frontline care."

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas added, "While others are playing politics, we are focused on delivering patients the best care and that is exactly what our record investment into our hospitals will deliver."

"Unlike the Liberals and Nations who closed 12 country hospitals, we're focusing on delivering more doctors and nurses, better facilities and the best possible care to all Victorians no matter where they live."

## Lake Eildon camping update

ACCORDING to the Lake Eildon Camping Upgrades page, last updated in April, stage one interim works should be completed in mid-2024.

Parks Victoria was asked whether an interim solution been developed or installed for the water supply issues at Lakeside, Candlebark and Devil Cove campgrounds, the Parks Victoria office, works centre depot and Herb Fitzroy Day Visitor Area.

They were also asked whether the final stage two designs are available, which campsites at Lake Eildon will be open and available for forward bookings from July

1, and whether any Lakeside bookings are being taken?

At present, it appears that Lakeside is closed, Candlebark is at half capacity, Devil Cove is at half capacity, and Jerusalem Creek camping is open.

Parks Victoria advised that they are currently working through procurement for the interim water supply solution and hope to have an update for the community soon. They are planning to re-open bookings for Lakeside and Candlebark campgrounds from July 1. Details of camping bookings are available on the Parks Victoria website.

**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Yea & District Memorial Hospital** 5736 0400

**In an emergency dial 000**

**IT'S NOT OKAY**

- To yell at our staff.
- To swear at our staff.
- To be rude to our staff.
- To abuse our staff in anyway.
- To be disrespectful to our staff.
- To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

If you do, we have the right to ask you to leave our office and we may contact the police, or we may disconnect your call.

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



**Letters to the Editor**

**Hands off our hospital**

MARY-ANNE Thomas, State Labor Health Minister, plans to dissolve 72 hospital boards across Victoria by amalgamating them into six metropolitan and six regional boards to administer the health needs of the state. To save as much money as she can.

Alexandra Hospital will lose its autonomy and its ability to make decisions specific to our local needs. It is proposed to amalgamate us with the Yea, Wangaratta, Benalla, Wodonga and Mansfield hospitals under the administration of the Shepparton Board.

Like many regional hospitals, the Alexandra hospital has been self governing for over 100 years. It is now proposed to oversee and administer this hospital from one board in distant Shepparton.

Mary-Anne Thomas is proposing to cut funding by up to 30 per cent. This will have disastrous effects on our acute, inpatient operations. It will have a severe impact on the extensive allied health services which we provide for the local area.

This funding cutback puts us in danger of losing some or even all of our 13 specialists and surgeons, who throughout the month see local patients. This allows local people the choice of not having to travel long distances to see a specialist.

A petition to the Legislative Assembly is available for you to sign as soon as possible. The petition will be available at the pharmacy, supermarket, hotels, cafes in Alexandra, Eildon, Thornton, Taggerty and Marysville.

It is a matter of great urgency that we have as many signatures of local people as possible.

We encourage to write to state politicians concerning this disastrous money grabbing proposal.

*Linda and Ian Davis, Alexandra*

**Hands off the Yea hospital**

A PUBLIC meeting is being held on Saturday, June 22 at 9.30am in the Yea Shire Hall to inform people of the Victorian Government's

proposed Health Service Plan.

Yea and district community have been eagerly signing the petition requesting the Victorian Government not to force the amalgamation of health services in regional Victoria and particularly to retain the Yea and District Memorial Hospital's local board and allied health services.

We have also asked that the Independent Expert Advisory advice used to develop the Health Services Plan be openly released to the public and that genuine public consultation be undertaken.

At the moment there is a veil of secrecy surrounding the proposed changes and amalgamation.

The petition will be presented to the Legislative Assembly by our local Member of Parliament, Cindy McLeish.

The Yea community has to stand up, be proactive and defend its health service and hospital.

*Jan Beer, Yea*

**Hospital amalgamations**

PATIENTS referred to Victorian public hospitals for hip or knee replacements have to wait years before the referral is acknowledged and an appointment made, and more years before surgery, due to lack of funding. Meanwhile they become dependent on opioids and some feel it is better off not being alive. Non-urgent referrals for neurosurgeons would be double that, and unless you're in crisis you can forget about finding a public psychiatrist as an outpatient.

Since Labor came to power in 2014 with Daniel Andrew's win, growth in public service numbers has more than doubled population growth and wages have similarly ballooned. Labor is beholden to their union supporters, with spending on Big Build infrastructure persistently grossly over budget. The East-West link and the vote-earning pledge to hold regional Commonwealth Games have been cancelled at enormous cost. Since

the COVID-19 pandemic, Victoria's debt has equalled that of Queensland, NSW and Tasmania combined, and is heading towards \$200 billion.

Australia's productivity has decreased, and hospital administrators need to demonstrate how they improve patient care and training of health workers, or face reduced hours or job cuts. Working from home, the push for shorter weeks and higher wages have impacted efficiency. The possible amalgamation of health services in Victoria is part of the process to reign in government debt through overspending, and we can only hope that patient care at the coalface will not be heavily affected. Our hospital in Alexandra has already lost pathology lab testing, some specialist medical services and x-ray capacity in recent years, as well as face to face care by doctors in the evenings and overnight.

*Dr Lachlan Fraser, Alexandra*

**David Purcell**

THE committee of Yea Racing was saddened to hear of the passing of Healesville Picnic Racing Club Chairman David Purcell last Wednesday.

As well as Healesville, David had been a great supporter of Picnic Racing overall, serving with Mansfield Chair Leanne Blackwell and Yea's Denis Smith on the Picnic Working group, an advisory body to Country Racing Victoria for several years.

David and several of his committee were regular and enthusiastic attendees at most of Yea Racing events, and he was looking forward to Yea opening the Picnic Racing season this year on Caulfield Cup Day on Saturday, October 19.

David Purcell had another connect to Yea being related to the owners of the famous Purcell grocery in Yea, now Marmalade cafe. It is planned to have a memorial service for David at Healesville on Saturday, July 6.

*Kind regards, Denis Smith, Yea Racing*

*Continued Page 8*

**COMMUNITY DIARY**

Local Radio Frequency

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

**WEEKLY**

Tues	Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue	Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed	Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu	Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri	Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun	AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086
Sun	Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun	Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
Thu	7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri	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 Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probud 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



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.

**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12pm Mon	1.39	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12pm Mon	0.49	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.59am Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	11.49am Mon	0.18	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.26am Mon	0.49	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	11.22am Mon	0.60	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12pm Mon	3.52	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12pm Mon	0.46	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12pm Mon	1.04	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12pm Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12pm Mon	1.36	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.54am Mon	1.18	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 17 JUNE 2024



**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.



**Weekly Weather**  
June 19 - June 25, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	3	10	Wednesday	3	11
Thursday	3	9	Thursday	4	9
Friday	4	12	Friday	4	12
Saturday	2	13	Saturday	3	13
Sunday	3	12	Sunday	3	13
Monday	3	12	Monday	3	12
Tuesday	4	12	Tuesday	4	13

**Standard** *The Yea Chronicle*

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	27.5mm
Eildon (AWS)	17mm
Flowerdale	18mm
Jamieson	42mm
Kinglake	22mm
Lake Eildon	22mm
Mansfield	13mm
Taggerty	27mm
Yarck	17mm
Yea	10mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	286.43m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	90.3%
Metres below full supply	2.47m
Daily inflow	650MML
Release	2000MML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	48%

**Standard**

**DEADLINES**

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

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

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

We thank you for your continued support

# Water increase for Goulburn river this winter

A DELIVERY of water for the environment into the Goulburn River this month will sustain the health of the waterway and benefit platypus, native fish and waterbugs.

Known as a winter fresh, water released from Lake Eildon will increase the height of the mid Goulburn River for a short period as it flows through Alexandra, Molesworth, Seymour, Murchison, Shepparton and further downstream.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) environmental water manager, Simon Casanelia, said the water delivery would help maintain the health and functioning of the Goulburn River through increasing habitat by moving sediment out of deep pools and putting it on the banks.

“While it’s occurring, the fresh will increase the habitat available for native fish, platypus and water bugs by inundating connected anabranches and wetlands,” Mr Casanelia said.

“Winter is when platypus forage for food and build their nests. The winter fresh reminds the platypus to build their nests nice and high to keep their eggs and young from drowning if the river rises later in the year.”

Mr Casanelia said water for the environment, which is water allocated and managed to improve the health of rivers, wetlands and floodplains, was designed to mimic natural flows that would have occurred before the river was dammed and regulated.

“By providing this water we can do our bit to help replicate natural flows,” he said.

As the water flows out of the Goulburn River it will benefit the Murray River downstream by improving water quality and helping to flush a blue-green algae problem, coinciding with a delivery of water for the environment from the Lower-Darling.

The fresh is planned for delivery from June 21 with flows exceeding 8000ML/day. It will peak in July at approximately 9500ML/day (a river height of 5.6m at Shepparton) before slowly dropping back to approximately 1000ML/day (a river height of 2.7m at Shepparton) in late July. Peak flows are well below minor flood levels (9.5m at Shepparton). In the case of forecast rain, environmental flow releases may be reduced or stopped.

Environmental flows are planned by the GBCMA in consultation with the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH). The flows are authorised by the VEWH in line with its Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24. The plan is available for download from [vevh.vic.gov.au](http://vevh.vic.gov.au), with regular watering updates posted on the GBCMA website [gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://gbcma.vic.gov.au)

To check how water for the environment changes flows in the lower Goulburn, view the hydrograph that is updated weekly on GBCMA’s website [fchmccoys.hydronet.com/](http://fchmccoys.hydronet.com/)

## Foundation Murrindindi helps towards improving youth mental health

FOUNDATION Murrindindi’s 2024 Youth and Wellbeing Grants were recently announced to the following recipients: Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea received funding to go towards the school’s Mental Health and Wellbeing days;

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group received funding for the Alexandra Youth SPOT/Space; the Flowerdale Community House received funding for the Skittles Youth Group for LGBTQIA+; Friends of the Library in Alexandra and

District received funding for the Creative Bytes Workshops; and the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood house received funding for the Kinglake school holiday program.

The community led projects will support young people to

meaningfully connect in their local community for improved mental health and wellbeing across the Murrindindi Shire.

The grants were made possible through community donations from Foundation Murrindindi’s comedy night fundraiser in 2023.

## Redgate Alexandra CWA report

THE next monthly meeting of the Redgate Alexandra CWA will be held on Thursday, June 27 at the club rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra at 1pm. The hostesses are Cynthia and Jane, and the competitions will be flower of the month and royal memorabilia. The guest speakers will be the delegates’ reports and thoughts from the recent CWA State Conference in Melbourne.

The next coffee catch up will be on Thursday, July 1 at 11am with the venue still to be decided.

Congratulations to Margo Galloway on being elected Hume Goulburn Group President for the 2024-25 year. A huge congratulations to Sarah Barnbrook, from Hume Goulburn Group, who was elected Deputy State President for the 2024-25 year. The group is looking forward to working closely together on advocating for women and children’s rights.

Craft mornings will continue through winter on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm (bring your own lunch) and Fridays from 10am to noon.

If you would like any more information, please contact president Sue Wynn on 0412 435 946.

## Alexandra received streetscape funding

THE Victorian Government has announced over \$3.5 million in funding to support projects across the north east through the \$25 million Council Support Package. The package, now fully acquitted, has successfully helped shovel-ready projects get off the ground in our biggest regional cities and surrounding towns.

The package funds projects that are designed to increase tourism, improve local infrastructure, strengthen businesses and empower volunteers, with grants ranging from \$20,000 and \$5 million depending on size and scope.

Alexandra will benefit from a more sustainable streetscape through the funding. It will support new garden beds, street trees and signage to enhance pride, livability and community cohesion.

Murrindindi Shire Council will also deliver upgrades to signage in small towns, directing tourists to local attractions and supporting increased visitation.

For more information visit [rdv.vic.gov.au/councilsupportpackage](http://rdv.vic.gov.au/councilsupportpackage)

Minister for Regional Development Gayle Tierney said, “We’re proud to support so many exciting projects across rural and regional Victoria that will lead to better public spaces, more economic activity and better outcomes for visitors and locals. These projects are shovel-ready meaning that we’re ready to support better outcomes that benefit our regions sooner.”

Member for Northern Victoria Jaelyn Symes added, “We’re supporting and celebrating our unique regional and rural towns, and this initiative empowers them to choose projects that highlight their local landmarks, businesses, and community assets.”

# Victory bee sweet

A HONEY produced from a beehive in Alexandra has won a prize at the annual conference of the Victorian Apiarist’s Association (VAA).

It was provided to Liz Baker who runs her Dindi Bee Supplies business at 15 High Street in Yea.

She says her creamed honey was decided as the winner in its competition class at the annual conference of the VAA held in Wonthaggi last week.

Liz says “the beehive which produced the honey is quite near to the McKenzie Reserve, so I suspect that

the vegetation there was a contributor to the honey.

Liz says she pressed the honey from bee hive frames herself and she has had limited quantities for sale at her Yea shop for \$10 per 500 gram jar.

“Alexandra and parts of Murrindindi Shire like Yea, Highlands, Thornton and Eildon have a number of active hobby beekeepers and the number of bee hives locally is growing quite nicely.

“Many garden owners use their beehives to pollinate their vegetable crops and

if the season is right, they can be quite significant honey producers.

“Many people find the hobby of beekeeping as a great interest and a quite therapeutic experience.”

It was disclosed at the VAA conference in Wonthaggi that Victoria’s bee industry has a value of over \$350 million in terms of contribution to food production and services provided to the horticulture and related sectors for pollination services.

There are 11,000 beekeepers who are officially registered with the Department of Agriculture although the actual number is thought to be twice this.

There are almost 300 large scale or commercial beekeepers operating in Victoria with over 1000 hives with the largest commercial business having over 7500 hives.

The almond industry largely around Mildura needs 33,000 hives brought in each August from locally and interstate to pollinate almond trees.

For that important plantation industry, it’s a case of no bees, then no almonds.

The deadly pest of the Varroa Mite (varroa destructor) which lives on the bees and ultimately kills them is yet to reach Victoria and all apiarists are working to implement important control methods.



Liz from Dindi Bee Supplies with her award. -S

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# The results from the truck show



Brea and Imogen promoting the St Marys Primary School stall at the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show. -S

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CATEGORY	SPONSOR	ENTRY NO.	NAME	MODEL	MAKE
<b>RODS</b>					
Top 5	Deluxe Rod Shop	R4	Glen Chidey	1941	Ford Pickup
Top 5	Deluxe Rod Shop	R6	Shane Panell	1940	Chevy Flatbed
Top 5	Deluxe Rod Shop	R3	Daryl Peirgrosse		Willy's Coup
Top 5	Deluxe Rod Shop	R9	Mick Sloan	1961	Ford Econoline
Top 5	Deluxe Rod Shop	R11	Daryl Fulford	1951	Ford F100

CATEGORY	SPONSOR	ENTRY NO.	NAME	MODEL	MAKE
<b>UTES</b>					
B&S	Essence Coffee Lounge	U15	Harrison Townsend	2000	VS Commodore
4x4	Dindi Country Clothing	U50	Jason Kirley	2016	Toyota Landcruiser
Street (Pre '85)	Kazza's Diner	U38	Nathan Weinberg		HQ 1 Tonner
Street (Post '85)	Bedrock Garden Supplies	U49	Gary Walter	2023	Holden Maloo
Classic - Customs	Alexandra Windscreen and Glass Service	U58	Les Ridd	1975	Holden HJ
Ute of the Show	Beer Auto Group	R16	Rolo	1955	Chevy 3100

CATEGORY	SPONSOR	ENTRY NO.	NAME	MODEL	MAKE
<b>TRUCKS</b>					
Best Fleet	McKenzies Toursist Services	T143	SRV Road Freight (Aaron Reid)		Fleet of Kenworths
Best Log Truck	Alexandra Bakery	T94	Stuart Moloney (Moloney Logging)	2022	Kenworth T909
Best Specialised	Alexandra Apparel	T167	Modern Towing & Salvage	2022	KENWORTH 610
Best Volvo	Country Tech	T45	Vince Tropeano (SVT Logistics)	2024	Volvo FH540
Best Western Star	Stace and Newman Builder	T223	Joel Leech (FourMile)	1994	Western Sstar 4964F Heritage
Best Peterbilt	Café Alex	T135	Matt Garcie (Freestones)	1993	Peterbilt 379
Best Mack	Sabre Pastoral	T71	Cameron Calleja	1976	Mack R Model
Best Kenworth	Elders Realestate Alexandra	T8	Dylan Slater	1995	Kenworth T600
Best of the Rest	Alexandra Service Centre	T23	Raymond Bedggood		Peterbilt
Best Tilt Tray	Rubicon Hotel Motel	T62	Blake Berwick-Griggs	2014	KENWORTH T359
Best Tray Truck	Thornton Butchers & Deli	T180	Ben Williams	2021	Scania G450
Best Tipper	Alpine Civil	T4	P&E Humphrey Haulage	2023	Kenworth T909
Best Vintage	Grant St. Grocer	T43	Aaron Smith	1996	Kenworth K100G
Under 12 months	Alexandra Apparel	T210	Andrew James (Jamesys Transport)	2023	Mack Superliner
Runner Up	Murrindindi Shire Council	T210	Andrew James (Jamesys Transport)	2023	Mack Superliner
People's Choice	Halligan's Livestock Transport	T172	Trai Hildebrand (A Plus Towing)	2023	Scania R620 XT
Truck of the Show	Royans	T191	Damien Reed	2022	Kenworth

## 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,  
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Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday  
Contact 5772 2362

### OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

### MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

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

### THE VINE

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

## Theft from Alexandra Cemetery

ALEXANDRA Crime Investigation Unit detectives are investigating a burglary in Alexandra between June 12 and 14.

It is understood the offender/s forced entry to a building at a cemetery near McKenzie Street. They fled the scene with a laptop and CCTV system hard drive.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone who witnessed the incident, with dashcam/CCTV footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

**GET YOUR POSTERS PRINTED WITH US**  
A2 Colour \$30 per copy (594mmx420mm)  
A1 Colour \$40 per copy (594mmx841mm)  
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reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## 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*.

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### THURSDAY, JUNE 20

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



**THUMBS UP:** To the wonderful truck and ute drivers passing our property on their way to Yarck and beyond after the truck and ute show. Our two small grandsons waited patiently at the letterbox, waving to the trucks and utes as they passed by, and received a honk and a wave from the drivers. Having seen the trucks and utes at the show, it made two little boys' day.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To Telstra. Once again no mobile service on the long weekend due to bulk visitors. We pay enough for it. Come on surely you have the answer. Just remedy the problem. Thumbs up if Telstra lets locals know via this paper when and how the mobile issue will be solved when there are high visitor numbers.

**THUMBS UP:** Congratulations to all of the players, coaches and spectators at the Yea and Alexandra netball on Sunday. Every game was played hard, fairly and respectfully. You should all be very proud of yourselves. That is exactly how junior sport should be played.

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

## Council sends second letter to Health Minister

To The Health Minister The Honorable Mary-Anne Thomas MP

### Open Letter: Hospital Boards, Leadership Consolidation and Funding Cuts

I AM writing as a follow-up to my previous letter dated May 27. In the absence of meaningful engagement with our community, there is growing anxiety about the ongoing review of health services and its potential implications for our residents' health and access to services. Murrindindi Shire has a long and proud history of active community engagement and support for our valued health services.

Our community has been actively involved in philanthropy and fundraising to develop and enhance our services and facilities, purchased land and made significant cash contributions to support development and services, taken leadership roles in service governance, including board participation, management, and volunteer efforts, and regularly supported and utilised local services.

There is a deep concern within our community about the potential loss of locally tailored services, especially given that our health outcomes are currently suboptimal and well below the state average, as outlined in our earlier correspondence. The shift towards larger centres, coupled with our daily challenges of significant distances and almost non-existent public transport, exacerbates these worries.

We have been collaborating with both Alexandra and Yea hospitals on developing key worker housing to address critical housing shortages, which limits our ability to attract and retain essential skills. We hope that any changes will not impede the rollout of these housing projects, especially given the substantial local contributions made to purchase the land under the ownership of our local hospitals.

Having a dedicated CEO at the Yea Hospital, who has strong local connections and community networks, has yielded

significant benefits, measured in terms of local outreach and significant avoided costs due to early interventions. In particular, the collaborative health programs run in conjunction with Yea Hospital, council, and Yea cattle saleyards, resulted in increased referrals for mental health support and other serious health conditions, as well as numerous skin checks, biopsies, cancer removals, and scheduled treatments.

Furthermore, through the Murrindindi Health Network, championed by local leaders of the various local health and aged care service providers, we achieved enhanced collaborations with universities and studies into rural and regional health outcomes, greater access to trainees, qualified staff, and fostering of local career opportunities, shared resources across hospitals, including mental health and skilled staff, and access to specialist equipment and services to support our community and improve health outcomes.

Our hospitals also provide federally funded aged care beds and other essential non-core activities that are crucial to a connected and healthy community. It remains unclear how these will be managed by larger regional organisations, which may lack local understanding, local engagement, and empathy for our circumstances. Our experience with federally funded aged care services delivered on a regional scale, highlights the need for transparent, town-specific reporting to ensure accountability and equitable health outcomes. The issue of constrained access to aged care services and no transparent reporting on the regional delivery at a local level, has been raised with the federal minister.

The recent amalgamation of the Alpine Resorts (AR) has resulted in mid-week closures at Lake Mountain. This is despite comforting early rhetoric about consolidation savings being invested back into local product with the amalgamation of the ARs. Our lived reality is the withdrawal of services, shifting the focus away from local priorities,

leading to negative economic and social impacts. These impacts are all inevitable consequences of mergers and consolidations without an empowered local focus. Active and engaged communities are healthier and more prosperous, and we believe this approach should be embedded in health service management.

While preparing this letter, I became aware of an ABC news article today indicating more than 20 Victorian hospitals will have their budgets slashed, with clawbacks up to 30 per cent. The impact of this decision, if confirmed, will be devastating upon our hospitals and the health outcomes for our community, which, as outlined in my earlier letter, are already suboptimal and below the state average.

On behalf of our community, we urgently seek from you confirmation of the following: Genuine consultation with council and our community over any proposed changes that impact our shire, an assurance of no loss of local jobs, no loss of local services or reduction in funding, an assurance that any changes will lead to improved health outcomes for our community, retention and valuing of local leadership and strong local representation in decision making, transparent reporting on health services and outcomes at the town level within Murrindindi Shire for benchmarking across other towns and municipalities, no disruption to progress in collaborations for key worker accommodation, education opportunities, and training and development, and continued collaboration and partnerships with other health providers in the Murrindindi Health Network including alcohol and drug services, dietetics, wound management skin excisions, etcetera.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues. We look forward to your response and hope for the opportunity to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Damien Gallagher, Mayor, Murrindindi Shire Council

## Alexandra seniors report

by Barb M on behalf of secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club's social meeting was held on June 14 at 1pm, at the club rooms in Bayley Street, opening with a hearty rendition of the club song.

After the formalities, the members enjoyed a laugh with David as he read jokes supplied by a member.

Regarding future activities, Riverland in Shepparton sent details of their upcoming shows, Afternoon Delights, and members are keen to attend in the next couple of months. Lisa from the Alexandra library will come to the meeting on June 28, giving us an overview of the libraries various offerings. There will be a visit to the Kilsyth Club on August 1 for *Morning Melodies* and lunch, followed by a visit to Hunters and Collectors in Bayswater, which should be interesting.

The members enjoyed a general knowledge quiz session after which Ron spun the wheel and John, Jack and Lynn won the chocolate.

Last week, the bowlers played and the Blacks defeated the Yellows.

The bridge players met as usual, and after Friday's meeting the card players and the UNO players went into action.

The members welcome new members so please come and check out the rooms on any Friday around 1pm.

Have a good week, stay safe and keep smiling.

FSA/DETS/2045



Best Start

Best Life

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

In 2025, Pre-Prep will be available for 16-30 hours per week in Murrindindi Shire.

Pre-Prep means more time to develop important social and emotional skills. Learning through play helps children explore, solve problems, communicate and create, while forming positive relationships and making friends – getting them ready for school and life.

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









Proudly supporting  
**Student of the week**

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



**BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Ryder has been working hard on treating others with kindness.

Keep it up Ryder.

**EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Noah and Hailie have displayed the school values of Respect and Integrity this week.

Well done.

**ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Lylah Clark - 5/6B**

Lylah shows the school values by doing her personal best and having a positive attitude to learning. Lylah, you have shown that approaching things with a 'can do' attitude helps you to reach your learning goals. We are proud to have you in our learning community.

Lylah, you are a star.

**Student of the Week**

Proudly supported by  
Kingslake branch



**Are there better options for the Cathedral Range?**

SO far in 2024, there have been three rescues at the Cathedral Range. The most recent one was on June 14 on Sugarloaf Peak with no track name mentioned (injury), and the other two were on Wells Cave Track, on June 9 (stuck) and January 19 (injury).

In 2023, there were five rescues. They were on August 6 on Wells Cave Track (stuck), July 2 on Canyon Walking Track (18 people stuck), on June 18 with an unstated location (four people stuck), June 10 on Wells Cave Track (injured), and April 25 with the location not stated (lost).

The Cathedral Range was closed for repairs due to flood damage between late October 2022 and March 2023.

In 2022, there were six rescues. They were on October 8 on Jawbone Track (injured), October 2 on the "track to Sugarloaf" (injured), August 30 on Canyon Track (stuck), July 25 on Sugarloaf Peak (search and rescue), April 24 on Razorback Track (injured), and January 3 on Ned's Peak (missing).

In 2021, there were five rescues. They were on December 28 with the location not stated (injured), July 26 with the location not stated (missing person), April 2 on Razorback Track (medical incident), February 26 on Wells Cave Track (lost), and January 6 on Sugarloaf Peak (injured). Visitation in 2021 was also down due to COVID-19 lockdowns.

New signage was installed at the Cathedral Range in March 2020.

At these events, volunteers from the CFA and SES, as well as potentially police and ambulance attend. The rescues would generally have around 15 volunteers at the rescues, and often spend over six hours at the site.

There is a significant impost on local volunteers under the current situation.

Nineteen rescues times 15 volunteers times six hours equals 1710 volunteer hours across the last four years. This is approximate only.

Most of the rescues occur at known problem spots on the Cathedral Range, with bad weather and hot weather also being factors.

Parks Victoria was asked whether they have any plans to put in alternative tracks or stairs at the known problem locations, and whether there are plans close the walks when there is inclement weather or 40+ temperatures?

In short, what is Parks Victoria doing about the situation?

Parks Victoria Area Chief Ranger, William Morris, responded, "Visitor safety is always Parks Victoria's top priority. We've worked closely with the Victoria State Emergency Service to promote safe hiking at Cathedral Range and improve signage, trail markers and tourist information, and we're really proud of what we have achieved."

"We installed Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) markers and improved trail and destination signage which have made a real difference. Parks Victoria also promotes hiking safety as part of our annual summer safety campaign."

"Cathedral Range should not be underestimated and it always pays to be prepared for a hike, particularly in the autumn and winter. There's lots of information on the Parks Victoria website about how to have a safe and enjoyable hike there and in the many other fantastic parks in the region."

Safety information is available on the Parks Victoria website, [parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature](https://parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/safety-in-nature)



Mick de Groot from Ambulance Victoria. -AR



Chris Wasley from Alexandra District Health. -AR

**Winter Wellness campaign**

IN the recent lead-up to winter, Alexandra District Health (ADH) was proud to run its first Winter Wellness campaign. With a number of preventable illnesses more common during winter, staying at your best, mentally and physically, over the colder months can prove challenging for a lot of people.

The aim of the ADH campaign was to reduce the incidences of these avoidable illnesses and increase everyone's overall comfort and enjoyment of the winter season. It is also hoped this will see a reduction in avoidable hospital visits via early planning and action by those in the community with existing health concerns.

Last week saw the finale of this campaign with a free community event held on-site at ADH. Valuable insights into supporting your immune system through a healthy diet were shared by ADH dietician Chris Wasley, and ADH psychologist Lisa Derham spoke about supporting our mental health during a time when we tend to hibernate and favour staying indoors over heading outside to exercise and socialise.

Ambulance Victoria spokesperson Mick de Groot clarified the health issues that warrant calling an ambulance and considerations if unsure.

With a cup of hot minestrone soup on what proved to be a quintessential winter's eve, along with some

good conversation on offer, it was a great start to a healthy winter for the local community.

The Winter Wellness campaign also delivered a refresher on hand hygiene to 245 primary school students from across eastern Murrindindi Shire. This 'refresher' session was a quick, fun, interactive activity that involved fluro purple hand cream and a neon light.

The schools welcomed these sessions and student engagement with the activity was high. Over 50 per cent of the students reported that they learned something new. Washing our hands is still a simple, yet highly effective way to reduce picking up some of those avoidable illnesses.

If you have children at St. Mary's Primary School, Alexandra Primary School, Eildon Primary School, Marysville Primary School or Buxton Primary School ask them for their tips on correct hand washing technique and see what they learned.

The summer counterpart of this campaign is on the agenda so keep your eyes open for information about this later in the year.

If you would like to learn more about the Winter Wellness campaign, please call ADH on 5772 0900 and speak to Melissa Storey or Rebecca Clark.



Cemetery Trust member Sandi Swan with opp shop secretary Lorraine Murdoch. -S



Marie Evans, opp shop treasurer, and Darlingford's Donna Walsh -S



Darren Thomas, Thornton CFA Captain, opp shop Volunteer Jenny Gilmore, and Thornton treasurer Graeme Robb. -S



Eildon CFA Captain Nicki Lund and acting Alexandra Opportunity Shop chair Brenda Lopez, and another member of the brigade. -S

## Community groups benefit from Alexandra Opportunity Shop

by Marie Evans

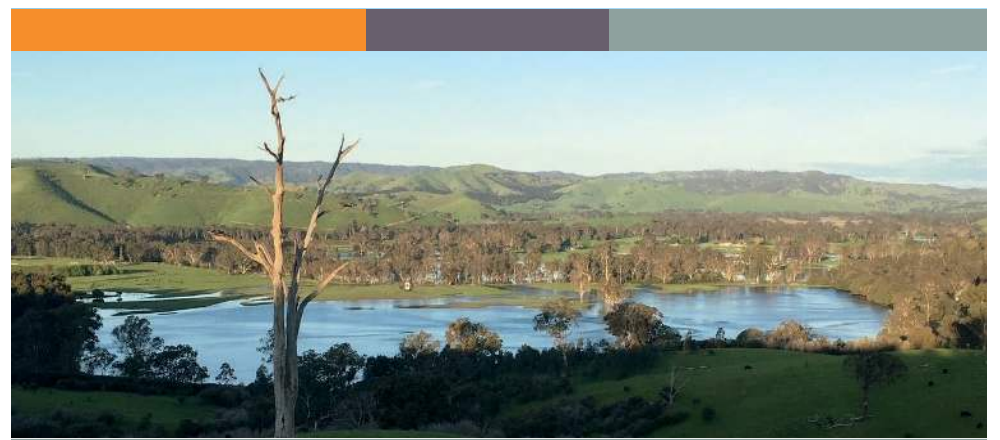
THE Alexandra Opportunity Shop recently completed its May contributions to a number of community organisations. The opportunity shop's support of Kellock Lodge continues to be a focus. However, other organisations regularly benefit and a total of \$33,925 was provided.

Recipients were Darlingford Nursing Home, which received \$15,000 towards the replacement of curtains and purchase of comfortable chairs, the Alexandra Cemetery Trust received \$5800 to assist with completion

of the gazebo and three park benches, Eildon CFA received \$4125 for a motorised roller door shutter, Thornton CFA received \$3000 for purchase of a thermal imaging machine, and \$1000 went to the Alexandra CFA Group.

The opportunity shop also made its regular donations to the Alexandra SES (\$2000) and Alexandra Secondary College's Driver Education Program (\$3000).

The contributions are only made possible by the continued donations from the Alexandra community and beyond, and the hard work of volunteers.



### INQUIRY INTO INSURERS' RESPONSES TO 2022 MAJOR FLOODS



The State Government is holding a parliamentary inquiry into the 2022 floods and the experiences of those affected when dealing with their insurers.

Council is collecting input from local residents to form a submission on behalf of the community. If you would like your experience to inform the submission, please complete a form at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/insurersinquiry](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/insurersinquiry) by Sunday 30 June 2024.

If you require any assistance completing this form, please contact Council on 5772 0333 or via email at [customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

In addition, you can submit your response directly to [aph.gov.au/floodinsurance](http://aph.gov.au/floodinsurance) by 31 July.

**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)

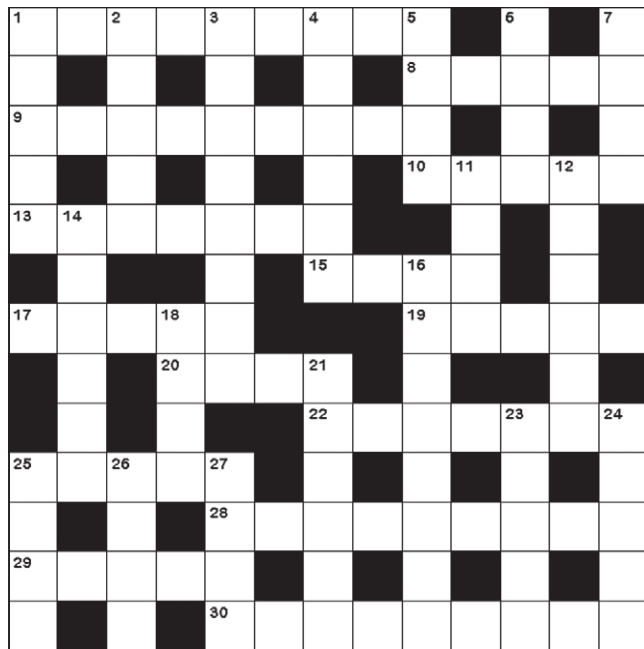
# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 13

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Made negative remarks about someone.
- Wireless transmission of sound.
- Thankfulness and appreciation.
- A serious car accident.
- Sawhorses used in pairs.
- Green citrus fruit.
- The rear end of a ship.
- Many times at short intervals.
- Grows older.
- Minor and unimportant.
- Round cap made of soft cloth.
- General activity and motion.
- Device used to connect to the Internet.
- Given formally.



### DOWN

- A prejudiced person.
- Go away from a place.
- Spoiling or corrupting.
- Wreath worn as an emblem of victory.
- Pulled back the string of a bow.
- Not in active use.
- The yellow part of an egg.
- Ridge of coral near the surface of the sea.
- A theatre where films are shown.
- Put out to pasture.
- Provide an incentive.
- A gardening tool.
- Trouble of any kind.
- A stupid fool.
- Reinforced with fabric.
- An explosive device.
- Impolite and offensive.
- Press down tightly.

## Word Search

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

### Water Conservation

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| AQUIFER  | POVERTY    |
| DAM      | RATIONING  |
| GLOBAL   | RESOURCE   |
| HEALTH   | SAFETY     |
| LIMITED  | SANITATION |
| POLLUTED | SCARCITY   |

## Math Square

	x	5	-		18
-		-		+	
	+		+		14
-		+		-	
	-	8	-		-2
-6		7		6	

### 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.

## Cryptogram

### Aboriginal words and their meanings

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
8				17				10
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				26				
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
		19						

$$\frac{U}{15} \frac{I}{19} \frac{I}{7} \frac{I}{10} \frac{I}{7} \frac{I}{10} :$$

$$\frac{O}{9} \frac{E}{26} \frac{E}{21} \frac{E}{17} \frac{E}{9} \frac{E}{3} \frac{E}{17} \frac{E}{11}$$

## Sudoku

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

### Difficulty: Hard

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

## Most long weekenders were fair fishers

FISHERIES Officers are pleased with most recreational fishers along the Goulburn and Ovens rivers for doing the right thing over the King's Birthday long weekend.

More than 400 inspections were undertaken with lots of people fishing for Murray crays and tossing in a line for a cod or yella in between pulling baited hoop nets.

Officers would like to remind fishers to carefully measure their crays because some retained catch was under and over the 10 to 12cm slot limit, to find out more visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/murrayspinycrayfish](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/murrayspinycrayfish)

It's also crucial that all berried female crays carrying eggs are returned to the water as soon as possible, so that the next generation hatch happy and healthy.

Disappointingly, one man fishing at Murchison was found to have taken a 37cm trout cod, which was concealed in an aerated cooler inside his car boot. The fish was released alive by officers. He'll receive a fine of \$740 for possessing a protected species.

Near another camp on the Ovens, an undersize Murray cod was found tethered to

the shore, which is illegal. Two men admitted wrongdoing and will receive several fines totalling \$1524.

## Wind farm survey results

THE Strathbogie Responsible Renewables Community Group have published the responses to their recent community survey regarding the FERA wind farm. 347 people responded, with 95 per cent of respondents living within or adjacent to the proposal region.

Ninety percent of respondents said that they have concerns about the whole wind farm project in the Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires, with two per cent expressing their support of the project.

Only six per cent of people responded that they heard about the project from FERA.

The respondents expressed a high level of concern about the region's landscapes.

In the comments, two were in support of the project and 182 were opposed.

Further information about the survey and its findings can be found at [srrcg.com/survey](http://srrcg.com/survey)



## Letters to the Editor

### Continued from Page 2

#### National parks survey

THE Victorian National Parks Association states on its website that "the majority of Victorians who want to support new and expanded national parks, especially the 76 per cent who want a Great Forest National Park." This statement can be found at [vnpa.org.au/central-highlands-action](http://vnpa.org.au/central-highlands-action)

I have not met anyone who has been consulted or surveyed on this matter. Have you? If the association is not telling us the truth about the 76 per cent figure, how can we trust anything else that we are told about the Great Forest National Park proposal?

Andrew Bottomley, Acheron

#### My 10c's worth

FORTY-five years after South Australia introduced a container deposit scheme Victoria introduces a similar scheme last November. As reported in this paper last week, the container deposit scheme in Murrindindi Shire returned \$102,137.40 (over a million containers) to the community. What an outstanding result. From my empirical observations collecting roadside rubbish on my regular walk, I now often return empty-handed which was certainly not the case in the past and a bag was required. 10c is a tiny incentive for such a massive community and environmental impact.

Ray Wynn, Alexandra

#### Truck Show

IN last week's paper, Name and Address Withheld by Request (NAWRB) criticised me for my opposition, at the May Council Meeting, to the proposed level of funding for the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show and also described a new model for event funding.

Because of the shire's limited availability of disposable cash, the policy and guidelines are geared towards helping community groups to get events up and running and are not aligned to providing long term support. The policy also lists timeframes for the submission of applications that are linked to the size or complexity of events, the bigger the event the longer the lead time needed to assess applications.

Throughout my time on council I have also encouraged people looking to establish projects and events to first apply for relevant State government grants to allow council to direct its funds to other smaller community ideas and thus help to defray the constant cost shifting by successive state governments loading more expense on councils.

At the meeting, I recognised the great success of the truck show but I raised my concerns and voted against providing the full requested amount because for the second year in a row the application from Alexandra Events came late, the truck show is well beyond being getting established and we had been advised that there had been no application for a state government grant when

such regional events grants have been, and continue to be, available. I was trying to apply the policy in a manner consistent with the way in which council has applied it in the past when assessing applications from all other community groups and individuals.

With respect to NAWBR's suggested new grant funding model, I suggest NAWBR either puts their hand up for the coming council election or gets sufficient candidates to support the proposal so that it might be implemented when the new council reviews the policy and guidelines. If successful, I am sure NAWBR would expect councillors to abide by the new policy, just like I was doing.

John Walsh, Councillor, Koriella Ward

#### Hospital amalgamations

TO all those unimpressive naysayers and rednecks who bring conjecture and division, I say that such ill informed rhetoric and hyperbole is one sided opinions only and therefore open to a more objective analysis as right of free speech platform.

Such blinkered opinion within the public domain needs to be advised and with a more balanced understanding of important and of known needs such as a fully equipped mainstream local hospital facility and not one of five or six ill-equipped bush nursing quack hospitals such as at Yea.

One properly equipped and staffed hospital servicing the entire Goulburn District and with ample space for long term expansion is long overdue and possibly best placed at Alexandra.

Removal of the mass duplication of five to six unsuited facilities which do little for community confidence with respect to diagnostic and surgical procedures whom have a obstructive members of board appointment.

Reformation of existing geriatric and respite service as the existing facilities could well be given over to the many respective excellent service providers and not as a public basic hospital.

Currently, our excellent ambulance service save lives with direct transport of oversight provision and should be the first call for life saving decisions for all matters considered to be for life support.

Reforming hospitals waste valuable time where minutes are the issue and where they have no backup general facilities of the mainstream hospitals for such as stroke victims or for diagnostic assessment such as birth complications and brain injury factors.

Take all the overly emotive and historical issues out of the opposition to amalgamations and of portents.

Little will be achieved until the full story of amalgamation is known and where and when a subjective study can be undertaken.

Petitions that are premature do nothing for confidence whatsoever and should rightly be ignored as much raking nonsense.

Jack Russell, Yea



# Special council meeting for new 2024/25 budget

ON Wednesday, June 12, Murrindindi Shire Council held a special meeting at Yea Council Chambers to consider the Annual Budget 2024/25. The meeting followed a period of public exhibition and the receipt of submission.

At the meeting there were no apologies or requests for leave of absences, no disclosure of interest or conflicts of interest, and no public participation.

The 2024/2025 budget was presented by Mr O'Keefe.

Mr O'Keefe said, "The budget is a responsible budget, but it does recognise challenges facing local governments and small rural shires. The budget delivers services and supports the assets and infrastructure that are key to service community expectations, and it also complies with rate capping framework."

The budget shows an operating surplus of \$2.3 million and an underlying deficit of \$3.6 million and that differential equals the capital income grants that have been budgeted to be received. It is estimated in the budget there will be a cash balance of \$32.4 million at the end of June 2025.

The capital expenditure budget for the year is \$14.2 million which is \$7 million lower than the budget in 2023-24 but that budgeted number was inflated from carryover of 2022-23 budget.

There were three public submissions about the draft budget. An acknowledgement has been sent to each submitter, confirming receipt of their submission. The first submission was from Phillip Slattery in relation to the roadside planting coming into Yea. He is seeking a new roadside avenue planting on the approaches to Yea, particularly the Melba Highway, to help beautify the area.

The second submission was from Kate (surname was not provided) in regard to mechanical ventilation and installations in council run buildings, especially kindergartens. She asked that council consider roof-mounted heat recovery systems to significantly reduce airborne virus transmission, including COVID-19, influenza and RSV, while maintaining good climate control.

The third submission was from Julie Palmer in relation to Murrindindi Shire having one of the highest rates of bushfire buyback properties after 2009 fires. While council's stated objective of using the differential rate for vacant land in order 'to encourage property owners to develop vacant land identified by council as suitable for development, rather than simply acquire or hold land for the purpose of future investment without developing it', no-one who purchased the land under this scheme was under any illusion that this purchase could be used for future profit. She said that Murrindindi Shire needs to address the overall issue of Bushfire Buyback Properties, where they are situated within town, how much revenue is lost by council and does the council have the ability to have the Section 173 lifted if requested by the owner.

Council has responded to each submission.

Mayor Gallagher had a few questions regarding the budget. "Firstly, councillors,

revenue is capped at 2.75 per cent. What would you say is the actual cost increase is for the likes of tendered capital works projects, materials that go toward the capital program, labour costs, what are the cost increases that council is encountering?"

Mr O'Keefe explained, "We as a council are not immune from cost of living pressures and we have costs with construction and expenditure category that are running well ahead of the 2.75 per cent increase in our rate cap and inflation as you know is slowly working its way down. The hidden inflation costs that councils are suffering now is lack of competition, such as tenders and we have tenders that are higher than our original budget. \$14 million of our budget next year is capital works and that will have a higher cost increase attached to it."

Another key issue in the draft budget is the weighting applied to the Vacant Land differential is amended. This is for commercial,

residential and industrial properties. This is to encourage the development of land already zoned for residential or commercial/industrial purposes to support the growth needed to sustain our communities into the future and to address the emerging housing stock shortages. This will result in a movement of the allocation of the rate requirement from other differentials (rate classes) to vacant land.

The advice to landowners who want to query their capital improved value assessment at any time, or any other aspect of their rates notice, or anyone facing financial difficulty meeting rate commitment, is to engage in the evaluation process. The evaluation process is independent from council. After receiving your rate notice, you have two months to put an objection into the Valuer General. For any other rate notice queries, contact council's customer service team. Regarding financial hardship, councils are aware of what people are facing with the impact of cost of living

crisis payment plans are available and in some cases there can be a waiver of the interest that would normally be attached to an overdue rates debt.

Councillor Walsh added in the meeting, "Despite all the caps and limitations, we have looked for value for money and it is pleasing despite all this road funding has been increased to \$4.5 million, half a million has been allocated for bridge works and about \$800,000 to asset renewal of our buildings."

"Another good step is we have made is an allowance for up to \$3 million in borrowing so in future, if needed, we can take advantage of short notice grant opportunities particularly in economic development where we can anticipate being able to get a return and then we can pay down those borrowings. It's an extremely well balanced budget looking at all the competing needs."

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If you call them, they will send someone out. Often, these will be local wildlife carers.

The local wildlife carers in Murrindindi Shire are Salvum Wildlife Shelter in Thornton (0438 644 021), Narbeview Wildlife Shelter in Buxton (0419 584 099), Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter in Strath Creek (0430 440 286) and Sherrie in Eildon (0498 053 760).



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## Avian influenza continues to spread

AVIAN influenza virus has been confirmed at a seventh Victorian farm, which was already in quarantine.

Tests have confirmed the high pathogenicity H7N3 strain at a commercial egg farm which is located within the current restricted area in the Golden Plains Shire, where movement restrictions are already in place.

All poultry at the property will be humanely disposed of under veterinary supervision, consistent with national policies and the site will be cleaned and cleared of the infection.

Consumers should not be concerned about eggs and duck meat products. They do not pose a risk and are safe to consume. Victoria has a secure supply chain including

the importation of eggs from interstate so the current outbreak has not significantly affected supplies.

Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer, Graeme Cooke, said this detection is not unexpected given the proximity of this property to an existing infected premises (IPs).

"We have established restricted and control areas in proximity to existing IPs which has assisted us in limiting the spread and quickly detecting the sixth IP through comprehensive surveillance activities," Dr Cooke said.

"Agriculture Victoria is working with affected producers and the wider industry to maintain business

continuity while minimising risk of disease spread.

"It's a difficult time for our farmers and we're making sure mental health support is available and eligible producers can access compensation."

Existing movement controls remain in place in designated areas near Terang, Meredith and Lethbridge. This includes: a restricted area that covers the impacted Meredith and Lethbridge properties and a control area buffer zone, which is bound by Bacchus Marsh Road in the east and the Colac-Ballararat Road on the western boundary; a restricted area covering a five kilometre radius around the Terang farm with a broader control area buffer zone covering a 15 kilometre radius; and a housing requirement for all birds within these areas.

Within the restricted and control areas, permits are required for the movement of birds, poultry products, feed and equipment on or off properties.

Poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

More information, including movement permits, compensation details and mental health resources, are available online at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza)



Bird flu has now spread to six properties in Victoria's west. -Fernando Losada Rodrigue

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# Real Estate GUIDE

## Tax advice for rental property owners

THE Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is warning rental property owners that their tax returns are in the spotlight this tax time and needs to be correct.

ATO Assistant Commissioner Rob Thomson explained the ATO has found the majority of rental property owners are making errors in their tax returns, despite 86 per cent using a registered tax agent.

The most common mistake is not understanding what expenses can be claimed and when. In particular, the difference between what can be claimed for repairs and maintenance versus capital expenses.

Other mistakes on the ATO's radar include overclaimed deductions and a lack of documentation to substantiate the expenses claimed.

"We understand rental property owners may already have long lists of things to fix in their properties. By getting your tax return right the first time, you'll avoid having to add 'fix up tax return' to your to-do list down the track," Mr Thomson said.

The ATO receives data from a range of sources like banks, land title offices, insurance companies, property managers and sharing economy providers, and cross checks this data to determine the accuracy of tax returns lodged by rental property owners.

"If you use a tax agent, make sure you let them know all about your rental property, including full records of your expenses. If you have a nagging question or something doesn't make sense, make sure you ask your agent when you're working with them."

"Rental property investments and taxation can get tricky, so it pays to get the right advice from the very beginning," Mr Thomson said.

Rental property owners can claim deductions only to the extent they're incurred in producing income. This means any costs you incur in generating rental income each year, may be claimed for the same period. There are some exceptions.

"It's normal for landlords to have to fix or replace damaged items in a rental property. But there is a bit of a myth that all expenses can be claimed immediately.

"A repair can usually be claimed straight away but capital items, think dishwashers, curtains or heaters, can only be claimed immediately if they cost \$300 or less, otherwise they need to be claimed over time," Mr Thomson said.

"We sometimes see rental property owners 'double dip' on expenses that the property manager has arranged and included on the property's income and expenses report for the year. Often, property managers will pay for expenses like repairs from the rent received. The amount they then remit to the property owner is net of these expenses. They will also send the property owner a copy of the invoice for their records," Mr Thomson said.

Rental property owners can only claim for amounts that they incur, so even if there are

two records for the same expense, the amount can only be claimed once.

One of the most common deductions claimed by rental property owners is interest on mortgages. Based on previous years data, the ATO estimates incorrectly reporting interest expenses account for 42 per cent of the \$1.2 billion Individuals Not in Business tax gap associated with rental properties.

A common issue with interest deductions is where taxpayers are redrawing or refinancing a loan for their rental property and using the money to pay for private expenses like a new car, school fees or a holiday, then claim the whole amount of interest charged on the investment loan for the year as a deduction.

"For example, if you have an \$800,000 mortgage for a rental property and then add \$50,000 to the loan to upgrade your family car, you can only claim the interest on the initial \$800,000, not the interest on \$850,000.

"It's also not a matter of simply paying back the private part of the loan and then claiming all interest as deductible. Payments must be apportioned between the private and investment components for the life of the loan," Mr Thomson said.

A deduction can be claimed for levy payments to body corporate administration funds and general purpose sinking funds at the time they are incurred, as long as the fees are used for routine maintenance of common property. However, if the body corporate requires payments to a special purpose fund to pay for a particular capital expenditure, like replacing the roof of an apartment building, these levies are not deductible until the capital works are complete and the expense has been billed to the body corporate.

Costs relating to borrowing expenses, including loan establishment fees, lender's mortgage insurance and title search fees, are also commonly being claimed incorrectly. These costs are generally claimed over a five year period or the life of the loan, whichever is less. State or territory stamp duty can't be claimed as a deduction while you rent the property. You need to keep these records until you sell, when the amount will be added to your cost base to reduce any capital gain you may have on the sale.

A lack of documentation to substantiate claims of expenses and deductions is another leading cause of errors.

"You need to keep detailed and complete records, including receipts, invoices and bank statements for interest expenses. You should also detail how you calculate your deductions and any apportionments. This will allow you or your tax agent to correctly complete your tax return," Mr Thomson said.

Records can be paper or electronic, but must include details such as, the name, ABN or business name of the supplier, the amount of the expense, the nature of the goods or services you purchased, the date

you bought the goods or services, and the date the document was produced.

Claims for capital works aren't based on the purchase price of your property, but the construction cost when it was built. This information can be used to create a comprehensive capital works deduction schedule. A quantity surveyor or suitably qualified professional can help to prepare a capital works deduction schedule, but this is not mandatory.

"Taxpayers are responsible for what they include in their tax return, even when using a registered tax agent. If you don't have sufficient records, you can't claim it," Mr Thomson said.

The ATO is also warning rental property owners about incorrect claims for capital expenses. Repairs such as fixing a dishwasher

can generally be claimed immediately but buying a new dishwasher cannot.

Some expenses including improvements and capital works must be claimed over time, for example remodelling the bathroom in your rental property. In most circumstances, capital expenses are claimed at 2.5 per cent over 40 years. Any unclaimed capital works expenses are added to the cost base of the property for capital gains tax purposes when you sell.

"Spending money to fix something could be a repair, initial repair, capital works, or a depreciating asset. The ATO's Investor Toolkit can help you to understand the difference, as the amount you can claim as a deduction this tax time will depend on which category it falls into," Mr Thomson said.

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# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

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## Council's Economic Development Strategy

MURRINDINDI Shire Council last week released their five year Economic Development Strategy. The aim is to improve the economic well being and quality of life in the region.

The five priority areas are the visitor economy; agriculture, aquaculture and food production; business support; sustainable future; and prosperous communities.

The report states that it is "Acknowledging significant macro trends, including the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), climate change implications, accelerated digital transformation, the importance of Infrastructure, the growth of remote work, and challenges in worker accommodation, the economic development strategy aligns with various regional and local plans, reflecting a collaborative approach."

Council will develop rolling two year action plans to support the strategy.

The visitor economy outcomes are that our tourism and visitor economy businesses are strong, supported and connected; there is increased investment in visitor generating infrastructure; there is an increased visitor yield via effective and innovative marketing and promotional activities; council has an annual calendar of high-quality festivals and events that attract visitors and support the local economy; and council will advocate for the services and investment to support tourism and enable the sector to thrive.

It was noted that "tourism employment accounts for 9.9 per cent of overall employment in the region, surpassing the Victorian average of 3.9 per cent and highlighting the robustness of the visitor servicing sector."

The agriculture, aquaculture and food production outcomes are that our farming land and associated rural industry is supported, protected and productive for future agricultural purposes; our agricultural industry is strong, growing, supported, and connected; our farming practices are sustainable and future focused; our agricultural, aquacultural and farming businesses are resilient and prepared for future impacts; and our agroforestry sector has expanded and is a key driver supporting the wider economy.

The business support outcomes are that our workforce is sustainable, skilled, and meets the needs of our industries through access to local training and development; enabling infrastructure, including connectivity, is in place to support the industries within Murrindindi; our business community is connected, engaged, collaborating, and well-informed; investing in Murrindindi will be straightforward, with clear processes and support options, attracting appropriate investments; and investment opportunities are identified and promoted through investment attraction activities.

The sustainable future outcomes are that our local businesses are aware of the implications and opportunities in transitioning towards a net zero and the circular economy; our economy has access to infrastructure and new technology that supports business and industry reach net zero; local clusters support business and industry reach circular economy goals and utilize waste into resources; promote the cultural uses and opportunities of our native forest, including traditional owners; and maximise the opportunities in national parks, forests and reserves.

Finally, the prosperous communities outcomes are that our workforce and community can access training and development opportunities to succeed; our housing and accommodation options meet the needs of our workforce, business, and community through diverse offerings; we are an attractive option for existing and new residents with businesses and services that support our community's needs; we have opportunities for young people to remain in the community through education, career pathways and accommodation options; we recognise the importance and relevance of creative industries to our economic and community wellbeing; we have opportunities for residents to age in place and stay local; we have improved transport opportunities for freight, goods and people within and out of the shire.

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### Deadline - Noon Monday

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## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



### EXPRESSION of INTEREST

#### SCHOOL CLEANING CONTRACT

All relevant documents can be obtained by contacting the school Principal:

- Tender Document
- Schedule 3 Services Document

**OPEN : 3 JUNE 2024**

BRIAN D'ARCY  
 Principal  
[yea.hs@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:yea.hs@education.vic.gov.au)  
 (03) 5797 2207



## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT



<b>The land affected by the application is located at:</b>	121 Racecourse Road YEA, 8 Morgan Drive YEA, (LOT: 5 LP: 111368, Lot: 12 PS: 701992)
<b>The application is for a permit to:</b>	Variation of a covenant
<b>The applicant for the permit is:</b>	B D Bell
<b>The application reference number is:</b>	2024/44
<b>You may look at the application and any documents that support the application by visiting our website via the following web address:</b>	<a href="http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/PlanningComment">murrindindi.vic.gov.au/PlanningComment</a>

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

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

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

<b>The responsible authority will not decide on the application before:</b>	3 July 2024
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If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

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

## DEATH NOTICES



**EMBLIN, Janice.**

The Marysville RSL Sub-Branch is sad to report that their esteemed member and friend, Jan, has passed away after a long illness.

We extend our deepest sympathy to husband, Bob Emlin, their extensive family and many, many friends.

LEST WE FORGET

## DEATH NOTICES

**NORRIS, Garry Raymond.**

08/04/1962 - 09/06/2024

Loved husband of Jayne. Adored father of Cassandra, Louise and Meg. Grandfather of Jason, Noah, Declan and Aubrey. Loved brother of Kim.

You left us way too soon but you are now pain free. Our hearts are broken.

Love always.

**EMBLIN, Janice (Jan)**

19/02/1940 - 08/06/2024

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our cherished wife, mother, grand mother and great grand mother. Jan will be sadly missed by all who knew her, for her; kindness commitment dedication and loving nature for family, friends and community.

**NORRIS, Gary (Sprat).** Rest in Peace, legend. You were my best mate and brother from another mother. Thoughts out to Jayne, girls, Kim, and family. Love Easts.

**BARGAINS UNDER \$100**

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**FREE two seater** pull out couch. May need repair. Ph 0433 693 716.

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 PH:0407 231 377

**ISA BROWNLAYERS** - POL, \$28 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. [beckysfreerange@gmail.com](mailto:beckysfreerange@gmail.com)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**RESULTS of wood raffle** drawn on May 10 winners are Sue and Ray Wynn of Alexandra.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

This is an advertisement Government stop discriminating financially against indigenous white and other non indigenous people.

**Equality for all.**

**Ray Donkin**

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

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# Rural Council of Victoria warning a possible loss of services

A FEDERAL inquiry has been told rural communities across Australia are facing hard decisions about whether to close swimming pools, shut libraries, curb the use of sports facilities, abandon playgrounds, and severely cut or close aged care and childcare.

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV), in a submission to the Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability, has told the federal government that many small rural councils are on the financial brink and rural communities face losing essential community services and the only leisure facilities some communities have.

"We are at a point where we have to make some hard decisions," Rural Councils Victoria Chair Cr Mary-Ann Brown said.

"Councils only have two reliable sources of income, rates, which are capped, and grants, which have been declining in real terms for years.

"Small rural communities are resilient and self-reliant but rural councils are being hit from many directions all at once.

"In recent years there have been successive natural disasters, a cost of living crisis, community expectations have changed and the system for financing councils and council services has not kept up.

"Put simply, councils need more resources, and we need federal and state governments to help us keep up with inflation."

"The best and easiest thing that the federal government could do for the sustainability of

local government and small rural communities across Australia would be to increase the amount of the Financial Assistance Grants," Cr Brown said.

"With communities and families across the country facing their own cost of living pressures, the option to raise revenue directly from communities is not a feasible one. Many in rural communities do not have the capacity to pay more," Cr Brown said.

"Governments have all been guilty of 'cost shifting', forcing local government to take extra responsibilities without providing adequate funding, as well as cutting support for local government in real terms.

"RCV has surveyed member councils, and the survey results show that councils are being squeezed on both expenditure and revenue sides.

"The soaring costs of providing and maintaining infrastructure, such as roads and road maintenance, is being exacerbated by limits on rural councils' revenue sources, including the rate cap in Victoria.

"Without intervention, this problem will only get worse. If councils are not able to raise more money, they will not be able to meet the infrastructure and service delivery needs of their communities," Cr Brown said.

"The largest source of operating grants for councils is from the Commonwealth Government through the Financial Assistance Grants program under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995*.

"Disappointingly, as a percentage of total Commonwealth Government taxation revenue (excluding GST), the amount of Financial Assistance Grants made available to local government across Australia has decreased from 0.76 per cent to 0.57 per cent from 2011/12 to 2021/22.

"While the Commonwealth Government and the Victorian Government is able to earn uncapped taxation revenue that increases with economic and population growth, enabling increased living standards, the local government sector is reliant upon insufficient rate revenue to meet cost escalation and Financial Assistance Grants that have not increased in real terms on a per capita basis since 1995."

The RCV submission to The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport warned that unless further revenue can be raised by councils, they would be forced to review the services they offer and the infrastructure they build and maintain.

With finances stretched, councils are making the difficult decision to pull out of services they do not see as core to their role in the community, the submission said.

The RCV survey of member councils found that about one third of councils have outsourced services in a bid to save money, with about a quarter saying they have also looked at raising fees and charges.

The survey showed that many councils have already cut jobs and extended plant replacement schedules.

## Help take part in solving wildlife crime

VICTORIAN authorities are encouraging the community to help solve wildlife crime and to come forward with any information that could help solve wildlife cold cases.

Crime Stoppers Victoria and the Conservation Regulator have launched the *'Wildlife crime: It's your call'* campaign, to help the public recognise and report wildlife crime.

The longstanding relationship between the two agencies aims to empower the community to report information about suspected incidents and perpetrators of wildlife crime by raising public awareness and providing education on the nature and seriousness of native wildlife crime.

The partnership has also streamlined community reporting, with Crime Stoppers Victoria recording an 88 per cent increase in reports supplied to wildlife authorities in the past year.

Crime Stoppers Victoria Chief Executive Stella Smith said the volume of reports they are receiving shows Victorians care about protecting native wildlife.

"We know that people want to make a difference, and it is important that those who have information about these horrific wildlife crimes know they can report to Crime Stoppers," said Ms Smith.

"If you see anything suspicious, your information, no matter how small, could help make a difference and find those responsible for committing wildlife crime."

The Conservation Regulator is Victoria's lead agency for investigating and prosecuting native wildlife crime.

The State's Chief Conservation Regulator Kate Gavens said that while many Victorians know what constitutes wildlife crime, they may not be sure who to report it to or what details will help authorities to investigate.

"Wildlife crime could be an act of cruelty, illegal hunting, or the unlawful keeping, buying, or selling of native animals, and information such as locations, dates, times, number plates, and physical descriptions of people and animals are crucial to finding and penalising those responsible," explained Ms Gavens.

Community information has helped the Conservation Regulator close several wildlife crime cases, including two separate incidents in 2021 involving the illegal destruction of a powerful owl near Dixons Creek and the death of six magpies near Mildura.

In 2022-23, the Conservation Regulator laid more than 145 charges relating to wildlife offences, including illegal possession and trade, harm, disturbance, and cruelty.

"Community assistance is incredibly important in our investigations, and we want to thank those Victorians who are already reporting what they know and encourage more to look out for wildlife crime and come forward if they see anything suspicious," said Ms Gavens.

"Protecting native wildlife is everyone's responsibility, and it really is your call that could help solve a wildlife crime."

In Victoria, all wildlife is protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, and it is illegal to hunt, take, or destroy protected wildlife and carries a maximum penalty of \$9615 or six months in prison.

Dog owners are responsible for keeping their pets under control on public land and could face an additional maximum penalty of \$4807 if their pet attacks, worries, or chases native wildlife.

## Draft housing strategy targets announced

VICTORIA'S councils will have the chance to show where and how they can unlock space for new homes over the coming decades, with the Victorian Government kicking off the next stage of local government consultation on draft housing capacity targets tailored for every local government area (LGA) in the state.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny announced the draft targets for each LGA, with final targets released by the end of this year.

In Murrindindi Shire Council, where the existing number of homes in 2023 was 8600, the draft target is 3200 by 2051.

Victoria has the largest annual population growth of all Australian states, and it needs more than two million additional homes by the 2050s. The draft council housing targets are largely based on access to the jobs, transport and services Victorians need.

In regional cities and rural areas, the targets will also help deliver more new homes in cities and towns to boost key worker and affordable housing. The City of Greater Geelong is proposed to accommodate 139,800 new homes by 2051.

Victoria's councils have the powers to unlock space for more homes by proposing

changes to local planning rules. The government will consult closely with councils to harness their local knowledge, with councils to report back on the draft target and the local changes they propose.

The government also wants to hear from councils about the continued infrastructure support that communities need to grow sustainably.

The draft targets for each local government area can be found at [engage.vic.gov.au/project/shape-our-victoria/page/housing-targets-2051](https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/shape-our-victoria/page/housing-targets-2051)

## Curl up with a good book this winter

VICTORIANS are encouraged to visit their local library and dive into a good book as part of this year's Warm Winter Read, supported by the Victorian Government.

Now in its third year, the Warm Winter Read invites everyone aged 16 and over to pick up a book during winter, with almost 2000 Victorians taking part in the challenge last year logging 18,000 days of reading.

Running until August 31, the reading challenge invites participants to borrow books from their local library, track their reading days, and compete for book pack prizes.

Participants can pick up bookmarks from their library,

featuring recommendations from Victorian authors.

Victoria is home to more than 280 public libraries that offer welcoming community spaces and free resources, including digital materials that can be accessed online on demand.

The state government has invested more than \$460 million over the last eight years into public libraries across the state through programs, including the Public Libraries Funding Program, Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund, and the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program

For more information about Warm Winter Read visit [vic.readbooks.com.au/wwr](https://vic.readbooks.com.au/wwr)

FOR over 22 years, the National Songwriting Competition has been a platform to develop and drive the next generation of Australia's music talent and is the largest youth songwriting competition in the country.

The competition is held annually and is free to enter for all school aged children, from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The competition offers children the chance to showcase their skills and convey their thoughts and emotions through the power of music, performance, and songwriting.

This year, a new category is introduced for the most inventive entry from a school group. The

prize, valued over \$10,000, will be an APRA AMCOS Song Makers Program delivered at the school by industry professionals.

The 2024 competition is made possible with the support of sponsors. In total, there will be over \$30,000 in prizes to be won that will go towards supporting their musical journey.

Judging will be held in October 2024 and will assess various aspects including the lyrics, melody, structure, and originality. The winners will be announced in November 2024.

For more information visit [acmf.com.au/national-songwriting-competition/](https://acmf.com.au/national-songwriting-competition/)

## Children's 2024 National Songwriting Competition

## Meeting opposes Great Forest National Park

A PUBLIC meeting was held at the Yea Shire Hall on the evening of Tuesday, June 11 to discuss the proposed national park in the Central Highlands. A large number of people attended the event.

The first speaker was Craig Sharman who researches government bodies. He was concerned about the economic losses which would impact the area if a national park was declared. He added that according to a community survey in 2014, 89 per cent of respondents wanted a national park, and he questioned whether only urban people were surveyed.

He cited the number of recreational hunters and four wheel drivers who use the forest, as well as speaking about how fishers, horse riders, prospectors and people with dogs will be locked out. He also asked where firewood will come from.

He suggested that if only a small area is made available to people to use, then it will be over-used and eventually this too will be closed, and that the cost for using national parks may be prohibitive.

Daryl Cochran from Yarra Junction said that a lock-up would remove commonsense stewardship, and was concerned about the build up of fuel loads in a bushfire situation. He supports salvage harvesting in post-fire situations, and believes that Crown land should remain in the hands of the public.

Nillumbik Shire Councillor Karen Egan spoke about mental health and the importance of outdoor activity in recovery. She also said that the mental health impacts of extreme bushfire events could be long-lasting. She believes that fire mitigation is vital.

Carly Murphy from Victorians against the Great Forest National Park said that she was angry on behalf of the people who will lose their freedoms if a national park is created. She said that it is "Not the Australian way."

Leonie Blackwell from the Freedom Party expressed her opposition to the creation of a new national park in the Central Highlands, and like the others, was concerned about the fuel load in fire conditions. She particularly highlighted the *Public Land Act* and the *Offshore Wind Farm Act* as being important pieces of upcoming legislation.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish spoke about the Eminent Panel's consultations, and her concerns that issues such as deer and wild dogs are not being considered. She is calling on the government to reject the VEAC report, and said that the government is not looking after the national parks that they have. She strongly encouraged people to get the word out about the issue, and asked that people use the bush responsibly.



Helen Haines MP with Karina Hogan at The Dame boutique clothing store in Alexandra. -BD

# Haines visits Alexandra

LAST Friday, the Federal Member for Indi, Helen Haines, was out and about in Alexandra, getting in touch with the community and visiting various sites around the shire.

From noon to 1pm, she had a mobile office set up in front of the Alexandra Shire Hall, where locals could drop in and discuss issues they were concerned about.

"This is one of my regular mobile offices. I take my mobile office, I've got my caravan here today, all over Indi, from right down south in Kinglake, through to Alexandra, Yea, Mansfield, Marysville, wherever it might be.

"And we advertise that ahead of time so people have a chance to come talk to me about issues that they're concerned about. So that's what I'm doing here in Alexandra today," Dr Haines said.

"I've also had a visit to the Alexandra Primary School to have a look at their sensory garden which received \$10,000 through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), which is the federal auspice body. I'm always keen to see how federal money is being spent. And it looks fantastic, I

might say. I met lots of students, teachers, it was marvelous."

Dr Haines visited various other sites around the shire after her mobile office session, including Menzies' The Dame boutique clothing store, where she was shown around by Karina Hogan, the driving force behind The Dame.

"I'm having a visit to The Dame, I'm also going to the Breakaway Caravan Park this afternoon, I'll have a look at the bridge, and have a chat to the people in the caravan park. So quite a big day.

"I was here last weekend actually, for the truck driver's memorial, and I had a sneak peep at the truck show. It's huge, and fantastic for the town."

Asked about some of the issues that came up during the mobile office drop-in session, Dr Haines gave a brief overview of her community engagement.

"A lot of people are talking to me about the cost of living, the cost of electricity, we've talked about energy generation, we've talked about wind, solar, nuclear. People also have some concerns about the potential health services merger, has been another one. They've been the key themes," Dr Haines said.

"What I've been sharing with people too is that there are lots of resources on my website around support for energy bills, and cost of living more broadly, and reminding people to keep in touch with me, because there is lots of grant opportunities as well. That beautiful playground up at the school, that's one of them."



Federal member for Indi, Helen Haines, spoke with locals about community issues. -BD

## Vehicle stolen in Alexandra

POLICE are appealing for witnesses regarding a stolen 2003 white Nissan Navara, bearing Victoria Registration plates ZGI-549.

The vehicle was stolen from outside a residence in Vickery Street, Alexandra at approximately 6am on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Approximately half an hour later the vehicle was sighted on the Maroondah Highway and in Broadford around 9am.

Police are requesting anyone with information regarding the theft or whereabouts of this vehicle, or with dash cam footage of the vehicle travelling between Alexandra and Broadford between 6am and 9:30am, to contact Alexandra Criminal Investigation Unit 03 5772 1040.

Alternatively, you can provide crime information anonymously via Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.



The stolen white Nissan Navara. -S



The pictured artwork was removed from a street in Alexandra on the night of Sunday, June 9. Please contact the Alexandra Police Station on 5772 1040 if you know the whereabouts of the artwork or if you have any information about it. -S



## Fire safety: hot off the press

FIRE safety is a hot topic this winter with data revealing firefighters respond to around 100 fires caused by heaters each year.

Victoria's fire services are warning the community not to be complacent when heating the home as winter is the peak time for heater fires.

In the last five years, Country Fire Authority (CFA) responded to more than 640 house fires caused by a heater.

These types of fires mainly start either due to a mechanical fault, or because the heater is located too close to flammable materials in a lounge room or sleeping area. Home heating systems vary and can include fixed electrical or gas-powered appliances, portable electrical, gas or kerosene heaters, as well as open fires and wood heaters.

CFA Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan, said as we begin to spend more time indoors, Victorians should make sure their gas and electrical heaters are serviced every two years to safeguard their loved ones from fire.

"Last year CFA responded to 87 house fires caused by heaters and in 2022 there were 119 fires. This decline is encouraging to see but ideally, we want to see that figure zero," Jason said.

"A common mistake we're finding is households are keeping their drying clothes too close to heaters and fireplaces, so it's best to ensure they are at least one metre away from all heating.

"Regardless of when you turn a heater on, just be mindful to turn them off before you leave the house or go to sleep."

CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) recently marked the first ever Smoke Alarm Action Day alongside New South Wales, Western Australia and Northern Territory, a day to urge households to ensure they have working smoke alarms fitted in their homes.

FRV Deputy Commissioner for Community Safety, Joshua Fischer, said Smoke Alarm Action Day was the ideal time to remind Victorians that the majority of fatal fires start in a bedroom or living room, so having smoke alarms installed in all hallways, sleeping and living areas is the best line of defence.

"In an emergency, every second counts and having working smoke alarms in the sleeping and living areas of your home will ensure you are alerted promptly in the event of a fire, buying you and your family precious time to escape," he said.

"We want all Victorians to be aware that the colder months are some of the riskiest times of the year for fires in the home.



*In the past five years, the CFA has responded to more than 640 house fires caused by a heater. -S*

"You can reduce the risks by making sure your heating systems and devices are well maintained. Now is the time to install additional smoke alarms into all bedrooms and living areas. Ten-year long-life battery smoke alarms, suitable for all bedrooms and living areas, can save lives for around \$20."

When it comes to home heating, FRV and CFA recommends that drying clothes and other items be kept at least one metre away from all home heating devices, and children must be supervised near all types of heating.

Maintain a safe distance between children and heating, never leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended, turn off heating devices before leaving home or going to sleep, and residents should have their gas heaters inspected and serviced every two years to ensure the safety of loved ones from carbon monoxide poisoning or fire.

## Impressive stats for Operation Regal in Hume Region

MORE than 7000 offences were detected during a major road safety effort over the King's Birthday long weekend. In the Hume Region service area only seven cases were part of the overall 7000 over the state.

Operation Regal saw police targeting high risk driving behaviour across the state over four days in an effort to drive down road trauma.

The number of infringements issued by police increased eight per cent on the same period last year, with speeding making up 40 per cent of all offences detected.

Police conducted 107,025 preliminary breath tests, with one in every 541 motorists tested caught drink driving.

A further 147 drivers returned a positive roadside drug test, with 2263 tests conducted.

Automatic numberplate recognition technology helped police detect 410 unauthorised drivers, either for being unlicensed, disqualified or suspended.

The total 7099 offences detected during Operation Regal included, 2855 speeding offences, 676 unregistered vehicles, 410 disqualified/suspended and unlicensed drivers, 259 disobey signs/signals, 222 mobile phone offences, 198 drink driving

offences from 107,025 preliminary breath tests, 147 drug driving offences from 2263 roadside drug tests, 100 seatbelt offences, and 94 vehicle impoundments.

In the Hume region the following infringements took place, one drink driver, zero drug drivers, one other drink/drug, zero disqualified drivers, zero unlicensed drivers, two speeding offences, three disobey signs/signals, and zero for seatbelt offences, mobile phone offences, unregistered vehicles, impoundments, and cyclist offences.

There were two lives lost over the long weekend which brings the total lives lost to 126 in Victoria, with motorcyclist fatalities increasing to 33 from 19 at the same time last year. Pedestrian fatalities have doubled to 20 from 10 at the same time last year.

With wet weather and poor visibility increasing as winter sets in across Victoria, police are urging motorists to take extra care on the roads and be on the lookout for vulnerable road users, particularly motorcyclists and pedestrians.

Police will remain highly visible on the roads across the state, with targeted operations to take place over the coming weeks focusing on vulnerable road user safety.

## The future of the Central Highlands' forests discussed in Parliament

ON Monday, May 27, Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos was questioned about the Great Outdoors Taskforce (GOT) as well as the Victorian Environmental Assessment Authority (VEAC) and the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement (EPCE).

Labor's Michael Galea asked Minister Dimopoulos about the GOT's remit, parameters, timelines and projects.

Minister Dimopoulos responded that the GOT "should bring a lot of good opportunities and joy to the Victorian community."

He said, "We have established a taskforce effectively to give us advice in about a year's time, so about this time next year, on what other options are there right across the board for the land that was previously given over to native timber harvesting.

"If you look at that land, it is 1.8 million hectares, and that and the existing state forest effectively present an opportunity the size of which is bigger than Tasmania as a parcel of land. I think it is incumbent on all of us to set the best kind of governance model to see what we do in this land."

He spoke about former Environment Minister Lisa Neville chairing the GOT committee, as well as the Indigenous representation, "environmental experts" and "outdoor recreation people" and "tourism people."

He did not mention that the Chair of VEAC and the Chair of the Eminent Panel have been appointed to the GOT. The plurals appear to be unnecessary as the only other announced members of the GOT committee are the Chair of the Victorian Fisheries Authority and the CEO of Destination Gippsland. The media contact advised that no further members have been added to the panel.

The minister continued, "I am conscious... that these communities in Gippsland predominantly but elsewhere in Victoria deserve economic opportunities as much as they deserve other opportunities, including to conserve areas which need conservation.

"We are conscious that, with the decision to end native timber harvesting, these communities will have economic benefit from new industries, including tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities. We are not about shutting those down, we are about providing an authorising environment for that to happen. That is why it is called the Great Outdoors Taskforce, because that is the ambition. It will be amazing."

He spoke about the Indigenous involvement in the decision-making and possible Indigenous-associated tourism.

He then added, "We want to market this state as a place to come and enjoy the outdoors, both from a tourism perspective and from a cost-of-living perspective. The government is really, really clear that public land should be for public use. That means people should be encouraged and supported to go hiking, walking, birdwatching or camping. We have got a range of programs to support that already through half-price camping fees, you can camp for free in most parts of Victoria, in those parts of Victoria where there are camping grounds."

Liberal member Bev McArthur noted that "Late last year the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council recommended converting about 75 per cent, that is 300,000 hectares, of the 389,725 hectares of state forest into a large protected area, such as a national park, that would merge the existing Yarra Ranges, Kinglake, Lake Eildon and Baw Baw national parks and the Bunyip, Cathedral Range and Moondarra state parks."

The minister was asked whether he had "personally undertaken any consultation with community groups and residents of the Yarra Ranges, Kinglake, Lake Eildon and Baw Baw national parks and the Bunyip, Cathedral Range and Moondarra state parks who will be affected by this national park conversion?"

The minister responded, "When the government decided that we would withdraw from native timber harvesting it set in motion some work to be done by

the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, VEAC, which is an important part of government apparatus, to do value assessment around forest values, biodiversity values and environmental values. It then gave a report... to the eminent panel for community engagement, another body that government established to see through consultation with the community.

"You have got the Eminent Panel here, and they have received a report from VEAC, which is one element of their information source, if you like. They have gone around Victoria, they are doing consultation, and it has been extraordinarily successful. Hundreds of people have rocked up to town hall-type meetings right through regional Victoria to engage the Eminent Panel on their ideas for what should happen to those areas you reference and other areas. Once that eminent panel has done its work, that and the Great Outdoors Taskforce work, which Mr Galea referenced, will all come to government through me, and we will make a determination in relation to what should happen on those lands."

It was estimated that the Great Outdoors Taskforce would report back in about a year's time.

He said of the Eminent Panel's consultation, "This is a big community consultation, and I love that people have embraced it, Mrs McArthur. I have absolutely spoken to the communities I have gone to visit, whether it be in Mirboo North and other parts of Gippsland or whether it be in the Grampians or other areas."

Ms McArthur noted that the AMWU, ETA and CFMEU have also stated their opposition to "locking up this park and throwing away the keys, which is what effectively will happen. They have joined with a multitude of outdoor recreation groups who are absolutely opposed to what you are about to do. You do not have the community onside. Clearly these recreational activities of the sporting shooters association, VRFish, mining and prospectors, Australian climbing, they are all very concerned about what you are about to do. How do you argue the case that you are not going to lock up the park and throw away the keys?"

Mr Dimopoulos responded, "This Premier and this government is absolutely committed to outdoor recreation, absolutely committed to communities in regional Victoria having economic activities, including tourism and outdoor recreation activities. We are not about locking up anything, Mrs McArthur. We are about protecting our natural environment but also allowing people to enjoy it in whatever way they enjoy their outdoor recreation activities. That is why we did not ban duck hunting. That is why we support fishing more than any other state in Australia. That is why we are doing a power of work through this Great Outdoors Taskforce for mountain bike riding and four-wheel driving, a whole range of, but you cannot do every one of those activities on every bit of land."

Nationals member Danny O'Brien asked, "Will you guarantee then that horseriding, bushwalking, prospecting and mining, hunting and fishing will still be allowed in those areas of state forest that are currently under consideration?"

The minister responded, "What I can tell you is all those things will be allowed in different parts of Victoria, yes."

Danny O'Brien asked, "You are going to create the great forest national park, aren't you? That is your legacy to the world?"

After some to-ing and fro-ing, the minister said, "I answered the question by saying that we are not about locking up forests. What we are about is people being able to have outdoor recreation."

Bev McArthur kept pressing the point, "Will all those groups have access to this new national park? Guarantee them."

Danny O'Brien responded to this after it was found that the minister had answered the question. He said, "I actually think he did, Mrs McArthur. I think the answer was, 'No, we will not guarantee it.'"

## SPORT

# Mudbash held for the 52nd time

SUNDAY, June 9, saw Mudbash held in Caveat. Mudbash is an annual motorsport event run by the Rover Scout section of Scouts Australia. Held at Mafeking Rover Park in Caveat on the King's Birthday weekend in June, it is the largest Rover Scout event in Australia with over 1700 participants and visitors annually.

Mudbash puts the best aspects of Rover Scouting together. Among the weekend's activities are adventurous expeditions, competitive on-site activities, scouting camp craft, exciting nightlife entertainment, and of course motorsport.

Mudbash was proudly run by Rover Scouts for Rover Scouts. The event is organized and managed by a committee of around 45 Rovers, elected into their position at the annual AGM. Any 18 to 26 year old member of the Rover section can be nominated for a position on the committee.

Although there is a lot of work involved in getting an event like Mudbash up and running, it is one of the most rewarding experiences a Rovering career can offer.

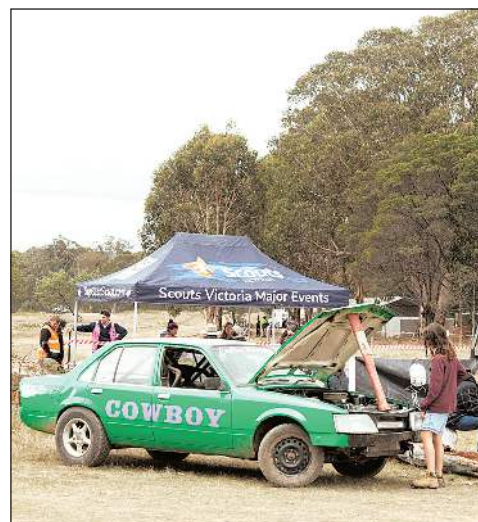
The Mudbash Open Day was held on Sunday, June 9 between 10am and 4pm and showcased the best of scouting. It was open to all who are interested from motorsport enthusiasts through to families looking for a day out.

Mudbash open day offers an array of fun family activities and motorsport action. They had a large range of onsite activities open to all including passenger hot lap rides in the race cars (over 12), motorsport spectating, abseiling, axe throwing, mini golf, bush golf, archery, a smash car, face painting, spray tattoos, damper making, an onsite canteen and a large range of food trucks.

This year's event went amazingly well, and the Rover Scouts can't wait to do it again next year.



There was a large turnout for the 52nd running of Mudbash. -S



Showcasing the cars in front of the nature that is so prominent in this area. -S



The food trucks and the crowd. -S



It was dry enough for the dirt to fly at Mafeking Rover Park. -S



Cars raced through the dirt in the dark. -S

## Blood sweat and tears for Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

### Cherry Ripe versus KitKats

BETH versus Blake (fill in): Great game with some spectacular shots. Beth's serves gave Blake some problems. Blake managed to win the third game, but he couldn't pull the victory back from Beth. 59 to 52.

Kristelle versus Rob: Taking the first game with a massive lead, Rob came out

strong. As the games progressed, they became increasingly closer. After a quick break to deal with a blood nose, Kristelle finally managed to win a game but lost the match to the speedy Rob. 74 to 54.

James versus Phil: Persevering, Phil put in the effort, but he was outmatched. James gave Phil an absolute shellacking in game two, taking a 19 point lead. There was no

coming back and James's skill won him the match. 81 to 37.

### Crunchie versus Smarties

Aiden versus Sam: An interesting match. Aiden took the first game with a good lead. Turning the tables, Sam claimed the next three games and the match. 69 to 56.

Lucas versus Jack (fill in): These gents had some fast rallies. Lucas put up a good

fight, but Jack is a very skilful player and took the match with ease. 69 to 37.

Michael H versus Stuart: Winning the first game Michael was on the ball and was continually catching Stuart by hitting the ball to where he'd just come from. Stuart kept the games close and eventually won the final game, but a little too late as Michael took home the win. 59 to 53.

## Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

## AFL - Seniors Ladder

Seville	235.28	6
Healesville	251.12	6
Alexandra	222.69	6
Warburton Millgrove	149.59	6
Belgrave	159.96	4
Yea	103.41	4
Yarra Glen	49.64	2
Yarra Junction	35.33	1
Powelltown	18.13	0

## AFL - Reserves Ladder

Belgrave	470.27	8
Seville	390.78	7
Healesville	381.82	6
Warburton Millgrove	213.13	5
Alexandra	56.49	4
Yea	80.04	3
Powelltown	25.68	2
Yarra Junction	37.34	1
Yarra Glen	15.83	0

## AFL - Senior Women's Ladder

Monbulk	32 pts	8
Warburton-Wesburn	30 pts	7
Woori Yallock	28 pts	6
Wandin	22 pts	5
Emerald	18 pts	4
Officer	10 pts	2
Seville	4 pts	1
Thornton Eildon	0 pts	0

## AFL - U16 Ladder

Euroa	62.50	5
Seymour	57.14	4
Moama	50.00	4
Alexandra	25.00	2
Yea	14.28	1
Broadford	0	0

## Netball - A Grade Ladder

Warburton Millgrove	194.66	7
Seville	168.55	7
Yarra Glen	156.27	5
Healesville	81.87	4
Belgrave	102.76	3
Alexandra	69.10	4
Yarra Junction	73.55	4
Yea	43.96	0

## Netball - B Grade Ladder

Seville	36 pts	8
Warburton Millgrove	28 pts	6
Belgrave	28 pts	6
Yarra Glen	24 pts	5
Yea	20 pts	4
Yarra Junction	16 pts	3
Healesville	12 pts	2
Alexandra	8 pts	1
Powelltown	4 pts	0

## Netball - C Grade Ladder

Yarra Glen	36 pts	8
Seville	32 pts	7
Warburton Millgrove	28 pts	6
Belgrave	24 pts	5
Yea	20 pts	4
Yarra Junction	16 pts	3
Alexandra	8 pts	1
Healesville	8 pts	1
Powelltown	4 pts	0

## Netball - D Grade Ladder

Seville	100.00	6
Warburton Millgrove	71.42	5
Yarra Glen	71.42	5
Alexandra	57.14	4
Belgrave	57.14	4
Yea	28.57	2
Powelltown	0	0
Yarra Junction	0	0

## Juniors travel far and wide

by Ray Steyger

Nikita Lyttle.

## Football

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams travelled to Broadford for football and netball games, the under 16 football to Seymour and netball red teams went to Yea for round eight of the 2024 season. The under nines and 10s football had games with Broadford but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

## Under 12

## Alexandra 6.4 - 40 defeated Broadford 2.3 - 15

Penstock Pastoral: Riley Cole; Essence Coffee Lounge: Eli Weeks; FoodWorks: Eli Van Lierop; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Charlie Broadway; Coach: Clay Hilder.

## Under 14

## Alexandra 2.1 - 13 defeated by Broadford 14.12 - 96

North Central Construction: Josh Northmore; Essence Coffee Lounge: Mia Heard; FoodWorks: Logan Conway; Alex Bakery and Café: Fletcher Van Lierop; Coach: Billy Baker.

## Under 16

## Alexandra 1.12 - 18 defeated by Seymour 5.4 - 34

Nutrien Harcourts: Archie Gibson; Essence Coffee Lounge: George Sotiropoulos; FoodWorks: Lachlan Williams; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Will Granter; Coach: Harry Morley.

## Netball

## Under 11

## Alexandra Red 27 defeated Yea 12

FoodWorks: Jayde Stewart; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Mia Bruce, Coach: Zoe Collier.

## Under 13

## Alexandra Red 33 defeated Yea 12

FoodWorks: Megan Kendall; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Tilly Miljkovic, Miljkovic Family; Ruby Friswell.

## Under 15

## Alexandra Red 11 defeated by Yea 28

FoodWorks: Eva Twitchett; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Marli Collier, Miljkovic Family;

## Under 11

**Alexandra Black 2 defeated by Broadford 6**  
FoodWorks: Ava Hill; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Bella Lamaro; Coach: Lillian Savage.

## Under 13

**Alexandra Black 32 defeated Broadford 7**  
FoodWorks: Holly Williams; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Indi Hoornweg; Coach: Ruby Friswell.

## Under 15

Alexandra Black 16 defeated by Broadford 34  
FoodWorks: Chelsea Webb; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Leah Cole; Coach: Harley Olive.

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 Alexandra junior football and netball black teams return to Rebel Park and host Yea, under 11 and 13 netball red teams host Tabilk, under 15 netball red team hosts St Marys, and the under 16 football goes to Shepparton to play Moama.

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

## Seniors and Reserves have a restful weekend

by Ray Steyger

ALEXANDRA hosted Seville on the June long weekend for round nine of the Outer East League 2024 Division one season, which was a standalone game in the League. As a result, Alexandra and Seville enjoyed some time off last weekend while the balance of teams all played their round nine games last Saturday.

This coming Saturday, the Rebels travel to Yea for round 10 and the start of the second half of the season, two games of football and four games of netball. Everyone is invited back to the Alexandra Hotel for the awards.

Thursday's Rebel Raffles resume this week. The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot is proving elusive and will be worth \$900 next week so go along and buy some tickets at \$1 each but you need to be at the club rooms at 8pm for the draw, meals available at the junior and senior sittings.

On Saturday, June 29 Alexandra hosts Warburton Millgrove as part of the First Nations Round with football and netball players to unveil the newly designed uniforms as part of the celebrations on the day. On Saturday, July 20, Alexandra host Healesville, the club celebrating 140 years since inception in 1884, also recognising life members and sponsors. On Saturday, August 10 the club will host Yarra Junction as part of Ladies Day celebrations.

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

## The weather won't stop Eildon golfers

By Puttomatic

ON a fine but cold day and after the fog cleared, 14 brave souls competed in an ambrose competition. With bragging rights up for grabs, John Matthews and Dean Malley had a blistering round with a nett 60 to take out first place. Kerry Power and Rod Taylor came in second on a countback from John Beale and Phil Dally with a nett 64.75 and Colin Long and Peter McNair

came in fourth with a nett 68.

Nearest the pin last week saw no winner on the fifth but Ken Collier was closest on the 11th. Phil Dally took out honours on the 12th and 14th. There were two birdies on the eighth hole.

Other winners last week were the entry draw winner Kevin King, with Phil Dally having a win with the week's swindle draw.

There's some great work happening on course now

with Wayne Kupke and Phil Dally doing some renovations on the rotunda and there are more projects planned. A big thanks to Leigh Munro and John Beale, who jumped in to doing some very welcome tree trimming through the week. It's fantastic to see the great support from members who volunteer their time to help out around the club whenever needed.

## Marysville golfers enjoyed different conditions at Avenel Plate

by Lesley Rundle

ANOTHER cold but sunny day greeted the golfers last Saturday as they arrived to play stroke for the first round of the Winter Aggregate. The ladies winner was the ever reliable Heather Jenkins (18) with nett 78 followed by Gail Leigh (10) just one shot behind with nett 79. Gail also received two nearest the pins on the 11th and fourth hole. The men's winner was Mark Bambery (24) with nett 74 followed by Steve Coker (18) with nett 76. Travers Stow won the remaining nearest the pin on the ninth hole.

Next Saturday the second round of the Winter Aggregate will be played. With a number of members away travelling and seeking some sunshine, the Saturday playing numbers are down but there is always room for visiting golfers who may like to play in the Saturday competition or for green fee players who just want to experience the beautiful course. The competition is a 10am tee off and visitors would be made very welcome.

On Thursday, June 13 three ladies played in the Avenel Plate. Avenel is the only course

in the Dalhousie District with sand greens so players can enjoy the experience and the challenges that such a course presents. Jenny Coleman (29) had a very successful day and with 37 points won the C Grade, the veterans section and was part of the winning small team. There have been 13 Dalhousie ladies events during this first half of 2024, and Marysville have played in 11 of them and also participated in the annual Pennant season. This is a great effort from the small cohort of ladies and members thank them for representing Marysville. The next event after the winter recess is in September.

Members were greatly saddened to hear of the death of Jan Emblin past member and wife of Life Member Bob. They have both been involved with the club for many years and Bob still volunteers as part of the green keeping team. Members send their condolences to Bob and the Emblin family and friends.

## Small turnout for Alexandra golf

by Elizabeth Goss

THE weather was unkind again at the beginning of last week and most players decided to stay at home. Two of the ladies though did venture out on Wednesday to play a social round.

Most weeks some of the ladies are enjoying traveling to various Dalhousie Tournaments but they haven't won any trophies as yet. Wednesday, June 26, is a four ball better ball round.

The sun finally returned for Saturday's par round. The winner was Jarred Sloane (9) -1. The runner-up was Steve Darmody (19) -2 on a four-way countback from Mick Holohan (8) -2, Shane McGorlick (11) -2 and Brendan Smith (7) -2.

Nearest the pin on the fifth and seventh went to Simon Rouget and on the 12th and 18th to Mick Holohan. Saturday, June 22, is a stableford round.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard Sport

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## Pony club members go on an adventure

by Elissa Page

OVER the weekend of June 8 and 9, the members of the Alexandra Horse and Pony Club embarked on an adventure into the beautiful bushland of Oxley Recreation Reserve, home to the Moyhu Pony Club. Nestled in the heart of nature, this reserve offers fantastic amenities for both equine enthusiasts and campers alike.

The riders were treated to two exciting one and a half hour cross country lessons on the Saturday, led by the experienced event rider, Adrian Bright.

Adrian shared valuable insights into the technical aspects of the discipline, focusing on the importance of warming up horses correctly and mastering riding rhythm, especially on varied terrain. Participants were challenged to approach fences accurately, with markers placed at different positions of the fences to test their skills.

The junior group had their share of fun, learning safety protocols and group riding etiquette, with some experiencing a competitive cross country course for the first time. Spectators were entertained by the small ponies antics at times, but this did not stop the junior showcasing improvement in their knowledge, balance, and confidence.

Sunday brought riders of all levels together for a leisurely trail ride through the undulating countryside, with parents joining in on horseback or foot, making it a true family affair.

The exceptional facilities at the reserve, including horse yards, a wash bay, sand arenas, clubhouse, playground, and essential amenities, made the weekend comfortable for all. Shona's coordination of food, with nibbles platters, salad wraps, party pies, locally sourced pizzas, and bacon and egg rolls, was a highlight. The pleasant weather added to the enjoyment, with members gathering around the glowing campfire in the evenings, roasting marshmallows and enjoying the company of a few local possums and an owl.

What truly makes this camp special is the friendships between members of all ages, with older kids leading by example, showing kindness, inclusivity, and helpfulness to the younger ones. Congratulations to Sally Hill for organising such a fabulous weekend away.

With the fond memories of such a great experience, the club is likely to repeat the event next year. Members are eagerly anticipating the next rally, which promises a moonlit bush ride followed by dinner, in collaboration with the Yea Pony Club and guided by trail experts, John and Jo Kasch of Pack Saddling Australia based in Narbethong.



A few of the juniors, Ella, Summer, Annabelle H and Louis about to commence their afternoon lesson. -S



Roasting marshmallows was a highlight with young and old. -S



Lilly and her horse, Monster, enjoying the cross country. -S



Annabelle teaching her horse, Loki, how to complete a sequence of jumps. -S

## Women's football back after long weekend break

by Scott Whitehead

**Thornton/Eildon 0-1 was defeated by Wandin 7-7-49**

LAST week in women's football, Thornton/Eildon returned after a week off to celebrate the Monarch's Birthday and headed over the Great Dividing Range to play Wandin on their home ground. With five wins from eight outings to Wandin, a win for Thornton/Eildon was against the odds but never out of reach.

The first quarter was a fierce contest and was mostly played between the 50 metre arcs. Wandin were cleaner with their skill and hit the scoreboard for three majors in the quarter, leaving Thornton/Eildon scoreless at the sound of the siren.

In the second quarter, Izzy Weston and Rose Kealy continued their dominance in

the midfield and the inclusion of founding player Somaly Herridge helped keep Wandin goalless until the last eight seconds of the quarter.

Despite the unfavourable scoreline, the away team remained positive throughout the break. The coaches highlighted and noted their effort and the continued pressure that was on their well-placed opponents.

The third quarter was again similar to the second with the Thornton/Eildon players finding their mojo controlling the ball for the best part of the quarter. Emily Kerr, Leah Battalis and Lilly Bossonnet continued to reject Wandin's forward entries while Lucy Toulantas and Billy Ross held their own against their opponents on the wing. Scoring shots were limited for both teams but Wandin were again the only team to score for the quarter.

At the three quarter time break the team rallied and made a commitment to not only score themselves but to keep their physically hesitant opponents to 50 points. Tahnee Heard's inclusion to the midfield had Thornton/Eildon winning the ball out of the middle setting up a set shot at goal, but the kick was dragged to the left and a minor score resulted. Kiarnee Fletcher continued her positive journey while Lilah Weaver-Galbraith, despite an earlier knee injury, showed youth is an attribute in recovery. At the sound of the final siren Wandin celebrated the win but were unable to crack the 50 point barrier leaving the margin at 48 points.

Watching the game from the sidelines the coaches remarked that it would be difficult to pick a winner if not for the scoreboard as Thornton/Eildon controlled the ball for

the most part of the day and although they created forward opportunities, they were unable to convert, and this showed positive signs for the future.

Awards: Simpsons fuel voucher: Leah Battalis; Coaches Award: Somaly Herridge; Mitchell and co hair artistry \$50 voucher: Izzy Weston; club meal voucher: Billy Ross.

This week Thornton/Eildon again play away this time at Officer with the first bounce at noon.

Training is on Monday and Thursday nights starting at 6pm. Dinner is also available on Thursday nights 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 by email at [tedfnc@outlook.com](mailto:tedfnc@outlook.com)