

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, July 31, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Alexandra Secondary College teacher Penny Steuart showing the location where the head of the Queen Alexandra statue was found. She had been removing blackberries in preparation for the tree planting event at the back of Briggs Oval and had just removed two car seats when it was found. More images from the tree planting on page 8 of this edition. -AR

Murrindindi Health Network statement on proposed health system changes

THE Murrindindi Health Network (MHN) is dedicated to ensuring that our community receives the highest standard of healthcare, particularly as we wait for decisions of any potential changes to the Victorian health system. Our Network, comprised of local health, aged, and disability service providers, is committed to improving health outcomes and addressing workforce shortages, especially with the projection that 52 per cent of our population will be aged 65 and older by 2034.

Through our proactive partnerships, including collaboration with the National Centre for Healthy Ageing, MHN provides valuable rural insights to shape national health ageing initiatives.

We are also progressing the Murrindindi Health Network - Peak Body, an innovative entity designed to maximise funding opportunities, including health related grants and locally address comprehensive health, aged care, and social assistance needs within Murrindindi Shire.

Our experiences highlight the need for a healthcare system that truly reflects and serves our community's unique needs. It

is essential that our healthcare retains a Murrindindi identity, with robust local decision-making to ensure tailored solutions for our community.

The proposed Murrindindi Health Network - Peak Body aims to administer and optimise consolidated resources, ensuring transparency and addressing the specific health needs of our townships. This initiative represents a grassroots approach to healthcare, empowering local leaders to deliver outcomes that align with the unique needs of Murrindindi Shire.

MHN will continue to advocate for the best interests of our community, for improved community engagement and information sharing by the state government regarding any future changes in the management of our local hospitals so that they can continue to provide quality, locally-responsive healthcare.

[MHN is comprised of Menzies Support Services, Alexandra District Health, Murrindindi Shire Council, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, and Kellock Lodge.]



The audience at the start of the wind farm information session. -AR



The remaining audience, just before the end of the session. -AR

Majority of attendees walk out of wind farm meeting

AN information session about the Fera Seymour Wind Farm was held at the Alexandra Secondary College on the morning of Saturday, July 27.

Project lead Andrew Lawson presented a Powerpoint presentation outlining the current state of the project and seeking to answer "every question" before the session ended.

He spoke about the processes being undertaken and the reports being compiled, as well as the planned timeline for the project. They are aiming to install 80 to 100 wind turbines, and when the project ends, the base will be removed to a depth of half a metre. The turbines are expected to have hub heights of between 120 and 160 metres and rotor diameters of 160 to 170 metres.

There were also discussions around fire safety, noise impacts and bird impacts.

The audience were keen to engage in the Q&A session following the presentation.

One audience member asked why no towns were marked on the map of turbine locations, and Mr Lawson responded that they would be included on the website version, when added.

There were also concerns from landholders within the planned turbine or transmission line paths that they had had no contact from Fera. The person was told that they are trying to get in contact with everyone, and that they can make contact directly.

When asked about the financial around the project, Mr Lawson said that the cost is expected to be \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion, paid for eventually through energy sales of \$180 to \$200 million per year. It will take 10 to 12 years to pay off.

Another question was about the Transmission Plan review currently being undertaken via the Engage Victoria website. Mr Lawson said that he believed it likely that the area of their planned wind farm would be included due to its proximity to pre-existing transmission lines. He added later that the project is not required to be in a Renewable Energy Zone.

There were also questions around the recycling of the towers and bases, with an audience member concerned that the depth of removal of the base would not be far enough to enable ploughing and the re-use of land afterwards, as well as the chemicals in the concrete.

He was also asked why the transmission lines are not being put underground, and he responded that there would be loss in the lines and that it wouldn't be economically viable.

Asked whether the opposition in the meeting would be included in the reporting about the project, Mr Lawson said that it wouldn't as it was an information session. Around 95 per cent of the people in the room lifted their hand when asked whether they opposed the project.

Other concerns included land sale prices, the lack of wind in the area, whether there would be compulsory acquisitions, bushfire plans, compensation levels for small landholders, substation locations, why the survey was conducted at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo where most people wouldn't be impacted by the wind farm, how people suffering negative visual impacts would be compensated, and whether easements could be leased by Fera.

By the end of the meeting, as seen in the photos, most of the attendees had walked out.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE
Standard
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Letters to the Editor

Transmission plan

VICGRID has launched the Victorian Government's draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines, a document that explains how we will prepare the Victorian Transmission Plan, a new long-term strategic plan for renewable energy and transmission development in our state.

The draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines outline how we will determine how much renewable energy generation is needed and when, as well as how we will determine what transmission projects are needed to support that new generation.

It also includes a study area (a map) showing what parts of Victoria we may investigate further for suitability to host future renewable energy zones.

The information can be found at engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

We urge everyone to visit the VicGrid site and read about the Victorian Transmission Plan and provide feedback or a submission.

There is a lot of information to go through, but this is vitally important. Without input from the community VicGrid can only assume that we are okay with whatever development may be proposed.

*Darryl Otzen, secretary,
Strathbogie Responsible Renewables
Community Group*

Hospitals

I CURRENTLY have my 82 year old mother in our local hospital, not being able to walk very far. I have been asked to come and collect her and take her down to Melbourne outer suburbs to have x-rays. This, I believe, is due to our government. I now have to be an ambulance to get my mother the help that she needs.

As far as I am concerned this government needs to go and as soon as possible. I have been a Labour voter all my life, but because of this, I will never vote for them. This is the way they treat our elderly who have paid their taxes all their lives and when they need help there is none.

I have no problems with the local hospital or their staff. My issue is with the state government. They are only interested in spending our money in the cities. Country people get nothing. They can't even fix up our local roads.

I will take my mother down there today but it would be bad luck if I did not have access to a vehicle. We have not heard the end of this issue. We can't even get a package for home support to keep my mother living in her own home, not like the people who have been rotting the NDIS.

We are trying to get a home package and some bathroom renovations so she can stay in her own home and we keep being told there are no funds to help with that. This is also not acceptable. I have been in touch with My Aged Care and keep being told the same. I am going to keep fighting for what I believe to be right also have other issues with Murrindindi council as well.

Ian Perry, Alexandra

Local spending

HAS Alexandra realised how much money goes out of our beautiful town? With grocery prices so high, many residents go out of town to shop. Items can be higher here by \$1 to \$10 plus per item. Not only is this money not kept in the town, if people shop elsewhere, there are other areas that lose money. For example lunch and coffee, and other shops, to spend in out of our area. This is so sad. Something to think about.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

Sale yards

Victoria's leading livestock weekly, *Stock & Land*, this week published a 24 page colour feature which it called the Victoria and South Australia Saleyards Guide 2024.

I searched expectantly for the listing of the council owned Murrindindi Sale Yards, but it wasn't listed, although a dozen others were, with full page features and stock agents listed, including the Strathbogie Shire owned Euroa Saleyards. Even the map therein omitted the Yea facility.

I understand both the mayor and a previous mayor are on the local saleyards body as council representatives. So who was asleep on the job?

Perhaps they haven't caught up with the news that the Victorian Livestock Exchange at Pakenham has closed and the replacement yards at Leongatha are considered unsatisfactory by vendors and agents.

I remember reading recently that it was no disincentive for a Dargo grazier to truck cattle all the way to Yea for sale.

Is the shire so bereft of initiative (or funds) not to promote an important local rural business?

John Kennedy, Yea

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43 Grant Street
Alexandra 3714

Standard The Yea Chronicle
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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.34	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.63	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.57am Mon	1.00	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	9.24am Mon	0.25	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.27am Mon	0.83	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	11.22am Mon	1.80	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.91	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.82	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.66	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.43	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.92	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.07pm Mon	1.28	steady	

****ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 29 JULY 2024**

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
can be submitted via email to
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Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.
All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.
 Like us on Facebook

Weekly Weather
July 31 - August 6, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	0	14	Wednesday	0	14
Thursday	1	14	Thursday	1	14
Friday	5	14	Friday	5	14
Saturday	5	13	Saturday	4	13
Sunday	4	12	Sunday	4	13
Monday	4	11	Monday	4	11
Tuesday	4	11	Tuesday	5	12

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	33mm
Eildon (AWS)	19mm
Flowerdale	30mm
Jamieson	28mm
Kinglake	29mm
Lake Eildon	22mm
Mansfield	6mm
Taggerty	22mm
Yarck	15mm
Yea	15mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.97m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	88.6%
Metres below full supply	2.93m
Daily inflow	7000ML
Release	2000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	53%

Standard
DEADLINES

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

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on
5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
We thank you for your continued support

Container Deposit Scheme coming to Alexandra

LAST week a new Container Deposit Scheme centre opened at Bourke's Ice Works in Alexandra.

Owners Matt Bourke and Amanda Moore decided to take on the role after much consideration.

Matt said, "I have made a couple of investigations as I was talking to people who have done it and I knew it was required for the town, so I rang up Visy Recycling and they were very keen as they had been looking around for the area."

With short notice to meet government deadlines, Matt and Amanda have been working hard in preparation to make it a great centre.

"It's a work in progress. Over the next few weeks it will be containers at first. We are working fast as we can. I'm in the process of making a machine that will count the cans on a digital display as they are fed in," Matt said.

Matt and Amanda will share the hours. The current opening hours will be Tuesday 9am to 3pm, Wednesday 9am to 3pm, Friday 9am to 1pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

"If we find the hours aren't enough, we will increase it accordingly. If we are flat out doing the minimal hours then we will increase it, it will be a supply and demand kind of thing," Matt said.

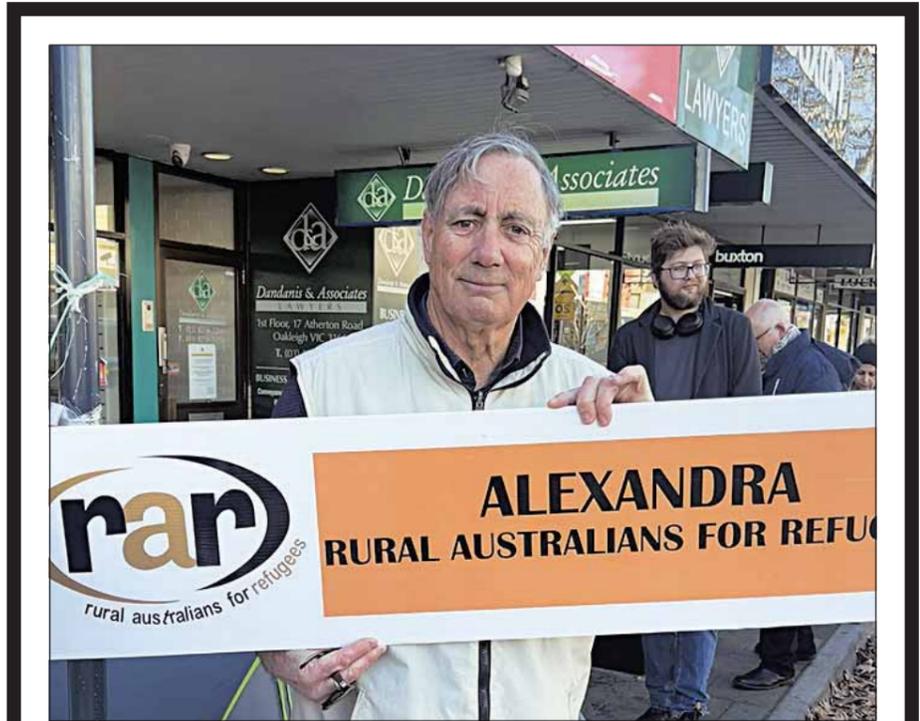
Matt added, "At this stage if people can bear with us in the first few weeks as we get up and running would be great. The more products are separated the better. If people can, they don't have to, but I have been told separating glass and cans makes life a lot easier."

The centre will do cash and the app. Matt said the app is very easy to use and you can do vouchers and donate to local clubs and charities that are preloaded onto the Visy website.

The Alexandra Container Deposit Scheme is located at Bourke's Ice Works at 17 Binns McRae Road, Alexandra.



Fog in the valley. This image was taken from Swann Rd, towards Mt Cathedral, on Tuesday, July 23. -Steve Lynch



Paul Dalzell in Melbourne. -AR

Support for Tamil refugees

ALEXANDRA local and president of Rural Australians for Refugees, Paul Dalzell, travelled to Melbourne to support the refugees protesting outside of Clare O'Neil's electoral office.

There refugees are among the 10,000, largely Tamil, refugees who have been left out of the government's process for dealing with the backlog of those on previous Temporary Protection Visas.

Paul said, "The government thinks that it is okay to leave these people in limbo, because the Sri Lankan government has said 'It is safe to go back home', but the stories of the Tamil Sri Lankan community itself is a very different one. It tells of 'disappearances' and beatings and continued discrimination against Tamils. I went to Melbourne to show that rural people care about what happens to them."

Alexandra Seniors report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

WITH the return of winter weather and members enjoying tropical holidays, numbers were a little down for the weeks activities but at the Friday social meeting the members enjoyed a good sing song, led by Ian and accompanied by Dave on piano and Milke's trusty ukulele.

John Rouget has returned from his fishing trip and brought along a box of lemons for members to enjoy. Thank you John. There

is an old saying, "If you have to buy lemons you don't have any friends."

This Friday, there is a committee meeting before lunch and the monthly business meeting in the Bayley Street clubroom after lunch. At the moment numbers for the planned trip to the Kilsyth Club Morning Melodies are borderline so if you want to come please get your name on the list. It is only six weeks until spring so keep warm, stay safe and keep smiling.

4682 signatures on the Yea hospital petition

NEIL Beer last week presented petition sheets regarding *Save Yea Hospital* to Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. The petition will be tabled in Parliament.

An amazing 4682 people signed the petition due to their concern that the government's Health Services Plan will result in forced amalgamation of health and hospital services.

The petition requests that no amalgamation of Yea and District Memorial Hospital takes place, that the powers, authority and responsibilities remain with the local board and CEO, and that genuine public consultation is undertaken about the Health Services Plan.



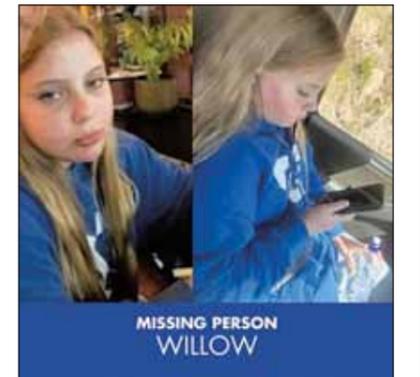
Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish receiving the petition in support of the Yea hospital from Neil Beer. -S

Willow is missing

TWELVE year old Willow was last seen in Seymour on Thursday, July 18.

Willow is described as having a Caucasian appearance with shoulder length straight blonde hair and blue eyes. Police and family have concerns due to her age and medical conditions.

Anyone with information on her whereabouts is urged to contact Box Hill Police Station on 8892 3200.



Have you seen Willow? -S

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5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

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*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting the Great Victorian Bike ride in November this year. Anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to attend the information session. Marysville: 5.30-6.30pm Marysville Community Centre - Lake View Room. For more information contact *events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au* or phone 5772 0333.

Speak with council at an open community meeting in Taggerty. 5pm-7pm. Taggerty Hall. You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with Councillors about issues that are important to you. Prior registration is not required. For further information contact *governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au* or phone 5772 0333.

Alexandra Secondary College will be holding their open night from 6 to 8.30pm at the school. The night will provide an opportunity for interested students and parents to receive the relevant information through a variety of sessions.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Darren Gilbert Open Studio, open Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. 5 Giffard Street, Yea.

Speedway is on. Three hour tag team enduro and crash 'n' bash. Racing starts at noon.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Pyalong Online Clearing sale, Sugar Loaf Creek. 280 lots, some located Alexandra. Commencing noon. Concludes Monday, August 12 at noon. Inspection day Thursday, August 8 10am-2pm. Pick up day Wednesday, August 14, 10am-3pm. For full details visit *emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions/* or contact Andrew Embling on 0418 266 038.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Alexandra Timber Tramway will hold their AGM at 5pm in the Goldfields Room at The Corner Hotel. Any enquiries phone 0427 509 988.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

Alexandra Garden Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the Uniting Church, Alexandra.

Friends of the Yea Library AGM will be held at 2.30pm at Yea Community House. All bookshop volunteers are welcome to attend.

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	Communitia 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
MONTHLY	
1 st Wed	Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1 st Sat	Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257
1 st Sun	Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2 nd Tue	Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2 nd Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2 nd Sat	Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2 nd Sat	Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Sat	Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3 rd Wed	Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3 rd Thu	Alexandra Ladies Probus Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946
3 rd Thu	Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3 rd Sun	Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4 th Tue	Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4 th Wed	Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4 th Thu	Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri	Carers Group 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.

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE VINE

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

Conflict in government plans for agricultural land?

THERE are currently a variety of consultations underway on the Engage Victoria website. Two of these appear to be in direct conflict.

One is *Big Ideas for Victoria's Future*. This consultation asks people to reimagine the future of our cities, suburbs, towns and regions. In the list the top priorities for the state is, "Protecting the valuable land where our food is grown," which comes in at number four.

Under the Sustainable Environments and Climate Action subheading, it states, "Living more sustainably, reducing our carbon emissions, and protecting our agricultural land and natural environment are key priorities for many Victorians."

Further information can be found at *engage.vic.gov.au/developing-a-new-plan-for-victoria*

Feedback closes on August 30.

The other consultation is *Developing the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan*, where the government is seeking feedback on the strategic land use assessment which has been undertaken to identify parts of Victoria for further study for potential future renewable energy development.

The current renewable energy zones (REZs) are in the Ovens Murray (including Eildon and Dederang), Central North (including

Shepparton and Glenrowan), Gippsland (south around Traralgon), South West (including Portland and Terang), Western Victoria (including Horsham and Ballarat) and Murray River (from Red Cliffs to Bendigo).

The new areas for assessment are much more wide-ranging. The Healesville area into the Black Spur appears to be excluded, and the Black Range and Blue Range "deprioritised."

The area around Yea and Alexandra, and into the Highlands and Ruffy region, have been deemed "Tier 2: Suitable for investigation", with small amounts of "Tier 3: Most suitable for investigation."

Further information can be found at *engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan*

Feedback closes on September 30.

It appears strange that in one of the consultations, there is an emphasis on protecting agricultural land, and in the other, agricultural land is being explored for potential use in generating renewable energy.

The Victorian government media team were contacted about the apparent conflict on Wednesday, July 24. No response was received by the time this newspaper went to print.

Shadow Minister for Energy, Affordability and Security, David Davis MP was also contacted for comment. He said, "The Victorian Labor government is at odds with itself on the future of agricultural land.

"In a bizarre twist, the Victorian Labor government has ordered duelling consultations, consultations at odds with themselves.

"The first consultation, *Big Ideas for Victoria's Future*, states as one of its key objectives, 'Greater protection of our agricultural land'.

"The second consultation is to push for the government's plan to roll out massive energy zones and massive, long distance electricity transmission lines, rolling them out across tens of thousands of hectares of Victoria's prime agricultural land.

"How is it possible to protect agricultural land while destroying it. Did the relevant government ministers talk to each other before launching their separate consultations? Or is it the case that both consultations are shams?"

"Of course, Jacinta Allan and Lily D'Ambrosio will do as they want, steam rolling local communities and destroying vast swathes of Victoria's best agricultural countryside."

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- 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.



THUMBS DOWN: To the vexatious complainant/s and council for destroying a person's 'quiet enjoyment' of their property in Alexandra.

THUMBS DOWN: To Goulburn Murray Water. Why is there a canoeing activity on the Pondage, and what part of your statement, "There will be no boating on the pondages, now or in the future," does this activity fit.

THUMBS DOWN: Thank you VicRoads for abandoning Murrindindi Roads. Hit a pothole in Narbethong and split a tyre. To fix it will cost the same as registering the car. We're pensioners. It looks like the space saver will be getting a thrashing.

THUMBS UP: To all of the Alexandra residents who are planting gardens and verges to create wildlife corridors around the town.

THUMBS DOWN: To businesses vandalising and touting for custom, and nailing their signs to trees. I'm no arbourist, however the nails at the very least deface the tree and may actually undermine its growth and longevity. Pay for advertising, in our *Standard* or the *Triangle* or use the multiple free community boards throughout our shire.

THUMBS UP: To Lauren at the Alexandra Community Pharmacy for her phone customer service, organising our vaccinations seamlessly.

THUMBS UP: To Cindy McLeish and Georgie Crozier and the passionate shire residents who are trying to cut through the state government's 'smoke screen' to explain to 'Jo Citizen', (ie. us), the actual agenda for the changes to our local hospitals in Yea and Alexandra. If it's not about a single board of 'sycophants and toe cutters' administered at Goulburn Valley Health, then what is their agenda?

THUMBS DOWN: To the Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas for not having the fortitude let alone teremity to front the Yea and Alexandra extended communities within Murrindindi to engage and tell us what her 'grand plan' is. Perhaps this is policy on the run? Oh, I've just realised why she didn't front. We are regional, mostly Liberal and independent voters and don't matter and are being treated with derision and as embugerances. Alternatively, perhaps it's because she was too afraid to travel the roads we use daily for fear of cascading off into the ether after hitting a pot hole, or doesn't even know where we are.

THUMBS UP: To the trivia night conducted at the Bucky Pub by Cathedral Landcare, hosted by Linda from the Bucky Pub who supports everything local, as well as question master Glenn Ridge.

THUMBS UP: To Shelly and her volunteers from Narbethong Rescue. Please support their passion whenever you can.

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

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

Local man Shane Lewis unable to gain adequate supports for MND

SHANE Lewis was born in Eildon and lived in Alexandra for the majority of his life, aside from a stint in Taggerty. He was recently diagnosed with a fast-progressing variant of Motor Neuron Disease (MND), which has impacted his ability to breathe, speak, eat, and now his ability to move.

Nicole Ainger is leading the charge to raise funds to support her parents, Shane and Marlene Answer-Lewis, as they deal with this devastating illness. Nicole spoke in detail about how hard it is to get support for dealing with illnesses later in life.

"So Shane unfortunately turned 65 last year, which means he is no longer eligible for NDIS funding. The difference between NDIS and My Aged Care packages is that My Aged Care packages are just at certain levels, and they're quite restrictive in how they can be utilised, whereas NDIS is a bit more flexible in terms of, they offer a customised set of funding based on your solutions. This usually means more money.

"For example, with the My Aged Care funding, he's been granted the highest level of package, but when it's used for the year, it's gone. And the other problem is that it's not accessible until it builds up. So it's not 'here's the funding for the year, you use it how you need to', it's 'you have to wait for it to build up in a bank account'," Nicole said.

"The problem is that Shane's variant of MND is likely to progress quite quickly, so his speech is heavily affected and his breathing is heavily affected at the moment. The biggest concern is that if he continues to go downhill at this rate, that the funding won't be available to sort this bathroom out in the time that he needs."

Nicole is calling for community donations to modify her parents' bathroom to be suitable for Shane's needs, so that he is not forced to move away from the area he has lived in all his life.

"We've just received confirmation that we've managed to get a wheelchair and bed sorted. So MND Vic have said that they have it sorted. The biggest thing now is to coordinate this bathroom.

"So we're trying to find trades that can donate their time, even if it's only a couple of hours, and people that might donate materials, tiles or something like that, or fund part of it. What we're trying to avoid is touching that My Aged Care funding because it will double the cost of fixing this bathroom, and it will [be needed for other things]. Some of these carers, the fee roster is high, especially if his needs increase. The reality is that mum will need that funding to be available.

"We're hoping to be able to get this bathroom sorted in September or October for them so that it's done and dusted. I think the thing that would be most terrible would be if Shane has to move away from the area or into some sort of care over a bathroom.

"We've actually already had a couple of electricians reach out and a water proofer from

the Yarra Valley, and we've got a monumental list of friends and family. ... Shane owned Murrindindi Transport for a really long time before he was driving the garbage trucks, so he knows a lot of local businesses. I remember some of his old customers, so places he went to many times, I've reached out to some of those. Even if people can put \$10 in the kitty, if 100 people put in it will add up," Nicole said.

Nicole expressed the struggle of trying to get support and how it felt like older people with illnesses were slipping through the cracks of the system.

"The other side of things is MND is a really high care illness, and he's one of only probably a handful that fit into this category of illnesses. My Aged Care is really directed around caring for people that are aged with normal aging problems, as opposed to something like MND. And that's where the funding is just not enough.

"There's the likes of MND Vic that are absolutely amazing, they have loan libraries for equipment and things like that, but there's just not enough to go around. Mum and Shane are fortunate that they have some support. There's people out there that are diagnosed with MND, and say they are a farmer or something like that, a lot of this funding is means tested, and some of these people are not eligible for anything at all.

"The other thing is just finding the information is very difficult. We went through the Centrelink process, or Services Australia now, and applied for carer's payments and disability pension, which I had to escalate through various letters to federal members of parliament and local members to get it looked at, because his illness is terminal and it doesn't have a long prognosis.

"All that mum was getting is that it would be back paid. Currently disability payments are taking up to 12 months to process, and no-one knows what happens with MND, but the variant he has, plenty of people don't last 12 months from diagnosis with it. Then when it's back paid, it's only back paid through mum.

"My mum said to somebody in frustration, 'what good's the money if he's dead?'. It sounds very blunt, but it literally is the case. It's no good in 12 months' time. It's just insane," Nicole said.

"Getting that information, but even through that process, I've helped them through a mountain of paperwork, it's absolutely insane how disconnected some of this stuff is. I've had to fill in completely different sets of paperwork for them that are completely identical except for their name.

"You have to sit there and figure out what you're eligible for. What are the people out there doing that don't have the friends or family around them to help with this sort of stuff?

"When they changed the retirement age, they had to change their plans for him to retire when he was 67 instead of 65, because



Shane Lewis and Marlene Answer-Lewis are fundraising and working hard to get the support they need in a time of struggle. -S

he just missed the change. But NDIS cut-off is 65. I don't think there should be an age cap on NDIS for conditions like MND. I understand there has to be some line in the sand, but there's conditions like MND where there should be no age cap.

"He's worked his guts out his whole life, and got to the point of nearly retiring, and he's sort of been let down a bit by the system. He had his long service leave sitting there so that they could use that to buy a caravan. He was means tested for the disability payment, so the payment is very small until that is considered used up, which is the end of next month now.

"If I go back to the My Aged Care side of things, even to get this process of what they need rolling, there is no occupational therapists in the area. They have to get an assessment to be able to do anything anyway. To get people to come up, there's just nothing. Whereas if they had NDIS funding, they could pay the travel through the NDIS. But

My Aged Care says they have to cover the cost of travel themselves."

Nicole added that any extra money that was raised in the fundraising efforts would be given to MND Victoria, as a way of showing support to the people who provide the most support.

"Our intention is not to try and fundraise for the sake of fundraising, it's to get this done, and if we end up with excess money, we plan to donate it to MND Vic. Earlier this year, Shane's grandson Finn raised \$6500 walking for MND.

"They provide help where a lot of these other systems let people down, so we think it's important to also support them as well," Nicole concluded.

To follow along with Shane's battle against MND, or to donate, visit shanelewismndbattle.com

COUNCIL'S INTENTION TO DEVELOP LAND FOR KEY WORKER HOUSING

174 Grant Street and 94 Nihil Street, Alexandra

Council will soon be seeking expressions of interest from residential developers to develop two Council-owned sites in Alexandra for key worker housing, 174 Grant Street and 94 Nihil Street.

These sites were identified as suitable for development in Council's Key Worker Housing Strategy, which aims to support local industry and provide a pathway for the development of safe, secure, and suitable housing for all residents.

Our intention is to maintain ownership of the land and enter a long-term lease or joint venture arrangement to secure key worker housing.

Community members can provide feedback or seek more information on this lease proposal up to 21 August 2024 by emailing customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by calling Amanda Vogt, Manager of Governance and Risk on (03) 5772 0333.

Residential developers interested in developing these sites are encouraged to register with Council's e-tendering portal, which can be accessed at eprocure.com.au/murrindindi

Registered businesses will receive an email notification when each Expression of Interests process commences.



Members of the newly formed UT Creek Leckie Park Landcare Group planted lots of lovely native grasses, shrubs and trees in Leckie Park this week. They will watch and care for these plants. If you would like to join the group, they can be contacted via their Facebook page, UT Creek Leckie Park Landcare. -S

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ashleigh Bristow - Foundation

For consistently demonstrating the school values. Ash you are always seeing the good in your peers and in every situation. Each day there is a smile on your face and you have a positive attitude to life and learning. Great work, Ash. We love having you in our learning community. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Oakleigh has been working hard on his sounds and reading.

Great job Oakleigh.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ava and Noah have displayed the school values of Respect and Achievement this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



James has been absolutely spectacular this week and this year - even with peers in class giving him student shout outs at the end of each day for joining in everything, giving everything a go no matter how challenging and even cleaning our class during some free choice time so the class got extra time. He has stepped up in his learning and making great progress. Just so proud of all that he has achieved and how hard he is working. It is great to see him so happy at school each day. Congratulations James.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Nominations open for community focused senior awards

THE state government is asking Victorians to recognise the contributions of senior Victorians and to submit nominations for the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt announced the opening of nominations for the 2024 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards, celebrating senior Victorians who share their skills, experience, time and energy with our community.

There are six categories of awards, including, Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year for outstanding contribution to local community and Victoria; Promotion of Multiculturalism Award for promoting the benefits of cultural diversity; Healthy and Active Living Award for helping create active and healthy communities; Veteran Community Award for exceptional contributions to the veteran community; Ageing Well Award for combatting ageism and promoting ageing well initiatives, and Council on the Ageing Victorian Senior Achiever Award for significant contribution to local communities and Victoria.

The award ceremony will be held in October, coinciding with the annual Victorian Seniors Festival. All nominees will receive certificates acknowledging their contributions.

This year, the nomination process is more accessible than ever before. Nominations can be submitted digitally through a new online platform until August 11, making it even easier to nominate a deserving senior. Nominees must be aged 60 years or over, and 50 years or over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.

To make a nomination, visit Seniors Online and complete a nomination form at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards

Local singer takes her music abroad

NEXT week, local singer and songwriter Tayla Arnett is taking her music overseas for the very first time to represent Australia, performing the *Australian Anthem* at the 29th Annual Sage Fruit- Your Life Iowa Front Row Challenge on August 5 and the 2024 Knoxville Nationals Sprint Car Races from August 7 to August 10. This will be quite the event for Tayla as up to 25,000 people attend and it's also live streamed across the world.

This incredible opportunity emerged with help from Tayla's uncle Ian Thomsen, who has connections in the sprint car world.

"My uncle arranged for me to do annual gigs at the Warrnambool Sprint Car Classics and they do another sprint car event over in America. He connected the dots and got me the gig over there too.

"He has organised the whole trip and I'm so thankful for it. I couldn't have done it without him. He is kind of my uncle / manager," Tayla said.

Tayla might have had some help to reach the dream of taking her music overseas, but it also wouldn't have been possible without her dedication to music and singing.

It all started at an early age for Tayla and is still going strong to this day.

"The singing started whenever I was able to talk really. My parents got me some singing lessons with Gary Solomon at *Modern Life Music School* in Narbethong. Firstly, Gary was at the primary school I attended giving student music sessions, then mum and dad got me weekly private lessons with Gary

from around the age of 10... That's how it all started," Tayla said.

Tayla has written two songs. One song Tayla is particularly proud of is the original song *How Far I've Come*, which was dedicated to her nan who she was very close to, who passed away in 2014. The song was released in 2020 with the help of her music teacher Gary.

Tayla will be over in the United States living the dream with her mum, uncle and aunty supporting her along the way for nearly two weeks.

"It's awesome, I never thought it would happen but thanks to my uncle he made it all work. I'm really looking forward to it," Tayla said.



Tayla is on her way to the United States to sing to thousands at various sprint car races. -S

July meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

CR Carpenter and Cr Gerencser were apologies for Murrindindi Shire Council's July meeting. There were no presentations in community participation.

Murrindindi Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy

Murrindindi Shire Council's Director of Community and Development, Andrew Paxton, presented the final draft of the Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy 2024-2029. The report is designed to direct council's approach to childcare and kindergartens across the shire.

Council voted to accept the report.

Kinglake Transfer of Land

Following the 2009 bushfires, 6.7 hectares of land at 37 Extons Road was donated to council for the purpose of reconstructing the Middle Kinglake Primary School. The school and an early learning centre were constructed and have operated for years, however, the amount of land that was donated was more than was required, with the view towards later expansion. Further expansion was ruled out as an option by the Department of Education. The Department of Education later surrendered 1.77 hectares back to council. The land has been vacant since 2014. A lease was undertaken with the donor in 2022 to resume farming on the land, and the process of returning the land to the donor is being undertaken.

Council are giving public notice of their intention to transfer the undeveloped portion of land back to the original donor in the August edition of *The Mountain Monthly* and on the council website, with the goal of inviting submissions on the use of the land. Council will then consider any public submissions at the August Council Meeting.

With the discussion around the transfer of the land at 37 Extons Road in Kinglake, council will also recommend the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to rezone the discussed part of the land from the Public Use Zone 7 to the Farming Zone.

Council voted in favour of proceeding with the steps to reallocate the land.

Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Appointment

The report recommends to council the appointment of an external independent member to Murrindindi Shire Council's Audit and Risk Committee. Council received 17 expressions of interest for the vacant position, and a panel consisting of the Mayor Damien Gallagher, council CEO Livia Bonazzi, and the Director of People and Corporate Performance Michael Chesworth, considered the submissions.

It was recommended to council that Alan Studley be appointed as an Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member for a three-year term that end June 30, 2027. Mr Studley has previously held various executive directors, CEO, and board director roles across commercial health and community centres. He has also recently been the chair of Alexandra District Health's Finance and Audit Committee.

Council voted in favour of appointing Mr Studley.

Council Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance

The cost of Murrindindi Shire Council's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance cover for 2024/25 is above the financial delegation of the CEO. Payment will therefore need to be approved by council resolution.

Council's recent claim history has been impacted by a single road-related incident, which resulted in a significant claim against council and has boosted their premium by 20.56 per cent to a total of \$383,540.13. This is a \$45,000 increase.

Council voted to approve the payment of the Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance premium.

Council Meeting Dates

Council has reshuffled the scheduled meetings for 2024, due to the council elections later in the year. State Parliament on June 25 created the Local Government (Electoral) Amendment regulations 2024, with the election period now commencing on September 17 and ending on October 26. It was therefore proposed to move the September meeting back to the normal fourth week of the month. The location of the October Council Meeting was also proposed to be changed from Yea to Alexandra, due to the Yea Chambers being used by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Council voted to adopt the revised timetable.

Heating and Cooling System Maintenance and Repairs

Council's Director of Assets and Environment, Caroline Lintott, presented a report to council on the process to appoint a contractor to maintain and repair the heating and cooling systems in council facilities. Council recently conducted a public tender, during which two submissions were received. Council undertook an evaluation, and decided that the three-year contract, with an option of a two-year extension, be granted to North East Air and Mechanical Pty Ltd, subject to council approval. The total contract amount would come to \$862,990 over the five-year contract period.

Council voted to approve the granting of the contract to North East Air and Mechanical Pty Ltd.

Installation of Large Capacity Holding Pens at Yea Saleyards

There is added pressure on the Yea Saleyards following the closure of the Pakenham Saleyards, and the facilities of the Yea Saleyards are under strain. It is proposed that council allocate a maximum of \$150,000 from the Yea Saleyards Reserve to fund six large capacity holding pens in the existing car park, drainage improvements to the B-Double loading ramp and a gravel carpark in the truck parking area. There is currently \$500,000 in the Yea Saleyards Reserve.

Council voted to approve the motion.

Council and CEO Reports

There were no reports from Cr Gerencser, Cr Carpenter, Cr Lording or Cr Walsh.

Cr McAulay spoke about Discover Dindi's winter campaign with partners like Lake Mountain and Victoria's High Country on social media and encouraged people to explore the shire. Tourism North-East are seeking businesses to be part of the upcoming 2024 spring/summer and 2025 autumn marketing campaign, and businesses can reach out to the Economic Development team if they are interested. Council has partnered with Murrindindi Food and Wine for the Murrindindi Digital Marketing Month and will hold a series of webinars on a range of topics, delivered by Jenn Donovan. There will be a third business breakfast in Marysville on August 13. Cr McAulay also spoke about the Great Victorian Bike Ride that is coming to Murrindindi Shire in November. The ride will have two overnight stops, one in Alexandra on Friday November 29, and the other in Marysville on Saturday November 30. There are two information sessions being held about the event, one on Tuesday July 30 in Alexandra, the other on Wednesday July 31 in Marysville. She also went on to praise the engagement at council drop-in sessions. The Flowerdale Community Planning group are progressing well with the Flowerdale Community planning report, which is likely to be presented to council in August. The report is currently out as a draft consultation in the Flowerdale community.

Cr Haslam spoke about the environmental programs being managed by council. The Rural Roadside Conservation Management (RRCM) Plan is currently out for community consultation, and council is inviting feedback. This plan guides how roadside vegetation is managed across the shire, including utility works, roadside grazing, firewood collection, slashing, mowing, and weed management. Community feedback on the plan closed Sunday July 28. Council staff are currently

working on the Flat Lead Road property to look at how they can undertake a carbon offset scheme, with further information coming in August. Cr Haslam reported that the new Alexandra landfill is looking great and is almost complete. Once it is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use, the existing landfill cells will be closed. Council is expecting approval by the end of September. She also gave an update on the Moore Marr Park Redevelopment. The skate park has been completed and is open to the public, while the senior play area and the flying fox are also completed, but not open to the public yet, as time is needed for the planted grass to establish itself. The remaining works are on-schedule for completion later in the year.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, began his report by recognising the passing of Edward 'Ted' Hall. He then moved on to talk about representing the council on the ABC Radio Melbourne 'Meet the Mayor' segment, during which he discussed the community, innovative businesses, and Murrindindi Shire as a whole. Cr Gallagher attended the Rotary Club of Yea changeover dinner, during which Penny Paxman was elected as president. He visited Canberra in July, alongside council's CEO, Livia Bonazzi, to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. Economists discussed a variety of issues at the event, and Cr Gallagher and Ms Bonazzi returned home with a Federal Government grant of \$968,000 to support a development plan to enable sustainable growth in Murrindindi, aligned to council's recently adopted Housing and Settlement Strategy. The pair also highlighted the need for disaster recovery funding to support Breakaway Bridge rectification works. Cr Gallagher said that it was gratifying to see a large turnout by the community in support of Alexandra District Health, and that there are concerns around existing challenges with health and wellbeing outcomes that will only be exacerbated by a loss of local, decision-

making voices. Cr Gallagher was honoured to have the privilege of recognising the young Marysville Primary School leaders. He also attended the opening of a ninja course at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea, where he was welcomed by the Principal, Kathryn Stewart, staff, students, and families. Murrindindi Shire Council's grants and sponsorships program contribution was recognised with appreciation by all present. Cr Gallagher concluded by saying that he was heartened to see so many members of the Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare Group turning up to the National Tree Day event in the cold and wet conditions, to plant over 700 trees and grasses on Josephine's Cutting in Alexandra.

Michael Chesworth, in the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer, reported that the community engagement process 'Reflecting on Council's progress' concluded on Sunday, July 21. A total of 66 surveys were received and around 300 community conversations and ideas were contributed. These are to support the development of the next council plan. Families at Flowerdale Kindergarten have been advised that Mitchell Shire Council will no longer manage the service, and council staff are working with Mitchell Shire and the Department of Education to conduct an expression of interest process for a new service provider for Flowerdale. Mr Chesworth reported that a pop-up youth hub has commenced in Yea, operating each Wednesday from 3.30 to 5pm during term three. This will allow young people in Yea to participate in a range of activities on a regular basis. The site will be in various locations around Yea but focus predominantly on the Yea Library and Neighbourhood House. A similar youth space has commenced in Alexandra at the Embassy of Ideas and will run fortnightly on Fridays from 3.30 to 5.30pm. Coordinated by the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group will provide a range of activities for young people in the east of the shire.

Affordable Living

Affordable dwellings from \$35,000 are available at Eildon Lifestyle Village, offering a safe and secure environment in which to live.

Village amenities include a recreational building, solar heating swimming pool, a community vegetable garden, on-site management, an alfresco area abutting the pool with pizza oven, BBQ, for dining and socialising.

Only a 10 to 15 minute leisurely walk into the town of Eildon and the Pondage.

The Eildon Lifestyle Village is a peaceful and tranquil oasis, in which to spend a relaxing retirement.

See www.eildonlifestylevillage.com.au and email us at info@eildonlifestylevillage.com.au or alternatively call us on 5774 2128 to arrange an inspection.



Corner Park Avenue North
& The Boulevard, Eildon.
VIC 3713
PO Box 2 Eildon. VIC 3713
Fax: (03) 5774 2228





Year seven students ready to get to work. -AR

Getting a head start on tree planting

THE Guardians of the Earth group and other students from Alexandra Secondary College have been busy planting trees along UT Creek, in a previously unloved area behind Briggs Oval. It has been overrun with blackberries, but it's now looking fantastic.

During the preparations for the tree planting, teacher Penny Steuart found the missing head from the Queen Alexandra statues. More on this can be found on the front page of this edition.

Penny said that that in previous days, science students have been coming down to plant the trees, but on Friday, July 26, any keen students were welcome to help out.

She estimated that in the morning, they had about 60 year 10 students and around 20 year 11s. After recess, they had year eights and some year sevens.

They gained approval from the Taungurung Land and Waters Council to undertake the works, provided that no heavy machinery was used, and Goulburn Murray Catchment

Management Authority also needed to approve the works. They were also supported by Murrindindi Shire Council and Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, with Euroa Arboretum supplying the plants as the result of a grant.

Sue McNair from Murrindindi Shire Council was able to facilitate these logistics. Daryl Hedger and Penny Steuart have both been doing a lot of work on weekends, preparing the area for the tree planting. The whole project was six months in the making.

Isabel Weston work in Youth and Community Development at Murrindindi Shire Council. She works with the Guardians of the Earth group at Alexandra Secondary College, as well as many other groups.

She explained that in 2023, they ran a climate youth leadership program, which led to the Climate Congress. From that, youth climate action group established, now known as Guardians of the Earth, which runs out of Alexandra Secondary College.

Isabel explained, "They have had a variety of actions that they wanted to tick off. Penny [Steuart] came on board, and she's been a real driver for everything. She signed the school up for Resource Smart Schools... Then came the tree planting day."

She said, "Talking to them today, [the students] have loved being outside... One of them said, it's such a great thing to do on a Friday."

Sue McNair from council said that "Council will continue to work with [the Guardians of the Earth group] and extend it. We're not going to take over and usurp. It's their project. We'll just help facilitate anything they need."

She added, "It's a fantastic effort. I'm just so impressed," adding that members of the community have also been helping.

The students were fortunate on the day to have no rain during the planting, and were sustained by an array of food, also prepared by students from the school.



Students learning the process of putting together the cardboard tree guards. The cardboard guards were used in locations closer to the river as they biodegrade if there is a flood event. -AR



Three students having fun at the event. -AR



The students prepared the ground, dug holes, planted the trees and used stakes for the tree guards. -AR



A huge amount of rubbish was found and removed at the location, including golf balls and tyres. There were also a large number of wasp nests, which posed a hazard during the preparation works. -AR



This image shows just some of the trees that were planted on the day. The area was previously overrun with blackberries. -AR

We're proud to support our local communities

Each year, our AGL Hydro Community Fund awards grants to community-based initiatives, projects and events in and around Mount Beauty and Eildon.

To see if you are eligible for one of our grants, download our guidelines or call us, then submit your application between 1 August 2024 and 30 September 2024.

 [agl.com.au/hydro](https://www.agl.com.au/hydro)

 1800 039 600

 Join the change



Wild dog survey

THE Victorian Opposition are calling on producers to make their voices heard on wild dog issues.

The Victorian Government this week opened a livestock predation survey to collect data about wild dog and dingo incidents and the impacts on farmers and communities. The survey will be open for two weeks.

The government revoked an unprotection order on wild dogs in the north-west of the state in March. The Opposition complained that this was done without consultation and with only a few hours' notice.

The Opposition also said that the government confirmed it expects land managers to assume anything previously

considered to be a wild dog is now a protected dingo, effectively giving landholders no means of protecting their stock.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy, said that since revoking the unprotection order, the government had rejected applications for Authority to Control Wildlife permits and refused to provide funding directly to farmers for exclusion fencing.

"Since these changes were introduced we have seen extensive dingo and wild dog attacks. In many cases the dogs do not actually kill stock, but maul them to such an extent that they suffer a slow and painful death," Ms Kealy said.

"This is heartbreaking for producers who invest so much time, energy and money into their livestock, and is compounded by the fact Labor has no desire to put any supports in place for farmers."

Ms Kealy said despite last year promising consultation with farming communities, the Victorian Government had instead stonewalled producers.

"I urge farmers to complete this survey and force Labor to confront the dire nature of the problem they have created with their irresponsible decision-making," she said.

The survey can be found at surveymonkey.com/r/LivestockPredationSurvey

The survey is open until August 6.

SAVE THE DATE

August 2- Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**
HEALTHY EATING AND DIABETES SUPPORT

September 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**

October 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

November 1 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

Get in touch

Email: saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Phone 0419 722 570

PYALONG ONLINE CLEARING SALE Sugar Loaf Creek A/C EST. GATT.

Commencing: Thursday, August 8 – noon
Concludes: Monday, August 12 – noon

Inspection day: Thursday, August 8 - 10am – 2pm

Pick up day: Wednesday, August 14 - 10am – 3pm
(one day only)

Tractor, mowers, generators, electrical tools, trailer, boat, slasher, tools, Pearl Organ. Approx. 280 lots.
Lots 250 onwards located at Alexandra.

All lots with photos online: emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions/
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The Rabbit Trap

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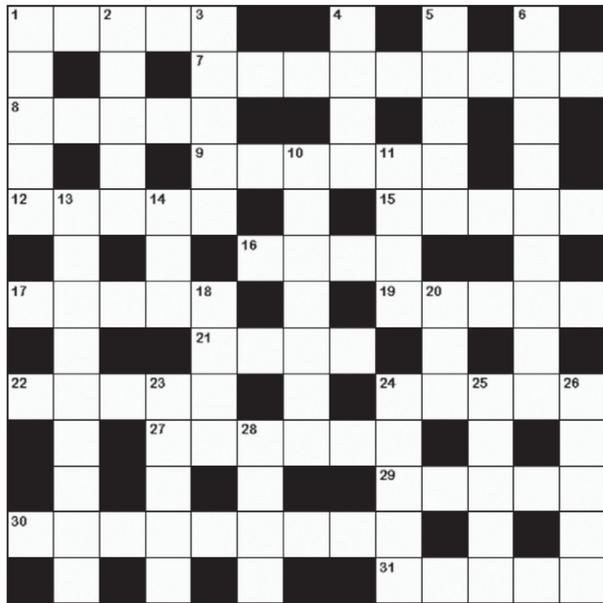
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Crossword

ACROSS

1. Doomed to extinction.
7. Take into consideration.
8. Glassware used for cooking.
9. Hold as true.
12. The rear part of a ship.
15. Make restitution.
16. Large single-edged knife.
17. Lay eggs.
19. Place casually.
21. A difficult concern.
22. Type of African language.
24. Area of complete shadow.
27. The arch of the foot.
29. Arrange in parallel folds.
30. Collection of live animals.
31. Cuban folk dance.



DOWN

1. Peaked service cap.
2. Push through a strainer.
3. A type of American.
4. Line to indicate a boundary.
5. Express in words.
6. One who abducts for a ransom.
10. Old fashioned outdoor game.
11. Push against gently.
13. Type of performing artist.
14. An angry dispute.
18. Person or place or thing.
20. The dreaming sleep state.
23. The flow of the oceans.
24. The higher of two levels.
25. Clean a ship's bottom with heat.
26. A hollow in a bone.
28. Place at an angle.

Word Search

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

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Sudoku

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

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.

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
25				18				23

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					2			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		11					

$$\frac{1}{1} \frac{I}{23} \frac{6}{6} \frac{12}{12} \frac{A}{25} \frac{15}{15} \frac{I}{23} -$$

$$\frac{1}{16} \frac{I}{23} \frac{9}{9} \frac{16}{16} \frac{O}{9} \frac{U}{15} \frac{2}{2} \frac{11}{11} \frac{6}{6} \frac{12}{12}$$

Math Square

3	-		+		0
-		+		-	
	-		-		-3
-		÷		-	
9	+		-		4
-14		7		-11	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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



The Meals on Wheels food on Christmas Day. -S

Meals on Wheel in Murrindindi

MEALS on Wheels (MoW) has been delivering nutritious meals daily for over 70 years, across 590 service locations around Australia.

Alexandra District Health (ADH) is a proud supporter of MoW and have been serving hot meals to the Alexandra community now for over 16 years as part of this valuable service.

Averaging 264 meals per month, ADH has cooked and delivered 6341 meals in just the last two years alone. All meals are cooked daily and packed on-site at ADH, then delivered by one of the local volunteer team.

An integral part of this team is local couple, Neil and Annie Robertson. Neil and Annie are life-long volunteers who have volunteered with various community groups over the years, and have been delivering MoW now to the Alexandra community for over 13 years.

Driven by their desire to give back to their community, Neil and Annie acknowledge that MoW provides more than just a daily meal for some people. They always feel well-received in the homes they visit, and people generally love the opportunity for a chat and are grateful for the meal and the social interaction.

Special menus are available such as the delicious Christmas Day menu comprising of chicken stuffed with a sage and onion bread stuffing, ham, roast potato and pumpkin,

cauliflower mornay and snow peas dressed with cranberry sauce and gravy. A special Christmas dessert was also available.

ADH sources local suppliers for produce including meat, fruit and vegetables, dairy and bread, and the meals are all cooked on-site at ADH daily, adhering to national Food Safety Standards and nutritional requirements.

All meals are reviewed by a dietitian to ensure they meet 30 to 50 per cent of your daily nutrition needs and includes soup, main, dessert and juice for just \$15. Reduced portioned meals are also available in the senior's small meal if required.

These fresh meals are delivered daily to your door hot and ready to eat Monday through to Friday, with meals for the weekend delivered frozen each Friday upon request.

For those of you out of the delivery area, you can still access MoW by asking a family member to pick up your meal from ADH for you, or contact the regional MoW administrator Nexus Primary Health to request a care worker to deliver to you.

For further information, refer to the Meals on Wheels website mealsonwheels.org.au, or to register to receive meals delivered fresh to your door contact My Aged Care on 1800 200 422. To contact Nexus Primary Health please call 1300 773 352.

Flood gauges in the shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked to provide information about the potential installation of flood gauges for the Yea River and Murrindindi River due to their importance in the area. They were asked whether there was any action in this area, and whether they were directly responsible.

They responded, "The installation and maintenance of river gauges in Murrindindi Shire is shared among local water authorities, Catchment Management Authorities, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and councils.

"Murrindindi Shire Council has been advocating to Ministers and DEECA for a suite of rain and river gauges to provide timely and informed advice to emergency services. This advice should then be available to the community through the VicEmergency app and communication channels.

"Council recently supported DEECA to install a new automated river gauge on the Goulburn River at Molesworth.

"Council is also actively working with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) on several flood modelling projects aimed at improving community flood readiness and enhancing flood intelligence data for Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), the control emergency response agency for flood events.

"As part of these projects, we are working with DEECA to install an additional gauge at the junction of Yea and Murrindindi Rivers.

"It is important to note that many locations in Murrindindi Shire are susceptible to flash flooding due to the steep valleys that

characterise the region. In such cases, river gauges are often not useful as there is insufficient time for the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to collect river gauge information and issue meaningful and timely warnings. To address this, council is advocating for the installation of additional automated weather stations in high-risk areas. These stations will provide real-time rainfall data, which can be used by the BOM and VICSES to assess the risk of flash flooding and to communicate any warnings.

"These additional river gauges and weather stations, along with the existing network of river gauges on the Goulburn River at Eildon and Ghin Ghin, Acheron River at Taggerty, Yea River at Devlin's Bridge, Rubicon River at Thornton and King Parrot Creek at Kerrisdale, play an important role in informing the BOM and VICSES early warning systems.

"Council does not issue emergency warnings to the community. That is the role and responsibility of control agencies, including BOM, VICSES and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) for fire related emergencies. We rely on these agencies to assess real time data and issue warnings and advice to our communities. The responsibility for flood management and mitigation is shared among various organisations, including Goulburn Murray Water, DEECA and GBCMA.

"In a flood emergency, contact the SES on 132 500. If you need assistance in recovering after a flood event, contact council on 5772 0333."

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S	T	E	R	N	R	R	E
A	O	B	O	L	O	P	E
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D	O	N	U	S	E	E	
B	A	N	T	U	E	U	M
N	I	N	S	T	E	P	R
C	D	K	P	L	E	A	T
M	E	N	A	G	E	R	I
R	L	W	R	U	M	B	A

CRYPTOGRAM

PINDARI - HIGH GROUND

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

3	-	4	+	1	0
-		+		-	
8	-	6	-	5	-3
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DEATH NOTICES

CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia

09/06/1922 - 24/07/2024

Passed away peacefully at Darlingford Nursing Home. Dearly loved wife of Ronald(dec). Much loved mother of Robert, Pauline, Raymond, Dawn, Helen and James. Loved M.I.L. of Robyn, Peter, John, George (dec) and Pamela. Cherished by all her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

A long life well lived.

Rest peacefully Kathleen Malicia Chanter.

CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia. 1922 - 2024. A wonderful life, filled with love, devotion and tenderness. Though a shining light doeth fade, precious memories of you and Ron - now reunited; will brighten my life forever. Bye mum. Loving son, Raymond.

DEATH NOTICES

CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia

09/06/1922 - 24/07/2024. Dearly loved mother of Helen, mother in law of George (dec). Loving grandmother of Jason and Lynne, Joanne, Paul and Erin and Sarah and Dan. Cherished great grandmother of Lachlan, Austen, Jack (dec), Hudson, Devyn, Delilah and Sonny. God saw that you were weary, the hill too steep to climb, so he gently took you up by the hand, and whispered 'Peace be Thine'. At rest after a long and amazing life.

Love you forever mum.

IN MEMORIAM

SHAW, Jennifer

14/08/1946 - 28/07/2023 Mum, we greatly miss your presence in our lives. You were a tower of strength, wisdom and resilience. Your care and support for family and for community will always be warmly remembered and are appreciated still. With all our love, Elissa and Paul with partners Andrew and Lisa, and grandkids Noah, Asher, Faith and Grace.

FUNERAL NOTICES

CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia

A funeral service celebrating the life of Kathleen will be held on Friday, August 2, 2024 at the St Johns Anglican Church, 39 Downey Street, Alexandra commencing at 11am.



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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA Garden Club, AGM will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at 2pm at the Uniting Church, Alexandra.

ANNUAL General Meeting of the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum Inc. will be held at 5pm on Saturday, August 10, 2024 in the Goldfields Room of the Corner Hotel, Grant Street, Alexandra. Enquiries 0427 509 988.

FRIENDS OF THE YEA LIBRARY AGM will be held on August 13, 2024 at 2.30pm at Yea Community House. All bookshop volunteers are welcome to attend.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

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Woman guilty in Violet Town wedge-tailed eagle poisoning case

ALL 73 charges have been proven in a case against a Violet Town woman accused of wildlife and cruelty offences related to the poisoning of native birds, mostly wedge-tailed eagles, and illegal possession of protected wildlife carcasses at her property in 2019.

In a brief hearing at Shepparton Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, presiding Magistrate Faram released his reasoning for judgement on 47 contested charges.

His Honour was unable to conclude that the woman was solely responsible for the offending. However, he was satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the woman was involved by intentionally assisting and/or encouraging the commission of the offences.

His Honour determined that there was an illegal baiting program conducted on the woman's farm and the woman alone or with members of her family engaged in the unlawful baiting and killing of wildlife on the farm.

His Honour found that the woman laid the baits that were found in the paddocks in 2019 or was complicit in doing so. His Honour found that she must have had knowledge of or involvement in the destruction of the birds.

The Magistrate's decision follows a nine day contested hearing in December 2023, which detailed a Conservation Regulator and multi-agency investigation into reports of deceased wedge-tailed eagles found in the Violet Town area and involved extensive evidence and witness testimony.

The woman faces sentencing for a total of 73 offences, after she pleaded guilty to an additional 26 charges last year for the illegal possession of wildlife kept in her freezer, which were discovered during a search warrant on her premises.

His Honour Magistrate Faram has adjourned the matter to September 6 at the Shepparton Magistrates' Court for a further mention with a view to handing down his sentence.

The community can report wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

Road safety at a halt in north east Victoria

SENATOR Bridget McKenzie said Victoria experienced a nine percent increase in road deaths over the 12 months to June 30.

Recently released figures from the department show that for the 12 months to the end of June 2024, 1310 people died on Australian roads, representing a 11.7 per cent increase on the previous corresponding period.

"As the road toll has been rising steadily for the past two years, the Albanese Government has cut funding from road infrastructure programs and failed to deliver on its promise of sharing road trauma data outcomes.

"Labor's failure to facilitate the timely, consistent, and open reporting of national road safety data since coming into government is preventing Australia from measuring its road safety problem, developing evidence based responses, or evaluating effectiveness.

"At the same time, the road safety task is being made more difficult by the Labor's decision to cancel, cut, and delay more than \$27.9 billion in infrastructure funding over the past two years.

"Roads throughout north east Victoria are not receiving the maintenance and upgrades they need, and the impacts of Federal Government funding cuts are being felt by road users firsthand, who have been raising road safety concerns with my office," Senator McKenzie said.

Road users across the Northeast Region can help shine a light on the appalling condition of local roads by taking part in a national road survey launched by the Coalition last month.

"By nominating a road, intersection or bridge in need of repair, north east Victorians can send the Albanese Labor Government a very clear message; Fix Our Roads," Senator McKenzie said.

Find the national road survey at form.typeform.com/to/H6gD9CUi

The survey closes 5pm, August 30.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Speed Limit Reduction High Street, Yea

Council would like to advise the community that following a review and consultation last year, the speed limit on High Street, Yea will be reduced from 50 km to 40 km per hour.

The short section of road affected is from the eastern median split to the western median split, as pictured in the map below. The speed limit reduction on this road will improve safety for pedestrians and motorists. Signage will soon be installed.

All enquiries should be directed to Council's Asset Unit by calling 5772 0333 or emailing customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



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Standard

The Yea Chronicle

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New citizens for Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council celebrated four new Australian Citizens on Tuesday July 23 at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at the Alexandra Council Chamber.

Shannon, Shintu, Jewel and Anna have pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people, and its democratic

beliefs, and to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

In attendance were distinguished guests including Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher, Acting CEO Michael Chesworth, Federal Member for Eildon Cindy

McLeish MP, Bob Pearson from Alexandra RSL, Mary Pearson, the Probus Club of Alexandra President and Sasha Barrow, who was Murrindindi Shire Citizen of the Year 2020. All were pleased to congratulate our newest Australians.

Council extends its warmest congratulations to all the conferees and wishes them all the best in their new journey as Australian Citizens.

Council will proudly host one more Citizenship Ceremony in 2024, on October 22.

To learn more about becoming an Australian citizen, please visit the Department of Home Affairs website immi.homeaffairs.gov.au or call the citizenship information line on 131 880 during business hours.



Four people became new Australian citizens last Tuesday. In attendance were Michael Chesworth, Murrindindi Shire Council Acting CEO, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish MP, Conferee's Shannon, Anna, Shintu and son Daniel, Jewel, and Mayor Damien Gallagher. -S



Ukelele Heaven returned to Alexandra Library on Friday, July 25, with a relaxed session of ukelele and song. The event takes place on the last Friday of every month from 5 to 7.30pm. -VG

SPORT



Brent Vallance and Jared Tallent. -S

Local Olympic connections

by Greta Vallance

LOCAL residents, Peter and Greta Vallance, along with Julie Kirby, are long-time enthusiasts of race walking events at the Olympic Games. Julie Kirby's nephew, Jared Tallent OAM, is an Australian race walker and Olympic gold medalist.

Jared clinched the gold for the 50km walk in London in 2012 and holds the current Olympic record in the 50km walk. He is a four time Olympic medalist and a three time World Championship medalist.

Brent Vallance, son of Peter and Greta, coached Jared at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra from 2004 to 2012. Brent was honoured as Athletics Australian Coach of the Year in 2008 and 2010 for his outstanding contribution to the success of Australian walkers globally.

In the 2024 Olympics, both Brent and Jared serve as AOC Team Officials as coaches, collectively guiding five out of the six selected walkers. The Australian walk team includes Rebecca Henderson (VIC, Simon Baker), Jemima Montag (VIC, Brent Vallance), Olivia

Sandery (SA, Jared Tallent) in the Women's 20km Racewalk, and Rhydian Cowley (VIC, Brent Vallance), Declan Tingay (WA, Brent Vallance) in the Men's 20km Racewalk.

In 2024, a new walking event called the mixed-gender marathon walk relay will take place, where two teams have qualified. Each team comprises one male and one female athlete.

Additional reserves named Allannah Pitcher and Will Thompson are also part of the Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay. The final relay teams will be named after the individual 20km events. The walk will be held at Pont d'Iéna ("Jena Bridge") in Paris, connecting the Eiffel Tower on the Left Bank to the district of Trocadéro on the Right Bank. The men's and women's 20km race walks are scheduled for August 1 at 3.30pm and 5.30pm, respectively, while the walk marathon relay will take place at 5.30pm on August 7.

Race walking is a faster version of regular walking and is a recognised discipline of athletics, included in the Olympic Games. Despite being a less known athletic event, Australia has long had a tradition of success in racewalking, and we hope you will join us as we cheer on these wonderful young athletes who have worked so hard to achieve in Paris.

Road safety promotion grants available for sporting clubs

GRASSROOTS football and netball clubs across the state can apply for a share of \$600,000 to improve their club as part of an annual road safety rewards grants program.

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) have kicked off this year's *Club Rewards Program*, which encourages local clubs to promote road safety to members during the season.

Now in its fifth year, the program allows AFL Victoria-affiliated football and netball clubs to apply for up to \$10,000 to spend on club initiatives including club transport, new equipment and uniforms or facility upgrades.

So far this year, 128 people have died on Victoria's roads, with more than half of these deaths occurring in regional areas.

Member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad, said that repeated funding cuts by the Victorian Government has seen regional roads deteriorate to an appalling standard, with new data showing 91 per cent of roads across the state are now classified as being in "poor" or "very poor" in stark contrast with the massive amounts of money being spent on metro projects.

"Over the last five years, around 236 people have been killed on the road each year, with excessive or inappropriate speed a contributory factor in many crashes," said Ms Broad.

"Clubs will be asked to start conversations and be part of the campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding, with the tagline 'Show up for your team. Slow down on the road,'" Ms Broad said.

"Road safety is paramount for all our local footballers and netballers who travel vast distances on our crumbling roads each week to attend training and games."

More information on the *Club Rewards Program* can be found at tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/tac-club-rewards-program

Sunshine after rain

by Rhonda Carpenter

WITH heavy overnight rain around Mansfield, players were uncertain about whether their matches would go ahead last Monday week. The women waited for the misty rain to pass before stepping onto the wet courts taking spare balls with them.

Delatite hosted Wappan with Karyn Fraser returning from overseas to join Jo O'Brien, Deb McCormack, Deb Mims and Pat Howard.

Wappan's Jenny Bell, Rhonda Carpenter, Kimberley Marsden and Di Bergelin began well winning both openers. Jenny found the heavy balls to her liking and served powerfully, dominated at net, and landed her baseline groundstrokes deep.

The wet balls were replaced after the first sets, the sun came out and Wappan surged ahead in the second pairings. In the final pairs, Delatite's Jo O'Brien and partner Pat Howard, now warmed up and moving freely, put on a masterclass of tennis, serving strongly and placing balls with precision to take their set eight to one, not allowing Wappan to have it all their own way.

Wappan five - 41 defeated Delatite one - 21 and moved into fifth spot on the ladder.

Mansfield hosted Benalla and played the longest match of the day with both teams giving their all in a high quality match. Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Keira McDonagh, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham brought their A game to the contest with sharp net play and hard hitting rallies.

Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Mary Kelly, kindly travelling over from Moglonemby, were not backing down though, unlucky to lose a tiebreaker, and came off the court well after the other match had finished.

Mansfield four-44 defeated Benalla two-33 and both teams held their ladder positions in the top four.

Euroa began strongly winning the first three sets against Seven Creeks. Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Julie Harrington, Di Ellis and Mary Dewis edged out their opponents in lengthy tough battles. Euroa were pleased to have two of their players complete three sets for the first time this season.

Seven Creeks Rowena Ellis, Kelly Hill, Julie Brook and Genevieve Calvert warmed to contest and made a mighty comeback to win the last three sets including one in a tiebreaker. When the final scores were checked Seven Creeks three-39 had drawn with Euroa three-39.

Creighton's Creek were up against Terip and were grateful to Euroa's Lyn Pierce stepping in to replace an injured player for the final set. Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Frances Lawrence and Phoebe McDermid enjoyed some fine hitting against Creighton's Creek's Sue Vaughan, Gayle Furphy, Ros Doxey and Erica Mercer but defeated them six-48 to Creighton's Creek 0-8.

After Round 12 the ladder has Terip on 83, Benalla 70, Euroa 69, Mansfield 63, Wappan 57, Creighton's Creek 49, Seven Creeks 48, Moglonemby 36 and Delatite 5.

Clear weather for Marysville golfers

by Lesley Rundle

THE weather gods were looking over the Marysville Golf Club last Saturday and the rain, wind and hail held off until the golfers had completed their stableford round.

Both the men and the ladies played a stableford round and played on a well-prepared course with few signs of the wintry conditions witnessed during the week.

A number of the course volunteers are away seeking some sunshine so members gave special thanks to Kellan Fiske for maintaining the course so beautifully with fewer hands-on-deck to assist him.

The men's winner was Travers Stow (20) with 35 points which was the best score of the day. Mark Bambery (23) was the runner up with 33 points. Heather Jenkins (18) won the ladies competition with 33 points followed by Jody Doran (12) with 32 points. Just two of the four nearest the pins were won by Heather Jenkins and Travers Stow who also won the golden shot.

Next Saturday a stroke round will be played for the August monthly medal.

Second round of term three for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Blue Vein versus Feta

ETHAN versus Tyler: Utilising his good forehand shot Tyler used the wall well. Ethan gained a lot of point with his great serves. Ethan took the match. 72 to 44.

Matt versus Sally: Some nice strokes played and some good rallies. Matt stayed ahead on the scorecard throughout the match to win. 74 to 40.

Pep versus Phil: A hard-hitting match with some terrific rallies. Phil's speed around the court helped him win three games and the match. 60 to 52.

James versus Andrew: James chased down everything and had some beautiful drop shots. Andrew had some wonderful stroke play, but it wasn't enough to takedown James. James was victorious. 64 to 54.

Camembert versus Mozzarella

Lachlan versus Eric: An array of sensational serves, shots and returns on both sides, but Lachlan was too good for Eric and took the match this week. 70 to 44.

Lee versus Mick: Seesawing games created an interesting match. Players were fighting to take the upper hand. In the end Mick managed to edge ahead by one point for victory. 51 to 50.

Oli versus Daniel W: Oli took the lead with a good win in the first game. Daniel came late to the party, drawing game two and winning the third and fourth, taking the lead back for a triumphant win. 65 to 61

Derrick (fill in) versus Daniel K: The intensity and court coverage were flying high. An amazing match to watch. Despite Derrick's efforts, Daniel managed to claim enough points to win. 53 to 47.

Thursday Competition Barracudas versus Orcas

Matthew versus Blake: Matthew showed great spirit against a player with much more experience. Blake used his experience and skills to win the match. 72 to 39.

Lucas versus Sam (fill in): The ball was certainly moving in this match. Having recently come up a level, it's an adjustment for Sam. He put in a valiant effort, but Lucas was too good. 75 to 52.

Jack versus James (fill in): A high-quality match. Jack showed a high level of skill to read the game and place the ball, putting James under a lot of pressure. Hanging in there with some powerful drives James couldn't quite make a comeback. Jack won. 58 to 46.

Hammerheads versus Stingrays

Shannon versus Jessica: A close match in the beginning. Shannon found her groove and used placement to gain the advantage and win the match. 71 to 51.

Sam (fill in) versus Travis: Sam did not come to mess around. Travis didn't manage to take a game from Sam who won with a commanding lead. 70 to 47.

Michael M versus Jim: Jim dominated throughout. Michael completely lost his mojo and could barely manage to return the serve in the last two games. Jim claimed the victory. 86 to 31.

Eildon golfers scrape in before miserable weather

by Puttomatic

THE day started cool but fine and as the competition got under way the sun came out to provide a very nice day of golf for Eildon golfers. It didn't last. Most groups got in before the rain but once it started it didn't let up.

The club congratulates Phil Dally on taking out July's Monthly Medal, two in a row, in a countback from Dennis Seamer and Kerry Power all with a nett 70, followed by Michael Lynch with nett 71 and John Beale with nett 73 to round out the top five.

Other winners for nearest the pins this week, Kerry Power was the best on the third, 12th, and 14th with no winners this week on the fifth or 11th. Kerry also was successful on the eighth birdie hole with no winner on the 15th. The entry draw winner for the week was Peter McNair and lucky swindle winner was Michael Lynch.

There has been a lot of great work happening around the club over the last few weeks. With trees trimmed around the course and the first tee garden bed being refurbished and soon to have a new undercover gathering area where the shade sail was, the club is looking fantastic. The club gives huge thanks to all the workers who have been involved in cleaning up around the course and the great work on the garden bed and other construction around the course.

Alexandra golf report

by Elizabeth Goss

ANOTHER quiet week on the course. Todd Galloway (17) 38 points was the winner on Tuesday, while Dave Silverman (10) 32 points was the runner-up followed by Russel Purcell (16) 27 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh and 17th went to Todd Galloway.

Ball rundown: Steve Darmody.

In the four ball best ball stableford on Wednesday, Judy Lyon (32) and Sandy Wetenhall (26) won with 41 points. Marg Fahey (22) and Bronwyn Howell (32) came second with 36 points. Nearest the pin on the fifth and 18th went to

Judy Lyon. Next Wednesday, August 7, is stroke, monthly medal and count your Putts.

It was a small group of eight players that took to the course on Saturday enduring quite challenging weather for the latter half of the round. The winner was Dave Silverman with (10) 34 points, James Kidd was the runner-up with (8) 33 points followed by Greg Millard (15) 32 points.

Nearest the pin on second went to Greg Millard on the 12th to James Kiss and on the 18th to Dave Silverman. Saturday August 3 is also stroke and monthly medal.

Mixed results for Junior football and netball

by Ray Steyger

Football Juniors

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams were split for round 13 of the 2024 season, hosting Seymour in under 16 football with Alexandra Black and Red netball teams playing each other at Rebel Park while the under nine, 10, 12 and 14 football teams headed to Wandong. The under nines and tens football had games with St Marys but theirs is non competitive and non scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

Under 12

Football

Alexandra 3.3 - 21 defeated by Wandong 6.9 - 45

Penstock Pastoral: Clay Hilder; Essence Coffee Lounge: Javi Miljkovic; FoodWorks: Eli Weeks; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Riley Cole; Coach: Mitchell Kidd.

Under 14

Alexandra 5.5 - 35 defeated by Wandong 7.4 - 46

North Central Construction: Billy Baker; Essence Coffee Lounge: Jamie Nash; FoodWorks: Jaidyn Dimech; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Fletcher Van Lierop; Coach: Xavier Keenan.

Under 16

Alexandra 5.3 - 33 defeated by Seymour 7.7 - 49

Nutrien Harcourts: Archie Gibson; Essence Coffee Lounge: Will Ross; FoodWorks: Matthew Wal; Alexandra Bakery and Café: Jayden Valentine; Coach: Connor Kaempkes.

Netball

Under 15

Alexandra Black 13 defeated

Alexandra Red 7

Reddrops FoodWorks Award: Black, Chelsea Webb; Red, Eva Twitchett. Alexandra Bakery and Café Award: Black, Phoebe Kidd; Red, Abby Miljkovic. Coaches Award: Black, Ashlee Collett; Red, Marli Collier.

Under 13

Alexandra Black 23 defeated Alexandra Red 22

Reddrops FoodWorks Award: Black, Charli Edwards; Red, Megan Kendall. Alexandra Bakery and Café Award: Black, Koa Parker; Red, Ivy Miljkovic. Edwards Family Award: Black, Ella Palmer; Red, Ruby Friswell.

Under 11

Alexandra Red 39 defeated Alexandra Black 7

Reddrops FoodWorks Award: Black, Matilda Woehl; Red, Kaliya Stewart. Alexandra Bakery and Café Award: Black, Ava Hill; Red, Ashleigh Francis. Edwards Family Award: Black, Havana Fereday; Red, Jayde Stewart, Zoe Collier, Ruby Birmingham, Mia Bruce.

A very big thank you to the above award sponsors for their continued support of our junior footballers and netballers in 2024.

Next Sunday is the last round of the home and away season, the Alexandra under nine, under 10, under 12, and under 14 junior football teams and the Alexandra Black under 11 and under 13 netball teams travel to Nagambie to play Tabilk, the Alexandra Black under 15 netball team travels to Broadford. The three Alexandra Red netball teams travel to Kings Park in Seymour to play St Marys. The under 16 football team travels to Shepparton to play Moama.

The following week is the start of the Finals, played over three Sundays, Alexandra hosting the Preliminary Finals on Sunday, August 18. If anyone can assist with the canteen on that day, please speak to Melissa Crane to go on the roster.

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football - Seniors

Healesville	282.98	11
Seville	279.84	11
Warburton Millgrove	154.96	11
Yea	106.97	7
Belgrave	140.15	7
Alexandra	164.51	7
Yarra Glen	40.58	2
Yarra Junction	33.71	2
Powelltown	23.60	1

Football - Reserves

Belgrave	447.71	13
Seville	410.16	12
Healesville	368.55	10
Warburton Millgrove	219.48	9
Yea	92.65	6
Alexandra	43.15	4
Powelltown	33.96	3
Yarra Junction	33.02	1
Yarra Glen	15.28	1

Football - Senior Women

Monbulk	52 pts	13
Woori Yallock	48 pts	11
Warburton-Wesburn	46 pts	11
Emerald	30 pts	7
Officer	30 pts	7
Wandin	26 pts	6
Seville	8 pts	2
Thomton Eildon	0 pts	0

Football - Under 16

Euroa	76.92	10
Moama	61.53	8
Seymour	58.33	7
Alexandra	23.07	3
Broadford	15.38	2
Yea	8.33	1

Football - Under 14

Broadford	421.43	10
Wandong	211.34	6
Tabilk	135.19	6
Alexandra	125.71	4
Seymour	88.15	2
Yea	4.45	0

Netball - A Grade

Warburton Millgrove	192.35	12
Seville	166.50	12
Yarra Glen	149.68	9
Healesville	82.75	5
Alexandra	75.40	5
Belgrave	86.76	4
Yarra Junction	71.97	3
Yea	42.92	1

Netball - B Grade

Seville	60 pts	14
Belgrave	44 pts	10
Yarra Glen	44 pts	9
Warburton Millgrove	40 pts	9
Yea	32 pts	6
Powelltown	24 pts	4
Healesville	20 pts	3
Yarra Junction	20 pts	3
Alexandra	16 pts	2

Netball - C Grade

Yarra Glen	60 pts	13
Seville	52 pts	12
Warburton Millgrove	44 pts	10
Belgrave	40 pts	9
Yea	32 pts	6
Yarra Junction	24 pts	4
Alexandra	18 pts	2
Powelltown	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1

Netball - D Grade

Seville	100.00	12
Alexandra	68.18	7
Yarra Glen	63.63	7
Belgrave	62.50	7
Warburton Millgrove	58.53	7
Yea	25.00	3
Yarra Junction	8.33	1
Powelltown	0	0

Football - Under 12

Wandong	44 pts	11
Alexandra	36 pts	9
Broadford	24 pts	6
Seymour	24 pts	6
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	12 pts	3
St Marys	0 pts	0

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Nice win for A Grade netballers

by Ray Steyger

Football Reserves

Alexandra 0.1 - 1 was defeated by Belgrave 12.16 - 88

ALEXANDRA travelled to Belgrave last Saturday for round 15 of the Outer East League 2024 Division one season, the Reserves were undermanned with two on the bench, faced top of the table Magpies who showed their class with four unanswered goals in the first quarter. The rain was consistent and so was the home side as they added to the scoreboard each quarter but the Rebels provided plenty of contest, continuing to persevere and were rewarded for effort in the last quarter.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen: Jake Steyger; Ampol fuel card: Dylan Jack; Alexandra Hotel: Jack McKay; Buxton Hotel: Nate Kerle; Sportspower: Joe Calovic.

Seniors

Alexandra 10.10 - 70 was defeated by Belgrave 11.11 - 77

THE Seniors were again missing a number of players and also included Joe Calovic for his first senior game after playing the earlier game in the reserves, the rain still continuing to impact the day. Both teams were desperate for a win to keep the finals run alive, each kicking four goals in the first quarter in a real slog, both teams kicking two goals in the second quarter. Belgrave led by four points at half time and kicked the only two goals of the third quarter. The Rebels bounced back in the last term, kicking four goals from ten scoring shots, inaccuracy proving costly as they fell short at the final siren.

Awards: Incentives: Josh Edwards, Harry Kelly, Lachlan Nankervis, and Steve Steiner. Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award: Dawn Jack.

Netball

AGRADE won 51 to 31: Incentive: Ash Frankcombe, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Katherine Quinsee; Alpine Butchery: Belinda Shaw.

B grade lost 17 to 76: Incentive: Aleesha Kerr, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Rose Hurrey; Alpine Butchery: Ash Creighton.

C grade lost 7 to 73: Incentive: Lizzie Butcher, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Georgia Smith; Alpine Butchery: Taylah Dean.

D grade drew 21 to 21: Incentive: Reese Stewart, Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Rose Hurrey.

Congratulations to Tom Halligan who found the Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot card and won \$1300. The Joker Jackpot will restart at \$200 this 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.

This week the club will return to Rebel Park and host Yarra Glen for two games of football and four games of netball. At half time of the senior football game, Scott Ferrier is organising the annual MND fundraiser. Everyone is invited to go along and join in the celebrations and activities on the day, with hospitality in the social rooms after the games. The following week Alexandra will host Yarra Junction and then have Ladies Day.



Alexandra seniors player Luke Wal fighting hard to mark the ball, despite pressure from the opposition. -S



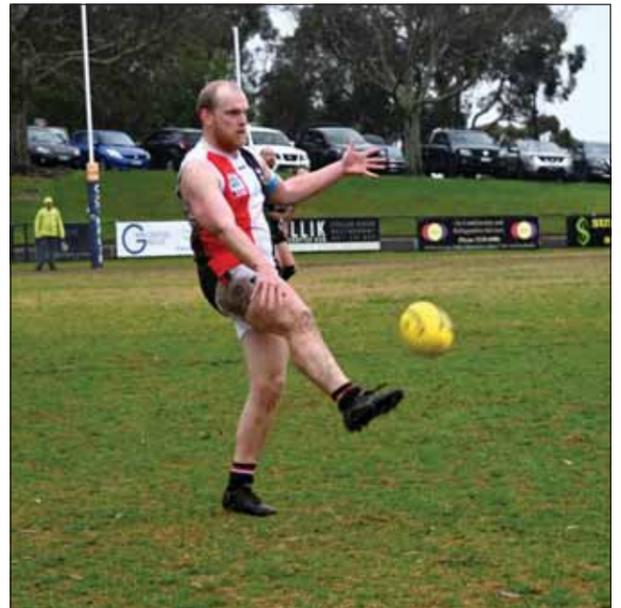
Harry Aikman kicking the ball away from the goal. -S



Tom Halligan running with the ball. -S



Alexandra reserves player Jordan Ferrier fighting for the ball. -S



Troy Serkitt booting the ball down the field. -S

Thornton Eildon head south to play Seville

by Scott Whitehead

Thornton/Eildon 3.5 - 23 defeated by Seville 6.3 - 39

IN women's football this week Thornton/Eildon headed south, down the Maroondah Hwy to take on Seville on their newly refurbished ground. Hopes were high for a win for the away team with Seville forfeiting last week and only having 16 players available for this round. Thornton/Eildon on the other hand had 20 players fit and ready for the contest.

Starting the game after a final rev-up from the captain, Thornton/Eildon came out strong kicking the first goal from a strong mark and set shot from Rose Kealy. Seville

were soon to reply with a goal of their own but a late reply from Izzy Weston had the visitors leading at quarter time by six points.

The second quarter had both teams fighting hard to win the ball, but it was Seville who had the upper hand scoring the solitary goal for the quarter leaving the scores level at half time.

The sea-sawing battle continued in the third quarter, but it was Seville who would pepper the scoreboard more often than their opponents and they took a handy 11-point lead into the final quarter.

During the three-quarter time break the coaches pleaded with the players for one final effort and reminded them that the possibility of a win was not out of reach. They repeated that the effort they needed

to give was not only for themselves but for all supporters and sponsors who have been part of the club for the 2024 season.

The quarter started well for the away team with a second running goal to Izzy Weston, followed by a rushed behind which reduced the margin to five points halfway through the last quarter. Unfortunately for Thornton/Eildon, Seville found another gear and kicked two more goals late in the quarter to take their second win for the season.

Following the final siren the team debriefed and spoke of the missed opportunities throughout the game and the hurt they all felt from the disappointing loss. What was obvious during the conversation

was the love the players had for each other and the club they are proud to represent.

Awards: Simpsons Fuel voucher: Tara Pederson; Coaches Award: Emma Whitehead; Mitchell and Co Hair Artistry \$50 voucher: Bella Gorry; Club Meal voucher: Lilly Bossonnet.

The final round of the home and away season will have Thornton/Eildon travel to Warburton for the 10.45am game.

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