

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, August 21, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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People put a huge amount of effort into finding the perfect pink outfit to wear at the inaugural Pink @ Pixies breast cancer fundraiser. -S

Eildon raises \$14,400 for breast cancer

THREE extraordinarily successful fundraising events, most recently last Friday night's inaugural Pink @ Pixies, have raised more than \$14,400 in Eildon to aid the work of the Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA).

The first High Tea at Morning Mist contributed \$2200, the Biggest Morning Tea in June added more than \$6200, and Pink @ Pixies has contributed at least \$6000.

Approximately 100 people, a number of whom are not Eildon residents, supported the tireless work of the Eildon BCNA.

"It really was a Murrindindi Shire gathering," Eildon Events Inc president, Karine Haslam, said.

"We had fantastic support from many supporters who do not live in Eildon. This truly is a cause that touches so many people."

Organised by BCNA Eildon's 'awesome foursome' working group, Kerrie Malley,

Sue Savage, Karine Haslam and Wendy Wheelhouse, patrons dined on soups and desserts, cooked, prepared and served by a dedicated group of supporters.

The venue, Pixies @ the Billabong Eildon, was kindly provided by owners Pixie and Janine, whose dedication transformed the old Billabong into a superb restaurant and music venue.

Pink, the signature colour of the breast cancer movement, was the theme, and many attendees, including a number of males daringly wearing tutus and wigs, obliged.

Pink-themed decorations and table settings were creatively arranged by Allie Savage.

Visitors were greeted by the serene sounds of a harp, played by talented local musician Sera Ghaly, followed by Alexia Farley, an extraordinarily gifted eight year old.

Soloman and Lacey were the band for the night, ensuring great music was provided for those brave souls prepared to create dance moves that amazed and delighted.

The dancers who topped the popularity poll were rewarded for their efforts with a \$50 food voucher generously provided by Foodie Kat, plus numerous bottles of wine and chocolates from an anonymous community member as additional prizes.

Other supportive donors included Seabrook Upholstery, Pixies @ the Billabong, White Lotus, Narbethong, Massage and Beauty by Catherine Hansen, Nanny Jan's, Dobson's Potatoes, Thornton General Store, Vintage Flourish, Goodies Discounts, Alexandra, Eildon Lions' Club, Eildon Bowling Club, which provided its bus and a dedicated driver to safely transport attendees from Alexandra, Eildon Golf Club, and the *Alexandra Standard*, plus numerous community members who

gave substantial donations, but wished to remain anonymous.

"It is wonderful to have the support of your community for such a deserving cause as the ongoing battle against breast cancer," Karine said. "Every contribution was greatly appreciated."

"And it is heartwarming to be involved with such an amazing group of people dedicated to making events such as Pink @ Pixies successful. A huge thank you. We hope this is the start of many more fun-filled and successful events."

"Volunteering can be so rewarding; it is not what you contribute, but what you get out. To Kerrie and her team, congratulations on a great night, a fitting reward for all your hard work. A great effort for a small town. Well done."

More images from the event can be found on page 4 of this edition.

R U OK? Day events in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is hosting community conversation pop-up stalls across Murrindindi Shire in recognition of R U OK? Day. Head down and have a chat with a local mental health representative and enjoy a Kit Kat.

They will be at FoodWorks in Alexandra on Tuesday, September 10 from 10.30am to 2.30pm; FoodWorks in Kinglake from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Wednesday, September 11; and at Yea FoodWorks from

10.30am to 2.30pm on Thursday, September 12.

Why should we ask R U OK?

Ask R U OK? Any Day because life happens every day.

A lot can happen in a year, a month, a week. Whether it's your friend, family member, colleague, partner, or teammate, the people you care about go through life's ups and downs every day. They're not alone, with 72 per cent of Australians reporting elevated levels of distress.

Regular, meaningful conversations with the people close to you can help prevent small things from becoming big things. By checking in regularly, you build trust and normalise talking about what's really going on, so when the people in your world find themselves struggling, they know you're someone they can talk to.

So, don't wait for R U OK? Day on September 12, Ask R U OK? on any day of the year because a conversation could change a life.

Local crews assist with Merton collision

MAROONDAH Highway east of Merton was partially closed on Thursday, August 15, due to a motor vehicle collision.

Multi agencies attended the accident that involved a four wheel drive colliding with the side of a truck that resulted in ripped open diesel fuel tanks of the truck causing a large spillage of fuel along the highway.

The driver fled from the scene with police apprehending the man several hours later. The passenger was extricated from the four

wheel drive by SES crews from Alexandra and Mansfield, as well as ambulance crews.

CFA crews from Maindample, Merton, Yarck and Alexandra, along with SES and a VicRoads contractor assisted with the fuel spill and traffic control. The highway was cleared at approximately 2am.

Police are continuing their investigations, if you have dash cam footage or information that can help, please contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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Letters to the Editor

Supermarkets

THIS letter is in response to a Thumbs Down entry that appeared in the August 14 edition of the *Alexandra Standard* in which they were critical of our local supermarket and in particular the price of milk.

Firstly I need to say that I have no direct relationship with the supermarket management or staff apart from being a customer. Given the current economic climate all supermarket chains, including Coles and Woolworths, are being heavily criticised for the cost of their products. Regional country supermarkets have to build into their costings freight, particularly supermarkets in small country towns that have to pay more for product due to quantity order.

Does the person concerned take into account the cost of fuel travelling to the bigger centres when comparing prices? To suggest

the community works towards getting a Coles supermarket in Alexandra is laughable. It can't and won't happen. What we have got in Alexandra is a locally owned supermarket as well set out and operational as any bigger towns' supermarkets, with wonderful local staff that are so pleasant and helpful.

This business has always redirected significant amounts of money back into our community through sponsorship, being major sponsors of the Alexandra Truck Ute and Rod Show, Alexandra Football Club, Alexandra Cricket Club, Murrindindi Masters golf tournament, The Masters Bowls tournament, Alexandra Easter and Spring Fairs to name just a few, of which there are many more.

Our supermarket also provides valuable services, such as delivering small orders to aged care facilities and care packages for those in need, services that a large chain would likely not offer.

In closing, I believe it is fair to say our town is struggling and our residents need to support our local businesses at every opportunity otherwise existing businesses and job opportunities would be in jeopardy. To suggest we all head to Seymour to buy our milk is totally irresponsible and would have a significant negative impact on our town's future.

Wayne Miller, Alexandra

Wind farm

ON Helen Haines' web page it proudly says, 'I always put Indi first'.

When it comes to wind farms in the Strathbogies and transmissions towers down into the Goulburn Valley, Ms Haines does not put Indi first. She puts a thing called 'consultation' first and that means that she puts developers first.

I asked Ms Haines, your local 'independent' member (who voted with Labor 52 per cent of the time and with the Opposition 25 per cent of the time) the straight up question, 'Do you support the Fera wind farm proposal, yes or no?' What I got back was, 'This is state issue'

and a reference to multiple places where Ms Haines has been supportive of consultation. No direct answer, no yes, no or maybe. But very strong support for renewables. Read between the lines.

Consultation, be that about wind towers, transmission lines or your local hospital, is a garbage piece of double-speak. It means to developers (and the state government) that they need to simply go through a few steps before they do what they want anyway. Consultation is a slow D10 bulldozer, driving over your communities best interest.

Don't believe that? Then answer this question: If the community overwhelmingly rejects a proposal to gut the hospital or build towers and transmission lines all over our lived environment, does that plan stop? Does Mr Fera in Milan or Premier Jacinta Allan in Spring Street hear 'the community says go away' and will they just nod and say, 'So they say, so we will do?' Not on your nelly. The project will just roll on regardless. The towers will get built. The hospitals will be gutted, regardless. Fera and Allen will say, 'Oh, but we went through a consultation process'.

Only when it hurts the local politicians in the ballot box, really hurts, will the community get listened to. State or federal issue, a big fat rejection gets attention.

Your chance to express just how you feel is coming soon.

Marcus Elgin, Highlands

Potholes

I POPPED out on the weekend and got to talk to some guys doing the measurements for potholes that have been reported. They were very approachable and generous with their time and energy.

They are a third party organisation of course, and we talked about road structure, it's integrity, the immense difference between road use, by type of car eg. SUVs and 4WDs, trucks by weight, and number and I noted that,

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Standard
Available from these retail outlets

- Alexandra FoodWorks
- Alexandra Newsagency
- Alexandra Newspapers
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- Alexandra Endeavour
- Hazeldene Store
- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- Mansfield Newsagency
- Merton General Store
- Metro Narby
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Shell Thornton
- Yarck Meat and Produce
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



IT'S NOT OKAY

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

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

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



RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.73	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.56	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.55am Mon	0.75	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.23pm Mon	0.22	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	12.41pm Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	12.38pm Mon	1.09	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.67	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.66	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.28	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.39	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.63	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.14pm Mon	1.25	steady	

**ISSUED AT 12.45PM ON MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 2024



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

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

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



Weekly Weather

August 21 - August 27, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	15	Wednesday	8	16
Thursday	5	14	Thursday	5	15
Friday	7	16	Friday	7	17
Saturday	9	18	Saturday	8	19
Sunday	11	19	Sunday	11	19
Monday	9	16	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	10	16	Tuesday	10	17



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	4.5mm
Buxton	18mm
Eildon (AWS)	6mm
Flowerdale	20mm
Jamieson	11mm
Kinglake	14mm
Lake Eildon	7mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	7mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea	8mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	286.19m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	89.4%
Metres below full supply	2.71m
Daily inflow	2300ML
Release	3400ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	79.4%

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

New Senior Sergeant for Murrindindi Shire

NOELLA Bannon is the new Senior Sergeant (officer in charge) for Murrindindi, and will also be undertaking the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) role.

Noella grew up in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, and has had property in Murrindindi Shire for about 15 years.

She's been a member for Victoria Police for almost 33 years, with the majority of her career in the crime investigation and response (I&R) space.

During her career, she's worked all over the state, including regional and metropolitan, in crime investigation, sexual offences and the sexual crime squad.

"I've done pretty much everything," she said. "The high focus in this area is the community engagement, road policing, farm crime, emergency management and so forth."

She has undertaken Senior Sergeant roles intermittently since 2009, but she was gazetted as a Family Violence Training Officer in 2020.

Now that she's Senior Sergeant in the Murrindindi area, she's keen to increase the community engagement and focus on proactive policing. "Policing for the community is a high focus, and ensuring that police are available for the community requirements," she said.

Policing for the community means that through engaging

with the community, they know what the community wants and they can action it. They also want to hold people accountable for offences, including road policing and crime offences.

A high focus will also be on minimising road trauma, and this will inevitably encompass greater police presence on the road.

She added, "We are committed to trying to get

greater police but unfortunately, our numbers are restricted. However, we have three new members plus a new senior sergeant that we're going to have in the near future. We've had one who has just been assigned. We're going to have more police on the road. We have three additional members at Alexandra that we have not had previously, so there are going to be more crews out and about."

They also have members who have upgraded in a number of positions in the shire at the moment. At Yea Police Station, there's Acting Sergeant Matthew Robertson. At Marysville Police Station, there's Sergeant Geoff Shaw. At Eildon Police Station, there's Acting Sergeant Samuel McCaffrey. Noella said that they're all doing a fabulous job.

She said that if members of the community have any issues, "We are available for them and we will make ourselves available, as the police have done in the past, but this time we're definitely going to have a greater response capacity now."

If people are keen to speak directly to Noella, her general base will be at Yea Police Station, but will be spending time at all of the stations. Contact the Yea station in the first instance and they should be able to let you know how to find her.



Senior Sergeant Noella Bannon. -S

Rally in Bendigo about renewables

ON Friday, August 23, a rally is set to be held at the All Seasons Resort, McIvor Highway in Strathdale, Bendigo, from 10am to 2pm.

The protest will be outside an event being hosted by the Rural Press Club of Victoria. Premier Jacinta Allan will be attending the luncheon. The editor of the *Alexandra Standard* and *Yea Chronicle* will also be in attendance.

One of the chief concerns of the protesters is that the government has removed the right of third parties to appeal renewables decisions in VCAT. The decisions of the Minister are final.

Rally organiser Ben Duxson said that this is only part of the reason behind the protest. He also encouraged people to attend if they have concerns around taxation, cost of living, government spending, city-centric decision making, mining, logging and health care, etcetera. People with "any grievance" should attend, he said, but also stated that the protest is not aligned with any political parties.

Redgate Alexandra CWA Report

THE next Redgate Alexandra CWA monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, August 22 starting at 1pm at the club rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra. Hostesses are Pam and Maureen with competitions flower of the month and winter scarf.

The guest speaker at 2.30pm will be Anthea Forbes, group leader from Murrindindi Carers Group.

The half yearly group conference will be held on Saturday, August 24 at the Yarrk Hall starting at 10am.

The next coffee catch up will be Thursday, September 12 at Café Alex at 11am.

The group are all enjoying weekly craft sessions on Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm (please bring your own lunch). Coffee and tea will be provided for a small cost of \$2. Craft is also on Fridays from 10am to noon.

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

and develop educational resources in Australian schools.

The survey is available online between August and September and can be found at cheekymac.com/rural-daughters

Alexandra Seniors report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

AT this week's meeting of the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club, the singing voices got a work out with the club song opening the meeting, *Happy Birthday* to Marg Hall and John Roget, and a sing song to end the meeting.

There were mutterings from the floor when the president, treasurer and secretary won the chocolate raffle. It's not fixed, honestly.

After the formalities, the members retired to the tea room for the customary cuppa and a chat before enjoying games of 500 and UNO.

This week, club members are off to the Kilsyth Club for *Morning Melodies* and lunch, with an afternoon visit to Hunters and Collectors in Bayswater.

The numbers for carpet bowls, usually held on a Tuesday afternoon, have dwindled so the club is suspending bowls for a while.

The club always welcomes new ideas and new members so if you fancy a chat, a cuppa and a game of cards please head along on a Friday afternoon to the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

Australian documentary seeks 1000 rural women

THE voices of 1000 rural women are being sought for a new documentary on Australia's rural, regional, and remote women.

Rural Daughters, the feature length documentary by CheekyMac Productions, will follow the personal journeys of some of Australia's most inspiring rural women in their efforts to overcome barriers, effect change and live a successful, purpose-driven life in the regions.

In addition to their stories, a nationwide *1000 Rural Women Survey* has been developed to capture the experiences of rural women on a broad range of topics from natural disasters, health and domestic violence to societal attitudes, racial prejudice, Tall Poppy

Syndrome, community life, leadership and female role models.

The documentary and survey from producer, director and writer Danielle McAlpine Johnson aims to gather more than 1000 survey responses to provide a statistical snapshot of rural women.

The survey has been developed by Federation University's Collaborative Evaluation and Research Centre, together with CheekyMac Productions, both organisations led by rural women. Commissioned by the Community Enterprise Foundation, the survey is expected to be the largest and broadest of its kind.

The documentary and survey results are expected to be used to inform policy



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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 Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY
1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2nd Sat Alex Repair Cafe 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probos 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

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*.

for the committee, contact the secretary at info@ugfm.org or call 5772 2722.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary AGM will be held at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre meeting room, Yea. RSVP to Ruth Crockett 5797 3057.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

UGFM AGM will be held at 7.30pm via Zoom. For the meeting link or to nominate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Alexandra Op Shop AGM will be held at 10am in the RSL Hall.



Attendees enjoying the music. -S

Pixies @ Eildon hosts breast cancer fundraiser



Pink and blue were the colours of choice for these attendees. Pictured are Jenny, Christine, Ken and Graeme. -S

Buxton speed limit survey

THE Buxton Progress Association (BPA) are conducting a survey to help assess local support for moving the 60km/h signs on Maroondah Highway, at the northern end of the township, further north. The township has grown to the north and there are now driveways and two other intersections outside the current 60km/h zone.

Concerns have been raised by residents who reside in that area about the speed of vehicles on the highway when they are turning into or out of the many driveways along that stretch of highway.

The Patagorang Place intersection is a short distance from the speed-limit change and too many motorists appear more focused on increasing or decreasing speed than the vehicles turning in front of them.

There are also a large number of wildlife fatalities on this stretch of road, including seven kangaroos and wombats recently. Narbeview Wildlife Shelter are also keen to have wildlife warning signs installed.

Please fill out the online survey on the BPA website. It only takes 60 seconds to fill it out.

The results will be shared as part of the BPA's consultations with council and the Department of Transport, who need to see local support behind it before they consider any changes.

The BPA recognises that this proposal may not be supported by everyone.

To fill out the survey, visit buxtonprogress.org.au



THUMBS UP: Grateful thanks to the management and staff at all the local supermarkets in the Murrindindi Shire. The friendly and helpful staff are much appreciated and in this day and age of self-serve checkouts. To be actually served by a human being is a pleasant experience. The generosity of these supermarkets with sponsorships and donations to so many local organisations is also noted.

THUMBS UP: A heartfelt thank you to Lower Hume Palliative Care, Alexandra District Hospital and District Nursing Service, and Alexandra Pharmacy for your exceptional dedication and support during this challenging time. Your care has been truly remarkable. I'd like to extend a special mention to Simone Russell, Anne-Marie Ellis, Karen Armstrong and Pharmacist Albin. They're angels who went above and beyond to help us fulfill a final wish. Your kindness and compassion have made a profound difference, and we are deeply grateful.

THUMBS UP: To the Eildon Bowling Club for providing another activity for the local community. Bingo on specified dates on Sunday afternoons.

THUMBS UP: To council for their improvements to the tip. It looks immaculate and no smell.

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

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St Andrews, Downey Street,
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Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

or instance, I watched a double axle truck barrel on past with three small dozers on, and that this is not what the original road structure has been set up for. Of course, this is known. We also talked about how I've noticed that the original road structure width was upgraded in the past, simply by adding extra asphalt and some substructure; this causes weakness in the road at that area and that, too, is visible in the pot holes. I brought up the point that potholes have been fixed but new potholes exist in the same spot due, I think, to incorrect filling. We are dealing with many places that have been so addressed. I find this concerning on two levels; increased cost to fix the one area, repeat offences, filling in the same potholes subsequently and the ubiquitous nature of them. By not dealing with the pot hole correctly the first time, it becomes cumulative and new pots added means more potholes overall. Cost overruns equals less money down the line. The response to this was the, 'if we fix a pothole in winter it's less stable than in summer', so pots fixed now, or recently, 'pop out again'. I don't think this is actually true, it might be true-ish for some areas that have been

wet and the substructure is unstable but, for the most part it's been a dry autumn and winter with many dry days that can't even grow grass for local farms, meaning that the potholes, if addressed correctly, should be stable. This is another consequence of the way that potholes are addressed though. The chief thing that was said was that the workers have been moved into the high country to fix potholes there. And these people were just measuring potholes for future attention. I drove along and noted that some deep pots have had a spadeful of asphalt put in them to prevent further erosion. Some good results but not great ones. As mentioned it's a huge job and they're paddling as fast as they can but temporary fixes just are not good enough. They mentioned VicRoads cutting funding but also said their business was looking for people to work, especially truck drivers, but also maintenance workers. These two thoughts are contrariwise though. Valerie Pallaorolooking for people to work, especially truck drivers, but also maintenance workers. These two thoughts are contrarywise though.

Valerie Pallaoro



Over 30 people attended the service to commemorate all veterans who played a part in the Vietnam War. -MP

A day to remember Vietnam Veterans

ON Sunday, August 18 Alexandra RSL held a short but very moving service to remember anyone involved in the Vietnam War.

Over 30 people attended the service and listened to Alexandra RSL Vice President Henry Andrews make a speech, with laying of the wreaths, followed by the *The Last Post* and the *Australian National Anthem*.



Veterans from left to right, Allan Weeks, Jeff Gilbert, Jane and Gerry Laws, Frank Philp. Henry Andrews, Bob Pearson, Bob Bemghany. -MP



Beautiful native flowers in front of the Statue outside the Alexandra RSL to mark Vietnam Veterans Day on Sunday, August 18. -MP



Vice President of the Alexandra RSL Henry Andrews gave a moving speech to attendees. -MP



Bob Pearson laying the Alexandra RSL Wreath. -MP

I'm bringing my Mobile Office to Yea and Kinglake



Opposite Marmalades of Yea, 20 High St, Yea
Wednesday 28 August, from 11am until 12pm



Outside FoodWorks, Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd, Kinglake
Wednesday 28 August, from 3pm until 4pm

If you're around, stop by and let me know how I can help you with issues such as Medicare, the NDIS, immigration and visas or finding grant funding for your community project.

Authorised by Helen Haines, 117 Murphy St Wangaratta VIC 3677



Helen Haines MP
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

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ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Daisy Maguire – Foundation

Daisy shows the school values every day. She has a great positive attitude and is fun to be around in the playground and the classroom. Daisy is happy to work alongside anyone in the class and is inclusive at play. Daisy, we are proud to have you in our learning community.

You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Isla has been working hard on her reading and achieving great results.

Keep it up Isla.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Shannon and Tristan have displayed the school values of Cooperation and Respect this week.

Great work.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Jasmine

Jasmine has shown amazing resilience recently. She has become very confident and independent and continues to give one hundred percent to her learning. Jasmine is always kind and caring and offers help when others need it. We are really proud of your efforts. Well done Jaz.

Congratulations Jasmine.

Student of the Week

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Haines concerns over Future Made in Australia Fund

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines has raised the alarm about integrity concerns over the government's signature *Future Made In Australia* program.

The \$22.7 billion program is the largest budget measure in this term of parliament outside the defence portfolio, but Dr Haines said it lacked guardrails and oversight over the spending.

"There is a giant question mark where integrity and transparency measures should be in this legislation," Dr Haines said.

"We are talking about tens of billions of taxpayer money and I want to make sure the public knows where this money is going."

Dr Haines will move three key amendments to the *Future Made in Australia* bill, saying there must be adequate transparency over the spending measures, which aim to unlock economic benefits as part of the transition to a net zero economy.

"The government has created a large bucket of money, with only a vague outline of how that money could be spent," Dr Haines said, speaking on the bill in parliament.

"Without an oversight and transparency framework, there is a risk that money will be awarded to industries or companies without merit, because of lobbying efforts, because it will win votes in certain electorates, or for other reasons that generally lack integrity in government decision-making.

"The public deserves assurance that billions of dollars of their money is being

spent responsibly and with integrity, to prevent any pork barrelling occurring under this government, or indeed future governments."

Dr Haines cited multiple organisations that have raised similar concerns, including the Productivity Commission, Climate Council, Grattan Institute and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"There are clear gaps in this bill, if these organisations and companies, including companies who will surely seek to benefit from *Future Made in Australia* supports, identify shortfalls on key issues like selection criteria and transparency of funding and sector assessments."

Pointing to her *End Pork Barrelling* bill tabled in Parliament in 2023 as a way to improve integrity and oversight across the board, Dr Haines said solutions to the gaps are not hard to find.

"My *End Pork Barrelling* bill provides a framework to ensure government spending of taxpayer money is done transparently, by requiring clear selection criteria for grants and creating a Parliamentary Joint Committee to oversee grant administration.

"If my *End Pork Barrelling* bill was passed, concerns about the integrity of these *Future Made in Australia* grants would be alleviated."

Dr Haines wrote to the Treasurer earlier this month, expressing her concerns on the *Future Made in Australia* bill and outlining her amendments, and is meeting with the Treasurer to discuss them further.



Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum's new committee, Carl Hopkins, Stefan Rebgetz, Peter Aumann, Glenn Howe and Robert Eames. -S

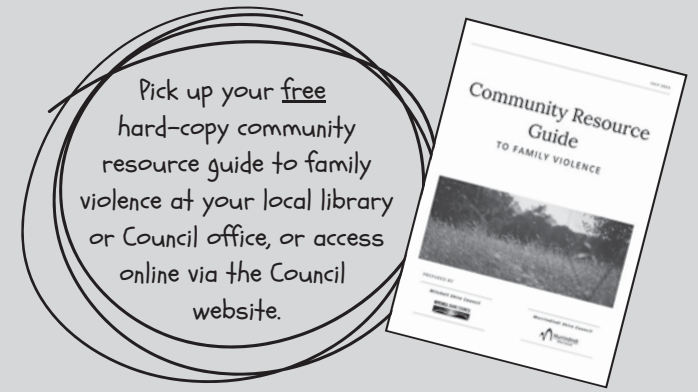
Timber tramway committee



Jane and Gerry Laws were presented with a Certificate of Outstanding Service at the changeover event for the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum. Incoming president Robert Eames commented that the organisation is immensely grateful for their decades of service, and that without them, ATTM would not have survived. -S

A Little Respect

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



Lee is the Free From Violence Project Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council. She is passionate about raising awareness about important issues in the local community, particularly related to gender equality and family violence prevention. Lee operates with curiosity over conflict and believes we all have something to learn from one another. Lee's work aligns with her studies in law and criminology, but mostly with her lived experience as Victim-Survivor. She has presented at state-wide Government Forums alongside other well-known advocates, and facilitated community forums focused on mental health, gender equality and family violence.

Topic of the month: Free From Violence Activity Cards – making hard conversations easier.

Last month, we talked about men's mental health and the link to family violence. This time, we're diving into some practical tools to create conversation and debunk some entrenched ideas about gender equality, family violence and other concepts that are sometimes a bit misunderstood. Murrindindi Shire Council's 'Free From Violence Activity Cards' are a great learning and icebreaker tool for tough conversations. And tough conversations are easier with prompting tools. These cards take the guess work out of tricky topics and promote meaningful connection too. Bonus!

How would I use the cards?

The cards are intended to raise awareness about issues related to gender equality, family violence, intersectionality and more. They include key terms, questions, bite-sized facts and prompts for respectful sharing and learning. There are lots of ways these cards can be used. For example:

- **in the workplace:** pull out a couple of cards at the start of a meeting to discuss as a team.
- **at a training session:** use the cards as an icebreaker activity at a workshop or training session.
- **by yourself:** read them in your own time and space to build your understanding.
- **with your partner:** consider scheduling a relationship check-in. Discuss a few of the cards together. Try to stay curious.
- **as a family:** have an open discussion with your family about some of the topics covered by the cards.

It is important to note that not all cards are appropriate for children and some cards may be triggering for adults. Go gently and call 1800 RESPECT if you need support.

What are a couple of examples from the card deck?

Many of the cards provide helpful explanations about concepts we hear about in the media. Other cards can be turned into activities or played out like a scenario to help building capacity and general understanding.

Example 1: What is Family Violence? (Learning card).

'Family Violence' and/or 'Intimate Partner Violence' refers to any behaviour by an intimate partner (or ex-partner) that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical violence, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. It is a pattern of behaviour where one partner is usually exerting power and control over the other partner over time. 'Family violence' refers to violence between any members of a family.

Example 2: What is the mental load? (Learning card).

The 'mental load' means the mental and emotional effort or burden of being responsible for thinking about, planning and organising all the parts of life, for women but also for children, partners and other family members. Often within couples and families, one person carries more of the mental load. Although an uneven mental load can affect everyone, it most commonly impacts women, especially in families in which women have more responsibility for childcare, and where men are employed outside of the home. It's also more common in heterosexual relationships than it is in same-sex or gender-diverse relationships.

Example 3: What is the Gender Pay Gap? (Learning card). Put simply, the gender pay gap is the difference between the earnings of men and women. For example, a man may be paid more than a woman for doing the same job. Australia's national gender pay gap is still around 12 per cent (as at Nov-2023). This means for every dollar a man earns, a woman earns 88 cents. But the pay gap is more complex than this. Unpaid domestic labour, including carrying the mental load, as well as other unpaid and undervalued tasks, widen the gender pay gap even more. Particularly as these tasks are disproportionately carried out by women. And historically, women have not earned superannuation while on parental leave. These factors contribute to a second 'invisible pay gap' causing further disadvantage to women, on top of the more visible pay gap discussed above.

Example 4: Activity/Scenario Card.

Someone says, "why are we always talking about the differences between genders? doesn't this defeat the purpose? let's just focus on what makes us all the same and move on!" What do you say? Discuss in a group. It can feel frustrating to focus on our differences rather than our similarities. However, if we don't first understand one another's different experiences (including based on gender), we will find it much harder to move towards real equality. If we want everyone to be treated fairly and equitably, we must address all the ways in which they are currently not. We must consider the role we might be playing in upholding the status quo. This doesn't mean we all have to agree. We just have to do better to expand our knowledge by listening to other people's experiences with curiosity and empathy. Getting defensive when we disagree only shuts down more meaningful connection. When everyone feels heard and respected, we can achieve amazing things as a collective.

Are you passionate about gender equality or violence prevention? We want to hear from you!

We are on the lookout for volunteer community champions. The State Government Free From Violence Local Government Program allows us to support small initiatives led by you. We want to hear your ideas and collaborate to make them happen. You don't have to be an expert to make a difference in the community. Email Lee via communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Getting support

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

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732
- Rainbow Door: A free specialist helpline for LGBTQIA+ Victorians. Phone: 1800 729 367 or visit rainbowdoor.org.au
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 773 352
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?' website: areyousafeathome.org.au

Do you want your own deck of Free From Violence Activity Cards?

Scan the QR code below to register your interest and we will get in touch make sure you don't miss out on this great conversational and icebreaker tool!



How can you help our ambulance service?

MURRINDINDI'S acting Paramedic Community Support Coordinator, Craig Beamish, spoke about some of the challenges faced by local paramedics in providing support to the Murrindindi community, as well as ways that we can all help.

In the Hume area in the first quarter of this year, there have been 5623 code one (emergency) callouts. Across the state, there have been 102,000 code one callouts, breaking the previous record of 100,238 code ones in the last quarter of 2022.

Health system challenges

Asked about the increase in callouts, Craig said, "There's just a change in the health system across the board. There's reduced access to primary health, reduced access to GP appointments, reduced access to health (services) across the board in rural and regional areas. When we have people who can't access their normal health care providers, then the next alternative is to utilise something that's accessible, being the ambulance service." He added that there are probably other factors at play as well.

He said that according to statistics, one in five emergency calls are not actually emergencies, however people may not understand what an emergency is in the same way that a health professional might.

Craig said that the ramping of ambulances at hospitals is "a very complex, layered issue, and one of the end results is that it ties up ambulances that are at hospitals... Then it obviously has a significant reduction in availability to the communities that we need to serve."

Separately, the Victorian Upper House has passed an Opposition motion for an inquiry into Ambulance Victoria, with concerns around ambulance response times, ramping and delays with calls being answered.

How many ambulances do we have in the shire?

At a local level, the Murrindindi ambulance area includes Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and Yea.

The Alexandra branch is a 24 hour branch. They have a day shift and a night shift, each with two paramedics on the ambulance.

In Yea, Marysville and Eildon, they run a 'paramedic supported branch' with one ambulance each. They have a volunteer ambulance community officer (ACO) and a registered paramedic in their ambulances, operating on an on-call basis, 24 hours per day.

Marysville and Eildon "rotate around," meaning that in the summer season, Eildon will have a paramedic and ACO, and Marysville might have two ACOs. In winter, this swaps around.

If someone calls Triple Zero, the ambulances are despatched according to the GPS location. If the Alexandra crew are at Box Hill Hospital, for example, then the closest ambulance would be called. This might be Eildon or Yea or Seymour, for example.

"Just because there's an ambulance branch in Alexandra or Eildon or Marysville or Yea, it doesn't necessarily mean that that's where the ambulance is coming from," Craig said. He added that code one emergencies always take priority.

"We need to leave ambulances, as much as we can, for life threatening emergencies," he said.

How can you help?

He stressed the importance of people learning cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillator usage, or even better, to do a full First Aid course. He added that when people call Triple Zero, the caller will always be kept on the line and given advice until the ambulance arrives. They'll talk the caller through what to do.

Despite the challenges, it's very important for people to call an ambulance in an emergency, such as a heart attack, a car accident, someone being unconscious, severe asthma or a stroke, etcetera.

The call might be transferred to a referral service such as a nurse or paramedic who can assess the patient. They might then send people to Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) or provide other advice.

What other medical services are available?

There are some government and local initiatives to provide alternative pathways instead of calling an ambulance.

If people have non-life-threatening emergencies, they could consider using one of the alternative services, such as VVED. People just need a phone or tablet with video capability to speak to an Australian-trained doctor, often emergency physicians, based in Victoria. It's free and you don't need a Medicare card. The doctors will do a virtual consultation, and they can dispense scripts and follow up or send through relevant information to your normal GP for continuum of care. Why go to hospital if you don't have to?

The VVED can also handle illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV or influenza. Hospital treatment is only required when it becomes more serious or life-threatening.

There are also Priority Primary Care Centres (PPCCs). These are an established GP clinic which has an agreement with the government to open extended hours and provide low acuity access to healthcare for people who would normally attend a hospital, but it's not an emergency. This might include fractures, burns, infections, lacerations, coughs and colds, headaches, earaches, etcetera. They operate for up to 14 hours per day, seven days per week. The closest PPCCs to the shire are in Wallan, Ringwood and Epping.

Locally, people can also gain health support through Alexandra District Health and Yea and District Memorial Hospital for a variety of ailments.

Craig also noted the importance of vaccinations, and suggested getting vaccinated at pharmacies rather than medical clinics, where possible and appropriate. Pharmacies may also offer health screening such as taking blood pressure, and providing medication for colds and flus.

In addition, Craig suggested that people be proactive about their general health care, with regular checkups for over 55s. It can help to ward off any potential upcoming health issues.

If you have time...

Have you thought about becoming an ambulance community officer (ACO)? They're needed due to limited resources in the area. While Marysville is currently staffed by a paramedic and an ACO, "Eildon hasn't had any ambulance coverage for a number of weeks because we don't have enough ACOs to be able to fill that roster. We're really keen to get people who are interested in helping their community and want to give back to the community. We're really interested in local people who have vested interest in their community," Craig said, adding that the more people take part, the lighter the load. He also said that people are not on-call 24 hours a day, but on a roster basis. When people are on call, they can stay home until a call comes in. A financial incentive is also available for call-outs, on an hourly rate, and ACOs are also paid for their training.

Ambulance Victoria provides all of the training, and participants receive a recognised qualification. Much of the training is online, with face-to-face training across two weekends. It then takes six to 12 months to go through all of the training, while working on the road with a paramedic or qualified ACO. To find out more, visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/

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Real Estate GUIDE

HIA calls for better insurance and contract rules

FOLLOWING the release of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement last year, the Housing Industry Association (HIA) is calling for reviews of building insurance and contract rules.

"The HIA calls for the Victorian Government to urgently complete reviews of domestic building insurance and contract rules in Victoria," HIA Executive Director for Victoria, Keith Ryan, said recently.

"The Victorian government released its Housing Statement last year and has a target of building 800,000 homes in 10 years. HIA supports the government's objective to increase housing supply by building more homes but the uncertainty on future building insurance and contract rules is causing unnecessary stress for the industry.

"It was confirmed that over the past 12 months there has been a significant decline in housing approvals across the state. New home sales have also been weak. This makes the government's target more difficult to achieve," Mr Ryan said.

"Home builders want the Victorian Government to achieve the target. They want to build more homes, but they need to have government policy settings that help them remain financially stable and secure.

"First, home builders and consumers need better access to domestic building insurance (DBI). Recent premium increases and restrictions on builder's capacity to get DBI are preventing some consumers and builders from being able to enter into home building and renovation contracts.

"Second, the legislation that regulates the contracts between consumers and builders is antiquated and not fit for purpose. This legislation not only fails to adequately protect consumers but also imposes unnecessary restrictions on home builders.

"The government completed a public consultation process on a review of the Domestic Building Contracts Act over five months ago. Since then, we have seen little to no progress on this review.

"It is acknowledged that the current environment of low sales and approvals is caused mainly by high interest rates and low consumer confidence. This will however change and as Victoria's population continues to grow and pent-up demand for housing increases.

"When consumer confidence returns and sales increase the Victorian government needs to ensure that better domestic building insurance arrangements and home building contract legislation are already in place to support both homeowners and builders," concluded Mr Ryan.

Getting ahead on your home loan

THERE are many options available when it comes to paying off your home loan. The options on offer suit different people with different needs and financial capabilities.

The most common home loan repayment is made monthly. Some lenders may offer the option to make home loan repayments on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

It is understood that weekly and fortnightly repayments can save you money compared to monthly repayments, depending on how the interest is accrued on the overall loan.

Canstar explained, "The interest on the outstanding balance of a home loan is generally calculated daily, then added up over the period of your loan repayment. If that repayment period is monthly then that soon adds up to about 30 days of

interest, depending on the number of days in the month and how your lender makes the calculation.

"If you can increase the frequency of your repayments, to fortnightly or weekly, then you eat away at the outstanding amount of your loan much earlier. This can save you money in interest over the life of your loan."

Another bonus in paying your home loan fortnightly is that by paying half the monthly amount each fortnight you get ahead as you make an extra month's repayment each year. This can go on to the loan or in a redraw facility to have available in case of an emergency.

Trying to put extra money on your mortgage whenever possible can cut your loan by years. Sometimes this isn't possible with high interest rates but when rates do go down if you keep paying the higher amount, you will be well on your way to paying off your mortgage sooner.

Talking to your lender about opening an offset account may also help you get ahead. These accounts are linked to your mortgage. The balance of that account is connected to the mortgage and reduces the amount of overall interest you pay which helps you pay off your mortgage quicker.

Shopping around for a lower interest rate can be a bit tricky in the current climate but lenders are always competitive and striving to get your business. As this process takes a lot of time if you do decide to switch banks or to different loan types make sure its worth it as there is usually fees for changing and closing loans and choosing new lenders.

Energy upgrades fund investment

THE Federal Government announced on Sunday that \$160 million will be added to a major bank fund that offers discounted loans to pay for energy efficient home upgrades.

The government said the energy upgrades fund would help around 110,000 households get low-cost loans for solar panels, batteries, hot water heat pumps, electric vehicle chargers, induction

cooktops and other energy-related home improvements.

Under the scheme, lower interest rates will be provided. The loans under the scheme will have a variable interest rate of 4.49 per cent, compared to Westpac's advertised 6.44 per cent variable rate for home loans. On top of that, the loan can be from \$4000 up to \$50,000 on a 10-year maximum term.

According to Westpac's website, the loans are only available to those who already have another large home or investment loan with Westpac. This means that applicants must already have or be approved for a Westpac home or investment loan of at least \$150,000, and the energy upgrades are for the property that secures the loan.

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VFF says transmission planning guidelines threaten food security

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have raised concerns over the recently released *Planning Guidelines for Transmission Infrastructure*, saying the Victorian Government continues to ignore critical farmer advice on planned transmission projects.

VFF President Emma Germano said that while the area targeted for infrastructure development would be further refined, the current approach is problematic.

“Since 2018, the VFF has called for a statewide plan for renewables and transmission. We warned the government that releasing these guidelines in their current form would only stoke confusion and fear in regional communities.

“We don’t want to see half baked solutions. The key to having acceptance of this infrastructure in our backyard is to treat

farmers with fairness and respect. So far, we have seen the complete opposite from the government and energy companies.”

Ms Germano said vast swathes of Victorian farmland could be subject to development.

“We have previously seen the government produce a report saying up to 70 per cent of Victorian farmland could be subject to infrastructure development. Despite the government removing these references, these guidelines indicate that number could be accurate.”

Ms Germano stressed that food security must be at the heart of any plan.

“The VFF is seeking a balanced approach so we can protect strategic agricultural land while maintaining energy security. We shouldn’t have to choose between eating and keeping the lights on. A statewide plan

for renewables and transmission must look in depth at the impact on agricultural production.

“It is not appropriate to host this type of infrastructure on our best soils and irrigated country. Including these districts as part of ‘areas of investigation’ in the government’s plan is unacceptable.

“We’ve seen how fragile supply chains are recently. Poorly planned and inappropriate energy infrastructure that’s in the wrong place will have an ongoing impact on our ability to produce and supply food.”

Ms Germano added, “Every Victorian should be looking at this issue seriously as it goes to the heart of both the Victorian economy and the generational farmers on the land. If we want a prosperous Victoria, we need a prosperous agriculture industry and thriving regions.”

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



The Dog Olympics

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Strengthening biosecurity control across Victoria

VICTORIA’S biosecurity system will be strengthened with a \$6.1 million investment by the Victorian Government for projects that help prevent, monitor, and control diseases in cattle, sheep, goat, swine and honeybee industries.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced that 16 organisations will receive grants to deliver 38 projects that provide ground breaking solutions and use emerging technologies to improve livestock biosecurity in Victoria.

“The *Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program* helps industry meet emerging challenges at a time when biosecurity risks and threats are constant, and allows us to be more proactive as we protect our state from pests and diseases.

“We congratulate the new members for the Livestock Advisory Committees, we look forward to working together so that we can continue to protect and enhance our valuable livestock industries together,” Ms Spence said.

The *Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program* reinvests funds raised through duties on the sale of livestock and beekeeper registration fees back into the sector to help meet emerging biosecurity challenges head on.

For a full list of the 2024 *Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program* recipients as well as Livestock Compensation Advisory Committee members please visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds

AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for August, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The August theme is ‘your pet’.

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T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

WORK LOCAL

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The ins and outs of hiring a junior

IN Victoria, employers need a licence before they employ anyone under the age of 15. Children are able to deliver advertising material from 11 years old and can do retail or hospitality from the age of 13.

Children can only be employed for light work that is not harmful to their health, safety, wellbeing and development. A child cannot work on a building site, on a fishing boat or selling door-to-door.

According to the Wage Inspectorate Victoria an employer usually needs to apply for a licence to employ someone under the age of 15, whether its paid or voluntary work. It is a crime to not have this licence and the employer may be penalised.

Licences are free and last up to two years and you can employ multiple children off the one licence.

An employer must keep records about the employment of children. Most records must be held for 12 months after the child ends work. Workers under 15 must be supervised by someone who is at least 18 years old and holds a valid Victorian Working with Children Clearance, unless they are exempt, for example, a parent supervising their child.

If you employ children under 15 there is restrictions when it comes to their working hours. Children are only allowed to work between the hours of 6am and 9pm, cannot work during school hours and through the school term they are only allowed to work for a maximum of three hours a day and only 12 hours per week. Through school holidays this can increase to six hours per day and up to 30 hours per week.

If a child under 15 is working for you, parental consent needs to be granted. This must also be provided to the Wage Inspectorate if required.

If your child works for your family business, you don't need a licence and there are exemptions around age restrictions, hours of work and rest breaks. The child should always be supervised by the parent or guardian or an approved person over the age of 18.

If you know someone who you may suspect breaking child employment rules, contact 1800 287 287 and for more information around child employment visit vic.gov.au/wage-inspectorate-victoria

Allied Health Futures Forum

ASPIRING allied health practitioners will have the chance to meet and quiz local allied health professionals and associated universities at an upcoming careers expo held in Shepparton, with a dedicated focus on this important field.

The event will be held at the GV Hotel in Shepparton on Wednesday, August 28 from 6 to 8pm.

The networking night will feature representation from many of the allied health professions on offer in the community. From physiotherapy to audiology, speech pathology to occupational therapy, experts in these professions do really important work and play a crucial role in people's health and wellbeing, enabling them to live active lives via prevention and recovery methods, and supporting the medical health streams.

Local secondary students and their parents are invited to meet and greet a broad range of allied health professionals, to learn about the many careers that are on offer in the field, what a day in the life is like and the career pathways into these professions.

The event will be perfect for those who are doing course or subject selections and need help to clear up any grey areas regarding allied health, particularly those who are curious but not exactly sure where to begin, or what to aspire towards.

There will be over 15 different allied health professions represented, all from local clinics and businesses. These representatives are from both science-based and therapy-based occupations and will be answering questions, chatting to students about their experiences and promoting their jobs to young people.

Education providers Deakin University, Australian Catholic University, La Trobe University, Charles Sturt University, RMIT, Torrens University, Swinburne University and GOTAFE will also be in attendance to answer questions about pathways and courses

available in allied health in both city and regional campuses.

Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network (GMLLEN) is delivering this event as part of the Department of Education's initiative the "School to Work Program", providing youth with industry connections, work experiences and transition preparation.

GMLLEN Executive Officer Bec Costa-Lowe said helping young people to understand the careers in the field, and what the need is locally and the opportunities that exist here, is crucial to address the workforce shortage, but also to inspire the allied health professionals of the future.

"I know many allied health experts locally who are passionate about promoting allied health and attracting young people to their fields. This event might mark the beginning of a relationship with a local provider to keep that door open, so they can return and make an impact here in their hometown, and one day be treating and assisting people in their own community."

With both students and their parents in the room it is hoped that these conversations will continue at home and spark some interest in one of the many allied health roles that are offered in our communities.

Along with GMLLEN, the event is supported by Workforce Australia Local Jobs, with Employment Facilitator Faye D'Helin excited to be involved.

"The Allied Health Futures Forum will showcase the diverse range of education and employment pathways in allied health. We are excited to partner with GMLLEN on this event and support the growth of the allied health workforce."

Tickets are free and are available via tinyurl.com/58axuzmc or via the GMLLEN Facebook page.



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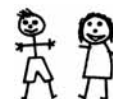
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Applications close Friday, September 6.

For more information, please call 57721387 or email the above address.



WORK WITH US SEASONAL FIRE CREW

Alexandra, Benella, Myrtleford and Shelley

Applications are sought for **Seasonal Fire Crew** (Summer Plantation Workers) for the 2024/25 fire season.

The paid limited tenure positions will run from early November 2024 to late March 2025 and will include physical outdoor work and firefighting.

The successful applicants:

- Must possess a current manual drivers licence
- Live within 30 minutes of their nominated work depot
- Be able to pass a pre-employment medical check and a drug and alcohol test
- Be available to attend all compulsory training throughout November
- Be available for regular rostered weekend standby within 15 minutes of the nominated depot

Plantation work is varied and involves four wheel driving, spraying, assisting with helicopter fertilising operations, track clearing, mapping, fire response and fuel reduction burning.

Current accreditations in chainsaw use, chemical use, first aid, firefighting and a MR licence are favourable.

How to apply?

Please send applications via our HVP Careers Portal hvp.elmotalent.com.au/careers/hvRfjobs

Please scan the QR code for the **Skills Summary Form** to upload as a cover letter.

Applications close: **September 6, 2024**



Roadkill highway

ALONG the Maroondah Highway from Buxton to Alexandra there have been a significant number of deceased animals, including wombats, deer, and an abundance of kangaroos.

It is understood as part of their routine maintenance program, Department of Transport and Planning operated roads are inspected on a regular basis for hazards, including roadkill.

Once roadkill is reported, crews work with contractors to have it removed. The department advised that a deer reported on July 27 was removed on July 29.

Anyone who comes across injured native animals on the road network should call Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300.

According to Wildlife Victoria, kangaroos and wallabies are most at risk on our roads. These macropods are crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk. The grass on the sides of the roads tends to be fresher from water runoff, making these areas a favourable feeding place.

A Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) spokesperson said, "Kangaroos and other wildlife move across the landscape for a range of reasons, including for food and water, breeding and habitat migration.

"Seasonal changes, habitat conditions and the availability of food and water can affect wildlife movements at certain times of the year, which can make animals more vulnerable to vehicle collisions.

"Increased traffic during warmer months and holiday periods also heightens the risk to local wildlife. Anyone who comes across injured native animals on our road network should call a local rescuer to assist."

Narbeview Wildlife Shelter Incorporated operator Shelley Stafford spoke about the current issue of wildlife on our roads.

"I have been extra busy lately, very much. I get calls every day but more recently I'm getting a lot more calls to euthanase wildlife that's been hit by a car. They are left alive and it's so sad.

"I think the reason we are seeing this increase, my opinion only, is that since the 2022 floods the wildlife has gone downhill from there. I get many comments from people that we don't see nice big fat wombats anymore... We are seeing wildlife that are struggling, and I'm having great difficulty finding grass for the shelter. It's not the same, our climate is different.

"If you look all the paddocks are quite brown, they're not growing back like normal and beside the roads its nice and green and lush. I feel that's why they are going to the roads. They're looking for food.

"I get a lot of adult wombats with attack wounds. I think they are all struggling to find a good spot to call home and ground cover.

When it comes to roadkill, Shelley said, "Other animals also come down to the road to feed on the deceased animals, we should pull them off the side of the road more, but these animals are very heavy we do the best we can. You will also find we pull them off the road and they are back on the road because a fox or something has pulled it back onto the road."

Shelley is very passionate about making a change in our shire when it comes to road signage.

"On the Maroondah highway, we need signage, I'm pushing for it. I have sent emails to Cindy McLeish. I'm worried if we don't do anything there will be not only wildlife deceased, there will be a human fatality.

"I know Mansfield got big green signs that are lit up with a wombat and a kangaroo, I want a deer in that too. There are a lot of deer out now and I'm getting a lot of calls for them as well.

"It's not about pulling animals off the road and out of sight, it's not the answer. Drive according to the conditions. I do believe accidents do happen too, but not to this extent.

"It is horrific out there, from Buxton to Taggerty especially. I'd like to see the 60 kilometre zone extended at Buxton. People are seeing the 100 kilometre zone and speed up and that's where the kangaroos are. I would like it extended past the blind corner and more onto the straight stretch. We must do something," Shelley added.

Studies from centre for Automotive Safety Research conducted by the University of Adelaide has shown that a reduction in speed of just 10 per cent has the potential to reduce vehicle crashes by 20 per cent.

Slow down to the conditions especially during dusk and dawn. When road visibility is poor, slow down to increase your reaction time and be alert while driving, and look out for wildlife feeding near the roadside.

Hop, skip and bump on the road

A PART of country life is watching out for wildlife, especially on the road. Sadly, many native animals are hit by vehicles each year.

Murrindindi Shire Council couldn't supply the numbers of deceased animals they remove from council roads each year, however wildlife can often be found on roads within township zones, as well as on highways.

In 2020, a kangaroo population survey was conducted by the state government. Murrindindi Shire came in second out of the top 10 'highest abundance of kangaroo areas', with a staggering 99,400 eastern grey kangaroos. Mitchell Shire came in first with 123,500 eastern grey kangaroos.

The survey was conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), now known as DEECA. They used experienced operators in aerial counting by helicopters to cover 3234 kilometres of transects. It's difficult to tell between the eastern grey species and western greys from the air. Crews covered 2195 kilometres of ground surveys across the state.

These results were larger than the 2017/2018 results, in fact, it was 36 per cent more. In 2020 it was estimated that there were 1,942,000 kangaroos in total, which grew from 1,423,000 in 2018.

In 2022, the kangaroo population survey took place again, however the data set was different compared to 2020 as it wasn't allocated into local government areas. Previously, Murrindindi Shire came under the central area in the study. The aerial survey from the central area showed 821,000 eastern grey kangaroos. In Victoria, the overall kangaroo population came to 2,418,000 and of this amount, the eastern grey species amounted for majority of Victoria's numbers, being 89 per cent.

Culling kangaroos is permitted in Victoria under strict requirements. The

2022 *Kangaroo Harvest Report* defines the two systems as the following, "The first mechanism is the Authority to Control Wildlife (ATCW) provisions of the Wildlife Act 1975 (Victoria), which allows legal culling of wildlife, including three species of kangaroo, the eastern grey kangaroo, western grey kangaroo, and red kangaroo. The second is a commercial harvest of eastern grey kangaroos and western grey kangaroo (also through the Wildlife Act) where annually determined quotas allow for ecologically sustainable commercial use of meat and skins from both species of grey kangaroo. Collectively, the culling and harvest of kangaroos is termed 'offtake'."

Part of the *Victorian Kangaroo Harvest Plan 2024-2028* permitted commercial harvesting of eastern grey and western grey kangaroos on private land and some public land in designated areas of Victoria. In the Harvest Zones for 2024 for the period of January 1 to December 31, the state is divided into seven harvest areas. Next year, the harvest zones are changing to five zones instead of seven. Murrindindi Shire comes under the central zone in the harvest management plan.

The conservation of eastern and western grey kangaroos is considered secure in Victoria. The large populations seem to outweigh the increasing numbers deceased on the side of roads.

Kangaroos are fairly safe from non-human predators as their robust appearance seems to deter being preyed upon. Young kangaroos are at risk from foxes and wedge tailed eagles.

According to the *Victorian Harvest Management Plan*, dingoes are considered the only significant predator for a kangaroo but it's more likely in pastoral areas, however, dingo populations would prefer sheep to kangaroo as prey, and dingo populations are small and unlikely to have meaningful impact on the state's kangaroo population.



The eastern grey kangaroo is a species of kangaroo you will see throughout the shire. -S

Kangaroos are also seasonal breeders which also shows the growth over the years of these as numbers climb. Wildlife Victoria state that eastern grey kangaroos can breed throughout the year, however most births occur during summer, in response to favourable conditions.

Since these kangaroos only have few predators and appear untouchable in the animal world and are healthy breeders, numbers are likely to climb.

Councils road safety strategy to improve our roads

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is close to presenting its Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. It is likely to be adopted at a council meeting in the near future. The report addresses the local roads needing work.

Murrindindi Shire Council engaged with community members last year to get input and develop future road safety measurements across the shire and developed a draft plan.

The strategy has been developed to adopt the national and state *Vision Zero* outlook, aiming to eliminate all road deaths by 2050. The first goal of this strategy is to halve these numbers by 2030.

The community feedback at the community engagement sessions showed that road maintenance is required. Pothole repairs are to take place, along with improved line marking, vegetation and gravel removal. Other changes include speed limit reductions on narrow roads for the safety of cyclists, safer infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, improving road illumination and line marking to improve visibility and safety, and tackling concerns over larger vehicles speeding on our roads.

Data was analysed from financial year 2015 to financial year 2019. Murrindindi is in the top 10 shires with the highest number of crashes among the 38 regional shires, amounting to 512 crashes, or approximately two crashes a week.

The report states that in terms of fatal and serious injury (FSI) Murrindindi takes second place during this period, and Murrindindi ranks third among all rural shires in terms of proportion of motorcyclist casualties.

More attention needs to be on motorcyclist safety. Riders accounted for nearly half of the FSI casualties, followed by drivers at around the one third mark of FSI casualties.

The other roads, as mentioned previously, had the highest number casualties crashes with more than 50 per cent being motorcycle crashes.

Who has the safest roads? When considering all casualties the highest number of casualty crashes and FSI occurred on Department of Transport roads. Other roads came in second which would include state forest roads and Parks managed by DEECA, followed by council roads.

The report did show there wasn't a vast difference to motorcycle crashes on all the different road types. Hotspots on council roads for motorcycle crashes included Eildon-Jamieson Road, between Barnewall Plains Road and Eildon, Warburton Road, Skyline Road near UT Creek Road intersection, Devils River, Whanregarwen Road near Goulburn Valley Highway, Whanregarwen, and Extons Road in Kinglake Central.

Even though the data set was older for this report, information was included in the report that in the recent three years (July 2020 to June 2022) there was a higher proportion of FSI crashes compared to the previous periods. The newer data did show that the highest number of crashes occurred from January to April and more frequently on the weekend.

Visitors to the region seem to be coping the brunt of the crashes as casualty numbers are more than double of resident casualties.

In the survey with 42 respondents, it showed that maintenance issues are a big concern for road users. The report stated the issues highlighted were that a lack of proper maintenance led to the deterioration of road conditions such as a high amount of potholes, loose gravel on the road, faded line marking, and vegetation over the roads, at the roundabout, or on the roadside.

There is an increased risk due to vehicles losing control when in contact or trying to avoid potholes, gravel, or trees.

Sight distance is also limited due to vegetation and presence of narrow high-speed roads on the network. It was noted that the risk is significantly high for cyclists on these roads and there is a lack of safe facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Other problems included presence on unsealed roads and unsealed shoulders, visitors are unfamiliar with Murrindindi roads, speeding and overtaking issues, especially by large vehicles, and poorly lit roads.

Findings from crash analysis as well as community and stakeholder consultation, seven goals were set for the future of Murrindindi's road safety.

These goals included reducing the number of fatal and serious injuries related to motorcycle crashes; ensuring a self-explaining road network that helps to reduce the number of fatal and serious injuries of shire's visitors who are unfamiliar with the shire's road network, supporting the selection of suitable speed limits to improve survivability, especially on high speed roads, and improving compliance and improving safety on high-speed rural road mid-block, maintaining good road conditions to ensure safe outcomes, and supporting innovative solutions to prepare for future development as well as an integrated network with e-mobility and automation of vehicles, and provide safe connections between and within communities (including townships and commercial areas) to increase accessibility and safety, in particular for the young and aging population, and tourists.

The above goals to increase the safety and combat the many issues on shire roads will surely make a difference once implemented. To view the draft road safety strategy and action plan visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

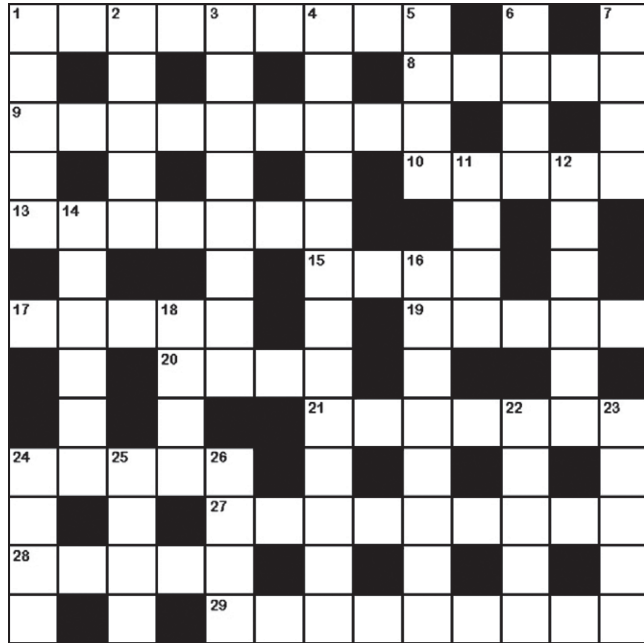
Crossword

ACROSS

- Made sugary.
- Fruit of the oak tree.
- Make more visible.
- Special occasion.
- Receive in a will.
- Mischievous fairies.
- Mildly distressed.
- Freshwater mammal.
- An action word.
- Copy someone's behaviour.
- Inhale through the nose.
- A persons aptitudes.
- Make happen.
- The history of a word.

DOWN

- Raw fish wrapped in seaweed.
- Unit of geological time.
- Put up with.
- Has the possibility of give-and-take.
- A particular day.
- Learn to deal with.
- The 'sheepshank'.
- Great in size.
- The most pleasant.



- Table linen.
- A person active in party politics.
- At any time.
- Friend or comrade.
- A literary composition.
- Sprinkled with seed.
- Domesticated cattle.
- Money collected for admission.

Word Search

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

Math Square

	÷		-		3
×		-		+	
	÷	3	-		-3
+		×		+	
7	+		+		20
55		-25		10	

Science Week

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| ATOM | MATTER |
| ELECTRON | MOLECULE |
| ENERGY | PARTICLE |
| GAS | PHOTON |
| ION | PROTONS |
| LIQUID | SOLID |

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.

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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.

Preparation well underway for open gardens

DESPITE the chilly weather that we have been experiencing in the district, the owners of the gardens that are participating in Alexandra and District Open Gardens have been rugging up and getting out to work in their gardens in preparation for the weekend of Saturday, October 26 and Sunday, October 27.

A few plants have had a touch of 'Jack Frost' with multiple frosts, even though plant tags said tolerant of light frosts. But the show must go on, and the gardeners know that by spring, winter will be just a memory as their gardens burst into life and they welcome visitors to their gardens.

The committee appreciate these garden owners who are generously opening their personal gardens to the public to share their passion of creating an idyllic space.

Money raised from the entry fee to each garden allows the committee to promote and run the event and each year, profits go back to the local community for different projects. Since



Michelle Fleming and Michael Heyes' property in Taggerty. -S

1990, over \$120,000 has been distributed.

With seven country gardens between Buxton, Taggerty, Thornton, Acheron and Yarck and two town gardens in Alexandra, there is a diversity of style and character providing interest and inspiration for visitors. Coupled with attractions to enjoy at each garden, plan your weekend to enjoy what's on offer.

Some of the attractions include sculptures, craft, food, coffee, plants, unique and rare seeds, licensed café and art gallery, decorations for the garden, and entertainment

fundraising for two local groups.

So, there will be lots to see and experience and maybe make a purchase or two.

In addition to these attractions at the gardens, Thumbs Up (seedlings and plants) in Buxton and Bron's Iris Garden (iris rhizomes) at Yarck will be open on the weekend for sales. Alexandra Nursery will also be open both days.

For more information and a description of each of the gardens and attractions visit alexandraopengardens.com.au

Victorian NAPLAN results

LAST week the findings from the NAPLAN National results were released by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

NAPLAN was successfully undertaken in schools across the country in March 2024. A record 4.4 million online tests were submitted by almost 1.3 million students in 9431 campuses and schools across Australia.

The national results provide nationally comparable data on the 2024 national, state and territory results for each year test that was conducted for the year levels assessed, and for each level by gender, indigenous status and language background other than English.

The new data has shown the NAPLAN results in 2024 at the national level were very similar to the results in 2023. There were small increases and decreases across domains and year levels, but nationally, in all domains and year levels, the results were broadly stable. Over a one year period, national statistics rarely show a notable change.

ACARA's CEO Stephen Gniel said, "These results are a testament to the hard work and commitment of schools, principals and teachers, as well as students themselves."

"Over the last two years, schools have adjusted to both the earlier timing of the NAPLAN tests and the changed reporting system with new proficiency standards. The fact that the results of Australian students have remained stable through these changes, with no significant difference in average scores, is an important achievement."

"The 2024 results continue to show strong performance from Australian students in literacy and numeracy. However, they also provide clear information on areas requiring our collective focus and effort for improvement. The challenges remain with supporting those students identified in the 'Needs additional support' category and tackling the ongoing educational disparities for students from non-urban areas, First Nations Australian heritage and those with low socio-educational backgrounds."

As the new measurement scale and proficiency levels were introduced last year, Mr Gniel noted caution must be exercised in trying to interpret any clear trends at this early stage.

Demographic results reflected trends in other national assessments and previous NAPLAN results, with female students outperforming male students in literacy, and higher results tending to align with students from the highest socio-educational backgrounds, in urban areas and from non-Indigenous backgrounds.

The national data shows Victorian students are leading the nation on a range of metrics, particularly in the primary years.

Victorian year three students continue to lead the nation in both reading and numeracy, the most important foundational skills. This is the third consecutive year this has been achieved.

Victoria achieved the first or second highest scores of all jurisdictions in seven out of eight measures in reading and writing and achieved the top results in the country for writing in years five, seven and nine.

Victorian primary school students continue to produce the best results in the country, ranking first or second in eight out of 10 domains.

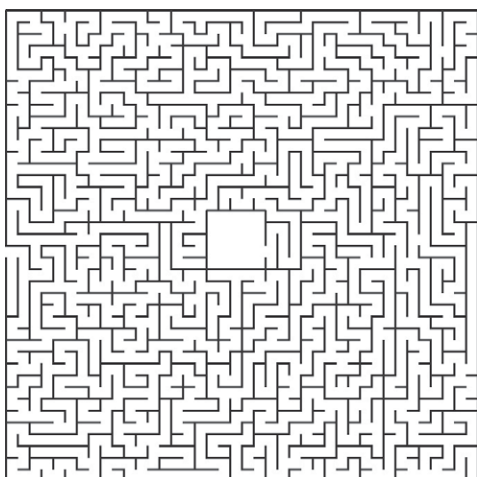
Victorian students in years three, seven and nine improved their 2023 reading results, reversing the national trend, which saw the average score for reading decline in years three, five, and seven, and improve only in year nine.

Victoria's reading performance improved overall in 2024, with 5000 more students reaching the 'exceeding' proficiency level for reading across all year levels compared to 2023. Despite the promising results there will still be an introduction of the mandatory use of phonics in primary schools from 2025 to further reduce the number of students struggling.

While Victorian primary students lead the nation in numeracy, years seven and nine students placed third nationally. The state government has promised to invest more than \$20 million to upskill math teachers to better equip students in numeracy.

Families would have already received their child's NAPLAN results. The 2024 NAPLAN data will be published on the My School website in early December to see how local schools have performed.

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Meta's claims about news on Facebook refuted

by Andrew Schreyer, president of Country Press Australia

IN the first half of 2024, one-third of Australians accessed Facebook for news, a new study reveals. The finding contradicts Meta's long-standing assertion that news content is a minor part of the Facebook experience for most Australian users.

Meta has previously used this claim to justify its decision to abandon commercial agreements with local publishers. The implications of this are significant for the local journalism landscape, especially for the more than 230 newspapers who are part of Country Press Australia, the association representing the interests of regional and rural newspapers across the country.

The research emphasises the essential role that news media plays in Australia, particularly how regional newspapers contribute to offering balanced and precise news coverage.

More than 40 per cent of Australians cited news access as a key motivator for their daily social media activity, with this tendency more noticeable among Gen Z and millennials at 60 per cent and 53 per cent, respectively.

Country Press Australia President and Warragul and Drouin Gazette publisher, Andrew Schreyer, said there were significant industry challenges ahead, and forecast potential closures of up to 50 member outlets as current agreements under the News Media Bargaining Code with Meta near their expiration.

Mr Schreyer further highlighted the implications for democracy.

"Democracy in areas without local news is lost. Who is going to stand up to a council decision that doesn't meet the pub test? Who is going to shine a light on issues when people don't have a big enough voice to get their message out?"

"The research underscores the vital role that regional newspapers play in providing accurate and diverse perspectives.

"As Australians show a growing dissatisfaction with Meta, the study reaffirms the importance of maintaining a strong and independent local press to ensure accountability and transparency within communities," Mr Schreyer said.

The study also found that while overall Facebook usage is waning, half of Australians still turn to social media for news, with 25 per cent using it as their primary news source. These findings starkly contradict Meta's position that news is a minimal component of the content seen by Australians on its platforms, which Meta claimed represents less than three per cent of the total.

This study, initiated by News Corp and conducted by Dynata, refutes those statements. This research release aligns with the media industry's wait on the Australian Government's decision regarding Meta's obligations under the News Media Bargaining Code, which might compel Meta to negotiate compensation for content with news providers.

Meta has threatened to block Australian news content should these costs be enforced.

In an article published in *The Australian* on Monday, News Corp Australasia executive chairman Michael Miller expressed concerns over Meta's threats to remove news content, potentially replacing it with less reliable sources. He also criticised Meta for its lack of accountability.

The study shows strong public support for social media responsibility, with 85 per cent of Australians agreeing that platforms should prevent the spread of false or harmful information. Without trustworthy journalism, 66 per cent believe the societal impact would be negative, anticipating increases in misinformation and decreased media diversity.

Mr Miller highlighted the significant impact these findings have on public understanding and the obligations of large tech companies, criticising Meta for avoiding transparency.

This analysis of 2500 Australians confirms the integral role of social media in their news consumption habits, countering Meta's underestimations of news relevance on its platform, and exposing the misleading nature of its claims.

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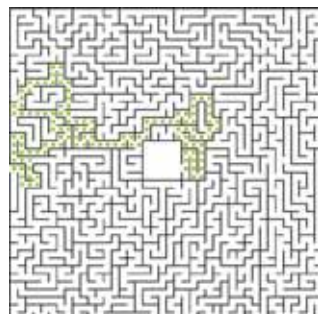
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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

DEATH NOTICES



DODGE, Beverly

On behalf of the President, committee and members of the Alexandra Golf Club, we wish to pass on our deepest condolences to the Dodge family on the passing of Bev Dodge, a long member and wife of Life Member, the late Bob Dodge.

Both contributed much to the Alexandra Golf Club and are sorely missed.



SCOTT, Joan

Members of the Yea Bowls Club wish to pass on their sincere sympathy to the family of Joan Scott who was an esteemed Life Member of the YBC devoting many hours fundraising for the club.

WALLER, Ross. 74 years beloved husband of Teresa. Loving Dad of nine. Pa of 18. Great pa of two. At peace after long illness. Sadly missed by all. Forever in our hearts.

WITH THANKS

HALL, Ted. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who assisted me on the death of Ted. Special thanks to the RSL and McCormack Funerals. Val Hall.

WALLER, Ross. Many thanks especially to the Cody family, Oncology, Palliative Care, District nurses, the chemist girls - Bec, Karen, Pam. Thanks for all your love and support to Ross and Teresa.

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BIRTHDAYS

BEST Wishes to Leo (Slim) Chambers of Eildon who is celebrating his 100th Birthday on 28 August. We hope you have great day. Love from all the Chambers Family.

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MEETINGS



Upper Goulburn Community Radio

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 26 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact secretary via email info@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic. 3714 or call 5772 2722.



Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary Annual General Meeting

will be held on September 5 at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre Meeting Room at 20 Miller Street, Yea. RSVP Ruth Crockett on 5797 3057.

THE ALEXANDRA OPPORTUNITY SHOP Inc.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, at 10am at the RSL Hall.

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Michelle Green. -S

Cost-of-living crisis bites animals in Victoria's North-East

by Michelle Green, RSPCA Inspectorate Team Leader North-East

AS the team leader for RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate North-East region, every day my team of five Inspectors and I are seeing first-hand how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting people and their pets.

From St Kilda's beaches all the way up to Cobram and Corryong and everywhere in between people are struggling, and when people are struggling, their pets are affected.

Those struggling to care for their pets are certainly not alone.

Heartbreakingly, every month RSPCA Victoria receives between 400 and 600 calls from people wanting to surrender their pets for a variety of reasons, including financial difficulties.

Many of the cruelty cases we see aren't necessarily malicious cruelty, rather, neglect due to people's circumstances changing beyond their control, such as unexpected illness, injury or hospitalisation, financial pressures, those affected by domestic violence, and many other factors.

Sometimes it's people simply not knowing how to provide basic care for their pets and, with a little help and education, things can be easily turned around.

So much of what my team and I do out on the road is focused on helping people in the community care for their pets.

We know animals make our lives better and, where it's safe to do so, the best outcome is often to keep people and their pets together.

Over the last 12 months we've seen more cases of people with simply too many pets, and they are struggling to, or unable to provide adequate care for their animals.

Unfortunately, this often results in poor husbandry and living conditions for the animals.

This is also affecting their ability to provide basic veterinary attention for sick or injured animals.

Where we can, we've been helping those who are struggling by providing flea and worming treatments, emergency food, and on occasion a kennel or bedding for their pets.

Despite this work, RSPCA Victoria received 1990 cruelty reports for the north-east region, resulting in the rescue of 413 animals.

Quite often these are cases where animal suffering could have been avoided through essential husbandry and preventative care practices like flea and worming treatment, dental care and grooming.

To everyone in the north-east region, thank you for reporting animal cruelty.

The care you have shown for these animals ensures we're able to investigate and do what we can to help.

The people across the north-east region are our eyes and ears when it comes to animal cruelty, and we urge anyone with concerns to report it to RSPCA Victoria by calling 9224 2222 or online at rspcavic.org/cruelty-report.

The community's support doesn't stop there.

It cost approximately \$9.7 million to operate the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate in the last financial year, with the majority of funding coming from the community through donations, fundraising and events.

If you are one of many who are struggling to care for your pets, please don't be afraid to reach out for help, whether it be to us, to other community-based programs, to your local council, or to other groups who may be able to provide support.

Together, we can end animal cruelty.

[IN Murrindindi Shire, eight animals were seized or surrendered in 2023/4, down from nine in 2022/3. The ranking has changed from 46th place out of all shires to 49th place. -Ed]

Acclimatisation Society news from 1868



Axis deer. -Charles J Sharp

Alexandra Times, Tuesday, June 9, 1868

THE Acclimatisation Society, like many other branches of industry or commerce, has been suffering from the effects of the 'deadlock', and consequently their operations during the past year have been restricted. We take the following extracts from the report of the council of the society.

The introduction of the following quadrupeds and birds has taken place during the year: five nylghau [also known as nilgai, a large Indian antelope], ostriches, three axis deer [chital], two sambar deer, two Japanese deer, two Batavia deer, six Ceylon partridges and 80 English skylarks. In addition to these, the council received from Tasmania 200 trout fry, which were temporarily placed in a rill specially constructed for them at the Royal Park.

Also, thanks to the energetic kindness of Mr Allport, a considerable number of English perch has been received, and it is hoped that the increase of these fish will speedily enable the council to commence stocking some of the reservoirs now in course of construction in various parts of the colony; this important work being one that the council is extremely desirous of performing, more especially as the government has promised every assistance in its power to accomplish so desirable an object. The council is happy to be able to report that the salmon experiment, undertaken by this society in conjunction with the Tasmanian Salmon Commissioners, proceeds most satisfactorily.

Attached to this report is published the last report of the Salmon Commissioners, a perusal of which is surely sufficient to convince the most sceptical that hitherto success has been obtained.

The angora goats continue to thrive admirably, and the society's splendid flock now numbers upwards of 200, in addition to 70 young pure bred rams which have been distributed over the colony. The deer which have been turned loose in various parts of the colony are increasing fast. Special reference may be made to the herd of axis deer, liberated by the council, in conjunction with Mr S Wilson, on the Wimmera.

The English hare, wherever it has been turned out, has increased at a marvellous rate, and within a very short time may fairly be expected to be available both for food and sport. The sparrows which were introduced by this society have multiplied to such an extent that the council has been enabled to distribute numbers of them to Beechworth, Benalla, Kyneton, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Daylesford,



A hare. -Alyona Kapyonkina

Warrnambool, Geelong, St Arnaud, Heathcote, Somerton, Winchelsea, Meredith, Gisborne, Ararat, Portland, Maryborough and the Murray, and from all these places replies have been received of a very satisfactory nature.

In the report for 1865, the council mentioned that, at the suggestion of the Hon. J G Francis, Commissioner of Customs, a considerable number of goats, rabbits, pigs, fowls, ducks, and geese, had been sent down by the society, in H M C S Victoria, for liberation at the Auckland Islands [halfway between New Zealand and Macquarie Island], to be of service to any person who might unfortunately be shipwrecked there. It was not then anticipated how soon these animals would be required, but it is now known that within five months of their being placed on the islands, the survivors from the 'General Grant' were indebted to them for sustenance.

In consequence of this success, the council has determined to ship a much larger stock by the first opportunity to these islands.

Rabbits in Murrindindi

Alexandra Times, Friday, October 1, 1869

A NUMBER of rabbits have been forwarded here for turning loose. Some people are of opinion that as these animals have proved such a nuisance in the Geelong district, that they ought not to be introduced here. There is a difference between

this and an agricultural district.

We have very few gardens, and if these rabbits were turned out at the head of the UT Creek, they could not possibly do any harm, and in a short time would afford not only good shooting, but a pleasant variety to the food on our tables.

Movember Institute publishes new men's health report

THE Movember Institute of Men's Health has just published a world-first *Real Face of Men's Health Report*, outlining the alarming state of men's health across Australia.

The report found that two in five men living in Australia will die prematurely, and from largely preventable reasons.

Suicide is the leading cause of death among men aged 15 to 44 years and it's the second leading cause of death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. In Australia, men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women. In 2022, men who died by suicide lost an average of 34.9 years of life.

Where men live can also determine how long they live, according to the report.

The average rate of male premature death in rural electorates is 3.5 times higher than those in electorates in inner metropolitan areas. Many factors contribute to these outcomes, but poor health education, limited access to healthcare, engagement in high-risk behaviours, and gender stereotypes all play a role.

Men are less likely to engage in preventative health, choosing instead, to suffer in silence.

Nearly two in three men (63 per cent) feel that gender stereotypes (ie. 'toughing it out') have affected their health behaviours and experiences in healthcare settings. That number rises to 71 per cent for men who have a mental health condition. Fifty per cent of men believe it's normal for men to ignore regular check-ups, and almost a third are confused or overwhelmed by health information.

When it comes to poor health, 34 per cent of men have sat with symptoms for more than a month before reaching out to a doctor and nine per cent have waited over two years. When men do reach out to a GP (or present at a hospital) it's usually when symptoms are critical or ongoing, leading to poorer health outcomes.

When men are in poor health, it often falls on loved ones to care for them.

There are 2.65 million informal (unpaid) caregivers in Australia, and 70 per cent of them are women and girls. While caregiving can be incredibly rewarding, new Movember research reveals the profound impact of men's poor health on the emotional,

physical, and social health of female informal caregivers.

These nationally representative insights also reveal financial tolls, including lost career opportunities and financial stress, with 36 per cent of respondents having to leave or change jobs or reduce their working hours, to support a man in poor health, and 48 per cent citing a negative financial impact.

Compared to male carers, women who care for men are more likely to experience: worries or anxiety (66 per cent versus 45 per cent); low mood or depression (46 per cent versus 35 per cent); overwhelm or stress (52 per cent versus 33 per cent). By improving men's health, we not only benefit men, but also the families and communities that those men are a part of.

The report found that suffering men's health also has a huge impact on the economy.

In 2023, Australia spent approximately \$10.7 billion on five conditions that cause the most years of life lost in men. These were chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, and suicide.

The Movember Institute of Men's Health are calling on the government to fund and resource the Australian Men's Health Strategy 2020-2030 so that they can undertake a variety of actions.

These include promoting men's health literacy by helping men understand how their bodies, minds, and even the health systems around them work; investing in gender-responsive healthcare services that are better able to reach, respond to, and retrain men in healthcare settings (ie. screenings for prostate cancer or HIV); equipping healthcare workers with skills and strategies to engage men in those services; and conducting more research into men's health, so they can bolster the evidence base about what works and what doesn't work.

For those struggling with mental health, there are a variety of support services available to assist. Anyone having a personal crisis can contact Lifeline on 131 114 or chat online, and people can get support by calling Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636. MensLine Australia provides online counselling and a forum for men, and can be found by calling 1300 789 978.

The highs of Murrindindi Shire

IT may come as a surprise to some that Australia is the lowest continent in the world with an average elevation of only 330 metres above sea level. We have some high points, like Mount Kosciuszko with an elevation of 2228 metres, and some low points, like Lake Eyre in South Australia, which sits 15 metres below sea level.

But have you ever wondered what the elevations of places in Murrindindi Shire are?

Using an online elevation map, the elevation of various sites around the shire were searched and recorded. To search the map in more detail for specific places, visit whatismyelevation.com

In terms of the major towns, Yea has an elevation of 172 metres above sea level, while Alexandra is higher at 226 metres. Marysville is higher still, recording an elevation of 422 metres, while Kinglake sits at 545 metres above sea level. Yarck is 215 metres above sea level, Eildon is 230 metres above sea level, Molesworth is 174 metres above

sea level, and Taggerty is 212 metres above sea level.

Of the 135 named mountains in the Shire of Murrindindi, the highest and most prominent is Mount Torbreck, with an elevation of 1516 metres above sea level at the highest point.

Lake Mountain, which is the primary place for tobogganing within the shire, is slightly lower, with an elevation of 1442 metres. The Acheron Cutting Lookout, which provides some amazing views of the fog that enshrouds Murrindindi Shire, has an elevation of only 221 metres.

Elevation can mean a number of things. First, the places with higher elevation often have scenic views that makes it worth the drive or trek upwards to look out over a magnificent vista. They also tend to have a colder climate, due to increased precipitation and decreasing air pressure the higher up you go.

This is why snow forms higher up, and why certain places are more likely to get snow, because the climate is more hospitable for such a weather phenomenon.

SPORT

Great games for winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

IT was a glorious day for tennis matches in Euroa, Benalla, Mansfield and Terip last Monday week.

In Mansfield, Wappan welcomed Seven Creeks and both teams enjoyed freshly groomed courts, great hitting under sunny skies, and a scrumptious lunch when they eventually made it off the court.

The opening sets were both lengthy battles and were split 8-6 each way for scores level. Wappan's Jenny Bell, Rhonda Carpenter, Kimberley Marsden and Di Bergelin combined well while Seven Creeks gained ground in the second pairings.

Rowena Ellis, Kelly Hill, Kerry Hewlett and Jill Hayes put on a master class of steady returns and skilful placement to edge further ahead in the last sets. Seven Creeks 4-43 defeated Wappan 2-30.

Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Phoebe Macdermid and Jenny Martin began strongly against Euroa not allowing Faye Mollison and Lyndall Bigland into the first set. Julie Harrington and Ruth Nolan combined well in their opener, but Terip were convincing in the remaining sets and defeated Euroa 5-44 to 1-22.

Match of the round was between Mansfield and Creighton's Creek who shared the sets three all. Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Michelle Pigdon, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham were breaking hard, inspired by the Olympians, and picked up more games in their losing sets. Mansfield won the day 3-39 to Creighton's Creek 3-31 and continue to stake their claim for a finals berth.

In Benalla Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Helen Checucti won every set including one in a tie break against Moglonemby's Judy Sands and Robyn Johnson. Mary Kelly and Lyn Johnston also fought hard all day, but Benalla was too good on the lawn.

Benalla 6-48 defeated Moglonemby 1-17.

After Round 15 Terip topped the ton with 101 points, Benalla 89, Euroa 89, Mansfield 79, Seven Creeks 73, Creighton's Creek 65, Wappan 61, Moglonemby 38 and Delatite 5.

Alexandra Golf Club news

by Elizabeth Goss

ANOTHER sunny week encouraged players out onto the course, with 12 last Tuesday for the stableford round at Alexandra Golf Club. John Greatorex was the winner with (18) 36 points, Dave Silverman was close behind with (11) 35 points followed by Leo Doyle with (24) 34 points.

Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Bruce Colville, on the 17th to Brad Newton and on the 18th to Dave Silverman. Ball rundown: Russel Purcell, Paul Martin, and Brad Newton.

Julie Lyon was the winner again last Wednesday with (21) 31 points followed by Mor Gale with (45) 30 points and then Marg Fahey with (23) 29 points. Nearest the pin on the second and 12th went to Sue Greatorex and on the fifth to Marg Fahey. Marion Williamson won the nine holes with 15 points. Next Wednesday, August 28 is stableford.

Saturday's four ball best ball stableford round on Saturday was won by Brad Kidd (9) and Brendon Smith with (8) 42 points on a countback from Dave Silverman (11) and Alan Kirkpatrick with 42 points. Next came Steve Darmody (21) and Frank Devries with (26) 41 points on a countback from Todd Galloway (16) and Jared Sloane with (9) 41 points.

Nearest the pin on the second, fifth, and 18th went to Brendan Smith, on the seventh to Brad Kidd and on the 12th to Todd Galloway. Saturday, August 24 is stableford.

Stableford at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttamatic

FIFTEEN players contested a stableford competition last Saturday at Eildon Golf Club. Before the game partners were drawn at random for a two-person combined score match. This meant no teams were playing together, making for an interesting competition.

When returning to the club house the calculations were done for the teams combined score and the club gave its congratulations to Ken Collier (38) and Peter McNair (33) with a combined score of 71 to take out first place honours. In second place with a score of 64, Allan Mackwell (37) and Ian Lakeland (27), followed by Michael Lynch (26) and Peter McNair (33) with a total of 59, who were able to secure ball run as well as the pairing of Wayne Kupke (30) and Marion Williamson (28) finishing with 58.

Nearest the pins went to Allan Mackwell on the par four, third (second shot), Rod Taylor on the fifth and 12th and Dennis Seamer on the 14th. The 11th went unclaimed as did the two birdie holes on offer and Marion Williamson picked up both the swindle and joker draws.

An inspiring young athlete

WHILE Olympians often capture our imagination, it's local athletes like Levi Campbell who truly inspire us. At the recent Little Athletics Victoria State Championships Cross Country event, Levi, competing in the first age group of the day, gave it his all and finished an impressive 12th.

The Murrindindi Little Athletics club extends its congratulations to Levi for his great achievement. The club also want to express gratitude for his role as a positive role model for the younger athletes in the club. Your dedication and sportsmanship are truly commendable, Levi.

With only a few months until the start of the new season for Murrindindi Little Athletics, stay tuned for information on how to get involved in the fun and inclusive local club.



Inspiring athlete Levi Campbell. -S

Round five of term three pennant results for Alexandra squash

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Gouda versus Mozzarella

JESS (fill in) versus Eric: Jess had some amazing serves, but Eric improved and came back with some great returns in the last game. Jess was victorious. 79 to 21.

Chris versus Mick: Taking a strong lead at the start Mick was on fire. Chris had a better measure of his opponent's style in the last two games and kept it close, but Mick had done too much damage in the first half. 63 to 39.

James (fill in) versus Daniel: The last-minute fill in was overrun in the first half. James pulled it together to take the third game. Unfortunately, there was no hope and Daniel won with a good lead. 82 to 49.

Camembert versus Feta

Lachlan versus Tyler: Both played well and had good rallies. Lachlan

starred with his strong serve that Tyler didn't have an answer for. Lachlan was victorious. 61 to 36.

Lee versus Sally: Being the more experienced player, Lee had the upper hand. Sally held her own well enough to draw the last game, however Lee still took home the match. 61 to 44.

John versus Andrew: Only four points difference and two games were a draw. Andrew claimed the extra points in the last two games to leave with the trophy 63 to 59.

Thursday Competition Hammerheads versus Orcas

Matt (fill in) versus Blake: Putting in good effort, Matt tried to put a dampener on Blake's victory. However, Blake's experience didn't let him down. 74 to 29.

Jodie versus Kristelle: Somehow managing to miss the ball at every turn, Kristelle allowed Jodie to gain a 23-point lead in the first game. The next three games were closer, and Kristelle managed to win the last

game. Jodie proved her skill to take the match. 73 to 42.

Michael M versus Stuart: An entertaining match as always. Michael's commitment to getting every shot back saw him returning shots while lying on the ground. This determination saw Michael crowned victorious. 49 to 42.

Piranhas versus Stingrays

Beth versus Chris (fill in): Filling in down a level, Chris should have had the upper hand. Beth held her own throughout the match for a draw. 62 to 62.

Sam versus Travis: Both gents are developing a great short game and there were plenty of great rallies. Sam came out on top with some extraordinary shots out of nowhere. 68 to 47.

Michael H versus Jim: Michael started strong, but Jim was able to rock his confidence in the third game. Jim finished strong in the final game to seal his victory. 61 to 50.

Great effort by all junior football and netball teams

by Ray Steyger

NETBALL

Under 11 Alexandra Red 20 defeated St Marys 9

Alexandra Red advance to the Grand Final and will play Seymour, good luck to coach Lisa Francis and the team.

Under 13 Alexandra Black 22 defeated Tabilk 18 in overtime

Alexandra Black advance to the Grand Final and will play Yea, good luck to coach Phoebe Parker and the team.

A very big thank you to the award sponsors for their continued support of our junior footballers and netballers in 2024. Also, a big thank you to all the volunteers for assisting to host Finals last Sunday, you all did a great job.

This coming Sunday Alexandra head to Kings Park in Seymour for

the League's Grand Finals in three grades of netball and two grades of football together with the under 10 football lightning Premiership. The League will confirm times during the week.

Thank you to all the families that have paid their season 2024 junior football and netball player memberships. Any families that have not done so yet, it would be appreciated if you could attend to this as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact Club President Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.

Congratulations to the under 12 football team together with under 11 and under 13 netball teams that have progressed to the Grand Finals. The club invites everyone to get behind the Rebels and show their support with red white and black in shop windows and house windows around town, be proud, be loud.

FOOTBALL

Under 12 Wandong 7.6 - 48 defeated Broadford 3.4 - 22

Wandong advance to the Grand Final and will play Alexandra next Sunday. Good luck to coach Ben Broadway and the team.

Under 14 Broadford 12.11 - 83 defeated Tabilk 3.6 - 24

Broadford advance to the Grand Final and will play Wandong.

A tough week for Senior football and netball

by Ray Steyger

Football

Reserves

Alexandra 0.2 – 2 was defeated by Seville 22.16 – 148

ALEXANDRA travelled to Seville last Saturday for round 18, the final home and away round of the Outer East League 2024 division one season. The Reserves with no one on the bench faced second placed Blues who were keen to get some momentum heading into finals, kicking ten unanswered goals in the first half. The Rebels displayed great spirit and continued to make a contest but the Blues were rewarded on the scoreboard which kept ticking over.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen: Tom McKinlay; Ampol fuel card: Jake Steyger; Alexandra Hotel: Lachlan Collard; Buxton Hotel: Josh Crane, Sportspower: Luke Wal.

Seniors

Alexandra 9.4 – 58 was defeated by Seville 17.17 – 119

The Seniors needed to win to secure a spot in the finals, but the Blues also needed the win to secure top spot on the ladder, the Blues starting with four goals to three in the first quarter before the Rebels kicked into gear in the second quarter with five goals to three in the second, leading by three points at half time. However, the Blues lifted while the Rebels were limited with additional injuries, the Blues kicking 10 goals to one in the second half of a polished performance.

Awards: Incentives: Harry Kelly, Tom Boots, Will Johnson, and Ben Cooper. Alexandra Hotel / Ampol volunteer award: Ben and Kate Broadway.

Netball

A GRADE lost 26 to 77: Incentive: Teagan Halligan; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Jaz Collett; Alpine Butchery: Ellie Hedger.

B grade lost 8 to 104: Incentive: Sarah Skeehan; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Ash Peers; Alpine Butchery: Aleesha Kerr.

C grade lost 6 to 67: Incentive: Brenna Frost; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Hollie Wheelhouse; Alpine Butchery: Kate Broadway.

D grade lost 18 to 37: Incentive: Emily Van Lierop; Corner Hotel / Grant Street Grocer: Billie Bermingham.

The Penstock Pastoral Joker Jackpot card was not located and will be worth \$300 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 senior sitting.

The club now start finals with Alexandra represented by Senior football alongside A and D grade netball, the first three weeks to be played on Sundays with the Grand Final on Saturday, September 14. Venues for this coming Sunday are Emerald and Woori Yallock with the League to advise in due course as to where teams are to play.



Alexandra reserves player Tyson Pedlar fighting for control of the ball. -S



Tom Kendall working to interrupt the opposition. -S



Alexandra seniors player Harry Aikman booting the ball. -S



Ben Cooper levitating as he marks the ball. -S



Josh Edwards fighting for possession of the ball despite tough opposition. -S



D Grade player Rose Hurrey. -S



C Grade player Karen Cole and Brenna Frost showing great team work. -S



A grade player Jorja Gesler getting amongst the action. -S

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Golfers braved wet conditions to play the Marysville course. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football - Seniors		
Seville	266.85	13
Healesville	255.21	13
Warburton Millgrove	195.01	13
Belgrave	152.85	9
Alexandra	178.16	9
Yea	106.37	8
Yarra Glen	39.02	2
Yarra Junction	33.52	2
Powelltown	25.65	2

Football - Reserves		
Belgrave	485.11	15
Seville	405.18	13
Healesville	347.33	13
Warburton Millgrove	256.69	11
Yea	81.77	7
Alexandra	55.74	6
Powelltown	29.48	3
Yarra Glen	22.12	2
Yarra Junction	30.98	1

Football - Senior Women		
Monbulk	52 pts	13
Woori Yallock	52 pts	12
Warburton-Wesburn	50 pts	12
Officer	34 pts	8
Wandin	30 pts	7
Emerald	30 pts	7
Seville	8 pts	2
Thornton Eildon	0 pts	0

Football - Under 16		
Euroa	78.57	11
Moama	64.28	9
Seymour	53.84	7
Alexandra	21.42	3
Yea	15.38	2
Broadford	14.28	2

Football - Under 14		
Broadford	421.43	10
Wandong	211.34	6
Tabilk	123.72	6
Alexandra	132.53	5
Seymour	101.07	3
Yea	5.03	0

Netball - A Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	183.89	13
Seville	168.85	14
Yarra Glen	149.72	10
Healesville	91.97	7
Alexandra	70.29	6
Belgrave	82.07	4
Yarra Junction	74.83	4
Yea	52.87	2

Netball - B Grade		
Seville	68 pts	16
Belgrave	56 pts	12
Yarra Glen	56 pts	12
Warburton Millgrove	48 pts	10
Yea	36 pts	7
Healesville	24 pts	4
Yarra Junction	24 pts	4
Powelltown	24 pts	4
Alexandra	20 pts	3

Netball - C Grade		
Yarra Glen	70 pts	15
Seville	64 pts	14
Warburton Millgrove	54 pts	11
Belgrave	52 pts	11
Yarra Junction	36 pts	7
Yea	36 pts	7
Alexandra	18 pts	2
Powelltown	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1

Netball - D Grade		
Seville	100.00	13
Belgrave	67.85	9
Alexandra	67.85	9
Yarra Glen	64.28	9
Warburton Millgrove	57.14	8
Yea	21.42	3
Yarra Junction	14.28	2
Powelltown	0	0

Football - Under 12		
Wandong	48 pts	12
Alexandra	40 pts	10
Broadford	28 pts	7
Seymour	28 pts	7
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	12 pts	3
St Marys	0 pts	0

Golfing in the rain at Marysville

by Lesley Rundle

THE weather forecast suggested that it would be a wet day for golf on Saturday but the misty rain in Marysville didn't progress to the predicted heavy rain and golfers were able to complete the 18 holes in fairly comfortable conditions.

The ladies played stableford and the winner was Gail Leigh (10) with 34 points. Gail also won three of the four nearest the pins on the fourth, 11th and 18th holes, as well as winning the golden shot. It was an excellent round by Gail and her skill and consistency is admired by all members. The runner up was Sabrina Stow (21) with 31 points.

The men played stroke with Steve Coker (19) blitzing the field with nett 69 and Steve Berry (12) with nett 72 was the runner-up. Steve Berry also won the putting with 28 putts. Gail almost had a clean sweep of the nearest the pins but she left one for

Richie Clark to win on the ninth hole. Next Saturday the golfers will play a stableford round.

Members are reminded that the AGM will be held before play on Saturday, September 14. Those who wish to nominate someone for a position on the committee are asked to do so as soon as possible.

Marysville members congratulate long time member and highly regarded Alexandra golfer Elizabeth Goss on her recent birthday. Elizabeth continues to write the weekly Alexandra golf report in this paper.

For those golfing families looking for a special Father's Day gift consider the deal at Marysville Golf Club. For \$30 a nine-hole voucher can be purchased with three golf balls included and for \$40 an 18-hole voucher plus three golf balls can be bought. To buy a voucher contact the club on 5963 3241 or email enquiries to marysvillegolfandbowls.com.au

A Family Fun and Trivia Night will be held at the club on Saturday, September 21 and details are on the Marysville Golf Club website.

The annual ladies' tournament will be held on Thursday, October 10 and all Dalhousie golfers will soon receive a flyer with details of the event.

A weekend of golf is being held on Saturday, November 9 and Sunday, November 10. An ambrose game to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of the back nine holes, and an evening dinner will be held on the Saturday as a major fundraiser. Please note that non golfers are invited to the dinner. The annual mixed tournament will be held the following day. Comprehensive details of each of these events are on the Marysville Golf Club website.