

# 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, September 25, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Some of the boys from St Mary's Primary School, all dressed up for ELF Day. More images on page 12. -AR

## REZ zones may help to determine shire's renewable future

ON Sunday, September 15, the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) conducted a further information session about the proposed wind farm, with the focus being on the consultation, Developing the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, open on Engage Victoria website until September 30.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish was among the 50 attendees at the meeting.

Members of SRRCG talked the people through the consultation process, and suggested ways for them to put in their own submissions. They also took the audience through the details of the SRRCG submission and provided hand-outs with advice on how to make a submission.

The current consultation follows another, where the purpose was to provide feedback on the Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines document. Submissions for this consultation closed on August 25. SRRCG member Catriona King explained, "There were two parts to that. One was they were surveying

the community's feelings on the guiding principles that underpinned the guidelines. The community was asked to weigh the principles. The second part of that process was to source any other comments."

The current consultation process is specifically on the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) study areas.

Catriona said that for the Strathbogies and Murrindindi areas, the majority has been designated as tier two, with some patches tier one. Tier one is the highest priority for investigation as a renewables zone, and tier two is the next priority.

The current consultation provides the opportunity for people in the community to comment on why they think this area is or is not suitable.

Asked whether SRRCG has found much support for the project, Catriona said, "We've run a couple of surveys and I think the last one early this year and that was a

96 per cent respondents who didn't support it, and from anecdotal conversations we're having around the traps, that's certainly not changing broadly."

She added that in Alexandra and Yea, people are becoming more aware of the transmission lines which may pass through the area, and said that this awareness is contributing to the number of people objecting.

Asked whether the objections solely relate to wind farms or whether solar farms might see similar objections, Catriona responded, "What we're hearing from people is they choose to live in this region because of this scenery, the landscape and biodiversity, and they really don't want to see if it was to become a renewable energy."

It's understood that few landholders in the area have signed up to host turbines or transmission lines.

"There's two issues says that there's the Fera wind farm proposal, which we've been

working through for a number of years now, but now there's this renewable energy zone prospect which has come over the top of it, which I suppose heightens the issue even further. If it were to become a REZ, then it wouldn't just be one wind farm. There would be multiple, and solar farms, and we don't know what that would mean in terms of transmission infrastructure.

"It's certainly not in the current plan for the government to build additional transmission line infrastructure in this region because it's got that main Melbourne - Sydney interconnect as you know through Alexandra and Eildon... If it wasn't a REZ, then there would be disincentives for developers to connect into that main transmission line."

These disincentives might include their power not being prioritised. "It does make it this much less appealing to them," Catriona said.

The consultation information can be found at [engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan](http://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan)

MURRINDINDI FOOD AND WINE INC

### MURRINDINDI HARVEST CELEBRATION

SATURDAY 16TH NOV 2024 - YEA RAILWAY PARK - 11-4

This one-day event in Yea will be a showcase of Murrindindi produce including food stalls, cooking demonstrations, workshops and many opportunities to 'Meet the Maker.'

It's Free!



[murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au](http://murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au)



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**Yea & District Memorial Hospital** 5736 0400

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UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands  
UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain  
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldeene  
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

**WEEKLY**

Tues Art Group (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 0456 583 611  
Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFCA complex Ph 0418 576 666  
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

**MONTHLY**

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



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

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

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**PUBLISHERS**

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**RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT**

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.50	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.60	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.53am Mon	0.79	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	9.31am Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.28am Mon	0.59	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	8.23am Mon	0.88	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.55	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.56	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	2.46	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.55	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.11am Mon	1.21	steady	

**\*\*ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report**

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE week opened as usual at the Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club with the bridge players gathering for a few hands. There was a good turn out for the social meeting on Friday with the usual agenda items up for discussion. A big thank you to Janet Baxter, who gave a very interesting talk about crime and social service in the prison system. Not the sort of subject you would expect us oldies to be interested in but Janet had a great response from the members. The formalities over we retired for a cuppa, a chat and the usual games of UNO and 500.

This Friday is a public holiday but the members still want to get together so we will be open for business as usual. If you would like to join us please come along to the Bayley Street clubroom at 1pm. May you team win on Saturday. I will be cheering for the Brisbane

Lions as my grandson Logan Morris will be wearing the number 13 jumper. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.



**THUMBS DOWN:** To the Murrindindi Shire Council. We are constantly being encouraged to shop local and support local businesses. Murrindindi Shire Council needs to lead by example when it comes to allocating rate payers money. Yes, a tender application process ensures cheapest quote wins but what does this cost the local community when civil earth moving projects are continually being sourced outside our shire? Shouldn't we be working towards keeping the money going around within our shire and keeping jobs local? Shop local shouldn't just apply to consumers down the main street of Alexandra.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the phantom after dark bandit who on bin night dumped their hard plastic recyclables in other people's general rubbish bins along Killingworth Road.

**THUMBS UP:** Finally we have 40 kilometre zones in the main street of Yea. I have been very concerned for so long about a pedestrian fatality in our town. This new speed limit will certainly help reduce that possibility. Many thanks. Next on the list please will be one or two crossings where vehicles have to give way to pedestrian traffic. Maybe flashing lights or such. An expensive infrastructure no doubt but one to plan towards.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To our local council for engaging nonlocal contractor for various projects who are still falling short on completing the skate park carpark project. It's disappointing to see that despite engaging this contractor for multiple projects, progress has halted since well before the truck show. Our community and local contractors deserve better.

**THUMBS DOWN:** Murrindindi Shire Council for new planting of non-native plants. Showcase the shire in its cultural heritage and not further damage to the environment with introduced vegetation.




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

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**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**  
September 25 - October 1, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	5	14	Wednesday	6	14
Thursday	1	14	Thursday	2	13
Friday	4	17	Friday	4	18
Saturday	10	19	Saturday	10	20
Sunday	8	16	Sunday	8	16
Monday	9	17	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	7	17	Tuesday	7	17

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	3mm
Buxton	22mm
Eildon (AWS)	3mm
Flowerdale	10mm
Jamieson	18mm
Kinglake	24mm
Lake Eildon	6mm
Mansfield	3mm
Taggerty	7mm
Yarck	5mm
Yea	4mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	285.96m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	88.5%
Metres below full supply	2.94m
Daily inflow	3500ML
Release	9000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	55.10%

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**DEADLINES**

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

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

5772 1002 or  
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support



## Heritage Machinery Festival on soon in Alexandra

IN just over a week's time, the Alexandra Heritage Machinery Festival will be held at the Alexandra Timber Tramway. The event, which runs from 9am to 3pm on October 5 and 6, will see around 80 exhibitors show off their goods and machinery to the larger community.

Peter Aumann, the vice-president of the Alexandra Timber Tramway, revealed the scope and variety of this year's event.

"The Heritage Machinery Festival is an event that brings in exhibitors from all over Victoria with old machinery and displays. There will be steam displays, hay baling displays, blacksmithing displays, vintage cars, vintage trucks, On Point Brewery will be there, and various other community groups," Peter said.

"We're bringing together about 80 exhibitors. We have the steam train running throughout the day, taking people for rides, and this year we have a driver experience opportunity. So we have a 1936 Kelly and Lewis diesel locomotive, that, for a \$20 fee, you can drive along a small section of track. It runs on the Saturday and Sunday.

"The stuff that will be there will be vintage engines, some steam, some petrol, some kerosene, some diesel. Some can be up to 120 years old, and they're all running and



The locomotive ready to depart with its passengers at the 2023 event. RS

on-display. We have exhibitors from clubs all over Victoria.

"Steam train rides, driver experience, the blacksmith who you can buy stuff off. We've got some miniature donkeys on display this year.

"Last year we had people from Hayfield and Gippsland to Port Fairy to Echuca, all coming to display their equipment."

Peter also spoke about how the Alexandra Timber Tramway continues to develop as a club.

"Alexandra Timber Tramway continues to grow, to get more local volunteers, and to build on its projects, small or large. Plans to build an engine shed, plans to do a track extension, those are long term goals. Our main goal is to build up a good solid membership base," he said.

For more information about the Heritage Machinery Festival and the Alexandra Timber Tramway, visit [alexandratramway.org.au](http://alexandratramway.org.au)

## Stay safe in the great outdoors these school holidays

VICTORIANS planning a camping or hiking getaway in the coming weeks, are reminded by Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedics to be prepared to avoid needing an emergency response.

The warmer weather and school holidays mean many will be dusting off the camping gear or stepping into hiking boots for the first time in months, and AV Manager Emergency Management Ian Hunt said it's important people do these activities within their abilities and take preparation seriously.

"Before you hit the road, ask yourself if you've prepared for if something goes wrong," he said. "Consider learning basic first aid and CPR as emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. There are many parks and remote bushland locations across Victoria where people can enjoy hiking, mountain bike riding, 4WDing or camping, but we want people to be safe."

He said checking the weather and being prepared for conditions to change is vital if you're spending time in remote or unfamiliar locations.

"It's easy to become lost or disorientated in remote bushland, especially in unpredictable weather conditions," Ian said. "Make sure you're dressed appropriately for the conditions and bring enough water, food, matches, a torch and sunscreen with you. For hikers, be sure to consider the 10 essentials – navigation, light, sun protection, first aid, knife, fire, shelter, food, water and clothing."

Always tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return, and if you're with someone use the 'buddy system' to check each other for warning signs of hypothermia or heatstroke. It can be difficult to recognise your own symptoms of hypothermia or heatstroke.

Ian said emergencies can happen any time and particularly in remote or unfamiliar environments, so be sure to familiarise yourself with the resources you may need to call Triple Zero.

"Anyone travelling to a remote location should download the EmergencyPlus app, which uses your phone's GPS function to provide location details to the call taker," he said. "The app has the *What3Words* function which works offline so it can be used in remote areas with poor data connection and can confirm your exact location quickly and accurately using three words.

"You may also consider a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which, when activated, sends an emergency signal via satellite to emergency services."

Download the VicEmergency app or visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) to be notified of incidents and warnings in your area.

## Controlled Instagram for teenagers

LAST week social media company Meta introduced Instagram teen accounts with the aim of having built in protections for teenagers. Instagram will automatically place teenagers into teen accounts and teenagers under 16 will need parents permission to change any of those settings to be less strict.

The new teen accounts will have the capacity to limit who can contact teenagers and the content users see. The new measures to protect teenagers using Instagram will include a change to private accounts, teens will need to accept new followers and people who don't follow them can't see their content or interact with them. This is for all teenagers under 16 including those already on Instagram and teens under 18 when they now sign up for the app.

Message restrictions will be introduced, and no one can message a teenager unless they follow them or are connected to them.

Sensitive content control will be placed on accounts which will limit content they see that is accessible when you explore the app or watch reels. Content that will be limited will be instances of fighting, or the promotion of cosmetic procedures and other concerning content.

Teenagers will now only be tagged or mentioned by people they follow. To target bullying hidden words and offensive comments will be filtered out of comments and message requests.

Teenagers will now have time limit reminders after one hour each day to limit screen time and sleep mode will be activated from 10pm to 7am which will mute notifications overnight and send auto replies to messages.

Parents can monitor Instagram usage now by seeing who their teenager has messaged in the last week, although they can't read the messages, parents have an

extra layer of knowledge of their teenagers interactions online.

Parents can set total daily time limits for Instagram usage and specific time periods, once the teenagers hit the limit the app can't be used for that day.

Parents can also view the topics that their teenager is viewing based on their interests.

These changes will be happening within 60 days in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The rest of the world will receive the changes in January 2025.

Other Meta platforms will also create teen accounts next year.

## Check for unclaimed superannuation

AUSTRALIANS are currently missing more than \$17.8 billion in lost and unclaimed superannuation.

Latest data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has revealed many Australians have forgotten to update their contact details so their super fund can't find them.

Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosenzweig said the ATO wants to reunite people with their lost and unclaimed super.

"Since 2021, the ATO has reunited almost \$6.4 billion of unclaimed super with its owners. But there is still more than \$17.8 billion waiting to be found," Ms Rosenzweig said.

"If you've changed job, moved house or simply forgotten to update your details, you may have lost or unclaimed super.

"We're urging Australians to check if some of the \$17.8 billion in lost and unclaimed super belongs to them. Even if you've retired you could have lost or unclaimed super. The ATO is holding \$471 million on behalf of people aged 65 plus.

"Superannuation is a key part of your retirement, and we want to make sure Australians are claiming the investment they've worked for," Ms Rosenzweig said.

The first step is checking your super account details, either online or by contacting your fund.

The ATO's five step *Super Health Check* can help you get your super back where it belongs in just a couple of minutes. All you need to do is; confirm your contact details, check super balances and employer contributions, look for lost and unclaimed super, find multiple accounts and consider consolidating, and confirm nominated beneficiaries.

For more information visit Super Health Check on the ATO website.

## Black Spur works

DRIVERS may have noticed how slippery the Black Spur has been lately. The Department of Transport were contacted to find out whether any works are planned to correct the issue.

A Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson responded, "We're continuing to monitor the Black Spur section of the Maroondah Highway as part of our focus on delivering safer, smoother journeys for thousands of drivers each day.

"Upcoming works will help to improve drainage on this section of highway, removing moisture from the road surface and helping to improve traction and skid resistance for drivers."

The department encourages members of the public to notify them of any hazards on our roads by calling the Department of Transport and Planning on 131 170.

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**Gather & network – Eildon & Lake Eildon**  
Free Business breakfast event – Tuesday 8 October 2024 – 7.30am – 9am  
**CAFE 501 BAR & GRILL – 501 Jerusalem Creek Road Eildon**  
BOOK NOW  
[murrindindifoodandwine.org.au](http://murrindindifoodandwine.org.au) or   
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THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE  
**Standard**

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# Out & About



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Inspection Wednesday, October 2, 10am-2pm. Contact Embling Rural for full details 0418 266 038.

For more information contact Peter 0479 066 221 or email [alexandra.rally@yahoo.com](mailto:alexandra.rally@yahoo.com).

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### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Thornton Online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concluding Monday, October 7 at noon.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Alexandra Museum – Station Street. Heritage Machinery Festival, Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm. Steam train rides, working stationary engines, vintage cars, blacksmith and more.

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Gather and network – Eildon and Lake Eildon. Free business breakfast event at Café 501 – Jerusalem Creek Road, Eildon 7.30-9am. Book now at [murrindindifoodandwine.org.au](http://murrindindifoodandwine.org.au)

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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Eildon Golf Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the golf club. For more details email [rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com](mailto:rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held at 10am at Briggs Oval.

# Haines concerns for the Future Made in Australia program

INDEPENDENT Federal Member for Indi Helen Haines has called for greater integrity and oversight measures for the *Future Made in Australia* program, as the Senate Economics Legislation Committee published the report on its inquiry into the bill.

As the government moves to resume debate of the bill in the Federal Parliament, Dr Haines said she was hopeful of broad support for her amendments to increase transparency on program decisions.

The \$22.7 billion program is the largest budget measure in this term of parliament outside the defence strategy program, with Dr Haines suggesting there continues to be a giant question mark over integrity, citing similar concerns raised by the Productivity Commission, Climate Council, Grattan Institute and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

“This is one of the largest budget measures in this term of parliament, and I want to make sure there is a clear framework in place for transparency of expenditure and decision making,” Dr Haines said.

Dr Haines will move amendments to the *Future Made in Australia Bill* to provide the parliament and the public a line of sight over where funding is going under the program. Dr Haines met with the treasurer last month to discuss them in detail and is hopeful the government could agree to the changes.

The amendments would require the minister to give unredacted sector assessments to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit; sector assessments to be tabled in parliament within seven sitting days; and require Annual Reports under the Act to include an annual breakdown of *Future Made in Australia* supports, including key details such as recipients, purpose, support provided, and amount.

Dr Haines said concerns had been raised from a number of quarters, backed up during public hearings as part of the inquiry, that the fund risked pork barrelling without the proper oversight.

“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.

“If my *End Pork Barrelling Bill* was passed in 2023, concerns about the integrity of these *Future Made in Australia* grants would be alleviated,” Dr Haines said.

## Church Services

### ANGLICAN

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

### CATHOLIC

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

### UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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### OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

### MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

#### BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street, Alexandra  
Pastor Daniel Kriss  
Services 10am every Sunday  
Phone 0400 282 536  
[mccbc.com.au](http://mccbc.com.au)

### THE VINE

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

## Democracy ambassadors help community voices 'Be Heard'

VICTORIAN community groups are being urged to book in a free voter education session offered through the Victorian Electoral Commission's (VEC's) Democracy Ambassador program.

The VEC's democracy ambassador program supports voters who are under-represented at the ballot box to learn how to make their vote count at the upcoming local council elections.

Democracy ambassadors have been recruited from communities that are less well represented in the electoral process,

including: culturally and linguistically diverse communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, and young and potentially first-time voters.

Sessions are completely free and, between them, the democracy ambassadors speak 14 languages.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel said democracy ambassadors were ready to travel all over Victoria to work with local communities to help them better understand

how they can have a say in who runs their local council.

“Participants in our *Be Heard* Democracy Ambassador sessions are given a safe space to learn about enrolling and voting,” Mr Bluemmel said.

“They are supported by interpreters, translated information, and Easy English resources to take home.”

Communities are encouraged to book a *Be Heard* voter education session and can do so via the VEC website [vec.vic.gov.au/info-session](http://vec.vic.gov.au/info-session)

## Changes to myGovID

THE myGovID will be getting a makeover to the new name myID. With the changes you will be able to use your digital id in the future for more government services and then eventually private sector services.

This change aims to reduce the confusion between the myGovID app and myGov.

There is nothing you need to do prior to the change, your login details and identity strength you have set up will remain the same.

The existing app should automatically change to myID, or you can update it manually from the App Store or Google Play, and you can still use the app to securely access the government online services that are available.

To avoid scams and fraudulent websites and apps make sure you don't click on suspicious links, open attachments or download files from suspicious emails or SMS, unsolicited SMSs will never be sent that contains a hyperlink.

## Network outage review has been released

FOLLOWING the February storm events the independent panel's final report into how privately owned power companies responded to February's storms has been released with a plan for a quicker response and reconnections for Victorians in future outages.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio welcomed the Network Outage Review recommendations for Victoria's distribution businesses focusing on preparedness, resource deployment and restoration of power.

The expert panel, made up of Rosemary Sinclair, Gerard Brody and Kevin Kehl, made 19 recommendations and 12 observations that form a clear pathway of improvements for distribution businesses in response to an outage.

Feedback from impacted communities and businesses was central to developing the report, with input from industry, essential services, emergency and regulatory bodies.

The report recommends a new financial support mechanism that provides more immediate support for customers impacted by outages, putting the onus on distribution business to reduce restoration times.

The panel recommended formalising mutual aid arrangements between power companies before an outage, to ensure a quicker response and reconnection.

The report also highlights the need for accurate and timely information on customer reconnection times, and the importance of ensuring that communications tools, such as outage trackers, can meet surge demand.

Some of the same communities that were impacted by prolonged outages during the February 13 storm experienced outages again recently following extreme winds. In response to the interim Network Outage Review released in July, power companies have already begun to change preparedness processes.

The review makes strong recommendations for improvements to power company processes and engagement to improve the response to storm related outages. The government will respond to the recommendations in the review later this year.

To read the final report visit [energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/network-outage-review](http://energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/network-outage-review).



## The deadliest creatures in Australia

IN the past 20 years, six people have died from snake bites in Victoria.

A 37 year old man died in April 2007 after being bitten by a whip snake at Harcourt. Whip snakes are not generally considered deadly.

A 27 year old man was bitten on the wrist by a tiger snake while weeding at a river bank in Jarramond in November 2014. He received ordinary antivenom but was found to have active venom in his system after his death.

A 70 year old woman was bitten on the toe by a tiger snake while she was asleep in bed in Melton in January 2015. She died despite receiving three vials of antivenom.

A 20 year old man was bitten by a tiger snake in December 2018 while attending a music festival in Lardner near Warragul. He was airlifted to hospital and was initially thought to be suffering from a drug overdose.

A 49 year old man was bitten by an unknown snake while working on a landscaping job in Taradale in April 2021. He suffered a cardiac arrest and was later placed in an induced coma on life support. He died eight days after the bite.

A 25 year old man was bitten by a suspected eastern brown snake while working at a grain receival site in Nullawil in October 2023. He later died in hospital.

Note that all of the deaths occurred during the warmer months.

Across Australia, more than half of all deaths from snake bites occurred in or around people's homes. One in five snake bite fatalities involved people attempting to pick up a snake. Most people who are bitten by snakes are male.

Around 550 Australian are admitted to hospital suffering a snake bite each year.

But what about spiders? Well, between 2000 and 2013, 11,994 people were admitted

to hospital with spider bites in Australia. No-one died from a spider bite. The last Australian death from a spider bite was in 1979. There hasn't been a single red-backed spider bite-caused fatality since the advent of antivenom.

Anecdotally, huntsman spiders are sometimes regarded as having the highest kill count due to fright causing car accidents, falls from ladders and heart attacks, however no verifiable data is available. Huntsman venom is ineffective on humans.

There has been a long-held belief that daddy long legs spiders are incredibly venomous but that their fangs aren't strong enough to pierce human skins. The venom aspect is a myth. Like huntsman spiders, their venom is generally not harmful to humans.

You are more likely to die from a bee sting than a spider bite. Bee stings cause around two deaths per year in Australia.

The animal which causes the most deaths in Australia is in fact the horse (including ponies and donkeys). In the 10 years to 2010, they killed 77 people, mainly due to falls.

Cows killed 33 people. Sixteen of these deaths were due to cows causing motor vehicle accidents, with the rest of the deaths caused by crushing, piercing or 'unknown'.

The third biggest killer is the dog, with 27 deaths resulting from attacks across the 10 years. Most of the victims were either very old or very young. It's estimated that there are 100,000 dog attacks in Australia each year.

In fourth place is the kangaroo. They killed 18 people, mainly as a result of car accidents.

If you're planning to go to the beach during the school holidays, bear in mind that The Australian Shark Attack File has recorded that since 1791 there have been 639 shark attacks in Australia, 190 of them fatal.

## Concerns over ATM costs in Alexandra

CONCERN have been raised locally about the increase in fees at the atm automatic teller machine in Grant Street, Alexandra. atm is operated by Armaguard, which is in turn owned by Linfox.

When contacted about the increase in fees, the general manager of atm, Con Tsiknis, said the atm brand values the patronage of Alexandra and Murrindindi residents and will continue to serve the community amid rising costs.

"atmx by Armaguard is committed to being the largest provider of ATM networks across metropolitan and regional Australia. We believe that everyone deserves access to their cash, and we have been able to build a fee-free cash network for customers of more than 30 banks and credit unions across Australia," Mr Tsiknis said.

"Due to the increased costs associated with the provision of cash we have introduced a value-based withdrawal fee across the entire atm network. This means that our withdrawal fee has increased to \$3 plus 10c per \$100 withdrawn.

"While over 75 per cent of transactions on our network are from affiliated customers and provided fee-free, our customers outside our affiliates who also rely on our high street convenient network still face withdrawal fees."

## Stop and watch the birds

FROM October 14 to October 20 the Aussie Bird Count is back. This activity is for all ages, and it helps BirdLife Australia develop an understanding of local birds that surround you.

Taking part is easy. Simply spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor area and note all the birds you see through that time. In the app there is a built in bird finder tool to help you identify bird species.

You can do this as many times as you want during that time, and you can submit your results using the app or register at [aussiebirdcount.org.au](http://aussiebirdcount.org.au)

The list of affiliate banks includes Westpack and ANZ, as well as a range of smaller banks and credit unions. The full list can be found at [atmx.com.au/our-network/](http://atmx.com.au/our-network/)

"I'd like to thank the residents in Alexandra and surrounding areas for their support of atm and keeping cash alive. If you are currently concerned about transaction fees, I would encourage you to petition your financial institution to consider joining the atm network to gain access to the largest fee free network for cash withdrawals and deposits."

In the Federal inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia, it was stated that, "Banks are closing branches all over Australia and have been for decades. Representatives from the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) stated that over 2100 bank branches closed in the last six years, from 2017 to 2023, equating to a reduction of almost 40 per cent of branches in metropolitan areas, and 35 per cent of branches in regional Australia. In addition to branch closures, there has been a reduction in the provision of automatic teller machines (ATMs) of 60 per cent, including the loss of half of the ATMs in regional and remote areas."

## Fawcett Hall is ready for Alexandra and District Open Gardens

THE amazing team at Fawcett Hall, led by treasurer Sandra are gearing up again for Alexandra and District Open Gardens weekend.

In between seeing local gardens, drop by to Fawcett Hall. There will be a plant sale, mini cafe, Great Divide Coffee, Jan's Jams and sauces, trash and treasure, and sponge cake.

Fawcett Hall is open on October 26 and 27 from 9am to 4pm, and are asking for stall holders.

If you're interest or have any questions, email the Fawcett Hall committee at [contactus@fawcethall.org.au](mailto:contactus@fawcethall.org.au)

## Glory Wander around the Gardens

GLORY Wander around the Gardens is set to be held in affiliation with the Alexandra District Open Garden. The event will start from 1pm on Sunday, October 27.

The guest speakers at the event are Costa from *Gardening Australia*, Joost Bakker from Future Food Systems and Peter Burgess from Rainbow Bee Eater, specialising in biomass futures.

Wearable Floral Art at Acheron is being held at the same event, and you can be a part of the visual extravaganza. Get inspired, get creative and get into your gardens to create the most imaginative headdress and/or garment that your can. Let your imagination run wild with creativity.

There will be some special judges for the event, and there are some beautiful prizes on offer.

Both events are being held at 132 Breakaway Road in Acheron. The entry to the location is still via Alexandra due to the flooding two years ago.

Visit [alexandraopengardens.com.au](http://alexandraopengardens.com.au) for details on gardens open in the local area for that weekend. The gardens will brilliantly display the beauty and diversity of local gardens and the local community.

A licensed café will be open at the event in Acheron, with local beverages from On Point Brewery and Little River Wines. The entry fee to the open gardens on the day is all that is required.

For bookings, call 0412 109 129.

## Business events coming to the regions

THE Victorian Government has opened the Regional Business Events Program to attract new business events to the regions, with the aim of boosting local tourism with those benefits flowing to local communities.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos announced applications are now open for grants to support event organisers to host events in regional Victoria.

The program aims to bring conferences, exhibitions, meetings, seminars, and international travel groups to regional Victoria, with funding available to offset costs such as accommodation, venue hire, transport, and marketing.

The program, delivered by Business Events Victoria and the Melbourne Convention Bureau, has two funding streams available, the International Incentives Event Program and the National Business Events Program.

Under the new International Incentives Event Program, event planners can receive \$150 per delegate for each night they stay in regional Victoria.

The National Business Events Program offers grants of up to \$80 per delegate (up to a maximum of \$40,000) for eligible event organisers to host new business events across regional Victoria.

The Regional Business Events Program is part of the \$170 million Regional Tourism and Events Fund that will ensure our regional tourism offering continues to be the very best by supporting new events and attractions that bring more people to our regions.

For more information about the program, how to apply and eligibility details, visit [businesseventsvictoria.com](http://businesseventsvictoria.com) or [melbournecb.com.au](http://melbournecb.com.au)

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Proudly supporting  
**Student of the week**

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



**ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Nate Carter and Zoe – 3/4A**

Nate and Zoe are kind students who always do their best. They are helpful and considerate. Well done on winning the highest number of house gems for term three. We are so proud of you.

You are both stars.

**BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Noah** has had a fabulous start at Buxton PS. He has made lots of friends and tries his best with his learning. Keep up the great work Noah.

**EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Shannon**

He showed our term value of Resilience.

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**Zavia D**

Zavia you are a superhero. Zavia has shown dedication, commitment and persistence in his learning journey. It is exciting to see him asking to read. He has worked hard recognising single sounds and loves challenging himself to take on some double sounds. It is wonderful to see him addressing the whole class and presenting work. Congratulations on transitioning to specialist classes and fully participating in some of them, this is a huge accomplishment. Not only has he made leaps and bounds in his academic learning journey, his commitment to making new friends and interacting with his peers is commendable.

**Student of the Week**

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



**Murrindindi East U3A update**

SPRING has welcomed two extra courses for the members of Murrindindi East U3A. The classes are sociable, economical and engaging for all, but even more so when cooking and food are involved.

When Greta comes up with a creative cooking class to serve six courses for \$8, many people were interested. In the process of cooking the meal, the U3A kitchen became a hotchpotch of *Old Fashioned Cooking* meets nine new friends in a kitchen nobody knows.

To make things interesting the menu includes do ahead deserts and salads, to make in a flash and pack for your next Christmas party. After sharing the ingredients, the oven and the dishes, everyone sits down to a sociable lunch and a chat. New and old friends with doggy bags are usually seen walking out of St John's Hall kitchen at the end of the morning at these occasions.

If kitchen chaos isn't your thing, perhaps an eco friendlier course with fresh air and feathered friends would suit you better. U3A offers both. McKenzie Flora Reserve was the destination for the first Spring class of *Birds and Bush Life*. U3A's experienced tutor couple share their love for the bush and their knowledge of wildflowers and birdlife.

On a recent excursion the group saw a huge variety of wattles and some unique native flowers, especially the orchids, greenhoods and the honeypot, a flower which smelt exactly like honey. Some of the group caught a glimpse of a bird of prey, was it a whistling kite or a little eagle? We couldn't be sure. But we did see a small white throated tree creeper hopping around a tree hollow and



*U3A Birdwatching and Bushlife class in action. -S*

then delighting us by flying into the natural hollow to feed her young. It was a wonderful example of the importance for keeping old growth bush environments.

U3A is celebrating Victoria's Seniors Festival next month. "Explore - Engage - Evolve" is this year's theme. Check out the upcoming events for the week October 14 to 18. There are free events in Alexandra and Eildon such as line dancing, table tennis and mahjong, to name just a few.

This event is proudly sponsored by Foundation Murrindindi. For more information, email [info@murrindindieastu3a.org.au](mailto:info@murrindindieastu3a.org.au) or phone 0456 583 611.

Community members are invited to join U3A members in their Senior Festival Celebrations. So go along and join in to celebrate being a senior.



*Judy and Kath have fun breadmaking. -S*



*Andy Miller identifies some native flora. -S*



# Bring your curiosity to life

A word search puzzle with a grid of letters. The grid is as follows:

```

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

How many words can you find?

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Splash	Nature play	Creek play	Kangaroo
Roar	Safari	Koala	Wetlands
Baby elephant	Hippo beach	Laugh	Meerkat
Gorilla	Rhino	Jump	Emu
Tiger	Giraffe	Bush	Howl

Book tickets at [zoo.org.au](http://zoo.org.au)



# CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

THE candidates for the upcoming Murrindindi Shire Council elections have been announced, and electors should soon receive a ballot paper in their letter box. In each of the wards, there is competition, so no voters in the shire are off the hook and all must submit their ballot papers or risk a fine.

To help you to make a decision on who to vote for in your ward, we asked each candidate the following questions.

1. Are you able to provide a short biography, including why people should vote for you?
2. Are you a member of any political party? If yes, which party?
3. What are your concerns and what are your goals for the shire?
4. What is your vision for Murrindindi Shire across the next four years?

Their answers are listed below, in order of ward and ballot order.

## CATHEDRAL

### Sandice McAulay



Sandice McAulay. -S

1. I'VE lived in Taggerty for 26 years and have owned the Taggerty General Store with my husband Ray for 18 years. As well as being a small business owner, I have been actively involved in my community, being a member of our CFA, local community progress group and hall committee. Thank you for supporting me for the last two terms on council. I am asking you to help me continue to represent you and your issues. I have served as mayor on both terms as

well as deputy for two years attesting to the confidence that my fellow councillors had in my leadership and effectiveness.

2. I do not affiliate with any political party. My primary focus is on representing the interests and needs of our wider community objectively and impartially. I believe in making decisions based on what is best for the Murrindindi community, rather than aligning with any political rhetoric.
3. I want council to be financially sustainable; safe roads that are appropriately maintained across the network; sustainable growth and development are supported through improved access to water, sewer, power, telecom and road infrastructure; our communities are inclusive, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all new residents; continuing safe access to our state parks; visitors enjoy and contribute to our shire; and finally, as

a small business owner, I want tourism and businesses to thrive.

4. Council has no direct control over many decisions made by state and federal governments. Example is the decision to be made regarding access to local forests. Council needs to work with the community to have our voice heard and actively advocate to state government for continuing community access to our parks. Our community is increasingly being impacted by unprecedented climate emergency events and council needs to be prepared to enact well thought out recovery support for our community. With effects of climate change becoming more apparent, council must continue to champion progressive policies such as climate action and continue strong advocacy for resources to repair damage caused to valued assets such as the Breakaway Bridge.

## Judy Duncan



Judy Duncan. -S

1. TEN years ago together with my husband, Tom, we purchased our property in Taggerty. Since then we have worked hard looking after our pastures, olive groves, fencing, building a farm shed and more recently our forever home. I work in our family business of over 20 years and have also served on kindergarten and school committees when our three sons, now adults, were young. Living in Taggerty I am passionate about protecting our environment and leaving Taggerty a better place than when we found it. I am also passionate about encouraging young families to make the move to Murrindindi so that they can appreciate all that it has to offer. A vote for me is a vote for you. If I am elected, you can be sure that I work for you.
2. I am running as an independent and will not be aligning myself to any party.
3. Public money should not be wasted. You, the community, deserve to be confident, that money is well spent and what outcomes should be expected. After all, you, the rate payers, provide the funds. My hope is that we can build Murrindindi Shire up to a place where young families and businesses want to be, and have faith that the council will encourage and welcome them.
4. Let's make Murrindindi Shire 'The place to be'. Keeping our towns happy and healthy for now and in the future is important. Let's leave a good legacy for all those who come after us. I believe in getting back to basics, community consultation, families and business, and tourism and events. Vote for me if you think council should concentrate on a back-to-basics plan. It is my belief that council should concentrate on the basics and wherever possible seek to involve the community in other projects.

## CHEVIOT

### Sue Carpenter



Sue Carpenter. -S

1. I HAVE lived in Yea for over 30 years. I raised my four children here and developed a productive orchard and vegetable garden that feeds our family and friends. I'm a qualified gardener and landscape designer. I have always been involved with community volunteering, including Yea Preschool, Sacred Heart school board, St Luke's Parish council and Yea Rotary Club, including being president. Last term councillors elected me as mayor, and deputy mayor twice. I have gained insights and skills, learnt procedures and processes of council, am a strategic thinker, developed abilities of a councillor, and would love another opportunity to serve Murrindindi using the experience I've gained.
2. I am not a member of any political party.
3. Sensitive and appropriate growth and development of our towns that promotes our unique character and rural ambience continues to be important. Assets and infrastructure damaged by recent natural disasters need to be built back better to resist future incidents that may occur. Productive farmland needs to be recognised and retained. We must listen to our diverse communities including long-term residents, newer arrivals, families, our young people, older and retired residents, and our business and commercial sector and ensure that we can provide adequate services to address their needs. Strong advocacy to the state and federal governments for our fair share of funding must continue.
4. I want to see increasingly resilient and connected communities, innovative projects such as the provision of key-worker housing that will support the business workforce, services to support our aging population, strategies that support our fragile environment, advocacy for adequate child-care and children's services, support for residents wanting to undertake training and further education, a council that will engage

in meaningful dialogue with the community to ensure that strategies and decisions can be made that have had robust community consultation, and a cohesive council that is committed to working together for the best interests of our communities.

## Paul Galea



Paul Galea. -S

1. MY name is Paul Galea and I am a Flowerdale local and Defence veteran. My wife and I have lived in Flowerdale for almost nine years and operate several bed and breakfasts from our hobby farm so I am interested in growing tourism across the shire. I am also the director of a small management consulting company that has been operating for 22 years and I'm pleased to see other new businesses recently open in both Flowerdale and Strath Creek along with new local home builds. I want shire communities to continue prospering, become more cohesive, and better connected.
2. None.
3. My major concern is the state of the roads throughout the shire and believe we should be lobbying the Victorian Government to secure a greater allocation of funding to keep our shire's road network safe and well maintained. I'm also concerned that after 13 years, council has still not delivered on its previous commitment to complete Flowerdale's Black Saturday bushfire memorial given the impact those fires had on the local community.
4. My vision is for the Cheviot Ward communities to grow and prosper in such a way that they don't lose what makes them such beautiful places to live in. I want the Flowerdale Community Plan submitted to council in August realised. I also envisage an environmentally friendly walking, running / riding track connecting the Flowerdale Recreation Centre to the Strath Creek Reserve.

## CHEVIOT

Continued Page 9

## We're proud to support our local communities

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

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

 [agl.com.au/hydro](http://agl.com.au/hydro)

 1800 039 600

 Join the change



# CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

## CHEVIOT

**Paul Galea**

*Continued from Page 8*

This track would become a focal point for leisurely walks and bike and horse rides for local families and regional visitors alike and in due course become a venue for fun run events accessible to the whole shire.

## EILDON

**Ian Maskiell**

UNFORTUNATELY, no response was received from this candidate.

**John Storen**



*John Storen. -S*

1. AS a retired person I have the time and energy required and the work and community experience necessary. Lived in Taylor Bay for 24 years; over the past three years I have contributed locally as a member of the group

who wrote the Eildon Community Plan, now Treasurer of the Eildon Lions, secretary of the Eildon Cemetery Trust, member of Eildon Action and the editor of the local newsletter Eildon Edition for 12 months. My work experience involves seven years as business manager for the Outdoor Education Group and 14 years in the Management Branch of the Australian Taxation Office. I have 50 years of playing, coaching and administering in the sport of hockey.

- No.
- I believe the shire has served the community quite well in many areas. However, several years ago, the then mayor stated that Eildon had been historically 'ignored' and she was right. The 'Splash Park' being built is to satisfy the tourists. Eildon itself is one of the lowest socioeconomic areas in the state of Victoria and most current ratepayers won't use it. There is limited health and wellbeing access, and the community does not control any community building in Eildon. Additionally, the council has ignored the history of the area and efforts to create a local history society, which would need a facility to store goods, etc, has been thwarted twice by lack of support from the shire.
- There is no doubt the shire needs to focus on tourism as a key benefit to the area as it will have flow on benefits

to all. Current focus is on how to make the change from the timber industry being shut down to new ventures and this is being dealt with the support of the state government. This process is vital and needs to succeed. The past needs to be recognised and supported in all areas of the shire and this is currently being ignored. It is being left to a few individuals and it's simply not good enough. The shire needs to allocate time and resources as well as support those that are interested in the history of the area as this can be a key area of interest in terms of future tourism.

**Anita Carr**



*Anita Carr. -S*

1. MY name is Anita Carr (nee Keddell). I'm 37 years old, born and raised in Eildon. As a wife and mother, I live and understand the challenges families face in Murrindindi but also see our potential. I am very community focused; previously and currently involved in multiple committees throughout Murrindindi

Shire. I'm passionate about our amazing part of the world and want to continue improving on what we have. I have a powerful 'get things done attitude' and will be a strong voice for Eildon Ward. I will listen and take all ideas, feedback and visions on board. I am committed and will give 100 per cent if elected.

- I am not associated or a member of any political party.
- I'll advocate for suitable and professional local mental health support for people of all ages. We need to continue to grow our tourism to help small business year-round and create employment opportunities. We have some amazing assets but need to build on this with further developments and modernization of some existing assets. Our roads are in desperate need of repair. While some repairs have been attended to there are still many sections that are unsafe. Everybody deserves a voice; nobody is to be left behind.
- Representing progress; I will advocate for local businesses, the backbone of our community; I will support new business development; promote year-round tourism and improve local infrastructure and facilities. By bringing new opportunities to the forefront, we can elevate Murrindindi Shire as a more amazing destination to live and visit, and in turn create

more industry and jobs. Also advocating strongly for more health care opportunities and programs for Murrindindi Shire to help improve the quality of life for many residents. I will advocate for everyone to have a voice on important issues and improve communication between council and ratepayers.

## KING PARROT

**Eric Lording**



*Eric Lording. -S*

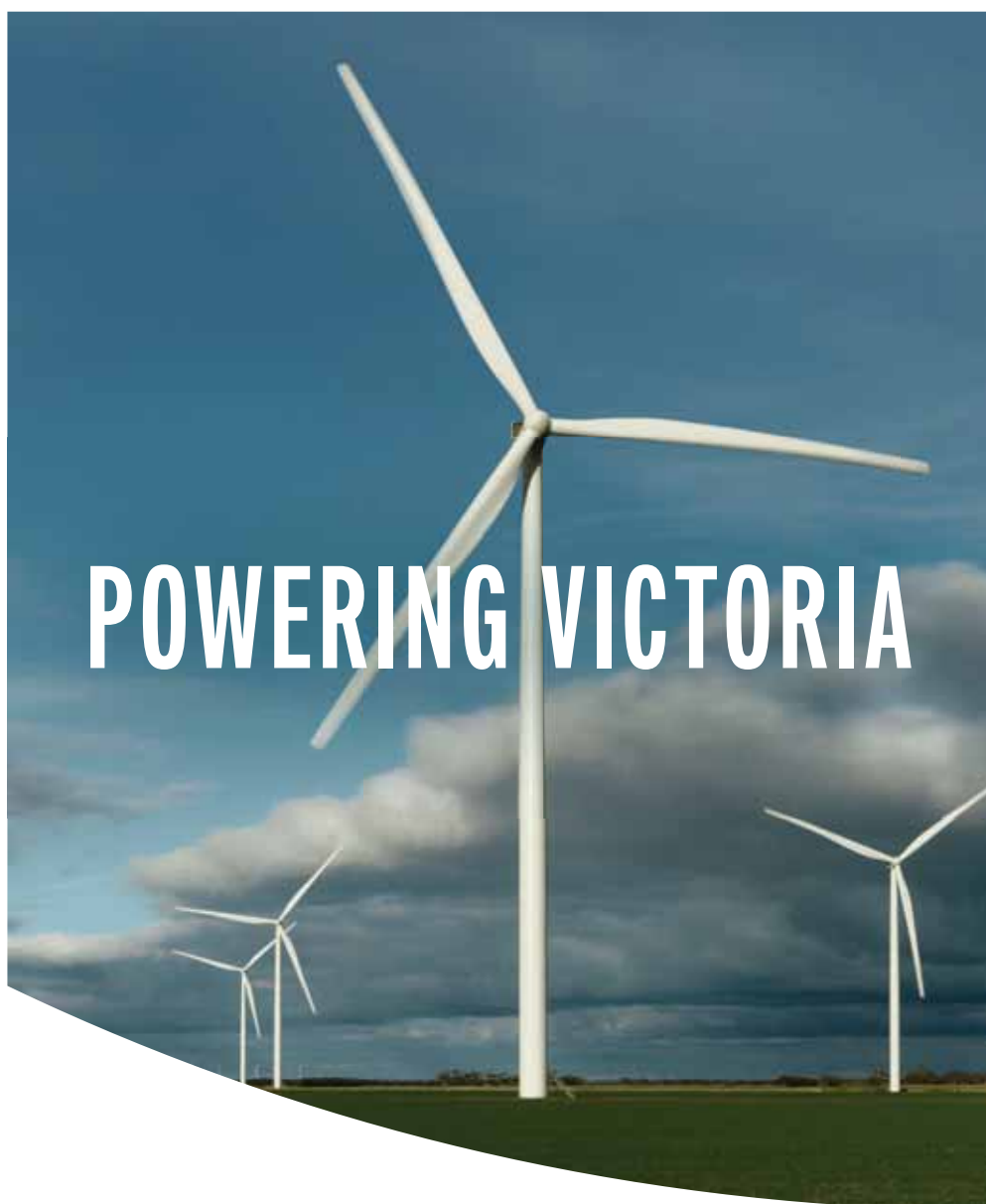
1. I HAVE wide experience with local government as a shire engineer and we need a qualified engineer in council. I have wide experience in building and maintaining roads, waste management and planning, and wide experience as a director and councillor. I'm a trained leader, youth developer and am educated in training and assessment and farming. I've been certified by Victoria Police to accept returns of unwanted or unlicensed firearms to make Murrindindi safer, and I'm also a Police Certified Trainer in Firearms Safety.

I've been a local for over 25 years and love it. I've been a Flowerdale Community House Committee of Management member for 10 years. I've already helped hundreds with council questions and problems. I'm dedicated to helping you too.

- I am not a member of a political party on purpose as this has proven to destroy good council representation in many other shires.
- I will work to keep rates rises low and ensure monies are spent wisely. We do not get our fair share of grants and will address this. I want to bring in an easier system to allow rates to be paid in nine monthly instalments instead of current payments to halve the pain. Road safety is my concern. We have bad accident statistics. I want the roads portfolio. Our beautiful shire suffers from painful events. My goal is to improve the resilience of all. Health leaders tell me they don't want our hospitals closed. I will fight it hard.

## KING PARROT

*Continued Page 10*



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# CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

## KING PARROT

### Eric Lording

*Continued from Page 9*

4. My vision for Murrindindi Shire is to have land development that is strategically planned to maintain the current beauty and environment; place where our children have enough housing and business to keep them here to raise their families; to bring better public transport and amenities for the young, the aged and everyone; to expand education facilities to stop people having to leave to get higher education; to have childcare in every larger town to free parents up so they can continue meaningful employment and enjoy life; a vision where youth development and playgroups flourish to help develop our kids; and great health care for all.

### Kim Travers



Kim Travers. -S

1. I'M Kim Travers and you likely know my face from Kinglake to Flowerdale where I live. Starting life with five siblings in public housing, with one road in and one road out, and having four children taught me about fairness and doing more with less. Forty years working across retail, public service, banking, bus driving and as a union organiser has polished my collaborative, planning and negotiating skills. As a part-time worker for last six years, I enrich my passions volunteering at the community op shop, board member of the sports club and through Landcare.
2. My campaign is supported solely by my family, friends and women with no business or party endorsements. My values of caring and fairness in opportunity led to lifelong union membership. With over 20 years membership with Labor I have worked within policy committees always with a lens on women's issues.
3. All I do in my community here happens because of the care and custodianship of the Taungurung peoples so I acknowledge their elders past, present and emerging. Let's pursue lowering green waste and hard rubbish costs, and combatting social isolation in pockets of our ward. Let's continue to apply our talents toward a sustainable environment. My focus is what matters to us inside King Parrot. I'll keep listening, advocating

and report back.

4. My vision is a thriving community that is inclusive and connected. Growing transparency between council and community through improved access and participation. Local coordinated access to education, information and health services for all ages and genders. Increasing participation in community events and action plans through councillor visibility and engagement. It's time for a fresh approach. Vote for a true local and together we can lift up our corner of the lovely Murrindindi Shire.

## KINGLAKE

### Stuart Hollingsworth



Stuart Hollingsworth. -S

1. TEN years as a resident in Kinglake West, eight of them bringing up my two daughters now 10 and 12 as a sole parent. Working as a handyman we understand how to get back to basics, learning what is a must have, a want or desire. Kinglake seems to miss

out on what everybody must have. Safe travel, affordable living and less government interference in their own home. My name is Stuart Hollingsworth. Help me defend you and your family by bringing your voice to the council table.

2. Yes, I am an endorsed candidate with the Libertarian Party
3. Council should get back to basics, maintain roads, keep rates in check and manage waste efficiently, economically and with minimal environmental impact. Resist against wasting and mismanaging ratepayer's funds to maximise the efficiency of their hard-earned money. Property owners should be able to make decisions for their properties without unnecessary council interference.
4. Minimise council impact on people's day-to-day life and private property. Focus on the primary responsibilities of a local council. Lower land rates. Council is to be efficient, and respectful of private property rights.

## Jodi Adams

1. I AM a mental health peer worker and have lived experience as a carer. I am a strong advocate and a consumer representative for Palliative Care Australia, currently sitting on national and local advisory groups. My experience working with some of the most vulnerable people in communities has made me passionate about promoting quality of life for residents of all ages and differing circumstances. I am consultative and always willing to sit down with people and listen. I am a parent and have lived experience as a carer. I am transparent, honest, authentic, and curious.
2. No, I am running as an independent.
3. I believe residents must feel heard, and that local council members must focus on the efficient and effective operation of council and execution of its statutory functions, while also delivering a transparent medium to long-term agenda for a better, stronger, and more resilient shire. I will advocate for accessible community infrastructure: including a local swimming pool, upgrades of unsealed local roads in recognition of increased population density and traffic, and facilities, supports, and programs for youth. I will uphold my commitment to transparency through information sharing, giving the community confidence that road and pothole maintenance is a priority for council.
4. My vision is to create an improved and resilient Kinglake for ratepayers and residents. Kinglake and neighbouring wards of the shire too often feel like 'the poor cousin'. Residents do not have access to a local swimming pool, and many local streets

and roads remain unsealed despite continued growth in population and vehicle density. As part of my long-term agenda as a councillor, I will affirm majority ratepayer and resident support for restructure of the municipality, creating a Greater Kinglake municipality incorporating Kinglake, Kinglake Central and West, Pheasant Creek, Flowerdale, Castella, Toolangi, and Glenburn. True reform.

*No image received.*

## KORIELLA

### Paul Hildebrand



Paul Hildebrand. -S

1. HELLO Koriella Ward, my name is Paul Hildebrand. I am a third-generation farmer living and working in the Murrindindi Shire. My local junior years of education lead to a Diploma of Agriculture from Melbourne University. I have proudly volunteered as an operations member for the CFA for over 30 years and have coached, captained and served on the committees of our local football and cricket clubs and the Glenburn Community Hall. Thirty years of successful management of our family farming business and my commitment to serving my community holds me steadfast to work for you if elected to council.
2. I am not affiliated with any political party.
3. Infrastructure - maintained. Environmental - balance. Tourism/ Employment - retaining our youth or encouraging them to return post-tertiary education.
4. My vision for our municipality is for a vibrant and resilient shire that serves all its residents. I am about reducing bureaucratic red tape for local businesses, creating an environment that encourages employment opportunities for our younger generation. By doing so, we can retain our youth within the shire, which will enhance and strengthen our economic growth and community. I also aim to promote tourism and explore rural opportunities equitably, fostering engagement that benefits everyone. I am deeply passionate about advocating for our community's needs and interests, ensuring that our voices are heard, and our values are respected.

## Tim Molesworth



Tim Molesworth. -S

1. I MOVED to Murrindindi shortly after the devastating Black Saturday fires to volunteer at a local wildlife shelter, that I came across when doing hay runs to assist farmers affected by the fires. It was there that I met my wife, and Murrindindi has since become my home. I am standing for council to address key issues: Ending wasteful spending, minimising land rates, and protecting private property rights by reducing council interference.
2. Yes. The Libertarian Party. I am an endorsed candidate.
3. I believe council is too involved in external politics and should focus on the basics, maintaining roads and other infrastructure, take care of waste disposal. be careful not to waste ratepayers money. Lower or at the very least stop any rate increases. Let property owners make decisions for their properties without unnecessary interference.
4. My vision is very simple. Minimise council impact on peoples day-to-day life and private property. Focus on the primary responsibilities of a local council. Hopefully make council become so efficient and non-invasive that people rarely even need to think about it.

## Jane Moss



Jane Moss. -S

1. AS a local resident and active member of a variety of community groups, including a management team role with the Yarck CFA, I am committed to actively listening to the concerns and ideas of our amazing residents, ensuring each specific need and perspective is truly heard and understood. Having worked from the coal face to executive levels, I bring a blend of unique qualities that generate a deep understanding of operational realities and strategic oversight. I am not afraid of hard work and always take a considered and pragmatic approach to manage challenges and to drive positive change.
2. I am not a member of any political parties.

## KORIELLA

*Continued Page 13*

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# Preparing for the 3G network closure

STAY connected by upgrading to 4G/5G capable devices before Monday, October 28 to ensure continued access to data, voice calls, SMS/text messaging, and emergency services.

The phasing out 3G mobile networks is part of the transition to more advanced 4G and 5G technologies. The switch-off involves the shutdown of older cellular networks, which have been in service since the early 2000s.

Devices that may use the 3G network include, but are not limited to, 3G-only SIM cards, mobile phones, tablets and laptops 4G-enabled devices that do not have VoLTE (Voice over LTE) capability, 4G-enabled devices that use 3G to force emergency calls through antennas and wireless to landline links, autonomous farming robots, drones and other UAVs, EFTPOS terminals and other finance systems, GPS systems in machinery or vehicle fleets, Internet of Things (IoT) devices and other devices within closed networks, irrigation systems, livestock

monitoring devices, medical alarms, and other medical devices, mobile broadband modems and Wi-Fi signal repeaters, power generators, solar panels, smart meters for water, gas and electricity, and energy storage systems, second-hand or refurbished

phones, or phones purchased overseas, smart fencing and/or gate control systems, smart watches and other wearables, weather stations, soil or water sensors and other on-farm data collection equipment, wired or remote security

cameras, closed network security systems and alarms.

Any of the above devices which do not have 4G/5G compatibility will no longer work after the 3G network is switched off.

If you don't upgrade your 3G-only mobile device before Monday, October 28, you will not be able to call Triple Zero (000) in the event of an emergency.

To prepare for the shutdown, find out what network your mobile service

provider uses if you are not a direct customer of Telstra or Optus. Check if your current communication devices support 4G/5G. To test whether or not your device will be affected, you can: Text 3 to 3GXT (text the number '3' to '3498').

## Lice and ringworm

Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

HAVE you ever wondered why some poor and under condition young cattle coats look so rough at this time of year? It could be due to lice or ringworm, which both thrive under similar circumstances.

Both lice and ringworm are typically a greater problem in young cattle, typically in either poor nutrition or those with a compromised immune system. Neither are a significant problem to cattle in good health.

Lice are small sucking or biting insects found most commonly around the head, neck and shoulder area, and along the back to the tail. The irritation they cause leads to a rough scruffy appearance, and areas of skin rubbed raw particularly around the neck and shoulders.

The main effect of lice is skin damage as well as reduced ability or focus to graze. Cattle are infested through animal-to-animal contact with other cattle from which the population of lice can build up

rapidly. Cattle lice do not infest other animals. The cattle's denser winter coat along with cooler weather favours the lice's survival. Without treatment the problem will remain until spring, when increasing temperatures and day lengths along with improved nutrition naturally reduce lice numbers.

Ringworm is a transmissible infectious skin disease caused by a spore forming fungi. It too is spread by direct contact and can spread rapidly through a group of cattle, particularly in poorly growing young animals with underlying poor health or nutrition. It causes grey-white areas of slightly raised skin with an ash like surface. It can become widespread being seen predominantly around the eyes, ears and back of calves, and the chest and legs of adult cattle. It causes little permanent damage or economic loss, however, can be transmitted to humans. Ringworm usually clears up within one to two months without any treatment particularly when conditions improve.

For further information please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

## SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 4, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

OCTOBER 11, Yea Saleyards

POSTPONED

NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

NOVEMBER 8, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

NOVEMBER 29, Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

DECEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

DECEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

JANUARY 10, 2025 Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

## The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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## SEPTEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION

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





A group from St Mary's Primary School toured the main street in their colourful and creative costumes. -AR



Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish reading to the children. -AR



Lucy and Ellie were colourful fairies for Elf Reading Day. -AR



Mother and daughter Jacqui and Abi in their matching costumes. -AR



A group of keen young students listening to a story on ELF Day, Friday September 20. -AR



Snow White reading to the children. -AR

# Grant Street comes to life on ELF Day



Jo and Lea in their creative animal costumes for Elf Reading Day. -AR



Jett and Mitchell in their amazing alien abduction costumes. -AR



The children had a great time at the event, and fortunately the rain held off. -AR



Student readers from Alexandra Secondary College. -AR



ELF Day was great fun for both little kids and big kids. -AR



Locals Jayden, Tori, and Ashley enjoying the day's festivities. -AR



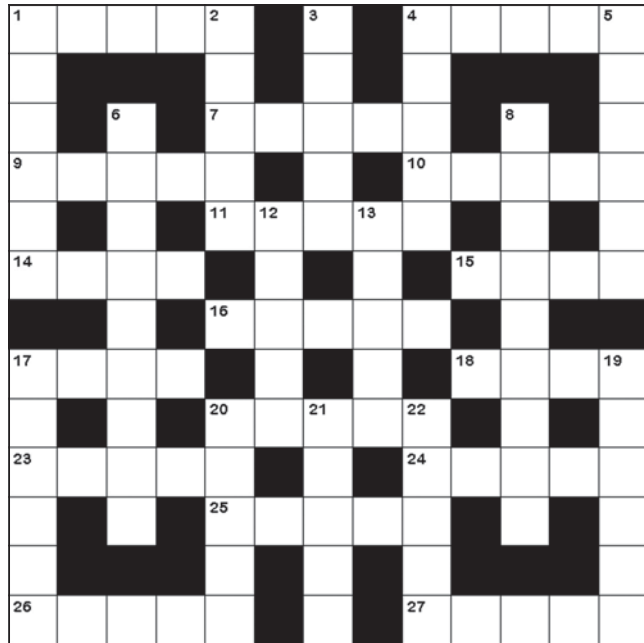
# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 15

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- The lowest in importance.
- Feeling greatly honoured.
- An exhibition of cowboy skills.
- An extra one reserved for emergency.
- A loud burst of sound.
- Talk in a monotonous voice.
- The average or typical value.
- Not open.
- As far as something can go.
- King of the jungle cats.
- The warning system on a car.
- Separate by cutting off.
- Dress with elaborate care.
- Slow and sluggish.
- Calls on the telephone.
- The process of decomposition.
- Have a strong desire for.



### DOWN

- Something to be learned.
- Ready for sleep.
- The reproduction of sound.
- Examine thoroughly and question closely.
- In the right manner.
- Inspired by love for your country.
- Designed and made artistically.
- Increase the size of a bet.
- Lacking experience of life.
- No longer active or practising.
- A vague idea.
- A jet of liquid droplets.
- Goddess of love.
- Involving some amount of danger.

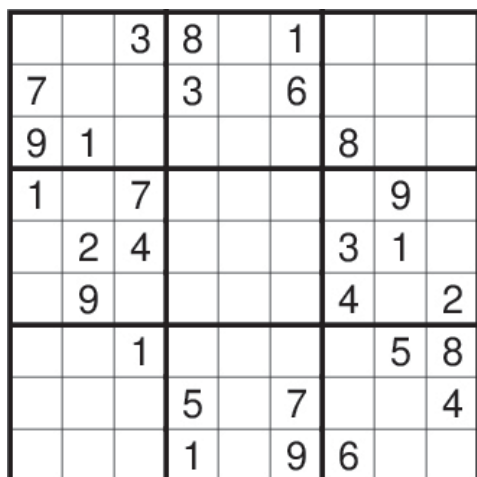
## Word Search

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

### Types of Coffee

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| AFFOGATO   | FLATWHITE |
| CAPPUCCINO | LATTE     |
| COLDBREW   | LONGBLACK |
| CORTADO    | MOCHA     |
| DECAFE     | REDEYE    |
| ESPRESSO   | RISTRETTO |

## Sudoku



### 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.

## Cryptogram

### Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
20				7				23

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					17			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		2					

$$\frac{3}{3} \frac{A}{20} \frac{1}{1} \frac{O}{21} \frac{O}{17} \frac{9}{17} :$$

$$\frac{15}{15} \frac{A}{20} \frac{4}{4} \frac{I}{23} \frac{11}{11} \frac{A}{20} \frac{11}{11} \frac{I}{23} \frac{O}{17} \frac{21}{21}$$

## Math Square

	-		-	3	-6
x		-		+	
	x	8	+		65
+		÷		+	
	-		+		3
15		3		18	

### 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.

## CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

### KORIELLA

#### Jane Moss

*Continued from Page 10*

- I am passionate about maintaining what makes our community so truly special and protecting our future with forward thinking approaches that safeguard our environment and enhance our quality of life. We have an immediate need to encourage local business and to provide opportunities and resources for residents of all ages. My concerns extend beyond the present, I value our community's rich history and heritage and I am dedicated to preserving and enhancing the aspects that define us.
- The vision I have for the Murrindindi Shire is a district where sustainability, agriculture and local businesses thrive together in harmony, fostering a balanced network. A collaborative, inclusive spirit with an emphasis on responsive services and infrastructure that addresses residents' genuine needs, ensuring a resilient, connected and prosperous region.

fishing, exploring our magnificent mountains and waterways and outback travel. I am a member of the Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club, holding position of treasurer for the past three years. Always encouraging others to pursue their passions with a positive approach with a smile to life in general.

- I am a member of the Libertarian Party, however I have nominated as an independent in this election, maintaining a commitment to the issues of local council as my priority.
- As a councillor I would advocate for our state forests to remain as such, ensuring future access to all. Lobby Regional Roads to maintain our roads. Encourage business and agriculture, endeavouring to simplify red tape/bureaucracy. Just to mention a few.
- I envisage a council where residents are at ease to raise their concerns or praises, without fear of rejection, ridicule or prejudice. No subject should be off the table, for respectable debate. Ensuring fairness to all. Essential to a healthy, vibrant community is the sense of connection, from the youngest member to the eldest, of all walks of life.

lifetime to be elected my community's representative on council. As deputy mayor, and recently as mayor I've grasped every opportunity to advance our municipality, appointed to the Local Government Minister's Mayoral Advisory Panel, and current Chair of the Hume Region Local Government Network.

- No. Not now, not previously.
- Our community is facing challenges with cost-of-living pressures, access to adequate local health services, and accommodation for families and key workers. The primary challenge for council itself is financial sustainability. Rural Councils continue to be challenged to deliver more services for state government without commensurate financial support. Murrindindi ratepayers already do significant heavy lifting in delivering income for council, and so I will continue my campaign of advocating for a more equitable share of Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants. As Red Gate's representative, I'll continue to work to avoid exporting our young people by fostering local education and vocational options.

### REDGATE

#### Jo Timbury



Joanne Timbury. -S

- MY name is Joanne Timbury, most locals know me as 'Jo'. I'm a familiar face in town, utilising our business' and services wherever possible and generally enjoying a chat. I live on a small farm on the outskirts of Alexandra, with horses, sheep, chooks, my husband of 40 years and grandchildren, to keep me company. I enjoy the outdoor life, prospecting,

#### Damien Gallagher



Damien Gallagher. -S

- HI, I'm Damien, 47. Husband, dad to three strong independent young women, not-for-profit board member of Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show and Alexandra Pro Rodeo, CFA volunteer, Rebels supporter, small-time farmer, company director, executive leader, and software engineer. After 14 years in town, my family is continuing to build our future in Alexandra. It's been the privilege of a

- For families, professionals, tradies, and those between projects, I'll foster an inclusive community leaving nobody behind. We must engage and support young people to be their best selves, to lead discussions on the future. They need local tertiary education and employment options. The contribution of our elderly residents must be recognised and reciprocated with dignified care and services. Council will foster a thriving economy with meaningful career employment opportunities for everyone by attracting new enterprise and supporting established Murrindindi businesses. Ambitions demand vision. We can achieve growth and development while maintaining our rural identity and natural assets. Inclusion, opportunity, vision.

## Murray Cod season ends

THE iconic Murray cod is due for a rest during the closed season from September 1 to November 30

During this time, cod are at their most vulnerable as they are in breeding mode. All fishers can help Murray cod to successfully spawn and ensure great cod fishing for future generations by ensuring they do not use fishing techniques which are likely to catch cod during this time.

September 1 also marked the closure of Murray spiny freshwater crayfish and river blackfish fishing seasons.

Locally the Murray cod closed season does not apply to Lake Eildon, and this also includes waters at Arcadia Pondage, waters of the Wimmera and Millicent basins (except the Wimmera River), waters south of the Great Dividing Range (except Yarra River), Lake Eppalock, Cairn Curran Reservoir and Lake Nillahcootie.



An impressive Murray cod at the Snobs Creek Hatchery. -MP



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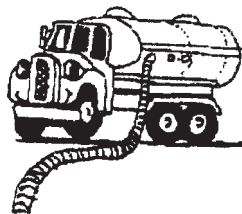
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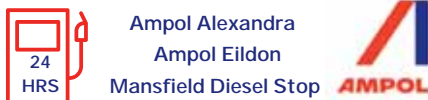
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9	1	6	2	7	4	8	3	5
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### MATH SQUARES

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+		÷		+	
1	-	4	+	6	3
15		3		18	



Cindy McLeish MP, St Mary's College Seymour Student Chloe Butterworth and Trudy Birchall. -S

## McLeish's Kokoda trek

IN July, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish tackled the daunting 138km Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea, in honour of Australian WWII veterans and soldiers.

Joining Ms McLeish on the trek was State Liberal Leader John Pesutto, several Coalition colleagues, her cousin Trudy Birchall, and 25 Year 11 students from across Victoria among others. The large group was split into two, with each group starting from opposite ends. Ms McLeish began the journey in Owers Corner in Central Province, finishing in Kokoda.

Ms McLeish said, "During the trek, I constantly thought of the Australian soldiers who fought there. It was an incredibly moving journey, walking where they walked, seeing war memorials and standing where historical battles took place.

"Imagining the conditions our Diggers endured, whilst carrying heavy packs, digging in for days or weeks with limited food supplies and fighting for their life was chilling and very emotional for all. I had a porter to carry most of my gear. Our Diggers did not. I had good boots. Our Diggers did not. We could keep dry. We didn't suffer from dysentery. We could sleep peacefully at night without our lives being threatened. Our Diggers walked and fought while injured with no time to recover or rest. The realisation that some of the guides and porters who helped us were descendants of the 'fuzzy wuzzy angels' strengthened the ties between trekkers and guides."

Along the way the group learnt about the battles and types of combat, some of it being hard to hear. During these gruelling battles, injured soldiers were carried on stretchers by the fuzzy wuzzy angels for kilometres to be moved to safety or the 'hospital'. Those who could stagger did. Surgeries were done on the surgeons rock, kilometres from the battlefield and even further from the hospital. Those who were able, were sent back to the front line, while the more severely wounded had to climb a further 4km up steep and slippery mountain side to the hospital to recuperate.

"The trek was a tough physical and mental challenge. Although I had done the training, I realised there was no way of replicating the jungle conditions we faced. We climbed up and down mountains constantly, mostly trekking more than 20 kms a day. The paths were exceptionally steep and narrow, slippery, muddy, and required loads of concentration to avoid tripping over exposed tree roots. The weather was hot and humid with a couple of icy nights."

"I am incredibly proud of our young people who kept spirits and energy high - even playing soccer with local children or volleyball with our porters after a 20km hike. They clearly enjoyed the trek but the realisation that many of the soldiers were only a year or two older than themselves, hit them hard as they imagined themselves living and fighting in the dreadful conditions our soldiers faced."

Like many locals, Ms McLeish shares a personal connection to the area with family members having served during WWII.

"My uncle, Don McLeish, was deployed to Papua New Guinea as a signalman after the battle of Kokoda and my father, Campbell, was deployed to Borneo and New Britain. Although they were not on Kokoda, it is a reminder of conditions they would have faced in their battles," Ms McLeish said.

"It was an experience I will never forget. I feel honoured to have taken part with a great group of people."



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**ALEXANDRA and District Dog Obedience Club AGM**  
will be held on Sunday, October 27, 10am at Briggs Oval.

**EILDON Golf Club's AGM** will be held on October 12, 2024 at Eildon Golf Club at 6pm. Any item members wish to have discussed, must be presented to secretary seven days prior to AGM. Email Rod Taylor, [rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com](mailto:rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com).

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# Call for actions to reduce risk of farm drowning hazards

LEADING safety agencies Kidsafe Victoria, Life Saving Victoria and Farmsafe Australia have urged regional families to set up safe play areas and actively supervise children around water, in a bid to reduce the number of drowning incidents on farms.

Drowning remains one of the leading causes of child deaths on farms. According to the latest statistics from the *Royal Life Saving Society of Australia's National Drowning Report*, 26 per cent of toddler (zero to four years) drownings in 2022/23 occurred in inland waterways such as lakes, dams, rivers and creeks. That figure rose to 43 per cent in the five to 14 year age group.

Jason Chambers, General Manager of Kidsafe Victoria, said that farms have a number of unique hazards which are not commonly found in a suburban home, including bodies of water.

"Farms and regional properties often contain a number of different bodies of water such as dams, troughs, irrigation channels, water tanks, rivers and lakes, all which can pose a potential drowning hazard for children.

"Creating a safe play area that is away from water and other farm hazards such as animals and machinery, is a great way to provide

kids with a safe place to explore," Mr Chambers said.

In 2020, Shepparton mother Ash Napolitano endured every parent's worst nightmare when her two-year-old son, Hunter, drowned in a dam on a Goulburn Valley farm. In honour of their son, Ash and Matt established the Hunter Boyle Children's Swim program with Kidsafe Victoria to provide children in need in the Goulburn Valley region with free swimming lessons and water safety education.

Dr Hannah Calverley, Manager of Research and Evaluation with Life Saving Victoria emphasised the significance of teaching children how to swim and having an emergency plan to ensure their safety around water.

"We urge all families to prioritise enrolling children in swim classes to learn water safety and to keep their first aid and CPR qualifications current," Dr Calverley said.

Farmsafe Australia Chair Felicity Richards highlighted the important role that active adult supervision plays in keeping children safe on the farm.

"Always keep children within arm's reach and ensure they are never left alone near hazardous areas such as machinery, animals, or water sources. Being physically close allows you

to respond instantly if a dangerous situation arises," Ms Richards said.

#### Farm water safety tips

Make sure children are actively always supervised by an adult when in or around water. For toddlers, this means having an adult within arm's reach; set up a safe play area away from water hazards such as dams.

The play area should be securely fenced, located close to the house, and equipped with adequate shade, as well as a range of fun and engaging activities for children.

Enrol children in learn to swim classes.

Ensure that water storage areas, such as wells and tanks, are securely covered.

Where practical, remove items floating in dams that may attract children into the water.

Dress children in brightly coloured clothing to help them be seen when on farms.

Fill in unused holes where water can gather, such as ditches, dips, and post holes.

Learn CPR and regularly update your skills.

For more information on farm safety and the Hunter Boyle Children's Swim Program, please visit [kidsafevic.com.au](http://kidsafevic.com.au)

## Honesty about AI in council elections

ACCORDING to the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to make an appearance at local council elections in October and the Electoral Commissioner is calling for transparency in the use of AI.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel has urged voters to think critically about campaign material, while encouraging campaigners to be transparent in the use of any AI-generated or AI-modified material.

In particular, the VEC is calling for visible labelling on any AI-generated or AI-modified election campaign material to ensure voters are not misled.

"Getting campaign information to voters is an essential part of the robust

contest of ideas in any election. We know that voters are concerned about mis- and disinformation. Voters need reliable and trustworthy information to help them make informed decisions about how to vote," Mr Bluemmel said.

"That is why, as well as the usual authorisation statement requirements, I am urging campaigners to meet community expectations by clearly labelling any election material that has been generated or modified through the use of AI.

"Tackling political mis- and disinformation is essential if we are to protect voter confidence in our electoral system. It is the responsibility of all participants, not just the VEC, to maintain that confidence," Mr Bluemmel added.

There are no laws in Victoria that regulate truth in political advertising. Voters are encouraged to exercise their own judgement and think critically about the information they see, before deciding to let it influence their vote. Voters should look for an authorisation statement, showing who authorised the distribution of the material. This is a legal requirement for all election campaign material.

Voters are also reminded to visit the website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) as the source of truth for all information about the election or electoral processes. The VEC will continue to address incorrect information about the election on its misinformation register, which is available on the website.

## Prepare for thunderstorm asthma this spring

WITH thunderstorm season starting on October 1, the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) urges people who experience asthma and hay fever to prepare now.

Dr. Will Cross, GVPHU Clinical Director, emphasises the importance of preparation: "If you have asthma or experience seasonal asthma, it's important to have an up-to-date asthma action plan and manage your symptoms with advice from your General Practitioner.

"An asthma action plan is a simple guide created with your doctor to help you manage your asthma and know what to do if your symptoms get worse. Make sure you have your asthma medication with you at all times during this high-risk season," said Dr. Cross.

Thunderstorm asthma is a rare weather-related event that primarily occurs during spring but can extend into December, aligned with the grass pollen season. It occurs during spring thunderstorms when

pollen grains are swept up into the air and break into tiny particles.

These particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and trigger sudden asthma flare-ups, particularly in people with pre-existing asthma or hay fever. Episodes triggered during these events can be much more severe than regular asthma attacks, so even those with mild pre-existing conditions should be prepared.

You are at higher risk of thunderstorm asthma if you: Experience seasonal hay fever; have current asthma; have a history of asthma; have undiagnosed asthma.

The GVPHU recommends the following steps to reduce the risk of thunderstorm asthma when it is a known trigger: Use your preventer medication. If you have been prescribed a preventer inhaler, use it as directed, especially during spring; manage hay fever. Keep hay fever symptoms under control with advice from your general practitioner (GP) or pharmacist,

as this can help prevent asthma flare-ups, particularly during thunderstorm events; monitor pollen levels. Check daily pollen forecasts through the Vic Emergency website or app. Try to stay indoors on high pollen days; be prepared. Keep your and loved one's asthma action plans up to date and ensure you have enough medication on hand, including inhalers and antihistamines.

Thunderstorm asthma can be serious. Make sure you're prepared this season. Talk to your GP about an asthma action plan. Ensure you have enough medication. Keep an eye on the weather and pollen forecasts.

For more information and resources on thunderstorm asthma, visit: [gvhealth.org.au/public-health-unit](http://gvhealth.org.au/public-health-unit) or [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstorm-asthma](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstorm-asthma)

For more information on Asthma Action Plans visit [betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au)



# Linda Hughes farewell by FoodWorks

LINDA Hughes commenced employment at the Alexandra Tuckerbag on AFL Grand Final Week in 1995. As a Carlton supporter, Linda had a great first week which sadly, for her and Blues supporters only, was not to be repeated again over her 30 year career at the supermarket.

Footy banter was a stalwart at the supermarket across the years among team members and customers alike as Linda is True Blue. Linda has never tipped against the Blues in three decades of participation in the work footy tipping competitions, no matter where they were on the ladder.

This attitude of loyalty and dedication to a fault, is also how Linda undertook her work duties. It is also why more than 70 past and present employees, and other industry colleagues people turned out on

Thursday night to thank her and wish her well in her pending retirement.

From her start in 1995, Linda performed many roles in the supermarket, all the way up to store manager. In the first few years, there was a name change of the store to FoodWorks and then in 1998 Norm and Margot Reddrop sold the business to Tina and Michael Reddrop. That created its own dynamics for Linda.

Linda has held the store manager role for most of the past two decades, always striving to do her best and regularly reflecting on her own growth and development. The team at FoodWorks usually has more than 100 local employees at any one time.

Over the years, Linda would have worked alongside close to 1000 people. As a consequence, Linda has been a mentor and confidante to so many,

some who have gone on to manage other stores or taken up significant roles in the broader industry.

Linda decided that entering her 30th year at FoodWorks means it is probably the time to hang up the 'Grocery store apron and box cutter' and head off to follow some other pursuits.

Linda will retire on October 11. While it is a sad day for the store and others in the community, everyone is grateful for Linda's contribution and took the opportunity to wish her all the best for the future.

The evening was a celebration of a dedicated and trusted member of our community. Some mentioned during their speeches, that the only time to stay clear of Linda was early on a Monday morning after a Blues loss on the weekend.



Reddrop's COO Lincoln Wymer with Tammy Wall, Daniel Brooks and Toni Muller. -S



Jenna Elms-Smith, Blaire Van Bael, Tammy Wall and Nicole Thorn. -S



Dearnne Cowell, Andrew Marshall, Linda and Justin Thorn. -S



Sue Bulman and Linda Hughes. -S



Linda Hughes and her sister Tracy Parker. -S



The Alexandra FoodWorks ladies. -S



Janet Morton, Linda Hughes and Christeen Purcell. -S



Linda Hughes with Jack, Tina and Michael Reddrop. -S



Linda Hughes, Tina Reddrop and Paula Walker. -S



Linda with one of her 'boys', Mansfield FoodWorks Manager Andrew Marshall. -S



# Great work experience for local firefighters

FOREST Fire Management (FFM) operations officer Tori Spraggs has just recently come back from her deployment in British Columbia in the effort against recent bushfires. Other Murrindindi FFM workers that also went along included Luke Heard from Alexandra and John George from Broadford. Forty one staff from FFM Victoria were deployed to British Columbia and then were split into two taskforces.

The experience for Tori was quite special as it was her first overseas trip for work. It was a 36 day deployment which included 14 days of up to 14 hours per day and a two day break in between the next 14 days. Tori said, "We were all pretty tired, it was good though and genuine hard work."

"We went to British Columbia. We flew into Vancouver, and we ended up at three different fire centres over there, here we call it our regions. We ended up at three different fire centres across seven different fires. There was a lot going on over there.

"Over there we saw a massive difference in the weather from when we were there. It got cold over there towards the end, when we arrived it was so hot.

"The last fire we were at it got a little more heated towards the end. It wasn't anything crazy, a lot of the work they had us do is mop up work but nothing too crazy, we never have to leave the fire."

Tori's fitness levels certainly had a test over there. "It wasn't a holiday, it was hard work, we were doing lots of hiking," Tori said.

"My watch tracked about 10 to 20 kilometres a day. We had heavy gear; this included our normal gear, plus our backpack as we would leave the cars for the whole day and get back at night. You carry all your food and all your water and the gear you need for the day such as all your hoses. These hoses were heavy, we had to pack in the biggest canvas ones. They are around seven kilograms each. We were drinking heaps of water too as it was so hot," Tori said.

The firefighting strategies are quite different than in Australia, Tori explained they didn't have any water in the vehicles as they have so many lakes around.

"Wherever a fire is, we could somewhat get water to it. Our longest hose lay was seven kilometres we were pumping from. The water is so plentiful over there, it was mainly all hose work. They were telling us to not turn our hoses off because there is so much pressure in the lines and it blows their hoses up," Tori said.

When asking what the biggest thing was Tori took back from her deployment she said, "I learnt so much over there. It's almost a different way of looking at things, I've done a



Some of the Hume and Gippsland Forest Fire Management team. -S

little bit of fire here. Not as much as everyone else but I have come back with a different outlook; you don't always have to do things that are a set way.

Other changes Tori experienced compared to Australia was the sleeping arrangements. In Australia you walk into a basecamp all set up, on this trip it was a bit different.

"We had a few nights in hotels when we were moving around. We all got a camping kit with a tent, a mat, and sleeping gear and you would go to your location and set it all up, you had that designated pack for the whole trip whereas here you go to a basecamp that's all set up.

"It was cold towards the end; our coldest night was two degrees overnight, it was freezing. We had thermals and beanies so that was good. At the last basecamp we were at there was about 200 of us over there, it was a big tent city."

Tori has come back so thankful of her experience and says it boosted her confidence, "I was so fortunate. It was all such a bonus, doing this in your off season and you get to come back with this fire experience it is amazing, although it was different over there it's still relevant. I reckon I have done equivalent fire days here than I did in Canada now. I would absolutely go back, for sure."



Tents nestled in the landscape. -S



A different firefighting method for Tori, in Canada they use hoses from lakes instead of the fire trucks. -S



Mitch Beaton from the Benalla Work centre and Tori Spraggs. -S



Some steep terrain the firefighters had to work in. -S

## SPORT

# End of pennant for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

THE Alexandra Squash Club pennant is over. Monday nights winning team was Blue Vein. Thursday nights winning team was Piranhas. The club says good playing everyone, and they look forward to seeing everyone next pennant.

### Monday Competition Camembert versus Feta

Lachlan versus Tyler: Taking the first game Tyler led the way. Lachlan was better when



Monday night's winning team of Blue Vein. Pictured are Ethan, James, Matt and Pep. -S

he took the time to serve and concentrate, winning him the next three games and the match 59 to 45.

Matt (fill in) versus Sally: Both opponents ran like their life depended on it. Matt was a bit quicker, not letting Sally have a single game. Matt for the win. 65 to 41.

Jared versus Phil: Good hitting on both sides. Both covered the court well and hit excellent finishers. Phil had the upper hand on the night. 71 to 45.



Thursday night's winning team of the Piranhas. Pictured are Sam, Michael H and Beth. -S

John versus Andrew: A fantastic game. Tied in the first two games it was a match to behold. Coming out of the third game, John was behind. He managed to pull it back a bit but Andrew was the champion. 60 to 58.

### Gouda versus Mozzarella

Tyler (fill in) versus Eric: Both played well and had some excellent serving and good placement. Tyler was just too good for Eric on the night. 68 to 54.

Chris versus Mick: Mick came barrelling out of the gate to dominate the first game and take the second. Chris flipped the script to claim the last two games but couldn't get ahead. Mick claimed the win. 60 to 51.

Justin versus Simon: Starting strong Simon controlled the first game and drew the second. The third game saw Justin fly ahead to give him enough of a lead to win the match. 68 to 59.

### Thursday Competition Piranhas versus Stingrays

Beth versus Jess: Seesawing games with the final game ending in a draw. Beth won two games, however Jess had a good lead in the game that she won which pushed her ahead to

win the match by one point. 62 to 61.

Sam versus Travis: Sam was on fire on the night, not giving Travis a chance to get ahead. Reigning supreme with a strong win, Sam took home the trophy. 71 to 49.

Michael H versus Jim: Saving the best game of the pennant until the night, both players were full throttle. Jim shot off to an early lead. Michael took advantage of some mistakes in the second and third games to have a narrow lead heading into the final game. Jim steadied and claimed the victory by playing simple squash. 54 to 49.

### Hammerheads versus Orcas

Jodie versus Lucas (fill in): Playing with ferocity, Jodie nabbed three games to Lucas's one. Jodie was the victor. 60 to 51.

Michael M versus Stuart: Stuart won the first two games, keeping Michael running and sliding across the court. Fighting back, Michael took the third game with a good lead to even out the match before Stuart came around to crush his spirit and win the match. 58 to 52.





The race was challenging, but it was also heavily engaged with Mongolian culture. -S



The expansiveness of the Mongolian steppes on full display, with ger [tents] just visible in the background. -S

## Billy Crouch races semi-wild horses across Mongolia

by Bailey Dixon

OVER 800 years ago, Genghis Khan wanted to conquer the world from horseback. As the founder and first ruler of the Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan created an infamous postal system to convey important information from one side of his fledgling empire to the other.

This was later dubbed Genghis Khan's post mail route, and it stretched over 1000 kilometres through the Mongolian steppes.

Earlier this year, Billy Crouch from Bonnie Doon, who spends most of his time working for Fineblade Civil in Murrindindi Shire, travelled to Mongolia to race semi-wild horses along this 1000 kilometre route on a 10 day adventure known as the Mongol Derby.

Billy shared details of the race and stories of his wild adventures in Mongolia.

"I knew about this race 10 years ago, and it was something that had always blown my mind. I remember laughing with another long-distance friend of mine, and I said I was going to sign up for that race. She said good luck, and then 10 years later I've signed up for the race and been over and completed it.

"We completed it in nine days. The Mongol Derby is 1000 kilometres, or it's actually a little bit more, but it's sold as a 1000 kilometre endurance race. It's registered as the longest and toughest endurance horse race in the world, so there is nothing bigger," Billy explained.

The race itself is split into 40 kilometre lengths, where riders receive a random new horse every 40 kilometres, for a total of 29 horses ridden during the race.

"We'd never laid eyes on any of the horses, never ridden any of them. You'd pull up to a horse station, and there'd be about 30 or 40 horses on a horse line, and you would draw a number out of a hat, and whatever number you drew, that was the horse you rode for that leg.

"Some legs you would draw horses that were fast, like super-fast, and other legs you would draw horses that weren't as fast, so it's sort of anybody's race. You get on, and hope for the best and educate yourself and the horse along the way."

In terms of navigation, Billy said, "It's a GPS navigated race, so every rider is handed a GPS, and that GPS is logged with GPS locations. You'll have your 29 different locations, and you'll have 1000 different ways you can get to each checkpoint. There's no track, it's just depending on what horse you get to determine which way you'll go.

"If you got a fast horse, it was quicker to go around a mountain, but if you got a slow horse that was fairly safe it might be quicker to go over the mountain rather than around," Billy said.

The horse changeover checkpoints provided riders with an opportunity to fill up their water and food, as well as stay the night if the riding curfew (7am to 7pm) lined up with reaching a checkpoint. These checkpoints were maintained by Mongolian volunteers who could provide riders with a place to spend the night and refresh themselves. Otherwise,



Billy Crouch making his way across the 'green desert' that is the Mongolian steppes. -S

riders were stuck with camping wherever they found themselves when curfew kicked in.

"Where we rode in Mongolia, they call it the steppe. The people who live out there are known as nomadic. One thing that really stood out to me was how welcoming these families were. Each horse line is what they call a horse station, and the families have little gers [tents] that they live in and we were welcome to stay in them at the horse stations.

"But if you got into a horse station at six o'clock at night, you knew that you still had an hour left riding, but that hour wouldn't get you to the next horse station. You'd have to find water and feed for your horse, and then you'd camp out that night.

"If you got lucky, you'd find a ger, and you could pull up to their ger and speak to them and try and translate. It was very difficult to let them know what we were doing, but in return they would let us stay there, they'd look after our horses for the night and feed us.

"It was really interactive, everything is about the locals over there, that's what the whole race is about. They [the Mongolian horses that racers rode] are their horses, and over there the horses are their whole world. They're everything. Without the families over there, there is no race. It's as simple as that," Billy said.

The countryside in Mongolia is vastly different to the Australian bush. The steppes are very sparse and green, with rolling hills and very little in the way of vegetation.

"They call the steppes a green desert. Lots of big green rolling mountains for as far as you can see. I think the first four days of the ride I was convinced there were no trees in Mongolia. It was just barren country for so long.

"The fifth and sixth day we started to get into some plantation country. There was one spot on the trail where we rode over this big mountain and dropped into this valley. I've never been to Africa, but I think that's what

it would look like. It was like something out of a movie.

"It was very interesting country. It's very harsh, and a lot of the horses we rode, the tips of their ears had been burnt from frostbite, from the winters over there," Billy explained.

Talking about the overall experience of the race, Billy recalled it with fondness and expressed that he would do it again in a heartbeat. The joy of the adventure was evident on his face while he talked about the race, even after a period of some weeks and returning to work.

"I was rapt. I would go and do it again tomorrow, there's no questions about that. I never went over there to win it. I told myself that in my head, if I finish it I've won. It's a race where a lot of people don't finish, and a lot of people get seriously injured.

"It'll be a story around the campfire for the rest of my life.

"Every horse that you rode and every single leg that you did, something interesting happened. At the end of the day, you are riding semi-wild horses in a remote place. It's a recipe for disaster, and there were lots of disasters. That's horse racing, that's what it is.

"I remember pulling up to stations, and people were like 'how are you still smiling?' And I said, 'look where we are. We're riding semi-wild horses in a third world country. My friends back home are at work.' It doesn't get much better than that for me."

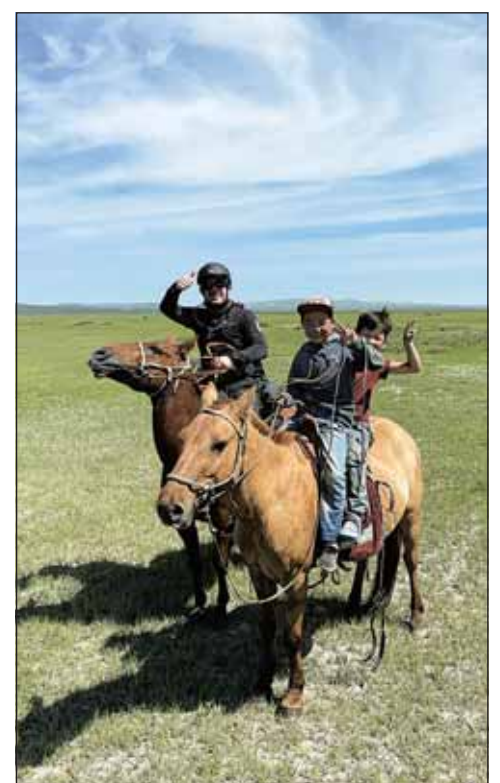
The Mongol Derby was a challenging experience for Billy, and yet he still fully recommends the race.

"I talk about it now, but five days in my toes were black from bruising, from standing up in stirrups that I had never ridden in before. If you had underlying injuries in your body that your day-to-day life wouldn't affect, they would definitely come out in that horse race.

"I think in my head I had a goal and I promised myself that I would go out and get it. I would encourage anybody to do the same,



Local man Billy Crouch, who lives in Bonnie Doon and works in Murrindindi Shire. -S



Billy Crouch with a couple of Mongolian children, who he says are incredible horse riders, having learnt from a young age. -S

because nothing is too big or too small to go out and get. You want it, you work at it and go out and get it.

"You'll find that everyone around you will support you in that, like everyone around me supported me. But they all told me I was crazy at the same time. Also, Fineblade Civil is very supportive of what I do. Without them I wouldn't have been able to do this," Billy concluded.



THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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## Lots of rounds of golf in Alexandra

by Elizabeth Goss

THERE were 15 players on Tuesday with Steve Darmody taking the win (22) on 36 points. The runner-up was Paul Martin (30) with 34 points on a countback from Leo Dynes (20) with 34 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Russell Purcell and on the 18th to Simon Rouget. Ball Rundown: Russel Purcell, Nigel Waterhouse, Simon Rouget and Jan Petrzela.

Numbers were good also on Wednesday for a stableford round. Julie Lyon was the winner with a good score of (21) 38 points followed by Judy Pearson (24) with 32 points. Next came Sandra Morison (53) with 31 points and then Donna Meggitt (14) with 30 points. Nearest the pin on the second went to Donna Meggitt, on the 12th to Julie Lyon and on the 18th to Judy Pearson. Mor Gale won the nine-holes. Next Wednesday, October 2 is stroke, monthly medal and count your putts.

There was an enjoyable day on Saturday with The Captain Presidents Challenge and a barbecue to open the summer season. Once again the captain's team won. The winner of the day was Leo Dyne with (20) 36 points and the runner-up was Brad Kidd (9) with 35 points. Next came Michael Bossinnet (11) with 34 points on a four-way countback from Trevor Biffin (14) with 34 points, Shane McGorlick (11) with 34 points and Brendan Smith (8) on 34 points.

Nearest the pin on the second went to Todd Galloway, on the fifth to Simon Rouget, on the seventh to Ruth Worland and on the 18th to Leo Dynes. Next Saturday, September 28, is a stableford round.



Golfers enjoyed multiple different rounds of competition in Alexandra. -S

Some reminders: The annual meeting is on Saturday October 12 and the chook run will start again on Thursday October 10 at 5pm. All are welcome, no handicap needed. It is championship season again with the first round for the men on October 12 and the

ladies playing their first round as you read this. Country Week starts next Sunday, and Alexandra Golf Club wishes good luck to their representatives Donna Meggitt, Luke Heard, Dylon Jack and Riley McDonald.

## Games and AGM for Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday's game at Marysville Golf Club was a par round for both the men and the ladies with the men's round being the third of the Par Shield. The men's winner was Keith Atwell (20) with plus three followed by Steve Berry (11) with plus one. The ladies winner was Jody Doran (12) with minus two and Margaret Blair (33) was the runner-up with minus seven.

Travers Stow, visiting player Alex Bullard and Richy Clark won the nearest the pins with Richy also winning the golden shot. After play members celebrated Keith Atwell's 70th birthday.

Members and visiting golfers are reminded that next Saturday due to the AFL final a stableford game will be played with an

8.30am arrival for a 9am hit off. As of Saturday October 12, due to daylight saving time commencing, golf will be a 9am arrival for a 9.30am tee off.

The 2023/24 AGM was held in the clubrooms with all reports tabled or read out. Steve Coker was re-elected as president and Travers Stow as treasurer. Other committee members are Jody Doran, Peter Lilley, Richy Clark, Colin Davies, Ross Ansell, and newly elected Mark Bambery and Paul Martin.

Members thank Mim Page for her services to the committee and all those willing to take on the responsibility of managing the club for the next 12 months. Any members who are willing to volunteer to assist with the upkeep of the course are asked to contact Kellan Fiske.

On Thursday September 19 three Marysville ladies played in the Kilmore annual tournament. A good field of 37 ladies played and Heather Jenkins won four Dalhousie Player of the Year points. The next Dalhousie ladies event will be the Euroa Bowl on Thursday October 3 and the Marysville ladies tournament will be held on Thursday October 10.

On Saturday September 21 a trivia night was held at the club and 80 adults and children enjoyed a fun filled evening. Members would like to express their grateful thanks to Sabrina Stow and her son Julian for organising the night, all those who assisted on the night and all those locals visitors and businesses who supported the successful event.

## Alexandra Cox Plate coming soon

THE Cox Plate will be taking place in Alexandra on October 26.

Buses will be available to take patrons to Alexandra's Cox Plate Day meeting on Saturday October 26. There are three bus routes: Eildon, Marysville and Yea. Return ticket only \$10, children 15 and under are free and you must book online at [country.racing.com/Alexandra](http://country.racing.com/Alexandra)

Go online to see the pick up points and times. Buses will service each meeting this season and each person, including children, must have a reserved seat.

Bring your own (BYO) alcohol will no longer be permitted. This is a significant change for patrons but due to increasingly more restrictive Liquor Licensing Laws, the club has reluctantly accepted this reality. Other picnic clubs, such as Mansfield, have done the same.

Alcohol can be purchased at the reasonably priced bar. BYO food and soft drinks is permitted but BYO alcohol is not. Sponsors and marquee groups can apply for their own Liquor Licence but need to obtain a letter of authority from the club and allow eight weeks for their application to be processed.

Alexandra's Cox Plate meeting will be a family day with lots of kids activities like pony rides, a magician, music and other activities. Bookies and tote will service local, Melbourne and interstate meetings. Alexandra Lions and other food vans will provide food or you can BYO.

Alternatively entry tickets can be purchased at the gate on the day. Gates open from 11am, with the first local race at 1.15pm. Alternatively you can bring your own chair or find a spot in the shade and enjoy a day at the races.

# Alexandra Newspapers will be **CLOSED**

Friday, September 27, 2024 for  
AFL Grand Final public holiday

**EGN deadlines for booking and artwork will be**

**NOON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

**ALL OTHER DEADLINES REMAIN UNCHANGED**