

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, October 16, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au



The Alexandra CFA marched proudly down Grant Street to celebrate 150 years of the fire brigade. For more photos of the event turn to page 8. -BD

Patient transport changed

RESIDENTS requiring transport to Seymour for dialysis treatment or chemotherapy have had their taxi services withdrawn and are now required to book ambulances through the Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) option, resulting in delays in transport to Seymour.

The change has put more pressure on paramedics, patients and the Seymour hospital staff.

One Alexandra resident who did not wish to be named was advised during their dialysis

treatment at the Seymour hospital that the taxi service would no longer be available.

The incident occurred despite the Department of Health claiming last week that that there has been no change to the service for local patients requiring dialysis sessions.

Ambulance Victoria prioritises NEPT patients as to who will be picked up and when. This has already led to patients arriving late for their sessions.

One patient last week only received a four-hour treatment instead of the usual five hours due to ambulance scheduling.

There was also an incident of an ambulance being sent to the wrong address.

The group that met with Murrindindi Shire CEO, Livia Bonazzi, last week are looking at taking the matter to the public through the Melbourne media.

In the meantime, member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad, is asking anyone

with experience of the ambulance system to provide comment to the parliamentary inquiry into Ambulance Victoria.

Ms Broad said that area has some of the worst ambulance response times in Victoria, adding that paramedics are doing the best they can but the system is letting them and the community down.

Details regarding Ms Broad's campaign can be read on page 10 of this week's Alexandra Standard.

AS REAL AS IT GETS

ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

**SATURDAY
26 OCTOBER 2024**




- Music
- Horse Racing
- Tote & Bookies Services
- \$15pp or \$10pp for concession card holders
- Children 16 and under FREE
- Gates open at noon ~ first race at 1.15pm



COX PLATE DAY

BOOKINGS: country.racing.com/alexandra



Take the bus to the Alexandra Races Cox Plate Day October 26



3 Routes; Eildon, Marysville or Yea.

Bookings essential country.racing.com/alexandra

\$10 return, Children 15 and under Free.
Everyone, even children, must have a reserved seat



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

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REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

 **Letters to the Editor**

The answer is blowing in the wind

The Fera wind farm and transmission line issue seems to have gone a bit quiet recently. The “consultation” process apparently continues.

“Consultation” as we all know is about going through a process and then ramming the original plan down the communities throat anyway. Unless the community has the right to say “no” it’s not a real consultation.

So here’s my challenge for the Murrindindi Shire elections: each candidate should come out with a clear “Yes: I support the wind farm and transmissions lines project” or a clear “No: I

don’t support the wind farm and transmissions lines project”.

Do the candidates have that level of courage? As for Fera, who are flogging this project, here’s your challenge.

If a secret ballot is taken of all residents who are impacted in any way by the wind towers and transmission lines is taken, and the vote is NO, will Fera have the courage and ethical commitment to say, “the project is cancelled”?

It’s time for Shire council candidates and Fera to show some community commitment, real consultation commitment and courage.


Marcus Elgin
Highlands

IT’S NOT OKAY

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

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

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




COMMUNITY DIARY

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

WEEKLY
Tues Art Group (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/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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



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.

State government annual financial report shows growth

THE 2023-24 Annual Financial Report for the Victorian Government was published last Friday and shows definitive growth.

Acting Treasurer, Danny Pearson, explained how things are looking up for Victoria.

“Our fiscal strategy is working. We’re delivering the services and infrastructure Victorians rely on while reducing debt and growing our state’s economy,” Mr Pearson said.

“Victoria is booming. Our economic growth is expected to be higher than the national average over the next five years and more families are moving here because we’re investing in the infrastructure and services they need.”

State final demand, a key measure of the economy that combines public and private investment and spending, increased by 2.1 per cent in 2023-24 following strong growth in 2022-23 and is 14.4 per cent larger than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Employment increased by 3.5 per cent in 2023-24, the second highest growth in Australia, and wages increased by 3.6 per cent, the fastest rate of nominal wages growth in over a decade.

More than 862,000 new jobs have been created since the state government was elected in 2014, with a record 3.78 million Victorians now in jobs. Unemployment averaged 4.0 per cent in 2023-24,

well below the 6.7 per cent unemployment rate left by the former government.

Business investment increased by 6 per cent in 2023-24, reflecting the diverse nature of the economy with significant energy and transport works as well as increased investment in machinery and equipment.

The Annual Financial Report shows that Victoria’s population rose by a strong 2.7 per cent, or more than 180,000 people, over the year to March 2024, taking the population to almost seven million people.

The Annual Financial Report shows that the state government delivered a net operating cash surplus of \$2.6 billion, the second successive cash surplus since emerging from the pandemic. The state government also improved the general government sector operating deficit by \$4.6 billion in 2023-24.

Net debt is also \$2.6 billion lower than the revised estimate in the May Victorian Budget 2024/25, which sees the reduction of net debt as a proportion of the economy for the first time since 2017.

Growth is predicted to continue, with Deloitte Access Economics forecasting that the Victorian economy will grow faster than the national average over the next five years.

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday



RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.71	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.56	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.52am Mon	0.70	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	10.37am Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.28am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.22am Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.86	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.49	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.59	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.88	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.10am Mon	1.17	steady	


****ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2024**





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

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

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

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PUBLISHERS



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Weekly Weather
October 16 - October 22, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	12	22	Wednesday	12	22
Thursday	5	21	Thursday	18	25
Friday	5	17	Friday	13	22
Saturday	5	21	Saturday	10	20
Sunday	10	22	Sunday	9	22
Monday	10	21	Monday	14	26
Tuesday	12	22	Tuesday	10	24

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	4mm
Buxton	6mm
Eildon (AWS)	9mm
Flowerdale	3mm
Jamieson	3mm
Kinglake	9mm
Lake Eildon	7mm
Mansfield	8mm
Taggerty	3mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea	1mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.11m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	85.4%
Metres below full supply	3.79m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	93%



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

Lifting the lid

LIFT the Lid on Mental Illness is Australian Rotary Health's national annual fundraising day for mental health research.

Readers can support this wonderful initiative by making a donation on World Mental Health during October at one of the many businesses in Alexandra with collection tubs. Each year approximately one in five Australians will experience a mental illness and in order to help future generations of young Australians, we need to look ahead through research and find out how we can prevent this type of illness occurring.

Lift the Lid on Mental Illness aims to educate all Australians that no matter what 'hat' you wear, we are all affected by mental illness. We hope that Lift the Lid will promote the need for more research into mental health, improve social awareness of mental health issues and stop Australians from keeping mental illness 'under their hats'. Lift the Lid on Mental Illness is an initiative of Australian Rotary Health, one of the largest funding bodies of mental illness research in Australia.

100 per cent of proceeds from Lift the Lid will go towards research into finding preventions, treatments and cures for mental illnesses such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, eating disorders, and Alzheimer's.



Rotarians Howard Paix, Melinda Jackson, Chris Jackson, Neil Robinson and Ros Humphries

Student grants to gain leadership skills

THE opening of applications for *Future Ready 2025-2026* program grants is now underway, it's available for government secondary schools, not for profit organisations, Aboriginal entities and social enterprises to work with students across the state and help them get involved in their community.

Grants of between \$24,000 and \$56,000 over two years are available for a wide variety of activities such as mentoring and training, work placement and volunteering, and leadership and learning opportunities.

The program is designed to help students build confidence and skills, engage in practical learning that supports their pathway to higher education or employment and learn and develop in an inclusive and safe environment.

Funding can be used flexibly including to cover transport costs for students, such as those living in rural and regional areas, who would otherwise face barriers to taking part.

Previous participants in the program, formerly known as Advance, include Werrimull P-12 School where students took part in a culture trip to Adelaide, a Rubicon leadership camp and a trip to Grampians National Park. These programs enabled

students to develop organisational and leadership skills as they helped to plan and lead the trips.

Activities funded with *Future Ready 2025-2026* program grants will take place in the 2025 and 2026 school calendar years.

The *Future Ready* program is part of the work of the state government to provide young Victorians with the support and opportunities they need to reach their potential.

Grant applications are open until Friday, November 29.

For more information about the *Future Ready 2025-2026* program, or to apply visit vic.gov.au/future-ready-grants

Market @ Yarck
including CWA morning tea and cake stall
Saturday, October 19 from 9am
Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more
Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

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YARCK HOTEL'S Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Tuesday 5th November 2024
Prepaid tickets \$75 pp or \$90 on the day
Kids 12-17yrs \$20
Tickets include a free drink on arrival and door prizes
Race day attire, the fancier the better
Doors open 11am

- Charcuterie to start followed by a BBQ and dessert.
- Exciting raffles with proceeds to go to Yarck CFA
- The Yarck Hotel Magic Mile (the race that stops a very small town!)
- Sweeps
- Fashions on the Field
- Main races televised
- Lots of free giveaways
- Live Music 3 - 7pm
- Courtesy bus to get you home safely.

Doors open to the public after the race that stops a Nation!

You can buy your tickets now by direct credit to Lawrenda Pty Ltd
BSB: 06 3385 Account No: 10704735 | using reference surname and mobile number
Your ticket will be sent via SMS or see our friendly staff at the Yarck Hotel or the Yarck Produce Store

Yarck Hotel | 6607 Maroondah Highway Yarck, VIC 3719 | yarckhotel.com.au

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

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Out & About



THE items in Out and About are sourced from our advertising and news stories. **Out and About is not a free community listing diary.** Not all items can be included and are placed at the discretion of *Alexandra Newspapers*.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Operation Christmas Child is on again. It runs from today through until October 18. Oasis Community Church, 188 Grant Street, Alexandra from 10am-4pm. Tea and coffee supplied, main packing day, October 17. Help pack a box for underprivileged children around the world. All supplied provided. \$12.50 per box or donation. For full details contact Judy Peters 0458 991 855.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Market@Yarck including CWA morning tea and cake stall. Plants, soap, jewellery, knitwear and much more from 9am.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Alexandra RSL general meeting will be held at noon at the RSL hall, light lunch to follow.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Yea Arts Inc AGM will be held at the Yea Butter Factory at 7pm. all welcome. To vote, you must be a paid up member. Enquiries to Adam Dennis 0488 670 077 or YeaArtsInc.org/AGM

Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the club rooms. Everyone is welcome. For details contact Kylie Cairns or Ray Steyger. **NOTE CHANGE OF TIME.**

Drop into the Eildon Shops between 11.30 and noon and have a chat to Helen Haines at her mobile office.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Eildon Action AGM will be held at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Alexandra Race Club Cox Plate Day. Music, tote and bookies, \$15 per person. Children under 16 free. \$10 for Concession Card holders. First race at 1.15pm. There will be a bus available bookings essential country. racing.com/Alexandra.

Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare will hold their AGM at 4pm at 17 Sichlau's Road Yea. A barbecue will follow.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

Wearable Floral Art. Prizes for most creative entries Rennies at Acheron 132 Breakaway Road, Acheron. Guest speakers Costa from Gardening Australia, Joost Bakker, Future food systems and Peter Burgess, Rainbow

Bee Eater. Music, licensed café and more.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Embassy of Ideas AGM will be held at 6pm at 3 Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Alexandra District Netball Association will hold their AGM at 7pm at the Alexandra Community Shed. For further information contact Cassandra on 0418 538 964.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Redgate Alexandra CWA will hold their AGM at 10am at the CWA Rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra. For more information contact Sue 0412 435 946.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Yarck Hotel are holding a Melbourne Cup Lunch. Commencing at 11am. Race day attire, the fancier, the better. Prepaid tickets available from Lawrenda Pty Ltd or visit the hotel or the produce store for tickets. See ad in this edition for payment details. Doors open to the public after the cup.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Murrindindi Harvest Celebration Yea Railway Park 11am-4pm.

Church Services

ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

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

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

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

THE VINE

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

Unprotection order for dingoes to continue

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has commended the Victorian Government's decision to extend the unprotection order for dingoes and is a common sense move that will ensure farmers are equipped with the tools needed to protect their livestock.

VFF President Emma Germano said the decision follows months of sustained advocacy by farmers to ensure the welfare of livestock in the face of wild dog attacks is balanced with the need for dingo conversation.

"This is a sorely needed win for common sense. Farmers are breathing a huge sigh of relief and I would like to thank Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence and Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos for listening to us. It has been an enormous effort by farmers,

industry and everyone involved to have their say and make a difference.

"Farmers and local communities now have greater certainty when it comes to wild dog control methods and that lifts a huge burden from their shoulders.

Ms Germano added that work remains to be done regarding the earlier announced lifting of the unprotection order in Victoria's north west and the government's consultation on the issue.

"We're seeking a much clearer process and timeframe on all decisions like these. We could have avoided so much angst and worry with a much better consultative roadmap.

"Solutions such as the reinstatement of the Wild Dogs Advisory Committee is a place for all stakeholders to come together and it would be hugely beneficial moving forward," Ms Germano said.

Fraser Block campgrounds update

WORKS have commenced at the Fraser block campgrounds in Lake Eildon National Park Devil Cove, Candlebark and Lakeside as the ageing infrastructure is currently impacting the water supply to the area. The projects progress includes stage one water tanks installed, works have started and are expected to take approximately two months to complete, subject to material availability, weather and on-ground conditions.

Water tanks will be installed to provide a reliable source of running water to the Fraser Block campgrounds.

At Lakeside, flushing toilets and handbasins will be available. At Candlebark and Devil Cove, flushing toilets, handbasins and showers will be available. Drinking water and tap water will not be available.

These works will enable all campsites at Lakeside, Candlebark and Devil Cove campgrounds, as well as the Herb Fitzroy Day Visitor Area to be reopened while the stage two updates are planned and completed.

During construction some areas will be temporarily closed to public access, however access to the main campground areas will not be impacted.

Stage two of updated visitor facilities to address the infrastructure currently impacting the water supply to the area. Updates to the visitor facilities at Lakeside Campground and Candlebark Campground are also planned. Planning and design option for later works will be updated as they progress.

For more information about the project visit Parks Victoria website.

Car theft in Eildon

POLICE are investigating the theft of a Toyota Hilux from Eildon on Saturday, October 5. Detectives have been told the silver 2015 model ute, with registration 1RGING, was parked on Jerusalem Creek Road when it was taken sometime between 1pm and 4.30pm.

Investigators are appealing for anyone in the area who may have dashcam vision of the vehicle to come forward.

An image has been released of the distinctive ute in the hope that someone may be able to provide information on its whereabouts.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au



Have you seen this car? If you have contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. -S

Berry case adjourned

SEYMOUR man David Graham Berry, who is facing charges of fatally striking an Alexandra motorcyclist earlier this year near Yarck with an allegedly stolen vehicle, plans to contest the charges.

Berry appeared in Shepparton Magistrates' Court on October 8 for a committal mention. However, his lawyer applied to cross-examine police witnesses. As a result the case was adjourned for a contested committal hearing on February 5, 2025. He will remain in custody until then.

A white Ford Ranger is alleged to have been stolen by Berry from Euroa

on May 9. It is alleged that Berry then drove the vehicle erratically and collided with the 56-year-old motorcyclist on that same day.

Berry then allegedly fled the scene and attempted to hitchhike out of the area but was later apprehended by police after an extensive search.

He was on bail for five separate offences when the alleged incident happened and is facing charges of dangerous driving causing death, burglary, theft, and failing to stop and render assistance.

At the May 10 hearing following the accident the court was told that

Berry was suspected to have been substance-affected and an unlicensed learner driver at the time.

The court was also informed that Berry was out on bail for five different incidents. The first involved violating a court order, while the second and third cases were related to theft and committing an offence while on bail.

His fourth bail violation was for failing to appear in court, while the fifth was related to allegations of drug possession and an imitation firearm. The court was informed during the May hearing that Berry had prior convictions.

Residents beware new NBN scam

RESIDENTS of Murrindindi should be aware that a new scam phone call is doing the rounds, with the caller pretending to be from the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The caller says something along the lines of there is slow internet speed in the postcode 3717 area, and that the NBN is going to provide increased internet speed at no extra cost, aside from a \$5 fee for delivery of a new modem.

From there, the caller directs the person to their computer, where they advise them to download an app that gives the scammer full control over the computer. Once that step is complete, they go into the person's bank accounts and withdraw money.

This scam call has taken place on landlines previously. Anyone who encounters this scam call can go to the NBN website for official information and contact the proper NBN officials from there.

Murrindindi Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election is being held for Murrindindi Shire Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Murrindindi Shire Council Yea Office
15 The Semi Circle
Yea

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au



vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:

* Arabic (Arabic) 9209 0100 * Azərbaycanca (Assyrian) 9209 0160 * বাংলা (Burmese) 9209 0161 * 简体中文 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 * 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 * Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 * دری (Dari) 9209 0193 * Thuojnjan (Dinka) 9209 01119 * Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 * آرزى (Hazaragi) 9209 0162 * Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104 * ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 * 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 * македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 * नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 * فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 * ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0164 * Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 * اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 * Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 * All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic





Josie Parsons' garden was a vibrant background for those enjoying afternoon tea. -BD

Afternoon tea with Josie

JOSIE Parsons, who has played the piano for Kellock Lodge singalongs for the past two decades, invited residents of Kellock and locals to an afternoon tea at her house.

The tea was held in the backyard of Josie's house in Alexandra, with its stunning and vibrant garden. Residents were given tea, coffee, cakes, sandwiches, and good company.

The Gillespies played some music for those who came to the afternoon tea, providing lovely Celtic-style atmospheric music.

Josie said that after playing the piano at Kellock for so long, and being friends with so many of the residents, she thought they would love an opportunity to see where she lives, and that it would provide a nice afternoon excursion.



The Gillespies providing some fantastic musical entertainment for the afternoon tea, with a mix of Celtic atmospheric music. -BD



Local residents and Kellock Lodge residents together enjoyed an afternoon tea at Josie Parsons' house. -BD

The art of being a senior

CLASSES that are offered to Murrindindi East U3A members are not always part of a scheduled program and this was the case the other week, when members enjoyed a guest speaker from Melbourne especially for U3A.

Russell Halden was the speaker at the "Meet the Artist" event, held in the rustic surrounds of The Embassy of Ideas, a perfect location to showcase Australian landscapes.

Mr Halden works in oil paints predominantly and the art he displayed was full of colour and gloss. Artworks were displayed while everyone sat around in the comfort of lounge chairs at the Embassy. Hot drinks and light refreshments were enjoyed as people heard Russell Halden's story.

He paints landscapes because he enjoys it. Just hearing him speak shows he is proud of his work and was happy to tell everyone the way in which he applies brushes and paints to achieve the effects that he wants. His art is very colourful and he employs different techniques to get the subject matter to 'pop

out' of the painting. He taught us that an artist had to "look through the leaves on the trees" in order to properly paint the background. It was a delight to hear him speak with such passion for his craft.

A local author, Anne Larkin came to hear the talk as Russell Halden had drawn the artwork for her recent bush-yarn, 'The Piano's Secret'.

U3A celebrated Victoria's Seniors Festival this month. "Explore - Engage - Evolve" is this year's theme. There is craft in the garden on Thursday, walking on Friday morning and at 5pm there is Mamma Mia screening at the Alexandra Shire Hall. Refreshments are provided and all events are free.

Seniors Week is proudly sponsored by Foundation Murrindindi. For more information email: 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 celebrate being a senior.



Russell Halden and Anne Larkin at the U3A art event.

Ballot packs mailed for Murrindindi Shire Council election

VOTERS enrolled in Murrindindi Shire Council should check the mail for their ballot packs. Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel is encouraging people to vote as early as possible.

"This election is postal, so it's important to complete and return your ballot material as soon as possible to make sure your vote counts," Mr Bluemmel said.

Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election office at Murrindindi Shire Council by 6 pm Friday, October 25. Voters who haven't received their ballot pack by Tuesday, October 15 should go to vec.vic.gov.au to complete an online replacement ballot pack form.

Candidates who have nominated for the election are listed in the ballot packs and on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at vec.vic.gov.au

If candidates have provided them, there will also be candidate photos and statements in the packs, and answers to the candidate questionnaire online. Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled for this election at 4pm Wednesday, August 7. Voters who don't vote may be fined.

Voting in the Murrindindi Shire Council election is entirely by post, there are no voting centres. The VEC will send ballot packs to all enrolled

voters between Monday, October 7 and Thursday, October 10. Packs are delivered in random order, so voters in the same home may receive their packs on different days.

The election uses full preferential voting; voters will need to put the number '1' in the box next to the candidate they most want to see elected, and then number all the other boxes in order of their choice. Voters must number every box and only use each number once.

The VEC can only finalise results after it has received all ballots admissible to the count. The Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 allow postal votes to be received until noon on Friday, November 1. This ensures votes signed by the close of voting can be included in the count. Votes received during the extended period will be admitted if the voter completed them before the close of voting.

Candidates can appoint scrutineers to watch the counting process. The VEC expects the successful candidate to be declared no later than Friday, November 15.

Once declared elected, the Chief Executive Officer of Murrindindi Shire Council will swear in the incoming councillors under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Councillors will represent their community until the next general election in 2028.

UPCOMING FEATURES

Home Renovations & Building Essentials



Publication date: October 30

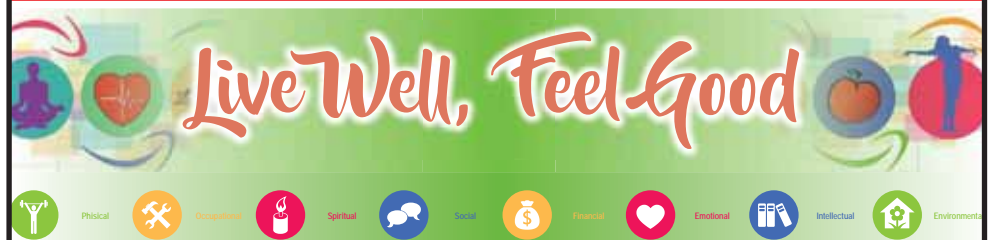
Deadline date: October 24, 5pm

Let's eat, it's our treat



Publication date: November 6

Deadline date: October 31, 5pm



Publication date: November 13

Deadline date: November 7, 5pm

Work Local



Publication date: November 20

Deadline date: November 14, 5pm

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Wednesday, 22 October

Bonnie Doon

Bonnie Doon Community Centre, from 9:30am - 10:30am

Eildon

Eildon Shops, Main Street, Eildon from 11:30am - 12pm

helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au
117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta
03 5721 7077

Helen Haines MP
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI



Proudly supporting Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Jack Laverty – 5/6B

Jack is a positive student and a great role model. He is inclusive in both classroom and playground activities. Jack has a great learning attitude, he is open to feedback and ready to make adjustments necessary to improve. We are proud to have you in our learning community. Jack, you are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Oliver has made a great start at Buxton this term. He has tackled new challenges with a positive attitude and made many new friends. Keep up the great effort Oliver.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Corbyn and Tristan demonstrated the school values of Cooperation and Achievement this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Jaime

Jaime is a conscientious student who is always ready to learn and do her best. She is willing to help others and is polite and respectful to everyone in the school community. Jaime is to be commended for her growth in her learning, particularly mathematics. She applies herself to the best of her ability and perseveres when the task is challenging.

Congratulations Jaime

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Charli, Lucy (back) and Franki (front) had their picture taken with Captain Koala last Saturday in the beautiful sunshine at Rotary Park. -BD



CFA members gathered around for a pre-parade pep talk from Alexandra CFA Captain, Chris Lynch. -BD



There were so many trucks at the celebration. -BD



The new fire truck for the Alexandra CFA was shown off in the parade last Saturday. -BD



A crowd spectated the parade and engaged with the fire brigade members. -BD



The main street of Alexandra was filled with fire trucks for the 150 year celebration parade. -BD



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Call for ambulance inquiry input

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad has encouraged anyone with experience of the ambulance system to have their say in a parliamentary inquiry into Ambulance Victoria.

Public submissions are now open for the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee inquiry.

The inquiry will look into issues involved with call taking, dispatch, ambulance ramping, working conditions and workloads of paramedics, allegations of fraud and embezzlement, governance and accountability

and the general workplace culture within Ambulance Victoria.

Ms Broad said it was important that people had their say.

"I've spoken with people across Northern Victoria who called for an ambulance but none were available. A gentleman 200 metres from hospital who had to wait hours, a lady in severe pain who was told to take a taxi to hospital, and a young woman who called for an ambulance and received a fire truck instead," Ms Broad said.

"There are ongoing issues with ambulance ramping at hospitals right across regional Victoria, including Bendigo, Shepparton and Wodonga.

"Indigo Shire has some of the worst ambulance response times in Victoria, and there are unique challenges in cross border communities that need to be resolved," Ms Broad added.

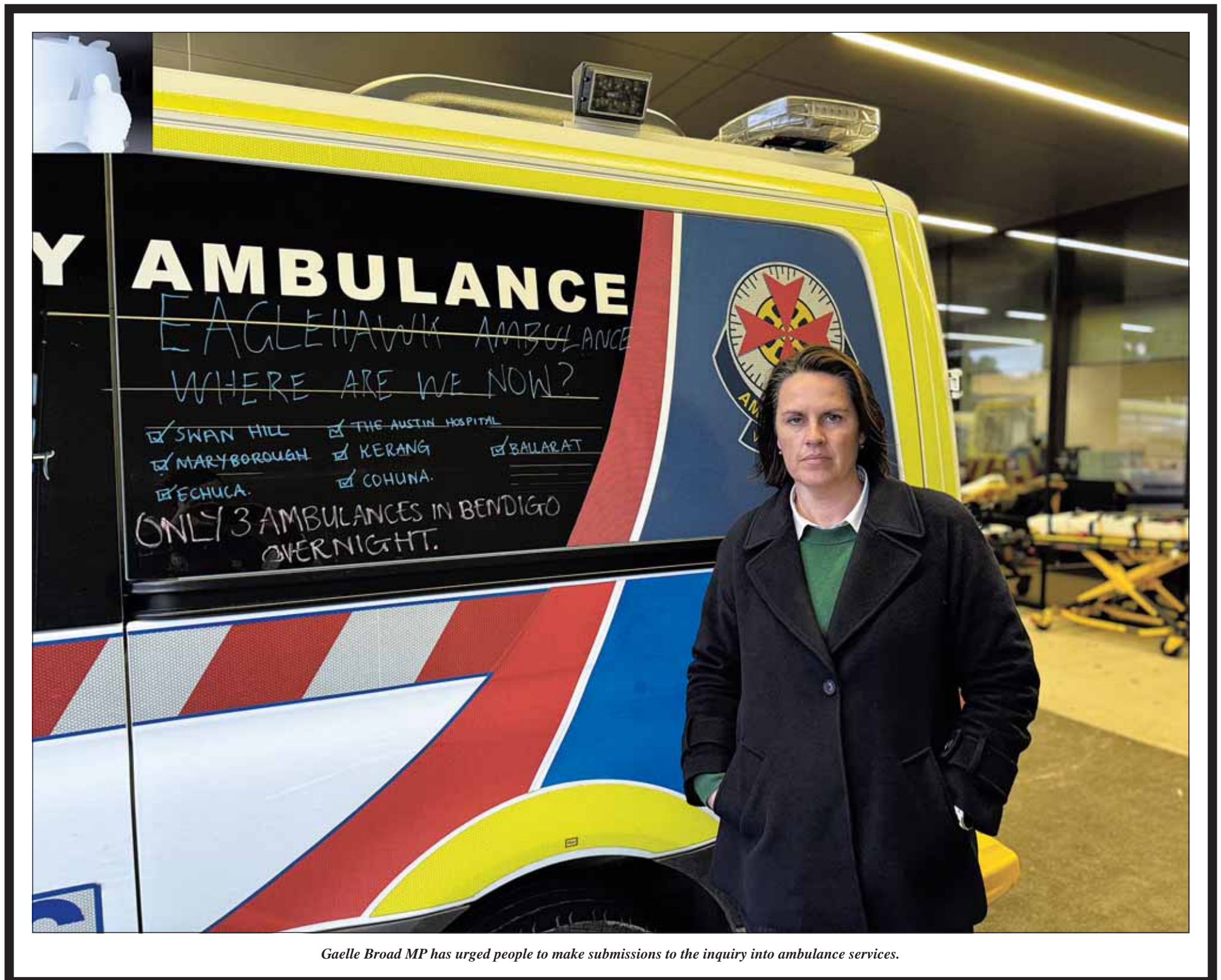
"Paramedics are doing the best they can but the system is broken and is letting them and the community down. This inquiry is an important opportunity for people to share their insights, whether it be paramedics,

patients, or those with an interest in improving Victoria's health system.

"Despite the government's objections, the Upper House of the Victorian Parliament supported this inquiry because these issues need to be addressed."

Submissions close on February 28, 2025. Public hearings will be scheduled once submissions have closed.

The full terms of reference for the inquiry are available on the committee's, including information on how to sign up to email alerts and how to make a submission.



Gaelle Broad MP has urged people to make submissions to the inquiry into ambulance services.

Managing asthma as the pollen season arrives

EXPERTS are warning of a challenging hay-fever season this year, increasing risk for people living with asthma as well as the likelihood of thunderstorm asthma conditions due to unpredictable weather patterns.

Thunderstorm asthma can develop when thunderstorms occur during high pollen periods, usually from October to December. This compounds the effects of usual asthma triggers, including pollen, but also bushfires and pollution.

The most common symptoms of asthma are difficulty breathing, wheezing, coughing, feeling out of breath and tightness in the chest.

Asthma symptoms can sometimes flare up and become more severe and this is known as an asthma attack. A serious asthma attack requires urgent medical attention from a healthcare professional or emergency department.

Asthma affects one in nine Australian adults, and one in five children. Anyone can

develop asthma, even if they didn't have it as a child.

Paramedics are also reminding Victorians to update their asthma action plans to stay safe. Asthma can affect people of all ages and, if unmanaged, can develop into a serious health concern.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) Director Emergency Management, Justin Dunlop, said creating an asthma action plan is an easy and potentially lifesaving step.

"It's simple. Visit your GP and they can create a plan with you," he said.

"Everyone's asthma action plan will look different, and it will help you manage your condition, ensuring you don't find yourself in an emergency."

Adults should update their asthma action plan yearly, while every six months is recommended for children.

For Victorians that have hay fever and have also experienced asthma symptoms such as wheezing, breathlessness, shortness of breath, coughing and chest tightness, see your GP.

Mr Dunlop said taking preventative action will make a real difference for our busy paramedics.

"Follow your asthma action plan, and most importantly, if a person is having difficulty breathing and their reliever medicine is not working, don't delay in calling Triple Zero (000)," he said.

There are effective medicines for asthma that will help a person feel well and help keep them out of hospital when taken correctly. Asthma reliever medicines help open the airways quickly to relieve symptoms during an asthma attack. They work within minutes and the effects can last for hours.

Asthma preventer medicines help prevent asthma attacks and keep asthma under control. Preventer medicines usually contain

corticosteroids that are similar to the steroids the body produces. These treatments are anti-inflammatory.

For information and advice, call the Nurse On Call helpline on 1800 022 222. A registered helpline nurse is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) is available at vved.org.au and is a free 24/7 online service. It connects people with emergency doctors and nurses from anywhere in the state.

You can also visit an Urgent Care Clinic, which provides GP-led care to those who need urgent care, but not an emergency response. To find your nearest one, visit the Better Health website.

To learn more about asthma action plans, visit the Better Health website at betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionandtreatments/asthma-action-plans

Simpsons Fuel wins Best Small Fuel Distributor

SIMPSONS Fuel is proud to announce that it has been awarded the title of Best Small Fuel Distributor at the prestigious Asia Pacific Fuel Industry (APFI) awards, held on Wednesday, September 25 in Brisbane.

At the awards they were finalists in both the Best Small Fuel Distributor and the Marg Taylor Community Spirit Awards.

The Best Small Fuel Distributor (under 150 million litres per annum) award celebrates the best fuel distributors in the industry with a focus on excellence in compliance, safe and healthy workplaces, championing innovation, sustainability and community spirit.

Simpsons Fuel has consistently demonstrated its dedication to providing high-quality fuel products and exceptional customer service. With a focus on sustainability, safety and efficiency, the company has implemented cutting-edge technologies and practices that set it apart in a competitive industry.

At the presentation, Sarah Simpson of Simpsons Fuel, said "It is truly a privilege to accept this award on behalf of everyone at Simpsons Fuel. My grandparents Ian and Mary Simpson started our fuel journey more than 70 years ago.

"Our business has come a long way from the days of one freight truck and a petrol pump in the backyard of their home. Winning this award is a reflection of and a testament to the hard work of our entire team.

"We have a community focused staff who truly want the best for our customers and it shows in their service and dedication," Sarah said.

Sarah then recognised the leadership and service Gordon and Janene Simpson give to their company and the community service legacy that the business continues to build on. She thanked Ampol and other suppliers for their ongoing support.

As part of its ongoing commitment to excellence, Simpsons Fuel plans to continue investing in new technologies and expanding its service offerings to better meet the evolving needs of its customers while staying true to their community focused values.

About Simpsons Fuel: Simpsons Fuel is a leading provider of fuel distribution services, committed to quality and customer satisfaction with deliveries across North East Victoria. They operate Ampol Service Stations in Alexandra and Eildon and a 24 hour self serve diesel stop in Mansfield.



Members of the Simpson family were happy to accept the award for Best Small Fuel Distributor. Pictured are Gordon, Janene, Sarah, and Haydn Simpson. -S

Consultation for keeping safe on social media

THE Victorian Government is launching a public consultation on age limits for social media with the findings set to shape a new social media education program to keep kids safe online.

Last week an online survey giving parents, teachers and young people the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns about

social media use was launched at a Melbourne High School.

Findings from this consultation process will then shape a new social media safety program, *Safe Socials*.

The program will be delivered in schools as a resource for students, teachers and families about how to navigate and live with social media.

Safe Socials builds on the success of other education programs pioneered by the Victorian Government, such as *Safe Schools* and *Respectful Relationships*, and the state's Australian first ban on mobile phones in schools.

A \$3.5 million investment will support the Department of Education to develop the new digital literacy resources.

The program will also include a dedicated website and fact sheets to help parents and carers understand social media safety.

The state government will work with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to introduce age limits, so kids aren't using social media before they're ready.

The survey at engage.vic.gov.au/safesocials will be open until November 1, with groups able to participate.

The consultation process will also include a series of roundtable discussions, led by the Parliamentary Secretary for Children, Nathan Lambert, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Nina Taylor, bringing together key stakeholders to capture the diverse needs of the Victorian community.

The process will also inform the Commonwealth's laws for national age limits on social media.

Schools back, slow down

TERM four of school is now underway and it's time to remember to slow down near school zones to 40km per hour. These reduced speed limits are designed to keep kids safe by lowering the speed limit at peak times when children are travelling to and from school.

In most cases the speed limit during school speed zone times is 40km/h, this is when the original speed limit is less than 80km/h and the speed limit changes to 60km/h when the original speed limit is 80km/h or higher.

The speed limit and operating times will be clearly displayed on nearby signs.

School speed limits apply depending on the zone you're travelling in. The types of zones are permanent 40km/h zones and variable time based zones.

Time based school zones operate between 8 and 9.30am and 2.30 to 4pm, on weekdays during Victorian school terms, except for public holidays.

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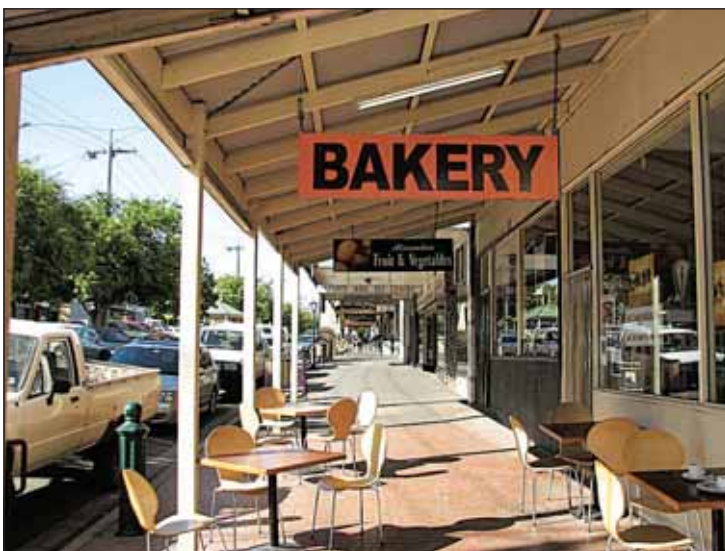
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WORK LOCAL

save fuel, time and make money

The benefits of working local



FOR years, many residents have relied on commuting for work, many finding that the journey to work, often draining and stressful, left little time for family, personal passions, or meaningful connections with their community.

However, there are those in the community who have chosen to explore local employment options, finding that one of the greatest benefits of working locally is time.

Without the need to commute, many have found they have more hours in their day. This extra time meant they can enjoy breakfast at home, walk their children to school, or catch up on a few home tasks before or after work.

Financially, local employment makes sense too. The money saved on fuel, train tickets, and parking fees accumulates. More importantly, this wealth stays within the community. Local businesses thrive as employees spend their earnings at nearby shops, restaurants, and services, creating a vibrant local economy. As the community invests in itself, new opportunities emerge, allowing more people to live and work in the same area.

Working locally also fosters a sense of belonging and purpose. Instead of being just another face in a large office. The shift towards local work also inspires creativity and innovation. Without the rigid structure of out of town environments, people can find themselves able to explore new ideas and entrepreneurial ventures.

In the end, the greatest benefit of working locally is that it allows people to truly live in the place they love and not just passing through for a few hours of sleep before the next day's commute.

Local workers are present, engaged, and contribute to a shared vision of what their town could be. A place where work, life, and community were seamlessly intertwined.



NOW HIRING FINANCE OFFICERS

The Reddrop Group are looking for Finance Officers to join our Finance Team based at Alexandra FoodWorks.

The positions are full-time (38 hour week) with hours normally 9am until 5:30pm, however, some flexibility is available. Part-time hours may be considered for the right applicant/s.

Our Finance Officers are responsible for a broad range of tasks including supplier invoicing, balancing daily sales, data management and problem solving.

Ideally we are looking for people who have good computer skills, can work well as part of a team or unsupervised, are reliable and have good communication skills. An ability to multi-task and prioritise work, as well as be attentive to detail and accuracy is also vital.

Experience or knowledge of the finance area, such as knowledge of GST and general ledger accounts would be an advantage, however, it is not essential and we are happy to provide training to a candidate that shows enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

To apply for a position, please email your covering letter, resume (with references), and contact details to jobs@reddrop.com.au



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Real Estate GUIDE

More room available

NEW research published by Dr Lyndall Bryant, who specialises in property economics at the Queensland University of Technology, has suggested that better utilisation of existing homes could help ease the pressures of the current housing crisis.

The academic article, titled 'The role of older Australians in addressing the housing crisis: spare bedrooms, taxation, and the pension', proposes the idea that "older Australians may be incentivised to rent out spare bedrooms."

"The housing crisis is a complex matter and new housing supply is years away, despite billions of dollars of government commitments. Millions of empty bedrooms exist and yet many older homeowners live in poverty rather than risk losing their pension or

paying taxes by renting out a spare bedroom," the article reads.

Statistics from the 2021 census stated that 77 per cent of private homes had at least one spare bedroom, while 3.09 million households (31.8 per cent) have two spare bedrooms, and 1.22 million households (12.5 per cent) have three or more spare bedrooms. That leads to 13 million unused bedrooms within Australia's existing homes.

Of these, "older Australians represent the highest proportion of homeowners, with over 80 per cent of persons aged over 65 owning their own home, three quarters of those homes contain three or more bedrooms, and 84 per cent of these homes are under-utilised," according to the article.

Renting these unused bedrooms out could help take the pressure off Australia in the short term with the current housing crisis. However, the issues of privacy and safety would come into play, the same as with any form of rental currently. Cohabitation is also an issue that could arise.

"However, under the right circumstances, with appropriate support and education, such 'house sharing' arrangements could alleviate some of the current housing and cost of living issues," the article reads.

"There is an urgent need for further research to be undertaken to explore opportunities to incentivise, educate, support, and protect older Australians to open their homes and unlock existing housing stock for immediate use by those in need."



The full academic article can be viewed at eprints.qut.edu.au/251974/14/BP60_Bryant_TheRoleofolderAustralians_2.pdf

Less first-home buyers

THE latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) highlight the deepening housing affordability crisis, as rising loan values mask a worrying decline in first-home buyer activity.

Ms Leanne Pilkington, President of the Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA), said housing affordability is now more than a growing concern, with the proportion of family income required to meet loan repayments reaching significant levels.

"Despite an overall one per cent increase in the total value of new housing loans to \$30.4 billion in August, the number of loans for first-home buyers dropped by 1.5 per cent, signalling a troubling trend," Ms Pilkington said.

"The fall in first-home buyer loans points to the ongoing struggles faced by young Australians attempting to enter the property market.

"The decline reflects the strain on affordability, exacerbated by rising property prices and higher interest rates, which are pushing home ownership further out of reach. We are facing a critical issue. Families are stretching their finances to unprecedented levels to meet loan repayments, leaving first-home buyers increasingly sidelined," she added.

Ms Pilkington said that while the value of new investor loans rose 1.4 per cent to \$11.7 billion, 34.2 per cent higher than August 2023, it reflected price growth across the

nation rather than a significant influx of new investors into the market.

"With investor loans up 34.2 per cent since August 2023, the increase is almost solely due to an influx of investors in Queensland which saw an incredible \$200 million rise. Every other state except the ACT recorded losses. The ACT increase was predominantly due to a large number of off the plan apartments settling at once," she said.

"Seeing decreases in investment loans across the country is concerning, especially in light of current discussions surrounding negative gearing. However, reports of easing rent prices may relieve some immediate pressure. The focus should

remain on policies that encourage housing supply as the long-term solution.

"While first-home buyer (FHB) loans may have dipped, addressing supply shortages and broader cost-of-living issues will be more effective in ensuring sustainable affordability for both FHBs and investors. Still, the data points to a growing imbalance, underscoring the need for urgent policy intervention to address housing affordability across the country," Ms Pilkington concluded.

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Prepare ahead of increased fire risk

THE CFA is urging residents to prepare their properties ahead of the fire danger period, with parts of Victoria facing an early start to fire season.

The seasonal outlook for spring, released last month, predicts an increased fire risk following a notably dry autumn and winter.

As a result of the outlook, CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan stressed the importance of early preparation this spring.

“An earlier start to the fire season means community members need to start preparations now. By removing light and heavy fuels around the home, residents are protecting their property and helping

firefighters defend it,” Chief Officer Heffernan said.

“Simple tasks such as clearing gutters, pruning overhanging branches, maintaining grass at a safe height, and moving wood piles away from the house or shed can greatly improve a property’s chances of withstanding a bushfire,” he added.

He also stressed that every household should take the time to create a plan for their property and their family.

“Sit down with the family or household, write down a bushfire survival plan, keep it somewhere visible, and practice it. Being prepared saves lives, and it could save the home,” he said.



It is important to make sure house gutters are clear of leaves.

Feedback needed for the new Bushfire Code

THE Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is updating the Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land (the Bushfire Code) and your input is needed.

The Bushfire Code sets out objectives for the way bushfires are managed on public land, including state forests and national parks. These objectives support DEECA to meet legislative obligations across all phases of bushfire management, from mitigation through to recovery.

The current Bushfire Code is more than 10 years old and expires in December. The changes reflect feedback DEECA heard from community, business, industry and stakeholders during the 2023 consultation on Victoria’s Bushfire Management Strategy, as well as changes to the landscape, policy and practice over time.

Updates to the Bushfire Code will help to outline how DEECA will work with other agencies to collectively manage bushfires; reflect the different ways different landscapes are managed such as Fire and Fuel Management Zones; expand the scope of the Bushfire Code to reflect the range of bushfire management tools; embed Victoria’s commitment to Aboriginal self-determination in bushfire management; track and report on progress against Victoria’s monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework, and align the Bushfire Code with key strategic and operational documents. This includes Victoria’s Bushfire Management Strategy and the State Emergency Management Plan.

The Bushfire Code only applies to national park, State forest and protected public land. It does not impose responsibilities on individuals.

The survey closes at 11.59pm on Sunday, November 3. To have your say on the draft code visit engage.vic.gov.au/Code-of-Practice-for-Bushfire-Management-on-Public

Haines aims to improve access to home battery storage

FEDERAL Independent Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines MP has urged the government to help households bring down their power bills through improving access to home battery storage.

Meeting with Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Josh Wilson in parliament last week, Dr Haines pushed for support of her *Cheaper Home Batteries Bill* in response to collapsing solar feed-in tariffs and the rising cost of living.

Dr Haines said it was past time the government prioritised home batteries to deliver practical relief measures to help households maximise the full benefit of home solar energy.

“Energy bills are one of the biggest costs in a household budget and we need to support people to reduce their energy costs.

“One in three Australian households have already taken their power literally into their own hands by installing rooftop solar to reduce their power bills and emissions. If those households had batteries to store that energy, they could reduce their costs further.

“That is why we need my *Cheaper Home Batteries Bill*, to make this technology more affordable and accessible, and to store more clean renewable energy for use when the sun isn’t shining.”

Dr Haines introduced a private members bill in 2022 and again in 2023 to include home batteries in the *Small Scale Renewable Energy Scheme* (SRES), with the Parliamentary Budget Office publishing an official costing at \$3.6 million over four years.

The SRES is responsible for bringing down the cost of solar panels and the highest take up rate of rooftop solar in the world.

“This is the missing piece of the puzzle, which would help households use their stored power during peak periods instead of buying it back from the grid.”

Dr Haines said she would continue to take every opportunity to push the government to act.

“I raised this with the Assistant Minister of Climate Change and Energy when we met, as part of a broader conversation about home electrification.

“I told the Assistant Minister about the financial pressure being felt by so many people in Indi, with groceries and energy high on the list.”

Changing settings in the electricity sector have seen a steep reduction in feed-in tariff rates and a risk that consumers will be charged to export their excess power back into the grid.

“I have been talking about the need for this legislation for more than two years, and it is clear as Solar Feed-In Tariffs drop that the time for this change is now.”

Dr Haines said only a fraction of consumers with solar panels were able to harness the full benefit of renewable energy to ease their household budgets.

“My bill replicates an incredibly successful government program and it should be a no brainer for the government to extend this to batteries.

“Not only will it help households bring down their power bills even further, but it also helps address the challenge identified by AEMO of excess power flowing back into the grid.”



Watching out for scours outbreak

by Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

KEEPING your calves in good health is of top importance. A scours outbreak in your herd can be time consuming, expensive to treat and, if not managed correctly, can result in significant losses.

Calf scours is most common in beef calves during the first six weeks of life.

It is difficult to control the disease once calves start to scour and become sick. It is therefore important to manage calving herds to avoid outbreaks.

Scours is caused by an interaction between the environment, the health of the calf and the presence of disease causing agents (pathogens), which include bacteria, viruses and protozoa.

These pathogens are shed in low, but increased numbers in the manure of cows around the time of calving, and in much greater numbers in the manure of scouring calves and unaffected calves up to six months of age. During a scours outbreak, a rapid build up of pathogens can occur in the environment.

While the pathogen's actions vary their effects are consistent, a loss of fluid and electrolytes associated with diarrhoea leading to dehydration, weakness, and in some cases the death of the calf.

To reduce the risk of calf scours in your herd you should minimise contact between young calves and potential sources of infection by avoiding wet, muddy areas or areas with manure build up; maximise colostrum intake by avoiding calving difficulty (dystocia) and poor early bonding calves from heifers are most at risk.

Any calf that has not suckled within six hours of birth should be supplemented with colostrum. Avoid stress, poor nutrition and crowding, and avoid the introduction of new calf scour pathogens into the herd by not replacing dead calves with bobby calves from another property and not introducing recently purchased animals into the calving herd.

Control measures should be applied quickly when scouring calves require treatment, as

the disease can spread rapidly if pathogen build-up is not addressed. Move all pregnant cows to a new calving paddock and do not put any new calves with affected cows and calves.

To successfully treat a scouring calf, supportive therapy is needed to counteract the effects of diarrhoea.

The most important aspect of supportive therapy is to give an adequate quantity of fluids and electrolytes to replace what is lost in the diarrhoea.

The use of antibiotics may be appropriate but only under veterinary advice.

A key to the success of treatment is to commence it promptly at the first indication of adverse clinical signs. If these steps were followed, I would hope that you would enjoy a trouble free calving season.

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



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The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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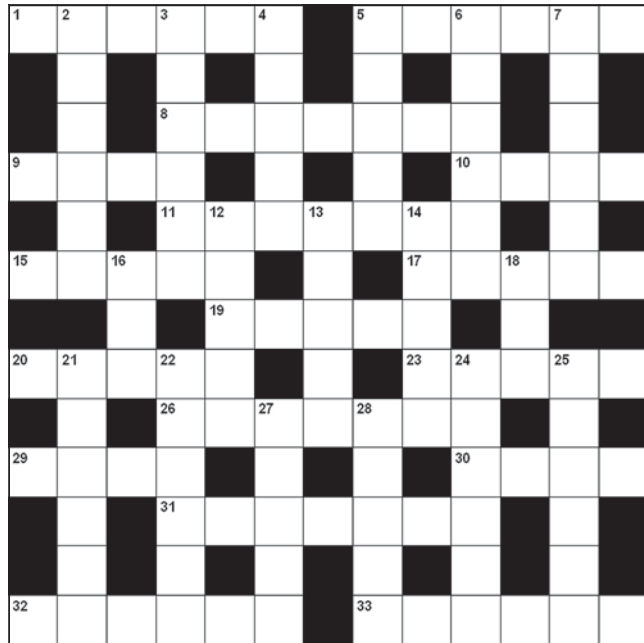
Crossword

ACROSS

1. A sweet innocent baby.
5. The feeling of heat.
8. Cable used for high-frequency transmissions.
9. A walk in shallow water.
10. A slow, easy kind of run.
11. Mark with small spots.
15. Closely crowded together.
17. Moved forward very slowly.
19. A most pungent vegetable.
20. Free from dirt.
23. Fine and good.
26. An acrobatic athlete.
29. Cover with concrete.
30. Religious song of praise.
31. Provide with nourishment.
32. A temporary military unit.
33. Exchanges goods.

DOWN

2. Respectful deference.
3. A small hollow.
4. Two items of the same kind.
5. Whip to a froth.
6. Turned over and over.
7. Three times as many.
12. Ranunculaceous flower.
13. Small rough-haired terrier.



14. Gives temporarily.
16. Born.
18. Pump operated by a windmill.
21. An association of clubs.
22. Item to be attended to.
24. Greek goddess.
25. Reduce in rank.
27. Edible mushroom.
28. Fully grown.

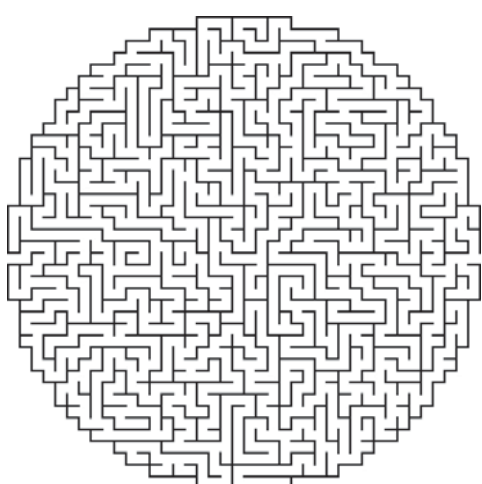
Word Search

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Maze



Math Square

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-		÷		-	
	x		-	7	11
+		-		x	
	+		x	3	29
2		-6		-20	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

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.

Road maintenance on the table for the future

THE Victorian Government is rolling out a major road maintenance blitz to rebuild, repair, and resurface roads right across Victoria, fuelled by the largest single-year investment in road maintenance in the state's history.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne recently launched the \$964 million road maintenance blitz.

"We're investing nearly a billion dollars to rebuild and repair the roads that Victorians depend on every single day from the highways connecting our major centres to the local roads that keep our communities moving," Ms Horne said.

"Crews will be out delivering \$2.6 million of works every day for a year, with around 70 per cent of all funding going towards our regional roads.

"The last Liberal National Government cut roads maintenance funding and jobs. We're getting on and delivering the biggest single-year investment in road maintenance in Victoria's history."

An army of road workers will begin delivering the equivalent of \$2.6 million worth of works for every day of the year, with around 70 per cent of funding going to regional Victoria.

Over the next nine months, crews will complete thousands of projects on our network, ranging from road rehabilitation and resurfacing, to patching potholes and maintaining bridges, traffic lights, signage and road infrastructure.

To deliver major works such as road rebuilding and rehabilitation, there must be extended periods of warmer and drier conditions, which is why most work is done between now and May each year, ensuring repairs last.

Repeated flooding and above-average rainfall caused unprecedented damage to our roads which meant our maintenance program needed to focus on rebuilding damaged roads last year. Simply resurfacing these roads would not have prevented further degradation.

Now this work to rebuild our most flood-damaged roads is complete, resurfacing and rehabilitation levels will significantly increase during the upcoming maintenance season.

The blitz will target the state's busiest travel and trade routes, with works set to be delivered on the Hume Freeway, the Princes Highway, the Western Highway, the Goulburn Valley Highway and Echuca-Mooroopna Road.

Other roads set to be repaired include Terang-Mortlake Road, Mornington-Flinders Road, Horsham-Kalkee Road and Tylden-Woodend Road.

These roads were prioritised based on expert assessments and community feedback, ensuring that upgrades are focused where they're most needed.

This package also includes flood recovery works, with priority given to repairing regional Victoria's flood-damaged roads. The final list of flood recovery projects will be confirmed in the coming months.

Impressive numbers for Victorian Building and approvals

IN the last 12 months more than 60,000 home completions have taken place in Victoria.

ABS data released last week shows Victoria built 60,606 homes over the year, a 7.5 per cent increase year on year, while New South Wales built 46,573 homes, a 3.9 per cent decline year on year.

Earlier this month, the ABS also confirmed Victoria continues to set the national benchmark for home approvals, approving around 10,000 more homes than New South Wales and 18,000 more homes than Queensland.

These results come following the state governments landmark housing reforms released last year as part of the Housing

Statement, plus a commitment to do even more over the coming months to get more homes built.

Since the release of the Housing Statement, the Minister for Planning has intervened or fast track homes to approve 10,700 homes in the past 12 months, a more than 100 per cent increase on previous years.

The Development Facilitation Program is an accelerated pathway that has also seen 16 developments approved, unlocking thousands of new homes.

Over the coming months, new reforms will be outlined by the state government to build even more homes that are well serviced by transport, jobs, schools and services.

NRHA welcomes funding for rural aged care

THE Federal Government's announcement of a \$900 million investment to enhance aged care services in rural and remote areas is a vital step towards ensuring that older Australians, regardless of their postcode, can access the high-quality, safe aged care they deserve, according to the National Rural Health Alliance (NRHA).

"We know that older people living in rural, regional and remote Australia face significant barriers to accessing aged care, increasing the risk of poorer quality of life and premature death," said NRHA Chief Executive, Susi Tegen.

"People who prefer to stay in community and need the support of living in residential aged care are often forced to move hundreds of miles away because local aged care infrastructure is not there or suitable. This takes them away from family and friends and the surrounding sights and smells that they know and love."

The allocation of \$600 million for the Support at Home initiative, combined with an additional \$300 million for infrastructure improvements, shows commitment to addressing the unique challenges faced by aged care providers in thin, and often no, markets.

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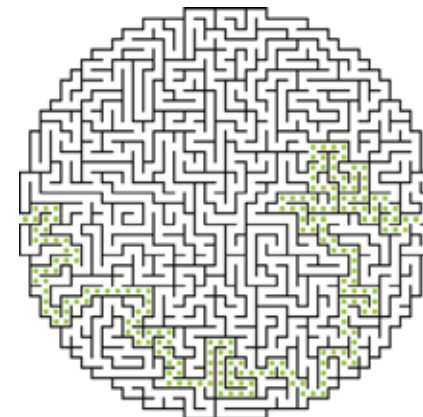
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MATH SQUARES

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MEETINGS



Redgate Alexandra Branch of the CWA of Victoria Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 10 am at the CWA Rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra. More information please call Sue Wynn, president on 0412 435 946.



Notice of AGM
Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare Group commencing 4pm Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 17 Sichlau's Road, Yea. Barbecue will follow.
Secretary
Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare Group



The Annual General Meeting of ADNA will be held at Alexandra Community Shed, McKenzie Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, October 30 at 7pm.
Contact secretary, Cassandra Fraser 0418 538 964 or Juniorb.netball@gmail.com



The next general meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, October 20, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.



The Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will be held at the club rooms at 6pm on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. Everyone welcome. Any queries please contact Kylie Cairns or Ray Steyger.

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Motorcycle safety is vital

OCTOBER is Motorcycle awareness month, time to shine a light on safety for motorcycle riders.

Earlier in the month Victoria Police reported that there is a ten year high for motorcycle fatalities between January and September, with 52 motorcyclists killed already on our roads, compared to 53 in all of 2023.

More than half of this year's motorcycle fatalities occurred on roads with a posted speed limit between 70 km/h and 110km/h and at least 60 per cent of motorcycle fatalities have been multi vehicle collisions, and failing to give way identified as one of the most common factors.

According to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) there have sadly been two motorcyclist fatalities in the Murrindindi Shire, and claims involving hospitalisation from March 31, 2023 to March 2024 were around 30 cases.

Simple actions that drivers can take to reduce the risk of a crash are, indicate your intention to turn or change lanes well in advance and when changing lanes, use mirrors and head checks to make sure blind spots are clear, give motorcyclists enough room to manoeuvre, and make eye contact with riders, so they know they've been seen.

Rider awareness to increase safety for themselves and other road users can be to make sure of road surface and driving conditions that may affect your ride, take notice of surroundings at all times, keep a safe distance from other vehicles and roadside objects, wear bright clothing and ensure protective clothing is worn, use lights and ride in the correct position on the road, be predictable, indicate, and keep pace with the traffic. Don't accelerate suddenly, learn how other road users think and respond, ride in a manner appropriate to the road conditions, and consider advanced training.

Shocking lung data for Victorians

THE Lung Foundation Australia released new survey results that have exposed a dangerous gap in workers' understanding of silicosis, a lung disease that poses an ongoing threat to 600,000 Australian workers in construction, mining/quarrying, manufacturing, and tunnelling.

The key findings from the survey's Victorian respondents revealed 37 per cent of Victorian workers never think about their lung health. This is significantly higher than the national average of 22 per cent.

The results showed only eight per cent of Victorian workers are worried or very worried about their lung health. Knowledge of silicosis' symptoms is lowest in Victoria, with 70 per cent of at

risk workers not knowing the symptoms of silicosis and 82 per cent not knowing that the disease can be asymptomatic.

Knowledge of affected industries is significantly lower in Victoria, with only 38 per cent of Victorians knowing Tunnelling is a high risk industry.

Only five per cent of Victorian workers have discussed silicosis or lung health with their GP, which is the lowest rate in Australia.

Silicosis is referred to as the new asbestos, workers continue to be exposed to silica dust despite the engineered stone ban in the form of sand and sandstone, granite, manufactured stone, concrete and mortar, demolition dust, and limestone.



Dr Charles Bayly-Jones, former student at Alexandra Secondary College. -S

Local alumni behind the microscope

by Dr Charles Bayly-Jones

FORMER Alexandra Secondary College Dr Charles Bayly-Jones has made a world-first breakthrough alongside his team at Monash University, capturing and visualising LYCHOS.

LYCHOS is a molecular switch that turns cell growth on and off, and with more research could hold potential for cancer treatment.

Dr Charles Bayly-Jones is an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award fellow and postdoctoral research fellow at Monash University. He is a proud alumnus of public education at Alexandra Secondary College and attributes his curiosity to his country upbringing.

He took the time to write an article explaining his breakthrough.

Putting cancer on a diet

Sitting next to me, I have an office plant. Like clockwork, it moves its leaves back and forth, tracking the sun. Quietly, consistently, every day, for years. But this humble companion of mine has been keeping secrets. Secrets that might just be the key to tackling cancer.

Licking my lips from an indulgent big breakfast, cholesterol courses through my veins and spreads into my tissues. Who can say no to crispy bacon, right?

But cholesterol is not just an awkward guilt-laden conversation at the doctor's office, it's an essential nutrient. Our cells and tissues need cholesterol to build their membranes, the 'skin' of a cell, and copy themselves.

In 2022 scientists in the US discovered a molecular switch, LYCHOS, that turns cell growth on or off. When cholesterol levels are high, the switch is on; when cholesterol is low, the switch turns off.

Cells grow and divide all the time, and old cells die. This way our tissues can heal after injury and our bodies mature as we age. The

key to health is balance. Too much growth? Cancer. Too little growth? Damage.

Proteins, like LYCHOS, are nanoscopic molecular machines that keep the balance. They cut, glue, pull, push, deliver, copy, edit, detect, and much, much more. A whole world of nanoscopic machines hides within us, never stopping, abuzz with energy, keeping us alive. This world makes Willy Wonka's world of pure of imagination look like a Soviet-era concrete gymnasium in comparison.

Biologists try to make sense of this chaos. The best way to understand a machine, is to watch it in action, pull it apart, and put it back together again. But, how do you do that when the machine is a hundred million times smaller than this page?

I'm a part of a team of Australian and international scientists from Monash University that have access to the world's most powerful microscope. Like the ENAIC or IBM mainframe computer of the 1950s,

this microscope fills an entire room. The room hums with electronics, blinking lights, pneumatic actuators click and clack, and occasionally the microscope screams as a gush of pressurised nitrogen gas is vented. We're talking real-world steam punk.

By using blisteringly cold liquified nitrogen, we instantly freeze molecules in time. Analogous to an X-Ray, we collect millions of images of these molecules using electrons. This can take days. Finally, using computer algorithms we reconstruct a three-dimensional view of the molecule.

In a major breakthrough discovery published in *Nature*, we used this technology to capture and visualise LYCHOS in a world-first. With this detailed view scientists and clinicians can begin to understand how cholesterol influences cell growth in health and cancer.

To our surprise, when we could finally see LYCHOS, we realised it looked just like

a plant protein. Now if two machines look alike, the chances are they do similar things. In plants, these machines control tropisms – the way my plant follows the sun or how a seedling knows which way is up and which is down.

In LYCHOS, evolution has repurposed the plant machines to detect cholesterol. We believe that the development of new drugs to switch off LYCHOS might just be key to putting cancer on a diet. And I can go back to enjoying my bacon and eggs, sorry Doc.

The Australian Cancer Council estimates that one in two Australians will experience cancer of some form or another. As biomedical researchers, we're now directly benefiting from decades of plant research. This head start is why fundamental discovery research is so important. After all, who could've predicted that my unassuming plant companion would inspire new cancer treatments?

Call for leaders in agriculture

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) recently opened applications for its National Agriculture Leadership Program (NALP).

The flagship program provides exclusive opportunities for emerging leaders in the agriculture sector, including mentoring, policy development guidance, and meetings with parliamentarians.

NFF President, David Jochinke, said the program is targeted at Australians aged under 35.

"It's an honour to encourage the next generation of leaders to follow their passion and grow their leadership potential," Mr Jochinke said.

"By fostering a young person's interest in advocacy, we're helping to

grow a diverse, informed, and articulate agricultural leadership.

"The program immerses our participants in the policy and advocacy worlds; they'll have the opportunity to tour Australian Parliament House and meet with federal politicians and government departments, and be mentored by leading policy experts," Mr Jochinke said.

Now entering its fifth year, Mr Jochinke said the limited spots in the NALP are always hotly contested.

"We're excited to add more graduates to the impressive cohort of National Agricultural Leadership Program alumni in 2025," he said.

"I encourage everyone with a passion for agriculture and an interest in leadership to apply. Applications are only open for a month, so please don't delay if you're interested in this fantastic program."

Program participants will meet up for a three-day advocacy retreat in Canberra where they'll be matched with an industry leader and work on a policy project.

The program kicks off in February 2025 and runs for five months.

Telstra is the proud sponsor of the National Agricultural Leadership Program and have passionately supported the growth of young leaders since the program's inception.

Applications are open until November 14. Find out more at nff.org.au/nalp/

Busy month for Alexandra Golfers

by Elizabeth Goss

CHAMPIONSHIPS started last week with some very close scores in the first round. It was also time for Octobers monthly medals.

The ladies medal went to Bronwyn Howell with 105 (30) 75, it also gave her a good start to the championships. The runner up was Julie Lyon 97 (20) 77 on a countback from Sandy Wettenhall 104 (27) 77. Nearest the pin on the second

went to Barb Doyle, on the seventh to Sandy Wettenhall and on the 18th to Donna Meggitt. Ruth Worland won the nine holes and Julie Lyon the fewest putts with 30. Next Wednesday, October 23 is stroke and the third round of the championships.

Matt Richards won the day on Saturday and the men's medal with 75 (2) 73. The runnerup was Simon Rouget 92 (17) 75 on a three-way count back from Alan Kirkpatrick 102 (27) 75 and Shane

McGorlick 86(11)75. Next came Steve Darmody 90 (22) 76 on a countback from Dave Silverman 88 (12) 76. Nearest the pin on the second went to Sharyn Petrzela, on the fifth to Shane McGorlick, on the seventh to Luke Heard, and on the 18th to John Steer. Matt Richards had the fewest putts with 28.

The raffle went to Marg Fahey. This Saturday, October 19 is the second round of the club championships.

Brad Newton was the winner on Tuesday with (12) 38 points. The runner up was Dave Silverman (12)33 points followed by Leo Dynes (20) 32 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Brad Newton, and on the 17th to Russell Purcell. Ball Rundown was Russell Purcell and John Greatorex.

Don't forget the cook run on Thursday evenings at 5pm.

Good News the Junior clinics will start on Monday, October 21.

Squash is back

by Kristelle Leary

Kangaroos versus Echidnas

JORDAN versus Ethan: Jordan won two games and drew the third but Ethan concentrated on his serves and shot placement to win the final game and earn enough points to win the match. 61 to 59.

Mick versus Matt: Coming out strong, Matt took the firstly to games with a small margin. Mick came back to win the third but lost his mojo in the fourth, handing the match to Matt. 63 to 50.

Justin versus Simon (fill in): A great game with some excellent shots. Justin took a couple of games to get the measure of his opponent before running Simon around to court and taking a solid win. 72 to 54.

Jack versus James: A strong first half for James. Jack managed to reign his opponent in to keep the last half close, but the damage was done, and James took home the victory. 68 to 49.

Platypus versus Wombats

TYLER versus Lochlan: The match looked to be won in game three with Lochlan leading by eight points, but Tyler rose to the occasion and won the final game with double his opponents points to draw the match. 54 to 54.

Kristelle (fill in) versus Chris: Both players had some great shots and placement. Chris came out ready to play and had a good lead going into the fourth game. Kristelle attempted to turn it around in the final game but left her run too late. Chris was victorious. 64 to 59.

Michael M versus Daniel W: A strong start from Daniel. Both players fought back well with great dedication, hard hitting, good rallies and a racquet bent while hitting the opponent. Daniel did the ground work in the beginning to become champion. 53 to 46.

John versus Jim. With a combination of great long and short shots, Jim was beating John at his own game and had an eight point buffer after game two. John played an unflustered and precise third game to bring him back into contention until Jim steadied to take the final game and the match. 54 to 49.

Lions versus Leopards

BLAKE versus Beth: With a spring in her step, Beth started the match with a win. Blake kept at her until he finally took the final game. Unfortunately for him, he left it too late, and Beth had sailed through to the winners circle. 59 to 51.

Jodie versus Kristelle: Jumping into the fray, Jodie was a beast. She took points with beautiful serves and boasts the Kristelle couldn't manage to figure out. Jodie was the victor. 63 to 43.

Stuart versus Michael H: A dominant first half for Michael. Stuart spent the match trying to play catch up. The last two games were a draw, leaving the win to Michael. 71 to 57

Panthers versus Cheetahs

REECE versus Jess: A very close competition. Jess had the upper hand in the first two games as Reece got back into the swing of things. By the end of game four Reece had Jess figured out and had flicked the switch, winning the last two games and the match. 59 to 56.

Sam versus Travis: Always an entertaining match. Sam gave himself a good buffer in the first game which he utilised when Travis came for him in the next two games. Reeling it in, Sam won the final game to claim the match. 59 to 55.

Phil versus Jim: Jim annihilated Phil in the first half with a twenty point lead. Phil upped his game and made it harder for Jim, however Jim still won every game and subsequently the match. 62 to 38.



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SPORT

Alexandra Pony Club Rally prepares riders for upcoming show

ON Sunday, October 6, Alexandra Pony Club held a special rally to get everyone ready for the upcoming show. The day kicked off with all members participating in a show preparation session led by Elissa and Sally. Chase's horse, Chino, proved to be the perfect model for tail braiding, while Annabelle's little mare was up next, showcasing how to neatly plait a mane. Riders and their parents were given some valuable tips on cleaning tack and getting horses looking pristine for the show ring.

The ponies certainly didn't mind all the pampering, as everyone got stuck into grooming, plaiting, and trimming any stray bits of hair. After a well-deserved morning tea, the focus turned to the finer points of riding and presenting a horse in the show ring. Some groups worked on lead-line events, while others practiced for the ridden classes. Everyone learned a bit more about show ring etiquette, how to respect the judge, work alongside other competitors, and handle the competition with style.

Nicky was also on hand to help riders walk a showjumping course, guiding them through stepping out distances before taking on the jumps. A full course was set up, giving everyone the chance to practice ahead of the big day. Excitement is building as Alexandra Pony Club prepares to run not only a Pony Club show ring but also a Freshman's Show Jumping ring, open to all riders.

With the club's facilities recently improved after a successful working bee (shout out to Brent for the new kitchenette), it was a pleasure to make use of the upgrades. The club looks forward to seeing some members the Friday evening before the show to help set up the showjumping course.

We wish all our members the best of luck with their practice, preparation, and competition on the big day.



Pony club members at the recent working bee. -S



Ted and Barbie navigating the Show jumping course. -S



Sally coaching Annabelle, Ava, and Ella. -S



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Second round of club championships for Marysville Golfers

by Lesley Rundle

IT was another glorious sunny day last Saturday for the second round of the club championships for both the men and the ladies. The ladies daily winner was Heather Jenkins (21) with nett 71 and the runner up was Jody Doran (12) with nett 77 on a countback from Margaret Blair and Lesley Rundle.

The men's daily winner was Travers Stow (21) with nett 70 and the runner up was Adam Littlejohn (21) on a countback from Ken Whittingham. Travers Stow also won the putting competition with 26 putts. The nearest

the pins were won by Mark Bambery and Peter Lilley (two) and Peter also won the golden shot.

Next Saturday the third and final round of the men's championship will be held, and the ladies will play the third round out of four. Members please note that there is a meeting for the men's golf section after golf next Saturday to elect the Captain and Vice Captain.

The annual ladies tournament was held last Thursday and members welcomed players from 10 Dalhousie clubs. The course looked

magnificent, and the green keeper and volunteers were thanked profusely for all the hard work they put in to present the course in such a way.

Congratulations to Gail Leigh for winning the open scratch event with 85 off the stick and the other winners were from Euroa, Romsey and Yea. Events such as these take many hours of planning and all members and friends who contributed to the success of the day were thanked by those in attendance. This Thursday the Marysville ladies will play in the Yea tournament.

The annual Marysville Mixed Tournament will be held on Sunday, November 10. Information can be obtained from the Dalhousie club Captains or on the flyer on the Marysville Golf Club webpage. Entries and payment can be made through trybooking.com/CUAWN and enquiries can be made to Colin Davies on 0488 558 666. The course is in great condition and members are looking forward to welcoming players to Marysville.

There are still places available for the 50th Anniversary dinner at the club on Saturday, November 9. For more information, please ring Jody Doran on 0412 654 555.



A happy trio of golfers from Yea, Seymour, and Marysville at the ladies tournament. -S

Cricket has begun

by Scott Whitehead

THE first round of cricket kicked off last weekend with a double header at Leckie Park. The B grade were first to take to the field taking on Avenel in a 20/20 match. Avenel won the toss and elected to bat and it wasn't long before they lost their first wicket thanks to some accurate bowling. James Geldart had trouble early controlling the swinging ball but soon found his range to finish with figures of 1/10. Matt Wal on the other hand had no trouble with accuracy and also claimed an early wicket. The bowling was tight and Alexandra continued to create chances but catching the ball proved to be their kryptonite, dropping eight chances before the innings was compulsorily close after 17 over with the score at 105.

Alexandra's run chase began poorly, losing Tim Polson in the first over without scoring. Captain Michael Mawson on the

other hand took to the bowling and batted throughout the innings finishing a strong batting performance on 42 not out. Ben Broadway made his contribution with a solid 16 but it wasn't enough to pass Avenel's total and the Redbacks finished on 5/92 after their allotted over allocation.

The A grade was next to take the field taking on a new addition to the A grade in Puckapunyal who won the toss and elected to field. Jordy Ferrier lost his wicket early as did James Meggitt leaving the score at 2/0. This brought Vinu Sangakara to the crease along with captain Will Ashton and the partnership put on 43 before the skipper lost his wicket. Vinu continued to put the ball to all corners of the park and finished with a very impressive 57 from his first outing with the Redbacks. Justin Leary whacked a quick 11 while the rest of the batters couldn't find their range and Alexandra finished with a total of an even 100.

Matty Waixel opened the bowling for Alexandra and had the ball hooping about and grabbed both openers with the score at seven. Will Ashton contributed late in the game snaring two wickets while the rest of the bowlers shared the honours. Puckapunyal were unable to chase down Alexandra's total finishing on 80 leaving the home team celebrating a hard fought first round win.

Awards: One each of the Alexandra sports power \$25 award, sponsored by the Christie family, went to Michal Mawson in the B grade and Vinu Sangakarra in the A grade.

Next week both teams travel to Pyalong to play another double header 20/20 The two under 13 teams will play Tallarook and Avenel respectively while under 11's have the bye.

If you would like to play cricket or know someone who does please contact Scott Whitehead on 0480 252 514.

Merton cricketers take on Yarrowonga

MERTON cricketers started the season hosting Yarrowonga with the visitors taking home the win. Merton batting first made 7/125 off 36 overs. The father son combination of Ross and Jai Mackinnon set Merton up for a big total with a second wicket partnership of 84, Ross 44, and Jai 42, however when the partnership was broken Merton's run rate slowed thanks to some tight bowling from the experienced Yarrowonga attack. Josh Johnson with 19 helped his side to 125, K Michael with 3/13 was Yarrowonga's best bowler.

The visitors lost an early wicket giving the young Merton attack some optimism however captain Hudson Gillies with 51 built partnerships around him with the Merton boys missing a few chances saw Yarrowonga pass Merton's score in the 26th over, Jai Mackinnon 2/29 and single wickets to Craddock, H Berriman, and Will Benton the better bowlers. Noah Whittall bowled well without luck and took a good outfield catch.

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Athletics season off to a great start in Murrindindi

by Elissa Page-Hilder

THE Murrindindi Little Athletics Club kicked off its new season last Saturday, and what a start it was. With a big turnout and perfect weather, athletes of all ages were able to enjoy a fantastic morning of fun and fitness.

The day began with some light warm ups, including jogging, games, stretches, and a few skill exercises for events like the high jump and shot put. After warming up, the athletes divided into age groups and headed off to tackle five different events, including the 1500 metre race, shot put, discus, high jump, and sprints. The sun was shining, and the blue skies added to the vibrant energy as everyone worked hard to set some initial times and distances to challenge for the rest of the season.

A big shoutout goes to the barbecue volunteers, Sharell and Jacqui, for keeping everyone fed and energised, and to Coles for their generous sponsorship, providing boxes of bananas for the athletes each Saturday.

The club is all about fostering a positive attitude towards a healthy and active lifestyle, creating a welcoming environment for kids of all abilities. It's no wonder so many families come back year after year, the community feel is undeniable. While personal bests are the main goal for most, there are plenty of opportunities to excel at regional events or participate in development days at other centres in our region.

On that note, a huge congratulations to two of Murrindindi's own Levi Campbell and Chase Hilder, who have been selected to represent the Northern Country Region in the *Little Athletics Victoria 60 Year Region Challenge*. They'll be competing on October 20 at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve in Murrumbena. Best of luck to them as they aim to bring home some points for their region.

If you're interested in getting involved or just want to give it a try, the club is offering two free trial days. Check out the Murrindindi Little Athletics Centre Facebook page for more details.



Abi Caswell finding her feet during high jump. -S



Junior age groups powering home in the 100 metre sprint. -S



Declan Armstrong raising the bar, one leap at a time. -S