

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 30, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Experience of a dialysis patient



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Your chance to win show tickets



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Open gardens weekend



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Alexandra Cox Plate



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Magnificent weather for Open Gardens

LAST weekend saw droves of people touring around the Alexandra countryside for the Alexandra and District Open Gardens in warm and sunny weather.

Nine gardens were on display, stretching from Yarck, through the Alexandra township, all the way out to Acheron, Thornton, Taggerty and Buxton. There was variation between town and country gardens, big and small gardens, shrubby and floraly gardens, etcetera, with a range of things to view.

Some of the gardens had plants for sale, others had events such as Rotary scones and tea or celebrity guests speaking on panels and live music. The weekend was not just about seeing the gardens, but also enjoying the atmosphere of the event.

The statue of Princess Alexandra was also decorated for the event in support of breast cancer research, with a pink shawl draped around her shoulders.



Visitors were encouraged to dress up in wearable floral art at Marion Rennie's garden in Acheron. Pictured are Angelique Johnson and Emeli Brunt. -BD

Eildon Key Worker Accommodation plans

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was announced as a successful recipient of the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, with a project focused on Eildon.

When asked about the funding, council provided the following information.

"Council is pleased with our successful application for the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, through the Victorian State Government. We are still in negotiation with the state on the agreement, so we are not able to provide details of the grant at this stage.

"At the April council meeting, under Item 4.2 Key Worker Housing Strategy, council resolved to lodge an application for key worker housing at 10 Eighth and 18 Twenty-First Steets, Eildon, as part of the state government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund.

"The project proposes to build 18 housing units across the two council-owned sites in Eildon. These two parcels of land were previously identified as surplus to council needs through our Recreational and Open Space Strategy and a community consultation and engagement process for the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment.

"The community agreed that council could sell these two parcels and use the proceeds to fund council's co-contribution for the grant funding for the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment, an expanded recreational area on Main Street, opposite the shopping centre, which includes a splash park, a skate park, a new toilet and Changing Places facility among other elements. The community also expressed a desire that these sites be used for housing for essential workers.

"These two sites were later identified in our Key Worker Housing Strategy as ideal for key worker housing. The range of industries that would be supported by this development include education, recreation, manufacturing, health and aged care, and hospitality."

Council will be providing further information about the project soon.

MURRINDINDI FOOD AND WINE INC

MURRINDINDI HARVEST CELEBRATION

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

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

It's Free!



murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au

Grand Italian Feast

Sunday 24 November 2024
12noon - 4pm

A long lazy afternoon of feasting with traditional Italian fare including a welcome Aperol spritz, our own wood fired pizzas, house made pastas and dishes including osso bucco, scallopine, cacciatore, calabrese salad, tiramisu, cannoli and more.

Fabulous entertainment all afternoon with live music. Drinks at bar prices and featuring wines by the glass from King Valley wineries, Pizzini and Politini. Chef prepared dishes all feature fresh locally sourced produce.

- \$100 per adult includes Aperol spritz on arrival and free flowing Prosecco
- \$75 per teenager (13-17 years)
- \$50 per child (3-12 years)
- Infants (2 years and under) no charge
- Soft drinks complimentary for children.



Enjoy the weekend at Eildon! Stunning accommodation options available on site. Enquire when booking.

Holmesglen at Eildon

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Letters to the Editor

Seniors Week

I HAD the pleasure of accepting the shire's invitation to attend a luncheon for Senior's Week last Thursday. All who attended would attest that they left satisfactorily replete, had the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours and make new acquaintances.

Many then headed off to the 'pickleball' launch. Congratulations to the TriGym team for their initiative and passion and promoting the sport within the community.

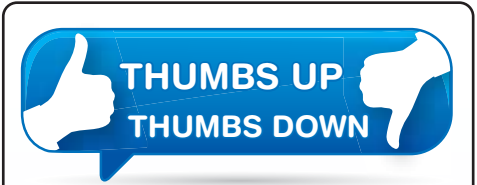
Sue, the guest speaker's advocacy and enthusiasm for the older person is not only inspiring but a credit to what can be achieved with the sharing of ideas and promotion of fitness and health at any age.

Our small group, two of whom are long-time Buxtonites, enjoyed the company of Livia the Shire CEO and were delighted to be able to speak with her frankly and informally. We had the opportunity to speak with other staff too. Jess, Vicky and Carmen to name a few mingled freely and took the time to answer questions about their various roles. Unfortunately, Andrew was unable to be present on the day. Our thanks is extended to him for organising these events.

Many of us are quick to criticise, myself included however, thanks and congratulations to the shire for hosting this annual event.

By publication time we will likely know the names of our ward councillors. Thank you in anticipation for supporting your older residents.

Carmel Denham, Buxton



THUMBS UP: I have just returned home after a stint of respite care at Kellock Lodge. We are so privileged to have this outstanding community owned facility with its wonderful team of caring staff and volunteers providing all residents with five star services. The meals in particular were tasty, varied and well presented at every sitting. Extra activities ensure every day has something special to look forward to.

THUMBS UP: Magnificent window display once again at Alexandra Opportunity Shop. It never ceases to amaze as to what comes next.

THUMBS UP: To our wonderful hospital staff and doctor on duty. Even on Sunday, they greet you with a smile and comfort you, offering their expertise and care whatever the problem or number of patients.

THUMBS UP: To the person responsible for the ground at the Alexandra Primary School. They always look so neat and tidy. A real credit to you.

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

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

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 Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

Standard The Hex Chronicle

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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	1.39	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.58	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	6.51am Mon	0.71	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.07am Mon	0.20	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.29am Mon	0.63	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.22am Mon	0.90	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.61	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.62	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.22	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.33	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.54	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	4.09am Mon	1.25	rising	

****ISSUED AT 9.45AM ON MONDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2024**

Weekly Weather
October 30 - November 5, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	9	24	Wednesday	9	25
Thursday	7	20	Thursday	7	20
Friday	6	21	Friday	5	20
Saturday	15	26	Saturday	16	27
Sunday	10	26	Sunday	10	27
Monday	8	20	Monday	9	21
Tuesday	9	23	Tuesday	9	23

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	0mm
Buxton	2mm
Eildon (AWS)	0.2mm
Flowerdale	0.4mm
Jamieson	0.6mm
Kinglake	4mm
Lake Eildon	0.2mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	2mm
Yarck	0mm
Yea	0.1mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.23m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	85.9%
Metres below full supply	3.65m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release	2000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	70%

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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Standard

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE clubroom returned to normal this week after the activity of the garage sale, with the bridge players in action on Monday and Wednesday and a social meeting on Friday. The main topic of conversation was how to get new members to join the club's ranks. One suggestion was to change the club title to 'The Young Seniors Club'.

With the facilities we have within the club, currently unused like the carpet bowls, table tennis table and the pool table and the years of experience and knowledge we would welcome some new faces.

The committee meet up this Friday morning to plan for Christmas and the New Year, the plans to be passed on to members in the afternoon at the business meeting. Head along and join in. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

Reduction of VicRoads services at council

THERE has been a reduction in VicRoads services provided by Murrindindi Shire Council.

VicRoads were contacted about the changes. They advised that "VicRoads has an extensive partner network across the state which supports the delivery of registration and licensing services.

"VicRoads and Murrindindi Shire Council have reviewed the registration and licensing services provided at the council offices in Alexandra in light of declining customer demand.

"It was agreed that from Monday, October 14, this site will focus on providing licence photos and work diaries.

"Customers can complete a range of VicRoads services online at vicroads.vic.gov.au or call 131 171.

"To complete VicRoads services in person, the nearest location is the Seymour Customer Service Centre."



Some of UGFM's present and past broadcasters. -S

UGFM celebrates 30 years of broadcasting

SIXTY current and former broadcasters came together at the Alexandra Golf Club to celebrate 30 years of UGFM.

UGFM was established in November 1993, and gained a temporary licence on October 4, 1994. It began broadcasting in November 1994, from studios constructed in the former headmaster's house at Alexandra Secondary College.

In 1997, the station broadened its coverage, establishing a transmitter on the Skyline Road that provided coverage to Lake Eildon and Alexandra districts. UGFM gained its permanent licence in 1998.

With the Murrindindi Shire formed in 1994, UGFM planned to eventually provide coverage to the new shire and surrounds.

The licence area was gradually changed to include translators for Yea and Highlands,

Marysville and Triangle, Flowerdale and Kinglake Ranges. Additional studios were built in Marysville, Yea and Kinglake to supplement the new studios in Alexandra relocated to the former SES CFA headquarters.

Backup mains power generators complement the station's ability to stay on air during emergencies and power failures, becoming a state emergency broadcaster in 2010, the first community station in Australia to do so.

UGFM broadcasts programs live seven days a week, with local programs around 16 hours each day.

The celebrations were attended by Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish and Damien Gallagher, former Murrindindi Shire Mayor.

Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, who was unable to attend provided the door prize on the night.

Everyone had great fun testing their memory with a session of station trivia thanks to Michael Mawson.

Attendees also remembered past presenters who are no longer with us, with a photo memorial to them.

Nomes Booker and the UGFM committee put the night together, enabling many former and current presenters to get together from across all studios.

Thanks to Alexandra Cafe for a great meal and great desert put together by Jack and Carol Naden and daughter Monique, along with the Alexandra Golf Club and the volunteers that helped on the night.

Fiction & Non-fiction
Children's, Adult's, large print etc

Money that is raised will go towards starting a
Eildon Community Gym

Supported by Eildon Opp Shop,
Goulburn River Books and Eildon Action Inc.

EPIC BOOK SALE

At the Eildon Community Centre

EILDON

FREE ENTRY

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd
November
9am-4pm.

Book donations accepted!

Contact for more information:
0400 087 411 or 0404 814 142



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES IN MURRINDINDI SHIRE



The following services will be held in Murrindindi Shire, to commemorate the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts.

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Kinglake

- Middle Kinglake Primary School - 10.15 am at 1 Extons Road, Kinglake Central. All Welcome

Flowerdale

- Flowerdale Primary School Service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at 3377 Whittlesea-Yea Road. Flowerdale. All Welcome

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Alexandra

- private service for residents of Kellock Lodge at 10.30 am
- Alexandra RSL service - assembly at 10.45 am for an 11.00 am service at the Cenotaph in Leckie Park

Marysville

- Marysville RSL service - 10.50 am service and 11.00 am minute of silence at the Marysville Cenotaph, corner Murchison Street and Steavenson River

Eildon

- Eildon RSL service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at the Cenotaph, Utah Place
- private service for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home 10.15 am assembly for 11.00 am service

Yarck

- Yarck RSL service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at the Yarck Hume & Hovell Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway

Yea

- Yea Rotary service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at Yea Cenotaph, The Semi Circle
- private service for residents of Rosebank Nursing Home at 10.30 am

This year there are no services in:
Glenburn, Terip Terip, Thornton and Strath Creek

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Darren Gilbert open studio

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10.00am to 4.00pm each day
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- Alexandra FoodWorks
- Alexandra Newsagency
- Alexandra Newspapers
- Buxton Shell
- Eildon Grocer
- Endeavour Alexandra
- Hazeldene Store
- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Thornton Shell
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



Out & About



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

WEDNESDAY, 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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Epic Book sale at Eildon. Free entry, book donations accepted. Money raised will go towards starting an Eildon community gym. For details contact 0400 087 411 or 0404 814 142. Continues on Sunday.

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

EVENT CANCELLED - Yarck Hotel are holding a Melbourne Cup Lunch. Commencing at 11am.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Alexandra show is on again. 9am-3pm. Entertainment, live music, petting zoo, gold panning, dingo display and much more. Enter

our competition for your chance to win one of two family passes.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

The Yea show is on again. Cookery, crafts, Classic cars, line dancing, Royal Australian Navy Band, roaming comic character, show bags and plenty more to fill in the day.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Grand Italian Feast at Holmesglen. Noon to 4pm. Enjoy a lazy afternoon of feasting with traditional Italian fare. Bookings essential 5774 2631.

Meeting to discuss dialysis transport

ON Friday, October 25, a meeting was held at the Murrindindi Shire Council offices in Alexandra to discuss the challenges faced by dialysis patients requiring transport for treatment, in light of the recent changes.

Attendees included Callum Marshall from ABC Shepparton, as well as representatives from council, UGFM radio, Alexandra Newspapers, concerned individuals, patient representatives, and people requiring dialysis.

A constructive discussion was held, exploring the challenges faced by dialysis

patients now that they are required to access transport through National Patient Transport instead of having taxis paid for through Ambulance Victoria.

The patients have been subjected to long delays and uncertainty under the new system, and it also costs the state more money.

The change was the result of Ambulance Victoria sticking more tightly to the rules, but it has certainly been to the detriment of regional patients.



Dialysis patient Belinda provided a first-hand account of the impact of the transport changes. -AR

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 part of the Baptist
Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559

Experience of a dialysis patient attending Seymour Dialysis Unit

by Boyd Geldard, Yarck

I AM a 76 year old who commenced dialysis three times per week at Seymour Dialysis Unit in May 2024.

Initially, transport to and from dialysis was provided by Alexandra Taxi Service. Communication about pick up times was provided and a friendly service was to be relied upon. The stress and anxiety which exists every day facing dialysis was minimised by the certainty of being picked up from home at the time advised as well as knowing that a driver would be waiting to take me home without having to wait around after what is a gruelling and exhausting process.

I have had triple bypass surgery and I have a pacemaker and four stents in my heart, and since the transport has been changed to National Patient Transport (NPT) I frequently experience chest pain during transport via this method due to the roughness of the journey. I have had to request the driver to stop on occasions as well as taking Nitrolingual spray to enable me to complete the journey.

On one occasion I had to undergo an ECG before being able to start dialysis and again on completion of dialysis before being able to leave which in turn delayed the other patient that travels at the same time, hence I had to make other arrangements for transport so that

patient didn't have to wait for me. It was the jolting of the journey that caused the upset in my heart and subsequent unbearable pain.

Communication from NPT regarding pick up times is unreliable and sometimes I am left with the uncertainty about whether any transport has been arranged at all. This just adds to what is already a stressful and anxious existence. While I am very grateful of transport being provided, since the change in transport arrangements, every dialysis day I face the uncertainty of whether my heart will withstand the journey.

Apparently NPT does not provide transport on Saturdays (which is one of my dialysis days) so transport is via ambulance.

Being subject to an ambulance being available, it causes significantly increased uncertainty as well as lengthening an already long and tiring day.

I have experienced that ambulance vehicles exacerbate the jolting and affect on my heart.

The wait time following the dialysis session has been excessive and last week the other patient who travels with me called a dialysis patient who lives in Seymour to request emergency transport to a drop off point where someone else could pick us up and get us home as there was no indication that we would be picked up at all.

The lady and her husband kindly obliged even though they did not have enough fuel. I reimbursed them for their generosity and kindness but they should not feel obliged to assist when the system lets people down.

I am sure you can understand that the current system is unsatisfactory and appropriate measures need to be taken. I would be eternally grateful if transport via taxi could be reinstated as this was a system that worked reliably and provided a safer journey particularly with my state of health.



Lyn and Boyd Geldard. -AR

Council finalists in Victorian Tourism Awards

Question:

It appears that MSC is a finalist in the VTIC award for Discover Dindi: www.vtic.com.au/news-item/17432/finalists-revealed

Are you able to provide comment on the achievement, and information on the team behind the promotion, as well as some photos?

Answer:

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has been named as a finalist in the prestigious Victorian Tourism Awards in the Local Government Award for Tourism category.

A council representative said, "This recognition highlights our tourism planning, tourism assets, innovative marketing, including Discover Dindi, and event development and management. Being a finalist in this category recognises our dedication to enhancing the visitor experience within the shire and contributing significantly to the Victorian tourism industry.

"Council has developed and implemented a range of strategies, programs, activities, and partnerships that support the visitor economy, acknowledging the importance of this sector to our economy. This includes partnerships with local businesses and community groups, Tourism North East, Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, and our volunteer-operated Visitor Information Centres. Partnerships and collaborations are a key to our success.

"Our team consistently supports local community-led events and larger visitor-attracting events, such as the upcoming Giro della Donna cycling event in Marysville, while also working to bring more significant events to our region.

"Throughout the 2023/24 financial year, we have contributed to the development of various innovative tourism initiatives including the Art on the Great Victorian Rail Trail Project and a range of Discover Dindi campaigns to drive destination awareness and increase visitation to our region. Visit the Discover Dindi website to learn more about what you can do in Murrindindi Shire at discoverdindi.com.au"

We are excited to celebrate this achievement and look forward to the announcement of the Victorian Tourism Awards winners on 21 November. Council would like to commend all finalists, every nomination is a result of hard work and commitment to tourism, and all should be celebrated.



Kingsmere. -S



Candlebark Bawden. -S

A very special Open Gardens weekend

WHEN you visit gardens included in the Yea Rotary Open Gardens Weekend this year, you're going to experience something quite special.

Of the eight gardens open to the public, six are located on or close to Murrindindi Road, making them each a short drive from the other, while two are located in Yea township giving visitors a contrast between gardening on a large property and achieving what you want in a town garden.

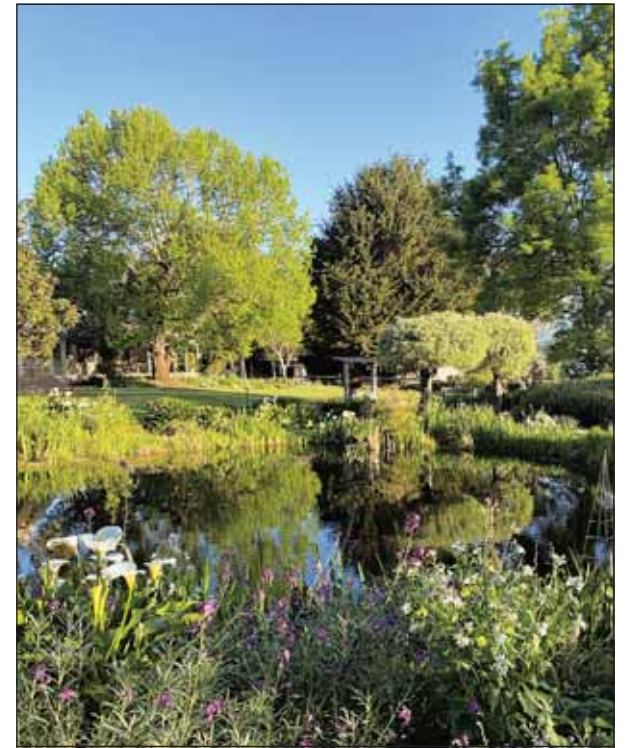
All the owners have been working extremely hard to bring you beautiful landscaping full of contrasts, to fill their gardens with flowers, fruit and vegetables and to care for fantastic trees.

Some have started from scratch, others have taken over gardens started a very long time ago. A couple have plants or seeds for sale and you'll even have the opportunity to walk along the river or pause on the banks and enjoy refreshments.

Be sure to take a garden map which will show you the gardens offering food and toilets and don't forget EFTPOS is not available at individual gardens so purchase your tickets via Trybooking, our website or bring cash on the day. Tickets will also be available at the Yea Water Discovery Centre in Yea township.

Yea Rotary Open Gardens is on Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10.

For more information phone 0407 096 128, email tickslife@bigpond.com or visit yearotary.org.au



Wood farm. -S

WELCOME TO

Open Gardens

YE A & DISTRICT

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 November 2024

10AM to 5PM

See 8 unique (6 country and 2 town) gardens

\$5 town gardens, \$8 country gardens and \$40 per 2-day pass to all gardens

Tickets at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CRUFX>

Also on sale at the weekend at Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre and at each garden gate (cash only)

Information available on Rotary Club of Yea website, by phoning 0407 096 128 or email tickslife@bigpond.com

Maps and garden descriptions will be available on the website by October

www.yearotary.org.au

ALEXANDRA

Spring FAIR

\$2 GOLD COIN ENTRY

SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2024

10AM-3PM

ROTARY PARK

Contact: Gordon Simpson 0409 577 212 or Rachel: alexandraeventsltd@gmail.com

www.alexandratourism.com

- market stalls
- children's amusements
- local food
- wine tasting
- live music from Tayla Arnett & Bev Fraser



Leanne McCreedy, Carol Naden, Melinda Jackson, Kellock CEO Tania Hunter, Friends of Kellock president Jan Fallon, Kellock Lodge chair Ian Gibb, Janene Simpson and Alexandra Open Gardens committee president Noel McIlwraith presenting a \$5000 cheque to Tania and Ian. -S

Kellock's Gould Courtyard to be redesigned

THE Alexandra Open Gardens committee, Friends of Kellock and Kellock Lodge have come together once again for the refurbishment of the Gould Courtyard.

At the suggestion of Ian Gibb, Chairman of Kellock Lodge, Kellock Lodge approached the Open Gardens committee for their support to assist in the refurbishment of the Gould Courtyard, to create a sensory garden for residents, their families and friends to enjoy.

Noel McIlwraith was thrilled at the idea of once again being involved in the refurbishment of the Gould Courtyard, taking the idea to the committee and a motion was passed to donate \$5000 to Kellock Lodge towards the refurbishment.

Alexandra and District Open Gardens committee, since its inception in 1991, have contributed more than \$155,000 to local organisations across 31 projects. The committee first became involved in the restoration of the Gould Courtyard back in 2009.

Residents enjoy their daily walks around the Gould Courtyard pathway to keep up their fitness and take in some sunshine, therefore it is Kellock CEO Tania Hunter's desire to create

a sensory experience for residents as they undertake their daily exercise and continue to provide a habitat for our visiting birds.

The courtyard will have several bench seats along the pathway for residents to stop, sit and reflect, take in the smells of the various plants, listen to the water running in the fountains and watch the wild birds that come and visit. There will also be a designated raised garden bed area for residents to continue their passion for gardening.

At the suggestion of Noel McIlwraith, local garden designer Kim Pammer has come on board to assist in the redesign of the space. Jan Fallon, President of the Friends of Kellock, readily became involved to lend her own garden experience and the support of the committee to help fund raise for the replanting program. Mal Bolding has also very generously donated the time of Cherry Constructions to assist as well.

The first order of business was to remove existing plants and now the soil rejuvenation begins with construction and planting to begin early in 2025.

Stay tuned for further updates and photos.



A greengrocer cicada. -Museums Victoria

Cicadas try to breach the human pain threshold

PEOPLE driving through part of the shire, notably Buxton and the Granton area, may have noticed a high pitched sound of late, heard over the sound of the engine and car radio. It is, of course, the cicada, and 2024 is shaping up to be a bumper season for the creature.

Well known varieties of cicadas in Australia include the common green grocer cicada, yellow Monday, chocolate soldier, black prince, floury baker, masked devil, razor grinder and blue moon. There's also the double drummer cicada, which is Australia's largest cicada, and the smallest is the pale grass pygmy cicada.

Male cicadas are the ones making all of the noise, as female cicadas don't sing. The male cicadas tend to be loudest during afternoons and dusk, during the warmer months of the year. Their call approaches 120 decibels, which is the pain threshold for human hearing. They are one of the loudest insects in the world.

Some of the smaller cicadas have a song so high in pitch that the noise they make is beyond the range of human hearing.

The singing is the result of the rapid buckling of timbal ribs, which are amplified by resonance in an air sac. Each species of cicada has its own song, in order to attract a mate of their own kind.

While the singing is thought to be aimed at attracting a mate, it may also deter predatory birds.

Australian cicadas, such as the green grocer, tend to emerge every six or seven years with a peak emergence, however each year some will emerge. Through singing as a chorus, it also makes it more difficult for birds to identify the location of an individual cicada. Bats, spiders, ants, wasps, mantids (such as a praying mantis) and tree crickets also prey on cicadas.

Most of the cicada's life will be spent underground, nibbling on tree roots until they are ready to emerge, generally after seven years. They tend to climb after emerging and then split their skin and emerge with their wings unfolding. They have a wing span of between 2.5 and 15 centimetres. The cicadas then fly away to find a mate.

After mating, the female cicada will lay her eggs in a plant stem, pierced by its ovipositor (a spike at the tip of the abdomen). Adult cicadas then die, just a few weeks after reaching adulthood.

Around 200 cicada varieties have been described, and Dr Claire Keely, expert at Museums Victoria, estimated that there are another 200 cicada varieties which are yet to be described.

Cicadas are not locusts. Locusts are a species of migratory grasshopper.

Noise-cancelling headphones can be purchased from electronics retailers.



Cicadas can emit a sound which is 120 decibels, uncomfortably close to the human pain threshold. -Museums Victoria

UPCOMING FEATURES

To book your spot in any of the upcoming features call Jo 5772 1002

Let's eat, it's our treat

Publication date: November 6 Deadline date: October 31, 5pm

Live Well, Feel Good

Publication date: November 13 Deadline date: November 7, 5pm

Work Local

Publication date: November 20 Deadline date: November 14, 5pm

2025 Events Calendar

Deadline date: November 27, 5pm

THORNTON COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10

Various driveway sales throughout the town
Preloved clothes, homewares, furniture, tools, machinery etc
Want to be involved? Contact us for more information!
57732265 or email thorntongeneralstore@gmail.com



The students had a wonderful day in the sun. -S



Even the teachers dressed up for the occasion. -S

ELF Reading Day in Eildon

ON Tuesday, October 15, the Eildon Kindergarten and Eildon Primary School dressed up for ELF Reading day.

Students arrived as various characters from their favourite books. All types of creativity were employed as students arrived as various animals, workers, princesses, Harry Potter characters, superheros and more.

The day started with a parade of dress-ups before the students walked to the Eildon Village, where local shop keepers shared stories with the children.

The school would like to thank each of the storytellers who helped make the day a great one.



Students listening to one of the readings. -S



Three students in their ELF Reading Day costumes. -S



A monkey and Spiderman in the playground. -S

KINDER YOU CAN COUNT ON

The Victorian Government is making it easier for families to find a three and four-year old kinder learning program they can count on.

- 1 LED BY A QUALIFIED TEACHER**
The Kinder Tick recognises kinder programs that are led by a qualified teacher.
- 2 PLAY-BASED LEARNING PROGRAM**
It highlights kindergartens and long day care centres that offer play-based programs to help children learn and grow, before they start school.
- 3 FUNDED AND APPROVED BY THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT**
It also identifies services that are approved for Victorian Government funding.

LOOK FOR THE KINDER TICK

KINDERGARTEN

Victorian Government Approved

Find out more at vic.gov.au/kindertick

VICTORIA State Government

FIRE PREVENTION

for your home and property

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE,
BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.**

Go to fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create your personalised fire plan now.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



It's time to get your home bushfire ready

SPRING is here and it's time to get fire ready on your property. The declared fire season is just around the corner, it's a good idea now to get all those jobs done around the yard and continue to stay on top of it throughout the upcoming bushfire season.

Mowing your grass regularly not only looks appealing but it's also a requirement to keep your grass short especially throughout the fire danger period.

According to Murrindindi Shire Council, for the duration of the CFA Declared Fire Danger Period, grass must be managed in the following manner; for a residential block, vacant or occupied, up to one hectare in size, you must maintain grass to ensure it does not exceed 10 centimetres in height, and for property greater than one hectare you are required to cut all grass, or slash or mow grass around the perimeter of your property (a minimum of 10 meters from the property boundary), where possible and safe to do so.

Reducing fuel loads by cleaning up dried leaves and grass clippings and trimming

trees and shrubs, especially near the house and sheds, is another way to reduce your risk in the event of a bushfire.

Cleaning out gutters of any leaves and debris is another job on the list when getting your property bushfire ready. Gutter guards are a good investment and if you live in a bushfire prone area the metal type is the better option.

Check all your hoses, sprinkler systems, pumps and generators are in good working order. Doing regular checks on these items can really help you not get caught out during an emergency.

Have a walk around your home and see if any gaps need to be sealed. This can include the roof, windows, and doors. This can be fixed simply with a caulking gun in most cases. If you have open vents on the sides of your houses secure metal flyscreens to prevent embers coming into the walls of you home.

For any more information visit cfa.vic.gov.au or contact your local brigade for advice.

Roadside slashing commencing

MURRINDINDI Shire Council reduces fuel on 467 km of local roads and roadsides through their roadside slashing program, part of their fire prevention program.

The annual roadside slashing program commenced on Friday, October 18 and will continue until mid to late December.

During this time, please be mindful of contractors and their traffic management requirements as they work on improving safety for road users and protecting property and public infrastructure.

For more information about the program, please visit tinyurl.com/827ctrx5

Clean up your property with free green waste

THERE is one month left to go with council's free disposal of green waste at the Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Eildon, and Marysville.

Green waste can be disposed at each of the five Resource Recovery Centres. This includes domestic quantities of grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings, branches and tree trunks.

Residents can dispose of green waste for free during October and November in preparation for the CFA declared Fire Danger Period, and in April each year, and after a declared emergency or major storm event.

For green waste to be acceptable, it must not be mixed up with other materials. Branches and tree trunks must be no longer than 1.5 metres in length and be less than 25 centimetres in diameter. Branches and stumps larger than this will continue to incur a fee.

Residents need to show evidence they live in Murrindindi Shire such as a rate notice, or a current photo ID showing their Murrindindi Shire residential address.

Different charges apply for commercial volumes of green waste and green waste from businesses.

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FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Until 30 November

From 1 October to 30 November, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Eildon and Marysville.

This includes domestic quantities of grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings, branches, and tree trunks. For green waste to be acceptable, it must:

- not be mixed up with other materials
- be no longer than 1.5 m in length and be less than 25 cm in diameter. Branches and stumps larger than this will continue to incur a fee.

For more information on green waste disposal, including RRC opening times, give Council a call on 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste



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for your home and property

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BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.**

Go to fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create your personalised fire plan now.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



VESEP grants announced

CFA brigades and other volunteer emergency groups will share in almost \$11.2 million funding to purchase new equipment to help protect their communities.

The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) funding has been spread across 167 projects, including replacement vehicles for some brigades.

Locally, Molesworth CFA is to receive \$150,000 for minor facility improvements, Terip Terip CFA \$3334 for volunteer amenities, Yarck CFA \$86,667 for minor facility improvements, and Yea CFA \$18,555 for operational equipment. Kinglake SES is receiving approx \$97,000 to purchase a new vehicle which will be a replacement of an operational twin cab ute.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said, "This program provides \$2 for every \$1 of funding from the brigade and helps with the purchase of equipment such as vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft, trailers, and can also include minor facility improvements.

"There are also Special Access Grants available to provide a further financial boost for brigades that face challenges with fundraising."

Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes said, "The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program provides volunteers with the equipment and facilities they need to continue their selfless work safely.

"Our emergency services volunteers work incredibly hard to keep our communities safe, which is why we've invested more than \$138 million in VESEP grants to support the critical work they do.

"Congratulations to all the deserving volunteer groups in receiving grants. The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program is an important annual program providing a critical boost to local volunteers, ensuring their equipment and facilities are up to date."

The full list of successful applicants has been published on the Emergency Management Victoria website.

Plan and prepare for the upcoming fire season

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging all community members to prepare for the upcoming fire season by cutting or slashing overgrown grass, cleaning up their properties, and making a fire plan.

Although the CFA Fire Danger Period hasn't been announced yet, the drier than average conditions indicate that it will soon be upon us. It's crucial for everyone to start preparing now for the threat of bushfires and grassfires.

Rural areas are more likely to be impacted by bushfires and grassfires, but it is important that owners of residential and industrial land also take the time to prepare their properties in advance of the Fire Danger Period.

Residential landowners are required to maintain the grass on their property to a height not exceeding 10 cm, to reduce fire risk throughout summer. If you own rural land over one hectare in size, you may be required to cut the grass around the perimeter of your property (a minimum of 10 meters from the property boundary), where possible to reduce that fuel load and slow any potential fire.

Community members are encouraged to make use of council's free green waste disposal. Information about this can be found on the opposite page.

As part of council's Fire Prevention Program, we are also taking steps to reduce fire risk across the shire. In the coming weeks, council's Fire Prevention officers will begin inspecting properties across Murrindindi Shire to identify potential fire hazards and work with property owners to reduce fuel loads and meet your fire prevention responsibilities. The Roadside Slashing Program is now underway, with contractors working across the shire to maintain over 460 km of council-managed roadsides.

For more information on how to prepare your property, visit cfa.vic.gov.au or murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireandheat

Murrindindi Shire Council's CEO Livia Bonazzi said, "Long range forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology point to a hotter and wetter than average summer, and it is important that our communities plan and prepare.

"I encourage everyone to take the time ahead of the Fire Danger Period to prepare or refresh your fire plan, clean up your property, and know where to get the right information during an emergency. The VicEmergency app and website are the primary source for emergency information. You can also find our local emergency broadcasters at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/emergencycontacts"

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE,
BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.**

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



Go to fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create your personalised fire plan now.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



The state of motorcycle road safety

THE Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (MRAA) recently held a forum in the Yea Shire Hall to discuss updating their policies as part of Motorcycle Awareness Month that runs in October.

Steve Bardsley, MRAA's Rider Safety Representative, discussed some of the key issues faced by motorcyclists in relation to road safety with this masthead.

Speaking about the recent forum, Mr Bardsley explained that it was a good opportunity for updating their advocacy policies.

"The forum was good and it's just all about setting the policy and then making sure that we're able to communicate with the motorcycle and traffic authorities in the most effective way," he said.

"We're working on policy. The MRAA has been around for a long time, since the 80s. It's time to take a look and refresh the policy and look at how we are going to deal with the issues that we face. We want to be seen as a credible motorcycle advocacy organisation."

Looking at the statistics, there has been a 41 per cent increase in motorcycle rider fatalities over the last 12 months in Victoria, increasing from 37 rider fatalities last year to 52 riders this year.

"Things haven't got any better, and we need to do more than look at motorcycle safety one month of the year. Any motorcycle safety initiative should be applauded, but I think the idea of motorcycle safety month isn't all that effective. It should be motorcycle safety every day of the year," Mr Bardsley said.

Steve Bardsley is of the opinion that a large part of the problem, and the reason for these increased motorcycle rider fatalities, is driver distraction.

Statistics show that in 66 per cent of motorcycle accidents, another vehicle is involved, and in 69 per cent of those cases, it was found that the driver was at fault. This largely shifts blame away from motorcycle riders and onto other road users.

"There is absolutely no doubt that one of the problems that causes driver distractions, is what's going on inside cars these days," Mr Bardsley said.

"When you look at modern car dashboards, it's usually one huge LED screen with thousands of images on it, and there are some studies saying that these types of more modern driving aids can be counterproductive. And then of course we've got mobile phones, and that has to be the biggest enemy of the roads, I think.

"I've always said no driver wants to come home knowing that he's killed a motorcycle rider. They don't set out in the morning thinking that is going to happen, and yet it's happened 52 times in Victoria alone this year.

"We need to educate drivers more about being aware and being more observant of motorcycles, and of course to not be distracted and concentrate on the road."

Mr Bardsley has published a number of academic studies on motorcycle safety over the years, including one on the effects of high-vision clothing on motorcycle safety. His conclusion on the issue was that Hi-Viz has very little benefit for keeping motorcycle riders safe.

"Part of the problem is if a motorcycle rider is wearing a fluorescent vest, that doesn't make any difference if that driver is distracted," he said.

"It doesn't matter what he's wearing, and it doesn't make any difference to an impatient driver. It may help slightly, under certain circumstances, but generally speaking, it's not going to help."

Looking at motorcycle road safety from an advocacy perspective, Steve Bardsley believes that the issue is being handled incorrectly. He says there is a focus on motorcycle riders doing the wrong thing, rather than showing the true story that the data depicts.

"They're attacking the problem from the wrong end, holding motorcycle riders to blame for accidents that are not their fault and



The topic of motorcycle road safety has had lots of discussion this October, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month. -Sergio Hernandez Trejo

not getting down to the core of the problem," Mr Bardsley said.

Without the correct data they're going to find it difficult. But to be fair, in recent times, the police and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) have been much better at communicating and listening to motorcycle riders.

"The problem isn't as difficult as it's made out to be. There just needs to be a focus on what can and cannot be done, and a willingness to do that. That's the most important thing. Even though I've said the TAC and the police are doing better in this regard, there's still a lot more to be done.

"The major strategies that we have here in Victoria don't work, and nobody can say they do. The figures show that they don't. The key now is to take a look at road safety strategies and ask 'are we on the wrong track? Why haven't they been working?' And nobody appears willing to do that."

Mr Bardsley also said that Victorian road surfaces are a big issue for motorcycle road safety. If a car hits a pothole, it might end up with a flat tyre or some broken suspension. If a motorcycle hits a pothole, it could flip upside down. He doesn't understand why money from the motorcycle road safety levy is not being used to fix Victorian roads. He is also critical of the motorcycle safety levy itself.

"There is money available because of the motorcycle safety levy, which is used not just for motorcycle safety initiatives, but for everything. It needs to be better spent. They've got millions of dollars collected from motorcycle riders in the bank which they're not using," he said.

"The motorcycle safety levy needs to be abolished, because it in itself is a suggestion that motorcycle riders are dangerous, and therefore need to pay a safety levy to be able to ride on the road. That's counterproductive, and it's not the case. There have been parliamentary inquiries, and many politicians, that recommended the motorcycle safety levy be abolished. But it's still there," Mr Bardsley concluded.

On the subject of motorcycle road safety, the TAC shared some information about what they are doing to increase the safety of riders on the road, following questions from this masthead.

"Sadly we have seen an increase in rider deaths this year. Drivers and riders share responsibility for keeping each other safe. It is critical that drivers are always on the lookout for motorcycles, and riders can help by ensuring they are visible to drivers through correct road positioning," the TAC responded.

"The Victorian Government continues to invest in programs, campaigns and infrastructure aimed at improving motorcycle

safety in the short and long term, including: MotoCAP, a world-first protective gear star rating program; introduction of the world-leading motorcycle Graduated Licencing System; motorcyclist safety campaigns; rider packs for newly licensed riders; safer infrastructure projects; Motorcycling Community Engagement Panel (MCEP); introduction of an Australian Design Rule (ADR) for mandating anti-lock braking systems; introduction of motorcycle lane filtering legislation; Motorcycle Crash Card; on-road abrasion testing of motorcycle protective clothing.

"Projects are partly funded through the MSL, which was introduced in 2002 and has to date invested almost \$93 million in a range of targeted safety initiatives across motorcycle policy and law, education and research and road safety infrastructure improvements for motorcyclists.

"The Victorian Road Safety Partners are developing a new framework for investment in motorcycle safety in Victoria. This important work will include a review of the expenditure of the MSL.

"The Motorcycle Community Engagement Panel was established in 2020 to provide a forum for the exchange of information between the motorcycling community, other stakeholders, the Victorian Government and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

"It provides an opportunity for the motorcycling community to table ideas and proposals to improve rider safety. Panel members also advise on motorcycling trends in Victoria and provide input on how a proposed policy or project may impact the motorcycling community.

"MCEP established Motorcycle Awareness Month in 2022 in collaboration with the Transport Accident Commission, Department of Transport and Planning, and Victoria Police to remind motorists that road safety is a shared responsibility and that everyone has a role to play in keeping the roads safe."

Transport Accident Commission Head of Road Safety, Samantha Cockfield, said: "Motorcyclists are among our most vulnerable road users, which is why we have long invested in research, programs and initiatives to better protect riders.

"We strongly support the Motorcycle Safety Levy, which has played an important and effective role in helping fund motorcycling safety initiatives," she said.

"The establishment of the Motorcycle Community Engagement Panel and Motorcyclist Safety Month in recent years has been critical to building a better understanding of the issues that matter most to riders, and ensuring their views are reflected in projects and policies."



ROAD CLOSURES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Get ready for an exciting month ahead, with three big events coming to Marysville!

- Marysville Marathon: Saturday 9 to Sunday 10 November
- Giro della Donna cycling event: Friday 22 to Sunday 24 November
- Great Victorian Bike Ride: Saturday 30 November to Sunday 1 December

These events are a wonderful chance to showcase our beautiful region and support local businesses and community groups.

Heads up! There will be road closures and detours in Marysville and across the Shire, so visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/marysville-events or contact the event organisers directly for road closure details.

- Marysville Marathon: marysvillemarathon.com.au | 0418 557 052
- Giro della Donna: girodelladonna.com
- Great Victorian Bike Ride: bicyclenetwork.com.au | (03) 8376 8888

Don't miss out on the fun and make the most of these events!



Real Estate GUIDE

More homes and a fairer go for renters

MINISTER for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams joined Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon and local renters to announce that renters will soon have an easier way to resolve landlord disputes.

Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria (RDRV)

If renters have a simple dispute with their landlord, such as about repairs, maintenance, damage, bond claims or rental increases, it's not fair if it has to be dragged out in a formal hearing when it doesn't need to. There must be alternatives.

That's why the government will help renters resolve simple disputes through a free, public dispute resolution service.

Through RDRV, renters can easily call up, jump online or attend in person to access highly skilled dispute resolution experts who

will help bring parties together to resolve rental disputes, and it will be free to access.

RDRV will commence its work in mid-2025, and that legislation will be introduced in November to make orders at RDRV binding and enforceable.

RDRV will sit in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and will also refer matters to Consumer Affairs Victoria for compliance and enforcement action.

More than 60 per cent of disputes are expected to be able to be resolved through RDRV. It's all about guiding parties to the fastest and best result, reducing time, stress and cost, and minimising the need for lawyers.

Cracking down on dodgy landlords

The government is cracking down on rental providers and estate agents who do the wrong

thing, because renters shouldn't have to put up with conduct that is not only unfair but illegal.

Since March 2024, the renting taskforce has been monitoring the market and inspecting properties across the state to make sure rentals are being advertised fairly, and properties meet the mandatory minimum standards for safety and livability.

The government can announce that almost \$450,000 in fines have been issued for rental offences, including for not advertising a rental property at a fixed price, and not lodging a bond with the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority.

The taskforce has carried out inspection blitzes in areas where a lot of renters live, like Fitzroy North and Clayton, to ensure rental properties meet the minimum standards. More blitzes are scheduled before the end of the year.

When the taskforce identifies properties which do not meet the minimum standards, it works with the property agent and rental provider to make sure repairs are made so that a renter can move in. If a property isn't fixed and a renter moves in, this is an offence. Penalties will apply.

Making it easier for renters when they move

Renters will no longer be out of pocket for two bonds at once when they move. Instead they'll be able to simply transfer their previous bond to the new property.

The scheme's new IT system is expected to begin its testing phase in 2025.

To find out more, visit vic.gov.au/more-homes, vic.gov.au/protecting-renters-rights and consumer.vic.gov.au/rentalstandards



The government is putting further protections for renters in place. -Pittigrilli

Nutrien Harcourts *Alexandra*

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The steps to a renovation

WITH the many home renovation shows on television it's easy to get into mindset that a home renovation is quick and simple even for the average DIYers. Don't be fooled by all the smoke and mirrors.

When beginning a home renovation, you need to determine what your actual project is. This includes research and design. What do you want to achieve in the space you're creating? To reach these decisions it's good to engage with an architect or registered builder to help you prepare for the work and basically put the concept on paper.

Before you begin your project, research will include visiting your local council and learning about permits needed for your renovation. Not everything will need a permit for a renovation, for example, painting a bedroom and giving it a freshen up will not need a permit, but a new deck or pool will most certainly need a permit. It depends on the nature of the work.

It's important to research whether your project is affected by bushfire management overlays, risks of flooding and drainage issues, termite infestation, significant

snowfall potential, and land whether it is seweraged or unsewered.

Once you've applied for your permits and everything is approved, works can commence. You need to ask yourself who is doing the work?

According to the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), if the value of the domestic building work you'll be doing is over \$16,000, you'll need to have a certificate of consent from the VBA to be an owner-builder. The value of the building work includes labour costs and materials. It's the estimated cost if you were to engage a registered builder to do the work. Your building surveyor or architect can help with calculating the cost of the work.

To become an owner-builder in Victoria, you'll need to meet eligibility criteria. For instance, unless you are building a small second dwelling, an owner-builder can only build or renovate one house every five years and must intend to live in the house once it is completed.

If you aren't doing the structural work yourself, it's time to find registered and

licensed tradespeople. These professionals must provide compliance certification after completion of works. For example, if you hire a plumber and they do works over \$750 they must provide a compliance certificate within five days of doing the work.

Once you've established who is undertaking what part of your renovation, the demolition can begin. If your home was built before 1990 you need to find out whether you have asbestos in your home. The safest way to remove asbestos is to use a licensed asbestos removalist. A licensed asbestos removalist must have a waste transport certificate for the waste, have a waste transport permit for the vehicle, take the asbestos to a licensed landfill.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), if you decide to remove asbestos yourself, follow guidance from Asbestos in Victoria at asbestos.vic.gov.au

If you are removing asbestos from your home you can use your own vehicle to transport domestic asbestos. You don't need a waste transport certificate

or vehicle permit. You must package asbestos in the right way and transport it to a licensed landfill.

Once the space is cleared from the old, in comes the new. This takes time and is not overnight. There is building, plumbing and electrical preparation work, and painting and styling once your room or area is complete.

With the cost of living crisis, people are trying to do as much as they can to save a dollar here or there. This can be achieved by doing the demolition work, or trying to tile an area yourself, and picking up a paintbrush and painting yourself.

One thing to keep in mind is, do you have the time to complete the works or is it easier paying for someone to do it all if you can afford to. It all depends on your personal circumstances and your experience with do it yourself projects and how much you're willing to learn.

There is nothing more frustrating than a half finished renovation or build, but it can be the most rewarding experience when you can see a project from start to finish.

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Double the opportunity with two homes on one block

THE Victorian Government is making it easier, faster and cheaper for Victorians to divide their blocks and build more homes.

Speaking at the Melbourne Press Club, Premier Jacinta Allan announced that the government will immediately commence an implementation review into how to fix the current system, where subdivisions take too long and often discourage home building. This is a review to outline the best way forward.

Ultimately, it will examine how our planning and building systems can be streamlined, enabling more Victorians to add a second home, build two new homes, or subdivide a block into two lots.

Options on the table include faster 10 day subdivisions (down from 60 days and often longer), criteria-based planning permit exemptions, or no requirement for a planning permit at all.

As part of the review, the Department of Transport and Planning will look at how approvals can be fast-tracked while maintaining standards to ensure Victorians can rely on a good quality home.

Clear limits will remain in place when it comes to things important to the community like trees and car parks, and overlays permit requirements such as in flood or heritage overlays will still apply.

The government will consult with industry and consider final options with the aim of implementing the reforms by April next year.

The move follows the government's change to regulations introduced late 2023, allowing homeowners to build small second homes, such as granny flats, without a planning permit.

By making it easier for homeowners to subdivide their land, it will be easier for more Victorians to find a home in an established suburb, close to transport, jobs, schools and services.

At the same time, the change will help Victorians wanting to downsize and set themselves up for retirement, allowing them to easily subdivide and either build another home or sell off the land to young Victorians and families.

Premier Jacinta Allan said, "This just makes sense. If you've got land you don't need, we'll make it easier for you to subdivide it and sell it, putting money back in your pocket and giving another Victorian the chance to buy their own home."

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny added, "This will help more young Victorians get the opportunity to live in the communities they grew up, close to the people they love."

To read more about the government's plans for more homes and more opportunity, visit vic.gov.au/more-homes

Council's Greenlight Portal to streamline Building and Planning.

MURRINDINDI Shire Council recently launched the 'Greenlight' customer portal to streamline the planning and building process. The new portal aims to make the application process easier and more efficient as it's all in one place.

The Building section is live, and Planning is not far away. You can follow your applications in real time, without needing to contact council, improving efficiency in the application process.

To find the new portal visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-and-Building



Murrindindi Shire Council are streamlining the building and planning process. -Myotus



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SHOWTIME 2024

Many highlights at the upcoming Yea Show

THE Yea Show is going against the trend for rural agricultural shows by growing bigger and better every year.

The show's motto, 'Country Excellence', proudly showcases all that is the best in the farming community, including the skills around the homestead in cooking, crafts and horticulture. The Central Victorian Axemen's Association will once again run a Championship Woodchop at the Yea Show.

The show committee are delighted to have the Royal Australian Navy Rock Band entertaining you at the Yea Show. They will 'rock you' at 11am and 2pm. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Don't miss the new Virtual Reality Gaming with 10 headsets available and hundreds of games to choose from. It will be fun for all ages. The ever-popular dog high jump, the Young Farmers Challenge, comic characters roaming the ground for the little ones to get a hug or have a photo taken, find the baby animals scattered throughout the showgrounds for another photo opportunity and there's lots more to entertain you.

Two of the farming highlights are the prestigious Yea Cattle Show featuring not only our local stud champions but cattle coming in from all over Victoria and Southern NSW.

For many years the Yea Show has been the biggest showing of cattle outside the Royal Melbourne Show. It includes the highly contested Heifer Challenge on the Friday evening, followed on show day by

the stud beef cattle including Stud Cattle Junior Judges and Stud Cattle Junior Parader challenges and a strong Vealer Competition.

The Northern Region Sheep Yard Dog Association showcases highly trained and intelligent working dogs and finishes with the final of 'The Yea Cup' challenge which incorporates winners from four local shows, Seymour, Euroa, Alexandra and Yea. Competitors come from all over Victoria and Southern NSW for this prestigious award.

The fleece section will incorporate sheep shearing demonstrations and local spinners will be happy to showcase their age-old craft. An excellent and comprehensive six ring horse program on the arena presents a spectacular display of expertly groomed and trained horses and horsemanship. Dairy goats and poultry are popular events also.

Static displays and related products plus market stalls provide extra interest. A variety of foods will be available including Devonshire teas in the Pavilion. There will also be children's show rides, baby animals on display throughout the showgrounds, children's pet show, and demonstrations by our local line dancers all provide entertainment throughout the day.

New and enthusiastic stewards in the Pavilion sections have seen massive changes in location, variety and added interest. In cookery, prominent business leaders in Yea enthusiastically vie in the Men's Chocolate Cake baking challenge, you can enjoy a cuppa while you admire the entries and take home

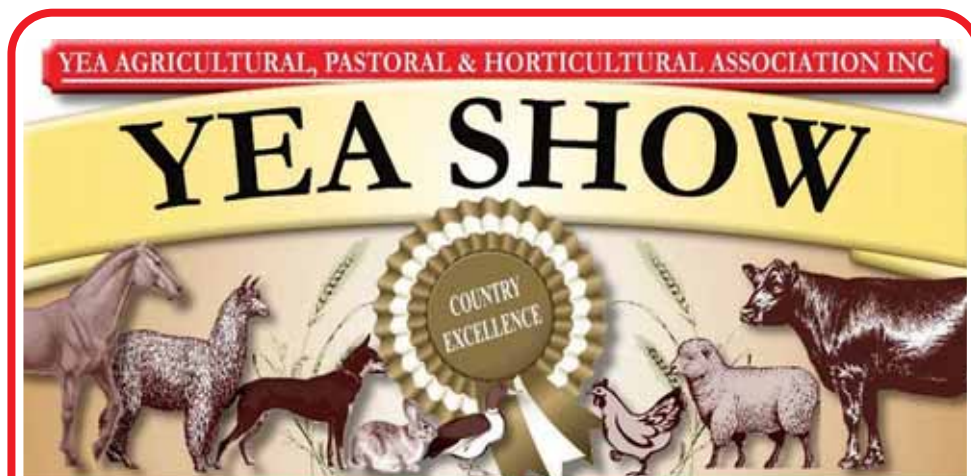
a delicious preserve or two. The horticulture section always has a beautiful display of flowers and vegetables and now encompasses displays by the local pottery and garden clubs. The newly renovated Pavilion at the showgrounds will beautifully display the incredible and exquisite sewing, knitting,

and many other handcrafts which are always a highlight of the show.

The 107th Yea Show will be held on Saturday, November 23. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is \$35, adults are \$17, seniors/concession \$12, secondary students \$5, and children under 12 are free.



Brent with his horse at last year's Yea Show. -AR



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- Victorian Axeman's Woodchop Championships
- Exquisite crafts
- Yea Cup Final Sheep Yard Dog Trial
- 6 ring horse arena
- Prestigious Yea Cattle Show including Heifer Challenge
- Goats
- Poultry
- Fleeces
- Classic cars
- Line dancers
- Cookery
- Shearing demonstrations and woolclassing
- Royal Australian Navy Rock Band, 11am and 2pm
- Level Up Gaming - 10 consoles and over 300 games
- Roaming comic characters
- Show bags
- Show rides

And lots more!



Some of the artworks entered last year. -AR



The wood chopping will again be a popular attraction at the show. -AR



Lots on the schedule for Alexandra Show

WITH springtime well and truly here, the thoughts of many throughout the Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires turn to their local agricultural shows. A day to celebrate and champion all things agriculture, horticulture and production, the shows have been part of the local calendar for well over 130 years.

This year, the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural association is celebrating 150 continuous years of committees and 139 years of events.

In the past, livestock and families would arrive at the show grounds in all their finery.

The day was an opportunity to show off cattle, eggs, and baking skills and see what everyone else was doing with their breed stock.

While of late, the emphasis of shows has downgraded due to greater access to information, speedier communication and transport, the importance of promoting agriculture and horticulture in the towns has not.

With more and more agricultural land being taken for residential dwellings, the importance of highlighting agriculture and associated industries has never been higher. Whether it's the petting zoo and giving young people a chance to experience animals first hand, visiting the poultry pavilion and talking with experts about what breed of hen is best for your backyard, checking out the latest tractors and fuel delivery systems, or getting involved with the first ever hobby horse events, there is something for everyone.

This year, the committee, with the generous support of their sponsors, is excited to be showcasing roving dinosaurs, jumping castles, all day music, gold panning (thanks to the Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club), cattle display, shearing demonstration and a guess the weight competition. There will also be donkeys, working dog events, dog obedience displays, face painting, heaps of

kids activities, the mobile library, gymkhana, food, coffee and more.

Generous sponsors of this years' show include Murrindindi Shire Council; Mal Ryan and Glen solicitors; Eildon Outboard and Mercury motors; Dindi Kids who will also be running some free activities; O'Brien Real Estate; Taggerty Vet Clinic who will also be judging and running the Pet Parade at 1pm; Riddellvue Angus; Bruce Steuart with the generous supply of a truck for the musicians, and Simpsons fuel.

Association President, Matt Dean has said, "Without the generous support of these businesses, the show would not be able to continue."

Association Vice president and Ladies committee member, Pam Petersen has been encouraging the community to get involved and submit items into the Ladies Pavilion categories for months. With Facebook posts and workshops that were held at the Embassy of Ideas over the last school holidays, the committee is doing everything it can to get the community involved.

"It's still not too late to enter," Pam said.

"Have a look at the schedules for the horses, poultry and ladies pavilion on our website and make sure that you pre-purchase your show tickets as well. Entries for the ladies Pavilion are taken the days before the show so make

sure you check when the section entries need to be in by."

But what parts of the show are the committee members looking forward to most?

Well, Matt is keen to see cattle in the shed and the working dogs in action; Julie is looking forward to a soft serve from long time stall holder Mr Quick Whip and the photography section; Pam is excited to see if Helen Godfrey will have any competition in the fruit cake section and also for the sack races; and Leanne and Jo are looking forward to the result of months of work, with the smooth running of the gymkhana and the hobby horse events.

Individuals and businesses looking for more information about the show, including sponsorship, trade spaces and competition entries are encouraged to look at the show website: alexandrashow.com where there are links to everything as well as opportunities to pre-purchase gate tickets and tickets for face painting and the jumping castle.

For specific information not listed on the website, contact the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com.

With so much on within Murrindindi Shire over the weekend of November 9 and 10, make it a weekend of adventure with the Alexandra Show, the Marysville Running Festival and the Love me again outdoor education market.



The Yard Dog Trial will again be at the Alexandra Show. -RS



People buying showbags at last year's Alexandra Show. -RS

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF TWO FAMILY TICKETS TO THE ALEXANDRA SHOW

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DROP YOUR ENTRY INTO THE ALEXANDRA STANDARD OFFICE NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN. ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD - You will need to be able to collect your ticket prior noon, November 8.

*Staff and family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

139th Alexandra Show

Saturday, November 9, 2024. 9am to 3pm

Featuring:

- Roving entertainment
- Live music
- Petting zoo
- try your luck at gold panning
- Dingo display and education
- Pet parade
- Horses, poultry, shearing, working dogs and more

Entry Fees: Adults \$10
Children. 5-17 \$5. Children U5 Free.

Schedules available online at alexandrashow.com
For sponsorship and membership enquiries contact the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com

Keep batteries out of your bins

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging residents to keep household batteries out of their garbage and recycling bins and dispose of them safely at designated recycling drop-off points in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake.

Improper disposal of batteries can cause fires in bins, collections trucks and land fill sites, posing significant risks to public safety and the environment.

Household batteries are made up of toxic substances that can pose risks to you, your property and the people who empty your bins. This includes batteries in laptops, mobile phones, cameras, power tools and toys.

Recycling used batteries correctly means council can make the most of existing resources and rely less on mining new materials.

Simple ways to store your batteries safely at home before taking them to a drop-off location includes covering the ends of used batteries with duct tape or clear sticky tape to prevent sparking and reduce the risk of fire. Store batteries in a glass container and make sure the container is not airtight. Don't keep them in metal containers or with other metal objects. Store them in a cool, dry place away from heat sources. Keep them away from children and pets.

Residents can recycle AA, button and rechargeable batteries as well as batteries from cars, laptops, mobile phones, cameras, power tools and electronic toys by taking them to the following locations for safe disposal and recycling: Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre, Yea Resource Recovery Centre, Marysville Resource Recovery Centre, Kinglake Resource Recovery Centre, Alexandra FoodWorks, Yea FoodWorks, Eildon FoodWorks and Marysville Grocer.

Find more information on battery recycling at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Batteries

Murrindindi Shire Council's CEO Livia Bonazzi said, "Residents can make a significant difference to the safety of our community and environment by keeping batteries out of kerbside bins. When disposed of incorrectly, batteries can cause dangerous fires in bins, collection trucks, and at our Resource Recovery Centres, endangering our workers and residents alike. We've already seen this happen recently, and it's a risk we can all help prevent. Safely storing batteries at home and taking them to our recycling drop-off points is a simple yet powerful way to protect our team and contribute to a sustainable future for Murrindindi Shire."



An Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre operator at a battery recycling station. -s

Last council meeting before changing of the guard

THE October meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council took place last Wednesday, October 25. It was the final meeting for the current group of councillors.

Cr Gerencser was an apology for the meeting, and there was no public participation.

Annual Report 2023-24

Mayor Damien Gallagher presented the Annual Report 2023-24. The Annual Report highlights council's achievements in the third year of their 2021 to 2025 plan. Highlights include delivery of the Capital Works program worth \$16.96 million on key projects, such as the redevelopment of the Eildon Reserves and road and drainage upgrades. Council adopted a 2024 to 2029 Economic Development Strategy, with priorities to boost key visitor economy and agricultural sectors, support visitors, and address the shire's emerging demographic needs and challenges. The report outlines the adoption of council's customer service policy, Murrindindi's planning scheme review, Eildon Pondage master plan, key worker housing strategy, kindergarten and childcare strategy, among other policies. Council engaged with community through their e-newsletter, the establishment of the Council Roads Advisory Group, and the reflecting on council's progress engagement activity. This mark of this council has been their focus on sustainable financial management, not just in performance, but through submissions to state and federal parliamentary inquiries into the financial stability of local councils. In particular, Murrindindi Shire Council has been disproportionately underfunded for many years, and advocacy has been a hallmark of council in 2023 and 2024. Council stood alongside community to advocate for local voices in hospital management, state and federal flood and roads funding, inclusive future management of state forests and parks, funding to support reinstatement of Breakaway Bridge, and tertiary learning access and addressing critical skills shortages. Some memorable moments from the report include supporting the upper Goulburn communities through the flood emergency response, hosting the governor of Victoria, conferring citizenship upon new Murrindindi Australians, and recognising the contributions of volunteers.

Council endorsed the Annual Report 2023-24.

Priority Action Plan - Quarterly Report September 30, 2024

The Priority Action Plan for the first quarter of 2024-25 was presented by Amanda Vogt. It was reported that of the 65 actions, 64 are on-track and one has been deferred. Under the Resilient Communities part of the plan, Ms Vogt reported that Murrindindi youth programs have engaged 807 young people

this quarter. Under Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings, it was reported that grant applications have been successful for eight road safety projects and two motorcycle safety projects and flood gauges at Molesworth have been installed, the flood gauge at Yea is live, and the King Parrot Creek flood gauge is being installed and calibrated. In terms of Growth and Opportunity, council has undertaken the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy that was approved by council on May 22. In the Our Protected Environment section, council has committed to the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program which will provide affordable solar panels and the wastewater education project is now live. Under Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability, the e-newsletter is performing well, and website upgrades are underway with a new function being added.

Council noted the progress report.

Quarterly Finance Report

The report was presented by Michael Chesworth, outlining the results of the first quarter of the new financial year. Included in the report was a reconciliation of the carry forward and other quarterly adjustments to the budget, providing a clear view of the budget following adjustments. There is an operating surplus of \$24.19 million, which is \$847,000 below what was anticipated. Mr Chesworth reported there were no significant adjustments to the budget, and no significant variances.

Council adopted the Annual Revised Budget 2024-25 and noted the Quarterly Financial Report.

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report

Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Steve Schnick, was an apology for the meeting, so Mr Chesworth stepped in to present the report that covers January to June 2024. The report gave recognition to C Baxter, who has spent nine years as an independent committee member, and the work of Alan Studley. The report demonstrated the range of activities that the committee worked on.

Council noted the report.

Capital Works Program - Quarterly Report

Peter Bain presented the Capital Works quarterly report that covered the period from January to July 2024. There are 139 projects currently in the list for delivery, and the report includes a breakdown of the states of the various projects, including those that require more time or funding to complete. These include: the Eildon Reserve Redevelopment, which requires more time and funding; resealing of roads, which has a contract signed and is anticipated to be completed next year;

gravel roads re-sheeting, contract signed and estimated for completion next year; Eildon Pondage shade structure, which had works due to be commenced on site in mid-October; Maintongoon bridge replacement, which the contractor is preparing for final design; and a new trail construction at the Yea Wetlands, where works are expected to commence in November. The funding adjustment amounts have no impact on the overall budget.

Council voted to receive the quarterly report.

Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Gerencser was an apology and so gave no report, and Cr Lording declined to give a report.

Cr McAulay attended the last Business Resilience Breakfast at Jerusalem Creek's Café 501, with various businesses and organisations from the region also attending. She spoke about Murrindindi being listed as a finalist in the 2024 Victorian Industry Tourism Awards under the council category for the various projects council has been delivering. The innovation working groups Shaping Murrindindi's Future are developing projects and scopes to seek funding through the Community Development Fund, designed to support the local economy and community since native timber harvesting ended. Council has appointed Bill Bate as the Community Capacity Building Officer who will deliver a program of training and development programs for business, community, and individuals over the next 12 months. Cr McAulay also listed the various events that will be occurring over the next month and thanked everyone she worked with during this term on council, as well as the community and the many volunteers.

Cr Haslam began by saying that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the community as ward councillor for Eildon for the past four years. She continued by speaking to her portfolio matter of waste, which she is very passionate about. Murrindindi Shire Council will be introducing a four-bin system from July 2025, and National Recycling Week runs in November, where council will be out and about showing off the new bins. Cr Haslam gave a general summary of her four years as councillor, speaking to how things are looking up for Eildon after the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic, and detailed many of the projects that she, and her fellow councillors, have worked on over the past four years.

Cr Walsh started his report by talking about the Yarck General Store and Petrol Station finally opening for business, after five years of stagnation. He spoke to some of the projects he worked on during his time in office, especially the work to generate an

application for funding for a study hub to be established in Yea. The submission was sent last week, and successful applicants will be announced in December. The October meeting of the Yea Saleyards Committee highlighted that things are progressing well in that side of business. Cr Walsh also took some time to reflect on his 12 years of being a councillor, in particular, the progressive diminution of the role and autonomy of local government. He thanked the people he has worked with over this time.

Cr Carpenter reported that roadside slashing has commenced within the shire, and that road resealing is now underway, with works currently in Alexandra. The Yea Swimming Pool has had a new wet deck installed, pool interior painted, pipework repaired, and the pool filled ready for summer. Cr Carpenter thanked all those she has worked with this term and wished them good luck in future endeavours.

Cr Damien Gallagher gave his final mayoral report, describing recent events and successes. He has been briefed by Rural Australians for Refugees on their progress with the sponsorship of asylum seekers, as well as going to a community morning tea in Terip Terip to acknowledge the work of their CFA brigade. Council conferred Australian Citizenship to two new Murrindindi Australians, and the Emergency Services Community Engagement Day took place in Yea while the Heritage Machinery Festival took place in Alexandra. The final assembly of the Hume Region Local Government Network took place this month. In local news, Cr Gallagher spoke about Ray Steyger not seeking renomination after 28 years as president of the Alexandra Football Netball Club, Peter Weeks being inducted to the Community Broadcasting Honour Roll for his work on UGFM Radio Murrindindi, and the Alexandra Fire Brigade celebrating 150 years of service. He then thanked all the people he has worked with, the community, and various organisations.

Murrindindi Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi reported that council's submission to the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund has been successful, providing money to build key worker housing in Eildon. Council will build 18 housing units with 33 bedrooms in total, to support a range of industries. As mentioned by Cr Walsh, council has applied for federal funding to establish a Regional University Study Hub in Murrindindi Shire. Ms Bonazzi also stated that a high-speed internet upgrade is now available in Marysville through the NBN for free, with residents able to register. To register, call 1300 275 799. In a similar vein to the councillors, Ms Bonazzi thanked the councillors for their dedication and service over their term.

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Ten tips to reduce the risk of harvester fires this season

THE Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and fire safety experts are encouraging growers to implement practical measures to reduce the risk of harvester fires. Harvester hygiene and maintenance is vital.

About seven per cent of harvesters start a fire each year, in a range of crop types. One in 10 of these fires will cause significant damage to the machine or surrounding crop.

Kondinin Group research engineer Ben White said growers should maintain high levels of hygiene and pay attention to ongoing maintenance of machinery throughout harvest.

“Bearing failures are in many cases responsible for fires starting, so regular monitoring of bearing operating temperatures is important,” Mr White said.

“Operators should be conducting regular clean downs during harvest and exercising particular caution when harvesting leafy pulse crops, as these are renowned for dust volatility.

“In areas where growers are harvesting frost-affected crops, these crops may create higher levels of fine dust which can make the harvester work harder, resulting in higher exhaust gas temperatures, adding to the risk of fires.”

10 tips to improve harvester fire safety

Most harvester fires are caused by dust and trash build-up and bearing failures. Clean the machine down regularly, starting at the front then working in a top-down approach. A final blast of air over the exhaust system to dislodge any dust that may have been disturbed and settled during the clean down is recommended.

Pulse crops are substantially more volatile than cereals so extra care and vigilance is required when harvesting these.

Monitoring and logging bearing temperatures with an infra-red heat gun or thermal imager helps identify at-risk bearings so they can be replaced before failure.

Recognise the big four factors that contribute to fires: relative humidity, ambient temperature, wind, and crop type and conditions. Abide by state-based grain harvesting codes of practice and declared harvest bans and observe the Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) protocol on high fire risk days.

Have at least the minimum required water and fire-fighting unit in the paddock being harvested.

Having a pair of extinguishers (water and ABE) at the cab entry ladder and a

pair at the rear of the machine closer to the engine means fire-fighting options are available when and where they are needed. A fire suppression system provides the best chance of extinguishing a fire on a harvester.

Having a fire plan in place with the harvest team is imperative. Knowing who will do what and identifying communications channels to be used means everyone knows what to do. Having a listing of emergency numbers or uhf channels in the cab is essential.

Harvesting highly volatile crops like lentils across the paddock into the prevailing wind gives operators a better chance of containing the fire as incendiaries are blown onto stubble, not standing crop.

If operators do have a fire on board, pulling out of the crop immediately and facing the machine into the wind before attempting to fight it gives the operator the best chance of controlling the fire. Remember, harvesters are replaceable so prioritise personal safety.

Research has shown static does not have enough energy for the ignition of even the most volatile crop residues. Be mindful that it can, however, contribute to significant dust/fuel loads on the machine.

Getting the best out of your silage this season

ACCORDING to Agriculture Victoria, capitalising on any spring surplus will be critical on farms this year. While some things are out of our control, focusing on the following key factors will help ensure that you get the best possible return.

Five key factors for silage this season include: Only lock up pasture that is surplus to requirements. Making silage can be an expensive exercise, so it only makes sense when pasture growth exceeds animal requirements. In a reasonable year on most farms this generally occurs in early to mid September.

Use nitrogen to increase dry matter yield but cut pasture within six weeks of application, once cutting is delayed beyond six weeks, the quality of the silage declines more rapidly than if no nitrogen is applied. This can result in large quantities of low quality silage which is unsuitable to feed cows in the early stage of lactation. By using rates of nitrogen up to 50 kg N/ha when there is sufficient moisture available, responses of 18 kg DM/ha for every kg N applied, six weeks after application can be produced.

Be prepared to cut pasture when the ryegrass component of the sward is just reaching early ear emergence. Ideally, the plan is to cut pasture when the ryegrass component of the sward is at early ear emergence. Due to the seasonal conditions this year, it is more likely that paddocks may be cut at a range of times. For example, when it is still vegetative or later than early ear emergence. As a result, it will be critical to ensure that the forage hits dry matter targets quickly, so it doesn't lose quality.

Use tedders to increase the drying rate of cut material and so reduce the wilting period. It has been shown that the use of tedders has a beneficial effect on both final silage metabolisable energy and crude protein. The length of the wilting period will be dictated by the type of silage to be made and weather conditions. Given reasonable drying conditions material should be ready for pit silage within 48 hours and for bale silage within 72 hours.

Ensilage material quickly and seal well, it's important to ensure that the material being ensiled is tightly packed into either a pit or the bale and that it's sealed promptly. The ideal dry matter of pasture for pit silage is 30 per cent, any lower and effluent may be a problem, and any higher compaction may be difficult. The dry matter percentage of bale silage should be about 45 to 50 per cent. At this dry matter, a reasonable fermentation should occur, and it reduces the chance of spoilage.

For more information visit the Agriculture Victoria website at agriculture.vic.gov.au

The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



“Yeah, I'm an empty-nester, ...I just swoop for the fun of it!”

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Store Sale

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JANUARY 15, 2025 Yea Saleyards

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T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 21

Corvettes zoom into Alexandra



The Central Victorian Corvette Club visited Alexandra on Saturday, October 26, raising money for prostate cancer. -S

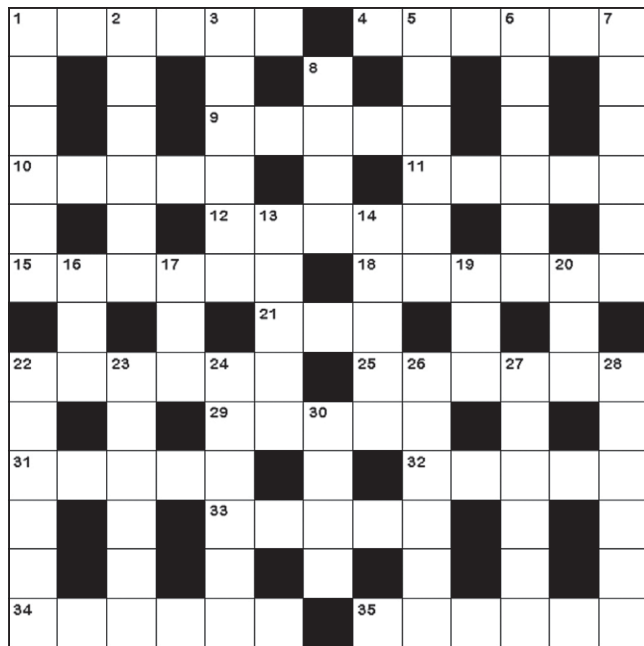


The club's stopover in Alexandra certainly drew plenty of curious onlookers. -S

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1. Not secure enough.
- 4. Where flowers and vegetables grow.
- 9. An extra tire for the car.
- 10. Raise up with ropes and pulleys.
- 11. Not in any circumstances.
- 12. Flowed back out to sea.
- 15. Following fashionable trends.
- 18. Blemished by injury or rough wear.
- 21. Take something from somebody illegally.
- 22. A photographer's workroom.
- 25. Something forming a border.
- 29. Set a trap for.
- 31. Turn in a twisting or spinning motion.
- 32. Something new, unusual, or different.
- 33. Prevent from happening.
- 34. Wanting more and more of everything.
- 35. Carefree and happy and light hearted.



- 13. Famous English romantic poet.
- 14. A glowing piece of wood left from a fire.
- 16. A fixed and usually boring routine.
- 17. A gesture of agreement.
- 19. A floor covering, smaller than a carpet.
- 20. An indefinitely long period of time.
- 22. Planting seeds.
- 23. The single one of its kind.
- 24. A land mass that is surrounded by water.
- 26. Of or relating to the teeth.
- 27. Turn inside out or upside down.
- 28. In great numbers.
- 30. The highest point.

DOWN

- 1. The final result; the outcome.
- 3. Went without food.
- 5. The items to be considered.
- 6. Someone who drives a herd of animals.
- 7. Came close to.
- 8. A young sheep.

Word Search

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

Math Square

	+	8	-		7
÷		÷		-	
	+		-	1	6
+		÷		+	
	-		+		12
11		1		11	

Halloween

- CANDY SCARY
- CAT SKELETON
- GHOST SPIDER
- MONSTER TREAT
- PUMPKIN TRICK
- SCARECROW ZOMBIE

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.

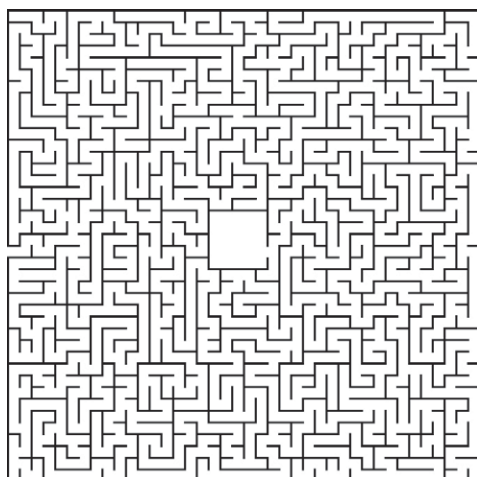
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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.

Maze



Don't ghost the ATO: lodge your tax return before Halloween

CERTIFIED Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia is urging Aussies to dust the cobwebs off their tax returns and ensure they lodge by the deadline of Thursday, October 31.

But don't be fooled by scammers who target taxpayers rushing to the finish line.

"There's nothing ghoulish about the tax man, but failing to lodge your tax return on time could ultimately mean a scary penalty," says CPA Australia's Tax Lead, Jenny Wong.

"Rushing to lodge can also result in more tricks than treats as scammers will target people with last-minute calls to action, or promises of substantial refunds.

"So, if you haven't already done it, set aside some time over the next week to compile your evidence and get your return in on time. Or seek expert advice from a registered tax agent who can assist, especially if your finances are complicated."

Individuals who lodge their own tax returns are required to do so by October 31, but those who use a tax agent have longer to lodge, as long as they are on their agent's books by the end of October.

"We're all busy and time can get away from us, but lodging your tax return on time is really important," says Ms Wong.

"Leaving it until the last minute comes with the risk that you cut corners, get things wrong and don't submit your return accurately. You could ultimately receive a less favourable outcome as a result.

"If submitting yourself through myGov, make sure you check the pre-filled information is correct, and don't just copy and paste the same deductions as last year.

"The more complex your earning activities and finances, the more you would benefit from professional help from a registered tax agent, like a CPA. They will ensure your tax return is completed thoroughly and accurately, plus you'll have longer to submit it. The sooner you get in touch, the better."

If you do miss the deadline, Ms Wong says contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as soon as possible.

"The ATO will usually take your personal circumstances into account and may not apply a penalty if this is your only late lodgement," she says.

Ms Wong also reminds Aussies to be vigilant of tax scams and don't click on links in SMS messages claiming to be from the ATO.

"Tax scams become more and more sophisticated every year, and scammers pray on the circumstances at the time. In this case the deadline to lodge is approaching.

"Be very wary of anyone offering unsolicited, last-minute help to file your tax returns, especially if the offer or promise of returns sounds too good to be true.

"Scams could come via email, social media, text message or phone call. It's also a good idea to remind your friends and family to be extra cautious as scammers step up their activity in the lead-up to the deadline."

CPA Australia recently released tips on how to spot a tax time scam, which can be found on their website at tinyurl.com/39rpy3s3

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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Henry and Jake have worked hard this week to display Achievement and Resilience.

Well done.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Aiden

Aiden has had a great start to term four. His participation and effort in our swimming program last week was fantastic. He made excellent progress and really tried his best. Even though the swimming was tiring, he went home every day with a smile on his face and a positive attitude. We are all really proud of you Aiden.

Student of the Week

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Blue skies for Open Gardens weekend



Kim and Brydan from Taggerty with their grandchildren, Zoe and James, in Leanne and Allan's garden in Buxton. -AR



Leanne McCready in her lovely Buxton garden. -AR



Darren Gilbert with some of his wonderful sculptures decorating Leanne McCready and Allan Bull's garden. -AR

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Thunderstorm asthma is a big risk

WITH ryegrass pollen season being well underway in Victoria, Asthma Australia urges people with hay fever to take thunderstorm asthma seriously.

This pollen is a major trigger for asthma and allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and high levels of pollen contributed to the state's Thunderstorm Asthma (TSA) Epidemic in 2016. Asthma Australia is urging people with not just asthma, but also hay fever, to be prepared.

On November 21, 2016, more than 3500 people across Victoria presented to emergency rooms in respiratory distress. Tragically, the 2016 TSA event was associated with 10 asthma fatalities. Ryegrass pollen had peaked in the days leading up to the event. Rain and moisture ruptured the ryegrass pollen grains so they were small enough to be inhaled. A thunderstorm then brought the particles down to ground level.

Of all those presenting with thunderstorm asthma, hay fever was present in the vast majority (87 per cent), while asthma was previously known to be present in only 28 per cent.

While all asthma fatalities were exclusively linked to people with an asthma diagnosis, an unusually high number of people presented to hospital with respiratory distress who had only ever had hay fever.

Professor Jo Douglass, AO, is an Asthma Australia spokesperson, respiratory and allergy specialist and Director of Research at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She said that the TSA event revealed that many people who believe they only experience hay fever actually have asthma.

"We reviewed those who had presented to hospital with thunderstorm asthma. Evidence revealed that one third of people who described only having hay fever symptoms before going to hospital with thunderstorm asthma, actually experienced asthma symptoms but did not recognise them.

"It's important to recognise hay fever symptoms associated with asthma, like night waking and morning wheezing, and to see a doctor for an asthma review. People with undiagnosed asthma need to receive a formal diagnosis so they can begin to manage their condition.

"This could help reduce their risk of an asthma attack or hospitalisation during future thunderstorm asthma events," she said.

It may also reduce symptoms during the spring hay fever season such as night waking with cough or wheeze or shortness of breath when outdoors.

The general ryegrass pollen season runs from August to December in Victoria. The state has experienced a number of less serious thunderstorm asthma epidemics before the 2016 event, with each event occurring in November and every springtime season brings an increase in emergency department attendances of those with allergies and asthma.

While TSA has been mostly described in the South East of Australia, ryegrass pollen seasons do happen across the rest of Australia, so it's important for all people with asthma and hay fever to be prepared.

Susceptibility factors for thunderstorm asthma include asthma, hay fever, ryegrass pollen sensitisation (allergy), and poor use of prescribed corticosteroid-based asthma preventer therapy, which is the mainstay of asthma management.

Being outdoors at the time of the TSA event was also identified as a risk factor.

To lower their chance of having thunderstorm asthma, people with asthma should engage in good asthma management year round. This means ensuring they have at least an annual asthma review with their GP and that their Asthma Action Plan is up to date so they understand what steps to take in the event of an asthma flare up or emergency. Now is the perfect time for this in the lead up to TSA season.

Using a preventer inhaler, keeping hay fever under control, taking any necessary hay fever medicines and having scripts and supply of asthma and hay fever medicines ready are also key.

Checking pollen levels, and where possible, avoiding being outside on these days, especially at the start of a thunderstorm, may also be important. A world leading forecasting system is available for all Victorians to use either via the VicEmergency app or the website.

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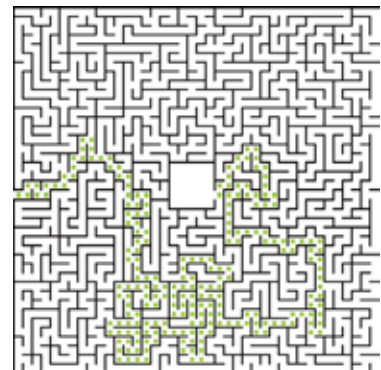
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MATH SQUARES

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MAZE



SUDOKU

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Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Member vacancies - Victorian Class B cemetery trusts

The following Class B cemetery trusts are seeking new members. In these volunteer roles you will gain hands-on experience in managing a public cemetery and valuable governance skills as a member of a public board. Free governance training is provided.

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Who should apply?

Trusts need people with a range of skills and experiences including administration, committees, and groundskeeping. Women and people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

What it means to be a Victorian cemetery trust member

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for terms up to five years on the recommendation of the Minister for Health. Cemetery trusts are responsible for the management of public cemeteries, including planning for future cemetery services for their communities.

How to register your interest

Contact the applicable cemetery trust within two weeks of this advertisement date:

Victorian Class B cemetery trust	Contact details
Eildon Weir Cemetery Trust	0438 742 975
Gobur Cemetery Trust	goburcemeterytrust@yahoo.com
Yarck Cemetery Trust	5773 4281

Interested in further information about cemetery trusts?

Class B cemetery trust member vacancies are advertised and regularly updated on the 'Join a Public Board' website <https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/victorian-class-b-cemetery-trust-volunteer-positions-vcv> all year round!

Simply go to the website for further information about Class B cemetery trusts, to view a full list of trusts that currently have vacancies and details how to apply!

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. We encourage applications from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people. The trust will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request.

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GARAGE SALES

ALEXANDRA, 25 Stones Road. Just after turn off onto UT Creek Road. Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3 from 9am to 2pm. Please no early callers both days. Assorted goods and lots of horse gear.

ALEXANDRA, 5 Aitken Street. Saturday, November 2. 8.30am-3pm. Collectables, vintage items, rusty farm items, 50's outdoor tables, antiques, garagenalia, old milk cans, heaps more.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$30 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

DEATH NOTICES

BUCKLER, Grace Mary (nee Ross).

13/07/1928 - 14/10/2024

Treasured memories of our Aunty 'Gracie' whose love of her family, friends, gardening, and nature will shine on. Loving thoughts are with Geoff, Colin and their families from Bob and Margie, Alison and Gary and families.



DEATH NOTICES

WILKS, Pat.

Passed away on 11/10/2024. Much loved and adored Nana to Keeley and Ireland. Loved and special friend to Carol and Kenny, Manny and Hayden, Ted, Cath and family.

Will be sadly missed.

WILKS, Pat. In loving memory of a wonderful friend. A silent thought, a secret tear keeps your memory in our hearts forever. Love, Naughty Nanna's of Yea.



BUCKLER, Grace Mary. Age 96 years. Youngest daughter of Alexander and Thelma Ross. Passed away on Monday, October 14, 2024. Wife of Campbell Buckler (dec). Sister to Jean (Boughen), May (Dakin), Mac Ross, and David Ross (twin), all pre-deceased. Mother to sons Geoffrey and Colin. Grandmother to Belinda (dec), Tracy and Ben and Shanna (dec) and Sam. Great grandmother to Kaitlin, Sophie and Emma.

SITUATION VACANT



Job Vacancy ID: 1445945

Reception/General Administration Assistant

We are currently seeking a Receptionist/General Administration Assistant for our school. This is a full time fixed term 12 month leave replacement position commencing 28/01/2025.

- Current Working with Children Check required

Applications can be made online via Recruitment Online or email your application to Alexandra.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Applications close Wednesday, November 6, 2024

The Principal, Alexandra Primary School, P.O. Box 318, Alexandra, 3714.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of intention to apply for a Licence to Take and Use Water (Non-Consumptive Purposes), a Licence to Construct a Weir, Off Take and Outflow on a Waterway, and a Licence to Operate Works on a Waterway

GMW Reference No: BSW0151-24, WLCM0008-24, BSW0152-24

We Rubicon Station Pty Ltd
 Of 411 Rubicon Road, Rubicon VIC 3712
 Refer to Vic Roads Map: 62 F6 (ed. 8)
 Have made application to Goulburn- Murray Water (GMW) for a Licence to:

- Take and Use Water (For Non-Consumptive Purposes); and
- Construct a Weir, Off Take and Outflow; and
- Operate Works

To be located on Rubicon River at 441 Rubicon Road, Rubicon VIC 3712

To be constructed and used on land described as:

Volume	Folio	Lot No.	Plan No.	Plan Type	Crown Allotment	Section	Parish
10643	496	1	446718M	PS			
10643	497	2	446718M	PS			
11772	194				36	8	Taggerty

Any person able to demonstrate that their interests will be affected by the transfer of this Licence including any intended Surface Water use, is invited to make a formal submission setting out the nature of the impact within 14 days of receipt of this written notification. To make a submission please read the information available to download from. Make a submission about a licence application - Goulburn Murray Water (g-mwater.com.au) or contact GMW to arrange a copy to be posted to you. Submissions must be lodged using the GMW template available by either mail or email to, licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au or PO Box 165, TATURA VIC 3616.



Book your classified ad by 12 noon Monday.



Alexandra Newspapers
 Phone 5772 1002
 43 Grant St. Alexandra Vic. 3714
 Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Blue skies for Open Gardens weekend



Noel McIlwraith in the backyard of her town garden in Alexandra. Her and her husband John have been in the property for 10 years, and working on the garden for the entirety of that time. They had Rotary providing scones and tea in their garden, allowing visitors to have a feed while they marvelled at all the greenery. -BD



Rosalie Purcell in her garden in Yarck, which she has been working on for many years. The garden wraps around her entire house, and incorporates features such as her water tank, bird feeder, and other curiosities. It is a good mixture of open space edged by colourful garden beds and expansive hills in the background to cap it all off. -BD



Brendan and Sandra. -AR



Visitors to Sandra and Brendan's beautiful garden in Buxton. -AR



Michelle Fleming and Michael Heyes. -AR

Classifieds

SITUATION VACANT



RECEPTIONIST

St Mary's Alexandra is looking for a friendly and bubbly receptionist. This position is initially for 12 months, with the possibility of ongoing employment. Hours are 8:30am – 4:00pm five days a week, FTE 0.93.

We are seeking enthusiastic applicants who are able to demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills, support the vision and mission of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and our Catholic values. Applicants must display professional behaviours when engaging in child-connected work, have an ongoing interest in children and be willing to participate in a range of school related activities.

The suitably qualified applicant will:

- Present an image of welcome for all visitors to the school
- Handle all telephone and email enquiries professionally and redirect calls/emails to the appropriate staff member.
- Assist with the preparation of internal and external publications.
- Assist with the coordination of school functions and events.
- Complete electronic filing/scanning of all records related to enrolment.
- Ensure a tidy and professional presentation of the foyer and administration area.
- Provide administrative support in order to ensure an effective and efficient administration office.
- Assist to schedule appointments for staff.
- Fulfil the role for emergency procedures as outlined in the Emergency Management Plan.
- Maintain student health information displays, medical action plans and the administration of medication as per school policy.
- Carry out the duties for First Aid including but not limited to, managing the sickbay, ensure all first aid kits are stocked to WorkCover specifications and the First Aid room is maintained appropriately as per school policy.
- Manage the visitor attendance register and ensuring compliance with family access, court orders and duty of care obligations.

If you would like to join us in being part of a team that works to ensure growth and success in our students, please send details as outlined below. St Mary's is a child safe school and as such successful applicants should hold or be willing to acquire a **Working with Children Check** and a **National Police Record Check**.

How to apply:

A detailed position description and application are available by contacting the principal at principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au or visiting smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

Please include your recent employer details and two (2) referees

Please express your interest by **Tuesday, November 5, 2024.**



Visitors strolling through the Heyes garden with the backdrop of the Cathedral Range. -AR



Rosalie Purcell's garden in Yarck. -BD



Noel and John McIlwraith's magnificent garden in Alexandra. -BD

Blue skies for Open Gardens weekend



Costa Georgiadis enjoying a scone with jam and cream at Noel and John McIlwraith's garden. -S



The shrubbery and carefully cultivated gardens that edge the driveway of Georgie and Will Lecky's property in Acheron. -BD



A small part of the Attunga gardens in Thornton, with a pond and rolling hills in the background. -BD



Bob Flowers works on the backyard, which is a more traditional English-style garden with sprawling greenery and hedges. -BD



You wouldn't know that Louise and Bob Flowers' garden is in the centre of Alexandra with all the natural greenery. -BD



Louise and Bob Flowers share their garden in central Alexandra. Louise works on the front yard, which is very native inspired and has a beautiful entry. -BD



A shawl was wrapped around the Princess Alexandra statue for the Alexandra Open Gardens weekend in support of breast cancer research. -BD



Heidi, the head gardener of the Attunga gardens in Thornton. The owners purchased the property in 2003, and Paul Bengay was brought in to design the garden. It sprawls across four acres, with a variety of things to look at and sections to discover. It is based around 13 elm trees, but has water fountains, ponds, arbors, shrubbery, flowers, and more. -BD



A large crowd gathered to listen to celebrity gardeners Costa Georgiadis, Joost Baker and Peter at Marion Rennie's garden on Sunday afternoon. -BD



Georgie Lecky in the garden of her and husband Will's house in Acheron, which also gets rented out as accommodation. The garden has some amazing views of the rolling hills, and a long driveway wraps all the way around the house, edged with gorgeous foliage. -BD

Pennant bowls round two for Alexandra

by Marie Evans

ROUND two of pennant bowls saw Alexandra Bowls Club division four win again and division six make an improvement on last week. Division four travelled to Merrigum Bowls Club and division six had a home game against Nagambie.

Alexandra won three out of four rinks at Merrigum. The grass green was challenging but players soon adapted. The best winning rink was Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist. They won ten ends out of twenty-one. They trailed eight to 12 on end 11 but won the next four ends to lead 22 to 12 on end 15. The final six ends were three each, but Alexandra won 27 to 17.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Bob Benghamy, Clive Murphy and Ian Franklin also had a great win with 11 winning ends. Alexandra had a commanding lead by end 10 of 16 to seven. Merrigum reduced that by five shots to trail 11 to 16 by end 12. Alexandra led 19 to 15 by end 18. They won the next two ends to lead 27 to 15. The final end went to Merrigum with the game going to Alexandra 27 to 18.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Andy Tobias, Karen Jackson, and Mark Stone won 13 out of 21 ends. They led for the entire game and were 13 to five at the break. It was 18 to eight on end 19. Merrigum won the last two ends, but Alexandra had a comfortable lead and won 18 to 12.

David Nicklos (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, John Blamey and Rob Roach trailed seven to 15 on end 10 but had reduced that to 12 to 16 by end 14. Merrigum weren't to be denied and had an eight shot lead by end 17, 12 to 20. Alexandra won the next two ends to only trail by four shots with two ends remaining. Merrigum won the next and Alexandra the last with the win going to Merrigum 21 to 17.

The final score was Alexandra 89 shots with 16 points and Merrigum 68 shots and two points. The ladder is Alexandra 30 points, 128 per cent, Euroa 30 points 121 per cent, Dookie 20 points and



Winning rink of Bob Benghamy, Clive Murphy, Ian Franklin, and Tim Langmead. -S

Mooroopna 19. Alexandra play Seymour at home next round. Seymour is currently in eighth place.

Division six played at home against Nagambie. Ray Mathieson (Skip), Christine Murphy, Steve Kirby and Warren Nelson trailed three to eight on end 10 but were in the lead nine to eight by end 12. Nagambie had a four shot lead by end 14 but you can't keep a good team down and Alexandra won five out of the next seven ends to win the game 17 to 15. The club says well done to all players and especially new bowlers only playing their second pennant game, Steve Kirby and Warren Nelson.

With many players away or on the injured list it has been fantastic to see so many new players taking to the green.

The club congratulates the four members of the Petersen family who played Saturday. Rodd Petersen (Skip), Anne Gunton, Mark Petersen (son of Rodd and his first game) and Janice Dunston met some tough opposition losing six to 19.

On the other green Coby Petersen (Skip), Mal Gill, Pauline Gilmore and Sue-Ellen Petersen, (Coby's daughter-in-law and first gamer) also put up a good fight against Nagambie losing nine to 22. Nagambie won the over all 56 to 32. Alexandra play away to Violet Town next week.

Midweek will play East Shepparton on Tuesday so details of that game next week. Reminder to all players who entered club games, the draws are out.

A new chapter for the Alexandra Football Netball Club

AT the recent Annual General Meeting of the Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC), Ray Steyger officially stepped down as club president, marking the conclusion of an extraordinary era. His decision was celebrated by a remarkable turnout of supporters, all eager to honor his significant achievements over three decades.

Ray's presidency spanned an impressive 28 years, following his time as vice president from 1995 to 1996.

His leadership has been defined by steadfast advocacy for both football and netball, extending beyond our club to include 10 years as president of the Seymour Junior League and eight years leading the Central Goulburn Football League. Under Ray's guidance, junior players have thrived in a vibrant club atmosphere featuring six netball teams and five football teams, engaging over 200 children from our community.

Among his many contributions, Ray has been instrumental in securing grants that have substantially improved the AFNC's facilities, including enhancements to the clubrooms and netball precinct. His efforts have not only driven growth within our teams but have also strengthened community bonds among players, supporters, and local residents.

Throughout his presidency, Ray has championed initiatives that emphasise skill development, sportsmanship, and inclusivity, ensuring every member, player, and volunteer feels appreciated.

His dedication to community spirit is evident in his crucial role in organizing ANZAC Day events, which honor this important occasion and raise funds for the RSL. This annual tradition has become vital, with the RSL relying heavily on these contributions for its operations.

Ray also actively supports mental health initiatives, such as the Cool Heads program, collaborating with local police, CFA, and paramedics. He was also the inaugural recipient of the AFL Victoria CDS Vic Club of the Year award, successfully raising over \$14,000 through the Container Deposit Scheme.



Ray Steyger and Kylie Cairns. -S

His iconic beard has become a beloved symbol throughout both the competition and the community.

This transition has been thoughtfully planned over several years, paving the way for positive change within the club. As the club welcomes incoming president Kylie Cairns, they honor the legacy Ray has built and look forward to an exciting future ahead.

Grants to upgrade community sports facilities

THE Victorian Government is investing millions across the state to upgrade and build new local sports facilities.

Applications are now open for the *Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (RCSIF)* and the *2024-25 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF)* to help local communities plan, design and build the sport facilities they need.

The four funding streams in the *Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund* will help regional communities plan and build everything from indoor stadiums and aquatic facilities, upgrades for women and girls, community facilities, and infrastructure and planning to encourage people from all abilities to get involved.

Additional grants of up to \$50,000 are also available through the *Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund* to help boost participation for people with disability at the new or upgraded facilities.

The *RCSIF* is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* and the *All Abilities Sport Fund* and since the first round of the program opened has invested more than \$20 million in 26 projects across the state.

Through *LSIF*, metropolitan councils can apply for funds towards a range of community sports infrastructure and active recreation projects including sports courts, lights, change rooms, playgrounds, skate parks, to benefit local clubs and communities.

The fund has three funding streams including community facilities, community sports lighting, and planning.

Since 2014 the state government has invested more than \$2.3 billion to deliver world class community sport infrastructure that boosts participation and improves accessibility for more Victorians.

Both funds open Monday, October 28, with *LSIF* closing on February 17, 2025, and *RCSIF* closing on March 17, 2025.

For more information about the funds or to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding

More opportunities for women to be leaders in sport

THE Victorian Government is helping more women to take on leadership roles in the sport sector, with grants of up to \$10,000 for women to upskill and progress their careers.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence recently announced that more than 100 women will get access to professional development and training opportunities through the *2024-25 Change Our Game Professional Development Scholarships Program*.

"This program is not only supporting women to advance their careers in sport, it's helping us work towards gender equity in the sport sector," Ms Spence said.

"We are shaping the future of sport for generations to come. We're getting more women into leadership roles which will deliver better experiences for girls now and into the future."

The program has six main streams, from supporting those in the early years of their careers or returning from a career break such as parental leave, through to executives and new and aspiring board members.

Recipients will get access to a range of professional development opportunities like governance training, access to leading career coaches, and courses specifically tailored to give women the skills and confidence to excel in their careers.

Erin Clout, who is the Head of Player Relations at Professional Footballers Australia, is doing a Foundations of Directorship course to build her skills and advance her aspirations to become a board director in the sport and recreation sector.

Since 2018, the *Change Our Game* program has provided more than 600 opportunities for women who work in a range of sporting organisations.

For more information on the program, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au

SPORT



Shiloh Clacy enjoying the under eight high jump session. -S



Declan Baker flying through the triple jump. -S



Ethan Boulton sending the discus. -S



Declan Armstrong bounding during the triple jump sequence. -S

Triple the fun at Little Athletics

WHAT a delightful Saturday it turned out to be after a frosty night, setting the perfect scene for young athletes to shine. The crisp air didn't dampen spirits as participants dove headfirst into a day packed with excitement at Little Athletics.

The action kicked off with the 1500-metre race walk that had competitors striding with purpose, while the younger kids tackled their own 1100m challenge. Then it was triple jump time and the 400m sprint added a dash of speed to the day, and the discus and shot

put events were in full swing, showcasing strength and technique.

The junior athletes were particularly excited to explore the javelin experience, instead of traditional javelins, they threw vortexes, learning the ropes while having a blast. Several age groups also took on the junior high jump, with many achieving personal bests, giving reason to celebrate.

To top it all off, juice box awards were handed out, rewarding the athletes' efforts and boosting morale. And let's not forget the sizzling sausages sold to hungry parents and

athletes, an essential fundraiser for the club that brings everyone together.

The club gives a huge shout-out to the many parents who make these events possible. From marking lines during the week to starting races, measuring jumps and throws, coaching, and running the barbecue, your hard work does not go unnoticed. Without your support, the young athletes wouldn't be able to have such fun.

Here's to more fun-filled Saturdays at Little Athletics, where every leap, sprint, and throw counts.



Benji Cavill clearing 110m in the high jump. -S

Lots of sport for Alexandra Secondary College

by Ally Crouch

Alexandra Secondary College: Excelling in Excellence!

STUDENTS at Alexandra Secondary College (ASC) have been excelling in the sporting arena. On October 10, 19 of their students represented the college at the Hume Secondary Track and Field Regional Championships.

This was a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their athletic skills and compete against a diverse range of athletes. The school gives thanks to Anita Carr for her support at this regional final, and congratulations to Levi Campbell for earning the title of 12 to 13 Year Old Age Champion at the championships.

Additionally, Nathan Henricks triumphed in the 17-year-old boys' javelin event with an impressive throw of 30.67 meters, securing his spot in the School Sport Victoria Track and Field State Championships. At the state level, Nathan represented the school admirably, finishing seventh with a throw of 34.41 meters.

On October 18, eight students represented Alexandra Secondary College at the 40th Annual Benalla Clay Target Championships. The day was a fantastic success, and students gained a lot of experience during the championship.

Caleb Carden won the 'Old Boys Trophy', and was also successful in a shootout for the high gun competition, placing second. Emmie Clark won the 'Old Girls Trophy'. This is a fantastic result for the college, and they are extremely proud of their students. The school also says thanks also to Stuart Coward and Ben Clark for accompanying the students.

The Year 7 boys' volleyball team proudly represented the college at the Hume Secondary Volleyball Region Finals. Despite being a late call-up due to another team withdrawing, these young men rose to the challenge and gave their all in every match.

Meanwhile, the Year 7 girls' volleyball team also secured a spot in the Hume Secondary Volleyball Region Finals. These talented athletes dedicated themselves to numerous lunchtime training sessions over the past three months, under the guidance of coaches Anne and George Nadj. Their commitment, especially in the last month, has been remarkable and unwavering.

Throughout the competition, these students showcased their skills with composure and exceptional teamwork, dominating the matches against Catholic College Wodonga, Greater Shepparton Secondary College, and Tallangatta Secondary College.

On November 15, they will proudly represent the college at the School Sport Victoria State Volleyball Finals. The school gives a special thank you to Kat Du Guesclin for accompanying the team on Thursday, October 24.

If you happen to drive past Alexandra Secondary College at lunchtime, you'll undoubtedly see students enjoying their time on the oval or heading over to the stadium. With a newly built Gaga Pit, a freshly marked ultimate frisbee field, volleyball training in the stadium, lunchtime gym sessions, and squash games, the students at ASC are staying active and engaged.



The Alexandra Secondary College girls' volleyball team. -S



The Alexandra Secondary College boys' volleyball team that competed. -S

Alexandra under 13 cricket wrap

THE under 13 Alexandra cricketers' season kicked off last Saturday with Alexandra Red travelling to Yea and Alexandra Black playing at Rebel Park against the other Yea under 13 side.

They were greeted with a frosty morning and the ground looking a picture. Yea won the toss and elected to bat first.

J Johnson and D Tait opened the batting for Yea with Dusty Fitzpatrick and Jack Laverty opening the bowling for Alexandra. Jack broke through first dismissing D Tait for three with a great caught and bowled. Yea were 1/8 after two overs.

I White came in at number three and put on a nice partnership with J Johnson, taking the score to 30 before she was dismissed for two, bowled by Nathan Webb. J Johnson retired soon after making a nice 19.

C Grant and T Johnson both batted well and ended up retiring on 10 and 18 runs respectively. A McGulliveay chipped in with 12 runs and with extras on 37, Yea's innings closed at 5/113 off their 25 overs.

Skipper Dusty bowled tidily finishing with 0/10 off four overs, Jack Laverty 2/24 off three overs, Nathan Webb, 1/12 off three overs, Olli Laverty 0/15 off four overs, Will Donahue 0/18 off four overs, Sam Weisse 1/17 off four overs and Kayden Andrews 1/13 off three overs.

Alexandra would have to bet well to chase down Yea's total. Jack Laverty and Will Donahue opened the batting for Alexandra and it wasn't long before Yea broke through with the dangerous Will being bowled by D Tait for two. Alex were 1/9.

Nathan Web came in at three and he had Jack took the score along to 33 before Jack was out for seven, caught by D Tait off the bowling of I White.

Dusty Fitzpatrick came in at four and was immediately on the look out for runs. Following the fall of Nathan's wicket for three, Kayden Andrews came in and together with Dusty built a great partnership with both batters retiring, Dusty on 23 and Kayden on 13. Some good hitting by Same Weisse, very well supported by Olli Laverty, saw Alexandra Black pass Yea's score in the 22nd over. Alexandra finished on 5/115.

It was a really good game of cricket played in good spirit. Everyone in the Alexandra team chipped in and did their bit for the team.

Alexandra Golf Club news

by Elizabeth Goss

ON Wednesday the third round of the ladies' championship was played. Donna Meggitt won the day with 84 (15) 69. The runner-up was Marion Williamson with 103 (31) 72 followed by Marg Fahey 98 (24) 74.

Nearest the pin on the fifth went to Julie Lyon, on the seventh to Judy Pearson and on the 18th to Donna Meggitt. Sandy Wettenhall won the nine-holes with 33.5. Next Wednesday, October 30 is stroke and the final round of the championships.

Leo Dynes had a good score on Tuesday with (20) 40 points. The runner-up was John Greatorex with (18) 35 points followed by Brad Newton with (12) 33 points. Nearest the pin on the 17th went to Brad Newton, and on the 18th to Greg Millard. Ball rundown: Greg Millard, Graham Emmerson and Nick Emmerson.

Thanks to everyone who helped with erecting and taking down the race club fence for the races on Saturday. The stableford round played on Sunday was won by Alan Kirkpatrick with (28) 41 points. The runner-up was Mick Holohan with (9) 40 points. Next came Michael Bossonnet on (12) 37 points followed by Dave Silverman with (12) 37 points.

James Kidd was nearest the pin on the 12th, Shane McGorlick on the fifth and John Greatorex on the 18th. Todd Galloway won the raffle. Next Saturday, November 2 is a big day with the final round of the Men's Club Championships, Monthly Medal and count your putts. There are a good numbers of juniors, 26 so far, attending the clinic on Monday Evenings.

Don't forget the Cook Run on Thursday evenings at 5pm.



Merton cricketers did their best against Milawa. -S

Tight match against Milawa for Merton cricketers

MERTON Cricket Club hosted top side Milawa last Saturday with the visitors taking victory in an entertaining match which went down to the wire in the second last over.

Milawa won the toss and sent Merton in with the visitors on top early. With the wicket of the dangerous Luke Benton for zero, Jai Lerch-Mackinnon and Matt Storer both scoring runs at will, Lerch-Mackinnon was particularly damaging smashing 47 in quick time including three sixes.

Storer with 32 was Merton's next best scorer. D Witham with 3/43 and keeper N DeVries with four catches the top performers for the visitors.

Milawa started strong punishing any loose bowling and looked like cruising

to victory. However some tight bowling and good catching saw wickets fall in quick succession. Matt Storer 2/18 and son Adam 2/12 saw the game become a real contest with Milawa falling to 7/113.

A line ball stumping that went in the batsmen favour in the last five overs added to the excitement of the match, however the young Merton side probably didn't have quite enough runs to get over the line, with Milawa taking victory in the 34th over. J Papworth 42 and R Corsini 36 the top scorers.

The young brigade from H Berriman, N Whittall and H Craddock the other wicket takers. All sides have the bye over the long weekend then Merton host Delatite at the Merton Cricket Ground on November 9.

Final round for ladies club championship at Marysville

by Lesley Rundle

IT was another glorious sunny day at the Marysville Golf Club when last Saturday both the men and the ladies played a stroke round. The ladies game was the fourth and final round of their club championships and with the results of three of the four rounds taken into account Jody Doran (11) was declared the 2024 Ladies Scratch Champion.

Jody scored 86, 87 and 88 for a total of 261. The winner of the handicap section was Heather Jenkins (20) with nett 71, 72 and 74 and a total of nett 217. The club congratulates both ladies for their well deserved win.

Heather and Jody also played well in the daily competition with Heather winning with nett 72 and Jody was runner up with nett 77.

The men's daily winner was Steve Coker (19) with nett 69 followed by Ken Whittingham (32) with nett 71. Nearest the pins were won by Keith Atwell, Andrew O'Shea, Peter Lilley and Adam Littlejohn who also won the Golden Shot. Heather Jenkins won the putting with 28 putts.

Members welcomed Mark Barlow from Morwell to the competition who was visiting Marysville on a trip around Victoria. Next Saturday both the men and the ladies will play stroke for the November monthly medal.

Organisers of the 50th Anniversary Golf Competition and Dinner on Saturday, November 9 and the Men's Mixed Tournament on November 10 are still accepting entries and details of each of those events can be read on the Marysville Community Golf and Bowls Club website.

Members are asked to please sign the list for entry into the Murrindindi Masters at Eildon on Saturday, November 16 and those who are able to assist in any way with a working bee at the club during the week beginning Monday, November 4 are asked to contact Jody Doran on 0412 654 555.

Club championships begin at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttamatic

LAST week was the October monthly medal, the first week of the club championship and the first round of the golden putter competitions at Eildon Golf Club. Twenty-two players went along and competed on a near perfect day, with the course recovering from coring and looking fantastic.

It is great to see new players embracing the club, with the newest member of Denis McDonald taking out the October medal with a nett 66. Runner-up was Marion Williamson with nett 68 on countback from Rod Taylor, Mark Mackwell and Colin Long all with nett 68.

Other winners, Kerry Power took out the nearest the pin with his second shot on the third, on the fifth was Leigh Munro, the 11th Phil Gourlay, 12th Marion Williamson and on the 14th Mark Mackwell.

Glenn Whyte from Eastwood Golf Club and Wayne Kupke secured drinks on the eighth with birdies as did Leigh Munro on the 15th. Saturday night everyone came together to celebrate the club's year of golf at the Rubicon Hotel with presentation night and congratulations to all the winners.

Next week will also be a stroke round, the second round of the club championships and the second round of the golden putter.

Term four pennant continues at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Kangaroos versus Koalas

JORDAN versus Eric: A consistently strong game for Jordan. Winning every game and the match, there was no question who the champion was. 81 to 42.

Justin versus Simon: Fantastic rallies. Justin just had a bit more in the tank in the last game to take home the win. 67 to 56.

Mick versus Lee: The ball was moving in this match. Fast and accurate shots were abundant with these two, but Mick came out on top. 68 to 35.

Echidnas versus Wombats

Ethan versus Lochlan: Both played well, displaying great court coverage and beautiful shots. Ethan was ahead going into the third game and continued to excel to claim the match. 69 to 44.

Matt versus Chris: Matt started with a strong first game. Bringing up the rear, Chris

lessened the margin by winning the next two games only to get crushed in the finale. A devastating win to Matt. 70 to 48.

Jared versus Daniel W: With fire in his heart Daniel came to burn some rubber. Jared couldn't hold a candle against the blaze that was his opponent. A fierce victory for Daniel. 71 to 47.

James versus Derrick: An interesting match. Derrick won three games, which you would assume to be enough to win. Unfortunately for him, his absolute failure in game three allowed James to take home the match. 62 to 54.

Thursday Competition Tigers versus Cheetahs

Randy versus Jess: In the end, experience won out. Randy found some form in the final game, but Jess already had an unassailable lead and claimed her victory. 78 to 33.

Lucas versus Trav: Great rallies. Both adversaries had awesome shots, deep and

mixed well with cheeky drop shots. Lucas pulled ahead to triumph. 63 to 50.

James versus Jim: Beginning with a strong start, Jim was in the lead. Turning the tide, James won the second by a point, only to have the third go to Jim again. In a shocking turn of events, James roused all the skills he could to win the final game and overthrow his opponent to take the match. 63 to 58.

Panthers versus Leopards

Sam versus Kristelle: If hitting a high fault was a sport Kristelle would have been amazing tonight. Sadly this is regular squash and her faults cost her dearly. Sam had some spectacular serves and return that only increased his massive lead for him to take home the win. 71 to 52.

Phil versus Michael H: Michael broke free in the third after two tight games. Lots of long rallies in the second. Phil fought on in survival mode, but Michael showed no mercy for the win. 68 to 46.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

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SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Keen spectators watching the horses come home. -BD

Sunny skies for Alexandra Cox Plate

HAVE you ever seen rain comin' down on a sunny day? Not last Saturday, not at Royal Alexandra Race Club. Torrential rain, record breaking years of flood and Covid-19 were faint memories as the club revelled in the return of Alexandra's Cox Plate Day meeting on a gorgeous day in front of a gorgeous crowd.

The opening race of Alexandra's season was a thriller with less than a length separating the place getters. Stalwart trainer Ron Hockley won the season's opening honours with seven year old, *Some Eclipse*, ridden by Tracey Johnson. After 30 starts, the horse finally broke it's maiden status proving that oldies can be goodies.

A special family remembered Pam on a day, in a way that reflected Pam's warm, inclusive and generous spirit. Pam's race was won by *Portobello Road* ridden by Leigh Taylor for trainer Tony Rosolini.

Bennett Williams, involved in several property developments in the area, sponsored race four. The race was won by *Feudal Empire* for trainer John Keane. Keane also trained *Jennizacinto*, winner of the last race. Tom Brassart rode the double for Keane signalling the possible arrival of new dynamic trainer-rider duo.

Leading picnic trainer Troy Kilgower brought a string of five horses to the meeting. Grant Seccomb rode Kilgower's horse, *Miss Leyland*, to victory in race two. The Kyabram Hire Services Maiden 1540m.

The Whanregarwen Pastoral Trophy T2 1300m was won by the Paul Worthington trained *Pindara Point* ridden by Leigh Taylor.

It was significant that each winning horse was trained by the owner or, for, his family syndicate. That fact may be a punting tip or a feature of the intimacy of picnic racing. Whichever, picnic racing is truly grass roots racing and one of the reasons we love it so much.

Not since *Winx* last won her last Cox Plate have we enjoyed such a wondrous day at Royal Alexandra. President Chris Walsh thank all sponsors and patrons for turning up and supporting us through some tough years and look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Alexandra Cup on March 15.



Tracey Johnson on *Some Eclipse* passing the post to win race one.



The track was very green following last week's rain. -BD



Racegoers catching up with friends and watching the track on the big screen. -BD



Racegoers enjoying the sunshine. -BD



The Alexandra Cox Plate took place last Saturday, with a large crowd in attendance. Pictured are the horses in the Pam's Last Dance Open Trophy Race Handicap. -BD



The horses passing the finish in Pam's Last Dance Open Trophy Race Handicap. -BD



Alexandra Newspapers will be closed on

Tuesday, November 5 due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.

