

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, November 20, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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New councillors take office for Murrindindi Shire Council

LAST Wednesday, November 13, the elected representatives for Murrindindi Shire Council took office. Murrindindi Shire CEO, Livia Bonazzi, led the swearing-in of the new councillors.

Out of the seven elected representatives, five took the oath of office and two the affirmation of office, making them official councillors for Murrindindi Shire until 2028.

Each councillor took the time to thank those who supported them as well as the community who voted for them, and express their excitement to provide representation

and support the citizens of Murrindindi Shire moving forward.

The elected councillors are Cr Sandice McAulay (Cathedral Ward), Cr Sue Carpenter (Cheviot Ward), Cr Anita Carr (Eildon Ward), Cr Eric Lording (King Parrot Ward), Cr Jodi Adams (Kinglake Ward), Cr Paul Hildebrand (Koriella Ward), and Cr Damien Gallagher (Red Gate Ward).

Of these councillors, Cr Damien Gallagher, Cr Eric Lording, Cr Sandice McAulay and Cr Sue Carpenter have all been councillors previously.

On November 20, council will hold its first official meeting, where a new mayor will be elected. At this meeting, councillors will also be appointed a portfolio for the first year of their term, allowing them to build deeper insights and contribute meaningfully to strategic planning and policy development in key areas of council's operations.

Murrindindi Shire Council's CEO, Livia Bonazzi, warmly welcomed the new team.

"On behalf of all Murrindindi Shire Council staff, we are excited to work alongside our new and returning councillors, whose diverse

perspectives and expertise will undoubtedly enrich our mission. Together, we aim to achieve positive outcomes for our community over the next four years," Ms Bonazzi said.

"A special thank you goes out to our outgoing Councillors, who have shown exceptional dedication and left a meaningful legacy for the Murrindindi Shire community. Your service has embodied our values of accountability, integrity, empathy and professionalism, and has made a lasting impact."



Crs Sandice McAulay, Eric Lording, Damien Gallagher, Paul Hildebrand, Anita Carr, Jodi Adams and Sue Carpenter, with shire CEO Livia Bonazzi. -AR

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Murrindindi Harvest celebration



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Vic Pol pay dispute



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Stephen Duckett: regional hospitals



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Weekend sport coverage



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Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

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THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To Elva Thompson, who brightens the Alexandra District Health reception desk with beautiful flowers, fresh from her garden. Thank you so much Elva.

Watch your head, magpies are here

Standard The Yea Chronicle

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COMMUNITY DIARY

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

WEEKLY
Tues Art Group (Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306
Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086
Sun Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611
Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

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

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.

THUMBS UP: On Remembrance Day I was sitting in the window seat at the Grant Street Grocer dressed in my full airforce uniform with ceremonial sword leaning against the window. It was just before I officially attended the Remembrance Day ceremony at Kellock Lodge where I do a sword salute at the flag raising. I went to pay for my coffee and carrot cake and found that a gentleman farmer by the name of Jamie (I believe) had paid for my morning tea as a 'thank-you' for my service. It made me feel truly appreciated and put a skip in my step for the rest of the day.

THUMBS UP: To anyone who can explain to me why the entrance from the Goulburn River into Alexandra cannot or should not be comparable with the entrance into Mansfield.

THUMBS DOWN: To an unnamed business in Downey Street for the overgrown and unsightly long grass and weeds in their garden, nature strip and carpark. Not a good look.

THUMBS UP: To Andrew Embling and his team for doing a great clearing sale in Mansfield on Sunday in the worst storm, with wind and rain. Great job.

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

AUSTRALIANS know all too well the experience of the dreaded swoop during magpie season.

Though swooping can be an unsettling experience, Senior Wildlife Projects Officer at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Simon Ruff said it was important to remember that the behaviour is more of a defence mechanism than an attack.

"Every spring, some native birds swoop to defend their eggs and chicks for a short time while their young are most vulnerable," Simon said.

"While swooping is unsettling, it's normal behaviour for a range of native birds, warning people and animals not to come near their young. It's rare for birds to make contact."

To protect yourself and the native birds, DEECA recommends the following; Know your local swooping hotspots and avoid the area, move quickly but do not run, wear protective head and eye coverings, and do not harass the bird or its nest.

A live bird swooping map has been made available on the DEECA website. To see a swooping hotspot, or to add one to the public map, visit wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/swooping-birds and follow the prompts.

All native wildlife is protected by law. Harassing, harming or disturbing native birds and other wildlife is illegal in Victoria and penalties apply. To report wildlife crime, call Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

PUBLISHERS

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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.

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ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	11.00am Mon	1.71	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	11.00am Mon	0.54	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.25am Mon	0.74	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.49am Mon	0.14	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.29am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.22am Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	11.00am Mon	3.77	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	11.00am Mon	0.50	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	11.00am Mon	1.41	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	11.00am Mon	0.30	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	11.00am Mon	1.70	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.07am Mon	1.15	steady	

****ISSUED AT 11.45AM ON MONDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2024**

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 The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather
November 20 - November 26, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	26	Wednesday	10	25
Thursday	16	30	Thursday	17	31
Friday	17	31	Friday	17	32
Saturday	18	32	Saturday	19	33
Sunday	18	30	Sunday	18	30
Monday	18	27	Monday	19	27
Tuesday	18	26	Tuesday	18	28

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	6mm
Buxton	16mm
Eildon (AWS)	20mm
Flowerdale	5mm
Jamieson	30mm
Kinglake	9mm
Lake Eildon	16mm
Mansfield	5mm
Taggerty	8mm
Yarck	12mm
Yea	7mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	284.87m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	84.5%
Metres below full supply	4.03m
Daily inflow	1000ML
Release	3500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	75%

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DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Delatite Veterinary Services is helping furry friends in Alexandra

DELATITE Veterinary Services, a leader in veterinary medicine for the past 10 years, is opening a small animal consulting only clinic in Alexandra.

Based in Mansfield on Mt Buller Road, the team at Delatite Vets are helping to fill the gap left by Doug by offering services in preventative health care and annual health checks, vaccinations, arthritis and allergy management and more.

While they are unable to service emergencies, surgical procedures or big medical cases at the clinic, the team are more than happy to refer these to their main clinic in Mansfield or to a clinic of your choice.

Dr Anna Manning, owner of Delatite Veterinary Services, spoke about bringing the service into the Alexandra community.

"I admire Doug's commitment to the Alexandra community. Veterinary medicine is a demanding field of expertise, and each day is

filled with a roller-coaster of highs and lows. Doug's passion and drive for service cannot go unnoticed," Dr Manning said.

"While we cannot fill his shoes, we want to assist in community growth and ensure affordable preventative care for your furry friend is available at your doorstep."

Accessed from their main clinic in Mansfield, Delatite Veterinary Services is equipped with the latest technologies in x-rays, ultrasound, echocardiograms, in-house laboratory and advances in surgical procedures for both small and large animals. In addition, they have a grooming parlour and bespoke boarding facilities for both cats and dogs.

The team at Delatite Veterinary Services will be based at the Nutrien Ag Building on Aitken Street on Tuesdays from November and into the coming new year. Call 5779 1754 to book an appointment and have your furry friend seen before Christmas.



Vets from Delatite Veterinary Services. -S

Big changes to Santa mail

AUSTRALIA Post has changed the way that Santa Mail will operate this year. Instead of the children posting a letter and tracking it before receiving a letter and gift from Santa in the post, they will now need to deliver a letter in person at a post office and receive a 'Christmas Pip the Koala' ornament and a letter from Santa.

Seems to take some of the magic out of it.

From November 15, children are encouraged to write a letter to Santa, sharing their Christmas wishes and maybe a few good deeds they've accomplished this year. Put the letter in a sealed envelope. There's no need for a postage stamp or return address. Then visit the post office, drop off your letter and wait for the gift. Let's hope that the queues are not too long.

If a child has already mailed their letter, they can still receive their ornament and letter if they go into a post office.

Further steps taken to rectify VCE exam scandal

THE Victorian Government is working with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to use a robust and nationally-recognised assessment tool to address errors that occurred in the 2024 VCE exams, and to ensure every student is assessed fairly.

The VCAA will use the existing anomalous grade check process for the VCE exams impacted by the errors, a well established process used by the VCAA to ensure student results are fair and equitable.

Similar processes including a consideration of disadvantage process were used by the VCAA during COVID-19.

This process will review student marks in the affected exams and identify any anomalies in how students have responded to the affected questions.

It will also analyse if any discrepancies are identified and if so, further analysis will be undertaken. This could include comparing how students performed compared to other students, and how students performed on other examinations.

Finally, student marks will be adjusted if any questions are identified as providing anyone with an unfair advantage. This could mean invalidating questions and awarding all students who sat this exam a full mark if necessary.

The implementation of this process will be overseen by an independent advisory panel of experts chaired by Professor John Firth. Professor Firth is a former CEO of the VCAA and supported the development of the Consideration of Disadvantage Process during COVID-19 and is familiar with the anomalous grade check process.

Professor Firth will be joined on the expert panel by Dr Nathan Zoanetti, Research Director, Methodology and Measurement with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and the internationally regarded education measurement expert and former Chair of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, Professor Barry McGaw AO.

The CEO of the VCAA, Kylie White has resigned her position. The Secretary of the

Department of Education has appointed Dr Marcia Devlin AM, the CEO of the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, to act in the role of Interim CEO pending a permanent appointment.

Students, parents and carers who have any questions about this process should first contact their school who has received information from the VCAA.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll said, "I am extremely disappointed by what has occurred. I have instructed the VCAA to take all necessary action to ensure that all students are treated fairly, and no student is disadvantaged in the marking of this year's exams.

"I am satisfied that, supported by additional independent experts, the right processes are in place to ensure that that every single student has the best chance to achieve their best."

"The root-and-branch review of the VCAA that will commence in January 2025 should ensure the cause of these errors is clearly identified so they are not repeated."

Ecumenical carol service

ON Friday, December 6, all of the churches in the district will get together to welcome the advent of the Christmas season. This event will take place at St Mary's Catholic Church, Nihil Street, Alexandra at 6pm.

This joyous season beckons us to celebrate the message of peace and well-being for all people. They are inviting everyone in the district and beyond to come and join in singing carols together, but more importantly to celebrate our common humanity, our vision of sheer unity and the prosperity of all people.

For further details contact Fr Mario Hendricks on 0435 953 777 or email mdphen@yahoo.com

Share the Dignity charity on track for one-millionth donation

AS Australian charity Share the Dignity marks the 10th anniversary of its 'It's in the Bag' Christmas appeal, it is on track to receive its one-millionth donation. This is a significant milestone representing one million vulnerable women and girls in Australia who have received a bag filled with essential items.

Each November, Share the Dignity calls on Australians to help women and girls facing homelessness, domestic violence, or poverty by donating a bag filled with essentials. These donations provide more than just essential items; they offer love, dignity, and hope at a time when it's most needed.

The initiative encourages everyday Australians to fill a bag with essential

items such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, and period products.

Share the Dignity founder and managing director, Rochelle Courtenay, said she was hopeful at least 85,000 women and girls would receive a gift of love and hope this Christmas.

"Together over the last 10 years we have helped ensure almost one million women and girls who are waking up on Christmas morning in domestic violence refuges and homeless shelters have the dignity they deserve. For many, an 'It's in the Bag' was the only gift they received, and it gave them hope to keep going," Ms Courtenay said.

"I know times are tough for so many, but if you can, I urge you to put an 'It's in the Bag' together or to get together with your bestie and pack one together. With our Bloody Big Survey revealing some eyeopening statistics, you never know who in your life may be impacted, so please, help someone in need this Christmas."

In particular, the charity is seeking more essential items rather than bags, as they have had an influx of the latter.

Supporters can drop-off an 'It's in the Bag' donation to the *Alexandra Standard* office at 43 Grant Street, Alexandra between November 15 and December 1. They can also sponsor a bag online, or register to become a

Share the Dignity volunteer. Donations will be distributed to Australians in need in time for Christmas via Share the Dignity's 3000 charity partners.

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sharethedignity

Head to:
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to learn more about the organisation, to get help, to donate, to volunteer, or to support the organization by making a purchase in their online shop.

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

Alexandra Newspapers is proud to be a collection point for all donations to go toward it's in the bag program run by share the dignity.

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

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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*.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE CAME INTO FORCE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Free Prostate and Cervical cancer screening kits available from Yea Saleyards at the weaner sale.

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.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Yea and District Memorial Hospital Annual Community Meeting. Yea Country Club Hotel 6pm. RSVP to 5736 0400 or email yeahospital@ydmh.org.au

Homewood Hall AGM will be held at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Yea-Kinglake RSL social meeting at 11.30am at the RSL hall. Enquiries to secretary 5796 9353.

Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc AGM will be held at The Mount at 5.30pm. RSVP 5772 1888 or email DPMC@menziessupport.org.au by November 22.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club AGM will be held at the club rooms at 2pm.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Alexandra Historical Society AGM will be held at 2pm at Dove Cottage.

Community Drop in session Goulburn and Broken Rivers flood study. 4 to 7pm at Molesworth Public Hall. For more details visit gbcma.vic.gov.au

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Free Prostate and Cervical cancer screening kits available from Yea Saleyards at the weaner sale.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Kellock Lodge AGM will be held at 6.15pm at 15 Bon Street, Alexandra. RSVP attendance by COB November 24. Phone 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au. Zoom link is available on request.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home AGM will be held at 1.30pm in the North Lounge room. Video conference available on request. All welcome, RSVP by December 10 to 5774 2711 or email darlingford@dughn.com.au

Redgate Alexandra CWA report

THE next monthly meeting of the Redgate-Alexandra Branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) will be held on Thursday, November 28 at the club rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra, starting at 1pm.

This month's theme is Melbourne Cup and all members are requested to contribute a dish for a high afternoon tea. The guest speaker will be Jess Slapp, an environmental specialist speaking at 2.30pm.

As the CWA's new year begins in November a new committee has been elected. The president is Sue Wynn, vice president Martine Sloan, minute secretary Marion Biemond, correspondence Secretary Holly Wal, treasurer Jane Laws, international officer Gail Bransden, craft officer Pam Kingston, cooking officer Maureen Holohan, publicity officer Jane Laws, and booking officer Sue Wynn.

The club thanks everyone who purchased a cake or slice at the recent Alexandra Spring Fair. The club sold out and are very happy with the outcome. Members also participated as stewards at the recent Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Show in the Ladies' Pavilion with handcrafts, cooking, fruit and vegetables and eggs and horticulture sections.

The Alexandra branch won the club entry and the theme this year was Teddy Bear's Picnic. The club says thank you to Pam Kingston for her contribution of the beautifully painted folk-art tray and handmade teddy bear and other members from the Tuesday Craft Group who contributed presentation ideas.

Upcoming events

The Service Award Ceremony for the Hume Goulburn Group will be held on Saturday, November 23 at Yarck starting at 10am followed by a De-stash Market. If you are interested in purchasing any sewing materials, knitting wool and bits and bobs that are required to finish your creation you are invited to come along from 1pm. Stalls will be inside the Yarck Hall.

During the first week in December, the branch will be decorating a Christmas tree at the Community Christmas Tree Festival at the Alexandra Shire Hall.

The Alexandra CWA Christmas Lunch Break up will be held at the Alexandra Hotel on December 5 at 12pm.

Please be aware that Tuesday Craft will still be held in December at the CWA clubrooms and Friday Craft is now permanently at the Alexandra Library.

In all branches throughout the state of Victoria, the CWA motto is 'care, empower and contribute'.

For more information please call Sue Wynn on 0412 435 946.

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- Thornton Store
- Thornton Shell
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- Yea Newsagency

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An Ecumenical Christmas Carol Celebration Service

You are cordially invited to join us for a joyous Ecumenical Christmas Carolling get-together

Date: Friday, 6th December 2024, 6pm

Venue: St Mary's Catholic Church
Nihil St Street, Alexandra




Refreshments will be served after the service

For further information contact: Fr. Mario Hendricks
Mobile 0435 953 777 or email: mdphen@yahoo.com

Flood study seeks community input

RESIDENTS of communities along the Goulburn and Broken rivers are invited to attend drop-in sessions being held by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to provide input into a key flood study.

The Goulburn Broken CMA is conducting the *Goulburn and Broken Rivers Flood Study* to provide flood mapping for the Goulburn River from Lake Eildon to Shepparton, and the Broken River from Lake Nillahcootie to Shepparton, including for many areas which have not been flood mapped previously.

Residents from Thornton, Molesworth and Trawool, and surrounding areas are encouraged to attend the community drop-in sessions.

The CMA's Floodplain Implementation Manager, Joel Leister, said the communities and towns along the Goulburn and Broken Rivers have a long history of significant flood events, including most recently at the start of this year and in 2022.

"Detailed flood studies already exist for Shepparton, Benalla, Seymour and Murchison, so this flood study is seeking to fill the gaps in our flooding modelling in between these towns and the areas downstream of Lake Eildon and Lake Nillahcootie," Mr Leister said.

"Flood studies are important tools for not only understanding flood behaviour and informing flood risk, but the outputs from these studies are also used to update emergency planning documents and intelligence.

"The studies are also used to update council planning schemes and inform future development, including the setting of minimum floor levels for construction of buildings."

Mr Leister said one of the key stages of a flood study was a process called 'calibration', where the flood models seek to replicate a

historic flood event in terms of flood levels and extent.

"The Goulburn and Broken Rivers Flood Study has used the 2022 and 1993 flood events as the calibration events, representing the largest flood events in recent memory in the Goulburn River and Broken River floodplains respectively," he said.

The community drop-in sessions provide the community with an opportunity to discuss the prepared draft flood mapping from the 2022 and 1993 flood events and provide input into whether the mapping reflects what was experienced during the 2022 and 1993 floods.

Representatives of local council and the Victoria SES will attend. The CMA and its key partners will be available to discuss the next steps in the study, including the preparation of the one in 100 Annual Exceedance Probability flood extent and associated levels, the assessments of the impacts of climate change, updates to overlays within the planning scheme and updates to emergency planning documentation.

The community drop-in sessions will be held from 4pm to 7pm on Tuesday, November 19 at the Toolamba Community Centre (Wren Street, Toolamba); Wednesday, November 20 at the Benalla Visitor Information Centre (14 Mair Street, Benalla); Tuesday, November 26 at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre (Loddings Lane, Nagambie); Wednesday, November 27 at the Seymour Recovery Hub (4 Guild Street, Seymour); Thursday, November 28 at the Molesworth Public Hall (4355 Goulburn Valley Highway, Molesworth).

From Monday, November 18 the draft flood mapping for the 2022 and 1993 flood events will be available at gbcma.vic.gov.au and people can also provide comments there if they are unable to attend a community drop-in session. For more information contact the Goulburn Broken CMA on 5822 7700 or planning@gbcma.vic.gov.au



Flooding in Acheron in 2022. -S

Murrindindi Shire Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to Murrindindi Shire Council at the general election held in October 2024:

Cathedral Ward

McAULAY, Sandice

Red Gate Ward

GALLAGHER, Damien

Cheviot Ward

CARPENTER, Sue

Eildon Ward

CARR, Anita

King Parrot Ward

LORDING, Eric

Kinglake Ward

ADAMS, Jodi

Koriella Ward

HILDEBRAND, Paul

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Susan Cross

Election Manager

12 November 2024

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832 | @electionsvic

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



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📷 [delatitevetservices](https://www.instagram.com/delatitevetservices)



Community Drop-In Session Goulburn & Broken Rivers Flood Study

Thursday 28 November, 4pm to 7pm

Molesworth Public Hall, 4355 Goulburn Valley Highway

The Goulburn Broken CMA is holding this community drop-in session as part of developing the Goulburn and Broken Rivers Flood Study.

This session will present flood modelling and mapping of the 2022 and 1993 flood events.

Come along to share your observations from those flood events and provide input into whether the presented mapping accurately reflects what was experienced.

The finalised study will be used to update emergency planning documents and flood intelligence.

Murrindindi Shire Council and VICSES representatives will be in attendance.

For more details and to provide comment on the draft study if you are unable to attend visit: www.gbcma.vic.gov.au



Concerns over lack of road maintenance

NEW data from the state government has revealed the level of neglect of our roads, with the area of road maintenance undertaken falling by 95 per cent.

In August, this newspaper submitted a Freedom of Information Request to the Department of Transport for information on the road spend in Murrindindi. The results are expected to be available in December.

Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien said the government's cuts had taken a massive toll on the state of our roads. "A 95 per cent reduction in essential maintenance is just going to mean our already bad roads will get worse," Mr O'Brien said.

"The government's own survey last year found 91 per cent of the roads it surveyed were in poor or very poor condition, something all Victorian motorists are well aware of."

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that the area of road 'rehabilitated or resurfaced' in regional Victoria fell to just 422,000 square metres in 2023/24, down from 9,000,000 the year before and 11,500,000 million in the prior year.

Only 69 per cent of regional projects were finished on time.

Ms McLeish said, "Road users are sick and tired of forking out hundreds, if not thousands of dollars to repair their vehicles, only for them to be damaged again and again."

She said that some of the worst roads across the electorate include the Melba Highway and Yea-Whittlesea Road.

The government has been contacted for comment on the latest figures.

VCE exam blunder affects students

REPORTS have revealed that several of this year's Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) examination papers have been compromised.

Multiple VCE sample exams available on the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) website have been found to contain hidden text that is very similar to questions contained in actual examination papers.

Three compromised exams have already been sat in 2024, including Specialist Mathematics, Business Management and Legal Studies. Furthermore, at least five other upcoming examinations have reportedly been similarly compromised, potentially affecting more than 10,000 VCE students.

The compromised exams provide an unfair advantage to students with knowledge of the hidden text and follow similar VCE examination paper blunders in 2022 and 2023.

In response to several errors during the 2023 VCE examination period, Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, launched a review into the VCAA's examination setting policies.

This year Mr Carroll has ordered a branch-and-root review of the VCAA. The Victorian Government will also install an independent monitor to oversee next year's exams.

"Students deserve better. It is clear to me that some students have been let down as a result of these errors and that is completely unacceptable," Mr Carroll said.

The VCAA will undergo a full external review of its structure and operations, to provide full confidence to Victorian students, families and schools.

The state government accepted all recommendations of the 2024 Independent Review chaired by Dr John Bennett, however it is clear that there are ongoing issues relating to the production and distribution of exams.

A team of external reviewers will be appointed to examine all elements of the VCAA's operating model. In addition, an independent monitor will work with and provide guidance to the VCAA, and advise the government of the VCAA's role regarding exam preparation, management and production.

A person of appropriate standing and expertise will be appointed to commence in the role early in 2025. Terms of reference will be developed to outline the monitor's roles and responsibilities.

Shadow Minister for Early Childhood and Education, Jess Wilson, said, "Labor's gross incompetence has once again left students

disadvantaged and compromised the integrity of VCE examinations.

"For students, VCE is stressful enough without concerns of exam papers containing errors, being leaked, incorrectly distributed or otherwise compromised.

"Minister for Education Ben Carroll's 'review' of the VCAA has clearly failed. Minister Carroll must immediately instruct the VCAA to draft new exam papers for the remaining compromised subjects so no student is put at a disadvantage.

"These repeated blunders cannot be tolerated. The VCAA must be subjected to an urgent, independent investigation to restore community confidence in this authority."

At the first opportunity during the next parliamentary sitting week, the Victorian Liberals and Nationals will move a motion to request the Victorian Ombudsman investigate how this debacle occurred, the VCAA's culpability and response, as well as review existing VCE examination processes.

Ms Wilson said, "The response by the VCAA and Minister for Education to the latest VCE examination debacle has been entirely inadequate.

"After three consecutive years of errors, blunders and compromised assessments, a comprehensive and independent investigation into the VCAA and VCE process must occur.

"The Allan Labor Government has overseen repeated failings within the VCE assessment process and cannot be trusted to stop these damaging errors from occurring again in the future.

"The Victorian Liberals and Nationals will move a motion in parliament to refer the VCAA to the Ombudsman to investigate how this latest debacle occurred and what needs to be done to restore integrity to VCE assessments and ensure no student is put at a disadvantage in the future," Ms Wilson concluded.

Drink driver intercepted in Kanumbra

A DRINK driver has had his license suspended after allegedly driving on the wrong side of the road in Kanumbra on the morning on Saturday, November 16.

Police were travelling along Maroondah Highway when they saw a Nissan Navara Utility on the wrong side, driving towards incoming traffic about 9.35am.

Officers intercepted the ute where the driver returned a positive preliminary breath test.

The 34 year old Deer Park man was taken to a police station where he produced an alleged evidentiary breath test reading of 0.179.

The man is expected to be charged on summons with drink driving and road safety offences.

His licence was immediately suspended for 12 months and the vehicle was impounded for 30 days at a cost of \$2831.

Seniors can go digital

SINCE the launch of the the digital seniors card on the Service Victoria app, so far 80,000 downloads have taken place.

The Minister for Government Services Gabrielle Williams recently encouraged Victorian seniors to download the free digital Seniors Card to their Service Victoria app, the card is free and takes less than five minutes to add.

The card is a digital version of the physical Seniors Card and can be stored securely, privately, and easily on the Service Victoria digital wallet on a mobile device. Seniors can access all the same discounts and benefits as the physical card with the digital version.

The card supports seniors to keep active and engaged with the community. It includes benefits such as discounts on shopping and dining, travel and attractions, health, home, auto, and more. Other benefits include e-gift and gift card offers for groceries, petrol and hardware.

Senior Victorians have been using their digital Seniors Card for the recent Victorian Seniors Festival, an iconic festival that runs for the month of October every year, with free and low cost events across the state including free public transport.

The Service Victoria digital wallet now includes a range of tokens such as the Veterans Card Victoria, Seniors Card, Digital Driver Licence, Working with Children Check, and others.

Victorians can leave their wallet at home and securely store and access their identification and entitlement cards all within their mobile device, reducing the risk of loss or theft.

Through the Service Victoria app, Victorians can easily access more than 130 government services online.

Victorians can apply for a Senior's Card at seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/seniors-card

New tobacco licencing scheme

TOBACCO is estimated to kill 4000 Victorians and about 20,000 people around Australia every year, making it the leading cause of preventable deaths and years of life lost. This is why VicHealth has welcomed the recent announcement by the Victorian Government to introduce a tobacco retail licencing scheme.

VicHealth CEO, Dr Sandro Demaio, supports the new retail licencing scheme for tobacco, saying it will save lives.

"A tobacco licencing scheme will remove dishonest sellers from the market, ensuring they aren't peddling poison to school children, or selling illicit tobacco or vapes," Dr Demaio said.

"Currently, tobacco can be sold by anyone, anywhere in Victoria, with no requirement for retailers to notify the Victorian Government."

The health impacts from tobacco and vaping are enormous.

Victoria alone spends more than \$600-million dollars a year on smoking-related healthcare including costs associated with primary and specialist medical care, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmaceuticals and ambulances.

"Tobacco is the only product that will kill two out of three of its users, and it doesn't discriminate. Alarmingly, the latest data shows Australian teen smoking has increased for the first time in a quarter of a century, on the back of rising use of vapes," said Michelle Murray, VicHealth Executive Manager, Health Promotion Systems.

UPCOMING FEATURES

Shop Local
This Christmas



Publishing: November 27

Deadline: November 21, 5pm

2025 Events
Calendar



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: November 27, 5pm

Let's eat,
it's our treat



Publishing: December 4

Deadline: November 28, 5pm

Live Well, Feel Good

Publishing: December 11

Deadline: December 5, 5pm



Melinda, Robyn and Jenny at the Foundation Murrindindi stall. -AR



Community members enjoying the Murrindindi Harvest Celebration on Saturday, November 16. -AR

Murrindindi celebrates its harvest

THE inaugural Murrindindi Harvest Celebration was held at the Yea Railway Station on Saturday, November 16.

There were three celebrity chefs at the event, along with seven guest speakers including Dan from Holistic Pastoral and Tom from Tom's Paddock Eggs, speaking about regenerative farming.

There were also three vigneron from Sedona Estate, Phillip Lobley and Utter Wines who spoke about their challenges as small boutique wineries in our region.

A Murrindindi Shire Council representative talked about curbside waste and household battery disposal, and Umberto Frattali spoke about the challenges and waste innovations in the olive industry.

Chef Byron Moore made eggs benedict, chef Megan Knapp made the perfect tart in both a savoury and a sweet version, and chef Ross Omaro did a whole grilled venison top side with special vinegar sauce.

There were 35 suppliers for the event, including local tradespeople, and 31 stall holders with 14 producers showcased.

Event coordinator Sam Hicks was very pleased with the number of attendees, even

though it got a bit hot and sticky in the afternoon. The bulk of the people were there between 11am and 2pm.

She said, "The feedback has been phenomenal. I've had messages, phone calls, texts. From people saying how they enjoyed the day, how they loved actually being able to talk to the people who grow the grapes or make the eggs or have hives with honey."

They've put out a survey seeking feedback about the event.

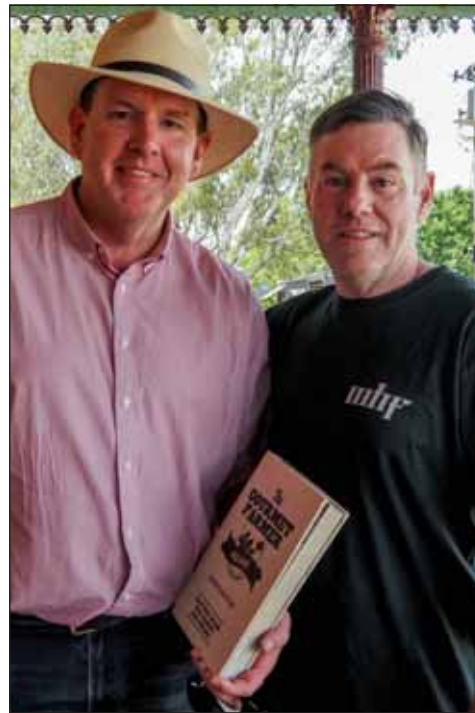
The event was funded through DEECA and Murrindindi Shire Council's Flood Recovery package.

It's currently too early to know whether the event will occur again next year as it will depend on funding and interest.

The event was 12 months in the planning, with Sam devoting three weeks full time on the event.

"It was a fabulous day. The community support was amazing. The local business support was amazing," Sam said.

"I had a great think tank team of Jenny Pullen, Sonia Heres, Jackie Ashton Cunningham and Nici Thompson."



Cr Damien Gallagher and Gourmet Farmer Ross O'Meara. -AR



Kim Chadband from Murrindindi Shire Council with one of their very popular free smoothies. All people had to do was ride an exercise bike for 30 seconds to crush the ice. -AR



Plenty of visitors were keen to try the shire's wines. -AR



Adrian, Jane, James and Sam. -AR



The ladies from Yea Spin and Yarn. -AR

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Proudly supporting Student of the week

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ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Isla Jenkins – 1/2B

Isla shows the school values consistently. She allows others to join in with her whether it is out in the school yard or in the classroom and tries her hardest to make them feel included. Isla willingly shares her knowledge with her peers, happily helping them whenever they ask. Isla does her best, taking on feedback with great results! We are proud to have you in our learning community, Isla. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Mia-Rose has been working hard on her calming strategies and bouncing back when faced with challenges. Keep it up, Mia-Rose

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Logan and Mollie completed their work with Resilience and Achievement this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Tehya Tehya has shown incredible growth in both her leadership and resilience skills this year. This was particularly evident at the 5% surf camp where she overcame her fears and persevered with surfing lessons and was able to stand up on her board! In class, Tehya works hard in her learning. She has been challenging herself, particularly in Mathematics. Tehya has blossomed this year into an excellent role model and school leader. Keep it up, Tehya.

Student of the Week

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Jane Verity

The focus of this 4-hour education is on the quality of the connection between the carer and the person with dementia, building competencies in the psychological and emotional aspects of care that flow on to also benefit clinical care practices such as how to engage while providing wound care.

The education facilitates the fundamental shift from being emotionally disengaged to being emotionally engaged creating the foundation for an equal and respectful relationship that humanises the experience of dementia. This is also the basis for solving behaviours of concern and facilitating dementia - the recovery of lost abilities.



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Victoria Police in pay dispute with government

ON Thursday and Friday, November 14 and 15, police at some suburban stations and the police academy downed tools in the first Victoria Police strike action in 25 years. Wayne Gatt from the police association said that the disruptions would continue if the government didn't provide a satisfactory pay deal.

They are seeking a six per cent pay rise, with the decision in the hands of the Fair Work Commission (FWC).

He said in a statement that there are over 1000 vacancies and around 800 members off sick.

FWC heard submissions on Monday from the union and Victoria Police.

The best paid police officers in Australia are in New South Wales. They recently came to an agreement with the government which will see officers receive a wage increase of between 22 per cent and 39 per cent.

Locally, police members in Murrindindi showed their support for the action through messages on the windows of police vehicles.



A police vehicle outside the Alexandra Police Station. Among the messages on the side, it states, "Join Victoria Police: Work nights and weekends. Never see your family. Destroy your mental health. At least the pay is terrible. Free labour under Labor." -AR



Police conducted a high profile roadside breath test checkpoint on Grant Street in Alexandra on the afternoon of Thursday, November 14. -AR



The vehicles of the State Highway Patrol also had messaging on the side, relating to the police pay dispute with the state government. This one stated, "Fighting crime does not pay." -AR

FSA/DETS2045

**Best Start
Best Life**

Four-Year-Old Kinder is becoming Pre-Prep.

In 2025, Pre-Prep will be available for 16-30 hours per week in Murrindindi Shire. Pre-Prep means more time to develop important social and emotional skills. Learning through play helps children explore, solve problems, communicate and create, while making friends – getting them ready for school and life.

Enrol for 2025. Speak with your preferred kinder service or local council today about how to register for a place or to learn more visit vic.gov.au/pre-prep

Department of Education

Real Estate GUIDE

More energy savings for Victorian families

VICTORIANS can now fully electrify their home through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program, helping families slash their energy bills.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced that eligible households can receive up to \$140 off the cost of a new induction cooktop or freestanding induction stove if they choose to replace their gas cooktop.

The discounts for cooktops will be available through VEU accredited providers either at the point of sale at participating retailers or through a cash back later.

The VEU program offers discounts on a wide range of energy-efficient products, helping Victorians upgrade their homes and businesses with modern, electric appliances that use less energy, making them cheaper to run.

Households that replace a gas ducted heating system with an electric one can receive a discount of up to \$3600 on the system and save around \$600 every year on their energy bills. An electric heat pump hot water system can save households \$250 per year compared with a gas unit.

Converting an existing home from gas to all-electric will save the average family \$1700 per year and if they add rooftop solar, they could save \$2700 per year.

Since the program went all electric for households in 2023, the VEU has delivered rebates for 19,000 reverse cycle air conditioners, and 39,000 hot water systems, saving 28 million tonnes of emissions by 2025. By supporting energy efficiency, the VEU lowers demand for energy which reduces wholesale electricity costs for all Victorians.

New homes should be built for the future, which is why new homes that require a planning permit are required to be all-electric and energy efficient, making cheaper to run. Currently, there are no restrictions on household gas for existing homes.

Minister D'Ambrosio said, "We're making it more affordable for Victorians to switch to energy-efficient electric appliances, helping them slash the installation costs of these new

energy efficient products but also save money on their power bills every year after.

"We have helped millions of households and businesses slash their power bills through our nation-leading Victorian Energy Upgrades program, subsidising energy-efficient products and creating jobs as we reach net zero by 2045."

For more information, visit energy.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades/products/induction-cooktop-discounts

Approvals needed before works on GMW land

PEOPLE living on waterways are being reminded to get approval before undertaking any works on Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) owned land.

The water corporation manages land near rivers, lakes, and dams across a region that spans much of northern Victoria.

GMW permissions are required for any landscaping, vegetation management, and construction and repairs of structures such as jetties and boat ramps that take place on GMW land.

GMW Business and Finance general manager Michael Gomez said the permit was important to ensuring safety and fairness.

"Our lakes, dams and reservoirs not only store water for our customers but provide some great recreational opportunities for communities and visitors," Mr Gomez said.

"The approvals process we have helps ensure any works on GMW land are safe and do not impact other users' safety or enjoyment of the storage. It also helps safeguard from works that might cause erosion or impact water quality."

Depending on the location, works may also need approval from the relevant councils or catchment management authority.

To apply to undertake works on GMW land, visit g-mwater.com.au/forms to find the relevant forms to get the approvals needed to undertake work.

If landowners have any questions about their requirements or existing licences, they can call their local GMW office to discuss their needs or email PropertyServices@gmwater.com.au

 OBrien Real Estate

Kazza's Diner | Shop 1/46 Downey Street, Alexandra



Business For sale. **\$98,000 plus SAV**

Kazza's Diner is a casual American Style Diner located in the heart of Alexandra & quintessentially showcases everything fabulous about the 1950's era. Renowned for its personal & fun customer service, delicious food and hero menu items, not to mention an extensive selection of 'grab and go' items on offer, all of which are created fresh daily on the premise from the fully fitted commercial kitchen. The business is kept extremely clean and welcoming with indoor and outdoor dining options. Everything you need to get started right away is included in the sale of this wonderful business. Currently running as owner operator with all systems and procedures in place, this diner is perfectly positioned for a new operator to take over ASAP.

For more information about this business opportunity, contact Renee Ward on 5772 1774 or 0412 315 885.

Preparing your pool for summer

AS summer rapidly approaches, and the weather heats up, it's important to prepare your pools for use during the holiday season.

Cleaning your pool is essential for a good experience with it. Use a pool skimmer to remove dirt and debris from the top, and perhaps scrub down the walls and floor if they look dirty. You can also use a pool vacuum.

Before filling your pool, check the fencing surrounding it to ensure safety. Young children especially have a high risk of drowning, so having solid and secure pool fencing that is compliant with regulations and a working gate can mean the difference between life and death.

Fill your pool to the right level, so that the filter works properly and can keep the water in your pool circulating. If your pool remained full over winter, simply check that the water level is correct. Some of the water may have been sucked up by the pool vacuum, or some may have evaporated, causing the filter to not work.

Add chemicals to your pool. This is a complicated process, with the range of chemicals including chlorine, phosphate remover, algaecide, alkalinity adjusters, and Calcium UP. For further information on adding the right amount of chemicals to your pool, visit hyclor.com.au/how-to-correctly-add-chemicals-to-your-pool/

With your pool now full, make sure that there is no algae in the water. This can make the pool look cloudy and dirty, and can be harmful for swimmers. Algaecide can be used to kill off any algae growth.

Final steps include making sure your equipment is fully functional, and then cleaning your pool accessories. There could be nothing worse than relaxing on a floating lounge chair only for a spider to join you for a ride.

With all these steps completed, you can now enjoy spending time cooling off in your pool during the warm summer months. Just be sure to actively supervise young children around the pool, and keep water safety in mind for all those swimming and splashing in your pool.

Real Estate GUIDE

Optimism for borrowers in CPI

NEW Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data shows that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.2 per cent in the September 2024 quarter and 2.8 per cent over the 12 months, significantly down from 3.8 per cent in the June quarter and the lowest since March 2021.

“The annual figure is the lowest since March 2021 and well below market expectations. It is now within the RBA’s target band of two to three per cent,” Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) President, Ms Leanne Pilkington, said.

“The important analytical series of trimmed mean, which excludes large price rises and falls, fell to 3.5 per cent, down from four per cent in the June quarter. This is the seventh quarter in a row of lower annual trimmed mean inflation, down from the peak of 6.8 per cent in the December 2022 quarter.

“Similarly, the weighted median rose 0.9 per cent in the September 2024 quarter and over the past 12 months, the weighted median rose 3.8 per cent.

“With all three broad measures of inflation at the lowest they have been since 2021 and the headline rate within the RBA’s target band and the global direction of inflation and interest rates, borrowers can reasonably expect that the RBA’s next move will be down and not up as feared.

“The most significant quarterly price rises were recreation and culture, up 1.3 per cent, food and non-alcoholic beverages, up 0.6 per cent, and alcohol and tobacco, up 1.3 per cent. Rents rose 1.6 per cent for the quarter and 6.7 per cent annually, down from the annual increase of 7.3 per cent in the June quarter.

“This week ABS will also release data on September retail trade and household spending. This will provide further pointers on consumer behaviour before next week’s RBA Board meeting and assessed with RBA’s twin objectives of not only taming inflation but also achieving full employment.

“While the September unemployment rate remained unchanged due to increased

employment it needs to be remembered that about 70 per cent of new jobs in the past year have been in non-market or public jobs and don’t reflect market conditions and underlying economic demand.

“Against this background and a consistent downward trend in inflation trend of borrowers may anticipate that a rate cut cannot be far away,” Ms Pilkington concluded.



ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS



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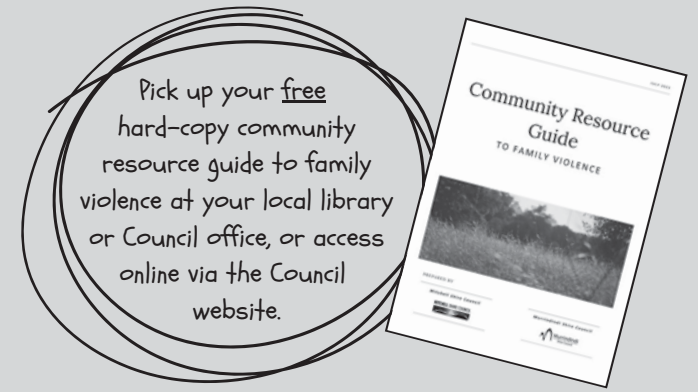
McGrath



Sam McDougall 0475 235 669
View more info here: www.mcgrath.com.au

A Little Respect

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



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

Topic of the month: 16 Days of Activism.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that commences on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The campaign was started by activists at the inauguration of the Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organisations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls (UN Women). In support of this civil society initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General launched in 2008 the campaign UNITE by 2030 to End Violence against Women, which runs parallel to the 16 Days of Activism. Every year, the UNITE Campaign focuses on a specific theme and this year's is 'UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls'. The campaign calls on citizens to show how much they care about ending violence against women and girls by sharing the actions they are taking to create a world free from violence towards women. This year's campaign also calls on governments worldwide to share how they are investing in gender-based violence prevention (UN Women). Think about three women in your life. It is statistically likely that more than one of those women have experienced men's violence, which is a fundamental violation of human rights. Safety for women is not a given in any community – and neither is respect. But it does not have to be this way, and we should not accept this. Violence against women and girls is preventable, if we change the underlying social conditions that drive men's violence.

Why does the campaign focus only on violence against women and girls?

Anyone can experience (or use) violence. However, women are overwhelmingly the victims of family/intimate partner violence and face a much higher risk of being killed by a current or former partner than men. All experiences of violence are unique and valid, and we respectfully acknowledge this. The UN campaign is focused on men's violence against women and girls because of the sheer prevalence of men's violence.

What is Murrindindi Shire Council doing for 16 Days?

In 2024, Murrindindi Shire Council is partnering with Safe + Equal (and others) to support local community groups and businesses to engage with this important campaign. Community members are encouraged to get involved in the following local events:

Latte with a Lawyer: In partnership with ARC Justice and Grant St. Grocer Alexandra, enjoy a free hot drink and casual chat with lawyers from Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre on Wed 27 Nov, from 10.00 am - 1.00 pm at Grant St. Grocer in Alexandra. Anyone is welcome to drop in and chat about the legal system, ask for advice on a range of topics or collect information about support services in either the main cafe or a private room.

Mitchell Shire Council Steps Towards Change Walk: A community walk to raise awareness of family violence, build knowledge of local support services. Part of a united cross-council stance against violence. The walk starts at 10.00 am on Thu 5 Dec, Hadfield Park, Wallan. See the poster in this issue for details on how to register.

Call It In! A free casual workshop for men to talk about mental health on Sat 30 Nov, from 9.30 - 11.30 am at the Embassy of Ideas in Alexandra. Facilitated by local Social Worker, Nate Proctor and Local Tradie, David Webb. Register via this QR code.



In addition to these events, Council has also offered to gift new books from the Respect Victoria book list to local Early Childhood services, Primary and Secondary Schools. Our local libraries also have several new books from this list for community to enjoy, and a selection of similarly themed books available throughout the campaign. Educating future generations on the fundamental right to feel safe and respected through the gift of reading is vital.

How can you support and engage with 16 Days?

Grab a free copy of the [Community Violence Resource Guide to Family violence](#) (pictured above). It is a great resource, containing many tips relevant to the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Similarly, the [Free From Violence Activity Cards](#) (see bottom left) offer a bite-sized learning approach to gender equality, family violence and primary prevention. These subjects can be tricky, and the cards make these conversations easier to navigate. Simply scan the QR code on the bottom left to access.

What about Respect Victoria resources?

Respect Victoria has compiled a comprehensive list of suggestions for getting involved in the campaign. Visit the Respect Victoria website respectvictoria.vic.gov.au to explore in detail. We've captured a summary below:

- **Read** to your children, or yourself, selecting a book from the Respect Victoria book recommendation list.
- **Include** a 16 Days of Activism banner to your email signature during the campaign.
- **Sign-up** to receive newsletters or updates from Respect Victoria, Safe + Equal or IWDA.
- **Listen** to the 'There's No Place Like Home' podcast, hosted by Tarang Chawla.
- **Learn** how to respond to disclosures of violence.
- **Stay curious** and listen to the women in your life without judgement or defensiveness.

We all have a role to play in ending violence against women and girls. Everyone, regardless of gender, has the right to live in a community free from violence.

Getting support

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

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

Would you like your own deck of Free From Violence Activity Cards?

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



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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, November 20, 2024



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10



16 Days of
 Activism

respectvictoria.vic.gov.au

Join us on Thursday 5 December 2024:

Steps Towards Change.

Mitchell Shire Council's third annual walk against
 Gender-Based Violence.

10am, Hadfield Park, Wallan.

To register visit: mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/16-days





At the SEED Hub (Sustaining Economic Empowerment and Dignity for Women) we provide a safe space to help women connect, share their experiences, learn new skills, and find their way to financial independence.

Register for our FREE Workshops

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- Improve your confidence
- Make new connections
- Learn new skills
- Reach your goals!

Navigating Services Australia

- Understand your rights
- How to navigate self service
- Learn about the types of payments

Scan the QR code to register



Get in touch

- 📍 47A Angelsey Street, Seymour
- ☎ 0482 188 099
- 📧 seedproject@bsl.org.au



What's on

COFFEE WITH A COP

Tuesday, December 3, 9.30am–11am

In partnership with Victoria Police and Northern Community Legal Centre, Coffee with a Cop provides an opportunity to enjoy a cup of coffee while engaging in informal and safe conversations with local police officers and a senior lawyer.

It's a chance to ask questions and encourage meaningful conversations. The session will take place at Little Stones Cafe in Seymour.

MITCHELL COMMUNITY WALK AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: STEPS TOWARDS CHANGE

Thursday, December 5, 10am

The walk begins at 10am at Hadfield Park with a Welcome to Country and opening speeches from a range of people, including Tarang Chawla.

Tarang Chawla is a speaker, writer, and former lawyer who serves as Commissioner at the Victorian Multicultural Commission and is the co-founder of Not One More Niki, a grassroots not-for-profit organisation working to end men's violence against women and named in memory of his younger sister, Nikita, who was murdered by her partner in 2015.

Tarang is also a sessional academic at Monash University. He wrote, produced, and hosted the first two seasons of the acclaimed podcast *There's No Place Like Home*, and advised both state and federal governments on family violence reform and effectively engaging men in gender equality.

The 1km walk through Hadfield Park and surrounding block concludes at 1pm with a community event, including local support service stalls, a BBQ, and local young artist performances.

Everyone is welcome, and attendees are encouraged to bring friends, family, and pets while wearing orange attire, if you can.

SPEAK UP FORUM

Tuesday, December 10, 1pm–3pm

In partnership with Northern Community Legal Centre, the Speak Up forum is a free event to raise awareness about respect towards women and children, and to express support for respectful relationships.

Join in and enjoy free activities with lunch included. People of all ages and genders are welcome.

This session will be held at the Greater Beveridge Community Centre.

RESPECT IS BUILDING HEALTHY, EQUAL RELATIONSHIPS.

Supporting 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

We all deserve to be safe, equal and respected.



Ros Spence MP
STATE MEMBER FOR KALKALLO

- 📍 Shop D00-02B Craigieburn Central Shopping Centre, 340 Craigieburn Road Craigieburn VIC 3064
- ☎ 8377 4477 📧 ros.spence@parliament.vic.gov.au
- 📱 RosSpenceMP 🌐 rosspence.com.au

Find out what you can do to turn Awareness into Action

Gender-based violence is abusive behaviour directed at someone because of their gender, most often women and girls. It includes intimate partner, family and sexual violence and happens 365 days a year across Australia. So, let's use these vital 16 days of activism to turn awareness into tangible, sustainable action to prevent gender-based violence all year round.



Scan the QR code to access WHGNE's guide on how to turn awareness into action to prevent gender-based violence year-round



16 Days

MITCHELL Shire Council is once again standing united alongside the community for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence is a global campaign that begins on Monday, November 25, coinciding with the International Day for Elimination of

Violence against Women, and ends on Tuesday, December 10, the global Human Rights Day.

Council, as part of the Lower Hume Collaborative Group, is partnering with other councils and organisations to make it clear that family violence is not tolerated or accepted within the community.

Mitchell Shire Council Chief Executive Brett Luxford said that as a community, council was committed to raising awareness and taking action against gender-based violence.

"The 16 Days of Activism is a vital opportunity for us to unite, educate, and empower everyone to speak out against violence in all its forms," he said.

"Family violence is not just a personal issue, it is a community issue. By standing together during these 16 Days of Activism, we send a powerful message that we will not tolerate violence against anyone. Everyone deserves to feel safe.

"We all have a right to feel safe, have equal access to support, and live a life free from violence. We all have a role to play in the prevention of violence against women and this starts with respect.

"Respect is shown in many forms such as building equitable and healthy relationships, calling out mates who have said something

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

harmful, and making it clear that all forms of violence are unacceptable.

"As a community, we can change attitudes and behaviours that support environments that allow violence to thrive.

"We invite all members of our community to participate in events during 16 Days of Activism.

"Together, we can take meaningful steps toward change and show that we stand united in our commitment to ending violence."

Read for change

EDUCATION is the first step towards a better future for women. Read and share these books to teach little ones, teenagers, friends, family, and co-workers what respect truly means.

Children's books:

Respect is ... raising children to be true equals.

- **Every-day Dress-up** by Selina Alko
- **Not Every Princess** by Jeffrey Bone and Lisa Bone
- **Empathy Is Your Superpower** by Cori Bussolari
- **This Boy Can!** by Cori Brooke
- **I am Enough** by Grace Byers
- **The World Needs Who You Were Made to Be** by Joanna Gaines
- **Jacob's New Dress** by Sarah and Ian Hoffman

Middle years and young adult books:

Respect is ... choosing to be the change.

- **Girls on the Verge** by Sharon Biggs Waller
- **Lads: a Guide to Respect and Consent for Teenage Boys** by Alan Bissett
- **Consent Laid Bare** by Chanel Contos
- **The Gilded Ones** by Namina Forna
- **The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali** by Sabina Khan
- **Girls Can Fly** by Ambelin Kwaymullina and Sally Morgan

Adult fiction and non-fiction books:

Respect is... knowing violence against women is preventable.

- **Hana: The Audacity to Be Free** by Hana Assafiri
- **Hope** by Rosie Batty
- **The Angry Women's Choir** by Meg Bignell
- **She Is Not Your Rehab** by Matt Brown
- **Invisible Women: Data Bias in a World Designed for Men** by Caroline Criado Perez
- **Muddy People A Memoir** by Sara El Sayed
- **The Mental Load: A Feminist Comic** by Emma
- **Girl, Woman, Other** by Bernardine Evaristo
- **Delusions of Gender** by Cordelia Fine
- **Wifedom: Mrs. Orwell's Invisible Life** by Anna Funder
- **Teaching Consent** by Jane Gilmore
- **Troll Hunting: Inside the World of Online Hate and its Human Fallout** by Ginger Gorman
- **Underestimated: The Wisdom and Power of Teenage Girls** by Chelsey Goodan
- **The Time Has Come: Why Men Must Join the Gender Equality Revolution** by Michael Kaufman
- **Eggshell Skull** by Bri Lee
- **Unshrinking** by Kate Manne
- **Talkin' Up to the White Woman** by Aileen Moreton-Robinson
- **Men Explain Things to Me** by Rebecca Solnit
- **The Dictionary of Lost Words** by Pip Williams

WHAT IS RESPECT?

RESPECT can mean something different for everyone, but at its core, respect is the consideration and acceptance of others' thoughts, feelings, wishes, and rights.

We invite readers to write or draw in the box below what respect means to them, and share this activity with friends and family—because we all deserve to be respected.

TO ME, RESPECT IS...

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

RESPECT VICTORIA

Here for You

GVPHU stands for respect, gender equality, and women's health.

As advocates and champions for women's wellbeing, we are committed and dedicated to a community where every woman is celebrated, safe and empowered.

Together we can create a future of respect, where everyone is equal and feels valued.



ZONTA SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



ZONTA CLUB OF MITCHELL

Facebook: @ZONTACLUBOFMITCHELL
 Instagram: @ZONTAMITCHELL
 Email: ZONTACLUBMITCHELL@GMAIL.COM

Why the work of Love in Action is so important for our community....

In 2023-2024, The Mitchell Shire family-violence incident rate was 2,371 per 100,000 people, 1.7 times the state average.

A 21.5% rate increase in the number of family violence incidences compared to the previous year (2022-23)

Families escaping domestic violence are often displaced quickly, leaving behind food, clothes, and personal belongings.



This is why the **Community Bank** have committed to assisting Love in Action in providing emergency food, emergency clothing, and toys for families escaping domestic violence.

We believe in the vision of Love in Action, and that everyone deserves safety and security, and the support they need to access it.



Community Bank
Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford

Wendy **LOVELL** MP

Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Region

"Together we can foster a community where everyone has the right to live a life free from violence and discrimination"

p: (03) 5821 6668 e: wendy.lovell@parliament.vic.gov.au

/wendylovelIMP



Authorised by Wendy Lovell MP, 222 Wyndham Street Shepparton.

RESPECT IS KNOWING YOU CAN HELP PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



FamilyCare, Rumbalara, Primary Care Connect, Nexus Primary Health and Family Safety Victoria support the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and Respect Women: Call it Out Campaign to prevent family violence in our community.

The **Orange Door** provides help and support for family violence, as well as families in need of support with the wellbeing and development of children.

To access support, please contact:

The **Orange Door** on 1800 634 245 (9am - 5pm, Mon - Fri)

- goulburn@orangedoor.vic.gov.au
- 42/80 Bentinck Street, Wallan 3756
- 210 Corio Street, Shepparton 3630

or call **Safe Steps** on 1800 015 188 (available 24/7)



WELLINGTON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTRE

Supports the

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM



Phone: 5783 3887
81-89 High Street, Wallan



Farmers' Federal Budget drive national productivity

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has delivered 20 targeted investments in its 2025-26 Pre-Budget Submission to drive productivity growth.

NFF President David Jochinke said the Australian economy continued to navigate complex challenges from slowing productivity growth to ongoing cost-of-living pressures, while shifting global dynamics add further complications.

"Families are grappling with rising costs, tight budgets and growing uncertainties. Australian farmers also share these burdens as productivity growth lags, input prices

fluctuate, and market volatility squeezes margins," Mr Jochinke said.

"Yet we remain steadfastly optimistic about agriculture's role in helping Australia address these challenges. With the right policy and investment settings, agriculture can help Australia overcome its challenges.

"While strong economic policies are vital to our sector's growth, the people driving

agriculture are at the heart of everything we achieve. It's why we've included an ask to boost farmer wellbeing following from the National Forum on Mental Health and Wellbeing in Agriculture the NFF hosted in March," Mr Jochinke said.

The priorities include; \$1 billion for improving freight supply chains, including roads and rail, \$175 million for a farmworker

accommodation investment package of incentives, \$150 million for climate-related research and development, \$36 million to extend the On Farm Connectivity Program to grow digital uptake, and \$25 million for a national, agricultural industry led approach to grow farmers' wellbeing and prevent suicides.

Grants to enhance local waterways

THE Victorian Government is enhancing Victoria's local waterways with projects to protect the environment and create more green open spaces for the community to enjoy the great outdoors.

Minister for Water Harriet Shing recently opened the second round of the *Green Links Grant Program*, with \$2 million to be invested across projects that help to restore and improve local waterways all over Victoria.

Under round two, eligibility has been extended to also include projects delivered by schools, giving young people more opportunities to get involved in restoring and safeguarding the state's precious rivers and creeks.

Community groups, water and land managers, Traditional Owners, local councils and now schools are encouraged to apply for project funding between \$20,000 and \$350,000.

Victoria's waterways are home to more than 1800 species of native plants and 600 species of native animals and revegetation projects are essential for the health of our waterways and their parkland corridors.

Projects funded through the *Green Links Grants* are creating more environmental corridors and helping native plants flourish.

The \$10 million *Green Links Grant Program* builds on the Victorian Government's \$262 million investment in maintaining the health and resilience of waterways and catchments across regional Victoria and Melbourne.

For more information on the *Green Links Grants Program* and future funding opportunities, visit water.vic.gov.au/grants/green-links-grants

Be snake alert this spring

NOW the weather is warming up, snakes are becoming more active in Victoria and it's vital to be prepared and stay safe.

To keep yourself safe, watch your step, keep an eye on pets and children when outside, keep your yard tidy and remove debris and keep grass cut low.

Educate yourself and learn about local snake species and their habitat and know who your local snake catchers are. If someone is bitten, call 000 immediately.

Snakes are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, and capturing, harming, or killing them is illegal. If you encounter a snake, keep your distance and contact local wildlife authorities if needed.

Situations concerning snakes and other wildlife are handled by the *Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)*. For more information, contact DEECA on 136 186.

NOVEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for November, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The November theme is **'local food'**.

Sponsored by



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon November 27, 2024

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra
Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

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

FREE Health Checks for the FARMING COMMUNITY

FREE Prostate & Cervical Cancer Screening Kits

Yea Saleyards Friday 22 November & 29 November 2024

FREE Sun Smart Information

Yea Saleyards Friday 6 December 2024

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Yea Saleyards Friday 17 January & 7 February 2025

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



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By Jed Dunstan



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Store Sale

DECEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

DECEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

JANUARY 10, 2025 Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

JANUARY 15, 2025 Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

JANUARY 17, 2025 Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

SAVE THE DATE

Stephen Duckett speaking about small regional hospitals

PROFESSOR Stephen Duckett OAM is an Honorary Enterprise Professor in the School of Population and Global Health and in the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne.

He led the report, *Targeting Zero: Supporting the Victorian hospital system to eliminate avoidable harm and strengthen quality of care*, in 2016, often referred to as the Duckett report. The report was in response to the discovery of a cluster of potentially avoidable perinatal deaths at Djerriwarrh Health Services in Victoria's east between 2012 and 2014, and led to the creation of Safer Care Victoria.

Professor Duckett will be speaking at the Yea and District Memorial Hospital's annual community meeting at the Country Club Hotel on November 25 from 6pm.

Having Professor Duckett as guest speaker is quite a coup for the hospital. Speaking on the phone in the lead-up to the meeting, Professor Duckett explained that he worked with Ian Marshman, chair of YDMH, a long time ago, and that they have kept in contact ever since. It was a favour to Mr Marshman in a sense.

He was asked how he would envision small rural hospitals in 10 years time, in an ideal world. Professor Duckett responded, "There's two things that I'd like to see in the ideal world. First that the small rural hospital has local leadership associated with it. That is, it's not run from a big regional centre. The local leadership may not necessarily be in that town, it may be in the next town over, but it's still this focus of local and this focus of a local management that relates to the local town.

"Now, the reason I'm saying that is that the local hospital does a number of things that you don't see in bigger hospitals, and bigger hospitals don't give priority to, and it's partly that the local hospital is there in case of emergency, so people can be stabilised. It's partly that the local hospital can do more things, especially things that are about building the community, creating resilience so it can manage climate change emergencies more easily. It can do things like create community gardens, and things that contribute to health as health is broadly defined and not just as sickness or the absence of disease."

Recent research indicates that there are very bad health outcomes

in regional areas, largely due to the tyranny of distance there. The Chief Health Officer indicated that in rural areas, there are higher rates of cancer, cardio vascular disease, COPD, diabetes, mental and behavioural disorders due to substance abuse, and many others. The latest research from Rural Health shows that rural men are 2.5 times and women 2.8 times more likely to die from potentially avoidable causes than those in urban areas. Professor Duckett was asked how this might be addressed in the current context.

He responded, "There's a couple of the underlying reason for that, and I've given a speech about this in Bendigo a few years ago. There are issues of First Nations Aboriginal people having much worse health status than non-Aboriginal Australians, but secondly it's also, as you say, sometimes these conditions are not picked up. We often think of the rugged outdoor person and equate that with rural, but that's not what rural is these days and people in rural Australia are exposed to the same sorts of conditions which lead to those increased rates, but also they may not go to the GPs. They may not be picked up, they may not get around to do anything about it, and so for those potentially avoidable conditions if your diabetes is picked up later, you've got more problems and so on. So part of what we want to be seeing in rural healthcare is not just worrying about the hospitals but worrying about the general practice and also the multi-disciplinary team that sits around health these days."

Professor Duckett has agreed that a part of that is bringing finding a way to bring in more GPs and medical specialists into regional Victoria.

"I'd phrase it as about the health workforce generally because you need not only the GP, you need the nurses, you need the paramedics, you need all of these, the physios and so on. All of these people contribute to helping and managing chronic conditions, when people have chronic conditions," he said.

"One of the issues I will be talking about in the speech is this issue a workforce and the role of the local hospital in getting people to think about health as a possible career, getting people to think about going on to vocational education or going on to university, which they might not otherwise do, and making it easier for them to do that. And that might be having a link up with a

university or the provider who does distance education. So you might have people in the town who are able to study nursing in the town, if they do it by online education."

This is becoming more possible as technology evolves, and Professor Duckett commented, "It's in a sense to grow your own strategy that so the local hospital doesn't only do hospital stuff, which is often what we think about it. But it also does this community building approach and also the education building approach, getting people to think about going on to further study and getting people to think about health courses in particular."

If people grow up regionally, then they are also more likely to work regionally when they complete their education.

Professor Duckett was asked to comment further on the tyranny of distance for people who live in regional areas.

He said, "We know it's just not possible for every speciality to be available in every town. That's just not either feasible or clinically appropriate, because you want the specialists to have lots and lots of experience and keep up to date with their experience.

"And so then you've got to say, well, what are we going to do about it? If we believe in equity, what are we going to do about making sure that small rural towns have access to the best care possible? Well, part of the answer is technology. That is, we can now do things with technology we weren't able to do before, and so that means the GP might be able to consult with a specialist, get advice about how to manage this issue locally, and so the person doesn't need to travel because the information travels.

"It might be that you can do a Telehealth consultation between the person and the specialist as well. I don't think we're using that sort technology enough, even though we all experienced massive change in technology during the first couple of years of the COVID-19 epidemic. We haven't got it in our mindset about how we're going to make sure we can partially overcome tyranny of distance through these new technological supports.

"You can do it better if there is a base there to start with. There is a GP who you can go to and be part of the conduit and be supported in managing your condition. So instead of having to go and see the specialist once every six months or once every three months, you might



Professor Stephen Duckett. -S

only need to see them once and then get ongoing support locally."

Professor Duckett was also asked about the part he sees artificial intelligence playing in the health profession moving forward.

He commented, "I wouldn't put eggs in the AI basket. What I say is it's just making sure the technology is available and yes, it might be able to help the GP come to a decision and come to an understanding, but what's important is that there is this technology and you may not need to use AI for that purpose."

Hospitals in Murrindindi Shire have lost a range of services across the last 20 or so years, including maternity, a variety of operations, and the treatment of children. While the rationale is patient safety, it also means that patients need to spend a lot more time travelling, which can at times be problematic.

Professor Duckett said, "That's part of the trade off. As I said earlier, you want to make sure that the healthcare you're going to see is good healthcare, and by and large what we have seen in the past is that the more frequently you see a condition, the better you are able to manage it, and this is especially true with procedural things like surgery and so on.

"That is one of the reasons why the doctors who used to do a huge range of things are now narrowing what they do so they can do it better. So what we've got to balance is making sure we've got the right skills locally, but those skills that are appropriate and are done well. Now this is where AI comes in. The literature on this is a pre AI literature and it's primarily procedural, but not entirely procedural, and so AI doesn't help with the procedure really at this stage but it may help

to bring the resources of AI to skill up the person who is doing the diagnosis and so on. So, this may be an issue that needs to be revisited as we think about one what the AI revolution is going to allow. But again, it comes back to the issue of we have to have the services there.

"One of the things that's happening in other states is the so-called Google generalist where you train a person as a rural GP, and then you say we are going to give you extra skills in obstetrics, for example, or anaesthetics, and so on, and so you don't need to have a specialist obstetrician. You don't need to have a specialist anaesthetist. You have this so-called rural generalist with this additional training. Now, in the case of maternity care, you've got to have a couple of these people in the town. You've got to have a person with the anaesthetic skills and they might use the anaesthetics in other areas as well as obstetrics and you've got to have a couple of people so they're not on call 24/7, 52 weeks of the year, which means you've got to have a certain volume, which even when you aggregate a couple of rural towns together, you might not these days."

He added that his view is that small rural hospitals shouldn't be run from big regional centres, but that "you do want small regional hospitals working together, and that might mean they merge and have a single board but essentially, they still have local management, and one might be the place for dialysis and another one might be the place for age care, another one might be the place for chemotherapy or whatever, and you can actually run a system like that with quite small populations and do it well."

Recent audit shows rural healthcare suffers

THE recently released audit of the Australian health and medical research workforce by the Department of Health and Aged Care throws light on the importance of supporting rural, regional and remote health workforce and researchers through strategic and targeted measures to ensure rural Australians enjoy the same health benefits as their city counterparts.

According to the latest findings, only 13 per cent of the health and medical workforce is in regional, rural, or remote areas, which is insufficient to serve Australia's 30 per cent rural population. The report also points to the underrepresentation of researchers in regional and remote areas and the additional barriers that exist for regional researchers.

National Rural Health Alliance Chief Executive, Susi Tegen, stated her concerns about the lack of rural representation.

"The underrepresentation of rural researchers is worrying given that rural communities face distinct health challenges that require tailored and place-based solutions. The disparity in workforce distribution highlights barriers to participation in health research for regional researchers," Ms Tegen said.

"Funding for research does not adequately flow to the regions. Rural researchers become a secondary consideration for funding. They have difficulty accessing the same opportunities available to researchers in metropolitan locations.

"The limited access to training, funding and collaborative networks in regional areas means that researchers may be left behind, and the needs of these communities may remain unmet," Ms Tegen added.

"The findings of this report will help inform the development of the National Health and Medical Research Strategy, which makes it imperative that rural researchers and the importance of community needs are taken into account."

The report's key finding is that the health and medical research workforce is highly mobile, moving jobs every 1.6 years. This suggests with proper funding and support, researchers may be willing to move to rural areas.

"It is essential that the government and funding agencies support researchers working in rural and remote areas so that all Australians' needs are considered when formulating important policies and strategies.

"We call on the government to address the health needs of rural, regional and remote populations by increasing funding access, providing targeted training and development as well as opportunities for collaborative networks to the regional workforce and researchers, so that all Australians enjoy the same health benefits, despite their postcode," Ms Tegen said.

The National Rural Health Alliance comprises 53 national organisations committed to improving the health and wellbeing of the over seven million people in rural and remote Australia. Their diverse membership includes representation from health professional organisations, health service providers, health educators, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector and students.

WORK LOCAL

save fuel, time and make money

Applications open for regional worker accommodation grants

THE Victorian Government is backing more regional businesses to attract the workers they need, with another round of the *Regional Worker Accommodation Fund* now open.

Speaking last week at the annual conference of the Victorian Country Press Association in Torquay, Minister for Regional Development Gayle Tierney announced the opening of applications for this program's second round.

"We're working closely with private sector businesses, industry and community groups to build the homes and accommodation our towns need, supporting Victoria's regions to have the skilled workers they need so our communities can prosper," Ms Tierney said.

"The second round of the *Regional Worker Accommodation Fund* is one of the ways we're creating more housing where it's needed most."

The *Regional Worker Accommodation Fund* supports shovel-ready projects, with co-investment from private businesses, industries, regional councils, or local community groups to deliver the worker housing that local industries and workforces need to support communities in regional Victoria to thrive for years to come.

Eligible local housing projects will be fit-for-purpose to meet the skills needs of key sectors such as health, agriculture, education, manufacturing, and tourism, from self-contained units, worker villages, family dwellings, shared accommodation, and studios, and unique to the needs of the local community.

Regional Victorian cities and towns that have robust, shovel-ready ideas in partnership with local business and industry are strongly encouraged to apply in this second round.

The opening of applications for round two comes on the back of last month's announcement of funding for more than 20 successful projects that unlock nearly

\$250 million in combined private and public investment through the program's first round, boosting affordable housing options for workers and their families.

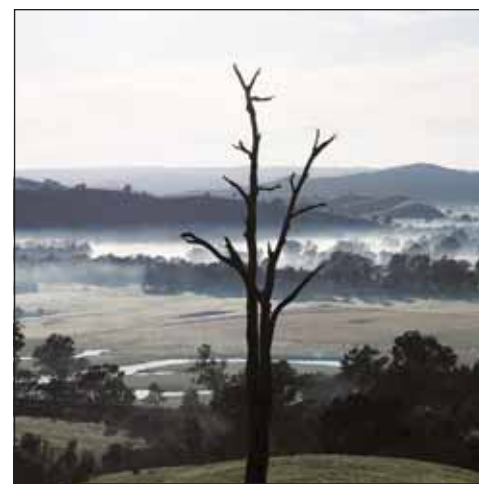
Successful projects from the first round of the fund include one of Australia's largest food manufacturers Don Smallgoods, who are building eight four-bedroom units for more than 30 manufacturing and production workers. The units will provide short-term and seasonal workers with accommodation nearby to Don's Castlemaine facility.

More than 1300 workers will also be supported with new worker accommodation throughout Victoria's alpine resorts in Mt Hotham, Mt Buller and Falls Creek. The new homes will help ease workforce

shortages and support tourism offerings in Victoria's iconic Alpine region through modern accommodation facilities built by Grollo Group.

Dozens of regional healthcare workers will find more affordable housing across the state including Goulburn Valley Health, Bairnsdale Regional Health, and Bass Coast Health. These projects will ensure regional Victoria has housing for the hospital staff to make it best placed to deliver essential health services.

The *Regional Worker Accommodation Fund* is part of the state government's record \$45 billion investment in regional and rural Victoria since 2014. The fund is one of the ways regional and rural Victorian cities and



Acheron Cutting lookout. -AR

towns are being becoming even better places to live, work, stay, and play.

Applications are open until Friday, January 31. For more information about the fund, visit rdv.vic.gov.au/rwaf

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- Remuneration as per applicable Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025.

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- Current police check

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- Employee Assistance Program available
- Supportive management team
- Ongoing Professional Development
- Remuneration as per Health and Allied Services, Managers and Administrative Workers (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025.

Please telephone reception (03) 5774 2711 for a position description or email your resumé to dwalsh@dugnh.com.au by midday on Monday 2nd December 2024

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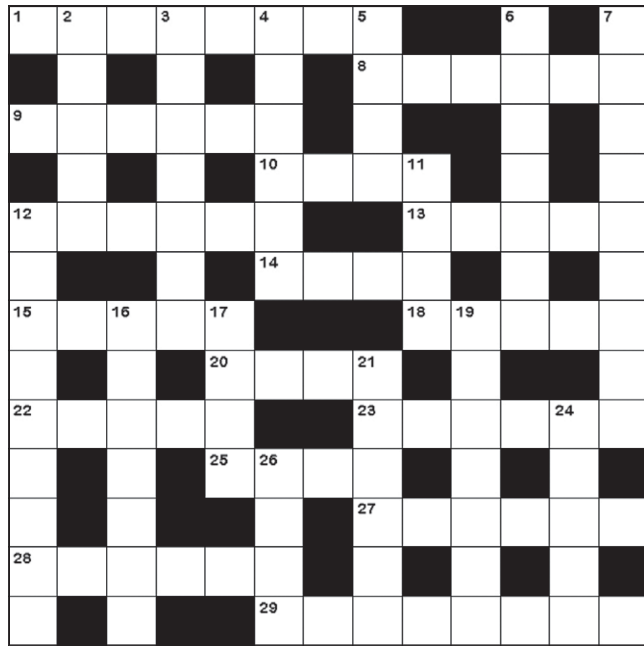
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 23

Crossword

ACROSS

1. Distributed or sold illicitly.
8. Prove to be false or incorrect.
9. Give help or support.
10. Children's spinning toys.
12. Three times as many.
13. Africa's laughing dog.
14. A contest to be first to achieve something.
15. Bearing weapons.
18. To be in terror of.
20. Female sheep.
22. A slight or surface burn.
23. Not wearing shoes.
25. A series of steps to be carried out.
27. Took a life.
28. Entwine into a confusing mass.
29. Something that makes no sense.



DOWN

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A stingy hoarder of money. 3. Catch a brief look at. 4. Rubbish dropped in a public place. 5. The tiniest amount of liquid. 6. Severely simple or plain. 7. Deprived someone by cheating. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. An outbuilding used for storage. 12. Change into another language. 16. All of the inhabitants of the earth. 17. A very low sound. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Reach a decision. 21. At the bottom of a body of water. 24. Does as one is told. 26. The right to property in lieu of payment. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Word Search

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

Down on the Farm

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| CHICKEN | HORSE |
| DAIRYCOW | PIGSTYE |
| FARMER | SHEEP |
| FARMHOUSE | TOOLSHED |
| FENCING | TRACTOR |
| HAYBALE | WATERTROUGH |

Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
				13				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					9			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24							

$\frac{1}{24}$	$\frac{19}{13}$	$\frac{S}{24}$	$\frac{1}{13}$	$\frac{E}{13}$
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$\frac{S}{24}$	$\frac{E}{13}$	$\frac{S}{24}$	$\frac{O}{9}$	$\frac{O}{8}$	$\frac{O}{1}$	$\frac{O}{9}$
----------------	----------------	----------------	---------------	---------------	---------------	---------------

$\frac{E}{11}$	$\frac{E}{13}$	$\frac{O}{7}$	$\frac{O}{9}$	$\frac{O}{20}$	$\frac{O}{20}$	$\frac{O}{12}$
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Math Square

	+		-		2
-		+		+	
	+	8	-	6	9
x		+		÷	
	+		x		23
-31		18		6	

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

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

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.
 Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.



The FrogID webinar was followed by a visit to UT creek to practise catching frog calls on this fabulous citizen science project. -S



Yea Wetlands webinar.



Council's librarians in ELF Reading Day frog themed outfits at Yea Library. -S

Fascinating FrogID Week webinar and walk

MURRINDINDI Shire Council and the Australian Museum hosted a captivating online webinar for FrogID Week, followed by in-person walks in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea on Monday, November 11, to learn about the FrogID project and why frogs matter.

Nadiah Roslan from the Australian Museum Research Institute, a biologist with extensive experience in climate biology and conservation, hosted the engaging webinar.

The presentation included an introduction to the FrogID project, why frogs matter, the importance of citizen science projects, frog species that can be found in Murrindindi Shire, unique frog species and their calls, and how to get involved using the FrogID App for FrogID Week.

Over 100 attendees participated online, with 32 people attending in-person. Following the webinar, council's Senior Environment Assessment Officer Sue McNair and the Alexandra group visited UT Creek, Kinglake Landcare Group co-founder Roger Cook and the Kinglake group visited Stony Creek Reserve, and local frog enthusiast Ron Litjens and the Yea group visited the Yea Wetlands.

Council's libraries in Kinglake and Yea also celebrated FrogID Week with frog-themed story time sessions. Children enjoyed frog-related books, songs, and crafts, with librarians dressing up as frogs to add to the fun.

To learn more, visit the frogid.net.au

Buxton Fire Brigade to see in the dark

THE Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) has awarded \$1,051,688 to 103 community groups to enhance the vitality and liveability of remote, rural and regional places across Australia, through the Foundation's grants program, Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC).

In Victoria, 29 community groups are sharing more than \$245,000 in funding. One such group is the Buxton Fire Brigade. The grant will mean that they will be able to strengthen bushfire preparedness and increase organisational capacity by purchasing thermal imaging equipment, increasing effective response time to emergencies. They have received \$6500.

FRRR Place Portfolio Lead, Jill Karena, said the foundation is committed to

empowering local groups and organisations to develop and lead projects that will best meet the needs of their community.

"We know that for every state, region and town, priorities will be different, and we are here to work with local groups to help them address their needs and strive to celebrate their vibrancy and acknowledge their tenacity.

"The projects we fund truly matter and have a meaningful impact. Our Strengthening Rural Communities program proves that a grant, no matter how small, can make a big impact in a regional place."

The next round is now open. More information can be found at frrr.org.au/funding/place/src-small-vital/

Government lack of action around Disability Support Pension criticised

DURING last week's Senate Estimates the Australian Government released its official response to the report on the purpose, intent and adequacy of the Disability Support Pension (DSP).

People with Disability Australia (PWDA), Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and disability advocacy organisations have expressed alarm at the government's dismissal of the report's recommendations and called for urgent action to address barriers to accessing the DSP, the risk of poverty for recipients and to reform how eligibility is assessed and avenues for dispute resolution.

People with Disability Australia President, Marayke Jonkers, said, "It's unacceptable that this report has sat on the shelf for over two years and received such a lacklustre response. The government has not explained why the report's recommendations are no longer relevant.

"We know the Disability Support Pension needs to be higher and available to more people with disability or far too many in our

community will continue to live in poverty and not have the financial resources to meet their most basic needs. The government must take action.

"This response from the government collides with changes to the NDIS and people with disability facing new or continued gaps in services and fears over how they will pay for things like mobility aides, assistive technology and support workers.

"Major changes are needed to support the employment of people with disability but these must go hand-in-hand with an adequate social safety net for those who are unable to participate in employment, including people with chronic illnesses.

"The Disability Support Pension is a lifeline for many that determines whether their support and living needs will be met, and there are too many people who don't have access, who should," Ms Jonkers said.

Key recommendations from the report that have not been actioned include amending

claims processes to ensure people with disability or chronic illness who have little opportunity to enter or re-enter the labour force are granted the Disability Support Pension; removal of mutual obligations for people during the process of their claims and making the program of support voluntary, "abandoning punitive compliance measures" and making employment services more effective; increasing funding for disability advocacy, community legal services and First Nations organisations to support DSP claimants in their claims process; increasing funding to improve linkages between Services Australia and First Nations organisations; establishing principles in the administration of social security, including proactively assisting people to access support; treating people with respect; making adjustments to service delivery to meet individual needs.

While changes to the impairment tables in 2023 were a starting point for reform, the failure to act on the systemic flaws in how the DSP is administered and who it is available

to have left people with disability without the financial resources necessary to live.

ACOSS CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie, said, "Everyday people with disability struggle to afford the basic essentials of life due to a system that does more to exclude them than support them.

"Each year, 44 per cent of claims for the Disability Support Pension are rejected thanks to a bureaucratic, stressful and impersonal claims process. People with disability end up on the woefully inadequate \$56 a day JobSeeker Payment, with some forced to do mutual obligations despite having a disability or chronic ill health.

"The government cannot sweep this national shame under the rug. It has a duty to ensure Australia's social security provides people with enough to cover essentials, including the extra costs that disability brings, and are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve."



Ensure that injured wildlife are looked after by a authorised wildlife carer. -Charles J Sharp

Don't take injured wildlife home

VICTORIANS are being reminded not to take injured or orphaned native animals home with them.

Chief Conservation Regulator, Kate Gavens, said while the intentions might be good, in most cases it's not the best outcome for an orphaned or injured wild animal, such as kangaroo joeys, to be taken to someone's house who isn't authorised to do so.

"Sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife need specialised care or they may become habituated to humans and domestic animals, potentially losing their natural instincts and behaviours, hindering their ability to be released and survive in the wild," Ms Gavens said.

"If you find an injured or orphaned wildlife, it's in the animal's best interests for you to call 136 186 or use the Help for Injured Wildlife online tool to find a trained rehabilitator who can take proper care of them."

People taking wildlife home may also face fines and can risk exposure to diseases to themselves or their pets. If unauthorised people take in wildlife, the animals can be exposed to domestic animals, loud human living environments and inappropriate, and sometimes unsafe caring and feeding techniques.

For example, an orphaned Eastern Grey Kangaroo joey was reportedly found by the roadside and kept by well-meaning people who did not have the skills or knowledge to care for her properly.

Fortunately for this joey, the Conservation Regulator received a call about her situation and officers took her to a wildlife shelter near Bendigo where she was found to be sick and undernourished and is now receiving specialised care.

If members of the public encounter sick, injured or orphaned wildlife they should call the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action on 136 186 or use the Help for Injured Wildlife tool. Wildlife rehabilitation is

undertaken by a diverse network of authorised and experienced volunteer shelter operators and foster carers and are supported by wildlife rescuers and registered veterinarians.

It is illegal in Victoria to take and keep sick, injured or orphaned wildlife from the wild. Taking native animals from the wild without authorisation is an offence under the *Wildlife Act 1975* that carries a fine of up to \$9879.50 and/or six months imprisonment.

Members of the community picking up sick animals can also increase the risk of spreading diseases including avian influenza. State and Commonwealth agencies are working together to ensure the potential impacts of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks are minimised including helping wildlife rehabilitators to prepare for any outbreak of the H5N1 strain which has not been detected in Australia to date.

For more information on the response to HPAI outbreaks go to wildlife.vic.gov.au/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife/high-pathogenic-avian-influenza

For more information on caring for native wildlife or becoming an authorised Wildlife Shelter or Foster Carer go to vic.gov.au/wildlife-rehabilitation-shelters-and-foster-carers

If you see any orphaned or injured wildlife, please call a local wildlife shelter or Wildlife Victoria. It only takes a few minutes to do and you could be saving a little life.

Wildlife Victoria can be contacted on 8400 7300. The number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week or you can report online at wildlifevictoria.org.au

If you call them, they will send someone out. Often, these will be local wildlife carers.

The local wildlife carers in Murrindindi Shire are Salvum Wildlife Shelter in Thornton (0438 644 021), Narbeview Wildlife Shelter in Buxton (0419 584 099), Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter in Strath Creek (0430 440 286) and Sherrie in Eildon (0498 053 760).

Haines submission to fix regional connectivity divide

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines has called for the Federal Government to significantly increase its investment in regional telecommunications, citing the persistent internet divide between the cities and the bush.

Dr Haines's submission to the triannual Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Review made nine recommendations to improve phone and internet access for communities in regional Australia.

Dr Haines' recommendations focus on eradicating blackspots, increasing resilience during emergencies and natural disasters, supporting businesses and primary producers, and fixing network congestion.

"The federal government needs to do better, because what I hear time and time again is that telecommunications aren't up to scratch in regional, rural and remote Australia," Dr Haines said.

"More than ever, we work online, we study online, we access health services online and we keep in touch with our friends and family online, but we can't do any of these things if we can't connect. If we can't connect then we fall behind," Dr Haines said.

"Poor telecommunications are a barrier to prosperity and create significant challenges for our communities in times of emergency."

Since being elected in 2019, Dr Haines has secured funding for 13 new phone towers in Indi, with four towers due to come online in 2024. Under independent representation, Indi is the most successful federal electorate in Victoria to secure funding under the Commonwealth Mobile Black Spot Program, but Dr Haines said the work shouldn't stop there.

"The federal government has an ongoing responsibility to ensure regional communities have access to stable, affordable, high-speed telecommunications."

In May, Dr Haines welcomed the Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Review Committee to Benalla, where she hosted a roundtable with Mayors and CEOs of Indi's nine local governments.

She also held a public consultation. "One message I heard loud and clear was the need for more generators and batteries to provide backup to mobile phone towers when the power goes out. That's why my submission recommended the government increase funding for programs that fund generators and batteries for our remote mobile phone towers," she said.

"We must increase resilience now before the next fire or flood arrives, not after. We need to increase funding for programs that fund community energy nodes and power backup for mobile phone towers in extreme weather events."

RSV numbers have more than doubled in the shire

LAST month the state government announced Victorian infants will receive better protection against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) with a new \$18.7 million immunisation program. This will subsidise the long acting monoclonal antibody for unprotected newborns and eligible infants whose mothers did not receive RSV vaccination during pregnancy, who were vaccinated less than two weeks before delivery, who are at increased risk of severe RSV, regardless of their mother's vaccination status; and some children entering their second RSV season who are at risk or have medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe RSV disease.

This is welcoming news in the Murrindindi Shire as RSV numbers have more than doubled from 2023 to this year.

In 2023 RSV cases in the shire were 30 and in 2024 RSV cases to date are 79.

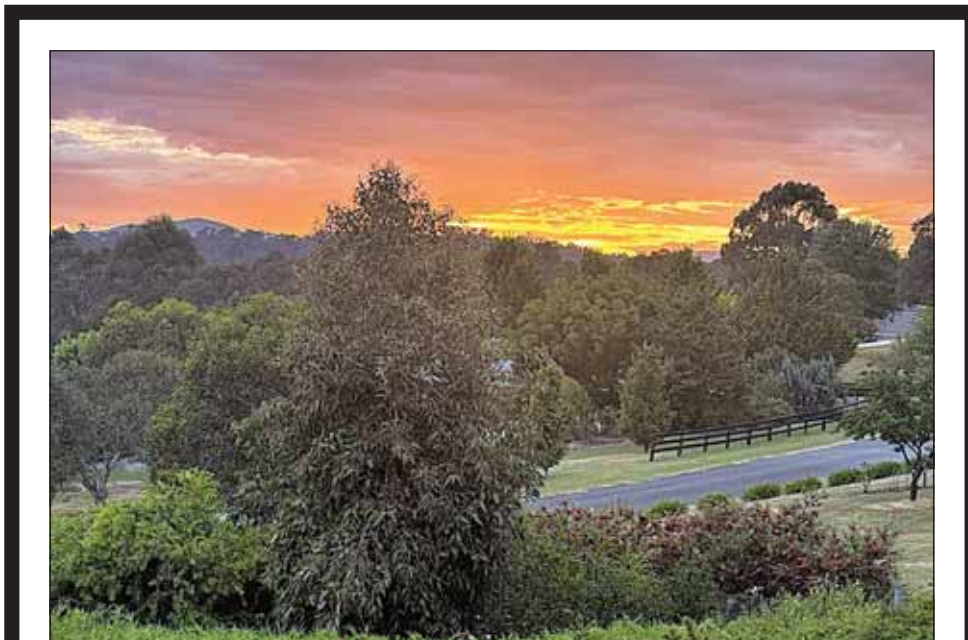
Over half of the RSV cases in the Shire were for babies and children from zero to four years of age. Numbers from five years of age to fifty seem relatively low, then another peak of five cases from ages 50 to 54.

RSV is the most common cause of respiratory and breathing infections in children. It is a virus that causes infection of the lungs and breathing passages and is one of the most frequent causes of the common cold.

RSV can affect people of all ages. Most children aged under two years have been infected by RSV at some stage, and it is possible to get RSV repeatedly. Good hygiene habits can reduce the chance of your child getting the virus or passing it on to others.

Symptoms can include runny nose, cough, wheezing and fever. RSV is a common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children under one year old. If your child has asthma, RSV is likely to trigger their asthma symptoms.

If your child has RSV or cold like symptoms, it is important to keep them away from newborn babies or people who are immunocompromised.



A lovely photo sent in by Linda Carter of a sunset from Toorong Rise in Alexandra.

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Best winning rink of division four. Pictured are Larry Scott, Janice Dunston, Marie Evans and Greg Gilmore. -S

Strong competition for bowls

by Marie Evans

IT was a highly competitive week of Bowls for the Alexandra Bowls Club. Division four is back on top of the ladder after defeating Euroa last Saturday. Division six travelled to Dookie and were defeated by one shot in a game that could have gone either way. The Midweek Division four side played Dookie at home and won by a single shot.

The best winning rink for midweek division four was Doug Cooper (Skip), John Blamey, Tony Murphy and Levi Ronalds. They won 14 out of 21 ends, led for the entire game and finished 28 to 12. A win that would seal up the win for the Alexandra side.

David Nicklos (Skip), Trevor Stewart, Marty Manning and Sandra Murphy had a closer game and were six all on end eight, trailed eight to 10 on end 13. It was 13 to 15 by end 18. Dookie won the next two ends and Alexandra the last. Dookie were 17 to 14 winners.

Christine Mayfield (Skip), Denice Chisholm, Pauline Gilmore and Clive Murphy trailed nine to 25 on end 18 but won two out of the last three ends and reduced that margin to lose 14 to 26.

Alexandra won the overall, 56 to 55 and won 12 points, Dookie four points. Next round is away to Merrigum who are in last place. Alexandra sits in sixth place and will be looking to back up their win.

On Saturday Division four were playing for top spot against Euroa. Alexandra won three out of the four rinks to win the overall 85 to 66. The best winning rink was Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans, Janice Dunston. They won 12 out of 21 ends and were 21 to 11 winners.

David Nicklos, Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier and Christine Mayfield played an equally successful game. They picked up six shots on end seven and led 14 to five and were 21 to eight up on end fourteen. Euroa won five

out of the last seven ends, but Alexandra won comfortably 24 to 15.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Andy Tobias, Denice Chisholm and Clive Murphy had a much closer contest. They had a seven shot lead on end 15. Euroa found some form and won five out of the last six ends. However, Alexandra kept them to largely single shot wins and ran out 22 to 20 winners.

Rink four, Tim Langmead, Bob Benghamy, Trevor Stewart and Saxon Langmead were seven to eight down on end nine but won five shots on the next end to lead 12 to eight. Their lead was 14 to 10 on end 13 but Euroa won the next six ends to lead 14 to 20 on end nineteen. Alexandra won the last two ends but lost 18 to 20.

The ladder is Alexandra 69, Euroa 62, Dookie 58, Mooropna 49. Next round is against East Shepparton who are currently in sixth place.

Last Saturday Division six played away at Dookie. Ray Mathieson (Skip), Pauline Gilmore, Ian Franklin and Ian Harper had the best winning rink. They trailed five to 11 on end eight but won 10 out of the next 13 ends to win 32 to 15. A brilliant win. Congratulations to Ian Harper on his first game for the Alexandra side.

Mark Stone (Skip), Anne Gunton, Pip Parkinson and Rob Roach won 10 ends and lost 24 to 15. Congratulations to Pip Parkinson on his first game of the Pennant season.

Malcolm Gill (Skip), Karen Jackson, Marty Manning and Warren Nelson were 0 to 11 down on end five but won four out of the next five ends to trail 7 to 12. It was nine to 15 on end fourteen. Dookie won four of the last seven ends to run out 23 to 14 winners. The overall was Dookie 62 to Alexandra 61. A great game.

Next week Division six is away to Shepparton Park who are fourth on the ladder.

Club members who have signed up for club championship games need to ensure that they organise games.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

CRYPTOGRAM

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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

MEETINGS



Dame Pattie Menzies Centre Inc. Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 5.30pm to be held at The Mount.

Any new business or applications for COM membership for consideration need to be forwarded to the secretary, seven business days prior to AGM.

RSVP on 5772 1888 or email DPMC@menziessupport.org.au by Friday, November 22, 2024.



Registration No: A0018756R

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting of Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home Inc will be held on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024 commencing at 1.30pm in North Lounge Room. Video conferencing available, please email request to. darlingford@dughn.com.au**

Business of the Meeting:

- to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting
- to receive and consider:
 - the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year
 - the financial statements of the association for the preceding financial year
- to elect the members of the committee;
- Appointment of Auditor

Applications for a position on the Board of Management are invited. Please contact Darlingford on 5774 2711. ALL WELCOME
Please RSVP by December 10, 2024



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6.15 pm Residents, families and members of the Alexandra and district community are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of Kellock Lodge - Alexandria Incorporated to be held at Kellock Lodge, 15 Bon St Alexandria 3714

BUSINESS

- To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meetings held on November 15, 2023
- To receive the Annual Reports for year ending 30 June 2024
- To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2024 (KLA Inc.)
- Questions and general business

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Applications are invited from members of the Alexandra and district Community to join the Board of Management as a Director. The position is honorary, and Board Directors are required to be available for board meetings and committees. Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Board Chair, Kellock Lodge 15 Bon Street Alexandria, Vic, 3714 (or by email to: info@kellocklodge.com.au) and include a cover letter and brief resume. Applications close of business Monday November 25, 2024. Please RSVP your attendance for the meeting by close of business Monday 24 November. Contact reception on 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au. Zoom link available by request. Membership of KLA Inc. is welcomed, with forms available from reception on 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au.
Reg. No. A 0037078E ABN 82 586 866 464



PUBLIC NOTICES

DECLARATION

Fire Restrictions

CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria will be introducing fire restrictions (Fire Danger Period and Prohibited Period, respectively) for all private land within the municipalities listed below.

The Fire Restriction Period will commence at 0100 hours on the date shown and unless varied by a subsequent declaration, will end at 0100 hours on 01/05/2025

Municipality	Date of Commencement
Mitchell Shire	18/11/2024
Murrindindi Shire	18/11/2024

Certain restrictions on the lighting of fires are in force during the Fire Restriction Period. Information about fire restrictions within the Country Area of Victoria can be obtained from www.cfa.vic.gov.au, your local CFA District Office or Municipal Fire Prevention Officer

Information about fire restrictions within the Fire Protected Area can be obtained from www.ffm.vic.gov.au, or your local Forest Fire Management Victoria Fire District Officer

Jason Heffernan
Chief Officer

Chris Hardman
Chief Fire Officer



DEATH NOTICES

HEWITT,
nee (Tennant)
Dawn

18/09/1935 -
08/11/2024

Loved wife of
Allan (dec).
Mother of Bruce,
Keith and Joy
Friend of Deb.
Loved by all,
resting peacefully.

LADE, Peg.

In loving memory of Peg whose unique style will always be remembered by all of the Naughty Nannas of Yea.

FUNERAL NOTICES

HEWITT,
nee (Tennant)
Dawn

A memorial service celebrating the life of Dawn will be held Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at the Alexandra Masonic Lodge, 24 Webster Street commencing at 1pm.



IN MEMORIAM

FOX, Doris Edna (nee Aldous). Passed away on 18/11/1985. Loved and loving mother of Rhyl and Sharon, mother in law of Richard and dear grandmother of Anna, Katie and James. Always remembered.

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MEETINGS



Yea-Kinglake RSL Social Meeting.
RSL Hall, Monday, November 25, 2024 at 11.30am.
Enquiries to secretary 5796 9353.

Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club AGM will be held on November 26 at 2pm at club rooms. All welcome.

Homewood Hall AGM will be held at the hall on November 25, 2024 at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Department of Health



Board director opportunities at Alexandra District Health

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time board director positions at **Alexandra District Health**. The positions start on July 1, 2025 and appointments are for up to three years.

These positions provide an exciting opportunity for Victorians to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional experience, knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of health care for the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. This includes diverse leadership of the health system that represents the variety of backgrounds and cultures of Victorian communities to enable the vision of achieving the best health, wellbeing and safety for everyone.

To build an empowered and engaged leadership across the health system, our priority areas are people of all ages, First Nations people, people who live with a disability, people from culturally diverse backgrounds, people who identify as LGBTIQ+, the promotion of gender equality and upholding human rights.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the capabilities identified in their applications.

Applications close at midnight **Sunday, November 24, 2024.**

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply can be found at www.health.vic.gov.au/board-applications or call Executive Assistant, Jennifer Creed on 5772 0924.

Ray Steyger steps down as AFNC president

RAY Steyger, president of the Alexandra Football Netball Club for 28 years, made the decision to stand down from the role at the club's recent AGM. Kylie Cairns has now taken the reigns, although Ray will stay on the committee, and will be available in an advisory capacity.

Asked how he came to the decision to step down, Ray said, "We've been discussing the word transition for a couple of years... There were one or two who were sort of interested, and then Kylie came and saw me a couple of months ago and said that she would be keen on putting her hand up. We had some meetings just to make sure that she understood the general things and then we said, well, we'll see how the AGM goes.

"Since then, we've had a little bit of discussion, and once things settle down a little bit, then we can start going through some more of the stuff. I'm still happy to be on the committee and also assist as far as mentoring Kylie and anyone else that is taking on a role that I may have assisted with previously. I've been involved for a while, and I'm keen to try to make sure that the transition occurs as smoothly as possible and that everyone has a good understanding of what's involved and what we need to do and all that sort of stuff going forward."

Back when Ray and wife Julie were living in Melbourne, they would attend St Kilda football matches as part of a group. Ray has always had an interest in the game, having also played a bit in his younger days.

Ray first became involved with the Alexandra club after moving to the shire with Julie in 1993. Their son, Jake, was just nine months old at the time. He knew one or two people who were involved in the club and became involved as supporters. Chris Walsh was the president of the club at the time, and there was a family connection as Chris's wife and Julie are cousins.

After Ray had been in the shire for a while, Chris asked whether Ray would like to join the committee. Ray ended up becoming Seniors vice president with Chris, and then at the end of 1996, Ray put his hand up to become president. He's been president ever since.

Ray said, "It just kept on going. The years disappear fairly quickly. Obviously in my case was a bit different because I had a car accident and then spent a bit of time at home."

The car accident occurred in January 1997, leading to Ray being hospitalised in Melbourne for six months. During that time, the club was run by other members who had experience, and who stayed in contact with Ray. In the same year, the Seniors won the Premiership, so while it was a challenging year for Ray, the club had a great year.

After Ray was released from hospital, he still needed to frequent trip to the city for medical treatments for the following couple of years. No longer able to work as a police detective, Ray devoted his time to the club.

He said, "We had a couple of short term ambitions, some long term ambitions and we've been able to get quite a few of those achieved which has been good."

He added that his former role with the police helped him with running the football club. "I probably had a little bit of a gift of the gab. And then through being a uniformed policeman and then as a senior detective, you've got to be able to talk to people that you've never met before and achieve whatever the result is that you might need to achieve out of that conversation."

Asked whether his police experience helped him to get the young men to do what he wants, he laughed. "It works some of the time," he said.

He added, "Over the years of being involved with the footy club was really good for me in so much as it gave me something to do because then I wasn't able to work. I had a little bit of part time work here and there, but being involved with the footy really helped me to give me purpose and all the rest of the cliches. But I thoroughly enjoyed it... The time disappeared very quickly."

Asked about changes at the club, Ray said, "I guess one of the one of the main things that we've always tried to do as far as the club is concerned is if we're given an opportunity to assist either a family or another community group or whatever, we've always been more than happy to help out in any way."



Ray Steyger. -AR

They have also redeveloped the reserve across a couple of stages. "That's something I can look back on and say, I was involved in that period," Ray said.

The club and community raised about \$1,000,000 for the project, with about \$2,000,000 in grants. They are now working towards the next stage of the development, including new public toilets, car park lighting and resurfacing, and an electronic scoreboard.

Asked what he will miss about the role of president, Ray responded, "Probably one of the things I've enjoyed is just meeting people both locally, in leagues, other clubs, all around the place."

He recently went on an 'old boys' football trip to Yarrawonga and Mulwala, and found commonality with other people who were in the area who were also involved in football clubs. "Sometimes it's a very small world, Ray said. "But you do make some very good relationships, very good friendships, and that is something that I've really enjoyed over the years."

He's also enjoyed seeing some of the Junior players coming through and becoming adults with children of their own. Ray laughed, "So that probably tells me that I've been around for a little while. It's all about the people. I've thoroughly enjoyed that side of things."

He was also asked whether his beard has made him famous. Ray replied, adding, "It has disappeared a couple of times as a result of some fundraisers."

Someone recently commented on his beard, and Ray told him that he'd only been growing it for three weeks. The man "didn't twig on it."

"It probably has been a part of my image I suppose, white runners, white socks, dark shorts and a beard, and obviously then in December, then we changed that outfit for a bit of red."

Asked about his December activities, he said that he's already taken his first booking for Santa this year.

Now that he'll have a bit more time on his hands, "doing recycle stuff, grandkids on Wednesdays, cooking, cleaning. I've already done a couple of loads of washing today." Ray

and Julie are also likely to take some trips here and there.

He is also looking forward to doing some work at their property.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it. I enjoyed meeting heaps of people and now my challenge is to try and remember their names, because I won't necessarily see them as often as maybe I used to.

"I'm really pleased with what we've been able to achieve both on the field and off the field over the years and just to see the numbers of kids that are out there playing and enjoying it, regardless of their ability. It's not as if we have 10 players going into the AFL every year, but we have had a couple of kids during my time that have made it into the TAC and a couple that have been drafted over the years.

"The main thing is that it's the three letter F word which is 'fun', and as long as the kids are having fun and they're enjoying it. Just seeing the kids coming along on a Thursday night to meals at the footy club and they're all sitting around at the tables talking to each other and they're not actually texting each other and stuff like that.

"Just little things like that. They're all developing life skills that they probably wouldn't realise that they're doing."

Ray added, "I guess just as an overall, in no particular order, I just really enjoyed being involved and being a part of the team. I guess that's probably one of the key things that I would say is that it's just been good being part of a team and the members of the team you know change fairly regularly, but the purpose of the team and the direction we take still is usually pretty well the same.

"It's not about me, it's about everyone who's worked together and created a really good family environment that we can all enjoy and benefit from for generations to come.

"Hopefully I've had a positive impact, but I can say that the footy club and the community has had a really positive impact on me and our family as well. Our kids have grown up through the footy club, and Julie is still involved and has been for a long time."

Eildon Golf Club host Murrindindi Masters

by Puttomatic

THIS week the Eildon Golf Club hosted the first round of the Murrindindi Masters which is generously sponsored by FoodWorks and the Reddrops family and has been since 2009. Saturday was the first of four matches played between the Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville, and Yea golf clubs.

Last Saturday produced great weather and the club had 89 players arrive at Eildon to compete in a stableford competition. With recent works around the club and course, the scene was set for a fantastic day with the greens and fairways looking an absolute picture.

Congratulations to all winners starting with the Mini Masters winners.

Ladies Mini Masters winner Sue Aurisch with 41 points, Men's Mini Masters winner Jeff Aurisch also with 41 points. Men's A Grade winner was Alan Pell 38 points on a count back from Rick Wills also on 38 points. Men's B Grade winner was Brian Worcester 39 points, B Grade runner up Greg Millard 37 points. Men's C Grade winner was Dennis Seamer 41 points runner up Allan Mackwell 36 points. Ladies A Grade winner was Sabrina Stow 40 points, A Grade runner up Vicki Clements 36 points. Ladies B Grade winner was Penny Britton 37 points, B Grade runner up Vicky Butler 36 points.

Nearest the pin winners were on the fifth Dennis Seamer, 11th Rick Wills, 12th Sam Wright and 14th Alex Bullard.

A huge thanks to all the club's volunteers who worked so hard both on the day and the lead up to the day. Especially the ladies, who were fantastic, both in the kitchen and working the barbecue preparing and serving the food and doing whatever was required to make the day a success. Also the bar staff who were kept on their toes for most of the day, and all the other volunteers who work tirelessly for one of the club's biggest days of the year.

The next Masters match will be at the Alexandra Golf Club on Saturday, January 11. Let's all get there and support this great competition and see if we can top 100 players.

Golfers busy throughout November

by Elizabeth Goss

LEO Dynes won the Stableford round on Tuesday with (19) 38 points. The runner up was Graham Emmerson (26) 37 points followed by Paul Martin (29) 36 points. Nearest the pin on the seven went to John Greatorex and on the 18th to Dave Silverman. Ball Rundown went to Bruce Colville and John Greatorex.

It was November's monthly medal for the ladies last Wednesday. Ruth Worland won the Medal with 86 (15) 71 followed by the runner up Donna Meggitt 88 (15) 73 on a countback from Marg Fahey 97 (25) 73. Wednesday, November 27 is stroke and the medallist.

Sixteen of Alexandra's members played in the Murrindindi Masters at Yea last Saturday. No winners for Alexandra but this is just the first round with three to go. Next Saturday, November 23 is Stableford.

SPORT

Marysville Marathon showcases local area

THE Marysville Marathon Festival has truly become a cherished event for the running community, bringing together participants and their families in celebration of sport, nature, and community spirit. With its stunning scenery, enthusiastic volunteers, and a commitment to supporting local initiatives, the festival is a highlight for both seasoned runners and newcomers alike.

The growth of the event over the years underscores its importance to the area, and the positive economic impact it brings to Marysville is commendable. It's wonderful to see such camaraderie among the runners, local residents and supporting organisations, making this festival a memorable experience for all involved.

Runners and supporters continue to be wowed, by how beautiful Marysville is.

While the weather can't be controlled, it again turned it on with a fresh cool morning followed by blue skies and sunshine beaming down on participants and supporters, just like the spray from the crystal clear waters that runners experience as they visited the amazing Steavenson Falls.

The excitement could be felt as the sun appeared over the mountains, warming those nervously waiting to begin their journeys, many for the first time.

There were 691 runners and walkers in total along with an estimated 500 family, friends and supporters, including runners from England and Poland who came to Marysville.

According to organisers, many comments were heard, such as, "We love this location, awesome trails and views, great supportive volunteers, amazing waterfall, such a pretty town and really friendly vibe, my favourite running event I have ever participated in."

The Marysville running festival has continued to grow over recent years with another record participation rate achieved in 2024 since the last peak in 2018.

The introduction of the Saturday events in 2023 creating a two day festival in Marysville has again been well supported with growth in the 1500 metre Kids Dash Fun Run as well as the seven kilometre and 14 kilometre King and Queen of the mountain events.

The 100km ultra marathon event remained steady, as 15 participants headed out between 9pm and 1am to tackle the trail network under torch light, before joining the 50km runners for their second half early Sunday morning.

Last year the organising team felt it was the best Marysville Marathon Festival ever, however with the fresh new look, new configuration of the event hub, supporting

runners, spectators and sponsors, organisers felt that 2024 has topped last year as the best so far.

As a small organising team committed to supporting Marysville and surrounding communities, they are really grateful and proud of the running community for the support they continue to show this amazing town and location through the marathon festival.

The organisers think Marysville creates awesome adventures for runners to experience that insert lasting memories and helps create new friendships among runners and the community.

The streets, cafes, pub and other venues were frequented by happy runners and supporters. It was fantastic to see food venues overflowing and accommodation difficult to find with some having to stay a little further away supporting the greater Marysville community.

The West Hawthorn Striders, the largest club of almost 100 participants take up the majority of the Marysville Holiday Park, it's great to see the Holiday Park facilitating these large groups and contributing to the economic benefits of the community. There were also running clubs from Keilor, Dandenong, Clifton Hill making the journey, to name a few.

With many groups staying for three days, making it a long weekend, it made for a feel good extended event.

The event organisers Trailsplus would like to acknowledge the support of the many local

clubs that volunteer over the weekend to make the festival such a successful event for the community, earning hefty pay for their group. Trailsplus are proud to be involved and to support these clubs via the donation volunteer program.

The organising team would like to acknowledge and thank the team from Marysville Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Forest Fire Management Victoria for the incredible work clearing trails for safe passage and access.

A shout out to Maysville residents for their patience and understanding during some minor interruptions to their Sunday morning movement as runners traversed some local streets and entered the forest trails.

Trailsplus, who manage the event are really proud to have raised funds for the local emergency services, SES and CFA as well as their charity partner Canteen, supporting young people living with cancer, with a combined donation in excess of \$10,000.

Along with the tourism boost and an estimated injection of \$100,000 plus into the local economy, organisers are proud of the difference the Marysville Marathon Festival has on so many.

A special mention to Neil Guscott and crew from Marysville District Lions for their support of the event. Thanks also to Murrindindi Shire for their ongoing support. As always, organisers are already planning Marysville Marathon Festival 2025 so lock it in the diary for November 8 and 9, 2025.



Marysville Marathon Festival regulars sporting their commemorative 2009 gear — Melissa Hendy and GPs Rod Trevena and Lachlan Fraser. Rod provided bushfire locum relief in Marysville 2009-2010



Some of the young participants. -S



Competitors off and running. -S

High hopes for Lily Wilson

EARLIER in the year, former Alexandra resident Lily Wilson had an amazing opportunity to be part of the FISU World University Cheerleading Championships, where she competed on behalf of the Team University Australia's Hip Hop team.

Lily joined Monash University last year and decided to join the cheer and dance team which is a student run club under the university.

In 2023 Monash University won a bid to compete internationally at the world championships in Croatia. The teams consisted of a cheer team, and three dance teams, one being hip hop. The competition was fierce to get a place in the team. For the Hip hop team 60 people competed for a place and only 16 got in, Lily was one of them.

To get overseas, it was a self-funded trip "I'm very appreciative of the Murrindindi Shire as they helped me fund the trip, I also wanted to thank my parents and grandparents as they also helped me get over there too," Lily said.

The competition was from August 2 to 4 and the team got to fly over to Munich prior to the event where they got to do some training and then flew to Croatia and did some more training before the event. In total, the whole experience was for two weeks.



Lily Wilson celebrating her team's podium finish at the FISU World University Championship Cheerleading. -S

Lily spoke of her time travelling as part of a team. "Before we went over, we were close and wanted to do well but as soon as we went away there is something about travelling with a group of people you get really close, you see all these wonderful things and you create some really wonderful memories, and I think that's what I took out of it the most. We were



The full Monash Cheer and Dance team celebrating their second place. -S

basically stuck together for two weeks, and it was very good team bonding, and I think it made our overall performance better."

The team came second as China came first with a 0.16 win which Lily explained, "it's virtually nothing in the scheme of things."

Lily had previous dance experience which helped her a lot but Hip Hop dancing was



The pointing section of the team's dance routine. -S

quite new to her. Lily used to dance with LSS dance in Alexandra since 2009 but didn't start competing until last year.

Lily is now looking forward to going up to the Gold Coast in December for the Nationals where the team will do the same routine there with a few changes in the routine. There isn't international endeavors in the near future, but you never know what's around the corner.

Great game for under 13 Redbacks

by Ben Broadway

ALEXANDRA Red hosted Yea at Rebel Park. JJ won the toss and chose to bowl. JJ and Jack Kidd opened the bowling and the team fielding was brilliant from the start.

Yea's top three batters all did a great job Before Mitchell Kidd got his first wicket of the season. Playing his first game in under 13s, Huddo Brooks was on a hat-trick and bowled brilliant. Nate Broadway got his first wicket of the year. Nate Carter was fantastic in his first game, taking two wickets. Lucas Creed bowled three overs in his first game and was unlucky to not get a wicket. In total they restricted Yea to a total of 107.

Riley Cole and Jack Kidd opened and got the team off to a solid start before Jack went out for zero. Riley batted well, retiring on 18. JJ smashed everything, retiring on 44. Beau Nash retired on nine, great innings Nashy. Mitchell Kidd and Nate Broadway batted well together, both retiring on six. Huddo smacked a couple of fours on his way to 10 not out.

Nate Carter was impressive with his calling between the wickets, always looking for runs. He made two. Great stuff Natey. Creedy, in his first game made one not out. All in all, it was a fantastic team effort by the boys.

This Sunday both Alexandra teams are playing each other at Leckie Park. Can't wait. Go Redbacks.

Events galore for Marysville Golfers

by Lesley Rundle

IT has been a week like no other at Marysville Golf Club with three events held at the club and three held at other clubs attended by Marysville players.

Details of the very successful major fundraiser and 50th anniversary celebrations were reported last week but the following day the Marysville Men's/Mixed annual tournament was held. On a glorious sunny day 71 players played, including 24 golfers from Princes Hill Golf Club who had played on the previous day. A golfer from Growling Frog Golf Club won the major trophy but local knowledge did come to the fore with a number of Marysville players winning sections. Steve Berry won A Grade, Steve Coker won B Grade, Lloyd Flaherty won C Grade. The Stow family also were on the winners list with Sabrina runner up in the ladies section and Travers runner up in C Grade. Mim Page and Lloyd Flaherty won a nearest the pin and Julie O'Shea won the longest drive on the eighth hole.

On Monday, November 11 two teams of Marysville ladies played in the Dalhousie District Jean Wallder Bowl at Yea. Ten teams of three competed and the bowl was won by a ladies team from Seymour. Mim Page won two nearest the pins. Players thanked Yea members for their hospitality.

On Thursday, November 14, 34 ladies from 13 clubs gathered at Seymour Golf Club to play in their annual tournament. The main trophy was won by a lady from Jubilee Golf

Club with Margaret Blair (31) winning C Grade with nett 79. Helen Howard was part of the winning small team and Dalhousie Player of the Year points were awarded to Margaret and Helen. Players thanked the Seymour ladies for their hospitality.

While some ladies were playing at Seymour the Dalhousie Veterans were playing at Marysville. Thirty-seven players played with no winners from Marysville, but it was great to see so many golfers enjoying the course.

After the Veterans had finished their round, ten of the regular nine holers played stableford on the back nine holes. The winner was Glen Rattay (6) with 18 points from Keith Atwell (10). Glen's round included a wind assisted putt on the 14th hole where the ball did a 90 degree turn into the hole. Glen won the nearest the pin on the 11th and Bob Emblin won the nearest the pin on the 18th. Next Thursday players will be playing the front nine holes with a 12.30 arrival for 1pm tee off.

On Saturday the first round of the 2024/5 FoodWorks Murrundindi Masters was played at Eildon. An excellent field of 89 players played on the stunning course. Husband and wife Susan and Geoff Aurisch from Yea were each declared the Eildon Mini Masters with 41 points. Sabrina Stow (22) continued her good form and won the ladies A Grade with 40 points, Brian Worcester (17) won the men's B Grade with 39 points and new member Alex Bullard won the nearest the pin on the 14th.

Members thank Eildon for hosting the day and Cathie Harper from FoodWorks for presenting the very generous trophies to the



Brian Worcester being presented with his trophy by Cathie Harper from FoodWorks. -S

winners. The next round of the FoodWorks Murrundindi Masters is on January 11 at Alexandra.

Next Saturday a stableford round will be played for the Captains Trophy.

It is always a difficult task to thank those involved in organising and assisting with these golf days in case someone is not named. However special mention must go to Gail Leigh and her daughter April, and Helen Howard for coordinating the catering for two of the above mentioned events. Heather Jenkins, Marilyn Johnson, Ken Whittingham, and Steve Coker are thanked for their work behind the scenes as are all those who assisted in some way to make it a week of successful events.

Close squash games this week

by Kristelle Leary

Kangaroos versus Echidnas

JORDAN versus Ethan: Great match with some really powerful shots. Jordan put in a good effort, but Ethan came out on top. 66 to 43.

Mick versus Matt: See sawing games with large point differences. Each game presented a change in leader with Matt leading at the end of the match to take the win. 66 to 60.

Justin versus Jared: With a great first half, Jared cruised into game three. Simon upped his game to win game three and draw the final game, but Jared had better form on the night and stayed in front. 55 to 53.

Jack versus James: An absolute marathon of match. Both players ran the court like their life depended on it making it wonderful to watch. Jack had an exceptional first and last game to claim the victory. 55 to 46.

Platypus versus Wombats

TYLER versus Lochlan: Both players had good shots. Lochlan made a comeback in the third game to even out the score, but Tyler held out and was too strong to overcome. 57 to 51.

Sally versus Lee (fill in): Sally put in a good effort, but Lee had skill to spare to take home a resounding victory. 70 to 41.

Michael M versus Daniel W: Michael's fury and bombast were no match for Daniel's amazing court coverage. Daniel could not put a foot wrong as every shot found its target, leaving his opponent flat footed and frustrated. Michael threw everything into the third game, only to come up a draw. Both players were hitting walls, sprawling in corners and crawling on the ground. Daniel ran away with the match 70 to 44.

John versus Derrick: The two refined gentlemen for the club went point for point early on with each hitting shots of improbable angles and perfectly measured distances. John enjoyed a narrow lead after two games. Returning from his injury, Derrick found his rhythm and shot ahead enough in the last two games to win. 54 to 47.

Tigers versus Leopards

RANDY versus Beth: A close match. Randy had an outstanding third game and finished strong to take home

the match. 67 to 65.

James versus Michael H: Great rallies from both players. James was winning going into the final game, but Michael proved too strong taking the final game and the match. 63 to 56.

Lions versus Panthers

RANDY (fill in) versus Reece: Only one point difference in the match. Reece pulled ahead with a six-point lead in game three, only for Randy returning the favour in game four. With a single point to claim the win, Reece was victorious. 68 to 67.

Travis (fill in) versus Sam: It was anyone's match for the majority of the time until game three saw a spectacle when Sam had a 45 second stint of absolute skill and clarity. This short episode of collecting points put Sam ahead for victory. 69 to 54.

Ruth (fill in) versus Phil: Another close match. Excellent placement from Ruth pitted against great running from Phil. In the end, Ruth's placement won out. 67 to 65.



Phil lines up a backhand against Ruth. -S

Merton cricketers play against city colts

LAST weekend Merton cricketers travelled to Wangaratta to take on city colts on a well prepared turf wicket in warm conditions on a quick outfield. Merton won the toss and bowled and continued on from last week's efforts against Delatite with the bowling and fielding improving on a weekly basis.

Young spinner Henry Berriman leads the way for Merton taking 5/29 taking crucial wickets in the colts top and middle order, fellow youngster Noah Whittall with 3/42 and Rohan Berriman 2/17 saw colts bowled out in the 35th over for 133, Harry Craddock and Ross Mackinnon with two

outstanding catches backed up the Merton bowlers. C Reid 35 and G Marek 22 were the top scorers.

Merton struggled to build partnerships losing early wickets but Jai Lerch-Mackinnon 36 steadied things for the Merton side and a late partnership between James Benton 16 and new recruit Josh Johnson 32 not out, along with Tyson Garlick saw a close finish go Merton's way passing the colts total in the 32nd over. Marek, Ormond, Solimo and Sanders all with one wicket for the home side. Merton have the bye next Saturday then travel to Wangaratta on November 30 to take on Rovers United Bruck.



Sixteen year old Henry Berriman helped his Merton side to victory with 5/29 off eight overs versus the City Colts in the WDCA B grade competition.

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Alexandra speedway season begins with several local winners

by Dean Thompson

ALEXANDRA Speedway started its new race season with the local member racers picking up several feature race wins on a night that included series rounds for sports sedans, junior sedans, street stocks and late models. An enthusiastic crowd was on hand to see River Paterson from Yarra Junction, Luke Morrison from Officer, Dylan Barrow from Wandin, David Donegan from Healesville, and Matthew Nelson from Woori Yallock, who were all winners.

The biggest field belonged to the sports sedans with competitors who came from Northeast Victoria, Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne, Southeastern Suburbs of Melbourne, and the Murrindindi surrounds. Qualifying race wins were shared by Rhys

Collins, Damien Miller, Tommy McDonald, Ian Thomsen, Damien Miller again, Dale Smith, McDonald a second time, Lee Beach, and Dale Smith a second time.

There was crash damage and mechanical issues along the way putting drivers out of the event before the final, some of them being favourites for a potential victory. Donegan, McDonald, Russell Smith and his son Dale, Thomsen, and Beach started in the first six spots in the twenty five lap final with Donegan securing the lead spot initially before McDonald past him on lap three. Dale Smith moved to the lead on lap six while Donegan dropped back into third spot before he passed McDonald for second on lap ten.

It took until lap fifteen before Donegan passed Smith and assumed the lead spot once again and McDonald also moved passed

Smith on lap nineteen into second. For much of the race the top three were right around each other before Donegan cleared off later in the race eventually to a four second margin. Donegan would claim the victory ahead of McDonald, Dale Smith, Beach, and Josh Service in the Sports Sedan Extreme Series round.

Junior Sedan Promotional Association competitors in both grades of Top Star and New Stars were on hand for series action. In top Star competition drivers raced in three of the four heat races held to set their qualifying spot. Cruz Carlin won a first heat race where the first four competitors were separated by less than a second in the closest heat race. Brad Marshall then Victorian state champion River Paterson twice in succession won heat races also. Paterson, Will Fallon, James

Peacock, Carlin, Axel Robinson and Jake Bradley were the top six starters. Paterson put himself out in front on lap one with Tamika Simpson moving inside the top six until lap four. Peacock and Carlin swapped spots more than once in third and fourth during the race before Paterson greeted the chequered flag leading all fifteen laps to beat Fallon, Carlin, Peacock and Robinson with the margin just .240 at the end between the lead two in an exciting finish.

New Stars action began with Noah Basten winning the first two heat races ahead of Luke Morrison by less than a second before Morrison won the final qualifier. Basten, Morrison, Cruz Paterson, Dacy Dannatt, Taijan Ussger and Cruz Abela were the top six starters with Basten hitting the front on lap one of twelve. Morrison kept the pressure on and at lap eight made the move into the lead spot. Morrison then created a little gap in the closing stages to defeat Basten, Paterson, Dannatt and Ussher.

Three heats were slated for Street Stock competition for a round of their Speedway Sedans Victoria series. Matt Nelson raced away for a huge victory in the first heat race and in contrast the second heat race that he also won had a margin of less than a second. Linken Paterson then picked up a strong win in the final heat race. Twenty-five laps were then the distance to compete over in the final. Nelson began with Paterson from the front with Jack Jordan Ricky Cornwall, Matt Brooks and Matt Bishop holding starting spots in the top six. Nelson led from the drop of the green with Paterson the first to exit the race and Cornwall moving to second. Tim Hutchinson who recently won an event at Wangaratta moved into third on lap five. Nelson held a comfortable lead and the top three held their spots for the next twenty laps with Nelson greeting the flagman four seconds ahead of Cornwall, Hutchinson, Jordan, and Bishop.

In Late Model competition Dylan Barrow and Chevy Edwards shared wins in the two qualifying races before Barrow led all ten laps in the final to defeat the Edwards brothers Chevy and Brock, then come Tasmanian Ellis Dickenson and Shane Belk.

Alexandra Speedway will next hold competition on December 7 with a state Production Sedan series round, a Goulburn Ovens Sedan Association series round, Sports Sedans, National Junior Sedans, Standard Saloons, and a Ladies Standard Saloon series round.



Car 75, driven by David Donegan from Healesville, who was the winner of the sports sedans category. -S

Hard pitch for B Grade Cricketers

by Michael Mawson

LAST weekend Alexandra B Grade arrived at Yea to find a field in top condition. The pitch, however, was firm but so dead that it was starting to fossilise.

Yea won the toss and elected to bat. When the openers took to the crease, they found it difficult to score freely against Banjo Fitzpatrick's outswingers and Will Ellis's accurate line. Jordan Ferrier came on and drew wickets from loose Yea batting. Luke

Wal and Lucas Crane also chimed in with three wickets between them.

With the fielders starting to wilt in the heat after the first drinks, off spinners Ben Broadway and MJ Hendricks kept the Yea batters guessing. Broadway hit the stumps on two occasions. It was particularly satisfying to see Zak Mills get bowled while not offering a shot.

Will Ellis came back on and deservedly claimed the last two wickets as Yea crept to a score of 127.

The run chase had an early setback when captain and opening batter, Michael Mawson again succumbed to his hoodoo against Yea and was caught off the bowling of Gary Harding for four. Yea weren't celebrating for long because James Kidd took up residence at the batting crease and defied some rickety knees to compile 41 runs in partnership with Jordan Ferrier and then Harrison Christie, who impressed with 17 runs.

Ben Broadway minimised the distance he had to run between wickets with a big hitting 21 that included an impressive six. Mitch Rowntree gained valuable experience by holding up an end for several overs and Luke Wal was batting well when Alexandra hit the 128 run target after only 28 overs.

It was satisfying to see the B Grade team get a long overdue win against Yea and it came of the back of contributions of players whose ages span 34 years.