

# 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, January 29, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

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## Funding win for boating in Eildon

MEMBER for Indi Dr Helen Haines MP has welcomed the announcement that an Eildon community organisation will share \$1.3 million in federal funding under the Growing Regions program.

Eildon Boat Club is in line to receive \$814,700 to develop its Maritime Community Hub.

The Eildon Boat Club Maritime and Community Hub will deliver a new multi-purpose facility at the popular tourist spot.

"This investment will not only provide a great venue for community and volunteer

groups to use, but will support emergency training, education and local employment," Dr Haines said.

"I was in Eildon very recently and know the shared and strong desire to develop infrastructure that will support tourism, help their local economy and provide facilities the community needs."

Dr Haines welcomed the funding in this latest round, but said more investment was needed for regional development and it needs to be easier for councils and community groups to apply.

"Eight projects in Victoria shared in \$25 million funding in this latest round, with two of those projects here in Indi.

"I'm really pleased for the local communities that can progress their projects with this funding, but I acknowledge there will be many organisations disappointed across Indi as well. I have been pushing the government to increase the funding for regional Australia. The need is far greater than the overall funding pool that is provided by this Labor government.

"I've said before that competitive grant programs like the Growing Regions Fund

and regional Precincts and Partnerships are heavily subscribed and demonstrate how much more investment we need in regional Australia.

"Projects often require councils or community groups to stump up with a co-contribution of 50 per cent, which can hold back good projects.

"Regional councils have smaller rate bases than city councils and have to do more with less.

"Both major parties need to up their offer to regional Australians with greater investment in regional grant programs coming into the next election."

General Manager of the Eildon Boat Club, Dean Aitken, spoke with this masthead about how the funding will make a difference for their club.

"We've gone through a long process of getting this Eildon maritime and community hub designed and now we have been granted an awesome grant to fund half of it so this is to make sure we are able to keep the maintenance of these larger boats that need these sheds going all year round," Dean said.

"A few years ago we built a hardstand and it's named the Sugarloaf Hardstand, so that was so we can bring the larger boats off Lake Eildon to do their maintenance all year round. The trouble we have found is you can only use it in the summer, you can't use it in the winter.

"People want to use their boats in the summer, they don't want to use their boats in the winter."

The newly designed community hub will have five slipping bays and one larger office area to the side, with each bay able to accommodate one houseboat.

"We are hoping this will increase apprenticeships and those sorts of things, and the housing the police boat. We already house the fire boat and in the summer, when the slipping bays aren't being used, the emergency services will be able to use these bays as their sort of hub for the summer period," Dean added.

The project won't begin until the new financial year.

"The members will have to sign the second half of it, so the timeline will be in the new financial year. We will start the project then. The members will have to fund it, and we are not sure how we will do that, whether it be by fundraising or by a levy," Dean concluded.



A fantastic float by the Marysville Men's Shed in the Marysville Australia Day Parade. -MP

## Long Lazy Summer Lunch

Sunday 23 February 2025

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- 12noon - 4pm • Bookings essential
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- Infants (2 years and under) no charge



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# COMMUNITY DIARY

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 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/CF complex Ph 0418 576 666  
 Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

## MONTHLY

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



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



# Letters to the Editor

## Dianne Goschnick

THROUGH your newspaper, I would like to say thank you, thank you, thank you, to a special person at Alexandra District Health who is retiring. That person is Dianne Goschnick who I am reliably told has worked at this hospital for over 50 years in the same role. I have experienced her care, dedication, compassion and focus on patient wellbeing

during a couple of stays I have had in this facility over the years. I have other family members, young and elderly, who have had the same experience at times themselves. We all agree that you are a special person, and our appreciation goes well beyond the thank you. Enjoy your retirement, from a very grateful member of the public (former patient).

*Name and address supplied but withheld by request*

Time for businesses outside of the CBD to listen to their customers.

*Tom Collins, Alexandra*

## Flowerdale on Australia Day

ONCE again, Flowerdale community and visitors were offered an opportunity over January 25 and 26 to reflect on our country, share thoughts and food and raise flags. Facts are, attendance to raise the Australian Flag and join in the Oath of Allegiance have continued to fall over the last four years, while the gathering on January 25 has remained strong. By contrast, the local hotel was overflowing with people at the same time as two people were standing to attention as the flag was raised 200 meters away across the road. Does that tell us anything about what people think is important about January 26.

Leave no-one behind. Change the date so all can be included.

Many thanks to the shire for providing the food and venue for the events on January 25 and 26.

*Steve Joblin, Flowerdale  
 Descendant of Thomas Massey (Third Fleet), a one time neighbour of John Batman (murderer of Tasmanian aborigines) and participant with Batman in the 'Black Line'.*



**THUMBS DOWN:** To Murrindindi Shire Council for putting up the rental charged to the Murrindindi Film Society for their monthly film nights, forcing them to find a new venue. The group is a small community service that showcases old film classics to an enthusiastic, dedicated group, supported by volunteers who pay a small fee, enjoy a film, discuss and cast a vote before enjoying a light supper provided by members. It's a great community group for film buffs that is now without a suitable venue.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To Reddrops. What happened to the Australia Day decorations that they had up at the supermarket?

**THUMBS UP:** A big thankyou to Dr Laura, and nurses Lisa, Amanda and Bronwyn at Alexandra District Health who cared for me and made me comfortable following a fall. Nothing was too much trouble including making expedient arrangements for me to be seen by a plastic surgeon. We are indeed privileged to have dedicated and well trained staff to care for us when mishaps occur.

**THUMBS UP:** It is delightful to see dogs cared for by their owners in sharing a meal with them. Any, and many, I have come across, big or small, are well restrained and friendly. It is good that restaurants provide water for them also. Animals are part of the family. Definitely areas should be left clean after walks.

**THUMBS UP:** To all those who displayed the Australian flag to celebrate Australia day, at the risk of offending the woke brigade.

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](mailto: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

## Flags at the supermarket

ON Friday while shopping in FoodWorks Alexandra, I noticed for the first Australia Day lead up, the Australian Flags were removed. I spoke to a staff member who informed me Reddrops Head office received a complaint from a single person about displaying the Australian flag. Apparently they sent emails to all their stores directing them to remove all Australian flags.

Who this behemoth of importance is I do not know, however I made a complaint to head office demanding the flags returned citing 70 per cent of Australians voted for Australia Day to be a day of celebration. This is not a shot at FoodWorks staff. We know they are first class. This Sunday 30,000 protesters will converge on Melbourne. Lord knows what the CBD will look like by Monday but their constant disruption every week has sent small business and shoppers elsewhere.

# Drugs causing harm on Victorian roads

A MONASH University study investigated the trends in alcohol and other drugs in injured and fatal road crashes over a decade.

The study found Methylamphetamine is the most common illicit drug found in injured and fatal car drivers and motorcyclists in Victoria from 2010 to 2019.

Published in the journal *Injury Prevention*, the largest study of its kind conducted in Australia examined substances present in 19,843 injured drivers and 1596 fatally injured drivers and found methylamphetamine had the highest prevalence, found in 12.3 per cent of fatalities and 9.1 per cent of injured drivers, demonstrating an increase over time.

This cross-sectional analysis explored the trends of alcohol, methylamphetamine, MDMA and cannabis (THC) in road crashes and used data from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine and Victoria Police to assess drug prevalence in injured and deceased drivers across a period of 10 years.

Overall, the study found 16.8 per cent of car drivers and motorcyclists tested positive for one or more drugs, with 14 per cent of crashes overall involving a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.05 per cent. There was a decline in alcohol detections among fatalities specifically.

Co-senior author Adjunct Associate Professor Dimitri Gerostamoulos from

Monash University's Department of Forensic Medicine and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, said the findings indicated that despite enhanced road safety measures in Victoria, drug driving persists, indicating a need for revised prevention strategies to target the growing issue.

Adjunct Associate Professor Gerostamoulos said the data indicates that methylamphetamine is the most prevalent illicit drug on Victorian roads, with a notable increase in detections among injured drivers.

"MDMA use has remained relatively stable over time at a low prevalence in fatalities, with a decline in injured drivers, while THC detections have slightly increased. There was a higher incidence of drug-positive driving in men and individuals aged between 25 and 59, as well as patterns of increasing drug use in motorcyclists," Adjunct Associate Professor Gerostamoulos said.

"Despite a decline in alcohol among fatalities, it continues to contribute to road crashes, with a higher proportion of drivers and motorcyclists with a BAC over 0.05 per cent compared with studies from other Australian states.

"These findings confirm that the drugs that cause the most harm on Victorian roads continue to be methylamphetamine, alcohol and cannabis."

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**Standard** **The Yea Chronicle**

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**Weekly Weather**  
 January 29 - February 4, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	12	27	Wednesday	12	26
Thursday	13	27	Thursday	13	27
Friday	13	28	Friday	13	27
Saturday	15	32	Saturday	14	31
Sunday	19	34	Sunday	19	34
Monday	20	34	Monday	20	35
Tuesday	18	33	Tuesday	18	33

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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

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 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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# Put the time in teaching bicycle safety

AS we are well into the swing of the school holidays and not far off from the school term commencing, children's bike safety should be paramount for each family that have young children as it's a popular form of transport over this period.

The TAC explains why children are at risk when it comes to roadside accidents. This includes children act on impulse: this can happen whether they are walking, riding their bikes or even just near the traffic; children have difficulty judging speed and distance, they have difficulty seeing objects in side vision and identifying the direction of speed and estimation of speed timing. Children's peripheral eyesight is not fully developed at a young age and this contributes to this problem; smaller children are less visible to drivers, this includes blind spots and when they're behind a vehicle. Having a reversing camera can reduce the risk of collision, particularly when fitted to SUV'S and 4WD vehicles, however this is not just to be relied upon.

Children need a lot of assistance from an early age to manage road safety when using their bicycles. Road safety skills are best learnt in the actual environment with an adult present.

According to [Betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://Betterhealth.vic.gov.au), "by law children under the age of 13 years can ride on the footpath and adults can too when supervising them. Children under 13 years of age are not recommended to cycle on the road."

For children under five it's important to talk to them about the traffic environment when you're out and about, always be a good role model by obeying road rules and crossing roads safely, make eye contact with road users, especially at intersections and get your child to mimic this behaviour.

Make sure your child always wears an approved Australian Standards helmet at all times, these are vital in protecting child cyclists against head, brain, and facial injuries. Wearing a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by 60 to 90 per cent.

It is compulsory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle in Victoria on any road or road-related area like a bike path, bike lane, shared footpath or separated footpath and wear some bright visible clothing so road users can see them clearly.

Check with your early childhood education centre if they also incorporate a bicycle safety program within their service as this is a valuable resource for children to learn about bicycle safety.

For older children aged five to nine they still need supervision, but their skills should be developing. When crossing roads the saying "stop, look, listen and think" is a popular term for your child to stop what they are doing, take a moment and assess the situation before they continue on with their journey.

As children this age are gaining more independence it's still important to go for regular rides together and plan a safe route to school for your child and open communication about other places they can ride safely to.

When choosing a bicycle for your child you need to make sure it fits them properly, a bicycle that is too big for your child is dangerous.

Better health suggests to test for size stand your child over the bicycle with both feet on the ground. For medium or lightweight bicycles, there should be at least two centimetres between the child's crotch and the crossbar, or where the crossbar would be if the bicycle had one. For BMX and mountain bicycles, there should be at least five centimetres between the child's crotch and the bicycle crossbar.

Make sure all controls are within easy reach and comfortable to use, and that the seat can be adjusted. If you buy a second-hand bicycle, get it serviced properly.

## Discussion around new council plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting all community members to be part of a conversation this February. This is your chance to share your aspirations and big ideas for the community's future and help prepare a new council plan for the next four years.

The council plan sets the strategic direction for council for the next four years, and your thoughts are key to informing this direction.

So far, in 2024, you've provided valuable feedback on council's progress with the *2021-2025 Council Plan*, highlighting the projects and activities that matter most to you. Now, council want to take a deeper dive into your priorities and set bold goals and directions for the new council.

Murrindindi Shire Council invite you to attend one of their community conversations, where you can enjoy a light meal while connecting with other community members, councillors and council officers. This is an opportunity to share your ideas and help council deepen their understanding of key priorities.

Join them at the following conversations and make your voice heard.

Yea Community Session on Thursday, February 20, 6 to 8pm at the Yea Council Chamber, 15 The Semi Circle; Marysville Community Session on Monday, February 24, noon to 2pm at the Marysville Community Centre; Kinglake Community Session on Tuesday, March 4 from 6 to 8pm at the Kinglake Community Centre; Alexandra Community Session on Tuesday, February 25, noon to 2pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall.

## Yarck fire safety event

ON Thursday, January 30 from 7 to 8pm, Yarck CFA will be holding a Community Fire Safety Meeting in Wrights Road, at the Rail Trail Car Park.

Find out what to expect in the event of a fire, and the best way to keep your family, friends, pets and property safe. It will be a great chance to get answers to your questions. Bring your own chairs.

## Fuel prices locked and price rises capped

VICTORIA will cap and lock fuel price rises in an effort to assist in cost-of-living by the Victorian Government.

The government's *Fair Fuel Plan* was announced last week, it will require fuel companies to publicly report their fuel price changes the day before they are in effect, and lock in those prices for 24 hours.

Fuel prices sometimes fluctuate multiple times a day. Australian Competition and Consumer Commission data also shows that in 2023, Melbourne motorists could have saved up to \$333 a year from filling up at the lowest point of fuel price cycles by securing the best deal.

The *Fair Fuel Plan* won't change everything, but it's one extra tool at families' disposal to help them save at the servo, and another way to keep fuel companies transparent about the prices they set and the deals they promote.

Under the plan, the state government will make it compulsory for the more than 1500 fuel retailers across the state to provide their pricing data in real time. This data will then feed directly into a new fuel finder feature on the *Service Victoria* app, giving Victorians the opportunity to shop around for the best deal when they're ready to fill up.

Currently, fuel price reporting in Victoria is voluntary and often patchy. While commercial price reporting websites exist, the *Service Victoria fuel finder* will include every fuel provider, won't be advertiser funded, and will never promote one outlet over the other.

The fuel finder and mandatory reporting will support the next phase of the *Fair Fuel Plan*, to not only cap the number of fuel price rises to once a day, but to lock in those prices the day before, and freeze them for 24 hours.



Kylie Cairns, Deputy Mayor Anita Carr, Mayor Damien Gallagher, conferees Sammy, Karin, Ruth, Harmandip, Donna, Peli, Severin, Nigel, Lenie, Thayananth, Hamrish and Dilhan, and Naomie Booker. -S

## New citizens in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council celebrated 13 new Australian citizens on Thursday, January 23 at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at the Alexandra Council Chambers.

Sammy, Karin, Ruth, Harmandip, Donna, Peli, Severin, Nigel, Lenie, Thayananth, Hamrish and Dilhan have pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people, and its democratic beliefs, and to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

In attendance were guests including Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher, Deputy Mayor Anita Carr, Council CEO Livia Bonazzi, Rita Keating from the Australian Electoral Office, Kylie Cairns from Alexandra Football and Netball Club, and Naomi Booker from UGFM Radio and Menzies Support Services, who were pleased to congratulate our newest Australians.

This means you'll be able to check your local area for which service station is offering the best price throughout the next day, and when you arrive in the morning to fill up, there'll be no surprises.

Under the plan, the price at that outlet can't rise at any time throughout that day, but there is not intended to be any limit to a company reducing its fuel price.

New regulations and legislation will be required, and work is currently underway to determine an appropriate enforcement structure

Murrindindi Shire Council extends its warmest congratulations to all the conferees and wishes them all the best in their new journey as Australian Citizens.

Council will proudly host a further three Citizenship Ceremonies throughout 2025.

To learn more about becoming an Australian citizen, please visit the Department of Home Affairs website or call the Citizenship Information line on 131 880 during business hours.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said, "I am proud to welcome our first new citizens for 2025. Becoming a citizen is a significant event in the lives of the conferees, and it is a privilege for our community to officially welcome our newest citizens. We are here to acknowledge their commitment and to celebrate their new journey as Australians."

and penalties for fuel retailers. Government will consult with industry on implementation to get it right, and to ensure the scheme is fair and practical for smaller retailers.

The Fair Fuel Plan will be phased in over 2025. The *Service Victoria fuel finder* will launch later this year and could save Victorian motorists hundreds of dollars a year at the bowser.

## Chinese Cemetery in Alexandra

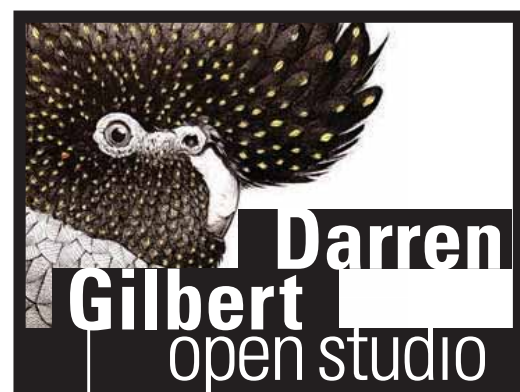
DOES anyone have information on a Chinese Cemetery in Alexandra? A reader has advised that there may be one located on the block bordered by Myrtle, Cooper and Nihil Streets, and George Street footpath.

Reader Robert Tynan heard the story from former Mayor, Kath Cooper, and it seems that she also told others about it.

Fred Docking is believed to have taken another Alexandra local to the location, where at the time there were two concrete posts with Chinese writing. The location may now be under a cove of trees.

It's possible that the cemetery may consist of around five people, and they may be associated with Ah Kong, a market gardener who stayed after the gold rush, when his fellow countrymen departed for new locations. His garden was on the bank of UT Creek, near the current tennis courts.

If anyone has any further information, please contact the Alexandra Standard office or email [editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au)



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## ANGLICAN

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

## CATHOLIC

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

## UNITING CHURCH In Australia

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

## OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

## MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

### BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## THE VINE

A Christian community 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

*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.*

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### THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Yarck CFA Community Safety Meeting. 7pm on Thursday, January 30. Rail Trail Car Park on Wrights Rd, Yarck. In the event of a fire would you leave early or stay and defend your family, home, pets and property? Come along for plenty of information to help you make an informed decision. BYO chair.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Darren Gilbert Open Studios, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm, or other times by arrangement. 5 Giffard Street, Yea. Visit monkeytaildesign.com for more.

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### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Buxton Clearing sale A/C Est Wayne Briggs from 10am. Inspection is Saturday, February 1, 10am-2pm. Farm machinery, vehicles, farm sundries and more. 450 lots. 1842 Maroondah Highway, Buxton. For full details visit clearingsales@emblings.com.au

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You are invited to the Dindi Dance launch party. Free community event. 39 Downey Street, Alexandra. Try a dance class, plus disco. Facepainting, glitter braids, arts and crafts and more. For more info visit dindidance.com.au. For RSVP scan QR code on page 9 of this week's *Alexandra Standard*.

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### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

This Way North and Tuckshop ladies will be playing at Fawcett Hall, Doors open at 6pm, music from 6.30. BYO picnic, drinks, lawn chairs. Bookings essential [trybooking.com/cxnvh](http://trybooking.com/cxnvh)

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### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Association will hold its AGM at 7pm in

the secretaries office/caravan park office at 17 William Street. All interested parties are welcome and they actively encourage new members. For more information email the secretary at [pna.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:pna.alexandra@gmail.com)

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### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Council is starting a project to address housing shortages for key workers in the Eildon community. Community members are invited to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing by completing a survey at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh) or join council at local pop up events in Eildon for a chat. The first being, Eildon Bowls Club from 5.30-7.30pm. See more information on pop up opportunities in this edition.

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### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Council is starting a project to address housing shortages for key workers in the Eildon community. Community members are invited to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing by completing a survey at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh) or join council at local pop up events in Eildon for a chat. The second being, Eildon Visitor Information Centre from 2-3pm. The last chance is Eildon Grocer from 4-5pm.

Trawool, Valentine's Day, Exclusive wine dinner by Grave Goose in Turbine restaurant. Limited seats available, Books essential 5792 1444 or [trawoolestate.com.au](http://trawoolestate.com.au). See ad in this edition for more upcoming events at Trawool.

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### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Opera @ Eildon. Book your tickets now [trybooking.com/CVOSP](http://trybooking.com/CVOSP). For your chance to win two gold tickets, cut the coupon out of this week's paper and return to the *Alexandra Standard* office by, January 30.

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### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Attention Yea and surrounds. Council are taking a deeper dive into your aspirations and big ideas for the communities future. Enjoy a light meal, chat, connect and share ideas with other community members, councillors and council officers. Your feedback will help shape

the new council plan. Yea Council Chamber, 6-8pm. Register at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan) or scan QR code in ad in this edition on page 5.

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### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Trawool, Drag Trivia. A more glamorous take on your traditional pub trivia. Grab your team mates and get to Trawool for this outrageous evening of run and trivia. Bookings essential 5792 1444 or [trawoolestate.com.au](http://trawoolestate.com.au). See ad in this edition for more upcoming events at Trawool.

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### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Long Lazy Summer Lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon. Bookings essential noon - 4pm Delight in a beautiful summer lunch, featuring fresh local produce, live music and free flowing bubbles. 5774 2631. [eildon@holmesglen.edu.au](mailto:eildon@holmesglen.edu.au)

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### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Attention Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and surrounds. Council are taking a deeper dive into your aspirations and big ideas for the communities future. Enjoy a light meal, chat, connect and share ideas with other community members, councillors and council officers. Your feedback will help shape the new council plan. Marysville Community Centre, noon-2pm. Register at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan) or scan QR code in ad in this edition on page 5.

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### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Attention Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and surrounds. Council are taking a deeper dive into your aspirations and big ideas for the communities future. Enjoy a light meal, chat, connect and share ideas with other community members, councillors and council officers. Your feedback will help shape the new council plan. Alexandra Shire Hall, noon-2pm. Register at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan) or scan QR code in ad in this edition on page 5.

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# Standard

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

## Available from these retail outlets

- Alexandra FoodWorks
- Alexandra Newsagency
- Alexandra Newspapers
- Buxton Shell
- Eildon Grocer
- Endeavour Alexandra
- Hazeldene Store
- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville Grocer
- Merton General Store
- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Thornton Shell
- Yea FoodWorks
- Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:

# Taungurung statement about January 26

WHILE many Australians believe January 26 (Australia Day) is a celebration of all the things we love about Australia: land, sense of fair go, lifestyle, democracy, the freedoms we enjoy but particularly the celebration of people and culture, the Taungurung people do not share this view.

For the Taungurung people, January 26 celebrates the colonisation/invasion of our lands and the lands of Traditional Owner Nations across this continent. It celebrates the suppression of Taungurung language and culture, the incarceration and genocide of our people, and is an annual reminder of the dispossession of our people and the ensuing systemic and institutional racism which continues to this day.

In the 2018 Taungurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA), the state formerly recognised the devastating impact of colonisation upon Taungurung people, and the role that the state played in dispossessing Taungurung people of our Country. The state also acknowledged the continued suffering of the Taungurung people through the implementation of laws and policies that discriminated against us in the 19th and 20th centuries.

These far-reaching laws and policies fragmented both our families and the community. Beginning in the 19th century, Taungurung children were forcibly taken from parents in one of the most traumatic examples

of state policy and practice. Depending on how the state defined Aboriginality over time, Taungurung people could either be forced to live on a reserve or, under what came to be known as the Half Caste Act of 1886, forcibly evicted from a reserve, and prevented from living with our families. Other laws regulated Aboriginal marriages and employment. These laws and policies, including under the state's assimilationist efforts in the 20th century, ensured that Taungurung people were excluded from the life of the nation, the intrinsic value of our culture and our identity denied.

The state formerly acknowledged that the actions of early colonists on Taungurung Country including the deliberate killing of Taungurung people. The state also recognises the deadly and widespread impact of foreign diseases upon the Taungurung population, and the hunger experienced by our people who were no longer able to sustain themselves on Taungurung lands.

The Taungurung people continue to experience the ongoing effects and the impact of colonisation over 200 years later. This is seen through the continued dispossession of lands, denial of inherent rights, intergenerational trauma and institutional structures designed to negate and restrict.

From the very beginning, however, our people fought to survive. In the early days of colonisation, when sheep and cattle

destroyed our traditional food sources, the Taungurung people took livestock and destroyed crops to push pastoralists from our lands. The Taungurung people never accepted that the colonists owned our Country. The Taungurung people signed no treaties, nor took any action to relinquish our sovereignty.

Though Taungurung people were forced to find sanctuary at stations and missions such as Mitchelstown and Murchison, the Taungurung people also fought to maintain connection to our Country. In 1859, a group of Taungurung men, Bear-ring, Mur-rum-Mur-rum, Parn-gean, Bur-rip-pin and Koo-yarn, petitioned the colonial government for land in their own Country where they could grow crops, but where they could also continue to maintain their traditional ways of obtaining food. This stands as one of the earliest examples in Australia of Aboriginal people taking direct political action for the return of their land. Their appeal resulted in the Central Board appointed to watch over the interests Aboriginies (Aboriginal Protectorate) approving the Taungurung people's selection of and then surveying of land at a place they called 'Nakkrom' on the Acheron River near Alexandra. At the time, Guardian of Aboriginies William Thomas described location as the 'Promised Land' of the Taungurung people.



Tori and Amanda, the organisers of Dindi Dance, along with children Sadie, Willow and Byron. -S

## Celebrating the launch of Dindi Dance

DINDI Dance are hosting a launch party on Sunday, February 2, to celebrate the start of their dance classes in Alexandra.

Organiser Tori Coventry spoke about what will be happening at the launch party.

"We just enrolled our 50th student this week and wanted to do a launch party to celebrate the launch of Dindi Dance. It's a free community event, everyone's invited. It doesn't matter the age, it doesn't matter if you're enrolled or not enrolled. We'll be offering face painting and a dance for people to try. Games and prizes and everything kid related basically," Tori said.

The idea for Dindi Dance started when Tori and her young family moved to Taggerty, and she was unable to find dance lessons for her daughter with less than an hour of travel time.

"We moved to Taggerty three months ago and my daughter wanted to do dance lessons. I couldn't find anything in the local area that could offer that for her. She's only young, turning four," Tori said.

"When I did reach out I found that there are places within an hour away, but I just needed it to be local, we don't have time to make that trip regularly.

"I teamed up with Amanda and we both thought let's make this work. We both have day jobs, we both have young families. But let's just throw this in the mix and see what we can do."

There is a busy schedule for dance lessons when Dindi Dance kicks off, catering for a large range of children.

"We run six classes each week, and it ranges from 1.5 to late primary years. Our dancing is movement and rhythm and confidence boosting and music. We're not a dance company that is strictly ballet, it's for kids to have fun," Tori said.

"It will cover lots of aspects of dance, mainly jazz, hip-hop, movement, freestyle, a bit of ballet here and there. It really just depends on the kids and what they want in the session when they arrive. It's not your typical ballet school where you do your exams and things like that, it is more movement for fun."

Tori also detailed how the idea will evolve moving into the future.

"Whether that be school holiday programs that we can assist with, we do plan to offer that in the future. Dindi Dreams is our side business of Dindi Dance, where we want to offer kids birthday parties. Extravagant ones, things that kids wouldn't even dream of having," she said.

"We want to really make things special for kids in the area and help parents with that, help take a load off, make it easier for them to get to, we just want to be involved with the community really. And just make people's lives easier. But it's children related, we're focussing heavily on kids."

More information about Dindi Dance can be found at [dindidance.com.au](http://dindidance.com.au)

## This Way North back in Fawcett following album release

FRESH off the release of their album *Punching Underwater*, pop indie music group *This Way North* are heading back to Fawcett Hall for the seventh year in a row.

"This is our seventh annual Fawcett Hall show that we do every year in February. We have ourselves, *This Way North*, and *The Tuckshop Ladies*, who are our good friends. We do that each year," vocalist and guitarist Leisha Jungalwalla said.

"I can't believe we've already notched up to seven, and we somehow throughout the COVID years we got away with still having

it. In 2020 COVID hadn't quite hit, and then 2021 we were back open again.

"Seventh in a row is pretty special, and it just ends up being a really wonderful, friendly, fun night where people bring their own picnics and drinks and seats and sit out under the big gum tree and have a couple of laughs and listen to some music.

"We love coming back to Fawcett every year to celebrate the year that's been and look forward with everyone to the year that is coming up."

With years of hard work poured into making their *Punching Underwater* album, Leisha said it was nice to see it well received.

"Last year we released our album, and that was our first show of the album tour. So, it's been a year since we let our baby out in the world, and it's been really awesome.

"We were really lucky. We managed to touch a lot of people's hearts, and a lot of people have given us feedback that the songs are making a difference in people's lives, and that they have songs that are go to songs for when people are feeling different things.

"It's nice to have music out there that makes people feel and helps people through tough times or gets people pumped up for things. That's all we could want."

Asked what's next for the group, Leisha seemed to hint that there's some exciting things ahead for *This Way North*.

"We have some exciting things that we're working on, but you have to come to the show. We're always playing music and writing and planning and scheming. Nothing official yet, but definitely we'll have some fun stuff that we can announce soon," Leisha concluded.

*This Way North* will be performing alongside *The Tuckshop Ladies* with special guest Kerryn Fields on Saturday, February 8 at Fawcett Hall from 6pm. You can purchase tickets at [trybooking.com/events/landing/1327541](http://trybooking.com/events/landing/1327541)



Leisha Jungalwalla performs guitar and vocals for 'This Way North'. -S

  
Murrindindi  
Shire Council

JOIN OUR  
**BIG**  
CONVERSATION

Attention Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville, and surrounds! So far, you've shared your thoughts on our progress with the 2021-2025 Council Plan and highlighted the projects and activities that matter most to you. Now, let's take a deeper dive into your aspirations and BIG ideas for our community's future.

Enjoy a light meal while you chat, connect, and share ideas with other community members, Councillors and Council officers. Your feedback will help shape our new Council Plan.



**Marysville Community Centre**  
Monday 24 February  
12 noon to 2.00 pm



**Alexandra Shire Hall**  
Tuesday 25 February  
12 noon to 2.00 pm

Register at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/councilplan)



7th Annual  
Live at Fawcett Hall  
With special guest  
Kerryn Fields

**This Way North & Tuckshop Ladies**

Sat 8th February  
Fawcett Hall  
655 Spring Creek Road, Fawcett

Doors open 6pm • Music from 6:30pm  
BYO Picnic, Drinks, Lawn Chairs

Bookings Essential  
  
[www.trybooking.com/cxnh](http://www.trybooking.com/cxnh)

# Murrindindi Respect swimming for kids

MURRINDINDI Respect members are participating in the Starlight Super Swim in February. They have all chosen how far they will attempt to swim, with the distances between two and 10 kilometres, as well as raising funds.

This is their way of helping and giving back to the Starlight Children's Foundation Australia.

Wayne was assisted by the foundation when he was young, receiving a three-wheel bike to assist with his balance. Nicole spent a lot of time from when she was a baby until she was 19 years old in the Royal Children's Hospital. She had two big operations, one at five years of age to

lengthen her hamstrings and another at 12 years of age when she had a plate attached to her hip to stop it from dislocating, with over 50 visits to the Royal Melbourne for botox and physiotherapy to help her walk.

Nicole said she looked forward to going to the Starlight room. "The staff always made it fun and helped me and my family forget why I was there," she said.

The Starlight Foundation brings happiness to kids and their families during trying times in hospital.

If you would like to donate, you can go to the Starlight Super Swim website and look up Murrindindi Respect, or catch up with them when you see them in the area.



Wayne Butler, Mark Warren-Smith, Nicole Thorn, Clea Barr and Tayah Stevens. -AR

# Friends of Kellock's AGM

FRIENDS of Kellock Inc held their AGM in December last year. For 2025, the president is Jan Fallon, vice-president Wayne Miller, treasurer Eileen Herridge, assistant-treasurer Jenny Paul, secretary Veronica Hendrickson, and assistant-secretary Penny Jungalwalla.

General committee members are Gail Kneeshaw, Lynne Phelps, John Sharwood, John Herridge, and a very warm welcome to Paula Inness.

If you would like to contact any of the committee members, please feel free to do so. They are always looking for extra hands making lighter work and new ideas.

Kellock Lodge has gone from strength to strength with being able to provide extra things that residents' fees don't cover, such as better flooring and window coverings.

The people of Alexandra and district have contributed in so many ways to the

purchase of these things that enhance the living conditions of all the residents, and the working conditions of all the staff.

All are welcome to join the Friends of Kellock community. It only costs \$10 per person for a calendar year. If you'd prefer to become a life member, it's only \$50. It is nice and easy to pay your fees through internet banking.

The bank is Bendigo Bank; BSB 633000, account number 208874990, account name 'Friends of Kellock Inc'. Please write your name and 'Kellock Membership' in the reference section so that they can attribute the deposit to you, and tick you off for 2024 or add you to the Life Members list. Alternatively, you could leave your membership fees at reception at Kellock Lodge where Donna will carefully tuck them safely away for collection.

This year, they will have the usual fundraising events, including stalls on Easter Saturday and Cup Day Saturday, wood raffles, the quilt raffle, and a Car Classic on the Goulburn.

## Slow down, School is back

THE school year is back for another year so it's time to remember to slow down near school zones to 40km per hour. These reduced speed limits are designed to keep children safe by lowering the speed limit at peak times when children are travelling to and from school.

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

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

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

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

## Nominations open for Murrindindi Shire Community Awards

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is delighted to invite nominations for the 2025 Murrindindi Shire Community Awards, celebrating the exceptional contributions of local volunteers who go above and beyond for their communities.

Residents are encouraged to nominate local individuals or community groups for one of the four award categories: Volunteer of the Year (aged 26 to 64 years); Senior Volunteer of the Year (aged 65 years or older); Young Volunteer of the Year (aged 12 to 25 years); Community Group (or Community Initiative) of the Year.

Nominations close on Sunday, March 16, 2025, with nominees to be recognised during National Volunteer Week (May 19 to 25, 2025). Winners will be chosen by a panel of community members, and announced at the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards Ceremony, a special event celebrating the invaluable efforts of volunteers and community groups whose contributions enrich our shire.

The process to nominate is simple: share in your own words who inspires you, and how they make Murrindindi Shire a better place. This is an opportunity to acknowledge the people who embody the heart and spirit of the community.

Join council in recognising their dedication and encourage others to contribute to our vibrant community. Being nominated is a great honour, shining a spotlight on the volunteers who shape and strengthen our shire.

Nominations can be submitted online using council's online engagement platform The Loop.

Nomination forms are available at Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake, and Yea, as well as the Mobile Library. If assistance is needed, council's team is ready to help.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher highlighted the importance of volunteers, stating "The Murrindindi Shire Community Awards provide a chance to recognise the incredible contributions of our local volunteers. With volunteering participation in our shire nearly double the Victorian average, it's clear how deeply community spirit runs here."

"Volunteers are the backbone of our community, supporting emergency services, local events, and countless initiatives that sustain and enrich our lives. We've all witnessed firsthand the incredible impact our volunteers have on our community. I encourage everyone to nominate someone who has made a positive difference in our shire." Mayor Gallagher added.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the remarkable individuals and groups who make Murrindindi Shire a vibrant and connected community.

## Hay bale art to continue at The Mount

THERE have been concerns in Alexandra and beyond that the hay bale art which decorates the Goulburn Valley Highway near the entrance to The Mount is to be discontinued.

Past hay bale artworks have featured a range of topics, often associated

with an annual theme such as Halloween or Christmas.

Karina Hogan, CEO at Menzies, said, "We are expanding all of our programs and have many new initiatives that have been implemented in January year.

"Hay Art remains in our weekly suite of programs and is an extension of other Arts programs.

"The bale that was present was removed in December due to the significant rot and sighting of snakes which posed a safety hazard."

## Fire emergency in Taggerty

ON Friday, January 24, Acheron, Taggerty, Buxton, Thornton and Alexandra Fire Brigade, along with Alexandra's Forest Fire Management Victoria crew, attended a grass and scrub fire in Taggerty. The fire was caused by a fault with a water pump, and

crews did a great job to pull up the fire quickly in windy conditions.

If you have a water pump, please consider installing a concrete pad, some concrete landscaping pavers, or something similar underneath the pump to help prevent fire ignition.



The fire ground at Taggerty. -S



# Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.



# David Blackmore awarded an OAM

ALEXANDRA local, David Blackmore, famed for his Wagyu beef, has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Australia Day honours list. Speaking at his farm on the outskirts of Alexandra, David spoke about his journey in the beef industry.

David is a fifth generation farmer, originally from the Mount Gambier area. In the sixth generation, his son is also in the farming game, and there are high hopes that one of David's grandchildren will also participate in the industry.

He explained that at the age of 10, his grandfather gave him a cow as payment for work done on the farm. "It was a calf that I was supposed to sell and get the money. But it was a cow and she was pregnant. She had calf and they had calves and all of a sudden, before I even left school, I'd built up a small herd running on his land and he said, you're getting away with too much. I'm going to rent you a paddock. You'll have to pay the rent and manage it. And I said, okay, what's the rent going to be? He said, it'll be a dollar an acre and I'll pay the fertiliser.

He left school at 16, and then at 22 years old, he was offered a job as a stock agent in South Australia and was quickly promoted to their head office and in charge of the state area.

During that time, David went on a plane to South Korea with a plane load of cattle, as well as doing deals in Taiwan and Mexico. He also worked as a consultant for the Mexican government and Nestle. He found that the industry in Mexico had some inefficiencies, such as hand-milking, with a calf suckling on the other two teats, as the breed of cow didn't have natural milk let-down. The government was keen to maintain farming viability for social stability.

In 1979, David organised and ran the first farm embryo transfer programs in Australia so that became part of his business.

In 1982, he went to China and taught 40 young vets how to do embryo transfer and at that time, a small company comprised of David and two friends took the first two loads of live cattle out of Australia into China, one beef and one dairy. One was a gift from the South Australian government and the other from the Federal Government.

They were also working out ways to get genetics into Mexico in 1988, and on the way, he stopped at a university in Texas. They had the technology, so they were able to arrange for the university to put embryos into the herds in Mexico. When they were showing David around, they commented on how there were "a couple of Wagyu cattle over there." David responded, "They can't be. There's none outside of Japan." The Japanese were very protective of the Wagyu cattle at the time.

After some research, it was found that four bulls came out of Japan in 1976, sent to a university for research. A couple of people had built up a purebred herd from these bulls. David managed to get some calves up into Iowa, an Australian quarantine area, "and that was the start of getting genetics. They were only purebreds... They were up to F3" in terms of the crosses, so 87.5 per cent purebred.

David saw some potential for getting the genetics into Australia. In 1990, the first Wagyu females went out of Japan to America, so "then we could start full bloods."

Asked whether the Japanese were aware that they were going to be bred for market, David said, "No, the Japanese didn't want it to happen. In fact, the guy that sent them out was a very prominent Japanese breeder for fellow by the name of Mr Shogo Takeda."

Mr Takeda was expelled from the Japanese Wagyu Association over the occurrence, and all of his cattle deregistered. It was a big scandal in Japan.



David Blackmore. -S

"The genetics went out from about 1990 to 1996, and now they've shut up shop," David said. "No more genetics have left Japan since 1996, so we're dealing with very old Japanese pedigrees."

Once David moved to full bloods, they had very good carcass results, however unlike most stud breeders, they didn't breed to sell genetics, even though everyone wanted to get hold of them.

After a lot of pressure, they put a bull into an elite Wagyu sale at the Wagyu Convention. It made \$220,000. "It was the first time we ever sold at auction and it was a record," David said.

They breed the Wagyu to suit Australian conditions, including grazing and rearing their own calves.

Their goal was to produce beef aimed at top-end restaurants around the world. They now export to 14 different countries, and have an extensive waiting list. It's very much in demand.

They're able to sell their beef above the general market price and above fluctuation, setting the price once per year. They also have full traceability. Their logo is a nose print, as every nose print is different. Some of the top chefs in the world decided to put their brand on the menu, which was very uncommon at the time. Some restaurants would even send all of their staff on familiarisation tours of the farm.

David Blackmore first came to Alexandra around 20 years ago. David and his wife had been looking around as they hadn't inherited the family farm. They were initially involved in dairy farming and share farming in South Australia, and David had taken the embryo business with them out of the stock agency business as no-one else was doing it. They only ended up milking cows for about 18 months before leasing them out, because the embryo business took off. He was bringing a lot of beef embryos out of north America into Australia for sale after quarantine.

David estimated that now they would have sold 4000 to 5000 Wagyu embryos around the world to many different countries, although they sell no genetics in Australia. They also don't sell anything to Japan. His reasoning is that there are good Wagyu farmers over there and he doesn't want to compete with them.

After farming in South Australia, they lived in Serpentine for 17 or 18 years, still working in the embryo business. From there, it was on to Mickleham where they leased a 5000 acre farm. Down the track, Gina Rinehart bought 1000 breeding cows, and the financial boost allowed them to buy land in Benalla and

Finley. They'd already purchased the property at Alexandra at that stage.

He faced some challenges in the Alexandra area due to land usage, and it received a lot of media coverage, however "We've moved on from that," David said.

The Wagyu beef have now been moved up to Benalla, Wallan and Finley, and locally David has been focused on providing pastures for Rubia Gallega cattle, a tightly held Spanish breed which has won world steak championships.

David said of the breed, "The government and the association tried to stop us getting the genetics and that we managed to get embryos and semen into Australia."

He said that it's completely different to Wagyu, "but it's very, very good quality."

David Blackmore and Brain Leslie also started International Dairy Week, and they've now named the large complex where it's held after the two men.

David has been married to Julie for more than 50 years, and he commented. "I couldn't have had the life I've had without Julie's support." The couple have four children and nine grandchildren.

Asked whether he was going to have an OAM party, David said, "This will sound crazy. I've probably spoken at 50 conferences around the world and there's more than 25 television documentaries that have been filmed on this farm, and most of them international... I don't enjoy any of it."

Asked what he does like to do, David responded, "Well, I love doing what I'm doing. The farming side is my hobby. This is my dream. I don't want to retire."

He said, "When I look back and think of the awards, this is one of the award comments that I like the most that describes our business. [The Howard W Yelland Award for Outstanding Service to the Australian Beef Industry] says, 'In recognition of his contribution to the Australian Beef Industry as a pioneer of Australian Wagyu branded product in both an export markets. His commitment to sustainable farming involving financial viability, respect for the environment, strong ethical standards in animal welfare and a passion for creating the best in the world emphasises his role as an industry leader prepared to share his knowledge and experience for the benefit of the industry.'"

He believes that his greatest achievement is longevity. "We were there at the start and we're still there," he said.

## UPCOMING FEATURES

**Let's eat, it's our treat**

Publishing: February 5

Deadline: January 30, 5pm

**Live Well, Feel Good**

Publishing: February 12

Deadline: February 4, 5pm

**Work Local**

Publishing: February 19

Deadline: February 13, 5pm

**Let's eat, it's our treat**

Publishing: March 5

Deadline: February 27, 5pm



# Peter Weeks awarded an Emergency Services Medal

ALEXANDRA SES controller Peter Weeks was awarded an Emergency Services Medal (ESM) in this year's Australia Day Awards for 'distinguished service as a member of an Australian emergency service'.

It's been a busy few months for Peter. In October 2024, he was inducted into the Community Broadcasting Honour Roll at the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia (CBAA) awards night on the Gold Coast.

The ESM award information states, "Mr Peter Weeks OAM joined the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) Alexandra Unit in September 1971, as a dedicated operationally active member. Over his remarkable 50 plus years tenure, Mr Weeks displayed unwavering dedication and leadership in various frontline roles. Initially serving as a member ordinary, he quickly ascended to become a unit officer, holding the position for an impressive 42 years. In this role, Mr Weeks led numerous operations, including search and rescue, storm damage, and boating rescue. Since 2015, he has served as the controller of the VICSES Alexandra Unit, overseeing all unit operations and ensuring readiness for emergency situations.

"In response to the October 2022 Victorian floods, Mr Weeks led the VICSES Alexandra Unit through its most extensive campaign since the 2009 Victorian Bushfires. His leadership was pivotal in managing over 140 requests for assistance, including the dramatic rescue of a young family from Acheron, where a five month old baby and pets were saved from floodwaters. Mr Weeks' proactive advocacy for timely flood warnings from Goulburn Murray Water significantly improved community preparedness and response, enhancing community safety.

"Beyond emergency response, Mr Weeks has driven numerous infrastructure improvements within the unit, ensuring its readiness for various emergencies. His effective management of the state-owned High Angle Rescue cache and collaborative efforts with AusNet Services to restore power to over 100 homes following a vital power line collapse near the historic Acheron Breakaway Bridge further underscore his commitment to community service.

"Mr Week's 50 year tenure with VICSES, coupled with his leadership during numerous emergencies and relentless efforts to enhance community safety, exemplify his distinguished service. His proactive approach to emergency management, coupled with his advocacy for infrastructure improvements and community preparedness, underscore his lasting impact on the Alexandra region and beyond."

When contacted about the award and asked about his background with the SES, Peter said that he joined in 1971, aged just 12. He used to do the radio communication at the headquarters for many years and as he got older, he started to go on searches and things



Peter Weeks. -S

like that. When he initially joined, it was called Civil Defence and in 1975 it turned into the Victorian State Emergency Service.

Peter said, "The first big search I did was for Damian McKenzie in 1975. I remember there were 50 people on the line. It was cold and wet. We were pulling leeches off our faces."

Over the years, he's been involved he's also helped to improve communication systems so that the SES could be activated from the ambulance services locally and get much better turn out with notifications for incidences and the district ambulance service. We then got our own repeater system which then helped us with our local communications.

In addition to being the unit controller for the last 10 years with the service, he's also been duty officer, trained to operate the rescue boat, and has been involved in road rescue.

The Alexandra SES unit response area used to include Lake Mountain, meaning that they had a much bigger response area. When the Marysville unit was formed, and it reduced the Alexandra SES response area. The Alexandra SES now has a response area which extends to Big River, across to the other side of Yea for everything but road crash rescue, and the Alexandra, Eildon, Cathkin, Acheron area, and they join up with neighbouring units from Marysville, Yea CFA and Mansfield SES.

Peter added, "Over the years we have had numerous floods and provided preparedness for locals and responded to the floods. I think in the earlier days we helped up and down the valley when there were major releases going to occur from Lake Eildon." Goulburn Murray Water now provides people with direct notifications.

He said, "I think what I have probably enjoyed the most is helping the community, making a difference in the community, and the friends you make with likeminded people

in the organisations with a common goal of helping people in need.

"There is huge amount of training we have in order to perform and maintain these skills. You learn a lot. I think as a controller of the unit it's been a privilege to do that role for the past 11 years, it's a role working with police and emergency management and making sure the unit is fully operational 24/7, and that the members' needs and requirement are met.

"We always have space for anyone keen to get involved and to help the community. There are a lot of different roles in SES behind the scenes and in the field. You can be involved as little as or as much as you can," he said.

Peter also operates UGFM radio. He said that one of the prime reasons for establishing a local radio station was for local news and information, and emergency broadcasting is a big part of that. UGFM became the first community radio station in Australia to become an emergency broadcaster. "That was a big feather in our cap," Peter said.

He also assisted other community stations, especially in Victoria, and that interwove with emergency management. His background with the SES helped immensely with this.

He very much wanted to thank his family, and especially wife Judy, for their support, and added that with the SES, it really is a team effort.

## KEY WORKER HOUSING

Help shape the design and character of new key worker housing for Eildon

**Council is starting an important project to address housing shortages for key workers in our Eildon community.**

With funding support from the Victorian Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, we will be constructing dedicated key worker housing on two sites in Eildon, located at 10 Eighth Street and 18 Twenty-First Street.

We are inviting community members to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing by completing our survey at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/kwh)

Your input will help shape the appearance and character of this development.

You can also join us at local pop-up events in Eildon to chat with Council officers in person about this project:

- Eildon Bowls Club – Wednesday 12 February: 5.30 to 7.30 pm
- Eildon Visitor Information Centre – Friday 14 February: 2.00 to 3.00 pm
- Eildon Grocer – Friday 14 February: 4.00 to 5.00 pm

**Don't miss out! Feedback closes at 12 noon on Friday, 21 February 2025.**



# LAUNCH PARTY!!

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**

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[WWW.DINDIDANCE.COM.AU](http://WWW.DINDIDANCE.COM.AU)

**RSVP HERE**

# A history of firefighting in the Alexandra area.

by Jude McGill, CFA Volunteer Sustainability Team

FOLLOWING Alexandra Fire Brigade's recent 150 year celebrations, it seems timely for a brief history of our local fire brigades and some of their resources in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Alexandra Group of brigades consists of Acheron, Alexandra, Buxton, Eildon, Koriella, Marysville, Narbethong, Taggerty, Terip Terip, Thornton, Whanregarwen and Yarck Brigades.

Prior to the establishment of the Country Fire Authority in 1944, many areas of the now Alexandra Group were protected by their local Bush Fire Brigades and Alexandra Urban Fire Brigade. Equipment used to fight fires were items such as, fire beaters, rakes, fern hooks and often on horseback, with pack saddles carrying equipment. Prior to water mains being laid in 1900, there was no reticulated water, with water to fight fires accessed from local water sources such as the unreliable UT Creek, and carrying of buckets to and from to extinguish the fires. After the mains were laid, further equipment was sourced such as axes, kerosene torches, uniforms, ladders, canvas hoses and nozzles.

The first 'fire engine' was a cart with a few hundred metres of canvas hose and fittings that was pulled to the fires by the firefighters, often up hill and the men were tired by the time they got to the fire. Some brigades had a horse drawn cart with room for a driver, passenger and a ledge at the back for two people to stand on. Any other members would have to make their own way to the fire. The cart carried a water tank and hand pump.

Vehicles were introduced from 1930 onwards, with some brigades using private vehicles to carry water tanks until CFA acquired vehicles were available.

It was not until the late 1960s that radios were introduced into the CFA in the area

and onto appliances. Prior to this, the station siren, phone calls or word of mouth notified members of the need to attend an incident.

Many of the current brigades were formally established between 1930 and 1945, following

several large bushfires in the first half of the 20th century.

Locals understood the importance of protecting their communities.

We have certainly progressed to our current level of resources and equipment.



A fire hose on reel which was taken to fires on foot. -S



A fern hook was a fire fighting tool. -S



The Isuzu 500 2.4D tanker circa 1993. -S



A fire beater was another popular firefighting tool. -S



A horse with a pack saddle was a mode of transport for firefighting. -S



The Willys jeep with all its firefighting equipment. -S



Koriella tanker circa 1900, International C1300 4x4 2.4 tanker. -S

# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Cows and calves at combined store sale in Yea

by Bailey Dixon

THE Elders and Nutrien combined store sale for January took place last Friday in Yea, with almost 2000 cattle yarded including steers, heifers, and cows and calves.

The auction kicked off with two lanes of Hereford cattle before launching into the usual steers and heifers. Cows and calves fetched the most money on the day, with the top price per head some \$2450.

Despite the top heifer pen clocking a top weight of 557.5kg, it only sold for \$1680, making 301c/kg. The top steer pen made \$2050 with a weight of 450.4kg, fetching a large 455c/kg.

This was higher than the respectable average of 393c/kg for the day, with an average price per head of \$1183 and average weight per head of 301.4kg.

The next cattle sale in Yea will be the Alex Scott and Staff weaner sale on Friday, January 31.



There were still many interested parties, despite the number of recent cattle sales in Yea. -BD



The Nutrien agents working with farmers to mark cattle. -BD

STOCK REPORT 24 JANUARY 2025				
Elders & Nutrien Store Sale	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	1,958			
Average \$ per head	\$1,183			
Average weight per head	301.4kg			
Top price per head		\$2,050	\$1,680	\$2,450
Top weight		450.4kg	557.5kg	
Turnover	\$2.19 million			



Ruby, Tim, Ashleigh and Gus with their steers at last Friday's store sale. -BD

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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### BUXTON CLEARING SALE

A/C EST WAYNE BRIGGS

SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 10:00AM

Inspection Day: SATURDAY 1st FEBRUARY 10am-2pm

FARM MACHINERY, VEHICLES, FARM SUNDRIES, ENGINEERING & WOOD WORKING TOOLS, TOOL SUNDRIES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS  
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### FEBRUARY PHOTO COMPETITION

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

Sponsored by



Email your photo and contact details to [manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au) by noon February 26, 2025

5772 1405

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[facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/](https://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

# 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: Interview with Victim-Survivor**

**TRIGGER WARNING:** *This article discusses family violence, suicide and other topics that may be distressing to some readers. Please note that all names mentioned in this interview have been changed.*

Conversations like these can be hard to have, but they are vital. Anyone can experience family violence. And even people we know and like may be using violence behind closed doors. In fact, when we hear about family violence in the news, perpetrators are often people who are well-liked in the community. This is often confusing as their public image doesn't always 'match up' with what we may assume about people who use violence.

However, such people are our neighbours, friends or even family. It is our responsibility as a community to learn more about the myths surrounding family violence so we can check our own internal biases, get curious and work together to create a safer community free from violence. This month, we are fortunate to learn from Morgan's lived experience. This is her story.

### **How did you meet your former husband (Joel)?**

It was my Dad who met Joel first through his involvement in community sports. He thought we might get along, and we did. We met not long after I turned 20. Things progressed, we fell in love, and I moved into his place after a few months. Soon after I turned 21, he asked me to marry him and I said yes. I had always dreamt of getting married and was excited. I was swept up in it all. Looking back, I was too young to get married. I was still at uni and living with my parents before I moved in with him. I hadn't yet gotten to know myself as an independent adult.

### **Were there any red flags in the beginning?**

When we started dating, Joel immediately started buying me expensive gifts. He would do this frequently. I now understand this is a form of 'love bombing' but I was so young and inexperienced that I was quite dazzled by it – although it did make me a bit uncomfortable at times. In particular, he bought me some swimwear that I didn't feel comfortable wearing. I gently told him so and he became angry, demanding that if I loved him, I would wear it. So, I did. From here, I felt pressure to 'perform' that I loved everything he gave me as I was worried about upsetting him. His moods became extreme and unpredictable, and I felt I was to blame. He would tell all my friends that he loved buying me gifts and they would often comment on how lucky I was. It's clear now he enjoyed the praise more than getting to know the real me. Image and public praise was extremely important to him.

### **In your mind, when did the abuse start?**

I know more about family violence now than I did then, so it is hard to pinpoint one moment or event. However, in the lead up to our wedding, Joel decided we should move interstate to start our lives as newlyweds in a new place. He said he didn't want people intruding on our life together and "this time should only be about us". Being so young and inexperienced, this seemed like an adventure. But it was actually his desire for control and the beginning of him isolating me from my friends and family. Not long after we moved, he became very jealous of any new friends that I made through work and constantly questioned me about these friendships.

I started to shut down a bit and became reluctant to share things with him. This only inflamed his jealousy as he would accuse me of hiding things from him. I couldn't win. One night, after a few drinks, he became so upset about his perception that I was 'excluding' him, that he slapped me. He apologised the next day. Hoping it was just a one-off thing, I kind of blocked the whole thing out. However, soon after this, he decided we should move back to our hometown and try for a baby. I was reluctant at first, but he insisted, and I hoped the move back would help him feel more settled and secure.

### **How were things when you moved back home?**

His jealousy intensified when we moved back. For example, one night we were getting ready to head to a party at a mutual friend's house and I mentioned my high school boyfriend may be there. He became extremely angry about this and in the end, it was easier to avoid the party. Things like this started to happen more often and I felt isolated from my longstanding social groups. More so than when we were interstate. He complained that none of my friends liked him (which they actually did at the time because he was really respected in the community). But due to his insecurities, I felt pressured to limit my contact with them. Separately, Joel was heavily involved in competitive sport and was obsessed with winning. When he didn't win, he would return home in a fit of rage, smashing things in the house and punching walls. These outbursts intensified after the birth of our first child. It was a high-risk pregnancy and a traumatic birth. I was incredibly unwell afterwards. Joel had been desperate to have a child but as soon as we did, he totally checked out and became even more obsessed with winning his sporting competitions and began to blame any losses on the baby. He was verbally abusing me regularly. I was still recovering from childbirth and often too exhausted to challenge his behaviour. But when I did, it was impossible to reason with him. He would just tell me to shut up.

### **Was there a moment you realised Joel's behaviour was family violence?**

One of my family members expressed their concern to me. Maybe I wasn't ready to see it. My perception of family violence was that it was only physical. And because this had happened only once, I struggled to see it that way (not realising that smashing things/punching walls was also physical violence). Another family member said to me that I had gotten used to a different kind of normal – but that Joel's behaviour wasn't normal. But at the time, he and our baby felt like my whole world. I was so overwhelmed that I didn't have the capacity to see things for what they really were at the time.

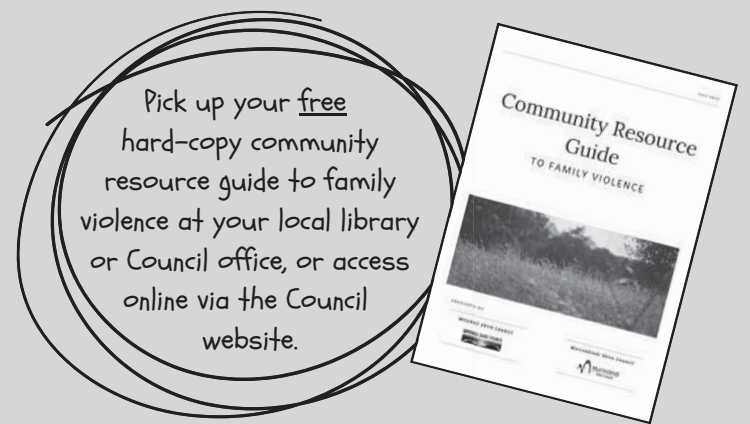
### **How did your relationship change after children?**

I remember a few months after our first son's birth Joel came second in a competition. When we returned home, he started yelling and smashing things again. He blamed our son and I for "only coming second". He said that because I "made" him bathe the baby the night before, it affected his body for the competition. I was speechless. It didn't make sense. When our second child was born things deteriorated further. Because we didn't have a girl (which he was hoping for the second time round), he didn't make an effort with the baby at all. He refused to even hold him after he was born and blamed me that he wasn't a girl. It was heartbreaking. Nothing made sense.

## **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!





In fact, in the operating theatre when the doctors were administering urgent blood transfusion treatment, he said in front of the whole room that we would be trying again for a girl as soon as we got home. The doctors had to ask him to leave the theatre. After this episode, I continued trying to seek support for him. But he just wouldn't engage. I also tried to get his parents to help, but they refused to accept that anything was wrong. One of his parents even told me (after I explained everything that had been going on) that "marriage means in sickness and in health" and that as his wife, I should be trying harder to make things work. I blamed myself. I see now their views were rooted in a different time and set of values. But I felt like I'd 'failed' at being a 'good wife'.

#### **What made you decide to leave?**

It was really a collection of a lot of things, not one lightbulb moment. But I eventually became so unhappy that I chose to leave the marriage. It was not an easy choice as our second child was still so small. We had moved (again) to a different part of the state and Joel was changing jobs frequently. He would quit each job for a new imagined reason. He continued to refuse professional help – saying it was me who 'had problems'. I felt powerless as I couldn't convince him to speak to anybody. His behaviour became more erratic, and I was living in fear of him, walking on eggshells every day. Despite having two small children at home, I was working a lot to make sure we had enough money. But Joel began draining the money in our joint account on material items that we didn't need (like fancy fitness equipment). Any essential purchases that I made, he questioned and criticised – even nappies for the babies were questioned. Perhaps the final straw was when Joel was yelling at me in front of our eldest son who started crying uncontrollably, distressed by what he was seeing and hearing. I knew it was unacceptable that our relationship was impacting our children, and I was concerned about the long-term effects the situation would have on them. I didn't want them to ever think abuse was okay. At this point, I felt like a shell of my former self. When we separated, I vividly recall feeling a weight leave my body and I finally felt free.

#### **What was the hardest thing about leaving?**

Trusting myself enough to leave was liberating at first. But soon after I left, Joel's abusive behaviour escalated. He physically attacked me in public when I was holding our young son. He also attacked my mother when she was babysitting our kids. When I calmed him down, my mother called the police. Luckily, the police were great and supported me to seek an intervention order. I didn't want to at first as I was so scared of his reaction. Even with the order in place, I was still fearful that he would come to the house and hurt us.

#### **Did Joel ever threaten to harm you or your children after you separated?**

Yes, he did make one chilling threat, referencing the man who drove his kids into a dam (drowning them). He insinuated that if I upset him that's what he would do to our little boys. He later laughed it off as a joke. I never allowed him alone with the kids after that. Thank goodness he didn't fight me on this.

#### **Do you think mental illness can explain or excuse family violence?**

No. I work in the health sector and have come across many people struggling with mental illness. I sometimes struggle with my own mental health as a result of the trauma of experiencing family violence. But, while mental health may play a role in exacerbating abuse, it does not cause or justify it. Past trauma and other mental health issues can be really tough to live with. I have so much compassion for anyone dealing with such things. However, the vast majority of people suffering with mental illness or past trauma are not violent. Everyone deserves the chance to get support for whatever challenges they may be facing. But, when someone's behaviour harms others, we must prioritise our own safety first. It is not your job to try and 'fix' someone that doesn't want help, especially when they are choosing to use violence.

#### **Where are things at now? What does life look like for you?**

A year after we separated Joel ended his own life. It was devastating. I truly believed that if he sought help, he could get better and show up for our children in a healthy way. I would never have wished for anything like this to happen. I still had love for Joel. It took me years to move past his death. Particularly as his parents overtly blamed me for his death. I know that Joel made that choice, but even with all I know now – I do still carry some guilt for leaving him. Healing never happens in a straight line. I am now married to the

kindest man who is a wonderful father figure for my boys. He cherishes them and I love our life together. I feel completely safe in our relationship and now understand what a true partnership looks like. Things are equal. We communicate in a healthy way and resolve disagreements calmly, with respect for one another's point of view. Of course, I bring a lot more maturity and awareness into this relationship given all I went through. But I also believe conversations about family violence are less stigmatised now. More people are learning about what healthy relationships look like and what the signs of family violence are. This has helped me on my own journey, as it validates that it wasn't my fault, and I didn't deserve what happened.

#### **If you could give any advice to others in a similar situation, what would it be?**

Reach out to your loved ones and seek support as soon as possible in a way that feels safe for you. Don't be afraid of judgment and put the safety of yourself and your children first. Seek advice from a free legal service. Information is empowering when you might be feeling totally disempowered. Your friends have more capacity for difficult conversations than you might think. You can be clear that you aren't looking for advice, just support and love. If you're not ready to leave, that's okay. If people know about the situation, they are better equipped to be there for you when you are ready. Finally, it's valid to be afraid to speak to the authorities. But, in my experience, the police were some of the most kind and supportive people I dealt with and provided me with a lot of good advice and guidance. Especially now, police are trained to navigate the complexities of family violence. I understand engaging police won't feel right for everybody. But I believe it ultimately saved my life and my kids' lives.

#### **Has experiencing family violence changed the way you feel about men?**

No, definitely not! I don't hate men or view men as a collective in a negative light. While I would love to see more men step up to help prevent and address family violence in the community (including having hard conversations with their friends or family where they observe disrespectful behaviour or suspect abuse), I certainly don't blame all men for the issue. Like anyone else, men have great capacity for kindness, curiosity and advocacy. We can all use our voice for good to contribute to change and change the story. This is especially important for our kids.

#### **How do you think men can help or get involved?**

It really doesn't have to be complicated or time consuming. Be aware of what is happening around you. And be brave enough to (even gently) challenge harmful behaviours in your peer groups. The kind of language you use is important too. Remember, fathers aren't 'babysitting' their kids - they're parenting them! I have learned that my partner isn't 'doing me a favour' when he does the dishes or other domestic chores. He's just participating in our partnership and contributing to our family life. This doesn't mean I 'wear the pants' (another unhelpful phrase) - it means I am capable of being clear about the expectations for our partnership and am flexible about who does what based on our capacity at certain times. The mental load is not just for women to take on. Even laughing at sexist jokes can feed into an overall culture that views women as 'less than'. Shifting these stereotypes prevents violence because it changes the culture in which violence can thrive more easily. If you want to protect women, encourage other men to model behaviour that makes us feel safe and respected. It really is that simple.

#### **Getting support**

*Call 000 in an emergency or if you are/someone else is in immediate danger.*

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 7 32
- NTV men's referral service: 1800 766 491
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 773 352
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Rainbow Door: 1800 729 367 or visit rainbowdoor.org.au - A free specialist helpline for LGBTQIA+ Victorians
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?': areyousafeathome.org.au
- ARC Justice's Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre: (03) 5831 0900 or 1800 310 900 - free legal information, advice and representation services



*A glorious morning for a casual barbecue. -MP*



*MP Cindy McLeish spoke of her connection and what it means to be Australian to her. -MP*

# Australia Day celebrated in Alexandra

A CASUAL barbecue held at Rotary Park in Alexandra on Sunday, January 26 was well attended with everyone having a good catch up and breakfast before the heat of the day set in.

Alexandra Events hosted the event with Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association, and Alexandra CFA were great assistance by cooking the barbecue for everyone to enjoy.

Speeches included Cindy McLeish MP and Mayor Damien Gallagher, with Ayden Embling emceeing the event.



*Mayor Damien Gallagher speaking to the crowd about his meaning of Australia Day. -MP*



*Josephene, Wayne, Kent, Ross, and Neil enjoying a catch up. -MP*



*Chris, Ray, Debrah, and Helen. -MP*



*Ayden Embling emceeing the event. -MP*



*Gordon and Michael manning the barbecue. -MP*

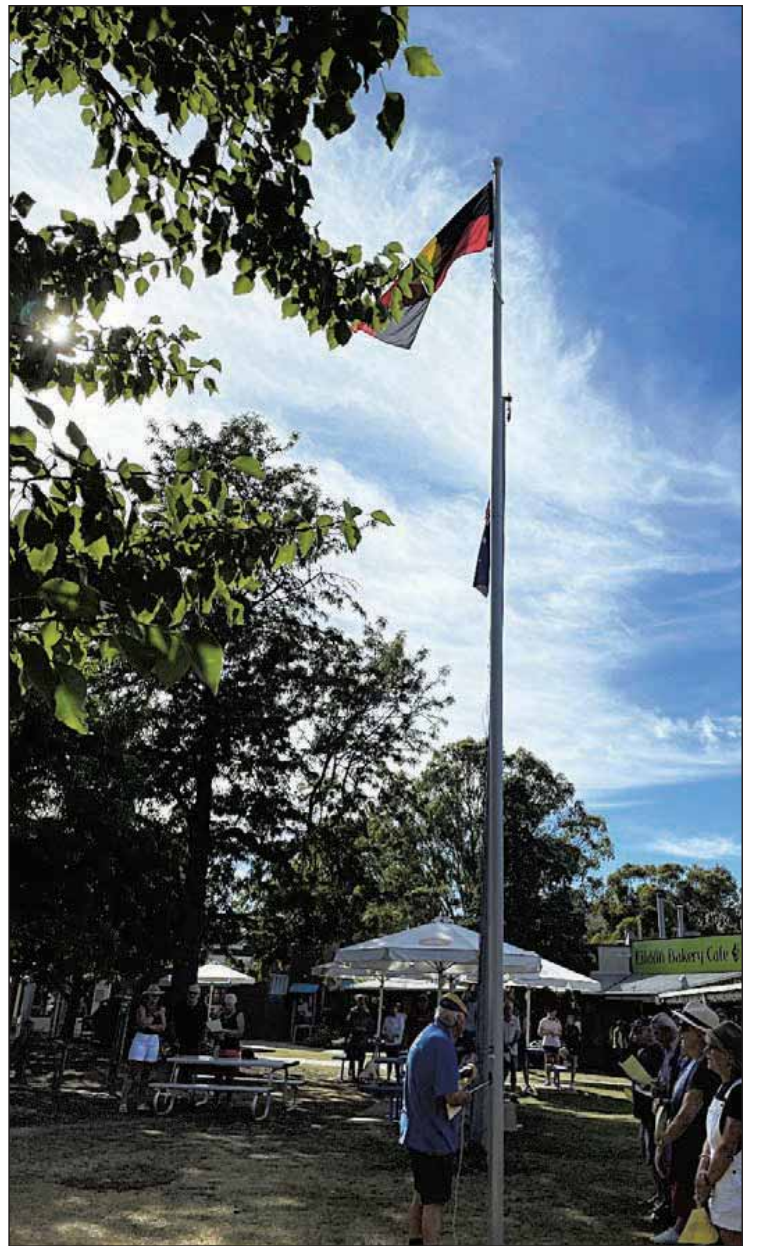


The audience at the Eildon Australia Day event. -S

# Australia Day celebrated in Eildon



Mayor Damien Gallagher, Karine Haslam, Deputy Mayor Anita Carr and Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. Karine was presented with the Eildon Lions 2025 Community Service Award. -S



The flag-raising at the Australia Day event in Eildon. -S



Bailey Taylor (2) from Alexandra. -KM



Plenty of water fun was had at the new splash park. -MP



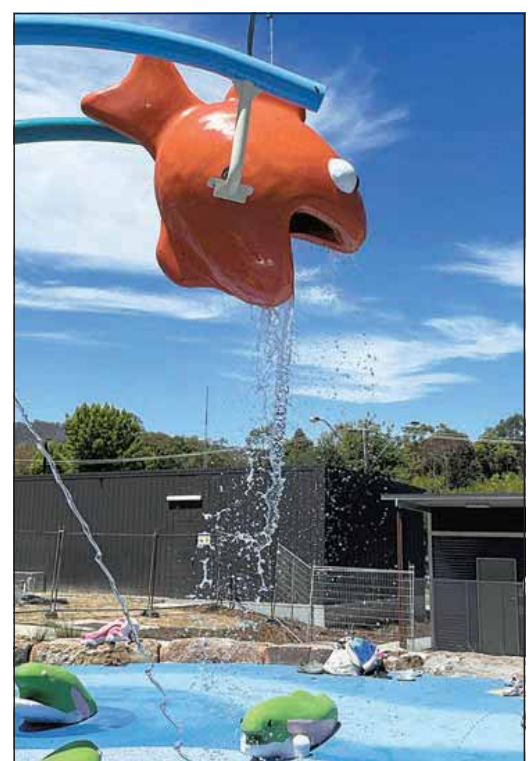
The playground has been created with the theme of 'Eildon'. -KM

## Eildon Splash Park opens temporarily

THE Eildon Splash Park opened on the long weekend, delighting locals and visitors in the warm weather.

After the long weekend, Murrindindi Shire Council will need to close the splash park again, to allow for further finishing works to occur, before it's reopened permanently for everyone to enjoy.

The \$6.1 million project was made possible with funding from state government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund, Local Sport Infrastructure Fund and Changing Places Fund, and the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund.



The Eildon Splash Park temporarily opened over the long weekend, with perfect temperatures. -KM

# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 18

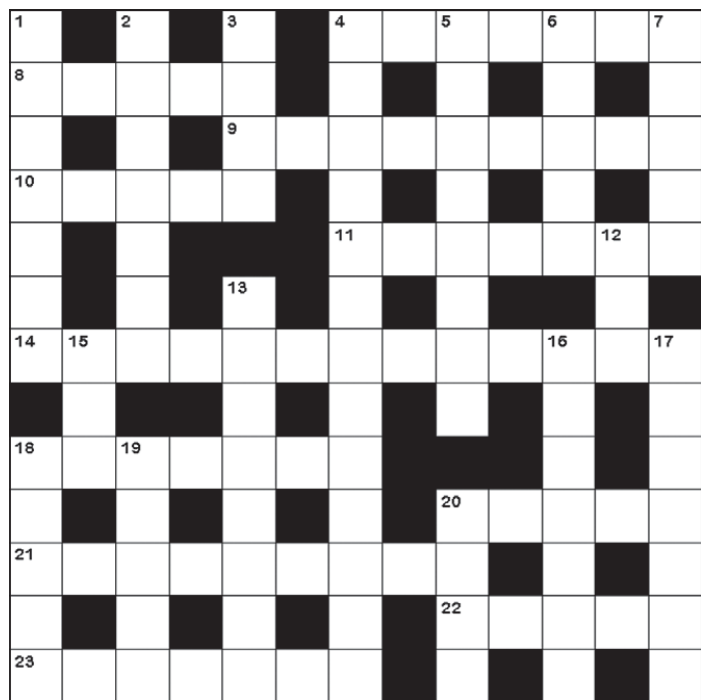
## Crossword

**ACROSS**

- 4. Makes and ear-splitting noise.
- 8. Cook in a simmering liquid.
- 9. Absolutely necessary.
- 10. Many times at short intervals.
- 11. Watered down.
- 14. Emotional and unpredictable.
- 18. Gather in the crops.
- 20. Brief and to the point.
- 21. All drinks except water.
- 22. Fill with surprise and wonder.
- 23. Told tales on.

**DOWN**

- 1. Assign a position.
- 2. A fit of bad temper.
- 3. At what time.
- 4. Socially or economically deprived.
- 5. Declared invalid.
- 6. An order proclaimed by authority.
- 7. A dish of cold vegetables or fruit.
- 12. A distinctive period in time.
- 13. Involving intelligence.

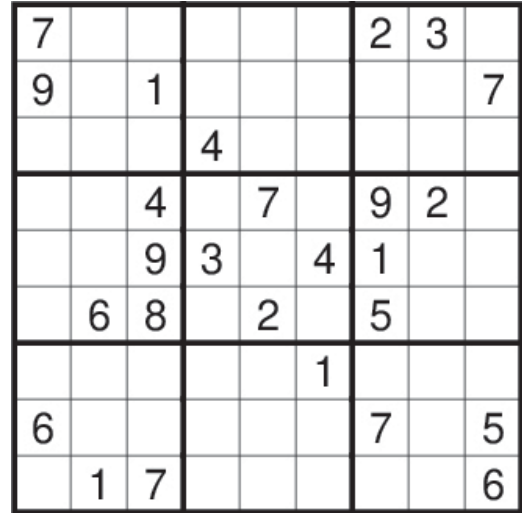


- 15. Estimated time of arrival.
- 16. A rising current of warm air.
- 17. Described as similar.
- 18. An established custom.
- 19. Hold the attention of.
- 20. A male monarch of Russia.

## Word Search

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

## Sudoku



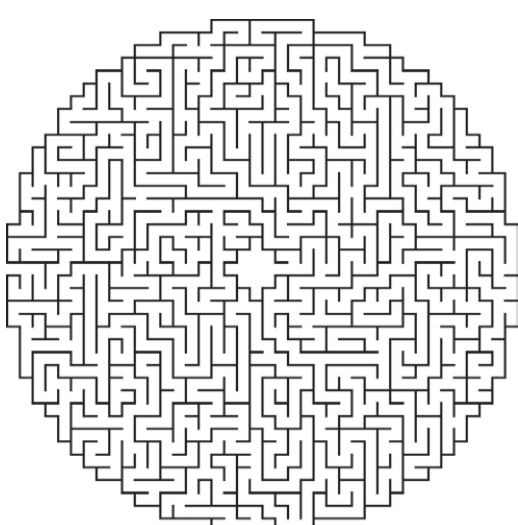
## Occupations

- ACCOUNTANT
- CLEANER
- DOCTOR
- EDITOR
- JOURNALIST
- LAWYER
- PAINTER
- RECEPTIONIST
- REPORTER
- SALESASSISTANT
- TEACHER
- TRUCKDRIVER

## 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.

## Maze



## Math Square

	×		+	4	10
+		×		+	
	+	7	×		47
×		+		-	
	+		×		17
42		22		1	

### 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.



Alexandra Fire Brigade members fighting the main part of the Cathkin fire. -BD

# Cathkin fire sparked by cooling system issue

A GRASSFIRE occurred last Wednesday afternoon in Cathkin, near the intersection of Goulburn Valley Highway and Cremona Road.

The fire burnt approximately 100 metres by 50 metres on the side of the road.

The fire was caused by a crane pulley overheating on the back of a truck due to a cooling system issue and exploding, causing hot metals to spit out each side of the truck as it drove through Cathkin.

Captain Chris Lynch of the Alexandra Fire Brigade said "He [the truck driver] wouldn't have known, had no idea. Not his fault, just an accident. So, when we got to the bottom of it, obviously seeing three different fires in three different areas sparks interest to potential foul play. That wasn't the case.

"When I came around the corner I was met with three different fire scenes. One was reasonably small, about two metres long and a metre wide. Then we had the main fire which was starting to spread, and I couldn't do anything about that immediately.

"And then the other scene of the fire was up in some grass heading towards some trees and

a house. All I could do was get out and put that one out with the extinguisher and then start putting some plans into action around suppression of the main fire," Chris said.

"We had Alexandra tanker one and two, two being the new tanker. We had Yarck, Molesworth, Koriella, Yea, Thornton. Plus, the Alexandra Forward Command Vehicle (FCV) and the Alexandra Group FCV.

"We were very lucky that middle fire didn't jump the rail trail and get into the paddock. That was my main concern, and how we were going to pull that one up. It was pretty close to getting helicopters and more tankers if that had gone across.

"We were pretty grateful for the local's assistance, with private firefighting vehicles. The ultralight that we sold to a farmer so we could get the new tanker was actually the farm that was across the road and that was used in the suppression of that fire. That worked pretty well and was handy.

"Big credit to the help from the local firefighting vehicles, and a big shoutout to the Alexandra Police for their assistance with traffic," Chris said.



Firefighters working to stop the fire from crossing the rail trail into the nearby paddock. -BD



The fire burnt through the scrub on the side of the Goulburn Valley Highway.



Local firefighting vehicles assisting in extinguishing the grassfire. -BD



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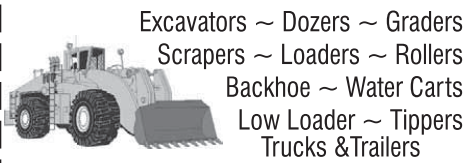
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Continued from Page 4

Despite the land being approved by the Aboriginal Protectorate and the Board of Land and Works, there was strong resistance by pastoralists. Our people were later driven off our 'Promised Land' by the local pastoralists. Denied a realistic alternative, most Taungurung survivors later joined other Kulin peoples at Coranderk Station, on Woiwurrung Country. Over time, our people moved to mission stations and reserves elsewhere in Victoria, to Lake Tyers, Lake Condah, Franklinford, and Ebenezer, or to Cummeragunga in New South Wales. A number of Taungurung people, however, refused to leave our own Country, and remained there for the rest of their lives. Some found work within the colonial economy, including on local pastoral stations such as Molka, Wappan and Doogalook, as a way of staying on Taungurung land. One Taungurung man even took up a selection on his own Country in 1879, when it was rare for Aboriginal people to gain leaseholds. The Taungurung peoples' push to retain, and reclaim, their Country continued.

Through much of the 19th and 20th centuries, the state actively discouraged the practice of Taungurung culture. Despite this, our people continued to pass down knowledge via family and community gatherings, out of view of the wider community. In 1967, Camp Jungai was established near Alexandra, just south of Lake Eildon, in the heart of Taungurung Country. Named using the Taungurung word for meeting place, Camp Jungai became a place where culture would thrive, and continues to this day.

In the eyes of the Taungurung peoples, Australia Day ignores our history, our struggle, and the fact that our Ancestors have lived on, cared for, and maintained cultural obligations to and for Taungurung Country for over 65,000 years.

It is for this reason that many Taungurung people call Australia Day 'Invasion Day' as a reflection on the effects invasion had and still has on our community and Country. Taungurung people also refer to Australia Day as Survival Day, a day to reflect on our resilience and survival, and our continued determination and drive to exercise our cultural and inherent rights, and our continued fight for and assertion of rights on Taungurung land.

Moreover, January 26 has a long history of protest within the Aboriginal community. On January 26, 1888, on the centenary of British colonisation, Aboriginal leaders boycotted the 100 year anniversary celebrations.

On January 26, 1938, on the 150th anniversary of Arthur Phillip's arrival, Yorta Yorta man William Cooper and other members of the Aboriginal Progressive Association held the Day of Mourning and Protest. The protest took place in Sydney after an event to celebrate Arthur Phillip's landing, which included a parade and a re-enactment of the First Fleet's arrival. Afterwards, over 1000 First Nations people and their supporters formed a silent march through the streets of Sydney.

All this history of Aboriginal resilience, mourning and protest on January 26.

In 1946, the Commonwealth and state governments agreed to unify all the state-based Australia Day celebrations and celebrate on January 26 as a country, the public holiday was taken on the Monday closest to the 26th.

Australia Day officially became a public holiday for all states and territories only 31 years ago, in 1994.

Taungurung people therefore continue to see January 26 as a day of mourning and reflection, and not a day of celebration.

It is Taungurung peoples' wish that all people living on our Country take time to truly consider and respect that January 26 does not bring a sense of unity and pride and implores people to educate themselves about the true history of this Country and to consider what you can do to become an ally of the Taungurung people.

The Taungurung Land and Waters Council, through the direction of the Taungurung people have chosen not to participate in any activities associated with January 26 and request that our partners and stakeholders respect this position.

It is important to note the Taungurung people respect our partners/stakeholders' responsibilities and commitments to January 26, however, also request they frequently consider deeply the views of the Taungurung Nation and the actual need to continue celebrating a day which would continue to isolate and segregate the Taungurung people on their own Country.

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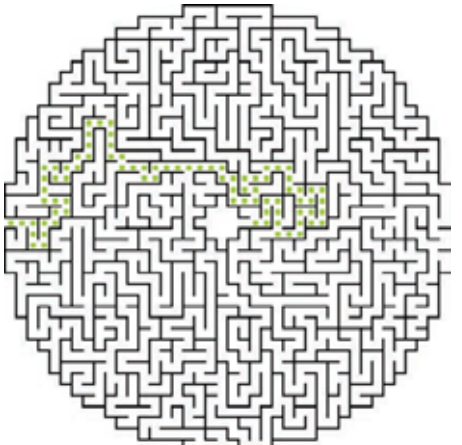
**MATH SQUARES**

2	×	3	+	4	10
+		×		+	
5	+	7	×	6	47
×		+		-	
8	+	1	×	9	17
42		22		1	

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7	4	6	9	8	5	2	3	1
9	8	1	2	3	6	4	5	7
5	2	3	4	1	7	6	8	9
1	5	4	6	7	8	9	2	3
2	7	9	3	5	4	1	6	8
3	6	8	1	2	9	5	7	4
4	3	5	7	6	1	8	9	2
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A Funeral Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Dominic McCarthy will be held on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yea commencing at 11.30am. The funeral cortege will proceed to the Broadford Cemetery for burial service commencing at 3.30pm.



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### DEATH NOTICES

**McCARTHY, Dominic George**  
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### DEATH NOTICES



**McEVOY, Michael**  
ARC Life Member  
A hard working, long serving committee man and lover of thoroughbreds. Rest in Peace.  
ARC President and Committee

### MEETINGS

#### ALEXANDRA PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

AGM on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7pm in the secretaries office/caravan park office at 17 William Street, Alexandra. All interested parties are welcome and we actively encourage new members who look to promote agriculture/horticulture within our area. For more information, please contact the secretary at [pna.alexandra@gmail.com](mailto:pna.alexandra@gmail.com).

### DEATH NOTICES



**GERENCSER, Ilona.**

It is with profound sadness that we express our deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of Ilona Gerencser who died after a long illness. Ilona served as a dedicated Murrindindi Shire Councillor for the Kinglake Ward from 2020-2024. Her passion and commitment to the Kinglake Ranges community was evident in all she did. Ilona's tireless efforts to improve mental health, wellbeing and road safety for residents have left a lasting impact. She will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for her unwavering dedication and significant contributions to our community.

Mayor, Councillors and staff



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# Marysville celebrates Australia Day



Bob McNamara received the award for the Marysville Men's Shed float. -AR



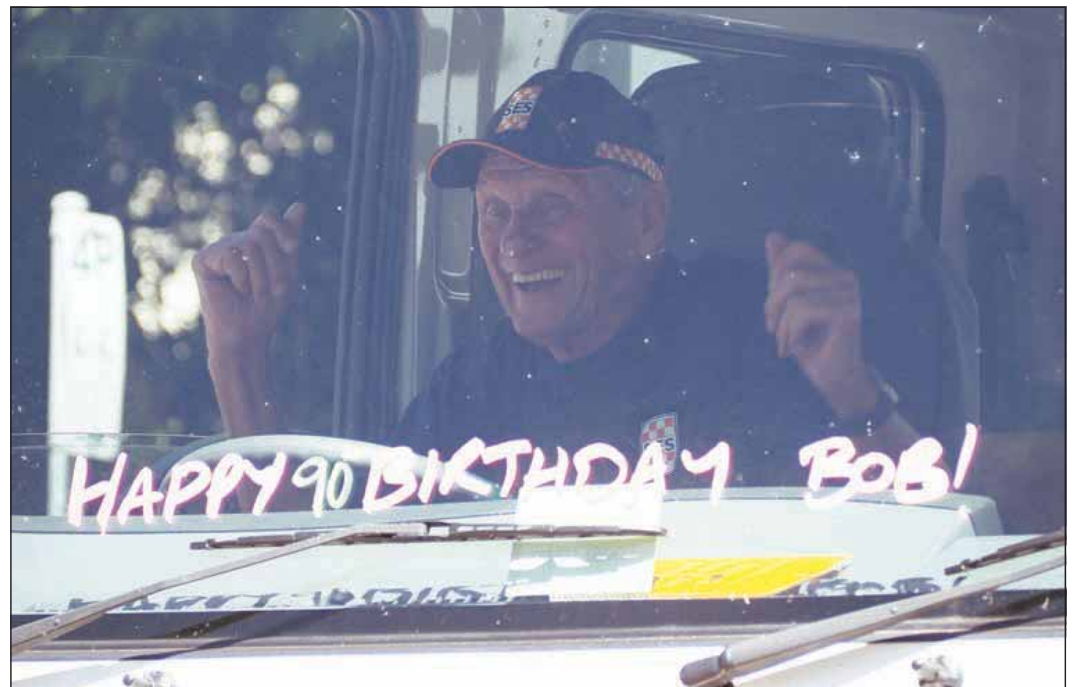
Jaxon blowing bubbles to the crowd. -AR



Peter Dickinson towing an outhouse down the main street of Marysville. -AR



Mayor Damien Gallagher appeared in many towns on Australia Day. -AR



During a pause in the parade, Bob Emblin celebrated reaching his milestone 90th birthday. -MP



A big wave from the CFA. -MP



Kerry and Charlotte on the fire truck. -MP

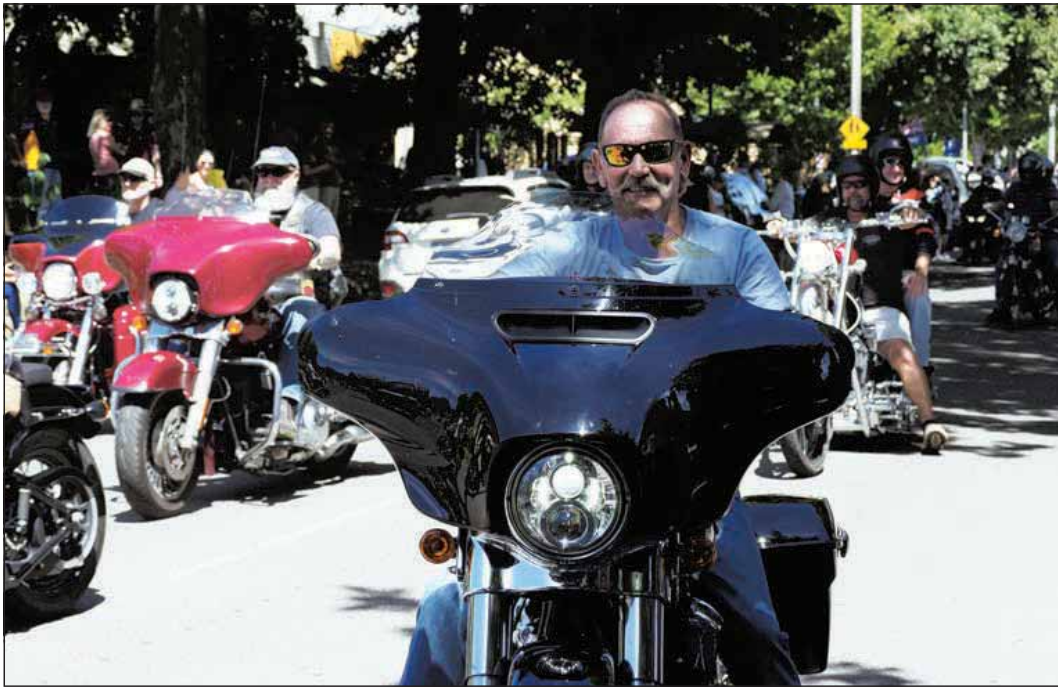
# Marysville celebrates Australia Day



Bruce and Emmy-Lou Ackerman during the motorcycle convoy. -MP



Christina representing technology that we all rely on so much. -MP



Tex King on his motorbike. -MP



Old-school Australia Holden was part of the convoy of cars in the parade. -MP



All smiles from Lou Renouf on her horse representing the Marysville Saddle Tramps Club. -MP



Peter Dickinson with the convoy of motorbikes. -AR



Bruno representing Aussie power. -MP



A sea of flags leading the parade in Marysville. -MP

# Roads causing potholes in the family budget

LOCAL motorists are well aware of the current pothole situation on our roads, but how much are motorists needing to fork out due to damage caused by potholes?

## Secure water supplies for summer and beyond

GOULBURN Valley Water's 2024 Annual Water Outlook has confirmed that water restrictions are unlikely this year and that drinking water supplies are in a stable position for the region.

According to the updated water security outlook, published on Goulburn Valley Water's website, only one of the 54 towns supplied by 13 river, creek and groundwater supply systems has any chance of experiencing water restrictions during 2025.

The outlook for the Yea River System over the next two years says: "There is a very rare likelihood of water restrictions in the outlook period, with supply being well above demand. The average demand is predicted to be well below the water restriction trigger and the projected stream flows."

According to the outlook, the Yea River System has a water entitlement of 438 megalitres, and in 2023-24 the total water use was only 207 megalitres, leaving plenty to spare.

Goulburn Valley Water Managing Director Dr Steve Capewell said a number of factors had been considered in the analysis, but the major contributors to the outcome were strong storage levels and wetter catchments following the spring 2022 floods.

"All of the northern region's water supply systems, the Murray River, Goulburn River, Seven Creeks, Nine Mile Creek, and Katunga's groundwater have a very rare likelihood of restrictions, while the Delatite and Upper Delatite River, Brewery Creek, Steavenson River, Yea River and the Sunday Creek systems also have positive supply outlooks," Dr Capewell said.

Water demand projections, population growth predictions, climate modelling and two-year forecast graphs have been used to develop the Annual Water Outlook. The 2024 outlook is bolstered further by the fact Agriculture Victoria's December to February 2025 outlook is projecting average to above average rainfall conditions.

Dr Capewell said every five years Goulburn Valley Water produced an Urban Water Strategy to plan for short, medium and long term water availability and wastewater demand.

"The 2027 strategy will create more opportunities for the use of recycled water, which was a preference outlined by our customers during engagement for the development of the 2022 Urban Water Strategy," he said.

Projects included in the current strategy are progressing well, and include a new pipeline connecting Numurkah to Nathalia, which is expected to be complete in 2027. There are also planned upgrades for water treatment plants in Shepparton, Broadford, and Cobram, along with a raw water pipeline in Mansfield.

The Annual Water Outlook can be viewed at [gvwater.vic.gov.au/Portals/0/GV-Water/Documents/PlansStrategies/GVW\\_AnnualWaterOutlook\\_December2024\\_FINAL.pdf?ver=koINa0nvhsefMNPWc0NDag%3d%3d](http://gvwater.vic.gov.au/Portals/0/GV-Water/Documents/PlansStrategies/GVW_AnnualWaterOutlook_December2024_FINAL.pdf?ver=koINa0nvhsefMNPWc0NDag%3d%3d)

Owner of the Yea Auto and Stihl Shop, Andrew Seamer, said, "Through the Yea Auto and Stihl Shop we would have anywhere between six to 10 tyre repairs per week that could be directly linked back to the drivers hitting a pothole upon the Melba Highway (Glenburn to Yea) or indeed the Goulburn Valley Highway between Homeward to Yea and Yea through to Catkin. These two highways are the significant contributor to the tyre and rim damage that occurs. So that is 300 to 500 repairs per annum, just through our sole workshop.

"At Yea Auto and Stihl Shop we provide the local RACV roadside assist service out from Yea through to Glenburn, Flowerdale, Strath Creek, Highlands, Molesworth, Cathkin, Limestone, Murrindindi and as such we see firsthand the damage caused to the tyres, rims and vehicles as a result of hitting the potholes.

"European cars like Mercedes, BMW, Audi, any such car with low profile tyres is at greater risk when striking a pothole at speed. Ordinarily such vehicles only have a run flat tyre or indeed no spare at all which results in vehicles being towed back to dealerships in Melbourne as replacement tyres are not always readily available. Cracked aluminium rims is not uncommon nor is a bent steel rim. Such damage can render the rims unserviceable and replacement rims are not always available in Melbourne or indeed throughout Australia depending upon the make, model and age of the vehicle.

"Equally, caravans, boat trailers, horse floats, campers and trailers all incur the same problems from potholes as drivers attempt to avoid these potholes. The consequence can be a simple puncture, buckled rims, shredded or blown tyres, bent or broken axles, broken tyre wheel studs. The minimum impact is a couple hour delay, an unscheduled stay at the Yea Caravan Park or overnight stay at one of the local hotels through to cancelled holidays with vehicles and or trailers towed back home for repair and very, very upset families.

"As an absolute, all road users should have some form of roadside assist when travelling through rural Victoria to insure against the likely problem of a puncture, blown tyre, crack rims or worse and the consequential costs incurred in repairing, replacing and getting back home or back on the road as quick as possible.

"Our roads are not going to be repaired anytime soon... and as such we need to be prepared for the worst when travelling on Victoria's pot holed highways."

Andrew has owned the business for the past seven years and said that in his early days, there was nowhere near as much pothole damage. He said, "If I had to put a number, I'd say it's probably doubled our business as in when it comes to tyre repairs replacements and that sort of work.

"We've also had the RACV call out for that period of time and that's a bigger part of what we do, which is either repair those tyres if we

can or organise for people to be towed back home, which is more the outcome again for European cars, but really any car that has an alloy rim. A simple run flat just doesn't do it. There can be damage done to the studs. You think it's a simple thing, but it's not. And even some of the cars today don't even have a run flat. So, uh yeah, they just don't provide for such events."

If damage to a vehicle arises due to the condition of a freeway or arterial road, motorists are able to make a claim through VicRoads, however the first \$1640 must be paid by the vehicle owner or through insurance.

Steve Donnelly, manager of the Yea Auto and Stihl Shop, agreed that the pothole situation has certainly become more severe for motorists. "I definitely know they're getting really bad," he said, adding that he was also concerned about the quality of the repairs.

He said that obtaining accurate data on damage due to potholes was difficult as the damage could be due to nails on the road, for example, but he estimated that he would get around two customers per week with sidewall damage on their wheels.

## Grants to support wellbeing in rural areas

THE Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) is inviting applicants to apply for grants up to \$20,000 with their *In a Good Place* program (IAGP). The project assists community driven projects that strengthen the mental, social and or emotional health and wellbeing of people living in remote, rural and regional places, particularly in farming communities.

This round, the IAGP program has \$290,000 to support initiatives or activities that prevent or respond to mental wellbeing concerns. Priorities include increasing mental health education and understanding to reduce stigma; supporting people to build connections and reduce social isolation; and encouraging, supporting and enabling people to seek help for their mental health.

Thanks to FRRR's donor partners, community groups and not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) can apply for grants through two streams of funding these are: Community wellbeing: for projects that focus on strengthening the general mental health and wellbeing of people in remote, rural and regional communities; Farmers and farming communities: for projects specifically supporting the mental health and wellbeing of farmers and the communities they live in.

Jill Karena, Head of Granting at FRRR, said that while Australia's farming communities are incredibly vibrant and resilient, even the strongest person needs help from time to time.

"There is a legacy of silence and perceived stigma around speaking up and seeking support for mental health issues. Thankfully, in rural communities, this narrative is shifting.

"Together with our funding partners, we are supporting local groups to be part of that momentum and continue to challenge and positively shift perceptions about mental health in their remote, rural and regional communities.

"We want to fund initiatives that foster open and honest discussions around mental health, support the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable community members, and encourage farmers, and other community members concerned with their mental health, to seek support.

"We look forward to reading the project ideas put forward by community groups and not-for-profits across the country, and to be inspired by their positive, proactive and community-focussed, mental health initiatives," Ms Karena said.

Groups seeking support must first lodge an Expression of Interest (EOI), which is due Friday, February 14. Final applications from those shortlisted are due Tuesday, March 11.

To learn more about the grant visit [frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place/](http://frrr.org.au/funding/place/in-a-good-place/)

## Ambulance Victoria Service Medals announced

SIX highly regarded Ambulance Victoria (AV) personnel have been awarded Ambulance Service Medals (ASM) in this year's national Honours, with two covering the Murrindindi Shire area.

The ASM recognises distinguished service by members of Australian ambulance services and is awarded to a select group of outstanding ambulance personnel, as nominated by their peers, each year.

The Australian Honours List acknowledges Australians for their incredible achievements, service and contribution to their communities.

### Narelle Capp - Director Regional and Clinical Operations (Hume)

Narelle Capp is AV's director regional and clinical operations in the Hume region and has held various leadership roles while maintaining her operational capacity, including ambulance paramedic, team manager, senior team manager and area manager.

Narelle has made significant contributions, particularly in the metropolitan and Hume regions, where she has led cultural reforms and served as a role model for women in leadership.

She has driven innovation in ambulance services for Victoria's alpine areas. Recognising the outdated model and safety concerns, she led the introduction of a new dual crew roster system and upgraded equipment, including new snow vehicles and specialist training programs.

In 2024, Narelle oversaw the deployment of custom-built Can-Am over-snow vehicles, enhancing safety and efficiency for paramedics in alpine environments. She is passionate and advocates for the experience of first responders.

Narelle's leadership in these reforms highlights her commitment to improving services and challenging existing practices to better serve the Victorian community.

### Bartholomew (Bart) Wunderlich - Community Emergency Response Team volunteer (Kinglake)

Bart Wunderlich has dedicated 19 years to AV, beginning as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer in Kinglake in 2005. He's held leadership roles for 18 of those years, provided first aid at community events, and spearheaded the establishment of Kinglake's ambulance station in 2013, ensuring training facilities were in place.

During the Black Saturday fires, Bart risked his life to assist others, earning recognition for his bravery. His testimony to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission drove critical changes in emergency response protocols. After the fires, he was instrumental in rebuilding Kinglake CERT, a vital part of the community.

Known for his unwavering dedication, he mentored future paramedics and supported challenging emergencies, all while balancing his duties at Northern Hospital Epping.

## Protect yourself against Measles before travelling overseas

VICTORIANS are being encouraged to protect themselves and their families from measles by ensuring they are immunised, with outbreaks overseas posing a particular risk to those travelling to South-East Asia, particularly Vietnam at present.

This is after two new measles cases were identified in Victoria on Friday, January 17 following overseas travel, with the cases having attended multiple public places throughout Melbourne while infectious from January 13 to 16.

It is strongly advised that anyone travelling overseas who may not have been vaccinated against measles receives the measles vaccine before travelling.

Infants in Victoria are eligible for a measles vaccine from six months of age if they are travelling to a country where measles is present, which is six months earlier than routinely scheduled.

Measles is a very infectious viral disease that spreads quickly with close contact,

especially in those who are not fully vaccinated. Most people recover, however some people, especially young children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are at risk of serious illness.

Measles usually begins with common cold like symptoms such as a fever, runny nose, red eyes, and a cough, followed by a rash. The characteristic rash usually begins three to four days after the first symptoms, generally starting on the face and then spreading to the rest of the body.

## Greg Gilmore and Larry Scott the men's championship pairs winners

by Marie Evans

ALEXANDRA Bowls Club has completed the men's championship pairs and the winners for the 2024-25 season are Greg Gilmore and Larry Scott. The runners-up were John Blamey and Malcolm Gill.

The club offers congratulations to all participants and a special mention to John and Malcolm who defeated far more experienced bowlers, including last year's winners, to make it to the final.

Pennant continued Saturday and division four played Merrigum at home. Merrigum are on the bottom of the ladder but thoroughly enjoyed the Alexandra playing surface and were successful in two rinks.

The best winning rink was David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier and Saxon Langmead. They won 13 ends and led for the entire game. They were 22 to seven at the break and continued to outplay their opposition after. They won 29 to 10 in a convincing and what was a necessary big win.

It was a much closer game on the other winning rink. Tim Langmead (Skip), Ken Argent, Trevor Stewart and Craig Parkinson had a game that saw three tied ends in the second half. Craig was a late inclusion due to player unavailability and played his first game for division four.

The club congratulates Craig on a first-up win. Alexandra led four to one on end four but trailed four to seven on end seven. They won the next five ends to lead 10 to seven. After the break it was 11 all on end 15, 13 all

on end 18 and 15 all on end 20. Alexandra won the last end to win the game 16 to 15.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Andy Tobias and Denise Chisholm also had a game that went down to the last few ends. They led four to three on end four, trailed four to 10 on end eight. By end 13 they were nine to 14. They had taken the lead 16 to 15 by end 18 but lost the last three ends to lose 16 to 19.

Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist had a game that was particularly frustrating. They consistently built good heads but the Merrigum Skip or their third were fantastic in drawing the winning shot.

Alexandra had only seven winning ends but fortunately kept most of Merrigum's winning ends to one shot. The final score was Alexandra 11 to 18.

The final score was a win to Alexandra 72 to 62. They won 14 points for the win and are top of the ladder as Euroa were defeated by Tallygaroopna.

The ladder is Alexandra 140, Euroa 138, Dookie 137 and Tallygaroopna 101. Alexandra plays away next round against Seymour who are ninth on the ladder. With only three rounds to play it is essential that Alexandra keeps winning in order to have the second chance in the finals.

Division six played away to Shepparton Park. Malcolm Gill (Skip), Ian Franklin, (a substitute) and Warren Nelson lost 10 to 22. John Blamey (Skip), Mark Stone, Rob Roach and Stephen Kirby lost 34 to 19 and Ray Mathieson (Skip), Pauline Gilmore, Anne Gunton and Luke Chapple lost 33 to 40. Alexandra plays at home next Saturday against Nagambie.

Midweek didn't play last Tuesday but play at home this week against Merrigum.



Division four best winning rink David Nicklos, Bob Mayfield, Saxon Langmead and Scott Ferrier. -S



Pairs runners-up John Blamey, Mal Gill, with winners Greg Gilmore and Larry Scott. -S

## Penultimate round of ladies' Summer Cup and more for Alexandra Golf Club

by Dave Silverman

ELEVEN players teed it up in last week's Tuesday competition, which turned out to be a very hot day indeed. Too hot, in fact, for some of us oldies, who faded quite badly towards the end.

Someone who didn't fade was Graeme Emmerson, who played a blinder to record a very impressive 44 points. Second place, a long way back, was John Greatorex with 36, and Leo Dynes came in third with 35.

Greg Millard, Russell Haack and Bill Wind were best of the rest and picked up a voucher each, and the two nearest the pins that were claimed went to Russell Purcell on seven and Brad Newton on 17.

It was a much cooler, more pleasant day for the penultimate round of the ladies' Summer Cup last Wednesday. My source tells me that it's a three-horse race for the cup, but with each players' worst round to be dropped, who knows.

Marg Fahey was the top scorer, taking the day with 39 points, just one clear of Sue Greatorex in second, with Barb Doyle third on 35. Marg, Barb and Deb Richardson snared

a nearest the pin each, and Ruth Worland was the nine hole winner with 19 points.

Thursday evening is, of course, Chook Run time at Alexandra, and for the week there were 22 players, in a stroke round played over a composite nine-hole course. The winner for the week was Ben Jack with a net 24, Luke Lynch was second with a net 25 and third was Jason Krijt on 26.

Saturday was once again fine and quite warm. The day's competition, sponsored for the week by H G Turf, was a four ball best ball, with the 24 players competing in teams of two.

The winners, with 45 points, were Sam Kidd and Corey Jack, with Bill Wind and Ali Hutt, also on 45, second on a countback. Brad Newton and John Greatorex came in third on 44, and another countback was required to separate them from fourth placed Jarrod Williamson and James Kidd.

Nearest the pins went to James Kidd on two, John Norfolk on five, Russell Purcell on seven, Ali Hutt on 12 and Brad Newton on 18, and Jimmy Kidd rounded out a good day by taking home the meat tray.



Greg Millard gets away on the first. -S



Greg Stave and Graeme on the 17th. -S



Eventual winner Graeme Emmerson putts for par on 15. -S

## Into the river, bounced on a rock, onto the green in Marysville

by Lesley Rundle

THE number of golfers playing in the Marysville Golf Club Thursday nine-hole competition is growing and last Thursday 18 players enjoyed a stableford game on the back nine holes. The winner was Ray Jones (12) with 21 points. The runner-up was Peter Doery (17) with 20 points on a three-way countback. The nearest the pins were won by Mark Alexander and Ian Harris.

The shot of the day was played by Bob Emblin on the par four 17th hole. Bob's third shot went into the river in front of the green, bounced on a rock and landed on the green. With two putts Bob ended up with a five, just one over par.

In more comfortable conditions than for the past few weeks the Saturday golfers played a stroke round. The ladies winner was Lesley Rundle (34) with nett 70 followed closely by Meredith Doery (33) with nett 71. The men's winner was Alex Bullard with nett 66 and the runner up was Pat Orwin with nett 69 on a three-way countback.

The putting was won by Meredith Doery with 24 putts and the nearest the pins were won by Brian Worcester, Adam Littlejohn, Steve Coker and Ray Jones who also won the Golden Shot. A number of members who have holiday homes in Marysville and the district joined the competition as did Jeremy Anghie a MetroSixty12 member.

Next Saturday golfers from Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and Yea will gather at Yea Golf Club to play in the third round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters. There will be no competition held at Marysville on that day.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard

## Sport

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# Success for Will Fallon in national speedway competition

SIXTEEN-year-old Alexandra local Will Fallon has been achieving top results in national and state-wide speedway competition, with a fourth-place finish in the Queensland National Titles and fifth place in the New South Wales State Titles.

"We started racing January 10 or 11, a week after new years at Kingaroy [in Queensland] for a national title," Will told this masthead.

"We do a three-day thing, so it's a practice day, qualifying day, and then a race day. It rained all of the practice morning, but then the sun came out. It's not like the sun down here, the sun up there came out and it was burning. It got to like 35 degrees, and the humidity was around 90 and the track dried up. It was good, I got a practice in and went seventh quickest in practice.

"Then the next day unfortunately we got rained out. There was that much rain that we were going to go racing around 7pm. We got sent a message saying get to the track at 9am because if there is a clear patch of weather we were just going to go. But there was never an opportunity where the track was good enough to be able to do that. Unfortunately. So we had to come back the next day at 9am.

"Normally you have two days of racing, so a qualifying day which is three heats, and then you get one more heat and then you race. Your points add up. There were 78 cars, so there's two B grades and then A. The goal is to go straight into the A grade.

"And normally there's four heats, but because of the rain and everything we only got three heats on the one day. It was a bit challenging, but I got fifth, second and first. I qualified out of seven.

"There was a bit of carnage at the start of the race, and I ended up in the wall backwards at turn one once. I think it took four or five restarts to get it going. Once it got going it was alright, I got up to fourth and sat there.

"As I was about to go for an overtake on third the yellow flags came out, there was a spun car. The leader had spun out. That was five laps to go, so I sat in fourth for the rest of the race. So, I got fourth in the national, and the weekend just gone I got fifth [in the NSW state titles]."

Will has been racing since his 10th birthday, starting locally in Alexandra and achieving good results there, which prompted a foray into the state and nation-wide races.

"I only ever used to race at Alexandra, and then we got this car and built it up a bit and we started racing at other tracks and doing the state series, which I was fortunate enough to win last year. So we thought we'd go out of the state a bit and try some racing there," Will said.

Will wants to continue racing and move up into the bigger classes, such as sedans, in the future. He doesn't mind working mechanically on the car, but it is the racing that really excites him.

"It's a tricky one because it is all about money and budget, but I probably just want to upgrade and do what Dad does, he races sedan class. Just around locally. That would be good. But if I could ever do something national that would be the goal, but there's always a lot going on, especially when you finish school and going to university and all that kind of stuff," Will said.

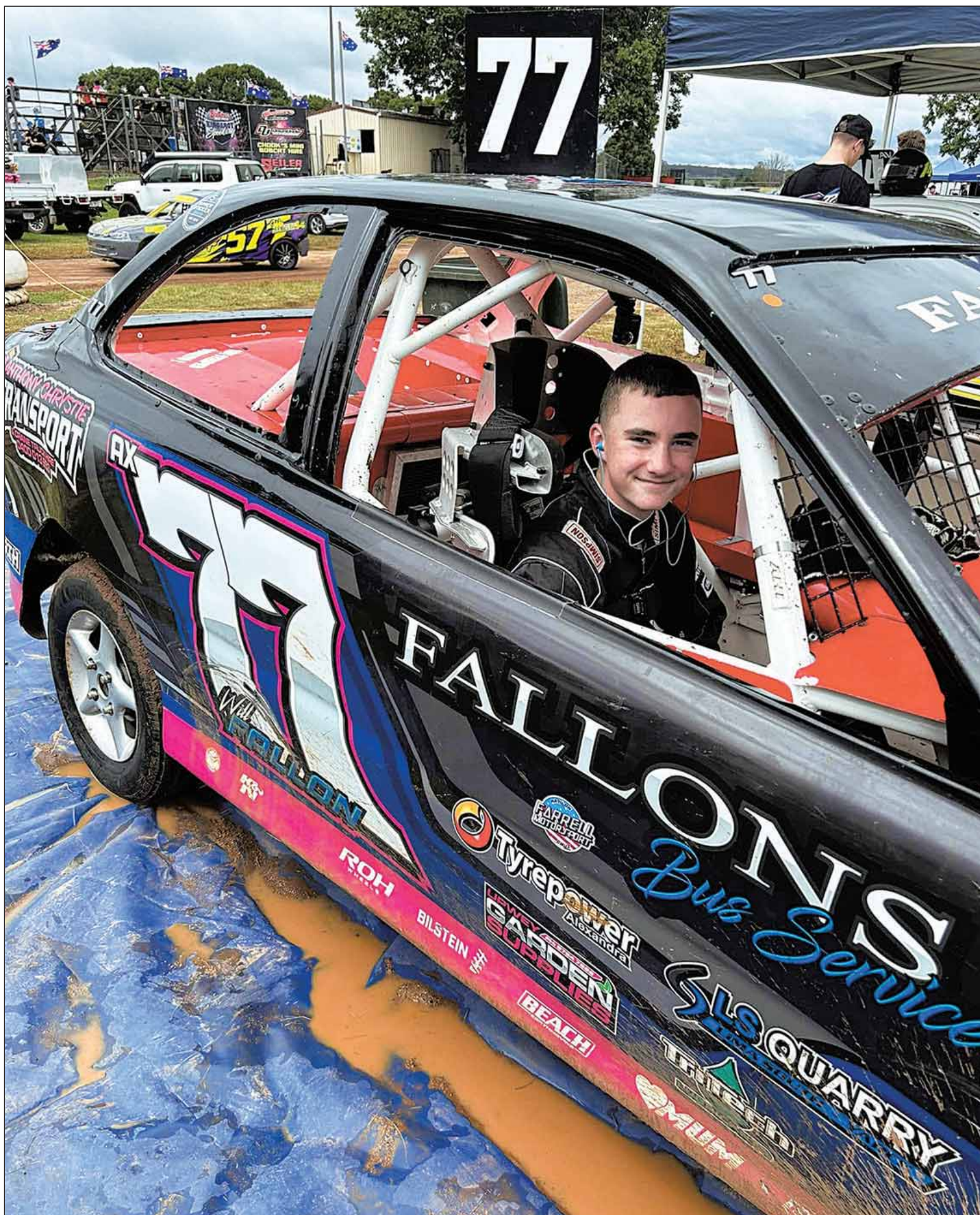
"I'm 16 now, going into year 11. I started racing in year four. COVID-19 was tricky, because we had those two years where we couldn't really do any big sporting events. So I've only really been racing for four years, but the time has been six years. Mixing school with racing is challenging, but it's good."

Will gets a lot of support from his family, as well as local community sponsors.

"Mum and Dad help out a lot, always trying to get me to the best places and the best races and get me to win," Will said.

"We've got a few local sponsors. Alexandra Tyrepower, they're a pretty big one. Matt Coulson and the team there have given me a fair few tyres which is generous and kind of them. They're coming to watch me at Wangaratta this weekend. And L S Quarry from Yarck and Lima South, as well as the Day family, are helping us out. It's good to have people like that."

Will travelled to Wangaratta last weekend for the Victorian State Titles.



Will Fallon finished in fourth place at the National Junior Sedan Title in Kingaroy. He is pictured in his AX77. -S