

# 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 15, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

## Warning on battery disposal

MURRINDINDI Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher is alerting residents to the serious risks of improper battery disposal, following a dangerous fire at the Alexandra Landfill, believed to have been caused by a lithium battery incorrectly placed in household rubbish.

The fire broke out on Saturday, January 4, when a garbage load began emitting smoke,

setting fire to surrounding waste at the landfill site.

Landfill staff quickly worked to isolate and control the burning material using on-site machinery to separate burning waste, before CFA emergency services arrived to fully extinguish the fire.

Mayor Gallagher said the fire is a serious reminder that batteries must be disposed of safely.

“This fire started during a very hot weekend, just one day before a Total Fire Ban was declared for Murrindindi Shire, and it could have had serious consequences. Batteries of any kind must not be placed in garbage or recycling bins. Even small household batteries can cause fires in bins, in garbage and recycling collection trucks, and at landfill sites. If this battery had caused a fire in the collection truck, the driver may

have been forced to empty the load on the side of the road, creating a very hazardous situation during an extremely hot, dry and windy day.

“While attending the landfill fire on January 4, I witnessed the avoidable and potentially toxic conditions that council staff, dedicated CFA volunteers, and the community were exposed to. I strongly urge both visitors and residents of Murrindindi Shire to dispose of batteries safely and responsibly. Let’s work together to keep our community safe by disposing of batteries the right way,” Mayor Gallagher added.

Council regularly promotes safe and free battery disposal, encouraging residents to store unused batteries in a container and drop them off at the following locations: Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre, Eildon Resource Recovery Centre, Yea Resource Recovery Centre, Marysville Resource Recovery Centre, Kinglake Resource Recovery Centre, Alexandra FoodWorks, Yea FoodWorks, Eildon FoodWorks and Marysville Grocer.

For more information, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Batteries](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Batteries)



The fire at the Alexandra Landfill. -S

## House fire in Narbethong

AT 4.10pm on the afternoon of Wednesday, January 8, a house fire was reported at a rural property in Narbethong. Buxton, Taggerty, Marysville and Alexandra brigades responded as part of the combined response from the Alexandra Group.

The crew from Narbethong did a great job knocking down the fire using external hose lines and undertook a rapid assessment for oncoming appliances. The occupant and owners were on scene and provided valuable assistance to the Incident Controller.

An internal attack was commenced with the arrival of Buxton tanker one and a structural firefighting crew. Upon arrival, the thermal imaging camera from Marysville was deployed with structural firefighters from the Marysville pumper-

tanker. This enabled any hot spots to be identified and extinguished. Meanwhile, efforts were undertaken to salvage items identified by the occupant as valuable.

The crew from the Alexandra pumper undertook ventilation of the building and monitoring of air quality. Once the air quality was deemed safe, Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) operations ceased and respiratory masks were worn. The thermal imaging camera from the Alexandra Group FCV was also utilised in addition to the Marysville unit. Power to the building was isolated by members qualified in Low Voltage Fuse Removal.

An Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedic attended the scene for health monitoring.

Each of the CABA operators were checked by AV.

The property was handed over to the occupant around 7pm and brigades returned to their respective stations to make-up their appliances.

The new CABA Support Unit was deployed from Broadford to changeover cylinders for the Buxton, Marysville and Alexandra brigades. This is a welcome resource for District 12.

Overall, a great combined effort by all involved. Unfortunately, the house suffered significant damage internally.

Speaking on the following day, the landholder of the residence said, “The whole CFA team did a fantastic job.” He also thanked the paramedics who attended.



The burnt interior of the house. -S

**Alexandra Newspaper’s office will be CLOSED Monday, January 27**

**Deadline for classifieds artwork and bookings (deaths, funerals, meetings, for sale etc) for the edition of January 29 will be Friday, January 24 at 2pm.**

**General advertising and Trades deadlines for bookings and artwork will remain unchanged. Editorial deadlines remain unchanged.**

**Alexandra District Health**  
**5772 0900**  
 Yea & District Memorial Hospital  
**5736 0400**  
**In an emergency dial 000**

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING**  
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS** Karen Morrison  
 manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**ADVERTISING - Jo**  
 1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary**  
 trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**EDITOR** Anne Richey  
 editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 (Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 (Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

**SPORTS**  
 sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714  
 Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603  
 Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**PUBLISHERS**

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post Approved - PP 100000292

Independently owned and operated with no association with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

# Letters to the Editor

## CFA Funding Smoke and Mirrors

IN the dying days of the parliamentary year, the state government made grand announcements about extra funding for additional fire trucks for CFA volunteers and changes to how the emergency services will be funded in future. This came in the wake of earlier denials that CFA was having its funding stripped away in favour of the cost to pay for other aspects of the wider emergency management sector.

In early December, the Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes claimed the CFA budget had not been cut but increased. The facts are that in 2021 CFA received \$352 million in funding which has progressively been reduced to \$339 million in 2023/24. However, over the same period the amount "set aside" for funding other areas of the sector has gone from \$27 million to \$67 million. Increasing the budget by \$17 million in a single year while grabbing an additional \$40 million for other purposes is a cut in the operating budget that supports our volunteers and the staff who support them. It's a cut anyway you look at it.

Ms Symes also claimed that 78 per cent of CFA's funding is derived from the current Fire Services Property Levy despite the then-Treasurer, Tim Pallas, confirmed in parliament, earlier in the year, the figure was only 25 per cent. It is of interest that the Fire Rescue Victoria annual report has not been tabled so it's impossible to determine who is correct.

Don't be fooled by the smoke and mirrors. Despite claims of additional funding, CFA funding is going down with this government cutting CFA's funding for the past five years.

Worse still, CFA trucks are the oldest in Australia with some trucks more than 34 years old. They belong in a museum not on a fireground. These old appliances require volunteers to travel on the back of the truck in danger of heat, smoke and toxic fumes, rather than all together in the safety of a modern twin-cab cabin.

Much of the CFA fleet is and will remain well behind international standards. 48 per cent of the fleet is over 15 years old; the usual period that manufacturers provide parts. 474 appliances, or just over 20 per cent of the fleet, are more than 25 years old. Our volunteers deserve better than this.

This is exemplified by one Alexandra Group brigade having had its 28 year old appliance replaced, last year, with an 18 year old appliance. That 28 year old appliance was then cascaded to a Yea Group brigade to enable a 30 plus year old vehicle to be retired (or has it?)

There are 2323 vehicles in the CFA fleet and government must replace 100 trucks per year to maintain a fleet age of 20 years for tankers and 15 years for pumpers requiring an investment of \$55m per year.

There are around 15 single cab fire trucks still in service across the Alexandra and Yea Groups, with volunteers having to ride on the back with nothing but a lap seatbelt securing them to the vehicle. Those volunteers are exposed to the elements. Something to think about during Summer when you are inside with the air-conditioning blasting away or it is bucketing down during winter.

The additional funding announced just before Christmas will go some way to retiring those antiquated vehicles but it won't be sufficient to bring the fleet up to international standards. CFA volunteers deserve vehicles equipped with air-conditioning, ABS braking, airbags and other modern safety features not the museum pieces nearly half the service is responding in.

To further insult volunteers, the proposed new levy is to be called the Emergency Services and Volunteers levy, as if volunteers are the reason the government needs to increase their revenue grab. As some sort of compromise, some volunteers will be exempt from the proposed levy while others won't. We have no idea what 'active volunteer' means but we do know that not all volunteers

are included. In particular, volunteers who rent their home or board or share contribute just as much as those who own their home.

Each and every one of us should be grateful of the work that our paid and volunteer emergency services workers do, regardless of which organisation they belong to. The government needs to focus on bringing the CFA fleet up to international standards without making it look as if they are pouring additional funds into an organisation that they have systematically defunding for years.

Government is putting the community at risk by continually defunding CFA.

CFA is an all-hazards all-year emergency service, not just a bushfire service, and all its people deserve a better deal than this Melbourne-centric government is offering. Murrindindi doesn't have rail crossings or tunnels but it does have a fantastic group of paid and unpaid emergency services workers who deserve better.

*Paul Denham AFSM, State Councillor, VFBV District 12 Council*

## On a road to nowhere

AFTER reading the article in the paper on the state of our roads, which the shire reported on, I thought I would let you know that I have had the same result from the Minister of Roads... Nothing.

I began emailing the minister on June 6, 2023, about the condition of our roads in the north east of Victoria. I sent in five photos of large holes and I have sent no less than six emails since then.

I have had one reply, but no outcome. The part I don't understand is that there was no immediate maintenance done after the floods in 2022. During that summer, the roads should have had extra money and maintenance done before the winter of 2023. There was none.

*Continued Page 8*

## COMMUNITY DIARY

**Local Radio Frequency**

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

**WEEKLY**

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

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

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

## Weekly Weather

January 15 - January 21, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	12	28	Wednesday	12	28
Thursday	12	22	Thursday	13	23
Friday	11	25	Friday	11	25
Saturday	12	27	Saturday	12	28
Sunday	15	29	Sunday	15	30
Monday	16	30	Monday	16	31
Tuesday	16	31	Tuesday	16	31

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	2.04	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.45	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	6.46am Mon	0.52	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.50am Mon	0.12	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	9.00am Mon	0.46	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.03am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.99	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.37	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	9.00am Mon	0.14	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.71	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.19	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.95	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	7.03am Mon	1.08	steady	

**\*\*ISSUED AT 9.16AM ON MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2025**

## DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	12mm
Buxton	20mm
Eildon (AWS)	10mm
Flowerdale	17mm
Jamieson	17mm
Kinglake	20mm
Lake Eildon	10mm
Mansfield	10mm
Taggerty	17mm
Yarck	27mm
Yea	40mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

## LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	283.65m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	80.2%
Metres below full supply	5.25m
Daily inflow	5000ML
Release	4000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	69%

**Standard**

## DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or  
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

# Free activities for Victorian families this summer

THE Victorian Government is giving busy families more fun and free activities to do this summer, from wildlife experiences to galleries and other chances to explore the great outdoors.

Deputy Premier Ben Carroll and Acting Minister for Environment Ros Spence

welcomed some lively new residents to Melbourne Zoo recently. A family of eight male ring-tailed lemurs are ready to greet visitors for the summer holidays.

These playful primates are set to captivate visitors of all ages and are another great reason to take advantage of free entry for

kids under 16 to Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Kyabram Fauna Park on weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

The new lemur family includes 11-year-old patriarch Hendrick and his seven energetic sons who range from one to three years old. Ring-tailed lemurs are native to Madagascar and are known for their striking eyes and striped tails, which they use for both communication and balance.

Kids Go Free is making Victoria's zoos more accessible to more Victorian families, giving kids across the state the opportunity to connect with nature and learn about the importance of protecting wildlife.

"These holidays are the perfect time to take your kids to the zoo for free and help them to connect with wildlife and learn about conservation, while creating lasting memories with their friends and families," Ms Spence said.

For families wanting to explore the bush, the state government's \$9 million investment means free camping is now available at every national park and in state forests, offering lots of ways for the whole family to connect with nature, from swimming in our beaches or rivers to hiking or fishing.

Since the announcement of free camping at Parks Victoria's 131 paid camping grounds, more than 165,000 nights have been booked. That's 85,500 more than the same time last year.

"There is something for everyone in Victoria this summer, whether it's a visit to

Victoria's world-class zoos and galleries or exploring our free campsites, there are lots of low-cost options for the whole family to enjoy," Mr Carroll said.

This January, families can also unleash their creativity with the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) Kids on Tour launching its largest-ever program with free workshops and activities at 150 venues like art galleries, libraries, community hubs, and hospitals across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The NGV Kids Summer Festival is held until January 17 at Fed Square and offers a jam-packed schedule of free events for families to enjoy events, workshops and activities led by Victorian artists and creatives.

The popular week-long festival will kick off with a special launch day at Fed Square on January 11, featuring live dog shows, face-painting and free entry to the cats and dogs exhibition for kids. More than 14,000 children got involved in the festival last summer.

At NGV International, art-making activities throughout the festival will be inspired by the bright polka-dotted work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Another interactive children's exhibition is Kusama for Kids: The Obliteration Room and there are lots of colourful artworks on display for free on the ground floor of the gallery until April 21.

For more information on art workshops visit, [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au) or to book a free campsite visit, [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au)

## Shared firefighting resources between America and Australia

THE raging fires that continue to burn in Los Angeles (LA), USA, raise questions around how firefighting resources shared between America and Australia are managed.

It is understood that resources, especially aerial, are often shared because these two countries have opposite fire seasons.

Questions put to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) by this masthead included: Given the terrible fires currently in Los Angeles, at the start of their winter, is this likely to change? Will Victoria require fewer shared resources, and more which are solely owned, in future fire seasons?

DEECA responded with background saying that aircraft are procured for use by Victoria on multi-year contracts through a competitive process with the assistance of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC). This process ensures Victoria has access to the most suitable and fit-for-purpose aerial firefighting fleet to keep Victorians safer.

Aircraft are just one tool to keep the community safe and work to support thousands of firefighters, hundreds of firefighting trucks, heavy machinery and plant equipment on the ground.

Victoria's partner agencies continue to work closely together to ensure Victoria has a contemporary, flexible and innovative aviation capability that helps to support and protect the community and environment every year.

"Victoria has 54 aircraft in its core fleet this higher-risk weather season, including firebombing aircraft, air supervision and airborne information gathering aircraft," a DEECA spokesperson responded.

"Victoria also has access to more than 100 aircraft from national and state resource sharing arrangements to help fight fires and keep the community safe.

"Victoria has multi-year contracts in place to ensure we have the appropriate aircraft available when we need them.

"Victoria's emergency services sector is thinking of its counterparts and communities in California during this difficult time."

## ADDOC 2024 repawt

ALEXANDRA and District Dog Obedience Club (ADDOC) had a very busy, successful 2024 class demonstrations at the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural Show on November 9 and their fun-roun-ounding off the year with day breakup with games and

laughter on November 29.

At ADDOC the aim is to provide an obedience program with a focus on class obedience sessions that help members teach their dog how to be a happy, well-adjusted part of their family and community by using positive reinforcement with basic obedience exercises, tricks and games.

They also provide enjoyable, interesting, enrichment opportunities and in 2024 the members and their dogs all had fun at scent and tracking workshops.

ADDOC have enjoyed their break and are now looking forward to the start of 2025 classes on Sunday, February 2.

Classes are held at Brigg's Oval every Sunday (except for public holidays and total fire ban days). They run in blocks of seven with new puppies and dogs enrolling in the first week of each block.

If you would like to find out more about their program and classes, please get in touch with Jeanne on 0456 583 611, or email [alexdogclub@gmail.com](mailto:alexdogclub@gmail.com)



Have you booked your pup in for training? -S

## POLICE REPORT

A BOATIE lost his licence on the weekend before Christmas after being caught more than double the legal blood alcohol limit on Lake Eildon. The 54 year old skipper had several passengers on board a ski boat when he was intercepted by the Water Police Squad about 12.45pm on Sunday, December 22. Water Police inspected his vessel before conducting a preliminary breath test which returned a positive result. The man subsequently underwent an evidentiary breath test on the police boat and returned an alleged reading of 0.122. His marine licence was immediately suspended for six months, and he was fined \$840.

POLICE have advised that they will be doing patrols of camping areas in coming weeks, and there will also be greater focus on drug and alcohol testing throughout Murrindindi Shire.

PRIOR to Christmas, it was discovered that the Yea Angling Club had been burgled. The burglary is believed to have taken place between December 16 and 21. Some of the property was discovered at a house in Broadford, and so far one person has been charged with handling stolen goods.

POLICE were generally pleased with the behaviour of the crowd at the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, with only minor incidents on the evening.

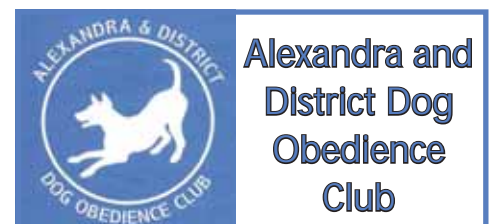


**THUMBS DOWN:** To those drivers and riders on a daily basis putting other road users at risk with their driving at excessive speeds, overtaking on double lines or at speeds over the road limit, turns and lane changing without indicating, tail-gating, dipping headlights too late or not at all, ignoring 40kph school zones, speeding through our towns and not driving to the road conditions. Wake up.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To council for allowing our roadside verges in many rural areas to stand with metres tall dry vegetation and gum tree litter through summer and failing to complete its roadside slashing program to date. We do our fire prep, so why not council?

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



Responsible dog ownership starts here. For class times and bookings Phone 0456 583 611

**ELECTRICIAN**  
**Grimshaw Electrics**  
 For all your electrical and communication requirements  
 Peter Donald  
 0429 808 596  
 REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

**Market @ Yarck**  
 including CWA morning tea and cake stall  
**Saturday, January 18 from 9am**  
 Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more  
 Sharon Fox 0407 879 612

**BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES PT**  
 ALL HOURS  
 • Alexandra • Yea  
 • Eildon • Marysville and districts  
 Offering a caring and professional service throughout the Murrindindi Shire  
 A LOCAL, WHO KNOWS LOCAL NEEDS  
 Garnet Bailey 0417 346 214  
 Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

**McCORMACK FUNERALS**  
 Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi  
 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra  
**1800 080 909**  
 Andrew, Robyn and Brooke  
**Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home**  
 Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas  
 Obligation free appointments  
 Pre-paid, pre-arranged, personalised funeral and memorial services  
[www.mccormackfunerals.com.au](http://www.mccormackfunerals.com.au)

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE  
**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:



# 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*.

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

Free health checks for the farming community at Yea Saleyards.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

Market@ Yarck is on again from 9am. Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more.

-----

LEAP Resilience Project training for Flowerdale and Yea. Free training event – First 72 hours – preparedness training. Learn how to prepare for the first 72 hours after an emergency 10am-12.30pm at Yea Pioneer Reserve. For more information and to register visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hourworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hourworkshop) or call council on 5772 0333.

## Redgate Alexandra CWA report

WELCOME back to 2025 and another year of learning and new experiences. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 23 at the CWA rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra.

The activity will be ‘Australian Theme’ with a shared lunch at noon, followed by the monthly meeting at 1pm. All members are requested to bring a lunch plate to share including some delicious deserts.

Competitions will start again, with flower of the month and calendar or diary. This year’s Country of Study is Sri Lanka and we look forward to reports from International Officer, Gail Bransden.

The upcoming events include the Hume Goulburn Group Conference on Saturday, February 8 at the Yarck Hall starting at 10am. All members are requested to bring items for the shared trading table. The next coffee catch up will be on Thursday, February 13 at a venue to be advised.

If you would like any more information, please call president Sue Wynn on 0412 435 946 or treasurer Jane Laws on 0412 653 647.

## Australia Day events across Murrindindi Shire

A NUMBER Of community-led events will be held across Murrindindi Shire on Sunday, January 26 (Australia Day).

For more information about each of the following community events, please get in touch with the event organisers.

Rotary Club of Yea is holding an Australia Day Breakfast on the grassed median strip opposite the Yea Shire Hall on High Street from 8am to 10am.

Lions Club of Marysville and District has organised a flag parade down Murchison Street, followed by a community picnic and live music in Burrengeen Park from 11am to 3pm.

Alexandra Events is holding an Australia Day event at Rotary Park from 7am to 10am.

Lions Club of Eildon is hosting an Australia Day event in Eildon Village, Main Street, Eildon, from 9.30am to noon.

Flowerdale Landcare Group is holding an Aboriginal and Taungurung Flag Raising Ceremony at the Flowerdale Community Hall on Saturday, January 25 at 6.30pm. Flowerdale Landcare Group is also holding an Australian Flag Raising Ceremony at the Flowerdale Community Hall on January 26 at 8am.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22**

LEAP Resilience Project training for Marysville and Triangle. Free grant writing workshop, 1-4pm at Lakeview Room Marysville Community Centre. Tea and coffee provided. For more information and to register visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop) or call Danna on 5772 0333.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**

Yea Rotary 2025 Art show. Dress theme – sequins. Yea Town Hall opening night

7.30-9.30pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. Final day Monday January 27, 10am-3pm. Bookings for opening night for catering purposes to [trybooking.com/CWRXH](http://trybooking.com/CWRXH)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*



In second place was the tree decorated by Susie of Cipriani Food and Wine. -S



In third place was the tree decorated by John from Body Therapy and Wellness. -S

# Christmas Tree Festival wraps up

THE Alexandra Community Christmas Tree Festival held in December was another success, with over 3000 visitors coming to ooh and ahh over the display of decorated trees.

Trees were created, decorations were made and others lovingly put together to represent their business, organisation, school or group.

The trees were vying for peoples votes in the People’s Choice Award and this year the competition was very close and the winning tree won by three votes, which is the closest it’s ever been.

The Alexandra Visitor Information Centre came in first with their directional tree made by Linley and Andy Miller, second was the Bee Tree decorated by Susie of Cipriani Food and Wine and third was first time decorator John from Body Therapy and Wellness.

The creativity this year was great and a lot of time had been spent on getting the tree just right.

The festival would not be possible without the countless hours that volunteers put in each year. It’s a mammoth task and the committee would like to thank everyone who helped. They will be holding a volunteer barbecue on January 30 at 5.30pm to recognise all the volunteers that were involved in the 2024 festival.



The Alexandra Visitor Information Centre tree won first place. -S

## Church Services

**ANGLICAN**

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

**CATHOLIC**

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

**UNITING CHURCH In Australia**

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

**OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH**

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

**MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY**

**BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

# Statewide hospital networks announced

THE Victorian Government is establishing Local Health Service Networks. These networks are grouped together by geographic regions and will support improved cooperation between local services, ensure doctors and specialists are available to care for patients closer to where they live, deliver clearer pathways in and out of hospital, and support better waitlist management across a region.

The final groupings were determined following extensive consultation with health services, with consideration given to population growth, community need, clinical capability and distance between services.

Murrindindi Shire's health services will be within the 'East Metro and Murrindindi' network. It will include Alexandra District Health, Eastern Health, St Vincent's Health, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital.

It is distinct from the Murrindindi Health Network, which includes Murrindindi Shire Council, and aged care and disability organisations in the shire, in addition to our hospitals.

Importantly, the governance of each health service, including its board and CEO, unique

identity and connection to their community, will remain unchanged.

In early 2025, health services will come together to discuss the priorities and arrangements for their network, focusing on four key priority areas, access and flow, workforce, clinical governance, and sustainability, before Networks commence operation on July 1.

Within each priority, it is expected networks will work toward possible initiatives to improve referral pathways, attract new workforce and retain existing staff, and share support services and back-office functions to reduce unnecessary duplication.

Local workforces and communities will also be consulted in 2025 to gain their views as well to address each individual community's health needs.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said, "Victoria's health system is one of the best in the world, and these reforms will deliver even better care by supporting health services to work together and ensuring local voices are heard."

"These Networks will mean stronger referral pathways between health services, freeing up beds in busier hospitals, taking pressure off our dedicated workforce, and ensuring Victorians get care sooner, closer to home.

"At the centre of our health system reform is Victorian patients and staff. This is about expanding access to frontline services, particularly in regional and rural Victoria."

Jane Poxon, CEO of Alexandra District Health said, "We are very happy with the announcement and are now partnered with metropolitan health services, which will mean we will be able to continue working with Yea and District Memorial Hospital to focus on enhancing health care needs for the Murrindindi Shire. We are looking forward to working with the East Metro and Murrindindi partners to discuss the priorities and plan for the future health care of our communities."

For more information on the Local Health Service Networks, please visit [health.vic.gov.au/local-health-service-networks](http://health.vic.gov.au/local-health-service-networks)

## Statement from Murrindindi Health Network

by Karina Hogan, President Murrindindi Health Network

THE Murrindindi Health Network (MHN) wishes to correct recent media reports that have incorrectly linked us with the Murrindindi Aged and Home Care Service Provider (MAHSP). We are not affiliated in any way with MAHSP.

The MHN does not hold any formal partnership or association with privately owned aged care or disability businesses in the region. Instead, we are solely a consortium of partnering organisations within the Murrindindi Shire and beyond.

The MHN is proud to contribute its expertise in supporting the local community and collaborating with organisations such as Murrindindi Shire Council, Menzies Support Services, Alexandra District Health, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, and Kellock Lodge Alexandra.

Together, these organisations have united to address critical workforce shortages, enhance employment, training, and career development opportunities, and improve the quality of care for local communities across the Murrindindi region.

As a group, the MHN is committed to supporting one another and our organisations to deliver high-quality registered and accredited community support services. We strive to contribute to, advocate for, and drive vital improvements in healthcare and community wellbeing throughout the region, ensuring that our people and community have access to the professional, clinical, and community services they need.

## New criminal underpayment laws enforceable by the Fair Work Ombudsman

NEW laws that classify intentional underpayment of wages or entitlements as a criminal offence came into effect on January 1.

This gives the Fair Work Ombudsman the power to investigate suspected criminal underpayment offences and refer suitable matters for criminal prosecution. If a person is convicted of a criminal offence, a court can impose fines, prison time, or both.

There are protections in place for businesses to avoid criminal prosecution. This includes the Voluntary Small Business Wage Compliance Code and cooperation agreements, which can be found at [fairwork.gov.au/about-us/compliance-and-](http://fairwork.gov.au/about-us/compliance-and-enforcement/criminal-prosecution/voluntary-small-business-wage-compliance-code)

[enforcement/criminal-prosecution/voluntary-small-business-wage-compliance-code](http://fairwork.gov.au/about-us/compliance-and-enforcement/criminal-prosecution/voluntary-small-business-wage-compliance-code)

A small business owner will comply with the code if the underpayment wasn't intentional. Intentional conduct includes taking an action, such as paying less than an employee's minimum entitlements on purpose or failing to take an action, such as not paying an employee on purpose.

According to the Fair Work Ombudsman, where an underpayment has occurred, they will look at the overall picture and the business' particular circumstances to determine whether the code has been satisfied.

Other January 1 workplace changes include: An increase to the maximum penalty for underpayment contraventions for a non-small business employer; new definitions and minimum pay rates for entry-level classifications in some awards; changes to classifications and minimum pay rates for some employees in the aged care sector.

For more details about the criminal underpayment laws or other workplace changes, visit [fairwork.gov.au/newsroom/news/new-criminal-underpayment-laws-start-1-january-2025](http://fairwork.gov.au/newsroom/news/new-criminal-underpayment-laws-start-1-january-2025)

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.  
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL  
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Sadly soprano Breana Stillman (second from left) is unable to attend this year. She is pictured at last year's event with returning performers Daniel Felton (baritone), Phoebe Briggs (Head of Music at Victorian Opera) on keyboard, and Michael Petruccelli (tenor). -S

## Outdoor Opera at Eildon Pondage

EILDON Events are thrilled to announce the return of the extremely popular Outdoor Opera at Eildon Pondage on Saturday, February 15. Get ready for a captivating experience featuring internationally renowned artists.

It's a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the enchanting world of operatic music under the starlit sky at the picturesque Eildon Pondage. Let the magic unfold.

Engage with the enchanting natural surroundings while being captivated by the powerful performances of internationally acclaimed artists. Indulge in pre-show entertainment and a delicious selection of local cuisine and beverages. Prepare for an extraordinary evening that harmoniously combines music and nature.

Due to popular demand, this will be the third time that Opera at Eildon Pondage has been held.

Based on feedback, the organisers have shifted the date from January to February 15, with the event running from 5.30 to 9pm.

This year, Sera Ghaly will provide the pre-show entertainment. Sera is a lifelong musician who fuses classical harp with modern ambient beats, live loping and state-of-the-art digital and analogue synthesizers. In a performance unlike any other, Sera brings the harp into the world of digital music, creating a deep and ambient sound experience not to be missed.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase on the night, including dietary options. Share plates start from \$20.

The original line up has changed. Sadly, Breana Stillman (Soprano) is unable to attend. However, the organisers are thrilled to welcome back to Eildon Kathryn Radcliffe (soprano), along with Michael Petruccelli (tenor) and Daniel Felton (baritone), accompanied by Phoebe Briggs (Head of Music at the Victorian Opera) on keyboard. Last year's audience gave them a standing ovation after their spine-chilling performance.

Transport can be arranged from Alexandra. Bookings are essential. Other locations are a possibility for transport if there is a demand. For enquiries, email [eildoneventsinc@gmail.com](mailto:eildoneventsinc@gmail.com)



Members of the Man Walk group at their recent get-together. -S

# Man Walk goes from strength to strength

THE Alexandra Man Walk group gathered prior to Christmas for a casual barbecue get-together to celebrate a year of connection and support. They were joined by distinguished guests, Mayor Damian Gallagher and Ron Hedger OAM.

There was much to talk about and memories to share. This was a testament to the

purpose of the group when it was originally created, and shows what it means to all of the members, sharing the ups and downs of everyday country living. This is what brings members from as far as Warrnambool, Mansfield, Yarck, Koriella, Taggerty and Buxton, as well as the strong contingent from Alexandra.

A rewarding coffee or tea is always appreciated in the courtyard at Cafe Alex at the end of each walk.

The walks are held every Friday morning, meeting at 7am in the carpark at the side of the Alexandra RSL. All are welcome to join them. Walk, talk, support.

## Ausnet to conduct aerial checks

ELECTRICITY company, Ausnet, has been conducting aerial inspections in Murrindindi Shire and nearby areas. The inspections commenced on Monday, January 13, and are expected to be completed today, Wednesday, January 15.

The locations included Buxton, Highlands, Taylors Bay, Marysville, Highlands, Dropmore, Caveat, Terip, Yarck and Ruffy.

An Ausnet spokesperson explained that AusNet carries out inspections throughout the year to help identify, monitor and repair wear and tear on powerlines and poles.

These routine aerial inspections help to support a reliable and safe electricity supply for communities across their network.



The Ausnet helicopter. -S

<https://www.trybooking.com/CVOSP>

### OPERA @ EILDON

15th FEB 2025

## Your chance to win two gold tickets to Opera @ Eildon

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

For your chance to win 2 gold tickets to Opera @ Eildon on February 15, 2025 return this form by noon Thursday January 30, 2025.

Alexandra Newspapers, 43 Grant St, PO Box 5, Alexandra VIC 3714

**Photocopies will not be accepted.**

**One entry per household.**

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month. T&C: Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.

## MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



### NAMING EILDON SPLASH PARK

The Eildon Reserves Redevelopment is nearing completion, with a grand opening planned for early 2025. A key highlight of this project is the proposal to name the new splash park and playground area Baanh ba Djila, which means 'Water and Play' in the Taungurung language.

The existing names of Walter Moore and Thomas Marr Reserves will remain unchanged; Baanh ba Djila will specifically refer to the splash park and playground asset within the redevelopment. This aims to encourage reflection and connection with First Nations culture among residents and visitors.

Visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/splash-park-name](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/splash-park-name) to find out more about the proposed name. Submissions can be made until 9 February 2025 by emailing [assets@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:assets@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or calling 5772 0333.

### CAN I OR CAN'T I? ON TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Before you start up your BBQ, travel, or light a fire, first check if you can! On a day of Total Fire Ban it is important to ensure that no fires are lit in the open air, and all previously lit fires are fully extinguished before the day of Total Fire Ban begins.

For more information about what you can and can't do on a day of Total Fire Ban, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

### SLEEP SUPPORT

Are you navigating the beautiful yet challenging journey of sleep routines with your little one? Whether it's bedtime struggles, transitioning from cot to bed, or frequent nighttime awakenings, we are ready to assist via phone or in-home visits.

For more information or to book a session, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch)

### NEW COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Council has launched its Community Capacity Building Program, designed to help businesses, volunteers, and community members in developing skills and becoming more sustainable.

The Program supports growth in communities through targeted training, mentoring and networking opportunities

If you or your organisation is interested in learning more, please contact Council's Community Capacity Building Officer Bill Bate on 5772 0333 or visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/capacity-building](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/capacity-building) to register your interest.

### MARYSVILLE-TRIANGLE GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP

Calling Marysville, Triangle and surrounds community members! As part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, funded by the Australian Government, Council is offering a FREE three-hour Grant-writing workshop. Tea and coffee provided.

Wednesday 22 January 2025

1.00 - 4.00 pm

Lakeview Room, Marysville Community Centre  
31 Falls Road, Marysville

For more information or to book, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop) or call Council on 5772 0333.



### VENUE HIRE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Looking for a venue for your next community group meeting? Have you considered hiring one of Council's venues?

Council manages eight venues across Murrindindi Shire:

- Alexandra Council Chamber
- Alexandra Shire Hall
- Kinglake Community Centre
- Kinglake Service Centre – Meeting Room
- Thornton Memorial Hall
- Yea Council Chamber
- Yea Railway Reserve and Goods Shed
- Yea Shire Hall

To book a venue, or to learn more about other community-run venues, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/venuesforhire](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/venuesforhire)

### GRAVEL ROADS RESHEETING

The 2024-2025 Gravel Roads Resheeting Program is underway. Through this initiative, a selection of gravel roads within Murrindindi Shire will undergo renewal, enhancing the quality and longevity of the road infrastructure.

To view the roads scheduled for resheeting and the planned week for each project (weather permitting), visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/resheeting](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/resheeting)

### STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news) or follow us on Facebook.

### GET IN TOUCH

[customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333

# Koriella Fire Brigade seeking reinstallation of toilet

by Scott Reeves, Koriella Fire Brigade Captain

THE Koriella Fire Brigade was established back in 1948, a proud history we have. In 2010 the brigade was issued its first toilet, a CFA modular toilet installed on private land next door to the current station location, for us it was a little ripper.

It served us well, one pan and a hand basin with a small electric 20L hot water heater, a perfect toilet for the brigade's use.

In July 2022 the owner of the private property next door passed away (an ex-captain of the brigade) and the land was duly put up for auction and sold to new owners.

The conundrum that ensued was to relocate this toilet back onto CFA land.

Here's the puzzling timeline and the chain of events of the toilet reinstallation.

In November 2022 discussions commenced with CFA to move the toilet back onto CFA land after months of lease and rental options haggling with the new owner to have the toilet remain in its situation and not moved off private property onto CFA land. (Not all of the new owners doing).

In May 2023 an old tin builders toilet mounted on a trailer arrived as the temporary fix due to restricted access to the current toilet located on private land. There were also surveyors on site.

June 2023 saw local plumbers on site and the modular toilet was disconnected and pushed onto CFA land. (Unsure why it wasn't ever reconnected).

In July 2023 tree removalists were on site to remove only one tree of four trees originally requested. The boundary line tree was the only one to be removed. A fencer was also on site to build a boundary line stranded fence.

So from here the modular toilet remains disconnected including the 10K water tank (now empty) that fed the toilet as we headed into a hot sweaty 2023 fire danger period with our tin sheeted builders toilet.

In April 2024 we received the first conceptual plan of the relocation and reinstallation of the modular toilet from CFA.

In July 2024 we received CFAs first official draft of the relocation of the modular toilet. We then received two further updated drafts of the relocation of the modular toilet throughout July.

Another updated draft of the relocation of the modular toilet was received in August 2024.

By October 2024 we were notified that the planning permit had been issued, and that the works will commence in November 2024.

Finally on November 8, 2024, the project manager (the plumber) informed me that they would be onsite shortly to commence works on the toilet. On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, over 12 months later, works began on the relocation and reinstallation of the toilet.

We headed into another fire danger period, this one for 2024, with the trailer mounted tin dunny still in situation, looking forward to the works being completed soon.

On Wednesday, December 4 2024, the majority of the works were completed bar some default works still needing to be completed. We were advised from HQ CFA (Melbourne) we were not allowed to use the toilet until these works were completed and the works were officially signed off.

Being such an interesting case, a modern-day operational CFA brigade without a toilet for so long is unheard of which also implies the lack of storage and change room facilities that this station also still lacks.

One can only assume that we continue to be not part of the CFA Gender Equality program with four operational female firefighters among us or of first world class facilities category, however, we do now have our modular toilet back, a throne for all to regally pass personal business and completing paperwork in a small private outdoor space...aaaah so good to be living in a third world space.



The throne room can be seen on the right hand side of the shed. -S



## Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

If the farmers who had their pasture decimated hadn't re-sown their paddocks, they would not have had grass the next year. I draw this analogy to demonstrate the lack of common sense the minister showed by not using the summer of 2022-23 to repair the flood damaged roads.

We have small business plumbers, builders, transport operators and electricians sending their staff out on roads which are unsafe. I would have thought this makes our roads an unsafe work place.

How can a government spend billions of dollars on tunnels and not spend any money on country roads?

I could go on and on about this meanspirited feeling our government has towards country taxpayers but I would

ask you all to email the Minister of Roads expressing your concern for the safety of users of these terrible roads.

If you do email, stress the safety and cost of repairs to our vehicles please.

The Minister of Roads email is [minister.horne@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:minister.horne@minstaff.vic.gov.au)

Larry Fallon, Fallons Bus Service, Alexandra

### Helico

WELL, what a great story in edition on December 4 concerning Helico Australia. How good it is for the shire in terms of skilled employment. I have passed Helico's workshop for many years and have noticed its growth by the number of parked cars.

I well remember Neri and Hylke Kizlstra father and used to call in and chat to him

while he was building large boats in the same old corrugated iron shed.

These small businesses in country towns are great and create skilled local employment.

I wish Hilke and Neri well. Your father would be very proud of you both.

Ray Donkin, Buxton

### Wind farm

THE Victorian state government, through the Engage Victoria website, has opened another consultation that the SRRCG believes is worthwhile responding to. It's about the Biodiversity Impacts of Renewable Energy.

This consultation is quite technical and requires a lot of pre-reading and responses to specific questions related to the discussion paper and draft handbook.

Instead, we are looking for people who have relevant expertise to join a working group that will respond on behalf of our community.

If you have any knowledge or expertise in ecology, biodiversity, or endangered species in relation to the Strathbogies Ranges and Middle Goulburn area, and wish to contribute to the working group, please contact me via email to [info@srrcg.com](mailto:info@srrcg.com)

Submissions to the current consultation on the biodiversity impacts of renewable energy close on Saturday, February 16.

Darryl Otzen, Secretary, Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group

# Delivering for our community

My office assists thousands of constituents with Centrelink, Medicare, NDIS, My Aged Care, telecommunications and immigration issues.

If you need help with any Commonwealth service, please email, phone or visit my office.



Helen Haines MP  
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta  
03 5721 7077  
79 High Street, Wodonga  
02 6024 6284  
[helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au)



# Second round of funding for Victorian forestry communities

VICTORIAN forestry towns and communities are being supported to create local jobs, take advantage of new business opportunities and plan their own future thanks to backing from the state government.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently opened round two of the \$22 million Community Development Fund, which will support projects and opportunities that will boost the local economy of forestry towns.

“We’re supporting communities to implement the opportunities they’ve identified in their Local Development Strategies so they can build a strong and economically sustainable future,” Ms Spence said.

“There are already great innovative projects coming from local communities and this funding will help bring more ideas and opportunities to fruition.”

Two grant options are available, the first stream will make up to \$500,000 available for communities to undertake project management and to upskill community members to help identify future economic opportunities.

The second stream will make \$500,000 available for initiatives identified by local Innovation Working Groups and through the Local Development Strategies.

Innovation Working Groups include members of the community that are working to diversify their town’s local economy where native timber harvesting was a significant

source of jobs. These groups are community led and reflect local priorities and ambitions.

Innovation Working Groups can also apply for up to an additional \$1.5 million to pursue investment opportunities identified as part of the Local Development Strategy to create jobs and boost the local economy.

The communities of Murrindindi Shire are eligible to apply.

Funding is open to community organisations, business groups, educational and research organisations, businesses, local councils and utility service providers to implement projects and supporting infrastructure.

An expression of interest component and funding rounds will streamline the process and ensure communities that started their Local Development Strategy program later have equal access to support.

More than \$3 million in funding has already been awarded through the initial round of the Community Development Fund grants program to support communities as they transition to their next phase.

Funding for projects from round one of the program included a \$300,000 grant for community skills building and training for the Murrindindi community.

For more information visit [deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry](http://deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry)



Calling Marysville and Triangle community members! As part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, we are offering a FREE three hour Grant-writing workshop.

## FREE GRANT-WRITING WORKSHOP

Wednesday 22 January

1.00 - 4.00 pm

Lakeview Room, Marysville Community Centre

31 Falls Road, Marysville

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop)



You will learn:

- practical grant-writing tips
- how to prepare project plans and budgets for grants
- what grants are available and how to apply for them.

Tea and coffee provided. For more information and to register, scan the QR code, visit our website, or call Danna from Council’s Emergency Management team on 5772 0333.



This community workshop is part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, a joint initiative between Mansfield, Strathbogie and Murrindindi Shire Councils and is funded by the Australian Government.



SWIMMING IS FUN. BUT DROWNING ISN'T.

PACK YOUR SUMMER SMARTS

- ✓ BE AWARE OF STRONG CURRENTS AND SUBMERGED OBJECTS
- ✓ KNOW THE CONDITIONS AND KNOW YOUR LIMITS
- ✓ NEVER SWIM ALONE OR IF YOU'RE UNSURE

FIND OUT HOW TO STAY SAFE BY THE WATER THIS SUMMER



Putting Safety First





On the fire ground at Delatite. -S



A firefighting helicopter refilling the water tank with water from Lake Eildon. -S

## New Year's fire on Delatite Arm

A FIRE was reported at approximately 9.30pm on New Year's Eve within the Delatite Arm Reserve along Highett Ridge Track.

It had a high potential to impact campers and nearby communities if it wasn't contained.

Both CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) firefighters and resources responded quickly to the fire.

The fire was contained on January 2 and burnt 19 hectares of forest.

FFMV crews remained on the fireground patrolling, managing hazardous trees, and extinguishing hot spots across the following days.

Campers and visitors were advised to avoid the fire area, as some forest tracks remained closed during this time.

FFMV and Victoria Police are investigating the cause of the fire.

Fire investigators are seeking information from people who may have witnessed the use of illegal fireworks within campsites, Highett Ridge Track or other elevated areas during the afternoon and evening of December 31.

Information relating to vehicle activity during the lead-up to the fire along any firebreaks in the vicinity of Highett Ridge Track is also being sought.

Anyone with information that may assist investigators is asked to contact the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 or Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000.

FFMVIC Incident Controller Brendan Purcell said, "Fire-bombing aircraft and heavy machinery operators did an excellent job supporting ground firefighters to contain the fire.

"Thanks to the quick response from CFA and FFMV, the fire's spread was limited to 19 hectares in the steep and difficult terrain.

"We appreciate the support we received from the community and visitors to respond to the fire during such a busy time of the year."



The fire reflecting in the water. -S

### UPCOMING FEATURES

Let's eat,  
it's our treat



Publishing: February 5

Deadline: January 30, 5pm



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



#### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

##### Development Opportunity - Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Eildon, Victoria

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is Australia's largest rural water corporation. We manage, store and deliver water through approximately 10,000 km of delivery and drainage infrastructure to more than 25,000 active customers in northern Victoria.

We are currently seeking Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from the open market for the lease of a part parcel of land for renewable energy opportunities, specifically targeting battery storage.

The site, known as Observation Point, is located at the corner of Sugarloaf Road and Alliance Drive in Eildon, within the upper pondage of Lake Eildon.

GMW encourages proposals that demonstrate:

- long term viability
- sustainability
- environmental sensitivity, and
- community engagement.

Expressions of interest including a detailed development proposal must be received by GMW no later than 5pm Friday 31 January 2025.

For further information:

visit our website: [www.g-mwater.com.au/news-updates/notices](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news-updates/notices)  
or email [EOI@gmwater.com.au](mailto:EOI@gmwater.com.au)

# Pounce like a lion

KIDS  
VISIT  
FREE\*



Embrace your inner animal in our nature play zones.

Swing through rope courses, scamper along discovery trails and slink through tunnels. It's exciting what a zoo can do.

Plan your visit [zoo.org.au](http://zoo.org.au)

\*Terms and conditions apply

**ZOOS**  
VICTORIA

**MELBOURNE**  
**WERRIBEE**  
**HEALESVILLE**  
**KYABRAM**

# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Solid start to year in Nutrien Yea weaner sale

by Bailey Dixon

A GOOD start to the new year for the Yea Saleyards, with 2845 cattle yarded last Friday and large crowds at the first Yea cattle sale for 2025, the Nutrien Yea Upper Goulburn River Weaner Sale.

There were just over 1650 steers yarded and around 1160 heifers at the sale, with the majority being Angus cattle.

Coming off the back of strong weaner prices at almost 500c/kg in the early Victorian

sales of the year, the prices at Yea dropped for liveweight sales, with the top steer pen fetching 406c/kg and the top heifer pen fetching 350c/kg.

The average price per head sat at \$1208, with the average weight per head amounting to 314.3kg, including both steers and heifers. Running the numbers revealed an average price of 384c/kg for the sale.

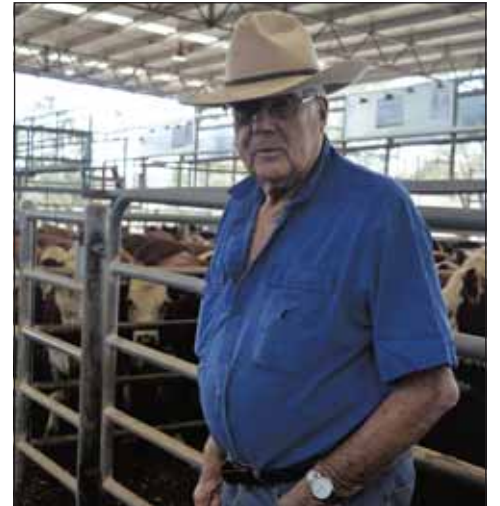
The next cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards will be the Elders Yea Annual Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale, which is spread across two days,

taking place on Wednesday, January 15 and Friday, January 17.

The Wednesday sale begins at midday and will see Euro X steers and all breed heifers sold.

The Friday sale will see Angus and British bred steers sold, beginning at 9.30am, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital will be providing free skin checks on the day as well.

For more information around upcoming cattle sales and Yea Saleyard details, visit [yeasaleyards.com.au](http://yeasaleyards.com.au)



Local farmer John Sinclair attended the sale to support those who were selling cattle. -BD



Nutrien hosted the first cattle sale of the year. -BD



The lanes were full of farmers eager to get 2025 started right. -BD

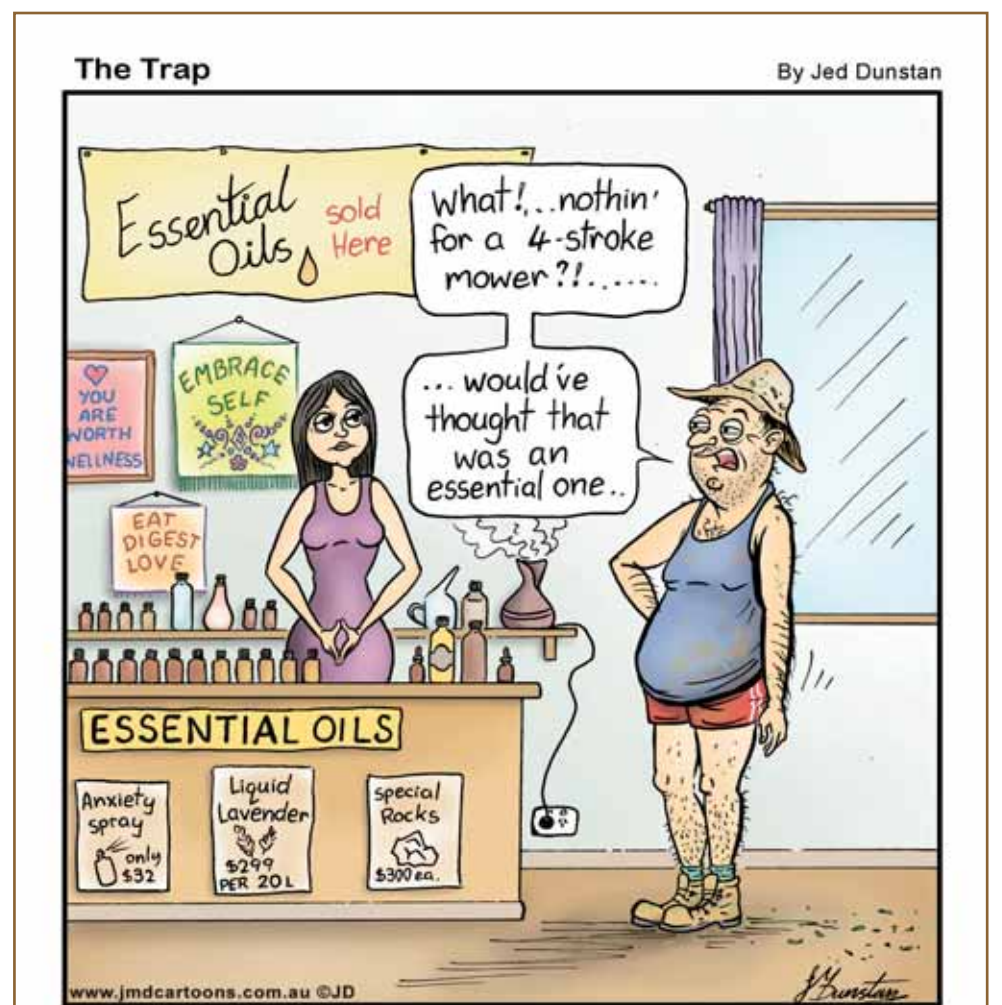


Lloyd Bett pictured with the angus cattle he was selling on the day. He was also selling heifers. -BD



The first cattle sale of the year for the Yea Saleyards occurred last Friday with a large crowd and good yarding. -BD

STOCK REPORT 10 JANUARY 2025			
Nutrien Yea Upper Goulburn Rivers Annual Classic Weaner	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	2,845		
Average \$ per head	\$1,208		
Average weight per head	314.3kg		
Top price per head		\$1,790	\$1,430
Top weight		446.9kg	407.8kg
Turnover	\$3.43 million		



Sponsored by

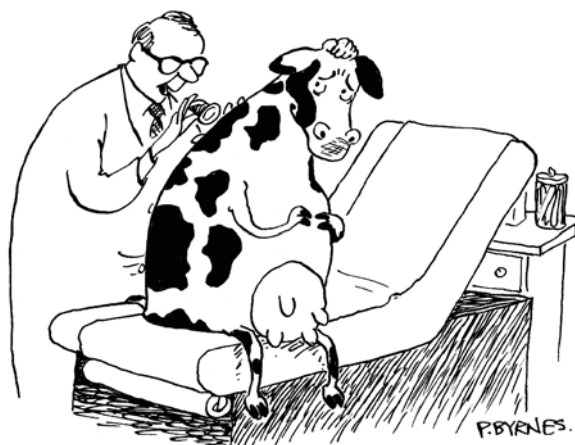
**Alexandra Grain Store**  
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

A family-owned local one stop shop for Plumbing, Irrigation, Farm, Stock and Pet Supplies.

### FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community

#### Skin Checks

- Check
- Freeze
- Incisions
- Pathology



Yea Saleyards  
Friday 17 January 2025  
Friday 7 February 2025

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



# Community Capacity Building Program in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is pleased to announce the launch of its Community Capacity Building Program, designed to help businesses, volunteers, and community members in developing skills and becoming more sustainable. This initiative offers a valuable opportunity for personal and professional development while contributing to the growth and resilience of our community.

The program includes tailored training, mentoring, and networking events aimed at equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge. By strengthening the capacity of individuals and organisations, the program seeks to build on the foundations of our connected and resilient community.

Council invites individuals and organisations from across the shire to get involved. This is your opportunity to be part of something that not only helps you grow

skills and knowledge but also contributes to the broader community's success and sustainability.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to make a positive impact. Join council and be part of building a brighter future for Murrindindi Shire.

If you or your organisation is interested in knowing more and can benefit from the program, please contact council's Community Capacity Building Officer Bill Bate on 5772 0333 or via email at [wbate@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:wbate@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

This project is made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Community Development Fund.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher remarked, "Our Shire

is fortunate to have a diverse and dedicated range of community groups and volunteers who already contribute so much. Council's Community Capacity Building Program is designed to support and enhance these efforts, providing local groups and individuals with tools to grow, innovate and thrive.

"Get ready to supercharge your skills. Participants will dive into dynamic training sessions on grant writing, unleash their leadership potential, craft winning business plans, master social media marketing, and benefit from top-notch mentoring programs for small businesses," Cr Gallagher added.

"I encourage everyone to participate or spread the word about this initiative. Together, we can build a stronger future for Murrindindi Shire."



Bill Bate. -S

## A letter from Victoria Police to farmers

by Inspector Paul Hargreaves, Victoria Police Farm Crime Coordination Unit

TO Victorian farmers,

The Victoria Police Farm Crime Coordination Unit is dedicated to addressing crimes that affect rural communities, including livestock theft, fuel and machinery theft, tool theft, and illegal hunting or shooting. Our primary focus is on crime prevention and enhancing safety and security on farms.

This year, we've witnessed far too many incidents resulting in the loss of animals, vehicles, and equipment. Of particular concern is firearm theft, which poses a serious threat to public safety when these weapons fall into the wrong hands.

To help protect your farm, we recommend the following simple but effective steps: Locking gates, sheds and machinery and securing tools; counting and checking stock regularly; installing security signage, simple CCTV and other tech that identifies illegal entry to your property; working with neighbours to identify and report suspicious activity around farms.

If you are a firearm owner, please consider: The compliance of your safe storage with the *Firearms Act 1996*, which can be found at [legislation.vic.gov.au](http://legislation.vic.gov.au); the location of your safe, with the preferred option at an occupied residence; the security and safe keeping of your safe keys; the location of tools, including cordless equipment, that could assist an offender gaining entry; your need to maintain ownership of firearms.

If wanting to surrender a firearm there is a current amnesty in Victoria.

The Farm Crime Coordination Unit want to remind you of the importance of farm safety, especially during the busy summer months. Increased activity on farms during hay cutting, cropping, and stock transportation heightens the risk of accidents involving machinery or vehicles, as well as the potential for fires.

While accidents can happen, the serious injuries or fatalities that may result often lead us to reflect on what could have been done differently. Please take the time to plan your activities carefully and prioritise safety for yourself, your family, and your workers.

Victoria Police and more specifically your Farm Crime Liaison Officers, can be located at [police.vic.gov.au/farm-crime-liaison-officers](http://police.vic.gov.au/farm-crime-liaison-officers)

In an emergency, always call 000 and anyone with any information about crimes can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential crime report at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

Visit your local eyewitness page for updates and community engagement.



Are you ensuring the wellbeing of your livestock in the heat? -Forest and Kim Starr

## Managing livestock and heat stress

by Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

AS we move through summer, heat stress in livestock can become a major issue both for production levels and animal welfare, but there are precautions that you can take.

The ideal temperature range for cattle is between five and 25 degrees, and for adult pigs just 18 to 20 degrees.

It is important to remember high producing livestock, such as dairy cows, are the animals most sensitive to heat stress. Poultry have been known to perish due to heat stress on very hot days.

As temperatures rise, animals use their energy to cool themselves. This results in reduced production or weight gain. Feed

intake is also reduced further increasing these impacts. High humidity can also play a significant role in heat stress.

For any given temperature, the degree of heat stress increases as the relative humidity increases. Heat stress can significantly impact the production and animal welfare of your stock.

Check your livestock daily, looking for any signs of stress during hot weather. Heat stressed livestock will seek out shade, drink more, eat less, stand rather than laying down, pant, may produce less milk and can be less fertile.

On hot days, give livestock unlimited access to shade or shelter and good quality, cool drinking water. Make sure you are ready to implement your fire plan. Avoid

moving animals during the hottest part of the day and try to avoid on extreme days.

High quality feed should be given during the evening when it is cooler, as livestock are more likely to consume it. If you are not living at a property, arrange for a neighbour to check on animals in your absence.

By making some minor management changes and taking a little extra care of your livestock in extreme hot weather, the effects of heat stress can be substantially reduced delivering better welfare and production outcomes.

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

## Deadline approaches for Indi volunteer grants program

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines is reminding local community groups of the deadline for expressions of interest for the 2024-25 Volunteer Grants program.

Local community groups have until 5pm on Friday, January 17 to lodge an expression of interest for the next round, with between \$1000 and \$5000 available to support organisations to increase participation in volunteering and support children's wellbeing through volunteering.

"This year, the grant focuses on funding important but often expensive costs involved with volunteering, like insurance premiums, phone bills and technology purchases, which

are becoming increasingly more expensive," Dr Haines said.

"I encourage not-for-profit community organisations across Indi to consider putting in an expression of interest.

"Volunteer groups that I meet with across Indi tell me that grants like this go a long way in supporting volunteers to continue their important work."

There are two streams of grant funding in the 2024-25 Volunteer Grants program.

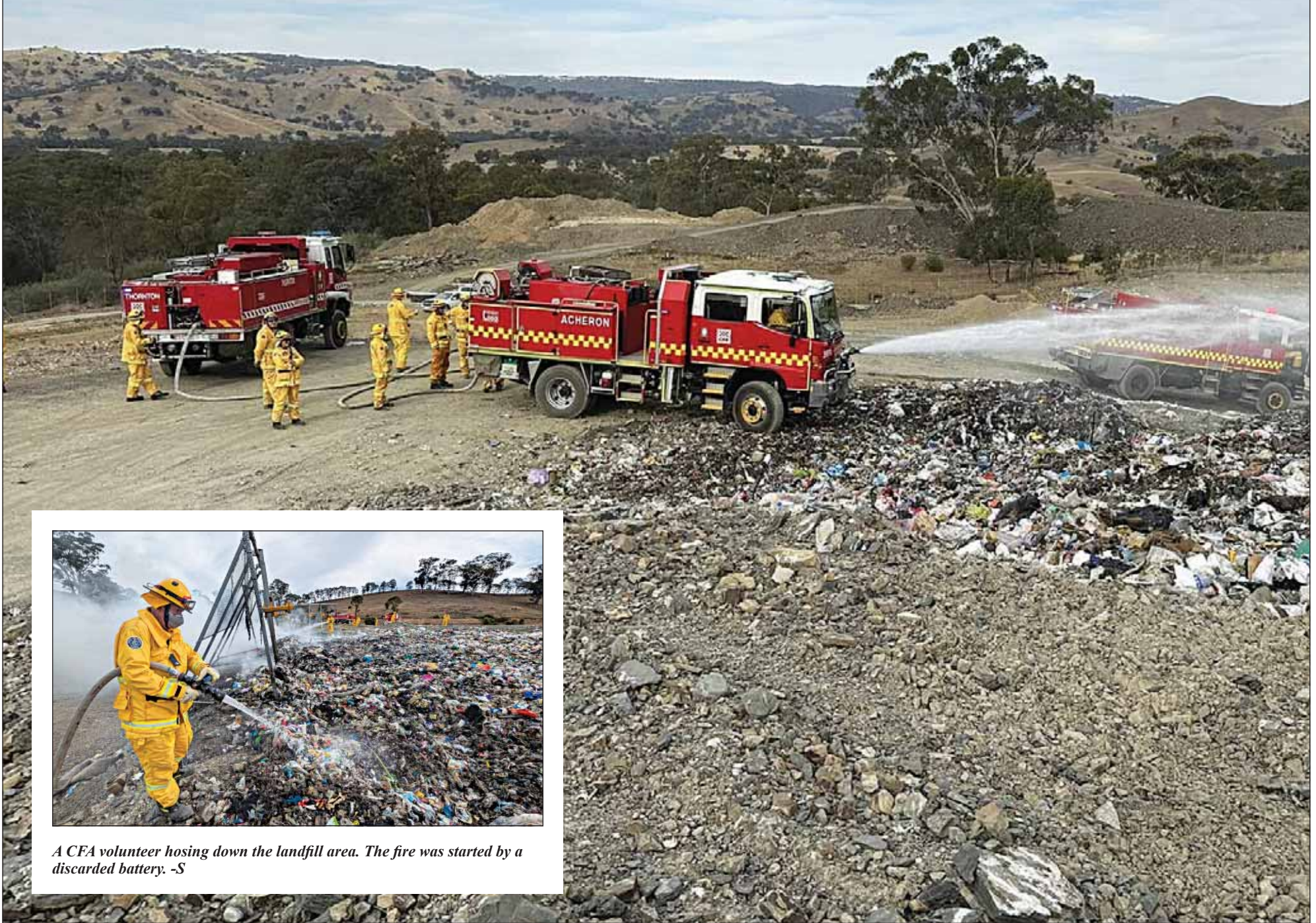
Stream one funds the purchase of communication or insurance items that will benefit a community organisation's

volunteers. Stream two funds the purchase of items or services, or running volunteered activities, with the main purpose for supporting the development of children under 18, or adults whose volunteering activities supports children's development and wellbeing.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of community members, with successful applicants then invited to apply to the Department of Social Services for a grant.

Details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at [helenhaines.org/resources/grants/volunteer-grants-2024-25/](http://helenhaines.org/resources/grants/volunteer-grants-2024-25/)

# Alexandra landfill fire



A CFA volunteer hosing down the landfill area. The fire was started by a discarded battery. -S

CFA volunteers extinguishing the fire at the Alexandra Landfill fire, which broke out on Saturday, January 4. Full story on page 1 of this edition. -S



The ute that was stolen from the Highlands-Caveat CFA and later recovered. -S

## Highlands-Caveat CFA ute stolen and recovered

THE Highlands-Caveat CFA on Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands, was broken into sometime between 5am and 6am on January 9. A ute (slip-on) and firefighting equipment was stolen during the burglary.

CFA District 12 reported on Monday morning that the stolen slip-on from Highlands-Caveat CFA was located and recovered over the weekend.

They are unable to share more information than that at this time, but they wished to say a massive thank you to everyone who kept an eye out, shared and commented on their Facebook post, and sent messages of support and sightings.

CFA District 12 also thanks the Victoria Police for their work.



Alexandra Fire Brigade's brand new tanker has been welcomed into the fleet. -S

## New RV rest stop for Marysville

THE Marysville recreational vehicle (RV) rest stop is set to open on February 1.

Supported by Murrindindi Shire Council and Gallipoli Park Marysville, the initiative was initially recognised as a key long-term project in the *Marysville Community Plan 2020-22*.

The project aims to achieve 'RV Friendly' accreditation for Marysville through the Caravan and Motorhome Club of Australia.

A significant amount of planning has gone into reaching this important milestone, and

visitors are invited to experience and trial this new facility over the coming 12 months.

Located in Gallipoli Park Marysville, near the intersection of Falls Road and Mt Kitchener Avenue, this six-space site will accommodate fully self-contained RVs with a maximum stay of 72 hours. The site will be managed by volunteers from the Gallipoli Park Precinct Committee of Management on behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council.

Council are encouraging rest stop visitors to provide feedback around their stay through a short survey to assist in evaluating the success of the trial.

# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 17



The aurora from Alexandra on the evening of January 1. -Linda Carter

## Aurora lights up the sky

ON the evening of January 1 and into January 2, Victoria was again treated to a spectacular aurora. Many locals headed outside with the camera or phone and started snapping.

The sky was lit up in a huge range of colours and it was a truly extraordinary night.

To keep an eye on whether an aurora might be happening, you can keep an eye on the Bureau of Meteorology's aurora page, [sws.bom.gov.au/Aurora](http://sws.bom.gov.au/Aurora)

There are also some Facebook pages about Auroras in Victoria and Australia which you could join as they provide notifications, and some spectacular photos.



The aurora over the Cathedral Range, taken from the top of Glendale Lane. -AR



The aurora at 4.30am on January 2 in Alexandra. -Ian Perry



The aurora on the evening of January 1, as seen from UT Creek Road. -Jo Noble

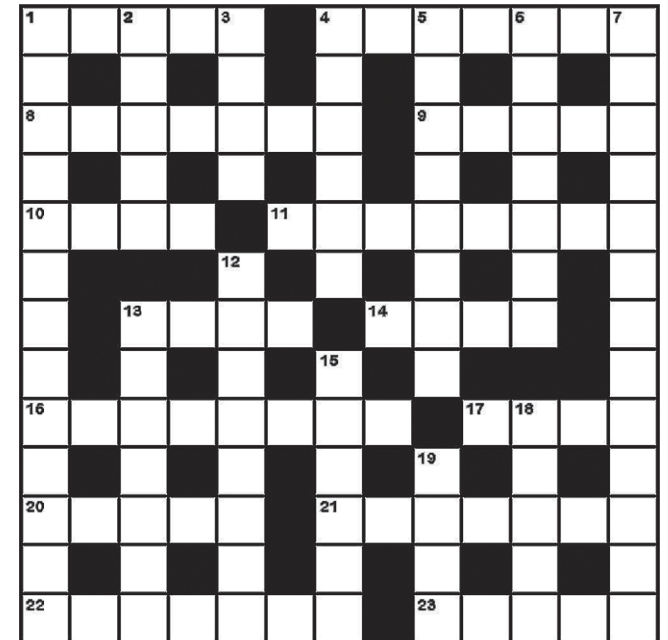
### Crossword

#### ACROSS

- Muscular strength.
- Scrounged around for food.
- Mythical flying horse.
- Moves around sadly and aimlessly.
- Quite keen on.
- Having a deeply disquieting effect.
- Slick and superficial way of talking.
- Charges for professional services.
- A dark golden-brown horse.
- Appear to be.
- A keepsake or souvenir.
- A very young baby.
- Given freely to a cause or fund.
- Hunts and kills.

#### DOWN

- Highly developed and complex.
- The hours of darkness.



- Having great knowledge.
- Involving financial matters.
- Memory prompter.
- Small aquarium fish.
- Conflicts and disputes.
- Clearly defined.
- Small cucumbers pickled whole.
- Changed direction.
- Call to mind.
- An equal exchange.

### Word Search

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

#### Car Brands

- FIAT
- FORD
- GREATWALL
- HOLDEN
- HYUNDAI
- ISUZU
- LAMBORGHINI
- MASERATI
- MAZDA
- MERCEDES
- NISSAN
- PEUGEOT
- RANGEROVER
- ROLLSROYCE
- TOYOTA

### Sudoku

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

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.

### Math Square

	x		+		13
+		-		-	
	+	8	+	5	19
+		-		x	
	x		-		19
14		-7		-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.

# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

## ANIMAL SERVICES

**Behaviourist and Certified Master Dog Groomer**

**IN THE PINK**

0418 556 001  
www.pinkdog.com.au

**Taggerty Vet Clinic**

Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc  
0403 012 996

All Animals Large & Small  
Consultations strictly by appointment

## ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards  
0405 554 915  
info@chris-tv.com.au  
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

**Chris's TV**  
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured

## AUTOMOTIVE

**ASC**  
ALEXANDRA SERVICE CENTRE

RACV VACC  
You're in good hands

At Alexandra Service Centre we offer a wide range of services:

- Log book servicing
- General servicing
- Fleet car servicing
- Mechanical repairs
- RACV Roadside Assist
- Towing
- RACV Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Roadworthys
- Trailer servicing
- Car batteries
- Auto electrical repairs
- Air conditioning

We now have several courtesy cars available when booking a service or repairs

Come in and see the team at 6A Webster Street, Alexandra  
Phone: 5772 2133

## BLINDS & CURTAINS

**CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA**

PH 57722 152  
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA e.chookies@virtual.net.au

FREE Measure & Quote  
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

## BIN HIRE

**RUBBISH REMOVAL**  
• DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

- Builders Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- Household Waste
- 3m Bins

**Alexandra SKIP BINS**  
22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA

CALL SIMON GOODMAN  
0409 997 632

## BOOKKEEPING

**TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING**

Qualified Local Bookkeeper

Ph Trevor Turner  
0419 575 176

## BRICKLAYING

**Alexandra BRICKLAYING CONCRETE & PAVING**

No job too big or too small  
Free quotes  
Call Jarrod, James and Corey

0409 190 502

## BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

**HBI CONSTRUCTIONS** SCOTT HILL  
Registered Builder  
0439 730 824

- NEW HOMES
- EXTENSIONS
- RENOVATIONS
- DECKS
- SWIMMING POOLS

info@hbiconstructions.com.au  
hbiconstructions.com.au

REGISTERED Building Practitioner member

RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

## CARPET CLEANING

**GW Carpet Cleaning**

- Stain removal
- Urine treatment
- Upholstery cleaning
- Carpet steam cleaning
- Tile and grout cleaning

Ph 0427 322 124  
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

**BOOK YOUR TRADES AD TODAY!**

Phone: 5772 1002  
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
Deadline: 12 noon Thursdays

**Standard**

## CHIMNEY SWEEPING

**ALEXANDRA CHIMNEY SWEEP**  
Solar Panel Cleaning  
Annual cleaning recommended

Phone David 0475 396 772 or Robyn 0413 299 154

## CONCRETING

**GOULBURN RIVER CONCRETE**  
ALL ASPECTS OF CONCRETING!

- EXPOSED AGGREGATE
- PLAIN & COLOURED CONCRETE
- SHED SLABS
- DRIVEWAYS
- ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE
- CONCRETE MAINTENANCE

0408 666 980 @goulburnriverconcrete@gmail.com

## CONVEYANCING

**Sargeants**  
CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday  
5772 2500  
71 Grant Street, Alexandra  
debra@sargeantsm.com.au  
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

## ELECTRICIANS

**J. WILLIAMS ELECTRICAL**

- COMMERCIAL
- INDUSTRIAL
- SPLIT SYSTEMS
- UNDERGROUNDS
- NEW INSTALLATIONS
- NEW HOMES
- MAINTENANCE
- BREAKDOWNS

0439 842 030

## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

**E-TEC**

Electrical Technology

- Eco Smart Electrician
- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Electrical Design
- Cable Locations
- Trenching
- Solar Installations
- Grid Connect / Off Grid / Batteries

Ph 5751 0000  
info@e-tec.net.au  
www.etecelectrical.com.au Rec No 12906

**REDGATE ELECTRICAL**

SERVICING THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE  
0455 317 553  
24 HOUR CALL OUTS • REDGATEELECTRICAL.COM.AU

**Sunnyboy Electrical Services**

EILDON

Domestic, Commercial and Solar  
Electrical Installations  
New Houses and Renovations

0498 196 986

## EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

**BUXTON EXCAVATIONS**

- House and Shed Sites
- Side Cuts / Driveways
- Drainage / Erosion Works
- Dams / Vegetation Mulching
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- 20 Ton Excavators
- 3 Ton Excavator
- Quad Axle Float

Darren 0447 198 740  
Barney 0488 016 820

## KEATH'S EXCAVATIONS P/L, YARCK

**EARTH MOVING**

Excavators ~ Dozers ~ Graders  
Scrapers ~ Loaders ~ Rollers  
Backhoe ~ Water Carts  
Low Loader ~ Tipper  
Trucks & Trailers

All equipment operated by qualified operators  
PERSONAL SUPERVISION - 42 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
Phone 5773 4242 Mobile 0428 577 951  
keathsec@bigpond.com

## EXCAVATOR HIRE

---- FOR HIRE ----

D6T dozer  
Cat 12 h/grader  
16T excavator

D5M dozer  
Tipper  
Water cart

Hay and Silage

Ernie Hadfield (20 years experience)  
0429 931 127  
ernie.hadfield@bigpond.com

## GLAZIERS

**DINDI GLASS & GLAZING**

- Residential And Commercial Glass Replacement
- New Work
- Quality Double Glazing
- Mirrors
- Splash-Backs
- Shower Screens
- Pet Doors Into Single And Double Glazed

Rob - 0439 141 812

**Standard**

Book your space in our trades directory today!

5772 1002  
DEADLINE: 12 NOON THURSDAYS  
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Like us on facebook

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

Alexandra Newspapers | 43 Grant St, Alexandra VIC 3714 | P: (03) 5772 1002



**Standard**



# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

PHONE 5772 1002

## GLAZIERS

### ALEXANDRA WINDSCREENS & GLASS

Servicing the Murrindindi Shire for 35 years

★ on site 24 hour service ★

- ★ Automotive glass ★
- ★ Household needs ★
- ★ Shower screens ★
- ★ Shop fronts ★

Ph Steve Heard  
YOUR LOCAL GLAZIER  
0427 577 839

## MECHANICAL REPAIRS

### Alexandra Motorcycles



- RWC licenced tester
- Tyre fitting service
- Road, Enduro, Quad repairs
- Servicing for popular brands • Honda spare parts

VACC MEMBER  
65 Downey Street (near secondary college)  
PH 5772 1045

## PLUMBERS

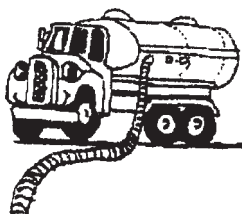


ANDREW WOOD  
0488 559 091

DOMESTIC, COMMERCIAL, GAS FITTING, HOT WATER SERVICES, SEWER, SEPTIC, HEATING & EMERGENCY SERVICE

## SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

SEPTIC TANK & GREASE TRAP CLEANING



EPALICENCED  
~ ALL HOURS ~

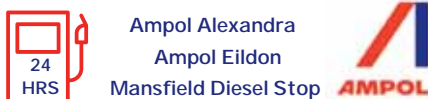
5962 4841 EFTPOS & Credit Cards Accepted  
0419 131 958

## SERVICE STATIONS



Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953 with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business. Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs with Mobil and Prolube lubricants, greases and solvents.



0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

## TREE SERVICES



- Insured
- Experienced
- Qualified
- Reliable
- Competitive

TREE & STUMP REMOVALS  
Servicing Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires

5778 9603 JASON 0413 671 066

### Advanced TREE CARE

Servicing N.E. Victoria

- ✓ Tree Removal
- ✓ Chipping
- ✓ Qualified Climbers & Arborists
- ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Falling
- ✓ Mulching
- ✓ Stump Removal
- ✓ Tower Hire
- ✓ Free Quotes

Please call Michael on 0449 810 683 (03) 5778 7479

## TREE SERVICES

### NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

- Commercial and residential block clearing
- Deadwood and weight reduction
- 24-hour emergency call outs
- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- 3.6 Tonne excavator
- Insurance works
- Storm damage



FULLY INSURED

Andrew Bates: 0488 990 393  
Kate Hill: 0407 555 440



Like us on facebook

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

## WATER BORING

### WATER BORING

No water, no charge after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray

0428 518 159



Book your space in our trades directory today!

5772 1002

DEADLINE: 12 NOON THURSDAYS

Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## KITCHENS



Can design and build...



Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design, Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries, Creative design and quality, vanities, wardrobes

0409 146 465

38 Johnston St, Alexandra  
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

## LEGAL SERVICES

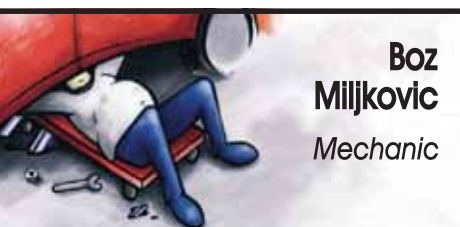


Lawyers and Town Planning Consultants  
Angelina Bell – Principal Solicitor  
0448 793 795  
admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

### Louise Brennan BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

1560 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra  
Mobile 0418 414 875  
Phone 5773 2298 Fax 5773 2294

## MECHANICAL REPAIRS



Alexandra Automotive VACC

61 Downey Street, Alexandra  
Ph (03) 5772 3232

- General Car Servicing
- Repairs & Tuning
- Batteries
- Road Worthy Certificates
- Disc & Drum Machining
- Front Ends & Suspension

# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

### CROSSWORD

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

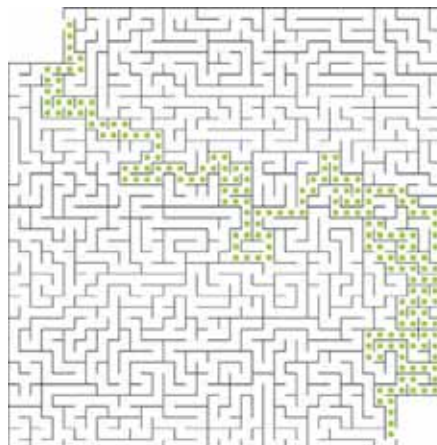
### MATH SQUARES

1	x	4	+	9	13
+		-		-	
6	+	8	+	5	19
+		-		x	
7	x	3	-	2	19
14		-7		-1	

### SUDOKU

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

### MAZE



BOOK YOUR SPACE IN THE BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY TODAY!

5772 1002

DEADLINE: 12 NOON THURSDAYS



Alexandra Newspapers Pty. Ltd.  
43 Grant S, Alexandra VIC 3714 | P: (03) 5772 1002  
www.alexandranewspapers.com.au



# Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!  
 Fax 5772 1603 or Email reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Keeping everyone safe while driving

by Bill Winters, Roadsafes Goulburn Valley

LET'S imagine that during the following weeks as we approach a return to work and school that there will be no lives lost on our roads.

RoadSafe Goulburn Valley would like to remind all that we can as individuals take some measures to ensure that we and our loved ones are safer on regional roads.

Let's make that pledge to drive in a safe manner, devoid of distractions such as mobile phones, and not put others in danger because of risky behavior. No speeding, driving while tired, under the influence of alcohol and or drugs.

Attitude and behavior are the key words. Can we not proffer some common courtesy towards others? Yes, the journey may take a fraction longer however you will not put vulnerable road users, especially those whose jobs places them in harm's way.

Be patient, slow down and give vulnerable road users adequate space that they need to be safe.

There will be many new bike riders on the roads at busy times of the day and many parents dropping and picking up students. Be aware.

Road statistics indicate that approximately 70 per cent of collisions will be locals on local roads.

The question to ponder: Is that complacency, lack of attention? It could be many things. We know our roads, but we shouldn't take our eyes and minds away from the responsibility of operating a motor vehicle in a safe manner.

The other 30 per cent appear to be from outside our region and therefore at greater risk because of the 'unknown' of road conditions, environment, infrastructure in and around poor to very poor roads and intersections.

Wishing everyone a safe return to work and school and please let's make this the start to reduce the number of lives lost on our roads and that our first responders also have a break.

## Council's roadside slashing program

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked about the progress of their roadside slashing programs.

Council said that they are progressing with the roadside slashing works, delivered through two main programs: the Fire Prevention Roadside Slashing Program and the general Roadside Slashing Program.


The Fire Prevention Slashing Program began in late November and is now complete. Contractors have successfully slashed approximately 450-500 km of roadsides across the shire.

While the available budget and the vast area of the shire mean this program is focused on specific priorities, council ensures key areas are addressed to reduce fire risk.

The general Roadside Slashing Program is also underway. Council assesses roadsides across the shire on an ongoing basis to guide this program, prioritising slashing based on criteria outlined in the Road Management Plan.

Additionally, VicRoads manages slashing works on highways and major roads in the shire, including Buxton-Marysville Road, Marysville Road and the Melba and Maroondah Highways, among others.


### DEATH NOTICES



**WETERINGS**  
 Antonius 'Tony'.  
 Passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, January 6, 2025 after a brief illness. Beloved husband of Anne and cherished father to Ryan, Shane and Jaimie. Loving brother to Tom (dec), Liz and Pierre. Pop to Hunter, Vaida, Avery, Esme and Halle. Dad will be sadly missed by all who knew him. A highly respected member of Victoria Police and the Yea community. A wicked sense of humour and infectious smile. A man who helped many.


### FUNERAL NOTICES

**HUNT, Ernest Norman 'Ernie'.**  
 Funeral service to be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra at 11am followed by a burial at the Cathkin Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Royal Children's Hospital - The Wooden Bilby appeal. Envelopes will be available in the Chapel.




### NICHOLLS.

A Funeral Service to celebrate the life of Dick Nicholls was held at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, January 8 2025.



### SEIR.

A mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the life of Marie Sier will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Yea on Thursday, January 16, 2025 commencing at 10.30am



### DEATH NOTICES

**HUNT, Ernest Norman 'Ernie'.**  
 10/02/1939 – 25/12/2024  
 Passed away peacefully at Kellock Lodge, Alexandra aged 85 years.  
 Loved and loving husband of Margaret for 61 years. Loving father of Trevor and his wife Ali, and Leanne. A proud and cherished grandad to Emily, Brooke and Natalie, and 'Uncle Bill' to Raelene and Brendan, Alana and Jack.  
 Forever in our hearts.

**HUNT, Ernie.** A great mate lost to the woodturners in the sky. A special friend and mate, a loving husband, father and caring man. Miss you mate, Barry and Trish.

**NICHOLLS, (Dick)**  
 Arthur Ronald Robert  
 10/06/1932 – 28/12/2024  
 Dearly loved and loving husband of Wendy.  
 Dearly loved dad of Stephen and Wayne, and daughters in law Mari and Judy.  
 Loved pop of Sean and Maddie and their partners Mia and Damien.  
*Forever and always in our hearts.*

**NICHOLLS, Dick.**  
 Thoughts for the loss of our very valued member of Alexandra Eildon Lapidary Club. Sympathy to the family.

**SIER, Marie Elizabeth**  
 02/03/1936-04/01/2025  
 Dearly loved wife of Adrian (dec.)  
 Much loved mum of Sean and Maureen, Adrian and Jodie, Michael and Sande, Peter and Simone.  
 Loved nanni to Melinda and Chris, Jessica and Patrick, Harri, Mitch and Ellie, Jamaya and Connor.  
 Loved great nanni to Sam, Mackenzie and Savannah.  
 Dearly missed.  
 Rest in Peace.

### DEATH NOTICES



**Vale**  
**EDDY, James (Max)**  
 The Chairman, Board, Management and members of CFA regret the passing of their colleague and offer their deepest sympathy to his family.  
 Max was a Terip Terip CFA member for over 66 years and made a significant contribution during his time and will be missed.  
*May he rest in Peace.*

**HULL, Daryl Roderick.**  
 26/07/1950 - 07/01/2025.  
 Daryl passed away peacefully in his beloved Marysville cottage aged 74. Daryl was a brilliant pianist, artist; gifted and courageous photographer; a kind, generous and joyful soul to the many he met in his life. Deeply missed by brother Dennis, Leonie and Robert Hull and Perri, Steven, William and Emily Moore. TIGHT TYRES DAZ. Private cremation and memorial celebration TBA.

**HULL, Daryl.**  
 26/07/1950 - 07/01/2025.  
 A dear friend and a wonderful man. He will be missed. Rest in Peace.  
 Anne Richey.

### BARGAINS UNDER \$100

Free to good home Wertheim piano, manufactured in Melbourne during 1920s. Ph Theresa 0407 001 816



### FOR HIRE

**FITNESS EQUIPMENT**  
 Rental and Sales  
 Alexandra  
 Treadmills, X- trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.  
 PH:0407 231 377

### PETS & LIVESTOCK

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



having a celebration?  
**need invitations?**  
 CALL NOW!  
 5772 1002  
 or email us on reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

### MEETINGS



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Yea & District Memorial Hospital, Chair, Mr Ian Marshman AO, warmly invites members of the community to attend the hospital's 2024 Annual General Meeting.  
**5pm, Tuesday, January 28, 2025**  
 The Boardroom, The Grace Bennetts Centre Yea & District Memorial Hospital (entry via Miller Street)  
**RSVP please email**  
 Chloe.Harward@ydmh.org.au  
 or call 5736 0490  
**by 5pm, Friday, January 24.**

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement  
**Australians Celebrate Australia Day**  
 Be thankful the Poms claimed Australia first and set up a Democratic system for all people and saved the Indigenous from remaining destitute.  
 Authorised by Raymond Donkin, Buxton.



## Classified information

**Office hours**  
 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm  
 Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

### Deadline - Noon Monday

**Proofs**  
 Line ads proofs not supplied  
 Display will only be supplied if requested

**Payment**  
 Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

**Death notices**  
 Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

**Vehicles/Deals on Wheels**  
 Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

**Bargains under \$100**  
 Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

**Animals**  
 It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

**Refunds or credits**  
 Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

**Conditions of advertising**  
 Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

**Copy right**  
 Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.  
 Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

## Road maintenance FOI hits a pothole

AS outlined in the last edition of 2024, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on August 15. It sought to find out the total annual spend on road repairs and maintenance in Murrindindi Shire across each of the past 10 financial (or calendar) years. After long delays, the response was received on December 30.

The request was denied on the basis of s27(1)(e) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Unfortunately, there is no s27(1)(e) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

The refusal also stated, "In response to your request, DTP's Barwon South West Grampians Region conducted a thorough and diligent search and confirmed that the

documents requested in the FOI request do not exist."

They added, "DTP's Barwon South West Grampians Region has advised that the budgetary information is unable to be broken down to the municipal level. Thus, information requested for Murrindindi Shire does not exist."

Barwon South West Grampians Region? This appears to be on the opposite side of the state to Murrindindi Shire, however it was explained that this regional office organised road repairs across regional Victoria.

The FOI officer has been asked about the smallest portion that the road maintenance expenditure can be broken down into, however we are yet to hear back. A new FOI is likely to be submitted.

## New campaign to promote safe transport following country races

A NEW campaign is set to be rolled out across regional Victoria, encouraging Victorians to get home safely from country races.

The Transport Accident Commission's 'Ready' campaign with Country Racing Victoria will highlight the risks associated with driving to and from races when alcohol is involved.

The new content features 'Everyday Heroes', who play significant roles in making a race day happen, including a horse handler, an operations manager and a designated driver.

This year's campaign follows a tragic year on Victoria's roads in 2024, with 282 lives lost

compared with 295 in 2023. More than half of the fatalities in 2024 occurred in regional areas.

The campaign will be prominent on social media and in race book advertisements in the run-up to country race events across Victoria to highlight the various transport options available to those attending regional events, such as taxis, rideshares and shuttle buses.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said "If you plan on having a drink at the races, taking a taxi, train, bus or lift home is your best bet."

The Yea Racecourse run a free shuttle bus on racedays that operates from all accommodation venues in Yea from 11am.

The TAC will be present at more than 20 Country Cups, where punters will have the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win \$500 fuel vouchers and learn about the dangers of drink-driving.

Country Racing Victoria (CRV) Chairman Chas Armytage said "It is vital for all racegoers to plan ahead not only for the event itself but also for their transportation needs. CRV and country clubs remain committed to working with the TAC to promote this important educational message."

For more information on the campaign, visit the TAC website: [tac.vic.gov.au/country-racing-victoria](http://tac.vic.gov.au/country-racing-victoria)

More than \$1.1 billion is being invested until 2028 in road safety initiatives by the state government, as part of a newly launched Road Safety Action Plan Two to help prevent serious crashes and keep Victorians safe.

### Our history: Proposed cheese factory in Cathkin

*Yea Chronicle, July 1, 1909*

A MEETING convened by the Yea and Mansfield Dairy Company, was held at Mr L Dawson's on Tuesday evening last, to consider the question, raised by the local people, of reopening the creamery and starting a cheese factory at Cathkin during the ensuing season.

A fair attendance of those interested in dairy pursuits was present to meet the directors, Messrs Quinlan, Hamilton, McLeish, and McCristal, and the general manager, Mr Christensen, Mr Quinlan, being voted to the chair, addressed those present, and made it evident that the board was disinclined to go to any great expense unless a sufficient guarantee from suppliers that the supply of milk would be kept up was given.

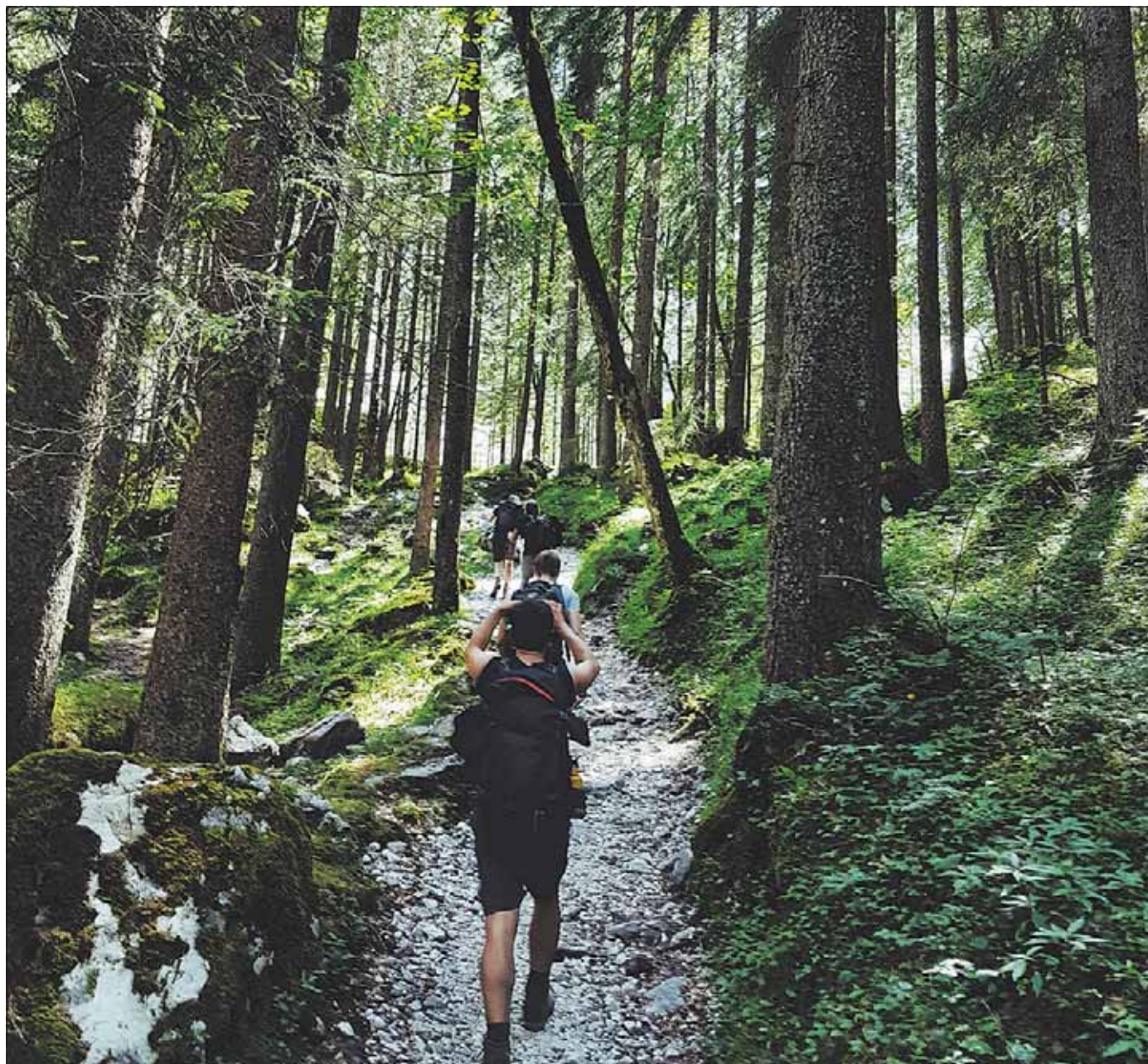
Mr McCristal endorsed the chairman's views.

Mr McLeish pointed out the great benefit a co-operative company was to any district and urged all suppliers to loyally support the local company.

Mr Christensen, in the course of his remarks, quoted some of his former experiences in cheesemaking, with references to marketing, etcetera, and pointed out that the fluctuations in the prices were not beneficial to the producer. After reading a communication from another company offering to sell its cheese plant cheaply, owing to not being able to make it pay, he impressed on those present that so far as the present agitation was concerned his views coincided with those put forth by the directors, viz., that while the company was desirous of doing everything it could to assist the individual and the district generally, it was necessary before launching out on further expense that a guaranteed supply of milk would be forthcoming.

A general discussion ensued, the opinion being freely expressed that someone should canvass the suppliers and ascertain if they are agreeable to give the required guarantee. Eventually, at the suggestion of Mr Hamilton, Mr Nicholson was appointed to act with Mr Christensen in this regard.

The meeting eventually adjourned without anything definite being done, but it was understood the joint canvassers would report to the company, which will if necessary, take further action.



Hikers journeying through the picturesque wilderness on offer. -Ben Maxwell

## Staying safe while hiking

THE summer months are a popular time in Australia for getting out and about in nature, especially in the form of hiking and exploring our natural wonders.

Yet with recent news detailing the miracle finding of the hiker, Hadi Nazri, who was found alive after 13 days of being lost in Kosciuszko National Park, it's important to keep safety and preparedness in mind.

Risks on the hiking trail can include rapidly changing weather conditions and heat, medical emergencies like sprains, and environmental dangers such as rockslides or bushfires, to name a few.

In Australia, there is also the risk from local wildlife like snakes and spiders.

To combat this, preparation is key. Before going hiking, check out the area that you'll be walking and notify someone of where you will be. It can be particularly helpful to tell a friend where you will be starting and where you are hoping to end up, so they can track your route if something goes wrong.

Check the weather conditions before heading out for the day, as extreme weather can leave you stranded.

Bring appropriate footwear in the form of hiking boots that are comfortable and fitted. The wrong kind of footwear can put excess pressure on your heels and ankles, leading to increased chance of injury.

Make sure that you dress for the conditions, remembering that it often gets cooler overnight and is sweltering during the day. Wear layers that can be added or removed based on the temperature.

Take a hiking pack with you, but make sure that it is not too heavy. If the pack is too heavy, it can again increase chances of injury and lead to extreme exhaustion.

Key things to include in a hiking pack are a compass and a map for when your GPS loses reception, a whistle or mirror to signal for help in emergencies, a First Aid kit (including snake bite kit if possible), a firestarter such as a lighter, waterproof matches or flint and striker, multi-tool

and pocket knife, and a tarp or blanket to provide shelter in an emergency.

It is also advised to include water or hydrolytes (eg. coconut water) and some basic food like muesli bars, nuts, or dried fruit. These are light and compact but can make a big difference in an emergency. It is vital when hiking to maintain proper hydration and keep your energy levels high.

If going for a long hike, keeping a manageable pace is also important. Over-exerting can lead to injuries, while taking regular breaks and not pushing too hard helps keep the hike fun. Know your limits.

With all that said, hiking can be a very enjoyable activity if treated with the appropriate amount of respect and caution. In Murrindindi Shire there are some great areas for hiking, including the Cathedral Range State Park, Lake Mountain, and the areas around Lake Eildon.

For trail ideas in Murrindindi, visit [discoverdindi.com.au/explore/walk](http://discoverdindi.com.au/explore/walk)

## Our history: Alexandra Butter Factory has churned out lots of history

THE Alexandra Butter Factory was established in 1892, over 130 years ago.

An article in the *Alexandra and Yea Standard* from January 15, 1892, reads: "A meeting of persons interested in the establishment of the above industry in this district was held in the shire hall, on Wednesday afternoon.

"Mr Waymouth proposed that a factory be established in Alexandra, and that a company be formed of 2000 shares of £1 each, 1s to be paid on application, 1s 6d on allotment, and the balance as might be required.

"Mr Waymouth moved, seconded Mr Lade, that the Alexandra company limited be formed to establish in Alexandra a factory for the making of butter and other purposes."

The factory was completed and in operation before the end of the year. The headline of

'The butter factory. Opened for business' ran in the *Alexandra and Yea Standard* on Friday, October 7, 1892.

Another article in the *Standard*, this time from November 1892, tells of the early operations of the Alexandra Butter Factory.

"Good progress is being made at the Alexandra Butter Factory, despite all croakers, false prophets, and recalcitrant. There has been a steady increase in the quantity of milk brought to the factory during the past fortnight, and the quantity of cream brought in from the creameries has steadily and surprisingly gone up, and continues to show an upward tendency.

"The churning at the factory have gone up from about 250lbs on one day to nearly a ton. On Tuesday close upon a ton of butter came out of the churn.

"Yesterday week Mr Hocking removed four tons of butter, the second lot, from the factory to Alexandra Road station, whence it was despatched to Newport for London," the article reads.

It wasn't long before the Alexandra Butter Factory became a roaring success, being forced to operate with long hours.

"A record week at the factory. The output of butter at the local factory continues to increase and is now larger than any record during the busiest part of any other year.

"The factory is now working 18 to 20 hours daily to cope with the large supply. It is pleasing to note that the local produce still occupies its former high position, both on the London and local markets," an article from 1904 reads.

The factory chugged along, riding "the stormy waters, with the usual ups and downs incidental to the life of every co-operative concern." In 1931, however, a new butter factory was created. This new factory was a large red brick building that is still standing today, replacing the earlier wooden affair.

"The new factory is constructed of brick. The interior is particularly well lighted, especially the butter-making room. The walls of the butter and cream rooms are tiled, and the floors are of concrete, specially treated.

"The building was completed a few weeks ago, and it reflects great credit on the contractors, for sound workmanship is apparent throughout. With the exception of a few Oregon sticks, the whole of the timber in the building came from the Rubicon forest," an article from August 1931 reads.

In the years that followed, the Alexandra Butter Factory went through some highs and lows while producing butter. The venture eventually became too challenging, and the production of butter in Alexandra was suspended.

The Alexandra Butter Factory building remained, however, and was used as an upholstery factory, sawmill, and other trade-specific businesses.

In its current form, the Alexandra Butter Factory is home to On Point Brewery, who conduct their craft brewing business from inside the historic red brick walls. The building has stood for almost a century, and hopefully it will remain as an integral part of Alexandra history for many years to come.

## Victorians urged to stay SunSmart after new data released

EXPERTS are calling for Victorians to get SunSmart or risk sunburn, which increases your lifetime risk of skin cancer and can even result in presentation to a hospital emergency department.

SunSmart recently released new emergency department sunburn data from the Victorian Department of Health reinforcing the urgent need for us to adopt all five forms of sun protection as we reach extreme UV levels across the state over the coming months.

At a glance, the data shows: That 289 Victorians presented to emergency departments in Victorian public hospitals last year with sunburn, with nearly half (47 per cent) of these presentations occurring in January 2024; adolescents aged 15 to 19 years are most likely (19 per cent) to present to emergency departments with sunburn than any other age group, closely followed by young adults aged 20 to 24 (18 per cent); since 2004-05, men are slightly more likely to present at emergency departments with sunburn than women, 53 per cent male and 47 per cent female; Victorians are 11.5 times more likely to present with sunburn to emergency departments in the peak season (November to February) than off season (March to October).

Head of SunSmart, Emma Glassenbury said the data served as a reminder for just how serious sunburn can be.

"No one should wind up in hospital emergency departments purely from enjoying time outdoors, particularly when sunburn is easily preventable. We want to

encourage all Victorians to consider their access to shade, remember to regularly reapply sunscreen, keep their sunnies on, slip on covering clothes and don a wide brim hat this summer to keep themselves safe," Ms Glassenbury said.

"It's wonderful to be outdoors, enjoying our beautiful state and climate. However, time outdoors also means exposure to extreme levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation that in the peak of summer can cause the first signs of sunburn in as little as 11 minutes without sun protection."

Director of the Victorian Melanoma Service at the Alfred Hospital, Professor Victoria Mar, said she hoped the numbers of Victorians experiencing extreme sunburn would start to fall in coming years.

"Year on year, too many young Victorians continue to risk their skin when enjoying time outdoors over summer. Severe sunburn requires medical attention, and while we will always be available to treat symptoms like blistering, headache and nausea, we cannot undo the patient's UV damage. UV damage during childhood and adolescence significantly increases a person's lifetime risk of skin cancer," Professor Mar said.

Someone who knows all too well the harms of UV damage is 33 year old Sarah Sheridan. Sarah describes herself as 'solar powered', someone who loves being outdoors. But these days you'll find sunscreen stashed in every handbag, plus long-sleeved clothing, a hat and sunnies always within reach.

"I remember a horrific sunburn where my entire back blistered and peeled. I was even partial to a 10-pass solarium special deal when I was in my late teens to early 20s. But these days, it's SPF 50+ every day."

Sarah's previous exposure to dangerous UV caught up with her.

"A few years ago I noticed a mole on my face changing shape. My GP suggested it be removed as a preventative measure. Then testing showed damage to my eyes, and my optometrist suggested I work hard to limit sun exposure."

Sarah says getting older and becoming wiser to the damage caused by UV has led to significant shifts in her behaviour.

"If I could go back and tell myself to avoid getting so sunburnt often, and to get out of that sunbed, I'd do it in a second. But I can stop further damage to my skin, and to look after it the best I can."

Ms Glassenbury echoed Sarah's sentiments and urged those heading outdoors to get prepared for sun exposure.

"Summer is a time for fun with friends and family. Let's keep it that way and remember to stay SunSmart together. The good news is that skin cancer is one of the most preventable cancers and we can protect ourselves and our loved ones by using all five forms of sun protection. We want all Victorians to enjoy a sunburn-free summer and reduce their risk of skin cancer," Ms Glassenbury concluded.

## What3words is a valuable location finder

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) paramedics are calling on the Victorian community to make use of what3words via the Emergency Plus app, describing it as a life-saving tool.

What3words is a program linked to the Emergency Plus app which divides the world into three metre squares with each square assigned a unique combination of three words.

Just these words can be used to find a precise location, which can be invaluable in life-threatening emergencies when every minute counts.

Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedic Matt Nadin said what3words was crucial in helping locate a woman in urgent need of medical attention.

"We were having difficulty locating the patient based off their description alone," Matt said.

"We felt that time was running out and we had exhausted all our traditional methods to establish their location.

"I suggested instructing the patient to use what3words and this simple step allowed us to pinpoint their location and reach them within minutes."

The Emergency Plus app shows a patient's latitude and longitude in addition to their unique three words.

Calls to Triple Zero (000), SES and for non-urgent police matters can be made directly through the Emergency Plus app.

What3words can also be accessed through its own website and app.

Matt said all Victorians with a mobile device should ensure they have quick access to what3words.

"It's an incredible tool if you're in an emergency and don't know exactly where you are," he said.

"Whether that's in a rural or remote area, along a freeway or highway, or simply in a new place, what3words takes away the guesswork which helps us reach you faster.

"You can tell a Triple Zero call taker your three words and they will know what to do to pass this location information on to all required emergency services."

Location services via the Emergency Plus app can be pre-loaded and used without an internet connection.

For more information, visit [emergencyplus.com.au](http://emergencyplus.com.au)

## More offers for Victorian Year 12 graduates

THOUSANDS of Victorian Year 12 graduates are set to begin their journeys towards rewarding careers through university and TAFE as more young Victorians received offers for post-secondary courses.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll congratulated the Victorian graduates who received an offer from the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) for their preferred TAFE or university course.

VTAC issued 12,938 offers to students for undergraduate and vocational courses. This was the second round of offers, with four more rounds to come.

Including offers made in November and December, a total of 64,780 domestic study offers have been issued for courses starting in

2025. This represents a 5.2 per cent increase compared to the 61,576 domestic offers released by the same time last year.

There are many education and training pathway options which deliver the skills and qualifications Victorians need to achieve their career goals.

TAFEs offer career pathways in a wide range of study areas, from carpentry and electrical trades to health and social care, as well as covering emerging areas to support transition to a carbon free economy, such as electric vehicles and hydrogen technology.

Victorians can access a wide range of TAFE courses without the cost of tuition fees, through Victoria's *Free TAFE program*.

More than 187,900 students have benefitted from Free TAFE since it was introduced in

2019, saving them more than \$550 million in tuition fees and providing them with strong employment opportunities upon completion.

There are now also more Free TAFE places available in construction qualifications and short courses, thanks to the Australian and Victorian governments, who are together providing 5200 more places in Free TAFE construction-related courses, including up to 1300 pre-apprenticeship places.

Students that haven't received an offer yet can either wait for further rounds of VTAC offers in January and February or change their VTAC preference if they meet course requirements. They can also apply directly to TAFEs without a VTAC offer.

For the full list of Free TAFE courses visit [vic.gov.au/free-tafe](http://vic.gov.au/free-tafe)

# Local scouts set off on an adventure



Earlier in the month 11 local Scouts, one Rover and leader headed to the Australian Jamboree in Maryborough, Queensland. They will be returning home soon. -S



The happy attendees leaving for the Jamboree. -S

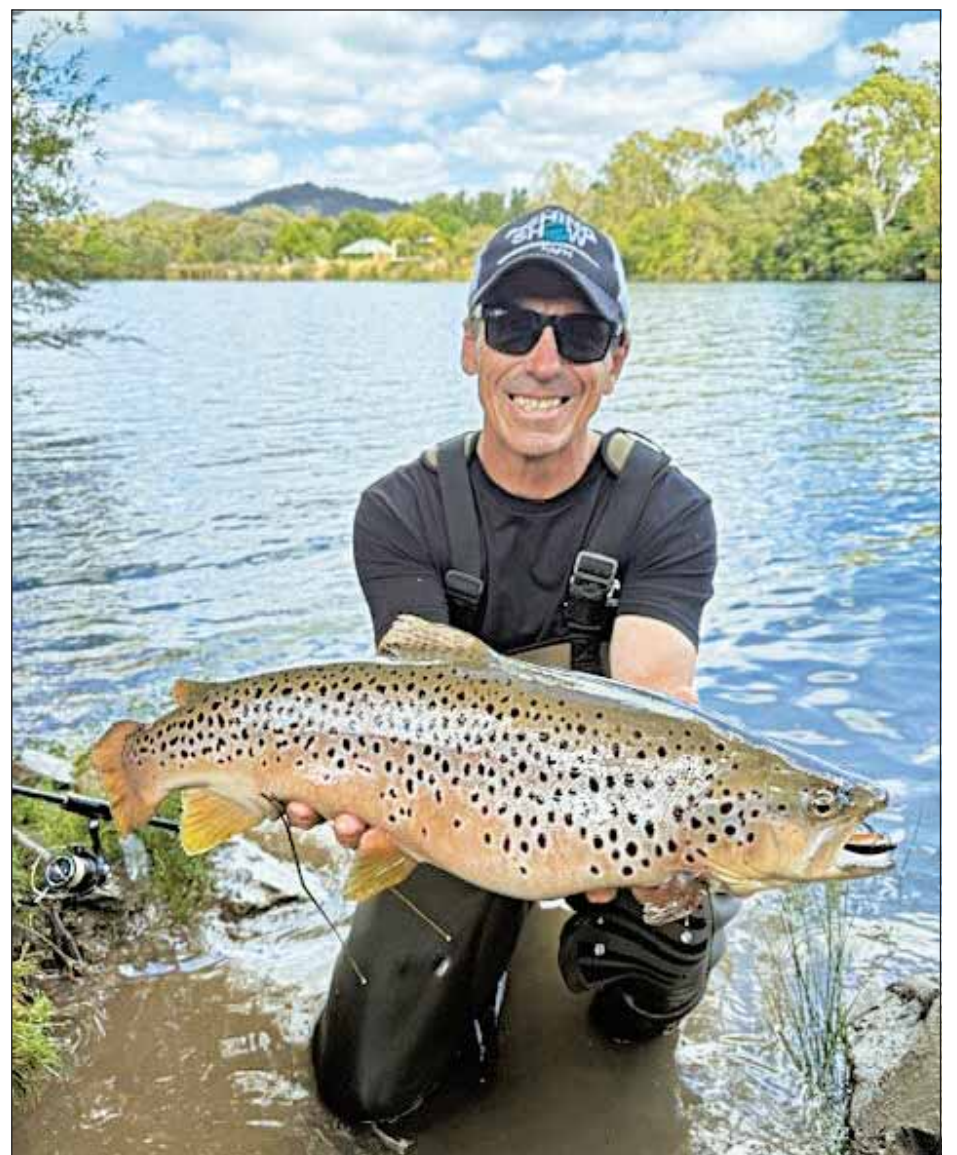
## Good fishing at the Eildon Pondage



Anthony and daughter Cheyanne were very happy with the fish they caught at the Pondage on December 28, 2024. -S



Anthony's friend Tristan (left) also had some good luck at the Pondage. -S



Jason was fishing the Eildon Pondage after Christmas and landed this brown trout on a lure. It's probably one of 420 ex-brood browns from Snobs Creek Hatchery that VicFish stocked just prior to Christmas. Jason released the fish, which swam off strongly, to make someone's 2025 pretty special. -S

**SPORT**



*Sue Greatorex on approach to 11. -S*



*The winning team of the Community Challenge, the Meggitt family. -S*

**Murrindindi Masters and more for Alexandra Golf Club**



*Jack Kidd hitting over the dam. -S*

by Dave Silverman

WELCOME to the first Alexandra Golf Club report for 2025. Lots of things have changed since the last report of 2024, but perhaps the most significant is that the lady who has unfailingly delivered golf news for the last 10 years or so, Elizabeth Goss, has decided that it's time to hang up her pen.

Even when she was in hospital, Elizabeth made sure that the Standard had her copy for the week, and on behalf of everyone associated with the club, I would like to thank Elizabeth for her tireless work over many years. I have very big shoes to fill and will do my best to live up to Elizabeth's very high standards.

Before we begin the report for last week, it needs to be mentioned that on December 28 last year, Alexandra Golf Club held its annual Community Challenge, which attracted a large field of players and was won by the Meggitt family team. This event is always a great day, and everyone who attended enjoyed the golf and the refreshments.

And so, to the present. Last Tuesday's usual stableford round attracted a field of 13, with the winner, Marysville's Paul Martin, scoring a fine 42 points. Steve Darmody was second

on 39, and Greg Millard was third on 37. Nearest the Pins went to Russell Haack on seven, Nigel Waterhouse on 17 and Greg Millard on 18. Rundown vouchers went to Brad Newton, John Greatorex and Leo Dynes.

Wednesday is the day for the ladies to come out and play, and last week seven ladies did indeed play round one of their 2025 Summer Cup. Barb Doyle was the one to make the most of the fine, mild conditions, taking the win with 38 points, just one clear of Sandy Wettenhall on 37, with third place going to Sandra Morris on 36.

Barb and Sandy both claimed a nearest the pin on five and 18 respectively, with Ruth Worland picking up the nearest the pin on the second, as well as taking the win for the nine hole competition with 18 points.

Thursday evening during the warmer months means Chook Run night at Alexandra, and last week's game attracted a field of 17 to play the composite nine-hole course. This competition is open to all comers, you don't need an official handicap and tee off is 5pm. This week's winner was Todd Galloway on 28, with Ryan Carter and Jarrod Williamson equal second on 29.

Last Saturday the Alexandra round of the 2024-25 Murrindindi Masters took place. With the very warm weather, the course in great nick, and a record field of 108 players, the stage was set for a great day of golf.

The overall winners for the day, the Mini Masters, were Adam Littlejohn with 42 points, and Margaret Blair with 43, both from Marysville. Riley McDonald from Alexandra was the men's A Grade winner on 39, B Grade went to Russell Haack, also from Alexandra, on 42, and the evergreen Terry Chaplin from Yea claimed C Grade with 40 points.

Sabrina Stow from Yea was the ladies' A Grade winner with 40, and Di Elloit, again from Yea, won B Grade with 36. Nearest the pins went to Allan Mackwell on two, Riley McDonald on five, Matt Richards on seven, Kerry Power on 12 and Greg Ebinger on 18. The club thanks Michael and Tina Reddrop for their continued support of the Murrindindi Masters.

While the Alexandra Golf Club's website is undergoing its transformation, please keep up to date with events and times via their Facebook page.



*The men's Mini Masters winner, Adam Littlejohn. -S*



*The ladies' winner of the Mini Masters, Marg Blair. -S*



*The Community Challenge. Pictured are Luke, Declan and Logan Heard. -S*

**Slow outfields a challenge for Merton cricketers**

LOOKING back to December, Merton cricketers hosted the Beechworth Wanderers for the last game before the Christmas break.

Merton won the toss and batted making 227 all out in the 36th over on a slow outfield. In form opener Ross Mackinnon again top scoring with 76 off 71 balls while young gun Adam Storer smashed 45 off 30 balls with one huge six that almost landed in the recreation reserve dam.

Captain Jai Lerch-Mackinnon with 21 off 10 deliveries saw the score move along, while Josh Johnson and Daryl King both with 18 did the job with the bat. L

Fitzpatrick easily the best Beechworth bowler with 3/25 off eight overs.

Beechworth took the game on taking advantage of any loose bowling lead by captain Dylan Pool smashing 70 with fellow team mate Rahma Schltz 51 saw the visitors at 1/125 at one point, however when James Benton took the vital wicket of Pool the run rate fell and the wickets started to tumble, led by Benton with 4/29 and young brother William with 2/10 saw Beechworth finish their 36 overs on 8/179.

Johnson and Mackinnon the other wicket takers. Merton sits fourth on the Wangaratta

and District Cricket Association (WDCA) B grade ladder with some big games versus the top three sides early in the new year. WDCA B grade ladder: Yarrawonga, Benalla, Milawa, Merton, Rovers United, Rutherglen, Greta, City Colts, Ovens Valley, Beechworth, Delatite.

**First match of the new year**

MERTON started the new year with a poor performance when they travelled to Greta on Saturday. Merton batting first could only manage 53 all out in the 35th over on a turf wicket and a painfully slow outfield.

Luke Benton 10 and son James 14 the only batsmen to reach double figures. J Hill with 4/6 the home sides best bowler. All the Greta bowler's showed great patience and discipline bowling a tight line and length.

The home side passed Merton's total two wicket down with Berriman and Whittall the wicket takers. The road trip to Mulwala to take on top side Yarrawonga awaits the Merton side with a massive turnaround required to be competitive against their experienced line-up.

SPORT

# All the action of the Alexandra Pro Rodeo



-photos by AR

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

# Standard Sport

ISSN 2200-6478



SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



-Photos by AR

## Rodeo draws 5000 people to Alexandra

THE seventh Alexandra Pro Rodeo was held on January, Saturday 11. With a warmish evening, the crowd arrived early to enjoy music from Paul Costa before the event went underway.

Event organiser Andrew Embling said the crowds were getting close to record numbers with around 5000 people including families.

Andrew said, "Local artist Taylah Arnett did an unbelievable version of the National Anthem, then the first session of rodeo happened, then the second event of the Bronc and Bareback Horses was on with the new contractor, Gill Brothers. They buck really well," Andrew said.

Following the rodeo, there was great music from Danny Phegan, which everyone enjoyed.

With 30-odd people on security, and local police in attendance, the crowd was well behaved. "It was pretty incident free," Andrew said.

"It was a generally well-run rodeo, people loved it. There was a lot of great help and great to have so many sponsors. Fineblade had water on the arena through the night and Stuart Coward from E-Tech roughed up a bit of dirt. They're the sort of things people do for you.

"We also had water fountains here. We did cop a fair bit of abuse about what was put on the tickets but it was no different to any other year. We had free water here for everybody. Bottles of water were handed out to patrons at the end of the night when they left.

"With the camping, there might have been people who played up at caravan park. We did have security from 8.30pm to 2.30am but it seems as soon as security leaves someone has decided to make their car sounds like crackers going off.

"The rodeo was a real family affair. Families loved it, including the rides and clothing. The main thing is the town certainly did well out of it as well. Our town was a lot busier on Friday, and when it came to Saturday, talk to any shop keeper, they were very busy on Saturday and all the take away food shops that were open on Sunday certainly did a great job."

When asked is it time for preparation underway for next year, Andrew said "We will go through it all and see where we are at. Hopefully we will run another rodeo."

