

# 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 22, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

[murrindindibusiness.com.au](http://murrindindibusiness.com.au)

## INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

*Pedestrian struck in Thornton*



Page 3

*Eildon's Taponga camp damage*



Page 6

*Input on key worker housing*



Page 9

*Weekend sport*



Page 18-20



*This pothole on Downey Street, opposite Alexandra Secondary College, has been steadily increasing in size since late last year. It's not the only one, and motorists are paying the price. -AR*

# Potholes: We're tired of this

PAM Coulson from Alexandra Tyrepower was asked whether their business has seen an increase in the number of vehicles requiring new tyres as a result of pothole damage. She said, "We would have someone come in probably nearly every day with blown tyres or racked rims. Huge amount of people... Sometimes even have to get a tow truck to get here because if they've blown a tyre or cracked a rim and they haven't got a spare, they've got no other choice but to get a tow truck. So that's extra expense for them again." Unfortunately, damage to vehicles on Department of Transport managed roads is only covered for expenses past \$1640. The

first \$1640 of damage is the responsibility of the owner or vehicle insurance (often with an excess which may make a claim unviable). Therefore, drivers often have to absorb the expense themselves. Pam added, "Sometimes we might even get two [people with pothole-damaged wheels] in the one day. It's very bad and people are so angry." Asked how many people would come in with tyres damaged by potholes five years ago, Pam responded, "Five years ago we probably got none... Or maybe, one or two every now and then, but it's really bad now."

When asked whether there were particular locations that people have been mentioning when they came in with tyre damage, Pam said that between Alexandra and Yea is very bad, "But it doesn't really matter which direction you go in, they're everywhere." She said that the damage is generally limited to tyres and rims, but sometimes people need wheel alignments after hitting potholes as well. The potholes are also having more impact on low profile tyres as well, with 4WDs and larger vehicles having fewer issues. As outlined in the last week's edition, this newspaper's Freedom of Information (FOI)

request, submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on August 15 was rejected on December 30. 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. They advised that such information was not available. A new FOI was submitted on Wednesday, January 15. The new FOI is seeking to find out "The total annual spend on road repairs and maintenance in the smallest increment (ie. region) which includes Murrindindi Shire, across each of the past 10 financial (or calendar) years."

**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.**

**Standard** **ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS** **The Yea Chronicle**

# Alexandra Seniors report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

WITH the summer holidays just about over the club gets back into action with a committee meeting at 10.30am on Friday, February 6 in the club room followed by business meeting that afternoon at 1pm. The bridge players will be in action from Wednesday, January 29.

Any suggestions for future club activities will be welcomed for discussion so please forward you ideas to me or email [secretaryadscc@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryadscc@gmail.com). Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

# POLICE REPORT

ALEXANDRA Police are currently investigating a collision that occurred in the car park of the Alexandra Hospital at 4.57am on Thursday, January 9. A white extra cab Ford Ranger with a silver tray is observed on the hospital CCTV reversing from a car space outside the pathology entrance and colliding with the rear of the parked Mitsubishi Triton. The Ford Ranger then left the car park. The Triton sustained damage to the left rear taillight and some panel damage. Police are asking for the person involved and anyone with any information to contact Alexandra Police on 5772 1040 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

POLICE are investigating a break in at the lolly shop in Eildon on the evening of January 15 into January 16. An unidentified male broke in and stole the till. It's understood that the person also impacted the construction works for the skate park. Witnesses are urged to contact the Alexandra Crime Investigation Unit on 5772 1040 or make a report via CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000.

OVER the next few months, police will be targetting hoon drivers. They will have an overt and covert police presence in a number of areas in the shire.



Investigators have released footage of a male who may be able to assist with enquiries. The full footage is available on the Benalla Eyewatch Facebook page. -S



**THUMBS UP:** To the Alexandra Community Hub. Many of us would be lost without your support and care. Thank you so much.

**THUMBS UP:** To Scott Reeves, Koriella Fire Brigade captain, for his wonderfully sad and entertaining article on the situation of their modular toilet. Happy it turned out for the best, you should be flushed with success.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the people who take their dogs, particularly big dogs, with them when eating outside along the main street, allowing them to block the footpath.

**THUMBS UP:** To Kevin Mortley and Ray Chanter for their service to the Alexandra Opportunity Shop. You have both made a valued contribution to the shop over the years. Best wishes to Ray for a happy and healthy retirement.

**THUMBS UP:** To the land owners for their Christmas decorations on roadsides.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the dog owners who don't pick up after their dogs on walking tracks.

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

# Standard

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:



## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.84	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.46	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	6.45am Mon	0.48	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	11.50am Mon	0.11	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.19am Mon	0.43	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	12.21pm Mon	0.26	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.80	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.33	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	12.15pm Mon	0.13	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.45	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.12	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.73	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.08pm Mon	1.01	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 12.46PM ON MONDAY, 20 JANUARY 202

## EV charger out of order

MURRINDINDI Shire Council were contacted about the EV charging station that is out of order in Bakers Lane carpark in Alexandra.

A council spokesperson provided the following response, "As part of the Victorian Government's 'Destination Charging Action Victoria Program', Murrindindi Shire Council successfully advocated for the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging station located in the Bakers Lane carpark in Alexandra. This charger has two different plugs to enable charging of most electric vehicles.

"The charging station is partially out of order, due to the more commonly used plug being temporarily out of service. The other plug is only suitable for a limited number of vehicles.

"Evie Networks, who owns and manages this equipment, is responsible for maintenance and repairing faults. Council has contacted Evie Networks, however, they were not able to provide an estimate for when repairs are due to be completed. We encourage users to check the Evie app or contact Evie Networks directly to confirm when the plug will be operational again.

"The nearest publicly accessible EV charging stations that suit most vehicles are the Tesla Superchargers behind FoodWorks in Yea.

"Council does not maintain a list of EV chargers in the shire for residents and visitors, as there are already free resources available such as PlugShare or Google Maps, which provide a comprehensive and regularly updated list. Additionally, most electric vehicles have built-in navigation with the ability to search for charging infrastructure, and most charging infrastructure companies, including Evie Networks, have apps and online maps that allow anyone to check if their chargers are currently available, or out of order."

## Weekly Weather

January 22 - January 28, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

### Alexandra

### Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	10	26	Wednesday	10	24
Thursday	11	24	Thursday	10	24
Friday	12	25	Friday	12	25
Saturday	13	28	Saturday	14	29
Sunday	16	31	Sunday	16	31
Monday	18	35	Monday	17	36
Tuesday	14	31	Tuesday	13	29



## DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	0mm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	0.2mm
Flowerdale	7mm
Jamieson	0.8mm
Kinglake	9mm
Lake Eildon	0.8mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	0mm
Yarck	0.2mm
Yea	0.1mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

## LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	283.39m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	79.3%
Metres below full supply	5.51m
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	3750ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	56%

## Call for P plate driving age to be lowered

NATIONALS Member for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad is calling for Victoria's probationary driving age to be reduced to 17, saying this would bring it in line with other states and reduce disadvantage for young people in rural areas.

Victoria is the only state or territory in Australia that still requires P plate drivers to be aged 18 or over.

Ms Broad said the move would be a game changer for many rural and regional families.

"Young people, especially those living in rural and regional areas are at a disadvantage by not being allowed to access their provisional licence at the age of 17," Ms Broad said.

"In the last week I was contacted by many young people and their families who are very keen to see the P plate age lowered. One young driver said 'a lot of kids would be absolutely stoked'.

"People who live in rural and regional areas often do not have access to public transport to get to work, apprenticeships or study," Ms Broad said.

"They rely on their families to transport them to and from these commitments, but not everyone has someone who can drive them around when they need it."

Ms Broad raised the issue in Parliament in July 2024, but the state government did not support the idea.

"I will raise the issue again when Parliament resumes next month," Ms Broad said.

The Transport Accident Commission was asked about the possible lowering of the driving age. CEO Tracey Slatter responded, "Road crashes are one of the leading causes of death among young people, and drivers on probationary licences are at a higher risk of crashing.

"Victoria's world class Graduated Licensing System has been informed by research from youth development and road safety behavioural studies, and has proven successful in reducing the number of young drivers killed and seriously injured on our roads.

"The more supervised experience young people get as learner drivers the better equipped they will be to become safe solo drivers."

In their first year of driving, young drivers in Victoria are almost four times more likely to be involved in a fatal or serious injury crash than more experienced drivers. The key reasons for this are inexperience and the fact that young drivers are more likely to take risks, like texting. Experience and maturity are pivotal when it comes to safety.

The Victorian Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Parliamentary Committee conducted a Parliamentary inquiry to explore the impact of lowering the licencing age in 2016. Research conducted at that time estimated that lowering the licencing age to 17 would result in 10 more deaths, 241 more serious injuries and 714 more minor injuries each year.

Victoria's Graduated Licensing System (GLS) is informed by research and evidence in both youth development and road safety behaviours. It ensures drivers progressively build the skills needed to drive safely. This system includes a minimum licencing age along with other measures such as a driving experience requirement for licencing eligibility for learners under 21 years and restrictions on P1 and P2 drivers. Since the GLS was introduced in 2007/08, 42.5 per cent fewer drivers aged 18 to 23 years have been involved in fatal or serious injury crashes on our roads.

# Alexandra Fire Brigade's new truck

THE Alexandra Fire Brigade are delighted with their new fire truck. Chris Lynch, captain of the Alexandra Fire Brigade, explained that the truck was obtained via a VESEP (Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program) grant.

The new truck replaces the Alexandra Fire Brigade's smaller ultralight, a single cab four wheel drive with a 600 litre tank on the back. The old truck has been sold to a local farmer as a private firefighting vehicle. The money from the sale goes back into the brigade's coffers.

The new crew cab has 2000 litres on the back, which increase the brigade's firefighting capacity dramatically. Having a dual cab also increases firefighter comfort, as some of the team no longer have to travel on the back, and it's perfect for the terrain and conditions around Alexandra.

The efforts towards getting a new truck started three years ago. With the VESEP grants, the community needs to contribute

one third of the total, and the VESEP grant covers the remainder.

Given the cost of the truck, around \$36,000 was contributed by the brigade, gained through fundraising such as barbecues, fire equipment maintenance and donations through Santa runs and people thanking the brigade.

Chris said, "It's 100 per cent a community truck."

The truck is online now, so people are likely to see it travelling to fires. It's already been to two fires over the Christmas break, and was on show at the Alexandra Carols event and the fire brigade's recent parade. People may also see it out and about on maintenance runs on Sundays.

Most of the brigade members have completed their driver training for the truck, and now it's just a matter of getting their kilometres up for individual training, and getting used to the truck.

The truck gives the brigade the ability to take the truck to places where they wouldn't usually take standard trucks. It will be a terrific addition to the brigade's fleet.

Two people were particularly active in ensuring that the brigade received the grant. One was former secretary and treasurer Graham Atkinson, and the other was former captain Jay Williams.

"This was their project, and they were the masterminds behind the project," Chris said.

In 2021, the Alexandra Fire Brigade turned out to 39 incidents, in 2022 they turned out to 60 incidents, in 2023 they did 76, and last year they did 96 calls.

"You can certainly see that Alexandra is becoming quite a busy little brigade," Chris added.

Asked what was behind the increase in call outs, Chris said cited the population increase as well as becoming a structural brigade, with equipment including atmospheric monitoring, and the pumper. They have the only pumper in the Alexandra Group, and this has been used a lot more. Their forward command vehicle (FCV) also carries breathing apparatus, enabling a rapid response to anywhere that requires it. They have also been doing a lot more work with the Yea Brigade on the structural side of things, as well as motor vehicle accidents.

Chris estimated that their brigade has around 70 members, with 15 to 20 active members. New members are always welcome, particularly active members and daytime turnout responders.

He suggested that people keen to find out more could head along to the brigade on Wednesday nights. On the second Wednesday of every month, they have a general meeting. The first and second Wednesdays of the month are training nights. They could also visit on Sundays, when there are usually people down at the station doing equipment maintenance, truck services, truck runs, and general works around the station.

They are also keen to hear from recent retirees who are looking for something to do, as they want to expand their equipment maintenance team, testing fire extinguishers and fire hoses around the communities. This activity raises a lot of money for the brigade throughout the year, which allows the brigade to do what they do. This type of work is generally one day per week, on a Tuesday. It's not paid, but lunch and a uniform are provided.

"It's a chance to get out and do good things for the broader community," Chris said.

## Pedestrian struck in Thornton

POLICE are investigating a collision that occurred in Thornton on New Year's Eve. It is believed a blue coloured hatchback was driving erratically in the vicinity of Taggerty-Thornton Road and struck a pedestrian just prior to midnight. Police have released images of a person they believe may be able to assist their enquiries.

If anyone has information that may assist identify the person in the images or witnessed a blue hatchback driving erratically in the Thornton area, please contact Eildon Police Station on 5774 2104 or you can report information anonymously by calling Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or reporting information online at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)



Have you seen this person? -S

## Correction

IN last weeks edition the Yea Rotary Barbecue Breakfast had an incorrect time printed.

The correct time is a 9am start at the grassed median strip adjacent to the Yea Shire Hall.

**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)

**ALEXANDRA PHYSIOTHERAPY**  
Empowering you towards better health  
Over 25 years of clinical experience.

- Back & Neck Pain
- Sports Injuries
- Joint & Muscle Injuries
- Rehabilitation post surgery or injury
- Consulting Rooms available for rental
- Clinical Pilates
- Orthotics

HICAPS: Health fund rebates claimed on the spot.  
Veterans Affairs, TAC, WorkCover, Private,  
Medicare (EPC referral from GP)

**5772 2649**  
54A Downey St, Alexandra

ADVERTISEMENT

Wishing you all a Happy Australia Day!

**Cindy McLEISH MP**  
STATE MEMBER FOR EILDON

Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen  
03 9730 1066  
CindyMcLeishMP  
[cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:cindy.mcleish@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by Cindy McLeish MP, Shop 10, 38-40 Bell Street, Yarra Glen.

**BAILEY'S FUNERAL SERVICES PT. LTD.**

**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**

# Don't let your campfire ruin everyone's long weekend

FIRE authorities and public land managers are reminding campers to make sure they check the conditions and brush up on campfire safety ahead of the upcoming long weekend.

The Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria will be conducting patrols in Victoria's parks and forests throughout the weekend to make sure campers are doing the right thing.

A total of 257 unattended campfires and barbecues have been detected by the Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria and Forest Fire Operations field staff on public land so far this financial year.

Over the last few weeks where Total Fire Bans have been declared, fire authorities and land managers continue to detect illegal campfires across the state during extreme weather conditions. Heavy penalties apply for anyone lighting a campfire on a Total Fire Ban day.

Many people try to put out campfires incorrectly with soil, or not enough water to extinguish them completely. Fires that haven't been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in the right conditions. If it is cool to touch it is safe to leave.

Before you light a fire always check fire restrictions, including whether a Total Fire Ban is in place. Download the VicEmergency app or go to <https://www.emv.vic.gov.au>

Plan ahead and consider alternatives for cooking such as a portable butane cooktop.

Use a purpose-built fireplace if available, otherwise dig a trench at least 30cm deep.

Always follow the designated rules of your campsite. In national parks, fires can only be lit in purpose-built fireplaces unless marked otherwise.

The campfire must not exceed one square metre, and three metres above and around your fire must be clear of flammable material.

Branches and logs on your campfire must be no longer than one metre.

Never leave a campfire unattended. An adult must always stay within a 50 metre line of sight.

Campfires must be extinguished with at least 10 litres of water every time you leave the site. All rubbish must be taken home with you, not burned.

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face a maximum penalty of \$19,759 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a Total Fire Ban day is \$47,421.60 and or two years in jail. Report unattended campfires to DEECA at 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire. For more on

campfire rules go to [vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs](http://vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs)

Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria said, "Even if a Total Fire Ban has not been declared, we encourage campers to consider the need for a campfire on hot or windy days. If you are building a campfire, make sure you know how to build a safe one, don't leave it unattended while it is alight and that you put it out with water. If the ashes are cool to touch, it's safe to leave. It only takes one stray ember to cause a destructive fire."

Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator added, "Our authorised officers will be visiting campsites throughout Victoria's parks and forests making sure everyone is following the rules so we can all have a safe and enjoyable long weekend."

Chris Mercier, Manager, Enforcement Capability, Parks Victoria emphasised, "We want people to get out and enjoy Victoria's great outdoors, but unsafe campfires can have devastating consequences. It only takes one camper ignoring the rules to endanger the community and our environment."

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

**Standard The Xena 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.

*Ella before the big chop on Thursday, January 16. -S*

*Ella with hairdresser Sue Dundas who donated her time to make Ella's dreams come true. -S*

## Generous act from local student

ON Thursday, January 16, young Ella Buick from Cathkin cut all her hair off after growing it for seven years to donate her hair to be made into wigs for children battling childhood cancer. Local hairdresser Sue Dundas donated her time to cutting Ella's beautiful locks for the occasion.

Since the time of writing Ella's big chop had raised \$3056 which surpasses her original goal of raising \$1000, the money raised will be going to Variety, the children's charity.

Ella, the grade two student at Alexandra Primary School said, "I thought I kind of want to cut my hair and one of my friends said why don't you donate it."

Ella's mum Anna said, "I'm incredibly proud of her she has received so many donations it's great."

## 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

# Out & About

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDNESDAY, 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)

\*\*\*\*\*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28**

Yea & District Memorial Hospital AGM will be held at 5pm in The Grace Bennett Centre of the hospital. RSVP by Friday, January 24 to Chloe Harwood 5736 0490 or email [chloe.harward@ydmh.org.au](mailto:chloe.harward@ydmh.org.au)

\*\*\*\*\*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT'S ON?**

# Don't be too social on social media

ACCORDING to Scamwatch reports, Australians lost more money in 2024 to social media scams than any other form of scams. Over 6000 victims reported losing \$58.3 million to social media scams in the first ten months of last year.

It's common for scammers to use fake or hijacked profiles on social media, messaging platforms and apps to steal money and personal information. Other forms of scams may include investment scams, romance scams and job and employment scams through social media networks.

The usual way to spot a scam within social media is an offer to make quick, easy money requiring not much effort, advertising a job that requires payment for training or access to work tasks, inviting you to enter a competition or limited time offers.

When it comes to marketplace posts, if you are selling something and they will offer you a high price without seeing the item, this rings alarm bells, they may be selling items lower than the usual price they are listed, and once you show interest they make up excuses as to why they can't meet you in person.

These scammers learn about you from what you share on social media, and they deceive you into sharing personal information even further. These scammers usually pretend to be one of your friends, a romantic interest, a financial advisor or a business.

According to Scamwatch there are some simple steps you can take to avoid these scams, they include: Make sure the person is who they say they are; research profiles to see how long they have been online, how many followers they have, and what kind of activity they have; be careful if anyone makes

a job offer without an interview, research the recruiter or agency making the offer; research any investment opportunity fully, and never send any money or personal details to someone you have only met online.

Being in a tight knit community, our local Facebook marketplace pages and community groups have members who are fairly switched on as to what is a scam and what isn't, don't let this drop your guard though, always look after yourself by arming yourself to stay protected

Don't send money or hand over any personal information to anyone you have met online regardless of who they say they are, check away, if something doesn't feel right it's probably not and protect yourself and others by reporting suspicious contacts and activities to scamwatch at [scamwatch.gov.au](http://scamwatch.gov.au) and if you have found you have lost your money contact your financial institution.

## Lab grown labelling laws challenged

CATTLE Australia (CA) has criticized proposed regulations for lab-grown fake foods for their lack of clear labelling requirements and defiance of the recommendations of a Federal Senate inquiry.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) has been undertaking public consultation in response to a proposal to permit the use of cultured quail cells as a novel food.

CA says the regulations proposed by FSANZ provide no reassurance that lab-grown proteins are safe for consumers and the environment, or that the labelling requirements will avoid misleading consumers.

"Lab-grown proteins must be held to the same food safety, environmental and labelling standards as real products

like beef," CA Chief Executive Dr Chris Parker said.

"The processes and ingredients used to produce these products are often 'commercial in confidence' so it is very unclear what is actually in this stuff.

"The FSANZ framework fails to provide the detail consumers and industry are looking for as to how fake foods will be labelled, which goes against the recommendations of the 2022 Senate Rural and Regional Affairs Committee inquiry.

"If the pathway set out by FSANZ is followed, novel foods may only have to be described as 'cell-cultured' or 'cell-cultivated', which doesn't adequately describe to consumers that they are in fact eating fake meat."

CA has argued that minimum labelling standards for plant-based or lab-grown proteins should prohibit any reference to animal food products, including the words meat, beef, lamb, and goat.

"We strongly believe that the use of livestock images on plant or synthetic protein packaging or marketing materials should also be outlawed as it is a deliberate deception of consumers designed to dupe them into believing they are eating something that they are not," Dr Parker said.

"The use of the word beef and images of cattle on fake foods has been proven to be confusing to consumers, and actually weakens the value of the real thing.

"Beef should be defined in law as only including products derived from actual livestock raised by cattle producers."

### Don't forget to nominate young achievers

NOMINATIONS close soon for the 2025 Victorian 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards, on Wednesday, January 29 at midnight.

There is still time to nominate a young person 30 years of age and under, as of December 31, 2024, who is making a difference in the community. The categories are: The Victorian Government Group Achievement in the Community Award, Yarn Strong Sista Indigenous Achievement Award, Little Gigs "Little Victorian's" Achiever Award, Saward Dawson Community Service and Social Impact Award, IKON Services Environmental Sustainability Award, Josh's Rainbow Eggs Ethical Business Award, Kangan Institute Inspirational TAFE Student Award, Awards Australia Foundation Connecting Communities Award, and Konica Minolta Career Achievement Award.

Category Winners will receive a prize from DMT coaching and in addition, they will be featured on a TV ad, aired across the Seven Network celebrating the 2025 winners. One of the category winners will be chosen as the 2025 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year.

To submit a nomination, simply go online to [youngachieverawards.com](http://youngachieverawards.com) select 'VIC' and then click the 'Nominate Now' button. Alternatively, make the process that much easier by calling 9720 1638 and passing on their details or email [yaa@awardsaustralia.com](mailto:yaa@awardsaustralia.com)



### Aerial assessments underway on powerlines

ON Wednesday, January 15 electricity company AUSNET were spotted conducting aerial inspections in Marysville. These inspections are carried out through the year to help identify, monitor and repair wear and tear on powerlines and poles.

The local wildlife didn't know what all the commotion was about. -MP



## Every drop counts

### Be water wise

It's everyone's responsibility to use water wisely. Together, we can save a lot. Always follow the Permanent Water Saving Rules, they're designed to help you save water every day.



**1**

**FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES**

Must recirculate water

**2**

**VEHICLES CAN BE CLEANED AT ANY TIME USING A BUCKET**

Or with a leak-free handheld hose with a trigger nozzle

**3**

**SPRINKLERS AND WATERING SYSTEMS**

Can only be used between 6pm and 10am

**4**

**USE A BROOM OR A BLOWER TO CLEAN HARD SURFACES**

Like pathways, decks, concrete or driveways

**5**

**LEAK FREE HOSES CAN BE USED AT ANY TIME**

But they must be fitted with a trigger nozzle



For more tips to save drips, visit: [www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/every-drop-counts](http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/every-drop-counts)



One of the trees which was chainsawed down. -S

## Taponga camp damage: That stinks

SADLY, not everyone treats our beautiful outdoors with respect.

Earlier this week, forest officers discovered that the Taponga camping area near Eildon had been vandalised.

The damage includes the destruction of the toilet block and the illegal felling of approximately 20 trees within the reserve and along Big River Road.

The method used to fell the trees was extremely dangerous, and fortunately those responsible did not seriously injure themselves or others.

The Taponga camping area is located on the Taponga River and can be accessed from Eildon Jamieson Road.

Anyone with information about this crime is encouraged to contact the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186.



The damaged toilets at the Taponga camping area. -S

## Unattended campfires in Murrindindi

BOXING Day appears to be a hot spot for unattended campfires in Murrindindi Shire.

Lucas Russell, District Manager of Murrindindi District with Forest Fire Management Victoria said, "On Boxing Day, which was a day of Total Fire Ban, eight campfires were detected in Murrindindi District. Seven of those were unattended campfires.

"There were no other unattended campfires detected over the Christmas and New Year period."

## Illegal spotlighting at Big River

TWO men from Werribee and Tarnait in Victoria pleaded guilty and have been convicted in the Werribee Magistrates' Court for illegal spotlighting offences in Big River State Forest near Lake Eildon.

The men received convictions for illegal spotlighting, had a vehicle seized and were ordered to pay court costs. The men also had a firearm, spotlight and ammunition forfeited and destroyed and a Game Licence cancelled.

The Werribee Magistrates' Court found that on the night of August 4, 2023, the men travelled to the Big River State Forest in a 4WD vehicle where they proceeded to hunt and destroy a Sambar deer at night under spotlight, near where people were camping.

An investigation began when hunters provided Game Management Authority (GMA) with information regarding the illegal spotlighting incident.

This resulted in a search warrant being executed at a property in Werribee where a firearm was seized. A ballistics test on the seized firearm and a recovered bullet shell from the scene confirmed that the firearm had been used to commit the illegal spotlighting offence.

The GMA Director of Compliance and Intelligence, Zac Powell, said illegally spotlighting deer at night is dangerous and can put communities, properties and livestock at risk.

"Those who break the law face significant fines and penalties including prosecution, having equipment confiscated and Game and Firearms Licences cancelled. In some cases, offenders may face jail terms," Mr Powell said.

Community members, including hunters, campers and local residents, are urged to report illegal spotlighting to the GMA through its website at [gma.vic.gov.au](http://gma.vic.gov.au) or by calling 136 186.

The GMA assesses all reports of illegal behaviour and works closely with its partner agencies to conduct enforcement and compliance operations across Victoria.

If a suspicious bloom is found, farmers should move their stock to an area on the property with a safe alternative water source.

Farmers should plan for managing water availability in the event that a blue-green algal bloom impacts their primary livestock drinking water supply.

The plan should include calculating how much water livestock would require if the primary water supply was unsafe to drink and identifying additional alternative on-farm water supplies that could be utilised quickly.

In the medium-term, your plan could include improving water reticulation systems, considering options for treating blue-green algae affected water, or agisting your stock elsewhere until your farm water is safe again.

A range of useful information such as the blue-green algae: options for livestock drinking water factsheet is available from the blue-green algae page on the Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/blue-green-algae-in-water](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/blue-green-algae-in-water)

## No light at the end of the tunnel for Dom Dom toilets

A READER recently raised concerns about the public toilets at Mount Dom Dom on the Black Spur being closed, so Parks Victoria were contacted about the issue.

They stated that Parks Victoria closed the Dom Dom Saddle Picnic Area toilets four years ago.

A spokesperson said, "The toilets are old, unsafe and beyond repair so we will continue to prioritise maintaining the toilets in nearby popular areas."

The nearest public toilets are at the Fernshaw Picnic Ground.

## Monitor for blue-green algae in stock water

by Alison Lee, Principal Veterinary Officer of Small Ruminants

LIVESTOCK owners should look for signs of blue-green algae when inspecting farm dams, troughs and other water sources, particularly during the warmer months, when algal blooms are more likely to occur.

Blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria, are bacteria that can multiply rapidly under certain conditions.

Blue-green algae is more likely to occur when the water is warm and enriched with nutrients like phosphorus or nitrogen.

While blue-green algal blooms typically appear as green paint-like surface scum in water, they can also be reddish-purple or brown in colour. It can be difficult to tell blue-green algae from other less toxic algal species.

Blue-green algae may contain toxins that damage the liver or nervous system. Drinking contaminated water can kill livestock quickly and a number of livestock may be affected at the same time.

Animals exposed to affected water supplies may continue to die over a prolonged period. In milder cases, productivity losses may occur, which in dairy cattle may be seen as decreased milk yield.

What's on at

T R A W O O L

8150 Goulburn Valley Hwy, Trawool 57921444 [trawoolstate.com.au](http://trawoolstate.com.au)

### FEB 14th VALENTINE'S DAY

Exclusive Wine Dinner by Brave Goose in Turbine restaurant *limited seats available*  
Dine in Wild Water restaurant on Valentine's Day & receive  
*a complimentary glass of sparkling wine on arrival.*

### FEB 22nd DRAG TRIVIA

A more glamorous take on your traditional pub trivia! Grab your teammates and get to Trawool for this outrageous evening of fun and trivia!

### APRIL 5th MURDER MYSTERY AT TRAWOOL

A fun, interactive Murder Mystery evening throughout the hotel. Dining in Wild Water restaurant on a fabulous 3-course set menu in your finest 1920's outfits!

### APRIL 13th TRAWOOL WEDDING SHOWCASE

Group tours and personal time to chat with our wedding coordinators, to view the Estate and discuss your perfect day in more detail.

### JUNE 7th ABBA TRIBUTE SHOW

Come dressed in your ABBA best for an interactive night of sing-along fun. *Tickets include a welcome drink and a delicious two course meal.*

## Weekly Local's Specials

**KIDS EAT FREE** in Wild Water restaurant  
*when an adult meal is purchased*

**WEDNESDAYS** FISH AND CHIPS SPECIAL  
*\$25 with chips, salad & comp drink\**

**THURSDAYS** STEAK NIGHT  
*\$30 with chips, salad & comp drink\**

**EVERY DAY** HAPPY HOUR in Granite Bar

FIND OUT MORE AND TO BOOK



JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

# Game bird harvesting statistics rise in 2024 season

THE Game Management Authority (GMA) last week released the *Estimates of duck and Stubble Quail harvest in Victoria 2024* report.

Results show an estimated 391,900 game ducks were harvested in 2024, which is 22 per cent above the long-term average of 320,000.

## Woman arrested after Highlands CFA Burglary

ALEXANDRA Crime Investigation Unit detectives arrested a woman on Monday, January 13 after an alleged burglary and theft of a ute along with firefighting equipment from the Highlands CFA on Ghin Ghin Road on Thursday, January 9.

The ute, a 2006 Toyota Landcruiser with CFA markings, was allegedly stolen along with the equipment.

Police located the vehicle parked in a service station on Hume Highway, Tallarook and attempted to intercept it on January 10.

The Landcruiser ute allegedly collided with a police car, unoccupied at the time, before it drove away with police in quick pursuit.

Police lost sight of the Landcruiser which was located a short time later, abandoned on Hume Freeway, Wallan.

A 36 year old Melton South woman was arrested nearby. She was interviewed by detectives and is expected to be charged on summons. A male suspect is yet to be identified.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

Of the 21,383 licensed duck hunters, 60 per cent actively hunted in 2024. On average, active duck hunters harvested an estimated 30.3 ducks during the season over an average of 8.9 days.

The three most commonly harvested species were the Pacific Black Duck (39 per cent of the total harvest), Grey Teal (25 per cent of the total harvest) and Australian Wood Duck (24 per cent of the total harvest).

The most popular hunting areas, with the highest numbers of ducks harvested, were around the towns of Sale, Kerang, Boort, Horsham, and Shepparton.

Results also show an estimated 457,400 Stubble Quail were harvested in 2024. This is almost triple the long-term average of 159,000 and is the second largest Stubble Quail harvest since telephone surveys began in 2009.

Of the 25,788 hunters licenced to hunt Stubble Quail, 22 per cent actively hunted

in 2024. On average, active quail hunters harvested an estimated 79.4 Stubble Quail for the season over 8.5 days.

The most popular quail hunting areas were around the towns of Shepparton, Echuca, Rochester, Ballarat and Colac. The highest number of quail harvested were around the towns of Shepparton, Ballarat, Echuca, Rochester and Wangaratta.

GMA Director of Strategy and Research, Simon Toop said the research was based on information gathered from randomly selected licenced game bird hunters who voluntarily participated in the surveys.

“Favourable environmental and breeding conditions and more active hunters likely resulted in an increase in the number of ducks and quail harvested,” Mr Toop said.

“The information hunters provide helps build a stronger understanding of gamebird harvest trends and hunting activity in

Victoria and I’d like to thank all hunters who participated in the surveys.”

Throughout 2024, approximately 3458 licenced game bird hunters were surveyed to collect information about their hunting activity, including how many game birds were harvested, where hunting occurred, hunting methods used, and the species of game birds harvested.

The report provides estimates of the total harvests of ducks and Stubble Quail by Victorian Game Licence holders and provides insights on hunting activity during the seasons.

The report is produced annually by the GMA in collaboration with an independent telephone survey company and the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

For a full copy of the *Estimates of duck and Stubble Quail harvest in Victoria 2024* report, visit [gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research](http://gma.vic.gov.au/research/duck-research)

## Don't pump water if you don't have a licence

AFTER a spate of incidents in recent weeks, Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) is warning people against illegally pumping water from storages and waterways.

As the weather has become warmer and drier, there have been several cases of people parking at boat ramps or besides waterways on public roads and pumping water into their trailer tanks.

GMW Water Delivery Services General Manager Warren Blyth said people caught doing this would face legal action.

“The water stored in our lakes, dams and reservoirs belongs to entitlement holders,” Mr Blyth said.

“When people illegally take water from our storages and waterways, they are taking our customers’ water.

“Water is a valuable and limited resource. To ensure fairness in how it is used, we take a zero-tolerance approach to any form of unauthorised take.”

People who are caught pumping water from a GMW storage or waterway without the appropriate authorisations can be prosecuted for water theft under the *Water Act 1989*.

Mr Blyth said those in need of water, but lacking entitlements could contact GMW to discuss their options.

“Our diversions inspectors can help people with any questions about how they can gain authorisation to take water,” Mr Blyth said.

“People in urgent need of water also have the option of using emergency water supply points.”

There are about 300 emergency water supply points in Victoria. These are bores and standpipes that people can draw water from for emergency stock and domestic or rural needs.

People can search for nearby emergency water supply points on the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action website [water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points](http://water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points)

Those wanting to discuss their options for sourcing water can phone GMW on 1800 013 357.

People can use the same number to report any instances of water theft or send an email to [compliance@gmwater.coam.au](mailto:compliance@gmwater.coam.au)

**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



# Howitt Society advocates learning from history

by Garry Squires Secretary The Howitt Society

COULD a Los Angeles-type fire disaster occur in Victoria or anywhere else in Australia? The answer is clearly yes and it has already happened many times.

Recent examples in Victoria are February 2024 at Pomonal near the Grampians where 45 houses were lost and Mallacoota in 2020 where 128 houses were lost. While these were on a smaller scale than LA, and no lives were lost, the key factors leading up to the disasters were similar to LA, long unburnt fuels, dry conditions and residences close to the bush.

When adverse weather conditions including strong winds occurred, this ensured long distance spotting ahead of the main front and into the buildings in the towns, which were largely unoccupied as residents had already evacuated.

Of course, Victoria can go back to Black Saturday in 2009 where 173 people died, including 120 in the Kinglake area and 34 in Marysville, and where over 2000 houses were destroyed. In terms of loss of life, those fires were a far worse disaster than the current LA fires. Other Australian states have similar stories.

There is an important saying, “Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

Fire disasters are the result of the combination of meteorological conditions, topographical conditions, and fuel type and quantity. It is not possible to change the topography of an area and meteorological conditions are outside our control, so the only thing that can help mitigate the intensity of fires is to reduce fuel loads. No fuel equals no fire, less fuel equals less intense fire.

Broad scale fuel reduction programs are the proven way to reduce fuels over extensive areas. The Royal Commission after the 2009 fires recommended a minimum of five per cent of forests should be treated annually. The successful program in Western Australia targets six to eight per

cent annually. Victoria currently achieves about 1.3 per cent.

It is important that land managers learn from history and actively manage a comprehensive fuel management program across the forests of Victoria as part of mitigation against another fire disaster.

[The Howitt Society comprises many from across Victoria with long experience in fire prevention and mitigation. Garry Squires, the author of this release, is a retired senior Regional Forester and until recently was the Regional Manager of DEECA, Gippsland. Alexandra’s Peter Rice is the vice president of the organisation.]

# Include your pets in your fire plan

THE Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) Victoria are urging residents to include pets in their bushfire survival plans, amid the significant fire activity already impacting Victoria this summer.

Having bedding, food, and water ready to go for your furry friend could save valuable time in the event of a fire.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan emphasised the importance of being ready to leave early on high-risk bushfire days.

“While you should always prioritise your own safety ahead of your pets, your bushfire plan isn’t fully complete unless it accounts for them,” Jason said.

“When creating a plan, consider what your pets will eat and drink, how you will transport them, and where you are taking them.

“Once you have your kit prepared, keep it somewhere that’s easily accessible. Keep towels and woollen blankets on hand to protect pets during the journey and to keep them as cool as possible.

“Another valuable step is microchipping pets for easy identification and ensuring your phone number is visible on their collar. For horses and livestock, a separate plan is required.

“If you’re unable to evacuate livestock, the safest place is a large, well-grazed, and fenced area away from roads where they can move freely with access to water,” Jason said.

“Make sure you’re prepared. Late evacuation will put you and your animals at risk.”

RSPCA Victoria CEO Dr Liz Walker reiterated the importance of including pets in bushfire survival plans.

“Planning for emergencies is such a crucial part of life in Victoria particularly during the summer months,” Dr Walker said.

“Many people across the state already have a Fire Ready Plan in place, and we’re urging everyone to make sure their pets are included too.

“An emergency kit with medication, updated contact details on microchips and collars, photos or scans on your phone of important documents like vaccination certifications, are just some of the items to prepare in advance.

“Our pets are such an important part of our lives, including them in your Fire Ready plans increases the chances of you and your pet making it to safety in an emergency situation.”

For more information and tips on how to keep your pets and livestock safe during high bushfire risk days, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/pets](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/pets)



Make sure you include your beloved pets in your fire plan. -S

## UPCOMING FEATURES

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

Publishing: February 5      Deadline: January 30, 5pm

**Live Well, Feel Good**

Publishing: February 12      Deadline: February 4, 5pm

**Work Local**

Publishing: February 19      Deadline: February 13, 5pm

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

Publishing: March 5      Deadline: February 27, 5pm

## Campfire warnings on fire danger days

EMERGENCY services are urging campers to ensure they are aware of current fire danger ratings after 18 people were warned about unauthorised campfires in the state’s east last month.

Jamieson police and Jamieson CFA conducted a patrol of camping grounds in the Upper Goulburn State Forest between 7am and 11am on Boxing Day. This was a day of total fire ban due to the hot weather.

During this patrol, 18 people were found to have lit a campfire at their site, with the fires immediately dealt with by authorities.

With the exception of one site, all campers were in the area from metropolitan Melbourne.

Last week police issued a warning about the dangers of unextinguished campfires following an incident in Cape Otway this month that led to a bushfire.

About 14 hectares were burned during the fire on January 8 and approximately 150 people needed to be evacuated from nearby campsites.

Investigators from Forest Fire Management, Colac Crime Investigation Unit (CIU) and the Arson and Explosives Squad have determined the cause of the fire to be an unattended campfire which appears not to have been extinguished.

Police are now treating the bushfire as a criminal investigation and detectives from Colac CIU are appealing for any witnesses.

Emergency services are reminding campers that a recklessly lit fire such as a campfire on a total fire ban day can have the same outcome as a deliberately lit fire, including significant loss of life, serious injury and property damage.

Recklessly lit fires can include things like disobeying restrictions relating to Total Fire Bans or fire danger periods, leaving

campfires unattended, or using machinery during hot weather.

Police will investigate and take action to catch those responsible when a fire is deemed suspicious, whether it was a deliberate or reckless action.

Anyone found guilty of recklessly or intentionally causing a bushfire faces a penalty of up to 15 years imprisonment.

Detective Inspector Chris Murray from the Arson and Explosives Squad said, “It is absolutely critical that people are aware of the current fire danger rating and what it means for them, both before they head out on a trip and during the duration of the trip.

“The weather can change quickly, meaning people need to adjust their behaviour. It may mean that on one day a campfire is permitted but the next day it absolutely is not.

“The actions of these 18 people could have led to catastrophic consequences for their families and everyone around them. It could have resulted in the destruction of people’s properties and livelihoods, as well as irreparable damage to the local bushland.

“No life is worth a campfire and I again want to remind the community that if you light it, you own it, which includes all the consequences of your actions.”

Further information about bushfire arson and reckless fires is available on the Victoria Police website at [police.vic.gov.au/bushfire-arson](http://police.vic.gov.au/bushfire-arson)

Learn more about the Victoria Police and Crimestoppers ‘You Light It, You Own It, bushfire campaign at [crimestoppersvic.com.au/current-focus/bushfires/](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/current-focus/bushfires/)

Anyone who witnesses suspicious or reckless behaviour as it is occurring should call Triple Zero (000) and anyone with other information should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppers.com.au](http://crimestoppers.com.au)



# Council seeking input on Eildon Key Worker Housing design



WITH funding support from the Victorian Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund, Murrindindi Shire Council will be constructing dedicated key worker housing on two sites in Eildon, located at 10 Eighth Street and 18 Twenty-First Street. By providing essential housing, council is aiming to support the local economy, secure jobs, and sustain businesses.

This project stems from council's Key Worker Housing Strategy and will provide key workers and their families with access to quality local housing, allowing them to live and thrive within the community.

Council is inviting community members to share their perspectives on the design of the modular housing by completing a survey.

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

You can find the survey at [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/kwh](https://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/projects/kwh)

People can also join council at local pop-up events in Eildon to chat with council officers in person. These events are at the Eildon Bowls Club on Wednesday, February 12 from 5.30 to 7.30pm, the Eildon Visitor Information Centre on Friday, February 14 from 2 to 3pm, and at the Eildon Grocer on Friday, February 14 from 4 to 5pm.

Feedback closes at noon on Friday, February 21.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher said that providing housing for key workers is essential to supporting the sustainability and vitality of our community.

"Business owners and operators in Murrindindi Shire experience challenges attracting and retaining key workers, skilled professionals and seasonal staff. This is in part due to our rural location, limited public transport, and housing shortages. We have heard from local businesses that the shortage of housing and limited housing options are a barrier to them attracting and retaining staff. This project will help overcome these obstacles and support our local economy and businesses," he said.

Council's Deputy Mayor and Eildon Ward Councillor, Anita Carr added "Community feedback is vital in shaping the design of these houses, and we encourage everyone to share their ideas to help us create appropriate living spaces for our key workers that fit in with the character of Eildon."

## Stronger Communities grants

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines is inviting Expressions of Interest for round nine of the Indi Stronger Communities program.

Open to community organisations and local governments, grants between \$2500 and \$20,000 are available for community projects.

"Each year, the dedication and commitment of many local organisations to building a thriving community is recognised with funding to boost their local projects," Dr Haines said.

"Priority areas of focus for round nine of the programme include boosting tourism, supporting veterans and people with disabilities, and upgrading medical and sporting facilities.

Previous program rounds have funded projects such as kitchen upgrades at the Euroa Citizens Band, refurbishments at the Bonegilla Hall, and the installation of shade sails at Tangambalanga Active Park.

"Seeing these projects brought to reality, and the lasting benefits experienced by our communities has been an extraordinary highlight of being Indi's Independent MP."

A panel comprised of representatives of local governments and community groups will assess the Expressions of Interest, prior to successful proponents being invited to make applications, go to the Department of Industry, Science and Resources.

More information and to submit an Expression of Interest, please visit [helenhaines.org/grants](https://helenhaines.org/grants)

Expressions of Interest must be received by 5pm on Thursday, February 13.



**Best Start  
Best Life**

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

In 2025, Pre-Prep will be available for 16-30 hours per week in Murrindindi Shire.

Pre-Prep means more time to develop important social and emotional skills. Learning through play helps children explore, solve problems, communicate and create, while making friends - getting them ready for school and life.

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

# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Big yarding for Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale in Yea

by Bailey Dixon

THE Elders Yea Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale took place last week over two days for a total of 6159 cattle yarded and \$7.6 million turnover.

Wednesday saw 2842 cattle yarded, with the focus on Euro X steers and all breed heifers. The vast majority of the cattle sold on the day were Angus X heifers, numbering almost 2000. There were also around 350 British breed heifers sold, and over 150 Euro X steers and 150 Euro X heifers sold.

The top steer pen on Wednesday was Charolais breed and fetched around 397c/kg or \$1700, with a weight of 427.9kg. The top heifer pen sold for around 392c/kg or \$1590 with a weight of 405.3kg, marking a 42c increase over the top heifer pen in Yea on January 10.

These pens both sold for more and were weightier than the averages for the day, with average price per head coming in at \$1082 and the average weight being 316.5kg, meaning the average was 342c/kg.

Even more cattle were yarded on Friday, with a total of 3317 mixed Angus and British steers.

Prices rose over Wednesday, perhaps due to the heavier weights and popularity of Angus cattle. Average price per head was \$1410 and the average weight per head was 347.3kg, around 30kg heavier than the Wednesday sale. This meant the average price per head was 406c/kg.

Given there were only steers, the top pen fetched 406c/kg or \$1830 per head. These cattle were well clear of the average weight, pushing the scales to 450.4kg.

Members of the Victoria Police Eastern Region Proactive Unit visited the Yea Saleyards on both the Wednesday and the Friday to discuss farm safety with attendees, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital provided free skin checks on the Friday.

Coming off such a big annual sale, this Friday will see the Elders and Nutrien Combined Store Sale for January take place, starting at 9.30am.



Some of the Charolais cattle on offer at the Yea Saleyards last Wednesday. -BD

### The Trap

By Jed Dunstan



Sponsored by

**Alexandra Grain Store**  
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

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



### STOCK REPORT 17 JANUARY 2025

Elders Yea 38th Annual Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale   Day 2	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	3,317		
Average \$ per head	\$1,410		
Average weight per head	347.3kg		
Top price per head		\$1,830	N/A
Top weight		450.4kg	N/A
Turnover	\$4.64 million		



### STOCK REPORT 15 JANUARY 2025

Elders Yea 38th Annual Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale   Day 1	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	2,842		
Average \$ per head	\$1,082		
Average weight per head	316.5kg		
Top price per head		\$1,700	\$1,590
Top weight		427.9kg	405.3kg
Turnover	\$3.02 million		

# Big yarding for Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale in Yea



Participation in the Euro steers and all breed heifer sale in Yea last Wednesday was healthy. -BD



Gemma and Stella looking vibrant at the Elder's blue ribbon sale. -BD



Angus and British bred steers were sold last Friday, with a similar, if not better, turnout than the Wednesday sale. -BD



Members of the Victoria Police Proactive Unit were talking to cattle sale attendees about farm safety. Pictured are Leading Senior Constable Chris Di Ciero, Neil Beer, Senior Constable Donna Thompson, Jan Beer, and Leading Senior Constable Lisa Atkinson.

## On Farm Connectivity Program returns to support farmers

THE National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has welcomed funding for a third round of the On Farm Connectivity Program (OFCP).

Announced recently by the Minister for Communications, Michelle Rowland, the OFCP is designed to assist farmers to adopt advanced connected machinery and sensor technology.

In previous rounds of the program, farmers have benefited from a 50 per cent rebate on eligible equipment costs, including installation and training, with rebates ranging from \$1000 to \$30,000.

NFF President David Jochinke praised the value of the program, with funding

increased to a pool of \$20 million for round three.

"The NFF is a strong supporter of this program and the direct benefit it creates for farmers," Mr Jochinke said.

"Embracing connectivity and digital infrastructure is key to unlocking the productivity of the agricultural sector, but high upfront costs are often a barrier. This program is a smart investment for the government and a win for Australian farmers, who, through the NFF, have been calling for further rounds."

The NFF's Regional Tech Hub has resources and advice available for farmers seeking to access the program.

"I encourage farmers to get prepared for when applications open later this year. Find a spare moment to give the Regional Tech Hub a buzz and make the most of this opportunity," Mr Jochinke said.

"My advice to farmers however would be that like previous rounds, round three is likely to be oversubscribed. So if you're ready to buy some kit and the investment makes sense without the rebate, buy now."

Following the success of the two previous rounds and increasing industry interest, the NFF is calling on all sides of politics to get behind the program.

"This program has been a stroke of genius. As we head into an election, we

would like to see all parties support further funding for the program to give producers and agtech providers confidence that this funding will flow," Mr Jochinke said.

"Now more than ever, we need programs which support increased productivity and sustainability. The On Farm Connectivity Program does exactly that by allowing more farmers to adopt technology that makes their farms safer, more productive and more sustainable.

"The NFF will continue to work closely with government on the design of the program to ensure it remains equitable and accessible to farmers around the country."

**SAFER DRIVING  
STARTS WITH YOU**



Australian Government

**DON'T LET A CAR  
CHANGE WHO YOU ARE**

# Japanese encephalitis virus detected in northern Victoria

HOLIDAY makers and residents in the state's north are being reminded to remain vigilant against mosquitoes, following recent detections of the Japanese encephalitis virus.

Victoria's early warning mosquito surveillance program has identified the

virus in two mosquito traps in Moira Shire, the first mosquito-borne disease detections this season.

It follows similar recent detections in New South Wales and a confirmed human case of Japanese encephalitis identified in Victoria in December.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Tarun Weeramanthri, said the findings confirmed the virus was circulating in northern Victoria.

"Japanese encephalitis virus can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the brain and is spread to humans through bites from infected mosquitoes," Dr Weeramanthri said.

"If you're visiting northern Victoria, particularly inland riverine regions and near the Murray River, you're potentially at higher risk of infection.

"It's important to take steps to prevent mosquito bites so cover up, use repellent and limit your time outdoors when mosquitoes are about."

The Japanese encephalitis virus vaccine is free for eligible people in 24 high-risk local government areas in northern Victoria.

If camping or caravanning in high-risk areas of northern Victoria: Ensure mosquito screens are intact; close doors and tent flaps to stop mosquitoes getting inside; use a mosquito net if mosquito screens are not available; try to avoid camping near wetland habitats where mosquitoes are likely breeding.

There is no specific treatment available for Japanese encephalitis. The best prevention is to protect against mosquito bites. For people who develop Japanese encephalitis, treatment aims to reduce the severity of the symptoms and may include medication and admission to hospital.

For more information about Japanese encephalitis visit the Better Health Channel at [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/japanese-encephalitis](http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/japanese-encephalitis)

## Plenty of fish in the lakes

VICTORIAN fishers are in for a bumper season, with more chances to hook, line and sinker a Murray cod thanks to 10 years of record fish stocking by the state government.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos visited Karkarook Lake recently to release 6000 Murray cod fingerlings for fishers and to celebrate the government's continued investment in Victorian fishing.

"We want Victorians to get out and enjoy our great outdoors and there's no better time to wet a line, with 66 million fish stocked in the last decade, more than all other Australian states and territories combined," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"There are millions of reasons Victorian families should get out and drop a line this year, with dozens of lakes and rivers stocked across the state."

Since 2014, more than 66 million fish have been released across Victoria including golden perch, Australian bass, estuary perch, trout, salmon and dusky flathead. That is more stocking than all other Australian states and territories combined.

The fingerlings released today were produced at the Arcadia Native Fish Hatchery, near Shepparton, which is being upgraded to triple its size and will see it produce up to six million native fish each year, part of a \$15 million investment.

Since 2014, more than 22 million Murray cod have been stocked into Victorian waters at more than 60 locations across the state.

Several Victorian lakes are open year-round so fishers can wet a line and reel in a Murray cod including Lake Eppalock, Rocklands Reservoir and Lake Eildon. Since 2014,

Lake Eppalock alone has scored 2.4 million cod, with locals and visitors now catching increasing numbers of fish, which are likely upward of three to four years old.

Near the Grampians, Rocklands Reservoir has been stocked with millions of Murray cod since 2017, plenty of which are now being caught by freshwater anglers.

Several other waterways are flourishing thanks to record stocking and delivering benefits for nearby communities like Melton Reservoir, Cairn Curran, Taylors Lake near Horsham, Eildon and Lake Nillahcootie.

To find out more about some of the state's top fishing locations, head to [vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingdestinations](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingdestinations)

## Dale McKeon: The man behind the Yea Cruise Night

by Bailey Dixon

DALE McKeon is the mastermind behind the ever-popular Yea Cruise Night that fills the main street of Yea with classic cars once a month, bringing shiny fenders and the rumble of engines to Murrindindi Shire.

Famous around town for his toreador red 1958 Plymouth Belvedere and photography skills, this masthead sat down with Dale to talk about who he is and what he is passionate about.

"I've had it [a passion for classic cars] for a long time. My dad had an old car in the garage for years that was his from the 60s. It was a 1939 Ford, which he took off the road to do stuff to, bought all these parts for it, and never got back to it. It sat in the shed for pretty much my entire childhood, not going, but it was always there," Dale said.

"I had an aunty who had a car similar to that, which I always loved. It just stuck in my mind."

Dale's photography skills emerged when he took up the hobby following a major injury some years ago.

"The backstory on my photography is that I had a serious back injury about 2012-13. I had a double fusion in my lower back. I was doing metal fabrication at the time. I've been in metal trades my whole life. Basically, I had to give that up, I couldn't work, and I was off work for years," Dale said.

"Some of my hobbies took over, which was photography. While I was recovering, I bought a camera and mucked around a little bit. Once I was okay with life a bit, I went around to a few more car events and things like that. It really is just a hobby, and I enjoy that. I've been doing some community photos and stuff, and it's been good to do that."

Dale and his now-wife Amanda Price moved from Melbourne to Yea during COVID-19 and started looking around for car events and clubs.

"In Melbourne, we moved up from Croydon in the eastern suburbs, and we went to a lot of car events down that way often. When we moved here, the first thing was to get on Facebook and see what events are going on around here to go and do stuff. I could see there wasn't a lot," Dale said.

With a clear niche to fill, Dale contacted Jim Wolstencroft, then-president of the Bushrodders Rod and Custom Club, and



Founder of the Yea Cruise Night Dale McKeon with his striking 1958 Plymouth Belvedere in the main street of Yea, where the cruise night takes place. -BD

pitched him the idea of running an event in Yea. The pair now work together at Deluxe Rod Shop just outside of Yea.

"I messaged as you do... I'd seen they'd [Bushrodders Rod and Custom Club] previously run some events in town, but I think the last one was 2017. There wasn't a lot happening, and that [COVID] sort of stopped them from having different events," Dale said.

"One thing led to another, I met him, and I said I had an idea... I was thinking about doing something here. He was very encouraging and said let's just do it. We created a Facebook page and put an event out with no council approval or anything, just a social gathering of like-minded people.

"It's an empty main street, if you've got an old car bring it along. It was very casual to begin with."

The Yea Cruise Night began in December 2021 and has flourished into a major event that brings the town to life. Many of the shops in the main street of Yea sponsor the cruise night, and the Yea Community House handle the logistical side of the event.

Dale and Amanda are the dynamic duo who capture the essence of the cruise night in the form of photography, sharing their pictures online. Dale handles the car photography, while Amanda wanders the main street taking pictures of the crowd and families enjoying the event.

This gives a good perspective of how the event imbues Yea with a special buzz once a month on a Saturday night. Dale spoke

about the healthy connection between the cruise night and the Yea residents.

"The amount of local people that came [at the start], and continue to come and support it, has surprised me a little bit. We started it for car people, but lots of families and kids and whatever come down for the night and it's something to do in Yea. They've been really supportive, which is good," Dale said.

Since starting the Yea Cruise Night, Dale now works at Deluxe Rod Shop, with the job evolving from the owner, Steven Alldrick, enlisting Dale to take photos and improve the shop's social media footprint.

"I met Steven, who is the owner of Deluxe. After we started the cruise night, he initially wanted some photography work for his business. That was the real reason I went there. He got in touch with me and said he wanted to improve his social media. He didn't have time to take photos, he's too busy building hot rods," Dale said.

"I went there initially to go and do that, but we talked, and he realised I could weld and use a lathe and do some metal work from my previous life. I hadn't worked in that game since my back injury, so I just eased myself back into work there, so now I do three days a week there and photos and stuff for him. Building hot rods at Deluxe is great, I enjoy it.

"I moved here and one thing led to another, it wasn't my intention. But obviously I do something that appeals to people," Dale concluded.

## Murrindindi's median house price falls

MEDIAN house prices in Murrindindi Shire have not fared well over the last 12 months, according to a recent report from Domain.

Murrindindi Shire's median house price dropped by 11.9 per cent from December 2023 to December 2024, from \$732,500 to \$645,000. The longer term growth remains positive however, with a five year increase of 44.4 per cent, starting at \$446,750 in December 2019.

In the surrounding area, the annual median price decreased by 7.1 per cent in Alpine Shire, and increased by 3.3 per cent in Mitchell Shire. There wasn't enough data for Mansfield, Yarra Ranges and Strathgogie to be determined.

The only regional Victorian shire with a larger fall in median house value than Murrindindi was Colac Otway Shire with a 13.3 per cent drop, and equal to Murrindindi Shire with a 11.9 per cent drop was Yarriambiack.

Many city dwellers were keen to move to regional Victoria during COVID-19. In recent times, this may have shifted with many office workers needing to return to the centralised office, post-COVID-19.

Melbourne house prices increased by almost \$16,000 (1.6 per cent) over the December quarter to \$1.039 million. It is the first quarterly gain in a year and the largest in three years.

Notably, it's the first time in about four years that Melbourne has recorded stronger positive quarterly growth than Sydney. This improvement has softened the pace of annual decline, with house prices down by almost \$11,000 (-1.0 per cent), making Melbourne the only capital city to record a decline in house prices over 2024.

Despite the positive shift over the quarter, Melbourne has struggled to enter a sustained recovery over the past three years, with conditions remaining subdued. The positive change in the final quarter of 2024 means Melbourne house prices are about one-quarter into a recovery, though they remain almost \$54,000 (-4.9 per cent) below their December 2021 peak.

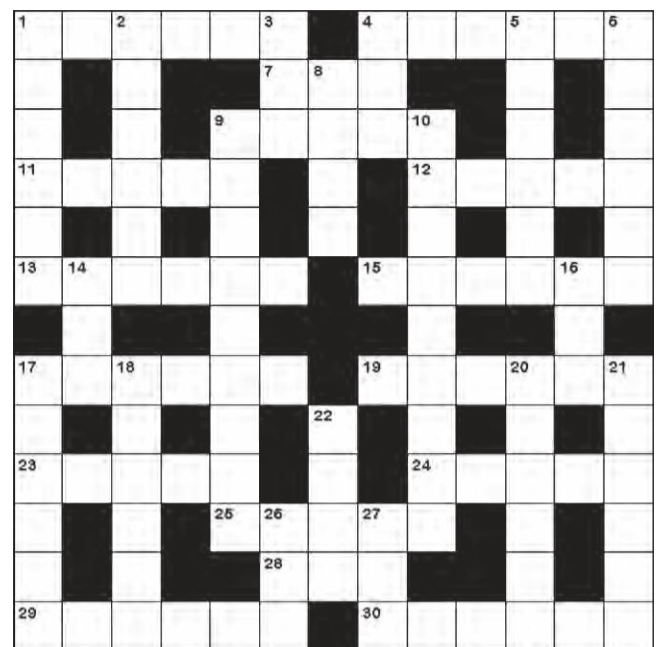
Melbourne unit prices increased by almost \$12,000 (2.1 per cent) over the December quarter to \$577,405. This is the strongest quarterly gain in 1.5 years and brings unit prices to their highest level in 2.5 years. Despite this quarterly reacceleration, annual growth has continued to slow, and has halved compared to the previous year. Units have consistently outperformed houses over the past two years, narrowing the price gap between property types to just over a two-year low. A house now costs 80 per cent more than a unit.

# PUZZLES

## SOLUTIONS Page 15

### Crossword

- ACROSS**
- A small tasty bit of food.
  - Full of high-spirited delight.
  - Be obliged to pay or repay.
  - The permanent end of a life.
  - A daughter of your brother or sister.
  - Come to an understanding.
  - Capable of causing death.
  - The most unusual.
  - Trainees a military academy.
  - Feel remorse for.
  - Large black bird with a straight bill.
  - Maliciously setting fire to property.
  - Person who makes a gift.
  - A limb used for walking.
  - Run naked in a public place.
  - A severe or trying experience.
- DOWN**
- Burrow a way through.
  - A misleading falsehood.
  - One of the digits of the foot.
  - The blackest of black.
  - Violently agitated and turbulent.
  - Right down at the bottom.
  - A baton used by a magician.
  - Moving away from one place to another.



- The shaped bar used to steer a bicycle.
- A distinctive period of time.
- Take legal action against another.
- A travelling company of entertainers.
- Eat everything up greedily.
- Save from danger or harm.
- A thread with glittering metal foil attached.
- A teeming multitude.
- A certain type of person.
- An exaggerated sense of self-importance.

### Word Search

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

### Australia Day

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| AUSTRALIANFLAG | NT              |
| CANBERRA       | QUEENSLAND      |
| CRICKET        | SOUTH AUSTRALIA |
| KANGAROO       | TASMANIA        |
| KOALA          | VICTORIA        |
| NEWSOUTHWALES  | WA              |

### Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
12				1				
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
								3
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	

$$\frac{A}{12} \frac{A}{4} \frac{A}{15} \frac{A}{12} \frac{A}{19} \frac{A}{16} \frac{E}{1}$$

$$\frac{A}{12} \frac{A}{25} \frac{A}{24} \frac{A}{14} \frac{R}{3} \frac{A}{12} \frac{A}{23} \frac{A}{6} \frac{A}{12}$$

$$\frac{A}{20} \frac{A}{12} \frac{R}{6} \frac{R}{3}$$

### Math Square

	-		-		-11
x		-		+	
8	x		+		77
-		x		+	
3	-		x		-1
13		-3		16	

**Fill in the missing numbers.**

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

### Sudoku

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

### 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.



A huntsman spider. -Bidgee

## Fun facts about huntsman spiders

HUNTSMAN spiders are harmless to humans. They rarely bite us, but when they do, it's likely to cause only mild pain and can be treated with a cold pack.

Only the badge huntsman (*Neosparassus diana*) bite can produce unpleasant symptoms, including localised pain and swelling, sweating, nausea and vomiting.

No-one has ever died from a huntsman bite in Australia, however if you are concerned after a bite, seek medical attention.

The huntsman spider diet includes cockroaches, mosquitoes and other insects, as well as small skinks and geckoes. They don't build webs to catch them, but instead either ambush the insects or run them down and bite them to immobilise them. Cockroaches are their favourite food.

Huntsman spiders do create webs, but only to create daytime retreats or to protect their young.

There are around 200 different species of huntsman spiders in Australia, 94 of which have been described, and 1363 worldwide. One of Australia's huntsman spiders, the tiger huntsman, was only discovered in 2006 in far north Queensland and is yet to gain a scientific name.

In the bush, they tend to live in the bark of trees or under rocks, however they also like to live in homes or cars. They tend to be most active at night, and when it's raining or humid.

Delena cancerides, or social huntsman, are the only species of huntsman spider which

live together, and there can be hundreds of them in the one location. They hunt and raise offspring together. They're often found on dead acacia trees.

There's a species of huntsman spider, which sadly does not appear in Australia called *Heteropoda davidbowie*.

The wheel spider, a species of huntsman which lives in the Namib Desert in Africa, quite literally cartwheels down hills to escape predators. The videos are fantastic, and we recommend that you look them up.

The fastest huntsman is the golden huntsman. It has been recorded travelling at a speed of 110 centimetres per second.

Huntsman spiders have eight eyes divided into two rows. All the better to see you with my dear.

The average huntsman leg span is 15cm. The giant huntsman spider, which lives in Laos, has a leg span of up to 30cm.

Male huntsman spiders use sound to attract a mate. This can be heard by humans and tends to sound like a quartz clock ticking.

A female huntsman spider can lay up to 200 eggs.

Huntsman spiders live for about two years. They must shed their skin to grow, and this skin can often be found by humans.

Their predators include birds, geckos, spider wasps, nematode worms and egg parasites of wasps and flies.



Heteropoda davidbowie. -Zleng

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

**ANIMAL SERVICES**



**Behaviourist and Certified Master Dog Groomer**

**0418 556 001**  
www.pinkdog.com.au

**BOOKKEEPING**



**TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING**

**Qualified Local Bookkeeper**

**Ph Trevor Turner**  
**0419 575 176**

**ELECTRICIANS**



**J. WILLIAMS ELECTRICAL**

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

**0439 842 030**

**EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING**

**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  
keathsex@bigpond.com



**Taggerty Vet Clinic**

**Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc**  
**0403 012 996**

Consultations strictly by appointment

All Animals Large & Small

**BRICKLAYING**

*Alexandra*

## BRICKLAYING CONCRETE & PAVING

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

**0409 190 502**

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



**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

**EXCAVATOR HIRE**

---- FOR HIRE ----

D6T dozer	D5M dozer
Cat 12 h/grader	Tipper
16T excavator	Water cart

Hay and Silage

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

**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

**BUILDERS & CARPENTERS**



**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

**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**

**AUTOMOTIVE**



**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

**CARPET CLEANING**



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

**Ph 0427 322 124**  
admin@gvrestorations.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**



- 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**

**LEGAL SERVICES**



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

**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**

**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

Like us on **facebook**

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

## LEGAL SERVICES

### Louise Brennan BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

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

## MECHANICAL REPAIRS

**Boz  
Miljkovic**  
Mechanic

### 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

### 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

### A.M. & J. ROBINSON

Reg No. 17625

### Plumbing Maintenance

Tap repairs and replacement  
High pressure sewer jetter  
Small excavator hire

MOB: 0428 509 359

### A & C Wood PLUMBING

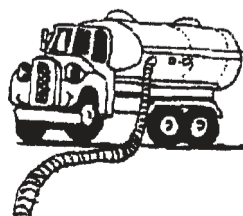
Lic. No. 108688

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



EPA LICENCED  
~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841  
0419 131 958

EFTPOS & Credit  
Cards Accepted

## 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.



Ampol Alexandra  
Ampol Eildon  
Mansfield Diesel Stop AMPOL

0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

## 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



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

FULLY  
INSURED



- 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 **0449 810 683**  
Michael on (03) 5778 7479

## WATER BORING

### North West Drilling

### Water Bores

Extensive experience in drilling for water in Mansfield,  
Alexandra and surrounding areas.  
Established since 1976

For answers to all your questions and a  
no obligation free quote contact GRAHAM BRENNAN  
Phone/Fax: (03) 9436 1982 Mobile: 0409 362 289  
northwest.drilling@bigpond.com  
www.northwestdrilling.com.au

## WATER BORING

No water, no charge  
after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray  
**0428 518 159**



The Marysville winners at the recent Alexandra Murrindindi Masters. From left to right: Naomi Gist, Adam Littlejohn, Margaret Blair, Helen Howard, and Sabrina Stow. S

## Jam packed January for Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

HAVING completed a successful 2024 with the Medal of Medalists and presentation day the Marysville golfers are now following the 2025 syllabus which lists events at the club and throughout the Dalhousie District.

On Saturday, January 11 approximately 27 members played in the second round of the FoodWorks Murrindindi Masters at Alexandra and there were some very pleasing results. At each of the four rounds of the Masters the lady and man with the best score of the day wins a Mini Masters trophy. Congratulations to Marysville members Margaret Blair and Adam Littlejohn for winning the Alexandra Mini Master trophies. Other Marysville winners were Sabrina Stow, Helen Howard, and Naomi Gist. Congratulations to all the winners. FoodWorks are thanked for their ongoing generous sponsorship of this annual event and the Alexandra golfers thanked for their hospitality. Golfers next gather at Yea on Saturday, February 1 for the third round of this popular event.

Last Saturday both the men and ladies played stableford and the men's round included the first round of the Barton Shield. The ladies winner was Heather Jenkins (17) with an excellent 39 points followed by Gail Leigh (13) with 35 points. The men's winner was Ray Jones (22) with 40 points followed

closely by Alex Bullard (27) with 39 points on a countback from Kevin King a visitor from Yea Golf Club. The qualifiers for the Barton Shield final later in the year were Ray, Alex, Mark Bambery and Paul Martin. The nearest the pins were won by Andrew O'Shea, Mark Bambery, Heather Jenkins and Gail Leigh who also won the golden shot. After play Rick, Brendan and Kevin from Yea Golf club were welcomed. It was great to see them playing at Marysville while their course was out of action due to the Yea Races. Celebrations to honour the birthdays of Alan Howard and Peter Lilley were held and those present enjoyed eating Helen Howards delicious scones, jam and cream.

On Friday, January 10 a very successful golf clinic was held at the club. Travis Harrison a professional coach based at Spring Valley Golf Club travelled to Marysville to coach the participants. The feedback from all those who participated has been very positive. Members thank Travis for sharing his great teaching skills, Heather Jenkins for organising the clinic and all those who supported the initiative.

Next Saturday a stroke round will be played followed by the Murrindindi Masters at Yea on February 1 and the Liesfield four ball best ball on February 8. Please note that if required, the emergency date for the Murrindindi Masters is on Saturday, March 22.

## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

### CRYPTOGRAM

### ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

### SUDOKU

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

### CROSSWORD

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

### MATH SQUARES

	-		-		-11
x		-		+	
8	x		+		77
-		x		+	
3	-		x		-1
13		-3		16	

# Classifieds

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



## 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.

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

### PUBLIC NOTICES



#### PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION IN DEVILS RIVER

Telstra plans to upgrade a telecommunications facility on the existing 30m monopole at Skyline Road, Devils River VIC 3714 (RFNSA No. 3713002)

- The proposed facility consists of the following to improve Telstra's mobile phone network, including 4G / 5G:
  - Removal of Six (6) existing panel antennas (RPX310B-V1) from the existing triangular headframe
  - Installation of Six (6) Three new panel antennas (RVVPX310.11B-T2H) on the existing triangular headframe
  - Internal works within the shelter
  - Other ancillary equipment including Remote Radio Units (RRUs), Tower Mounted Amplifiers (TMAs), hybrid cables, feeders, signage.
- Telstra regards the proposed installation as a 'Low impact' Facility under the Telecommunications (Low Impact Facilities) Determination 2018, based on the description above. The proposed infrastructure will comply with the ACMA EME regulatory arrangements. Note: No increase to overall tower height.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Planning Consultant on behalf of Telstra, via email to [planning.vic@servicestream.com.au](mailto:planning.vic@servicestream.com.au), phone: via +61 401 646 546, via post to Planning Consultant, Servicestream, Level 7, 25 Smith Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150 by 5pm, Thursday 6 February 2025.

Service Stream Ltd ABN 46 072 369 840 Telstra Ltd ACN 086 174 781

### PUBLIC NOTICES



Book your classified ad by 12 noon Monday.

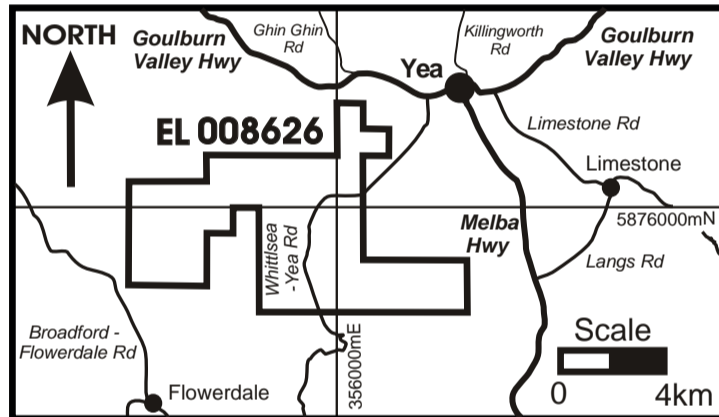
PLEASE NOTE: All classifieds must be paid by cash, cheque or credit card at the time of booking.



Ph 5772 1002

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN EXPLORATION LICENCE Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 – Section 15(5) Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) (Mineral Industries) Regulations 2019 – Regulation 22(1) and Schedule 1



- Name and address of applicant(s):** CLONBINANE GOLDFIELD PTY LTD, Level 21, 459 Collins Street, MELBOURNE, VIC 3000 Telephone 0413 605 155
- Contact details of applicant** (for map and other information requests): Telephone No – 1800 717 638 Email – [community@southerncrossgold.com.au](mailto:community@southerncrossgold.com.au) Applicant's website: Further information about this application is available at the following website: [www.southerncrossgold.com.au](http://www.southerncrossgold.com.au)
- Details of the application:**  
Application Number: EL008626  
Locality of the land to which the application relates: Approximately 3 km southwest of Yea in Central Victoria  
Approximate area of application (Graticular Sections): 52 grats  
Date of the application: 9 January 2025  
Term the licence is applied for: 5 years  
Outline of the proposed program of work: Clonbinane Goldfield is exploring for gold and antimony mineralization. Proposed work includes historical research, structural modelling, mapping and surface sampling, geophysical surveys, drilling of targets. Community engagement is to be undertaken through all stages of exploration.
- Objections or Comments:**  
Any person may object or comment to a licence being granted. (Sections 24 and 24A, Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990). A person who objects or comments must:
  - put the objection or comment in writing; and
  - include the grounds on which it is made.
 All objections or comments must be lodged within 21 days after the latest date on which the application was advertised and can be lodged online or posted to: The Minister for Energy and Resources, c/- Manager Licensing, Earth Resources Regulator, PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 8002. It is recommended that objections or comments are lodged online at [rram-vic.gov.my.site.com/ObjectionSubmission](http://rram-vic.gov.my.site.com/ObjectionSubmission) to ensure timely consideration. Enquiries can be made by writing to the Manager Licensing at the above address or by phoning the Earth Resources Information Centre on 136 186.
- Other Information:**
  - Subject to other requirements being satisfied, an exploration licence, if granted, entitles the holder of the licence to explore and search for minerals in the relevant land, but does not entitle the holder to undertake mining.
  - Further information regarding the requirements that must be complied with prior to work being undertaken is available at the department's Community & Land Use page: [resources.vic.gov.au/community-and-land-use](http://resources.vic.gov.au/community-and-land-use)

### DEATH NOTICES

**BELLMAN, Ron**  
Geoffrey Allan.  
'Ronnie'

22/01/1964 -  
14/01/2025

Adored husband, soul mate and best friend of Laurinda. Proud Dad, best mate and mentor to Jake. Beloved son/step son of Doc(dec) and Bev, Pat and Barry. Much loved brother, brother in law, step brother and uncle/funcle of Sue, Helen, Laurene, Lana, Kylie, Brett and families. Loved and respected son in law of Linda and Bob, friend of Ron Peterson. Loved nephew and cousin. Here for a good time, not a long time.

Forever in our hearts.  
"Hoo roo"

**BELLMAN, Ron**  
Geoffrey Allan.  
'Ronnie'

22/01/1964 -  
14/01/2025.

Babe, 26½ years of a beautiful life together full of fun and so much love and adoration. We had everything, now it feels like I have nothing. What was left of my heart is now with you. Life is so unfair. It isn't goodbye as you are with me every minute of every day.

True love is forever. Until we meet again, Laurinda. xx



PS. You are in good company where I'm sure the VB is cold and plentiful.

**BELLMAN, Ron**  
Geoffrey Allan.

Son of Pat and stepson of Barry. Brother of Sue, Helen, Laurene and Coby. Uncle of Jordan and Lily, Allie and Darcy.

Loved and remembered always. ❤️

**BELLMAN, Ronny.**  
Loving brother to Laurene, brother in-law to Coby, kind and caring Funcle to Darcy. He is a piece of us that we will never be able to replace. We thought we had many more years together. Life just feels so unfair. But we will hold onto the memories and raise a VB or two to you. We will forever miss you. Love and thoughts are with Laurinda and Jake.

### DEATH NOTICES

**BELLMAN, Ron**  
Geoffrey Allan.  
'Ronnie/Funcle'

22/01/1964 -  
14/01/2025

Much loved brother in law, mate, big brother to Lana and Mick. Adored funcle of Eva and Asha. Your memory we will always treasure, in our hearts you will stay forever.

Cheers Func and hoo roo



**BELLMAN, Ron**  
Geoffrey Allan.

22/01/1964 -  
14/01/2025.

To my dad and best mate, you've shown me what it takes to be a great dad, husband and friend. I only hope that I can do the same. You'll be dearly missed and continue to influence every part of my life.

Love you dad, Jake.

**BELLMAN, Ron.**

Beloved nephew of Betty and Steve, cousin of Tony, Jeff, Matt and Melissa.

Passed too early, will be sadly missed.

Gone but not forgotten.



**COURT,**  
Anthony Robert.  
3757262

The President, Committee and members of Yea-Kinglake RSL regret the passing of our respected member Tony on January 1, 2025.

Condolences to the family.  
**Lest We Forget**

**LISTER, Alice.**

02/04/1925 -  
09/01/2025

She potters no more in her garden, or walks her puppy down the path. Her 99 years were extraordinary. You will forever live in our hearts.

Cherished wife of Doug(dec). Dear mum of Ian(dec) Fay and Wayne. Adored grandmother of Kerrie, Sally and Scott, Karlie and Jason, Andrea and Kevin, Daniel. Great grandmother of eight. Great great grandmother of two.



For local news and updates: Like us at [facebook.com/AlexandraNewspapers](https://facebook.com/AlexandraNewspapers)



# Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today!

## DEATH NOTICES

## DEATH NOTICES

## FUNERAL NOTICES

## FUNERAL NOTICES

having a celebration?

need invitation



**CALL NOW!**

5772 1002

or email us on

reception@alexandranewspapers

**McEVOY, Michael**  
Paul  
11/01/1948-04/01/2025  
Michael passed peacefully at Aurrum Aged Care Healesville. Michael was eternally grateful for the caring staff of Aurrum and Darlingford and thankful for the wonderful and exceptional care extended to him during his stay with them. Michael will be sadly missed by his family and friends  
Rest in Peace.

**SEATON, William**  
Duncan (Bill).  
31/08/1935 - 12/01/2025  
Passed peacefully at Alexandra District Health. Brother to Fiona. Husband of Eleanor (dec). Loved partner to Sue. Best mate and dear friend to Pete, Lisa, Jaymie and family. A true gentleman now at rest.  
  
In keeping with Bill's wishes, a private cremation has been held.

**BELLMAN, Ron**  
Geoffrey Allan.  
'Ronnie'  
A gathering to celebrate Ronnie's Life will be held at The Rubicon Hotel, Thornton on Friday, February 7, 2025 commencing at noon.  
  
Casual dress code.

**McEVOY.**  
A graveside service will be held for Michael on Friday, January 24, 2025 at Alexandra Lawn Cemetery commencing at 11am  
  
McCormack FUNERALS Inc. BARRFORD Murrumbidgee  
Peace of Mind  
A.F.D.A 1800 080 909  
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

McCormack FUNERALS Inc. BARRFORD Murrumbidgee  
Peace of Mind  
A.F.D.A 1800 080 909  
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

## 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. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea.  
beckysfreerange@gmail.com

**LISTER, Alice.**  
A funeral service celebrating the life of Alice will be held at Murrindindi Chapel 21 Johnston street, Alexandra on Thursday, January 23, 2025 commencing at 10.30am followed by a private burial.

McCormack FUNERALS Inc. BARRFORD Murrumbidgee  
Peace of Mind  
A.F.D.A 1800 080 909  
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

**SEATON, Bill.** Friend and neighbour of the Swanton family.

## GARAGE SALES

**ALEXANDRA, 5 Aitken Street.**  
Saturday, January 25 from 8am - 3pm. Collectable, vintage items, vintage cream separator, electric scooter, motor oil bottles, ginger demijohn, antiques and heaps more.

## BARGAINS UNDER \$100

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



## SITUATION VACANT

## SITUATION VACANT



# NOW HIRING FINANCE OFFICER.

The Reddrop Group is looking for a Finance Officer to join our Finance Team based at Alexandra FoodWorks.

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

As a Finance Officer you will be responsible for a broad range of tasks including supplier invoicing, balancing daily sales, data management and problem solving.

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

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

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

**R E D D R O P**  
**G R O U P**



**Job Opportunity: Station Team Leader**

**Location: Eildon Power Station, Victoria**

**Apply By: February 3, 2025 to [Apocock@agl.com.au](mailto:Apocock@agl.com.au)**

About Us: AGL is seeking a skilled Station Team Leader to manage operations and maintenance at Eildon Power Station and Rubicon hydroelectric infrastructure.

### Key Responsibilities:

- Lead and motivate a multi-disciplinary team for daily operations and maintenance.
- Ensure safe, efficient work practices and adherence to HSE standards.
- Promote effective use of SAP for maintenance planning and execution.
- Oversee routine and unplanned maintenance activities.
- Assist in planning and managing HSE hazards and risks.

### Requirements:

- Relevant trade or engineering qualification.
- Leadership experience in remote sites, preferably in hydro or gas power plants.
- Strong commitment to safety and operational excellence.
- Experience in contracts and budget management is a plus.

### Benefits at AGL:

- Discounts on energy, telcos, and solar plans.
- Participate in Energise - our reward and recognition program.
- Access 20 weeks of paid parental leave for the primary carer.
- Play an active role in our diversity and inclusion initiatives.
- Novated leasing and Electric Vehicle subscriptions.
- Access to study assistance, AGL's share purchase plan, and insurance deals.
- Relocation packages available for the right candidate.

\*Benefits may change over time and vary based on role type and location.

## SPORT

# Back to business for Alexandra Golfers

by Dave Silverman

AFTER the tumult of Christmas, the Community Challenge and the Masters, last week was positively mundane by comparison.

Last Tuesday's Stableford round was played early due to the heat, and the best score of the 12 recorded was Russell Purcell, who had 40 points. In second place, also with 40, was Graeme Emmerson, and John Greatorex came in third on 36. John also claimed the nearest the pin on seven, while 18 went to Leo Dynes, who took home a voucher in the rundown, along with Greg Millard and Frank DeVries.

Ten ladies teed off on Wednesday in round two of the 2025 Summer Cup. Play was completed, but there were storms all around by the time the round was finished. Sandy Wettenhall revelled in the conditions, carding a very impressive 43 points to street the field. Her nearest rival was Barb Doyle on 39, with Deb Richardson in third, also with a score of 39. Barb also took off the nearest the pin on 18, with two going to Sue Greatorex, and five being claimed by Marie Stace. Sandra Morris was the nine hole comp winner with 19 points.

With two rounds played, and two to play with the best three to count, there is only three points separating first and second on the ladder.

Thursday night's chook run attracted a field of eighteen players, and as usual, a fun time was had by all. Nick Wall was the winner with a net 23, with Eoin (an Irishman who appears to have no surname) in second with 26 and Ryan Carter in third with a net 28.

A beautiful, fine, sunny morning with light winds, perfect weather for Saturday golf, and 20 of our members couldn't resist the lure of the course. The winner, with 40 points, was Ruth Worland, with John Norfolk in second also on 40. Third place went to Alison Rouget with 36, Len Jenkins was fourth on 36 and fifth was Michael Bossonnet at 36.

Nearest the pins went to Dan Burns on two, Luke Heard on five and 18, John Norfolk on seven and Todd Galloway on 12.

The winner of the weekly meat raffle was Jan Petrzela.

The new website is edging closer to completion, I'm told, but in the meantime, you can stay informed by accessing the club's Facebook page.



On Saturday Jan Petrzela, Steve Wersham, and Greg Millard on the ninth. -S



Darmmody and Burns on the 14th. -S



Todd Galloway and Simon Rouget play the Chook Run. S



Last Wednesday Sandra Morris chips up on the eighth. -S



On Saturday Michael Bossonnet tees off on 12. -S

## Good turnout for Yea Cup

THE Yea Races were on again last Saturday, this time for the Nutrien Ag Solutions Yea Cup, with warm conditions and large crowds in attendance.

Newly elected Yea Racing President Alister Tait, who took up the position at the end of last year, spoke positively about the meeting.

"It was one of our better cup meetings that we've had for a long time. The official figures aren't in yet, but we well and truly believe we had our 1500 spectators there, including our industry staff," Alister said.

"That was good for us. That's a very good number for a picnic country meet. And being our cup meet it was great. Great to see the crowd there.

"The track rode in good form all day, which is a credit to our track staff. We had plenty

of prior bookings, so our umbrella packages and more were booked well and truly in advance, so we had a good idea of how many were coming. Sacred Heart Primary School, they were catering, and they had a heads up for the barbecue and all that sort of stuff. It was good to have the early bookings, which is always a good thing."

The club had a number of activities for children at the event as well.

"We are a family-friendly club. There was free face painting, free pony rides, and then also Kelly sports which go around to all the Country Racing Victoria tracks and do the activities with all the kids," Alister said.

"And every kid got a race day pack, which is a backpack with an assortment of stuff,

water pistols, towels, water bottles, a lot of stuff. That was great for them.

"Apart from the cup, which the cup was the biggest part of it, there was also fashions on the field, which is getting up there as one of the bigger ones in the area now. Credit to my wife Lyndal Tait who organised that, she coordinated that."

Alister also thanked his fellow committee members for their hard work, in the form of secretary Sarah Austin, treasurer Pauline McDowell and vice-president Denis Smith.

"It was a great result. The feedback from it is phenomenal. It was a really, really good day. There were no issues, crowd control was not a problem, there were still people sitting there at 6pm and we had to say sorry we need to shut up now, and they were still

sitting there under their umbrellas and under the trees having a great time," Alister said.

"Jack Vigora was the jockey that rode the cup winner for Jason Bridgman. That was his first picnic country cup win, so that was a great thing for him to get his first win at a picnic cup. And Grant Secombe retired, he had his last ride ever as a jockey. He's moved on to a new career. So, he finished up on Saturday, riding out his career at Yea. That was another highlight."

The next round of the Yea Races will take place on Sunday, February 23, in the form of the LAWD Agribusiness Sister Olive St Pats Cup.

More information can be found at [country.racing.com/yea/calendar/2025/02/23/ultima-st-pats-sister-olive-handicap](http://country.racing.com/yea/calendar/2025/02/23/ultima-st-pats-sister-olive-handicap)

# Bowls pennant season is back on track

by Marie Evans

THE Bowls Pennant season has resumed and both the women's and men's club singles championships have been completed. Congratulations to Lauren Gilchrist who is the Women's Club Champion and to Larry Scott the Men's Champion.

Club championship games are decided by first to 25 shots. Lauren played Denice Chisholm in a 19 end game and was the winner 25 to nine. Larry played Ken Argent in a long and closely fought contest. The game lasted for 28 ends and could have gone either way. It was 22 all on end 26. Larry won the last two ends to win 25 to 22. Both champions are now eligible to play in the Champion of Champions rounds in the Goulburn Valley Playing Area in February.

Midweek pennant played away to East Shepparton with some very tight results. David Nicklos (Skip), Ken Argent, Trevor Stewart and Denice Chisholm won ten out of 21 ends. It was a very close game throughout. Alexandra trailed 11 to 14 on end 19 but in a great comeback won the last two ends to win 17 to 14.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Mal Gill, Mark Stone and Levi Ronalds were four all on end six but trailed four to nine on end eight. They won the next four ends to lead 10 to nine. At end 15 East Shep had regained the lead and were 13 to 10 up. In a game that was too close to call Alexandra won the next three ends to lead to 16 to 13. End 20 and Alexandra held a three shot lead 17 to 14. Not to be denied East won the last end with three shots and it was a drawn game 17 to 17.

Bob Mayfield (Skip), John Blamey, Marty Manning and Christine Mayfield despite winning 10 ends had a game of mainly one shot wins whereas their opposition picked up some multiple shots throughout. Alexandra outplayed their opposition after the break winning seven shots to three but the damage had been done early. East won 28 to 12.

East Shepparton won the overall 59 to 46. Alexandra plays Dookie away next week who are sixth on the ladder.

Division four played away to Dookie last Saturday. Alexandra had only one winning rink but was able to win the overall due to a great victory from Greg Gilmore (Skip), Ian Harper, Mal Gill and Lauren Gilchrist. They led for the entire game and won 12 ends. The final score was 26 to 13. A very timely win

as the other three rinks had much tighter losing games.

David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier and Saxon Langmead led 12 to seven on end 14. However, Dookie came home strongly and won five out of the last seven ends to win 15 to Alexandra 14.

Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, John Blamey and Denice Chisholm won eleven ends. They had a good pick up on the last two ends to secure four shots when every shot counted. They lost 16 to 21.

Tim Langmead (Skip), Ken Argent, Andy Tobias and Christine Mayfield trailed seven to 12 on end 14. Dookie won four out of the last seven ends to win 16 to 10.

The overall went to Alexandra 66 to 65. Alexandra went home with 12 points and Dookie picked up six points for their three winning rinks. Next week is at home to Merrigum who are on the bottom of the ladder. The ladder is Euroa 134, Alexandra 126, Dookie 119, Tallygaroopna 87. Alexandra will be hoping for clean sweep across all rinks next round but nothing is guaranteed.

Division six played Dookie at home. Mark Stone (Skip), Ian Franklin, Marty Manning and Warren Nelson had the closest possible game. They trailed four to eight on end nine but won the next four ends to lead 14 to eight, including a seven shot win on end 10. Dookie won the next two ends to trail 13 to 14. Alexandra countered and won the next three ends to lead 17 to 13. Dookie rallied and won the last three ends to win 18 to 17. A great game.

Ray Mathieson (Skip), Pauline Gilmore, Anne Gunton and Steve Kirby trailed seven to 17 on end 13 but won six out of the last eight ends to lose 14 to 20.

Clive Murphy (Skip), Christine Murphy, Luke Chapple and Rob Roach had a tough game and lost 30 to 10. Dookie won the overall 68 to 41 and the 16 points.

Division six are away to Shepparton Park next week who are fifth on the ladder behind, Euroa, Nagambie, Euroa and Violet Town.

Reminder to all members, January 26 is the Members' Social Day from 12 to 5pm. A great afternoon so don't miss out.

Club games are still in progress so check the board in the club rooms for draws and results.



Division four Winning Rink Greg Gilmore, Lauren Gilchrist Malcolm Gill. (Ian Harper) -S



Women's Singles Champion Runner Up Denice Chisholm and Winner Lauren Gilchrist -S



Men's Singles Champion Larry Scott and Runner Up Ken Argent. -S



Midweek Winning Rink David Nicklos, Trevor Stewart, Denice Chisholm Ken Argent. -S

## Merton Cricketers take victory in Mulwala

MERTON cricketers travelled to Lonsdale reserve in Mulwala to take on the undefeated Yarrowonga Mulwala lakers in perfect cricket conditions on Saturday. After a disappointing performance the previous week against Greta the Merton side was keen to show at the very least a competitive showing against the top side. Yarrowonga won the toss and batted on a well prepared turf wicket and quick outfield.

Young Merton quick Noah Whittall had a day out bowling a perfect line and length taking 3/8 off six overs Jai Lerch-Mackinnon also took an early wicket with 1/14 to put the home side under early pressure G.Montgomery 38 stood up for his side as the wickets fell around him. The lakers all out in the 31st over for 99 R.Berriman 4/16 Harry Craddock and Henry Berriman the other wicket takers Luke Berriman with three catches and one stumping had a good day behind the stumps.

Merton's openers didn't look comfortable on the Mulwala turf against the home sides pace attack with king nine and Mackinnon six falling cheaply. Luke Berriman steadied the ship somewhat making 20 navigating some tight bowling. A few quick wickets in the middle order saw the 100 run target an unlikely achievement for the visitors however Luke Benton and Tyson Garlick had other ideas combining in a perfect seventh wicket partnership of 46 under pressure to steer their

side to victory in the 32nd over. Benton 29 not out was the top scorer with Garlick solid in defence helping his side to a memorable win. H.Frauenfelder 3/45 the leading wicket taker for the lakers.

All sides have the bye next Saturday for the Australia day holiday, Merton then travel to Benalla with another big test versus the Bushrangers.

THE ALEXANDRA • EILDON • MARYSVILLE

ISSN 2200-6478



# Standard Sport

SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Levi Campbell shines at Colgate Games in Hawke Bay



Recipients of personal best medallions on Saturday, January 18. -S



Four x 100 metre silver medal team, Max Coll, Cooper Mayer, Levi Campbell, and Hayden Jeffrey. -S

LOCAL athlete Levi Campbell has returned home after an action packed time at the Colgate Games held in Hawke Bay on New Zealand's North Island. The prestigious event ran from Friday, January 10, through Sunday, January 12, bringing together budding track and field youth stars from across New Zealand as well as other countries.

Levi arrived a few days early with the Development Squad to prepare for the big meet. Training sessions, an impressive opening ceremony, and a traditional Marchpast set the stage for three days of competition.

Day one saw Levi kick off his campaign with the 400m, finishing ninth out of a strong field of 22 athletes. He then took to the track

for the mixed medley relay, running the 800m leg, where his team secured sixth place out of 15 teams.

On the second day, Levi pushed himself to new personal bests in both the 200m, where he placed 12th, and the long jump, finishing 13th. His efforts and determination were a testament to his hard work and commitment to improving his times.

The final day brought plenty of excitement as Levi competed in the 100m and 800m before rounding out the games with the 4x100m relay. It was in this event that Levi and his team truly shone, racing to an outstanding silver medal finish, a definite highlight of the experience.

Reflecting on the adventure to New Zealand, Levi shared that meeting new friends and the relay success were among his favorite moments. When asked what valuable lesson he'd bring back to his club, Levi emphasised the importance of proper body positioning at the start of a race and optimising arm movement for a powerful start.

After the competition, Levi enjoyed some well-deserved downtime, exploring beautiful beaches with new friends he made during the games.

Congratulations, Levi, on your achievements at the Colgate Games, we can't wait to see what's next for this rising star.



Levi Campbell in action at the Colgate Games New Zealand. -S

## A and B Grade cricketers play away

by Michael Mawson

BOTH the A and B grade teams made the long journey to Pyalong to play two T20 matches. The results were contrasting with the B grade winning a remarkably tight contest and the A grade enduring a nightmare.

It is difficult to get 22 players to travel to Pyalong and several of the B-Grade team were required to play in the second game with the A-Grade.

Redbacks B-Grade captain, Michael Mawson won the toss and elected to bat. Pyalong has a large oval with a slow outfield that makes boundaries hard to score. Despite this, the opening batters got the team off to a positive start, with a 10 over partnership that yielded 63 runs. Mawson survived a near miss and an easy dropped catch while on zero. He then went on to score a rapid 37 runs before being caught off a top edge from the bowling of Damien Zoch. Josh Crane played a more considered innings and remained on 45 not out at the end of the 20 overs.

Jaidon Snyman played an exciting cameo of 28 runs with many boundaries, one of which was from a surprising ramp shot. The Redbacks' innings was completed with a father-son partnership when Danny Crane was run ragged by Josh taking quick singles.

The Redbacks finished with a competitive total of 137 and this required Pyalong to score at 6.9 runs per over.

Pyalong's run chase settled into a high scoring rhythm as the opening pair of Mitch Ryan and Jamie Biagoni survived a tight spell of bowling from Will Ellis and then regularly hit fours and sixes on the way to an opening partnership of 91 in 13 overs.

Robert Andrews, Jack Savenye, Thaya Sathisvam and Josh Crane all had turns in bowling to the opening pair but could not dislodge them.

The breakthrough came when the captain threw the ball to the youngest player on the field. Dusty Fitzpatrick

drew a miss-hit from Biagoni that was caught by Dusty's brother. He then bowled the big-hitting Peter Reynolds for 14 and followed up by trapping Dan Zoch for a duck.

With three overs remaining, Pyalong were in the box-seat at 3 / 122. The home team required 16 runs in three overs. Opening bowlers, Josh Crane and Will Ellis were given the responsibility of bowling out the final three overs and they rose to the occasion. Matt Ryan was finally caught for 41 by Banjo Fitzpatrick off the bowling of Will Ellis. Pyalong's innings then collapsed with their captain, Damien Zoch being run out and the subsequent batters losing their wickets. The Redbacks then claimed a remarkable two-run win.

Will Ellis can claim a lot of credit for the win with his incredibly economical bowling figures of 3/9.

In the second match of the day, the A-Grade team defined disappointment. Because of low numbers, six B-Grade players also played in the A-grade. Players from either grade found themselves unable to cope with Pyalong's opening bowlers. Toby Ward lofted a catch off the bowling of Matt Pratt without scoring. Pratt would then go on to take the wickets of Matt Wal and Banjo Fitzpatrick, also for ducks. Mawson was untroubled by the fast bowling until he was caught out by playing a misplaced drive on five.

Mitch Wittig claimed the wickets of Josh Crane, Jordy Ferrier, Harrison Christie and Will Ellis. After a shambolic innings in which Luke Wal was the only batsman to value his wicket, the Redbacks were dismissed for 23.

The run chase for Pyalong was a doddle, with the home team hitting the target in three overs. Toby Ward was able to claim a wicket.

Next week is bye for the Australia Day Weekend and in two weeks' time, both grades will be hosting Tallarook at Leckie Park. Hopefully, this will be with an increase in player numbers and resolve.

## Early games as the summer sun heats up

by Puttomatic

LAST week at the Eildon Golf Club was an individual Stableford combined with a three person coloured ball competition.

With the tee times being brought forward to 9am until the end of February to help keep everyone out of the heat of summer, 19 players teed off on a fantastic day for a game of golf. The course for this time of the year is looking in great shape however the fairways are drying off a bit but the greens are in the best condition I have ever seen them in. A huge thank you to all the volunteers for all the hard work you put in each and every week to keep the course in such great condition.

A huge thank you to Karen for the great roast beef rolls that she cooked and served for after the game. I know the boys enjoyed them.

Our coloured ball winners this week were: Phillip Boyd, a visitor from Goonawarra Golf Club; Dennis McDonald and John Beale with 42 points followed by Leigh Munro, Nick Munro and Phillip Gourlay with 37 points; Kerry Power, Grant Walters, Michael McLearn also 37 points. Some individual results were: Mark Mackwell 39 points, Denis McDonald 39 points, Kerry Power 39 points, Grant Walters 37 points, Phillip Gourlay 36 points, and Leigh Munro 36 points.

Huge congratulations to Mark Mackwell with a hole in one on the par three-second, great effort well done. Nearest the pin second shot on the third Kerry Power, fifth John Beale, 11th Phillip Dally, 12th Phillip Dally and 14th Leith Munro. Mark Mackwell secured drinks with a birdie on the par five-15th. Other winners Kerry Power won the entry draw, Rod Taylor had a crack at both the swindle and the Joker.

Next week is a stroke round, January monthly medal and the fourth round of the summer cup

Until next time, take care and see you at the club.