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murrindindibusiness.com.au



Alexandra Primary School celebrates 100 days of school for their new prep students, taught by Ms Emily David. More images from the celebrations at other schools can be found on page 4 of this edition. -S

New kinders a step closer for shire

THE Victorian Government is bringing 19 more kinders to life in growing areas of Victoria, with action set to occur in Murrindindi Shire.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced Murrindindi Shire Council has been successful with a \$148,586 Building Blocks Planning Grant for kindergarten service providers to plan, design and carry-out pre-construction work on kindergarten building projects in Alexandra and Yea.

Planning funding supports a wide range of vital pre-construction activity like project management, architecture and design planning, soil testing, environmental sustainability assessments and feasibility studies to ensure the best for the local community.

Helping prepare for and construct new early childhood infrastructure is a part of the state government's rollout of free three and four year old kinder.

Local councils and kindergarten service providers can apply for grants in the Building Blocks Capacity Building and Planning streams, so they can better plan for and meet demand for kindergarten as Victoria grows.

Applications for Building Blocks Planning grants of up to \$150,000 are now accepted year-round.

The Building Blocks grants program also offers significantly increased Capacity Building grants of up to \$4.5 million for new integrated children's centres, \$4 million for new early learning centres and \$1 million for expansion projects, helping to build the new and expanded kinders Victoria's littlest learners need, right across the state.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said, "These grants will help eligible organisations in Murrindindi Shire plan projects that increase access to kindergarten for local families, and provide the funding to deliver the projects as the community grows."

Local finalist in Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria

KEEP Australia Beautiful Victoria has announced the shortlist for the 2023 Tidy Towns and Cities Sustainability Awards. The awards recognise, celebrate and share environmental achievements and strong community spirit right across Victoria, and this year, there's a local organisation on the shortlist.

Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, in conjunction with Grant Street Grocer and funding from Sustainability Victoria, are pleased to be shortlisted in the EPA Waste Prevention and Reduction category.

The exciting initiative is turning food waste from local businesses into an organic, known source product to be used on lawns, gardens and in compost.

The project has been running for over six years and is currently growing into a localised circular economy enterprise. The project is currently gaining momentum to sell the product to local gardeners, growers and farmers. You can contact Jodie Morrison on 0439 927 222 for more information or to purchase some of the product.

With a total of 132 entries, 70 exceptional projects were shortlisted across 10 categories, highlighting the remarkable efforts of communities, organisations, individuals, and councils in creating a more sustainable, resilient, and beautiful Victoria.

Shortlisted participants will now be invited to present their projects to an expert panel of judges at a judging interview. These interviews allow shortlisted candidates to showcase their accomplishments, share insights and engage in enlightening discussions.

Finalists in each category will be revealed on September 13, and the winners announced on October 23, 2023.

Council provides Breakaway Bridge update

IN mid-June, Murrindindi Shire Council met with staff from Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) to discuss how best to assess the lateral stability of the bridge which is the ability to sustain pressure from the stream flows. Lateral stability is the final key piece of information required to determine if the current bridge can be repaired.

Council engaged specialist consultant bridge engineers to develop the river modelling which will provide the definitive answer on the viability of the existing

bridge. This report is due for completion in the coming weeks.

On June 27, representatives from council and the GBCMA met with local residents to discuss upcoming plans for the bank stabilisation works and how they would impact landholders.

Works are scheduled to occur within the road reserve and outside the road reserve to stabilise the banks and to protect the road.

The works involve constructing an erosion control measure, a rip rap stone wall, on the northern bank of the Goulburn River at the Breakaway Bridge in Acheron.

Pre-construction activities are complete. Works will commence once river conditions are favourable, as works are dependent on reduced river flow and volume.

Community members have asked that council provide regular updates about the progress of these works.

Council has engaged a contractor and site preparation works have been completed, including working with landowners to enable access to their properties, and the installation of temporary fencing arrangements, Dial Before You Dig to check for underground services, conducting service

location surveys, liaising with the pump house owner, construction of access tracks for the delivery of rip rap materials, and surface preparation including removal of unsuitable and excess surface material.

Approximately 50 per cent of the rip rap (rock supply) required has been delivered to site. A temporary rip rap wall has been erected. No further deliveries will occur until bank stabilisation works commence.

On Monday, July 31, Lake Eildon's storage was at 95.3 per cent, and 7964ML was being released.

Council said that bank stabilisation works cannot commence while the river is flowing at the current rate. The starting date of the works will be reliant on having a significantly lower river flow. GMW is aware of the requirement to decrease the flows to allow works to occur and the organisations are continuing to liaise to identify a suitable window.

A local resident commented that the community in Acheron is seeking a solution sooner rather than later, and added that the lack of a bridge is causing significant disruption in the community.

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Letters to the Editor

COVID-19 vaccinations

BY the first year of COVID-19 vaccinations there were an estimated 20 million lives saved worldwide from COVID-19, which could be extrapolated to 60,000 Australians saved. Most, but not all, of those saved are elderly and/or with medical conditions, and by reducing the number of infections we do ourselves and those others a favour.

As of 2022 Australia reported 14 deaths directly linked to the vaccinations, generally due to clots from the Astra Zeneca brand (not used now). To date there have been over 60 million vaccination doses given in Australia. The risks of death are significantly higher from driving, some common medications and other activities we do, but the chances of mishaps are small enough that we are undaunted.

Dr Lachlan Fraser, Alexandra

Vaccination data

DEAR Madeleine, what an interesting letter. From the data you quote I see that there were around 4000 hospital admissions for an average of two days for side effects from vaccinations of any kind. If we assume all vaccine related admissions were due to COVID-19 vaccines then that's about one admission for every 2000 vaccinations, or 500 admissions per million population.

In 2021 the unvaccinated mortality from COVID-19 was between 100 and 350 persons per million population. I would be much happier being admitted with vaccine side effects for a couple of days rather than dying because I was unvaccinated. Thank you so much for making this clear for me to understand.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

Standard The Yea Chronicle
Independently owned and operated and in no way associated with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire

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THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: This will be the fourth consecutive time Linda Burney has been mentioned in this paper, third time in Thumbs Up Thumbs Down and the first time it's been Thumbs Up.

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

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

The new Eildon Recreational Trail on the Back Eildon Road is already being well used by one and all. Taking advantage of the lovely sunny Sunday afternoon, Don and Trisha Reid were trying out the new trail and met up with another happy walker. Don just celebrated his 93rd birthday. It looks like the new trail is going to be a big hit, no matter your age or how many legs you have. -S

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

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

WEEKLY

Tues Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306

Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm

Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150

Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427

Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm

Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 1300 222 222

Sun Alanon Recovery Phone 0402 428 086.

Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057

Thu 7.30-10pm SES, SES/CFCA complex Ph 0418 576 666

Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-4pm Ph 5772 3257

1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988

2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud Club 10am RSL Ph 5772 2946

3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL. CLOSED due to COVID. Ph 0409 950 913

4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri Carers Group walk 9.45am @ Rotary Park. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.44	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.73	steady	
Acheron R at Taggerty	9.20am Mon	1.01	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	10.00am Mon	0.29	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	4.18am Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Yea R at Yea	8.24am Mon	1.16	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.71	rising	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	10.00am Mon	2.65	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.75	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	8.32am Mon	1.30	steady	

****ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023****

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can now be submitted via email to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or mail to PO Box 5 Alexandra 3714. or drop them into the Alexandra office.

Letters must be 300 words or less.

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

Like us on Facebook

Weekly Weather

August 2-August 9, 2023

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	16	Wednesday	4	16
Thursday	7	18	Thursday	6	18
Friday	7	14	Friday	7	14
Saturday	4	12	Saturday	4	12
Sunday	3	13	Sunday	3	13
Monday	4	14	Monday	3	14
Tuesday	3	14	Tuesday	3	14

Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	6mm
Eildon (AWS)	10mm
Flowerdale	7mm
Kinglake	6mm
Lake Eildon	9mm
Jamieson	14mm
Taggerty	9mm
Yarck	5mm
Yea	5mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	287.68m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	95.1%
Metres below full supply	1.22m
Daily inflow	3400ML
Release	6500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	72%

Standard

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

All new Victorian homes to be all-electric

THE Victorian Government has made the decision to phase out gas in new homes. It was noted in the announcement that the cost of gas is rising across the world, and there is uncertainty around supply.

From January 1, 2024, planning permits for new homes and residential subdivisions will only connect to all electric networks. These changes will apply to all new homes requiring a planning permit, including new public and social housing delivered by Homes Victoria.

It was stated that going all-electric can be delivered at no extra cost to the buyer

and will take around \$1000 per year off household energy bills, or up to \$2200 for households that also have solar installed.

All new public buildings that haven't reached design stage will also be all-electric. This includes new schools, hospitals, police stations and other government-owned buildings.

Victoria has the highest use of residential gas in Australia, with around 80 per cent of homes connected. The gas sector contributes about 17 per cent of the state's emissions, and the move to electric systems is a key element of meeting Victoria's nation leading emissions reduction targets of 75 to 80 per cent by 2035 and net zero by 2045.

In 2022, a reform removed the requirements for gas connections for new homes.

The government is investing \$10 million in a new Residential Electrification Grants program. Grants will be available to volume home builders, developers and others to provide bulk rebates for solar panels, solar hot water and heat pumps to new home buyers up front. This will mean new home buyers will save \$4600 before they even move in and will remove double handling of installations, saving buyers money and hassle.

To help prepare for the transition, the government is also investing \$1 million in targeted training to ensure the construction industry is supported in the transition to all electric and seven star homes. This builds on Solar Victoria's \$11 million training and workforce development package that will upskill plumbers and electricians to take advantage of the renewable energy revolution.

Victorian plumbers and electricians will be the key to delivering this critical

transition, so the government is upskilling the plumbing and electrical workforce to ensure they have right skills to take advantage of this growing industry.

The government is providing a \$3 million package including free training for 1000 plumbers and apprentices to design and install energy efficient heat pumps and solar hot water systems, and free training for 400 electricians and fourth-year apprentices to safely design and install rooftop solar and home battery systems.

To make it easier to go all-electric, eligible new home builders, as well as existing homeowners and renters, can access the Solar Homes program, offering \$1400 solar panel rebates and interest free loans of \$8800 for household batteries.

All Victorian households and businesses are also eligible for the VEU gas to electric rebates to upgrade heating and cooling and hot water heaters.

The government will work closely with industry including gas appliance manufacturers, the building and construction sector, local government, trade unions and consumer organisations to manage business, workforce and consumer impacts and support the sector in the transition.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio said, "Reducing our reliance on gas is critical to meeting our ambitious emission reduction target of net zero by 2045 and getting more Victorians on more efficient electric appliances which will save them money on their bills."

The Liberals were unimpressed with the decision, saying Victorians will pay higher energy bills and have fewer choices as a result of the new gas ban. They said that the announcement comes as Victorian

households and businesses are being hit by electricity price increases of up to 25 per cent.

They further claim that the ban will drive up demand for electricity at a time when the government has failed to assure future electricity generation capacity for Victoria, with the government's SEC having no funding partners and no planned projects.

Shadow Treasurer, Brad Rowswell, said, "This ban on gas will only add to the growing cost of living pressures for Victorian workers, families and businesses at a time they can least afford it."

"It's been done with little warning and is more evidence of policy on the run by a desperate government that will do anything to avoid scrutiny of its gross financial mismanagement."

"We need a sensible transition, not panic decisions that restrict choice and lead to higher energy prices."

Master Plumbers has also expressed concern about the announcement to refuse planning permits for new homes and residential subdivisions which want to connect to gas from January 1, 2024, saying it was made without consultation and is short on details.

Master Plumbers CEO Peter Daly said, "Plumbing businesses design, install and maintain the critical infrastructure which Victorians rely on to safely and securely go about their daily lives. For the government to drop an announcement like this without any substantive consultation is disappointing but unfortunately not surprising given previous changes to regulation of the industry which proved to be unworkable."

Planning reforms on the table

PREMIER Daniel Andrews announced on Thursday, July 27, "The IBAC report's 34 recommendations will be given appropriate consideration, but it is the clear position of the Government that the role of local councils in significant planning decisions should be reduced and we will have more to say on this matter."

He also stated, that the Victorian Government acknowledges the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission's (IBAC) Operation Sandon report tabled on the same day.

He added, "What went on at the City of Casey was completely unacceptable and the government sacked the council in 2020. However, it is clear from the report that more work must be done."

"The Government has already implemented the toughest political donation laws in Australia. Our reforms have drastically reduced the size of donations, and make sure Victorians know who makes and receives them in real time. These reforms are currently the subject of a legislated periodic review and the government looks forward to receiving that report."

New citizens welcomed

NINE people became Australian citizens at a ceremony conducted at the Alexandra Council Chambers on Tuesday, July 25.

Mayor John Walsh officiated at the event, welcoming the attendees and paying respects to the Taungurung people. On the table, there were images of King Charles and the Australian Coat of Arms, along with small Australian, Taungurung and Torres Strait Islander flags.

He discussed cultural connection, diversity and freedom of speech in Australia, and noted that half of all Australians have a parent who was born overseas.

He quoted The Hon. Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, saying, "We are privileged to share this beautiful country with the world's oldest continuing culture. This is a fundamental part of who we are. For more than 60,000 years First Nations peoples have cared for country. Appreciating and understanding this truth, is a vital part of what it means to be Australian."



Murrindindi Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi, Mayor John Walsh, Raymond, Inderjit, Richard, Claire, Christel, Terence, Sirikarn, Narinpat, and Paul. -AR

"Australians are united by our shared commitment to democracy and the rule of law, and to freedom of speech, religion and association. Our diversity is our greatest strength, and we prosper by embracing this. We believe in a society in which everyone is equal, regardless of their gender, faith, sexual orientation, age, ability, race, national or ethnic origin. Ours is the land of the fair go, in which respect and compassion underpin our care for each other and our willingness to reach out to those around us

in times of need. By becoming an Australian citizen, you make a commitment to these values, and to contribute to our evolving Australian story."

During the ceremony, Raymond, Inderjit, Richard, Claire, Christel, Terence, Sirikarn, Narinpat, and Paul pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people and its democratic beliefs and to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

Black Spur filming

LOCAL residents driving on the Black Spur section of the Maroondah Highway on Friday, July 21 faced delays of up to 20 minutes while filming took place for a television series. There were concerns that drivers hadn't been advised that delays were possible.

Contacted about the issue, a Department of Transport and Planning spokesperson said, "The Department of Transport and Planning provided a permit for a production company to film on a section of the Maroondah Highway on Friday, July 21 provided the company adhered to a comprehensive traffic management plan designed to minimise disruption to road users."

"As a condition of the permit, the company was required to make adequate efforts to inform the general public of the activity. Not all the conditions in the permit were met. The matter will be followed up with the applicant."

The Department of Transport and Planning granted a permit for a production company to film on the Maroondah Highway between Fernshaw Picnic Ground and Dom Dom Saddle Picnic Area on July 21 between 6am and 3pm.

Temporary road closures were needed so that filming equipment, including drones and camera mounts, would not pose a distraction or safety risk to those travelling through the area.

Speed limit reductions were also in place to provide a safe working environment for the Victoria Police who were overseeing the activity, traffic management personnel and those filming.

It's understood that there are no further requests to film on this road.

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Standard

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- Alexandra Endeavour
- Hazeldene Store
- Igloo Buxton
- Marysville FoodWorks
- Mansfield Newsagency
- Merton General Store
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- Seymour Newsagency
- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
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Audited Media Association of Australia



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*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Book now for *Sass & Secrets* at Yarck Hall. Dinner and show or just enjoy the show. BYO drinks. Online booking at trybooking.com.au/CISXY. For full details contact 0467 413 767.

Darren Gilbert Open Studio 10am-4pm daily Saturday and Sunday at the Yea Butter Factory.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

Yea & District Historical Society Inc AGM will be held at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall supper room. New members welcome.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

Alexandra Garden Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the Uniting Church Alexandra.

Friends of the Library Yea will hold their AGM at 2pm at the Yea Council Chambers. All bookshop volunteers are invited to attend and new members are welcome.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Eildon Events Inc will hold their AGM at Morning Mist, Back Eildon Road at 10.30am. For further details contact 0400 715 319.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

Eildon Action Inc will hold their AGM at Eildon VIC. Everyone is welcome. Nominations can be submitted on the night.

Homewood Hall will hold their AGM at the hall at 6.30pm. All welcome.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

2030Yea Community Energy is hosting two more presentations in the Renewable Future for Yea series. Doors open at 6pm for 6.30 start. Yea Wetlands. Bookings can be made at events.humanitix.com/2030yea-presentations. Further details on page seven of *The Yea Chronicle*.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

UGFM will hold their AGM via Zoom at 7.30pm. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact info@ugfm.org or phone 5772 2722.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

Goulburn Fishing Festival 2023. Free event at Eildon. 10am-4pm. Lions Park, Riverside Drive. Live music, market stalls, Snobs Creek Hatchery tours, Vic Fish Kids clinics and more. Fireworks at 7pm. vfa.vid.gov.au/goulburnfishfest



St Mary's Primary School foundation class celebrating 100 days of learning on Monday, July 24. -S

Prep students celebrate 100 days at school



The new prep students at Marysville Primary School, dressed up in old-fashioned clothes. -S



Harlow, Carter, Elise and Declan from Buxton Primary School. -S

This week's Church Services

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

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator, Father 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
www.mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

A Christian community of the
Baptist Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street, Alexandra
Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone Ph: 0481 472 152

McLeish calls for pothole issue to be addressed

MEMBER for Eildon, Cindy McLeish said that road maintenance continues to fall short across the electorate, in particular on the Melba Highway, Maroondah Highway and Goulburn Valley Highway, which are in an appalling condition. Despite the Melba Highway receiving repairs late last year, the road surface is already suffering.

"I have been contacted by many drivers who have hit deep potholes on the Melba Highway, blown tyres, busted rims and are now up for thousands of dollars in repairs," she said.

"It is not uncommon to see cars pulled over on the side of the road, changing blown tyres or waiting for assistance."

Speaking in parliament prior to the King's Birthday long weekend, Ms McLeish called on the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to fix the Melba Highway and to let the community know when they can expect repairs to occur.

Ms McLeish said that the minister didn't acknowledge or address the Melba Highway in her response, instead insisting roads are assessed on a regular basis and a Road Management Plan is followed to keep roads in good condition.

Ms McLeish continued, "There has been a lot of rain and the road conditions, because it was not repaired properly, are just continuing to get worse and worse."

Given the state of the roads and safety risk to drivers, Ms McLeish has started a Parliament e-petition to have the Melba Highway, Goulburn Valley Highway and Maroondah Highway between Yarra Glen and Mansfield repaired. To sign the e-petition, visit parliament.vic.gov.au/view-sign-e-petitions-assembly/details/55/151

A link can also be found on Ms McLeish's Facebook and Instagram pages / CindyMcLeishMP. The e-petition will close on August 30.



Cindy McLeish on the Melba Highway. -S

Ms McLeish said that the government "needs to have a look at regional roads and support the regional electorates."

She said that the state government reduced the road asset management budget by 25

per cent in this year's state budget and road maintenance funding from \$702.2 million to just \$441.6 million in the last year. This is despite a horror year on our roads and a 35 per cent increase in lives lost.

Grow Well Dindi helping children to be healthy

GROW Well Dindi has returned, hosting a workshop for community leaders looking into what helps and what hinders children to have healthy lives.

In 2019, the RESPOND program saw Murrindindi Shire hosting a series of workshops, with the aim of improving healthy eating and active living opportunities for children across the region.

As a consequence, RESPOND was rebranded by the Murrindindi Community into Grow Well Dindi.

On Thursday, July 27 community leaders attended the first of two workshops and were asked to contribute their knowledge towards helping the children grow healthy across Murrindindi.

The aim is to share health information for children across the region and identify opportunities relevant to Yea and surrounding towns to improve children's healthy eating and active living.

The first and second workshops are being delivered specifically to stakeholder and community leaders. The third workshop will include community members and establish working groups to bring the learnings to fruition.

Some of the hindrances to healthy eating and active lives were determined to be: the lack of public transport which prevents children without other transport options from being able to access sporting clubs and other places to be active; screen time, where children spend the majority of their time



The Grow Well Dindi Team: Chris, Lucy, Hailey, Melissa and Mon at the workshop. S

sedentary on devices rather than moving around, either inside or out; and time-poor parents who lack the capacity to prepare nutritious meals.

In terms of what helps, the ability to engage in sports was important, as was access to fresh fruit and vegetables, and role models who set an example of what a healthy active life looks like, that is, you can be what you can see.

The third workshop, where the whole community is invited, will be publicised to ensure the maximum attendance possible.

"The whole community will be invited so we're going to have a bit of a social media campaign, we're going to do a little bit of a letterbox drop and we'll have posters printed and put up around the community," said Hailey Docking, Health Promotion Officer at Yea and District Memorial Hospital and member of the Grow Well Dindi team.

"We are hoping to establish probably one or two working groups of the leaders and community members, and will then work with them to implement the ideas identified by the community," Hailey said.

Alexandra Senior Citizens report

by Mike Jennings, honorary secretary

THE bridge players got together on Monday and Wednesday as usual and the carpet bowlers rolled up on Tuesday, with John's team victorious again. The ukulele learners had to contend with new chords in the key of D and will have more finger twitching to practice before this week's session.

The social meeting on Friday was a little down on numbers but president Jan guided the meeting through the formalities before the refreshments and games of 500 and UNO.

By the time you read this, the committee meeting on Tuesday, August 1 will have been busy with future planning of events and a date for the postponed AGM when hopefully everyone will be fit and well again.

Members eagerly anticipate the trip to Healesville RSL for Morning Melodies and lunch on Tuesday, August 8 with an ABBA tribute show.

If you would like details of any of the club activities please call 0456 456 263 or come along to club activities. Meanwhile, stay safe, keep warm and keep smiling.

Millions of dollars waiting to be claimed

VICTORIAN have been encouraged to go online to find out if they are among thousands of people with a claim on a pool of unclaimed money topping \$109 million.

The State Revenue Office (SRO) holds records of money that remain unclaimed after 12 months including refunds, rents and bonds, share dividends, salaries and wages, debentures, interest and proceeds from sales. The majority of entitlements have been held by the SRO for less than 10 years.

Across the state, there are some 678,000 entitlements waiting to be claimed. In Murrindindi, a shared of \$159,720 is ready to be shared among 1355 claimants.

In addition to unclaimed money, the SRO also holds all Tattersalls, Intralot and Tabcorp prizes, as well as TAB winnings, that have remained unclaimed for six months or more. The highest unclaimed gaming entitlement is \$2,136,327 from Tattersalls which was received in March 2016. To claim these winnings, you must supply your original ticket.

All Victorian businesses and trustees holding \$20 or more in unclaimed money are reminded they must record and keep the money for at least 12 months, then lodge it with the SRO. Lodgements can be made via the SRO website.

To search for unclaimed money, visit sro.vic.gov.au/unclaimedmoney

You will need your name or company name, and the address that you believe the unclaimed money lodging organisation would have had on file.

ASC students win People's Choice Award at Brain Bee Challenge

ALEXANDRA Secondary College students Milly Weeks and Jackson Burns won the People's Choice Award at the recent state round of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge.

The ABBC is a competition for secondary school students in year ten to learn about the brain and its functions, about neuroscience research, to find out about careers in neuroscience and dispel misconceptions about neurological and mental illnesses.

It was started in 2006 to address concerns about the public's perception of science in general, and neuroscience in particular.

Milly and Jackson were shortlisted from their initial entries and were invited to submit a project for the event, which was held at the Florey Institute and Melbourne Brain Centre at Melbourne University.

Milly presented a video that she made with fellow ASC student Jackson Burns, who couldn't be there on the day as he was attending a regional exchange program at the John Monash Science School.

Attending the challenge and getting to see inside the Florey Institute and the labs at Melbourne University has inspired Milly to consider a career as a research scientist.

Milly had been thinking medicine was in her future, but she said the amazing experience she had participating in the Challenge had made her consider science more broadly.

"I was thinking something in the medical field, but actually researching, it never really occurred to me until I went to Melbourne Uni actually, so now maybe," Milly said.



Alexandra Secondary college student Milly Weeks accepting the People's Choice Award at the state finals of the Brain Bee Challenge. - S

Proudly supporting Student of the week

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EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Liam and Noah reflected the school values of cooperation and respect in their work this week.



BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dusty has shown great leadership in helping to teach students music in Taungurung with Aunty Lee.

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Millie Ferguson - 3/4B

Millie consistently shows our school values. She is a caring friend who looks out for others.

Millie has a great sense of humour and a positive outlook which makes her great to be around. Thank you for bringing your positivity to our learning community, Millie. You are a star.



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hailey Coghill - 3/4A

Hailey is kind and caring student who always show the school values. She is a thoughtful learner who puts 100% into achieving her learning goals. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Hailey. You are a star.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



An open board meeting with Alexandra District Health

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) conducted an open board meeting on Wednesday, July 26, with members of the public invited to attend the Alexandra RSL to hear an update on the ADH and its services. The majority of the board members, including new board members Ashley Shea and Roslyn Pruden, were in attendance at the meeting, along with the executive team.

Board chair Kim Flanagan opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of the Taungurung people. He said, "They have been learning and sharing their knowledge of this land for many thousands of years. We hope to learn from each other today and that we share that knowledge with openness and respect."

CEO Jane Poxon provided an overview of the current state of ADH. They currently have a team of around 140 people, working across a range of services, with campuses located in Alexandra and some limited services in Marysville. ADH provides a range of inpatient (surgical and medical) and primary health services, and has 25 acute beds with six day-stay beds.

She provided the audience with a list of the services on offer at ADH, before outlining the acute services provided at the urgent care centre (UCC). In the UCC, they have three bays with two consulting rooms, and are operational 24 hours per day, seven days each week. They have medical, nursing and allied health staff working as well as doctors on site. After hours, staffing tends to be nursing staff, including RIPRN nurses (rural and isolated practice endorsed registered nurses). In the year 2022/23, there were 4123 presentations at the UCC. ADH also facilitated patient transfers.

Ms Poxon particularly outlined the management of chest pain at ADH as this is the most common symptom which people with heart disease present with. A chest pain pilot project is being led by Safer Care Victoria and Alfred Health, with nine other regional and rural health services participating. An ECG is conducted at ADH and then an external health team will review the results.

The pilot supports ADH's UCC to ensure that regional Victorians can access a timely ECG interpretation with specialist input for the triaging and management of chest pain closer to home. The aims of the project are to access specialist advice, escalation of care if appropriate, reduce patient transfers if appropriate, and to ensure the best possible patient outcomes for patients.

At their inpatient services, there are 12 staffed beds. There were 1061 inpatient admissions in the last financial year. ADH also offers x-ray and ultrasound services, and advanced care planning.

ADH has one operating theatre and averages eight procedural sessions per month. 800 procedures were undertaken during the 2022/23 year. They have visiting specialists in urology, ophthalmology, endoscopy, gynaecology, ear nose and throat procedures and orthopaedics. Their main procedures are in endoscopy and ophthalmology.

They currently have workforce shortages for sonographers and radiographers and therefore the services are reduced. ADH is looking for new service providers.

There were 2863 visiting medical specialist appointments in the last financial year including urology, gynaecology, gastroenterology, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, nephrology, orthopaedics, cardiology and paediatrics. There were also 5287 primary health consultations including counselling, physiotherapy (including aquatic), occupational therapy, social work, dietician and diabetes.

Director Quality and Risk, Claire Palmer, provided an outline of the progress of the nurse training programs, including clinical placements and supporting six nurse RIPRN candidates.

Their three priority areas in health promotion are healthy eating, physical activity, and reducing tobacco-related harm.

They encouraged people to use the Care Opinion website to provide feedback on the health service. The website can be found at careopinion.org.au, and the feedback will be provided to the hospital board.

The attendees at the meeting were encouraged to discuss fundraising opportunities which could be activated to help with the funding of a POC ultrasound, valued at \$10,000 to \$15,000. The POC ultrasound is pocket-sized and is used by doctors, paramedics and nurses. It locates veins, can find fluid on the lung, can detect pneumonia, and can detect some heart valve issues. A large ultrasound on a stand can cost \$75,000 to \$80,000. If successful in purchasing a POC ultrasound, they will also need to have an awareness of the cost of software upgrades as these can be expensive.

Following the discussion, a Q&A session occurred, with the first question being around Eildon services. Mr Flanagan said that the issue, including the old hospital building in Eildon, was 'on the radar,' and they had been meeting with council regarding health provision in the town. He noted that the seasonal population made it challenging.

Cr Gallagher raised the topic of 'dialysis tourism', where people have been travelling around accessing dialysis services, however Murrindindi doesn't have such a service. The nearest dialysis is in Mansfield and Seymour. Mr Flanagan said that they are in discussion about service planning with Yea and District Memorial Hospital. He said that staff capability is required for such a service, and said that some people accessing such a service have complex health needs.

With regard to the old Alexandra Hospital, Mr Flanagan said that an engineer's report on the building was pending, and said that community consultation would certainly occur before any decisions were made about it, and consultation would also be required with the health department. There are already significant known issues with the building, including structural, service supply, the fire system, electricals and water damage. He said that it may not be able to be saved.

Cr Gallagher suggested that the building could be used for another purpose such as accommodation, however Mr Flanagan said that the land was currently zoned for a hospital or health-related purpose and that re-zoning would be required for this to occur.

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Celebration of support for students draws hundreds

A PROCESSION of hundreds of people made their way up Myrtle Street on Friday, July 28 to attend the St Mary's Special Persons' Day.

Infants, the elderly, and people of all ages in between packed the pews in celebration of the care and support shown to students in the community.

Father José said he was moved to the verge of tears to witness such a turnout, with some

trekking in from as far away as Gundagai to attend the special service.

Many of the attendees were grandparents of students at St Mary's, with Father José noting their valuable contribution to the lives of young people and the community in general.

St Mary's Principal Kathryn Stuart said the care shown to St Mary's students helped

them grow and develop on a foundation of love and security.

"I'd like to offer a huge thank you to everyone involved for the wonderful Grandparents/Special Persons' Day," she said.

"I had so many comments about what a wonderful community event it was and could we do it again. I think an annual

Grandparents/Special Persons' Day would be a wonderful yearly event."

Following the service the special people were invited back to the school for an 'open classroom' session with students.

A lavish morning tea followed with help from the attendees, many of whom provided sweet treats and delightful hors d'oeuvres.



People of all ages packing the pews in support of the students. -S



The event's popularity means it may become an annual event. -S



An open classroom event was held after the service. -S

It's not just bush bashing for this 4x4 club

HAVE you ever wondered how those secluded historical huts in the bush are maintained to such great standards to keep their charm alive? For the Marysville Big River area, a group called the Melbourne Jeep Owners Club (MJOC) have got a lot to do with this and are extremely passionate about keeping hut history alive.

MJOC member Robert Sharp explained how the hut passion started for the group.

"In 2016 our club was doing a club trip and came across the 15 Mile Hut. We decided to find out who was maintaining this. We contacted a DEECA representative and were told no-one was maintaining it. A month after that discussion, a big tree fell on it and almost destroyed the hut. We found out it was going to be demolished after that, so we asked if we could restore it, together with the High Country Hut Association. We contacted several organisations to get help to get the project started. We got wood from Murrindindi Mill, Snobs Creek provided us accommodation for the night, and we got assistance from a local builder who also happens to be my brother," he said.

"In October 2016 and December 2016, we spent two weekends up there restoring it. Funnily enough, on both weekends it snowed. We kept the roof and trusses on and then replaced all the walls of the hut. Due to COVID-19 we returned but the restrictions only allowed four of us. We put the new balcony up because the previous one was rotted. That process took another two weekends.

"Every July the club makes a trip with usually 10 to 20 people. This year it was 13 people and we stayed the night to make an early start to clean up and repair anything that needs to be done. This included graffiti removal, gardening, firewood and all the general maintenance."

He explained that the "Melbourne Jeep owners club allows \$1000 a year to support the hut program. We provide a barbecue lunch for the volunteers and the funds pay for any repairs we do. We also do Keppel's Hut and Ryans Spur. These huts come under the Marysville and Big River area. We coordinate with Peter Cobb and James Cowell from DEECA who arrange permission with landowners and let us know what's allowed to be done and what's not. This process takes three months in advance."

With the closure of Lady Talbot Drive, Rob said, "I haven't been to Keppel Hut for two years. We do the same thing there too. DEECA mainly does the maintenance there and we keep the grass clear, and make sure rocks are placed and fire wood is provided.

We also clear the back near the stables and clean the path along the creek."

Rob said, "The 15 Mile Hut was built in 1963. It was accommodation for miners. In 2009, a group restored it and named it the 15 Mile Hut. It wasn't previously named that. The names of the people who restored it are on the front of the hut, and in 2016 we took over that role."

Rob said you can access the hut with any four-wheel drive, just not two wheel drive. "It's quite steep in there. It's a good base. It's three hours from Marysville and can be done in two hours depending which way you go. It's nice to have lunch or stay the night there. It's also a good halfway point for longer trips."

MJOC have many volunteer projects on the go. They have been involved in bushfire relief with Blaze Aid and many track clearing and bush clean up activities

supporting Four Wheel Drive Victoria and government land managers such as Parks Victoria and DEECA. The crew have also provided emergency relief for farmers, delivering water and supplies in times of need.

The crew have also been a great help to Narbeview Wildlife Shelter in Narbethong through providing maintenance assistance and they have helped building a shelter. They also have regular working bees there.

The group continues to do volunteer work in rural communities. "Please contact us if you are aware of any activities we could be involved with. We also take on volunteers with the program if anyone is keen. They are very welcome to join," Rob said.

For further information call Robert Sharp on 0404 005 700.



Some of the club members at the restored hut. -S



The 15 Mile Hut prior to restoration. -S

McLeish calls for governmental support for caravan parks

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish has accused the Victorian Government of handballing concerns about the lack of funding and insurance support for caravan park owners post the devastating October 2022 floods. She said that caravan park owners have been left in fear of further floods damaging their businesses.

Ms McLeish said that many caravan park owners are struggling to fully reopen and rebuild after the floods due to a lack of funding support, adding that, when questioned in parliament, the Minister for Small Business insisted there was no stronger voice for small business than the Victorian Government.

One of the challenges for caravan park owners is that banks will not provide finance to rebuild these small businesses if they are more than halfway through their 21 year lease with the government. To enable these businesses to access finance to rebuild their businesses, Ms McLeish is asking that the government provide them with a new 21 year lease.

Like other small businesses, caravan park operators also are finding it challenging to get insurance. Ms McLeish believes that the state government should lobby insurers and have the Victorian Managed Insurance Agency (VMIA) step in as the insurer of last resort to ensure caravan parks continue to operate.

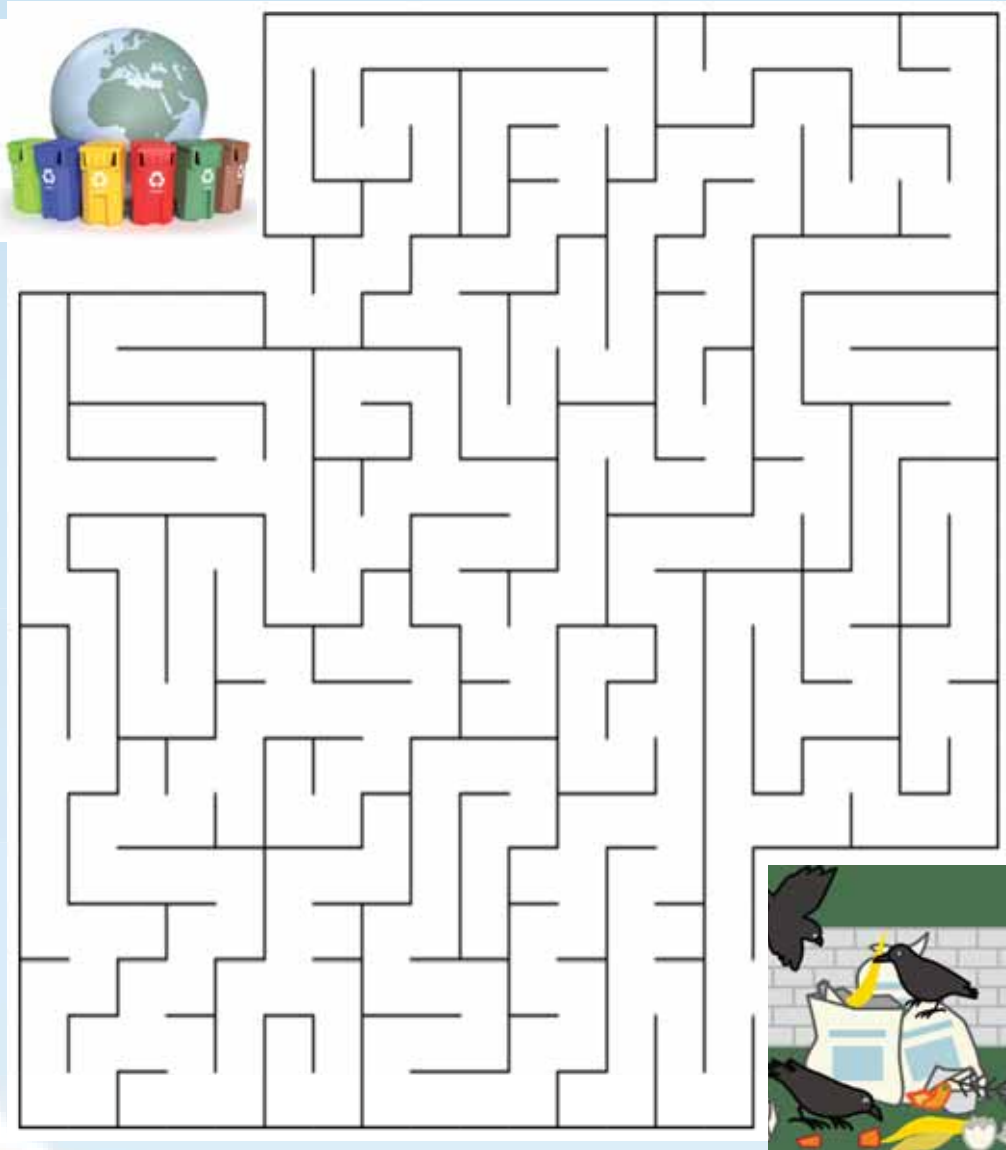
Caravan parks owners are fearful that they will be forced to close due to the lack of support and real risk of further flooding and damage caused to their land, cabins and facilities. Local to the electorate, Molesworth Recreation Reserve and Caravan Park has been forced to close again due to flooding and flood damage.

Ms McLeish said caravan park owners and other small business owners are tired of living in fear and jumping through hoops to receive funding support. "The impact of the October 2022 floods was devastating for caravan park owners, with many struggling to get back on their feet. Their struggles were made harder with the lack of financial support and insurance to rely on."

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LETS ALL DO THE RIGHT THING

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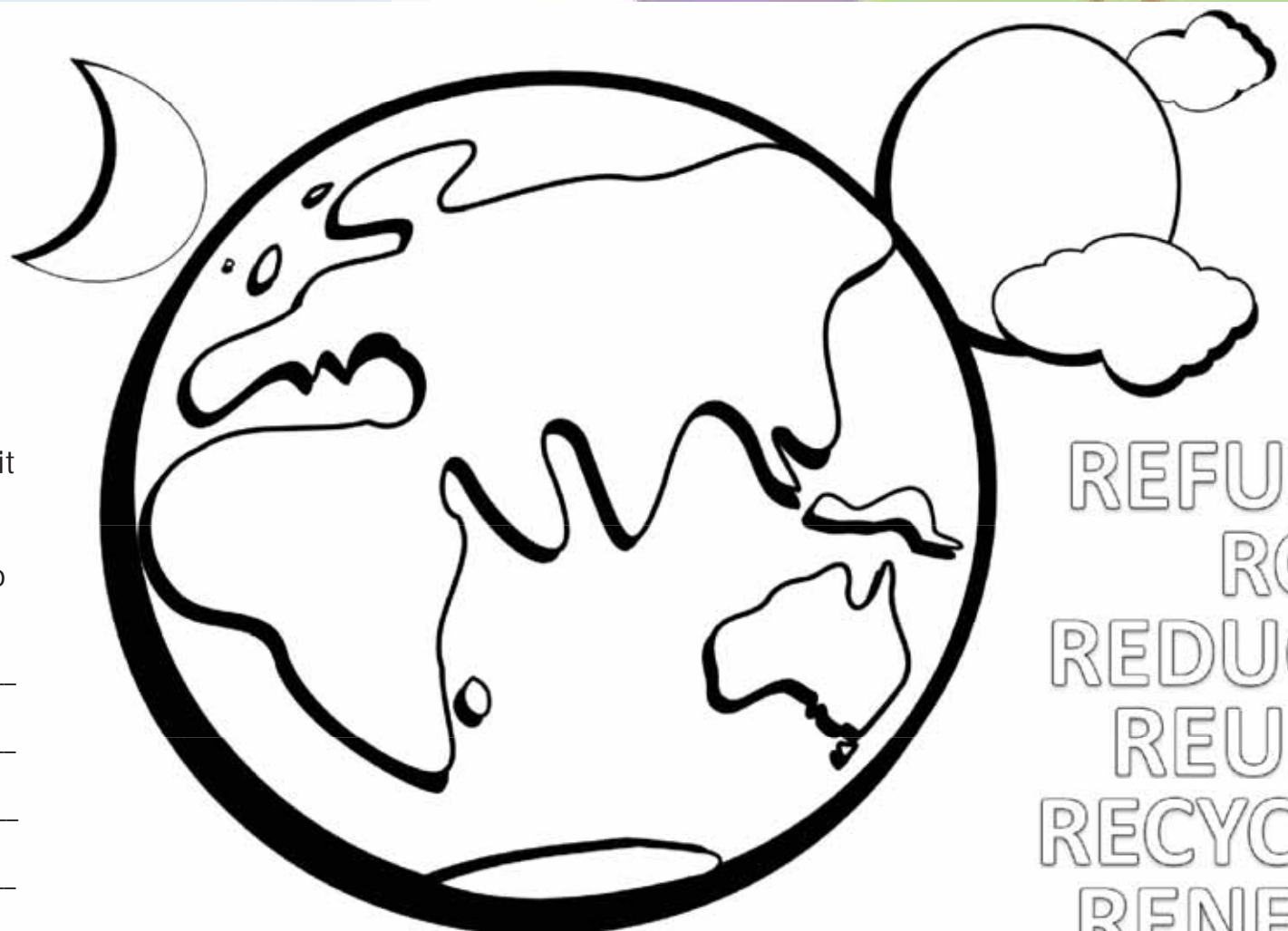
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Keep Australia Beautiful Week - August 7 to 13

Murrindindi representatives appear before federal Standing Committee

MURRINDINDI Shire Council made a presentation to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport on Monday, July 17.

The committee included Member for Indi Dr Helen Haines, with presentations being made by Vito Albicini and Peter Baines for Murrindindi, and Melissa Crane and Ari Croxford-Demasi for Mansfield. Lorna Fyfe made a private presentation.

The Murrindindi presentation started with Mr Albicini speaking about the small shire's population and large geographic area. Council manages 710km of unsealed roads and 492 kilometres of sealed roads, as well as 29 bridges. He also noted that the shire tends to get a lot of flash flooding, with roads and bridges washing away. He noted that there is a vulnerable water line in the road network.

He pointed out that the community satisfaction in the council-managed road network is declining. As a result, "We're realising there are greater expectations of our road network to be in a better state than they are now. We really do need federal funding support in a regular pattern to help us," Mr Albicini said, highlighting the infrastructure damage from fires, floods and wind damage.

The October 2022 floods resulted in up to \$35 million worth of damage, "and we're still counting. 200km of the arterial road network was affected as well as 13 bridges and 27 culverts. Fifteen major roads were impacted as well," he said, pointing out the trauma in the community as the result of such natural disasters.

He said that Murrindindi ranks as one of the highest areas for road fatalities in the region and has the highest number of crashes in the area. There have been three road fatalities already this year, one on a sealed road and two on unsealed roads, and all were visitors. About 75 per cent of all fatalities and serious injuries are visitors.

"We need to do something about our road network to make it safe and functional for our community," he said, adding that the roads need to be resilient.

The shire's pothole repairs "basically tripled" over the last couple of years, with many roads deteriorating.

He said, "The council has invested a lot of money this year to try to bring our unmade roads up to a reasonable standard, but that's at the sufferance of the rest of this infrastructure. Our renewal needs around about \$9 million a year. The council can only afford about \$8.5 million from rates to fund renewal needs. The rest comes from funding sources or reserves. We're struggling to keep our infrastructure to base levels of services.

"One avenue we think that could be looked at is a fuel excise. The federal government gets fuel excise to fund roads, but, surprisingly enough, councils actually manage about 80 per cent of the road network across the whole of Australia. I'm not sure that we get the same proportion of funding."

He told the committee, "We really need your help to provide a funding stream not just to fix it but to improve the infrastructure to make it more resilient. The only way we can start to see that is by sealing some of these unmade roads. That will bring the maintenance costs down and make them more resilient to weather conditions and/or other conditions."

He also pointed out the poor condition of the Melba Highway, with many unsafe potholes.

In addition, some unmade reserves run through state forests and there are not always road reserves for them. Mr Baines said, "For us to do improvements, to improve safety or to make the road resilient, we would have to take bits of road. There's the acquisition of land. There are negotiations with the Taungurung." Funding, of course, is also an issue.

Mr Albicini said, "We rely heavily on funding grants to do any of that work, and we appreciate that, but it makes it difficult. We've just done a recent road study of our own road network, and there are large portions of our road network where the speed needs to be reduced to make it reasonably compliant and safe, or realigned or the surface improved to make it better."

Mr Baines pointed out that the shire is jointly working on a major tourist road proposal that runs between Eildon and Bonnie Doon. The cost will be around \$1 million per kilometre.

During the October 2022 flood, "Molesworth was an area that was totally

cut off. Alexandra was technically cut off in a number of areas. So we were isolated to a state where at one stage we were a bit concerned we weren't getting enough food into the area to be able to service our community. It also meant that we couldn't have a presence in the incident command centre (ICC) during the flood emergency, which was a really big problem with communications. They're arterial roads by Regional Roads Victoria. You would think, if you want to make that area resilient, you'd have to look at upgrading those sections to make sure that they don't get flooded out. In Molesworth, as soon as the Goulburn is high, we'll get flooded. So does Toolangi," Mr Baines said. Yea and Thornton were also added to the list, along with the destruction of the Acheron bridge.

Mr Baines was asked whether a new bridge would be installed at the Acheron location or whether the plan was to build onto the old part. Mr Bain responded, "That'll be a good discussion with the community, I would say. We're trying to get the conversation going with them as to which they want."

Mr Albicini later added on the same topic, "With the disaster recovery funding, we just talked about the bridge. We're doing our assessments to try to make sure we fund the correct solution, but we've got to be really careful, because the current arrangement with the disaster recovery funding is you can't have betterment. So if we want to provide a better bridge to make it fully safe, we may not be able to with the funding stream, unless council puts a lot of money into it, which they can't afford."

In terms of the road maintenance backlog, Mr Albicini said, "At the moment our 10-year asset plan shows a deterioration of our road network within the next five years. We're trying to correct it next year. That was after a condition audit was done in 2020. We're doing another condition assessment now given that we've had a lot more rain and flood impacts, so we anticipate there'll be a greater backlog. Our other problem, as I said before, is that our pothole repairs and repairs to our road network have

pretty well doubled over the last couple of years compared to what it was, so we are struggling to actually meet our road management plan obligations. We're hitting around 85 to 90 per cent completion within timelines. We just don't have the resources and capacity to do it."

He added, "It's clear that the regional areas don't seem to get enough money for maintenance, and I think the state government should focus on trying to get Regional Roads Victoria funding they need to maintain their road infrastructure in the rural areas. I think it would be good if more funding could go to Regional Roads Victoria. With respect to federal government funding to councils, it would be good to have a regular funding stream."

Mr Baines also spoke about Break O'Day Road bridge, which was just replaced. "It was planned for three or four years, and that's because it was single lane and only had a 30 tonne nominal limit. In actual fact, after the last audit, it was suggested we should drop it to 13 tonnes, which would mean that that very important link, it is an evacuation route from Flowerdale and very important for our transport, would be out of service and there would be an hour-and-a-bit detour... Can I also say that in the past there has been a really puzzling way that funding has been provided for bridges. For instance, we've just replaced three bridges, and they had been planned for some time. The grant funding for that was under the heavy vehicle performance program, which only attracts 50-50 funding. If it had been given to us in the [federal government's] Bridges Renewal program, it would be 80-20 to the rural council. So it seemed like there was a case of trying to make the money go. Murrindindi got rich enough to afford 50-50. But that meant \$2.1 million to council, which is a large chunk out of our budget."

Discussions were also held around attracting qualified professionals to work at council, and the challenges around accommodation.



Victoria's new Emergency Management Commissioner, Rick Nugent. - S

New Emergency Management Commissioner announced.

Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Rick Nugent APM has been appointed as the state's new Emergency Management Commissioner.

His five year term will commence on September 11, 2023.

He succeeds Andrew Crisp AM APM, who has served as Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner since 2018 and will finish his term on August 4.

Deputy Emergency Management Commissioner Chris Stephenson

will act as Emergency Management Commissioner in the interim.

Mr Nugent's career with Victoria Police spans 35 years. He has led police operations as State Police Commander for some of Victoria's biggest emergencies, including the 2022 October floods and the COVID pandemic response.

He has also played a key leadership role in other critical incidents, including the 2019-20 Victorian bushfires.

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ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

St Mary's students take part in National Tree Day

SCHOOLS Tree Day took place on Friday, July 28, and students from years five and six at St Mary's Primary School were keen to take part.

They ventured out with teachers, and representatives from council and Landcare, to plant trees along the edge of UT CRreek, near the tennis courts.

The students enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the classroom and to get their

hands dirty. Fortunately, the rain held off for the event, but as the soil was damp, it was much easier for them to dig.

Thousands of schools participate in National Tree Day each year around Australia.

Since 1996, 26 million trees have been planted as part of Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day.



Hammering the stake to protect the plant while it's young. -AR




One of the students holding a wattle seedling. -AR



Students ready to start planting on National Schools Tree Day. -AR



The students were all keen to take part in the activity. -AR



Recipe kindly submitted by Kaye Baynes of the Yea Branch of the CWA

HUMMINGBIRD CAKE

by Kaye Baynes

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Eggs
- 1 cup sunflower oil
- 1 cup lightly packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups SR Flour
- 1 teaspoon bi carb soda
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 carrots finely grated
- 90 grams toasted walnuts chopped
- 440 grams can crushed unsweetened pineapple drained
- Can mango drained dried with paper towel
- 2 tablespoons flaked coconut

FOR Icing - 80 grams unsalted butter

- 150grams cream cheese
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla essence
- 280grams icing sugar
- 1 1/2 tablepoons lemon juice

METHOD

Preheat oven to 180, grease and line of springform pan

Beat eggs oil and sugar until light and fluffy

Fold in flour soda and cinnamon

Add carrots walnuts and pineapple and gently combine

Bake for 1 hour

Cool cake in pan

FOR Icing - Combine butter and cream cheese until smooth

Add other ingredients and mix until smooth and creamy

When cake is cool cut in half

Spread bottom layer with some icing and mango slices

Put top layer of cake on and ice with remaining icing

Sprinkle with flaked coconut



The activity gave the students the opportunity to learn more about our environment. -AR



Students working cooperatively to plant the trees. -AR

I found this in one of our 1965 editions!

We have newspapers available for public perusal at our office, during office hours. Come and pick one for next weeks edition or come in and have a look. They're fascinating...

We also have a book filled with interesting articles called 'A journey of 150 years from The Alexandra Times to The Alexandra Standard' for only \$22 in store.



SAVE THE DATE

August 3 - Struan
Struan to Victoria, Producer and AgTech Tour
- PIRSA

August 13-15 - Wagga Wagga
Thriving Women Conference
- AgriFutures

September 22 - Wagga Wagga
Adapting in agriculture - accessibility in agricultural enterprises- Ability Agriculture Business Network

UPCOMING CATTLE SALES DATES

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Sept 1	Combined agents store sale
Oct 6	Combined agents store sale
Nov 3	Combined agents store sale
Dec 1	Combined agents store sale

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ON THE LAND

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Support still available for flood recovery

A FLOOD Recovery Pop-up Hub was held at the Alexandra Library on Thursday, July 27. People were encouraged to drop in and ask questions about flood recovery services and grants. A similar event will be held at the Yea Library on August 1 from 5 to 6.30pm and August 2 from 10am to 1pm. Further pop up hubs are also being planned for other towns in the shire.

Vee Scott, Community Recovery Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council, explained that the hubs are aiming to pull together resources for the public. People are encouraged to drop in for assistance or to ask questions, or simply to have a chat. The people staffing the pop up hubs will then help to put people in touch with the best resources for their situation. Some of these organisations might be the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service, Rural Finance, or Partners in Wellbeing.

Zoe Edmonds from Partners in Wellbeing explained that their organisation explained that they help to support business owners, employees and families impacted by the floods, and she said that people were welcome to contact her directly for a chat on 0417 073 043. The National Centre for Farmer Health was also recommended.

Another person in attendance was Andrew Roberts from the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service. The organisation works in the Murrindindi, Mitchell and Strathbogie Shires and it has five to six support workers. People are encouraged to call Windemere on 1300 946 337, where the calls will be triaged, serving as a conduit to support services, such as mental health, support for small business, and available grants. People can also visit the website windermere.org.au

The Goulburn Flood Recovery Service is located in Seymour at the Presbyterian Church Hall on Anzac Avenue.



Kim Chadband, Andrew Roberts, Zoe Edmond and Vee Scott at the Alexandra Flood Recovery Pop-up. -AR

Kim Chadband from Murrindindi Shire Council also encouraged people to look at the Agriculture Victoria flood recovery services, as well as signing up to council's newsletter. Further information about flood relief can be found at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Floods-October-2022-Relief-and-Recovery

A meeting was also held at the Molesworth Hall on the evening of Thursday, July 27, titled *Caring for Our Stock, Caring for Ourselves*. It provided an opportunity for local farmers to learn about current animal health issues in the district from Delatite vet Anna Manning as well as finding out how to deal with stressful situations from Dr Rob Gordon.

Input sought on Bushfire Management Strategy

THE Victorian Government is asking the community for feedback on the draft of *Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy*, setting the 10 year vision for bushfire management in Victoria.

Victorians live in one of the most bushfire prone regions in the world and while fire is a natural part of many Victorian environments, major bushfire events have had devastating impacts and climate change is increasing their severity and frequency.

The draft strategy focuses on the shared responsibility of government, land and fire agencies, the community and Traditional Owners to protect the things Victorians value most from bushfire. It will help communities develop a common understanding of bushfire risk and determine the right actions to reduce that risk.

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes said, "We need to remain bushfire ready, and this strategy will make sure Victoria improves our fire management activities for the next decade."

Feedback from the Victorian community will ensure the document properly reflects Victoria's collective goals for bushfire management and creating more resilient communities.

To have your say and to help shape the direction of bushfire management in Victoria over the next 10 years, please visit engage.vic.gov.au/victorias-bushfire-management-strategy. Consultation on the strategy closes on Sunday, August 20.

PHOTO COMPETITION

Remember to submit your photo competition entry to win a \$50 gift voucher from Embling Rural in Alexandra. This month's theme is 'winter'. See our July 26 edition for details.

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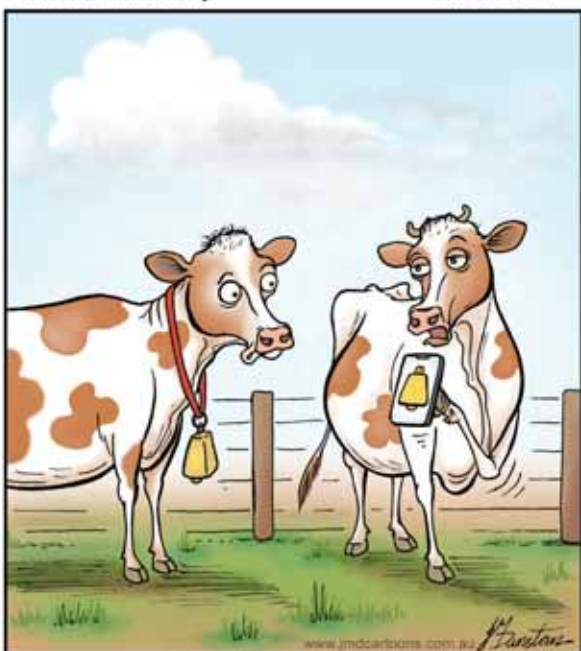
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The Rabbit Trap

By Jed Dunstan



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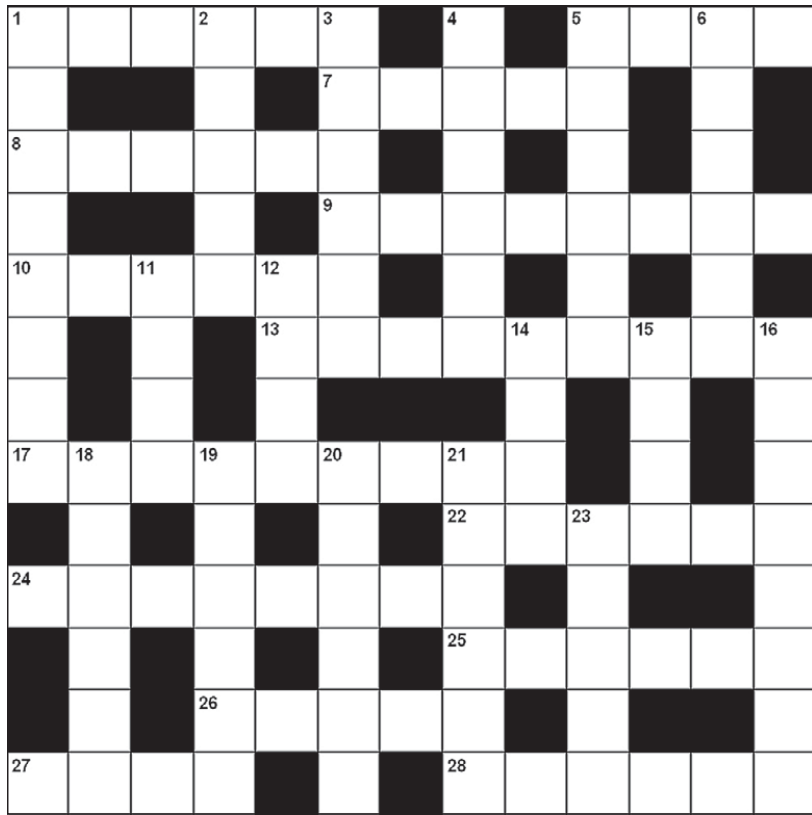


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PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 14

Crossword



ACROSS

- 1. Room for storing food.
- 5. A leader.
- 7. Fill with high spirits.
- 8. Relating to cats.
- 9. Made plump.
- 10. Not large.
- 13. Supporters of a cause.
- 17. Muttering discontentedly.
- 22. Liveliness of mind.
- 24. Between the earth and the moon.
- 25. Capable of flight.
- 26. Paper with crinkled texture.
- 27. Costing nothing.
- 28. Surgical stitch.

DOWN

- 1. As long as you live.
- 2. Wander about aimlessly.
- 3. Rolled up a part of the sail.
- 4. Australia's national emblem.
- 5. Wipe out recorded information.
- 6. A customer.
- 11. Unfermented soya-bean curd.
- 12. Young sheep.
- 14. Torn pieces of cloth.
- 15. Close to.
- 16. Translation of foreign dialogue.
- 18. The one who plunders.
- 19. Intention to do evil.
- 20. Small finch.
- 21. Anxiety and worry.
- 23. Television program.

Word Search – Cars

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

- Buick • Corvette • Ford • Hillman • Holden • Maserati
- Lamborghini • Pontiac • TModel • Toyota • Volvo

Number Block

The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 5.
 The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.
 The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.
 The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

						15
			3			21
						11
	1			1		9
						15
						10
						5
20	8	12	9	12	10	11

Maths Squares

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 25.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

Remember that multiplication & division are performed before addition and subtraction.

	-		÷	3	3
+		-		-	
	÷		-		1
+		×		+	
5	×		+		47
15		-7			9

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

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.

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



Kasey Dickie from CPSU (left) with some of the local VicForests workers who attended the meeting. -AR

An uncertain future for VicForests staff

KASEY Dickie is an organiser with the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU). She was one of the hosts of a barbecue held in Alexandra on Tuesday, July 25, with VicForests employees.

She explained, “We wanted to bring our members from VicForests together to chat about how they’re going and talk to them about the decision made by government, and to acknowledge that it’s a really hard space for this workforce to be in because they heard that decision a couple of months ago now, via the media. It’s a very rough way for them to hear that your industry is being wound up, 10 years sooner than planned. Subsequent to that, there aren’t any decisions or timelines available to the workforce that gives them some certainty about what their futures look like.”

Asked whether there had been any progress in terms of information provided by government since the decision was announced, Ms Dickie responded, “No, not from the government. I understand the department (DEECA) is doing some work, gathering the information around what VicForests does and has to offer. It’s probably the department’s responsibility to inform government around that. These things seem to take quite a long time. That’s a tricky space for a workforce that doesn’t have a timeline. It would be very nice for them if somebody with power could say to them, ‘in three months we will know x, and in six months we will know y, and a decision will be made by z.’”

She said that the main concern of the employees was the uncertainty around their futures. “People want to know if they are going to have jobs. People are not able to do the work that they’re used to doing because this decision has been made and it has an impact on their day-to-day tasks, so they have to utilise their day in other ways, which is fine but it’s not their bread and butter all the time. They need to be able to be given certainty around the work that they’re doing, where they’ll be working, what their future looks like. That has a flow-on effect to their communities. They need to know where they’ll be living, what it means for their families, their children in school, where they volunteer, how they spend their time. These are all the concerns they have.”

“The other factor that’s become quite obvious to me in coming out and speaking to members over the last couple of weeks in person is that people are worried they’re going to get an email on Monday that announces some shock decision that is going to impact them, because they don’t have any reason to feel like that won’t happen, because it already did happen. We’d like to see government do a much better job in communicating the expectations of this workforce and what’s available to them and when,” she said.

When the plan was to wrap up the native timber industry in 2030, there was a long lead-in time, and therefore decisions could be made and plans formulated. “In this situation, we’re wrapping things up in a very short period of time but what it looks like after that isn’t clear, because that all has to be worked out now, and within a smaller frame of time. The longer it goes on, the harder it is for workers on the ground who don’t know what it means for them, and don’t know what re-training opportunities or jobs will be available,” Ms Dickie said.

She explained, “The decision about what happens to VicForests hasn’t been made yet, and the issue is that, is it going to be VicForests in another form doing another thing? Is it going to be the workforce? Is it all falling apart and that’s it? Is it going to be a workforce moved into another part of a government body or public sector body? None of that has been worked through, and no timeline has been given for what work-through is going to look like.”

“You might have some reasonable expectations for what you think will happen or should happen, but none of that’s actually been bedded down. Having uncertainty is probably not wrong right now, because there really isn’t anything.”

There are about 160 staff who work in VicForests around the state, with a proportion of these in Alexandra. Ms Dickie is keen to see VicForests workers factored into the whole of industry plans for the end of native timber forestry.

“Government itself has been really disappointingly quiet about this. They made an announcement, and that was kind of it. They’ve fobbed everything off post-that, to the extent that they’re just saying, ‘No decisions have been made,’ she said.

To help in addressing the situation, the CPSU have been “reaching in to government to seek answers and talk to them. Try to get them talking to us. And reaching in to the department and talking to them about the sorts of things that we see that should be happening. And talking, obviously, to our members and VicForests the employer about what’s happening in that space. We’re trying to make sure that our members have every opportunity available to them to be utilised, if that is what they want. They’re very concerned that bad decisions will be made. These are really skilled workers that understand forestry in this state, and they know what needs to happen seasonally. These are really good people who do really good work and I think they’re worried that bad decisions will be made if people don’t think about what it is that they do and what needs to be done for the state,” Ms Dickie said.

The bulk of VicForests staff are based in regional Victoria where they volunteer with sports clubs, schools, kinders, the CFA, VicSES, and other community groups.

As members of Forests Fire Management Victoria they have been on the front line protecting the communities in events including the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires.

VicForests staff are highly trained as foresters and ecologists, having completed a broad range of qualifications and decades of experience in Victorian native forests developing harvesting strategies, conducting ecological surveys, regeneration and building strong relationships with their communities.

When the Victorian Government was contacted about their plans for VicForests, a spokesperson responded on July 28, “We are currently considering the future of VicForests and no decision has been made on the organisation at this point in time.”

It is understood that the government is considering how to best deliver the range of activities that will be required for forest management following the end of native timber harvesting including DEECA land management works, seed collection and coupe regeneration.

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NUMBER BLOCK

5	2	2	3	5	4	15	
5	0	1	3	2	0	21	
1	1	3	0	1	3	11	
5	1	1	3	3	2	9	
0	4	5	0	0	1	15	
4	0	0	0	1	0	10	
2	0	8	12	9	12	10	5
2	0	8	12	9	12	10	11

MATHS SQUARES

6	-	9	÷	3	3
+		-		-	
4	÷	2	-	1	1
+		x		+	
5	x	8	+	7	47
15		-7		9	

SUDOKU

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



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

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 microchip identification number and a source number of the 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 numerous times and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

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Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

SITUATION VACANT



Turf Farm Hand

HG Turf Group is a family owned business located in Alexandra, North East Victoria and specialises in producing premium turf for the Melbourne and regional Victorian markets.

We are seeking to employ people at our turf farm.

Applicants should be fit and energetic with good communication skills. The roles would require you to assist with general harvest and production needs including mowing, spraying and forklift/tractor operation.

Machinery experience and forklift license preferred but not essential.

You will be an important part of our dedicated team and will work in a positive and supportive environment. We will provide you with a competitive hourly wage rate together with numerous training and development opportunities in a team orientated, friendly environment. The positions are casual with the potential to lead to full time employment.

Interested? Please email your resume to info@hgturfgroup.com.au.



Heavy combination truck driver

Permanent full time position

HG Turf Group is a family owned business operating since 1995.

Our Turf Farm is located in Alexandra, North East Victoria.

HG Turf services domestic, trade and commercial markets in Melbourne and parts of Regional Victoria.

With an increased demand in sales we are seeking a Heavy Combination Truck Driver to assist in delivering turf orders to our customers.

You will be an important part of our dedicated team and will work in a positive and supportive work environment.

On offer to the right candidate is a competitive pay rate, very attractive working hours along with numerous training and development opportunities.

Responsibilities include:

- Completing Pre-Start checklist and CoR documentation daily
- Communicating with the head mechanic in regards to maintenance and repairs
- Ensuring a high standard of cleanliness and housekeeping are kept
- Delivering turf to our customers in a courteous and respectful manner
- Comply with HG Turf's OH&S Policies and Procedures

To be considered for this role it would be preferred but is not essential to have the following attributes:

- A current Heavy Combination licence with a minimum of 2 years experience
- Forklift licence and experience
- An understanding of OHS and CoR and the ability to comply with all standards
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Prompt and Punctual
- Great attitude towards customer service

To discuss this opportunity, or for more information please call 5770 3000.

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume to -

LSazonov@hgturfgroup.com.au

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

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

MEETINGS



Upper Goulburn Community Radio

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 21 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact secretary via email info@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic 3714 or call 5772 2722

FRIENDS OF THE YEA LIBRARY

Annual General Meeting. Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 2pm at Yea Council Chambers. All bookshop volunteers invited to attend. New members welcome.

MEETINGS

EILDON ACTION INC will hold its Annual General Meeting on August 15, 2023 at 5.30pm at the Eildon Visitor Information Centre. Everyone welcome. Nominations for committee and committee positions can be made on the night or submitted prior to the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the Visitor Information Centre or on the night.

HOMEWOOD HALL AGM will be held at the hall 6.30pm, August 15. All welcome.

YEA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC

Annual General Meeting Monday, August 7, 2023 at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall Supper Room. New members most welcome.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$27 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALEXANDRA ROTARY wood raffle winner is Leanne Monro. Thanks to all who bought tickets.

SITUATION VACANT



Admin

Casual position

Thornton Riverbend Holiday Park is in the centre of Thornton on the Goulburn Valley Highway with direct river access.

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- General reception, customer service and administration duties
- Housekeeping, maintenance and management
- Cash handling and daily balancing of transactions
- Management of new and existing bookings

We are looking for someone with:

- Front reception/customer service background
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office applications
- Cash handling / Eftpos
- Full training will be provided

Two days per week being Sunday and Monday, a total of 8 to 10 hours per week with flexibility to work more hours to help cover staff leave and more hours available in peak season. Please forward your resume with a covering letter to our general manager at accounts@thorntoncp.com.au



Book your classified ad TODAY!

Deadline: NOON MONDAY

Phone: 5772 1002

or email

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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



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

FUNERAL NOTICES

JENKINS

Funeral Prayers to celebrate the life of Patricia Jenkins will be offered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 3 The Parade, Yea on Wednesday, August 2, commencing at 11.30am. Following the service the cortege will proceed to the Yea Cemetery.



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

SHAW

A Funeral service celebrating the life of Jenni will be held at the Uniting Church Alexandra on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 commencing at 11am

Followed by Private Cremation



McCormack FUNERALS
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Peace of Mind
A.F.D.A. 1800 080 909
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DEATH NOTICES

BARKLA, Judith
'ANN'
29/12/1938
26/07/2023

Ann died very peacefully after a long period of illness. She was a much loved sister of Margaret (dec), John (dec), and Peter (dec). She was a warm, funny and loving aunt to a 'tribe' of nieces and nephews, and a special friend to Lesley and many others.

Our sincere thanks go to all at Epworth Box Hill who were so caring, supportive and respectful. Special thanks to the Michaels - Kidney and Heart. Please refer to McCormacks website for funeral details.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Unite Australia
Not divide by race

VOTE NO

Authorised by Raymond Donkin, Buxton.

DEATH NOTICES

JENKINS, (nee Davey). Patricia Frances

Beloved wife of Jim (dec). Loving mother to Darrel (dec). Christine, Kerryn, Joanne, and Justin. Loved grandmother, great grandmother, and great-great grandmother. Peacefully reunited with dad on July 22, aged 93.

LONG, Heather

at Kellock Lodge, Alexandra. Left us on July 24 this year.

Lifelong friend of Bette and Jack (dec.) Boote. Much loved honorary Auntie Bun of Anne, Marylyn and Denise (dec.) and their families. The honour was ours Auntie Bun.

Deepest sympathy to Colin, Wendy, Andrew and Tracey.

LONG, Heather

11/02/1926 - 24/07/2023
Passed away peacefully at Kellock Lodge.

Loving wife of Syd (dec).

Cherished mother of Colin, Wendy, Andrew, Tracey and mother-in-law to Mike.

Nan to seven grand children. Great nan to seven great grand children. Great great nan to five.

Reunited now with dad. Thank you to all staff at Kellock Lodge for your love and care given to mum.

Private Cremation



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SHAW, Jennifer Mary 'Jenni'

14/08/1946 - 28/07/2023
Passed away peacefully surrounded by family.

Wife of Mervyn (dec.)
Beloved mother of Elissa And Paul,
Mother in law of Andy and Lisa.

Nonna of Noah, Ash, Faith and Grace.
An amazing strong and independent woman, A great life well lived.

New nurse practitioner in the shire



Cassandra Fraser's first patient treated as a nurse practitioner at Mansfield District Hospital. -S



Medical student Bella Picone, centre doctor Graham Slaney and Cassandra Fraser at the Highline Mountain Bike event. -S

AFTER a nursing career spanning more than 30 years, Alexandra's Cassandra Fraser is now a newly minted Nurse Practitioner (NP).

The Nurse Practitioners Association of Australia defines an NP as "a Registered Nurse with the experience, expertise and authority to diagnose and treat people of all ages with a variety of acute or chronic health conditions. NPs have completed additional university study at Master's degree level and are the most senior and independent clinical nurses in our health care system."

"It seems to have taken a long time but I've got there," Cassandra said. "I had to do a masters of advanced clinical nursing for nurse practitioner, but you have to have had a lot of advanced practice hours prior to undertaking it, before they'll take you into the course," she said.

Cassandra did the majority of her university studies from home. "We did it all remotely. My first day of uni was the first day of home schooling. I only ever went to uni once, for my prac exams, the rest was all online. Even the final presentations were online," she said.

But that doesn't mean she was unhappy about it. "It made it easier for me. Being two and a half hours away from Monash, (going there) would have made it harder," Cassandra said.

Though remote learning did have its down side. "It's very isolating and very lonely because you don't get to meet the other students in person," she said.

Cassandra has qualified amongst a rarified bunch. "Only six of us sat our final exams in June. It's only a very small intake, because of the amount of advanced practice hours you have to do and it's a big challenge," she said.

"You've got to have your practice hours in a particular specialty so my specialty is rural and remote nursing and emergency," Cassandra said.

Cassandra will continue in her roles in Mansfield for the time being, but her ultimate goal is to bring her expertise home to Alexandra.

"I'll stay in Urgent Care at Mansfield and I'll work at Mansfield medical clinic two days a week. And I'll slowly develop an independent practice in Alex because I'd like to come back to Alex in some way, shape or form. I'd like to bring the skills that I've got home, basically," she said.

"My skillset includes xray, plaster, suture. I can now take my own xrays, interpret them, and treat them. Obviously you collaborate with doctors, GPs, orthopaedics, whatever, whoever you need to collaborate with. You're not totally autonomous in that regard, but even the GPs collaborate with orthos with their xrays and things," Cassandra said.

Cassandra completed her training with the assistance of two experienced mentors. "I've been very well taught by

Dr Graham Slaney, he was my clinical mentor and Elizabeth Sinclair the CEO of Yea and District Memorial Hospital was my professional mentor. They were both wonderful," she said.

"I got lots of interesting experiences with Graham. I worked in the hospital in Urgent Care, with the acute patients on the ward, in his clinic and also out in the field. We did the Highline bike annual event in Mansfield and he took myself and a medical student with him to make up the medical team for the event, which was pretty amazing. It was the challenge of working outside of your comfort zone. Under good supervision and support, but it was certainly challenging. I've been very well supported by Mansfield Hospital," Cassandra said.

Local GP Lachlan Fraser also happens to be Cassandra's husband, and he too provided some assistance. "Lachlan has been a quiet support in the background. He'll just teach me the odd random fact here and there. To have him to learn the prescribing software and the general practitioner clinic stuff, which he's expert at, is absolutely beneficial," she said.

Returning to work in Alexandra is top of her To Do list, where she'd like to set up a home visiting service. "To create a small home visit service is my goal, when I come back to Alexandra, for acute illnesses," she said.

"My expertise is in acute illness not in chronic illness. That's where I hope to start my business, which will be called 'NP on the Run'. Just a home visit service out of hours, evening hours, maybe sometimes daytimes. Acute illnesses like colds and flu, a sore eye, a sick child, things that you might go to the GP for. A minor illness that you can be seen at home for. Not things that you would take to emergency. Just things that, if you couldn't get a GP appointment, I might be able to fill that gap. I can do a home visit, sort that out, do a certificate, do a script," Cassandra said.

Despite Nurse Practitioners first being approved to practice in Australia in 2000, they still only make up a fraction of the nursing profession, Cassandra said.

"It's been very slow to take off. Its still only about one percent of the nursing workforce, so there's 350,000 nurses and just over 2500 nurse practitioners in Australia," said Cassandra.

But she wholeheartedly recommends it as something other nurses should consider taking up. "Absolutely, I would recommend doing it, for people who are passionate about their advanced practice. If they're in an advanced practitioner role already, to extend that into a nurse practitioner position," Cassandra said.

She plans on bringing her skills back to the neighbourhood soon. "My absolute passion would be to come back to Alexandra and provide a service to the community. I just like helping people at the end of the day. Love helping people. I love my job. I always have," Cassandra said.

Buxton history book officially launched



Maria McIntyre presented the first book to Denis Scott. -MP



Graham Eddy and Brian Worcester. Brian was the emcee for the event. -MP



Compiler and editor Julie Foletta. -MP



Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish was among the attendees. -MP



Attendees at the launch of the Buxton history book on Saturday, July 29. -MP

Planners, builders and insurers seek planning overhaul

IN response to recent flood emergencies, the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA), Master Builders Australia (MBA) and the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), supported by the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), convened the inaugural National Industry Roundtable: Land Use Planning and Resilience.

The organisations agree that state governments needs to urgently overhaul their approach to land use planning to ensure no more homes are built without regard to risk on flood plains.

Around 60 experts from government, financial services, property, and community joined the discussion, which called on state and territory governments when thinking about future housing challenges, to urgently rethink planning rules so no more homes are built in high-risk flood-prone locations.

A communique from the three sponsoring organisations outlining recommendations for reform has been released and will be sent to planning ministers, who also met today to discuss this issue.

The roundtable heard that all Australians are bearing the costs of worsening extreme weather events, and these costs are increasing because of historic planning decisions.

Attendees agreed that without reform, population pressures and inadequate planning laws will see further development of flood-prone land putting lives at risk, costing taxpayers billions of dollars in recovery and remediation, and adding to an already strained insurance sector.

Andrew Hall, CEO Insurance Council of Australia said, "The flood events of 2022, with almost 300,000 disaster-related claims costing around \$7 billion, has driven up premiums and has resulted in affordability constraints for those at highest risk.

"Without insurance, homeowners likely can't access a mortgage, and that is the wrong direction for our country.

"The roundtable sets out the actions governments must take to ensure future financial losses to homeowners, businesses and the community are avoided, and better government planning and investment is taken seriously."

Murrindindi Shire Council July meeting

ON Wednesday, July 26 Murrindindi Shire Council held their monthly meeting.

A petition for road sealing along Steavenson Road and Aroona Drive in Buxton was presented to council. The petition was signed by 21 people with addresses in either Steavenson Road or Aroona Drive, Buxton.

In Public Participation, Greg Conlan spoke in support of the Killingworth Road subdivision.

Applicant Bill Warne spoke in relation to 7 Peterkin Street, Alexandra. He said, "Thank you to planning and community staff for their assistance and support, it's been very helpful. I have read the reports and I am pleased with the recommendations and the conditions that are placed except one. It's covered in the report but we have commenced discussions with VicRoads to provide access to the proposed lots three and four on the plan and those lots we now combined to reduce the total lot size but that will be subject to later application.

His only concern with the recommendation was the requirement for curb and channel construction along the street. Some discussions with councillors followed.

Phillip Stevenson spoke about his concerns about the drainage on Peterkin Street. "It has flooded twice in the last two years, and I'm concerned with the other houses added to the estate, the flooding would be worse," Mr Stevenson said.

"If it's been addressed, good and well. I would be happy to know if it has been addressed. With access to the highway and Aitken Street. It would be good if there was further access to that street. Obviously it will take time, but it will be good if it was approved because all traffic will have to go through Peterkin Street and Johnston Street just to leave the estate. That will create a lot more traffic on the minor residential streets. The buses and trucks do chew it up a bit. With the visual effects, armed fences instead of steel fences. The view would be better if kept to a minimal."

CEO Ms Bonazzi presented question to council from Kelvin Granger and Dean Hurlston from Council Watch Inc.

The question was, "Can council please advise the dollar amount of cost shifting from state government that you estimate they incurred in the 2022/ 2023 financial year?"

Ms Bonazzi responded, "To determine the exact dollar amount of cost shifting from the state government requires a thorough review and analysis of current and past grant funding, cost of service delivery and cost of extra compliance obligations imposed by council over a period of time. As our finance staff are currently occupied with end of year quality and preparation for the annual external audit we do not have the

capacity at present to quantify the dollar and cost shifting from state government for the year.

She added, "There are a range of areas where cost shifting by state government is impacting on the financial capacity of council. Grant payments to local government have either reduced over several years in real terms, or are not sufficient to cover a fair share of the cost to council, even though councils are required to maintain the same levels of service. Examples of these include, provision of library services, school crossing supervision, roadside weed management, provision of maternal and child health services, immunisation, and emergency management (preparedness, response and recovery). In addition, certain policies of the state create constraints on the availability of own-generated funds that council can use to provide services. An example of this is the Fair Go rating system, which sets a cap on annual rate rises which for several years has been set below the annual consumer price index.

"The state landfill levy imposed on councils has increased substantially in recent years. The implementation of the circular economy policy and the associated curbside collection reforms will involve significant increases in costs to council, much of which will need to be recovered with higher charges to local communities. Statutory planning fees are set at a state level below the actual cost of applicants and planning applications.

Planning

A planning application for 10 Murchison Street, Marysville, was received, relating to signage. Officers recommended a deferral of the decision as the applicant is seeking to make amendments to the application.

Regarding the proposed 16 lot development at 204 Killingworth Road, Killingworth, the plan proposes a new internal road and will provide 16 lots. No written responses or submissions were received from neighbours. Council approved the development.

Councillor Lording expressed his strong support for the application, saying, "I think our planning department did a great job with this one, I can't see anything wrong with it at all and I am very pleased we are heading towards more land available in the township of Yea. I strongly support that."

A 19 lot subdivision on Peterkin Street, Alexandra, had an officer's recommendation to approve. Three objections were received in relation to drainage, lot sizes and amenity.

Council issued a notice of decision to grant a permit, provided a number of conditions were met, including approval by responsible authorities and underground powerlines.

Cr Gallagher said, "This particular part of the subdivision is well within the

residential zone that is set out in the housing settlement strategy. This is the growth area for Alexandra, so I'm highly supportive of establishing new locations for the development for potential rental properties and for additional housing."

Murrindindi Planning scheme review

Mr Paxton said, "Councillors have a role as being responsible as the authority for managing the planning scheme. Under the planning environment act, councils are recommended to update the planning scheme to make sure it reflects state and local policies and bring it up to date in that process. Council staff have undertaken a review internally and consulted with several referral agencies.

Council resolved to commence community consultation on the draft planning scheme review.

Cr Carpenter added, "I do hope the community do take the time to read this and give some input. We would really like to hear from them about this draft."

Collaborative digital innovation IT system project

Councillor Chesworth said the collaborative digital project is between Mansfield, Murrindindi, Strathbogie and Benalla LGAs, involving the replacement of older IT business systems. The transition to the new system will be supported by alignment of business processes across the four councils. This will hopefully enable the sharing of resources and services. This is thanks to a \$1million grant from the state Rural Councils Transformation program, \$888,000 from the state's Business Acceleration Fund and \$2.2 million contributed from across the four councils over the next three financial years. Mansfield Shire Council is acting as the lead council for this project and holds the projects grant funds.

Insurance

Council's public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover is up for renewal, and council approved the payment of \$312,039.70 for the 2023/24 financial year.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament

To assist the community to understand the purpose of the referendum and to feel confident in having respectful and factual conversations regarding the voice to parliament and to cast their vote on the upcoming referendum, council is proposing a program which will run for six weeks and begin on July 31.

Specifically, the communications approach will focus on: What is a referendum? What is the Voice? Why a Voice? How a Voice would work, utilising content sourced primarily from the Australian Government's 'Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a Voice' resources.

Council resolved to endorse the commencement of the program.

Motion to MAV State Council

Council endorsed submitting a motion to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council to be held on October 13.

The motion states, "That the formulae used by the Victorian Grants Commission in determining the allocation of Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants be reviewed to place greater emphasis on the impacts of natural disasters and climate change, the limited alternate revenue options for rural councils, and the increased demands of heavy transport and tourism impacting local roads."

Contract to sealed roads rehabilitation program tender award

Due to extreme weather, last year's projects carried over into the 2023/2024 program. Council voted to accept the tender from Tender One and award CONT23/1 for the Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program 2023/24 for a lump sum price of \$632,087 to complete all required rehabilitation works for the nominated roads.

They also voted to approve the allocation of \$50,000 as contingency to be used in the delivery of this contract as detailed in this report, to allocate \$279,000 carry forward funding from the 2022/23 Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program and \$173,087 carry

forward funding from the 2022/23 Road Major Maintenance Program to the 2023/24 Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program, so that the revised total budget for the 2023/24 Sealed Roads Rehabilitation Program is \$692,087.

Councillor reports

Councillor Carpenter had nothing to report this month.

Cr Gallagher said "Lobbying for face to face banking, a presence, a number of meetings and activities have been reported to council and those efforts have seen Rebecca Taylor appointed as the new bank manager. The new Alexandra agency will offer banking services and host a representative of rural bank who will assist local agribusiness banking needs. The outcome is credit to local families, business and organisations who committed to banking locally.

"The Alexandra District Health board executive and staff conducted a public board meeting in Alexandra last week. The board outlined local services on offer and presented some undergraduate and graduate enrolled nurse training programs, specifically designed to allow younger people to progress their education and their career locally. Many questions from the community were welcomed and answered.

"In the forthcoming month, the AGM season, citizens across the shire are encouraged to keep an eye out on social media and local press for the opportunity to contribute as a volunteer."

Councillor Gerencser said, "This is not a report, more an announcement, vale Joe Exton, part of the Kinglake community for over 66 years. He sadly passed away on his annual trip to Queensland and it was quite devastating. Joe was very much involved in the Kinglake community and after Black Saturday he donated some land so Middle Kinglake Primary School could be rebuilt. He was a pillar of the community and spent a lot of time helping people in the community. He will be sadly missed."

Councillor Lording said, "The planning scheme review requires councils to review their planning scheme periodically. Council has endorsed a review for public comment. Please take time to read the review and give us feedback. Further information will be on our webpage."

Councillor McAulay said, "I am so excited this month to report that in the Business and Economic Development Portfolio there are a number of new initiatives that are in the early stages of implementation as well as the normal busy day to day business. The team is looking at developing a Business and Economic Development Strategy. They will be

reviewing all studies and work done to date.

"At the end of forest transition, the council is still engaging with forest haulage staff and other stakeholders. Affected contractors are encouraged to engage with council.

She added, "Councillors are actively looking into establishing a country hub. The Hub type model where you can do University or TAFE courses locally."

Mayor Walsh said, "I conducted a citizenship ceremony where I had the pleasure of welcoming nine new Australian citizens."

CEO Ms Bonazzi said, "In regard to the Commonwealth Games, even though Murrindindi didn't have a role in the Commonwealth Games, we now have an opportunity to leverage some of these funding initiatives and we have commenced discussions to ensure we get our fair share of this regional \$2 billion package.

"Council have been successful in the Building Blocks planning grant and will receive \$148,000 in funding from department of education and training to assist in the pre prep and three and four year old kindergarten program."

Regional youths eligible for \$5000 vehicle grant

YOUNG people across regional Victoria will be given the opportunity to swap their older cars for a safer vehicle thanks to the Victorian Government's Unsafe2safe program.

Expressions of interest are now open for young drivers aged 18 to 25 to receive a \$5000 subsidy towards buying a safer vehicle as part of the program.

The trial aims to replace 1000 older vehicles that are over 16 years old for more modern vehicles that have safety features to help prevent crashes, such as Lane Keep Assist and Autonomous Emergency Braking systems.

Young drivers are at the greatest risk of being involved in a crash in their first years of solo driving and young regional Victorians driving older cars are 15 times more likely to be killed in crashes compared with the state average.

Of the 84 drivers who have died on Victorian roads this year, 14 were between 18 and 25 years old.

The program is part of Victoria's Road Safety Action Plan under the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, which focuses on groups that are over-represented in road trauma.

Participants who complete the Vehicle Safety Basics course through the VicRoads e-learning portal will be given priority access to the program.

Expressions of interest close on August 27. For more information on eligibility and to apply, visit engage.vic.gov.au/unsafe2safe

SPORT



Alexandra Secondary College Snow Day

by Eliza Gesler

ON Friday, July 28 Alexandra Secondary College took 50 students up to Mount Buller for an annual snow ski/board day.

We started the day off with a 5.45am start where we departed ASC and headed off to Mansfield Pullins Ski Hire to get everyone's gear.

When we got to Mount Buller the weather wasn't too flash, but everyone still managed to have a good time.

The majority of students skied, and the rest went snowboarding. A full day was spent, everyone had lessons that went for around two hours before we had lunch at the ABOM.

After lunch had finished, everyone had their own free time where they could go wherever they liked and most had a ball.

When the day came to an end, we all headed back down the mountain and jumped back on the bus, all the way back to the ski hire again.

I would definitely recommend going on this trip if you are coming to Alexandra Secondary College or are already there, because it is a wonderful day to enjoy.



Winter sun shines at the tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

ANOTHER magnificent day dawned for round nine of the Euroa and District Ladies Winter Tennis competition on Monday, July 24.

Mansfield Red travelled to play Moglonemby along with Mansfield Black who played Seven Creeks in Euroa's glorious sunshine. Mansfield Blue took the trip to Terip and Benalla hosted Euroa.

Moglonemby's Judy Sands and Marlene Hanrahan began

with their usual class taking the opener 8-2 against Red's Carolyn Murray and Jo O'Brien. Alongside them Mary Kelly and Kerryn Keir were up against Red's two fill-ins Margaret Howlett and Di Bergelin. The visitors finally took the lengthy set in a tiebreak with scoring support from the Moglonemby captain.

The home side were convincing in all the remaining sets, winning 5/47 to 1/22.

Seven Creeks' Rowena Ellis and Rosie Cameron overcame Black's Anna Speirs and Liza Karras 8-4 in their opener, while Jenny Bell and Rhonda Carpenter combined strongly to win 8-0 against Kerry Hewlett and Jill Hayes in theirs.

In lengthy battles, scores not indicative of the contest, Black took the remaining sets. Speirs and Carpenter trailed then matched their opponents' game for game in a strategic struggle. The visitors broke them in the

thirteenth game and served out the set to win 8-6.

Mansfield Black 5/44 defeated Seven Creeks 1/21.

Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Phoebe McDermid and Jenny Martin took every set against Blue's Michelle Pigdon, Sophie Yencken, Clare Beecham, and Jill Bredon.

Pigdon and Beecham put up a challenge in their pairing, ultimately losing 6-8. Terip won 6/48 to 0/17 affirming their top of the table status.

Benalla had a much closer tussle with Euroa in their match on the lawn. Benalla's Kate Campbell, Bev Gill and Maureen Jewell welcomed Terip's Frances Lawrence into their side for the day.

Euroa's Sue Vaughan and Lyndall Bigland won their opener 8-6, while Gill and Jewell won 8-4 against Julie Brook and Ruth Nolan. Vaughan combined well with Nolan to win 8-3. Benalla won 4/41 to Euroa's 2/29 in a great contest.

Alexandra Football Netball Club – Juniors

by Ray Steyger

IN round 12 of the 2023 season, the Alexandra Football Netball Club junior teams travelled to Kings Park to play St Marys in four games of football and two games of netball, with Alex Black having a bye. Alexandra Red's three teams travelled to Broadford while the under 16 football team travelled to Mooroopna to play Moama. The under 9s and 10s football had a game but theirs is non-competitive and non-scoring so there is no win loss for that competition.

Football

Under 12

St Marys 0.3 - 3 defeated by Alexandra 14.18 - 102

North Central Construction - Henry Doherty, Essence Coffee Lounge - Sam Weisse, FoodWorks - Hunter Ricco, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Austin Reeves, Coach - Levi Campbell, Billy Baker and Maverick Burchall.

Under 14

St Marys 2.2 - 14 defeated by Alexandra 14.15 - 99

North Central Construction - Aiden Campbell, Essence Coffee Lounge - Toby Lucas, FoodWorks - Lachlan Williams, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Kayden Armstrong, Coach - Maddie Ware.

Under 16

Moama 9.6 - 60 defeated by Alexandra 11.11 - 77

DMK Taxation - Coen Miljkovic, Essence Coffee Lounge - Drew Collier, FoodWorks - Will Granter, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Ashton Cowell, Coach - Bailey Bastion.

Netball

Under 11

St Marys 11 defeated by Alexandra Black 15

FoodWorks - Koa Parker, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Charli Stephens, Alex Sportspower - Ashleigh Francis.

Under 13

St Marys 8 defeated by Alexandra Black 16

FoodWorks - Emma Simpson, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Leah Cole, Alex Sportspower - Chloe Woehl.

Under 11

Broadford 1 defeated by Alexandra Red 34

FoodWorks - Asher Mullins, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Summer Edwards, Miljkovic Family - Zelda Van Lierop.

Under 13

Broadford 11 defeated by Alexandra Red 19

FoodWorks - Zoe Mullins, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Phoebe Kidd, Miljkovic Family - Charli Edwards.

Under 15

Broadford 26 defeated Alexandra Red 16

FoodWorks - Marli Collier, Alexandra Bakery and Café - Georgia Wales, Wales Family - Ashlyn Newman.

A very big thank you to the award sponsors for their continued support of our junior footballers and netballers in 2023. Next Sunday, August 6, Alexandra junior football and netball teams all return to Rebel Park, hosting Wandong in four games of football. Alexandra Black and Alexandra Red teams to play each other, and under 16 football also at Rebel Park and host Euroa. If anyone can assist with the canteen on home games during the season, please speak to Melissa Crane and Shona Miljkovic to go on the roster.

Squash round three of term three

By Kristelle Leary

LASAGNE had a bye this week.

Kelly v Oli: In an odd turn of events, both players were missing their opponent, so ended up playing each other for a rematch. This week the games were very close, but Oli took three and the match. 62 to 50.

Bolognese v Spaghetti

Charlie (fill in) v Reece: A close match with some brilliant rallies. Two games were drawn but Charlie got the better of Reece and won the other two for the victory. 60 to 46.

Kristelle v Jared: In the beginning Kristelle appeared to have Jared running all over the court, but Jared gave back in

the last two games to result in a draw. 67 to 67.

Ben v Pep: Pep gained the upper hand by persistence and hard running as Ben underestimated his opponent. Ben raised his game but was only able to manage drawn games. Pep for the win. 61 to 49.

Michael H v Daniel K: Daniel was off his game. Michael took the opportunity to take the victory. 74 to 56.

Carbonara v Ravioli

James G v Aiden: James used his experience to take complete control over Aiden who is still developing his squash skills. James for the win. 80 to 36.

Lucas v Lee: Lee and Lucas had some great rallies. Lucas kept a steady lead throughout the match to come out victorious. 62 to 46.

Daniel W (fill in) v Michael M: A few loose serves cost Daniel greatly. Michael capitalised on this opportunity to take some cracking points. Daniel made Michael work hard for his win. 65 to 38.

James W v Andrew: Two games all. Andrew came from behind to win once he worked out how to exploit James' weaknesses. 71 to 58.



James W scrambles a back hand against Andrew. -S

Final round of Winter Aggregate for Marysville golfers

by Lesley Rundle

LAST Saturday the Marysville golfers played the second and final round of the Winter Aggregate. The winner of the 2023 ladies winter aggregate was Heather Jenkins with nett 73 in round one and nett 75 in the second round giving her a total of 148. Ross Ansell won the men's section with a 75 and 62 nett totalling 137. Congratulations to Heather and Ross whose good scores on Saturday also gave them the best scores of the day. The ladies daily runner up was Jody Doran (12) with nett 76, with Steve Coker (16) the men's runner up with nett 69. The nearest the pins were won by Jody Doran, Keith Atwell, Ross Ansell and Steve Berry, who also won the Golden Shot. Mark Alexander won the putting with 27 putts. Next Saturday, August 5 golfers will play a stroke round for the August monthly medal.

During the presentation after play, members welcomed back men's captain Colin Davies from his trip to the northern hemisphere and also thanked Richard Clark for substituting for Colin during his absence.

Members are reminded that the club AGM will be held on Saturday, September 2 at 9am in the clubhouse. Any player who would like to nominate for a position on the committee is asked to contact President Steve Coker.

On Thursday, July 27 one Marysville lady and three from Yea played a social game at Yering Golf Club in Yering. They enjoyed playing on the long and challenging course.

It was a pleasure to welcome some lady golfers on a trip from Rosedale Golf Club in Aspendale. They spent two nights in Marysville and thoroughly enjoyed their golf on the "beautiful course."

The front nine holes will be closed on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday while some dangerous trees and branches are removed from the course.

Wet underfoot at Eildon Golf Club

by Puttamattic

THIS week the course was still a bit wet under foot, but 10 players contested a Stableford competition. A big welcome to new member Alison Southwell and guest Karen Guyer. Great to see some new faces at the club.

Winners on the day: Wayne Kupke back on the winners list with 35 points, Karen Guyer 33

points, and Michael Lynch with 32 points.

Other winners: nearest the pins, on the third, second shot, Alison Southwell, twelfth Michael Lynch, fourteenth Karen Guyer. Our swindle winner was Karen Guyer - good day for Karen. Congratulations to all our winners.

Next week will be a Stroke round and July monthly medal, hope to see you at the club.

Alexandra Golf Club news

by Elizabeth Goss

ANOTHER quiet week at the club except for the team of volunteers who are busy doing winter chores in preparation for, hopefully, a busy spring.

Numbers were again up on Tuesday, July 25 with nine players including two welcome visitors. Brad Newton was again the winner (12) 33pts and Bruce Colville the runner/up (27) 31pts. Brad won nearest the pin on the seventh.

Next Wednesday, August 9 is scheduled as Stableford.

Numbers were better on Saturday, July 29 with 17 players. Mick Holohan was the winner with (12) 37pts and Todd Galloway the runner/up with (24) 36pts. Nearest the pin on the second went to Mick Holohan, on the seventh to John Norfolk, on the twelfth to Matt Jenkins and on the eighteenth to John Steer. Ball Run Down: Shane McGorlick, Corey Jack, Daniel Burns, Jared Sloane and Michael Bissonnet. Raffle Winners: Luke Heard and Trevor Biffin. Next Saturday, August 5 is scheduled as Stroke, Monthly Medal, and count your putts.

Winter social competition kicks off at Alexandra Tennis Club

by Troy Surkitt

LAST week we kicked off our new Wednesday night winter social competition. With six players taking to the courts in what was a warmer night than we have experienced in recent months. Whilst it was far from the glamour of the recent Wimbledon tournament, and a few less spectators in the stands, some great matches were played and some very hard fought out sets with plenty of deuces.

Each week we play a round robin tournament which alters depending on how many numbers we get. Generally, we play 3 sets of doubles, best of 8 games, alternating partners throughout the night. The games are tallied up at the end of the night with a weekly winner coming away with a Corner Hotel voucher, and an overall winner at the end of the winter season.

The current leaderboard is as follows:

Troy Surkitt - 13 games; Grahame White - 11 games; Hilary Myles - 10 games.

For anyone interested in getting involved in tennis please contact club president Hilary Myles on 0415 619 002 or Hilary_myles@hotmail.com

All ages, skill levels and experience welcome. We play on Wednesday nights at 6.30pm, \$5 per night and attendance is at your leisure. We thank the Corner Hotel for providing vouchers as our major sponsor.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

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Senior Rebels take down Powelltown



Steve Steiner and Morgan Eastwood in the seniors. -S



Ben Jack in the seniors. -S



Taking a leap. -Ross Malcolm



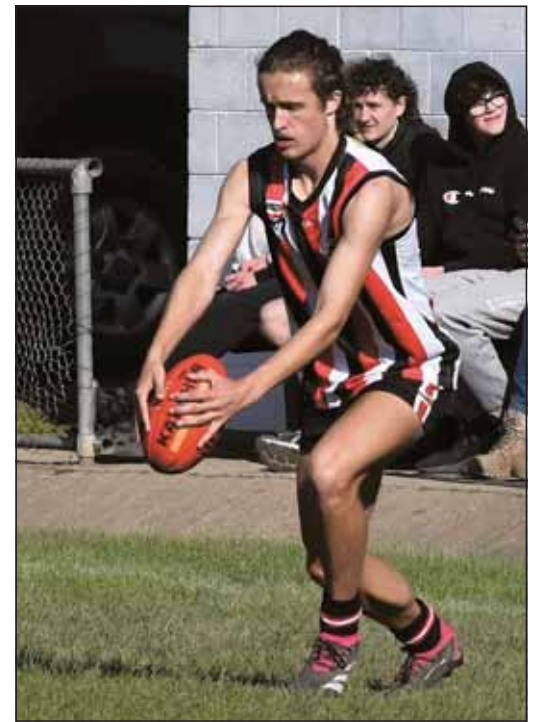
Seniors football. -Ross Malcolm



Mitch Coutts in the seniors. -S



Harry Aikman in the seniors. -S



Riley Frankcombe in the seniors. -S



The seniors match. -Ross Malcolm



Senior netball. -Ross Malcolm

by Ray Steyger

THE Outer East League 2023 season round 13 saw the Rebels return to Rebel Park and host Powelltown for two games of football and four games of netball.

Reserves

Alexandra 1.2 - 8 defeated by Powelltown 20.8 - 128

The Reserves, missing some regular players, took on the second placed Demons who quickly got into gear with four goals to one in the first quarter before adding another sixteen goals for the game whilst keeping the Rebels scoreless. The Rebels never gave in but the Demons were too good on the day.

Awards: Shepparton Volkswagen - Lachlan Collard, Ampol fuel card - Dylan Jack, Alex Sportspower - David Ray, Buxton Hotel - Charles Twitchett.

Seniors

Alexandra 13.4 - 82 defeated Powelltown 10.16 - 76

The Seniors had a number of players unavailable, so were assisted by a couple of players doubling up including Mitchell Coutts for his first senior game at the Club, to take on the second placed Demons. In a free flowing first quarter the Demons kicked five goals to four before the Rebels kicked five unanswered goals in the second quarter, the Demons managing six behinds. The Demons hit back in the third quarter with four goals to two to narrow the margin to two points at the last change in a great game of local football. The final quarter was a terrific contest, the Rebels kicking two goals to one to take the win.

Awards: Incentives - Steve Steiner, Taylor Kleinschmidt and Charlie Millar, Buxton Hotel - Ted Watkin, Yarck Hotel / Endeavour Petroleum volunteer award - Kylie Cairns. Raffle winners after the games: meat tray - Jake Steyger, wine - Natalie Gregg, gate raffle - Sue Haggis.

Netball

A grade lost 35 - 67: Incentive - Mia Rouget, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Zoie Chessor.

B grade lost 29 - 56: Incentive - Brodie Wheelhouse, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Sarah Mooney.

C grade lost 15 - 43: Incentive - Emily Van Lierop, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Mikaela Krijt.

Under 17 lost 19 - 22: Incentive - Caeley Palmer, Corner Hotel / Grant St Grocer - Maddy Northmore.

Thursday's Rebel Raffles continued last Thursday and we thank our sponsors Swenrick Constructions, Yarck Hotel, Reddrops Foodworks / Houseboat Sales Lake Eildon, Eildon Bakery / Yarck Meat and Produce, Alexandra Quality Meats / AFNC canteen, Yea Chinese Restaurant / Bailey Funerals with the winners Jake Steyger / Sam Kidd, Ben Cooper, Max Church, Ben Cooper, Jake Steyger / Sam Kidd and Paul Brooks. The Swenrick Constructions Joker Jackpot was won last week and will resume this week at \$200 on Thursday so come along for your chance to win a prize.

Last Saturday the Club's inaugural Ladies' Day event attracted over seventy ladies to enjoy club hospitality and a great day of activities, raffles, auctions and giveaways. Thank you to Kylie, Roxane and crew for organising the day, our sponsors and volunteers and all of our attendees for supporting the event.

This coming Saturday the senior club football and netball teams are at Rebel Park for our last home game of the season, hosting Yarra Junction in two games of football and four games of netball. There is no formal function on Saturday night but everyone is invited to come into the social rooms after the games to enjoy some club hospitality.