

The Yea Chronicle

92 High Street, Yea. PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

Ph: (03) 5797 2468 or (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5797 2257; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, August 16, 2023 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Wind farm opposition meeting

THE Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community group (SRRC) conducted a public meeting about FERA's Seymour wind farm proposal at the Molesworth Hall on Saturday, August 12.

During the presentation, chair Greg Pritchard expressed their opposition to the proposal as inappropriate to the environment. He took the audience through the history of the wind farm, as well as the opposition to the proposal.

He also spoke about FERA's claim that 80 per cent of landholders were supportive of the proposal. This contrasted with the 90 per cent in opposition in the survey run by the SRRC recently.

He stressed that the group are not opposed to renewable energy, but said that the environmental damage caused by this wind farm will do more harm than good.

Ruffy resident Darryl Otzen took the audience through a Powerpoint presentation, outlining the changes to the proposal as it has developed. The current preferred location for the transmission lines is to link it to the grid, south of Alexandra. It is likely that the lines will travel through the Whanregarwen area. The turbines are proposed for the Highlands, Ruffy and Terip Terip, stretching back to near Seymour.

Mr Otzen said that the current proposal is that the turbine height be 100 to 150 metres with 86 metre rotor blades, making the total maximum height 236m. The small Cherry Tree wind farm near the Trawool area has a total maximum height of 159m.

He also commented that 60 metre easements are required for the transmission lines, with further space needed if a transformer is required.

The area is known to have some of the most expensive agricultural land in Victoria, and he stressed that he does not believe it to be a suitable location for a wind farm. There are also bed and breakfast businesses which may be impacted, and a fragile ecology to protect. It was also suggested that it would

have a big impact on property values in the area.

They will be looking to object through the planning scheme, and will continue to gather community views and explore overlays.

The location is not in a Renewable Energy Zone (REZ). If it were, then the government would pay for the powerlines to be built. As it stands, FERA will need to pay for their own powerlines. He said that there are much better locations where a wind farm could be built.

While Murrindindi has sightline overlays, it was noted that turbines will dominate the landscape, with the total height of the towers being almost triple the height of the MCG light towers. While one turbine per 500 acres has been touted, it was pointed out that this is only an average. Groupings will be needed.

While wind towers cannot be mandated in a particular location by government, there was less certainty around powerlines.

Two further meetings will be held on August 26, at the Ruffy Town Hall at 10am and at the Upton Hill CFA at 2pm.



Attendees at the meeting in Molesworth Hall. -AR

Re-shaping tertiary education in Murrindindi

MURRINDINDI Shire Council are looking closely at how a university and TAFE education hub can be put in place in the shire to support young people, people keen to re-train, and to support business needs.

Mayor John Walsh explained, "The overall idea came out of an ongoing issue with the fact that we've got no post-secondary training facilities within the shire. We've tried several times to get some kind of TAFE established."

Some people may recall that many years ago, Cr Walsh was involved with the Murrindindi Training Institute, initially focused on developing instructors for outdoor education. He said that with changes in TAFE funding at the time that "fell through the floor, but for me, post-secondary didn't go away at all."

He said that at present, there are a lot of people who leave secondary school and they have to go to Melbourne or other larger centres out of the area to undertake post-secondary education. With local public transport posing an issue, it often means that the students are gone for quite some time.

If the people are living out of area, they are much less likely to return, particularly if the connections, such as through local sporting clubs, are lost. Their social network becomes located in the place where they are studying.


In April or May this year, council began thinking about what options might be available. They heard that the Bass Coast Shire had developed what they call a Country University Centre (CUC). CUC runs 26 regional university campuses around Australia, providing access into a whole range of different universities.

Continued Page 10





Students from Yea Primary School participated in the Boite Schools Chorus on August 3 at the Melbourne Town Hall. -S

The Yea Primary School Boite Choir participants from grades one to six. -S



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
can now be submitted via email to editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or mail to PO Box 5 Alexandria 3714, or drop them into the Alexandria 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 be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Letters to the Editor

The Voice

REGARDING the letter from Raymond Donkin published on August 9. It's clear Ray that you vote 'No' to a Voice for Indigenous Australians in the constitution by your public notices.

It's also clear you think the same people are a separate race (you say, 'Unite Australia, not divide by race', in the same public notices).

However, we've long known that not only have there been no separate species since the demise of the Denisovans, Neanderthals and the Flores Hobbits, but that for some Out of Africa exponents, they are the longest link to our forebears making them the most connected to original Homo Sapiens. I'll bite though and ask: What is it you think the voice to parliament gives people who are just like us, that you don't want them to have? Why would you not want them to

have the same voice you have enshrined in our constitution and why would you demean them so by voting no?

Let's face it, our governments pushed them off their lands, acceded to the stolen generations, let them be shot, murdered, and riddled with diseases to decimate their populations. They were asked to fight our wars, but not given the vote until 1962 and not required to vote, as we are, until 1983. We owe them some semblance of redress for the ills that have been done and a Voice to Parliament ratified in our constitution is the very least we can say yes to.

Your letter to the editor asking local politicians to say how they're going to vote seems a funny way to start a conversation about this, so I'm looking forward to your clarification as to your position on these questions.

Valerie Pallaoro, Alexandria

Politician viewpoints

IN response to a letter to the editor in last week's edition, noting that "Haines and McLeish have been silent on the upcoming Voice referendum, a yes or a no vote," I'd like to challenge that statement as Dr Helen Haines MP has been clearly supporting the Yes campaign for some months, including hosting pro-Yes forums and attending Yes events. The Hon. Cindy McLeish MP belongs to a party that supports Treaty processes in Victoria.

But ultimately, the yes or no vote belongs to us, as people listening in good faith, to the requests of First Nations peoples as expressed in the Uluru statement.

Steve Joblin, Flowerdale



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How will firefighting be impacted by the lack of timber workers?

WITH the shutdown of the native timber harvesting industry at the end of this year, many Murrindindi Shire residents are becoming concerned over what will happen in the event of a major bushfire.

Traditionally, timber harvesters have played a large part in firefighting efforts, with heavy machinery enabling firefighter access to fires in the forest, and supporting the clean-up afterwards. It has been locally estimated that 80 per cent of the contractors and equipment will no longer be in the shire by the start of this fire season.

The government was asked to provide information on what plans are in place for firefighting this year, given that a large proportion of the heavy machinery will no longer be readily accessible in the forest should fires occur.

FFMVIC Acting Chief Fire Officer Sam Quigley responded, "We acknowledge the hard-working and specialised contribution of timber industry contractors to bushfire management works in Victoria. They are an integral part of the work FFMVIC does to minimise bushfire risk and keep communities safe.

"Forest contractors will be engaged for DEECA land and fire management works, using their valuable skills and equipment as we continue to manage our forests and prepare for and respond to fires.

"Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone regions in the world. We work every day to reduce bushfire risk and are well prepared for the season ahead."

The Victorian Government has said that retaining the specialised and valuable skills

and machinery of Victoria's timber harvest and haulage contractors to carry out critical fire and land management activities is a priority.

Forest contractors will be offered DEECA land and fire management work through the government's Forestry Transition Package. This will enable them to continue to work in the forests they know so well and contribute to bushfire risk reduction.


Forest contractors are already engaged across DEECA's land and fire management programs to carry out numerous specialised tasks including to remove hazardous trees, maintain the strategic road network, expand the strategic fuel breaks network and treat hazardous storm debris, as well as playing a key role in bushfire suppression and recovery.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY
Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandria 7pm PH 1300 222 222
Sun Alanon Recovery Anglican Church, Alexandria 5.30pm.

MONTHLY
1st Mon St Lukes Seniors St Lukes Church Ph 0407 972 099
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2nd Wed Molesworth Crafty Critters, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4th Wed Molesworth Crafty Critters, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0458 808 603
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



For a \$5 annual fee for online, 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	1.11	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.69	steady	
Acheron R at Taggerty	10.00am Mon	0.94	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	8.17am Mon	0.30	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	7.18am Mon	0.64	steady	below minor
Yea R at Yea	8.24am Mon	1.13	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.72	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.65	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.33	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.35	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.66	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	9.36am Mon	1.29	steady	

****ISSUED AT 10.16AM ON MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023****

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Weekly Weather

August 16-August 22, 2023
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	1	14	Wednesday	1	14
Thursday	3	11	Thursday	2	11
Friday	9	9	Friday	4	9
Saturday	4	11	Saturday	4	11
Sunday	7	13	Sunday	8	14
Monday	8	14	Monday	8	14
Tuesday	7	15	Tuesday	8	15

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS)	15mm
Flowerdale	14mm
Kinglake	14mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Jamieson	15mm
Taggerty	13mm
Yarck	9mm
Yea	11mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	287.84m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	95.8%
Metres below full supply	1.06m
Daily inflow	2500ML
Release	1000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	61.4%

The Yea Chronicle 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
Thumbs up/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

Help change statistics with Grow Well Dindi



The Grow Well Dindi team. -S

WE all know that eating vegetables and doing regular exercise is good for our health, but did you know that only one in 10 children are eating enough vegetables, and just three in 10 children are doing enough physical activity?

Everyone is invited to join like-minded Murrindindi community leaders and members at the upcoming Grow Well Dindi workshop so we can help turn these statistics around together.

Through realistic and locally based solutions, Grow Well Dindi aims to support a community led approach to increasing the healthy eating and physical activity levels of local children. Why not join us?

To learn more please contact Hailey Docking at Yea and District Memorial Hospital on 5736 0468 or Melissa Storey at Alexandra District Health on 5772 0900. You can also email us at growwelldindi@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/GrowWellDindi

Annual fishing festival marks the opening of trout season

LOCAL and visiting recreational fishers across the Goulburn region will mark the opening of trout season at the free Goulburn Fishing Festival on Saturday, September 2 in Eildon.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Sonya Kilkenny announced the annual free festival will celebrate all that fishing in the Goulburn region has to offer, with free festival activities offering something for every angler no matter their experience level.

The festival is part of the Victorian Government's \$96 million investment to improve fishing, boating, piers and aquaculture over the next four years.

1500 giant rainbow trout have also been stocked across 10 sites between Eildon and Molesworth, with an extra 500 fish stocked at the Eildon Pondage.

Located at Lions Park on Riverside Drive, the festival features free activities for the whole family. A free fishing clinic will teach the next generation of anglers how to cast, bait up and net a fish, with free bait and tackle provided and experienced instructors on hand.

Fly casting lessons will also be on offer from the Australian Trout Foundation, giving more experienced fishers the opportunity to take their skills to the next level. There will also be face painting, plaster arts painting, market stalls, prizes and raffles, with fireworks over the pondage at 7pm.

Fisheries Officers and Better Boating staff will also be on deck to answer questions from anglers no matter their experience level.

Tours of the VFA's popular Snobs Creek hatchery will be on offer for the community to see first hand how millions of trout and native fish are grown annually for the statewide stocking program. Youngsters will also be able to help with trout releases into the Eildon Pondage on the day.

Victorian rivers and streams officially open to trout fishing on Saturday, September 2. All lakes, including Lake Eildon and Eildon Pondage, are open to trout fishing year round.

For more information visit vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest

Funds available to local community groups

CHERRY Tree Wind Farm has established a long-term Community Benefit Fund (CBF). \$25,000 is to be made available to the local community each year, for the first 25 years of the operation of the wind farm.

The Cherry Tree Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund provides financial support for a range of community-based initiatives, projects and events that benefit local communities. The program aims to target a range of community needs including health and social welfare, safety, environment,

education and youth, sport and recreation, culture, arts and economic development.

CTWF will consider funding locally run initiatives for incorporated or not-for-profit community groups, funds, projects, programs or facilities that are located within, or provide a direct benefit to, the community within a 15km radius of CTWF. These locations include Seymour, Yea, Tallarook, Trawool, Whiteheads Creek, Highlands, Ghin Ghin and Strath Creek. Applications close on September 15.



You're invited to a workshop to help increase healthy eating and physical activity among children within Western Murrindindi Shire! During this workshop, we will share the factors identified by community leaders that help and hinder children in Western Murrindindi Shire to eat healthy and be physically active. Together, we will then come up with local solutions that will have a lasting impact on children's health.

The workshop details are as follows:

Date: Thursday, 7 September 2023

Time: 4pm - 7pm

Location: Yea Shire Hall (supper room - located at back of hall)

RSVP: By 4 September 2023 using the QR code



We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions please contact Hailey Docking, Health Promotion Officer at Yea & District Memorial Hospital on 03 5736 0468 or Melissa Storey, Health Promotion Officer at Alexandra District Health on 03 5772 0900.

Man sentenced over incidents at Yea and Springvale

JOSHUA Irving, a 21 year old man from Kinglake, was sentenced on July 12 in the County Court of Victoria for burglary, theft, aggravated burglary, intentionally causing serious injury and driving in a manner dangerous.

Mr Irving had been employed by a company in Springvale and was let go in 2021. On April 10, 2022, he broke into the premises of the company and stole a set of keys and an Isuzu D-Max vehicle. He filmed himself driving at over 150k/h.

On April 11, 2022, Mr Irving and an associate drove to the Melbourne Water premises on the Melba Highway in Yea. At approximately 2am, Mr Irving forced entry through the gates and rammed the door to the treatment plant. When Mr Irving entered the premises looking for items to steal, an audible alarm sounded. He subsequently discarded the stolen Isuzu in Glenburn.

On April 13, he returned to the Springvale business and forced open a door using a metal bar while wearing a balaclava. An employee was asleep at the business. He awoke and they got into a scuffle. Mr Irving produced a knife. Mr Irving was hit with a cricket bat carried by the employee. He then picked up the cricket bat and hit the employee three times to the face. Mr Irving then stole his mobile phone and removed the CCTV hard drive.

The employee suffered severe multiple skull fractures, two fractured eye sockets, a fractured nose, a gash to his forehead and brain swelling.

On April 15, 2022, Mr Irving was arrested at home. He had no prior criminal record.

Mr Irving pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to a total four years and six months with a non-parole period of two years and six months. He was disqualified from driving for three years.

Local property searched in Border Force raid

A SPIKE in the importation of trip alarms has led to an Australian Border Force (ABF) crackdown across multiple states to seize the weapons to protect the community from harm. Trip alarms are dangerous devices which are capable of firing live ammunition.

They activate when a person 'trips' the trip wire on the device. The activation then fires off a 12 gauge shotgun round that serves as the alarm.

The devices are capable of firing an explosive round and are considered to be a firearm under *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956*, which puts them in the same category as any other prohibited weapon.

In recent weeks ABF officers in Victoria and Western Australia have carried out a number of warrants and seized 47 trip alarms across the two states.

A total of 28 trip alarms were seized during Operation Tripidation in Victoria and 19 in Western Australia.

In Victoria ABF officers carried out warrants and visits in a number of suburbs, including Colac, Drysdale, Hampton Park, Kinglake, Dromana, Mt Eliza and Frankston.

In addition to the seized trip alarms in Victoria, 15 importers were identified, 14 site visits conducted and 14 warnings were issued.

ABF Inspector James Judge said there had been a recent increase in the number of trip alarms being imported through the international mail system, which triggered the crackdown.

"Trip alarms are not harmless toys or convenient security devices. It is a serious offence to bring these items into the country without the appropriate permissions. We understand that some members of the public may attempt to import a trip alarm with completely innocent motives. But it is a case of buyer beware and they should always check first to see if an item is a prohibited import."

Excellent outcome following search

ON Monday, August 7, Police with the assistance of Air Wing, Search and Rescue Squad and SES undertook a search for missing person Justin in the Kinglake area.

The 35 year old was last seen leaving Crossdale Green in Craigieburn about 9pm on August 5. He contacted family on social media saying his vehicle, a white Mitsubishi Triton utility, had become bogged in the Kinglake area.

A total of 26 VICSES volunteers turned out in 11 four wheel drives to support Police in the search operation. The search later expanded to include SES units from Seymour, Marysville, Whitehorse, Maroondah, Knox, Lilydale, Nillumbik and Whittlesea, with other SES crews on standby.

Investigators had released an image of Justin and his vehicle in the hope someone had any information on his whereabouts. Fortunately, Justin was found safe and well late on August 7.

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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*.

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*.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

Market @ Yarck. CWA morning tea and cake stall. From 9am

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

The next general meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

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, AUGUST 26

High Country Extreme Cowboys will hold their AGM at 6.30pm at Delatite Hotel, Mansfield. All welcome. For enquiries contact Tamara Fox 0407 043 866.

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

You are invited to a workshop to help increase healthy eating and activity in children. 4-7pm Yea Shire Hall. RSVP by September 4. Contact Hailey Docking on 5736 0468 for more information.

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The Yea Chronicle

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This week's Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Kinglake.
Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.
Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala
0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

Sunday Service time
11am
Father Mario Hendricks Ph: 0437 937 433

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew
0459 402 547
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Immaculate Conception Parish
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest Ph 9717 6482
St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea
Colin Whiteway Ph 0419 351 267 / 5799 1295
Sunday Service 11.15am

UNITING CHURCH

1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road,
Kinglake West. 9716 2330

Council to receive funding for local roads

THE Victorian Government has selected the first eleven local governments to receive funding to develop, design and plan road safety improvements along council-managed roads, intersections and precincts, and Murrindindi Shire Council is among them.

Minister for Roads and Roads Safety Melissa Horne announced the local governments which will take part in the first stage of the state government's \$210 million Safe Local Roads and Streets Program.

The selected councils will work closely with the Department of Transport and Planning and Transport Accident

Commission over four years to identify, plan, develop and deliver more road safety upgrades on local roads across Victoria.

The \$210 million package will design and deliver safety upgrades for communities including raised crossings, intersection upgrades, speed cushions, kerbing upgrades, pedestrian islands, safer speeds, roundabouts and other vital safety improvements.

Around 132,000km of Victoria's road network is made up of local roads, making up 87 per cent. Of the 179 fatalities this year, 90 have occurred on local roads.

A Safer Local Roads and Streets reference group will also be established to support the development of the planning framework, investment guidelines, tools and resources that will support local governments.

All Victorian local governments will be progressively introduced to the program from late-2023, based on information from the initial expressions of interest process and councils' willingness to participate in the program.

The government's Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 aims to halve road deaths and reduce serious injuries by 2030 and eliminate road deaths by 2050.



Fabio (second from right) with his host mum Rotarian Kristie Luckman (second from left) and her two children, Noah and Kyla. -S

Rotary Club of Yea exchange student Fabio Zurkirchen

THE Rotary Club of Yea has welcomed its first exchange student in over three years, 17 year old Fabio Zurkirchen from Rotkreuz, a town of about 12,000 in central Switzerland. Fabio will spend the next 12 months in Yea, attending Yea High School and staying with several host families during his time here.

Fabio is currently staying with his first host family, Rotarians Kristie Luckman and Eoghan Dowling and their children Noah and Kyla. Fabio has started Year 11 at Yea High School, studying English, Maths, Biology, Physical Education, Outdoors Education and Health and Human Development. Back in Switzerland, Fabio attends a large school

of about 1700 students, about 30 minutes travel via public transport.

Fabio's dad Markus has a business is removing mines, explosive remnants of war (EWR) and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and his mum Helena works in human resources. He has one older brother, Luis, and his golden retriever, Ayla.

Fabio loves anything to do with nature and the outdoors. He enjoys skiing and mountain biking, he plays hockey, and is interested in learning golf. He is looking forward to meeting people and trying many new experiences.

Fabio is delighted to be in Yea and has settled in well. As part of Rotary Exchange program, Fabio will meet and engage with many other exchange students from all over the world, who are also on exchange in the Rotary District 9790. Fabio has also just spent time at Corowa at an orientation weekend, meeting both inbound and outbound students for Rotary District 9790.

Fabio speaks excellent English and is keen to meet many people, enjoy new experiences and see as much of Australia as he can fit in during his 12 months stay in Yea.

Stop and say hello if you see him around. You will be rewarded with a smile and interesting conversation.

Local business impacts and options after timber industry shutdown

GORDON Simpson from Simpson's Fuel expressed his concerns about the imminent closure of the native timber harvesting industry and the potential financial fallout in the area. His is one of the many local businesses which will be indirectly impacted by the closure, set for January 1, 2024.

For the past four years, Gordon has been trying to change his business around, knowing that the planned shutdown in 2030 would have an impact on the business. He has been supplying fuel to much of the local timber industry.

He commented that his would not be the only business impacted, mentioning tyres, spare parts, mechanics, schools and coffee shops. "It affects the whole town," he said.

"It's one of our oldest industries," Gordon said. "We've had logging here for years and years. We've had harvesting and we've had haulers. A lot of people have been employed by the mills over the years, but that's not so much lately. It's a loss to the community."

He was concerned about the lack of detail at the time of the announcement, and in the following months.

Contacted about the issues raised, a Victorian Government spokesperson said, "Forestry workers, their families and communities are our priority. We do not take the decision around an early transition out of native timber harvesting lightly, but

the uncertainty from ongoing litigation and severe bushfires cannot continue.

"Our support package will ensure workers can find jobs across land management and critical forest bushfire response, while others retrain in growing regional industries, like renewable energy and construction.

"We are working with unions, industry and communities on the details of the support package to ensure that it's meeting the needs of workers and their families."

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action engaged directly with harvest and haulage businesses with a VicForests contract in the Murrindindi area. This has been done through regular one-to-one business support and the Victorian Forestry Worker Support Program to determine the current number of impacted workers in each Local Government Area. The on-ground data (approximately 25 full time employees) was last collected in May 2023. This has then been cross-checked with local employment modelling on REMPLAN and is consistent with the seasonal variation in the workforce.

It was noted that Australian Bureau of Statistics data from the 2021 Census stating that there were 35 FTE in Murrindindi Shire working in logging and forestry (non-government) may be outdated as the industry has changed since 2021. It does not disaggregate between native and plantation

forestry workforce, thus the accurate workforce info has been provided by the department. REMPLAN provides detailed regionally specific economic data.

Forestry Worker Support Program

All workers from native timber businesses and supply-chain businesses that directly support them are currently able to access the Forestry Worker Support Program.

The program support payments include a redundancy payment of four weeks of pay for every year of service, including statutory entitlements, and up to 152 hours of unused sick leave.

There are also relocation support payments if alternative employment has been secured and involves moving more than 100kms from the person's current address. Eligible costs include utility connection and exit costs, relocation-associated legal costs, temporary accommodation, associated medical costs, school uniforms, school enrolment fees, first groceries to set up house, reasonable breaking lease costs, vehicle registration transfer fees if moving interstate, licence transfer fees, rental bond, rent at new location for up to two months, and reimbursement of stamp duty if selling a property. Receipts must be provided.

Additional elements in the package include recognition of prior learning, case management, training support, employment support and assistance, referral to other government services, and mental health and wellbeing support.

Forestry Transition Fund

In background provided by the government, it was said that eligible secondary and tertiary businesses are expected to be able to access the \$36 million Forestry Transition Fund. The fund will be "to grow businesses that will create or retain jobs in towns and communities affected by the transition."

The fund has not yet opened. It is expected to be open in the near future.

It is not known how this might directly help small business in the shire which will face financial impacts, such as takeaway stores, hairdressers, supermarkets, or even sports clubs.

Further information on both programs can be found at djsir.vic.gov.au/forestry/forestry-plan

Community Development Fund

A local development strategy project is currently under way in Murrindindi, which is supported by the \$22 million Community Development Fund to implement projects to diversify and support the area's economy. Secondary businesses and community organisations have the opportunity to contribute to this project.

Timber Supply Chain Resilience Package

The Timber Supply Chain Resilience Package supports downstream timber product manufacturers that rely on native Victorian hardwood to manufacture products (such as flooring, stairs, furniture, doors, windows, architectural features and pallets) to access grants, professional advice and planning services to support business transition and to plan for the future.

Future work for timber workers

Planning is underway for forest contractors to be engaged to deliver Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) land management works with the intention they be offered alternative forest and land management works into the future. This detail is still being worked through by the various agencies to ensure contractors can continue to work in the forests and contribute to bushfire risk reduction.

Eligible seed collectors and harvest and haulage sub-contractors can currently access the Victorian Timber Innovation Fund.

VicForests

The government is currently considering the future of VicForests and 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. It was confirmed that no decision has been made on the organisation or its staff at this point in time.

Promising community recovery projects

FOUNDATION for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) has awarded a total of \$207,812 in grants to community groups for 13 projects that will assist in the social connectedness and recovery after the devastating 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires.

The final round of FRRR's Grants for Resilience and Wellness (GR&W) Kinglake Ranges program and now closes out the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (VBAF). The GR&W Kinglake program was open to all community groups and not for profit organisations in Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek, Toolangi and Flowerdale.

In total, VBAF has funded 492 community led projects, with an investment of \$7,436,642, thanks to funds raised by the public following the bushfires.

Nina O'Brien, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lead at FRRR, said the foundation is humbled to play a small, yet consistent, role in the Kinglake Ranges recovery journey.

"For the past 14 years, FRRR's Grants for Resilience and Wellness program has been dedicated to supporting the recovery of Victorian communities impacted by the historic bushfires. And it's thanks to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, and the generosity of everyday people, that we have been able to fund local recovery initiatives, for the long term.

"Grant programs, like GR&W Kinglake Ranges, demonstrate the complexity of disaster recovery and the need for long term funding to support affected communities, especially those in remote, rural and regional areas.

"In Kinglake Central, Kinglake West, Pheasant Creek, Toolangi and Flowerdale, we have seen how priorities and needs have shifted and evolved throughout the recovery process. From the initial planning of pathways to further local investment, to training and education to build resilience and foster wellbeing, to small infrastructure projects that provide a safe space for locals to connect and prepare for future disasters.

Flowerdale Community House Inc was awarded \$25,810 for the project, *Flowerdale Community House into the*

Future. This project aims to develop and strengthen the community house's capacity to deliver emergency response and support community disaster recovery.

The Flowerdale Sports Clubs project *Connecting the Community Through Physical Wellbeing* was awarded \$24,000.

Foggy Mountain Inc was awarded \$3000 to go towards the Foggy Mountain Music and Arts Festival in 2023.

Kinglake Creative Inc received \$8800 to go towards their project of the Kinglake Creative Marketing Campaign and Customer Experience Improvements.

Kinglake Football Netball Club received \$19,985 to go towards the project, *Nourishing Community Connection in the Ranges*, by upgrading the commercial kitchen and appliances at the Kinglake Memorial Reserve.

Kinglake Landcare Group (auspiced by Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House) for updating the 2023 Kinglake Landcare Booklet was awarded \$9543.

Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House was awarded \$10,736 for the project, *Reinvigorating our Community Garden*.

Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House's project *Supporting Children and Families, Playgroup Building Upgrade* was awarded \$11,355.

Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House's project, the *Rural Skills for Resilience* project, received \$14,140.

Kinglake Trust Reserve Incorporated received \$25,000 for the internal audio-visual Upgrade inside the Ellimatta Centre at the Kinglake Trust Reserve.

Murrindindi Youth Foundation (auspiced by The Trustee for the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund) received \$40,000 to go towards the delivery of *Blue Light Victoria's School Programs* for students living in Kinglake Ranges.

Toolangi-Castella Trails Action Group (auspiced by Toolangi District Community House Inc) received \$6864 to go towards the *Castella Central Park to Tall Trees Trail Toolangi Link* project.

Toolangi District Community House Inc, received \$8579 to upgrade the CJ Dennis Hall's kitchen and blinds.

Native timber support available now

Native timber harvesting is ending this year. This will affect local timber businesses and their workers. Assistance can help you and your family adjust to changing circumstances.

Dedicated teams can help workers, including those in supply chain businesses, and their families:

- access to payments
- connect to job opportunities
- have skills recognised
- access funded training
- get health and wellbeing support.

Make sure you are getting the help you need by contacting **ForestWorks on 1800 177 001.**

Visit vic.gov.au/forestry for more information on the support available to workers, businesses and communities.



Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District **Community Bank**® Branch



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to **Stella, Rory, Haylee, Emilia and Isla**, our Values Award winners for week four. Congratulations also to **Heath** who wasn't available for the photo. Thank you for being such outstanding citizens of Yea Primary School.

Student of the Week

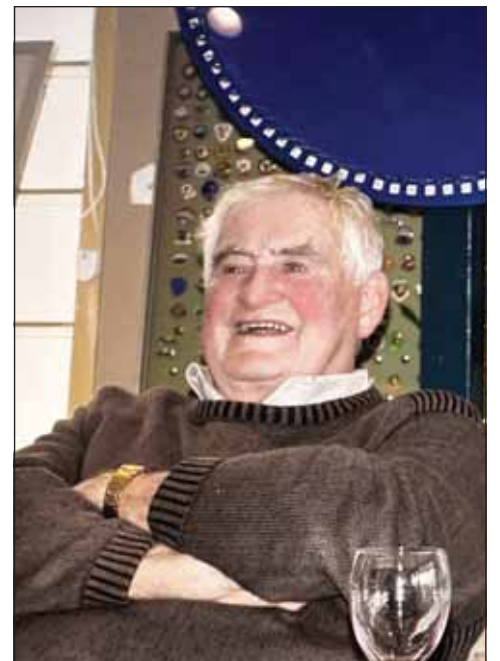
Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Elaine and Joe. -S



Elaine and Joe (front) with their children Tony, Kerry, David, Mary and Mick. -S



Joe Exton. -S

Vale Joe Exton

by Jemima Richards

MARRIED to Elaine and living on his farm in Extons Road for over 66 years, Joe absolutely loved Kinglake and the Kinglake community.

Joe, along with his son Tony Exton, and brothers Kevin, Steve and Frank, farmed the 100s of acres of potatoes across the ranges and enjoyed a cold beer at the pub after a hard day's work.

A keen sportsman in his younger years, Joe was involved in the local football, cricket and tennis clubs. He helped to establish the Kinglake Cubs group under the Scouts banner and was an active volunteer in the CFA with his community-first mindset.

He loved his family, friends and community and living a simple life. He loved seeing all children have a good start in life and believed they should have opportunities for a good education.

Joe and Elaine donated some of their land to the community a couple of weeks after the Black Saturday fires so that Middle Kinglake Primary School could be rebuilt not far from where it existed for over 100 years. After it was built, Joe enjoyed seeing and hearing the kids playing every day from his backyard.

Joe and Elaine have loved being included and involved with the many school events they were invited to attend at the school. They loved sharing the stories with all the family about the latest goings on. Some official visits to their home by the school captains and teachers made their day.

Joe will be deeply missed by his wife Elaine, children and in-laws, Mick and Mary, Tony and Sandra, Kerry and Garry, Mary and Andrew, and David and Jemima.

He was a much loved and fun grandad to Genevieve, Gabby, Madeleine, Catherine, Jacqueline, Daniel, Alex, Camilla, Wilson,



Joe and Elaine with children from the Middle Kinglake Primary School. -S

Kerry, Eliza and India, and great grandad to Florence, Raphael and Thomas.

All the family are surrounding Elaine with so much love and support, all the while knowing Joe's shoes are very big ones to fill.

Joe Exton passed away while on his annual trip to Queensland. He was a man with a big generous heart, one that stopped

working suddenly and quickly. He will be forever remembered in our broken hearts.

We will miss seeing him every day and his stories, life lessons, his laugh and cheeky grin.

The best dad and mate to Dave and what a father-in-law I have been privileged and honoured to have.

I will miss his "Good on ya love" after our meals together, his drop ins to see what's happening, his knowledge and history on all things Kinglake, the weather, state of the nation, what happened in Question Time and his proud talk of his family.

Joe always had a positive, grateful and forward-looking attitude, and he taught us much about having a simple life.

Councils challenged by cost shifting and rate capping

GIVEN the inflation rate, it seems that many local councils are struggling financially, compounded by the rates being capped at 3.5 per cent. There also appear to be issues around state government grants for the provision of services being inadequate to cover costs in the current financial environment.

Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi said in response to a question on state government 'cost-shifting' at the July council meeting, "There are a range of areas where cost-shifting by the state government is impacting on the financial capacity of council. For example, 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... In addition, certain policies of the state create constraints on the availability of 'own-generated' funds that council can use to provide services. Examples of these include the 'Fair Go Rating System' which sets a cap on annual rate rises, that over several years has been set below the annual consumer price index and cost escalations experienced by councils."

She also made mention of the State Landfill Levy with no commensurate re-investment of funds back into local resource recovery, kerbside collection reforms which need to be recovered through higher charges to local communities, statutory planning fees being set by the state at levels below the actual cost of servicing planning applicants and processing applications, and state

legislative reforms incrementally create additional administrative and compliance costs for council. For example, the revised Local Government Act 2020 now requires councils to utilise more resource-intensive engagement practices, creating committees like the CEO Performance and Remuneration Committee involving an independent advisor, and the need to address climate change impacts when making decisions.

She said, "While council recognises their beneficial outcomes, they do require additional resources. All of these contribute to shifting additional costs onto council, and thereby incrementally diminishing council's financial capacity."

Contacted about the issues, a government spokesperson said, "We are a strong supporter of local government and talk regularly with councils about common interests. The Fair Go Rates System limits uncontrolled rate hikes and has consistently reduced cost-of-living pressures for Victorians."

Any council that has a genuine need to increase its rates above the cap may make an application to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) to do so. No councils made such an application this year. Not all councils raised their rates the full 3.5 per cent.

On May 30, the ESC released its biennial report on the impacts of rate capping. The ESC found that because of rate capping

Victorians are paying less rates than they would be if there wasn't a rate cap mechanism. The ESC also found that in general the financial health of the local government sector was good.

Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) president Cr David Clark said, "Cost shifting by the state government onto local government is a major concern for councils across the state."

"Many services and programs delivered by councils are subject to shared funding arrangements with the state government, but state funding has not kept pace with increasing costs, leaving councils to fund the gap."

"This has caused particular stress on vital maternal and child health services, where despite a 50/50 funding agreement between the two levels of government being in place, the funding split currently sits closer to 70/30."

"Libraries and emergency management have also both seen reductions in state government funding over time and again received no CPI increase in the 2023 state budget."

"Local government revenues in Victoria are currently flatlining or going backwards in real terms due to rate capping. By contrast, state government revenues will rise by 25 percent in the next four years."

"In the current climate, financial sustainability is a serious concern for councils. The MAV continues to advocate

for the state government to address cost shifting and, alongside the Australian Local Government Association, call for financial assistance grants to be increased to one per cent of federal taxation revenue."

Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish MP commented, "Smaller councils like Murrindindi who have a small rate base and few opportunities to raise revenue, rely heavily on funding support from the state government."

"As the state government has an enormous debt, projected to climb to \$171.4 billion by 2026-27, funding to assist regional Victoria has diminished and will continue to do so."

"At the same time, governments have increasingly relied on cost shifting including for libraries and kindergartens, putting more pressure on councils, leaving them unable to meet service and project demands due to insufficient funding."

"State government funding has been slashed in key areas including roads maintenance, agriculture, and regional development. That means there is less money to go around, less funding towards councils and less funding for our community," she said.

She added that the state Liberals and Nationals "key policies at the last election included a comprehensive Country Roads and Bridges Program as well as a Regional Infrastructure Guarantee which would have seen capital spending in regional Victoria increase from 13 per cent to 25 per cent."

Report and claim for pesky pothole damage

DODGING potholes has become a sport these days. According to RACV almost 43,000 potholes and counting have been repaired following the 2022 Victorian Floods and many more are still awaiting a fix.

A pothole develops when water seeps into cracks in the road's surface, causing the surface to weaken and split. This process is exacerbated by the pressure of vehicles travelling over the road, eventually leading to chunks of asphalt coming away entirely, resulting in the potholes we are experiencing on our roads.

Vehicles driving over the potholes causes them to grow in width and depth, making it more hazardous for road users and potentially damaging vehicles. It also increases the risk of catastrophic accidents due to the potholes or through attempted pothole avoidance.

There is not one single entity which is responsible for repairing potholes on the state's roads. It depends on the road itself. In Victoria, VicRoads is responsible for potholes on arterial roads and freeways and local councils are responsible for the non-arterial roads within their municipalities. This is usually within the 60km range in towns but is not always the case so it's always best to confirm with the local council. For the non-arterial state roads, these fall under Parks Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Some compensation may be available, which is of particular relevance to people who have only third party insurance on their vehicle.

VicRoads

If you see a pothole that needs attention, reporting it to the relevant authorities will be the quickest way to rectify the situation. On Vic Roads managed roads you can report it to vicroads.vic.gov.au

[traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue](#) and fill out the online form or you can call on 131 170.

If you have damaged your car by hitting a pothole on an arterial road or freeway, you can fill out a VicRoads notice of incident and claim. VicRoads have a threshold amount of \$1580 for 2023/24. This amount is indexed annually with the consumer price index, and they are not liable for damage under this amount. The liability of VicRoads must be established in order for them to pay.

The Notice of Incident and Claim form must be used by a person who proposes to commence court proceedings in relation to an incident arising out of the condition of a freeway or arterial road. If you are considering taking such proceedings, you should complete and return the form to a VicRoads regional office within 30 days of the incident occurring.

If you suffer personal injury or property damage due to the condition of a road or road infrastructure, you may be entitled to compensation from the responsible road authority.

VicRoads is not liable for loss or damage arising out of all incidents on roads. VicRoads is unlikely to be liable to pay compensation if the incident did not occur on an arterial road or freeway.

Within 14 days of receiving a Notice of Incident and Claim form, the road authority may inspect the road or infrastructure where the reported incident occurred and may prepare a condition report. If it does so, a copy of the condition report will be sent to the person who reported the incident. A copy of the report is admissible as evidence of the matters specified in the report in any legal proceedings in relation to the incident.

Murrindindi Shire Council

In relation to non arterial roads, Murrindindi Shire Council were asked what assistance they provide when it comes to vehicle damage due to potholes.

Michael Chesworth, Director People and Corporate Performance replied, "A person who has incurred vehicle damage over \$1580 due to the condition of a council-managed road may be entitled to compensation, in line with Victoria's *Road Management Act 2004*."

"Claims can be submitted to council and they will be assessed in line with the Act and council's Road Management Plan. Submitting a claim does not guarantee you will receive compensation."

"While council invests a considerable amount of funding to the adequate maintenance of council-managed roads, it remains a significant challenge for us to inspect, maintain and repair approximately 1200km of road network within the shire with the resources we have available and with limited support from the state government. Victoria's *Road Management Act 2004* recognises these challenges and considers the fact that council cannot be aware or responsible for everything that arises on our roads."

"The Act states that road authorities are not liable for the first \$1580 of damage caused by the conditions of roads or road infrastructure, which includes, but is not limited to, pothole damage."

"We are currently preparing a page on our website to provide more information about claims and the claims process. In the meantime, claims can be lodged by emailing customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or calling 5772 0333."

To report a road issue, you can call council on 5772 0333, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Contact-Us/Customer-Request, email per above, or use Snap Send Solve.

Change to council voting rules

THE Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has advised that, in a council election, there are two categories of voters; state-enrolled voters and council-enrolled voters. State-enrolled voters are automatically enrolled for a council election if they are on the state electoral roll for an address within that council area.

To be eligible to enrol as a 'council-enrolled voter' you must be 18 years or older and not on the state roll within that council area. You must also meet one of the following criteria: you own a rateable property in the area, or you pay rates on a property you occupy, for example, you are a shop tenant and pay rates to the council for the tenancy, or you are a director or company secretary of a corporation that pays rates to a council and you have no other voting entitlement in that council.

If you have more than one enrolment entitlement in a council area, you still only get one vote.

At this point in time and for any by-elections that occur up until July next year, someone will be automatically enrolled for a council election if they were enrolled as a non-resident owner at the election immediately before October 2020 for the council or ward. Anyone who is not automatically enrolled needs to apply to council to enrol.

However, changes to the Local Government Act now require all ratepayers who have an enrolment entitlement to apply to council to enrol and vote in the 2024 local government election. They will not be automatically enrolled. Once they are enrolled either as a state-enrolled voter or a council-enrolled voter they must vote in all future elections in the council areas they are enrolled in.

Council enrolled voters in Whittlesea and Casey City Councils will not transition to the new requirements until after the 2024 election.

The VEC does not develop the legislation that determines eligibility to enrol to vote. Their role is to administer the state electoral roll and conduct the local government elections on behalf of the local councils.

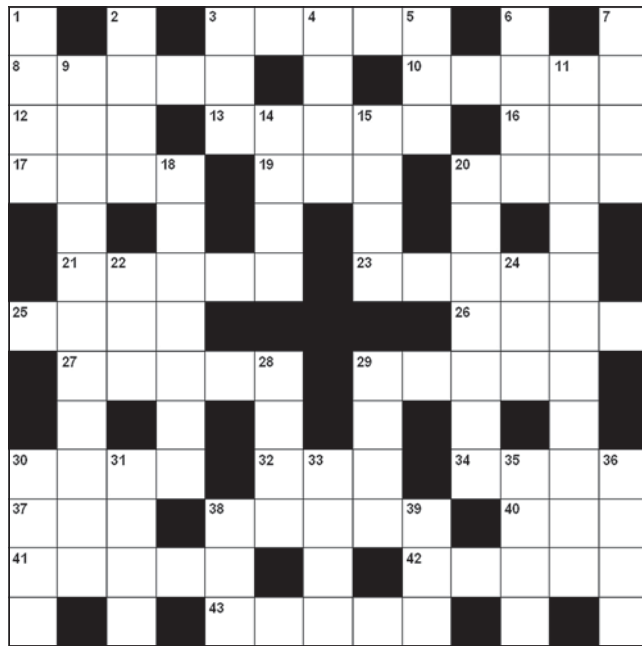
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

- 3. Joined together into a whole.
- 8. A yellow-green colour.
- 10. Red cosmetic powder.
- 12. Down in the dumps.
- 13. Bowler hat.
- 16. The ocean.
- 17. Mixture of smoke and fog.
- 19. Polite address for a man.
- 20. Take on lease.
- 21. Very loud.
- 23. At no time.
- 25. Immediately.
- 26. Lively intelligent breed of horse.
- 27. Small room at the top of a house.
- 29. Fathered children.
- 30. Layers one atop another.
- 32. Not healthy.
- 34. Fruit of the blackthorn.
- 37. Take illegally.
- 38. Rested on the knees.
- 40. The finish.
- 41. Positive pole.
- 42. Lower in esteem.
- 43. Culpability for a crime.



DOWN

- 1. Throw carelessly.
- 2. Leisure center with swimming pool.
- 3. Gave food to.
- 4. Hindu woman's garment.
- 5. Fluid deprivation.
- 6. A deceptive manoeuvre.

- 7. Notable achievement.
- 9. A cry of sorrow.
- 11. Family lines.
- 14. Catch sight of.
- 15. Husks of cereal grain.
- 18. Sparkle and shine.
- 20. Wrecks destruction.
- 22. Erect annual grass.
- 24. A period in time.
- 28. Metal piece of money.
- 29. A lavish formal dance.
- 30. Light two-wheel carriage.
- 31. Very dark black.
- 33. Third son of Jacob.
- 35. Direct the way.
- 36. Place of complete delight.
- 38. Small cask.
- 39. Make lace.

Maths Squares

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 16.

Each number is only used once.

Each row is a math equation.

Each column is a math equation.

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

	-		+	6	+		6
÷		-		+		+	
	-		+		+		5
+		-		-		×	
	+		+		+		46
÷		-		÷		-	
	-		÷		-		-5
6		-28		10		61	

Number Block

Fill in the missing numbers

The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 6.

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.

	4							21
							1	20
								14
								13
								16
								26
13	25	15	22	17	18			25

Sudoku

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9

Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

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



Volunteers ripping into the weeding. -S

Flowerdale Landcare's National Tree Day effort

THIS year, to celebrate National Tree Day, Flowerdale Landcare focused efforts on weeding and trimming the 'firewise' indigenous garden at Flowerdale Primary School on Sunday, August 13.

Brilliant sunshine and a great vibe among the volunteers ensured an enjoyable morning.

Interpretative signage was also installed, including commemorative signage for Pete Auty, a local bush poet and community legend who passed away 10 years ago.

In thanking the volunteers, Steve and Paul acknowledged an enthusiastic bunch of young parents who are working well together with principal David Jovanovski to build a vibrant, family centered community at the school.



Steve and Flowerdale Landcare president, Paul, installing signage in the garden. -S

Flood recovery support for local committees of management

THE Australian and Victorian Governments are supporting Victorian communities to restore recreation areas and facilities damaged by the floods in October and November 2022.

Under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, the federal and state governments have provided more than \$11.8 million to 125 voluntary committees of management.

With this funding, the committees are restoring significant community gathering places and tourist destinations including halls, caravan parks, camping areas and multi-use recreation reserves for use by residents and visitors. The projects will also consider upgrades to improve their resilience against future disasters.

The flood recovery projects range from replacement and upgrade of drainage and power, road repairs, and replacement of fencing, to more complex rebuilding projects.

Locally, the Molesworth Recreation Reserve will be using the funds to repair and reinstate landscaping, fencing, roads, signage and bollards, along with tree safety works; the Toolangi Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc will use the funds to repair and reinstate roading and the car park; and the Yea Racecourse and Recreation Reserve will use the funds to repair and reinstate the surface run-off areas including the car park and drains.

A full list of successful grant recipients is available at deeca.vic.gov.au/grants/voluntary-committees-of-management-flood-recovery

To learn more about the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements visit disasterassist.gov.au and vic.gov.au/2022-flood-recovery

Commonwealth Minister for Emergency Management Senator the Hon Murray Watt said, "The October 2022 floods were one of the worst Victorian flood disasters on record and caused significant damage across 64 of Victoria's 79 local government areas, affecting multiple community spaces and assets.

"This support will fund repairs to halls, caravan parks, camping areas, multi-use recreation reserves and other important community facilities on public land, ensuring community assets in regional Victoria are back up and running for residents and visitors alike.

"This program forms part of the \$105.5 million Environmental Support Package announced in June, with over \$1.17 billion now committed in joint funding for affected Victorian communities since the floods."

Victorian Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt added, "This important funding will ensure the hardest hit communities from last year's floods are able to recover as quickly as possible."

Celebrating special people at Yea Primary

YEA Primary School held its Special Persons Day on Wednesday, August 9, and there was a great turnout for the occasion.

Every year, the school encourages students to invite people who are special to them and play an important role in their lives to attend the event at the school and celebrate those meaningful relationships.

Guests might include grandparents, aunts, uncles, coaches, tutors, mentors or friends.

Special Persons Day is a highlight of the school calendar and an event eagerly anticipated by the school community and beyond.



WORK LOCAL

save fuel, time and make money

Re-shaping tertiary education in Murrindindi

Continued from Page 1

The shire's Director of Community and Development, Andrew Paxton, said, "In looking at their model, something like 77 per cent of the people there agreed they wouldn't have gone to university or done further studies if it wasn't convenient. Courses that a lot of the people attending there are in health care, aged care and children's services, the key gaps which we're hearing quite regularly from our community, whether struggling for childcare operators, struggling for people at aged care facilities, and things like that.

"It started really gaining momentum. It's gone from an idea and a known gap to a possible way forward," he said, adding that there is also a known gap with apprentices. They want to be able to offer both a university and TAFE hub.

Discussions had begun by the time the mayor and CEO attended the Australian Local Government Association National Conference in Canberra. Through Helen Haines MP, they were able to arrange a meeting with Minister Murray Watt as he looks after TAFEs. He suggested that they speak to Minister Jason Clare who looks after such centralised 'remote university centres'.

Cr Walsh found that under the previous government, a study had been conducted by Deloitte looking at where a remote university centre would be most beneficial. It listed the Yea district (including Yea, Flowerdale, Killingworth and Kerrisdale) as 10th out of the list of 30 locations. He said that it appears to have been a desktop study and that council weren't aware of it. It looked at things like demographics, availability of public transport and the number of people who participate in tertiary education.

Council has written to the Minister for Education, Jason Clare. As yet, they have not received a response, but from Minister Watt, they were advised to work with the state government for a recommendation to establish a facility before approaching the federal government. The state government advised that the project needed community support.

Mr Paxton explained that council has reached out to form a steering group for the project, seeking a mixture of ages, genders, locations, backgrounds, education and culture. They have found eight to 10 people willing to participate, from different businesses, health and other sectors in different parts of the shire. The aim is for the steering group to explore what the model would look like in Murrindindi and to form a prospectus. After further engagement, they will begin an advocacy campaign

with state and federal ministers for possible funding next year.

In speaking to the Eildon houseboat builders, their apprentices go to Melbourne for the theory component of their courses. This theory component may be able to be done from a hub. It was noted that some apprentices now do the theory from home via computer, with an assessor for the practical components coming out on site.

Mr Paxton said, "Is there a way they can go and be a part of a learning environment, which is a slightly new model coming up."

He also pointed out that in this cohort, many of the young people went through their later school years during COVID-19 lockdowns, so a more social environment may be welcomed.



CLASSROOM TEACHING POSITION

FTE 0.4 Fixed Term (2 days)
Term 4 2023

Parental Leave replacement

Applications are invited for the position of a classroom teacher commencing on October 2, 2023 and concluding January 28, 2024. This is a Fixed Term position under the Catholic Education Multi-Enterprise Agreement 2022. Graduate teachers are encouraged to apply.

The successful applicant will have a demonstrated commitment to Catholic education and to the safety and wellbeing of children.

- The successful applicant must demonstrate;
 - An understanding of current Child Safety policies and procedures within education.
 - A willingness to work collaboratively to achieve set goals.
 - Be appropriately qualified, demonstrate enthusiasm and ability to deliver the appropriate curriculum to a range of educational abilities, and be able to provide care and support for students whilst supporting and respecting the ethos of the school and its environment.

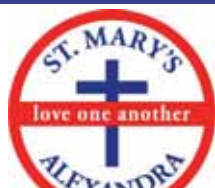
The successful applicant will hold Victorian Institute of Teaching Registration. How to apply: A detailed position description and application requirements are available by accessing the school website at smalexandra.catholic.edu.au or by contacting the principal via email - principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

Please include three referees, one being your most recent employer.

Applications close Thursday, August 31, 2023

This school community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

St Mary's is a child safe school.



LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of a Learning Support Officer at St Mary's. This is a fixed term position commencing as soon as possible for the remaining 2023 school year. The position is three days a week, working from 8.30am to 3.20pm. This contract has the possibility to be extended for the 2024 school year.

We are seeking enthusiastic applicants who are able to demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills, support the vision and mission of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and our Catholic values. Applicants must display professional behaviours when engaging in child-connected work, have an ongoing interest in children and be willing to participate in a range of school related activities.

If you would like to join us in being part of a team that works to ensure growth and success in our students, please send details as outlined below. St Mary's is a child safe school and as such, successful applicants should hold or be willing to acquire a Working with Children Check and a National Police Record Check.

How to apply: A detailed position description and application are available by contacting the principal at principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

Please include your recent employer details and two (2) referees.

Please express your interest by Thursday, August 24, 2023

This school community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

St Mary's is a child safe school.



Personal Care Workers (qualified) Community-based Aged Care

We are seeking applications from support workers qualified to provide personal care services.

Certificate III in Individual Support required (or higher relevant qualification, eg. Certificate IV in Ageing Support).

Community Support Workers provide assistance in client's own homes in Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and surrounding areas.

Flexible hours available. Positions available for immediate start.

To request a position description or learn about the benefits of working with us call us for a chat. **Phone 5772 1888**

Applications to: careers@menziessupport.org.au



Chef

The General at Strath Creek is looking for a chef to drive the food experience at the newly established general store and 40 seat café. You will be working in an idyllic regional setting as part of a dynamic 'start-up'.

What you will bring:

- Experience and an understanding of rural café style cooking.
- Proven experience two plus years in food service ordering, operation in a commercial kitchen and combi oven trained.

Applicants must be flexible, adaptable and be available to work across a minimum five days per week, hours include weekends and public holidays with weekday flexibility. Above award wages considered for the right candidate.

To request a full job description and/or apply for this position, send your full resume to Prue Brown at hello@thegeneralstrathcreek.com.au

FARM LABOURER

Noonan Agricultural Contractors are looking for up to two people to join their team.

Experience in fencing and driving tractors is preferred but not essential.

Must be willing to work outdoors all year round, in the Yea district, and work longer hours during the hay season from October to December.

Some weekend work from October to December may be available.

Wages depending on experience under the Pastoral Award.

Please contact Matt for more details on 0427 090 378.

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Full time (Mon-Fri): includes a School bus run in the morning/afternoon, with bus cleaning throughout the day.

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Re-shaping tertiary education in Murrindindi

Continued from Page 10

“We don’t know the answers to some of the questions, but we’re open minded in terms of ‘what is the best outcome for us,’” Mr Paxton said.

He said that under the country university model, they are a sub-campus of about 20 different universities. If someone wanted to study nursing at LaTrobe online for example, and someone else wanted to study accounting through the University of Queensland, the campus would provide a quiet, heated space away from distractions at home, with staff there to help with referencing or sourcing documents and to support you in the space. It would be a support for the remote aspects of the course, but practical classes would still need to be conducted elsewhere.

Mr Walsh said that models have shown that pass rate and completion rate both increase under the country university model. Working in a cohort of like-minded people, regardless of whether they are all doing different courses, has a positive effect.

The location for the campus is still up in the air, with Mr Paxton saying that the steering group will help to make a decision in that regard, as well as the operating model and structure.

The report talks about potentially the Yea area, but there may be a core centre there with other libraries or infrastructure servicing it.

Is it expected that the costs of the centre would be provided by the federal government and programs, and therefore there would be no charge to the students in using the facility, beyond their course costs.

“It’s an exciting opportunity,” Andrew said. “Talking to people recently, a number of groups are already saying ‘we know people who are retired professors in this. They’d love to come down and help tutor people.’ There could be other avenues that make our proposal even more robust, not relying on a small pool of staff to deliver it. We might be able to weave in a community-

backed proposal with mentoring and tutoring from retired or semi-retired people, or people who just love education and want to support in that space.”

They’ll be talking to a wide variety of stakeholder groups, and will be looking at life-long learning in terms of community houses, U3A and other hubs.

Cr Walsh pointed out that while the focus is initially on young people leaving high school, they also recognise that there will be a lot of people who will be looking for a change in career and sourcing different qualifications. He also noted that there are some significant gaps in some areas in the shire, such as childcare and early childhood education.

“How do we pull all that together? People who would like to do it but can’t get away from home for a long period of time to go

off down to Melbourne or elsewhere,” Cr Walsh said.

People will be able to do any course they want, however there are some gaps in the shire’s workforce which would be great to fill. People could also choose to work part time while they study, getting some experience in the field.

They certainly want to make sure that they get business and industry on board. The aim is to retain young people in the shire, and to do that they need to be offering the right courses so that local businesses can employ these people.

“We need to all work together on it,” Cr Walsh said.

“It’s such an exciting opportunity to re-shape education in Murrindindi for keeping people in the area, and also supporting those businesses to grow,” Mr Paxton said.

APPLY FOR A SEASONAL ROLE AT COUNCIL'S SWIMMING POOLS

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Council is seeking some amazing people for the following roles:

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- Aquatics Senior Duty Manager
- Aquatics Duty Manager
- Lifeguard (various positions)

If this sounds like you or someone you know, visit our website at www.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/jobs for more information and to apply.

Applications close this Sunday 20 August 2023, so get in quick!



SPEECH PATHOLOGIST GRADE 1 or 2

0.74 EFT (28 hours per week negotiable).

An exciting opportunity exists for one or more passionate Speech Pathologists to join our Primary Health team, servicing a mixed caseload, or working as a specialist paediatric or specialist adult Speech Pathologist, depending on your experience and area of interest.

The role of the Speech Pathologist at ADH is well varied and always rewarding. It includes assessment, treatment and management of a broad range of clients in the community and inpatient setting, including children and adults with communication or swallowing disorders, and those with difficulties in speech, language, voice, fluency and literacy. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with families, aged care facilities, people living with disabilities, day care centres, local schools and other organisations to deliver Speech Pathology services, staff education and promote the importance of early intervention.

The successful candidate will be well supported within a close-knit team of allied health professionals, as well as via clinical supervision and education opportunities. You will be client focused, demonstrate effective interpersonal and written communication skills, be able to work autonomously and manage a busy workload and have the ability to function as an effective member of a multidisciplinary team.

For queries regarding this position please contact Chris Wasley, Primary Health Manager on 5772 0900 or Christine.Wasley@adh.org.au.

To access a position description or to apply visit adh.org.au/careers/current-vacancies.

Applications must address the Key Selection Criteria.

Applications close August 25, 2023, close of business.

FINANCE COORDINATOR PERMANENT PART TIME

24 hours per week.

As a key member of the Finance Team, the Finance Coordinator provides support and assistance to the Finance Manager and (as required) assists to co-ordinate and support the Finance team.

The Finance Coordinator will work with the Finance Manager to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the ADH finance function and support the successful co-ordination of the month end / year end finance / accounting processes to ensure all reporting deadlines are met.

This role will also be fundamental in supporting the finance manager with the preparation and provision of relevant financial information, analysis and advice that will assist the executive, leadership team and other internal and external finance stakeholders.

To be successful in this role you will:

- Have completed or be working towards the completion of a tertiary qualification, preferably in a business and/or finance related discipline.
- Have a minimum of 1-2 years' experience working in a relevant role which aligns with the position's key responsibilities.
- Demonstrate excellent Microsoft Office skills (in particular, use of excel, word and outlook).
- Have a working knowledge of finance / accounting-based software programs.

You will work in a supportive team located onsite in Alexandra. Flexible work arrangements are supported at Alexandra District Health, flexible hours will be considered.

For queries regarding this position please contact Juliana McCashney, Manager People and Culture 5772 0997 or Recruitment@adh.org.au.

To access a position description or to apply visit: adh.org.au/careers/current-vacancies/.

Applications close August 18, 2023, close of business.

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Landcare hosts bike ride and tree planting adventure

UPPER Goulburn Intrepid Landcare (UGIL) celebrated Landcare Week on Sunday, August 13 by hosting a bike ride and tree planting outing.

National Landcare Week is celebrated by landcare and environmental groups across the nation and recognises Australians who are actively restoring, enhancing and protecting natural environments in their communities.

UGIL itself combines Landcare activities with social events to engage young people with the environment while connecting them with other like-minded people.

Their mission on Sunday was to help revegetate a particular area of the Great Victorian Rail Trail and assist in the creation of essential habitat for native wildlife.

“This event isn’t just about planting trees; it’s about nurturing a sense of stewardship for our environment. By coming together in a fun and friendly context, and being able to see tangible outcomes, we hope to inspire a culture of young environmental caretakers” said Annette Cavanagh, co-founder of UGIL.

The bike ride departed from Yea Rail park at 9am and traversed the Great Victorian Rail Trail to Homewood, arriving at the planting site an hour later.

There the bikers, as well as those who chose to get there by other means, gathered to plant native trees and shrubs to revegetate the area.

“These new plants will not only add to the visual appeal of the rail trail, but will provide further habitat for native wildlife, creating connecting corridors of vegetation along one of our region’s great assets,” Annette said.

All told, the UGIL members planted 100 trees and shrubs and had a great time doing it.



Trees planted by UGIL members at Homewood. -S



Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare members at their Landcare week planting session at Homewood. -S



Planting kit ready to go for the UGIL for the Landcare week event. -S

The fascinating life of the brush-tailed phascogale

THE brush-tailed phascogale (*Phascogale tapoatafa*) shares its family tree with other members of the carnivorous marsupial *dasyuridae* family such as dunnarts, antechinus and quolls.

Goulburn Broken CMA project officer, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, said the brush-tailed phascogale was nocturnal and primarily arboreal, meaning it relies on healthy, connected forests and woodlands so it can travel through the treetops to search for nectar, insects, spiders, centipedes and bird eggs.

“As a hollow dependent species, the brush-tailed phascogale will use several tree hollows in which to nest and shelter during the day,” Ms Mentiplay-Smith said.

“This is possibly a predator evasion tactic but means the demand for nest hollows is further exacerbated. Where natural hollows no longer exist, it readily uses artificial nest boxes.

“It’s easy to determine if a nest box is being used by either a glider or a phascogale. Gliders build their nest out of fresh leaves and keep their nest box clean, whereas a brush-tailed phascogale constructs its nest out of a variety of materials, mainly stringybark but also animal hair, feathers,



The brush-tailed phascogale is one of the nocturnal native marsupials living in the Goulburn Broken catchment. -Russell Jones



The brush-tailed phascogale will readily make a home in a nest box. -Orlando Talamo

snakeskin, and even the desiccated bodies of dead animals.

“Their habit of using the corner of their nest box as a toilet also gives the nest box a unique phascogale odour.”

Ms Mentiplay-Smith said nest boxes were readily sought out and used by a variety of native animals so if you live in a woodland or forested area, installing nest boxes on

your property is one of the most immediate ways you can benefit wildlife.

“As with its relatives, the antechinus and dunnarts, the brush-tailed phascogale leads a short, fast life. After mating in late autumn to early winter, the male perishes. As he is around just one year old, this makes the brush-tailed phascogale the largest known mammal to die after its first and last breeding season,” she said.

“The female raises her five to eight young from mid June to early August, firstly within their pouch which is a fold of skin on her belly rather than a true pouch for seven weeks and then within the nest until the joeys are five months old. A female will sometimes raise two litters in her lifetime. She typically dies before turning two years old.”



Phasing caged eggs out sooner rather than later

LAST month, Agriculture Ministers met to endorse the new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry. This report recommends bringing forward by 10 years a phase out of all battery cage eggs by 2036.



Big changes to egg production coming soon -S

Agriculture Minister Murray Watt has said, "It would be left to each state to decide exactly when they will implement it."

Three major supermarkets are on board with the change, with two of them already committing to 100 per cent of cage eggs being off the shelves by 2025.

According to the Australian Eggs lobby group, demand for free range eggs has grown significantly in Australia over the last 15 years and egg farmers have responded by investing in increased free range egg farming capacity. Free range is now the most popular egg category at the supermarket, making up 47 percent of total retail sales.

Current cage hen farmers are feeling the brunt of this forward cessation of caged eggs as they have heavily invested in cages and equipment.

A statement from Egg Farmers of Australia, CEO Melinda Hashimoto said farmers in various states had mixed reactions.

"Our free range and barn laid sectors have the green light to expand, but cage egg producers are in limbo with no clear picture about their future in Australia's egg supply chain," she warned.

"That's because the ministers voted to end cage eggs, but left the phase out time to each state to decide. This could be good news or bad news for producers, depending on how long the states allow cage eggs to continue to be sold. Consequently, we need clarity from states so that farmers can plan for their future."

Demand for free range eggs has grown significantly in Australia over the last 15 years and egg farmers have responded by investing in increased free range egg farming capacity.

Under the law, eggs labelled as 'free range' must come from hens that are able to roam and forage outdoors for at least eight hours each day.

The definition of cage eggs are eggs produced from hens that are housed in cages inside large, climate controlled sheds. The modern structures used in Australia generally have multiple tiers, with a conveyor belt between each level to catch and remove manure automatically.

As free range eggs are usually more expensive than caged eggs, what will this mean down the track for consumers when the only option is to purchase free range?

Well, you can have these eggs scrambled, poached or fried.

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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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Protect your stock from enterotoxaemia

DR Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria's Senior Veterinary Officer has asked farmers to keep a calendar of key farm management dates, and to include the key entry, 'vaccinate stock' in late July or early August.

This is important as it's an annual vaccinaton. Firstly, with spring growth losses due to enterotoxaemia, also known as pulpy kidney, becoming a distinct possibility and secondly, a feature of the enterotoxaemia vaccine is the duration of immunity that it provides may be quite short. It may only give three or four months of protection. Therefore, a booster dose should be given before a high risk period, for example, before the beginning of spring.

Young stock in good condition up to two years of age are most affected by enterotoxaemia, however deaths in older stock may occur.

Enterotoxaemia is caused by a toxin produced by Clostridium bacteria, which is found in the bowel of normal, healthy cattle and sheep.

Enterotoxaemia occurs when a large amount of readily fermentable feed is present in the bowel leading to rapid multiplication of the bacteria and a lethal

level of toxin production. Due to the rapid progression of the disease, an animal affected by enterotoxaemia will typically be found dead in the paddock. On post mortem rapid decomposition of the carcass is seen.

Little can be done to treat an animal affected by enterotoxaemia, therefore the emphasis should be on prevention.

The key to prevention is to ensure all livestock are adequately protected through vaccination.

As with any vaccination program, adult cows and ewes should be vaccinated approximately one month prior to giving birth to give their calves and lambs maternal or passive immunity through colostrum.


Passive immunity lasts approximately six weeks after which calves and lambs need to be vaccinated to gain an active immunity. This is achieved by giving two injections at least four weeks apart. Hopefully all producers will benefit by the upcoming spring conditions without being troubled by the problems that they may bring.

For further advice please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary.

Get your business moooving.....

Advertise in the **Alexandra Standard** and **Yea Chronicle**.
Contact 5772 1002

Recipe kindly submitted by Christine Stonehouse of the Kinglake Branch of the CWA



INSTANT PUDDING BISCUITS

from the CWA biscuits Galore book


INGREDIENTS

- 185gms butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 and a half cups plain flour
- 3 tbsp cornflour
- 1 packet instant pudding (Vanilla)
- Glaze cherries

METHOD

Cream butter and sugar, add egg, instant pudding and dry ingredients. Roll into small balls and place on a greased tray and flatten with a fork. Place half a cherry on each biscuit. Bake at 180 C for 10 minutes or until golden.

Variations; in different batches; add half a cup of silvered almonds, half a cup of choc bits, half a cup of raisins, or chocolate pudding and choc bits, or strawberry pudding and chopped cherries.



Kinglake CWA meet on the first tuesday of each month at the Kinglake Neighbourhood house In McMahons Road Kinglake. Contact Christine on 0407 056 346.

SAVE THE DATE

August 21 - Greta
Resilient breeders workshop for sheep producers - Workshop 1 Farm Systems - AgVic

August 30 - Violet Town
Resilient breeders workshop for sheep producers - Workshop 2 Genetic selection - AgVic

September 5 - Ararat
Perennial Pasture Systems Annual Conference - AgVic

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Sept 1 Combined agents store sale
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The Rabbit Trap By Jed Dunstan

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Simply color the picture on the right, fill in your details and drop it off at Alexandra Newspapers 43 Grant Street Alexandra Vic or post it to P O Box 5 Alexandra Vic 3714.

Entries close and need to be received by 11am Monday prior to our next edition.

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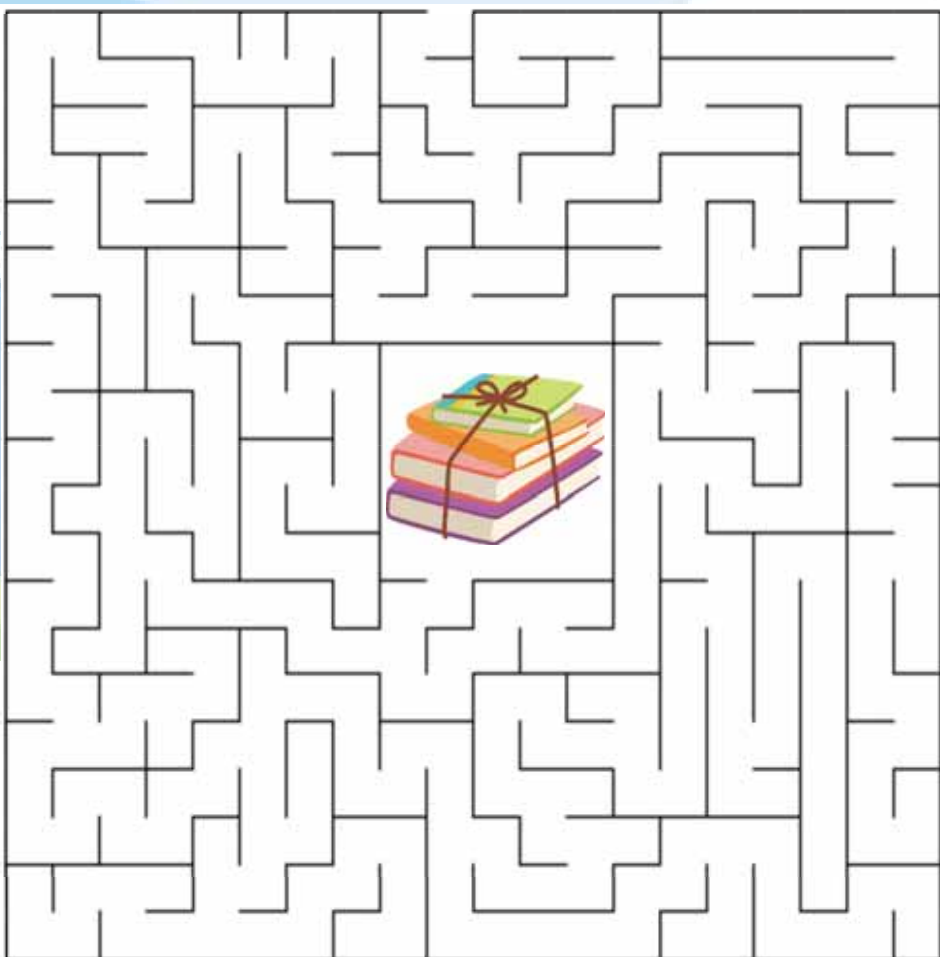


BOOK WEEK - August 19 to 25

A - M A Z E - I N G



Help return the library books back to the library.



JUST JOKES

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What does a librarian take fishing?

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What king of medieval England was famous because he spent so many nights at his Round Table writing books?

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What kind of books do rabbits like to read?

Stories with hoppy endings.

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle. Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

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CROSSWORD

T	L	F	U	S	E	D	R	F		
O	L	I	V	E	A	R	O	U	G	E
S	A	D	D	E	R	B	Y	S	E	A
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N	O	I	S	Y	N	E	V	E	R	
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A	N	O	D	E	V	A	B	A	S	E
P	N	G	U	I	L	T	D	N		

MATHS SQUARES

8	-	15	+	6	+	7	6
÷		-		+		+	
4	-	16	+	9	+	5	2
+		-		-		x	
12	+	13	+	10	+	11	46
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6		-28		10		61	

NUMBER BLOCK

							15
6	4	0	2	6	3		21
1	6	1	6	5	1		20
1	2	6	3	1	1		14
0	6	0	2	0	5		13
4	3	2	4	0	3		16
1	4	6	5	5	5		26
13	25	15	22	17	18		25

SUDOKU

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



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Have you cleaned your chimney flue this winter?

VICTORIAN fire services are recommending homeowners across the state prioritise cleaning their chimneys this winter to help prevent a fire occurring.

A chimney fire in a house in Raglan, just outside Beaufort, late last month is a timely reminder of the importance of cleaning your chimney flue after a free-standing wood heater went up in flames.

Elmhurst Fire Brigade firefighter Hamish Keith witnessed the impacts first-hand of the flue that was 95 percent blocked by soot.

“Because of the design of the heater and the way it was burning, there was a significant build-up of black tar, which evidently caused the blockage and the fire to ignite,” Hamish said.

“It looked like cancer inside an artery. From the top to bottom of this five-metre-high flue, you couldn’t see a torch light.

“Luckily, the family had working smoke alarms that alerted them to the fire, as smoke filled 60 percent of their house due to the chimney being unable to exhaust it.”

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said the recent Raglan fire is a strong reminder to residents to have their chimneys professionally cleaned each year.

“This is just one of the damaging 48 chimney fires CFA have responded to this year,” CO Heffernan said.

“As you warm your home this season, simply use a torch to regularly check for soot build up or obstructions to reduce the risk of a fire starting from your fireplace or wood heater.

“Our latest statistics show us most fatal fires start in sleeping and living areas, so for your family’s best protection, smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, living and hallway area.”

Fire Rescue Victoria Commissioner Gavin Freeman AFMSM said maintaining your working fireplace is essential for home safety. “Those of us with a fireplace at home are enjoying them a lot at this time of year. Proper maintenance ensures they don’t pose



Prevent a chimney fire by having your chimney cleaned annually. -S

a risk to your family home,” Commissioner Freeman said.

“Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire and keep wood, clothes and other combustibles at least one metre from fire. “Extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house, and check that embers are cold before disposing of them.” Victorians are reminded that long-life battery or interconnected smoke alarms located in all bedrooms, hallways and living areas of the home can save lives for as little as \$20.

Chimneys and flues should be cleaned annually. Over time there could be a build-up of creosote, a black tar-like residue, which is highly flammable and could clog up chimneys. Creosote is not only caused by general use, it can also build up quicker if you are using incorrect fuels, such as green wood or treated timbers. To reduce the risk of a fire starting from your fireplace or wood heater, you should use a torch to check for creosote build-up or obstructions and have your chimney professionally cleaned annually. Only burn dry, clean wood. Extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house.



Prep students from Middle Kinglake Primary School celebrating 100 days at school. -S

Cool Heads encouraging road safety

COOL Heads is a thought provoking, confronting and informative road safety program with advice on a wide range of topics for young drivers, presented by Victoria Police and local agencies.

The program offers advice to young drivers on a range of topics. It will be a thought provoking, confronting and informative evening about road safety.

The Alexandra event takes place at 7pm on Wednesday, September 6 at the Alexandra Football and Netball Club, 53 William Street in Alexandra. The event will conclude at about 9pm.

Entry is free but due to limited spaces, people will need to register their attendance via Eventbrite at eventbrite.com.au/e/coolheads-young-driver-program-alexandratickets-663346616587

How are the pothole repairs going?

THE Department of Transport was asked to provide an update on the works which have been done in the Murrindindi Shire area across the past two months.

Department of Transport and Planning Acting Regional Director (Hume) Emma Bamford responded, “Since the start of June 2023, we’ve repaired more than 200 potholes across the Murrindindi Shire area as part of our efforts to recover from last year’s floods, which caused unprecedented damage to our roads, including areas in the north-east.

“Our focus has to be on repairing that damage, and that’s exactly what we’re doing, with \$770 million set to be spent on maintaining our road assets during 2023/24.”

The high rainfall has caused significant damage to roads, with new potholes opening up months after the peak of the floods due to the amount of water left sitting under the road surface.

\$770 million is set to be spent on maintaining road assets during 2023/24, and experts are now finalising a program of works that will rebuild, resurface and patch

roads in every corner of the state, keeping drivers and freight on the move across Victoria.

In order to carry out these vital repairs, the Department of Transport needs to wait for drier, warmer conditions. Delivering this type of work when conditions are cold and wet means that there is a risk the repairs will not be delivering a long-term solution.

The Department of Transport said that their crews continue to regularly monitor and assess reported hazards, along with all roads across the North East region, in line with their responsibilities under the Road Management Act.

They added that they are continuing to deliver long-term, large scale repairs to the most badly flood damaged roads, along with key freight and travel routes, as part of a \$165 million emergency road repair blitz.

The Victorian Government is investing an additional \$2.8 billion over 10 years into road maintenance and renewal works, including flood recovery. This will see a total of at least \$6.6 billion invested in maintaining road assets over the next decade.

Women in Small Business Webinar Series

PARTNERS in Wellbeing are presenting *Women in Small Business: Balancing Work and Home Life*, an evidence-based webinar series aimed at small business owners who want to connect and share experiences with other like-minded women who juggle family and work.

Join Wellbeing Coaches Jane Lazzari and Julie Fletcher as they facilitate interactive group discussions with women in small business around the topics listed below which have been informed by previous webinar participants.

Webinars will be held every Wednesday from August 16 to September 13 and are free, but you have to register to attend.

The topics include: Self-doubt, health, self-care, managing mental health, and keeping your eye on the prize.

Register at eventbrite.com.au/e/partners-in-wellbeing-presents-webinar-series-for-women-in-small-business-tickets-684564600147

Copper chopper drama in Yarck

ON Thursday, August 10, Alexandra Police intercepted a stolen vehicle in Yarck. Two people were arrested from the vehicle and a third person fled on foot, actively evading police.

The following morning at 9am, members of the public reported a male acting suspiciously in the farmland area behind Yarck.

Local police, with the assistance of Air Wing, were searching the Yarck area when the man was located.

Police wish to thank the community for their assistance. It is understood that there were a number of sighting reports from Yarck residents, and the man was located as a result of these sightings.

A 34 year old Alexandra man is currently assisting police with their enquiries. He is expected to be charged with theft of a motor vehicle and associated thefts. The vehicle had been stolen from metropolitan Melbourne.

The other two occupants in the vehicle are from the metropolitan Melbourne area. Charges are pending.

The Yea Primary School Melbourne camp



Yea Primary School students visiting the Royal Melbourne Zoo as part of their school camp. -S



The students at Sky Deck. -S



Visiting Sky Deck. -S



Visiting the MCG. -S



The Don Bradman sculpture at the MCG. -S



The hallowed turf. -S



Providing commentary at the MCG. -S



The students at Old Melbourne Gaol. -S



At the Sports Museum. -S



Visiting Scienceworks. -S



Scienceworks. -S



The Melbourne Sports Centre in Albert Park. -S

The Yea Primary School Melbourne camp



Students having a close encounter with a seal. -S



Students at the Royal Melbourne Zoo. -S



Inside the Shrine of Remembrance. -S



Taking a look at the MCG. -S



The happy group on the train. -S



The Royal Melbourne Zoo. -S



The students at Flinders Street Station. -S



One of the students dressed in army fatigues. -S



Scienceworks. -S



Inside the sports museum. -S



The students playing outside the Shrine of Remembrance. -S

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

New grants for regional sports

As community winter sports players look towards the finals season, the state government is supporting home-grown football and netball teams with grants to upgrade local facilities across Victoria.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence has officially announced that the 2023-24 Country Football and Netball Program is now open for applications.

Grants of up to \$250,000 are available to make more sport infrastructure developments possible including court and oval lighting upgrades, changeroom developments and new pavilions for local clubs and communities.

This funding is for clubs to make upgrades to facilities to ensure more players, coaches, umpires and supporters of all abilities can participate in local sport. Local football and netball clubs in eligible areas are encouraged to consult with their local councils to apply for program funding.

Previous successful projects include \$250,000 for a new netball court and lighting upgrades at the home of the Campbells Creek Magpies Football Netball Club in Mt Alexander Shire, and \$230,000 towards the Les Cheesley Oval lighting upgrade, home of the Wodonga Bulldogs Junior Football Club.

The Victorian Budget 2023/24 is providing \$213 million for new and improved community sporting infrastructure and to support initiatives that increase participation and inclusion in local sporting clubs and organisations.

The program is a partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria, and Netball Victoria. Since 2005, \$37.5 million has been invested in over 560 projects across Victoria.

Applications close on October 9, 2023. For more information on the program and to apply, visit sport.vic.gov.au

Hot on court winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

MANSFIELD Red hosted Mansfield Black in warm sunny weather last Monday. Encouraged by teammates supporting from the sidelines, Red team began strongly. Red's Karyn Fraser and Carolyn Murray won their opener 8-4 while Jo O'Brien and Deb McCormack took theirs 8-5.

The contest tightened up in the remaining sets as Black's Liza Karras, Rhonda Carpenter, Jenny Smith and Di Bergelin worked hard to counter Red's clever courtcraft. Two tiebreakers were

played, and Red took the other two sets 8-6.

After players noticed and resolved a scoring miscalculation, Liza and Di were surprised and delighted to take the final tiebreak set. With much excitement Red won 5/47 to 1/36 after a lengthy battle for their first win of the season.

Benalla hosted Terip in an equally close encounter. Benalla's Bev Gill, Claire Sharp, and Maureen Jewell were joined by Euroa's Julie Harrington. Terip's Cindy Hayes and Frances Lawrence won their opener 8-6 while Phoebe McDermid and Jenny Martin fell 4-8 to the home side.

Sets were again split in lengthy battles of excellent tennis. The result was determined by the final sets and Benalla won both to claim the match 4/44 to 2/33.

The exhausted players truly deserved their cuppa and lunch. For the other two matches, Euroa won on forfeit against Seven Creeks, and Moglonemby won on forfeit against Mansfield Blue.

Ladder: Terip 83, Euroa 76, Moglonemby 75, Benalla 56, Mansfield Black 54, Seven Creeks 38, Mansfield Red 32, Mansfield Blue 26.

MTA committee members met on Monday night to discuss recent changes and prepare for the upcoming season.



Committee members Tim Ross, Brendan Purcell, Rachel Parsons, Jemma Purcell, Rhonda Carpenter, and Bob Carpenter. -Jo O'Brien

Golf emerging from the depths of winter

by Karen Sangster

JUST like spring bulbs, golfers are emerging from the depths of a cold wet winter, where the golf ball and the feet had been disappearing into the soft wet soil. Hopefully not the feet, but the balls never to be seen again, although you thought you knew where they landed.

Slow going are the cold days, where no one wanted to venture out. Golfers are returning to try their luck. Fairways are able to be mowed, balls found and the feet do not disappear into a soggy hole. Golf is becoming enjoyable once again. Soon the holiday makers will also return to boost the numbers.

Fields of two, maybe three, have been the norm during the months of June and July. Events were cancelled, hoping for a dryer day. The biggest field was six on June 21, with Adrienne Anglin (12) 31 winning. Runner up was Meryl Connell on a countback from Sharon Grogan, both on 26. June 17, 24, July 1, 5 and 8, victories were shared between Vicki Clements and myself, Karen Sangster. Once again on the twelfth, three people played for the Monthly Medal. The

winner was Adrienne Anglin and I was runner up.

Finally on the July 5, improving weather encouraged five players onto the course. Winner for the day was myself (26) 85, on a countback from Cindy Armstrong (36) 85. I also managed a nearest the pin and Cindy claimed a gobbler.

Six players on the nineteenth with a win for Adrienne Anglin (12) 30, runner up Jo Clayton (25) 26 and on the twenty-sixth nine players. Today a little bit of excitement, three players coming in with a score of 31. On a countback, another win for Adrienne, runner up Margie Wright from Penny Britton third.

On the 29th, another six players, we hit the repeat button. Winner Karen Sangster (26) 33 and Runner up Cindy Armstrong (37) 26. Sue Aurisch with a gobbler.

Now we hit the month of August, the course looking and playing a treat. The event today a two person Ambrose. Whoops odd numbers, but not a problem. Adrienne basically played two games, what a legend. Not only that, Team Adrienne and Judy Newman (14) 65 secured first place. Then not to be outdone, Adrienne and Meryl

Connell (10) 73 took out second place. Top effort girls.

August 5, five players for the day, playing the unforgiving game PAR. Always a hard game, and even harder on a heavy course. But once again with the repeat button, first Karen Sangster (26) -6 and runner up Cindy Armstrong (37) -10. Boy, were we glad that day was over.

Last but not least, August 9. The sun came out, oh the glorious warmth, layers shed. All looking less like the padded pandas, and stop the presses, 10 players graced the field. We are on a comeback big time. Today the fourth round of the Silver Spoon and putting the order of the day. Obviously, Adrienne Anglin (12) really liked the warmer weather, a blossoming flower, having a great day out. Winning both events for the day with a 77 and 28 Putts. Runner up was Penny Britton (38) 83 on a countback from Karen Sangster (26) also on 83. Nearest the pin today was Cheryl Roberts, her first day out for quite a long time, returning from surgery, made her day out more special. We are now up to date. Happy golfing and may the warmth continue and the bulbs bloom to their best potential.



Barman Michael Sheather won on Wednesday. -S

Kevin Wins 54 Hole Event
by Alan Pell

SATURDAY saw the final round of the 54 Hole Event with stroke and putting contested. The winner of the day and Monthly Medal with nett 70 was Brian Simmons (12). Brian also won the putting with 25 putts. Brendan Chenhall (12) with nett 72 was second, no nearest the pin on the eleventh and Alan Pell won the Club Award with nett 81.

Rick Wills (Winner '22) presents Kevin Coghlan with the Trophies. Kevin Coghlan with 25 points from the three rounds won



2022 winner Rick Wills presents Kevin Coghlan with the trophies. -S

the Board Event - 54 Hole Event from second Phil Armstrong 19, Brendan Chenhall 18, Brian Simmons 15 and Tom White 14. Wednesday's golf saw 13 players contest the stroke and putting event with Michael Sheather (32) shining with a nett 70 to win from Phil Armstrong (21) and Carl Maffei (25) both with nett 71. Putting was won by both Carl Maffei and Anthony Coleman with 25 putts. Alan Pell was nearest the pin on the eleventh and Brian Priestley won the Club Award.