

# 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, February 21, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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# STORMS

## Yea CFA report

EMERY McCarthy from the Yea Fire Brigade provided an update on their activities during the challenging weather on Tuesday, February 13, and the aftermath.

Tuesday was a total fire ban day, so the station was staffed with firefighters from about 7am, throughout the day. Fortunately, there were no fires during the day, however at 4.50pm, they were called to a vehicle accident, the result of a vehicle hitting a tree due to the storm.

The Yea brigade attended, along with Victoria Police and Limestone Brigade. The original information was that there was a possible 'persons trapped' situation, however fortunately they had only suffered minor injuries.

The storms also brought down many trees in the Yea area. The Yea CFA didn't respond to these as the SES is the primary agency for storm response, and the brigade still had a commitment to the total fire ban.

On Wednesday at around 11am, Emery received a phone call from District Two, asking the brigade to go to the Yea Hospital due to a power failure and no communications within Yea.

Emery said that from about that point forward, they had people down at the station and trying to make communications with the hospital so they could have communications with the outside world. There were also members travelling outside of Yea to make telephone contact, so intermittently, the brigade members would go to the hospital to ensure their contact with the outside world.

At about 4pm on Wednesday, the Yea Fire Station was opened as a point for the community to charge phones. As there was no phone signal at all in Yea, there was no way for people to contact Triple Zero, so the CFA could radio emergencies to ESTA and deploy resources as required.

This information was broadcast to the community via UGFM radio and ABC radio.

At one stage, the Yea brigade had 15 people charging their phones at the station. One person came down to make a Triple Zero call regarding a carbon monoxide alarm, which the brigade then responded to. It was initially reported at about 7.40pm.

The fire station was finally shut down at about 10am, after the power was restored to most parts of Yea by 8.30pm and the brigade was confident that communications had become secure. Phone signal was restored at around 7.30pm, however they were cautious because if power was out for some time, they were unsure how long the generators would last.

SES provided a satellite phone to Yea and District Memorial Hospital at around 5pm, so they had a source of communication.

"SES played a great part with the storms," Emery said.



Ausnet technicians fixing powerlines following the storms on Tuesday, February 13. -S

He added, "Considering all the circumstances, a loss of communication for the community is quite a big thing, I really believe all the emergency services did a great job. By coming to the fire station, the community were able to source all of the information they could. Considering what everyone has been through the last few months, the Yea community is very resilient and very strong."

He said, "We are recruiting now. We have 15 members in our brigade and what these 15 members have done is astounding. They have put in a lot of time and commitment, and they keep responding in such challenging times, so hats off to all of them."

"If you are interested in joining the brigade head to the CFA webpage and put in a special request to join a brigade near you or come to the Yea station on the first, second and fourth Sunday of each month when training is on. Come down and have a chat," Emery said.

## Yea hospital weathers the storm

THE storms on Tuesday, February 13 had a catastrophic effect on most of Victoria's power supply. As a result, the Yea and District Memorial Hospital become reliant on its newly upgraded generator for approximately 20 hours.

Also effected by the storms were the hospital's telecommunications system and data network coverage. Contingencies were quickly put into place, supported by the local CFA and the Alexandra District Hospital.

Throughout, local police, ambulance crews and the emergency management team at the Department of Health maintained regular contact with the hospital, and the team at Simpsons garage ensured that the hospital had a consistent supply of fuel for their generator.

Hospital staff continued to provide wonderful care to patients and residents and to vulnerable members of the community who presented to the hospital seeking support. The hospital would like to express their gratitude all involved.



# Letters to the Editor

## Shire survey

ON Tuesday afternoon, February 13, a couple of hours after I had lost all power and internet connectivity, I received a designated spam call on my mobile phone. Normally I just let these calls ring out and they never recall, but in this instance, I answered the call.

The caller, a woman, indicated she was calling from National Field Services and was conducting a survey on behalf of Murrindindi Shire Council. I eloquently and quickly terminated her call.

I'd suggest to the shire, its executives and councillors, that they give no weight to any survey results obtained by a designated scam phone call.

They ought to be considered silly, inaccurate and frivolous when obtained by a designated scam caller, and simply a waste of resources.

*John Kennedy, Yea*

*[The community were advised of the phone survey on Facebook and in the February 7 edition of this newspaper. -Ed]*

## Weather

AT 5pm on Tuesday, February 13, I was on the outskirts of Yea heading home to Alexandra from Melbourne and driving in some of the worst weather conditions I have endured in many summers. I mused in forlorn hope, surely it can't get much worse than this. It did.

The weather gods decided to unleash upon us its Armageddon as the second front hit with bloody minded volatile vengeance. Mayhem followed as we were brought to a standstill.

Bloody hell, what next? In a heartbeat, the best of spontaneous community spirit was on display and not just the once but on two occasions the road was cleared of fallen trees by unsung heroes with chainsaw, pick-ups and tow ropes. With many willing bodies, strong arms, an unswerving commitment to beat the prevailing odds, a bunch of dyed in the wool, red-blooded Aussie blokes did, they beat the odds. Many stranded, worried, threatened and emotionally tired motorists were freed, got moving, arriving home safely to their families.

The following day, as the aftermath dawned and was pitifully realised with no power, phone services and communication networks all out on mass, I was called into the UGFM studio to assist logistically in keeping our community regularly informed as a State Emergency Broadcaster. The ensuing qualified authority advice throughout the day was consistent: the power will be out for two, three maybe four days, such is the structural devastation to the six power transmission towers at Anakie.

In fact, Victorian Emergency Management Commissioner, Rick Nugent, warned it could potentially take up to a week for some houses and businesses to get their power back.

That afternoon, I relocated back to Melbourne until power was restored, with an expectation of returning home, possibly, on the weekend.

At 3.03am on Thursday morning, my iPhone pings with an SMS message from AusNet Good news. The power for my NMI had been restored.

How can that be? The short answer is simple, we were hoodwinked and that is putting it civilly. We, our broader community were summarily ejected from the energy grid.

How so? It is clear the fragility of the energy grid has played a major role with load shedding taking a lead role with widespread blackouts, as evidenced with our state vigorously importing power from Tasmania, NSW and South Australia, driving up the wholesale price in our state to the market maximum of \$16,600 a megawatt hour from the norm of about \$160 a megawatt hour.

While the green zealots will continue to extol their virtues of saving planet Earth from alleged climatic change by eradicating Australia's miniscule Co2 emissions, sending the Australian economy to hell in a handbasket, do not lose sight of the reality that a virtue signalling green zealot is incapable of saving the planet but is most capable and demonstrably so, in taking from you, your very own greenstuff multiple times ... \$100 notes.

*John White, Alexandra*

## COMMUNITY DIARY

### Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands  
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene  
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Range

### WEEKLY

Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179  
Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086  
Sun Alanon Recovery, start 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086

### MONTHLY

1<sup>st</sup> Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099  
1<sup>st</sup> Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thu Yea Garden Club Yea RSL Hall 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315  
4<sup>th</sup> Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.  
4<sup>th</sup> Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 1.30pm Ph 0400 424 888  
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353



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



**THUMBS DOWN:** To council for not opening free green waste until Saturday, four days after the storms.

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

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

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## RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.62	steady	below minor
Acheron R at Taggerty	12.00pm Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Home Ck at Yarck	11.41am Mon	0.15	steady	
Yea R at Devlins Bridge	11.56am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Rubicon R at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.51	steady	
King Parrot Ck at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.50	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.28	steady	below minor
Sunday Ck at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn R at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.59	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Ck at Seymour	11.03am Mon	1.17	steady	
Goulburn R at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.69	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2024

## Time to clean up after the storm

IN response to the extreme weather event last week, on Tuesday, February 13, Murrindindi Shire is offering residents free disposal of household green waste and bulk food waste at their resource recovery centres from Saturday, February 17.

Items eligible for free disposal include fallen branches and trees from the storm, and perished food, with no limit on volume per load or trips per customer per day.

The service is available for a week from Saturday, February 17, and will then be assessed on community needs.

For more information contact council on 5772 0333.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to [editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au) or [reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print. All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.



## Weekly Weather

February 21 - February 27, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	20	31	Wednesday	20	31
Thursday	15	33	Thursday	14	34
Friday	10	21	Friday	11	21
Saturday	9	22	Saturday	8	22
Sunday	12	26	Sunday	12	26
Monday	12	25	Monday	12	25
Tuesday	15	28	Tuesday	15	28

## DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	22mm
Eildon (AWS)	8mm
Flowerdale	15mm
Jamieson	N/Amm
Kinglake	15mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Mansfield	4mm
Taggerty	26mm
Yarck	8mm
Yea	21mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

## LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	288.01m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	96.4%
Metres below full supply	89cm
Daily inflow	500ML
Release	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	59%

## The Yea Chronicle

### DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

We thank you for your continued support

## Victoria shows strong jobs growth

VICTORIA'S economy has seen the state record again with Australia's strongest jobs growth over the past year and delivering the lowest unemployment rate of all the states.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures have recently been released and confirmed 2100 Victorians started new jobs in January, bumping the total number of Victorians in work to a near record 3.68 million.

Victoria's strong annual jobs creation is nationleading, with almost 150,000 Victorians securing employment, recording the largest increase of all the states.

Victoria's labour force participation rate remains high, at 67.2 per cent, reflecting jobseekers confidence, and our youth unemployment rate is low 9.0 per cent.

A robust regional economy continues to drive strong jobs growth and support communities, with a record 826,000 Victorians employed in regional and rural areas, an increase of more than 25 per cent under the Labor Government.

Demonstrating the strength of the recovery, ABS figures show that Victoria's economy has grown by a cumulative 9.1 per cent over the past two years, ahead of NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

Victoria has also led all other states in generating jobs since the September 2020 pandemic peak, both in absolute and percentage terms, with almost 530,000 new jobs created across the state.

Positive January NAB business survey results saw a slight increase in Victorian business confidence, while business conditions rose to eight points, higher than the long term average.

Recent ABS data showed Victoria's State Final Demand, a key measure of the economy, combining public and private investment and spending grew by 2.1 per cent in the 12 months to September 2023, and 0.4 per cent in the September quarter.

Independent analyst, Deloitte Access Economics, predicts Victoria's strong economic prospects and employment growth will outpace all other states over the next five years.

## Fatal crash in Flowerdale

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal crash in Flowerdale on the evening of Friday, February 16.

It is believed a male driver was travelling along Whittlesea-Yea Road when he left the roadway and crashed into a tree about 6pm.

The 82 year old driver and sole occupant of the vehicle died at the scene.

The exact circumstances surrounding the crash are yet to be determined and investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, with dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)



30,231 Victorian drivers have been caught using mobile phones while driving in the past six months. -Ed Poor

# Smile, you're on camera

DRIVERS who use their mobile phone or don't wear a seatbelt are getting caught as new data reveals that Victoria's mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras have nabbed tens of thousands of people during their first six months of enforcement.

The Victorian Government has rolled out six distracted driver cameras as part of the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030, which aims to save lives and reduce trauma on our roads.

Delivered as part of a \$33.7 million invested, the distracted driver cameras have been detecting offences across the road network since July 1, 2023, using AI enabled cameras to capture high resolution images of drivers with images then passed to a human verifier to further assess before an infringement notice is issued.

From July 1 to December 30, 2023, the cameras detected 53,105 offences, including 16,499 drivers and 6375 passengers not wearing seatbelts, and 30,231 drivers using mobile phones.

Drivers face penalties of four demerit points and a \$577 fine when caught using

a mobile phone while driving, and three demerit points and a \$385 fine for not wearing a seatbelt correctly.

The growing network of camera trailers regularly move around so drivers are unaware of where they will be at any given time and with the cameras monitoring motorists for around 8000 hours each month and moving across 162 locations in rural and metropolitan areas.

Distracted driving is a major contributor to serious and fatal collisions with research showing that more than half of drivers have used a mobile phone while driving which can increase the risk of crashing up to ten times compared to an alert driver.

More than 140 drivers and passengers killed on Victorian roads in the last five years were not wearing a seatbelt, that's just over a quarter of all vehicle occupants where seatbelt status was known.

For more information about Victoria's road safety cameras visit [vic.gov.au/cameras-save-lives](http://vic.gov.au/cameras-save-lives)

## Grants available for Youth Fest

IN September this year Youth Fest will kick off, and its been announced that \$220,000 is available to assist in delivering up to 110 events across the state for and by Victorians.

Grants of \$2000 are available for youth organisations, local government and schools to partner with Victorians aged 12 to 25 to create a wide variety of events for young people in their communities.

Youth Fest will support young people to organise and deliver events, showcase their skills, share ideas, build social connections, and expand their networks.

In 2023, the Youth Fest program delivered 111 activities focused on art, music, sport and theatre, as well as recreational and community festivals, giving young Victorians the chance to have their voices heard.

Minister for Youth, Natalie Suleyman said, "We're proud to support this wonderful program. Youth Fest is so important for sharing the voices of young people and celebrating everything they contribute to Victoria."

"Youth Fest gives young people from across our state the opportunity to come together, build social connections and lead positive change."

Applications are open until March 15. To apply and find out more visit [youthfest.vic.gov.au](http://youthfest.vic.gov.au)

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**1**

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Must recirculate water

**2**

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

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

**3**

**SPRINKLERS AND WATERING SYSTEMS**

Can only be used between 6pm and 10am

**4**

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

Like pathways, decks, concrete or driveways

**5**

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

But they must be fitted with a trigger nozzle



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



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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*.

**Free green waste and bulk food disposal is now available at council Resource Recovery Centres. For further information contact council on 5772 0333 or email customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
**MULTI VENDOR** - online clearing sales. Alexandra and Acheron. Contact Embling Rural, for full details 0418 266 038.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
 Yea-Kinglake RSL ordinary general meeting will be held at the RSL Hall at 11.30am. Enquiries to 5796 9353.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
 Public meeting, Buxton Memorial Hall at 2pm. To form a Buxton Open Spaces Committee. For further information email secretary@buxtonprogress.org.au  
 Suicide Awareness Group will meet from 9.30-10.30am at Yea RSL, Snodgrass Street. This is a free gathering and will take place every fourth Saturday of the month. For further details contact Jacky 0417 907 278.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
 Long Lazy Summer lunch at Holmesglen at Eildon. Noon - 4pm. Three course lunch

featuring local produce, free flowing bubbles from Snobs Creek Estate. Spectacular views. Accommodation available. Bookings essential 5774 2631.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29**  
**GOBUR** – online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concludes March 4 at noon +2 min increments. Inspection on Tuesday, February 27. 9.30am-2.30pm. Contact Embling Rural for further information 0418 266 038.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2**  
 Alex Races Rocks. Music, racing, fun for young and old. Gates open at noon. [countryracing.com/alexandra](http://countryracing.com/alexandra)

**The Yea Chronicle Standard**

**CONTACT DETAILS**

**CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING**  
 reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
**MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS** Karen Morrison  
 manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
**ADVERTISING** - Jo  
 1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
**EDITOR** Anne Richey  
 editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 (Rebekah) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
 (Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au  
**SPORTS**  
 sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street  
 PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714  
 Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603  
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**PUBLISHERS**

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## Community Accessibility seeking volunteer drivers

**VOLUNTEER** drivers play a vital role in assisting the community's vulnerable people with their transport needs.

Community Accessibility is seeking volunteer drivers in the Yea and surrounds who are willing to get involved to help support the evolving transport needs of the community.

Community Accessibility's transport service is a volunteer-supported community service. They are committed to providing transport support to older people, people living with disabilities, and those who have difficulties accessing other forms of transport.

"Volunteers play a vital role at Community Accessibility, and we are always in need of caring, compassionate volunteers to help carry out our mission," Jan Hay, Volunteer Coordinator for Community Accessibility Inc, said.

"We aim to offer a much-needed service within our community, assisting local residents in getting to appointments and commitments both within and outside of the area, or for rural residents of surrounding communities to come into town for appointments and programs," Ms Hay said.

Volunteering for Community Accessibility is easy and flexible. Anyone with a driver's licence can volunteer, and opportunities are open to females, males, and youths.

"Volunteer time is very flexible and relaxed. This service depends on volunteers who want to be a part of a very social volunteering opportunity and those who enjoy driving. All Community Accessibility volunteers receive induction, training, a uniform and ongoing support. We are looking for volunteers who can offer any amount of time. We have opportunities that range from as often as daily to as little as monthly," Ms Hay said.

"I get much pleasure, and I am always filled with gratitude because I get to help people and give back to my community. I also like that it's easy to volunteer, and we have a volunteer coordinator to go to for anything we need", Simone, Community Accessibility Volunteer Driver, said.

"The Community Accessibility transport services would not be possible without the incredible dedication of our volunteers. We would not have the wonderful opportunities and programs for the greater community if it were not for them. Our volunteers are what makes it all work."

For more information on volunteering opportunities, contact Jan Hay, Volunteer Coordinator at Community Accessibility on 1300 704 530 or email [volunteer@communityaccessability.org.au](mailto:volunteer@communityaccessability.org.au)



Yea's volunteer drivers, Val Howard and Simone Sier. -S

## Church Services

### ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, 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: 0435 953 777

### 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  
 Sunday Service 11.15am  
 Colin Whiteway  
 Ph 0457 340 525

### UNITING CHURCH

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



# Drug driving? The consequences will blow your mind.

Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension. Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



## Student of the Week

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



## YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week two  
Tom, Harper, Josh, Leni, Fox, Emma, Thomas and Vince.

Thank you so much to our Deputy Mayor Sue Carpenter and State Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish for letting us hijack you for our pic this week.  
What fabulous kids at Yea Primary School.

## Student of the Week

Proudly supported by  
Kinglake branch



# Storms cause havoc across shire

PETER Weeks, Alexandra SES Controller, was asked how busy the SES had been during last week and he responded with a laugh, "Very."

Two storm fronts came through on Tuesday afternoon. The first built up very quickly, across about an hour, so there was little warning. A lot of lightning was associated with the front, particularly around Wandong and Yea, and certainly a lot of wind.

The top speed measured by the Eildon fire tower was 119k/h and at Mt Wombat, it was 120k/h. Most towns in the shire lost power due to trees falling on powerlines. There were issues right across the Victorian electricity grid, largely due to the failure of six transmission towers.

One house on Whanregarwen Road lost its roof during the storms, landing in a paddock beside the house. Another house in Gobur lost about 50 tiles off the roof.

There were also about 100 trees down on roads and driveways just at Terip Terip, on Yarck Road and Gobur-Kanumbra Road, through to Top Road. Creightons Creek Road was closed due to the number of trees down.

Marysville SES were kept busy with tree clearing, and VicRoads contractors cleared trees at Buxton, Narbethong, Taggerty, Acheron, and between Molesworth and Yea on the Melba Highway.

The Alexandra SES cleared trees predominantly around Alexandra and up on the Yarck Road. The Alexandra and Yarck CFAs assisted the SES with jobs locally.

The Alexandra SES also assisted council with power for their radio communications.

Peter estimated that by Thursday afternoon, they had done about 25 jobs locally due to the storms, but jobs were still coming in.

They had contingencies in place with the council to provide relief centres if needed. They spoke with the council and they provided WiFi and internet at the Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake offices, and also people were able to charge their phones at those locations.

The CFA also provided phone charging at Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Eildon.

Fortunately, there were no injuries or vehicle accidents during the storms of their aftermath. They were called to a steep angle rescue in Gooram, but it turned out that the vehicle had been there for a few days.

There were also many trees down around the Limestone area, and Peter commented, "Council assisted us greatly with all of the council roads."

Powerlines came down on Halls Flat Road, which kept the power off at Alexandra Secondary School for an additional day, along with homes in that area.

For most people in Alexandra, the power came back on at about 12.45am on Thursday morning. For most people in Yea, the power resumed at 7pm on Wednesday, but some parts of Yea remained without power for longer.



SES members clearing a fallen tree following Tuesday's storms. -S

Speaking on Thursday, Peter said, "There are a lot of places around the district that still don't have power."

One of the challenges was that it was hard to get through to the power company to report issues.

Peter said, "The biggest issue was that the mobile phone towers and the NBN all lost power because the batteries went flat. We had radio communications set up between the hospital, the SES, the radio station and the CFA. It was something that we put together after the 2009 bushfires. Our landlines continued to work, the old copper landlines, enabling us to continue to provide internet. We were also using satellite for WiFi.

"We also lost our local CFA, police, SES and ambulance base station. We were relying on more distant base stations to provide coverage, but we've got our own radio system locally that we used, so that got us out of trouble.

"We were also monitoring the UHF CB radio. We put that in place locally on Wednesday when the phones all went

down. We monitored that overnight, in case people had a Triple Zero emergency where they couldn't use their phone, so we had radio communications with the emergency services in Melbourne so we could provide support for anyone who was in trouble," Peter said.

"We could see it all happening slowly and it all fell over. It didn't surprise me in the slightest that it happened, so we were fairly well prepared for it. When it happens, it throws everyone into panic because all of a sudden, their phones don't work. You know what people are like with their phones these days. It's like their umbilical cord."

The Alexandra SES also supplied the Alexandra Hospital with a satellite phone for emergency communications, and Yea Hospital received a satellite phone from the SES region.

SP Ausnet had 204,000 customers off at the peak across their area, and on Wednesday morning, it was still 188,000.

The SES Hume region said that Alexandra SES was one of the busiest in the area during and after the storm.

### Advice for the future

Peter's advice for a similar circumstance in the future was that people have a battery powered FM radio with spare batteries, or listen to their car radio. All of the information was being provided via UGFM. It was vital for getting the information out.

Peter also suggested that a CB radio can be a good back-up when phones go down. Having an emergency kit is advisable, which can cover you for at least three days. It might include water, food and batteries. The SES website provides further ideas about what to include in an emergency kit.

Petrol can also be a problem, as bowsers won't work unless the petrol station has a generator. People can keep fuel in reserve but it doesn't last well so it can be cycled through the lawnmower, for example.

Having cash on hand is also important for such situations, as phone and internet outages can mean that people are unable to pay using cards, including for fuel where the petrol stations have generators.

# Storms: council statement

THE recent storm event on February 13 caused significant damage and disruptions including widespread power, internet, and telecommunications outages affecting entire townships across Murrindindi Shire. Council worked hand-in-hand with the Victorian State Emergency Service (SES) who is the lead agency for this type of emergency.

Council's operations crews quickly got to work to address over 110 community requests for assistance, clearing fallen trees, debris, and tree limbs from roads, pathways, and public areas.

The key task was to keep roads safe, clear and accessible for emergency and essential services. Please be mindful as you travel throughout the shire as crews are working along roads and roadsides and council appreciates the community's patience while they attend to recovery works.

Key council sites are equipped with generators, and they have the capability to establish satellite connections to restore vital internet and telecommunication connectivity at strategic locations. This allows for continuity of operations.

Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake and Yea provided residents with a place of respite, ability to have a cuppa and a chat, recharge their devices, access support services and communicate with family and friends during the most critical times.

Council staff commented that the libraries were buzzing with people and lively conversations,

and that despite the circumstances, those who visited the centres were in good spirits.

Council opened shower facilities at Leckie Park, Alexandra, and all pools across the shire, to welcome residents without power to access hot showers.

To assist residents with their clean-up efforts, council is also offering free household green waste and bulk food waste disposal. This is for items such as fallen branches and trees from the storm, and perished food.

The Municipal Recovery Manager also supported affected residents with referrals to available services and assessing their eligibility for state government emergency relief payments, which are available to people whose homes were impacted by storm damage.

The team engaged with a wide range of affected individuals and families, ensuring they were connected to appropriate state government services and support mechanisms. Efforts were made to document the full scope of the storm's impact on the community and to provide guidance on maintaining safety during the recovery period.

Council's communications unit shared updates on power outages from AusNet Services, information on impacts to council services, as well as additional services on offer for affected communities, and provided advice on topics such as food safety and coping without

electricity for an extended period of time.

Council published critical communications on council's social media, website, and in local print media where possible. They shared information and liaised with UGFM Radio who issued periodic updates, keeping residents without power, phone or internet connection, informed as the event unfolded.

Council promptly reached out to the Ministers for Emergency Services and for Local Government to outline the extent of damage and disruption in our shire and advocate for appropriate support for the shire's communities.

Council would like to take this opportunity to thank local emergency services, volunteers, police, and council officers for their incredible efforts in responding to this storm event.

The community's resilience is continually tested with severe weather events like this, particularly over the last few years. It's in our nature to move on quickly, from one event to the next, without taking the proper time to check in on our own health and wellbeing. We know that these types of events can cause stress and anxiety, and it is ok to seek out some extra support.

We encourage you to check in on family, friends and neighbours and ask how they are going. There are also a range of resources available to support you if you just need a bit of extra help. A list of wellbeing support services are available on council's website.

# Concerns over electricity grid security

CONCERNS have been raised over the vulnerability of the state's electricity supply, in light of the damage caused by Tuesday's storms.

Leader of the Opposition, John Pesutto, stated, "My thoughts are with... the hundreds of thousands of Victorians who have been impacted by blackouts and bushfires over the past 24 hours.

"I want to thank our tireless emergency services workers who continue to support communities across Victoria during a challenging and difficult time for many Victorians.

"More than 500,000 households and businesses had their power cut yesterday in the largest power outage in Victoria's history and thousands will wait days, if not weeks, to have it restored.

"These blackouts again highlight the vulnerability of the state's energy supplies. Widespread storm damage brought down ageing transmission lines, while the Latrobe Valley's Loy Yang A plant trip mechanism sent it offline, temporarily sending the wholesale power price up to \$16,600 per megawatt hour.

"However, this situation was not unforeseeable or unavoidable. Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio has been repeatedly warned about the vulnerability of the transmission network during weather events by industry experts.

"The network is particularly vulnerable to weather events, where wind can bring down transmission towers not intended to withstand intense downdrafts.

Newer standard transmission towers were much more robust against yesterday's weather event, while older towers were brought down.

"With Labor having been in power for the past nine years, it must take responsibility for the state of Victoria's transmission network and the multiple warnings that have largely been ignored.

"Labor has been unable to manage the state's energy supply and all Victorians are paying the price.

"The Victorian Government must explain the exact cause of the outage which left households and businesses exposed. It must also explain when all Victorians can hope to have their power restored and what steps it is taking to ensure we don't have a repeat of these incidents.

"It is the responsibility of the government to ensure a reliable, secure and affordable power supply is available for all Victorians."

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President, Emma Germano, added, "Farmers and regional Victorians remain stranded, powerless and in some cases burnt out almost a day after terrible fires and thunderstorms. The impact on our industry and regional communities is immense and once again have been left to pick up the pieces.

"Victoria is still feeling the impact of one of our largest ever power blackouts and the complete lack of planning and resilience by the government is once again crippling our state. We must do better."



## STORM EVENT - FEBRUARY 2024 FREE HOUSEHOLD GREEN WASTE AND BULK FOOD WASTE DISPOSAL

In response to the storm event on 13 February 2024, Council is providing free disposal of household green waste and bulk food waste at our Resource Recovery Centres.

Items eligible for free disposal include:

- fallen branches and trees from the storm
- perished food

To find your closest Resource Recovery Centre, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/RRC)

For more information, please contact Council's Waste team on 5772 0333 or email [customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)



## JOIN GOULBURN VALLEY WATER'S CUSTOMER PANEL

Our new Customer Accountability Panel will be a key customer voice in planning for our future and reflecting on our promises and actions.

**We're seeking expressions of interest - here's your chance to be involved.**

The panel, a broad representation of our entire customer base, will meet annually. You don't need any experience in the water sector - we'll provide everything you need to participate.



Find out more about the panel and submit your interest by scanning the QR code.



Expressions of interest close Friday 8 March.

# Homewood Fire Brigade to celebrate 111 years of service

AS part of the upcoming Homewood Progressive Dinner, several Homewood Fire Brigade members will be recognised for their service. There will also be a celebration of 111 Years of Homewood Fire Brigade, originally known as Homewood-Dairy Creek Bush Fire Brigade.

It was originally assumed that the brigade was formed in 1941, however CFA District 12 staff member Pip Johnston discovered through some sleuthing that the brigade was actually formed on Friday, January 24, 1913.

An excerpt from *The Yea Chronicle*, found on Trove, is as follows:

### Bush Fire Brigade Formed at Homewood

“A large and representative meeting was held in the Homewood Public Hall on Friday last to consider a request from the Yea River Bush Fire Brigade, that Homewood and Dairy Creek graziers join with the Yea River graziers.

“Cr Drysdale occupied the chair.

“After discussion it was decided to form an independent brigade to be called the

Homewood and Dairy Creek Bush Fire Brigade.

“A constitution was drawn up, and various officers were appointed: Cr Drysdale, president; A Gill, honorary secretary; and W Scholz, treasurer.

“The Homewood Hall was fixed as the headquarters of the brigade.”

The article was a wonderful piece of history recovered for the fire brigade.

Come and join in celebrating this history at the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, March 23.

The evening begins with entrees at 4921 Yea-Whittlesea Road at 5pm then dinner, dessert, and presentations from 6.30pm at Homewood Hall, Homewood Road, Homewood.

Adults tickets are \$45, high school age \$35, and primary school age \$20.

For catering purposes, tickets must be purchased prior to the event. Scan the QR code on the Homewood Progressive dinner flyer, visit [trybooking.com/COMIL](https://trybooking.com/COMIL) or call Jo on 0458 367 753 or Brett on 0408 399 900.

# Local effort to prevent Queensland fruit fly

AFTER the recent sighting of the Queensland Fruit Fly in Kinglake, there is an emerging threat to berry farmers in the Kinglake Ranges posed by blackberry in the area. The blackberry is a Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) host, and in our region, it's widely available for QFF spread.

Recent QFF surveillance and eradication activities with commercial berry producers has exposed the need for wider blackberry control actions.

The Pheasant Creek Blackberry Action Group (PCBAG) is working together with landowners in the Pheasant Creek, Kinglake Central and Kinglake West areas to reduce the impact of blackberries in the region, with practical on ground solutions, education and community engagement.

Project Officer, Chris Cobern is now conducting free assessments for landowners to map and assess the extent of blackberry infestations on their property. Landowners will also have the option of developing and signing up to a three year management plan that will assist them to plan the control and management of blackberry infestations on their property. The project officer can provide technical advice and information on the control of blackberries and other assistance such as access to spray equipment and Landcare incentives.

For more information and to arrange a property visit please contact PCBAG Project Officer Chris Cobern on 0413 855 490 or by email [ugln.projects@ugln.net](mailto:ugln.projects@ugln.net)



These problem Blackberries is a great meal for the Queensland Fruit Fly. -S

Homewood CFA and the Homewood Community Hall would like to invite you to

## Homewood Progressive Dinner

23rd of March 2024

Entrees take place at Shane Barbetti & Emma Heughan's farm at 4921 Whittlesea-Yea Road, Yea - 5pm  
Dinner, Dessert & Light Entertainment at the Homewood Hall - 630pm

The evening will include a CFA awards ceremony recognising the contributions and efforts of long serving Homewood members.

Music by "Summer Rain". Dinner by JBL catering  
Come & enjoy the famous homemade entree's and desserts.  
Bar service available at both venues

To purchase tickets please scan the QR code, visit <https://www.trybooking.com/COMIL> or call Jo 0458367753 or Brett 0408399900

Tickets  
\$45 Adults  
\$35 High school age  
\$20 Primary School age

See our Facebook page to view the local businesses who have generously supported this event



A spray rig that is just perfect to tackle the Blackberries. -S

**FRRR** Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

**GOULBURN VALLEY SUICIDE AWARENESS GROUP**

Community Grant Recipient 2023

This is a recurring gathering taking place every fourth Saturday of the month for anyone bereaved from suicide. This support group is run by volunteers of Lived Experiences and welcomes anyone aged 18 years and over.

Support groups are a space to connect with others, self reflect, discuss challenges, share experiences and self help strategies.

**Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 9.30am till 10.30am**

**Meeting Room, Yea RSL, 26 Snodgrass Street, Yea**

**FREE**

For further information, contact  
Jacky (Founder) - 0417 907 278 or Steve (Secretary) - 0412 334 521  
visit our website at [gvsag.org.au](https://gvsag.org.au)



## More interesting stories from the past

by Yea and District Historical Society

THE following story is from the *Yea Chronicle* in 1941.

In August it was reported that the Henry Nash Memorial Cycle Race, the richest cycle race in Australia, was held with 36 riders competing. The course was a 70 mile race starting from Plenty Road, Preston, through Mernda, Whittlesea, Kinglake West, over Mt Slide to Glenburn, and into Yea.

The Boy's Race, prior to the annual Henry Nash, will be five miles beginning at Carter's Hotel to the finger post at the Ghin Ghin turn off and return. Handicaps were allotted to each boy and prizes were for first, second and third as well as first to the finger post at Ghin Ghin.

In conjunction with the council elections of September 3, a poll was taken on allowing tennis to be played on Sundays. The majority vote was 100 more than the No vote; figures being 271 to 173.

A special horse sale was also advertised for September 24 with 80 mixed horses and a very large body of militia troops of the 58th Battalion are engaged in maneuvers in the Homewood district, total number exceeds 500.

September 3, also reported, "On Saturday morning, a very large consignment of bullocks was un-trucked at Yea Railway Station prior to being taken to Yering. There were 35 trucks containing 187 black polls and 227 herefords purchased beyond Tenterfield up near the Queensland border. After being three weeks on the road, they were trucked to Wodonga, spelled for a day; and again trucked to Yea. They were reported to be in splendid condition on arrival at Yea and they are on grass at Murrindindi before being taken to their destination near Yarra Glen. This is only part of the consignment and another train load will arrive in Yea shortly.

The annual Boxing Day Carnival was cancelled by the athletics committee and the show committee also announced the annual Yea Show would be cancelled, both citing lack of manpower, petrol rationing and

not appropriate when so many of our lads overseas were suffering.

November 19 reported, Yea is now known as the 'transshipment station' for wool for all stations from here to Alexandra and Mansfield. All wool sent here is resorted onto separate trucks for the various firms using metropolitan sidings. This is a big job but is a considerable save at the other end. Partly because of petrol rationing the wool loading is far heavier than last year. Lamb trucking is also getting under way and the first 'double header' left the Yea Station last night.

On November 19, great preparations had been made for the Monster Sale at the Yea Recreation Reserve for the War Service Fund. Large numbers of sheep, cattle, and other animals had been made while the sundries comprised almost anything of useful value, furniture, hardware, novelties, etc. The big donation of 50 fat lambs realised 15/3d each. Nearly 500 pounds was raised.

A report on December 17 outlines 'Evacuation Plans'. Householders who have not submitted returns for the accommodation of evacuees are asked to complete them at once and deliver to the shire hall. This is urgent. The survey is to be completed without delay and an arbitrary allotment will be made in any cases where the householder does not comply.

In the same edition of the *Yea Chronicle*, negotiations in the very initial stages were begun this week in connection with the possible transfer of one of Melbourne's best known grammar schools to Yea for the duration of the war.

The Woman's Auxiliary Air Force had been formed to enable all RAAF personal to devote their entire efforts to the job of fighting and an urgent appeal is made for women between the ages of 18 and 40 years to fill positions in cooks, they must be experienced in cooking in numbers, mess women and mess stewards.

The Yea Higher Elementary School produced it first school magazine and had applied to the Education Department for a Cookery Centre and has received word that an official from the Domestic Arts Branch is to visit the school in the New Year.

## COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024

Nominate a community member, group or initiative!



**Do you know someone who's made a significant contribution to our Shire? Would like to recognise the efforts of a local community group or initiative?**

Nominations for the Murrindindi Shire Community Awards are now open! Previously called Citizen of the Year Awards, this year we're focusing on the wonderful people who volunteer in our community, and just like last year, Award winners will be announced and celebrated during National Volunteer Week (20-26 May 2024), providing the perfect opportunity to celebrate the contributions of volunteers in our community.

So, what are you waiting for? Nominations are now open for the following Award categories:

- Volunteer of the Year
- Senior Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Community Group or Initiative of the Year

Visit [theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards](http://theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/2024Awards) to nominate an individual or group for an Award.

You can also pick up a paper nomination form from our Library and Customer Service Centres in Alexandra, Kinglake or Yea, as well as the Mobile Library.

**Nominations close on Sunday 24 March 2024.**



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

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

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# Local students attend Halogen Young Leaders Day



The students heard from Anastasia Woolmer (Australia's Memory Champion), Bryson Klein (Ninja Warrior champion), Jane Bunn (meteorologist) and Melissa Barbieri (former Captain of the Matildas and Melbourne City Soccer player). The day inspired the students to develop their leadership skills and gave them the opportunity to connect with students from schools from across Victoria. -S



Sacred Heart Primary School students at the Halogen National Young Leaders Conference, held in Melbourne last week. -S



Sacred Heart students with Jane Bunn. -S



Yea Primary School students in Melbourne for the Halogen conference. -S



Yea Primary School's school captains and vice captains showing off their new jumpers in Melbourne. -S

# RSPCA Victoria Inspectors ending animal cruelty in the North-East

by Michelle Green, RSPCA Inspectorate Team Leader (North-East Region)

AS a Team Leader for RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate north-east region, my team of five Inspectors and I share 32 years of experience investigating reports of animal cruelty at RSPCA.

Inspectors Kerrie, Rosie, Kyle, Nicole, Bree, and I respond to these cruelty reports from St Kilda's beaches all the way up to Cobram and Corryong and everywhere in between.

Out on the road, we're seeing firsthand how the cost-of-living crisis is impacting pet owners.

We frequently encounter underweight animals who don't have enough food and increasingly poor living conditions, due, in part, to situations with far too many animals from either overbreeding or hoarding, with owners unable to provide even basic care.

We're also seeing people unable to provide crucial veterinary care and

basic preventative medicines like flea and worming treatments, impacting animal welfare.

We're extremely grateful to the community for their ongoing vigilance in reporting animal cruelty.

Over the last six months, we received 1040 reports and tip-offs about animal cruelty in the North-East and 228 animals were seized or surrendered into RSPCA care.

It's estimated caring for these animals costs RSPCA Victoria at least \$471,000.

Last financial year, 429 animals came into our care, and sadly, it seems we're likely to repeat this total again by the end of June.

As we enter what is historically the busiest time of year, RSPCA urges everyone in the north-east to remain vigilant for animal cruelty in our area and to report it to RSPCA Victoria by calling 9224 2222 or online at [rspcavic.org/cruelty-report](http://rspcavic.org/cruelty-report)

The community support we see every day keeps us going and makes each day just a little bit better.

At the end of the day, RSPCA inspectors are here to ensure the welfare of animals throughout Victoria and we'll continue to work with people to provide appropriate care for their animals.

Together, let's end animal cruelty.



An inspector carrying a puppy. -S



Inspectors carrying seized cats. -S



## Call for fair land access rules for farmers

TASMANIAN and Victorian peak representative bodies are calling for fair land access rules in the face of rapid renewable energy developments taking place over agricultural land.

TasFarmers and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) last week released the *Farm Access Code of Conduct* which is aimed at promoting respectful and sensible infrastructure development on agricultural land.

TasFarmers President Ian Sauer said the organisations were partnering in their advocacy efforts in response to the abysmal treatment of farming communities across the two states dealing with the construction of new transmission lines.

"This is a direct response to the lack of respect shown by those who want access to agricultural land across Australia towards farmers, their land and their livelihoods."

"We want to see the Code of Conduct adopted by anyone, be they Government Business Enterprises or the private sector to ensure farmers' rights are protected," she said.

VFF President Emma Germano said renewable energy and transmission projects needed to be properly planned.

"In many cases this land is highly productive, supporting and sustaining regional communities as well as being critical to our nation's food security. This land is scarce and cannot be replaced."

"Planning projects properly and consulting communities means there is less chance of having to use compulsory acquisition laws to ram projects through."

Mr Sauer and Ms Germano have jointly written to federal energy minister Chris Bowen seeking a meeting to discuss options to adopt the Code's principles into harmonised national and state based laws.

"We are offering an open hand to government asking them to work with us and respect the people who grow our food so we can all deliver for the national interest."

"Government must realise that if farmers and communities aren't treated with respect, then they reserve their right to delay these projects whichever way they can. That will mean the government will have no chance of meeting their ambitious renewable energy targets," Ms Germano said.

"Respect the rights of farmers and regional Australians and we will be happy to work together to achieve positive outcomes."

## Anthrax detected at second property

LAST week, anthrax was detected at a second beef cattle property in the Shepparton region, following an initial detection at a neighbouring property the week prior.

Unfortunately one cow has died at the second property, while the remaining livestock are being vaccinated. A total of 10 beef cattle have died across the two properties.

Agriculture Victoria veterinarians and animal health staff are working closely with livestock owners in the region to assist with surveillance and vaccinations if necessary.

Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Graeme Cooke said the second detection was not unexpected in northern Victoria, particularly during summer, assisted by the long survival of the anthrax bacteria in soil.

"Local farmers, veterinarians and Agriculture Victoria are well prepared to handle these incidents, with quarantine and biosecurity arrangements in place and vaccinations underway for potentially exposed livestock," Dr Cooke said.

Anthrax is not a concern for the public as it does not spread rapidly and is not contagious for humans. There is no general public health risk associated with anthrax and risk is confined to people who handle dead livestock such as farmers, veterinarians and knacker workers.

The Department of Health undertakes risk exposure assessments of individuals who have potentially been exposed and may offer treatment depending on the risk assessment.

There is no impact on local produce or food safety.

Farmers are urged to report any cases of unexplained deaths to the 24 hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888, to your local vet, or to Agriculture Victoria animal health staff on 136 186.

Anthrax has occurred intermittently in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland in recent decades. In Victoria this is often in northern areas of the state, but historically it has been recorded across all of the state in farming areas. The last detection of anthrax in Victoria was in sheep in February 2022, near Swan Hill.

An Anthrax factsheet on the Agriculture Victoria website is available answering frequently asked questions and providing more information.

## Producers not sold on Biosecurity Levy

THE National Farmers Federation (NFF) acknowledges the comments made by the Agriculture Minister the Hon. Murray Watt in his opening address to Senate regarding the estimates on the Biosecurity Protection Levy, however without further detail, producers are still opposed to this policy.

The NFF President, David Jochinke said, "The agricultural sector, along with supply chain participants, have overwhelmingly objected to the levy, identifying numerous issues with the policy construct and execution pathway."

"The 40th NFF Members Council in October, the sector's chief policy making forum comprising all NFF member

presidents from state and commodity organisations, passed a motion opposing the policy.

"We acknowledge the comments by the Minister recognising the significant concerns of industry, including issues related to equitability and transparency. However we still await significant further information concerning the levy's design, and what it will practically look like for producers on the ground."

"We also want to see details on the potential impact on the existing levies system, transparency about how the collected funds will actually deliver dedicated, additional and tangible biosecurity outcomes, formalised

producer oversight mechanisms, and proper recognition of existing producer contributions to the broader biosecurity system.

"Australia's 85,000 farmers, along with thousands of supply chain participants, are still faced with what appears a fundamentally flawed proposal to be implemented in less than five months."

Mr Jochinke added, "There is still a gaping hole in information and we call on the government to keep listening to producers and put in a process to properly address their concerns. Until such a time that these issues are addressed properly, we remain opposed to the Levy."



Recipe kindly submitted by Jane Laws Redgate CWA

### Rhubarb and tomato chutney


#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1½ tablespoons black mustard seeds
- 1½ tablespoons ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1½ tablespoons ground coriander
- 2kg chopped tomatoes
- 400g chopped onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cloves crushed garlic
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup brown vinegar
- 700g chopped fresh rhubarb stems

#### METHOD

1. Heat oil in large pan, add seeds and spices, cook stirring until fragrant
2. Add tomatoes, onions, salt, garlic, raisins, sugar and vinegar.
3. Stir over heat without boiling until sugar is dissolved.
4. Simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally for about 35 minutes or until mixture is thick.
5. Stir in rhubarb and simmer uncovered, stirring occasionally for about five minutes or until soft.
6. Spoon hot chutney into hot sterilised jars, seal immediately.
7. Makes about 8 cups (2 litres).





## Tarcombe Herefords



**50th Annual Production Sale**  
**WEDNESDAY** March 6, 2024 - 1pm

(on property using the Helmsman Buying System)

**Selling:-**

- ★ 4 Horned Bulls
- ★ 37 Polled Bulls
- ★ 23 PTIC Heifers

Tim Hayes 0439 257 693  
temagong@bigpond.com  
J-BAS 6  
Lots can be viewed at [herefordsaustralia.com.au](http://herefordsaustralia.com.au)

Mick Curtis 0428 953 222  
Scott Meehan 0428 952 536

## PHOTO COMPETITION

Only a couple of weeks left to submit your photo competition entry for February, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

February's theme is **'your choice' - feel good February**. Full details in last week's edition.



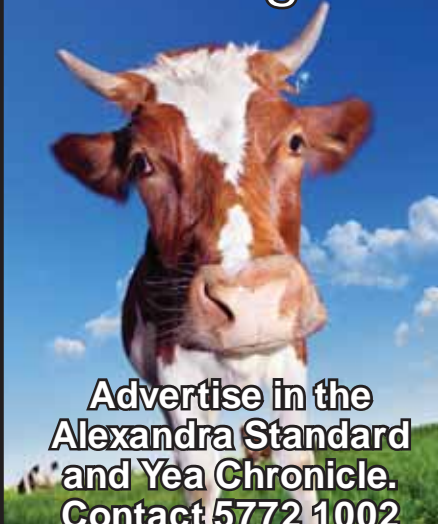
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Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

## Get your business mooving.....



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

# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 14

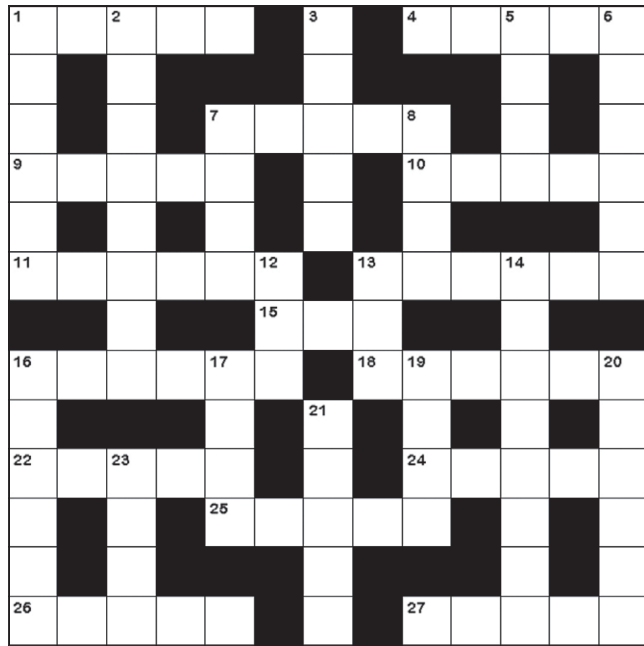
## Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Wrinkle your forehead.
4. Green spot in a desert.
7. Payed out money.
9. A squeaking sound.
10. A mistake.
11. Loving and indulgent.
13. Dangerous acts.
15. A single thing.
16. A blue-violet colour.
18. Burrowing marsupial.
22. Legally punishable.
24. Mix up or confuse.
25. Stuff with a spicy paste.
26. A secret rendezvous.
27. Cover with liquid before cooking.

### DOWN

1. Compelled to comply.
2. Took offence.
3. A search.
5. Go bad.
6. Gains points in a game.
7. The rind of a fruit.
8. Something typed.
12. A thick messy substance.
13. Make clothes by stitching.
14. Unimportant people.
16. Brought from a foreign country.



17. A deep yellow colour.
19. Using speech rather than writing.
20. Multiply by three.
21. Take delight in.
23. All of a nation's warships.

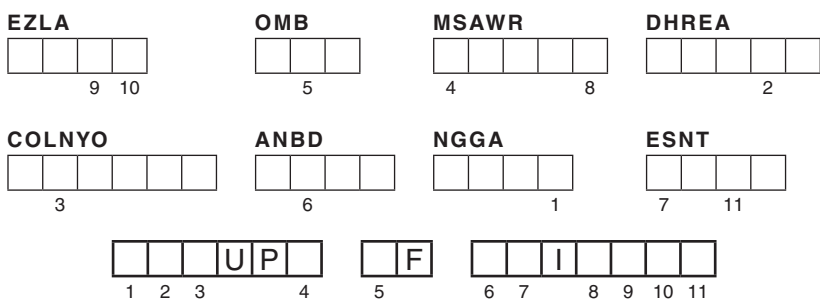
## Word Search

### Popular Australian Dog Breeds

- BEAGLE
- BOXER
- BULLDOG
- CAVOODLE
- CHIHUAHUA
- DACHSHUND
- DALMATIAN
- KELPIE
- POINTER
- ROTTWEILER
- TERRIER
- WHIPPET



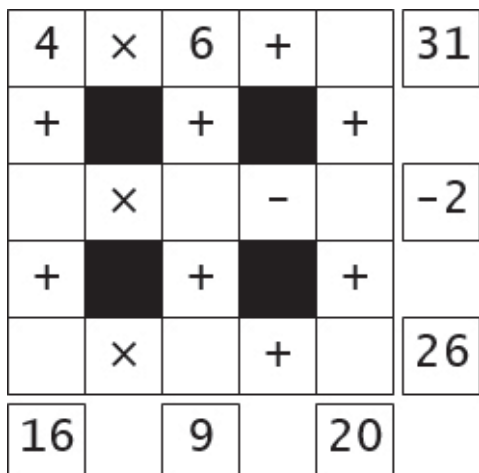
## Double Puzzle



## Maths Squares

### Fill in the missing numbers.

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



## Sudoku

### Difficulty: Easy

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.



# Know your pay rights when it comes to natural disasters

FLOODS, bushfires, storms and earthquakes have all impacted Murrindindi Shire in the last year. These events can not only cause devastation, workplaces are forced to shut down due to a lack of electricity, phones or internet. What rights do workers have?

It pays to check work agreements and awards if you were unable to attend work and you need to find out where you stand when it comes to getting paid.

If you don't have entitlements existing within your workplace, the Fair Work Ombudsman said, "It pays to look at state or territory based advice assistance available to affected employers and employees. State or territory workplace health and safety laws also provide for a general duty of care towards employees that should be considered."

If a business must be temporarily closed as a result of a natural disaster or emergency, in some cases for the employer, the Fair Work Act 2009 (FW Act) allows employers to stand down employees in certain circumstances when the employee cannot be usefully employed. This includes where they can't be usefully employed because of a stoppage of work for which the employer cannot be reasonably held responsible. This may include work stoppages caused by natural disasters, such as bushfires or floods. An employer is not required to make payments to an employee for the period of a stand down but may choose to pay their employees if they wish.

Under the Fair Work Act, employee stand down provisions do not apply during a period when an employee is taking authorised paid or unpaid leave, such as annual leave, or is otherwise entitled to be absent from work, such as on a public holiday.

Hopefully before it comes to standing down an employee in circumstances out of their control such as a natural disaster or emergency, the employer will consider other options such as inviting employees to take a period of accrued paid leave such as annual leave. Alternatively, if there are

multiple worksites and not all sites are affected, consider voluntary work sharing arrangements, such as employees at non-affected sites offering to take paid leave while their position is temporarily filled by someone from an affected site. Where appropriate, consider flexible arrangements like working from home, which we all know how to do these days.

With emergencies like last week, there is extra pressure on families when there are school, daycare, and kindergarten closures, which results in employees requiring time off work to care for their family. Employers should keep in mind the health and wellbeing of their staff when granting access to leave entitlements, especially in cases like these.

If you're involved in the disaster relief effort, an employee can request to volunteer their time, but it must be through a recognised emergency management body. These bodies can be the State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the RSPCA, in respect of animal rescue during emergencies or natural disasters. Under the national employment scheme, employees who recognised as part of these groups are entitled to take unpaid community service leave.

Fair Work Australia does advise that an employee who wants to take a period of community service leave must tell their employer as soon as practicable, including the period or expected, period of the leave and, if required by their employer, provide reasonable evidence of the reason for the leave.

For peace of mind and for future reference, do your research and be familiar with your workplace entitlements for occasions that we all experienced this last week. It will be just a little of bit reassurance in an uncertain time.

For any more information on where you stand if your workplaces experience closures due to an emergency or natural disaster, visit [services.dffh.vic.gov.au](http://services.dffh.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 650 172

# Ruffy meeting discusses proposed wind farm

ON Sunday, February 11, the Strathbogie Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) held a meeting at Ruffy to discuss the proposed wind farm being created by FERA.

Sixty people were in attendance to hear about the work the SRRCG has undertaken on behalf of the community during 2024 as well as other biodiversity projects within the region.

The group believes the impact on biodiversity, as well as the on the cultural heritage, landscape and waterways, means that the industrial scale wind farm and transmission lines proposed by FERA are not suitable for the region.

It has invested in activities such as a Southern Greater Survey as well as promoting the use of iNaturalist as a means of recording the biodiversity in the Strathbogies. The group plans to work constructively with FERA to ensure these findings are included in any Environment Effects Statement.

The attendees were particularly interested in the outcomes of 2023 Greater Glider Study that highlighted the fragility of the glider population and its habitat. The need to preserve large, old trees as well as the road and riparian wildlife corridors linking remnant forest areas was evident and is essential to prevent any further habitat fragmentation. The Hughes Creek

Catchment Collective also gave an overview of the bird surveys that have been conducted annually since 2019.

A presentation on iNaturalist Strathbogie Nature Atlas Project (SNAP) illustrated the diversity of wildlife in the region, and it was particularly pleasing to see the recent growth in koala sightings. There were some great photos of wedge tail eagles, gang gang cockatoos, brush-tailed phascogales, yellow tailed black cockatoos and boobook owls, to name a few.

The group has uploaded 280 observations from SNAP to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas to ensure ready access for consultants conducting the FERA Wind Farm Project's ecology survey work. The community is encouraged to upload any fauna and flora observations into iNaturalist.

The community was given an overview of the issues with both renewable developer and site selection that appear to be widespread within the industry as highlighted by the Dyer Community Engagement Review Report to the federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy.

Further details on the work being undertaken by the Group and biodiversity projects can be found at their website [srrcg.com](http://srrcg.com)

# Vale Joan Coles

*Eulogy delivered by Joan's goddaughter Robyn Battle on behalf of Joan's sons, Andrew and David.*

JOAN May Coles was an amazing woman, larger than life, zany, colourful, kind, generous, intelligent, artistic, she had a wicked sense of humour and was a real dag who brightened everyone's life with her laughter and exploits.

This is to honour this wonderful woman with laughter, joy and great memories.

Joan was born on October 13, 1933, in East Malvern to Sue and Harold Hodgson. She lived in Ormond for several years before moving to Murrumbena where she attended the local primary school for two years.

Her father suddenly became ill with tuberculosis and tragically died aged 31 in 1940 when Joan was aged seven. During this time her mother was working full time and struggled to care for Joan so she was sent to live with her grandmother in Banambra, near Omeo, for several years. After returning home her grandfather died and her grandmother moved in with them to look after her.

At that stage, Jan came to live with them as a baby and became Joan's beloved little sister.

Joan's mum remarried to a bank manager of the State Savings Bank of Victoria and they moved to Yea in the late 50s. Sadly he also passed away and Sue had a nervous breakdown. She moved to friends in Marysville to recover and worked in the post office there. When her health improved,

she had so loved her time in Yea, that she decided to move back there, working at the Yea Butter Factory as a Bookkeeper and built a house where she lived until her death in 2000.

During this time, Joan went to Corowa Girls School. She left school at 15 and did a pre-nursing course in a Child Minding Centre in Richmond for 12 months and then began her training as a nurse with the Melbourne School of Nursing, working at Royal Melbourne Hospital, Children's, Fairfield and The Women's. This is where she met all her lifelong friends, who she still kept in touch with, and her dearest friend Elza, and became godmother to her daughter Robyn.

Another great friend was Jenny Shugg who she often stayed with when she went to Melbourne. They remember constantly hassling her about her poor choice of shoes but she didn't care and they eventually gave up.

Joan's love of lemon tarts, pavlova and chocolate was also a concern as she was a diabetic, but she said she'd just give herself more insulin to compensate.

At 21, she left for overseas travelling with five friends, working and touring around Europe until she required emergency surgery to have her appendix removed in Italy.

On returning to Yea, she met her husband Ian, holding their nuptials at Scots Presbyterian Church and where both boys were christened. They moved to a dairy farm in Killingworth, where they lived for five years and welcomed sons Andrew and

David there. They eventually they made the decision to move back to town.

After David turned three, Joan went back to nursing where she worked at Yea Hospital as a charge nurse, when it was a busy regional hospital with Emergency, Midwifery and Surgical Wards, and then took on the role of Director of Nursing, working there for 37 years.

She was instrumental in getting Rosebank built, organising many fund raising events so the town had their own aged care facility.

Sadly after turning 60 she was more or less told to leave and this caused her a great deal of sadness in her life.

They lived in a house beside the hospital in Miller Street for 37 years, which was very convenient for work, until Ian's death when Joan made the decision to move to something smaller.

She bought a beautiful unit in High Street and lived there with her beloved cat, Evie, and her garden which she loved until declining health meant she moved into Kellock Lodge in Alexandra last year.

She had many lifelong friends. Val Borrie was a shining light in her life and we have many great memories of visiting their pig farm.

Robyn remembered Val telling her at Joan's 80th birthday that she was so lucky to be Joan's goddaughter and I should treasure every moment I had with her.

Another important person in her life was the amazing, and equally wicked, Judy Henwood who was often her partner in crime, her treasured friend, confidante, taxi driver and right hand woman driving her to appointments, shopping, and later from Alexandra to Yea for Naughty Nannas, a group of "young ladies who meet for lunch every Thursday at Mint and Jam."

These ladies are the most gorgeous group who keep you in fits of laughter. They are all zany and very unique. Joan would have been so lost and lonely without Judy and these wonderful ladies.

Over the years, Joan was an active member of the Yea Probuc Club, a competitive tennis player, and a member of the gardening club, winning numerous awards with her flower arrangements at the Yea Show.

Her life was focused around her family, her garden, her friends and her craft work. She knitted and crocheted for charity and anyone who asked, and in later years took up painting and pastel work, many of which adorn the walls of her friends.

The birth of her two grandchildren, Sarah and Matthew, enriched her life and brought her great joy.

Joan (or Dolly as she was affectionately known) could always be counted on to make people laugh, happy to dress up and join in anything irrespective of what

others thought. This included forming a group with some of her feisty nurses called the *Panadolls* and going on to portray the *Village People*, Joan being the smouldering soldier, to raise money for the hospital and hostel.

They even got to perform on stage with the real *Village People*. She also got to share the stage with Dame Edna where at some point she put a gladioli up Dame Edna's dress and the comment was that next time "it would be better if she didn't upstage her." All in jest of course.

Dolly Parton was also another persona of Joan's, and she brought great joy to all who saw her. Even just prior to her death she talked with one of the staff, who also worked at Kellock, about how cute Dr David's bum was at the Alexandra Hospital.

Sadly, Joan's life ended abruptly after suffering a severe stroke, but she always said that she had had a great life and wouldn't change a thing. Her two boys, Andrew and David, and her grandchildren were the loves of her life, and she was so very proud of each of them.

We would like to sincerely thank all the amazing and caring staff at Kellock Lodge who looked after Joan recently, some of whom visited her in hospital and told us how much she was loved and appreciated by them, and how much influence she had had on their lives. Bona, a special friend from Kellock visited her in hospital to say goodbye and remarked she'd lost a special friend who she was going to be lost and lonely without. Their care and support of Joan and her family was incredible.

And to the staff at Alexandra District Health, thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful care, support, empathy and love you gave all of us during this very sad time. You all made such a difference to us, with your constant offers of food and drink (although no alcohol was offered, the chocolates were yummy) nothing was too much trouble. You guys rock.

Joan was and will always be remembered with love, laughter and affection by all who were privileged to know and meet her. Our memories of her will always live in our hearts. The world is truly a much sadder place without her in it.

Thank you also to everyone who visited her in hospital to say goodbye, my daughter Mel for the photo collage, McCormacks Funeral Directors for all your support, Ann for delivery of the service and to everyone who attended the memorial or sent messages. It has helped immensely to know Joan was loved by so many.

Finally, to Andrew and Judy who were with me every day beside Joan till her passing you are all truly appreciated.

## Joan Coles: a full life

by Jenny Purvis

JOAN Coles was a true icon of Yea. She was unique and lived a very full life. She was a very social person who loved people and especially babies and children. I first worked with Joan in the 1970s at Yea and District Memorial Hospital.

Betty Box was Matron and when she left, Joan became Matron. Joan was a dedicated nurse and midwife, very kind to patients and had loads of empathy for their needs.

Joan loved dress-ups, she always wore good outfits for the appropriate occasions. Joan was a member of the *Panadolls*, a group of nurses who impersonated different artists and mimed their songs.

Joan impersonated Dolly Parton and mimed *Jolene*. She wore a blonde wig and low-cut dress. She did a wonderful job and loved every minute of it.

The groups also impersonated *The Village People*. Joan was the army guy. I was the construction worker, Barb the Indian, Kath Rodda bikie, Eleanor Coleman the cowboy and Helen Hauser policeman, with Lorraine Christie standing in when Helen became pregnant with Michael.

We saw *The Village People* in concert at the Chevron Hotel and we were invited up on stage with them to stand behind each member of the band we impersonated and sang YMCA with them. It was an unforgettable experience for us all. I had tickets to *The Price is Right* and I asked Joan to come with me to the show. She was lucky enough to win the major prize on the day.

Another time Joan was called up on stage when we went to see Dame Edna Everage. She was one of six people to be invited backstage to dress up into various costumes, which was right up her alley. She was being interviewed by Dame Edna and she spotted a handkerchief in her hand. She exclaimed, "What a bit of mucus between friends, Joan?"

Joan came out dressed as a nun. All six of us were given bunches of gladdies to throw out to the audience. Joan decided to twirl some between Dame Edna's legs, with great laughter from the audience. Dame Edna then said, "I will have my show back thank you, Joan."

Joan will be sadly missed by all who were lucky enough to know and love her.

Safe travels my dear friend.



Joan (right) on her 90th birthday. -S

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+		+		+	
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16		9		20	

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



**Yea-Kinglake RSL**  
Ordinary General Meeting. RSL Hall, Friday, February 23, 2024 at 11.30am. Enquiries to secretary 5796 9353.

#### DEATH NOTICES

**BUCKMAN, Frank**  
23/08/1934 - 11/02/2024  
(late of Alexandra)

Husband of June, father of Robbie, Gail and Leigh (dec), grandfather of 11, great grandfather of two.

A Thanksgiving Service for Frank's life will be held at the Uniting Church, Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine on Friday, February 23 at 2.30pm.

To join us at the service via livestream please visit Frank's tribute page on the website of Mount Alexander Funerals.

We will bring him back to Alexandra to be buried, with a graveside service at the Alexandra Cemetery at 11.30am on Monday, February 26.

We would love you to join us at either service.

*He made life beautiful by unselfish deeds, generous thoughts for other's needs, happy, smiling, always content, and respected where ever he went.*



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## A helping hand for young songwriters

THE Minister for Creative Industries, Colin Brooks, has announced a boost to the Victorian Government's songwriting in schools program, SongMakers by APRA AMCOS.

More than 1400 students across 60 high schools in Victoria are set to learn songwriting in the classroom and connect with the music industry, helping young songwriters to get the skills they need for the job they want. The SongMakers program also covers valuable tips for working in the music industry, music production, creative songwriting techniques and intellectual property.

Local artists and experts from within the music industry will visit schools in person to teach Victorian students the art and help them tap into their own musical talents.

In-person workshops will be available for students in years 10 to 12 in partnership with Virtual School Victoria and regional

students will be offered the chance to participate in a songwriting school holiday program.

A pilot program, tailored to schools offering flexible learning, will ensure all students get the opportunity to try the craft. Standout songwriters will be given the chance to produce and perform their own original songs under the guidance of mentors and music industry organisations The Push and Music Victoria.

SongMakers is open to all Victorian secondary schools. Those wishing to participate can submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) at [songmakers.com.au](http://songmakers.com.au)

Minister Brooks said, "As the country's creative state we are investing in the next generation of musical talent, giving students opportunities who otherwise might not get the chance – or to paraphrase Taylor, helping to uncover something more, searching for a sound we hadn't heard before."

## Additional supports after the storm

THE Australian and Victorian Governments are protecting and supporting Victorians affected by the catastrophic weather event on February 13 that destroyed homes, damaged vital transmission infrastructure and brought down poles and wires across the state.

To help people still impacted by outages, the Australian and Victorian Governments will provide a Prolonged Power Outage Payment, households without power for seven days following the storm are eligible for \$1920 per week for up to three weeks.

The payment is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The payment will be administered by distribution businesses and will help families buy much needed basic items and find alternative accommodation.

Extensive damage to the electricity network left 500,000 Victorians without power at its peak. Ninety per cent of those customers were reconnected within 48 hours.

To ensure residents have access to power, generators are being prepared for distribution. Priority will go to the most vulnerable who are remaining at homes with prolonged power outages. Further information on how people can apply to access generators will be distributed soon.

Customers impacted by power outages may also be eligible for assistance under the Victorian Guaranteed Service Level payments. Assistance is in the form of electricity bill credits. The amount

customers are entitled will depend on individual circumstances.

In addition, from Saturday, February 17, the waste levy will be completely waived for storm impacted residents across 21 Local Government Areas (LGAs), including Murrindindi Shire, until April 30. Residents from these areas will be able to dispose of disaster waste at their local tip free of charge.

In collaboration with councils and the waste industry, the Victorian Government is ensuring all impacted communities have access to a facility or site to dispose of their waste quickly and safely.

Other LGAs impacted by bushfires and storms will be added to the list as required, so affected communities can undertake clean up and recovery activities without paying for waste disposal.

For more information on eligibility, visit, [esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/information-consumers/guaranteed-service-level-payments-energy-outages](http://esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/information-consumers/guaranteed-service-level-payments-energy-outages)

Federal Minister for Emergency Management Murray Watt said, "The Australian and Victorian Governments are working together to ensure households can get the support they need to buy much needed basic items to help their recovery."

Premier Jacinta Allan added, "This catastrophic weather event has had a devastating impact on so many communities and we're making sure Victorians who need help are getting it as quickly as possible."

# Tuesday's storms caused widespread damage across the region



*A fallen tree on Mareeba Avenue, Buxton. -AR*



*The tractors were certainly on the move on Wednesday, following the storms. -AR*



*Hard at work on the chainsaw, clearing a fallen tree. -AR*



*A tree over powerlines. -S*



*A home's power connection destroyed in the storm. -S*



*There were plenty of fences needing repairs. -AR*



*A water tank carried away by the wind. -S*



# Alexandra Squash Club round two results

by Kristelle Leary

## Thursday competition

### Cheesecake v Lamington

ELI v Sam: Coming out strong, Sam took the first game with a good lead. Eli turned the tide to take the second game before Sam put his foot down to take the last two games and the victory 86 to 53.

Kristelle v Lucas: A tight match. Drawing in the first game, Lucas pulled away in game two and three. Kristelle found her groove in game four but didn't quite take the lead. Lucas for the win 57 to 55.

Derrick v James W: Plenty of quality shots. Both competitors ran each other

around the court. One great match to watch. At the end of this close match, James had prevailed 58 to 53.

### Gelati v Trifle

AIDAN v Blake: Blake dominated the first half of the match. Attempting to close the gap Aidan took the third and fourth game, but Blake had raked up too many points and took the match 70 to 57.

Dean v Rob: These two have great potential and had a close match. Each game was tight, but Rob won the majority of the games and was victorious 60 to 53.

John v Phil: As poised as could be, John let Phil do the bulk of the running. Phil put

in a good match, but John won the match with ease 73 to 41.

## Monday competition

### Antipasto v Spring Rolls

TRAVIS v James G: Travis has come into the competition firing on all cylinders. James took two games, but some overly relaxed shots gave Travis the chance to pounce and win the match 59 to 53.

Justin (fill in) v Simon: It can't get closer than this. Justin came out and won the first game, quickly followed by Simon taking the third and fourth games. Justin pulled it together in the final game to create a draw. 57 to 57.

James W (fill in) v Michael H: Point for point in the first two games. Michael was doing well and took the first three games. With nothing to lose James came out on fire in the fourth game to take a big win and turn the match around to win by one point. What a triumph 57 to 56.

### Bruschetta v Dumplings

LEE v Kelly: A well matched competition with some great rallies. Kelly was always able to pull away at the end of each game to take all four and the match. 58 to 42.

Andrew v Michael M: The first three games were close, but Andrew proved too strong in the last game and won the match 63 to 42.



James W waits for the ball to rebound. -S

# St Pats Cup ready to go

by Denis Smith

SUNDAY, February 25, St Pats Cup will be the last run under the Larkfield banner. The club has been very grateful for the support of the Hargrave family over many years, and will still run a race in memory of Frank Hargrave, a stalwart of the club for many years. It is believed that the company who have taken over the running of the Larkfield property, Ulumna, are interested in sponsoring the St Pats Cup in the future.

The Sunday race date means that many who play sport or work on a Saturday have a chance to attend and bring their families to this family friendly event. All children's activities, from face painting to pony rides to games and activities organised by the professional Kelly Sports group are free. The canteen run by Sacred Heart School and the bar run by local volunteers will raise valuable funds for the school and local charities.

A charity raffle will also be conducted on the day.

Horse numbers are always good at Yea with great support from trainers in Bendigo, Seymour and Kilmore. Thompson Racing from Kilmore are sponsoring an event and will bring horses who will be cheered on by a large contingent from Macs Hotel Kilmore, a sponsor for many years. Hopefully young Kilmore rider Tyson Barton, who has now also taken out a trainers licence will bring a couple of horses to Yea.

In the cup, hostilities will resume when last year's St Pats Cup winners Willetts, trained and ridden by Bendigo couple Aileen Vanderfeen and Craig Kirkpatrick will take on Yea Cup winner for 2024, Anything but, trained in Sale by the evergreen Reg Manning. Reg will bring a truckload of horses for the supporting events, as should leading trainer Troy Kilgower, who may have Continuation

and Street Swagger to contend the Cup. Seymour trainer Don Dwyer is always a strong supporter of Yea, so all looks set for a great days racing.

Another highlight of the day will be the Fashions on the Field with junior categories between races one and two and senior categories, including a category restricted to a Murrindindi couple only, to be run between races two and three.

Club president, Denis Smith, announced that a special rate of \$10 cash at the gate admission for age pensioners will apply. "This concession was lost during the COVID-19 years with online bookings and the introduction of early bird admissions, but the club has realised that not all elderly people are computer savvy and are offering this on the day concession."

There are still several shaded sites and umbrellas available to book online, so it is not too late to get a group together for a day

at the races. Visit [countryracingvictoria.com/yea](http://countryracingvictoria.com/yea) to book.

A bus will be run from Alexandra, Yarck and Molesworth from 10.30 am and a town bus from the caravan park and local motels to the track commencing at 11.10am, then running continuously. Patrons should book online or contact the club early to book.

"The club does realise the unfortunate and controversial late cancellation of the November event did trash our brand to an extent, but hopes that the locals will come back to support this final event, especially as it is our charity day" said Mr Smith.

"Unfortunately one of the KPIs for securing race dates is the ability to draw a crowd, so the club is looking for support from Yea and district locals at what is forecast to be a beautiful fine day".

Gates at the racecourse open at 11am Sunday with the first race around 1.10 pm and the last around 4.40pm.

## SPORT

# Around the ground cricket wraps

## A grade Pyalong 8/187 defeated Alexandra 10/105

by Tim Polson

SATURDAY saw Alexandra A grade cricketers take the long drive to Pyalong for round 14. Pyalong won the toss and electing to bat.

N Hendricks and W Ellis took the new ball for Alexandra, which saw W Ellis take first blood in the second over, with a great in-swinging delivery which hit Pyalong's Matt Pratt on the pads to be dismissed for 0.

From there, Pyalong knuckled down with J Pryor and D Snowden putting on a partnership of 66. Alexandra captain L Ronalds and club president D Waixel were the next change in bowlers which saw captain Levi take the wicket of Pyalong captain J Pryor with a blinder of a catch off his own bowling. D Waixel put on a great display of bowling from the opposite end but was unlucky with Alexandra dropping two catches off his bowling. Pyalong again played strong making their way to 3/112.

M Waixel and J crane were the next to take the ball. Both started very strong but it was J Crane who got the break through, clean bowling Pyalong's D Snowden who put on a strong 55. Very next ball J Crane hit Pyalong's number six on the top and was given out for 0.

Matt Waixel cleaned up the tail with a great spell of bowling taking 3/11 of seven. Pyalong finished their innings on 187.

The change of innings saw S Whitehead and W Ellis open the batting attack. S Whitehead got off to a flyer hitting a four of the first ball batting with intent to chase down the big total. W Ellis was the first to go in the second over with a leading edge that floated up to be caught at point. S Whitehead continued his attack until he was caught behind for 12, which saw Alexandra 2/16.

J Ferrier and D Waixel settled the ship taking Alexandra to 40 but were both then dismissed by the strong Pyalong.

The middle order of J Reynolds (14) and T Polson (13) showed some resistance but were soon dismissed. J Crane put on a strong display of batting to top score on 17, but in the end Pyalong were way too strong and took the win dismissing Alexandra for 105.

**ALEXANDRA BATTING:** Scott Whitehead; c&b: Matthew Pratt; 12. Will Ellis; c: Jamie Biagioni b: Jason Ryan; 0. Darren Waixel; c: Daniel Sowden b: Jason Ryan; 8. Jordan Ferrier; b: Mitchell Wittig; 14. Matthew Waixel; st: Daniel Sowden b: Jamie Pryor; 1. Levi Ronalds; lbw: Mitchell Wittig; 11. Jason Reynolds; b: Jamie Biagioni; 14. Tim Polson; c: Dermott Clancy b: Jamie Pryor; 13. Banjo Fitzpatrick; lbw: Jamie Pryor; 0. Joshua Crane not out; 17\*. Nathan Hendricks; b: Jamie Biagioni; 4. Extras; 11 3WD 1NB 3LB 4B 0P.

36.3 overs.

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-4 Will Ellis, 2-16 Scott Whitehead, 3-14 Jordan Ferrier, 4-40 Darren Waixel, 5-53 Levi Ronalds, 6-55 Matthew Waixel, 7-77 Tim Polson, 8-77 Banjo Fitzpatrick, 9-81 Jason Reynolds, 10-105 Nathan Hendricks.

## Yea v Seymour Yea Tigers 4/118 defeated Seymour 116

N Beattie 44 no, C Sutherland 30no. T Ward 3/23, D Thompson 3/30.

## B grade Alexandra 9/96 defeated Tallarook 10/94

by Michael Mawson

THE B grade team put itself in contention for finals with a win over Tallarook that for much of the match looked to be an easy rout but soon turned into a tense photo finish.

There were a few changes from last week's team, Darren Waixel went up to A grade to allow Mat Wal to come back down to B grade. Jacque Snyman came in as a last minute addition. The team also welcomed the debut of leg spinning chef, Thayananth Sathasivam. Thaya for short.

Pre-match, the normally batting friendly pitch had been moistened by a big overnight dew. The Alexandra captain, Michael Mawson won the toss and unusually decided to field. This looked to be a rare sensible decision when Tallarook's innings lurched to 6-25.

Thaya was immediately in the thick of things when he took a catch of Mat Wal's bowling in the second over. The next five batsmen had trouble negotiating the slow bouncing pitch and spooned catches. This culminated in 'Yobbo' Andrews taking screamer off his own bowling to dismiss R Melville.

P Schipano was the pick of the batsmen with a patiently accumulated 36 runs, including Tallarook's only boundary. He was run out with the score on 79. When Mat Wal took his third wicket and Harrison Christie took his second, Tallarook were all-out for 94.

Mawson also chimed in with a wicket and Ben Geldart claimed a scalp during an economical spell of bowling. Jamie Shawcross saved many vital byes with his wicket keeping and this would make an important difference in the match.

In reply, The Redbacks came out firing. This was due to an aggressive carefree innings from Jacque Snyman who showed Tallarook how to hit boundaries and bludgeoned seven of them on the way to a quickly made 34 runs. In response to Snyman's onslaught, Tallarook chose the tactic of criticism, rather than set fields or take catches.

Snyman and Mawson saw off the opening bowlers and took the score to 52. An easy victory was in sight until Mawson played a rash shot to a huge outswinger from B O'Donnell and was bowled. This precipitated a collapse and O'Donnell took another four wickets with his deceptive bowling to have The Redbacks in a spot of bother at 5-66.

Yobbo blunted his natural inclinations, dug in and played a patient innings while his batting partners fell by the wayside. Jamie Shawcross made four, survived a close run out decision and then holed out.

Shannon Galloway came in at 7-83 and survived several close appeals as well as the ball actually hitting his wicket without dislodging the bails. His zero not out was the most important non-score of the season.

The odds had swung Tallarook's way and then a wicketkeeping mistake caused the ball to hit an on-field helmet and award five penalty runs to the home team. Yobbo fell with score on 93. This created the scenario in which Alexandra's tailenders had to find two runs and Tallarook had to find two wickets.

Thaya came in and immediately played on. Kelly Fitzpatrick came to the crease. B Dundon needed one wicket for a hat-trick and a win. Unfortunately, the bowler bowled a no ball to level the scores. He then bowled another one two balls later to hand victory to The Redbacks.

Well done to the B grade team for winning the match on the back of fielding pressure and making the most of good fortune when batting.

## Under 13 Alexandra 112 defeated Tallarook 104

by David Dimech

ALEXANDRA under 13 cricketers hosted Tallarook at home at Leckie Park on Saturday, February 17, with an overcast and damp morning for cricket. Alexandra won the toss and elected to bowl.

Lucas Crane opened the bowling and ended with two wickets. Aiden Campbell bowled well, also securing two wickets. Harrison Christie and Dusty Fitzpatrick pitched in with a wicket each.

Logan Conway bowled well and also took two wickets. Charlie Broadway, Riley Cole and Nathan Webb bowled good overs and the team eventually bowled Tallarook out for 104 runs.

Alexandra came into bat with Dusty Fitzpatrick and Logan Conway opening making a collective 30 runs with Logan finishing not out. Lucas Crane and Harrison Christie contributed with the bat making a collective 28 runs.

Charlie Broadway and Will Donahue contributed with the bat with a handy 13 runs for the team.

Aiden Campbell, Riley Cole and Nate Broadway contributed as the score to be chased was reached with one over to spare, the team making 112 runs.

On Saturday, February 24, Alexandra has a bye and wait excitedly to see who they face in the semi finals.

**ALEXANDRA BATTINGS:** Michael Mawson; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 15. Fill in; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 34. Matthew Wal; c: Jason Rudge; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 0. Benjamin Geldart; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 5. Harrison Christie; b: Brendan O'Donnell; 6. Robert Andrews; b: Braeden Dundon; 7. Brett Christie; c: b: Matthew Archibald; 3. Jaime Shawcross

c: b: Matthew Archibald; 4. Shannon Galloway; not out. 0\*. Fill in; b: Braeden Dundon;

Kelly-Anne Fitzpatrick not out; 0\*. Extras 22 6WD 3NB 2LB 6B 5P. 24 overs.

## Merton went down to Rovers



Will Benton for Merton vs Rovers. -S

## Rovers United Bruck 4/209 defeated Merton 10/66

by Rohan Berriman

AN undermanned Merton cricket side travelled to South Wangaratta to take on Rovers Bruck United on Saturday. Rovers won the toss and batted making 4/209 with D Shaw making a fine 107 not out and R Parsons 48 James Benton 2/27 and Henry and Rohan Berriman one wicket each the only wicket takers in what was a tough day in the field.

Merton were never a chance of victory against an experienced bowling attack giving limited opportunities to score on a slow outfield, James Benton again lead from the front top scoring with 24 Rohan Berriman was the only other batsmen to reach double figures with 10.

Merton all out in the 34th over for 66. Rovers, Ned O'Kane with 3/8 the best bowler. Thanks to Greta Cricket Club for helping out Merton with three players on permits and Rovers helping out on the day. It doesn't get any easier for Merton when they take on top side Benalla next Saturday at Benalla.



Cate Caswell in the centre, pushing hard in the 200m sprint. -S



Declan Armstrong (right) floating on air in the 100m sprint. -S



The smile says it all on Charlotte Boulton's face after taking out bronze in the under 13 girls Javelin. -S



Declan Baker in the high jump. -S

## Murrindindi Little Ath's shine at Victoria's Regional Championships

OVER the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11, the Little Athletics Victoria regional track and field championships, held in Shepparton, witnessed an impressive showing from Murrindindi Centre athletes. Despite the challenging weather conditions, 16 determined athletes from Murrindindi showcased their skills and dedication on the field.

The intense competition brought together athletes from various parts of the North Country region, providing a platform for Murrindindi Centre's finest to demonstrate their prowess. Among the participants were both seasoned competitors and newcomers, with some athletes representing the club at the regional level for the first time.

The weekend saw an extraordinary display of personal best achievements, with 36 out of the 54 events competed resulting in athletes surpassing their previous records. This remarkable feat underscores not only the talent but also the hard work and dedication put in by the athletes leading up to the event, culminating in a total of 17 medals for the club.

Behind these outstanding performances lies a testament to the athletes' dedication and commitment to their craft. Many of them had invested countless hours training at home or down at the track, often

sacrificing their Thursday nights in addition to the regular Saturday club days, to hone their skills and push their limits. Moreover, the Shepparton athletics track, renowned for its excellent facilities, provided the perfect stage for these athletes to showcase their talents and strive for excellence.

In addition to the athletes' efforts, special acknowledgment is due to the parents who volunteered their time and support during the weekend championships. Whether serving as track marshals, call room officials, long jump pit rakers, or in other roles, their contributions were instrumental in ensuring the smooth running of the event.

As the dust settled on the Shepparton track, Murrindindi Centre athletes left their mark, not just with their performances but also with the invaluable experience gained from competing at the regional level. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to aspiring athletes and a source of pride for the Murrindindi community.

The club extends its heartfelt congratulations to Declan Baker, Levi Campbell, Chase and Clay Hilder, Amelia Kociancic, and Koa Parker for qualifying for the State Track and Field championships to be held on the long weekend in March. If you see them practicing down at the track, be sure to give them a cheer.



14 of the 17 Murrindindi athletes who competed at Regionals. -S

# The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Men win Gender Challenge 2024

by Alan Pell

LAST Wednesday saw the last round of the Yea Golf Club Gender Challenge with individual stableford matches being played. With equal numbers, the men won 11 of the 15 matches and took 65 of the 85 points available for round nine.

Winner of the Ann Baynes Trophy and best for the men was Sam Wright with 42 points. Second overall was Peter Johnston with 38 points. Third and best of the ladies was Adrienne Anglin with 36 points from Martin Lowe fourth with 35 and fifth was Sue Aurisch 34 points. The men won the team average with 39.8 to 28.9. The final scores were men 460 to the ladies 370. The Club Award was won by Gary Pollard on count back with 28 points.

### Chenhall and Elliott take top honours

TWENTY members competed for the first Monthly Medal in the 2024 golf season at Yea Golf Club on Saturday, February 17.

Brendan Chenhall (15) nett 70 on countback from the very consistent Paul Clayton (10) nett 70. John Tanner (26) continued to shine after his masters victory last weekend to fill third place with 71 nett.

Men's nearest the pin on the 14th, went Bill Dredge and Paul Clayton doubled up to take out the putting with an impressive 24 putts.

Evergreen Rob O'Halloran collected the Club Award and some reprieve from the handicapper.

In the ladies medal round, long time member Di Elliott (28) collected her first ever Monthly Medal after surviving a countback with Di Holdsworth (28) when they both finished with 72 nett. Cindy Armstrong took out the ladies putting with 30.

Wednesday golf will see the ladies preparing lunch for the men after their come from behind victory in the Gender



The Yea men with their trophy after winning the Gender Challenge. -S

Challenge. Prior to lunch there is a Stableford event.

On Friday Yea Golf Club is hosting a nine hole Stableford event on behalf of the Dalhousie District Golf Association.

A barbecue tea will be provided in the \$20 entry fee. Names must be put on the whiteboard in the clubrooms or advise Jan Wealands prior to Wednesday afternoon.



Sam Wright with the Ann Baynes Trophy donated by Adrienne Anglin. -S



Brendan 'Trout' Chenhall with his medal. -S



Di Elliott with her medal. -S

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2 MARCH 2024**

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