

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, July 3, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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The new Rotary board for 2024-25, Lily Cox, Tippy Anderson, Tony Jacobs, Penny Paxman, Daryl King, Glenda Woods, Gary Fitzgerald and Glenn Milliken. -S

Council launches Key Worker Housing Strategy

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has adopted its first Key Worker Housing Strategy. Designed to support important industries within the shire, the strategy aims to provide a pathway for the development of safe, secure, and suitable housing for key workers, regardless of income. Many local businesses report difficulty recruiting staff and growing with the constrained access to housing.

The strategy will help council and partners make decisions, plan, and deliver housing for key workers. It guides the development of suitable land that will offer various housing options for industries such as health and aged

care, tourism, hospitality, agriculture and manufacturing. This includes both temporary and permanent housing options depending on the needs of the community. Sites owned by council and other state agencies have been identified across the shire.

Council is fostering growth in our local economy and community by enabling those who wish to move to the shire or transition from their family home, making it easier to find a safe and suitable place to live.

The strategy has identified two council-owned sites at 174 Grant Street and 94 Nihil Street in Alexandra that are suitable for

development. Council is planning to seek expressions of interest from residential developers to develop these sites for key worker housing and enter a long-term lease arrangement with council. More information about this opportunity will be provided on council's e-tender portal.

Council has applied for a government grant to facilitate the development of key worker housing in Eildon, support the local economy and enable local business to grow.

Council's Sustainability, Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said,

"Council's Key Worker Housing Strategy will bring significant social and economic benefits to our beautiful Murrindindi Shire. It addresses an identified need, and will encourage the growth of our community, as people and businesses are able to hit the ground running, knowing work can begin, without worrying about where staff will be living."

The strategy can be found at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/News-Media/Council-launches-Key-Worker-Housing-Strategy or call 5772 0333.

Time to take a walk

WALKING is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to keep fit. Walking for just 30 minutes each day can increase your cardiovascular fitness, strengthen your bones, reduce your risk of overweight/obesity, and increase your endurance. It can also reduce your risk of developing certain chronic conditions including cardiovascular disease, hypertension, type two diabetes, osteoporosis, and some cancers. Walking with others offers additional benefits, including increasing your mental wellbeing and providing social connection, which help to quell feelings of loneliness and isolation.

It was for these reasons that in 2023 Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH), in collaboration with Yea Community House, began a free weekly walking group. These walks leave from

outside Yea Community House at 10am on Monday mornings, and are suitable for people of all ages and abilities. They are led by YDMH's Cardiac Nurse, however the length and pace of each walk is determined by the participants. The average is 50 to 60 minutes, double the daily recommendation.

Research has shown that walking groups increase the physical activity levels of participants, by increasing their motivation, confidence, and knowledge of the benefits that regular walking provides.

If you would like to experience this for yourself, or simply find out more about Yea's Community Walking Group, please contact Hailey Docking, YDMH's Health Promotion Officer at hailey.docking@ydmh.org.au or Yea Community House at info@yeahouse.org.au

Yea Rotary welcomes new president

YEA Rotary celebrated a successful year at their 38th changeover dinner, held at the Country Club Hotel on Thursday, June 27.

Following drinks and the opportunity to chat, Sergeant Rodney Ridd took to the stage with a call to order.

Emcee David Anderson welcomed the guests, including Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, Mayor Gallagher, Cr Carpenter and shire CEO Livia Bonazzi, as well as Rotarians and other guests.

Lily Cox led the toast to Rotary International before outgoing president Tony Jacobs provided his report.

Terry Hubbard spoke about the David Long award before Daryl King announced this year's recipient, Liz Fletcher.

Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to Julie Lynch and Tippy Anderson.

Exchange student Fabio also spoke about his time in Yea, saying that it's a lovely little community and that he has learnt so much during his time in Yea.

Steve Paix entertained the audience with his music, before Penny Paxman was introduced as the club's president for the next year. When she received the chain, she commented that it was heavy and that it represents

the contributions made by all of the presidents before her.

She announced Daryl King as Rotary's president elect, with Glenda Woods as secretary and Gary Fitzgerald as treasurer.

Penny said that the aim was to expand the reach of Rotary and to bring people together, with a 'Year of Fun' at Yea Rotary.

David Anderson provided Penny with a welcome gift as president, a magician's hat and a magic wand.

"I look forward to experiencing the magic of it all," Penny said.

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial
Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

IT'S NOT OKAY

- To yell at our staff.
- To swear at our staff.
- To be rude to our staff.
- To abuse our staff in anyway.
- To be disrespectful to our staff.
- To show threatening behaviour towards our staff.

If you do, we have the right to ask you to leave our office and we may contact the police, or we may disconnect your call.

If you have a problem or complaint, we are happy to listen if you discuss this with us politely, please don't take your anger out on us.



Letters to the Editor

Proposed Victorian regional hospital mergers

IN spite of the ludicrous claims that budget cuts to and centralisation of regional hospitals will not impact patient care, communities across Victoria are well aware this is a lie of Trumpian proportions. Simply repeating this patently false claim over and over again will not convince us otherwise and is an insult to the intelligence of regional Victoria. If the state government wanted to genuinely address our concerns, they would have provided our communities with facts, figures and plans, and importantly, access to the findings of the Expert Advisory Committee (which we paid for and is currently withheld). Instead, our hospital boards are served with 'non-disclosure clauses'.

The damage to regional communities from the proposed changes has and is widely discussed in regional hospitals, town meetings, editorials and the broader media.

However, there is an equally disturbing underlying issue at stake here.

Our governments are our representatives, elected by us, paid by us, accountable to us. Yet, as mentioned, the current government have forced hospital boards to sign non-disclosure clauses. Let that sink in for a moment. In other words, our government is saying to our hospital boards, "We will not permit you to tell your communities, (ie. the people the state government represent, are paid by and are accountable to), what we are up to or how we plan to spend their money."

Is this what we see as open, honest and transparent leadership? "Don't tell anyone" is hardly the approach indicative of a government with nothing to hide. Rather it smacks of a contempt for regional Victorians and their welfare.

No one should underestimate the depth of commitment to resolving this issue, as evidenced by the numerous public meetings, petitions and protests. Nor should one

underestimate our ability to fight this with a strong, united, talented cohort who are fast gathering the support of influential allies.

This is a case of commitment and capability combining to face a common threat to our regional communities. As a state, let's find a better and more equitable way to deal with the Victorian budget challenges. In the meanwhile, hands off our regional hospitals.

R Jungalwalla, Alexandra.

Community activities on roadsides

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is inviting feedback from the community on its updated Rural Roadside Conservation Management (RRCM) plan and guidelines.

The RRCM plan guides how roadside vegetation is managed across the shire and helps council, the community and other agencies understand the conservation value of roadsides and how to carry out works or activities on them appropriately. These activities include utility works, roadside grazing, firewood collection, slashing, mowing and weed management. There are 26 pieces of legislation that cover government requirements. The RRCM guidelines are designed to help users to understand these requirements.

Council is seeking community feedback on the plan and companion guidelines to understand what's important to local residents in maintaining and protecting native vegetation on our rural roadsides, what activities residents usually carry out on roadsides and if the guidelines are easy to understand.

To get involved, visit council's community engage platform, The Loop, or call 5772 0333 and speak to the Environmental Programs team. Feedback closes on Sunday, July 28.

Snobs Creek hatchery to have greater focus on threatened species

A PROJECT to triple the size of the Arcadia native fish hatchery will begin in coming weeks, with the expanded facility set to create more local jobs and ensure a bright future for Victoria's fish populations.

Located on the banks of the Goulburn River, the upgraded facility will feature more than 100 plankton and broodfish ponds and a new administration precinct which will see hatchery produce almost six million Murray cod and golden perch each year.

Once complete, the Victorian Fisheries Authority will also transition all local Murray cod production currently at Snobs Creek conservation fish hatchery in Eildon to the expanded Arcadia hatchery, freeing up

capacity at Snobs Creek for more work on protecting Victoria's threatened native fish.

The conservation hatchery is part of the government's work to combat the decline of Victoria's native plants and animals through the 20 year Biodiversity Plan, backed by investment of \$582 million since 2014 to safeguard the state's one of a kind natural environment.

More than 8,000,000 fish will be produced in Victoria every year once the fish hatchery is complete, helping to secure the future of Victoria's fish for generations to come.

Construction is expected to be complete in mid 2025.



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Weekly Weather

July 3 - July 9, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	0	14	Wednesday	1	14
Thursday	1	15	Thursday	2	15
Friday	1	14	Friday	1	14
Saturday	1	14	Saturday	1	15
Sunday	4	15	Sunday	4	15
Monday	8	14	Monday	8	15
Tuesday	8	13	Tuesday	8	13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.47	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.51	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	7.16am Mon	0.91		below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.48am Mon	0.21	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.26am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	9.44am Mon	0.88	falling	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.43	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.52	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	2.27	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.30	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.39	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.53am Mon	1.24	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 1 JULY 2024

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	15.2mm
Buxton	27mm
Eildon (AWS)	13mm
Flowerdale	20mm
Jamieson	26mm
Kinglake	23mm
Lake Eildon	22mm
Mansfield	3mm
Taggerty	19mm
Yarck	16mm
Yea	18mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week	285.96m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	88.5%
Metres below full supply	2.94m
Daily inflow	1400ML
Release	8500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	71%

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
We thank you for your continued support

AusNet invests in community response vehicles

VICTORIAN communities that are left without power by severe weather events will be served by four AusNet community response vehicles staffed by AusNet representatives and equipped with charging points for mobile devices and satellite internet access.

After the catastrophic February storm events which left hundreds of thousands of customers without power, AusNet has invested in the Emergency Management Mobile Assistance vehicles (EMMAs), which will be deployed to communities impacted by future large scale unplanned outages.

AusNet Executive General Manager Network Operations, Andrew Linnie, said AusNet has listened to community feedback after the February storm event.

"We attended community engagement sessions following the storms to hear from communities about the issues that impacted them most. They told us that mobile phone charging and internet access are essential for regions impacted by long term unplanned outages caused by severe weather events, so these will be incorporated into the vehicles," said Mr Linnie.

"They will also have a defibrillator and first aid, with our representatives trained in their use, for the unlikely event of them being needed."

"These vehicles will provide important relief for communities. We will be able to deploy them quickly in response to prolonged outages, and we hope they will provide important respite and essential advice on network restoration to people when they most need it."

The vehicles will also be used in future awareness campaigns to help communities better prepare for prolonged outages.

Extreme weather events like the ones experienced last February are likely to become more frequent due to climate change. AusNet is now working closely with local governments and communities to find help solutions that help enhance their emergency

facilities and make them better equipped to deal with future extreme weather events.

"The first of the EMMAs is now operational, with the three larger vehicles due for completion by the end of the year currently being modified," said Mr Linnie.

Vehicle deployment will be decided on a case by case basis by a team of senior AusNet staff involved in the incident management efforts during large scale unplanned outages.

"When determining vehicle deployment, every incident and location is different. We'll make assessments based on a range of factors such as the progress of the event, the estimated restoration time, and the location of relief and recovery centres, amongst other things," Mr Linnie said.

AusNet will be publishing the results soon of an independent review which examined all aspects of our handling of the February storm events, including organisational systems, processes and governance.

The importance of a regular mammogram

by Jacqui Person, Marysville

SITTING in a doctors surgery, and the worst words you can hear are, "I am sorry you have breast cancer." In an instant every emotion goes through your head.

Then the most comforting words, "but we have caught it early. The lump is small and we can remove it in a lumpectomy."

I have attended Breast Screen Victoria every two years since its inception. Ironically this regular mammogram would be the last time the service would send me a reminder as I had turned 74. However, they did give me a card and invited me to call and make an appointment in another two years, which would still be free. I had already determined I would continue. It just doesn't make any sense to me not to.

So, this lump was found during a regular mammogram and clearly could only have been there for less than two years. It was small and unable to be detected by examination, even by a doctor who knew what he was looking for.

A lumpectomy was successfully performed, removing all of the tumour with good margins with no detectable spread. A precautionary course of radiation followed and I am now on the road to recovery.

How different this story could have been, had it not been for breast screening.

I cannot stress enough how lucky I feel to live in a country where this service is available to everyone.

It's free, its easy, it's not painful and it just might save your life.

Supersized fish stocking this winter

THESE school holidays the state government is stocking 80 lakes across the state with more than 35,000 catchable size rainbow trout.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaelyn Symes announced the stocking of over 10,000 fish across the Northern Victoria region, which has helped reach a record breaking stocking of 11.5 million this year, smashing the previous record of 10 million.

More fish are stocked in Victoria than every other state and territory combined with Murray cod, golden perch, brown and rainbow trout, threatened Macquarie perch, dusky flathead, Australian bass and more bolstering world class fishing experiences.

From Ouyen Lake to Eildon Pondage, lakes across the Northern Victoria region feature pontoons or jetties, accessible paths and parking for fishers of all abilities as well as other nearby facilities like barbecues and toilets to make it easier for families across Victoria to wet a line and enjoy the great outdoors this school holidays.

There's never been a better time for Victorian kids to start their fishing journey thanks to the Government's Little Angler Kits program which has delivered 95,000 kits to every grade five student in Victorian schools so more young anglers can try their luck at their local lake.

The kits also include a kids' guide to fishing with safety messages and educational videos that teach budding fishers tips for catching fish as well as responsible fishing practices, inspiring kids to discover this active, healthy pastime and giving families the information and equipment they need to get started.

Vale Jack Russell

WELL known Yea identity Jack Russell passed away on Tuesday, June 25 in Yea. He had been set to move to Bendigo prior to his death.

Jack was well known for his court battles, including in the Victorian Supreme Court, with Murrindindi Shire Council, including former Shire CEOs Margaret Abbey and Craig Lloyd, as well as cases against Melbourne City Council over a tripping incident, the Shire of Yarra Ranges, members of Victoria Police and members of the Department of Corrections. At one point, he even sought a judicial review of one of the judges.

He often self-represented in court. He also knew his way around Freedom of Information laws and wasn't afraid to submit FOI requests as he saw fit.

Between October 2011 and July 2012, Jack was held in the Melbourne Remand Centre while pending trial for attempted murder. A year later, in July 2013, these charges were withdrawn. He accused members of the Department of Corrections of three "unlawful physical contacts" while he was on remand.

It should also be noted that during his time in the Melbourne Remand Centre, he wrote 70 letters to the Department of Corrections.

Jack was banned from council premises for a significant period following an incident at the Yea Library in April 2016. He was charged with unlawful assault, entering a place in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace, and wilfully trespassing in a public place. On November 14, 2016, a magistrate convicted him of charges one and three. Charge two was dismissed.

This incident was the seed of many of his court cases against Murrindindi Shire Council.

Jack wasn't shy about disrupting meetings at Murrindindi Shire Council when permitted to attend, commenting on everything from seating arrangements and cameras, through to the restrictions on his attendance at council locations and his latest FOI requests.

He was a man with strident beliefs and was a thorn in the side of many.

Embracing Tiny Towns

THE state government is backing more community led projects in Northern Victoria's tiny towns, with more than 200 new initiatives. Member for Northern Victoria Jaelyn Symes announced 12 new projects are being delivered through the first round of the *Tiny Towns Fund*.

Locally, Acheron Mechanics Institute Inc has received \$30,050 to resurface the Acheron tennis court, the Murrindindi Shire Council has received \$25,000 to deliver a streetscape upgrade in Alexandra, and Yea and District Adult Riding Club has received \$32,000 to deliver upgrades and improvements for the pony club.

For more information visit rdv.vic.gov.au/tinytownsfund

Mobile breast screening bus in Alexandra

THE mobile breast screening bus will be located outside the Alexandra Shire Hall until July 26.

BreastScreen Victoria (BSV) is a free service for women with no breast symptoms. They are inviting women aged 50 to 74 years old to have a breast screen regularly, usually every two years.

A breast screening mammogram (or breast screen) checks for breast cancer. At your screening appointment, the radiographer will take two images of each breast, which are later examined by two or more radiologists.

In a small number of women, the screening mammogram will show possible signs of breast cancer. If this happens after your breast screen, you will be contacted to attend a second appointment which is called an assessment. An assessment appointment involves further testing such as x-rays, ultrasound, biopsies and clinical examination, to reach a diagnosis. These tests are all performed at assessment clinics.

To make an appointment for a breast screening, visit breastscreen.org.au or call 132 050. It could save your life.

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GOULBURN VALLEY SUICIDE AWARENESS GROUP

FRRR Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal

Community Grant Recipient 2023

This is a recurring gathering taking place every fourth Saturday of the month for anyone struggling with grief from the loss of a loved one regardless of how and when they passed. 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, July 27, 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

Meeting in support of Alexandra's hospital

ALEXANDRA and district residents turned out in force to the Hands Off Alexandra Hospital meeting, held at the Alexandra Shire Hall on the morning of Saturday, June 29. The hall was filled to capacity, with some watching on from the foyer or listening in from outside. The meeting was also broadcast on UGFM.

Andrew Embling acted as emcee for the event, commenting that every town needs their hospital and that no changes are needed to the board or any closures.

Mayor Damien Gallagher was the first speaker to address the audience. He commented on the end of the timber industry, the impact of the economy on local businesses, banks closing, potential changes to state forests in the shire, and now the challenges facing the hospital.

He also spoke about the various health issues facing the residents of the shire, and how greater investment in healthcare in the shire is needed.

He compared the situation to the amalgamation of the ski fields, with the smaller mountains such as Lake Mountain losing out to the larger mountains. Lake Mountain is now closed two days each week. "Small stakeholders don't win in amalgamations," he said.

He also commented on how Murrindindi Shire is often overlooked and that the community is often left to address the disadvantage. He said that he met with the Minister for Health earlier in the week, and commented that he is concerned as he

can't imagine that there will be good health outcomes from the proposed changes.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish said that the full plan is not yet known and has been calling on the Minister for Health to provide the information. She was also concerned about how the hospital's staff, CEO and board can't speak out on the situation.

She said that many hospitals are already on a shoestring, and noted that costs keep increasing. She added that local staff members are certainly not going overseas for training. She questioned how far people will have to travel for specialist appointments under the proposed changes, and was worried that local decisions won't be made locally.

"Rallies like this make a difference," she said, noting that there have already been rallies held in Mansfield and Yea.

Shadow Minister for Health Georgie Crozier said that country hospitals are part of the heart and soul of small towns, mentioning health emergencies such as car accidents and natural disasters.

She said that rallies are being held across the state, and said that under the changes, people would have to travel further for basic care. She also commented that "health services will tank" and that there will be the

closure of wards and reductions in services. She believes that the doors won't be closed but services will be lost.

Mike Dalmau told a very personal story about the death of his wife, Maxine, and the care and compassion provided by the staff at Alexandra District Health (ADH).

He also spoke about the flow on effects of the proposed changes to the health services. As president of Alexandra District Ambulance Support Inc, he spoke about the transfer of ambulance services to Ambulance Victoria. When emergency became urgent care at ADH, a two hour job became an eight hour job to Melbourne suburbs and the number of volunteers decreased. If the services continue being centralised, he questioned how ambulances will be able to cover the area when ambulances are on a job and are potentially ramped. He called for better consultation with the community.

Ray Mathieson spoke about his history in the area, and about the importance of the hospital during the 2009 fires, and afterwards. He also spoke about how the hospital has helped him, and others, with various health conditions. "We will lose services for cost savings," he said, and added, "Spring Street, hands off our hospital."

Lorna Gelbert, former ADH board chair, said that she does not believe that the community will be well served by an amalgamation. ADH is block funded "and it is never enough," she said. Block funding means that the hospital receives the same amount of funding regardless of the number of patients. She believes that services at risk may include urgent care, acute care, specialists, health initiatives and allied health.

"Any cuts mean serious cuts to services," she said. She also noted the increasing population in the area.

She believes that the standardisation and centralisation of services will mean that we only receive the services we're told we can have, and that people will be forced to travel to large hospitals for services we already provide. She said that the hospital needs loud support to get the best outcomes.

Caolan O'Connor said that we deserve equal access to high quality care regardless of where we live, and that community access to health services must be maintained and advanced. He strongly encouraged people to sign the petition, created by Linda and Ian Davis, and to write to the politicians making the decisions.

"Minister, listen to the community," he said.



Alexandra and district residents voted unanimously on the resolution. -AR

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

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

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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

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
Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday,
10am to 11am - all welcome
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

Out & About



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

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Eildon Events Inc AGM will be held at the Eildon Tennis clubrooms at 5pm. All welcome. For more information or a nomination form email eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Darren Gilbert open studio. Saturday and Sunday or other days by appointment. 10am-4pm each day. Giffard Street, Yea.

MONDAY, JULY 15

Murrindindi East U3A Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers.

10.30am at Alexandra Bowling Club. Meeting followed by a guest speaker and a light lunch. All welcome.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group. Are you aged between 12 and 18? You are invited with your parents or carers and community members to the Alex Youth SPOT for a free barbecue from 3.30-5.30pm. For further information contact Jacky on 0417 907 278 or Kerry on 0410 597 148.

SATURDAY, JULY 27

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group 9.30am-10.30. Meeting room Yea RSL. Entry is free. For further information contact Jacky on 0417 907 278 or Kerry on 0410 597 148.

Minimum wage increases from July 1

THE Fair Work Ombudsman is reminding employers that a 3.75 per cent minimum wage increase should be applied to eligible employees' pay from the first full pay period starting on or after today, July 1.

The new National Minimum Wage is \$915.90 per week, based on a 38-hour week for a full-time employee, or \$24.10 per hour. The rates have increased from \$882.80 per week and \$23.23 per hour.

Casual employees entitled to the National Minimum Wage must receive a minimum \$30.13 per hour, which includes 25 per cent casual loading.

Property sale using non-local agent

COUNCIL was asked to provide information about their decision to engage a Wangaratta real estate agent for the sale of land in Eildon, instead of engaging a local agent.

They responded, "Under the Local Government Act, councils have the power to sell private land to recover unpaid rates, as a last resort when all other means to establish contact and a repayment plan with the owner have been exhausted. We have commenced this process for the property at 25 Park Avenue, Eildon. This is not council-owned land being sold.

"Council typically uses agents from outside our local area for these types of sales to avoid placing local agents in a difficult position, where they may have local connections in the community to those who may be impacted by the sale.

"Every effort has been made to communicate with the ratepayer to work out an alternative arrangement, however with no response we have had to progress the sale. Once the sale takes place, the debt with council is settled and the balance of monies is paid to the previous owner."

Firewood collection has now ceased

THE firewood collection areas closed on Sunday, June 30. It is now illegal to collect firewood from state forests and public land until the spring season opens on Sunday, September 1.

Penalties apply if you are caught collecting firewood outside the designated collection season or areas.

Remember, collected firewood needs at least a year to dry before its used in the fireplace.

Support and concessions are available for people on low incomes or experiencing hardships who rely on firewood or need help with their energy costs.

For more information visit ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support

The history of the Yea hospital

THE Yea and District Memorial Hospital has been an integral part of the Yea community since its conception, providing acute care for residents in the western part of the Murrindindi Shire.

It began its life as the Fernley Private Hospital all the way back in 1928. In 1939, the name was changed to the Yea Bush Nursing Hospital, and it operated in this capacity until 1948.

Newspaper clippings from this time tell of the struggle of the bush nursing hospitals and give a greater depiction of why the hospital was taken over by a different group.

"Yea Bush Nursing Hospital has been closed owing to staff shortage, but the Victorian Bush Nursing Association has been able to reopen two others, Beulah and Walwa, which had been closed for about six months," a 1946 article from *The Age* reads.

In 1948, the Yea Bush Nursing Hospital became the Yea and District Memorial Hospital, under the banner of the Hospital and Charities Commission.

"Representatives of the Yea Bush Nursing Hospital waited on the secretary of the Hospital and Charities Board to discuss proposals to establish a hospital with registration under the Charities Act at Yea.

"The hospital committee advocated an eight-bed hospital, but Mr. McVilly said that one with a 12-bed capacity was desirable, with provision for extension to take 20 beds.

"The estimated cost is £12,000 and of this sum it is proposed to raise £5000 locally. The Yea shire council has promised £1000 and the committee has £1300 in hand. It has also purchased the site," another *The Age* article reads.

An article from 1954 shows that the new hospital was still being planned and developed.

"At a special meeting of the Yea Hospital committee on Sunday last the plans of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital were submitted and given approval,

provided that the Hospitals and Charities Commission approved."

Building on the new hospital would commence in 1956, with the new acute beds first being occupied in 1958.

Jumping forward over a decade, and the Apex Club of Yea provided funding for an additional wing with three acute beds in 1972.

The hospital underwent further development in 1990 and 1991, where the accident and emergency area were rebuilt. The funds were provided by the Yea community, as well as the state government.

With the turn of the century came more work. From 2001 to 2003, the acute section of the Yea and District Memorial Hospital was renovated, and the landscape of the hospital was reshaped.

The Rosebank Nursing Home and Hostel was rebuilt during the 2001 to 2003 works, becoming a connecting wing of the hospital.

The original hostel building was renovated, and came to accommodate Community Health, Yea Medical Centre, and a range of Allied Health services. It was renamed as 'The Grace Bennetts Centre', recognising Grace Bennetts contribution to aged care development in Yea.

2004 was a big year for health services in Yea. On July 1, 2004, the Yea and District Memorial Hospital and the Rosebank Extended Care Centre were amalgamated. Later in July, under the direction of the Department of Human Services, Murrindindi Community Health Service was dissolved.

This big change led to Yea and District Memorial Hospital taking responsibility for the western side of the shire, while Alexandra District Hospital took responsibility for the eastern side.

In more recent years, Yea and District Memorial Hospital have undertaken a variety of projects, the most visible of which is their work at the Yea Saleyards. This has included eye checks, flu vaccinations, hearing tests, mental health checks, etcetera, all undertaken at the Yea Saleyards so farmers can have their health checked on the go.

Hunt for the longest gum leaf

IN celebration of National Tree Day, Murrindindi Shire Council has a challenge for you, The 'Longest Gum Leaf' competition.

So, grab your coziest scarf, get out in nature and hunt for the longest gum leaf you can find. Once you've found the most epic leaf out there, head on over to one of council libraries in Alexandra, Yea, or Kinglake and show off your prized leaf.

You'll officially go in the running for some seriously cool prizes for both kids and grown ups too.

Entries close July 16. Winners will be announced at a National Tree Day event on Tuesday July 16, after a talk by well known ABC Radio presenter Dr Gregory Moore OAM.



Darren Gilbert
open studio

An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.

Sat. 6th and Sun. 7th July 24
10.00am to 4.00pm each day
5 Giffard Street, Yea, VIC. 3717
or arrange another time 0421 378 451

Open the first weekend of every month.
Up to date Open Studio days & times on www.monkeytaildesign.com



LABOUR HIRE AUTHORITY

You can help protect your workmates.

If you work for a contractor at a meat or poultry processing facility, you're probably a labour hire worker, and you're protected under law.

If you think you or your workmates are being treated unfairly, let us know. Visit labourhireauthority.vic.gov.au/meat-worker or call 1300 545 200. Translation services are available.

VICTORIA
State Government

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our values award winners for week 10. All students have been respectful, resilient and responsible.

Well done Molly, Evie, Marco and Shaelee.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Kirk helping out in the op shop. -S



Kirk at the Kinglake Op Shop. -S

Kirk kicking goals and writing a book

KIRK Mercuri wants people to know that living with autism does not mean he is incapable of contributing to the community. In fact, for him, it's quite the opposite. He makes a difference in people's lives every day.

The 24-year-old from Kinglake volunteers for his local basketball and football clubs, Kinglake Ranges Opportunity Shop, Kinglake Library, BMX Bicycle Group and the Neighbourhood House.

"I enjoy meeting people and seeing people out and about and talking to people, helping them out and seeing what they do," Kirk said.

Described as "a highly creative, kind-hearted, and enthusiastic person who consistently goes out of his way to be helpful to others, resulting in an impressive volunteer experience list and popular community profile," Kirk's tireless efforts led to his joint win as Murrindindi Shire Council Young Citizen of the Year last year.

But he's not stopping there, with hopes of publishing a book this year about his experiences of living with disability. It all started when COVID-19 hit. Struggling as social restrictions threatened to isolate him, he started collecting data and statistics about the pandemic and wrote about how it affected him and his small community.

"There wasn't much else to do at that time, so this was a good way to keep myself busy," Kirk said.

Fast forward a couple of years and he has found a local author who is helping him to publish his book.

"It is about my life as an adult with autism, there's some chapters about when I went to school and how I think about things and then it talks about how I felt during COVID-19 and how it affected me and Kinglake as a community," he said.

Kirk was diagnosed with autism at the age of two and a half after his mother Maryanne noticed he wasn't reaching his milestones like his twin brother.

Once diagnosed, Kirk received early intervention through a special development school for four years before attending mainstream primary and secondary school with a fully funded full-time aid.

In 2019, Kirk accessed the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) before being linked in with Intereach and local area coordinator Richelle Black in 2021.

"We connected Kirk with supports around the Kinglake area, and he has been working with a support worker on a regular basis to access his community and make connections in his community which he has been doing so well," Richelle said.

"He also receives funding for weekly skill development to build on his independence, and work on skills such as cooking and budgeting."

For Kirk, the NDIS supports help him to stay active and socialise in the community.

"In some ways, my autism impacts on what things I may be capable of, my abilities and how I think and how I react and respond to things," Kirk said.

"The NDIS has helped me quite a bit. I have a support worker who comes to see me once a week and we go to different places and explore different areas."

Whether Kirk is meticulously keeping score for the local basketball club, running water for the Kinglake Football Club (Lakers), or helping out at the op shop, Kirk's genuine kindness leaves an indelible mark on those around him.

"What I like about my volunteering is that they're all different and I get to meet new people and learn new things every day," he said.

He wants people to know that neurodivergence should not be perceived as a barrier. Rather, it can serve as a catalyst for achieving your goals.

"I want people to know that autism is different for everyone and that people with autism are still capable of doing things," he said.

"It doesn't stop me from doing what I love."



Mother Maryanne with son Kirk. -AR



Kirk at the football. -S

June meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

AT the Murrindindi Shire Council June meeting, Cr Gerencser requested a period of three months leave. There were no presentations in community participation.

Fees and charges schedule

Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges consists of fees and charges set by council and statutory fees and charges set by the state government. Council fees and charges are reviewed annually by officers to reflect the cost of service delivery. Where possible these fees and charges are benchmarked against similar sized councils to ensure parity, equity and fairness. Annual changes to fee units for statutory fees and charges are advised by the state government.

The fees and charges increases have generally been limited to 2.75 per cent, in line with rates increases. Where the increase is higher, this is the result of the higher costs of service delivery, such as family day care for non-residents increasing from \$2.25 to \$3 per hour. Council voted to adopt the changes.

Yea Saleyards Community Asset composition

The composition of the Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee was under review, with the recommendations of reforming the committee from August 2024. The new committee would include four farming / community representatives, one livestock transport representative, and two Murrindindi councillors. There would be a maximum term period of three years, with staggered terms, and a report from the committee would be required on a six-monthly basis.

Cr Gallagher and Cr Walsh were appointed to the new committee, and council voted to adopt the changes.

MAV State Council

Three motions were discussed, to be put forward at the August Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting. Firstly, a motion from council regarding a review of the methodology used by the Victorian Grants Commission to allocate Commonwealth Financial Assistance Grants to Victorian councils. Secondly, that council submits two motions on behalf of the Hume Region Local Government Network, regarding a commitment from the Minister for Planning to recognise and retain the character of rural townships, and that the MAV advocate for better road funding at both state and federal levels. Council voted to adopt the motions, and the recommendations relating to them.

Priority Action Plan 2024/2025

Council's Priority Action Plan 2024/2025 was presented to council for endorsement during the June meeting. The specific details of the Action Plan were not addressed, though they were discussed earlier in the year, and all the proposed initiatives are funded in the 2024/2025 Annual Budget. The plan will soon be published and available to the community. Council voted to adopt the plan.

Legislation passed to improve governance and integrity in councils

THE Victorian Government has passed legislation to improve council governance and integrity standards. The reform of the *Local Government Act 2020*, passed through Parliament last week, will elevate governance and integrity standards in Victoria's 79 councils, and will be in place for the new council term following the local government elections this October.

Since the last council elections in 2020, 56 councillors have resigned and 12 councils have had municipal monitors appointed, with one council suspended and one dismissed as a result of governance issues.

Following the local government elections in October this year, councils will have a uniform councillor code of conduct to create consistent standards of behaviour and increase accountability. A program of mandatory training will also be introduced for councillors and mayors, including annual professional development.

The reforms introduce stronger sanctions for councillor misconduct and improved processes to resolve conduct matters earlier. The Minister for Local Government will also have strengthened powers to deal with councillors that are found to

Enterprise Risk Management Policy

During a meeting in April 2024 by the Enterprise Risk Management Committee, it was found that the Risk Tolerance for Legal Compliance - Cyber Security in Attachment One should be changed from low to medium. The revised policy was brought in front of council. Council voted to adopt the proposed revisions.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

A policy surrounding the use of AI, and the principles that must be followed when using AI, was brought before council. It states that council is responsible for all content, whether or not AI was used, and that council must include a disclaimer when AI is used. Council voted to adopt the policy.

Privacy Policy

The current Privacy Policy was adopted in August 2020, and the policy must be reviewed every four years. The review of the Privacy Policy was brought before council, which included a focus on administrative improvements such as inclusions of acknowledgement of country, updated references to the Local Government Act clauses, inclusion of the Gender Impact Assessment, and references to the current council plan. No further changes were recommended by the Audit and Risk Committee. Council voted to adopt the revised policy.

Councillor Expenses and Support Policy

The Councillor Expenses and Support Policy was another policy adopted in 2020, bringing it up for review this year. The review was brought before council, and focused on changes to improve transparency, changes to improve efficiency, and readability improvements. It also allowed the separation of policy and procedure. An alternative recommendation was put forward because of the state government's new Local Government Amendment Governance and Integrity Act 2024, which came into effect on June 25. The act allows for councillors allowances to be withheld if they are stood down, and this was incorporated into the recommendations. Council voted to adopt the alternative recommendations regarding the policy.

Portfolio Councillor Policy

Adopted in June 2020, the Portfolio Councillor Policy was due for review. The review found that no changes to the policy were required due to new or amended legislation, or best practice guidance. The review did identify minor changes to improve readability and ease of implementation. Key changes included the addition of the gender impact assessment, and a new attachment to the policy to provide greater clarity on the scope of the role and responsibilities of each portfolio councillor upon their appointment. Council voted to adopt the recommendations.

Biannual Audit and Risk Committee Report

The report, prepared by the chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, recommends that council note the Biannual Report from the Audit and Risk Committee for the period of July to December 2023. Council voted to accept the report.

Audit and Risk Charter

The annual review of the Audit and Risk Charter was brought before council. There were no changes in legislative requirements since the charter was last adopted, and the only significant change is the removal of a clause requiring a two-year period between a councillor's elected term ending, and their appointment to the committee as an independent member. It was deemed unnecessary. The revised charter was reviewed and recommended for council endorsement. Council voted to adopt the recommendations.

Council and CEO Reports

Cr Gerencser was absent. Cr Lording, Cr Haslam and Cr Carpenter had no report.

Cr MacAulay reported that community engagement has commenced reflecting on the 2021/2025 Council Plan, which will help inform the strategic direction for the next four years. Feedback can be given at various pop-up centres, or online, or on a paper feedback form found at libraries or customer service centres. She encouraged people to register for the 'Warm Bowls, Hot Topic' sessions at various locations around the shire. Cr MacAulay reported that consultation has been ongoing between councillors and the Taungurung Land and Waters Council on projects, and the new budget allows for council to continue to work on reconciliation actions. She was pleased to note that Flowerdale Community Planning Group have progressed well with their community plan, and should be able to present it in August or September. Council was briefed on the status of council's participation in family daycare and kindergarten services, with the briefing taking the form of a workshop, and Cr MacAulay hopes the report will come to the council meeting in August. The Economic Development Team are supporting the reformation of the Marysville and Triangle Business and Tourism Group, who are exploring the benefits of becoming a chamber of commerce and representing all businesses in the region. They have held two sessions to find out what businesses want, with the last session held at the Marysville Golf Club on Thursday, June 27. Cr MacAulay reported that in the Shaping Murrindindi's Future Project, working groups have commenced exploring possibilities regarding renewable energy and visitor economy.

The group of community and business members met at Bonfire Station for discussion. She was pleased by the beginning of winter events in the shire, with the Marysville Lantern Festival and Alexandra truck show big hits, and was also proud to attend the Buxton Primary School Reconciliation Week event.

Cr Walsh acknowledged the extensive work undertaken by members of council in reviewing the policies and completing the budget that was recently adopted, and thanked everyone involved. He mentioned the community meeting that was held at Fawcett Hall in May, as well as the installation of the Cathkin-Molesworth Cemetery sign on the Goulburn Valley Highway.

Mayor Damien Gallagher spoke favourably about the recent volunteer awards, and the honour of being able to recognise the many volunteers of the shire, not just the winners. He acknowledged the work of the Buxton Primary School team for their National Reconciliation Week efforts. Cr Gallagher said it was his privilege to be present at the opening of The Dame. He also recognised the efforts of the Murrindindi Carer's Group, and the Murrindindi Men's 'Walk, Talk and Support'. He congratulated council's Free from Violence officer for the organisation of 'Let's Talk, A Space for Men' at the Yea Shire Hall on Thursday, June 20. He thanked all those who attended the meetings surrounding the issue of hospital amalgamations, as well as those who got involved regarding the various other issues present in the shire currently, such as the state forests and loss of big four banks.

Murrindindi Shire CEO, Livia Bonazzi, reported that the shire has received \$50,000 to go towards the Alexandra streetscape, and new garden beds, fruit trees, etcetera. The shire has also received \$20,000 to upgrade signage in small towns across Murrindindi Shire. Ms Bonazzi discussed the housing targets set by the state government, with Murrindindi Shire being set a target of 3200 new houses by 2051, from the current base of 8600. She determined that the target seemed achievable. She encourages citizens to visit the Engage Victoria website and provide feedback on the state planning for Victoria, with consultation closing August 30. Ms Bonazzi mentioned the recent advocacy efforts of Mayor Gallagher in maintaining full funding and local leadership for Murrindindi hospitals. Engagement with the Minister for Water, and the Minister for Emergency Services, highlighted concerns over water operating regulations. Ms Bonazzi reported that Nexus Community Health will cease counselling services in the Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires from July 1. Council recently completed the project of installing solar lights in Marysville, which was partly funded by Rotary Club, with support from Lions Club, and the shire-wide planting initiative is underway, with over 400 new trees being planted.

Goulburn Valley Water

Notice of fees and charges: 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

Goulburn Valley Water would like to advise all customers of new tariffs, which have been approved by GVV's Board and the Essential Services Commission. These are applicable to all customers in GVV's serviced areas, unless alternate special fees apply.

Water service fees (daily)	\$
Standard residential (20mm)	0.5075
Vacant land - unconnected	0.2537

Water usage fees (per kilolitre, based on meter readings)	\$
Potable water (drinking)	1.2751
Non-potable water	0.8923
Raw water	0.6371

Trade waste (daily)	\$
Category 1 and 2	0.6911

Sewerage fees and charges	\$
Residential (daily)	1.3182
Vacant land - unconnected (daily)	0.6590
Non-residential (daily)	1.3182
Wastewater volume usage (per kilolitre)	1.7381
Non-residential (yearly charge per cistern where volumetric charges cannot be applied)	481.17

Bills are issued three times a year. Properties with fire services are charged a fee equivalent to 10.63 per cent of service fees.

If you are having difficulties paying your bill, support is available. We offer flexible payment options, concessions and access to government grants and programs - call us to ask about available options to suit you.

For a full list of all other fees and charges for 2024-25, please visit our website or call 1300 360 007.

gwwater.vic.gov.au



Another successful year for Yea Rotary

THE annual report of the Rotary Club of Yea outlines another successful year for the club. Outgoing president Tony Jacobs, who has been president for the past two years, said that the club's four signature events, open gardens, the Yea Garden Expo, the Yea Art Show and Cycle Dindi were again successful, raising significant funds for both local and international causes. The club was also able to raise funds from their weekly dinner fees and raffles.

Last year, the club introduced the Community Service Award, with this year's recipient being the St Luke's Op Shop.

They have also hosted exchange student Fabio Zurkirchen from Switzerland and welcomed home Nakaiah Kerr from Denmark. Later this year, the club will welcome Haruno Tanaka, an exchange student from Japan.

Tony noted that they are particularly keen to encourage more members into the club.

The new president of Yea Rotary is Penny Paxman.

In the community service area, directors Terry Hubbard and Les Hall outlined the many activities the club has undertaken, including catering at the Paringa Annual Bull Sale, delivering the

Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day services in Yea in conjunction with the RSL, gate management at the Yea Show, catering at the Seniors Dinner, catering at the Australia Day celebrations in Yea, and gate management at Yea Football/Netball home games, as well as many other events. They also noted the growing number of people becoming 'Friends of Rotary'.

Rotary Foundation director, Paul Kellett, wrote about successfully applying for a \$2000 grant on behalf of the Limestone community for the Limestone history project, and contributing a further \$2000, as

well as the club's contributions to the International Foundation and the polio update provided at the district conference.

David Anderson spoke about visiting Dayspring Children's Village in South Africa with wife Tippy and about plaques placed in the new memorial garden at the village in memory of Ruth Konig and two other Rotarians who worked hard on the project.

Tippy Anderson spoke about the introduction of an English corner in three Thai schools and the upcoming Singapore Rotary Convention. There was also a Rotary Friendship Exchange with

Sweden, and the visit by exchange student Fabio.

Following reports on the art show, garden expo, Cycle Dindi and open gardens, Lily Cox provided information about outbound exchange student Nakaiah Kerr's visit to Denmark, the school bursaries awarded to local students, and the Ruth Konig Scholarships.

Membership director Sue Carpenter outlined the new brochure about Yea Rotary, encouraging people to join.

The sad passing of past president and Paul Harris Fellow, Norm Berndt, was also recognised.



The Yea Rotary changeover dinner. -AR



Steve Paix. -AR



Tippy Anderson. -AR



New Rotary president Penny Paxman with her magician's hat, wand and elephant.



Julie Lynch, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish and Glenda Woods. -S



Julie Lynch. -AR



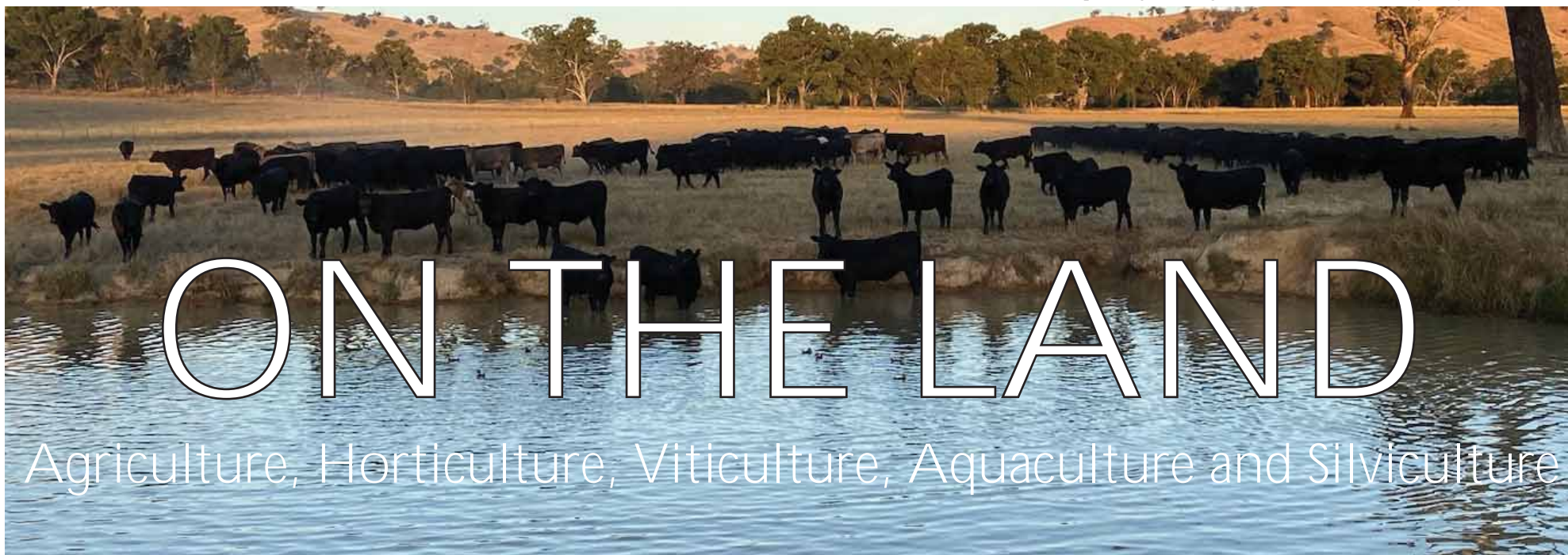
Lily Cox. -AR



Liz Fletcher. -S



Tony Jacobs. -AR



Water worries for northern Victoria

THE Commonwealth water buyback plan forces difficult conversations for communities in northern Victoria in the face of the Australian Government's plan to buyback more water under the Murray Darling Basin Plan, according to the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF).

VFF Water Council Chair Andrew Leahy said the Victorian Government paper released, 'Planning our Basin future together', is an important step to help communities plan for a future of producing less food if water buybacks occur.

"The VFF continues to oppose the government's plan to take more water from farming communities. Until the situation in Canberra changes, we must be prepared for all possible outcomes. The Victorian

Government is showing leadership in starting the conversation across our communities."

"In a situation where we can't stop the Commonwealth entering the market, we must look for options with the least impact on communities and agriculture. The release of this document is the first step, now comes the hard part of working with local communities to find local solutions that protect our farmers and communities," Mr Leahy said.

Mr Leahy added the Victorian Government was helping deliver some answers to northern Victorian communities in the face of a lack of details coming from Canberra.

"The unknown is how and when the Commonwealth will recover the 450GL and how much will come from Victoria. The VFF

has repeatedly asked the Commonwealth for this information. Tanya Plibersek and her department have refused to respond or simply have no idea."

"They are not even prepared to talk in any practical way about the environmental improvements they expect to deliver. It seems to be a case of lets just see how much water we can find, and we'll worry about the consequences later. This Commonwealth approach is totally unacceptable."

"The paper points out the impact of water purchases under low, medium and high scenarios. A low scenario could see somewhere between eight to 55GL purchased across the nine catchments, 55 to 120GL under a medium scenario and more than 120GL in a high scenario."

"Significant Commonwealth purchases of water from irrigators will force channels to be closed down and large numbers of farms to be dried off. Irrigators can expect a 15 per cent increase in water charges if 100GL is purchased and delivery shares are terminated."

"The Victorian Government states that any purchase must be matched with 'sensible transition support.' We really need to understand what 'sensible transition support' means, because the Commonwealth is also rolling out lines about structural adjustment. We need to ensure that jobs and people are protected."

"The government's work highlights what we all know, buybacks devastate communities and food production. We must ensure the Commonwealth works with Victoria to ensure other projects are explored first before buybacks commence," Mr Leahy said.

The risks of grain poisoning

IN winter, many producers will start to consider supplementary feeding their livestock with grain or pellets. Such feeding will bring many benefits but does also carry the risk of grain poisoning.

Grain poisoning occurs when large amounts of starch are eaten and rapidly ferments in the rumen or first stomach. This leads to the excessive production of lactic acid, which is absorbed into the animal's body. Hence the condition's other name, lactic acidosis.

Grain poisoning may occur for the following reasons; when grain or pellets are introduced too quickly, there's a sudden increase in the amount of grain or pellets being fed, there's a change in type of grain or pellets being fed, there's insufficient feeding space leading to the dominant animals overeating, and producers not being aware the same precautions need to be followed when accidental overeating occurs due to storage areas not being sealed.

The clinical signs of grain poisoning usually become apparent within 24 to 36 hours after the initial access to grain or pellets.

In mild cases, cattle and sheep may show a lack of appetite and appear quieter than usual.

In more severe cases, cattle and sheep may show weakness, lameness, abdominal pain, and diarrhoea ranging from porridge to water consistency, depending upon the severity of the condition, leading to dehydration. Grain poisoning can be fatal to livestock.

Reducing the animal's access to grain or pellets and increasing the availability of roughage can treat mild cases. More severe cases may need to be drenched with sodium bicarbonate to neutralise the lactic acid. Severely affected animals are unlikely to respond well to treatment.

Following treatment, affected animals may develop hoof problems and lameness due to hoof damage caused by grain poisoning.

Like in so many conditions, the best form of treatment is prevention. Key to prevention is to gradually increase the proportion of grain or pellets at a rate which the animal's body can acclimatise.

Feeding guidelines are readily available in drought feeding guides for sheep and cattle. Drought feeding guides are freely available from Agriculture Victoria. For further advice

please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.



Do you know the signs of grain poisoning in cattle? -Scott Bauer

SAVE THE DATE

July 5- Yea Saleyards
Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**
FREE EYE TEST

August 2- Yea Saleyards
Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**
HEALTHY EATING AND DIABETES SUPPORT

September 6 Yea Saleyards
Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**

October 6 Yea Saleyards
Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

Get in touch
Email: saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



PHOTO COMPETITION

JUNE WINNER PUBLISHED IN JULY 10 EDITION
Submit your photo competition entry for July for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

The July theme is 'WINTER FROST'.
Sponsored by

Dindi Country Clothing
5772 1405
79 Grant Street Alexandra
Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

Photos need to be taken within Murrindindi Shire
Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

FREE Health Checks for the FARMING COMMUNITY

Optair Eyecare – FREE Eye Tests

Yea Saleyards Friday 5 July 2024

FREE Healthy Eating & Diabetes Support

Yea Saleyards Friday 2 August 2024

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

Yea & District MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Murrindindi Shire Council
YEA SALEYARDS

Australian Government
VICTORIA State Government

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 11



Many community organisations getting together to make a change for Murrindindi's Youth. From left to right, Stephen Joblin Secretary of the GVSAG, Kerry McGahy Team Leader of the Youth SPOT project, Sasha Barrow, from both Embassy of Ideas and Foundation Murrindindi, Jacky Gilbee, Founder and president of GVSAG, Robyn Hill CEO of Foundation Murrindindi, and Caolan O'Connor from the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Committee. -MP

A much-needed space for local youth

ALEXANDRA Youth SPOT is coming soon. So, what's a youth spot? This exciting new space stands for Social (areas to hang out, be sheltered and safe), Playful (to play and participate in recreation, music, art), Open (Visible, safe and accessible), and Township (Central, close to shops and relevant).

The idea came about as the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group (GVSAG) were having one of their meetings. Committee members Misha and Kerry suggested that they try and develop something for young people in Alexandra and surrounds which would promote greater resilience and build better mental health within the youth.

As the GVSAG have identified that some key influences for good mental health includes connection, inclusion, respect, fun and valuing everyone, a team of volunteers decided to commit to putting together a regular gathering place and activities based at the Embassy of Ideas in Alexandra and including holiday excursions and offer some great opportunities to young people aged 12 to 18 years old.

Jacky Gilbee, founder and president of GVSAG said, "One committee can't do this on their own. It's collaborative. It's going to happen."

This idea couldn't have come about without the generosity of help and financial

backing from community organisations such as Embassy of Ideas, Foundation Murrindindi and the Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod committee.

This commitment to supporting local young people has created a program that will operate over the next six months during which time there is a hope to attract and retain participants and leaders.

The long term aim is for the Youth SPOT to continue, driven by young people and the Alexandra community. More volunteers will need to be recruited to undertake training in the Victorian Child Safe Standards and to work with the team. ChildSafe Australia is used for training and all leaders hold a Working with Children Check and a demonstrated history of rapport with and safety around children and young people.

Are you a young person between the age of 12 and 18? Or a parent or carer for people in this age group? Or a community member committed to our young people? You are invited to the Alexandra Youth SPOT for a free barbecue to meet a team of volunteers keen to listen to your ideas for fortnightly Friday gatherings and holiday activities on Friday, July 19 at the Embassy of Ideas from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. If getting home is an issue transport can be arranged with parental permission.

POLICE REPORT

DURING the school holidays, police are conducting numerous road safety checks, including breath tests, intercepts, and registration and licence checks, particularly on people on their way to the snow.

POLICE are also asking people to be mindful that additional traffic is travelling through the shire due to the snow seasons, and to be patient on the roads. Police are also working with council to ensure that travellers are parking correctly in our towns.

Ban on engineered stone

THE Victorian Government is banning the use of engineered stone from July this year, protecting Victorian workers from deadly silicosis.

The science is clear: working with engineered stone can be a death sentence. That is why the Victorian Government is taking nation leading action to ban the product, so no more young Victorian families are torn apart for the sake of a kitchen benchtop.

From July 1, work involving the manufacturing, supply, processing or installation of engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs has been banned.

An exception to the ban will apply if the work involves the removal, repair or modification of engineered stone products

installed before July 1. This work will be subject to existing control requirements for engineered stone and additional high-risk crystalline silica work regulations.

Victoria has led the way to prevent disease and support injured workers over the last five years, establishing Australia's only dedicated public hospital occupational respiratory clinic through a partnership between WorkSafe and The Alfred.

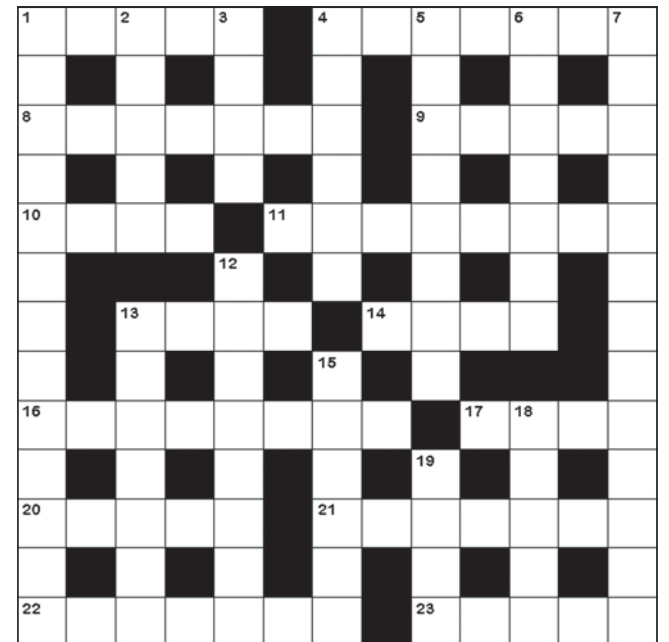
WorkSafe inspectors will be ensuring duty holders are adhering to the new regulations and any attempt to intentionally avoid the ban will be subject to strong enforcement action.

More information can be found at worksafe.vic.gov.au/crystalline-silica

Crossword

ACROSS

1. A very dark black.
4. Having spots or patches of colour.
8. A plan or proposal.
9. Narrow roads.
10. A ritual practice.
11. Finally gave in.
13. A movement of the ocean.
14. Refuse to obey.
16. Fiddles with.
17. Lemon rind used for flavouring.
20. A large expanse of sea.
21. Having the power of speech.
22. Be under the impression.
23. One's own generation.



DOWN

1. Having faith in magic or chance.
2. An upward push.
3. Made it last as long as possible.
4. Fuss around.
5. Stole some small items.
6. Drawn out and tedious.
7. Unfavourable circumstances.
12. Proof of one's behaviour.
13. People who serve at tables.
15. Composition written for six performers.
18. Person banished from their country.
19. A complete failure.

Word Search

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

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|--------------|-----------|
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| DEBRIS | POLLUTION |
| ENTANGLE | RECYCLE |
| ENVIRONMENT | REUSE |
| MARINE | STRAWS |
| MICROPLASTIC | TOXIC |

Cryptogram

Aboriginal names

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
20				2				7

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				9				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		1					

$$\frac{A}{18} \frac{O}{20} \frac{A}{15} \frac{O}{9} \frac{A}{21} \frac{A}{23} \frac{A}{20} : \frac{A}{20}$$

$$\frac{E}{26} \frac{A}{2} \frac{U}{20} \frac{I}{18} \frac{U}{7} \frac{U}{22} \frac{I}{1} \frac{U}{10}$$

$$\frac{I}{4} \frac{E}{7} \frac{I}{2} \frac{E}{8}$$

Math Square

9	x	5	+		48
-		x		+	
	-		+		5
-		-		-	
	-		-		-5
-3		-2		-1	

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9. Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

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Burdindi, a racehorse from Murrindindi

ALL the way back in the 1950s, a racehorse by the name of 'Burdindi' captured the hearts of Murrindindi Shire locals.

"Burdindi got his name from a combination of Burberry (his sire) and Murrindindi."

The horse began competing in races as early as 1950, with thousands of newspaper mentions surrounding his races.

In 1951, the horse took second place to 'Gay Carnival' at Caulfield in the Lillimur Two-Year-Old Second Division.

"Burdindi, in taking second placing, gave a promising performance because he fought back strongly when challenged by Gay Carnival and was beaten by the narrowest of margins," an article in the *Daily Mirror* reads.

'Burdindi' evidently was not a perfect horse, but he was a local one. In 1952, he severely discombobulated his trainer by winning a race at Flemington very unexpectedly.

"Caulfield trainer, Jim Bedford, had so little regard for Burdindi's chance in the First Chesterfield Handicap at Flemington, today, that he went to Adelaide. But Burdindi confounded his trainer and punters by streaming down the outside rail in the straight six to score comfortably from Usage and Golden Pippin.

"There weren't many winners over Burdindi's success except bookmakers who quoted him freely at 20/1 at barrier rise. Golden Pippin made most of the running, but a furlong from home Usage went to the front only to be swamped by Burdindi with a brilliant finishing effort," an article from *Truth* reads.

An article in *The Age* from July 1953 tells the story of 'Burdindi' winning the Lawn Handicap at Flemington, and the excitement it generated in locals.

"Saturday was a big day for residents of Murrindindi, a little town about 60 miles from Melbourne, near Yea. Probably most excited were about 20 employees of the local saw mill.

"And they all had good reason to be happy. Mr C Bock, who owns the saw mill, told them all to back his gelding Burdindi, 25/1 winner of the Lawn Handicap at Flemington.

"Mr Bock said he had won about £1500 and that many hundreds of pounds would return in the pockets of Murrindindi residents.

"'Burdindi is such a favourite in Murrindindi that even the school children ask me how the gelding is galloping on the tracks,' Mr Bock said."

Almost a year later, and *The Sun* printed an article titled 'Burdindi Improves'. In it, the recent poor form of 'Burdindi' is compared to another win at Flemington.

"Burdindi racing alone down the grandstand side, showed great improvement to win the six furlongs Lancaster Handicap at Flemington today. Burdindi beat Tommy's Gift by a length with Inner and Scullion dead-heating for third, two lengths away.

"Burdindi's recent form has been poor. He won the MRC Victoria Handicap (seven furlongs) here on April 17, but has failed four times since.

"Burdindi has always shown an inclination to 'hang out' around a turn. The outside or grandstand rail today prevented him from reverting to his usual practice," the article reads.

The mentioned win in the MRC Victoria Handicap was a good victory, where "Burdindi, who was near last entering the straight, joined the leaders, who were spread across the track, 50 yards from the post and won the Victoria Handicap by a length."

By the mid-1950s, 'Burdindi' was starting to fade. A common name in horse racing for over five years, his mentions in articles were ranking him lower and lower down the finishing order at various races. One can only imagine the number of races that he competed in during his career. He vanishes from mention around 1956.

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R	I	T	E	R	E	L	E	N	T	E	D
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U	R	C	E	O	L	E					
S	U	S	P	E	C	T	P	E	E	R	S

CRYPTOGRAM

TARONGA: A BEAUTIFUL VIEW

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

9	x	5	+	3	48
-		x		+	
4	-	1	+	2	5
-		-		-	
8	-	7	-	6	-5
-3		-2		-1	

Classifieds

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

Recognising rural health stars

NOMINATIONS are now open for the second *National Rural and Remote Health Awards* which pay tribute to exceptional professionals and organisations that have significantly contributed to improving rural and remote health across Australia.

Rural Health Pro Manager, Jessica Rostas, is encouraging communities to get behind their rural and remote health workers by nominating today.

“Nominating for the *National Rural and Remote Health Awards* is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of individuals and organisations committed to the wellbeing of rural and remote communities”, Jessica said.

Entries for the awards may be peer, organisation, patient or self nominated and there are 10 award categories open for nomination. The awards aim to celebrate and support health professionals who serve remote and rural communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Australia.

Last year, the inaugural awards attracted more than 200 nominations with the 2024 awards aiming to build on this success and encourage the overall enhancement of rural and remote health.

Nominations close Monday, July 8 and the Awards ceremony will be held at the National Press Club in Canberra on November 6. To nominate visit ruralhealthpro.org/s/awards/nominate

The life of Archibald Thom

ARCHIBALD Thom had a significant impact on the naming of a number of places around Victoria, including the township of Eildon and the Melbourne suburb of Ivanhoe most famously.

Thom was baptised on April 6, 1787, in the Scottish town of Eddlestone. He left for Tasmania, then Van Diemen's Land, somewhere around 1823.

In 1829 he was living in Launceston, and on July 23, 1829, he married Elizabeth Stewart at St Johns Church.

The pair had three children while still in Tasmania, a daughter, Margaret, born June 8, 1830; a son, Alexander, born June 6, 1832; and another daughter, Jane, born June 3, 1835.

The family left Launceston on July 28, 1837, on the ship *Siren*, bound for Port Phillip. Now on the mainland, Archibald Thom purchased around 100 acres along the north side of the Yarra River in 1839, just east of Darebin Creek.

In 1840 he tried to sell the land, with the newspaper advertisement listing the property as 'Ivanhoe', possibly inspired by the novel by Sir Walter Scott (a fellow Scottish man). This property name inspired the Melbourne suburb of Ivanhoe.

By May 1845, Thom had acquired 7000 acres of land just east of Yea. This property he called Eglinton, and on it he ran somewhere around 3000 sheep. The Eglinton Cutting lookout takes inspiration from Thom's property name.

“Archibald Thom. Name of Run: Eglintoun. Estimated area: 7000 acres. Estimated grazing capabilities: 3000 sheep. Bounded on the S by the River Goulburn; on the W and N by a range separating it from Messrs. Garde and Perrot's run, known as Cathkin, and also from that of John Brock, know as Millar's Ponds; on the SE by a creek dividing it from Mount Pleasant run, and taking its rise in the said range and emptying into the River Goulburn,” an extract from the *Port Phillip Government Gazette* reads.

He later sold this land in 1848.

Instead, Archibald Thom bought 9600 acres just east of Alexandra. The property's first owner, Dr James Dickson, named the land 'Dickson's Run', but Thom renamed the place when he moved in, to 'Eildon'. His inspiration was drawn from the Eildon Hills in Scotland, near his birthplace of Eddlestone.

The property of 'Eildon' stretched from the current-day Gilmores Bridge to the modern township of Eildon, with the homestead somewhere in the vicinity of Point Hill. It was this property that inspired the name for the Eildon township further down the line.

Archibald Thom died on January 21, 1862, at the age of 74, a few days after being thrown from his gig and suffering a head injury.



Classified information

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DEATH NOTICES

ROBINSON (Nee Morris), Audrey Elaine -
Born 10/10/1930 -
20/06/2024.
Loving sister of Joyce. Much loved sister in law of David. Fond auntie of Mark, Robyn, Lee, Donna and Timothy.
Rest in Peace.

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MEETINGS

MURRINDINDI EAST U3A, Annual General Meeting and election of Office Bearers to be held on Monday, July 15 at 10.30am at the Alexandra Bowling Club, 4 Paynes Avenue, Alexandra followed by guest speaker David Roberts and a light lunch. All welcome.

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



BOARD MEMBER

Expression of Interest

Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home (DUGNH), located in Eildon, seeks interested parties to join the Board of Management. DUGNH operates as an Incorporated Association. The Board of Management's role is to set the strategic direction of the organisation and work effectively with senior management to ensure high quality care.

As a skills-based Board, we are seeking Expressions of Interest from people with a clinical background in disciplines, such as, medicine, nursing or allied health. Interested parties would ideally have knowledge of or an understanding of the aged care environment

If you believe you will be able to offer your expertise on a voluntary basis, please contact the Corporate Services Manager, Donna Walsh, via email: darlingford@dughn.com. General information about Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home is available via our website dughn.com.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

CREDITORS, next of kin and others having claims against the estate of any of the undermentioned deceased persons are required to send particulars of their claims to **STATE TRUSTEES LIMITED** ABN 68 064 593 148, of 1 McNab Avenue, Footscray, Victoria, 3011, the personal representative, on or before **28 August 2024**, after which date State Trustees Limited may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which State Trustees Limited then has notice.

MORROW, Geoffrey Alan, also known as Geoffrey Morrow and G A Morrow, late of 2233 Maroondah Hwy, BUXTON, VIC 3711, deceased, who died on 28 June 2011. **19 June 2024.**

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Adult men make up more than half of injury hospitalisations

THIS story contains information some readers may find distressing as it refers to data about self harm and deaths by suicide.

ADULT Australian men made up more than half of both injury hospitalisations and emergency department injury presentations during 2021–22, new Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows.

Injuries affecting men in Australia: A closer look, examines injuries in adult men aged 19 and over in 2021–22, as well as 10 year trends since 2012–13. It explores injury rates and comparisons across demographic groups and geographical areas, identifying the main cause of injuries in each group. It also identifies specific causes that predominantly affect men compared to women and examines three causes in more detail which includes, contact with objects, transport and intentional self harm.

In 2021–22, there were almost 239,000 injury hospitalisations among adult men, this

is 54 per cent of all injury hospitalisations, and 8700 injury related deaths. Falls (84,139) caused the most injury hospitalisations overall in 2021–22, comprising 35 per cent of all injury hospitalisations. This was followed by contacts with objects (19 per cent) and transport (14 per cent).

Rates of injury hospitalisations during 2021–22 were highest among men aged 75 and over (5600 per 100,000) than any other age group.

“Among adults in Australia in 2021–22, men represented 56 per cent of all injury presentations to emergency departments (671,000 cases),” AIHW spokesperson Dr Sarah Ahmed said.

“This higher rate of injury can be explained at least in part by the fact that men are more likely to engage in risk taking behaviours and activities.”

Rates of injury presentations to emergency departments were highest among men aged 19

to 24 than in any other age group (10,600 per 100,000), followed by men aged 75 and over (7800) and men aged 25 to 44 (nearly 7400).

Contact with objects caused between 36,600 and 48,900 hospitalisations yearly over the past decade. Age-standardised rates increased from 428 per 100,000 in 2012–13 to 485 in 2021–22. Injuries caused by objects primarily occurred while working and were most frequent in the home.

“Contact with tools and machinery represented 30 per cent of injuries from contact with objects in men, and was also the leading cause of object related injury in men aged 45 and over,” Dr Ahmed said.

“Men were over three times more likely than women to be hospitalised for injuries caused by contact with objects.”

About 80 per cent of all object related injury hospitalisations comprised contact with tools and machinery, contact with knives, glass and other sharp objects and contact with blunt

objects such as doors, walls, trees, rocks and sporting equipment.

The three most common cause of injury hospitalisation due to tools and machinery involved contact with non powered hand tools (2119), powered saw (2087) and powered grinder (1972).

“The number of injury hospitalisations caused by falls has steadily increased since 2012–13. The age standardised rate increased from 673 to 790 injury hospitalisations per 100,000 adult men,” Dr Ahmed said.

Among adult men, those aged 19 to 24 were most likely to be hospitalised for transport injuries. For motorcycle riders, the injury rate was highest in men aged 19 to 24 (close to 200 injuries per 100,000) and decreased with age.

Intentional self-harm caused over 7500 hospitalisations in adult men in 2021–22 and 2300 deaths. It represented the seventh leading cause of injury hospitalisation in men and the second most common cause of injury death behind falls (3013).

If you or someone you know needs mental health assistance you can contact Lifeline on 131 114, MenLine Australia on 1300 789 978, or Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636.

Rubicon River damming successfully challenged by Taungurung LWC

THE Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC) has successfully challenged a licence that would have permitted the Rubicon River to be dammed and diverted.

In a statement, Taungurung LWC said, “This river is of deep cultural significance to Taungurung people, history, Ancestors and the inherent obligation to care for Taungurung Country.”

At a preliminary hearing at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), TLaWC challenged the legality of plans by Rubicon Station Pty Ltd to divert the Rubicon River by almost 600 metres through a private property near hydroelectric plant.

On behalf of TLaWC, lawyers from public interest legal group Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) argued at VCAT in early June that the licence granted by Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) for the scheme was unlawful.

On Thursday, June 20, the VCAT tribunal agreed with TLaWC that Goulburn Murray Water’s decision to grant the licence to construct works was unlawful.

TLaWC had also argued the licence would deviate the river, and that the water authority did not have the power to do this. The tribunal did not accept this argument.

The tribunal set aside the licence to construct the work and sent it back to the decision-maker for reconsideration in accordance with the Water Act.

The VCAT decision is a partial win, because the works can’t proceed lawfully until the decision-maker considers all licence applications.

This may not be the end of the matter. It remains open to the decision-maker to reconsider the matter and issue new licences.



TLaWC Chief Executive Matthew Burns. -S

TLaWC continues to insist that no licences for these works and diversion should be issued, maintaining that these actions would seriously compromise the environmental and cultural values of this waterway.

TLaWC is seeking financial support in protecting this beautiful location and the life of the flora and fauna that inhabit this area, commencing a fundraising campaign to cover travel costs, filing fees, and expert costs.

Funding this important case will safeguard the future of this river and Taungurung cultural heritage. Donations can be made via taungurung.com.au/donation

TLaWC CEO Matthew Burns said, “The Rubicon River and the adjacent Camp Jungai are part of a broader cultural landscape on Taungurung Country that have deep connections with our history, Ancestors and our obligations to care for Country.”

“Taungurung people have cared for this Country for 1000 generations, dedicated to keeping the waterways healthy and full.”

“TLaWC prioritises protecting, enhancing and restoring habitats for local flora and fauna, which does not align with the serious interference in a public river for personal use.”

“The decision on June 20 to set aside the licence for reconsideration is a partial win for the Taungurung Nation, but the fight is not over.”

“Our focus is to maintain Taungurung cultural values, limit negative environmental impacts and improve ecological conditions; advocating for healthy waterways to ensure everyone can enjoy these beautiful spaces on Taungurung Country for a thousand generations to come.”

When contacted about the issue, GMW Water Delivery Services general manager Warren Blyth said, “Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) welcomes the ruling from VCAT and will reconsider the matter in accordance with the provisions of the *Water Act 1989 (Vic)*.”

Owner of Rubicon Station Pty Ltd, Greg Salter, said, “The proposal obtained all necessary approvals from Goulburn Murray Water, including an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan for which TLaWC participated in. TLaWC did not lodge any objection to the proposal while it was under consideration by GMW. VCAT remitted the application back to Goulburn Murray Water on an administrative technicality. I expect GMW to promptly re-make its decision free from any technical issues.”

“TLaWC’s use of ‘lawfare’ to defeat a legitimate green energy proposal should be ringing alarm bells for farmers right across the state who are just trying to do the right thing by the environment. Urgent legislative change is needed to allow these small types of green energy proposals to proceed without years sitting in VCAT”.

Influenza in the community

INFLUENZA is on the rise in the community. Now is the time to be vigilant with practicing good hygiene to protect yourself and others.

At the time of writing, in the past 12 months Murrindindi Shire has reported 124 cases of influenza, 68 of those cases are from 2024 and we aren’t even half way through winter.

Dr Will Cross, Public Health Physician at Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit states, “Influenza is a notifiable illness. While it is typical to see an increase in flu notifications during this time, levels of notifications have been particularly high this year compared with what would normally be expected.

“To protect yourself and your loved ones, we strongly recommend practicing good hygiene, such as regular handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes. Most importantly, we urge everyone to get vaccinated against the flu, as immunisation remains the most effective way to prevent severe illness and control the spread of the virus. Stay informed, stay safe, and get your flu shot as soon as possible,” Dr Cross said.

If you do get the flu, the best things you can do to look after yourself is rest as you will probably feel weak and tired until your temperature returns to normal which usually

take about three days. Drink plenty of fluids as extra fluids are needed to replace those lost because of the fever, and its vital to stay at home to prevent spread in the community. Stay away from places such as work, school and other places where you have contact with others while you are contagious. The period during which adults are contagious is usually around three to five days from when the first symptoms appear, and it can be up to seven days in younger children.

If you have any concerns about your condition seek advice from your healthcare provider.

Rinse and repeat

A MAN has been charged after an alleged spate of thefts and burglaries across the Thornton, Mansfield, Eildon, Jamieson and Broadford areas over the past few months.

It is alleged the man stole from multiple businesses between February and June, mainly targeting coin-operated washing machines.

The first incident occurred at a caravan park on Goulburn Valley Highway, Thornton on February 9 at about 4am. It is alleged the man accessed the coin trays on washing machines and allegedly stole approximately \$200 in coins.

The following month, a man allegedly attempted to gain entry to a coin machine at a business on Highbett Street on March 8 at about 7am. He was unsuccessful and left the premises.

A further incident occurred at a caravan park on Goulburn Valley Highway, Eildon on April 1 at about 11.50pm. It is alleged the man entered the laundry area where he forced access to locked coin-operated washers and dryers, stealing between \$100 and \$200 in coins.

A second business was targeted in the same month, with a Jamieson caravan park on Grey Street being targeted on April 10 at about 4.20am. It is alleged a man forced open coin-operated washing machines and stole between \$100 and \$200 in coins.

A fifth incident occurred at High Street in Broadford on May 15 at about 5pm. A man allegedly entered the business and used a tool to force open locks on vending and washing machines, stealing about \$1100 in contents.

The Highbett Street Mansfield business was hit again on May 20 about 2.55am. It is alleged a man used a jemmy bar to force open a coin vending machine but was unsuccessful and left the premises.

Another caravan park was struck on May 28 at about 5pm. It is alleged a man entered the caravan park on Eildon Road, Eildon. While inside, he allegedly forced open locks to coin-operated machines and damaged locks to other machines on the premises, stealing approximately \$1000 in coins.

The last incident occurred at Highbett Street in Mansfield where the business was struck for a third time. It is alleged that on June 13 at about 3.30am, a man forced open a coin machine at the premises with a jemmy bar, stealing approximately \$200 worth of coins before leaving and stealing \$50 in coins from a toilet block nearby.

A 42-year-old man has been charged with attempted burglary, theft (three), attempted theft and possess drug of dependence (two).

He has been bailed to appear before Shepparton Magistrates’ Court on October 28.

SPORT

New research around gender balance in sport

THE Victorian Government is boosting the number of women working in sport with new research showing women in leadership roles within Victorian sporting organisations has doubled since 2017.

Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, recently announced the release of research by Deakin University into Victoria's *Balance the Board* policy, with findings showing the policy has led to a significant increase in women on Victorian sporting boards.

"This new research shows the many benefits that come from gender balance in the leadership of sporting organisations.

"We are focused on breaking down barriers for women and girls in sport, ensuring that everyone in Victoria has the opportunity to take part in the sports they love," Ms Spence said.

Ray Steyger, president of the Alexandra Football and Netball Club, discussed the role of women within the club.

"As far as the committee is concerned, we've got roughly 20 people on the committee, and off the top of my head, roughly half of those are women. We've got quite a good balance there. In among the junior football coaches we've got a female coach there, which is good. She's also on the club committee.

"On the executives, we have a president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, and secretary, so five people there. Two of those are female. It's not something that I've necessarily sat down and thought about, but when you actually do have a look, I'm quite pleased to say that we do have a good representation across the board as far as females are concerned," Ray said.

The findings also showed that these organisations had improved board performance, culture and decision making.

"When more women were part of boards, our research found women directors brought a focus to crucial skills including governance, strategic planning, risk management and sport knowledge to their positions. Thus, board processes became more professionalised in response to increasing more women on boards,"

Deakin University's Professor Pamm Phillips said.

Since 2019, *Balance the Board* has required a minimum of 40 per cent representation of women on boards at state sport and recreation organisations in order for them to be eligible for community sport funding.

In 2017, only 45 per cent of funded state sporting bodies had at least 40 per cent women directors, however since the policy came into effect at least 90 per cent of funded state sporting bodies have had at least 40 per cent women directors.

The research also found board processes improve when steps are taken to attract and retain women and that, women on boards improve the experience for other women directors.

Director of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, Sarah Styles, spoke to the benefits of women being more involved in sport.

"Women bring a wealth of skills and experience to sporting boards, which in turn elevates the important role these organisations have in the governance and decision making of sport and active recreation in Victoria," Ms Styles said.

Little Athletics Victoria achieved a gender balanced board through constitutional change and having more women in leadership roles. They now have five women on a board of eight members, and these changes have contributed to a positive cultural change right across the organization.

"Some positive impacts from having a gender balanced board include contributing to a positive shift in culture, and having more women in leadership roles across all levels of our sport," CEO of Little Athletics Victoria, Anthony McIntosh, said.

The research also showed that 80 per cent of Victorian sporting organisations said the policy was important in driving women's leadership on their boards.

For more information on *Balance the Board* and the new research visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au

Great games before mid winter break

by Rhonda Carpenter

SEVERE frosts and fog set the scene for Round 10 but after the mist cleared stillness ensured great matches in Euroa and Mansfield last Monday week.

Benalla travelled to Euroa for their contest against Seven Creeks, Euroa hosted Wappan and Moglonemby met Terip. With players holidaying overseas, ill or injured, team captains found fill ins and avoided forfeits. The home sides were challenged by their visitors this round.

Delatite's Natalie Bergsma, Jo O'Brien, Deb Mims, Kassy Thomas and Loretta Armitage welcomed Creighton's Creek in Mansfield.

Creighton's Creek Marja Wondergem, Gayle Furphy, Ros Doxey and Erica Mercer had all the answers though when challenged by a determined Delatite side and took the ten points 6/48 sets to 0/19.

Moglonemby's Judy Sands, Deb Seach, Mary Kelly and Lyn Johnston enjoyed laughter and lengthy rallies in their match but Terip's Cindy Hayes, Frances Lawrence, Bec Lyttle and Phoebe McDermid found a way to win every set and move further ahead on the top of the ladder. Terip six to 48 defeated Moglonemby 0 to 14.

Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Deb Siggers were convincing in all their sets after lengthy rallies against Seven Creeks Rowena Ellis, Kelly Hill, Kerry Hewlett and Genevieve Calvert.

Benalla won six to 48 to Seven Creeks 0 to 16.

Euroa's Julie Harrington, Ruth Nolan, Lyn Pierce, Triona King and Mary Dewis took a while to warm up against Wappan but took both openers with smart courtcraft and superb placement.

Jenny Bell and Rhonda Carpenter had raced to an early lead, but Julie and Ruth steadied and used their experience to take the set eight to six. Ruth and Triona won their set eight to two, while the double Jenny combination, Smith and Bell, combined superbly to win theirs eight to one. The final sets went eight to four each way with Euroa winning the day 4/37 to 2/31.

The competition pauses for the mid winter break over the school holidays and returns on Monday, July 15 with matches in Euroa, Terip, Benalla and Mansfield.

Ladder: Terip 71, Euroa 64, Benalla 58, Mansfield 47, Wappan 45, Creighton's Creek 42, Seven Creeks 40, Moglonemby 29 and Delatite 4.

Ness monsters damp conditions

by Phil Armstrong

PROMISING junior member Oakley Ness proved the damp conditions were no barrier on Saturday's stableford event at Yea Golf Club. Ness (30) recorded 41 points to be a clear winner from another new member Chris Keogh (42) who posted a very impressive 38 points in difficult conditions.

Both Oakley and Chris will be receiving a trim from the GA handicapper, but a great result for new club members who are both practicing hard to become better golfers.

Phil Armstrong (21) filled third place with a respectable 36 points. Oakley Ness scooped the pool also taking out nearest the pin on the 10th. Grandfather Murray Ness made it a quinella for the family taking home the club award.

The Ladies had six starters but the alternative of coffee at Marmalades proved far more attractive after nine holes. Jan Wealands and Karen Sangster were leading the way with 13 points apiece when the option of Marmalades appeared far more attractive. But well done to all those that braved the elements.

Last Wednesday saw much better weather conditions with Brendan "Trout" Chenhall (14) posting 35 points to win the stableford event. Gary Pollard (13) pipped Alan Pell (15) for second with 34 points on countback.

There was no nearest the pin on the 18th and Graeme Bryant won the club award.



Junior member Oakley Ness very pleased with his winnings. -S

Round 11 squash results



James W lines up a ball on the wall against Andrew -S

by Kristelle Leary

Cods versus Redfins

JARED versus Daniel W: Both players had some great shots and rallies. But in the end Daniel was just too good for Jared, taking all four games and the match. 78 to 45.

Jim versus John: A very close and intense game. John's impressive drop shots made all the difference and won him the match by a mere three points. 52 to 49.

Trout versus Yabbies

Mick versus Lee: A seesawing game. Lee held the advantage at the halfway point by utilising placement and tight shots down the wall. Mick clawed his way back by chasing the ball down to win by two points. 51 to 49

Oli versus Pep: Oli started strong, with a good lead at the halfway point. Pep came from behind, taking the last two games to claim bragging rights. 65 to 60.

James (fill in) versus Andrew: Amazing rallies and two tied games. James managed to sneak ahead to claim victory. 67 to 62.

Crunchie versus Jaffas

Sam (fill in) versus Blake: Coming straight from his other game, Sam was warmed up and ready to go. Continuing his good form for the night, Sam triumphed yet again. 70 to 43.

Michael H versus Michael M: Coming back from a short hiatus, Michael M was back with a vengeance. Both players had amazing boasts, but despite Michael M's amazing dive at the end, Michael H won the match. 71 to 45.

Smarties versus Kitkats

Sam versus Travis: Drawing in the first game, Travis's deep drives gave him an edge. However, this was outmatched by Sam's short shot placement. Sam surpassed his opponent to steal the show. 64 to 47.

Jack (fill in) versus Daniel W (fill in): The match stared off well with both players holding their own. Going into game three Jack was ahead by eight points. Game three had barely started when an unfortunate injury put a stop to the game and left us with no winner.

Stuart versus Phil: The match started close until Phil took it to a new level in game three with a 15 point lead. Stuart couldn't claw it back, leaving the win to Phil. 71 to 49.

Yea junior football matches against Tabilk

Football Under nine

by Michael Beer

ROUND 10 at Yea was much friendlier than the bitter cold of last week and it showed with some great performances against Tabilk under nines.

It is pleasing for the team to see what they are practicing at training being implemented in the game. The kicking, tackling, handballs in tight pack situations and voice on the ground was really impressive. And someone who showed all of these traits so well for the 'Player of the Day' was Imogen Kiss, with strong attack on the ball, marking and kicking. Another great example to the team was Jake Wertz for the 'Encouragement award', who

showed such great skills and running to space.

Under 12

Yea Tigers 6.7.43 defeated Tabilk Blues 6.2.38

by Emma Heughan

THE Tigers had no bench and five under 10s to make up the 18 this week. It looked like a tentative start but they didn't let Tabilk get away, trailing an assailable 10 points at half time.

In the second, the tackling picked up, with Sienna Duncan showing her dominance, and the whole team started to assert themselves. Yea kicked three goals three in the third with the visitors being scoreless for that quarter.

It was a nerve-racking final quarter with Tabilk in reach.

They had a chance to even the score with just a few minutes to go and oh, what a relief when they had to settle for a behind.

Key highlights were the way Cooper Baynes stuck on his opponent in the midfield, Angus always being in the right place and chasing, lightning speed from Archie and Ashton and some good defending in the back line.

Jack and Evan showed great leadership, in spite of Evan clearly being made a target for Tabilk.

Awards: Duncan's Paint and Panel Red Hot Go: Charlie Grant; Marmalades Player of the Week: Angus McGillivray; Just Great Coffee Award: Cooper Baynes.

Under 14

Yea 1.0 - 6 defeated by Tabilk 19.9 - 123

by Max McAlpin

WITH Happy scouting for new talent in the United States, Al Tait stepped up to coach the team. A great turnout for the last game before the break. The Tigers

gave it their all but, in the end, couldn't pull through. Tabilk started strong with 11 quick goals in the first half. Emotions were high and the team came out strong in the third quarter restricting Tabilk to only two goals.

A great show of team chemistry delivered the ball to Darby at full forward

who kicked true with good support from the crowd behind the goals. In the end Tabilk were too good. The team did well to hold their heads high and were well supported by the coach.

Goals: Darby Tait one; Awards: Louis McAlpin, Darby Tait.



Under nine award winners I Kiss and J Wertz. -S



Under 14 award winners L McAlpin and D Tait. -S



Under 12 award winners A McGilvray, C Baynes, and C Grant. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football - Seniors

Healesville	275.74	7
Warburton Millgrove	146.83	8
Seville	217.41	7
Belgrave	191.36	6
Alexandra	183.99	6
Yea	94.18	5
Yarra Glen	45.91	2
Yarra Junction	37.45	1
Powelltown	21.73	1

Football - Reserves

Belgrave	551.66	10
Seville	370.56	9
Healesville	366.39	7
Warburton Millgrove	204.30	6
Yea	85.74	4
Alexandra	48.44	4
Powelltown	30.32	2
Yarra Junction	38.01	1
Yarra Glen	14.93	0

Football - Senior Women

Warburton-Wesburn	38 pts	9
Monbulk	36 pts	9
Woori Yallock	32 pts	7
Emerald	26 pts	6
Wandin	22 pts	5
Officer	18 pts	4
Seville	4 pts	1
Thomton Eildon	0 pts	0

Football - Under 16

Euroa	70.00	7
Moama	60.00	6
Seymour	44.44	4
Alexandra	22.22	2
Yea	12.50	1
Broadford	10.00	1

Football - Under 14

Broadford	414.29	7
Wandong	259.33	5
Tabilk	167.88	5
Alexandra	123.43	3
Seymour	97.92	2
Yea	4.75	0

Netball - A Grade

Seville	163.61	9
Warburton Millgrove	176.70	8
Yarra Glen	147.78	6
Healesville	81.87	4
Belgrave	98.97	3
Alexandra	69.42	4
Yarra Junction	78.09	3
Yea	48.70	1

Netball - B Grade

Seville	44 pts	10
Belgrave	32 pts	7
Warburton Millgrove	32 pts	7
Yarra Glen	32 pts	6
Yea	24 pts	5
Healesville	20 pts	3
Yarra Junction	16 pts	3
Powelltown	12 pts	2
Alexandra	8 pts	1

Netball - C Grade

Yarra Glen	44 pts	9
Seville	40 pts	9
Warburton Millgrove	32 pts	7
Belgrave	28 pts	6
Yea	24 pts	5
Yarra Junction	20 pts	4
Healesville	12 pts	1
Alexandra	8 pts	1
Powelltown	8 pts	1

Netball - D Grade

Seville	100.00	8
Alexandra	66.66	6
Belgrave	66.66	6
Yarra Glen	62.50	5
Warburton Millgrove	55.55	5
Yea	22.22	2
Yarra Junction	11.11	1
Powelltown	0	0

Football - Under 12

Wandong	36 pts	9
Alexandra	28 pts	7
Broadford	20 pts	5
Seymour	16 pts	4
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	8 pts	2
St Marys	0 pts	0

The Chronicle Sport



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Yea defeat Alexandra in changing conditions

Netball

Under 15

Yea 42 defeated Alexandra Black 9

by Kelly Harris

IT was a bit of “two seasons” in one day with winter rain sprinkles and icy wind during the first two quarters followed by spring-like sunshine in the second half. This caused a little bit of fine tuning of skills for the Yea Tigers rematch against Alexandra Black Rebels.

The Tigers did not underestimate their opponents after only winning by one goal last week. They were however lucky to have back two of their senior team members for the rematch. Elsie anchored the team in the first quarter as centre and was hard at the ball until she was knocked down and Sophie was subbed in for the last few minutes.

Maya, Marley and Ella in attacking helped get the Tigers off to a good start with five goals while Jemma, Sienna and Flynn in defence kept the Rebels goalless in this quarter. The Tigers knew that they had to put the foot down a bit more going into the second and gain some momentum.

Ella and Sophie proved to be a great partnership in the goals with Hannah and Flynn the outside supports. The attacking group managed to score 15 goals in this quarter while Lily in wing defence and Sienna and Elsie defending the goals meant that the Rebels were kept to two goals. Half time score was Yea 17 to Alexandra Black 2.

Jemma was full of energy in centre after coming off the bench and provided support down both ends of the court. Marley and Maya were back in shooting and had found some rhythm, scoring 10 goals for the quarter. Despite gallant efforts in defence from Ella, Sophie and Lily, this was the Rebels’ best scoring quarter and they managed to get six goals. Scores at three-quarter time were Yea 27 to Alexandra Black 8.

Elsie stepped back into centre for the last quarter and was solid with accurate passing and defending. Sophie and Maya started in the goals and made a solid effort in pushing the Tigers further forward. Hannah came into the goal shooting position for the second half of this quarter and with support from Sophie in the ring, Jemma in wing attack and Marley in centre they managed to ensure that this was the best goal scoring quarter for the Tigers.

Sienna and Flynn were relentless in defending the ring with Lily’s support in wing defence and as a result Alexandra Black only scored one goal for the quarter. It was a spirited and determined effort by the Tigers and yet again each player showed their versatility and great team spirit.

Award winners: Marmalade’s Player of the Week: Elsie Bree; Yarra Valley Gas ‘Most Improved’: Ella Harris.



The Yea junior netball under 13 award winners. -S



The under 15 award winners from Yea’s weekend netball games. -S



The under 11 award winners. -S

Gauging interest for Yea women’s football team

THE Yea Football Club is looking for new members to create a women’s open age football team for 2025.

Any women aged between 14 and 60 are welcome to register their interest with the club, regardless of whether they have played before or not. All experience levels are welcome.

There will be a meet and greet at the Yea Recreation Reserve on Wednesday July 17, at 5.30pm, where interested people can meet the club and have a chat.

The club is just gauging interest at this stage, to see whether entering a team next year is feasible. For further information, contact Zoe on 0488 123 543.