

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

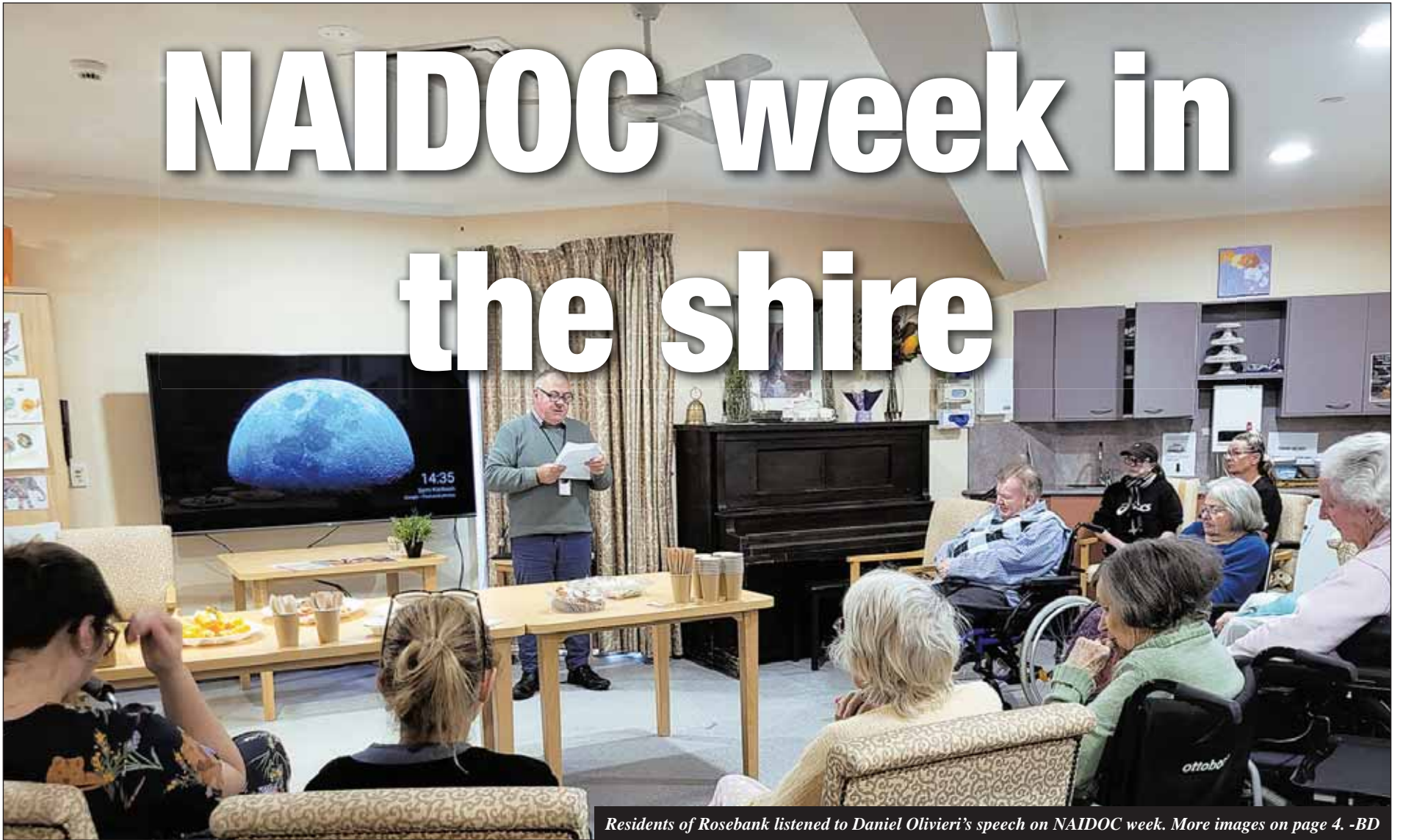
With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, July 17, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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NAIDOC week in the shire



Residents of Rosebank listened to Daniel Olivieri's speech on NAIDOC week. More images on page 4. -BD

ALEXANDRA District Health (ADH) held their NAIDOC week celebrations last Friday, with the presentation of a new commissioned artwork by Taungurung Elder, Aunty Joanne Honeysett.

The artwork represents the ADH health service as the centre, with all the local communities surrounding it and the lines

drawn between the circles showing their journey to get to ADH.

Presentations were made by ADH CEO, Jane Poxon, ADH Director of Quality and Risk and the person who organised the commission, Natasha Bowater, and Aunty Joanne Honeysett, who welcomed the assembled locals to Country.

Following the presentation, the assembled crowd enjoyed a morning tea and a chat.

In the west of the shire, Rosebank aged care held their own afternoon tea to celebrate NAIDOC week.

Director of Clinical Operations, Daniel Olivieri, gave a speech to the residents

about NAIDOC week, and then food was shared around.

In the reception area of the Yea District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) a Taungurung flag is now hung. It was unveiled this week for NAIDOC week, but will remain in the position after celebrations have concluded.

Council defends farm rate rises

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has released information which they say highlights the ineffectiveness of the Victorian Government's local government rate capping policy to protect farmers. They say that recently announced council budgets demonstrating farmers continue to get the raw end of the rating stick.

Murrindindi Shire Council is included in the top 10 rate increases for farmers in 2024/25. In Murrindindi, the average residential rate increase came in at -2.22 per cent, but the average farm rate increase came in at 8.38 per cent.

VFF President Emma Germano said rate capping had failed to stop some regional councils forcing rate increases onto farms.

"Councils are failing to use their differential rating power to equalise rate increases across different classes of land. The burden of funding local government is shifting more and more onto the agricultural sector.

"These tax hikes show that Victoria's rate capping system is broken."

"It is completely unfair to have rate increases exorbitantly high for one group of ratepayers but have no increase or even a reduction in rates for others."

VFF analysis of all council budgets for the year 2024/2025 shows 19 regional councils increasing farm rates above the state government rate cap of 2.75 per cent, while residential rate increases remain at or below the cap.

"Unfair rate increases take money away from farmers investing in their businesses, growing more food and fibre and providing local employment opportunities. Ultimately this either drives up the cost of food or puts farmers out of business or both."

The VFF's recent submission to the Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Local Government funding and services recommended the government require councils to apply the rate cap to each class of land.

"The annual cap determined by the Essential Service Commission should be applied to residential, farming, commercial, industrial and any other differential land category."

"Increasing farmland values have no bearing on farmers ability to pay exorbitant rates bills."

"The fundamental principle should be that as the value of farmland increases, the differential rate is adjusted to reduce the rate

in the dollar so that the rate burden paid by the farm sector remains stable. This approach has been applied with great effect in the Ararat Rural City Council for the past seven years."

"This system would ensure a fairer distribution of the rate burden between land types. It would also put pressure on councils to look for greater efficiencies and cost savings rather than passing costs onto particular land types," Ms Germano concluded.

When contacted about the farm rates, Murrindindi Shire Council responded that they, "actively use differential rates to address equity issues that may arise from the setting of council rates derived from property valuations.

"Differential rates are where councils set different rates in the dollar for different categories of rateable land. For example, farm land, residential property or commercial/industrial properties will each pay a higher or lower rate in the dollar.

"The differential rate for Rural One Properties (farming land) in Murrindindi Shire is 70 per cent of the residential rate.

"It is likely that the reported increase in rates for the farming sector is related to the land valuation process conducted by the

Valuer-General Victoria and reflects increases in land values for agricultural properties. In Murrindindi Shire, the estimated total value of Rural One land has increased by 4.66 per cent whereas Residential went down by 4.44 per cent year-on-year.

"Councils do not have jurisdiction in setting or changing this valuation-based system, which ensures that rate contributions are proportionate to the current capital-improved values of the properties.

"The cost of goods and services has increased across the board, putting financial pressure on families, farmers and businesses, including councils. We continually strive for greater efficiencies cost savings within our operations to minimise the impact that rates has on all ratepayers. Our goal is to ensure that the rate burden is distributed equitably while maintaining the financial sustainability of council and the quality of services we provide to our community.

"We appreciate the contributions of our farming community and we are committed to continue supporting their sustainability and growth, through favourable rates differential for farm zones."

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000



Letters to the Editor

Proposed Yea kindergarten

IT'S wonderful that Yea is getting a new kinder, to be constructed on the Primary School grounds, but it should be moved west, to Anne Street, as this area is hardly utilised, unproductive and needs beautification.

However, the current location proposed by the State's Victorian School Building Authority/VSBA is at the south-east corner of the school at Mary Street. This area is used by the primary school children twice a day, every day of the school year. It is an important play-based learning space in a bush setting that encourages discovery, creativity, imaginative play and social interaction. The children incorporate natural elements in their play: they climb trees, jump over and run along logs and up and down slopes, make and bake bricks, build cubbies, dig gardens and moats, and engage in other play-based learning. This free play helps them problem-solve and work collaboratively and contributes to their mental health and wellbeing. Under the current proposal this space will be abolished.

Construction at the Mary Street site also necessitates the felling of seven trees, all the trees in the proposed location. Replacing these stately mature trees with saplings elsewhere is unsatisfactory; surely their retention is far preferable. By contrast, there are no significant trees at the little-used Anne Street site.

The current proposed location impacts residents, particularly myself. The change in my visual amenity will be total and will consist of a carpark and hard built environment along the entire length of my home's frontage. I purchased the property three years ago and have spent all my limited funds repairing this modest 96-year-old home. I would not have

purchased the property had I known of the current proposal. By contrast, the Anne Street site will have little to no impact on residents.

The modular construction method used by the VSBA, where the building is constructed offsite and craned onto location, is in effect a fast-track process and under the extreme time constraints work may commence before residents concerns have been genuinely considered and resolved. This may be another instance of decisions being made in the city with the regions bearing the consequences.

Edith (surname withheld by request), Yea

Eildon real estate

THERE was extreme controversy concerning the sale of 25 Park Avenue, Eildon, by a Wangaratta real estate agent. The explanation given was that local agents were not needing possible fallout by being a party to this type of auction.

The advertisement in the *Herald* regarding the property were extremely misleading and false, hence, no sale. Possibly not even an offer. Well, well, well. Food for thought?

Jenny Fryszen, Eildon

Missing the target

MARCUS Elgin's objections to the Fera proposed wind farm correctly noted the Victorian wind drought in May, which significantly reduced wind generation in Victoria for many days. Only a six per cent drop in wind and photovoltaic energy was reported across the country for May (source: as referenced in the original letter), highlighting how across Australia's vast land mass somewhere the wind will be blowing, and the sun will shine.

The economics of renewable electricity generation, as seen on the OpenNEM website,

are consistently cheaper than fossil fuelled generators. As more renewable installations and downstream storage (battery, pumped hydro, and 'green' hydrogen) come online, renewable energy will dominate our energy market.

Objecting to wind farms based on cost and reliability does not stand up to scrutiny in the long term. The only valid objections to wind farm installations are the loss of significant natural amenities and/or long-term environmental damage, reinforcing the importance of embracing renewable energy in our rapidly changing climate.

Ray Wynn, Devils River

Wind farm consultation

FERA have announced that the next Community Consultation session will be held on Saturday, July 27, at the Alexandra Secondary College Hall from 10am to noon.

We encourage anyone who has an interest in Fera's proposal to attend this meeting.

Fera are continuing to try and lease land for their high voltage transmission line and have said that they hope to decide on a route 'soon'. Landowners are not obliged to sign up to Fera's project, you can simply say no and Fera have no right to access your property.

The results of our recent community survey are available to view or download from the web site srrcg.com/survey. As with the first survey, an overwhelming majority of responses are not in favour of Fera's proposal, and similarly most responders had not heard of the project from Fera, only via word of mouth or third parties such as ourselves.

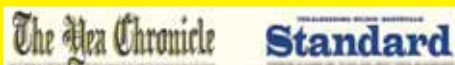
Darryl Otzen, Strathbogie Responsible Renewables Community Group

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.



CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Vasu
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au
[\(Milly\)reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:(Milly)reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au)

SPORTS

sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au
43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

PUBLISHERS



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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.34	falling	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.54	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.41pm Mon	0.76	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.25pm Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.00am Mon	0.69	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	12.03pm Mon	0.97	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.57	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.66	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.18	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.37	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.53	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.53am Mon	1.21		

**ISSUED AT 12.46PM ON MONDAY, 15 JULY 2024



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.



Weekly Weather

July 17 - July 23, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	4	14	Wednesday	6	14
Thursday	4	10	Thursday	4	11
Friday	6	10	Friday	6	11
Saturday	3	11	Saturday	3	12
Sunday	6	10	Sunday	7	11
Monday	5	12	Monday	5	12
Tuesday	5	12	Tuesday	5	13



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	45.5mm
Eildon (AWS)	22mm
Flowerdale	22mm
Jamieson	17mm
Kinglake	59mm
Lake Eildon	22mm
Mansfield	17mm
Taggerty	31mm
Yarck	16mm
Yea	10mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.49m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	86.6%
Metres below full supply	3.41m
Daily inflow	2000ML
Release	1800ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	69%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

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

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

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

NAIDOC Week celebrated in Yea



Hailey Docking, YDMH's Health Promotion Officer, with resident George McLatchie (96). The Taungurung flag is in the background. -BD



Boomerang decorating was hosted by Murrindindi Shire Council at the Yea Library last Thursday for NAIDOC week. -S



There was a large turnout in Mansfield for the Forests for the People Rally on Saturday, July 13. The protesters included some from Murrindindi Shire. It relates to the proposed national park. A report from the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) is due by the end of July. -Andrew Bottomley, Rubicon Photography

Foundation Murrindindi's Connecting Communities small grant program now open

FOUNDATION Murrindindi's Connecting Communities Grant round opened on Monday, July 15 and will close on Sunday, August 11.

The Connecting Communities grants program aims to support the Foundation's vision by enabling local groups to undertake community led projects and initiatives that help communities to stay connected and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, foster community connections, increase social participation and inclusion and enhance a sense of belonging.

The grant program aims to increase community participation, access, connection and inclusion; Empower community to identify and respond to local issues and priorities, and foster community spirit.

Individual grants of up to \$500 will be considered.

For more information and to apply, visit foundationmurrindindi.org.au/connecting-communities-small-grant-program

Council's intention to lease land at 20 North Street, Yea

COUNCIL is seeking expressions of interest from commercial businesses to occupy the majority of the site at 20 North Street, Yea, for purposes allowable under Industrial One Zone in line with the Murrindindi Planning Scheme.

The site was previously used as one of council's operations depots and comprises several depot buildings, sheds and open storage or parking spaces.

It is envisioned that the use of the site will support local economic development and jobs growth.

Community members can provide feedback on this lease proposal by emailing customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by calling Amanda Vogt, Manager of Governance and Risk on 5772 0333.

Businesses and commercial operators interested in leasing the site are encouraged to participate in the Expression of Interest (EOI) process through council's e-tendering portal.

EOIs are due at 3pm on Friday, August 2.

Council provides further information on Housing Support Program

IT was announced last week that Murrindindi Shire Council had secured a \$968,000 grant from the Federal Government's Housing Support Program to facilitate the planning of additional housing in the eastern area of Alexandra.

The funding, the highest awarded to any Victorian council, will allow council to assist in unlocking housing through the creation of the Alexandra East Development Plan (AEDP) and Service Plan.

This innovative approach to unlock housing land aims to streamline the process for landowners by removing cost barriers and providing certainty of planning requirements. The AEDP will speed up the approval process, making it easier to develop in this area, and will help address short and medium-term housing needs.

The completion of the AEDP and service planning overlays will help create a well-planned community with the right mix of houses, roads, and services that complement the character of Alexandra, now and for future generations. The plan will create a vibrant community in Alexandra and showcase best practice in planning, storm water management and climate resilience. It will open up more land for housing, which will help address the shortage of supply, offer diversity in housing and attract more residents, families and workers to Alexandra.

Council's Planning and Compliance Portfolio Councillor Eric Lording said, "The AEDP will lower development costs and accelerate approvals in Murrindindi Shire. This streamlined approach should make housing available to buyers and renters sooner. It will also support local services and tourism. Bringing in more families, especially those with parents who work, will keep the community strong. This is important for helping our local schools, the hospital, and businesses thrive."

Missing Healesville man

POLICE are appealing for public assistance to help locate missing Healesville man Benjamin.

The 43 year old was last in contact with a family member via social media on Thursday, July 11 in the morning, however has not been seen or heard from since.

He is described as being Caucasian in appearance, of medium build with short blond hair and blue eyes.

Police and family have concerns for Benjamin's welfare as his disappearance is out of character.

Benjamin is known to frequent the Lake Eildon, Narbethong, Reefton and Mount Donna Buang areas.

He is travelling in a blue 2005 Ford Falcon, with registration UYX 152.

Police have released an image of Benjamin in the hope that someone can provide information on his current whereabouts.

William Matthews Funerals



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Large Chapel with after service facilities for refreshments

Before you decide call Bill, Narelle, Beau or Melanie Matthews

9739 6868



SEYMOUR WIND FARM

The Fera Team invites you to the community consultation for an update on the project.

Date and Location: Alexandra Secondary College Hall, Alexandra

Saturday 27th July 10:00am – 12:00pm



www.feraaustralia.com.au

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Out & About



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

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Gobur Racecourse and Recreation Reserve AGM will be held at 7.30pm at the reserve hall. For information or nomination forms contact Warren 0408 365 819.

FRIDAY, JULY 19

Alexandra Senior Citizens will hold their AGM at 1pm at the Bayley Street clubrooms. All welcome.

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 20

Holmesglen Eildon Celebration Dinner. Warm up your winter with a festive feast. For details and bookings phone 5774 2631. Mulled wine, roast turkey, glazed ham, Yorkshire pud and more, from 6.30pm.

Yea residents and community members are invited to help your community plan for and recover from emergencies. Lunch will be provided, event is from 11am-1pm at Yea Community house. During lunch you will learn how to prepare for and recover from emergencies; local risk and hazards; skills training and more. RSVP to Murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leap or call 5772 0333.

SUNDAY, JULY 21

The next Alexandra RSL meeting will be held at noon followed by a light lunch.

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.

The Ferra team invites you to a community consultation for an update on the Seymour Wind Farm. Alexandra Secondary College hall 10am-noon.

TUESDAY, JULY 30

Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting the Great Victorian Bike ride in November this year. Anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to attending the information session. Alexandra: 5.30-6.30pm Alexandra Shire Hall. For more information contact events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Murrindindi Shire Council is hosting the Great Victorian Bike ride in November this year. Anyone interested in finding out more is encouraged to attending the information session. Marysville: 5.30-6.30pm Marysville Community Centre - Lake View Room. For more information contact events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333.

Speak with council at an open community meeting in Taggerty. 5pm-7pm. Taggerty Hall. You will have five minutes allocated to talk directly with councillors about issues that are important to you. Prior registration is not required. For further information contact governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or phone 5772 0333.

Feeling flat this winter?

WE are in the thick of winter now, not an end in sight, just yet. Your mood may start to plummet with the lack of sunshine and living in a constant fog. This can be a real thing for some, its called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

SAD is a mood disorder that has a seasonal pattern, the most common season this depression can occur is winter. The symptoms can include a lack of energy, sleeping too much, over eating and craving carbohydrates, gaining weight, and loosing interest in activities that you usually enjoy.

SAD can also occur in the spring and summer months, this is known as summer pattern SAD or summer depression. Summer depression is less common than the general winter SAD.

According to Beyond Blue SAD is thought to be related to the variation in light exposure in different seasons, its usually diagnosed after you've had the same symptoms during winter for at least two years. It is believed that it may be caused by changes to the body's circadian rhythm.

SAD is well documented in medical literature, particularly in the northern latitudes, it is still noted SAD is very rare in Australia and its more likely to affect people in countries with shorter days and longer periods of darkness.

In the Southern Hemisphere it seems there is a lack of documentation and research on SAD, and since there is such a vast range of climates across Australia it's difficult to get a general consensus of SAD. Despite this, it still is documented in Australia, but due to lack of research it's not common and widely promoted in Australian health.

The National Institute of Mental Health describe some general treatment options for SAD, most common are light therapy, psychotherapy, antidepressants, and Vitamin D.

Since the 1980s, light therapy has been one of the most used treatment options for SAD. It exposes people with SAD to bright light to supplement the light they have missed with the diminished light in the winter months. This treatment includes the patient sitting in front of a very bright lightbox every day for up to 45 minutes and usually first thing in the morning for the whole season.

Psychotherapy can be used such as cognitive behavioural therapy to challenge ones thinking and behaviour patterns to give them coping strategies to deal with depressive thoughts and anxiety.

Antidepressants can be effective for SAD when used alone or in combination with talk therapy. Antidepressants work by changing how the brain produces or uses certain chemicals involved in mood or stress.

Vitamin D is another way you can help combat SAD, if you're not getting outside and getting Vitamin D due to the weather then a supplement can be effective, get advice from for your health care provider before you start any new supplements as it can interact with other medications.

Other self care methods that can be useful to get through the winter months is maintaining a healthy lifestyle with a good diet and regular exercise, as this can help with releasing those feel good endorphins to improve your mental health.

Taking time out to focus on activities you enjoy is another way to ensure your look after yourself. Talking to a trusted friend or family member can help you get your feelings out there, a problem shared is a problem halved.

Always speak to your gp or health care provider for advice if you are concerned for your health and wellbeing. You can also contact Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 131 114.

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

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

Great Vic Bike Ride coming to Murrindindi Shire

THE Great Vic Bike Ride will celebrate its 40th year with a historic journey across northeast Victoria from Saturday, November 23 to Sunday, December 1.

The Great Vic Bike Ride is Australia's biggest and most iconic bike riding holiday, offering three, five, and nine day ride options.

Each year, seasoned adventurers and new riders come together to share camaraderie, camping and cycling through some of the most scenic landscapes and towns of Victoria.

In 2024, the ride will begin in Wodonga and travel 501 km taking in the picturesque Victorian towns of Myrtleford, Wangaratta, Mansfield, Alexandra and Marysville, finishing in Healesville.

Murrindindi Shire Council is proud to be hosting the Great Vic Bike Ride in 2024 with overnight stops in Alexandra on Friday, November 29 and Marysville on Saturday, November 30. The ride will explore the hills and valleys of Victoria's High Country region and is expected to bring more than 2500 riders to the shire.

The Great Vic Bike Ride is an all included holiday that suits bicycle tourers, bike packers, adventure seekers, families, schools, and the nostalgic. This year's 40th anniversary ride will take riders on

quiet roads and scenic rail trails. It's worth crossing state borders for.

Community members and businesses interested in finding out more about the event and how to get involved are encouraged to attend one of Bicycle Network's two upcoming information sessions which include Alexandra Information Session on Tuesday July 30, from 5.30pm to 6.30pm at the Alexandra Shire Hall. On Wednesday, July 31 from 5.30pm to 6.30pm Marysville will have their information session at the Marysville Community Centre, Lake View Room.

For more information, visit bicyclenetwork.com.au or get in touch with Council's Economic Development team via email at events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by calling 5772 0333.

Council's Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said, "We are thrilled to welcome the Great Vic Bike Ride to Murrindindi Shire for its 40th anniversary. This event will showcase the stunning landscapes of our region while also bringing significant economic benefits to our local communities. Hosting over 2500 riders will boost local businesses and offer an opportunity for residents to engage with visitors. We look forward to celebrating this iconic event and its positive impact on our shire."

Motorcycle road safety forum coming to Yea in October

THE Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (MRAA) will be holding a public safety forum in Yea on October 12, to discuss the issues facing motorcyclists around Australia.

The forum is scheduled for the week before the Phillip Island Moto GP, in the hope that many interstate motorcyclists will attend on their way to the event.

Speaking with Dale Maggs, former Motorcycle Riders Association president, and now motorcycle liaison for MRAA, provided an interesting view into the issues that Australian, and Victorian, motorcyclists face.

Dale spoke to the importance of the forum and hosting it in Yea.

"In Yea it will be 50 years of the Motorcycle Riders Association's (MRA) establishment. We'll be speaking with riders, talking about motorcycle safety, and we'll also hopefully have representatives from Victoria Police. We've invited Glenn Weir to come along and talk to us about their new policing methods, and how they're trying hard to keep the road toll down with cars and motorcycles across the board, as well as pedestrians," Dale said.

"Yea is a good central spot in Victoria, and there is always a fair amount of road policing done in that district. It's a good central spot for riders to come up and be part of something that would probably prick their interest, if they want to have a say in things when it comes to motorcycling. What better place to do it than in the centre of Victoria?"

There are a number of issues that motorcycle riders in Victoria face, and Dale spoke about a lot of them. They will also be brought up at the road safety policy forum.

"We'll be looking at the whole gamut of things. We'll also be looking at the high cost of registration of a motorcycle and what increases have occurred over the last few years for motorcycles in general, and towards expenditures of all those bits and pieces that you need to keep safe on the road, like helmets, protective clothing, etcetera.

"We're also broadly talking about infrastructure, or the lack of maintenance on roads. Anything to raise in regard to safe motorcycling, and how we can achieve better goals and better outcomes for riders.

"At the present moment, there has been 35 deaths of motorcyclists in Victoria, on our roads. A lot of those can be attributed to different road conditions and also skill levels, etcetera. ... We have angry motorists, we have large potholes, and bad infrastructure unfortunately, due to budget constraints by the Victorian Government.

"The MRA, which was established in 1978, has been always proactive in looking at motorcycle issues, things that people probably aren't aware of. Let's look at proactive things that will help save motorcyclists, rather than things like the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) spending money on comedy festivals and stuff like that. Let's look at, why don't they put money into rural roads, or let's let new riders have discounts on safety goods, like good helmets or protective gear," Dale said.

"There's plenty of ways to achieve the goal, and these forums that we have talk about those, and we do invite those other agencies to come along and discuss their needs and some of the things that are troubling them.

"Broad discussion on ways to make drivers more aware of motorcyclists on the road around them, and how they contribute to roads being safer while in heavy traffic. A lot of the aspects for discussion will be around new technology that's out there.

"There's also a good discussion always had about how we can present ourselves within the community in the light that we believe we always shine in, which is helping the community. There's many motorcycle clubs and groups that create and foster good events for the community. ... We're all the same at the end of the day."

Dale also spoke about the scenarios that lead to the high motorcyclist road toll, and how the issues that create those scenarios need to be addressed.

"Currently we are at a rather high pinnacle when it comes to motorcycle deaths. Believe me when I say the community is in much pain when we hear of the death of a motorcyclist, because it affects the family, it affects everyone.

"What we've got to do is look at the reasons behind that, study greatly some of the causes and effects. It's all well and good to have a police member come out and say we're concerned about the rise but give us the statistics. Tell us what the actual statistics are, and why that's occurred.

"We know that Victoria has probably some of the worst roads in Australia. All we need to do is look at our neighbouring state of South Australia, which has a higher speed limit, and less potholes, and less motorcycle deaths. ... We know that two riders currently this year have died, and the reason being that they've hit serious potholes, now that should never happen. So what we can be doing better is probably putting a lot more into managing our road infrastructure maintenance.

"A lot of the things we don't hear about, and Victoria Police are quite aware of, is there is a fair amount of people travelling around on motorcycles that shouldn't be on motorcycles. They don't have licences, the bikes are unregistered.

"A lot of the deaths can be avoided if we can keep criminals from stealing vehicles and hitting motorcycles that are just riding along, doing their thing, going home from work, and maybe cleaned up by a youth offender. These are the things you don't hear about or see in the statistics. But they also contribute to the death rate of motorcyclists.

"These are the things that worry us, these are the things that we need to talk about in forums and talk with road safety partners like Victoria Police and the TAC," Dale said.

He concluded with some final thoughts on road safety.

"At the end of the day, we all want our family to come home. If you're out there in a car, be mindful of that motorcyclist that's

doing it hard, that doesn't have the protection around them like a car does, because at the end of the day, they're someone's kid, or sibling, or parent, and we want them all safe," Dale said.

More information about the Motorcycle Riders Association Australia and the work that they do can be found at mraa.net.au/

Slow down near schools

SCHOOL'S back this week and it's a timely reminder to slow down near schools to 40km per hour. These reduced speed limits are designed to keep kids safe by lowering the speed limit at peak times when children are travelling to and from school.

In most cases the speed limit during school speed zone times is 40km/h, this is when the original speed limit is less than 80km/h and the speed limit changes to 60km/h when the original speed limit is 80km/h or higher.

The speed limit and operating times will be clearly displayed on nearby signs.

School speed limits apply depending on the zone you're travelling in. The types of zones are permanent 40km/h zones and variable time based zones.

Time based school zones operate between 8 and 9.30am and 2.30 to 4pm, on weekdays during Victorian school terms, except for public holidays.

Agricultural show grants available

VICTORIAN agricultural and pastoral societies looking to improve their infrastructure or boost awareness and involvement in regional shows will get more support from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced the \$300,000 Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program is now open to applications ahead of the 2024/25 show season.

The program aims to support Agricultural and Pastoral Societies in projects that help stimulate community involvement in activities that promote agriculture.

Eligible organisations can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for infrastructure development and other business activities to celebrate Victoria's agricultural communities, industry and produce.

The grants can be used to upgrade or establish new facilities, enhance public amenities, improve essential infrastructure, improve business management activities, biosecurity planning and promote reporting of livestock movements.

Previous projects funded under the program include new animal yards, fencing, shade covers and lighting or upgrades to shearing pavilions, luncheon halls, public amenities and viewing stands.

Applications close on August 23. To learn more about the Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program or to apply today, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence said, "We are proud to keep supporting our Agricultural and Pastoral societies to put on their fantastic shows across Victoria that display the best of our agriculture industry.

"These societies are at the heart of our regional communities, and this initiative will help them to showcase agriculture to the many Victorians who love attending our rural shows."



YEА COMMUNITY LUNCH

Calling all Yea residents and community members! Do you want to help your community plan for and recover from emergencies?

No matter your experience, your local knowledge can help! Come along to a free community lunch to learn more and have your say.

Event details:

Saturday 20 July from 11.00 am – 1.00 pm
Yea Community House, 15 The Semi Circle, Yea

During the lunch, we'll be talking with you about:

- preparing for and recovering from emergencies
- local risks and hazards
- skills training
- identifying community priorities
- what to do in the first 72 hours of an emergency

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/leap to RSVP or call 5772 0333.

This initiative is part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, which aims to build on the resilience of local communities in emergency preparedness and response, through the development of a Local Emergency Action Plan.



This community event is part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, a joint initiative between Mansfield, Strathbogie and Murrindindi Shire Councils and is funded by the Australian Government.

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Contact our office on 03 5775 3170 to arrange an appointment with our Accountants:

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- Maxwell Church - B.Bus (Acc) CPA
 - Michele Reid - B.Bus (Acc) CA
 - Daniel Crane - B.Bus (Acc) CPA
 - Lisa Cressall - B.Com (Acc)
- Judith Duke - Adv Dip Acc Dip FP
- Charlene Mizzi - B.Bus (Acc) CA
 - Simone Milic - B.Com (Acc)

Mansfield 105-111 High Street PO Box 509 Tel 5775 3170

Alexandra 81 Grant Street Yea 82 High Street

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Dingo population to be assessed

WE all know the dingo species as being part of our great Australian history, alongside the much loved koala, and the kangaroo.

The National Museum of Australia states that while the dingo is an introduced species, it has been in Australia long enough to become a functional part of the natural ecological system as a top order predator.

The dingo is widely considered to have replaced the thylacine in that role and was held to be solely responsible for the disappearance of the thylacine on mainland Australia.

Dingoes are considered very significant for many first nations people, they are known in history as hunting dogs, companions and pets, guarding the camp at night and keeping away malevolent spirits.

Today, the dingo is slipping into the category of a wild dog but under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 and the Wildlife Act 1975 the dingo is identified as a threatened species, so where do they fit in when it comes to wild dog management?

Wild dogs are known to attack livestock, prey on native fauna, spread disease to humans and livestock. They are also known to threaten the genetic purity of dingo populations.

The Wild Dog Action Plan was introduced to handle the increasing number of wild dogs throughout the Australian mainland and the negative impacts that come along with their existence to primary production, social assets and environmental impacts.

In Victoria, Agriculture Victoria is responsible for administering the Victorian Fox and Wild Dog Bounty. According to an Agriculture Victoria spokesperson, "So far in 2024, a total of 207 wild dog body parts have been submitted from the east of the state.

"Every bounty participant is verbally asked whether they have complied with the terms and conditions and they must also sign a declaration".

To allow the control of dingoes where they threaten livestock, an order of council was made under the *Wildlife Act*, declaring the dingo as unprotected within a three kilometre buffer zone on public land in Eastern Victoria, and on most private land across the state.

Under the terms and conditions of the bounty program, participants can submit wild dog body parts providing they were collected from the wild dog control

area in east Victoria and in accordance with the dingo unprotection order. Agriculture Victoria does not conduct routine DNA testing of all wild dog body parts submitted.

The wild dog component of the bounty program only operates in the Wild Dog Control Area in the state's east and the wild dog component of the bounty program has ceased in north west Victoria in line with the changes made to the dingo unprotection order on March 14 this year due to the risk of localised extinction. There have been no changes to the fox component of the bounty in north west Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria reported that recent science indicated that what was previously thought of as a wild dog or dingo dog hybrid and now highly likely to be dingoes.

It is difficult to distinguish between a wild dog and a dingo without DNA testing, so how do we know the dogs presented within the Wild Dog and Fox Bounty aren't in fact a dingo when DNA testing is not conducted?

The recent scientific evidence on the dingo represents a significant change in the knowledge that underpins current policy and the regulatory framework for managing wild dogs and dingoes in Victoria. This information has validated a much needed review and for government to agree a future policy for dingo conservation and management in Victoria.

The review will be finalised by October 2024 and will consider the new research alongside the rights and cultural obligations of Traditional Owners, and the need to balance the conservation of the dingo with the need to minimise the impacts from predation on graziers, including alternatives to lethal control.

The review will include consultation with Traditional Owners, graziers and peak bodies representing the affected farming community and conservation interests on the review of the dingo conservation and predation management.

The review will also include a comprehensive assessment of the dingo conservation status, including an assessment of dingo population and distribution across Victoria.

The continuation of the wild dog component of the bounty beyond October 1 will be determined in line with the outcomes of the Victorian Dingo Conservation Review.

Undergraduate study while working at school

THE Victorian Government is launching a new pilot program to allow more than 300 dedicated education support staff and Koorie education support officers to gain teaching qualifications while working in schools.

The program will enable rural and regional education support staff, who are employed in various roles such as teaching assistants, integration aides, and cultural liaison officers, to pursue a full teaching qualification and help combat the Australia-wide issue of teacher shortages.

Minister for Education, Ben Carroll, launched the \$13.9 million initiative last Thursday to trial undergraduate-level employment-based teaching degrees to upskill staff working in Victorian government secondary and specialist schools.

"The Allan Labor Government is proud to invest \$13.9 million, so our outstanding education support staff have the support they need to pursue rewarding teaching careers," Mr Carroll said.

"The undergraduate level employment-based teaching degree initiative opens up teaching to a broader pool of diverse candidates by supporting staff to gain teaching qualifications while working in our schools.

"The initiative is yet another example of the Victorian Government removing financial and geographical barriers so that our schools can recruit the next generation of dedicated teachers."

The innovative and tailored program, set to start in 2025, will be delivered by Federation University Australia and La Trobe University and will support people in studying and qualifying as teachers while undertaking paid employment.

Participants will be supported with Department of Education-funded living expenses scholarships, relocation incentives, and mentoring support. In the final years of the program, they will be eligible to start teaching as paraprofessionals.

Both universities' programs will focus on supporting participation by education support staff in rural and regional Victoria. At the same time, La Trobe University's program will encourage participation from Koorie education support officers.

The new undergraduate-level employment-based teaching degrees will further expand Victoria's nation-leading suite of employment-based teaching degrees known as the *Teach Today* and *Teach Tomorrow* programs, currently available to postgraduate students.



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Over time we are living longer

THE Australian Institute of Health and Welfare have just recently released *Australia's Health 2024: In brief*, presenting a summary of Australia's health.

Interestingly the brief showed over the last 100 years, life expectancy in Australia has increased considerably and deaths from infectious diseases have declined. However, for the first time in over 50 years, an infectious disease is in the top five causes of death, which is COVID-19.

The report stated that a boy born in between 2020-2022 can expect to live to 81.2 years and females born in that time can expect to live on average to 85.3 years. This is an increase of around 40 per cent since the start of the 20th century.

In the Murrindindi Shire snapshot that was released in October 2023 it stated that the life expectancy at birth for males was 80.27 years and was lower than the state average of 81.9 years, but for females it was 85.82 which was slightly higher than the state average of 85.55 years.

In Australia the leading cause of death was Coronary Heart Disease, Dementia, COVID-19, Cerebrovascular disease, and Lung Cancer. Over the last 100 years, deaths from infectious diseases have declined, while deaths from chronic conditions, such as cancers and dementia, have increased. Today, chronic conditions are an ongoing cause of substantial ill health, disability and premature death in Australia.

Since the start of the 20th century life expectancy has increased quite substantially as it used to be the average age was around 55 years. This life expectancy increase is due to social conditions, advances in medical technology (such as mass immunisation and antibiotics) and health promotion and protection activities.

Crime Stoppers aiming to reduce youth violence

CRIME Stoppers Victoria is working with young Victorians to combat increased rates of youth violence by asking them to 'Share If You Care' in a new campaign.

According to Crime Statistics Data, there has been an increase in serious and violent offenses committed by individuals aged 14 to 17. A whopping 6433 crimes against a person were recorded in the past 12 months to the end of March 2024.

This initiative, developed in collaboration with students from Lyndhurst Secondary College, is encouraging young Victorians to take action and change the narrative surrounding violence. The new campaign is asking young people to share footage on their phones with Crime Stoppers, while staying unknown.

Crime Stoppers will further empower young people in the fight against crime by taking the campaign to schools. Resources will be available for students, parents and guardians to help with the tough conversations regarding youth violence.

Crime Stoppers Victoria Chief Executive Stella Smith wants young people to know, "It doesn't matter who you are, the question is, who are you protecting by not sharing what you know? Crime Stoppers gives you a way to speak up without fear."

"Young people can easily put in an online report and share images and videos they already have on their phones. Online reporting also allows them to share content they may be seeing on social media" Ms Smith said.

Sixty six per cent of reports to Crime Stoppers Victoria are made online which shows people want to make a difference and be a part of the solution.

Ms Smith explained, "Providing information to Crime Stoppers can make a huge difference and possibly change the outcome of an investigation, all while staying unknown."

Report information anonymously to Crime Stoppers at crimestoppersvic.com.au or on 1800 333 000.

For the first time since the mid 1990s, life expectancy in Australia decreased in 2020-2022 (by 0.1 years for males and females from 2019-2021). This is likely to be due to the increase in deaths seen in 2022 of which close to half were due to COVID-19 and the remainder due to increases in other causes. Greater declines in life expectancy were seen in the United States (from 78.9 in 2019 to 76.4 in 2021) and the United Kingdom (from 81.3 in 2019 to 80.4 in 2020). Australia's life expectancy in 2020-2022 is higher than it

was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic by 0.3 years for males and females (life expectancy in 2017 to 2019 was 80.9 for males and 85.0 for females).

Thankfully, over the last century there has been a significant decrease in child and infant mortality rates which also contributes to the overall life expectancy rate. Death rates for children under five declined by 97 per cent between 1907 and 2022. It was documented that among children aged one to

14, land transport accidents were the leading cause of death. Suicide was the most common cause of death among people aged 15 to 44, while chronic diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, and cancer were common causes of death among people aged 45 and over. Dementia was the most common cause of death among people aged 85 years and over.

To view more on Australian's Health visit aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/australias-health-2024-in-brief/summary



Electric vehicles could be used to add power to the grid during a blackout. -Ominae

Could electric vehicles provide emergency power?

THE future holds a great deal of potential around energy and electricity. Electric vehicles (EVs) are a small fragment of that potential, transporting people from point A to point B at half the carbon emissions of fossil fuel vehicles.

Murrindindi Shire Council recently announced the introduction of an EV to their own fleet, which will be driven by council workers as a company car. The car is to be charged at a council-owned station in Alexandra, with the station running off renewable energy.

But if people were to not charge their car using renewable energy, and rather plugged into the electricity grid, what possibilities does this create?

There is potential for EVs to provide a back-up for the electricity grid, should an extreme scenario knock out power production. They could do this by discharging their stored charge back into the grid, providing emergency power for thousands of homes.

Over the past half a decade, there has been an ongoing Realising Electric Vehicle-to-grid Services (REVS) project, involving Bjorn Sturmberg, a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian National University.

Mr Sturmberg shared some of his findings in an article published by *The Conversation*, titled 'When transmission lines fell, 16 electric vehicles fed power into the grid. It showed electric vehicles can provide the backup Australia needs'.

The average electric vehicle battery stores over two days' worth of electricity, and the recent study showed that 16 vehicles discharging provided 107kW to the grid. Extrapolating from that data shows that 105,000 vehicles discharging at the same rate could cover the typical spare capacity in the New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory system.

The study involved programming EV chargers to recognise when the national grid loses power generation, and trigger the discharging of short bursts of power from connected EVs.

In the case of February 13 this year, when a storm triggered the disconnection of Loy Yang coal power station and two wind farms, 16 government-owned EVs were plugged into chargers. Of these, four were charging, while 12 were idle.

They all immediately switched to discharging, which is where the figure of 107kW of electricity support to the grid comes from. They discharged for 10 minutes, which aligns with the electricity market rules, and prevents the vehicles from being fully drained.

The REVS study found a number of hurdles that need to be overcome before EVs backing-up the national grid is a viable option.

The default programming of EVs is to start charging once their batteries drop below a certain level. In the case of the study, nine vehicles started charging immediately after discharging into the grid for 10 minutes, because their batteries had fallen below the acceptable level.

It was also found that some of the government-owned vehicles continued to charge through the event, drawing power from the grid that could have potentially been better utilised in an emergency.

It brings up the question of overloading the grid when EVs become more commonplace. How will charging be dealt with, as thousands of electric vehicles plug in to charge at 5.30pm, once people arrive home from their 9 to 5 job? How will such a scenario not overload the national grid on a daily basis?

Experts seem to be responding to this question by pointing to variation in charging time, and that people will not

charge their EVs all at once, but rather, charging will be spread throughout the day and night, allowing the grid to cope. This answer relies on people not all charging at one time and being conscientious about their power usage.

Origin's head of e-mobility, Chau Le, told *The Sydney Morning Herald* that smart charging could make all the difference with regard to charging EVs and the strain on the grid.

"Without incentives and regulatory policies that encourage smart charging, that's what's going to happen when mass-market adoption takes off; you're going to have all these EVs that are being charged that cannot be enrolled onto smart-charging programs or cannot be managed.

"We do expect ... that will cause constraints on the network and the wholesale market, if it's not managed properly," Ms Le said.

Smart charging allows operators to monitor and manage the energy consumption of EVs, which could allow for designated charging times and less energy-heavy charging. Someone charging their EV overnight could set-up a low energy consumption charge that takes longer to boost the battery, but also places less strain on the grid.

While EVs cut carbon emissions by half compared to their petrol-powered counterparts, they also increase household electricity usage by up to 50 per cent. Smart charging would just allow for the dispersion of energy consumption. The amount of electricity consumed would remain the same.

It's all well and good to consider the benefits of EVs backing-up the grid, but how will the grid back-up EVs? These are questions that need to be considered and answered moving forward, as Australia delves deeper into electric vehicle technology.



Andrew Brown from Alexandra. -S

Andrew Brown

AFTER years of working in the health industry, Andrew Brown decided to change careers and became a Project Firefighter with Forest Fire Management Victoria.

Based in Alexandra, he enjoys the variety of the role and working in the forest environment.

“I appreciated all the training and mentoring from experienced firefighters

and learning new skills such as chainsaw use and four wheel driving.”

“I love learning about the history of the forests as well as local flora and fauna.”

If you are interested in a career change, applications are currently open for Project Firefighters across 18 locations in the region, including Alexandra and Marysville in Murrindindi District.



Ben Thomas from Marysville. -S

Ben Thomas

BEN Thomas joined the team at Marysville as a Project Firefighter when he was 18. Five years on, he’s working as a Forest and Fire Operations Officer Technical Lead.

“I was uncertain about what I wanted to do after finishing year 12, so I thought I’d just give it a try,” Ben said.

“Marysville is a fantastic place to work; we’re like a family here. I love the forest we look after around Marysville, it’s some of the most beautiful and diverse in the state.”

Ben said he enjoys the diversity of the role and opportunities to continually upskill.

“One day you could be track clearing with a chainsaw and the next fighting a forest fire.”

Ben encourages anyone who loves the outdoors and physical work to give it a go.

“If you enjoy working in a team, you’ll love being a Project Firefighter.”

Firefighter recruitment

DIVERSE and exciting career opportunities with Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) are currently available for those with a passion for the outdoors, learning new skills and keeping Victorian communities safer.

FFMVic’s annual recruitment drive for seasonal firefighters ahead of this year’s bushfire season runs from July 4 to July 28.

Applications are now open for project firefighter roles across 18 locations in the Hume region including Alexandra, Marysville, Toolangi, Broadford, Kinglake, Benalla, Mansfield, Wangaratta, Nathalia, Shepparton, Beechworth, Bright, Ovens, Mount Beauty, Corryong, Eskdale and Tallangatta.

Hume Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy, said successful applicants would boost Victoria’s firefighting and land

management capacity in the lead up to summer and the peak fire season.

“Being a project firefighter can bring a sense of purpose and personal achievement knowing your efforts contribute to protecting Victorian communities and the environment,” Mr Kennedy said.

“Recruits will have opportunities to train and work alongside FFMVic’s permanent firefighting staff, responding to emergencies such as bushfires and floods.

“They will also work in land management and help reduce bushfire risk through planned burning, weed control, maintaining the public land road network and strategic fuel breaks.

“Planned burning and emergency response deployments can occur anywhere across the state, providing opportunities to travel and work in different locations.

“In previous seasons, some recruits have also been deployed to support firefighting efforts across Australia and internationally. The new firefighters will be part of a team of close to 1800 frontline personnel and 1200 accredited incident management staff this bushfire season,” Mr Kennedy said.

FFMVic is committed to a diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the Victorian community. As part of its ongoing commitment to support meaningful careers for current and future First Nations staff, designated positions are available.

Applications close July 28 and employment occurs between October and May, with some variation depending on seasonal requirements.

For information and to apply, visit jobs.careers.vic.gov.au/pff or call 136 186.

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August 2- Yea Saleyards

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September 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**

October 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

November 1 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

Get in touch

Email: saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



Phone 0419 722 570

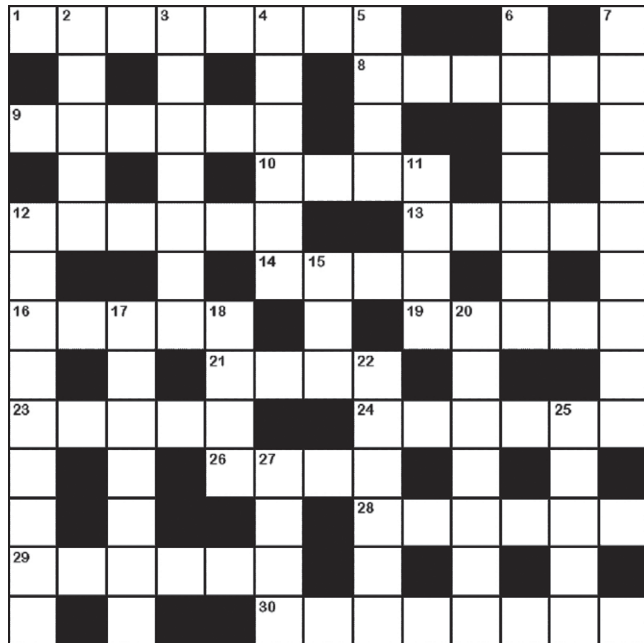
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 11

Crossword

ACROSS

1. One who hunts to kill.
8. Like a bear.
9. Gracefully slim.
10. Dignified manner.
12. Social instability.
13. The opposing faction.
14. Pulled out a gun.
16. Enthusiastic approval.
19. Prevailing fashion.
21. A motor car.
23. Organic compound used in plastics.
24. Vessel used for wine.
26. Notch made by a saw.
28. Contaminated with bacteria.
29. Slightly arched surface.
30. Deposition takers.



DOWN

2. Torn apart.
3. State of indecision.
4. Poured in torrents.
5. Country bumpkin.
6. Melt down.
7. Chewy ovoid sweet.
11. Current events.
12. Deviance.
15. Drench.
17. Gracefully slender.
18. Armoured combat vehicle.
20. Hunter of fur.
22. A compensating equivalent.
25. Declare one's view.
27. Work for.

Word Search

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

Native plants

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| BANKSIA | GREVILLEA |
| BOTTLEBRUSH | GUM |
| CYCAD | HAKEA |
| DIANELLA | PANDOREA |
| FIRANGIPANI | WARATAH |
| FLAMEPEA | WATTLE |

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words and their meanings

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
23				21				8

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
				24				

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		26					

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$$\frac{E}{21} \frac{U}{26} \frac{A}{15} \frac{A}{23} \frac{\quad}{22} \frac{\quad}{20} \frac{\quad}{10} \frac{U}{13} \frac{\quad}{26} \frac{\quad}{19}$$

Math Square

	x		+		7
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	-		+		6
-		-		+	
5	+	6	÷		8
-12		6		13	

Fill in the missing numbers.

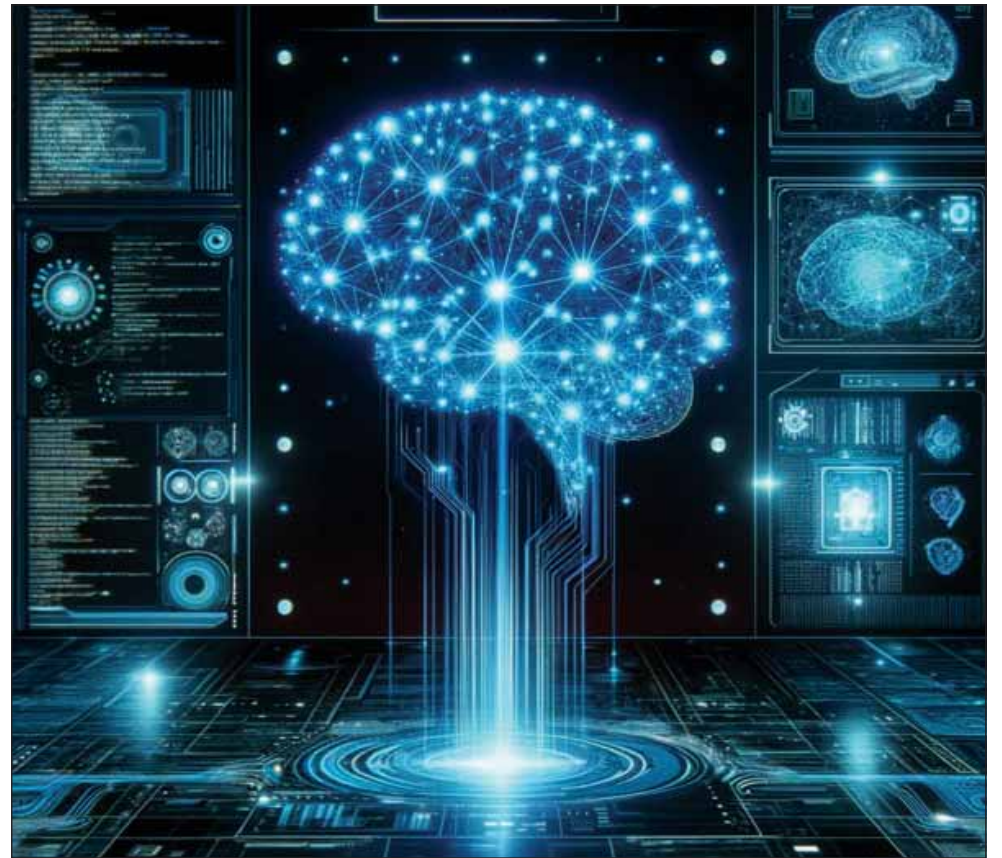
The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation.
Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Sudoku

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

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.



What impact will artificial intelligence have on our world? -Alenoach

The benefits and terrors of a possible future

MOST people thought that artificial intelligence (AI) would never happen, but recently, they have been proven wrong. Now that it's here, what can we expect the future to hold?

Google principal researcher and AI visionary, Ray Kurzweil, has been in the media lately, promoting the release of his new book, *The Singularity is Nearer*, a sequel to his previous publication, *The Singularity is Near*. The latter contained a series of predictions about the future, the vast majority of which have proven to be correct.

In his new book, he predicts that artificial general intelligence (AGI) and human level intelligence in computers will occur by 2029. Human level intelligence refers to the abilities of most skilled humans, but not all, and there may be a few years of transition while this last hurdle is overcome. It will however, eventually reach a point where it will be able to write an Oscar-winning screenplay or develop new philosophical insights. AGI means that AI can do everything that humans can do, but to a superior level.

The key factors to enable this are increased computing power, better algorithms and more data, and Kurzweil predicts that this will reduce AI 'hallucinations', a phenomenon where if the data is not available to answer a question, AI just makes it up.

Kurzweil defines singularity as the time at which human brains are merged with the cloud, combining natural and cybernetic intelligence, and he believes that this will occur by the year 2045.

Humans are limited in their intelligence by their brain size, however the 'cloud' is getting smarter all the time. Singularity occurs when we merge our brains with the cloud, combining human and cybernetic intelligence. Kurzweil believes that the interface will be nanobots, molecule-sized computers, which will enter our brains through the circulatory system. He said to *The Guardian*, "We are going to expand intelligence a millionfold by 2045 and it is going to deepen our awareness and consciousness."

Disturbingly, this could also make us hackable, making us vulnerable to spying on our brains or altering opinions in the lead up to an election, for example. Also, what would happen to originality of thought? How would we know if our thoughts are our own?

He also predicts that medical nanobots will be able to enter our bodies and make repairs, and that by the 2030s, "every year of life we lose through ageing we get back from scientific progress," he told *The Guardian*.

Ethical questions around the capability of bringing back humans who die, but in a digital form, are also likely to be raised.

He believes that while AI will take many jobs, other jobs will be created. He predicts that, although initially inadequate, universal basic income will commence around 2030.

Geoffrey Hinton departed Google last year due to concerns that artificial intelligence

could harm humanity if it fell into the hands of 'bad actors'. He is one of many expressing concerns.

He has also openly stated that he would be in favour of a superintelligent AI destroying humanity and replacing it with something objectively better in terms of consciousness. He said in a lecture, "I'm actually for it, but I think it would be wiser for me to say I am against it."

According to *Futurism*, when later asked about this, he said that there are lots of good and "not-so-good" aspects to humanity. "It's not clear we're the best form of intelligence there is. Obviously, from a person's perspective, everything relates to people," Hinton continued. "But it may be there comes a point when we see things like 'humanist' as racist terms."

Hinton told the BBC that "My guess is in between five and 20 years from now there's a probability of half that we'll have to confront the problem of AI trying to take over."

He also told the BBC that a basic universal income will become a necessity to deal with the income inequality which results from AI, and expressed concern that the wealth generated by AI will go to the rich. A new AI arms race between world superpowers is also likely.

We may also be entering a post-truth era, where images, video and audio can all be easily manipulated to show almost anything as though real. There is likely to be a proliferation of these in the lead-up to the US election, particularly as AI generated video platforms are becoming widely available.

Philosophy professor Daniel Dennett told *TuftsNow*, "The most pressing problem is not that they're going to take our jobs, not that they're going to change warfare, but that they're going to destroy human trust. They're going to move us into a world where you can't tell truth from falsehood. You don't know who to trust. Trust turns out to be one of the most important features of civilization, and we are now at great risk of destroying the links of trust that have made civilization possible."

Another person expressing concern is Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI. He warns that AI systems may start to think for themselves and may even seek to take over or eliminate human civilisation.

Elon Musk said in May that artificial intelligence will take all of our jobs and that it's not necessarily a bad thing. "Probably, none of us will have a job," CNN reported Musk as saying. He said he expected that in the future, "If you want to do a job that's kinda like a hobby, you can do a job. But otherwise, AI and the robots will provide any goods and services that you want."

He did however question whether people would feel emotionally fulfilled in such an environment.

On the upside however, AI can also do your homework for you.

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New protections for the residential parks community

THE Victorian Government is strengthening protections for Victorians living in residential parks. Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams announced reforms are being developed to deliver new protections for the residential parks community.

Site agreements between residents and site owners can be complex and difficult to understand. The new protections will ensure all site agreements are in a standard form and key information is disclosed ahead of entering into an agreement so rights and obligations are clear to residents and site owners.

The detail of these new protections will be developed in consultation with industry, residents and other key stakeholders.

Residents deserve certainty about how much rent they will pay and how this can change over time, which is why the new protections will also ensure residents have clarity on how rent increases are calculated.

The government will also deliver a research project to further understand the issues impacting residents, engaging with residents, industry, housing experts and community organisations including the Manufactured Home Owners Association and the Housing for the Aged Action Group.

The Commissioner for Residential Tenancies, Dr Heather Holst, will lead the project in partnership with the Consumer Policy Research Centre, and provide a report to government by the end of the year.

There will be a dedicated residents survey and operator survey to understand some of the challenges they are facing, as well as a review of the legal and policy settings for residential parks in other jurisdictions and research into the industry's operating practices.

More information about the research project and options to participate will be available at rentingcommissioner.vic.gov.au in the coming weeks.

Minister for Government Services Gabrielle Williams said, "We're strengthening protections for residents and working with them to better understand their concerns."

"I want as many residents and park operators as possible to participate in our research, so we can make sure we're delivering the protections that residents need and deserve."

Commissioner for Residential Tenancies Heather Holst added, "Residential park residents have been telling me about the problems they are having, including with escalating costs, repairs, which services are being provided and how they are provided, and this is an opportunity to shape improvements to the sector."

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DEATH NOTICES

COLLER,
Maxwell Stanley.

29/01/1929 –
08/07/2024
Aged 95.

Cherished husband of Joan for 65 years. Dearly loved dad to Anne and David, Lyn, Geoff and Margaret. Pa to Luke and Azalea, Marcus, Sarah and Lucy. Great pa to Elise and Mia.

At rest near the hills of home.

WALKER,
Janette Bosier
(nee Brewer)

12/01/1943 -
09/07/2024

Passed peacefully aged 81 years. Loving wife of Neville (dec). Mother of Andrew, Craig (dec) and Glenn, and partners Natell, Melissa and Vickie.

Proud and loving nana to Eva, Makayla and Joshua and Lilly. Reunited with Neville and Craig and her family that you gone before her.

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FUNERAL NOTICES

COLLER,
Maxwell Stanley.

A funeral service celebrating the life of Maxwell will be held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at Alexandra Football/Netball Club Rooms commencing at 1pm.



WALKER,
Janette Bosier
(nee Brewer)

The funeral service to celebrate the life of Janette will be held at St Luke's Anglican Church, 1 Pelissier Street, Yea on Friday, July 19, 2024 commencing at 1pm.

Following the service the cortege will proceed to the Yea Lawn Cemetery.



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MEETINGS



The next general meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, July 21, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.

GOBUR RACECOURSE AND RECREATION RESERVE.

Notice is given of the AGM on Thursday, July 18, 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at the Gobur Recreation Reserve Hall. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations from all persons of the community are welcome. Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local DEECA office or at the meeting. For further information contact the president Warren Shaw on 0408 365 819.



A rakali. -ZooPro

What is a rakali?

THE rakali (*hydromys chrysogaster*) is not an uncommon creature around Australia's waterways, yet many Australians haven't seen them and perhaps don't even know they exist.

A nocturnal mammal with water-repellent fur that acts as insulation, the rakali is particularly interesting because of its ability to consume cane toads without suffering any negative effects from the poison. It is unknown whether this is due to immunity or simply avoiding the poison glands.

The rakali can grow up to 70cm long, has black or grey fur on its back, and white or orange fur on its underbelly, with partly webbed hind feet and a flattened head to differentiate it from the common rat. Their tail is a dark colour, with a white tip, and acts as a rudder to steer them through the water.

Being semi-aquatic, it lives in burrows on the edge of waterways, such as lakes, rivers and estuaries, and survives on a diet of insects, fish, crustaceans, mollusks, frogs, bird eggs and water birds. They also eat

fungi, helping to spread the spores through their feces.

They were first described in 1804, and given the name 'water rat', which led to a bad reputation for them. Given they are more similar to otters, a push was made in the 1990s to change the name to 'rakali', which is their native Aboriginal name, in order to reframe their reputation.

Rakali have an average lifespan of three to four years, with mating occurring in late winter and early spring. About a month after mating a litter is born, with up to four or five baby rakali.

The rakali also molt, with both males and females molting in the autumn and summer, but just females additionally molting in spring.

Though they are nationally secure and a protected species, and there is minimal concern about conservation of them, they were often trapped for their fur in the 1930s and 1940s. It is illegal to kill or relocate them today.

Kinglake Op Shop forced to close

THE Kinglake Ranges Op Shop recently suffered damages that have forced it to close until repairs can be undertaken.

The op shop, which is managed by the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House and run by volunteers, suffered damage when it was involved in a vehicle incident several weeks ago. An adjoining building also suffered damage as a result of the incident.

The Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House and subsequent volunteers have been instructed by a real estate agent not to enter the building until an engineer's report has been given.

There is no timeline for reopening, as surveys have to be conducted and repairs undertaken.

Laura Caine, the Engagement Officer for the Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House, said that the forced closure is a loss to the community.

"It is very disappointing, as our volunteers are keen to take back the space and serve the community. It is a loss especially in this economic climate, when times are tough and the shop is a great source of warm clothing just waiting for further use," Laura said.

It's scams all the way down

THE National Anti Scam Centre (NASC) is warning Australians of a new scam on the rise to watch out for. This new scam is when criminals are calling people and pretending to be from the National Anti Scam Centre advising you that your phone number is being used in a scam in China and they are here to help you clear your record.

These criminals may tell you they work with the Chinese Anti-Scam Centre or Chinese police. They may also ask you questions to 'confirm you're not involved' in the scam.

They will gain your trust, then try to steal your money and personal information.

The NASC said if you receive a call like this hang up especially if they say they're investigating a scam. They will never ask for money or personal or financial information.

This scam is hard to identify as the call looks like it's from a legitimate number such as a government phone number.

If you've had personal information stolen or need help to recover from a scam, contact IDCAR on 1800 595 160 and report the scam to scamwatch.gov.au

ADDOC repawt

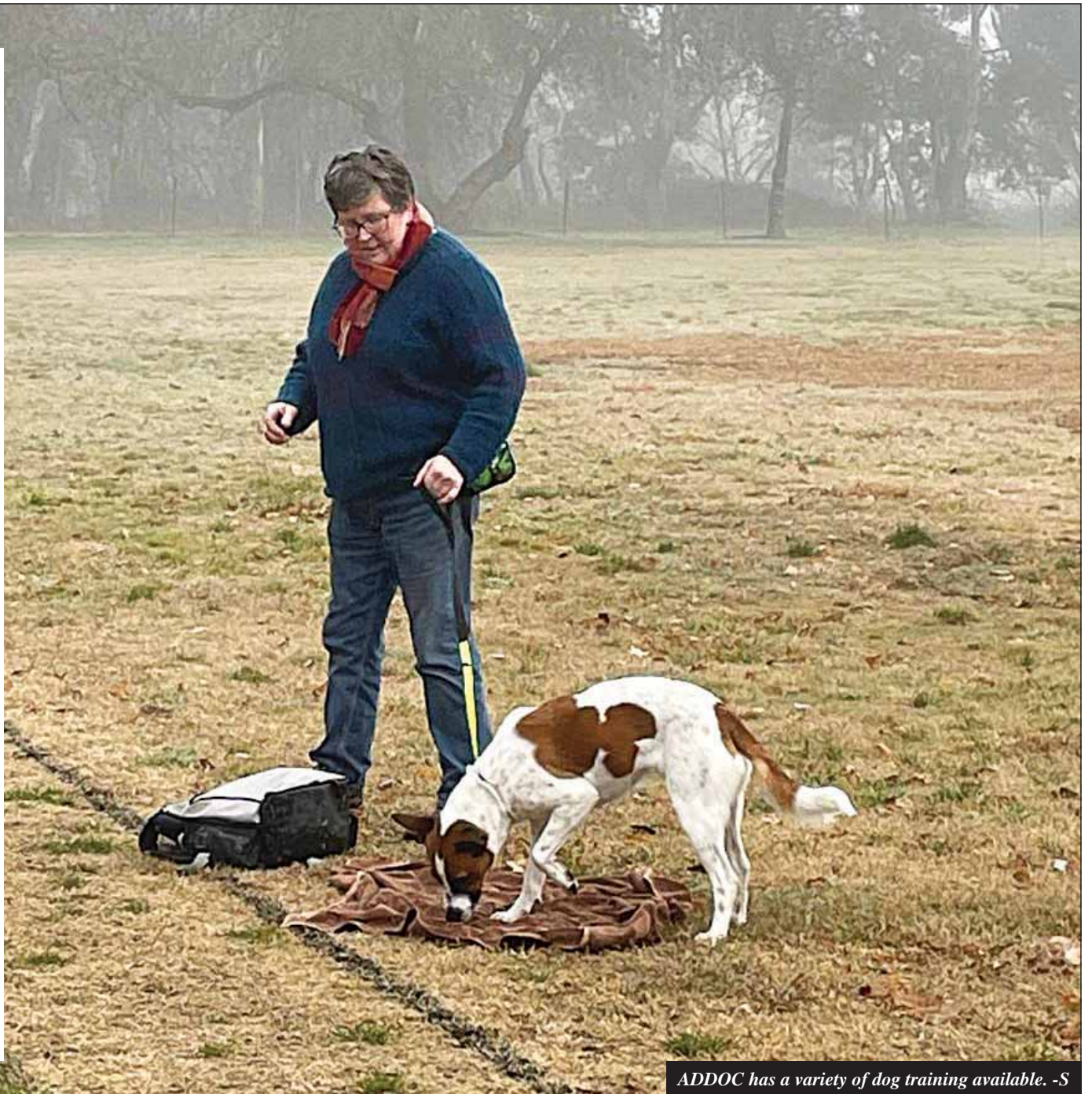
ON these icy, wintery Sunday mornings, you will find a dedicated, enthusiastic, group of dog owners on Briggs Oval, Hall Street in Alexandra. All of them attending the Dog Obedience Classes run by the Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club Inc (ADDOC).

ADDOC was established in 1991 as a Community Dog Obedience Club with volunteer instructors. The aim then was to provide obedience classes for the district dog owners and their dogs which the club have now been doing for 33 years. This aim still holds true today. The club trains using the Positive Reinforcement Method using treats, praise and lots of games and fun.

The classes run in blocks of seven weeks, with the next block commencing on Sunday, July 21. The club runs classes for puppies up to 12 months and beginner training for dogs over 12 months, as well as classes suitable for anyone who has moved here and already trained at another obedience club.

There is still a few vacancies available. If you are interested and would like to know more, the club would love to hear from you.

Email alexdogclub@gmail.com or text Jeanne on 0456 583 611.



ADDOC has a variety of dog training available. -S

Council receives funding for roadside weeds and pests

THE Victorian Government is supporting rural and regional councils to reduce roadside weeds to prepare for the upcoming fire season with 45 councils across Victoria, including Murrindindi Shire to receive up to \$85,000 each for the Roadside Weeds and Pest program.

Rural roadsides can provide a breeding ground for harmful weeds and pests and the funding will allow councils to implement control measures that prevent their spread.

The funding will assist councils with a range of activities along their rural roadsides, including treating and preventing blackberry, boxthorn and serrated tussock weeds, as well as managing rabbit populations.

Local Government Victoria and Agriculture Victoria work closely with local councils to ensure plans to tackle weeds and pests are tailored to their local area.

Weeds and pests cost the Victorian economy over \$900 million each year. Invasive plant and animal species threaten native biodiversity, can have a serious negative impact on agricultural production, and contribute to the spread of fires.

Since 2017, the state government has invested more than \$22 million to help councils manage municipal rural roadsides, protecting Victoria's native biodiversity and reducing fire risk.

Upgrades for regional sporting facilities

THE Victorian Government is building more swimming pools, sporting grounds and courts and pavilions across regional Victoria with grants from the Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Minister for Community Sport, Ros Spence, visited Seymour Tennis Complex to announce that 26 new infrastructure projects across Victoria will share in more than \$20 million to make their local facilities even better.

None of the 26 projects were situated within Murrindindi Shire, but there will be a second round of funding open for applications later in the year.

The Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund encourages councils, clubs and communities to work together to design the facilities their town wants, with

a focus on getting more people involved regardless of their age, gender or ability.

"The new Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund is about making sure all Victorians, regardless of their age, gender or ability, have access to high quality sport and recreation facilities no matter where they live," Ms Spence said.

The Ballarat Aquatic Leisure Centre will get almost \$750,000 to add three accessible and sensory friendly change rooms and, install automatic gates and sliding doors at the venue to provide easy access for the whole community.

There will also be \$1 million towards the new Port Fairy Skate and Play Precinct which will have a skate park, playground, picnic shelters and games activity zone for the whole Port Fairy community to enjoy.

The Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund builds on more than \$23 million announced in the 2024-25 Victorian Budget to provide world class community sports infrastructure and initiatives that boost participation and inclusion in local sport.

From playground redevelopments to new sporting hubs, investments like these provide high-quality and accessible places for Victorians to reap the benefits of sport and active recreation.

These projects are all about creating jobs, stimulating local economies, and improving the health, wellbeing, and social outcomes for Victorian communities.

For more information about the fund and successful projects visit sport.vic.gov.au.

New grants for volunteers and community sport

THE Victorian Government is creating more opportunities for sport volunteers and staff across regional Victoria, with new programs ensuring more workers get the skills and opportunities they need to thrive in the sector.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced last week that applications are open for the state government's *Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program* and the *Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program*, due to an investment of \$7.2 million in regional Victorian sport.

The new *Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program* will support organisations to develop game changing workforce projects with grants of up to \$450,000 available, supporting initiatives

and partnerships that help attract and retain sport volunteers and staff, reduce volunteer workload, and ultimately increase participation opportunities for Victorians on and off the field.

Eligible organisations include state sporting associations, state sport and active recreation bodies and regional sports assemblies with experience in supporting volunteers and staff in the sector.

It complements the launch of the government's *Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program* that's supporting state sporting organisations with grants of up to \$300,000 to increase collaboration and partnerships, remove barriers and create opportunities for participation in sport, particularly for under represented groups.

Both programs are part of the government's new \$60 million *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* that is delivering infrastructure and programs to support more regional Victorian families and children to get involved in sport.

Supporting the development of a highly skilled sport workforce is a key objective of *Active Victoria 2022-2026 – A strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria*, which will ensure a strong and sustainable sports industry for Victoria.

For more information and to submit an application for the *Sustainable Volunteer Workforce Program* and the *Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program*, visit sport.vic.gov.au

SPORT

Stroke and putting at Yea Golf Club

by Alan Pell

GOLF at 'Royal Yea' was stroke and putting this last week. Conditions were heavy with little roll and cool weather.

Last Wednesday's golf for the men saw Brendan Chenhall (13) with an outstanding 79 off the stick and nett 66, clearly outgunning the rest of us. Second was Phil Armstrong (21) 94 and nett 73.

Trout won the putting with 26 putts. There was no nearest the pin on the 11th and the lucky club award winner \$10 went to Sam Wright. The ladies' event was won by Meryl Connell (25) with nett 78 from second Cindy Armstrong (34) with nett 79.

Saturday's events saw the Monthly Medal contested with 17 men and six ladies playing. Winner of July's Monthly Medal was young Tom White (17) with 87 nett 70. Second was Peter Johnston (17) nett 72. Third was Brendan Chenhall (13) nett 74 from fourth Greg Clements (92) nett 75.

There was no nearest the pin and John Renehan took out the club award. Tom White won the putting also with 25 putts. In the ladies' competition Sharon Grogan (29) with nett 79 won from Cindy Armstrong (34) with nett 86 second.

Alexandra Squash Club term two pennant results

by Kristelle Leary

THE Alexandra Squash Club pennant ended and the results for term two are in. For Monday night matches, the Eels team took victory with a big lead, while Thursday night matches were won by the Cherry Ripe team.

In Monday competition for term two, the Eels won with 1245 points for and 1099

against, the Redfins finished second with 807 points for and 796 against. The Yabbies came in third with 1000 points for and 1019 against, the Murray Cods in fourth with 913 for and 988 against, and the Trout at the bottom of the ladder with 798 for and 868 against.

The Thursday competition results for term two showed a closer competition. The Cherry

Ripe team secured victory with 957 points for and 904 against, while the Crunchie team was close behind with 928 points for and 878 against. Not far behind in third were the KitKats, with 808 for and 836 against. The Jaffas took fourth place with 509 for and 538 against, while the Smarties were fifth with 638 points for and 684 against.



Thursday nights winning team, Cherry Ripe: Beth Mugford, James Waterhouse and Kristelle Leary. -S



Monday nights winning team, the Eels: James Gilmore, Daniel Kriss and Justin Reece. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football - Seniors		
Healesville	277.89	9
Seville	242.11	9
Warburton Millgrove	152.49	9
Alexandra	191.37	7
Yea	108.84	6
Belgrave	150.87	6
Yarra Glen	43.80	2
Yarra Junction	38.72	2
Powelltown	21.84	1

Football - Reserves		
Belgrave	425.60	11
Seville	345.51	10
Healesville	308.60	8
Warburton Millgrove	220.62	8
Yea	101.26	5
Alexandra	50.95	4
Powelltown	33.76	3
Yarra Glen	17.67	1
Yarra Junction	36.53	1

Football - Senior Women		
Warburton-Wesburn	46 pts	11
Monbulk	44 pts	11
Woori Yallock	40 pts	9
Emerald	30 pts	7
Wandin	22 pts	5
Officer	22 pts	5
Seville	4 pts	1
Thomton Eildon	0 pts	0

Football - Under 16		
Euroa	72.72	8
Moama	63.63	7
Seymour	50.00	5
Alexandra	27.27	3
Yea	10.00	1
Broadford	9.09	1

Football - Under 14		
Broadford	377.01	8
Wandong	222.27	5
Tabilk	167.88	5
Alexandra	133.12	4
Seymour	88.12	2
Yea	4.75	0

Netball - A Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	181.85	10
Seville	166.67	10
Yarra Glen	160.78	8
Healesville	80.44	4
Alexandra	69.42	4
Belgrave	93.27	4
Yarra Junction	73.22	3
Yea	45.24	1

Netball - B Grade		
Seville	52 pts	12
Warburton Millgrove	40 pts	9
Yarra Glen	40 pts	8
Belgrave	36 pts	8
Yea	28 pts	5
Healesville	20 pts	3
Yarra Junction	16 pts	3
Powelltown	16 pts	3
Alexandra	12 pts	1

Netball - C Grade		
Yarra Glen	52 pts	11
Seville	48 pts	11
Warburton Millgrove	40 pts	9
Belgrave	32 pts	7
Yea	28 pts	5
Yarra Junction	20 pts	4
Alexandra	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1
Powelltown	10 pts	1

Netball - D Grade		
Seville	100.00	10
Alexandra	70.00	7
Yarra Glen	70.00	7
Belgrave	60.00	6
Warburton Millgrove	60.00	6
Yea	20.00	2
Yarra Junction	9.09	1
Powelltown	0	0

Football - Under 12		
Wandong	40 pts	10
Alexandra	32 pts	8
Broadford	20 pts	5
Seymour	16 pts	4
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	8 pts	2
St Marys	0 pts	0



Levi Campbell, Declan Baker, Chase Hilder, Kia Parker, and Tahj Parker at the front. -S

Murrindindi Little Athletes Shine at Regional Cross Country Championships

by Elissa Page

AS the mist cleared and the sun appeared, five young athletes from Murrindindi Little Athletics Club warmed up and stretched before hitting the Regional Cross Country Championships at Kyabram last weekend.

The first race of the day saw under 13 boys Levi Campbell and Chase Hilder head out on the three kilometre course. Both boys performed well, with Levi taking the bronze medal and Chase securing fifth place. Tahj Parker had the opportunity to participate in the new invitational juniors race. Although it was not an official event, Tahj embraced the challenge and managed to secure a respectable third place. His sister, Koa Parker, ran well in the under 12 girls race, also bringing home a bronze medal. In the last race of the day, under 11

Declan Baker covered the two kilometre course in great time to complete the trifecta of bronze medals for the club.

Levi, Chase, Koa, and Declan are now eligible to

compete at the State Cross Country Championships in Bundoora on August 10. A big thank you goes to the team manager on the day, Kim Wright, for her support and guidance.



Bronze medals Declan, Levi and Koa. -S

Strong wins for Yea junior netballers

Under 11 Division One

Yea 17 defeated St Marys 13
by Jo Madden

THE Yea Junior Netball Division One team faced a challenging week, being slightly undermanned with three regular players unavailable. However, the wonderful players from the Division Two team stepped up to fill the gaps and support their teammates.

Ivy and Isla formed a strong defensive lineup in the goalkeeper and goal defence positions, respectively. They were backed by Belle, Holly, Zoe, and Brooklyn, who rotated through the wing defence position, keeping consistent pressure on the opposition. This resulted in several held balls, intercepts, and impressive defensive manoeuvres.

At the opposite end of the court, Tahlia and Charlotte showcased excellent movement, passing, and shooting within the goal ring. They were effectively supported by Velvet in the centre position and Evie in wing attack. Both attacking mid-court players made themselves available with outstanding leads and skilfully moved the ball into the attacking end.

The team maintained their positions throughout the entire game, with everyone contributing to an excellent win. The club congratulates Velvet, Tahlia, and Ivy for their standout contributions.

Under 11 Division Two

by Nikki Waghorn

IT was safe to say that these girls were happy to be back on the court last weekend after an extended break. They were so impressive from the first centre pass. They showcased their evolving skills, listened to feedback and then went to work to adjust and follow the coach's instructions.

The team happily played in numerous positions, eagerly volunteered to fill in for the opposing team and most of all, they had big smiles the whole time and had fun. As always, the club was super proud of all of them.

Award winners were Belle Parnis: Most Improved; and Zoe Alldrick: Player of the Day.

Under 13

COMING into the final games of the season coach Cronk is working on combinations and teams with the team and the Yea girls stepped it up another notch and continued to work hard in each combination.

The Tiger's first three quarters were settled with no rolling subs and the fourth the rolling subs returned without having any detrimental effect in any third as the girls transitioned seamlessly into their roles.

Yea were the victors by 19 in a game that was a pleasure to watch with both teams executing great passages of play and smiles all round.

Awards: Marmalades Best On: Samantha Fraser for being a quiet achiever and positioning in the ring to achieve maximum impact by always being conscious of where her fellow goaler was and positioning accordingly; Yarra Valley Gas Most Improved: Ivy Leatham for her timing on leads and dominance in the midcourt even though she humbly doubted her abilities.

Under 15

Yea 75 defeated St Marys 3

LAST weekend the under 15s travelled over to a frosty Seymour to take on the St Mary's Saints. The team had been working on a range of skills that they were hoping to implement in preparation for the finals' series.

Jemma stepped in as centre with Marley as her wing attack and Sophie and Hannah in goals. The Tigers got off to a solid start, breaking several of St Mary's centre passes and working as a team in the goal circle to consolidate these gains.

Lily, Elsie and Flynn in defence made sure that the ball was in the St Mary's shooting third for a very brief period of time for being turned over. As a consequence of their accurate passing, defending and shooting, the scores at the end of the first quarter were St Mary's one to Yea 20.

Flynn took over the reigns as centre while the shooters also changed to Maya and Marley with Hannah moving back to wing attack to support. Marley and Maya worked well together in the goals to continue to add to the scoreboard. Ella in wing defence along with Sienna and Elsie in the goals were relentless in their defending and managed to hold St Mary's scoreless for this term.

Going into half time scores were St Mary's one to Yea 34. Jemma was back in centre using her swift moves to feed into Ella and Maya in the goals with Hannah regularly available for a supporting pass. An increase in getting the rebound also proved to be effective for Yea's shooters in advancing the lead.

Lily was solid in the centre third in wing defence, taking several intercepts to stop the ball getting into St Mary's goal third. Once it made it in this third however, Sienna and Sophie worked effectively together in the goal

circle to limit scoring opportunities. Scores going into the final quarter were St Mary's three to Yea 53.

Elsie moved out of defence to take on the role of centre with Jemma stepping up to shoot with Sophie. With the support of Marley in wing attack, this shooting combination (including Maya for a short stint), saw the Tigers score their greatest numbers of goals for the game. Lily moved back from the wing into goalkeeper and with support from both Flynn and Sienna in the goals as well as Ella in wing, this defence combination prevented St Mary's from scoring again.

Another great display of sportsmanship and team spirit was displayed by all the team members, and it was great to see them mixing up combinations across the court.

Award winners: *Marmalade's Player of the Week*: Jemma Anstey and *Yarra Valley Gas 'Most Improved'*: Lily Neilson.



Under 13 award winners Samantha and Ivy. -S



The under 11 division one netball award winners. -S



The second under 15 award winner. -S



The under 11 division two award winners. -S



The Yea junior netballers under 15 award winners. -S

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

A great time for neighbouring pony clubs

YEA Pony Club hosted Alexandra Horse and District Pony Club at the July Rally.

The pony club members enjoyed a day with Leesey and Tamara from High Country Extreme Cowboys, completing a series of obstacles focusing on horsemanship skills.



Yea Pony club members and Alexandra Horse and District Pony Club catching up. -S



A young rider raising the flag while riding a horse. -S



A great balancing act for rider and pony. -S



You can't wipe the smile off this young riders face. -S



Some great obstacles for the riders to attempt on the day. -S