

# 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 31, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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[murrindindibusiness.com.au](http://murrindindibusiness.com.au)



The audience at the start of the wind farm information session. -AR



The remaining audience, just before the end of the session. -AR

## Majority of attendees walk out of wind farm meeting

AN information session about the Fera Seymour Wind Farm was held at the Alexandra Secondary College on the morning of Saturday, July 27.

Project lead Andrew Lawson presented a Powerpoint presentation outlining the current state of the project and seeking to answer "every question" before the session ended.

He spoke about the processes being undertaken and the reports being compiled, as well as the planned timeline for the project. They are aiming to install 80 to 100 wind turbines, and when the project ends, the base will be removed to a depth of half a metre. The turbines are expected to have hub heights of between 120 and 160 metres and rotor diameters of 160 to 170 metres.

There were also discussions around fire safety, noise impacts and bird impacts.

The audience were keen to engage in the Q&A session following the presentation.

One audience member asked why no towns were marked on the map of turbine locations, and Mr Lawson responded that they would be included on the website version, when added.

There were also concerns from landholders within the planned turbine or transmission line paths that they had had no contact from Fera. The person was told that they are trying to get in contact with everyone, and that they can make contact directly.

When asked about the financial around the project, Mr Lawson said that the cost is expected to be \$1.2 to \$1.5 billion, paid for eventually through energy sales of \$180 to \$200 million per year. It will take 10 to 12 years to pay off.

Another question was about the Transmission Plan review currently being undertaken via the Engage Victoria website. Mr Lawson said that he believed it likely that the area of their planned wind farm would be included due to its proximity to pre-existing transmission lines. He added later that the project is not required to be in a Renewable Energy Zone.

There were also questions around the recycling of the towers and bases, with an audience member concerned that the depth of removal of the base would not be far enough to enable ploughing and the re-use of land afterwards, as well as the chemicals in the concrete.

He was also asked why the transmission lines are not being put underground, and he responded that there would be loss in the lines and that it wouldn't be economically viable.

Asked whether the opposition in the meeting would be included in the reporting about the project, Mr Lawson said that it wouldn't as it was an information session. Around 95 per cent of the people in the room lifted their hand when asked whether they opposed the project.

Other concerns included land sale prices, the lack of wind in the area, whether there would be compulsory acquisitions, bushfire plans, compensation levels for small landholders, substation locations, why the survey was conducted at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo where most people wouldn't be impacted by the wind farm, how people suffering negative visual impacts would be compensated, and whether easements could be leased by Fera.

By the end of the meeting, as seen in the photos, most of the attendees had walked out.

## 4682 signatures on the Yea hospital petition

NEIL Beer last week presented petition sheets regarding *Save Yea Hospital* to Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish. The petition will be tabled in Parliament.

An amazing 4682 people signed the petition due to their concern that the government's Health Services Plan will result in forced amalgamation of health and hospital services.

The petition requests that no amalgamation of Yea and District Memorial Hospital takes place, that the powers, authority and responsibilities remain with the local board and CEO, and that genuine public consultation is undertaken about the Health Services Plan.



Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish receiving the petition in support of the Yea hospital from Neil Beer. -S

## Murrindindi Health Network statement on proposed health system changes

THE Murrindindi Health Network (MHN) is dedicated to ensuring that our community receives the highest standard of healthcare, particularly as we wait for decisions of any potential changes to the Victorian health system. Our Network, comprised of local health, aged, and disability service providers, is committed to improving health outcomes and addressing workforce shortages, especially with the projection that 52 per cent of our population will be aged 65 and older by 2034.

Through our proactive partnerships, including collaboration with the National Centre for Healthy Ageing, MHN provides valuable rural insights to shape national health ageing initiatives.

We are also progressing the Murrindindi Health Network - Peak Body, an innovative entity designed to maximise funding opportunities, including health related grants and locally address comprehensive health, aged care, and social assistance needs within Murrindindi Shire.

Our experiences highlight the need for a healthcare system that truly reflects and serves our community's unique needs. It

is essential that our healthcare retains a Murrindindi identity, with robust local decision-making to ensure tailored solutions for our community.

The proposed Murrindindi Health Network - Peak Body aims to administer and optimise consolidated resources, ensuring transparency and addressing the specific health needs of our townships. This initiative represents a grassroots approach to healthcare, empowering local leaders to deliver outcomes that align with the unique needs of Murrindindi Shire.

MHN will continue to advocate for the best interests of our community, for improved community engagement and information sharing by the state government regarding any future changes in the management of our local hospitals so that they can continue to provide quality, locally-responsive healthcare.

[MHN is comprised of Menzies Support Services, Alexandra District Health, Murrindindi Shire Council, Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home, and Kellock Lodge.]

**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Yea & District Memorial Hospital** 5736 0400

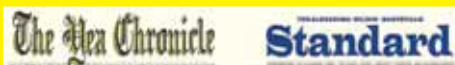
**In an emergency dial 000**

## IT'S NOT OKAY

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

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

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



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## Letters to the Editor

### Transmission plan

VICGRID has launched the Victorian Government's draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines, a document that explains how we will prepare the Victorian Transmission Plan, a new long-term strategic plan for renewable energy and transmission development in our state.

The draft Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines outline how we will determine how much renewable energy generation is needed and when, as well as how we will determine what transmission projects are needed to support that new generation.

It also includes a study area (a map) showing what parts of Victoria we may investigate further for suitability to host future renewable energy zones.

The information can be found at [engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan](http://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan)

We urge everyone to visit the VicGrid site and read about the Victorian Transmission Plan and provide feedback or a submission.

There is a lot of information to go through, but this is vitally important. Without input from the community VicGrid can only assume that we are okay with whatever development may be proposed.

*Darryl Otzen, secretary,  
Strathbogie's Responsible Renewables  
Community Group*

### Hospitals

I CURRENTLY have my 82 year old mother in our local hospital, not being able to walk very far. I have been asked to come and collect her and take her down to Melbourne outer suburbs to have x-rays.

This, I believe, is due to our government. I now have to be an ambulance to get my mother the help that she needs.

As far as I am concerned this government needs to go and as soon as possible. I have been a Labour voter all my life, but because of this, I will never vote for them. This is the way they treat our elderly who have paid their taxes all their lives and when they need help there is none.

I have no problems with the local hospital or their staff. My issue is with the state government. They are only interested in spending our money in the cities. Country people get nothing. They can't even fix up our local roads.

I will take my mother down there today but it would be bad luck if I did not have access to a vehicle. We have not heard the end of this issue. We can't even get a package for home support to keep my mother living in her own home, not like the people who have been rorting the NDIS.

We are trying to get a home package and some bathroom renovations so she can stay in her own home and we keep being told there are no funds to help with that. This is also not acceptable. I have been in touch with My Aged Care and keep being told the same. I am going to keep fighting for what I believe to be right also have other issues with Murrindindi council as well.

*Ian Perry, Alexandra*

### Local spending

HAS Alexandra realised how much money goes out of our beautiful town? With grocery prices so high, many residents go out of town to shop. Items can be higher

here by \$1 to \$10 plus per item. Not only is this money not kept in the town, if people shop elsewhere, there are other areas that lose money. For example lunch and coffee, and other shops, to spend in out of our area. This is so sad. Something to think about.

*Name and address supplied but withheld by request*

### Sale yards

Victoria's leading livestock weekly, *Stock & Land*, this week published a 24 page colour feature which it called the Victoria and South Australia Saleyards Guide 2024.

I searched expectantly for the listing of the council owned Murrindindi Sale Yards, but it wasn't listed, although a dozen others were, with full page features and stock agents listed, including the Strathbogie Shire owned Euroa Saleyards. Even the map therein omitted the Yea facility.

I understand both the mayor and a previous mayor are on the local saleyards body as council representatives. So who was asleep on the job?

Perhaps they haven't caught up with the news that the Victorian Livestock Exchange at Pakenham has closed and the replacement yards at Leongatha are considered unsatisfactory by vendors and agents.

I remember reading recently that it was no disincentive for a Dargo grazier to truck cattle all the way to Yea for sale.

Is the shire so bereft of initiative (or funds) not to promote an important local rural business?

*John Kennedy, Yea*

## Weekly Weather

July 31 - August 6, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	0	14	Wednesday	0	14
Thursday	1	14	Thursday	1	14
Friday	5	14	Friday	5	14
Saturday	5	13	Saturday	4	13
Sunday	4	12	Sunday	4	13
Monday	4	11	Monday	4	11
Tuesday	4	11	Tuesday	5	12

## 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	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.63	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.57am Mon	1.00	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	9.24am Mon	0.25	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.27am Mon	0.83	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea	11.22am Mon	1.80	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.91	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.82	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.66	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.43	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.92	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.07pm Mon	1.28	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 29 JULY 2024

## DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	N/Amm
Buxton	33mm
Eildon (AWS)	19mm
Flowerdale	30mm
Jamieson	28mm
Kinglake	29mm
Lake Eildon	22mm
Mansfield	6mm
Taggerty	22mm
Yarck	15mm
Yea	15mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

## LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.97m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	88.6%
Metres below full supply	2.93m
Daily inflow	7000ML
Release	2000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	53%



## 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



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



# Changes for Flowerdale Kinder

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is working with the Department of Education to find a new Early Years Manager for the Flowerdale Kindergarten, following the decision by Mitchell Shire Council not to renew the sub-lease of Flowerdale Kindergarten.

For many years, Mitchell Shire Council has provided critical kindergarten services to the Flowerdale community and surrounds, working alongside council's Maternal and Child Health services and operating from council's facility at 3377 Whittlesea-Yea Road Flowerdale.

Mitchell Shire Council's said its decision to withdraw from providing kindergarten services in Flowerdale comes amid "rising demands for Mitchell services in Victoria's fastest-growing municipality" and significant

"administrative workload" increases due to the Victorian Government's *Best Start, Best Life* reform.

Under these reforms, in 2025, Murrindindi Shire will participate in the first roll out of an expanded kindergarten program from 15 hours per week to 30 hours per week.

Kindergarten services in Flowerdale have been provided by Mitchell Shire Council since 2004. Murrindindi Shire Council does not directly manage or operate kindergartens in the shire. However, council has an important role in supporting the adequate provision of these services through building management, workforce support, advocacy and representing local needs.

The Department of Education will soon be inviting expressions of interest from early

years providers to take over the sub-lease in 2025.

Council will continue to work closely with the Department and Mitchell Shire Council to secure a new provider and ensure a smooth service transition.

For more information, please get in touch with council on (03) 5772 0333.

Council's Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor, Sandice McAulay, said "council recognises and celebrates the wonderful contribution that Mitchell Shire Council has made to the Flowerdale community and thank them for their continued service while a new provider is found."

"Council will continue to advocate for increased capacity and supply of kindergarten

and childcare places across our shire, as we know the difference these services make to families and children.

"While our advocacy efforts helped secure new facilities in Alexandra and Yea, we know there are a range of challenges facing the sector. Early years education is nothing without a strong workforce.

"Our Early Years Education Workforce Plan will help us address current and future challenges relating to staff recruitment and retention, skills and training. Our recently adopted Kindergarten and Child Care Strategy will also guide our work and our role in supporting service providers and our community and help us manage the increased demand for kindergarten services in the coming years."



Residents attended lunch to discuss a Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) for Yea. -S

## Yea residents LEAP at chance for community lunch

MURRINDINDI Shire Council hosted a community lunch in Yea on Saturday July 20 for residents to learn more and have their say on a range of local emergency management issues.

Feedback gathered from residents during the lunch will help inform Yea's Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP), which is being developed in partnership with the community with input from local emergency agencies and council.

A LEAP aims to work with communities to understand their local risks and the potential impacts, identify community skills and resources to help prepare and recover from emergency events and explore opportunities to build on these skills and build more resilience.

During the session, residents discussed plans for what to do in an emergency, particularly during the first 72 hours of isolation. There was also discussion on local community strengths, challenges and concerns for emergencies and ideas for Yea's Local Emergency Action Plan.

The LEAPing into Resilience Project is supported with funding from the Australian Government, and is a joint project between Murrindindi, Strathbogie and Mansfield Shire Councils.

Council's Sustainability, Assets and Emergency Management Portfolio

Councillor, Karine Haslam, said "council has an important role in building community resilience and in supporting communities with relief and recovery during and after emergencies. We work together with Victoria Police, CFA, VICSES and other emergency service partners to keep our community safe.

"As part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, council is working with communities in Yea and Flowerdale to prepare action plans. We believe that locals know their area best and can give us important information about the dangers they face and the best ways to get to safety if needed.

"If you couldn't make it to our lunch in Yea, but still want to help out and give your thoughts, please get in touch. To learn more or to get involved, get in touch with councils' LEAPing into Resilience Project Officer on 5772 0333.

"We are also organising an event in Flowerdale and another event in Yea, so keep an eye out on council's website for more details.

"A final reminder to residents to ensure they know where to go for the latest information and advice during emergencies. The VicEmergency website and app provides a centralised location for Victorians to access timely emergency information and warnings related to fire, flood, storm, earthquake, weather warnings and more."

## Road safety at a halt in north east Victoria

SENATOR Bridget McKenzie said Victoria experienced a nine percent increase in road deaths over the 12 months to June 30.

Recently released figures from the department show that for the 12 months to the end of June 2024, 1310 people died on Australian roads, representing a 11.7 per cent increase on the previous corresponding period.

"As the road toll has been rising steadily for the past two years, the Albanese Government has cut funding from road infrastructure programs and failed to deliver on its promise of sharing road trauma data outcomes.

"Labor's failure to facilitate the timely, consistent, and open reporting of national road safety data since coming into government is preventing Australia from measuring its road safety problem, developing evidence based responses, or evaluating effectiveness.

"At the same time, the road safety task is being made more difficult by the Labor's decision to cancel, cut, and delay more than \$27.9 billion in infrastructure funding over the past two years.

"Roads throughout north east Victoria are not receiving the maintenance and upgrades they need, and the impacts of Federal Government funding cuts are being felt by road users firsthand, who have been raising road safety concerns with my office," Senator McKenzie said.

Road users across the Northeast Region can help shine a light on the appalling condition of local roads by taking part in a national road survey launched by the Coalition last month.

"By nominating a road, intersection or bridge in need of repair, north east Victorians can send the Albanese Labor Government a very clear message; Fix Our Roads," Senator McKenzie said.

Find the national road survey at [form.typeform.com/to/H6gD9CUi](http://form.typeform.com/to/H6gD9CUi)

The survey closes 5pm, August 30.

## William Matthews Funerals



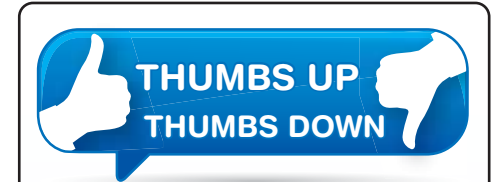
45 Cavehill Rd, Lilydale

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Large Chapel with after service facilities for refreshments

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9739 6868



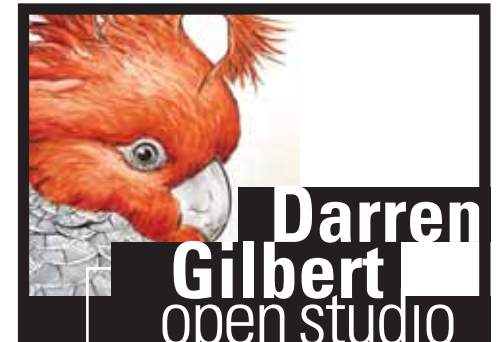
**THUMBS DOWN:** Thank you VicRoads for abandoning Murrindindi Roads. Hit a pothole in Narbethong and split a tyre. To fix it will cost the same as registering the car. We're pensioners. It looks like the space saver will be getting a thrashing.

**THUMBS UP:** To Cindy McLeish and Georgie Crozier and the passionate shire residents who are trying to cut through the state government's 'smoke screen' to explain to 'Jo Citizen', (ie. us), the actual agenda for the changes to our local hospitals in Yea and Alexandra. If it's not about a single board of 'sycophants and toe cutters' administered at Goulburn Valley Health, then what is their agenda?

**THUMBS DOWN:** To the Victorian Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas for not having the fortitude let alone teremity to front the Yea and Alexandra extended communities within Murrindindi to engage and tell us what her 'grand plan' is. Perhaps this is policy on the run? Oh, I've just realised why she didn't front. We are regional, mostly Liberal and independent voters and don't matter and are being treated with derision and as embugerances. Alternatively, perhaps it's because she was too afraid to travel the roads we use daily for fear of cascading off into the ether after hitting a pot hole, or doesn't even know where we are.

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

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



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# Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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*.

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## 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 attend the information session. Marysville: 5.30-6.30pm Marysville Community Centre - Lake View Room. For more information contact [events@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:governance@murrindindi.vic.gov.au) or phone 5772 0333.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alexandra Secondary College will be holding their open night from 6 to 8.30pm at the school. The night will provide an opportunity for interested students and parents to receive the relevant information through a variety of sessions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**SATURDAY, AUGUST 3**  
 Darren Gilbert Open Studio, open Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm. 5 Giffard Street, Yea.

\*\*\*\*\*

Speedway is on. Three hour tag team enduro and crash 'n' bash. Racing starts at noon.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 8

Pyalong Online Clearing sale, Sugar Loaf Creek. 280 lots, some located Alexandra. Commencing noon. Concludes Monday, August 12 at noon. Inspection day Thursday, August 8 10am-2pm. Pick up day Wednesday, August 14, 10am-3pm. For full details visit [emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions/](http://emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions/) or contact Andrew Embling on 0418 266 038.

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## SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Alexandra Timber Tramway will hold their AGM at 5pm in the Goldfields Room at The Corner Hotel. Any enquiries phone 0427 509 988.

\*\*\*\*\*

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

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

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Friends of the Yea Library AGM will be held at 2.30pm at Yea Community House. All bookshop volunteers are welcome to attend.



Four people became new Australian citizens last Tuesday. In attendance were Michael Chesworth, Murrindindi Shire Council Acting CEO, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish MP, Conferee's Shannon, Anna, Shintu and son Daniel, and Mayor Damien Gallagher. -S

## New citizens for Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council celebrated four new Australian Citizens on Tuesday July 23 at an official Citizenship Ceremony held at the Alexandra Council Chamber.

Shannon, Shintu, Jewel and Anna have pledged their loyalty to Australia, its people, and its democratic beliefs, and to uphold and obey the laws of Australia and respect the rights and liberties of its people.

In attendance were distinguished guests including Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher, Acting CEO Michael Chesworth, Federal Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish MP, Bob Pearson from Alexandra RSL, Mary Pearson, the Probus Club of

Alexandra President and Sasha Barrow, who was Murrindindi Shire Citizen of the Year 2020. All were pleased to congratulate our newest Australians.

Council extends its warmest congratulations to all the conferees and wishes them all the best in their new journey as Australian Citizens.

Council will proudly host one more Citizenship Ceremony in 2024, on October 22.

To learn more about becoming an Australian citizen, please visit the Department of Home Affairs website [immi.homeaffairs.gov.au](http://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au) or call the citizenship information line on 131 880 during business hours.

## 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

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



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

## Willow is missing

TWELVE year old Willow was last seen in Seymour on Thursday, July 18.

Willow is described as having a Caucasian appearance with shoulder length straight blonde hair and blue eyes. Police and family have concerns due to her age and medical conditions.

Anyone with information on her whereabouts is urged to contact Box Hill Police Station on 8892 3200.



Have you seen Willow? -S

## Conflict in government plans for agricultural land?

THERE are currently a variety of consultations underway on the Engage Victoria website. Two of these appear to be in direct conflict.

One is *Big Ideas for Victoria's Future*. This consultation asks people to reimagine the future of our cities, suburbs, towns and regions. In the list the top priorities for the state is, "Protecting the valuable land where our food is grown," which comes in at number four.

Under the Sustainable Environments and Climate Action subheading, it states, "Living more sustainably, reducing our carbon emissions, and protecting our agricultural land and natural environment are key priorities for many Victorians."

Further information can be found at [engage.vic.gov.au/developing-a-new-plan-for-victoria](http://engage.vic.gov.au/developing-a-new-plan-for-victoria)

Feedback closes on August 30.

The other consultation is *Developing the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan*, where the government is seeking feedback on the strategic land use assessment which has been undertaken to identify parts of Victoria for further study for potential future renewable energy development.

The current renewable energy zones (REZs) are in the Ovens Murray (including Eildon

and Dederang), Central North (including Shepparton and Glenrowan), Gippsland (south around Traralgon), South West (including Portland and Terang), Western Victoria (including Horsham and Ballarat) and Murray River (from Red Cliffs to Bendigo).

The new areas for assessment are much more wide-ranging. The Healesville area into the Black Spur appears to be excluded, and the Black Range and Blue Range "deprioritised."

The area around Yea and Alexandra, and into the Highlands and Ruffy region, have been deemed "Tier 2: Suitable for investigation", with small amounts of "Tier 3: Most suitable for investigation."

Further information can be found at [engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan](http://engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan)

Feedback closes on September 30.

It appears strange that in one of the consultations, there is an emphasis on protecting agricultural land, and in the other, agricultural land is being explored for potential use in generating renewable energy.

The Victorian government media team were contacted about the apparent conflict on Wednesday, July 24. No response was received by the time this newspaper went to print.

Shadow Minister for Energy, Affordability and Security, David Davis MP was also contacted for comment. He said, "The Victorian Labor government is at odds with itself on the future of agricultural land."

"In a bizarre twist, the Victorian Labor government has ordered duelling consultations, consultations at odds with themselves."

"The first consultation, Big Ideas for Victoria's Future, states as one of its key objectives, 'Greater protection of our agricultural land'."

"The second consultation is to push for the government's plan to roll out massive energy zones and massive, long distance electricity transmission lines, rolling them out across tens of thousands of hectares of Victoria's prime agricultural land."

"How is it possible to protect agricultural land while destroying it. Did the relevant government ministers talk to each other before launching their separate consultations? Or is it the case that both consultations are shams?"

"Of course, Jacinta Allan and Lily D'Ambrosio will do as they want, steam rolling local communities and destroying vast swathes of Victoria's best agricultural countryside."

# Student of the Week

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



## YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our values award winners.

Rusty, Charlie, Ivy, Tyrese, Archie and Belle.

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Shaelee, Patrick, Ted and John for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

# Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



## New ninja course for Sacred Heart Primary School

SACRED Heart Primary School opened their new ninja playground last Wednesday, with the gathered students rocketing around the course.

Leanne Jones gave a speech to the assembled students and staff, which included the visiting Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Damien Gallagher.

In this speech, Leanne thanked the various parties that made the playground possible, including the parents and friends of Sacred Heart Primary School and Murrindindi Shire Council, who provided a community grant of \$2500.

Belinda Johnston then cut the ribbon, alongside Leanne and Sacred Heart Primary School Principal, Kathryn Stewart, and Cr Gallagher.

The ninja course is for more senior students, around years four to six, however, variations are there for the junior school children to also enjoy the playground.



The cutting of the ribbon at Sacred Heart Primary School for the opening of their new ninja course. Pictured are Leanne Jones, Belinda Johnston, Principal Kathryn Stewart with Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Damien Gallagher. -photos by BD



# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 8

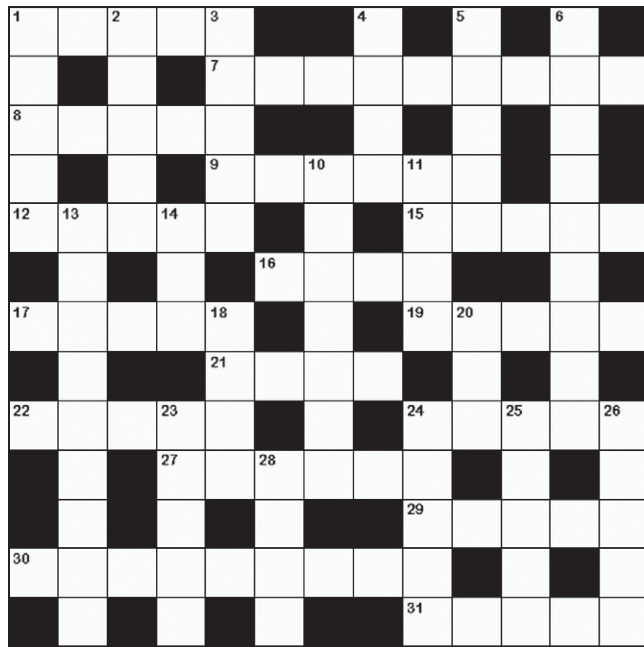
## Crossword

### ACROSS

1. Doomed to extinction.
7. Take into consideration.
8. Glassware used for cooking.
9. Hold as true.
12. The rear part of a ship.
15. Make restitution.
16. Large single-edged knife.
17. Lay eggs.
19. Place casually.
21. A difficult concern.
22. Type of African language.
24. Area of complete shadow.
27. The arch of the foot.
29. Arrange in parallel folds.
30. Collection of live animals.
31. Cuban folk dance.

### DOWN

1. Peaked service cap.
2. Push through a strainer.
3. A type of American.
4. Line to indicate a boundary.
5. Express in words.
6. One who abducts for a ransom.
10. Old fashioned outdoor game.
11. Push against gently.



13. Type of performing artist.
14. An angry dispute.
18. Person or place or thing.
20. The dreaming sleep state.
23. The flow of the oceans.
24. The higher of two levels.
25. Clean a ship's bottom with heat.
26. A hollow in a bone.
28. Place at an angle.

## Word Search

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

### July 31 – World Ranger Day

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| ANIMALS      | GUARDS   |
| COMMUNITIES  | PARKS    |
| CONSERVATION | PATROL   |
| ENGAGE       | PROTECT  |
| ENHANCE      | REMOTE   |
| FOREST       | WILDLIFE |

## Cryptogram

### Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
25				18				23

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					2			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		11					

$$\frac{1}{1} \frac{I}{23} \frac{6}{6} \frac{12}{12} \frac{A}{25} \frac{15}{15} \frac{I}{23} -$$

$$\frac{1}{16} \frac{I}{23} \frac{9}{9} \frac{16}{16} \frac{O}{9} \frac{U}{15} \frac{2}{2} \frac{11}{11} \frac{6}{6} \frac{12}{12}$$

## Math Square

3	-		+		0
-		+		-	
	-		-		-3
-		÷		-	
9	+		-		4
-14		7			-11

### 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

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

### Difficulty: Hard

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

# Another successful event for Highways and Byways

ON Saturday, August 19, Highways and Byways ran its annual event with a ride, walk or run from Yarck to Yea. The event raises funds to support the Highways and Byways charity, established by the Missionary Sisters of Service to support disadvantaged regional

communities across Australia. The project is also aided by the Catholic Parish of Yea.

Over 60 participants took part in the event and afterwards enjoyed a barbecue at the Old Yea Railway Station, provided by the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish of Yea.



Pictured from left to right, Stancea Vichie, Bern Hogan, Jane Collopy, Ann Enright and Bernadette Wallis, all lending a hand at the Highways and Byways event at Cheviot Tunnel. -MP



People signing up for the day's event. -MP



Participants about to start their walk, Peter Hudson, George Massay, Greg Carter and Paul Marshall. -MP



Claudia Stevenson and Marg Harvey walking from Yarck to Yea. -MP



Ruby and Gordon going on the Highways and Byways walk together. -MP



## Woman guilty in Violet Town wedge-tailed eagle poisoning case

ALL 73 charges have been proven in a case against a Violet Town woman accused of wildlife and cruelty offences related to the poisoning of native birds, mostly wedge-tailed eagles, and illegal possession of protected wildlife carcasses at her property in 2019.

In a brief hearing at Shepparton Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, presiding Magistrate Faram released his reasoning for judgement on 47 contested charges.

His Honour was unable to conclude that the woman was solely responsible for the

offending. However, he was satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the woman was involved by intentionally assisting and/or encouraging the commission of the offences.

His Honour determined that there was an illegal baiting program conducted on the woman's farm and the woman alone or with members of her family engaged in the unlawful baiting and killing of wildlife on the farm.

His Honour found that the woman laid the baits that were found in the paddocks in 2019 or was complicit in doing so. His Honour found that she

may have had knowledge of or involvement in the destruction of the birds.

The Magistrate's decision follows a nine day contested hearing in December 2023, which detailed a Conservation Regulator and multi-agency investigation into reports of deceased wedge-tailed eagles found in the Violet Town area and involved extensive evidence and witness testimony.

The woman faces sentencing for a total of 73 offences, after she pleaded guilty to an additional 26 charges last year for the illegal possession of wildlife kept in her freezer, which were discovered during a search warrant on her premises.

His Honour Magistrate Faram has adjourned the matter to September 6 at the Shepparton Magistrates' Court for a further mention with a view to handing down his sentence.

The community can report wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

## SAVE THE DATE

### August 2- Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**  
HEALTHY EATING AND DIABETES SUPPORT

### September 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30pm**

### October 6 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

### November 1 Yea Saleyards

Combined Agents Store Sale **9.30am**

### Get in touch

Email: [saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:saleyards@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)



Phone 0419 722 570

## A warm cow is a good cow

WITH a winter blast forecast for eastern Victoria, reducing the impacts of cold weather on cattle is essential to both animal production and welfare. During cold weather, the energy requirements of a cow can increase by up to 20 per cent, with lighter cows being more affected than those in adequate condition.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Industry Development Officer, Nick Linden, said the impact of cold weather, particularly when combined with wet and windy conditions and low pasture availability, can severely affect cows that are already low in body condition.

"It is important to keep an eye on the forecast weather conditions and if possible, move cattle into sheltered paddocks or those with windbreaks. This will reduce the impacts of chill by keeping animals out of the wind and give a better return on supplementary feeding.

"Poorer condition cows have a higher maintenance requirement through winter as they have to work harder to stay warm," Mr Linden said.

"Separating the lighter condition cows will enable producers to better manage these in-need cows with a specific feed and supplement plan and reduce competition for feed.

"Lighter cows will suffer more from cold stress than fatter cows, as fat is an excellent source of insulation as well as being an important

energy reserve. We really need to look out for the lighter cows."

Lighter cows can also result in weaker calves being born in the spring, poor joining rates for autumn calvers or cow mortality. Mr Linden said hungry cows can be cold cows and cattle will eat more in cold weather to generate body heat.

Roughages like hay are broken down by microbial action, and this process generates heat. In addition to roughage, it's important to keep an eye on the protein and energy levels of the diet.

"While consuming roughages will help the cattle to stay warm, it is important to ensure adequate protein in the diet to feed the rumen bacteria. Without the rumen bacteria being well fed, cattle will struggle to consume the roughages needed to generate heat and stay productive.

"Managing lighter condition cows separately, using sheltered areas of the farm, knowing the energy and protein of the supplements being fed and monitoring fat scores of stock through winter are all important ways to minimise the impacts of cold weather on your stock, especially for animals in lighter condition as a result of the late autumn break experienced in many parts of the state."

For more information go to [purinamills.com/cattle-feed/education/detail/wintering-cattle-tips-to-keep-them-warm](http://purinamills.com/cattle-feed/education/detail/wintering-cattle-tips-to-keep-them-warm) or [iamcountryside.com/cattle/preventing-cold-stress-incattle/](http://iamcountryside.com/cattle/preventing-cold-stress-incattle/)

## Wild dog survey

THE Victorian Opposition are calling on producers to make their voices heard on wild dog issues.

The Victorian Government this week opened a livestock predation survey to collect data about wild dog and dingo incidents and the impacts on farmers and communities. The survey will be open for two weeks.

The government revoked an unprotection order on wild dogs in the north-west of the state in March. The Opposition complained that this was done without consultation and with only a few hours' notice.

The Opposition also said that the government confirmed it expects land managers to assume anything previously considered to be a wild dog is now a protected dingo, effectively giving landholders no means of protecting their stock.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Emma Kealy, said that since revoking the unprotection order, the government had rejected applications for Authority to Control Wildlife permits and

refused to provide funding directly to farmers for exclusion fencing.

"Since these changes were introduced we have seen extensive dingo and wild dog attacks. In many cases the dogs do not actually kill stock, but maul them to such an extent that they suffer a slow and painful death," Ms Kealy said.

"This is heartbreaking for producers who invest so much time, energy and money into their livestock, and is compounded by the fact Labor has no desire to put any supports in place for farmers."

Ms Kealy said despite last year promising consultation with farming communities, the Victorian Government had instead stonewalled producers.

"I urge farmers to complete this survey and force Labor to confront the dire nature of the problem they have created with their irresponsible decision-making," she said.

The survey can be found at [surveymonkey.com/r/LivestockPredationSurvey](http://surveymonkey.com/r/LivestockPredationSurvey)

The survey is open until August 6.

## PYALONG ONLINE CLEARING SALE Sugar Loaf Creek A/C EST. GATT.

**Commencing:** Thursday, August 8 – noon  
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Office: 5772 3110

Further enquiries: Andrew Embling: 0418 266 038



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Submit your photo competition entry for July, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra.

The July theme is 'winter frost'.

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Email your photo and contact details to [manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au](mailto:manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au)  
by July 31, 2024

Professional photographers are ineligible to enter.

**5772 1405**

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The Yea Chronicle



## PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

### CRYPTOGRAM

PINDARI - HIGH GROUND

### CROSSWORD

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

### SUDOKU

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

### MATH SQUARES

3	-	4	+	1	0
-		+		-	
8	-	6	-	5	-3
-		÷		-	
9	+	2	-	7	4
-14		7		-11	



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Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

#### DEATH NOTICES

**CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia**

09/06/1922 - 24/07/2024

Passed away peacefully at Darlingford Nursing Home. Dearly loved wife of Ronald(dec). Much loved mother of Robert, Pauline, Raymond, Dawn, Helen and James. Loved M.I.L. of Robyn, Peter, John, George (dec) and Pamela. Cherished by all her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren.

A long life well lived.

Rest peacefully Kathleen Malicia Chanter.

**CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia.** 1922 - 2024. A wonderful life, filled with love, devotion and tenderness. Though a shining light doeth fade, precious memories of you and Ron - now reunited; will brighten my life forever. Bye mum. Loving son, Raymond.

#### DEATH NOTICES

**CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia**

09/06/1922 - 24/07/2024.

Dearly loved mother of Helen, mother in law of George (dec). Loving grandmother of Jason and Lynne, Joanne, Paul and Erin and Sarah and Dan. Cherished great grandmother of Lachlan, Austen, Jack (dec), Hudson, Devyn, Delilah and Sonny. God saw that you were weary, the hill too steep to climb, so he gently took you up by the hand, and whispered 'Peace be Thine'. At rest after a long and amazing life.

Love you forever mum.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**SHAW, Jennifer**

14/08/1946 - 28/07/2023

Mum, we greatly miss your presence in our lives. You were a tower of strength, wisdom and resilience. Your care and support for family and for community will always be warmly remembered and are appreciated still. With all our love, Elissa and Paul with partners Andrew and Lisa, and grandkids Noah, Asher, Faith and Grace.

#### FUNERAL NOTICES

**CHANTER, Kathleen Malicia**

A funeral service celebrating the life of Kathleen will be held on Friday, August 2, 2024 at the St Johns Anglican Church, 39 Downey Street, Alexandra commencing at 11am.



#### BARGAINS UNDER \$100

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#### MEETINGS

**ALEXANDRA Garden Club, AGM** will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at 2pm at the Uniting Church, Alexandra.

**ANNUAL General Meeting** of the Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum Inc. will be held at 5pm on Saturday, August 10, 2024 in the Goldfields Room of the Corner Hotel, Grant Street, Alexandra. Enquiries 0427 509 988.

**FRIENDS OF THE YEA LIBRARY AGM** will be held on August 13, 2024 at 2.30pm at Yea Community House. All bookshop volunteers are welcome to attend.

#### PETS & LIVESTOCK

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## PUBLIC NOTICES



### Speed Limit Reduction High Street, Yea

Council would like to advise the community that following a review and consultation last year, the speed limit on High Street, Yea will be reduced from 50 km to 40 km per hour.

The short section of road affected is from the eastern median split to the western median split, as pictured in the map below. The speed limit reduction on this road will improve safety for pedestrians and motorists. Signage will soon be installed.

All enquiries should be directed to Council's Asset Unit by calling 5772 0333 or emailing customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au



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## Update on avian influenza in Victoria

**AGRICULTURE** Victoria continues to respond to the detection of high pathogenicity avian influenza at eight Victorian poultry farms, with no new infected properties identified since June 24. Between 120 and 160 staff are deployed on any given day.

Victorian Government staff have completed more than 5000 surveillance activities, including property visits, phone calls and dead bird collections, and tested over 16,300 samples.

Agriculture Victoria staff continue to work with affected properties supporting decontamination, egg and litter disposal. A comprehensive surveillance program of all commercial poultry farms in the area is also underway.

Residents nearby to the infected properties are receiving regular text messages and calls from Agriculture Victoria to confirm the health of any poultry on their property.

Poultry owners are reminded that movement controls remain in place near Terang, Meredith and Lethbridge. Permits are required for the movement of birds, poultry products and feed. These are expected to remain in place until the situation stabilises.

There is also a housing requirement in place, meaning all birds in the restricted area or control area near the infected properties must remain in their enclosures, to avoid any contact with wild birds.

"We appreciate that in these areas it's not always easy to have your birds housed and we thank bird owners for their essential support to prevent the spread of this disease, as the risk of the disease remains" said Victoria's Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Graeme Cooke.

"I'd also like to acknowledge the poultry industry for their ongoing assistance as we work to eradicate avian influenza from Victoria. It's already been a huge effort, but we encourage all primary producers to remain vigilant and report any unwell poultry to the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226."

Agriculture Victoria staff are also providing information at community pop-up stands in Terang and Bannockburn areas each week.

Infected properties continue to be decontaminated and the risk of infection removed, as Agriculture Victoria works towards achieving freedom of avian influenza for Victoria's poultry industry.

Individual affected farms can experience significant financial stress. Compensation is payable under specified circumstances for destruction of livestock and property on infected premises.

Other supports available include: The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS); the Farm Household Allowance (FHA), which is a fortnightly Commonwealth Government payment for eligible farming families in financial hardship; and low-interest loans for farm businesses are available through the Commonwealth Government's Regional Investment Corporation (RIC).

A comprehensive list of resources and contact details for industry and individual support, including technical, financial and mental health information, support and services, in Agriculture Victoria's resource directory.

Agriculture Victoria continues to urge poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains low. If you have had contact with birds on an affected property and you are experiencing cold or flu symptoms, call your doctor or the Department of Health on 1300 651 160 for medical advice.

More information, including movement permits, compensation details and mental health resources, are available online at agriculture.vic.gov.au/avianinfluenza.

## Nominations open for community focused senior awards

THE state government is asking Victorians to recognise the contributions of senior Victorians and to submit nominations for the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt announced the opening of nominations for the *2024 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards*, celebrating senior Victorians who share their skills, experience, time and energy with our community.

There are six categories of awards, including, Premier's Award for Victorian Senior of the Year for outstanding contribution to local community and Victoria; Promotion of Multiculturalism Award for promoting the benefits of cultural diversity; Healthy and Active Living Award for helping create active and healthy communities; Veteran Community Award for exceptional contributions to the veteran community; Ageing Well Award for combatting ageism and promoting ageing well initiatives, and Council on the Ageing Victorian Senior Achiever Award for significant contribution to local communities and Victoria.

The award ceremony will be held in October, coinciding with the annual Victorian Seniors Festival. All nominees will receive certificates acknowledging their contributions.

This year, the nomination process is more accessible than ever before. Nominations can be submitted digitally through a new online platform until August 11, making it even easier to nominate a deserving senior. Nominees must be aged 60 years or over, and 50 years or over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians.

To make a nomination, visit Seniors Online and complete a nomination form at [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards](http://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards)

## Putting women on the map

THE Victorian Government is asking Victorians to be commemorated through place and road names.

Minister for Planning and Suburbs Sonya Kilkeny announced nominations are now open for the *Remember a Local – Name a Place* campaign by Geographic Names Victoria.

It's expected that over the next three years more than 6000 new places including new streets, suburbs, schools, parks, community facilities, and buildings will need to be named as Victoria's cities, suburbs, towns and regions continue to grow.

A sample of more than 5000 place and roads names across the state found that 1400 were named after men, while only around 200 were named after women. This campaign aims to ensure public spaces better reflect the rich diversity and history of Victoria's community.

Nominations are open for women who have made a significant impact to the state or their community in areas like healthcare, science, the arts or public service to honour women.

The campaign is also open to nominations of remarkable Victorians from underrepresented groups, including First Nations, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, and culturally diverse communities.

The initiative is another way to ensure 70 per cent of all new commemorative place names are named after women as part of its *Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2027*.

To make a nomination, fill out the naming survey at [engage.vic.gov.au/name-a-place](http://engage.vic.gov.au/name-a-place)

# July meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council

CR Carpenter and Cr Gerencser were apologies for Murrindindi Shire Council's July meeting. There were no presentations in community participation.

### Murrindindi Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy

Murrindindi Shire Council's Director of Community and Development, Andrew Paxton, presented the final draft of the Kindergarten and Childcare Strategy 2024–2029. The report is designed to direct council's approach to childcare and kindergartens across the shire.

Council voted to accept the report.

### Kinglake Transfer of Land

Following the 2009 bushfires, 6.7 hectares of land at 37 Extons Road was donated to council for the purpose of reconstructing the Middle Kinglake Primary School. The school and an early learning centre were constructed and have operated for years, however, the amount of land that was donated was more than was required, with the view towards later expansion. Further expansion was ruled out as an option by the Department of Education. The Department of Education later surrendered 1.77 hectares back to council. The land has been vacant since 2014. A lease was undertaken with the donor in 2022 to resume farming on the land, and the process of returning the land to the donor is being undertaken.

Council are giving public notice of their intention to transfer the undeveloped portion of land back to the original donor in the August edition of *The Mountain Monthly* and on the council website, with the goal of inviting submissions on the use of the land. Council will then consider any public submissions at the August Council Meeting.

With the discussion around the transfer of the land at 37 Extons Road in Kinglake, council will also recommend the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Murrindindi Planning Scheme under Section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to rezone the discussed part of the land from the Public Use Zone 7 to the Farming Zone.

Council voted in favour of proceeding with the steps to reallocate the land.

### Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member Appointment

The report recommends to council the appointment of an external independent member to Murrindindi Shire Council's Audit and Risk Committee. Council received 17 expressions of interest for the vacant position, and a panel consisting of the Mayor Damien Gallagher, council CEO Livia Bonazzi, and the Director of People and Corporate Performance Michael Chesworth, considered the submissions.

It was recommended to council that Alan Studley be appointed as an Audit and Risk Committee Independent Member for a three-year term that end June 30, 2027. Mr Studley has previously held various executive directors, CEO, and board director roles across commercial health and community centres. He has also recently been the chair of Alexandra District Health's Finance and Audit Committee.

Council voted in favour of appointing Mr Studley.

### Council Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance

The cost of Murrindindi Shire Council's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance cover for 2024/25 is above the financial delegation of the CEO. Payment will therefore need to be approved by council resolution.

Council's recent claim history has been impacted by a single road-related incident, which resulted in a significant claim against council and has boosted their premium by 20.56 per cent to a total of \$383,540.13. This is a \$45,000 increase.

Council voted to approve the payment of the Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance premium.

### Council Meeting Dates

Council has reshuffled the scheduled meetings for 2024, due to the council elections later in the year. State Parliament on June 25 created the Local Government (Electoral) Amendment regulations 2024, with the election period now commencing on September 17 and ending on October 26. It was therefore proposed to move the September meeting back to the normal fourth week of the month. The location of the October Council Meeting was also proposed to be changed from Yea to Alexandra, due to the Yea Chambers being used by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Council voted to adopt the revised timetable.

### Heating and Cooling System Maintenance and Repairs

Council's Director of Assets and Environment, Caroline Lintott, presented a report to council on the process to appoint a contractor to maintain and repair the heating and cooling systems in council facilities. Council recently conducted a public tender, during which two submissions were received. Council undertook an evaluation, and decided that the three-year contract, with an option of a two-year extension, be granted to North East Air and Mechanical Pty Ltd, subject to council approval. The total contract amount would come to \$862,990 over the five-year contract period.

Council voted to approve the granting of the contract to North East Air and Mechanical Pty Ltd.

### Installation of Large Capacity Holding Pens at Yea Saleyards

There is added pressure on the Yea Saleyards following the closure of the Pakenham Saleyards, and the facilities of the Yea Saleyards are under strain. It is proposed that council allocate a maximum of \$150,000 from the Yea Saleyards Reserve to fund six large capacity holding pens in the existing car park, drainage improvements to the B-Double loading ramp and a gravel carpark in the truck parking area. There is currently \$500,000 in the Yea Saleyards Reserve.

Council voted to approve the motion.

### Council and CEO Reports

There were no reports from Cr Gerencser, Cr Carpenter, Cr Lording or Cr Walsh.

Cr McAulay spoke about Discover Dindi's winter campaign with partners like Lake Mountain and Victoria's High Country on social media and encouraged people to explore the shire. Tourism North-East are seeking businesses to be part of the upcoming 2024 spring/summer and 2025 autumn marketing campaign, and businesses can reach out to the Economic Development team if they are interested. Council has partnered with Murrindindi Food and Wine for the Murrindindi Digital Marketing Month and will hold a series of webinars on a range of topics, delivered by Jenn Donovan. There will be a third business breakfast in Marysville on August 13. Cr McAulay also spoke about the Great Victorian Bike Ride that is coming to Murrindindi Shire in November. The ride will have two overnight stops, one in Alexandra on Friday November 29, and the other in Marysville on Saturday November 30. There are two information sessions being held about the event, one on Tuesday July 30 in Alexandra, the other on Wednesday July 31 in Marysville. She also went on to praise the engagement at council drop-in sessions. The Flowerdale Community Planning group are progressing well with the Flowerdale Community planning report, which is likely to be presented to council in August. The report is currently out as a draft consultation in the Flowerdale community.

Cr Haslam spoke about the environmental programs being managed by council. The Rural Roadside Conservation Management (RRCM) Plan is currently out for community consultation, and council is inviting feedback. This plan guides how roadside vegetation is managed across the shire, including utility works, roadside grazing, firewood collection, slashing, mowing, and weed management. Community feedback on the plan closed

Sunday July 28. Council staff are currently working on the Flat Lead Road property to look at how they can undertake a carbon offset scheme, with further information coming in August. Cr Haslam reported that the new Alexandra landfill is looking great and is almost complete. Once it is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for use, the existing landfill cells will be closed. Council is expecting approval by the end of September. She also gave an update on the Moore Marr Park Redevelopment. The skate park has been completed and is open to the public, while the senior play area and the flying fox are also completed, but not open to the public yet, as time is needed for the planted grass to establish itself. The remaining works are on-schedule for completion later in the year.

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor, Cr Damien Gallagher, began his report by recognising the passing of Edward 'Ted' Hall. He then moved on to talk about representing the council on the ABC Radio Melbourne 'Meet the Mayor' segment, during which he discussed the community, innovative businesses, and Murrindindi Shire as a whole. Cr Gallagher attended the Rotary Club of Yea changeover dinner, during which Penny Paxman was elected as president. He visited Canberra in July, alongside council's CEO, Livia Bonazzi, to attend the Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly. Economists discussed a variety of issues at the event, and Cr Gallagher and Ms Bonazzi returned home with a Federal Government grant of \$968,000 to support a development plan to enable sustainable growth in Murrindindi, aligned to council's recently adopted Housing and Settlement Strategy. The pair also highlighted the need for disaster recovery funding to support Breakaway Bridge rectification works. Cr Gallagher said that it was gratifying to see a large turnout by the community in support of Alexandra District Health, and that there are concerns around existing challenges with health and wellbeing outcomes that will only be exacerbated by a loss of local, decision-making voices. Cr Gallagher was honoured to have the privilege of recognising the young Marysville Primary School leaders. He also attended the opening of a ninja course at Sacred Heart Primary School in Yea, where he was welcomed by the Principal, Kathryn Stewart, staff, students, and families. Murrindindi Shire Council's grants and sponsorships program contribution was recognised with appreciation by all present. Cr Gallagher concluded by saying that he was heartened to see so many members of the Upper Goulburn Intrepid Landcare Group turning up to the National Tree Day event in the cold and wet conditions, to plant over 700 trees and grasses on Josephine's Cutting in Alexandra.

Michael Chesworth, in the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer, reported that the community engagement process 'Reflecting on Council's progress' concluded on Sunday, July 21. A total of 66 surveys were received and around 300 community conversations and ideas were contributed. These are to support the development of the next council plan. Families at Flowerdale Kindergarten have been advised that Mitchell Shire Council will no longer manage the service, and council staff are working with Mitchell Shire and the Department of Education to conduct an expression of interest process for a new service provider for Flowerdale. Mr Chesworth reported that a pop-up youth hub has commenced in Yea, operating each Wednesday from 3.30 to 5pm during term three. This will allow young people in Yea to participate in a range of activities on a regular basis. The site will be in various locations around Yea but focus predominantly on the Yea Library and Neighbourhood House. A similar youth space has commenced in Alexandra at the Embassy of Ideas and will run fortnightly on Fridays from 3.30 to 5.30pm. Coordinated by the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group will provide a range of activities for young people in the east of the shire.

## Intense game for under 15 netballers

by Kelly Harris

### Under 15 Netball

Yea 11 defeated by Broadford 12

IT was icy conditions in Yea for the re-match between the Yea Tigers and the Broadford Roos. The players were certainly exposed to all kinds of weather with a major wind gust and sideways rain causing some havoc in the middle part of the game. The Tigers knew that after last week's win against the Roos, Broadford would be coming in strong with a game plan to try and get back a win. Elsie was back in centre to anchor the team and we got off to a promising start going goal for goal. Flynn and Sienna teamed up again defending in the goals with Jemma as wing defence. This combination was able to hold the Roos to four goals for the quarter. Ella in Wing Attack was feeding the ball to Sophie and Marley who managed to match Broadford's shooting but were stopped from evening up the scores by the time clock.

At quarter time the Roos were ahead with four goals to the Tigers three. Flynn was back in centre for the second quarter to provide some height and refreshed legs. Elsie moved back to goalkeeper with Sienna remaining in goal defence. This pair managed a remarkable number of intercepts and held the Roos shooters to three goals for the term. Lily in wing defence was a great option in getting the ball back into the Tigers attacking half. Hannah and Flynn outside the circle, supported Sophie and Marley in shooting the most number of goals in a quarter for the entire game. The Tigers got back the lead and went into half time with nine to the Roos seven. Elsie came back out of the goals to reconvene as centre while Lily and Hannah remained in the wings for the third quarter.

The Roos came out strong both ends in this quarter and were able to get a few goals back on our goal defenders, Sienna and Flynn. The conditions had improved slightly but were still making it difficult for goals to be scored. Marley and Sophie worked tirelessly in the ring in their attempts to add to the scoreboard, but a few turnovers meant our scoring was kept to a minimum. Going into the final quarter the Roos had taken the lead back with 12 goals to the Tigers 11.

Despite being down and with unpredictable weather conditions, the Tigers banded together and drawing on their win from last week were determined to not let this one slip through their fingers. Jemma, with



Award winners, Marmalade's Player of the Week: Sophie Butterworth, and Yarra Valley Gas 'Most Improved': Elsie Bree. -S

fresh legs, returned to centre and used her agility and speed to her advantage to keep up with the Broadford team. Elsie in wing defence again made a number of intercepts, preventing the ball from even making it into the goal circle for Broadford. When it did get into this circle, Flynn and Sienna worked feverishly to ensure that the actual shots converted were kept to a minimum. Ella

was back in wing attack feeding the ball to Sophie and Marley who were able to convert more this quarter despite the difficult conditions.

It was a low scoring game, with high intensity again, but the Tigers demonstrated yet again what belief and working together they can achieve.

## Sunshine after rain

by Rhonda Carpenter

WITH heavy overnight rain around Mansfield, players were uncertain about whether their matches would go ahead last Monday week. The women waited for the misty rain to pass before stepping onto the wet courts taking spare balls with them.

Delatite hosted Wappan with Karyn Fraser returning from overseas to join Jo O'Brien, Deb McCormack, Deb Mims and Pat Howard.

Wappan's Jenny Bell, Rhonda Carpenter, Kimberley Marsden and Di Bergelin began well winning both openers. Jenny found the heavy balls to her liking and served powerfully, dominated at net, and landed her baseline groundstrokes deep.

The wet balls were replaced after the first sets, the sun came out and Wappan surged ahead in the second pairings. In the final pairs, Delatite's Jo O'Brien and partner Pat Howard, now warmed up and moving freely, put on a masterclass of tennis, serving strongly and placing balls with precision to take their set eight to one, not allowing Wappan to have it all their own way.

Wappan five - 41 defeated Delatite one - 21 and moved into fifth spot on the ladder.

Mansfield hosted Benalla and played the longest match of the day with both teams giving their all in a high quality match. Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Keira McDonagh, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham brought their A game to the contest with sharp net play and hard hitting rallies.

Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Mary Kelly, kindly travelling over from Moglonemby, were not backing down though, unlucky to lose a tiebreaker, and came off the court well after the other match had finished.

Mansfield four-44 defeated Benalla two-33 and both teams held their ladder positions in the top four.

Euroa began strongly winning the first three sets against Seven Creeks. Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Julie Harrington, Di Ellis and Mary Dewis edged out their opponents in lengthy tough battles. Euroa were pleased to have two of their players complete three sets for the first time this season.

Seven Creeks Rowena Ellis, Kelly Hill, Julie Brook and Genevieve Calvert warmed to contest and made a mighty comeback to win the last three sets including one in a tiebreaker. When the final scores were checked Seven Creeks three-39 had drawn with Euroa three-39.

Creighton's Creek were up against Terip and were grateful to Euroa's Lyn Pierce stepping in to replace an injured player for the final set. Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Frances Lawrence and Phoebe McDermid enjoyed some fine hitting against Creighton's Creek's Sue Vaughan, Gayle Furphy, Ros Doxey and Erica Mercer but defeated them six-48 to Creighton's Creek 0-8.

After Round 12 the ladder has Terip on 83, Benalla 70, Euroa 69, Mansfield 63, Wappan 57, Creighton's Creek 49, Seven Creeks 48, Moglonemby 36 and Delatite 5.

## Second round of term three for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday Competition Blue Vein versus Feta

ETHAN versus Tyler: Utilising his good forehand shot Tyler used the wall well. Ethan gained a lot of point with his great serves. Ethan took the match. 72 to 44.

Matt versus Sally: Some nice strokes played and some good rallies. Matt stayed ahead on the scorecard throughout the match to win. 74 to 40.

Pep versus Phil: A hard-hitting match with some terrific rallies. Phil's speed around the court helped him win three games and the match. 60 to 52.

James versus Andrew: James chased down everything and had some beautiful drop shots. Andrew had some wonderful stroke play, but it wasn't enough to takedown James. James was victorious. 64 to 54.

### Camembert versus Mozzarella

Lachlan versus Eric: An array of sensational serves, shots and returns on both sides, but Lachlan was too good

for Eric and took the match this week. 70 to 44.

Lee versus Mick: Seesawing games created an interesting match. Players were fighting to take the upper hand. In the end Mick managed to edge ahead by one point for victory. 51 to 50.

Oli versus Daniel W: Oli took the lead with a good win in the first game. Daniel came late to the party, drawing game two and winning the third and fourth, taking the lead back for a triumphant win. 65 to 61

Derrick (fill in) versus Daniel K: The intensity and court coverage were flying high. An amazing match to watch. Despite Derrick's efforts, Daniel managed to claim enough points to win. 53 to 47.

### Thursday Competition Barracudas versus Orcas

Matthew versus Blake: Matthew showed great spirit against a player with much more experience. Blake used his experience and skills to win the match. 72 to 39.

Lucas versus Sam (fill in): The ball was certainly moving in this match. Having recently come up a level, it's an adjustment for Sam. He put in a valiant effort, but Lucas was too good. 75 to 52.

Jack versus James (fill in): A high-quality match. Jack showed a high level of skill to read the game and place the ball, putting James under a lot of pressure. Hanging in there with some powerful drives James couldn't quite make a comeback. Jack won. 58 to 46.

### Hammerheads versus Stingrays

Shannon versus Jessica: A close match in the beginning. Shannon found her groove and used placement to gain the advantage and win the match. 71 to 51.

Sam (fill in) versus Travis: Sam did not come to mess around. Travis didn't manage to take a game from Sam who won with a commanding lead. 70 to 47.

Michael M versus Jim: Jim dominated throughout. Michael completely lost his mojo and could barely manage to return the serve in the last two games. Jim claimed the victory. 86 to 31.

## Challenging golf in July

by Alan Pell

WITH the fairways having no roll and the weather being unfavourable it made golf a real winter challenge this week.

Wednesday saw nine men play "Pair 22" with a stableford event. Winners with 365 points were Steve Rumney (27) and Greg Millard (14) from Alexandra. Second were Rob O'Halloran (22) and Phil Armstrong (21) with 312 points. There was no nearest the pin on the 18th and the club award went to Phil Armstrong / Graeme Bryant.

Individual winner was Steve Rumney with 36 points. Winner of the ladies stableford was Penny Britton (33) with 34 points from Sharon Grogan (29) with 32 points.

Saturday saw the first round of the 54 hole event with a stableford competition. There were only nine competitors completing the course as rain washed out others (after 10 holes).

Winner of the day with 39 points was Steve Rumney (26) from Jono Ness (20) with 38 points. Brian Simmons (13) was third with 35 points. There was no nearest the pin on the 18th and Phil Armstrong won the club award. Next Saturday sees round two with a par competition.

# The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Leonard's return to Bowls

by Maurie Finn

WE often hear of season ending injuries in the AFL, but not in lawn bowls.

It was May 2023, and it was the usual Monday Social Bowls at Yea Bowl's Club. Things were going well until 84 year old Leonard Sheahan lost balance as he turned and fell awkwardly on his left side. Leonard realised he was in trouble when he couldn't move his leg. The ambulance was called; other bowlers did their best to reassure and keep Leonard comfortable while waiting. The ambulance proceeded to take Leonard to the Box Hill Hospital where he spent the night in Emergency, as there were no beds available.

The next morning, Leonard was transferred to the Avenue Hospital Windsor, where 20 years ago, he had had both hips replaced by specialist Dr Young.

An ensuing X-ray found a shattered femur, from the hip to the knee. It was also discovered that Leonard's sodium level was too low, and he had to be placed on a liquid diet for a few days before they could operate.

Finally, the operation took place, once again by Dr Young. The result was a 25 centimetres long by four centimetres wide plate with 16 screws. After a few days, Leonard was placed on an exercise machine and after 10 days was transferred for rehab at the South Eastern Hospital

at Noble Park; where he would spend the next four weeks. Then Leonard moved to assisted living and rehab at Parkville until the middle of October, where he returned to Yea living independently and getting back involved in community activities, including bowls.

In December, following a check up with his surgeon, Leonard had to return to hospital for a minor procedure to adjust the plate to alleviate lingering pain. He was in hospital for four days, then back to Parkville for more recovery. It was during this time of recovery that the neck of the femur bone cracked and on returning to the same surgeon, it was decided to operate again, remove the plate and replace it with a rod from hip to knee; and to replace the 24 year old artificial hip, with a new hip replacement. Another general anaesthetic, another invasive operation, more rehab. This time in a hospital at St Kilda for three weeks. Leonard once again returned to assisted living in Parkville to regain confidence and fitness.

The lower left leg became very swollen and developed cellulitis. It was back to Windsor Hospital on a drip with antibiotics for a week and then back to Parkville for more rehab.

In May 2024, when Leonard was able to show he could care for himself by doing his own cleaning, shopping, cooking, he returned to Yea to get back to a normal routine, including

volunteer work at St Luke's Op Shop, his beloved lawn bowls and enjoying long walks and catching up with friends.

Leonard is very appreciative of Yea Bowls Club members for their support, and willingness to assist in any way possible; and to his neighbours and friends, who have taken care of his garden and other details.

Leonard has shown great courage, resilience and perseverance throughout his adversity, staying focussed and determined to do his rehab and regain fitness.

His comeback is inspirational for us all. It is great to have you back in Yea, Leonard. May it continue.



Leonard Sheahan getting assistance from Ambulance officers in May 2023. Published with the permission of the patient.



Leonard's bowls comeback.

### Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

#### Football - Seniors

Healesville	282.98	11
Seville	279.84	11
Warburton Millgrove	154.96	11
Yea	106.97	7
Belgrave	140.15	7
Alexandra	164.51	7
Yarra Glen	40.58	2
Yarra Junction	33.71	2
Powelltown	23.60	1

#### Football - Reserves

Belgrave	447.71	13
Seville	410.16	12
Healesville	368.55	10
Warburton Millgrove	219.48	9
Yea	92.65	6
Alexandra	43.15	4
Powelltown	33.96	3
Yarra Junction	33.02	1
Yarra Glen	15.28	1

#### Football - Senior Women

Monbulk	52 pts	13
Woori Yallock	48 pts	11
Warburton-Wesburn	46 pts	11
Emerald	30 pts	7
Officer	30 pts	7
Wandin	26 pts	6
Seville	8 pts	2
Thomton Eildon	0 pts	0

#### Football - Under 16

Euroa	76.92	10
Moama	61.53	8
Seymour	58.33	7
Alexandra	23.07	3
Broadford	15.38	2
Yea	8.33	1

#### Football - Under 14

Broadford	421.43	10
Wandong	211.34	6
Tabilk	135.19	6
Alexandra	125.71	4
Seymour	88.15	2
Yea	4.45	0

#### Netball - A Grade

Warburton Millgrove	192.35	12
Seville	166.50	12
Yarra Glen	149.68	9
Healesville	82.75	5
Alexandra	75.40	5
Belgrave	86.76	4
Yarra Junction	71.97	3
Yea	42.92	1

#### Netball - B Grade

Seville	60 pts	14
Belgrave	44 pts	10
Yarra Glen	44 pts	9
Warburton Millgrove	40 pts	9
Yea	32 pts	6
Powelltown	24 pts	4
Healesville	20 pts	3
Yarra Junction	20 pts	3
Alexandra	16 pts	2

#### Netball - C Grade

Yarra Glen	60 pts	13
Seville	52 pts	12
Warburton Millgrove	44 pts	10
Belgrave	40 pts	9
Yea	32 pts	6
Yarra Junction	24 pts	4
Alexandra	18 pts	2
Powelltown	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1

#### Netball - D Grade

Seville	100.00	12
Alexandra	68.18	7
Yarra Glen	63.63	7
Belgrave	62.50	7
Warburton Millgrove	58.53	7
Yea	25.00	3
Yarra Junction	8.33	1
Powelltown	0	0

#### Football - Under 12

Wandong	44 pts	11
Alexandra	36 pts	9
Broadford	24 pts	6
Seymour	24 pts	6
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	12 pts	3
St Marys	0 pts	0

## Road safety promotion grants available for sporting clubs

GRASSROOTS football and netball clubs across the state can apply for a share of \$600,000 to improve their club as part of an annual road safety rewards grants program.

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) have kicked off this year's *Club Rewards Program*, which encourages local clubs to promote road safety to members during the season.

Now in its fifth year, the program allows AFL Victoria-affiliated football and netball clubs to apply for up to \$10,000 to spend on club initiatives including club transport, new equipment and uniforms or facility upgrades.

So far this year, 128 people have died on Victoria's roads, with more than half of these deaths occurring in regional areas.

Member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad, said that repeated funding cuts by the Victorian Government has seen regional roads deteriorate to an appalling standard, with new data showing 91

per cent of roads across the state are now classified as being in "poor" or "very poor" in stark contrast with the massive amounts of money being spent on metro projects.

"Over the last five years, around 236 people have been killed on the road each year, with excessive or inappropriate speed a contributory factor in many crashes," said Ms Broad.

"Clubs will be asked to start conversations and be part of the campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding, with the tagline 'Show up for your team. Slow down on the road,'" Ms Broad said.

"Road safety is paramount for all our local footballers and netballers who travel vast distances on our crumbling roads each week to attend training and games."

More information on the *Club Rewards Program* can be found at [tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/tac-club-rewards-program](http://tac.vic.gov.au/about-the-tac/community/grants/tac-club-rewards-program)