

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

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*The Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre has now been open for 10 years. -S*

## Celebrating 10 years of the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre

THE Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre celebrated its 10th year of operation on Wednesday, August 14 at a function at the centre.

Over 60 attendees including representatives from Murrindindi Shire Council led by Mayor Damian Gallagher and attended by many of the Volunteers who have strongly supported the mantra of providing friendly knowledgeable tourism information covering shirewide attractions and accommodation. Apologies were received from Dr Helen Haines MP, Independent Federal Member for Indi, and Cindy McLeish MP State Member for Eildon who were both attending their respective sittings of parliament.

The Chair of the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre Association Inc. Don Knight in his address, described the genesis of the centre driven by Russell Wealands and his supporters to provide an environmental tourism attraction and associated education centre based on the Yea Wetlands and the importance of water.

The \$1.9 million dollar construction was funded though the state government complimented by a \$250,000 contribution by the Yea community managed by the Yea Wetlands Trust who continue to support the centre and wetlands environment.

Mr Knight commented this was a truly remarkable community contribution to establish Yea as the gateway to the many shire attractions and to honour the vision of Russell Wealands.

The centre is managed by a not-for-profit incorporated body and two Murrindindi Shire Council staff members who manage day to day operations including a cohort of approximately 40 volunteers.

The centre was awarded the RACV Best New Business Tourism Award in 2015 a testament to the staff Julie Blyth and Pauline Roberts who worked tirelessly to establish an operation from scratch establishing operational procedures and extensive volunteer training to win this accolade.

Mr Knight made acknowledgement of Murrindindi Shire Council for their support to successfully operate the centre and in particular the timely effort with recovery works in the Wetlands following the two flood events in 2022 and 2024.

The closure of the wetland's precinct impacts on the viability of the centre and tourism numbers as experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the pandemic, the centre attracted 30,000 visitors from all states and overseas and the warm friendly service has attracted many

complimentary remarks in the visitor book and on social media. Visitor numbers are recovering inspired by social media activity and Melburnians seeking attractions within easy reach.

The Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre is well patronised through its group tour program of the wetlands led by volunteers and an ever-increasing schools program dovetailing with their curriculum to present programs based on water and the environment. The well-equipped meeting room is also made available to various corporate groups and community organisations.

The retail component has been the source of funds to meet the expenses associated with operating the facility. Acknowledgement was made of the volunteer input to managing this aspect of operations.

Pauline Roberts, Visitor Services Officer, in her address acknowledged the wonderful support of the volunteers filling the seven day a week shifts and took great pride in presenting 10 year service certificates to 10 volunteers acknowledging their long term commitment.

Mr Knight outlined current and future programs supported by a state government Regional Tourism Investment Funds grant of \$375,000 complimented by a \$125,000

contribution by the Yea community, once again demonstrating strong support of the association's strategic plan of renewal and development and the major asset contributing to the economic and cultural development of Yea.

The plans included the recently completed renewal of the interpretive wing where the vision was to bring the wetlands into the centre with appropriate interactive exhibits encouraging more visitors to learn and experience the wetlands environment and includes a painted mural by Indigenous artist Sammy Trist telling the story of the wetlands from an Indigenous perspective.

The establishment of an Indigenous metal sculpture trail created with the cultural and procedural advice from Aunty Angela ten Buuren, a Taungurung Elder and former resident of Yea, and a 700 metre trail with raised walkways following the Yea (Kayigai) River making accessible the northern end of the wetlands. Completion of the trail depending on weather conditions is due within four months.

Completing his address, Mr Knight conveyed a deep appreciation to the staff, volunteers and association members past and present for their dedicated enthusiasm to make the Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre a huge success.

**Alexandra District Health**  
5772 0900

**Yea & District Memorial Hospital** 5736 0400

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Wind farm**

ON Helen Haines' web page it proudly says, 'I always put Indi first'.

When it comes to wind farms in the Strathbogies and transmissions towers down into the Goulburn Valley, Ms Haines does not put Indi first. She puts a thing called 'consultation' first and that means that she puts developers first.

I asked Ms Haines, your local 'independent' member (who voted with Labor 52 per cent of the time and with the Opposition 25 per cent of the time) the straight up question, 'Do you support the Fera wind farm proposal, yes or no?' What I got back was, 'This is state issue' and a reference to multiple places where Ms Haines has been supportive of consultation. No direct answer, no yes, no or maybe. But very strong support for renewables. Read between the lines.

Consultation, be that about wind towers, transmission lines or your local hospital, is a garbage piece of double-speak. It means to developers (and the state government) that they need to simply go through a few steps before they do what they want anyway. Consultation is a slow D10 bulldozer, driving over your communities best interest.

Don't believe that? Then answer this question, if the community overwhelmingly rejects a proposal to gut the hospital or build towers and transmission lines all over our lived environment, does that plan stop? Does Mr Fera in Milan or Premier Jacinta Allan in Spring Street hear 'the community says go away' and will they just nod and say, 'So they say, so we will do?' Not on your nelly. The project will just roll on regardless. The towers will get built. The hospitals will be gutted, regardless. Fera and Allen will say, 'Oh, but we went through a consultation process.'

Only when it hurts the local politicians in the ballot box, really hurts, will the community get listened to. State or federal issue, a big fat rejection gets attention.

Your chance to express just how you feel is coming soon.

*Marcus Elgin, Highlands*

**Proposed Yea kindergarten**

I NOTE that the *Yea Chronicle* reported (on August 7) the very commendable position of the Murrindindi Shire Council in endorsing its *Kindergarten and Child Care Strategy 2024-2029*.

Yea residents are possibly aware of the Victorian School Building Authority's (VSBA) proposal to erect a kinder at the Mary Street corner of the Yea Primary School. This site is currently used by the primary school children twice a day as their play-based learning space. Under the VSBA's proposal this space will be abolished, disadvantaging the school children.

This need not be the case as the building can be relocated to the Anne Street site, thereby turning this neglected and little utilised area into a productive space providing a beneficial and valuable service. Such re-siting would demonstrate the council's commitment "to supporting the early years sector and the families and children of the Murrindindi Shire," that is, the provision of the kinder would not be at the expense of the primary school children.

In the same edition of the *Chronicle*, I note that council ran and supported activities during the month of July's National Tree Day, attended by groups, volunteers, school children and community members. Unfortunately, the VSBA's Mary Street site for the kinder necessitates the felling of seven stately mature native trees and is at odds with the council's goal of "promoting the importance of trees in the environment."

Perhaps council could employ the strategy in its *Kindergarten and Child Care Strategy 2024-2029* of "influencing policies and decisions" to have the kinder built at Anne Street so that the VSBA can achieve its outcomes and the primary school children

can also retain their play space and trees. This would be a win-win for both parties.

*Edith, Yea*

**Potholes**

I POPPED out on the weekend and got to talk to some guys doing the measurements for potholes that have been reported. They were very approachable and generous with their time and energy.

They are a third party organisation of course, and we talked about road structure, it's integrity, the immense difference between road use, by type of car eg. SUVs and 4WDs, trucks by weight, and number and I noted that, for instance, I watched a double axle truck barrel on past with three small dozers on, and that this is not what the original road structure has been set up for. Of course, this is known.

We also talked about how I've noticed that the original road structure width was upgraded in the past, simply by adding extra asphalt and some substructure; this causes weakness in the road at that area and that, too, is visible in the pot holes.

I brought up the point that potholes have been fixed but new potholes exist in the same spot due, I think, to incorrect filling. We are dealing with many places that have been so addressed. I find this concerning on two levels; increased cost to fix the one area, repeat offences, filling in the same potholes subsequently and the ubiquitous nature of them. By not dealing with the pot hole correctly the first time, it becomes cumulative and new pots added means more potholes overall. Cost over-runs equals less money down the line. The response to this was the, 'if we fix a pothole in winter it's less stable than in summer', so pots fixed now, or recently, 'pop out again'.

I don't think this is actually true, it might be true-ish for some areas that have been wet and the substructure is unstable but, for the most part it's been a dry autumn and winter

*Continued Page 4*



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**Weekly Weather**  
August 21 - August 27, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	15	Wednesday	8	16
Thursday	5	14	Thursday	5	15
Friday	7	16	Friday	7	17
Saturday	9	18	Saturday	8	19
Sunday	11	19	Sunday	11	19
Monday	9	16	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	10	16	Tuesday	10	17

**Standard**      **The Yea Chronicle**

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
can be submitted via email to  
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or  
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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.

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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	1.73	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.56	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.55am Mon	0.75	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.23pm Mon	0.22	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	12.41pm Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	12.38pm Mon	1.09	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.67	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.66	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.28	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.39	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.63	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.14pm Mon	1.25	steady	

\*\*ISSUED AT 12.45PM ON MONDAY, 19 AUGUST 2024

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

Alexandra	4.5mm
Buxton	18mm
Eildon (AWS)	6mm
Flowerdale	20mm
Jamieson	11mm
Kinglake	14mm
Lake Eildon	7mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	7mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea	8mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

Height above sea level this week	286.19m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	89.4%
Metres below full supply	2.71m
Daily inflow	2300ML
Release	3400ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	79.4%

**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

## New Senior Sergeant for Murrindindi Shire

NOELLA Bannon is the new Senior Sergeant (officer in charge) for Murrindindi, and will also be undertaking the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) role.

Noella grew up in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, and has had property in Murrindindi Shire for about 15 years.

She's been a member for Victoria Police for almost 33 years, with the majority of her career in the crime investigation and response (I&R) space.

During her career, she's worked all over the state, including regional and metropolitan, in crime investigation, sexual offences and the sexual crime squad.

"I've done pretty much everything," she said. "The high focus in this area is the community engagement, road policing, farm crime, emergency management and so forth."

She has undertaken Senior Sergeant roles intermittently since 2009, but she was gazetted as a Family Violence Training Officer in 2020.

Now that she's Senior Sergeant in the Murrindindi area, she's keen to increase the community engagement and focus on proactive policing. "Policing for the community is a high focus, and ensuring that police are available for the community requirements," she said.

Policing for the community means that through engaging with the community, they know what the community wants and they can action it. They also want to hold people accountable for

offences, including road policing and crime offences.

A high focus will also be on minimising road trauma, and this will inevitably encompass greater police presence on the road.

She added, "We are committed to trying to get greater police but unfortunately, our numbers are restricted. However, we have three new members plus a new senior sergeant that we're going to have in the near future. We've had one who has just been assigned. We're going to have more police on the road. We have three additional members at Alexandra that we have not had previously, so there are going to be more crews out and about."

They also have members who have upgraded in a number of positions in the shire at the moment. At Yea Police Station, there's Acting Sergeant Matthew Robertson. At Marysville Police Station, there's Sergeant Geoff Shaw. At Eildon Police Station, there's Acting Sergeant Samuel McCaffrey. Noella said that they're all doing a fabulous job.

She said that if members of the community have any issues, "We are available for them and we will make ourselves available, as the police have done in the past, but this time we're definitely going to have a greater response capacity now."

If people are keen to speak directly to Noella, her general base will be at Yea Police Station, but will be spending time at all of the stations. Contact the Yea station in the first instance and they should be able to let you know how to find her.



Senior Sergeant Noella Bannon. -S

## Victorian NAPLAN results

LAST week the findings from the NAPLAN National results were released by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

NAPLAN was successfully undertaken in schools across the country in March 2024. A record 4.4 million online tests were submitted by almost 1.3 million students in 9431 campuses and schools across Australia.

The national results provide nationally comparable data on the 2024 national, state and territory results for each year test that was conducted for the year levels assessed, and for each level by gender, indigenous status and language background other than English.

The new data has shown the NAPLAN results in 2024 at the national level were very similar to the results in 2023. There were small increases and decreases across domains and year levels, but nationally, in all domains and year levels, the results were broadly stable. Over a one year period, national statistics rarely show a notable change.

ACARA's CEO Stephen Gneil said, "These results are a testament to the hard work and commitment of schools, principals and teachers, as well as students themselves."

"Over the last two years, schools have adjusted to both the earlier timing of the NAPLAN tests and the changed reporting system with new proficiency standards. The fact that the results of Australian students have remained stable through these changes, with no significant difference in average scores, is an important achievement."

"The 2024 results continue to show strong performance from Australian students in literacy and numeracy. However, they also provide clear information on areas requiring our collective focus and effort for improvement. The challenges remain with supporting those students identified in the 'Needs additional support' category and tackling the ongoing educational disparities for students from non-urban areas, First Nations Australian heritage and those with low socio-educational backgrounds."

As the new measurement scale and proficiency levels were introduced last year, Mr Gneil noted caution must be exercised in trying to interpret any clear trends at this early stage.

Demographic results reflected trends in other national assessments and previous NAPLAN results, with female students outperforming male students in literacy, and higher results tending to align with students from the highest socio-educational backgrounds, in urban areas and from non-Indigenous backgrounds.

The national data shows Victorian students are leading the nation on a range of metrics, particularly in the primary years.

Victorian year three students continue to lead the nation in both reading and numeracy, the most important foundational skills. This is the third consecutive year this has been achieved.

Victoria achieved the first or second highest scores of all jurisdictions in seven out of eight measures in reading and writing and achieved

the top results in the country for writing in years five, seven and nine.

Victorian primary school students continue to produce the best results in the country, ranking first or second in eight out of 10 domains.

Victorian students in years three, seven and nine improved their 2023 reading results, reversing the national trend, which saw the average score for reading decline in years three, five, and seven, and improve only in year nine.

Victoria's reading performance improved overall in 2024, with 5000 more students reaching the 'exceeding' proficiency level for reading across all year levels compared to 2023. Despite the promising results there will still be an introduction of the mandatory use of phonics in primary schools from 2025 to further reduce the number of students struggling.

While Victorian primary students lead the nation in numeracy, years seven and nine students placed third nationally. The state government has promised to invest more than \$20 million to upskill math teachers to better equip students in numeracy.

Families would have already received their child's NAPLAN results. The 2024 NAPLAN data will be published on the My School website in early December to see how local schools have performed.

### R U OK? Day events in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is hosting community conversation pop-up stalls across Murrindindi Shire in recognition of R U OK? Day. Head down and have a chat with a local mental health representative and enjoy a Kit Kat.

They will be at FoodWorks in Alexandra on Tuesday, September 10 from 10.30am to 2.30pm; FoodWorks in Kinglake from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Wednesday, September 11; and at Yea FoodWorks from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Thursday, September 12.

#### Why should we ask R U OK?

Ask R U OK? Any Day because life happens every day.

A lot can happen in a year, a month, a week. Whether it's your friend, family member, colleague, partner, or teammate, the people you care about go through life's ups and downs every day. They're not alone, with 72 per cent of Australians reporting elevated levels of distress.

Regular, meaningful conversations with the people close to you can help prevent small things from becoming big things. By checking in regularly, you build trust and normalise talking about what's really going on, so when the people in your world find themselves struggling, they know you're someone they can talk to.

So, don't wait for R U OK? Day on September 12, Ask R U OK? on any day of the year because a conversation could change a life.

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## Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

with many dry days that can't even grow grass for local farms, meaning that the potholes, if addressed correctly, should be stable. This is another consequence of the way that potholes are addressed though. The chief thing that was said was that the workers have been moved into the high country to fix potholes there. And these people were just measuring potholes for future attention. I drove along and noted that some deep pots have had a spadeful of asphalt put in them to prevent further erosion. Some good results but not great ones. As mentioned it's a huge job and they're paddling as fast as they can but temporary fixes just are not good enough. They mentioned VicRoads cutting funding but also said their business was looking for people to work, especially truck drivers, but also maintenance workers. These two thoughts are contrariwise though.

Valerie Pallaoro



Lyndal Tait from Yea Primary School participating in the Disability Inclusion workshop at the Murrindindi and Mitchell Curriculum Day, held in Seymour on Friday. Over 700 staff from the two shires attended the curriculum day. -JK

## 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.

## 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

## Local crews assist with Merton collision

MAROONDAH Highway east of Merton was partially closed on Thursday, August 15, due to a motor vehicle collision.

Multi agencies attended the accident that involved a four wheel drive colliding with the side of a truck that resulted in ripped open diesel fuel tanks of the truck causing a large spillage of fuel along the highway.

The driver fled from the scene with police apprehending the man several hours later. The passenger was extricated from the four wheel drive by SES crews from Alexandra and Mansfield, as well as ambulance crews.

CFA crews from Maindample, Merton, Yarck and Alexandra, along with SES and a VicRoads contractor assisted with the fuel spill and traffic control. The highway was cleared at approximately 2am.

Police are continuing their investigations, if you have dash cam footage or information that can help, please contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.



**THUMBS UP:** Grateful thanks to the management and staff at all the local supermarkets in the Murrindindi Shire. The friendly and helpful staff are much appreciated and in this day and age of self-serve checkouts. To be actually served by a human being is a pleasant experience. The generosity of these supermarkets with sponsorships and donations to so many local organizations is also noted.

**THUMBS UP:** To council for their improvements to the tip. It looks immaculate and no smell.

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

## 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.*

for the committee, contact the secretary at [info@ugfm.org](mailto:info@ugfm.org) or call 5772 2722.

\*\*\*\*\*

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary AGM will be held at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre meeting room, Yea. RSVP to Ruth Crockett 5797 3057.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Alexandra Op Shop AGM will be held at 10am in the RSL Hall.

Make sure your enrolment details are up to date for the October Murrindindi Shire Council election. Visit [vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment](http://vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment) to check or update your details.

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### MONDAY, AUGUST 26

UGFM AGM will be held at 7.30pm via Zoom. For the meeting link or to nominate

## Front entrance to hospital closed

THE Yea and District Memorial Hospital's (YDMH) front entrance and carpark will be closed from August 26 to September 6, but there will be no changes to services during this time. The hospital will still be operating 24/7 during this period. YDMH is undertaking some necessary roof works.

The Rosebank entrance off Station Street will be utilised as the main entry for all hospital and urgent care patients and visitors during this time.

For any queries please call 5736 0400.

## Rally in Bendigo about renewables

ON Friday, August 23, a rally is set to be held at the All Seasons Resort, McIvor Highway in Strathdale, Bendigo, from 10am to 2pm.

The protest will be outside an event being hosted by the Rural Press Club of Victoria. Premier Jacinta Allan will be attending the luncheon. The editor of the *Alexandra Standard* and *Yea Chronicle* will also be in attendance.

One of the chief concerns of the protesters is that the government has removed the right of third parties to appeal renewables decisions in VCAT. The decisions of the Minister are final.

Rally organiser Ben Duxson said that this is only part of the reason behind the protest. He also encouraged people to attend if they have concerns around taxation, cost of living, government spending, city-centric decision making, mining, logging and health care, etcetera. People with "any grievance" should attend, he said, but also stated that the protest is not aligned with any political parties.

## Energy upgrades fund investment

THE Federal Government announced on Sunday that \$160 million will be added to a major bank fund that offers discounted loans to pay for energy efficient home upgrades.

The government said the energy upgrades fund would help around 110,000 households get low-cost loans for solar panels, batteries, hot water heat pumps, electric vehicle chargers, induction cooktops and other energy-related home improvements.

Under the scheme, lower interest rates will be provided. The loans under the scheme will have a variable interest rate of 4.49 per cent, compared to Westpac's advertised 6.44 per cent variable rate for home loans. On top of that, the loan can be from \$4000 up to \$50,000 on a 10-year maximum term.

According to Westpac's website, the loans are only available to those who already have another large home or investment loan with Westpac. This means that applicants must already have or be approved for a Westpac home or investment loan of at least \$150,000, and the energy upgrades are for the property that secures the loan.

# How can you help our ambulance service?

MURRINDINDI'S acting Paramedic Community Support Coordinator, Craig Beamish, spoke about some of the challenges faced by local paramedics in providing support to the Murrindindi community, as well as ways that we can all help.

In the Hume area in the first quarter of this year, there have been 5623 code one (emergency) callouts. Across the state, there have been 102,000 code one callouts, breaking the previous record of 100,238 code ones in the last quarter of 2022.

## Health system challenges

Asked about the increase in callouts, Craig said, "There's just a change in the health system across the board. There's reduced access to primary health, reduced access to GP appointments, reduced access to health (services) across the board in rural and regional areas. When we have people who can't access their normal health care providers, then the next alternative is to utilise something that's accessible, being the ambulance service." He added that there are probably other factors at play as well.

He said that according to statistics, one in five emergency calls are not actually emergencies, however people may not understand what an emergency is in the same way that a health professional might.

Craig said that the ramping of ambulances at hospitals is "a very complex, layered issue, and one of the end results is that it ties up ambulances that are at hospitals... Then it obviously has a significant reduction in availability to the communities that we need to serve."

Separately, the Victorian Upper House has passed an Opposition motion for an inquiry into Ambulance Victoria, with concerns around ambulance response times, ramping and delays with calls being answered.

## How many ambulances do we have in the shire?

At a local level, the Murrindindi ambulance area includes Alexandra, Eildon, Marysville and Yea.

The Alexandra branch is a 24 hour branch. They have a day shift and a night shift, each with two paramedics on the ambulance.

In Yea, Marysville and Eildon, they run a 'paramedic supported branch' with one ambulance each. They have a volunteer ambulance community officer (ACO) and a registered paramedic in their ambulances, operating on an on-call basis, 24 hours per day.

Marysville and Eildon "rotate around," meaning that in the summer season, Eildon will have a paramedic and ACO, and Marysville might have two ACOs. In winter, this swaps around.

If someone calls Triple Zero, the ambulances are despatched according to the GPS location. If the Alexandra crew are at Box Hill Hospital, for example, then the closest ambulance would be called. This might be Eildon or Yea or Seymour, for example.

"Just because there's an ambulance branch in Alexandra or Eildon or Marysville or Yea, it doesn't necessarily mean that that's where the ambulance is coming from," Craig said. He added that code one emergencies always take priority.

"We need to leave ambulances, as much as we can, for life threatening emergencies," he said.

## How can you help?

He stressed the importance of people learning cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillator usage, or even better, to do a full First Aid course. He added that when people call Triple Zero, the caller will always be kept on the line and given advice until the ambulance arrives. They'll talk the caller through what to do.

Despite the challenges, it's very important for people to call an ambulance in an emergency, such as a heart attack, a car accident, someone being unconscious, severe asthma or a stroke, etcetera.

The call might be transferred to a referral service such as a nurse or paramedic who can assess the patient. They might then send people to Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) or provide other advice.

## What other medical services are available?

There are some government and local initiatives to provide alternative pathways instead of calling an ambulance.

If people have non-life-threatening emergencies, they could consider using one of the alternative services, such as VVED. People just need a phone or tablet with video capability to speak to an Australian-trained doctor, often emergency physicians, based in Victoria. It's free and you don't need a Medicare card. The doctors will do a virtual consultation, and they can dispense scripts and follow up or send through relevant information to your normal GP for continuum of care. Why go to hospital if you don't have to?

The VVED can also handle illnesses such as COVID-19, RSV or influenza. Hospital treatment is only required when it becomes more serious or life-threatening.

There are also Priority Primary Care Centres (PPCCs). These are an established GP clinic which has an agreement with the government to open extended hours and provide low acuity access to healthcare for people who would normally attend a hospital, but it's not an emergency. This might include fractures, burns, infections, lacerations, coughs and colds, headaches, earaches, etcetera. They operate for up to 14 hours per day, seven days per week. The closest PPCCs to the shire are in Wallan, Ringwood and Epping.

Locally, people can also gain health support through Alexandra District Health and Yea and District Memorial Hospital for a variety of ailments.

Craig also noted the importance of vaccinations, and suggested getting vaccinated at pharmacies rather than medical clinics, where possible and appropriate. Pharmacies may also offer health screening such as taking blood pressure, and providing medication for colds and flus.

In addition, Craig suggested that people be proactive about their general health care, with regular checkups for over 55s. It can help to ward off any potential upcoming health issues.

## If you have time...

Have you thought about becoming an ambulance community officer (ACO)? They're needed due to limited resources in the area. While Marysville is currently staffed by a paramedic and an ACO, "Eildon hasn't had any ambulance coverage for a number of weeks because we don't have enough ACOs to be able to fill that roster. We're really keen to get people who are interested in helping their community and want to give back to the community. We're really interested in local people who have vested interest in their community," Craig said, adding that the more people take part, the lighter the load. He also said that people are not on-call 24 hours a day, but on a roster basis. When people are on call, they can stay home until a call comes in. A financial incentive is also available for call-outs, on an hourly rate, and ACOs are also paid for their training.

Ambulance Victoria provides all of the training, and participants receive a recognised qualification. Much of the training is online, with face-to-face training across two weekends. It then takes six to 12 months to go through all of the training, while working on the road with a paramedic or qualified ACO. To find out more, visit [ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/](http://ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/)

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## Haines concerns over Future Made in Australia Fund

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines has raised the alarm about integrity concerns over the government's signature *Future Made In Australia* program.

The \$22.7 billion program is the largest budget measure in this term of parliament outside the defence portfolio, but Dr Haines said it lacked guardrails and oversight over the spending.

"There is a giant question mark where integrity and transparency measures should be in this legislation," Dr Haines said.

"We are talking about tens of billions of taxpayer money and I want to make sure the public knows where this money is going."

Dr Haines will move three key amendments to the *Future Made in Australia* bill, saying there must be adequate transparency over the spending measures, which aim to unlock economic benefits as part of the transition to a net zero economy.

"The government has created a large bucket of money, with only a vague outline of how that money could be spent," Dr Haines said, speaking on the bill in parliament.

"Without an oversight and transparency framework, there is a risk that money will be awarded to industries or companies without merit, because of lobbying efforts, because it will win votes in certain electorates, or for other reasons that generally lack integrity in government decision-making.

"The public deserves assurance that billions of dollars of their money is being spent responsibly and with integrity, to prevent any pork barrelling occurring under this government, or indeed future governments."

Dr Haines cited multiple organisations that have raised similar concerns, including the Productivity Commission, Climate Council, Grattan Institute and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"There are clear gaps in this bill, if these organisations and companies, including companies who will surely seek to benefit from *Future Made in Australia* supports, identify shortfalls on key issues like selection criteria and transparency of funding and sector assessments."

Pointing to her *End Pork Barrelling* bill tabled in Parliament in 2023 as a way to improve integrity and oversight across the board, Dr Haines said solutions to the gaps are not hard to find.

"My *End Pork Barrelling* bill provides a framework to ensure government spending of taxpayer money is done transparently, by requiring clear selection criteria for grants and creating a Parliamentary Joint Committee to oversee grant administration.

"If my *End Pork Barrelling* bill was passed, concerns about the integrity of these *Future Made in Australia* grants would be alleviated."

Dr Haines wrote to the Treasurer earlier this month, expressing her concerns on the *Future Made in Australia* bill and outlining her amendments, and is meeting with the Treasurer to discuss them further.

## Australian documentary seeks 1000 rural women

THE voices of 1000 rural women are being sought for a new documentary on Australia's rural, regional, and remote women.

*Rural Daughters*, the feature length documentary by CheekyMac Productions, will follow the personal journeys of some of Australia's most inspiring rural women in their efforts to overcome barriers, effect change and live a successful, purpose-driven life in the regions.

In addition to their stories, a nationwide *1000 Rural Women Survey* has been developed to capture the experiences of rural women on a broad range of topics from natural disasters, health and domestic violence to societal attitudes, racial prejudice, Tall Poppy Syndrome, community life, leadership and female role models.

The documentary and survey from producer, director and writer Danielle McAlpine Johnson aims to gather more than 1000 survey responses to provide a statistical snapshot of rural women.

The survey has been developed by Federation University's Collaborative Evaluation and Research Centre, together with CheekyMac Productions, both organisations led by rural women. Commissioned by the Community Enterprise Foundation, the survey is expected to be the largest and broadest of its kind.

The documentary and survey results are expected to be used to inform policy and develop educational resources in Australian schools.

The survey is available online between August and September and can be found at [cheekymac.com/rural-daughters](http://cheekymac.com/rural-daughters)

## Cost-of-living crisis bites animals in Victoria's North-East

by Michelle Green, RSPCA Inspectorate Team Leader North-East

AS the team leader for RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate North-East region, every day my team of five Inspectors and I are seeing first-hand how the cost-of-living crisis is affecting people and their pets.

From St Kilda's beaches all the way up to Cobram and Corryong and everywhere in between people are struggling, and when people are struggling, their pets are affected.

Those struggling to care for their pets are certainly not alone.

Heartbreakingly, every month RSPCA Victoria receives between 400 and 600 calls from people wanting to surrender their pets for a variety of reasons, including financial difficulties.

Many of the cruelty cases we see aren't necessarily malicious cruelty, rather, neglect due to people's circumstances changing beyond their control, such as unexpected illness, injury or hospitalisation, financial pressures, those affected by domestic violence, and many other factors.

Sometimes it's people simply not knowing how to provide basic care for their pets and, with a little help and education, things can be easily turned around.

So much of what my team and I do out on the road is focused on helping people in the community care for their pets.

We know animals make our lives better and, where it's safe to do so, the best outcome is often to keep people and their pets together.

Over the last 12 months we've seen more cases of people with simply too

many pets, and they are struggling to, or unable to provide adequate care for their animals.

Unfortunately, this often results in poor husbandry and living conditions for the animals.

This is also affecting their ability to provide basic veterinary attention for sick or injured animals.

Where we can, we've been helping those who are struggling by providing flea and worming treatments, emergency food, and on occasion a kennel or bedding for their pets.

Despite this work, RSPCA Victoria received 1990 cruelty reports for the north-east region, resulting in the rescue of 413 animals.

Quite often these are cases where animal suffering could have been avoided through essential husbandry and preventative care practices like flea and worming treatment, dental care and grooming.

To everyone in the north-east region, thank you for reporting animal cruelty.

The care you have shown for these animals ensures we're able to investigate and do what we can to help.

The people across the north-east region are our eyes and ears when it comes to animal cruelty, and we urge anyone with concerns to report it to RSPCA Victoria by calling 9224 2222 or online at [rspcavic.org/cruelty-report](http://rspcavic.org/cruelty-report).

The community's support doesn't stop there.

It cost approximately \$9.7 million to operate the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate in the last financial year, with the majority of funding coming



Michelle Green. -S

from the community through donations, fundraising and events.

If you are one of many who are struggling to care for your pets, please don't be afraid to reach out for help, whether it be to us, to other community-based programs, to your local council, or to other groups who may be able to provide support.

Together, we can end animal cruelty.

[IN Murrindindi Shire, eight animals were seized or surrendered in 2023/4, down from nine in 2022/3. The ranking has changed from 46th place out of all shires to 49th place. -Ed]

## Councils road safety strategy to improve our roads

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is close to presenting its Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. It is likely to be adopted at a council meeting in the near future. The report addresses the local roads needing work.

Murrindindi Shire Council engaged with community members last year to get input and develop future road safety measurements across the shire and developed a draft plan.

The strategy has been developed to adopt the national and state *Vision Zero* outlook, aiming to eliminate all road deaths by 2050. The first goal of this strategy is to halve these numbers by 2030.

The community feedback at the community engagement sessions showed that road maintenance is required. Pothole repairs are to take place, along with improved line marking, vegetation and gravel removal. Other changes include speed limit reductions on narrow roads for the safety of cyclists, safer infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, improving road illumination and line marking to improve visibility and safety, and tackling concerns over larger vehicles speeding on our roads.

Data was analysed from financial year 2015 to financial year 2019. Murrindindi is in the top 10 shires with the highest number of crashes among the 38 regional shires, amounting to 512 crashes, or approximately two crashes a week.

The report states that in terms of fatal and serious injury (FSI) Murrindindi takes second place during this period, and Murrindindi ranks third among all rural shires in terms of proportion of motorcyclist casualties.

More attention needs to be on motorcyclist safety. Riders accounted for nearly half of the FSI casualties, followed by drivers at around the one third mark of FSI casualties.

The other roads, as mentioned previously, had the highest number casualties crashes with more than 50 per cent being motorcycle crashes.

Who has the safest roads? When considering all casualties the highest number of casualty crashes and FSI occurred on Department of Transport roads. Other roads came in second which would include state forest roads and Parks managed by DEECA, followed by council roads.

The report did show there wasn't a vast difference to motorcycle crashes on all the different road types. Hotspots on council roads for motorcycle crashes included Eildon-Jamieson Road, between Barnewall Plains Road and Eildon, Warburton Road, Skyline Road near UT Creek Road intersection, Devils River, Whanregarwen Road near Goulburn Valley Highway, Whanregarwen, and Extons Road in Kinglake Central.

Even though the data set was older for this report, information was included in the report that in the recent three years (July 2020 to June 2022) there was a higher proportion of FSI crashes compared to the previous periods. The newer data did show that the highest number of crashes occurred from January to April and more frequently on the weekend.

Visitors to the region seem to copping the brunt of the crashes as casualty numbers are more than double of resident casualties.

In the survey with 42 respondents, it showed that maintenance issues are a big concern for road users. The report stated the issues highlighted were that a lack of proper maintenance led to the deterioration of road conditions such as a high amount of potholes, loose gravel on the road, faded line marking, and vegetation over the roads, at the roundabout, or on the roadside.

There is an increased risk due to vehicles losing control when in contact

or trying to avoid potholes, gravel, or trees.

Sight distance is also limited due to vegetation and presence of narrow high-speed roads on the network. It was noted that the risk is significantly high for cyclists on these roads and there is a lack of safe facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

Other problems included presence on unsealed roads and unsealed shoulders, visitors are unfamiliar with Murrindindi roads, speeding and overtaking issues, especially by large vehicles, and poorly lit roads.

Findings from crash analysis as well as community and stakeholder consultation, seven goals were set for the future of Murrindindi's road safety.

These goals included reducing the number of fatal and serious injuries related to motorcycle crashes; ensuring a self-explaining road network that helps to reduce the number of fatal and serious injuries of shire's visitors who are unfamiliar with the shire's road network, supporting the selection of suitable speed limits to improve survivability, especially on high speed roads, and improving compliance and improving safety on high-speed rural road mid-block, maintaining good road conditions to ensure safe outcomes, and supporting innovative solutions to prepare for future development as well as an integrated network with e-mobility and automation of vehicles, and provide safe connections between and within communities (including townships and commercial areas) to increase accessibility and safety, in particular for the young and aging population, and tourists.

The above goals to increase the safety and combat the many issues on shire roads will surely make a difference once implemented. To view the draft road safety strategy and action plan visit [theoop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au](http://theoop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

# A Little Respect

Creating space for conversations in our community about important topics related to relationships, gender equality and family violence prevention.



Lee is the Free From Violence Project Officer at Murrindindi Shire Council. She is passionate about raising awareness about important issues in the local community, particularly related to gender equality and family violence prevention. Lee operates with curiosity over conflict and believes we all have something to learn from one another. Lee's work aligns with her studies in law and criminology, but mostly with her lived experience as Victim-Survivor. She has presented at state-wide Government Forums alongside other well-known advocates, and facilitated community forums focused on mental health, gender equality and family violence.

## Topic of the month: Free From Violence Activity Cards – making hard conversations easier.

Last month, we talked about men's mental health and the link to family violence. This time, we're diving into some practical tools to create conversation and debunk some entrenched ideas about gender equality, family violence and other concepts that are sometimes a bit misunderstood. Murrindindi Shire Council's 'Free From Violence Activity Cards' are a great learning and icebreaker tool for tough conversations. And tough conversations are easier with prompting tools. These cards take the guess work out of tricky topics and promote meaningful connection too. Bonus!

### How would I use the cards?

The cards are intended to raise awareness about issues related to gender equality, family violence, intersectionality and more. They include key terms, questions, bite-sized facts and prompts for respectful sharing and learning. There are lots of ways these cards can be used. For example:

- **in the workplace:** pull out a couple of cards at the start of a meeting to discuss as a team.
- **at a training session:** use the cards as an icebreaker activity at a workshop or training session.
- **by yourself:** read them in your own time and space to build your understanding.
- **with your partner:** consider scheduling a relationship check-in. Discuss a few of the cards together. Try to stay curious.
- **as a family:** have an open discussion with your family about some of the topics covered by the cards.

It is important to note that not all cards are appropriate for children and some cards may be triggering for adults. Go gently and call 1800 RESPECT if you need support.

### What are a couple of examples from the card deck?

Many of the cards provide helpful explanations about concepts we hear about in the media. Other cards can be turned into activities or played out like a scenario to help building capacity and general understanding.

#### Example 1: What is Family Violence? (Learning card).

'Family Violence' and/or 'Intimate Partner Violence' refers to any behaviour by an intimate partner (or ex-partner) that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical violence, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. It is a pattern of behaviour where one partner is usually exerting power and control over the other partner over time. 'Family violence' refers to violence between any members of a family.

#### Example 2: What is the mental load? (Learning card).

The 'mental load' means the mental and emotional effort or burden of being responsible for thinking about, planning and organising all the parts of life, for women but also for children, partners and other family members. Often within couples and families, one person carries more of the mental load. Although an uneven mental load can affect everyone, it most commonly impacts women, especially in families in which women have more responsibility for childcare, and where men are employed outside of the home. It's also more common in heterosexual relationships than it is in same-sex or gender-diverse relationships.

#### Example 3: What is the Gender Pay Gap? (Learning card).

Put simply, the gender pay gap is the difference between the earnings of men and women. For example, a man may be paid more than a woman for doing the same job. Australia's national gender pay gap is still around 12 per cent (as at Nov-2023). This means for every dollar a man earns, a woman earns 88 cents. But the pay gap is more complex than this. Unpaid domestic labour, including carrying the mental load, as well as other unpaid and undervalued tasks, widen the gender pay gap even more. Particularly as these tasks are disproportionately carried out by women. And historically, women have not earned superannuation while on parental leave. These factors contribute to a second 'invisible pay gap' causing further disadvantage to women, on top of the more visible pay gap discussed above.

#### Example 4: Activity/Scenario Card.

Someone says, "why are we always talking about the differences between genders? doesn't this defeat the purpose? let's just focus on what makes us all the same and move on!" What do you say? Discuss in a group. It can feel frustrating to focus on our differences rather than our similarities. However, if we don't first understand one another's different experiences (including based on gender), we will find it much harder to move towards real equality. If we want everyone to be treated fairly and equitably, we must address all the ways in which they are currently not. We must consider the role we might be playing in upholding the status quo. This doesn't mean we all have to agree. We just have to do better to expand our knowledge by listening to other people's experiences with curiosity and empathy. Getting defensive when we disagree only shuts down more meaningful connection. When everyone feels heard and respected, we can achieve amazing things as a collective.

### Are you passionate about gender equality or violence prevention? We want to hear from you!

We are on the lookout for volunteer community champions. The State Government Free From Violence Local Government Program allows us to support small initiatives led by you. We want to hear your ideas and collaborate to make them happen. You don't have to be an expert to make a difference in the community. Email Lee via [communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:communitydevelopment@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

#### Getting support

Call 000 in an emergency or if you are in immediate danger.

- 1800 RESPECT: 1800 737 732
- Rainbow Door: A free specialist helpline for LGBTQIA+ Victorians. Phone: 1800 729 367 or visit [rainbowdoor.org.au](http://rainbowdoor.org.au)
- Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre: 1800 015 188
- Orange Door Goulburn: 1800 634 245
- Nexus Primary Health: 1300 773 352
- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Djirra Aboriginal Women Support Service: 1800 959 563
- Mensline Australia: 1300 789 978
- 'Are You Safe at Home?' website: [areyousafeathome.org.au](http://areyousafeathome.org.au)

### Do you want your own deck of Free From Violence Activity Cards?

Scan the QR code below to register your interest and we will get in touch make sure you don't miss out on this great conversational and icebreaker tool!



## Student of the Week

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



### YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to week four Values Award winners, William, Taj, Oscar, Darby, Hamish and Caleb.

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to John, Ollie, Ebony, Ella and Eve 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



## Movember Institute publishes new men's health report

THE Movember Institute of Men's Health has just published a world-first *Real Face of Men's Health Report*, outlining the alarming state of men's health across Australia.

The report found that two in five men living in Australia will die prematurely, and from largely preventable reasons.

Suicide is the leading cause of death among men aged 15 to 44 years and it's the second leading cause of death among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. In Australia, men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women. In 2022, men who died by suicide lost an average of 34.9 years of life.

Where men live can also determine how long they live, according to the report.

The average rate of male premature death in rural electorates is 3.5 times higher than those in electorates in inner metropolitan areas. Many factors contribute to these outcomes, but poor health education, limited access to healthcare, engagement in high-risk behaviours, and gender stereotypes all play a role.

Men are less likely to engage in preventative health, choosing instead, to suffer in silence.

Nearly two in three men (63 per cent) feel that gender stereotypes (ie. 'toughing it out') have affected their health behaviours and experiences in healthcare settings. That number rises to 71 per cent for men who have a mental health condition. Fifty per cent of men believe it's normal for men to ignore regular check-ups, and almost a third are confused or overwhelmed by health information.

When it comes to poor health, 34 per cent of men have sat with symptoms for more than a month before reaching out to a doctor and nine per cent have waited over two years. When men do reach out to a GP (or present at a hospital) it's usually when symptoms are critical or ongoing, leading to poorer health outcomes.

When men are in poor health, it often falls on loved ones to care for them.

There are 2.65 million informal (unpaid) caregivers in Australia, and 70 per cent of them are women and girls. While caregiving can be incredibly rewarding, new Movember research reveals the profound impact of men's poor health on the emotional, physical, and social health of female informal caregivers.

These nationally representative insights also reveal financial tolls, including lost career opportunities and financial stress, with 36 per cent of respondents having to leave or change jobs or reduce their working hours, to support a man in poor health, and 48 per cent citing a negative financial impact.

Compared to male carers, women who care for men are more likely to experience: worries or anxiety (66 per cent versus 45 per cent); low mood or depression (46 per cent versus 35 per cent); overwhelm or stress (52 per cent versus 33 per cent). By improving men's health, we not only benefit men, but also the families and communities that those men are a part of.

The report found that suffering men's health also has a huge impact on the economy.

In 2023, Australia spent approximately \$10.7 billion on five conditions that cause the most years of life lost in men. These were chronic diseases such as coronary heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, and suicide.

The Movember Institute of Men's Health are calling on the government to fund and

resource the Australian Men's Health Strategy 2020-2030 so that they can undertake a variety of actions.

These include promoting men's health literacy by helping men understand how their bodies, minds, and even the health systems around them work; investing in gender-responsive healthcare services that are better able to reach, respond to, and retrain men in healthcare settings (ie. screenings for prostate cancer or HIV); equipping healthcare workers with skills and strategies to engage men in those services; and conducting more research into men's health, so they can bolster the evidence base about what works and what doesn't work.

For those struggling with mental health, there are a variety of support services available to assist. Anyone having a personal crisis can contact Lifeline on 131 114 or chat online, and people can get support by calling Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636. MensLine Australia provides online counselling and a forum for men, and can be found by calling 1300 789 978.

## Victorian Kids benefiting from free dental care

THE Victorian Government's *Smile Squad* program has now delivered free dental care to more than 100,000 students.

Delivered by mobile teams of dedicated oral health clinicians who travel across the state in bright orange vans, *Smile Squad* provides free check-ups, x-rays, teeth cleaning, application of fluoride and dental sealants, fillings, and root canals to school students.

Since the program launched in 2019 *Smile Squad* has delivered 200,000 free initial and follow up appointments to kids at government schools and provided more than 600,000 dental health packs which include a toothbrush and toothpaste.

A survey of students attending *Smile Squad* found that 36 per cent of them don't brush their teeth twice a day, and 16 per cent of them had never had their teeth checked by a dental professional before *Smile Squad* visited their school.

Across Australia, at least a quarter of children have experienced tooth decay and in Victoria dental conditions are the highest cause of preventable hospitalisations for children under 10.

Importantly, this transformational program has benefits that reach beyond Victorian kids. By delivering free dental care to Victorian kids, treatment places are freeing up for more adults to be seen by public dental services.

Victorian parents are encouraged to keep an eye out for information about *Smile Squad* and sign their kids up when the service next visits their school.

## CFA says check your chimney

VICTORIAN fire services are recommending homeowners prioritise cleaning their chimneys this winter following 70 residential chimney fires last year.

In the last five years, Country Fire Authority (CFA) also responded to more than 530 residential chimney fires.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer, Adrian Gutsche, said before warming their homes this winter, Victorians should simply use a

torch to regularly check for soot build-up or obstructions to reduce the risk of a fire starting from the fireplace or wood heater.

"Chimneys and flues should be cleaned annually. Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire and keep wood and other combustibles at least one metre from fire," Deputy Chief Officer Gutsche said.

"Our latest statistics show most fatal fires start in sleeping and living areas, so for your family's best protection, smoke

alarms should be installed in every bedroom, living and hallway area."

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) Deputy Commissioner Community Safety, Joshua Fischer, said maintaining your working fireplace is essential for home safety.

"Victorians who have a fireplace at home are making use of them a lot at this time of year. Proper maintenance ensures they don't pose a risk to your family home," Deputy Commissioner Fischer said.

"Extinguish your fire and any open flames, such as candles, before going to bed or leaving the house. Check that the fire embers are cold before disposing of them."

Victorians are reminded that long-life battery or interconnected smoke alarms located in all bedrooms, hallways and living areas of the home can save lives for as little as \$20.

There are a number of tips for chimney maintenance.

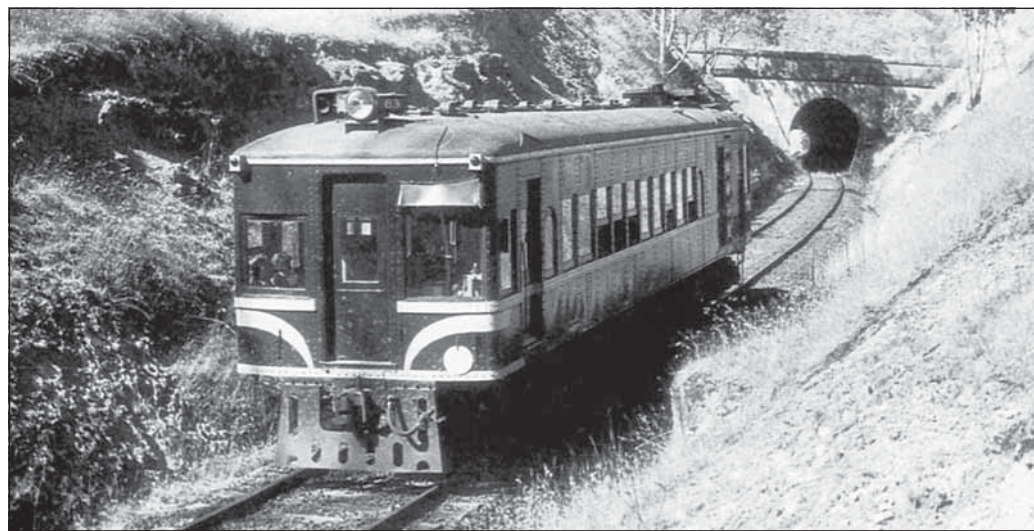
Over time there could be a build-up of creosote, a black tar-like residue, which is highly flammable and could clog up chimneys. Creosote is not only caused by general use, but it can also build up quicker if you are using incorrect fuels, such as green wood or treated timbers. Chimneys and flues should be cleaned annually. Always use a fire screen in front of an open fire and keep wood and other combustibles at least one metre from fire.

To reduce the risk of a fire starting from your fireplace or wood heater, you should use a torch to check for creosote build-up or obstructions, have your chimney professionally cleaned annually, only burn dry, clean wood, and extinguish your fire before going to bed or leaving the house.



How long has it been since you had your chimney cleaned. -Svetlana Egorova





A train at the Cheviot Tunnel. -S

## Our history:

### Fatal explosion on the Yea to Alexandra line

Alexandra and Yea Standard, December 16, 1887

SHORTLY after 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning three men named Jordan, Byrne, and Fennel were engaged in putting in a charge of powder for blasting operations in the tunnel at Ross's creek, and while in the act of ramming a terrifying explosion occurred, Byrne being sent up in the air to a considerable height, and was literally blown to pieces. Jordan, the ganger, received such terrible injuries as will probably prove fatal to him, while Fennel was almost entombed under the stone forced out by the explosion, and was only liberated with great difficulty.

The men employed on the works who came to the rescue having to spall the large blocks of stone that rested on the unfortunate man before they were able to extricate him from

his dangerous position. Very little hope is entertained of Fennel's recovery.

It has been alleged that the men used an iron tamper to rain the powder into the bore instead of a copper one, but the statement can hardly be credited.

Dr Leck was at once sent for and did all in his power for the sufferers. Fennel he would not allow to be removed in consequence of the terrible state of his injuries. Jordan was sent to the Melbourne hospital by the evening train.

Messrs. Kenny Bros., the contractors, were quickly on the scene of the accident, and spared no trouble to attend to the requirements of their unfortunate workmen. The labourers ceased work; on hearing of the terrible accident, which caused much excitement in Yea. The body of Byrne was taken to the Royal Mail hotel, to await an inquiry into the cause of the explosion.

## Our history: Proposed cheese factory in Cathkin

Yea Chronicle, July 1, 1909

A MEETING convened by the Yea and Mansfield Dairy Company, was held at Mr L Dawson's on Tuesday evening last, to consider the question, raised by the local people, of reopening the creamery and starting a cheese factory at Cathkin during the ensuing season.

A fair attendance of those interested in dairy pursuits was present to meet the directors, Messrs Quinlan, Hamilton, McLeish, and McCristal, and the general manager, Mr Christensen, Mr Quinlan, being voted to the chair, addressed those present, and made it evident that the board was disinclined to go to any great expense unless a sufficient guarantee from suppliers that the supply of milk would be kept up was given.

Mr McCristal endorsed the chairman's views.

Mr McLeish pointed out the great benefit a co-operative company was to any district and urged all suppliers to loyally support the local company.

Mr Christensen, in the course of his remarks, quoted some of his former experiences in cheesemaking, with references to marketing,

etcetera, and pointed out that the fluctuations in the prices were not beneficial to the producer. After reading a communication from another company offering to sell its cheese plant cheaply, owing to not being able to make it pay, he impressed on those present that so far as the present agitation was concerned his views coincided with those put forth by the directors, viz., that while the company was desirous of doing everything it could to assist the individual and the district generally, it was necessary before launching out on further expense that a guaranteed supply of milk would be forthcoming.

A general discussion ensued, the opinion being freely expressed that someone should canvass the suppliers and ascertain if they are agreeable to give the required guarantee. Eventually, at the suggestion of Mr Hamilton, Mr Nicholson was appointed to act with Mr Christensen in this regard.

The meeting eventually adjourned without anything definite being done, but it was understood the joint canvassers would report to the company, which will if necessary, take further action.

## Small changes can have lasting effects on teen mental health

NEW research on the subject of teenage mental health has been published in the *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction* and reported on by *The Conversation*. It reveals that minor changes to habits can have a lasting effect on the mental health of teenagers.

The report, 'Adolescent Lifestyle Behaviour Modification and Mental Health: Longitudinal Changes in Diet, Physical Activity, Sleep, Screen Time, Smoking, and Alcohol Use and Associations with Psychological Distress', details a study conducted of more than 4400 high school students across 71 Australian schools.

Research showed that increases over time in healthy behaviours (sleep, fruit and vegetable consumption, and exercise) were associated with lower psychological distress, while increases in health risk behaviours (screen time, junk food, alcohol use and tobacco) were associated with higher psychological distress.

The study found that between year seven and year 10, a variety of factors either increased or decreased psychological distress.

A one hour increase in sleep per night was linked to a nine per cent reduction in psychological distress. Similarly, each added day of 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per week could be linked to a three per cent reduction. A daily serve of fruit or vegetables reduced psychological distress by four per cent.

On the other hand, each added hour of screen time saw a two per cent increase in psychological distress, and the same

increase was recorded for each unit increase in junk food or sugary drinks.

Because consumption of alcohol or smoking of tobacco is uncommon in teenagers, the study only looked at whether the students had or hadn't drunk alcohol or smoked in the previous six months. It was found that switching from not drinking alcohol in year seven to drinking alcohol in year 10 increased psychological distress by 17 per cent. Switching from not smoking to smoking depicted an increase of 36 per cent.

The study took place over three years, with the first baseline conducted when the students were in year seven, and the second part when they were in year 10. Unfortunately, this meant that there are some factors the study cannot account for.

These factors include any changes in the student circumstances, lifestyle behaviour changes, and perhaps most importantly, the impact of COVID-19 on mental health. Taking place from 2019 to 2022, the study has no way of ruling out the psychological distress of COVID-19.

However, those who conducted the research were careful to consider these factors while noting their findings, and still consider them accurate. The links between healthy and unhealthy habits and psychological distress are valid, despite outside interference.

To view the original report, visit [link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11469-024-01350-9](https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11469-024-01350-9). Any teenagers that are struggling with mental health can also get support from ReachOut at [au.reachout.com/](https://au.reachout.com/) or by calling Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800.

## The highs of Murrindindi Shire

IT may come as a surprise to some that Australia is the lowest continent in the world with an average elevation of only 330 metres above sea level. We have some high points, like Mount Kosciuszko with an elevation of 2228 metres, and some low points, like Lake Eyre in South Australia, which sits 15 metres below sea level.

But have you ever wondered what the elevations of places in Murrindindi Shire are?

Using an online elevation map, the elevation of various sites around the shire were searched and recorded. To search the map in more detail for specific places, visit [whatismyelevation.com](https://whatismyelevation.com)

In terms of the major towns, Yea has an elevation of 172 metres above sea level, while Alexandra is higher at 226 metres. Marysville is higher still, recording an elevation of 422 metres, while Kinglake sits at 545 metres above sea level. Yarck is 215 metres above sea level, Eildon is 230 metres above sea level, Molesworth is 174 metres above

sea level, and Taggerty is 212 metres above sea level.

Of the 135 named mountains in the Shire of Murrindindi, the highest and most prominent is Mount Torbreck, with an elevation of 1516 metres above sea level at the highest point.

Lake Mountain, which is the primary place for tobogganing within the shire, is slightly lower, with an elevation of 1442 metres. The Acheron Cutting Lookout, which provides some amazing views of the fog that enshrouds Murrindindi Shire, has an elevation of only 221 metres.

Elevation can mean a number of things. First, the places with higher elevation often have scenic views that makes it worth the drive or trek upwards to look out over a magnificent vista. They also tend to have a colder climate, due to increased precipitation and decreasing air pressure the higher up you go.

This is why snow forms higher up, and why certain places are more likely to get snow, because the climate is more hospitable for such a weather phenomenon.

## I'm bringing my Mobile Office to Yea and Kinglake



Opposite Marmalades of Yea, 20 High St, Yea  
Wednesday 28 August, from 11am until 12pm



Outside FoodWorks, Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd, Kinglake  
Wednesday 28 August, from 3pm until 4pm

If you're around, stop by and let me know how I can help you with issues such as **Medicare, the NDIS, immigration and visas or finding grant funding for your community project.**



## Helen Haines MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

79 High Street, Wodonga  
02 6024 6284

117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta  
03 5721 7077

[helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au)  
[www.helenhaines.org](http://www.helenhaines.org)



# Varroa mite detected in Victoria

AGRICULTURE Victoria has confirmed varroa mite has been detected for the first time in Victoria at a property in Nangiloc near Mildura.

The infested hive was identified during Agriculture Victoria's surveillance activities which are carried out each year during almond pollination.

Agriculture Victoria Acting Chief Plant Health Officer Dr Stephen Dibley said Agriculture Victoria is working with the affected beekeeper and others close by to minimise spread and guide management actions.

'This early detection of Varroa mite enables Victorian beekeepers to prepare and manage their hives effectively,' Dr Dibley said.

Varroa mite (*Varroa destructor*) is a parasite of adult honey bees and honey bee brood. It weakens and kills honey bee colonies and can also transmit honey bee viruses.

It was first detected in Australia near Newcastle in NSW in 2022 and is being managed through the National Varroa Mite Response Plan which is focussed on preparing industry to live with and effectively manage Varroa mite.

Varroa mite does not affect native bees.

In line with the National Varroa Mite Response Plan, Agriculture Victoria is working closely with beekeepers and

orchardists to minimise the impacts on beehives and the almond pollination.

A team of 12 varroa development officers have been recruited in Victoria under the National Varroa Mite Response Plan and they are available to provide guidance directly to beekeepers on how to manage Varroa mite and appropriately utilise the chemical control options available.

There are also Varroa Management Training Workshops occurring across Victoria this month, which cover monitoring and threshold surveillance actions, integrated pest management techniques, record-keeping, and chemical treatments, including organic options.

'With varroa mite established in New South Wales and measures in place to slow the spread nationally, the detection this week was not unexpected despite the requirements in place to enter the state,' Dr Dibley said.

'I encourage all beekeepers to be prepared to manage varroa in their hives by attending one of the free workshops, engaging with Varroa Development Officers and accessing all the resources available.'

Beekeepers with concerns can contact Victorian varroa development officers at [Victorian.VDO@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:Victorian.VDO@agriculture.vic.gov.au) or on 1800 958 485.



Varroa mite has been found in Victoria. -Ivar Leidus

Beekeepers in Victoria are urged to check their hives and to report suspected cases of varroa mite to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

All Victorian beekeepers are encouraged to record all hive movements and inspections, and the results of mite testing in *BeeMAX*.

For more information and updates on this detection, and any further Victorian varroa mite detections, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/varroa](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/varroa)

## Crooked calf disease

Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

SPRING calving producers be aware, a calf deformity, known with a variety of names including crooked calves, acorn calves, bulldog calves and dummy calves, has been observed again recently.

The unfortunate condition has been seen in a number of previous years on spring calving properties situated on the south-western slopes of the Great Dividing Range of New South Wales and Victoria.

The deformities have been most noticeable in the limbs and included shortening and rotation. The calves have also been undersized. The mothers of these calves were clinically normal.

In the past the outbreak has primarily affected beef producers. All beef breeds commonly found in these districts have been affected. Deformed calves have been born to cows of all age groups.

There was no genetic link between affected properties. A varying percentage of calves with a varying severity of deformities were reported both on and between affected properties.

In each case the outbreaks have followed adverse seasonal conditions early in the year.

It is believed the deformity occurs from day 45 to day 245 of pregnancy. Affected property owners have consistently reported that their pregnant cattle were on undulating or hilly granitic country during this critical stage of pregnancy.

A number of likely potential causes of the deformity such as genetic defects, plant toxins, farm chemicals and a number of viruses appear to have already been ruled out.

The cause of the deformity is most likely to be a trace element deficiency. If manganese or zinc deficiency is the cause of the deformity, it is unlikely that this disease is caused by one factor such as a simple lack of supply. It is more likely to be a complex interaction of nutritional imbalances.

Owners of affected properties are asked to report any abortions, stillbirths or births of deformed calves. Previously affected producers are also asked to keep good records, particularly of the conditions during the critical stage of their cattle's pregnancy, as accurate information will help assist the validity of any future questionnaires.

In the meantime, it is worth producers being aware of and avoiding the known risk factors of the condition particularly during their cattle's critical stage of pregnancy.

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

# Strengthening biosecurity control across Victoria

VICTORIA'S biosecurity system will be strengthened with a \$6.1 million investment by the Victorian Government for projects that help prevent, monitor, and control diseases in cattle, sheep, goat, swine and honeybee industries.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced that 16 organisations will receive grants to deliver 38 projects that provide ground breaking solutions and use emerging technologies to improve livestock biosecurity in Victoria.

'The *Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program* helps industry meet emerging challenges at a time when biosecurity risks and threats are constant, and allows us to be more proactive as we protect our state from pests and diseases.

'We congratulate the new members for the Livestock Advisory Committees, we look forward to working together so that we can continue to protect and enhance our valuable livestock industries together,' Ms Spence said.

The *Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program* reinvests funds raised through duties on the sale of livestock and beekeeper registration fees back into the sector to help meet emerging biosecurity challenges head on.

For a full list of the 2024 *Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program* recipients as well as Livestock Compensation Advisory Committee members please visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestockbiosecurityfunds)

## AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for August, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The August theme is 'your pet'.

Sponsored by



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

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra  
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[facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/](https://facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/)

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

## SAVE THE DATE

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

November 29 Yea Saleyards

Spring Store Sale 9.30am

December 6 Yea Saleyards

Spring Store Sale 9.30am

Get in touch

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



Phone 0419 722 570

# WORK LOCAL

save fuel, time and make money

## The ins and outs of hiring a junior

IN Victoria, employers need a licence before they employ anyone under the age of 15. Children are able to deliver advertising material from 11 years old and can do retail or hospitality from the age of 13.

Children can only be employed for light work that is not harmful to their health, safety, wellbeing and development. A child cannot work on a building site, on a fishing boat or selling door-to-door.

According to the Wage Inspectorate Victoria an employer usually needs to apply for a licence to employ someone under the age of 15, whether its paid or voluntary work. It is a crime to not have this licence and the employer may be penalised.

Licences are free and last up to two years and you can employ multiple children off the one licence.

An employer must keep records about the employment of children. Most records must be held for 12 months after the child ends work. Workers under 15 must be supervised by someone who is at least 18 years old and holds a valid Victorian Working with Children Clearance, unless they are exempt, for example, a parent supervising their child.

If you employ children under 15 there is restrictions when it comes to their working hours. Children are only allowed to work between the hours of 6am and 9pm, cannot work during school hours and through the school term they are only allowed to work for a maximum of three hours a day and only 12 hours per week. Through school holidays this can increase to six hours per day and up to 30 hours per week.

If a child under 15 is working for you, parental consent needs to be granted. This must also be provided to the Wage Inspectorate if required.

If your child works for your family business, you don't need a licence and there are exemptions around age restrictions, hours of work and rest breaks. The child should always be supervised by the parent or guardian or an approved person over the age of 18.

If you know someone who you may suspect breaking child employment rules, contact 1800 287 287 and for more information around child employment visit [vic.gov.au/wage-inspectorate-victoria](http://vic.gov.au/wage-inspectorate-victoria)

## Allied Health Futures Forum

ASPIRING allied health practitioners will have the chance to meet and quiz local allied health professionals and associated universities at an upcoming careers expo held in Shepparton, with a dedicated focus on this important field.

The event will be held at the GV Hotel in Shepparton on Wednesday, August 28 from 6 to 8pm.

The networking night will feature representation from many of the allied health professions on offer in the community. From physiotherapy to audiology, speech pathology to occupational therapy, experts in these professions do really important work and play a crucial role in people's health and wellbeing, enabling them to live active lives via prevention and recovery methods, and supporting the medical health streams.

Local secondary students and their parents are invited to meet and greet a broad range of allied health professionals, to learn about the many careers that are on offer in the field, what a day in the life is like and the career pathways into these professions.

The event will be perfect for those who are doing course or subject selections and need help to clear up any grey areas regarding allied health, particularly those who are curious but not exactly sure where to begin, or what to aspire towards.

There will be over 15 different allied health professions represented, all from local clinics and businesses. These representatives are from both science-based and therapy-based occupations and will be answering questions, chatting to students about their experiences and promoting their jobs to young people.

Education providers Deakin University, Australian Catholic University, La Trobe University, Charles Sturt University, RMIT, Torrens University, Swinburne University and GOTAFE will also be in attendance to answer questions about pathways and courses

available in allied health in both city and regional campuses.

Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network (GMLLEN) is delivering this event as part of the Department of Education's initiative the "School to Work Program", providing youth with industry connections, work experiences and transition preparation.

GMLLEN Executive Officer Bec Costa-Lowe said helping young people to understand the careers in the field, and what the need is locally and the opportunities that exist here, is crucial to address the workforce shortage, but also to inspire the allied health professionals of the future.

"I know many allied health experts locally who are passionate about promoting allied health and attracting young people to their fields. This event might mark the beginning of a relationship with a local provider to keep that door open, so they can return and make an impact here in their hometown, and one day be treating and assisting people in their own community."

With both students and their parents in the room it is hoped that these conversations will continue at home and spark some interest in one of the many allied health roles that are offered in our communities.

Along with GMLLEN, the event is supported by Workforce Australia Local Jobs, with Employment Facilitator Faye D'Helin excited to be involved.

"The Allied Health Futures Forum will showcase the diverse range of education and employment pathways in allied health. We are excited to partner with GMLLEN on this event and support the growth of the allied health workforce."

Tickets are free and are available via [tinyurl.com/58axuzmc](http://tinyurl.com/58axuzmc) or via the GMLLEN Facebook page.



Join our friendly and supportive team at Darlingford Nursing Home

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- Enrolled Nurses
- Health Care Workers
- Cook, food and domestic assistants

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For more information including Position Descriptions, contact reception on 5774 2711

Applications to be emailed to [darlingford@dughn.com.au](mailto:darlingford@dughn.com.au)



### ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT KINDERGARTEN

Alexandra Kindergarten is looking for a permanent part time cleaner for 10 hours per week.

Required for two hours per day - five days per week.

Experience preferable.  
Immediate start.

Please send your resume to [alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au](mailto:alexandra.kin.admin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au)

Applications close Friday, September 6.

For more information, please call 57721387 or email the above address.



### WORK WITH US SEASONAL FIRE CREW

Alexandra, Benella, Myrtleford and Shelley

Applications are sought for **Seasonal Fire Crew** (Summer Plantation Workers) for the 2024/25 fire season.

The paid limited tenure positions will run from early November 2024 to late March 2025 and will include physical outdoor work and firefighting.

#### The successful applicants:

- Must possess a current manual drivers licence
- Live within 30 minutes of their nominated work depot
- Be able to pass a pre-employment medical check and a drug and alcohol test
- Be available to attend all compulsory training throughout November
- Be available for regular rostered weekend standby within 15 minutes of the nominated depot

Plantation work is varied and involves four wheel driving, spraying, assisting with helicopter fertilising operations, track clearing, mapping, fire response and fuel reduction burning.

Current accreditations in chainsaw use, chemical use, first aid, firefighting and a MR licence are favourable.

#### How to apply?

Please send applications via our HVP Careers Portal [hvp.elmotalent.com.au/careers/hvRfjobs](http://hvp.elmotalent.com.au/careers/hvRfjobs)

Please scan the QR code for the **Skills Summary Form** to upload as a cover letter.

Applications close: **September 6, 2024**



# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 13

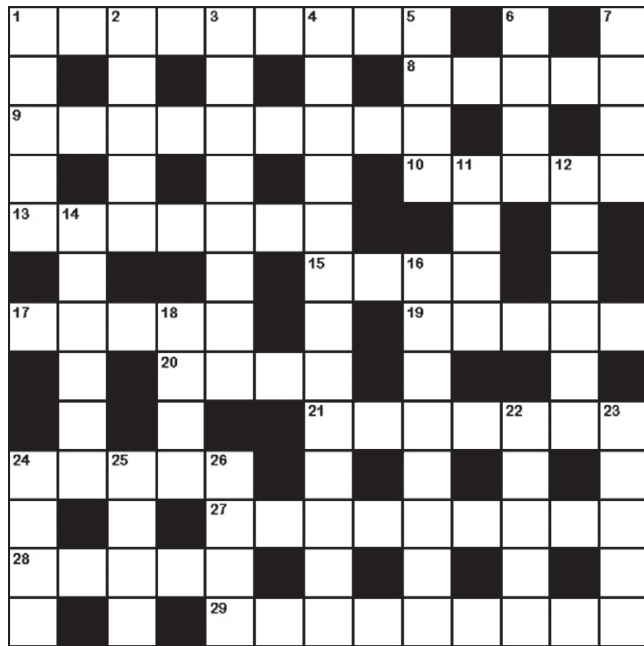
## Crossword

### ACROSS

- Made sugary.
- Fruit of the oak tree.
- Make more visible.
- Special occasion.
- Receive in a will.
- Mischievous fairies.
- Mildly distressed.
- Freshwater mammal.
- An action word.
- Copy someone's behaviour.
- Inhale through the nose.
- A persons aptitudes.
- Make happen.
- The history of a word.

### DOWN

- Raw fish wrapped in seaweed.
- Unit of geological time.
- Put up with.
- Has the possibility of give-and-take.
- A particular day.
- Learn to deal with.
- The 'sheepshank'.
- Great in size.
- The most pleasant.



- Table linen.
- A person active in party politics.
- At any time.
- Friend or comrade.
- A literary composition.
- Sprinkled with seed.
- Domesticated cattle.
- Money collected for admission.

## Word Search

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

## Math Square

	÷		-		3
×		-		+	
	÷	3	-		-3
+		×		+	
7	+		+		20
55		-25		10	

## Science Week

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| ATOM     | MATTER   |
| ELECTRON | MOLECULE |
| ENERGY   | PARTICLE |
| GAS      | PHOTON   |
| ION      | PROTONS  |
| LIQUID   | SOLID    |

## 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.

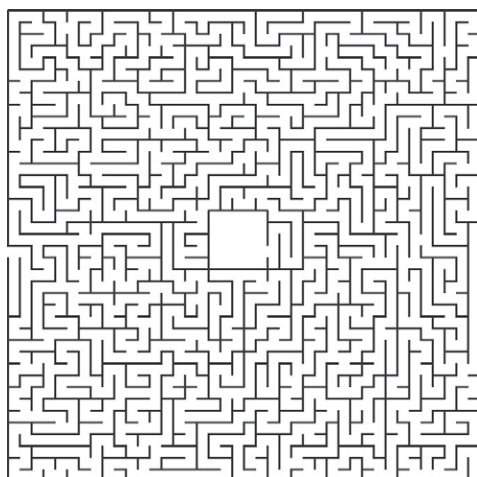
## Sudoku

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

### Difficulty: Medium

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

## Maze



People put a huge amount of effort into finding the perfect pink outfit to wear at the inaugural Pink @ Pixies breast cancer fundraiser. -S

## Eildon raises \$14,400 for breast cancer

THREE extraordinarily successful fundraising events, most recently last Friday night's inaugural Pink @ Pixies, have raised more than \$14,400 in Eildon to aid the work of the Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA).

The first High Tea at Morning Mist contributed \$2200, the Biggest Morning Tea in June added more than \$6200, and Pink @ Pixies has contributed at least \$6000.

Approximately 100 people, a number of whom are not Eildon residents, supported the tireless work of the Eildon BCNA.

"It really was a Murrindindi Shire gathering," Eildon Events Inc president, Karine Haslam, said.

"We had fantastic support from many supporters who do not live in Eildon. This truly is a cause that touches so many people."

Organised by BCNA Eildon's 'awesome foursome' working group, Kerrie Malley, Sue Savage, Karine Haslam and Wendy Wheelhouse, patrons dined on soups and desserts, cooked, prepared and served by a dedicated group of supporters.

The venue, Pixies @ the Billabong Eildon, was kindly provided by owners Pixie and Janine, whose dedication transformed the old Billabong into a superb restaurant and music venue.

Pink, the signature colour of the breast cancer movement, was the theme, and many attendees, including a number of males daringly wearing tutus and wigs, obliged.

Pink-themed decorations and table settings were creatively arranged by Allie Savage.

Visitors were greeted by the serene sounds of a harp, played by talented local musician Sera Ghaly, followed by Alexia Farley, an extraordinarily gifted eight year old.

Soloman and Lacey were the band for the night, ensuring great music was provided for

those brave souls prepared to create dance moves that amazed and delighted.

The dancers who topped the popularity poll were rewarded for their efforts with a \$50 food voucher generously provided by Foodie Kat, plus numerous bottles of wine and chocolates from an anonymous community member as additional prizes.

Other supportive donors included Seabrook Upholstery, Pixies @ the Billabong, White Lotus, Narbethong, Massage and Beauty by Catherine Hansen, Nanny Jan's, Dobson's Potatoes, Thornton General Store, Vintage Flourish, Goodies Discounts, Alexandra, Eildon Lions' Club, Eildon Bowling Club, which provided its bus and a dedicated driver to safely transport attendees from Alexandra, Eildon Golf Club, and the *Alexandra Standard*, plus numerous community members who gave substantial donations, but wished to remain anonymous.

"It is wonderful to have the support of your community for such a deserving cause as the ongoing battle against breast cancer," Karine said. "Every contribution was greatly appreciated."

"And it is heartwarming to be involved with such an amazing group of people dedicated to making events such as Pink @ Pixies successful. A huge thank you. We hope this is the start of many more fun-filled and successful events."

"Volunteering can be so rewarding; it is not what you contribute, but what you get out. To Kerrie and her team, congratulations on a great night, a fitting reward for all your hard work. A great effort for a small town. Well done."

More images from the event can be found on page 4 of this edition.



Pink and blue were the colours of choice for these attendees. Pictured are Jenny, Christine, Ken and Graeme. -S



Attendees enjoying the music. -S

# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

## Meta's claims about news on Facebook refuted

by Andrew Schreyer, president of Country Press Australia

IN the first half of 2024, one-third of Australians accessed Facebook for news, a new study reveals. The finding contradicts Meta's long-standing assertion that news content is a minor part of the Facebook experience for most Australian users.

Meta has previously used this claim to justify its decision to abandon commercial agreements with local publishers. The implications of this are significant for the local journalism landscape, especially for the more than 230 newspapers who are part of Country Press Australia, the association representing the interests of regional and rural newspapers across the country.

The research emphasises the essential role that news media plays in Australia, particularly how regional newspapers contribute to offering balanced and precise news coverage.

More than 40 per cent of Australians cited news access as a key motivator for their daily social media activity, with this tendency more noticeable among Gen Z and millennials at 60 per cent and 53 per cent, respectively.

Country Press Australia President and Warragul and Drouin Gazette publisher, Andrew Schreyer, said there were significant industry challenges ahead, and forecast potential closures of up to 50 member outlets as current agreements under the News Media Bargaining Code with Meta near their expiration.

Mr Schreyer further highlighted the implications for democracy.

"Democracy in areas without local news is lost. Who is going to stand up to a council decision that doesn't meet the pub test? Who is going to shine a light on issues when people don't have a big enough voice to get their message out?"

"The research underscores the vital role that regional newspapers play in providing accurate and diverse perspectives.

"As Australians show a growing dissatisfaction with Meta, the study reaffirms the importance of maintaining a strong and independent local press to ensure accountability and transparency within communities," Mr Schreyer said.

The study also found that while overall Facebook usage is waning, half of Australians still turn to social media for news, with 25 per cent using it as their primary news source. These findings starkly contradict Meta's position that news is a minimal component of the content seen by Australians on its platforms, which Meta claimed represents less than three per cent of the total.

This study, initiated by News Corp and conducted by Dynata, refutes those statements. This research release aligns with the media industry's wait on the Australian Government's decision regarding Meta's obligations under the News Media Bargaining Code, which might compel Meta to negotiate compensation for content with news providers.

Meta has threatened to block Australian news content should these costs be enforced.

In an article published in *The Australian* on Monday, News Corp Australasia executive chairman Michael Miller expressed concerns over Meta's threats to remove news content, potentially replacing it with less reliable sources. He also criticised Meta for its lack of accountability.

The study shows strong public support for social media responsibility, with 85 per cent of Australians agreeing that platforms should prevent the spread of false or harmful information. Without trustworthy journalism, 66 per cent believe the societal impact would be negative, anticipating increases in misinformation and decreased media diversity.

Mr Miller highlighted the significant impact these findings have on public understanding and the obligations of large tech companies, criticising Meta for avoiding transparency.

This analysis of 2500 Australians confirms the integral role of social media in their news consumption habits, countering Meta's underestimations of news relevance on its platform, and exposing the misleading nature of its claims.

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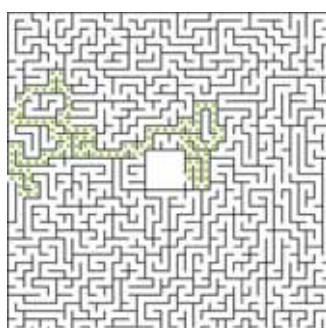
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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

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### DEATH NOTICES



**DODGE, Beverly**

On behalf of the President, committee and members of the Alexandra Golf Club, we wish to pass on our deepest condolences to the Dodge family on the passing of Bev Dodge, a long member and wife of Life Member, the late Bob Dodge.

Both contributed much to the Alexandra Golf Club and are sorely missed.



**SCOTT, Joan**

Members of the Yea Bowls Club wish to pass on their sincere sympathy to the family of Joan Scott who was an esteemed Life Member of the YBC devoting many hours fundraising for the club.

**WALLER, Ross. 74** years beloved husband of Teresa. Loving Dad of nine. Pa of 18. Great pa of two. At peace after long illness. Sadly missed by all. Forever in our hearts.

### WITH THANKS

**HALL, Ted. I** would like to express my gratitude to everyone who assisted me on the death of Ted. Special thanks to the RSL and McCormack Funerals. Val Hall.

**WALLER, Ross. Many** thanks especially to the Cody family, Oncology, Palliative Care, District nurses, the chemist girls - Bec, Karen, Pam. Thanks for all your love and support to Ross and Teresa.

### BARGAINS UNDER \$100

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### BIRTHDAYS

**BEST Wishes to Leo** (Slim) Chambers of Eildon who is celebrating his 100th Birthday on 28 August. We hope you have great day. Love from all the Chambers Family.

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### MEETINGS



**Upper Goulburn Community Radio**  
Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 26 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact secretary via email [info@ugfm.org](mailto:info@ugfm.org) or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic, 3714 or call 5772 2722.



**Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary Annual General Meeting** will be held on September 5 at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre Meeting Room at 20 Miller Street, Yea. RSVP Ruth Crockett on 5797 3057.

### THE ALEXANDRA OPPORTUNITY SHOP Inc.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, at 10am at the RSL Hall.

### PETS & LIVESTOCK

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# Acclimatisation Society news from 1868

Alexandra Times, Tuesday, June 9, 1868

THE Acclimatisation Society, like many other branches of industry or commerce, has been suffering from the effects of the 'deadlock', and consequently their operations during the past year have been restricted. We take the following extracts from the report of the council of the society.

The introduction of the following quadrupeds and birds has taken place during the year: five nylghau [also known as nilgai, a large Indian antelope], ostriches, three axis deer [chital], two sambar deer, two Japanese deer, two Batavia deer, six Ceylon partridges and 80 English skylarks. In addition to these, the council received from Tasmania 200 trout fry, which were temporarily placed in a rill specially constructed for them at the Royal Park.

Also, thanks to the energetic kindness of Mr Allport, a considerable number of English perch has been received, and it is hoped that the increase of these fish will speedily enable the council to commence stocking some of the reservoirs now in course of construction in various parts of the colony; this important work being one that the council is extremely desirous of performing, more especially as the government has promised every assistance in its power to accomplish so desirable an object. The council is happy to be able to report that the salmon experiment, under taken by this society in conjunction with the Tasmanian Salmon Commissioners, proceeds most satisfactorily.

Attached to this report is published the last report of the Salmon Commissioners, a perusal of which is surely sufficient to convince the most sceptical that hitherto success has been obtained.

The angora goats continue to thrive admirably, and the society's splendid flock

now numbers upwards of 200, in addition to 70 young pure bred rams which have been distributed over the colony. The deer which have been turned loose in various parts of the colony are increasing fast. Special reference may be made to the herd of axis deer, liberated by the council, in conjunction with Mr S Wilson, on the Wimmera.

The English hare, wherever it has been turned out, has increased at a marvellous rate, and within a very short time may fairly be expected to be available both for food and sport. The sparrows which were introduced by this society have multiplied to such an extent that the council has been enabled to distribute numbers of them to Beechworth, Benalla, Kyneton, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Dayelsford, Warrnambool, Geelong, St Arnaud, Heathcote, Somerton, Winchelsea, Meredith, Gisborne, Ararat, Portland, Maryborough and the Murray, and from all these places replies have been received of a very satisfactory nature.

In the report for 1865, the council mentioned that, at the suggestion of the Hon. J G Francis, Commissioner of Customs, a considerable number of goats, rabbits, pigs, fowls, ducks, and geese, had been sent down by the society, in H M C S Victoria, for liberation at the Auckland Islands [halfway between New Zealand and Macquarie Island], to be of service to any person who might unfortunately be shipwrecked there. It was not then anticipated how soon these animals would be required, but it is now known that within five months of their being placed on the islands, the survivors from the 'General Grant' were indebted to them for sustenance.

In consequence of this success, the council has determined to ship a much larger stock by the first opportunity to these islands.

## Goulburn Fishing Festival coming soon

THE popular Goulburn Fishing Festival returns for another year in the beautiful town of Eildon for anglers and their families to come together and celebrate the opening of trout season in rivers and streams.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaelyn Symes announced last week the free festival, which will be supersized by the stocking of 1500 rainbow trout weighing three to four kilograms each into the Goulburn River between Eildon and Molesworth, with Eildon Pondage receiving a further 500.

The free festival delivers fun for all levels of fishing expertise and highlights the unique freshwater fishing opportunities across the region, complementing the government's \$96 million *Go Fishing and Boating Plan*.

Hosted at Lions Park on Riverside Drive, Eildon, between 9am and 3pm on Saturday, September 7, the festival boasts fish cooking demonstrations, an aquaculture stall featuring tastings of locally grown trout, fly casting lessons, live music, market stalls, face painting,

and kids activities. The popular 7pm fireworks display over the pondage will round out the day.

Junior anglers will get the chance to head home with a free fishing rod after wetting a line at one of several free VicFishKids clinics led by Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) ambassador and angling expert Lee Rayner and supported by *Fishcare*. Participants can also help Snobs Creek hatchery staff stock live trout into the pondage.

Free hatchery tours will be on offer, providing a look at 75 years of continuous fish production history. Doors will be open at the new \$2.7m conservation hatchery, where festival goers can tour the facility's state of the art technology, helping breed threatened aquatic species for release into the wild.

Across the weekend, visitors can try their luck fishing for a range of species, including trout, golden perch and Murray cod in the pondage, all while taking in the natural beauty of the area.

For all the details about the festival, including how to register for the children's free fishing clinics, visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/goulburnfishfest)

## Electrifying your home

THE state government is assisting Victorians in investing in a wide range of renewable technologies so home owners can achieve cheaper power bills and an all electric home.

The Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio recently announced the projects that will be funded as part of the Residential Electrification Grants Program, helping households make the switch to all-electric and slash their energy bills.

By phasing out expensive fossil gas and going all-electric, households can slash around \$1400 per year off their energy bills or up to \$2700 if paired with solar panels.

More than \$4 million will be delivered to seven approved providers to deliver 1875 solar and 1545 hot water rebates which will reduce the upfront costs of installing solar and energy efficient heat pumps.

Successful projects will help provide more comfortable, cheaper all-electric homes

across the state, including for first home-owners, aged care residents and vulnerable customers. The program also supports local manufacturing and technologies that back Victorian workers and manufacturing jobs.

More Victorians are starting the journey to making their home all-electric. In Solar Victoria's recent customer surveys, 69 per cent of respondents said that they are keen to or have been thinking about transitioning to an all-electric home, while 13 per cent have already fully transitioned thanks to Solar Victoria's rebates and loans.

Since 2018, Solar Victoria has provided more than 350,000 rebates and loans to households across the state to install solar panels, energy efficient hot water systems, and solar battery systems.

For more information on the Residential Electrification Grants program, visit [solar.vic.gov.au/electrification-grants](http://solar.vic.gov.au/electrification-grants)

# Red Tee Mens Stableford

by Alan Pell

Last Wednesday week golf saw overcast conditions at the start of play but the day improved with the sun shining from noon onwards. Multiplier sees both stableford points of a team X to get a hole score.

Martin Lowe (18) and visitor David Sandford (26) with 71 points were the winning team at Yea Golf Club competition on Wednesday. Runners up were Graeme Bryant (28) and Alan Pell (16) with 59 points. Nearest the pin on the day for men was Gary Pollard and the lucky \$10 winners of the club award were Peter Johnston and Brian Priestley. The individual men's winner was Alan Pell (16) with 39 points from David

Sandford 38. The ladies Individual Winner was Penny Britton (34) with 40 points from Sharon Grogan (28) with 37 points. With overnight drizzle on the course 15 men played off the Red Tee markers in a Stableford event last Saturday. It was overcast and a bit of a drizzle at the start of play but by noon the rain stopped and the day was fine. Because of the red course everyone's handicap decreased by four to five strokes.

The winner of the day with 34 points on countback was Anthony Coleman (1) from second Michael Spagnolo (5). Third also on countback was Martin Lowe (13) with nearest the pin on the 14th going to Michael Spagnolo. Brendan Chenhall took out the club award.



What a glorious day for some golf. -S

## Round five of term three pennant results for Alexandra squash

by Kristelle Leary

### Monday Competition Gouda versus Mozzarella

JESS (fill in) versus Eric: Jess had some amazing serves, but Eric improved and came back with some great returns in the last game. Jess was victorious. 79 to 21.

Chris versus Mick: Taking a strong lead at the start Mick was on fire. Chris had a better measure of his opponent's style in the last two games and kept it close, but Mick had done too much damage in the first half. 63 to 39.

James (fill in) versus Daniel: The last-minute fill in was overrun in the first half. James pulled it together to take the third game. Unfortunately, there was no hope and Daniel won with a good lead. 82 to 49.

### Camembert versus Feta

Lachlan versus Tyler: Both played well and had good rallies. Lachlan started with his strong serve that Tyler didn't have an answer for. Lachlan was victorious. 61 to 36.

Lee versus Sally: Being the more experienced player, Lee had the upper hand. Sally held her own well enough to draw the last game, however Lee still took home the match. 61 to 44.

John versus Andrew: Only four points difference and two games were a draw. Andrew claimed the extra points in the last two games to leave with the trophy 63 to 59.

### Thursday Competition Hammerheads versus Orcas

Matt (fill in) versus Blake: Putting in good effort, Matt tried to put a dampener on Blake's victory. However, Blake's experience didn't let him down. 74 to 29.

Jodie versus Kristelle: Somehow managing to miss the ball at every turn, Kristelle allowed Jodie to gain a 23-point lead in the first game. The next three games were closer, and Kristelle managed to win the last game. Jodie proved her skill to take the match. 73 to 42.

Michael M versus Stuart: An entertaining match as always. Michael's commitment to getting every shot back saw him returning shots while lying on the ground. This determination saw Michael crowned victorious. 49 to 42.

### Piranhas versus Stingrays

Beth versus Chris (fill in): Filling in down a level, Chris should have had the upper hand. Beth held her own throughout the match for a draw. 62 to 62.

Sam versus Travis: Both gents are developing a great short game and there were plenty of great rallies. Sam came out on top with some extraordinary shots out of nowhere. 68 to 47.

Michael H versus Jim: Michael started strong, but Jim was able to rock his confidence in the third game. Jim finished strong in the final game to seal his victory. 61 to 50.

## Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

### Football - Seniors

Seville	266.85	13
Healesville	255.21	13
Warburton Millgrove	195.01	13
Belgrave	152.85	9
Alexandra	178.16	9
Yea	106.37	8
Yarra Glen	39.02	2
Yarra Junction	33.52	2
Powelltown	25.65	2

### Football - Reserves

Belgrave	485.11	15
Seville	405.18	13
Healesville	347.33	13
Warburton Millgrove	256.69	11
Yea	81.77	7
Alexandra	55.74	6
Powelltown	29.48	3
Yarra Glen	22.12	2
Yarra Junction	30.98	1

### Football - Senior Women

Monbulk	52 pts	13
Woori Yallock	52 pts	12
Warburton-Wesburn	50 pts	12
Officer	34 pts	8
Wandin	30 pts	7
Emerald	30 pts	7
Seville	8 pts	2
Thomton Eildon	0 pts	0

### Football - Under 16

Euroa	78.57	11
Moama	64.28	9
Seymour	53.84	7
Alexandra	21.42	3
Yea	15.38	2
Broadford	14.28	2

### Football - Under 14

Broadford	421.43	10
Wandong	211.34	6
Tabilk	123.72	6
Alexandra	132.53	5
Seymour	101.07	3
Yea	5.03	0

### Netball - A Grade

Warburton Millgrove	183.89	13
Seville	168.85	14
Yarra Glen	149.72	10
Healesville	91.97	7
Alexandra	70.29	6
Belgrave	82.07	4
Yarra Junction	74.83	4
Yea	52.87	2

### Netball - B Grade

Seville	68 pts	16
Belgrave	56 pts	12
Yarra Glen	56 pts	12
Warburton Millgrove	48 pts	10
Yea	36 pts	7
Healesville	24 pts	4
Yarra Junction	24 pts	4
Powelltown	24 pts	4
Alexandra	20 pts	3

### Netball - C Grade

Yarra Glen	70 pts	15
Seville	64 pts	14
Warburton Millgrove	54 pts	11
Belgrave	52 pts	11
Yarra Junction	36 pts	7
Yea	36 pts	7
Alexandra	18 pts	2
Powelltown	14 pts	1
Healesville	12 pts	1

### Netball - D Grade

Seville	100.00	13
Belgrave	67.85	9
Alexandra	67.85	9
Yarra Glen	64.28	9
Warburton Millgrove	57.14	8
Yea	21.42	3
Yarra Junction	14.28	2
Powelltown	0	0

### Football - Under 12

Wandong	48 pts	12
Alexandra	40 pts	10
Broadford	28 pts	7
Seymour	28 pts	7
Tabilk	12 pts	3
Yea	12 pts	3
St Marys	0 pts	0

# The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Presentations to outgoing president and treasurer

by Maurie Finn

YEA Bowls Club recently held a social event at the Grand Central Hotel for a meal and presentations to their retiring President, Leif Elenius, and Treasurer Jeff Green. Everyone enjoyed their meals and received excellent service.

Past president and long time member, Leonard Sheahan delivered the presentations.

He thanked Leif for the legacy he has left the club through his good governance, leading with firm resolve, stability and commitment, good communication with members, and giving great example of generous service. He was always present at working bees and did many added extras, such as maintenance and bingo. Leif brought joy to the club through organising club tournaments and other social celebrations.

Leonard thanked Jeff for his roles as treasurer and secretary over the past six years. Leonard said that Jeff was quiet, very efficient and presented all relevant information without any fuss. In addition, Jeff has made a big contribution organising the Monday triples event. Although no longer Treasurer, Jeff will continue to organise this event each week.

In summary, Leonard said, that although Leif and Jeff were handing over the baton

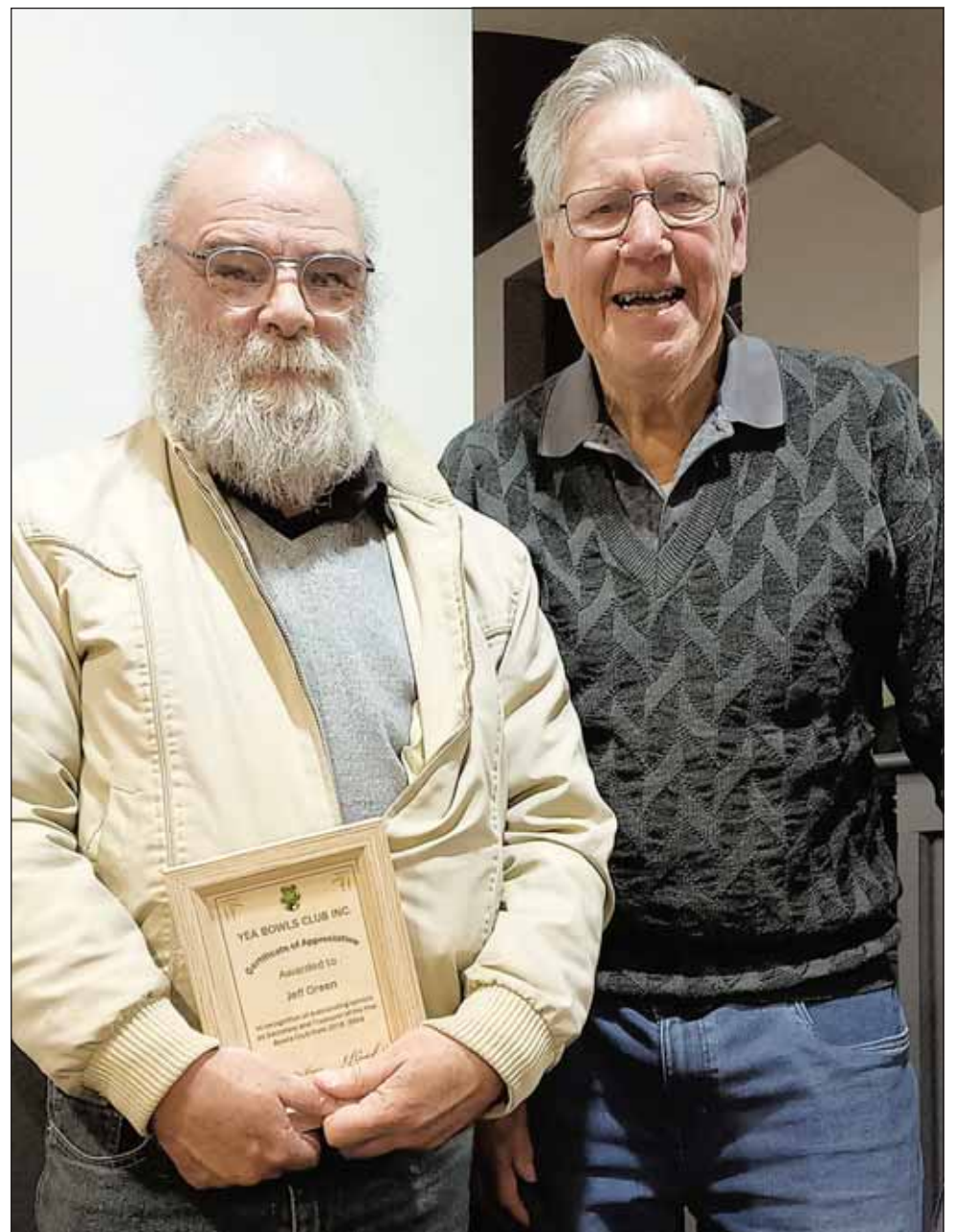
for their executive positions, they were not leaving the club, and they were still prepared to take on responsibilities.

The club is indebted for their and Viv's [current secretary] outstanding leadership. The club is blessed that it is currently a 'happy space to be,' a space that Leonard and others are more than happy to invite new members into.

Best wishes Leif and Jeff.



Leonard Sheahan presenting an appreciation certificate to retiring president Leif Elenius. -S



Leonard Sheahan (right) presenting an appreciation certificate to retiring treasurer Jeff Green. -S

## Great games for winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

IT was a glorious day for tennis matches in Euroa, Benalla, Mansfield and Terip last Monday week.

In Mansfield, Wappan welcomed Seven Creeks and both teams enjoyed freshly groomed courts, great hitting under sunny skies, and a scrumptious lunch when they eventually made it off the court.

The opening sets were both lengthy battles and were split 8-6 each way for scores level. Wappan's Jenny Bell, Rhonda

Carpenter, Kimberley Marsden and Di Bergelin combined well while Seven Creeks gained ground in the second pairings.

Rowena Ellis, Kelly Hill, Kerry Hewlett and Jill Hayes put on a master class of steady returns and skilful placement to edge further ahead in the last sets. Seven Creeks 4-43 defeated Wappan 2-30.

Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Phoebe Macdermid and Jenny Martin began strongly against Euroa not allowing Faye Mollison and Lyndall Bigland into the first set. Julie Harrington and Ruth Nolan

combined well in their opener, but Terip were convincing in the remaining sets and defeated Euroa 5-44 to 1-22.

Match of the round was between Mansfield and Creighton's Creek who shared the sets three all. Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Michelle Pigdon, Sophie Yencken and Clare Beecham were breaking hard, inspired by the Olympians, and picked up more games in their losing sets. Mansfield won the day 3-39 to Creighton's Creek 3-31 and continue to stake their claim for a finals berth.

In Benalla Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Helen Checucti won every set including one in a tie break against Moglonemby's Judy Sands and Robyn Johnson. Mary Kelly and Lyn Johnston also fought hard all day, but Benalla was too good on the lawn.

Benalla 6-48 defeated Moglonemby 1-17.

After Round 15 Terip topped the ton with 101 points, Benalla 89, Euroa 89, Mansfield 79, Seven Creeks 73, Creighton's Creek 65, Wappan 61, Moglonemby 38 and Delatite 5.