

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, September 25, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Yea Garden Expo blooms

ANOTHER successful Yea Garden Expo was held on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, September 21 and 22.

The event was run by the Rotary Club of Yea. President Penny Paxman said that this year's event followed the format of previous years. There are 60 sites available and 57 of them were sold out, so there were more stalls than ever before.

"We haven't got very many more sites available now, if everyone keeps booking," Penny said. She added, "They booked as they were leaving yesterday, booking for next year."

People attend it from far and wide, including Pakenham and over the New South Wales border. The Benalla Garden Club also attended.

Penny was uncertain about how many people attended the event, but estimated that there were probably about 500 in the time she was there. They'll have more detail on the numbers in the next week.

While the weather looked pretty dreadful, fortunately there was only some drizzle at the event. Penny said, "It was perfect weather because it wasn't too hot or too cold. And the gardeners don't mind it anyway, so it was fine."

Most of the stallholders did very well in terms of sales, although Penny noted that the type of items they were selling changed. Overall, the stallholders were very happy.

Penny said, "I just think that it's one of those events that the Rotary Club of Yea will continue to run because, one, it kicks off spring for everyone, and two, it's obviously very much in demand to have the range of products available to gardeners in this area."

The Rotary Club of Yea also has another very special event coming up on World Polio Day. There will be community awareness event at the courtyard outside Yea FoodWorks on the morning of Thursday, October 24. Members and school children will be serving and taking donations for End Polio Now.



There was so much on offer that few people went home empty-handed. More image on page 13. -AR

Shire's renewable future may be determined by REZ zones

ON Sunday, September 15, the Strathbogies Responsible Renewables Community Group (SRRCG) conducted a further information session about the proposed wind farm, with the focus being on the consultation, Developing the 2025 Victorian Transmission Plan, open on Engage Victoria website until September 30.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish was among the 50 attendees at the meeting.

Members of SRRCG talked the people through the consultation process, and suggested ways for them to put in their own submissions. They also took the audience through the details of the SRRCG submission and provided hand-outs with advice on how to make a submission.

The current consultation follows another, where the purpose was to provide feedback on the Victorian Transmission Plan Guidelines document. Submissions for this consultation closed on August 25. SRRCG member Catriona King explained, "There were two parts to that. One was they were surveying

the community's feelings on the guiding principles that underpinned the guidelines. The community was asked to weigh the principles. The second part of that process was to source any other comments."

The current consultation process is specifically on the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) study areas.

Catriona said that for the Strathbogies and Murrindindi areas, the majority has been designated as tier two, with some patches tier one. Tier one is the highest priority for investigation as a renewables zone, and tier two is the next priority.

The current consultation provides the opportunity for people in the community to comment on why they think this area is or is not suitable.

Asked whether SRRCG has found much support for the project, Catriona said, "We've run a couple of surveys and I think the last one early this year and that was a

96 per cent respondents who didn't support it, and from anecdotal conversations we're having around the traps, that's certainly not changing broadly."

She added that in Alexandra and Yea, people are becoming more aware of the transmission lines which may pass through the area, and said that this awareness is contributing to the number of people objecting.

Asked whether the objections solely relate to wind farms or whether solar farms might see similar objections, Catriona responded, "What we're hearing from people is they choose to live in this region because of this scenery, the landscape and biodiversity, and they really don't want to see if it was to become a renewable energy."

It's understood that few landholders in the area have signed up to host turbines or transmission lines.

"There's two issues says that there's the Fera wind farm proposal, which we've been

working through for a number of years now, but now there's this renewable energy zone prospect which has come over the top of it, which I suppose heightens the issue even further. If it were to become a REZ, then it wouldn't just be one wind farm. There would be multiple, and solar farms, and we don't know what that would mean in terms of transmission infrastructure.

"It's certainly not in the current plan for the government to build additional transmission line infrastructure in this region because it's got that main Melbourne - Sydney interconnect as you know through Alexandra and Eildon... If it wasn't a REZ, then there would be disincentives for developers to connect into that main transmission line."

These disincentives might include their power not being prioritised. "It does make it this much less appealing to them," Catriona said.

The consultation information can be found at engage.vic.gov.au/victransmissionplan

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This one-day event in Yea will be a showcase of Murrindindi produce including food stalls, cooking demonstrations, workshops and many opportunities to 'Meet the Maker.'

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Controlled Instagram for teenagers

LAST week social media company Meta introduced Instagram teen accounts with the aim of having built in protections for teenagers. Instagram will automatically place teenagers into teen accounts and teenagers under 16 will need parents permission to change any of those settings to be less strict.

The new teen accounts will have the capacity to limit who can contact teenagers and the content users see. The new measures to protect teenagers using Instagram will include a change to private accounts, teens will need to accept new followers and people who don't follow them can't see their content or interact with them. This is for all teenagers under 16 including those already on Instagram and teens under 18 when they now sign up for the app.

Message restrictions will be introduced, and no one can message a teenager unless they follow them or are connected to them.

Sensitive content control will be placed on accounts which will limit content they see that is accessible when you explore the app or watch reels. Content that will be limited will be instances of fighting, or the promotion of cosmetic procedures and other concerning content.

Teenagers will now only be tagged or mentioned by people they follow. To target bullying hidden words and offensive comments will be filtered out of comments and message requests.

Teenagers will now have time limit reminders after one hour each day to limit screen time and sleep mode will be activated from 10pm to 7am which will mute notifications overnight and send auto replies to messages.

Parents can monitor Instagram usage now by seeing who their teenager has messaged in the last week, although they can't read the messages, parents have an extra layer of knowledge of their teenagers interactions online.

Parents can set total daily time limits for Instagram usage and specific time periods, once the teenagers hit the limit the app can't be used for that day.

Parents can also view the topics that their teenager is viewing based on their interests.

These changes will be happening within 60 days in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. The rest of the world will receive the changes in January 2025.

Other Meta platforms will also create teen accounts next year.



THUMBS DOWN: To the Murrindindi Shire Council. We are constantly being encouraged to shop local and support local businesses. Murrindindi Shire Council needs to lead by example when it comes to allocating rate payers money. Yes, a tender application process ensures cheapest quote wins but what does this cost the local community when civil earth moving projects are continually being sourced outside our shire? Shouldn't we be working towards keeping the money going around within our shire and keeping jobs local? Shop local shouldn't just apply to consumers down the main street of Alexandra.

THUMBS DOWN: To the phantom after dark bandit who on bin night dumped their hard plastic recyclables in other people's general rubbish bins along Killingworth Road.

THUMBS UP: Finally we have 40 kilometre zones in the main street of Yea. I have been very concerned for so long about a pedestrian fatality in our town. This new speed limit will certainly help reduce that possibility. Many thanks. Next on the list please will be one or two crossings where vehicles have to give way to pedestrian traffic. Maybe flashing lights or such. An expensive infrastructure no doubt but one to plan towards.

THUMBS DOWN: To our local council for engaging nonlocal contractor for various projects who are still falling short on completing the skate park carpark project. It's disappointing to see that despite engaging this contractor for multiple projects, progress has halted since well before the truck show. Our community and local contractors deserve better.

THUMBS DOWN: Murrindindi Shire Council for new planting of non-native plants. Showcase the shire in its cultural heritage and not further damage to the environment with introduced vegetation.

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

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

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

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

Like us on Facebook

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	2.50	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.60	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	8.53am Mon	0.79	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	9.31am Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.28am Mon	0.59	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	8.23am Mon	0.88	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	4.55	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.56	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	2.46	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	2.55	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.11am Mon	1.21	steady	

**ISSUED AT 10.15AM ON MONDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Yea Chronicle Standard

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Weekly Weather
September 25 - October 1, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	5	14	Wednesday	6	14
Thursday	1	14	Thursday	2	13
Friday	4	17	Friday	4	18
Saturday	10	19	Saturday	10	20
Sunday	8	16	Sunday	8	16
Monday	9	17	Monday	9	17
Tuesday	7	17	Tuesday	7	17

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	3mm
Buxton	22mm
Eildon (AWS)	3mm
Flowerdale	10mm
Jamieson	18mm
Kinglake	24mm
Lake Eildon	6mm
Mansfield	3mm
Taggerty	7mm
Yarck	5mm
Yea	4mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.96m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	88.5%
Metres below full supply	2.94m
Daily inflow	3500ML
Release	9000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	55.10%

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

The deadliest creatures in Australia

IN the past 20 years, six people have died from snake bites in Victoria.

A 37 year old man died in April 2007 after being bitten by a whip snake at Harcourt. Whip snakes are not generally considered deadly.

A 27 year old man was bitten on the wrist by a tiger snake while weeding at a river bank in Jarramond in November 2014. He received ordinary antivenom but was found to have active venom in his system after his death.

A 70 year old woman was bitten on the toe by a tiger snake while she was asleep in bed in Melton in January 2015. She died despite receiving three vials of antivenom.

A 20 year old man was bitten by a tiger snake in December 2018 while attending a music festival in Lardner near Warragul. He was airlifted to hospital and was initially thought to be suffering from a drug overdose.

A 49 year old man was bitten by an unknown snake while working on a landscaping job in Taradale in April 2021. He suffered a cardiac arrest and was later placed in an induced coma on life support. He died eight days after the bite.

A 25 year old man was bitten by a suspected eastern brown snake while working at a grain

receiving site in Nullawil in October 2023. He later died in hospital.

Note that all of the deaths occurred during the warmer months.

Across Australia, more than half of all deaths from snake bites occurred in or around people's homes. One in five snake bite fatalities involved people attempting to pick up a snake. Most people who are bitten by snakes are male.

Around 550 Australian are admitted to hospital suffering a snake bite each year.

But what about spiders? Well, between 2000 and 2013, 11,994 people were admitted to hospital with spider bites in Australia. No-one died from a spider bite. The last Australian death from a spider bite was in 1979. There hasn't been a single red-backed spider bite-caused fatality since the advent of antivenom.

Anecdotally, huntsman spiders are sometimes regarded as having the highest kill count due to fright causing car accidents, falls from ladders and heart attacks, however no verifiable data is available. Huntsman venom is ineffective on humans.

There has been a long-held belief that daddy long legs spiders are incredibly venomous but that their fangs aren't strong

enough to pierce human skins. The venom aspect is a myth. Like huntsman spiders, their venom is generally not harmful to humans.

You are more likely to die from a bee sting than a spider bite. Bee stings cause around two deaths per year in Australia.

The animal which causes the most deaths in Australia is in fact the horse (including ponies and donkeys). In the 10 years to 2010, they killed 77 people, mainly due to falls.

Cows killed 33 people. Sixteen of these deaths were due to cows causing motor vehicle accidents, with the rest of the deaths caused by crushing, piercing or 'unknown'.

The third biggest killer is the dog, with 27 deaths resulting from attacks across the 10 years. Most of the victims were either very old or very young. It's estimated that there are 100,000 dog attacks in Australia each year.

In fourth place is the kangaroo. They killed 18 people, mainly as a result of car accidents.

If you're planning to go to the beach during the school holidays, bear in mind that The Australian Shark Attack File has recorded that since 1791 there have been 639 shark attacks in Australia, 190 of them fatal.

Support for young Victorians to navigate life

THE Victorian Government is helping young Victorians navigate important aspects of life with an online platform that is fun to use and includes information about a range of topics.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman has launched the new YouthNav platform which has been closely developed with young people and those helping young people in their work.

"Young people have been involved in the design of this online platform every step of the way, the outcome is fantastic and this new resource will make a difference for young people across our state," Ms Suleyman said.

The State Government has invested \$750,000 to deliver the life skills resource designed to help young Victorians aged from 12 to 25.

YouthNav asks young users about their skills with interactive prompts and provides guidance on life topics using clickable information presented in an engaging way.

The platform helps young people understand, plan for and succeed in skills like getting a job, moving out of home, getting around, having their say and managing money.

Over 160 young people aged from 13 to 25 were consulted during development of the platform and provided feedback that has shaped the information and topics it covers.

Financial counsellors and youth practitioners, including South East Community Links, also provided insights from working with young people.

The platform was co-designed and tested with members of the Victorian Youth Congress, an advisory group made up of 20 young people aged 12 to 25 who work with the government to make sure a youth perspective is embedded in policies and decisions that affect Victoria's young people.

Victorian Youth Congress members were involved in concept and prototype testing of the online platform over a 12-month period that helped to create a resource that meets the needs and interests of young people.

The YouthNav platform has been delivered by the government as part of the *Our promise, Your future Youth Strategy 2022-2027*, designed to improve the health, wellbeing and future of young people in Victoria.

For more information, or to try YouthNav, visit youthcentral.vic.gov.au/youthnav

Stop and watch the birds

FROM October 14 to October 20 the Aussie Bird Count is back. This activity is for all ages, and it helps BirdLife Australia develop an understanding of local birds that surround you.

Taking part is easy. Simply spend 20 minutes in your favourite outdoor area and note all the birds you see through that time. In the app there is a built in bird finder tool to help you identify bird species.

You can do this as many times as you want during that time, and you can submit your results using the app or register at aussiebirdcount.org.au

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Business events coming to the regions

THE Victorian Government has opened the Regional Business Events Program to attract new business events to the regions, with the aim of boosting local tourism with those benefits flowing to local communities.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos announced applications are now open for grants to support event organisers to host events in regional Victoria.

The program aims to bring conferences, exhibitions, meetings, seminars, and international travel groups to regional Victoria, with funding available to offset costs such as accommodation, venue hire, transport, and marketing.

The program, delivered by Business Events Victoria and the Melbourne Convention Bureau, has two funding streams available, the International Incentives Event Program and the National Business Events Program.

Under the new International Incentives Event Program, event planners can receive \$150 per delegate for each night they stay in regional Victoria.

The National Business Events Program offers grants of up to \$80 per delegate (up to a maximum of \$40,000) for eligible event organisers to host new business events across regional Victoria.

The Regional Business Events Program is part of the \$170 million Regional Tourism and Events Fund that will ensure our regional tourism offering continues to be the very best by supporting new events and attractions that bring more people to our regions.

For more information about the program, how to apply and eligibility details, visit businesseventsvictoria.com or melbournecb.com.au

Fatal collision in Kinglake West

VICTORIA Police are investigating a fatal collision in Kinglake West on the morning of Thursday, September 19.

Emergency services were called to Whittlesea-Yea Road after a car and truck collided at about 7.05am.

The driver of the car died at the scene. The male driver of the truck was not injured.

Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the collision and investigations are ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed the incident, with dashcam/CCTV footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au



The locomotive ready to depart with its passengers at the 2023 event. RS

Heritage Machinery Festival on soon in Alexandra

IN just over a week's time, the Alexandra Heritage Machinery Festival will be held at the Alexandra Timber Tramway. The event, which runs from 9am to 3pm on October 5 and 6, will see around 80 exhibitors show off their goods and machinery to the larger community.

Peter Aumann, the vice-president of the Alexandra Timber Tramway, revealed the scope and variety of this year's event.

"The Heritage Machinery Festival is an event that brings in exhibitors from all over Victoria with old machinery and displays. There will be steam displays, hay baling displays, blacksmithing displays, vintage cars, vintage trucks, On Point Brewery will be there, and various other community groups," Peter said.

"We're bringing together about 80 exhibitors. We have the steam train running throughout the day, taking people for rides, and this year we have a driver experience opportunity. So we have a 1936 Kelly and Lewis diesel locomotive, that, for a \$20 fee, you can drive along a small section of track. It runs on the Saturday and Sunday.

"The stuff that will be there will be vintage engines, some steam, some petrol, some kerosene, some diesel. Some can be up to 120 years old, and they're all running and on-display. We have exhibitors from clubs all over Victoria.

"Steam train rides, driver experience, the blacksmith who you can buy stuff off. We've got some miniature donkeys on display this year.

"Last year we had people from Hayfield and Gippsland to Port Fairy to Echuca, all coming to display their equipment."

Peter also spoke about how the Alexandra Timber Tramway continues to develop as a club.

"Alexandra Timber Tramway continues to grow, to get more local volunteers, and to build on its projects, small or large. Plans to build an engine shed, plans to do a track extension, those are long term goals. Our main goal is to build up a good solid membership base," he said.

For more information about the Heritage Machinery Festival and the Alexandra Timber Tramway, visit alexandratramway.org.au

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COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

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

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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



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

The Yea Chronicle

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- Seymour Newsagency
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Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds,
 Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.
 Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala
 0458 113 099

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

Sunday Service time 11am
 Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday,
 10am to 11am - all welcome
 Father Mario Hendricks
 Ph: 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew
 0459 402 547
 St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
 Immaculate Conception Parish
 Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
 Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest
 Ph 9717 6482
 St Mary's Kinglake: Sunday 8.30am

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

Station Street Yea
 Sunday Service 11.15am
 Colin Whiteway
 Ph 0457 340 525

UNITING CHURCH

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

Out & About



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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Thornton Online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concluding Monday, October 7 at noon. Inspection Wednesday, October 2, 10am-2pm. Contact Embling Rural for full details 0418 266 038.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Alexandra Museum – Station Street. Heritage Machinery Festival, Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm. Steam train rides, working stationary engines, vintage cars, blacksmith and more. For more information contact Peter 0479 066 221 or email alexandra.rally@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Gather and network – Eildon and Lake Eildon. Free business breakfast event at Café 501

– Jerusalem Creek Road, Eildon 7.30-9am. Book now at murrindindifoodandwine.org.au

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Eildon Golf Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the golf club. For more details email rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held at 10am at Briggs Oval.



Cindy McLeish MP, St Mary's College Seymour Student Chloe Butterworth and Trudy Birchall. -S



John Pesutto, Leader of the Victorian Liberals, and Cindy McLeish. -S

McLeish's Kokoda trek

IN July, Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish tackled the daunting 138km Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea, in honour of Australian WWII veterans and soldiers.

Joining Ms McLeish on the trek was State Liberal Leader John Pesutto, several Coalition colleagues, her cousin Trudy Birchall, and 25 Year 11 students from across Victoria among others. The large group was split into two, with each group starting from opposite ends. Ms McLeish began the journey in Owers Corner in Central Province, finishing in Kokoda.

Ms McLeish said, "During the trek, I constantly thought of the Australian soldiers who fought there. It was an incredibly moving journey, walking where they walked, seeing war memorials and standing where historical battles took place.

"Imagining the conditions our Diggers endured, whilst carrying heavy packs, digging in for days or weeks with limited food supplies and fighting for their life was chilling and very emotional for all. I had a porter to carry most of my gear. Our Diggers did not. I had good boots. Our Diggers did not. We could keep dry. We didn't suffer from dysentery. We could sleep peacefully at night without our lives being threatened. Our Diggers walked and fought while injured with no time to recover or rest. The realisation that some of the guides and porters who helped us were descendants of the 'fuzzy wuzzy angels' strengthened the ties between trekkers and guides."

Along the way the group learnt about the battles and types of combat, some of it being hard to hear. During these gruelling battles, injured soldiers were carried on stretchers by the fuzzy wuzzy angels for kilometres to be moved to safety or the 'hospital'. Those who

could stagger did. Surgeries were done on the surgeons rock, kilometres from the battlefield and even further from the hospital. Those who were able, were sent back to the front line, while the more severely wounded had to climb a further 4km up steep and slippery mountain side to the hospital to recuperate.

"The trek was a tough physical and mental challenge. Although I had done the training, I realised there was no way of replicating the jungle conditions we faced. We climbed up and down mountains constantly, mostly trekking more than 20 kms a day. The paths were exceptionally steep and narrow, slippery, muddy, and required loads of concentration to avoid tripping over exposed tree roots. The weather was hot and humid with a couple of icy nights."

"I am incredibly proud of our young people who kept spirits and energy high - even playing soccer with local children or volleyball with our porters after a 20km hike. They clearly enjoyed the trek but the realisation that many of the soldiers were only a year or two older than themselves, hit them hard as they imagined themselves living and fighting in the dreadful conditions our soldiers faced."

Like many locals, Ms McLeish shares a personal connection to the area with family members having served during WWII.

"My uncle, Don McLeish, was deployed to Papua New Guinea as a signalman after the battle of Kokoda and my father, Campbell, was deployed to Borneo and New Britain. Although they were not on Kokoda, it is a reminder of conditions they would have faced in their battles," Ms McLeish said.

"It was an experience I will never forget. I feel honoured to have taken part with a great group of people."

Yea Kindergarten provider announced

ON Monday, September 23, Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes announced the service providers for five kindergartens expecting to open their doors by the end of 2024. In Yea, the service provider will be Uniting (Vic/Tas).

Children starting their four-year-old program at the primary school kindergartens in Yea, St Arnaud, Kerang South and Dimboola will also be the first to benefit

from Pre-Prep, an expansion of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten from 15 hours of play-based learning each week to up to 30 hours each week.

The Victorian Government is aiming to build and expand hundreds of kindergartens across the state, supporting the delivery of 15 hours of Three-Year-Old Kindergarten each week by 2029 and up to 30 hours of Pre-Prep each week by 2036.

Stay safe in the great outdoors these school holidays

VICTORIANS planning a camping or hiking getaway in the coming weeks, are reminded by Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedics to be prepared to avoid needing an emergency response.

The warmer weather and school holidays mean many will be dusting off the camping gear or stepping into hiking boots for the first time in months, and AV Manager Emergency Management Ian Hunt said it's important people do these activities within their abilities and take preparation seriously.

"Before you hit the road, ask yourself if you've prepared for if something goes wrong," he said. "Consider learning basic first aid and CPR as emergencies can happen anywhere and at any time. There are many parks and remote bushland locations across Victoria where people can enjoy hiking, mountain bike riding, 4WDing or camping, but we want people to be safe."

He said checking the weather and being prepared for conditions to change is vital if you're spending time in remote or unfamiliar locations.

"It's easy to become lost or disorientated in remote bushland, especially in unpredictable weather conditions," Ian said. "Make sure you're dressed appropriately for the conditions and bring enough water, food, matches, a torch and sunscreen with you. For hikers, be sure to consider the 10 essentials - navigation, light, sun protection, first aid, knife, fire, shelter, food, water and clothing."

Always tell someone where you're going and when you plan to return, and if you're with someone use the 'buddy system' to check each other for warning signs of hypothermia or heatstroke. It can be difficult to recognise your own symptoms of hypothermia or heatstroke.

Ian said emergencies can happen any time and particularly in remote or unfamiliar environments, so be sure to familiarise yourself with the resources you may need to call Triple Zero.

"Anyone travelling to a remote location should download the EmergencyPlus app, which uses your phone's GPS function to provide location details to the call taker," he said. "The app has the *What3Words* function which works offline so it can be used in remote areas with poor data connection and can confirm your exact location quickly and accurately using three words.

"You may also consider a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which, when activated, sends an emergency signal via satellite to emergency services."

Download the VicEmergency app or visit emergency.vic.gov.au to be notified of incidents and warnings in your area.

CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

THE candidates for the upcoming Murrindindi Shire Council elections have been announced, and electors should soon receive a ballot paper in their letter box. In each of the wards, there is competition, so no voters in the shire are off the hook and all must submit their ballot papers or risk a fine. To help you to make a decision on who to vote for in your ward, we asked each candidate the following questions.

1. Are you able to provide a short biography, including why people should vote for you?
2. Are you a member of any political party? If yes, which party?
3. What are your concerns and what are your goals for the shire?
4. What is your vision for Murrindindi Shire across the next four years?

Their answers are listed below, in order of ward and ballot order.

CATHEDRAL

Sandice McAulay



Sandice McAulay. -S

1. I'VE lived in Taggerty for 26 years and have owned the Taggerty General Store with my husband Ray for 18 years. As well as being a small business owner, I have been actively involved in my community, being a member of our CFA, local community progress group and hall committee. Thank you for supporting me for the last two terms on council. I am asking you to help me continue to represent you and your issues. I have served as mayor on both terms as well as deputy for two years attesting to the confidence that my fellow councillors had in my leadership and effectiveness.
2. I do not affiliate with any political party. My primary focus is on representing the interests and needs of our wider community objectively and impartially. I believe in making decisions based on what is best for the Murrindindi community, rather than aligning with any political rhetoric.
3. I want council to be financially sustainable; safe roads that are appropriately maintained across the network; sustainable growth and development are supported through improved access to water, sewer, power, telecom and road infrastructure; our communities are inclusive, embrace diversity and encourage the participation of all new residents; continuing safe access to our state parks; visitors enjoy and contribute to our shire; and finally, as a small business owner, I want tourism and businesses to thrive.
4. Council has no direct control over many decisions made by state and federal governments. Example is the decision to be made regarding access to local forests. Council needs to work with the community to have our voice heard and actively advocate to state

government for continuing community access to our parks. Our community is increasingly being impacted by unprecedented climate emergency events and council needs to be prepared to enact well thought out recovery support for our community. With effects of climate change becoming more apparent, council must continue to champion progressive policies such as climate action and continue strong advocacy for resources to repair damage caused to valued assets such as the Breakaway Bridge.

Judy Duncan



Judy Duncan. -S

1. TEN years ago together with my husband, Tom, we purchased our property in Taggerty. Since then we have worked hard looking after our pastures, olive groves, fencing, building a farm shed and more recently our forever home. I work in our family business of over 20 years and have also served on kindergarten and school committees when our three sons, now adults, were young. Living in Taggerty I am passionate about protecting our environment and leaving Taggerty a better place than when we found it. I am also passionate about encouraging young families to make the move to Murrindindi so that they can appreciate all that it has to offer. A vote for me is a vote for you. If I am elected, you can be sure that I work for you.
2. I am running as an independent and will not be aligning myself to any party.
3. Public money should not be wasted. You, the community, deserve to be confident, that money is well spent and what outcomes should be expected. After all, you, the rate payers, provide the funds. My hope is that we can build Murrindindi Shire up to a place where young families and businesses want to be, and have faith that the council will encourage and welcome them.

4. Let's make Murrindindi Shire 'The place to be'. Keeping our towns happy and healthy for now and in the future is important. Let's leave a good legacy for all those who come after us. I believe in getting back to basics, community consultation, families and business, and tourism and events. Vote for me if you think council should concentrate on a back-to-basics plan. It is my belief that council should concentrate on the basics and wherever possible seek to involve the community in other projects.

CHEVIOT

Sue Carpenter



Sue Carpenter. -S

1. I HAVE lived in Yea for over 30 years. I raised my four children here and developed a productive orchard and vegetable garden that feeds our family and friends. I'm a qualified gardener and landscape designer. I have always been involved with community volunteering, including Yea Preschool, Sacred Heart school board, St Luke's Parish council and Yea Rotary Club, including being president. Last term councillors elected me as mayor, and deputy mayor twice. I have gained insights and skills, learnt procedures and processes of council, am a strategic thinker, developed abilities of a councillor, and would love another opportunity to serve Murrindindi using the experience I've gained.
2. I am not a member of any political party.
3. Sensitive and appropriate growth and development of our towns that promotes our unique character and rural ambience continues to be important. Assets and infrastructure damaged by recent natural disasters need to be built back better to resist future incidents that may occur. Productive farmland needs to be recognised and retained. We must listen to our diverse communities including long-term residents, newer

arrivals, families, our young people, older and retired residents, and our business and commercial sector and ensure that we can provide adequate services to address their needs. Strong advocacy to the state and federal governments for our fair share of funding must continue.

4. I want to see increasingly resilient and connected communities, innovative projects such as the provision of key-worker housing that will support the business workforce, services to support our aging population, strategies that support our fragile environment, advocacy for adequate child-care and children's services, support for residents wanting to undertake training and further education, a council that will engage

in meaningful dialogue to ensure that strategies and decisions can be made that have had robust community consultation, and a cohesive council that is committed to working together for the best interests of our communities.

Paul Galea



Paul Galea. -S

1. MY name is Paul Galea and I am a Flowerdale local and Defence veteran.

My wife and I have lived in Flowerdale for almost nine years and operate several bed and breakfasts from our hobby farm so I am interested in growing tourism across the shire. I am also the director of a small management consulting company that has been operating for 22 years and I'm pleased to see other new businesses recently open in both Flowerdale and Strath Creek along with new local home builds. I want shire communities to continue prospering, become more cohesive, and better connected.

2. None.

CHEVIOT

Continued Page 6

ALEXANDRA MUSEUM

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INFORMATION CONTACT PETER ON 0479 066 221 OR AT ALEXANDRA.RALLY@YAHOO.COM

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners for week nine, Cienna, Auroha, Fox, Lexi and Toby. All students displayed our school values while at camp. Be respectful, be resilient, be responsible.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Ella and Harley 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



CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

CHEVIOT

Paul Galea

Continued from Page 5

- My major concern is the state of the roads throughout the shire and believe we should be lobbying the Victorian Government to secure a greater allocation of funding to keep our shire's road network safe and well maintained. I'm also concerned that after 13 years, council has still not delivered on its previous commitment to complete Flowerdale's Black Saturday bushfire memorial given the impact those fires had on the local community.
- My vision is for the Cheviot Ward communities to grow and prosper in such a way that they don't lose what makes them such beautiful places to live in. I want the Flowerdale Community Plan submitted to council in August realised. I also envisage an environmentally friendly walking, running / riding track connecting the Flowerdale Recreation Centre to the Strath Creek Reserve. This track would become a focal point for leisurely walks and bike and horse rides for local families and regional visitors alike and in due course become a venue for fun run events accessible to the whole shire.

EILDON

Ian Maskiell

UNFORTUNATELY, no response was received from this candidate.

John Storen



John Storen. -S

- AS a retired person I have the time and energy required and the work and community experience necessary. Lived in Taylor Bay for 24 years; over the past three years I have contributed locally as a member of the group who wrote the Eildon Community Plan, now Treasurer of the Eildon Lions, secretary of the Eildon Cemetery Trust, member of Eildon Action and the editor of the local newsletter Eildon Edition for 12 months. My work experience involves seven years as business manager for the Outdoor Education Group and 14 years in the Management Branch of the Australian Taxation Office. I have 50 years of playing, coaching and administering in the sport of hockey.
- No.
- I believe the shire has served the community quite well in many areas. However, several years ago, the then mayor stated that Eildon had been historically 'ignored' and she was right. The 'Splash Park' being built is to satisfy the tourists. Eildon itself is one of the lowest socioeconomic areas in the state of Victoria and most current ratepayers won't use it. There is limited health and wellbeing access, and the community does not control any community building in Eildon. Additionally, the council has ignored the history of the area and efforts to create a local history society, which would need a facility to store goods, etc, has been thwarted twice by lack of support from the shire.
- There is no doubt the shire needs to focus on tourism as a key benefit to the area as it will have flow on benefits to all. Current focus is on how to make the change from the timber industry being shut down to new ventures and this is being dealt with the support of the state government. This process is vital and needs to succeed. The past needs to be recognised and supported in all areas of the shire and this is currently being ignored. It is being

left to a few individuals and it's simply not good enough. The shire needs to allocate time and resources as well as support those that are interested in the history of the area as this can be a key area of interest in terms of future tourism.

Anita Carr



Anita Carr. -S

- MY name is Anita Carr (nee Keddell). I'm 37 years old, born and raised in Eildon. As a wife and mother, I live and understand the challenges families face in Murrindindi but also see our potential. I am very community focused; previously and currently involved in multiple committees throughout Murrindindi Shire. I'm passionate about our amazing part of the world and want to continue improving on what we have. I have a powerful 'get things done attitude' and will be a strong voice for Eildon Ward. I will listen and take all ideas, feedback and visions on board. I am committed and will give 100 per cent if elected.
- I am not associated or a member of any political party.
- I'll advocate for suitable and professional local mental health support for people of all ages. We need to continue to grow our tourism to help small business year-round and create employment opportunities. We have some amazing assets but need to build on this with further developments and modernization of some existing assets. Our roads are in desperate need of repair. While some repairs have been attended to there are still many sections that are unsafe. Everybody deserves a voice; nobody

is to be left behind.

- Representing progress; I will advocate for local businesses, the backbone of our community; I will support new business development; promote year-round tourism and improve local infrastructure and facilities. By bringing new opportunities to the forefront, we can elevate Murrindindi Shire as a more amazing destination to live and visit, and in turn create more industry and jobs. Also advocating strongly for more health care opportunities and programs for Murrindindi Shire to help improve the quality of life for many residents. I will advocate for everyone to have a voice on important issues and improve communication between council and ratepayers.

KING PARROT

Eric Lording



Eric Lording. -S

- I HAVE wide experience with local government as a shire engineer and we need a qualified engineer in council. I have wide experience in building and maintaining roads, waste management and planning, and wide experience as a director and councillor. I'm a trained leader, youth developer and am educated in training and assessment and farming. I've been certified by Victoria Police to accept returns of unwanted or unlicensed firearms to make Murrindindi safer, and I'm also a Police Certified Trainer in Firearms Safety. I've been a local for over 25 years and love it. I've been a Flowerdale Community House Committee of Management member for 10 years. I've already helped hundreds with

council questions and problems. I'm dedicated to helping you too.

- I am not a member of a political party on purpose as this has proven to destroy good council representation in many other shires.
- I will work to keep rates low and ensure monies are spent wisely. We do not get our fair share of grants and will address this. I want to bring in an easier system to allow rates to be paid in nine monthly instalments instead of current payments to halve the pain. Road safety is my concern. We have bad accident statistics. I want the roads portfolio. Our beautiful shire suffers from painful events. My goal is to improve the resilience of all. Health leaders tell me they don't want our hospitals closed. I will fight it hard.
- My vision for Murrindindi Shire is to have land development that is strategically planned to maintain the current beauty and environment; place where our children have enough housing and business to keep them here to raise their families; to bring better public transport and amenities for the young, the aged and everyone; to expand education facilities to stop people having to leave to get higher education; to have childcare in every larger town to free parents up so they can continue meaningful employment and enjoy life; a vision where youth development and playgroups flourish to help develop our kids; and great health care for all.

Kim Travers



Kim Travers. -S

- I'M Kim Travers and you likely know my face from Kinglake to Flowerdale where I live. Starting life with five siblings in public housing, with one road in and one road out, and having four children taught me about fairness and doing more with less. Forty years working across retail, public service, banking, bus driving and as a union organiser has polished my collaborative, planning and negotiating skills. As a part-time worker for last six years, I enrich my passions volunteering at the community op shop, board member of the sports club and through Landcare.
- My campaign is supported solely by my family, friends and women with no business or party endorsements. My values of caring and fairness in opportunity led to lifelong union membership. With over 20 years membership with Labor I have worked within policy committees always with a lens on women's issues.
- All I do in my community here happens because of the care and custodianship of the Taungurung peoples so I acknowledge their elders past, present and emerging. Let's pursue lowering green waste and hard rubbish costs, and combatting social isolation in pockets of our ward. Let's continue to apply our talents toward a sustainable environment. My focus is what matters to us inside King Parrot. I'll keep listening, advocating and report back.
- My vision is a thriving community that is inclusive and connected. Growing transparency between council and community through improved access and participation. Local coordinated access to education, information and health services for all ages and genders. Increasing participation in community events and action plans through councillor visibility and engagement. It's time for a fresh approach. Vote for a true local and together we can lift up our corner of the lovely Murrindindi Shire.

Bring your curiosity to life

Word search grid:

```

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

How many words can you find?

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MELBOURNE ZOO	WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO	HEALESVILLE SANCTUARY	KYABRAM FAUNA PARK
Splash	Nature play	Creek play	Kangaroo
Roar	Safari	Koala	Wetlands
Baby elephant	Hippo beach	Laugh	Meerkat
Gorilla	Rhino	Jump	Emu
Tiger	Giraffe	Bush	Howl

Book tickets at zoo.org.au



PUZZLES

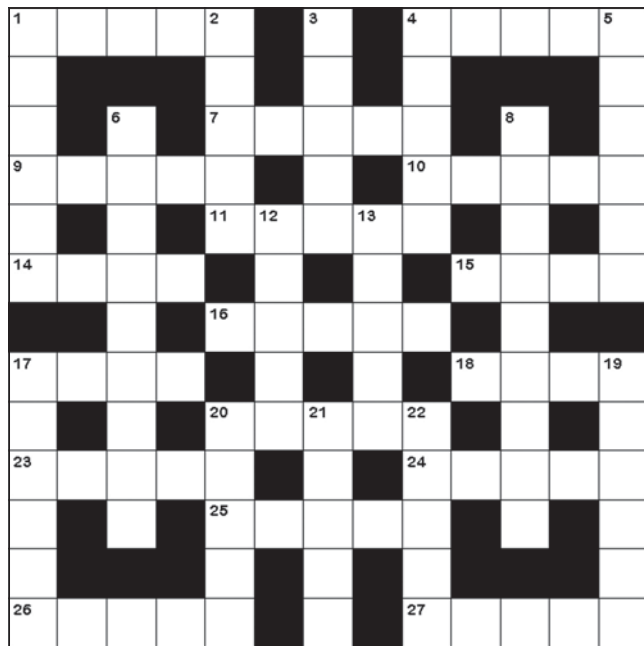
SOLUTIONS
Page 11

CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

Crossword

ACROSS

- The lowest in importance.
- Feeling greatly honoured.
- An exhibition of cowboy skills.
- An extra one reserved for emergency.
- A loud burst of sound.
- Talk in a monotonous voice.
- The average or typical value.
- Not open.
- As far as something can go.
- King of the jungle cats.
- The warning system on a car.
- Separate by cutting off.
- Dress with elaborate care.
- Slow and sluggish.
- Calls on the telephone.
- The process of decomposition.
- Have a strong desire for.



DOWN

- Something to be learned.
- Ready for sleep.
- The reproduction of sound.
- Examine thoroughly and question closely.
- In the right manner.
- Inspired by love for your country.
- Designed and made artistically.
- Increase the size of a bet.
- Lacking experience of life.
- No longer active or practising.
- A vague idea.
- A jet of liquid droplets.
- Goddess of love.
- Involving some amount of danger.

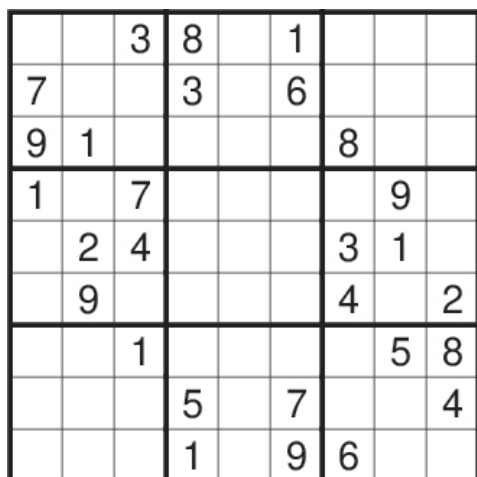
Word Search

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

Types of Coffee

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| AFFOGATO | FLATWHITE |
| CAPPUCCINO | LATTE |
| COLDBREW | LONGBLACK |
| CORTADO | MOCHA |
| DECAFE | REDEYE |
| ESPRESSO | RISTRETTO |

Sudoku



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.

Cryptogram

Aboriginal words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
20				7				23

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					17			

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		2					

$$\frac{A}{3} - \frac{20}{1} - \frac{21}{17} - \frac{O}{17} - \frac{O}{17} - \frac{9}{9} :$$

$$\frac{A}{15} - \frac{20}{20} - \frac{4}{4} - \frac{23}{23} - \frac{11}{11} - \frac{A}{20} - \frac{11}{11} - \frac{I}{23} - \frac{O}{17} - \frac{21}{21}$$

Math Square

	-		-	3	-6
x		-		+	
	x	8	+		65
+		÷		+	
	-		+		3
15		3		18	

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.

KINGLAKE

Stuart Hollingsworth



Stuart Hollingsworth. -S

1. TEN years as a resident in Kinglake West, eight of them bringing up my two daughters now 10 and 12 as a sole parent. Working as a handyman we understand how to get back to basics, learning what is a must have, a want or desire. Kinglake seems to miss out on what everybody must have. Safe travel, affordable living and less government interference in their own home. My name is Stuart Hollingsworth. Help me defend you and your family by bringing your voice to the council table.

2. Yes, I am an endorsed candidate with the Libertarian Party

3. Council should get back to basics, maintain roads, keep rates in check and manage waste efficiently, economically and with minimal environmental impact. Resist against wasting and mismanaging ratepayer's funds to maximise the efficiency of their hard-earned money. Property owners should be able to make decisions for their properties without unnecessary council interference.

4. Minimise council impact on people's day-to-day life and private property. Focus on the primary responsibilities of a local council. Lower land rates. Council is to be efficient, and respectful of private property rights.

Jodi Adams

1. I AM a mental health peer worker and have lived experience as a carer. I am a strong advocate and a consumer representative for Palliative Care Australia, currently sitting on national and local advisory groups. My experience working with some of the most vulnerable people in communities has made me passionate about promoting quality of life for residents of all ages and differing circumstances. I am consultative and always willing to sit down with people and listen. I am a parent and have lived experience as a carer. I am transparent, honest, authentic, and curious.

2. No, I am running as an independent.

3. I believe residents must feel heard, and that local council members must focus on

the efficient and effective operation of council and execution of its statutory functions, while also delivering a transparent medium to long-term agenda for a better, stronger, and more resilient shire. I will advocate for accessible community infrastructure: including a local swimming pool, upgrades of unsealed local roads in recognition of increased population density and traffic, and facilities, supports, and programs for youth. I will uphold my commitment to transparency through information sharing, giving the community confidence that road and pothole maintenance is a priority for council.

4. My vision is to create an improved and resilient Kinglake for ratepayers and residents. Kinglake and neighbouring wards of the shire too often feel like 'the poor cousin'. Residents do not have access to a local swimming pool, and many local streets and roads remain unsealed and without drainage despite continued growth in population and vehicle density. As part of my long-term agenda as a councillor, I will affirm majority ratepayer and resident support for restructure of the municipality, creating a Greater Kinglake municipality incorporating Kinglake, Kinglake Central and West, Pheasant Creek, Flowerdale, Castella, Toolangi, and Glenburn. True reform.

No image received.

KORIELLA

Paul Hildebrand



Paul Hildebrand. -S

1. HELLO Koriella Ward, my name is Paul Hildebrand. I am a third-generation farmer living and working in the Murrindindi Shire. My local junior years of education lead to a Diploma of Agriculture from Melbourne University. I have proudly volunteered as an operations member for the CFA for over 30 years and have coached, captained and served on the committees of our local football and cricket clubs and the Glenburn Community Hall. Thirty years of successful management of our family farming business and my commitment to serving my community holds me steadfast to work for you if elected to council.

2. I am not affiliated with any political party.

3. Infrastructure - maintained. Environmental - balance. Tourism/ Employment - retaining our youth or encouraging them to return post-tertiary education.

4. My vision for our municipality is for a vibrant and resilient shire that serves all its residents. I am about reducing bureaucratic red tape for local businesses, creating an environment that encourages employment opportunities for our younger generation. By doing so, we can retain our youth within the shire, which will enhance and strengthen our economic growth and community. I also aim to promote tourism and explore rural opportunities equitably, fostering engagement that benefits everyone. I am deeply passionate about advocating for our community's needs and interests, ensuring that our voices are heard, and our values are respected.

Tim Molesworth



Tim Molesworth. -S

1. I MOVED to Murrindindi shortly after the devastating Black Saturday fires to volunteer at a local wildlife shelter, that I came across when doing hay runs to assist farmers affected by the fires. It was there that I met my wife, and Murrindindi has since become my home. I am standing for council to address key issues: Ending wasteful spending, minimising land rates, and protecting private property rights by reducing council interference.

2. Yes. The Libertarian Party. I am an endorsed candidate.

3. I believe council is too involved in external politics and should focus on the basics, maintaining roads and other infrastructure, take care of waste disposal. be careful not to waste ratepayers money. Lower or at the very least stop any rate increases. Let property owners make decisions for their properties without unnecessary interference.

4. My vision is very simple. Minimise council impact on peoples day-to-day life and private property. Focus on the primary responsibilities of a local council. Hopefully make council become so efficient and non-invasive that people rarely even need to think about it.

KORIELLA

Continued Page 9

CANDIDATES FOR MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL

KORIELLA

Continued from Page 8

Jane Moss



Jane Moss. -S

1. AS a local resident and active member of a variety of community groups, including a management team role with the Yarck CFA, I am committed to actively listening to the concerns and ideas of our amazing residents, ensuring each specific need and perspective is truly heard and understood. Having worked from the coal face to executive levels, I bring a blend of unique qualities that generate a deep understanding of operational realities and strategic oversight. I am not afraid of hard work and always take a considered and pragmatic approach to manage challenges and to drive positive change.
2. I am not a member of any political parties.

3. I am passionate about maintaining what makes our community so truly special and protecting our future with forward thinking approaches that safeguard our environment and enhance our quality of life. We have an immediate need to encourage local business and to provide opportunities and resources for residents of all ages. My concerns extend beyond the present, I value our community's rich history and heritage and I am dedicated to preserving and enhancing the aspects that define us.
4. The vision I have for the Murrindindi Shire is a district where sustainability, agriculture and local businesses thrive together in harmony, fostering a balanced network. A collaborative, inclusive spirit with an emphasis on responsive services and infrastructure that addresses residents' genuine needs, ensuring a resilient, connected and prosperous region.

REDGATE

Jo Timbury



Joanne Timbury. -S

1. MY name is Joanne Timbury, most locals know me as 'Jo'. I'm a familiar face in town, utilising our business' and services wherever possible and generally enjoying a chat. I live on a small farm on the outskirts of Alexandra, with horses, sheep, chooks, my husband of 40 years and grandchildren, to keep me company. I enjoy the outdoor life, prospecting, fishing, exploring our magnificent mountains and waterways and outback travel. I am a member of the Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club, holding position of treasurer for the past three years. Always encouraging others to pursue their passions with a positive approach with a smile to life in general.
2. I am a member of the Libertarian Party, however

I have nominated as an independent in this election, maintaining a commitment to the issues of local council as my priority.

3. As a councillor I would advocate for our state forests to remain as such, ensuring future access to all. Lobby Regional Roads to maintain our roads. Encourage business and agriculture, endeavouring to simplify red tape/bureaucracy. Just to mention a few.
4. I envisage a council where residents are at ease to raise their concerns or praises, without fear of rejection, ridicule or prejudice. No subject should be off the table, for respectable debate. Ensuring fairness to all. Essential to a healthy, vibrant community is the sense of connection, from the youngest member to the eldest, of all walks of life.

Damien Gallagher



Damien Gallagher. -S

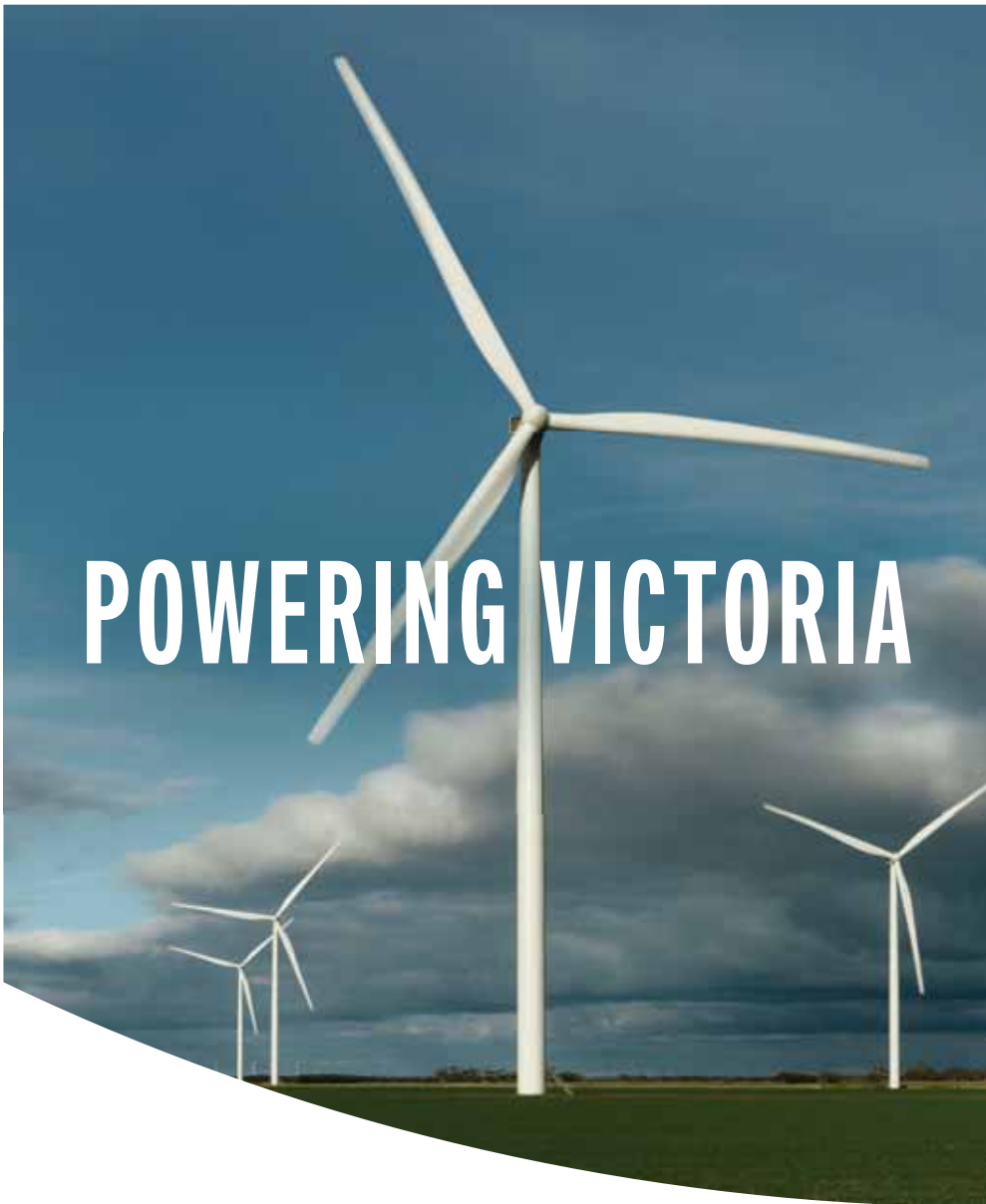
1. HI, I'm Damien, 47.

Husband, dad to three strong independent young women, not-for-profit board member of Alexandra Truck, Ute and Rod Show and Alexandra Pro Rodeo, CFA volunteer, Rebels supporter, small-time farmer, company director, executive leader, and software engineer. After 14 years in town, my family is continuing to build our future in Alexandra. It's been the privilege of a lifetime to be elected my community's representative on council. As deputy mayor, and recently as mayor I've grasped every opportunity to advance our municipality, appointed to the Local Government Minister's Mayoral Advisory Panel, and current Chair of the Hume Region Local Government Network.

2. No. Not now, not previously.
3. Our community is facing challenges with cost-of-living pressures, access to adequate local health services, and accommodation for families and key workers. The primary challenge for council itself is financial sustainability. Rural Councils continue to be challenged to deliver more services for state government without commensurate financial support. Murrindindi

ratepayers already do significant heavy lifting in delivering income for council, and so I will continue my campaign of advocating for a more equitable share of Federal Government Financial Assistance Grants. As Red Gate's representative, I'll continue to work to avoid exporting our young people by fostering local education and vocational options.

4. For families, professionals, tradies, and those between projects, I'll foster an inclusive community leaving nobody behind. We must engage and support young people to be their best selves, to lead discussions on the future. They need local tertiary education and employment options. The contribution of our elderly residents must be recognised and reciprocated with dignified care and services. Council will foster a thriving economy with meaningful career employment opportunities for everyone by attracting new enterprise and supporting established Murrindindi businesses. Ambitions demand vision. We can achieve growth and development while maintaining our rural identity and natural assets. Inclusion, opportunity, vision.



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Action needed so flying-foxes no longer in a tangle

WILDLIFE authorities are putting the spotlight on the shocking extent of grey-headed flying-fox injuries and deaths from illegal netting entanglements, as organisations unite to educate community gardeners about wildlife-friendly fruit tree netting ahead of the spring growing season.

In the first six months of 2024, Wildlife Victoria recorded more than 110 cases involving flying-foxes caught in illegal household netting, exceeding the total number of cases reported in all of 2023.

Licensed wildlife carers also rescued and rehabilitated more than 400 flying-fox pups between July 2023 and June 2024. These incidents were reported to the Conservation Regulator and wildlife experts suspect that many of the pups ended up in care after being separated from their mothers, many of whom were likely to have been entangled in household fruit tree netting.

The Conservation Regulator, Zoos Victoria, RSPCA Victoria, Wildlife Victoria, and Animal Welfare Victoria have partnered to address the dangers illegal household netting poses to wildlife, especially native bat species, and remind household growers to use safe, compliant fruit tree netting.

Kate Gavens, Chief Conservation Regulator, urged people to consider the impact of netting.

“We’re urging all household fruit growers to ensure they understand the law and have compliant fruit netting that protects both native wildlife and your household fruit trees. A small change to your netting can make a

big difference to the welfare of animals like grey-headed flying-foxes,” Ms Gavens said.

Since September 1, 2021, it has been illegal in Victoria to use or sell household fruit tree netting with a mesh size bigger than five millimetres by five millimetres, as larger mesh netting is more likely to entangle, distress, and seriously injure or kill animals. To help check if netting is compliant, try poking a finger through the mesh and if it can pass through, then it’s too big.

Community members should remove and stop using non-compliant netting immediately.

In addition to using netting with a legal mesh size, experts also encourage: using white-coloured netting with a cross-weave design to help nocturnal animals see and avoid it at night; tightly securing netting to a frame or tree trunk to prevent trapping terrestrial species; protecting selected branches with fruit bags or sleeves, rather than netting the whole tree.

Vulnerable grey-headed flying-foxes play an important part in the ecosystem as their diet of fruit and nectar from more than 100 species of native flowering and fruiting plants helps pollinate trees and disperse seeds. Many native and threatened plant species rely on flying-foxes for survival.

“Grey-headed flying-foxes fly thousands of kilometres in a year to search for food and

pollinate a wide variety of plants, supporting important habitat for other animals like koalas and possums. By protecting the health and wellbeing of one species, we can help to ensure a future for an entire eco-system,” Dr Sally Sherwen, the Acting CEO of Zoos Victoria, said.

If community members find a flying-fox trapped in fruit tree netting, call an experienced, vaccinated wildlife rescuer to assist. Do not attempt to touch or handle it yourself. To find a rescuer, call 136 186 or use the *Help for Injured Wildlife Tool* at wildlife.vic.gov.au/hfw

In Victoria, all wildlife is protected by law, and it is illegal to use or sell non-compliant household fruit netting under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019*. Authorised Officers can issue on-the-spot fines of \$395 to users and \$790 to sellers of illegal netting. Offenders also face a maximum penalty of \$2964 if prosecuted in court.

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

For more information on how to protect both household fruit trees and wildlife, visit: wildlife.vic.gov.au/managing-wildlife/wildlife-and-fruit-trees

Lice and ringworm

Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

HAVE you ever wondered why some poor and under condition young cattle coats look so rough at this time of year? It could be due to lice or ringworm, which both thrive under similar circumstances.

Both lice and ringworm are typically a greater problem in young cattle, typically in either poor nutrition or those with a compromised immune system. Neither are a significant problem to cattle in good health.

Lice are small sucking or biting insects found most commonly around the head, neck and shoulder area, and along the back to the tail. The irritation they cause leads to a rough scruffy appearance, and areas of skin rubbed raw particularly around the neck and shoulders.

The main effect of lice is skin damage as well as reduced ability or focus to graze. Cattle are infested through animal-to-animal contact with other cattle from which the population of lice can build up rapidly. Cattle lice do not infest other animals. The cattle’s denser winter coat along with cooler weather favours the lice’s survival. Without treatment the problem will remain until spring, when increasing temperatures and day lengths along with improved nutrition naturally reduce lice numbers.

Ringworm is a transmissible infectious skin disease caused by a spore forming fungi. It too is spread by direct contact and can spread rapidly through a group of cattle, particularly in poorly growing young animals with underlying poor health or nutrition. It causes grey-white areas of slightly raised skin with an ash like surface. It can become widespread being seen predominantly around the eyes, ears and back of calves, and the chest and legs of adult cattle. It causes little permanent damage or economic loss, however, can be transmitted to humans. Ringworm usually clears up within one to two months without any treatment particularly when conditions improve.

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

Preparing for the 3G network closure

STAY connected by upgrading to 4G/5G capable devices before Monday, October 28 to ensure continued access to data, voice calls, SMS/text messaging, and emergency services.

The phasing out 3G mobile networks is part of the transition to more advanced 4G and 5G technologies. The switch-off involves the shutdown of older cellular networks, which have been in service since the early 2000s.

Devices that may use the 3G network include, but are not limited to, 3G-only SIM cards, mobile phones, tablets and laptops 4G-enabled devices that do not have VoLTE (Voice over LTE) capability, 4G-enabled devices that use 3G to force emergency calls through antennas and wireless to landline links, autonomous farming robots, drones and other UAVs, EFTPOS terminals and other finance systems, GPS systems in machinery or vehicle fleets, Internet of Things (IoT) devices and other devices within closed networks, irrigation systems, livestock monitoring devices, medical alarms, and other medical devices, mobile

broadband modems and Wi-Fi signal repeaters, power generators, solar panels, smart meters for water, gas and electricity, and energy storage systems, second-hand or refurbished phones, or phones purchased overseas, smart fencing and/or gate control systems, smart watches and other wearables, weather stations, soil or water sensors and other on-farm data collection equipment, wired or remote security cameras, closed network security systems and alarms.

Any of the above devices which do not have 4G/5G compatibility will no longer work after the 3G network is switched off.

If you don’t upgrade your 3G-only mobile device before Monday, October 28, you will not be able to call Triple Zero (000) in the event of an emergency.

To prepare for the shutdown, find out what network your mobile service provider uses if you are not a direct customer of Telstra or Optus. Check if your current communication devices support 4G/5G. To test whether or not your device will be affected, you can: Text 3 to 3GXT (text the number ‘3’ to ‘3498’).

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ALEXANDRA and District Dog Obedience Club AGM
will be held on Sunday, October 27, 10am at Briggs Oval.

EILDON Golf Club's AGM will be held on October 12, 2024 at Eildon Golf Club at 6pm. Any item members wish to have discussed, must be presented to secretary seven days prior to AGM. Email Rod Taylor, rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com.

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Reminder to check pool fencing and gates

WITH spring bringing warmer weather, Royal Life Saving Australia is asking all owners of backyard pools to check their pool fences and pool gates as a matter of urgency.

Children under five are curious and fearless, and their love of water puts them at risk of drowning.

Tragically, every year in Australia we lose on average 20 young children to drowning, with half of all drowning deaths in young children occurring in backyard swimming pools. The majority are aged just one year old. This is because the risk of drowning triples at the age of one year, when children become more mobile.

Eight times the number of children who die go to hospital after a non-fatal drowning incident. That is more than 150 children aged under five each year, some of whom will be left with life-limiting disabilities.

While active supervision is the best protection against childhood drowning, no parent or caregiver can watch a young child 24 hours a day.

Ensure that you have a functioning and compliant pool fence and working gate as an additional barrier between young children and water for all



Have you done a safety check on your backyard pool? -Tommy Wong

those moments when life intervenes, such as when the phone rings, the doorbell rings, or another child needs your attention. This can literally be life saving.

You can download a free home pool safety checklist at royallifesaving.com.au/keepwatch

Royal Life Saving Australia also offer a list of tips when it comes to water safety, and they are: Wet weather conditions can wash away topsoil and weaken fences; check no fence posts have come loose from the

ground; make sure the gate is still self-closing and self-latching and is never left propped open under any circumstance; pack pool toys away so they are not an overwhelming temptation, and empty portable pools when not in use; it is also a good time to brush up on CPR skills ahead of summer.

By spending a bit of time checking the pool fence, pool gate and the area around the pool is secure, including no furniture or structures that little people can climb to access the pool, you could prevent a tragedy.

Haines concerns for the Future Made in Australia program

INDEPENDENT Federal Member for Indi Helen Haines has called for greater integrity and oversight measures for the *Future Made in Australia* program, as the Senate Economics Legislation Committee published the report on its inquiry into the bill.

As the government moves to resume debate of the bill in the Federal Parliament, Dr Haines said she was hopeful of broad support for her amendments to increase transparency on program decisions.

The \$22.7 billion program is the largest budget measure in this term of parliament outside the defence strategy program, with Dr Haines suggesting there continues to be a giant question mark over integrity, citing similar concerns raised by the Productivity Commission, Climate Council, Grattan Institute and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"This is one of the largest budget measures in this term of parliament,

and I want to make sure there is a clear framework in place for transparency of expenditure and decision making," Dr Haines said.

Dr Haines will move amendments to the *Future Made in Australia Bill* to provide the parliament and the public a line of sight over where funding is going under the program. Dr Haines met with the treasurer last month to discuss them in detail and is hopeful the government could agree to the changes.

The amendments would require the minister to give unredacted sector assessments to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit; sector assessments to be tabled in parliament within seven sitting days; and require Annual Reports under the Act to include an annual breakdown of *Future Made in Australia* supports, including key details such as recipients, purpose, support provided, and amount.

Dr Haines said concerns had been raised from a number of quarters,

backed up during public hearings as part of the inquiry, that the fund risked pork barrelling without the proper oversight.

"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.

"If my *End Pork Barrelling Bill* was passed in 2023, concerns about the integrity of these *Future Made in Australia* grants would be alleviated," Dr Haines said.

Network outage review has been released

FOLLOWING the February storm events the independent panel's final report into how privately owned power companies responded to February's storms has been released with a plan for a quicker response and reconnections for Victorians in future outages.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio welcomed the Network Outage Review recommendations for Victoria's distribution businesses focusing on preparedness, resource deployment and restoration of power.

The expert panel, made up of Rosemary Sinclair, Gerard Brody and Kevin Kehl, made 19 recommendations and 12 observations that form a clear pathway of improvements for distribution businesses in response to an outage.

Feedback from impacted communities and businesses was central to developing the report, with input from industry, essential services, emergency and regulatory bodies.

The report recommends a new financial support mechanism that provides more immediate support for customers impacted by outages, putting the onus on distribution business to reduce restoration times.

The panel recommended formalising mutual aid arrangements between power companies before an outage, to ensure a quicker response and reconnection.

The report also highlights the need for accurate and timely information on customer reconnection times, and the importance of ensuring that communications tools, such as outage trackers, can meet surge demand.

Some of the same communities that were impacted by prolonged outages during the February 13 storm experienced outages again recently following extreme winds. In response to the interim Network Outage Review

released in July, power companies have already begun to change preparedness processes.

The review makes strong recommendations for improvements to power company processes and engagement to improve the response to storm related outages. The government will respond to the recommendations in the review later this year.

To read the final report visit energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/network-outage-review.

Changes to myGovID

THE myGovID will be getting a makeover to the new name myID. With the changes you will be able to use your digital id in the future for more government services and then eventually private sector services.

This change aims to reduce the confusion between the myGovID app and myGov.

There is nothing you need to do prior to the change, your login details and identity strength you have set up will remain the same.

The existing app should automatically change to myID, or you can update it manually from the App Store or Google Play, and you can still use the app to securely access the government online services that are available.

To avoid scams and fraudulent websites and apps make sure you don't click on suspicious links, open attachments or download files from suspicious emails or SMS, unsolicited SMSs will never be sent that contains a hyperlink.



Some of the array of plants on display. -AR



Two customers checking out the non-invasive bamboo. -AR



Yea Rotary President Penny Paxman and Peter Weeks from UGFM. -AR

Yea Garden Expo blooms



Tony, Fred and Bob from Rotary at the barbecue. -AR



Maree with a silky chicken on her head. -S



A large number of people attended the event, despite the occasional drizzle. -AR



Rotary's Daryl King with his garden-themed hat. -AR



Linda and Peter Dickinson from Marysville. -AR



Bear checking out the tractors. -AR

Wellbeing Day at Sacred Heart

ON Tuesday, September 17, Sacred Heart Primary School participated in a Mental Health and Wellbeing Day with a focus on healthy minds.

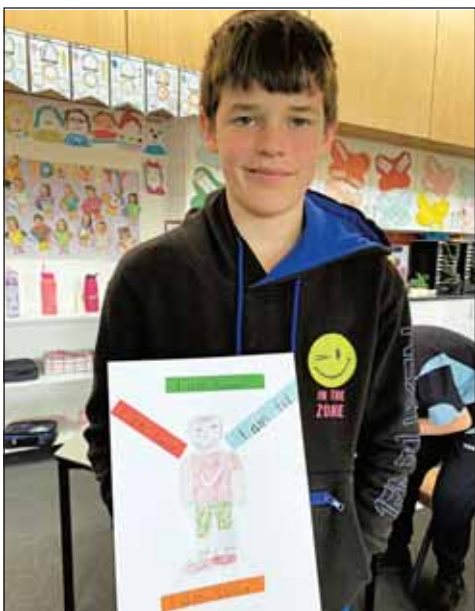
The students learned about the importance of self-compassion and the power of positive self-talk. Each student made an affirmations board to take home. They practiced being mindful and participated in meditation.

Students enjoyed persevering in a fun and challenging Circus Skills workshop with Emily from RUCCIS. They tried juggling, flower sticks, spinning plates and hula hooping.

At end of the day, students came together to create a colourful, nature mandala in the school yard. The Mental Health and Wellbeing Day was proudly supported by Foundation Murrindindi.



The whole school nature mandala. -S



Matthew and his affirmation board. -S



Quinn and Kaden and their affirmation boards. -S



Velvet and Ella spinning plates. -S



Blake doing tricks with flower sticks. -S

SPORT

Alexandra Cox Plate coming soon

THE Cox Plate will be taking place in Alexandra on October 26.

Buses will be available to take patrons to Alexandra's Cox Plate Day meeting on Saturday October 26. There are three bus routes: Eildon, Marysville and Yea. Return ticket only \$10, children 15 and under are free and you must book online at country.racing.com/Alexandra

Go online to see the pick up points and times. Buses will service each meeting this season and each person, including children, must have a reserved seat.

Bring your own (BYO) alcohol will no longer be permitted. This is a significant change for patrons but due to increasingly more restrictive Liquor Licensing Laws, the club has reluctantly accepted this reality. Other picnic clubs, such as Mansfield, have done the same.

Alcohol can be purchased at the reasonably priced bar. BYO food and soft drinks is permitted but BYO alcohol is not. Sponsors and marquee groups can apply for their own Liquor Licence but need to obtain a letter of authority from the club and allow eight weeks for their application to be processed.

Alexandra's Cox Plate meeting will be a family day with lots of kids activities like pony rides, a magician, music and other activities. Bookies and tote will service local, Melbourne and interstate meetings. Alexandra Lions and other food vans will provide food or you can BYO.

Alternatively entry tickets can be purchased at the gate on the day. Gates open from 11am, with the first local race at 1.15pm. Alternatively you can bring your own chair or find a spot in the shade and enjoy a day at the races.

End of pennant for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

THE Alexandra Squash Club pennant is over. Monday nights winning team was Blue Vein. Thursday nights winning team was Piranhas. The club says good playing everyone, and they look forward to seeing everyone next pennant.

Monday Competition Camembert versus Feta

Lachlan versus Tyler: Taking the first game Tyler led the way. Lachlan was better when he took the time to serve and concentrate, winning him the next three games and the match 59 to 45.

Matt (fill in) versus Sally: Both opponents ran like their life depended on it. Matt was a bit quicker, not letting Sally have a single game. Matt for the win. 65 to 41.



Monday night's winning team of Blue Vein. Pictured are Ethan, James, Matt and Pep. -S

Jared versus Phil: Good hitting on both sides. Both covered the court well and hit excellent finishers. Phil had the upper hand on the night. 71 to 45.

John versus Andrew: A fantastic game. Tied in the first two games it was a match to behold. Coming out of the third game, John was behind. He managed to pull it back a bit but Andrew was the champion. 60 to 58.

Gouda versus Mozzarella

Tyler (fill in) versus Eric: Both played well and had some excellent serving and good placement. Tyler was just too good for Eric on the night. 68 to 54.

Chris versus Mick: Mick came barrelling out of the gate to dominate the first game and take the second. Chris flipped the



Thursday night's winning team of the Piranhas. Pictured are Sam, Michael H and Beth. -S

script to claim the last two games but couldn't get ahead. Mick claimed the win. 60 to 51.

Justin versus Simon: Starting strong Simon controlled the first game and drew the second. The third game saw Justin fly ahead to give him enough of a lead to win the match. 68 to 59.

Thursday Competition Piranhas versus Stingrays

Beth versus Jess: Seesawing games with the final game ending in a draw. Beth won two games, however Jess had a good lead in the game that she won which pushed her ahead to win the match by one point. 62 to 61.

Sam versus Travis: Sam was on fire on the night, not giving Travis a chance to get ahead. Reigning supreme with a strong win, Sam took home the trophy. 71 to 49.

Michael H versus Jim: Saving the best game of the pennant until the night, both players were full throttle. Jim shot off to an early lead. Michael took advantage of some mistakes in the second and third games to have a narrow lead heading into the final game. Jim steadied and claimed the victory by playing simple squash. 54 to 49.

Hammerheads versus Orcas

Jodie versus Lucas (fill in): Playing with ferocity, Jodie nabbed three games to Lucas's one. Jodie was the victor. 60 to 51.

Michael M versus Stuart: Stuart won the first two games, keeping Michael running and sliding across the court. Fighting back, Michael took the third game with a good lead to even out the match before Stuart came around to crush his spirit and win the match. 58 to 52.



The race was challenging, but it was also heavily engaged with Mongolian culture. -S



The expansiveness of the Mongolian steppes on full display, with ger [tents] just visible in the background. -S

Billy Crouch races semi-wild horses across Mongolia

by Bailey Dixon

OVER 800 years ago, Genghis Khan wanted to conquer the world from horseback. As the founder and first ruler of the Mongol Empire, Genghis Khan created an infamous postal system to convey important information from one side of his fledgling empire to the other.

This was later dubbed Genghis Khan's post mail route, and it stretched over 1000 kilometres through the Mongolian steppes.

Earlier this year, Billy Crouch from Bonnie Doon, who spends most of his time working for Fineblade Civil in Murrindindi Shire, travelled to Mongolia to race semi-wild horses along this 1000 kilometre route on a 10 day adventure known as the Mongol Derby.

Billy shared details of the race and stories of his wild adventures in Mongolia.

"I knew about this race 10 years ago, and it was something that had always blown my mind. I remember laughing with another long-distance friend of mine, and I said I was going to sign up for that race. She said good luck, and then 10 years later I've signed up for the race and been over and completed it.

"We completed it in nine days. The Mongol Derby is 1000 kilometres, or it's actually a little bit more, but it's sold as a 1000 kilometre endurance race. It's registered as the longest and toughest endurance horse race in the world, so there is nothing bigger," Billy explained.

The race itself is split into 40 kilometre lengths, where riders receive a random new horse every 40 kilometres, for a total of 29 horses ridden during the race.

"We'd never laid eyes on any of the horses, never ridden any of them. You'd pull up to a horse station, and there'd be about 30 or 40 horses on a horse line, and you would draw a number out of a hat, and whatever number you drew, that was the horse you rode for that leg.

"Some legs you would draw horses that were fast, like super-fast, and other legs you would draw horses that weren't as fast, so it's sort of anybody's race. You get on, and hope for the best and educate yourself and the horse along the way."

In terms of navigation, Billy said, "It's a GPS navigated race, so every rider is handed a GPS, and that GPS is logged with GPS locations. You'll have your 29 different locations, and you'll have 1000 different ways you can get to each checkpoint. There's no track, it's just depending on what horse you get to determine which way you'll go.

"If you got a fast horse, it was quicker to go around a mountain, but if you got a slow horse that was fairly safe it might be quicker to go over the mountain rather than around," Billy said.

The horse changeover checkpoints provided riders with an opportunity to fill up their water and food, as well as stay the night if the riding curfew (7am to 7pm) lined up with reaching a checkpoint. These checkpoints were maintained by Mongolian volunteers who could provide riders with a place to spend the night and refresh themselves. Otherwise,



Billy Crouch making his way across the 'green desert' that is the Mongolian steppes. -S

riders were stuck with camping wherever they found themselves when curfew kicked in.

"Where we rode in Mongolia, they call it the steppe. The people who live out there are known as nomadic. One thing that really stood out to me was how welcoming these families were. Each horse line is what they call a horse station, and the families have little gers [tents] that they live in and we were welcome to stay in them at the horse stations.

"But if you got into a horse station at six o'clock at night, you knew that you still had an hour left riding, but that hour wouldn't get you to the next horse station. You'd have to find water and feed for your horse, and then you'd camp out that night.

"If you got lucky, you'd find a ger, and you could pull up to their ger and speak to them and try and translate. It was very difficult to let them know what we were doing, but in return they would let us stay there, they'd look after our horses for the night and feed us.

"It was really interactive, everything is about the locals over there, that's what the whole race is about. They [the Mongolian horses that racers rode] are their horses, and over there the horses are their whole world. They're everything. Without the families over there, there is no race. It's as simple as that," Billy said.

The countryside in Mongolia is vastly different to the Australian bush. The steppes are very sparse and green, with rolling hills and very little in the way of vegetation.

"They call the steppes a green desert. Lots of big green rolling mountains for as far as you can see. I think the first four days of the ride I was convinced there were no trees in Mongolia. It was just barren country for so long.

"The fifth and sixth day we started to get into some plantation country. There was one spot on the trail where we rode over this big mountain and dropped into this valley. I've never been to Africa, but I think that's what

it would look like. It was like something out of a movie.

"It was very interesting country. It's very harsh, and a lot of the horses we rode, the tips of their ears had been burnt from frostbite, from the winters over there," Billy explained.

Talking about the overall experience of the race, Billy recalled it with fondness and expressed that he would do it again in a heartbeat. The joy of the adventure was evident on his face while he talked about the race, even after a period of some weeks and returning to work.

"I was rapt. I would go and do it again tomorrow, there's no questions about that. I never went over there to win it. I told myself that in my head, if I finish it I've won. It's a race where a lot of people don't finish, and a lot of people get seriously injured.

"It'll be a story around the campfire for the rest of my life.

"Every horse that you rode and every single leg that you did, something interesting happened. At the end of the day, you are riding semi-wild horses in a remote place. It's a recipe for disaster, and there were lots of disasters. That's horse racing, that's what it is.

"I remember pulling up to stations, and people were like 'how are you still smiling?' And I said, 'look where we are. We're riding semi-wild horses in a third world country. My friends back home are at work.' It doesn't get much better than that for me."

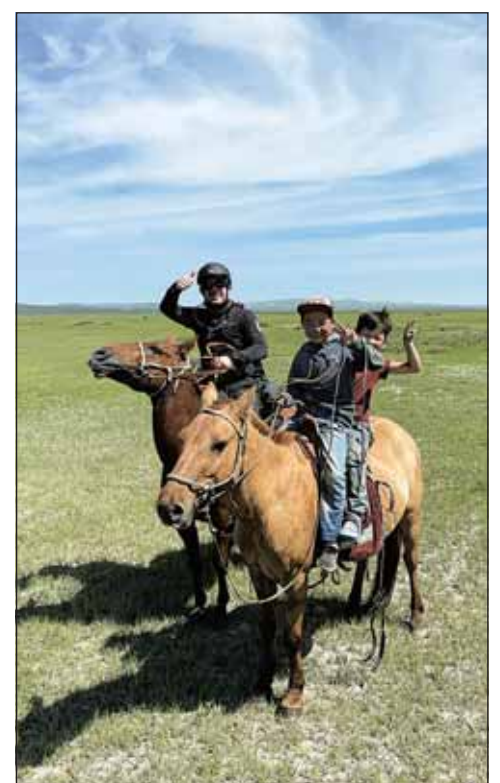
The Mongol Derby was a challenging experience for Billy, and yet he still fully recommends the race.

"I talk about it now, but five days in my toes were black from bruising, from standing up in stirrups that I had never ridden in before. If you had underlying injuries in your body that your day-to-day life wouldn't affect, they would definitely come out in that horse race.

"I think in my head I had a goal and I promised myself that I would go out and get it. I would encourage anybody to do the same,



Local man Billy Crouch, who lives in Bonnie Doon and works in Murrindindi Shire. -S



Billy Crouch with a couple of Mongolian children, who he says are incredible horse riders, having learnt from a young age. -S

because nothing is too big or too small to go out and get. You want it, you work at it and go out and get it.

"You'll find that everyone around you will support you in that, like everyone around me supported me. But they all told me I was crazy at the same time. Also, Fineblade Civil is very supportive of what I do. Without them I wouldn't have been able to do this," Billy concluded.

The Chronicle Sport

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Silver Spoon playoff and Saturday Stableford in Yea

by Phil Armstrong

DI Elliott and Jo Clayton faced off to decide who would represent Yea Golf Club in the State Final of the Silver Spoon later in the year. Di held on to record a narrow win in what proved to be a very close and tight tussle. The club offers their congratulations to Di and wish her good luck in the state final.

The rest of the girls competed in a stableford event. The golf course is in splendid conditions and the girl's scores reflected the excellent conditions with several great scores posted.

Cindy Armstrong (35) led the charge with 40 points to collect the cash. Penny Britton (33) and Sharon Grogan (28) also had a day out posting 37 points, with Penny collecting second place on countback.

Twelve men competed in a two-person ambrose and again the scores reflected the great course conditions.

Rob Gill (37) teamed up with Brendan Chenhall (13) to have 75 off the stick for a nett 62.5 to collect the chocolates. Gary Pollard (15) and Anthony La Grutta (21) also had 75 off the stick, but had to settle for second place with 66 nett.

Brian Priestly and Mick 'The Barman' Sheather took out the club award rounding out the trifecta for Mick after winning the meat raffle on Friday and the Mary Walker Trophy on Saturday.

There is a stableford event for both men and ladies on Saturday and next week the

Bruce Kindred Cup, which is a four ball best ball event, is listed for Friday, September 27. The club asks players to please register your entries for this event on the whiteboard in the clubhouse.

A field of 27 gathered to contest Saturday's stableford event at Yea Golf Club. Jono Ness (18) made the most of the excellent conditions, posting a personal best of 82 off the stick to register 41 points. Mick 'The Barman' Sheather (26) who is becoming accustomed to his new clubs finished second with a great round scoring 37 points. Oh if only he hadn't hit one into the dam on 15, it could have been better.

Rick Wills (9) with 36 points collected third place and Brian Simmons won a three way countback from Tony Rule and Phil Armstrong for fourth. Sam Wright proved to be the dead dick taking home nearest the pin on the 14th hole. Wednesday's winner Brendan Chenhall turned the tables to take out the club award.

The excellent scores were continued in the ladies event with both Margie Wright (22) and Cindy Armstrong (35) coming back to the clubhouse with 40 points apiece. Margie got the nod for the win on countback and Cindy had to settle for second despite a great round.

Christine Simmons (29) with 35 points followed up her excellent mid week form at Kilmore where she won the day with 40 points, to take third place.

Next Friday, September 27, is the annual Bruce Kindred Cup, a four ball best ball event

with a shot gun start. Members and guests are most welcome and can book in via the whiteboard in the clubhouse or online.

Chooklotto saw a magnanimous gesture from winner of the \$100 "Trout" putting the money on the bar to be enjoyed in the coming weeks. Minor prizes of kitchen assessories went to Tony Rule and Judi Newman.



Brendan 'Trout' Chenhall hands the winning to barman Mic Sheather. -S



Christine after winning C Grade at Kilmore Golf Club last Thursday with a nett 68. -S

Terip Terip the victors in 2024 winter tennis

by Debbie Mims and Karyn Fraser

TERIP Terip and Euroa battled it out on Euroa's well-groomed windswept courts, while fans and spectators braving the chilly conditions were thoroughly entertained last Monday morning.

Team Terip, Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Frances Lawrence and Phoebe Macdermid, and Team Euroa, Faye Mollison, Lyndall Bigland, Chris Ellis, and Ruth Nolan showed everyone why they were playing finals. The contest contained strong lengthy rallies with net players poised to pounce. Players waited patiently for the right moment to intercept an opponent's mistake.

After two rounds it was two sets apiece with Terip up by six games. Euroa would have to pull out all stops in the third round to make up ground. Spectators 'oohed and aahed' as they huddled in rugs, coats and whatever they could find to keep warm, on the bitterly cold

day. The finalists in short sleeves and skirts wondered what the fuss was about, as they certainly weren't cold.

Bec, quietly celebrating a milestone birthday, impressed with her fitness by playing two tie break sets. The match came down to the last two sets and Terip took them both, one in a nail-biting tie break. Had Euroa taken the tie break, games would have determined the premiers for 2024. Instead Terip took both sets, with the final score of four sets to two, games 45 - 35.

Terip had won the flag for the past six years and Euroa was looking to knock them off on their home courts. Congratulations Terip Terip for their 2024 premiership and to Euroa for pushing them to play their very best.

Everyone retired to the clubhouse to thaw out with a hot cuppa and enjoy a delicious smorgasbord of goodies, with a surprise half birthday cake for Bec.



The Terip Terip team were the winners of winter tennis for 2024. -S

Alexandra Newspapers will be **CLOSED**

Friday, September 27, 2024 for
AFL Grand Final public holiday

EGN deadlines for booking and artwork will be

NOON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ALL OTHER DEADLINES REMAIN UNCHANGED