

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, October 16, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

murrindindibusiness.com.au



Skaters from around the shire and out of town visited the Yea skatepark for a round of the North East Skatepark Series last Sunday. For more on the action turn to page 12. -Photos by JD/BD.

Ambulance issues continue

RESIDENTS requiring transport to Seymour for dialysis treatment or chemotherapy have had their taxi services withdrawn and are now required to book ambulances through the Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) option, resulting in delays in transport to Seymour.

The change has put more pressure on paramedics, patients and the Seymour hospital staff.

One Yea district local who did not wish to be named waited for their booked ambulance to arrive and when it became apparent that this was not about to happen, their partner decided to drive the patient to Seymour for treatment.

"We were halfway to Seymour when the ambulance passed us on its way to collect me," they said.

The incident occurred despite the Department of Health claiming last week that there has been no change to the service for local patients requiring dialysis sessions.

Ambulance Victoria prioritises NEPT patients as to who will be picked up and when. This has already led to patients arriving late for their sessions.

One patient last week only received a four-hour treatment instead of the usual five hours due to ambulance scheduling.

There was also an incident of an ambulance being sent to the wrong address.

The group that met with Murrindindi Shire CEO, Livia Bonazzi, last week are looking at taking the matter to the public through the Melbourne media.

In the meantime, member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad, is asking anyone with experience of the ambulance system to provide comment to the parliamentary inquiry into Ambulance Victoria.

Ms Broad said that area has some of the worst ambulance response times in Victoria, adding that paramedics are doing the best they can but the system is letting them and the community down.

Details regarding Ms Broad's campaign can be read on page five of this week's Yea Chronicle.

AS REAL AS IT GETS

ALEXANDRA RACE CLUB

SATURDAY
26 OCTOBER 2024



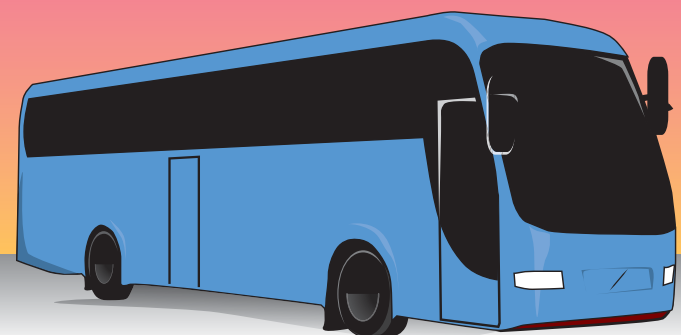
COX PLATE DAY

- Music
- Horse Racing
- Tote & Bookies Services
- \$15pp or \$10pp for concession card holders
- Children 16 and under FREE
- Gates open at noon ~ first race at 1.15pm



BOOKINGS: country.racing.com/alexandra

Take the bus to the Alexandra Races Cox Plate Day October 26



3 Routes; Eildon, Marysville or Yea.

Bookings essential country.racing.com/alexandra

\$10 return, Children 15 and under Free.
Everyone, even children, must have a reserved seat



Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000



Letters to the Editor

The answer is blowing in the wind

The Fera wind farm and transmission line issue seems to have gone a bit quiet recently. The “consultation” process apparently continues.

“Consultation” as we all know is about going through a process and then ramming the original plan down the communities throat anyway. Unless the community has the right to say “no” it’s not a real consultation.

So here’s my challenge for the Murrindindi Shire elections: each candidate should come out with a clear “Yes: I support the wind farm and transmissions lines project” or a clear “No: I don’t support the wind farm and transmissions lines project”.

Do the candidates have that level of courage?

As for Fera, who are flogging this project, here’s your challenge.

If a secret ballot is taken of all residents who are impacted in any way by the wind towers and transmission lines is taken, and the vote is NO, will Fera have the courage and ethical commitment to say, “the project is cancelled”?

It’s time for shire council candidates and Fera to show some community commitment, real consultation commitment and courage.

*Marcus Elgin
Highlands*

IT’S NOT OKAY

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

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

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



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Student grants to gain leadership skills

THE opening of applications for *Future Ready 2025-2026* program grants is now underway, it’s available for government secondary schools, not for profit organisations, Aboriginal entities and social enterprises to work with students across the state and help them get involved in their community.

Grants of between \$24,000 and \$56,000 over two years are available for a wide variety of activities such as mentoring and training, work placement and volunteering, and leadership and learning opportunities.

The program is designed to help students build confidence and skills, engage in practical learning that supports

their pathway to higher education or employment and learn and develop in an inclusive and safe environment.

Funding can be used flexibly including to cover transport costs for students, such as those living in rural and regional areas, who would otherwise face barriers to taking part.

Previous participants in the program, formerly known as Advance, include Werrimull P-12 School where students took part in a culture trip to Adelaide, a Rubicon leadership camp and a trip to Grampians National Park. These programs enabled students to develop organisational

and leadership skills as they helped to plan and lead the trips.

Activities funded with *Future Ready 2025-2026* program grants will take place in the 2025 and 2026 school calendar years.

The *Future Ready* program is part of the work of the state government to provide young Victorians with the support and opportunities they need to reach their potential.

Grant applications are open until Friday, November 29.

For more information about the *Future Ready 2025-2026* program, or to apply visit vic.gov.au/future-ready-grants

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.71	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.56	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.52am Mon	0.70	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	10.37am Mon	0.16	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.28am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.22am Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.86	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.49	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.59	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.88	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.10am Mon	1.17	steady	

****ISSUED AT 10.45AM ON MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2024**



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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



Weekly Weather

October 16 - October 22, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	12	22	Wednesday	12	22
Thursday	5	21	Thursday	18	25
Friday	5	17	Friday	13	22
Saturday	5	21	Saturday	10	20
Sunday	10	22	Sunday	9	22
Monday	10	21	Monday	14	26
Tuesday	12	22	Tuesday	10	24



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	4mm
Buxton	6mm
Eildon (AWS)	9mm
Flowerdale	3mm
Jamieson	3mm
Kinglake	9mm
Lake Eildon	7mm
Mansfield	8mm
Taggerty	3mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea	1mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.11m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	85.4%
Metres below full supply	3.79m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	93%



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

Liddle wonder

YEA High School student Nina Callander was lucky to be picked from a small group of students to attend the School for Student Leadership at the Alpine Campus in Dinner Plain. The experience is designed for year nine students with an aim to focus on personal development and team building.

Nina said, "I thoroughly enjoyed my time, I learnt so much about myself and made many new lifelong friends."

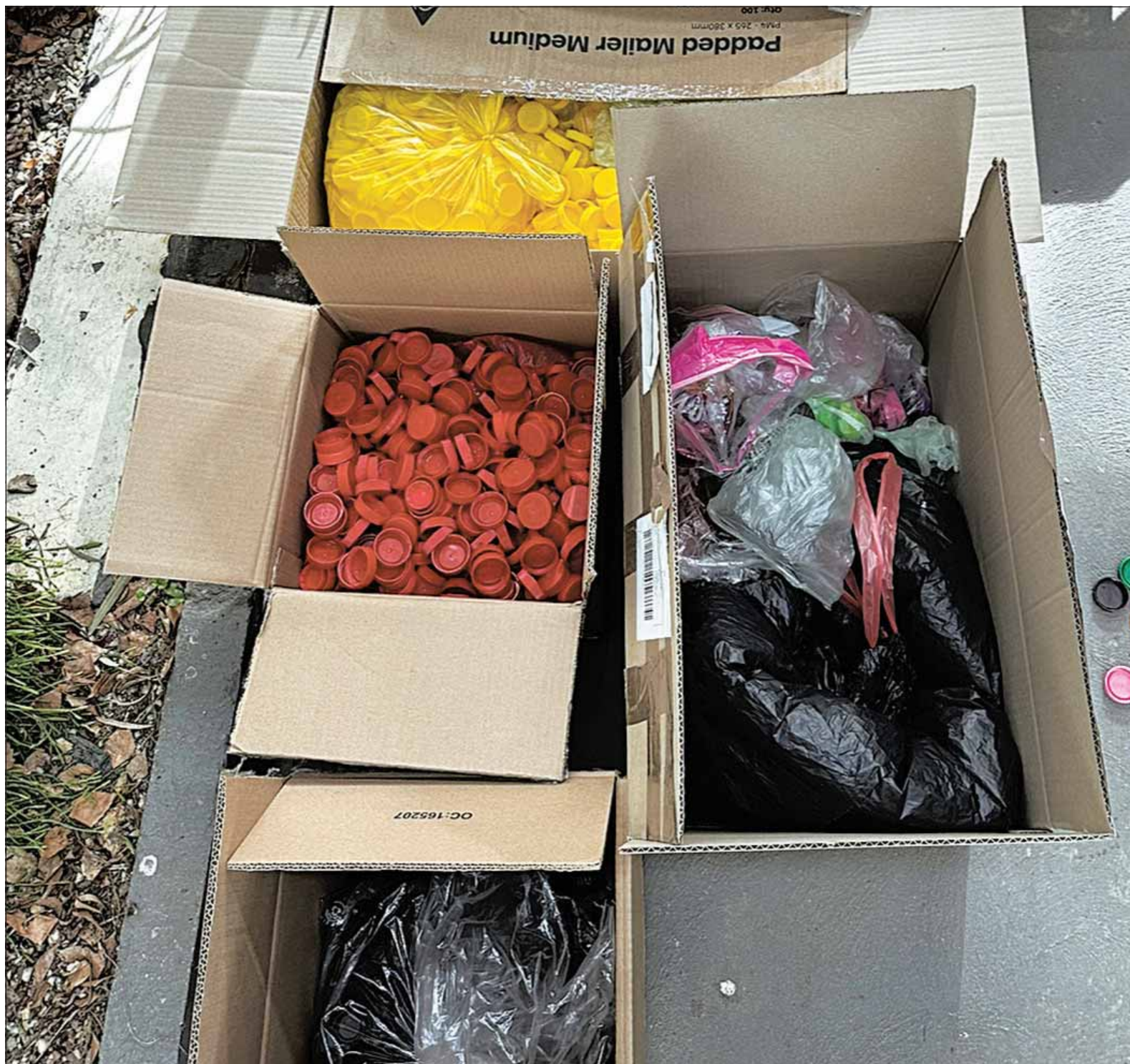
Part of the program included completing a Community Led Project (CLP), after a lot of thought Nina decided to collect bottle tops to reduce landfill in the community. The lids would be recycled into useful objects, giving them a second purpose.

Nina chose the organisation Lids4kids to donate the lids to and originally there were numerous drop points around the state. Over the last 12 months the volunteers of these drop points have been overwhelmed by all the donation and have since closed.

To donate the collection of lids from this project they were facing a drive to head office in Canberra. After some time googling Nina discovered Southern Mitchell Rotary Club in Kilmore run a similar project called "Collect to protect". This group were happy to take the eight large boxes that were sorted into colours.

The Southern Mitchell Rotary Club would like it known they accept all types of recyclables such as plastic bread tags, metal pull tabs off cans, medicine blister packs etcetera.

Nina would like to thank everyone that took the time to contribute to her CLP, such as households, café, schools, and bakeries.



All the lids Nina managed to collect and sorted into their various colours. -S

Ballot packs mailed for Murrindindi Shire Council election

VOTERS enrolled in Murrindindi Shire Council should check the mail for their ballot packs. Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel is encouraging people to vote as early as possible.

"This election is postal, so it's important to complete and return your ballot material as soon as possible to make sure your vote counts," Mr Bluemmel said.

Ballot material must be in the mail or delivered to the election office at Murrindindi Shire Council by 6 pm Friday, October 25. Voters who haven't received their ballot pack by Tuesday, October 15 should go to vec.vic.gov.au to complete an online replacement ballot pack form.

Candidates who have nominated for the election are listed in the ballot packs and on the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) website at vec.vic.gov.au

If candidates have provided them, there will also be candidate photos and statements in the packs, and answers to the candidate questionnaire online. Voting is compulsory

for all voters who were enrolled for this election at 4pm Wednesday, August 7. Voters who don't vote may be fined.

Voting in the Murrindindi Shire Council election is entirely by post, there are no voting centres. The VEC will send ballot packs to all enrolled voters between Monday, October 7 and Thursday, October 10. Packs are delivered in random order, so voters in the same home may receive their packs on different days.

The election uses full preferential voting; voters will need to put the number '1' in the box next to the candidate they most want to see elected, and then number all the other boxes in order of their choice. Voters must number every box and only use each number once.

The VEC can only finalise results after it has received all ballots admissible to the count. The Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 allow postal votes to be received until noon on Friday, November 1. This ensures votes signed by the close of voting can be included in the count. Votes received during the extended period will be

admitted if the voter completed them before the close of voting.

Candidates can appoint scrutineers to watch the counting process. The VEC expects the successful candidate to be declared no later than Friday, November 15.

Once declared elected, the Chief Executive Officer of Murrindindi Shire Council will swear in the incoming councillors under the *Local Government Act 2020*. Councillors will represent their community until the next general election in 2028.



ALL HOURS

- Alexandra • Yea
- Eildon • Marysville and districts

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Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

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Matthews

9739 6868

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

The Yea Chronicle

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Alexandra Newsagency
Alexandra Newspapers
Endeavour Yea
Hazeldene Store
Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Shell Thornton
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

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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.

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

OPERATION Christmas Child is on again. It runs from today through until October 18. Oasis Community Church, 188 Grant Street, Alexandra from 10am-4pm. Tea and coffee supplied, main packing day, October 17. Help pack a box for underprivileged children around the world. All supplied provided. \$12.50 per box or donation. For full details contact Judy Peters 0458 991 855.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

MARKET@YARCK including CWA morning tea and cake stall. Plants, soap, jewellery, knitwear and much more from 9am.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

ALEXANDRA RSL general meeting will be held at noon at the RSL hall, light lunch to follow.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

YEA Arts Inc AGM will be held at the Yea Butter Factory at 7pm. all welcome. To vote, you must be a paid up member. Enquiries to Adam Dennis 0488 670 077 or YeaArtsInc.org/AGM

Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the club rooms. Everyone is welcome. For details contact Kylie Cairns or Ray Steyger. *NOTE CHANGE OF TIME.*

Drop into the Eildon Shops between 11.30 and noon and have a chat to Helen Haines at her mobile office.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

EILDON Action AGM will be held at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

ALEXANDRA Race Club Cox Plate Day. Music, tote and bookies, \$15 per person. Children under 16 free. \$10 for Concession Card holders. First race at 1.15pm. There will be a bus available bookings essential country.racing.com/Alexandra.

Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare will hold their AGM at 4pm at 17 Sichlau's Road Yea. A barbecue will follow.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

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

Wearable Floral Art. Prizes for most creative entries Rennies at Acheron 132 Breakaway Road, Acheron. Guest speakers Costa from Gardening Australia, Joost Bakker, Future food systems and Peter

Burgess, Rainbow Bee Eater. Music, licensed café and more.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Embassy of Ideas AGM will be held at 6pm at 3 Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

ALEXANDRA District Netball Association will hold their AGM at 7pm at the Alexandra Community Shed. For further information contact Cassandra on 0418 538 964.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

REDGATE Alexandra CWA will hold their AGM at 10am at the CWA Rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra. For more information contact Sue 0412 435 946.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

YARCK Hotel are holding a Melbourne Cup Lunch. Commencing at 11am. Race day attire, the fancier, the better. Prepaid tickets available from Lawrenda Pty Ltd or visit the hotel or the produce store for tickets. See ad in this edition for payment details. Doors open to the public after the cup.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Murrindindi Harvest Celebration Yea Railway Park 11am-4pm.

Two new Rotarians

THE core of any service club is a strong membership base as without committed members, little can be achieved. Penny Paxman, as President of the Rotary Club of Yea was pleased on Thursday evening to induct two new members, Jill Heath and Chris Kellett into the club. The newest Rotarians are well known to many in Yea.

Jill has a long involvement as a steward for the Yea Show and is an active member of the Yea Pottery Studio and is keen to give more back to her community, plus enjoy

all the social aspects that being a Rotarian offers.

Chris Kellett is no stranger to Rotary as her husband Paul has been a Rotarian for quite a few years and was President of the Club in 2021 and 2022. Maybe Chris is working on the principal that is you can't beat them; you might as well join them. Chris is really looking forward to getting involved in lots of the club's projects and doing more for her community.

On the bigger picture, Jill and Chris now become part of a global network that exists in over 200 countries and has over 1.4 million members in over 46,000 clubs, working hard to make a difference in the world.

If you are interested in finding out more about Rotary and what being a member involves, why not come along on Wednesday November 20 at 7.30pm to the RSL Hall in Snodgrass Street, Yea. Light refreshments will be provided.



Pictured at the induction are Jill Heath, President Penny Paxman and Chris Kellett.

Call for ambulance inquiry input

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad has encouraged anyone with experience of the ambulance system to have their say in a parliamentary inquiry into Ambulance Victoria.

Public submissions are now open for the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee inquiry.

The inquiry will look into issues involved with call taking, dispatch, ambulance ramping, working conditions and workloads of paramedics, allegations of fraud and embezzlement, governance and accountability and the general workplace culture within Ambulance Victoria.

Ms Broad said it was important that people had their say.

“I’ve spoken with people across Northern Victoria who called for an ambulance but none were available. A gentleman 200 metres from hospital who had to wait hours, a lady in severe pain who was told to take a taxi to hospital, and a young woman who called for an ambulance and received a fire truck instead,” Ms Broad said.

“There are ongoing issues with ambulance ramping at hospitals right across regional Victoria, including Bendigo, Shepparton and Wodonga.

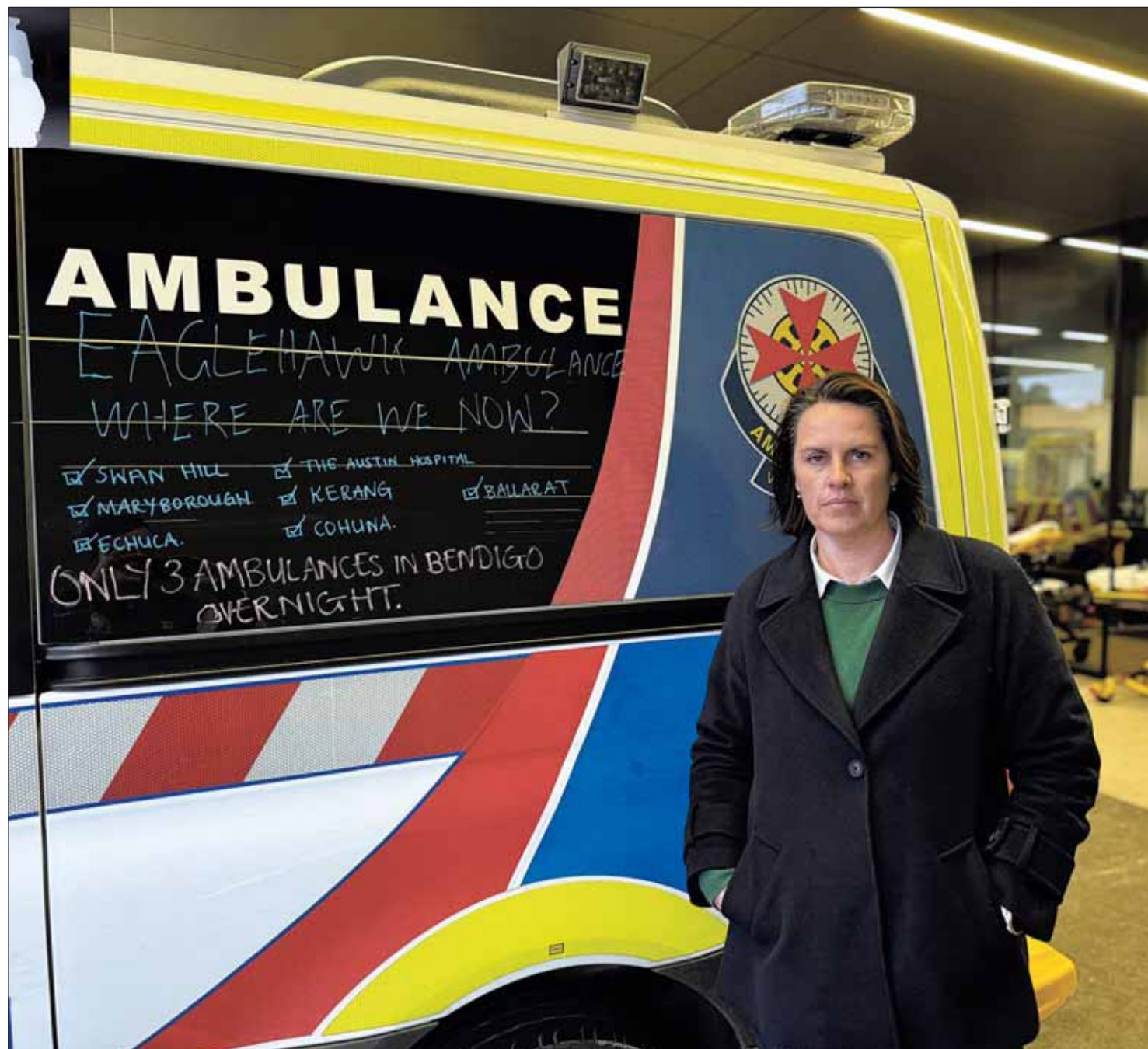
“Indigo Shire has some of the worst ambulance response times in Victoria, and there are unique challenges in cross border communities that need to be resolved,” Ms Broad added.

“Paramedics are doing the best they can but the system is broken and is letting them and the community down. This inquiry is an important opportunity for people to share their insights, whether it be paramedics, patients, or those with an interest in improving Victoria’s health system.

“Despite the government’s objections, the Upper House of the Victorian Parliament supported this inquiry because these issues need to be addressed.”

Submissions close on February 28, 2025. Public hearings will be scheduled once submissions have closed.

The full terms of reference for the inquiry are available on the committee’s, including information on how to sign up to email alerts and how to make a submission.



Gaelle Broad MP has urged people to make submissions to the inquiry into ambulance services.

Residents beware new NBN scam

RESIDENTS of Murrindindi should be aware that a new scam phone call is doing the rounds, with the caller pretending to be from the National Broadband Network (NBN).

The caller says something along the lines of there is slow internet speed in the postcode 3717 area, and that the NBN is going to provide increased internet speed at no extra cost, aside from a \$5 fee for delivery of a new modem.

From there, the caller directs the person to their computer, where they advise them to download an app that gives the scammer full control over the computer. Once that step is complete, they go into the person’s bank accounts and withdraw money.

This scam call has taken place on landlines previously. Anyone who encounters this scam call can go to the NBN website for official information and contact the proper NBN officials from there.

Murrindindi Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election is being held for Murrindindi Shire Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material were mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Murrindindi Shire Council Yea Office
15 The Semi Circle
Yea

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don’t vote and don’t have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au



vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832

For enquiries in languages other than English:

* عربي (Arabic) 9209 0100 * ܐܘܪܘܩܝܬܐ (Assyrian) 9209 0160 * မြန်မာစာ (Burmese) 9209 0161 * 简体中文 (Mandarin) 9209 0106 * 廣東話 (Cantonese) 9209 0101 * Hrvatski (Croatian) 9209 0102 * دري (Dari) 9209 0193 * Thuongjan (Dinka) 9209 01119 * Ελληνικά (Greek) 9209 0103 * آرزى (Hazaragi) 9209 0162 * Italiano (Italian) 9209 0104 * ភាសាខ្មែរ (Khmer) 9209 0192 * 한국어 (Korean) 9209 0194 * македонски (Macedonian) 9209 0105 * नेपाली (Nepali) 9209 0163 * فارسی (Persian) 9209 0195 * ภาษาไทย (Thai) 9209 0164 * Türkçe (Turkish) 9209 0110 * اردو (Urdu) 9209 0165 * Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese) 9209 0111 • All other non-English languages 9209 0112

Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

@electionsvic



Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Congratulations to our Values Award winners from Week 10 of Term three, Molly, Indie-Lee, Tanya, Toby, Hayden, Dean and Ashton.

These students were recognised by our instructors at Seymour Pool for being resilient, taking on feedback and doing their very best. Well done.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



Berry case adjourned

SEYMOUR man David Graham Berry, who is facing charges of fatally striking an Alexandra motorcyclist earlier this year near Yarck with an allegedly stolen vehicle, plans to contest the charges.

Berry appeared in Shepparton Magistrates' Court on October 8 for a committal mention. However, his lawyer applied to cross-examine police witnesses. As a result the case was adjourned for a

contested committal hearing on February 5, 2025. He will remain in custody until then.

A white Ford Ranger is alleged to have been stolen by Berry from Euroa on May 9. It is alleged that Berry then drove the vehicle erratically and collided with the 56-year-old motorcyclist on that same day.

Berry then allegedly fled the scene and attempted to hitchhike out of the area but was later apprehended by police after an extensive search.

He was on bail for five separate offences when the alleged incident happened and is facing charges of dangerous driving causing death, burglary, theft, and failing to stop and render assistance.

At the May 10 hearing following the accident the court was told that Berry was suspected to have been substance-affected and an unlicensed learner driver at the time.

The court was also informed that Berry was out on bail for five different incidents.

The first involved violating a court order, while the second and third cases were related to theft and committing an offence while on bail.

His fourth bail violation was for failing to appear in court, while the fifth was related to allegations of drug possession and an imitation firearm. The court was informed during the May hearing that Berry had prior convictions.

Lifting the lid

THE Rotary Club of Yea had a fun night on Thursday October 10 to coincide with World Mental Health Day, by having a crazy hat night.

Each year approximately 1-in-5 Australians will experience a mental illness and in order to help future generations of young Australians, we need to look ahead through research and find out how we can prevent this type of illness occurring.

Yea Rotarians always mark the day every year with a crazy hat night and this year was no exception. Almost everyone turned up wearing crazy or colourful hats and those that didn't purchased one to aid the fundraising in support of this important initiative by Australian Rotary Health.

Best hat/s went to Denise and Glen Milliken, who put some effort into their floral creation. It certainly adds to the colour of the room when everyone wears a hat and it puts the fun into fundraising!

President Penny Paxman was very pleased with the turnout and the array of colourful headway on show and is happy the Club continues to support this worthy cause.

Lift the Lid on Mental Illness is Australian Rotary Health's National annual fundraising day for mental health research. The campaign, founded by ARH Vice Chairman Greg Ross, started in 2016 in partnership with Rotary Clubs of Victoria. The event was such a success that it has now been extended to all Rotary Clubs across Australia.



Best hat winners Glenn and Denise Milliken.



Sue Carpenter.



President Elect Darryl King



David Anderson spoke to Rotarians about Lift the Lid.



Be hands on with your safety.

In an 80km/h crash, motorcycle gloves protect you for 3.3 seconds – long enough to save your skin.
Protect your entire body on every ride.





Yea local takes prizes at Melbourne Royal

YEA local Sonya Heron took out numerous awards and received some stellar feedback from the judges at the Melbourne Royal Show for her miniature Galloway bull and her standard Galloway cow, both of which are rare breeds.

Sonya was ecstatic with the results in particular the comments of the judge in regard to standard sized Galloway and the supreme award and the winning of the small breed interbreed class by the miniature Galloway bull.

She was awarded 'Most successful Galloway and Miniature Galloway exhibitor' and also the 'Alan Dunk Memorial Sash and Trophy' plus numerous other awards.

Sonya and her ex-partner started Balytyckle Galloways 12 years ago in Seville, but relocated to Yea at the beginning of 2017. Sonya is now the sole owner and operator of the stud.

"The cattle stud was managed by me as I am passionate about Galloways and the fact they are a rare breed in small numbers here in Australia and worldwide. I am a member of the Australian Galloway Association and at one point served as a vice president on the committee," Sonya said.

"I'm very proud to be representing my breed and doing so as a single women managing my own stud and making my own decisions. It's very encouraging to have the support of the many other women in agriculture jumping hurdles and doing great things under their own steam."

Sonya has always wanted to show at Melbourne Royal but the timing was never ideal due to work and family commitments.

This year she decided the timing was right to enter Melbourne with the stud being entirely owned and managed by her. However, she couldn't have pulled it off without the support and encouragement of some of her very good friends.

Sonya will be attending the Yea show later in the year to show off her Galloway cows.



Supreme miniature Gallow and supreme small breed interbreed award winner 'Balytyckle Top Gun' with breeder Sonya Heron. -S

Calving season is here

CALVING season is here and its time to monitor your cows for any problematic calving situations.

Agriculture Victoria Livestock Development Officer, Dr Hannah Manning said during calving season regular monitoring of cows is important to pick up any that are having trouble calving.

"A farmer's strength, a calving jack or a calving pulley are the only acceptable

methods to pull a calf, even then you need to be a competent operator. There is no point having the equipment if you haven't had training on how to use it, and if a calf is stuck or not lined up properly then more force isn't the answer," Dr Manning said.

"Don't forget if you're helping with a calving, wearing gloves is a great way to reduce your exposure to any diseases that

can affect humans, and it keeps things cleaner for the cow.

"If significant progress in pulling the calf hasn't been made in 20 minutes, it's time to stop and come up with an alternative plan."

Dr Manning said calling your local vet early will be the best result for the cow and calf.

"Good facilities that are safe for you and anyone else helping is vital. It's amazing how effective a vet can be with drugs in

improving the whole situation. If calling your local vet isn't an option is there someone else you can call or do you need to make some tough decisions?"

Dr Manning said the top consideration at all times is the welfare of the cow.

"Tough calvings can result in calving paralysis and down cows are a poor result and require a lot of skill and time to care for properly."

SAVE THE DATE

- NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 8, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- NOVEMBER 29, Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- DECEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- DECEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- JANUARY 10, 2025 Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- JANUARY 15, 2025 Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- JANUARY 17, 2025 Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale

Avian Influenza risk is still here

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have released a statement saying more needs to be done now to prepare Victorian farmers for the potential arrival of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, which has the ability to devastate Victoria's poultry industry and native wildlife.

VFF Vice-President Danyel Cucinotta said additional urgent action to bolster biosecurity measures to protect the state's poultry farmers and broader agricultural sector is required and everyone has a role to play.

"Biosecurity is a shared responsibility. While government action is crucial, farmers must also remain vigilant and assess their own biosecurity processes and systems. It's important that farmers review their infrastructure and consider potential modifications to reduce the risk of disease

entering or spreading within their operations," Ms Cucinotta said.

"We cannot afford to be complacent. The H5N1 strain is a serious threat to both our poultry industry and our environment. The VFF is taking proactive and collaborative steps to help ensure Victoria is ready to face this challenge in the most effective manner.

"In response to the risk, the VFF is working closely with the Victorian Government and has established a working group with the Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer to assess the state's current preparedness. This working group will review the recent H7 outbreak in western Victoria, identifying gaps and offering suggestions for improved response protocols.

"This work will provide the insights we need to enhance our biosecurity practices and ensure rapid and effective responses to

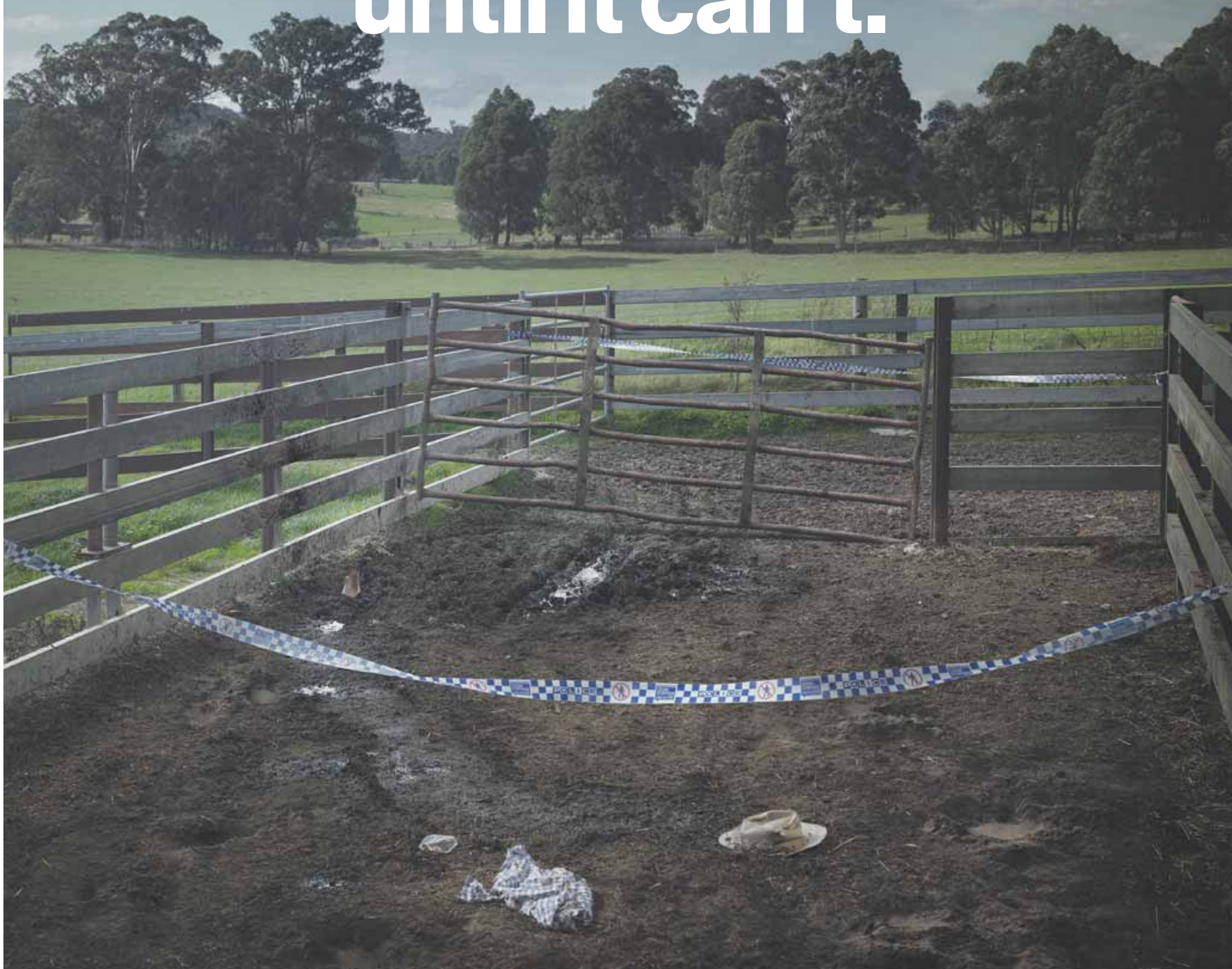
any future threats. Government engagement with industry is vital, and we welcome their collaboration, but support to farmers must be clear, consistent, and well resourced.

"It's all about learning lessons from the past and applying them to future plans. We can't afford not to, given the recent outbreak cost tens of millions and decimated local farmers, we need to plan today," Ms Cucinotta said.

The VFF is calling for farmers to remain vigilant and is helping to ensure they have the information and resources they need to strengthen biosecurity measures on their farms.

"We see the poultry industry as particularly vulnerable given the H5N1 strain is most likely to enter Australia through wild birds. It's a first line of defence and we're encouraging all farmers to reassess their biosecurity plans," Ms Cucinotta said.

The broken gate can wait, until it can't.



Livestock is the second highest killer on farms – we all know cattle can be unpredictable.

So while it may seem like a job that'll take longer to get the tools out than do, one small repair could save a life.

Understand your responsibilities with safety around cattle at worksafe.vic.gov.au/livestock

It's never you, until it is.



Scan for farm safety support.



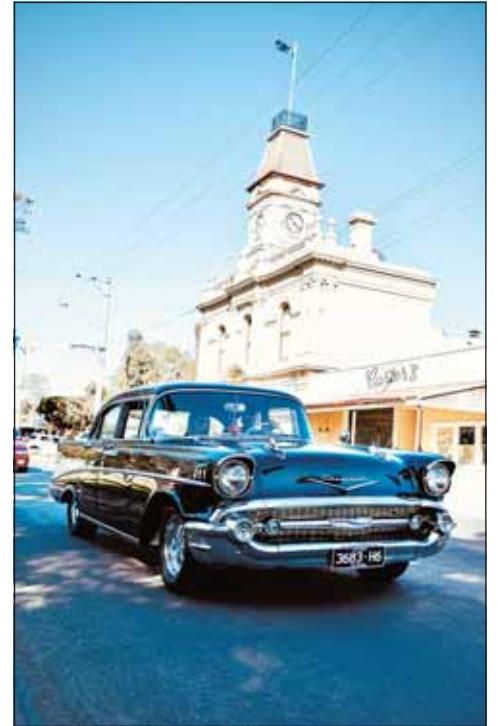
Reducing workplace harm.



Yea Cruise Night



Last Saturday's Yea Cruise Night was a bustling event in lovely spring weather, with numerous vintage cars on display in Yea's main street. -Photos by Dale McKeon / Amanda Price at Plymouth Dale Photos



UPCOMING FEATURES

Home Renovations & Building Essentials



Publication date: October 30

Deadline date: October 24, 5pm

Let's eat, it's our treat



Publication date: November 6

Deadline date: October 31, 5pm

Live Well, Feel Good

Publication date: November 13

Deadline date: November 7, 5pm

Work Local



Publication date: November 20

Deadline date: November 14, 5pm



Motorcycle safety is vital

OCTOBER is Motorcycle awareness month, time to shine a light on safety for motorcycle riders.

Earlier in the month Victoria Police reported that there is a ten year high for motorcycle fatalities between January and September, with 52 motorcyclists killed already on our roads, compared to 53 in all of 2023.

More than half of this year's motorcycle fatalities occurred on roads with a posted speed limit between 70 km/h and 110km/h and at least 60 per cent of motorcycle fatalities have been multi vehicle collisions, and failing to give way identified as one of the most common factors.

According to the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) there have sadly been two motorcyclist fatalities in the Murrindindi Shire, and claims involving hospitalisation from March 31, 2023 to March 2024 were around 30 cases.

Simple actions that drivers can take to reduce the risk of a crash are, indicate your intention to turn or change lanes well in advance and when changing lanes, use mirrors and head checks to make sure blind spots are clear, give motorcyclists enough room to manoeuvre, and make eye contact with riders, so they know they've been seen.

Rider awareness to increase safety for themselves and other road users can be to make sure of road surface and driving conditions that may affect your ride, take notice of surroundings at all times, keep a safe distance from other vehicles and roadside objects, wear bright clothing and ensure protective clothing is worn, use lights and ride in the correct position on the road, be predictable, indicate, and keep pace with the traffic. Don't accelerate suddenly, learn how other road users think and respond, ride in a manner appropriate to the road conditions, and consider advanced training.

MRAA forum held in Yea last weekend

THE Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (MRAA) held their road safety policy forum last Saturday in Yea.

The forum, designed to shape MRAA policy for the future, took place at the Yea Shire Hall, with many riders attending while on their way to Phillip Island for the grand prix.

Of particular interest to the MRAA was the issue of hi-viz when motorbike riding, with recent data showing a 30 per cent increase in posties being injured by a third-party on the road, all of whom are required to wear hi-viz clothing. This means that the use of hi-viz does not increase the safety of motorcycle riders on the road.

The MRAA also would like to remind all road users to be aware of the increased number of motorcycles on Victorian roads to attend the Phillip Island GP, with a number of pointers for road safety.

Don't drive distracted by a mobile phone, put your mobile phone out of reach when driving; don't tailgate, keep your distance, and drive far enough behind the vehicle in front of you so you can stop safely; use your mirrors and check your blind spots before turning or changing lanes; stop at stop or give way signs, look properly and indicate correctly in advance.

RESTORING OUR RIVERS 2024 EXPRESSIONS OF INTERESTS NOW OPEN

REFERENCE: **EOI 1:** ATM_2024_2749
EOI 2: ATM_2024_2750

HOW TO REGISTER:

Opened: **30 September 2024**
Closing date: **12 midday AEDT, 27 Nov 2024**

- Visit www.tenders.gov.au/atm and search for *Restoring our Rivers*
- Download and read the *Request for Expression of Interest* documents
- Login or Register as a new user
- Complete the expression of interest response form and submit your response.

The Australian Government, represented by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, is inviting Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from water right owners across the Southern Connected Murray-Darling Basin who may want to sell their water in 2025.

- EOI 1** invites responses from single water rights owners who were not eligible for the *Restoring Our Rivers: 2024 Selected Catchments Open Tender*. This includes water right owners from within Irrigation Infrastructure Operator areas.
- EOI 2** invites responses from entities interested in selling a large portfolio of water of around 20 GL (or greater) across the southern connected Basin.

Responses to the EOIs are not considered binding offers. However, only respondents who submit an EOI will be able to proceed to subsequent purchase program. Owners of eligible water rights in the catchments listed in the table, including unregulated entitlements and section 51 licences, are invited to express their interest stating the proposed volume and price at which they want to sell their permanent water rights to the department.

The decision to participate is completely voluntary. To read the *Request for Expression of Interest* and register your interest, please visit [AusTender www.tenders.gov.au](http://AusTender.tenders.gov.au) - and search for *Restoring our Rivers*.

MORE INFORMATION:

For more information on voluntary water purchasing, visit www.dcceew.gov.au/watertender

ASSISTANCE:

For help with using AusTender, visit help.tenders.gov.au If you can't access AusTender or have questions about the expression of interest process, please email watertenders@dcceew.gov.au

LIST OF CATCHMENTS:

NEW SOUTH WALES

Murray River

Murrumbidgee

Lower Darling

VICTORIA

Broken Kiewa

Goulburn Mitta Mitta

Campaspe Loddon

Ovens & King Victorian Murray

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australian Murray



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

Skateboard Comp



WORK LOCAL

save fuel, time and make money

New homes for local workers

LOCAL businesses can attract and retain staff with new homes for regional Victorian workers and their families.

The government has announced the first round of a \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund that will hopefully see more than 20 projects which will boost

affordable housing for workers and their families across Victoria.

All successful projects are shovel-ready and include co-investment from private

businesses, industries or local community groups – unlocking nearly \$250 million in combined private and public investment in new regional housing.

Each local housing project will be unique to the area – from self-contained units, worker villages, family dwellings, shared accommodation, and studios – and will be built to meet the skills needs of key sectors such as health, agriculture, education, manufacturing, and tourism.

Close to Murrindindi, two leading fresh food producers will build new accommodation for agricultural workers to support workforce growth and stability.

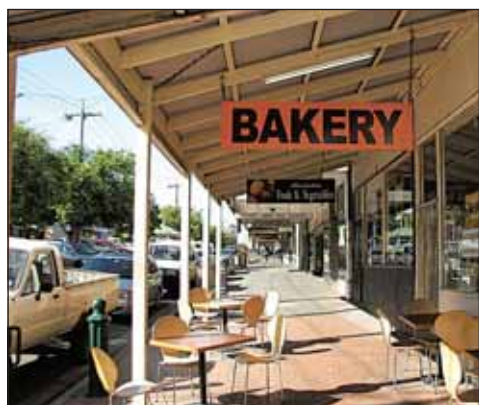
Backing local tourism and hospitality businesses at Victoria’s alpine resorts, the Grollo Group will build worker accommodation at Mt Hotham, Mt Buller and Falls Creek for more than 1,300 workers. The three sites will provide modern accommodation facilities for workers across the state’s biggest ski resorts.

The more than 20 projects supported through the first round of the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund are expected to be announced in the future.

The program recognises that people can’t work in a regional community if they can’t find a place to live. By helping essential workers find affordable accommodation, the program hopes to make it easier for local employers to attract and keep their staff.

The projects will mean Victorians can live close to where they work and help regional towns attract the skilled workers they need to keep their local economies booming.

The *Regional Worker Accommodation Fund* is one of the ways government and industry are supporting regional communities to be places to live and work.



NOW HIRING FINANCE OFFICERS

The Reddrop Group are looking for Finance Officers to join our Finance Team based at Alexandra FoodWorks.

The positions are full-time (38 hour week) with hours normally 9am until 5:30pm, however, some flexibility is available. Part-time hours may be considered for the right applicant/s.

Our Finance Officers are responsible for a broad range of tasks including supplier invoicing, balancing daily sales, data management and problem solving.

Ideally we are looking for people who have good computer skills, can work well as part of a team or unsupervised, are reliable and have good communication skills. An ability to multi-task and prioritise work, as well as be attentive to detail and accuracy is also vital.

Experience or knowledge of the finance area, such as knowledge of GST and general ledger accounts would be an advantage, however, it is not essential and we are happy to provide training to a candidate that shows enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

To apply for a position, please email your covering letter, resume (with references), and contact details to jobs@reddrop.com.au



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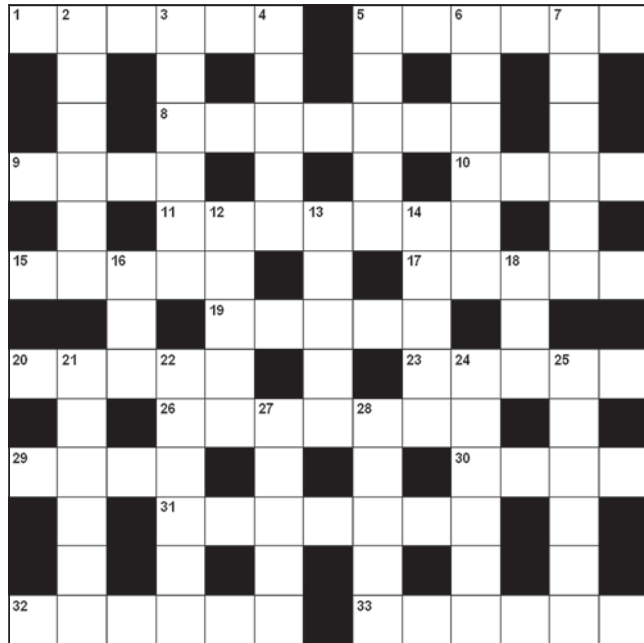
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

1. A sweet innocent baby.
5. The feeling of heat.
8. Cable used for high-frequency transmissions.
9. A walk in shallow water.
10. A slow, easy kind of run.
11. Mark with small spots.
15. Closely crowded together.
17. Moved forward very slowly.
19. A most pungent vegetable.
20. Free from dirt.
23. Fine and good.
26. An acrobatic athlete.
29. Cover with concrete.
30. Religious song of praise.
31. Provide with nourishment.
32. A temporary military unit.
33. Exchanges goods.



DOWN

2. Respectful deference.
3. A small hollow.
4. Two items of the same kind.
5. Whip to a froth.
6. Turned over and over.
7. Three times as many.
12. Ranunculaceous flower.
13. Small rough-haired terrier.
14. Gives temporarily.
16. Born.
18. Pump operated by a windmill.
21. An association of clubs.
22. Item to be attended to.
24. Greek goddess.
25. Reduce in rank.
27. Edible mushroom.
28. Fully grown.

Word Search

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

Mountains of Australia

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| AUGUSTUS | CRADLE |
| BARNEY | GOWER |
| BIMBERI | KOSCIUSZKO |
| BOGONG | OSSA |
| BOWEN | SONDER |
| CONNER | ZEIL |

Math Square

	+		+		11
-		÷		-	
	x		-	7	11
+		-		x	
	+		x	3	29
2		-6			-20

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

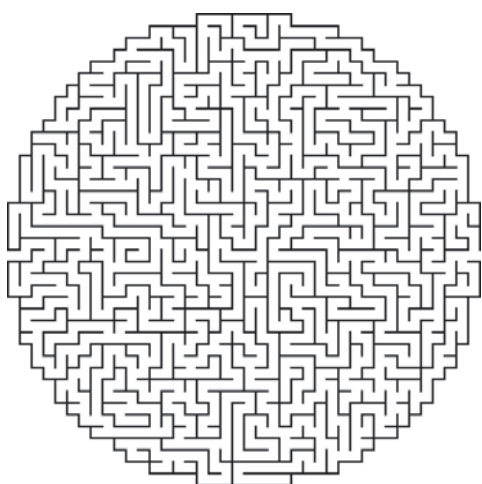
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

Maze



It is important to make sure house gutters are clear of leaves.

Prepare ahead of increased fire risk

THE CFA is urging residents to prepare their properties ahead of the fire danger period, with parts of Victoria facing an early start to fire season.

The seasonal outlook for spring, released last month, predicts an increased fire risk following a notably dry autumn and winter.

As a result of the outlook, CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan stressed the importance of early preparation this spring.

“An earlier start to the fire season means community members need to start preparations now. By removing light and heavy fuels around the home, residents are protecting their property and helping

firefighters defend it,” Chief Officer Heffernan said.

“Simple tasks such as clearing gutters, pruning overhanging branches, maintaining grass at a safe height, and moving wood piles away from the house or shed can greatly improve a property’s chances of withstanding a bushfire,” he added.

He also stressed that every household should take the time to create a plan for their property and their family.

“Sit down with the family or household, write down a bushfire survival plan, keep it somewhere visible, and practice it. Being prepared saves lives, and it could save the home,” he said.

Consultation for keeping safe on social media

THE Victorian Government is launching a public consultation on age limits for social media with the findings set to shape a new social media education program to keep kids safe online.

Last week an online survey giving parents, teachers and young people the opportunity to share their experiences and concerns about social media use was launched at a Melbourne High School.

Findings from this consultation process will then shape a new social media safety program, *Safe Socials*.

The program will be delivered in schools as a resource for students, teachers and families about how to navigate and live with social media.

Safe Socials builds on the success of other education programs pioneered by the Victorian Government, such as *Safe Schools* and *Respectful Relationships*, and the state’s Australian first ban on mobile phones in schools.

A \$3.5 million investment will support the Department of Education to develop the new digital literacy resources.

The program will also include a dedicated website and fact sheets to help parents and carers understand social media safety.

The state government will work with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to introduce age limits, so kids aren’t using social media before they’re ready.

The survey at engage.vic.gov.au/safesocials will be open until November 1, with groups able to participate.

The consultation process will also include a series of roundtable discussions, led by the Parliamentary Secretary for Children, Nathan Lambert, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Nina Taylor, bringing together key stakeholders to capture the diverse needs of the Victorian community.

The process will also inform the Commonwealth’s laws for national age limits on social media.

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Tax on housing lowers market confidence

THE Housing Industry Association (HIA) has released its *Economic and Industry Outlook* report. HIA Regional Director Keith Ryan said, "Tax imposts on housing have adversely affected market confidence and will delay a recovery in new home building in Victoria, despite strong underlying demand."

"In addition to the 37 per cent of the cost of a house and land package in Melbourne that is attributable to government, new imposts include a windfall gains tax of up to 62.5 per cent, a land tax surcharge for Victorians with more than one home, and inflated costs associated with ongoing changes to the National Construction Code," Mr Ryan said.

"These additional taxes and regulatory changes have added to the uncertainty created by rising interest rates and will see the recovery in home building in Victoria delayed until 2025. Most other states have already reached or passed their expected troughs.

"The 2024/25 financial year is expected to mark the trough in the cycle for Victorian detached housing, with only a marginal improvement in 2025/26. This would conclude the three weakest years of the decade for Victorian detached house commencements.

"Higher density housing development is even more constrained. Commencements of multi-units are down by more than 40 per cent since 2015, with 2023/24 concluding the two weakest years for the sector since 2011/12. Activity is not expected to truly gain steam until the second half of 2025.

"There is significant upside potential to home building in Victoria if policymakers address the constraints on the industry.

"This means not imposing new taxes and regulations on the industry and abolishing the punitive taxes imposed on the very investors that are so crucial to building new housing. Some of these taxes perversely cost tax revenue in terms of lost construction activity, productivity and economic growth.

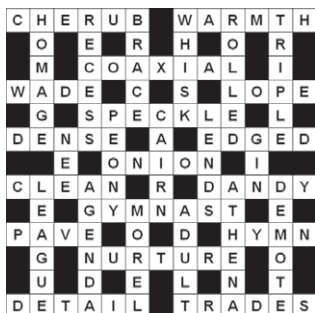
"Land shortages in Victoria are more acute, making land less affordable, than in almost any other jurisdiction. Land must be fast tracked and made shovel ready more rapidly in the coming years. Governments must also ensure sufficient infrastructure to accommodate higher density housing and address local resident and council objections and obstacles to such development.

"The Australian government must streamline visas for in-demand trades so projects can be completed on time and on budget, otherwise large apartment projects will struggle to even commence.

"As policy currently stands, the kind of home building numbers that would produce markedly more affordable housing in Victoria is not part of our forecasts," Mr Ryan added.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

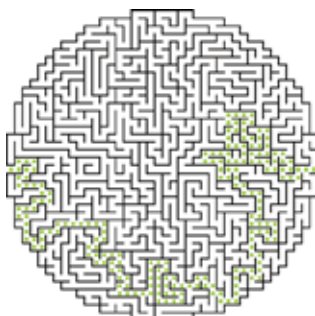
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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

DEATH NOTICES

COX, Philip John.
Proud father of Andrew and Elizabeth. Poppy to Tyler, Eli, Zahli, William, Maddison, Quade, Jacoby and Theodore. Finally reunited with his beloved Sharron. Forever missed.

COX, Phillip John (COXY). THE Eildon Golf Club committee and its members extend our deepest condolences to Phillip's family and friends on the passing of our past president and life member. Still remember the funny fine sessions after golf, RIP Coxy.

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21ft dual axle. Rego D61140, registered August 2022. Luxury caravan with queen bed, leather café seating, diesel heater, dual bike rack, outdoor slide out kitchen, solar panels, rear camera, large front toolbox with slide outs both sides, separate bathroom, washing machine, fan forced full oven, grill and gas/electric cooktop, microwave, large 3-way fridge and freezer. Two Sirroco swivelling fans, reverse cycle air-conditioning, double glazing, full height pantry, 32 inch swivel mounted television, two large ceiling hatches, Aussie Traveller annex with floor, draught skirt, anti-flap kit and curved roof rafters. Full service history available. Basically has only travelled three winter trips north plus a little local travel. Immaculate presentation, would suit new caravan buyer. Genuine reason for selling. Ideal set up for grey nomads. Priced to sell at \$89,000. Call Russell on 0408 972 776 for further details and to arrange an inspection.

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MEETINGS



Redgate Alexandra Branch of the CWA of Victoria Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 10 am at the CWA Rooms in Perkins Street, Alexandra. More information please call Sue Wynn, president on 0412 435 946.



Notice of AGM
Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare Group commencing 4pm Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 17 Sichelau's Road, Yea. Barbecue will follow.
Secretary
Yellow Creek Dairy Creek Landcare Group



The Annual General Meeting of ADNA will be held at Alexandra Community Shed, McKenzie Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, October 30 at 7pm.
Contact secretary, Cassandra Fraser 0418 538 964 or Juniorb.netball@gmail.com



The next general meeting for the Alexandra RSL will be held on Sunday, October 20, at noon, followed by a light luncheon.



The Alexandra Football Netball Club AGM will be held at the club rooms at 6pm on Tuesday, October 22, 2024. Everyone welcome. Any queries please contact Kylie Cairns or Ray Steyger.

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Impressive numbers for Victorian Building and approvals

IN the last 12 months more than 60,000 home completions have taken place in Victoria.

ABS data released last week shows Victoria built 60,606 homes over the year, a 7.5 per cent increase year on year, while New South Wales built 46,573 homes, a 3.9 per cent decline year on year.

Earlier this month, the ABS also confirmed Victoria continues to set the national benchmark for home approvals, approving around 10,000 more homes than New South Wales and 18,000 more homes than Queensland.

These results come following the state governments landmark housing reforms released last year as part of the Housing Statement, plus a commitment to do even

more over the coming months to get more homes built.

Since the release of the Housing Statement, the Minister for Planning has intervened or fast track homes to approve 10,700 homes in the past 12 months, a more than 100 per cent increase on previous years.

The Development Facilitation Program is an accelerated pathway that has also seen 16 developments approved, unlocking thousands of new homes.

Over the coming months, new reforms will be outlined by the state government to build even more homes that are well serviced by transport, jobs, schools and services.

More room available

NEW research published by Dr Lyndall Bryant, who specialises in property economics at the Queensland University of Technology, has suggested that better utilisation of existing homes could help ease the pressures of the current housing crisis.

The academic article, titled 'The role of older Australians in addressing the housing crisis: spare bedrooms, taxation, and the pension', proposes the idea that "older Australians may be incentivised to rent out spare bedrooms."

"The housing crisis is a complex matter and new housing supply is years away, despite billions of dollars of government commitments. Millions of empty bedrooms exist and yet many older homeowners live in poverty rather than risk losing their pension or paying taxes by renting out a spare bedroom," the article reads.

Statistics from the 2021 census stated that 77 per cent of private homes had at least one spare bedroom, while 3.09 million households (31.8 per cent) have two spare bedrooms, and 1.22 million households (12.5 per cent) have three or more spare bedrooms. That leads to 13 million unused bedrooms within Australia's existing homes.

Of these, "older Australians represent the highest proportion of homeowners, with over 80 per cent of persons aged over 65 owning their own home, three quarters of those homes contain three or more bedrooms, and 84 per cent of these homes are under-utilised," according to the article.

Renting these unused bedrooms out could help take the pressure off Australia in the short term with the current housing crisis. However, the issues of privacy and safety would come into play, the same as with any form of rental currently. Cohabitation is also an issue that could arise.

"However, under the right circumstances, with appropriate support and education, such 'house sharing' arrangements could alleviate some of the current housing and cost of living issues," the article reads.

"There is an urgent need for further research to be undertaken to explore opportunities to incentivise, educate, support, and protect older Australians to open their homes and unlock existing housing stock for immediate use by those in need."

The full academic article can be viewed at eprints.qut.edu.au/251974/14/BP60_Bryant_TheRoleofolderAustralians_2.pdf



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Dr Charles Bayly-Jones, former student at Alexandra Secondary College. -S

Local alumni behind the microscope

by Dr Charles Bayly-Jones

FORMER Alexandra Secondary College Dr Charles Bayly-Jones has made a world-first breakthrough alongside his team at Monash University, capturing and visualising LYCHOS.

LYCHOS is a molecular switch that turns cell growth on and off, and with more research could hold potential for cancer treatment.

Dr Charles Bayly-Jones is an Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award fellow and postdoctoral research fellow at Monash University. He is a proud alumnus of public education at Alexandra Secondary College and attributes his curiosity to his country upbringing.

He took the time to write an article explaining his breakthrough.

Putting cancer on a diet

Sitting next to me, I have an office plant. Like clockwork, it moves its leaves back and forth, tracking the sun. Quietly, consistently, every day, for years. But this humble companion of mine has been keeping secrets. Secrets that might just be the key to tackling cancer.

Licking my lips from an indulgent big breakfast, cholesterol courses through my veins and spreads into my tissues. Who can say no to crispy bacon, right?

But cholesterol is not just an awkward guilt-laden conversation at the doctor's office, it's an essential nutrient. Our cells and tissues need cholesterol to build their membranes, the 'skin' of a cell, and copy themselves.

In 2022 scientists in the US discovered a molecular switch, LYCHOS, that turns cell growth on or off. When cholesterol levels are high, the switch is on; when cholesterol is low, the switch turns off.

Cells grow and divide all the time, and old cells die. This way our tissues can heal after injury and our bodies mature as we age. The key to health is balance. Too much growth? Cancer. Too little growth? Damage.

Proteins, like LYCHOS, are nanoscopic molecular machines that keep the balance. They cut, glue, pull, push, deliver, copy, edit, detect, and much, much more. A whole world of nanoscopic machines hides within us, never stopping, abuzz with energy, keeping us alive. This world makes Willy Wonka's world of pure of imagination look like a Soviet-era concrete gymnasium in comparison.

Biologists try to make sense of this chaos. The best way to understand a machine, is to watch it in action, pull it apart, and put it back together again. But, how do you do that when the machine is a hundred million times smaller than this page?

I'm a part of a team of Australian and international scientists from Monash University that have access to the world's most powerful microscope. Like the ENAIC or IBM mainframe computer of the 1950s, this microscope fills an entire room. The room hums with electronics, blinking lights, pneumatic actuators click and clack, and occasionally the microscope screams as a gush of pressurised nitrogen gas is vented. We're talking real-world steam punk.

By using blisteringly cold liquified nitrogen, we instantly freeze molecules in time. Analogous to an X-Ray, we collect millions of images of these molecules using electrons. This can take days. Finally, using computer algorithms we reconstruct a three-dimensional view of the molecule.

In a major breakthrough discovery published in *Nature*, we used this technology to capture and visualise LYCHOS in a world-first. With this detailed view scientists and clinicians can begin to understand how cholesterol influences cell growth in health and cancer.

To our surprise, when we could finally see LYCHOS, we realised it looked just like a plant protein. Now if two machines look alike, the chances are they do similar things. In plants, these machines control tropisms – the way my plant follows the sun or how a seedling knows which way is up and which is down.

In LYCHOS, evolution has repurposed the plant machines to detect cholesterol. We believe that the development of new drugs to switch off LYCHOS might just be key to putting cancer on a diet. And I can go back to enjoying my bacon and eggs, sorry Doc.

The Australian Cancer Council estimates that one in two Australians will experience cancer of some form or another. As biomedical researchers, we're now directly benefiting from decades of plant research. This head start is why fundamental discovery research is so important. After all, who could've predicted that my unassuming plant companion would inspire new cancer treatments?

Road maintenance on the table for the future

THE Victorian Government is rolling out a major road maintenance blitz to rebuild, repair, and resurface roads right across Victoria, fuelled by the largest single-year investment in road maintenance in the state's history.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne recently launched the \$964 million road maintenance blitz.

"We're investing nearly a billion dollars to rebuild and repair the roads that Victorians depend on every single day from the highways connecting our major centres to the local roads that keep our communities moving," Ms Horne said.

"Crews will be out delivering \$2.6 million of works every day for a year, with around 70 per cent of all funding going towards our regional roads.

"The last Liberal National Government cut roads maintenance funding and jobs. We're getting on and delivering the biggest single-year investment in road maintenance in Victoria's history."

An army of road workers will begin delivering the equivalent of \$2.6 million worth of works for every day of the year, with around 70 per cent of funding going to regional Victoria.

Over the next nine months, crews will complete thousands of projects on our network, ranging from road rehabilitation and resurfacing, to patching potholes and maintaining bridges, traffic lights, signage and road infrastructure.

To deliver major works such as road rebuilding and rehabilitation, there must be extended periods of warmer and drier conditions, which is why most work is done between now and May each year, ensuring repairs last.

Repeated flooding and above-average rainfall caused unprecedented damage to our roads which meant our maintenance program needed to focus on rebuilding damaged roads last year. Simply resurfacing these roads would not have prevented further degradation.

Now this work to rebuild our most flood-damaged roads is complete, resurfacing and rehabilitation levels will significantly increase during the upcoming maintenance season.

The blitz will target the state's busiest travel and trade routes, with works set to be delivered on the Hume Freeway, the Princes Highway, the Western Highway, the Goulburn Valley Highway and Echuca-Mooroopna Road.

Other roads set to be repaired include Terang-Mortlake Road, Mornington-Flinders Road, Horsham-Kalkee Road and Tylden-Woodend Road.

These roads were prioritised based on expert assessments and community feedback, ensuring that upgrades are focused where they're most needed.

This package also includes flood recovery works, with priority given to repairing regional Victoria's flood-damaged roads. The final list of flood recovery projects will be confirmed in the coming months.

SPORT

Athletics season off to a great start in Murrindindi

by Elissa Page-Hilder

THE Murrindindi Little Athletics Club kicked off its new season last Saturday, and what a start it was. With a big turnout and perfect weather, athletes of all ages were able to enjoy a fantastic morning of fun and fitness.

The day began with some light warm ups, including jogging, games, stretches, and a few skill exercises for events like the high jump and shot put. After warming up, the athletes divided into age groups and headed off to tackle five different events, including the 1500 metre race, shot put, discus, high jump, and sprints. The sun was shining, and the blue skies added to the vibrant energy as everyone worked hard to set some initial times and distances to challenge for the rest of the season.

A big shoutout goes to the barbecue volunteers, Sharell and Jacqui, for keeping everyone fed and energised, and to Coles for their generous sponsorship, providing boxes of bananas for the athletes each Saturday.

The club is all about fostering a positive attitude towards a healthy and active lifestyle, creating a welcoming environment for kids of all abilities. It's no wonder so many families come back year after year, the community feel is undeniable. While personal bests are the main goal for most, there are plenty of opportunities to excel at regional events or participate in development days at other centres in our region.

On that note, a huge congratulations to two of Murrindindi's own Levi Campbell and Chase Hilder, who have been selected to represent the Northern Country Region in the *Little Athletics Victoria 60 Year Region Challenge*. They'll be competing on October 20 at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve in Murrumbidgee. Best of luck to them as they aim to bring home some points for their region.

If you're interested in getting involved or just want to give it a try, the club is offering two free trial days. Check out the Murrindindi Little Athletics Centre Facebook page for more details.

Merton cricketers take on Yarrowonga

MERTON cricketers started the season hosting Yarrowonga with the visitors taking home the win. Merton batting first made 7/125 off 36 overs. The father son combination of Ross and Jai Mackinnon set Merton up for a big total with a second wicket partnership of 84, Ross 44, and Jai 42, however when the partnership was broken Merton's run rate slowed thanks to some tight bowling from the experienced Yarrowonga attack. Josh Johnson with 19 helped his side to 125, K Michael with 3/13 was Yarrowonga's best bowler.

The visitors lost an early wicket giving the young Merton attack some optimism however captain Hudson Gillies with 51 built partnerships around him with the Merton boys missing a few chances saw Yarrowonga pass Merton's score in the 26th over, Jai Mackinnon 2/29 and single wickets to Craddock, H Berriman, and Will Benton the better bowlers. Noah Whittall bowled well without luck and took a good outfield catch.



Abi Caswell finding her feet during high jump. -S

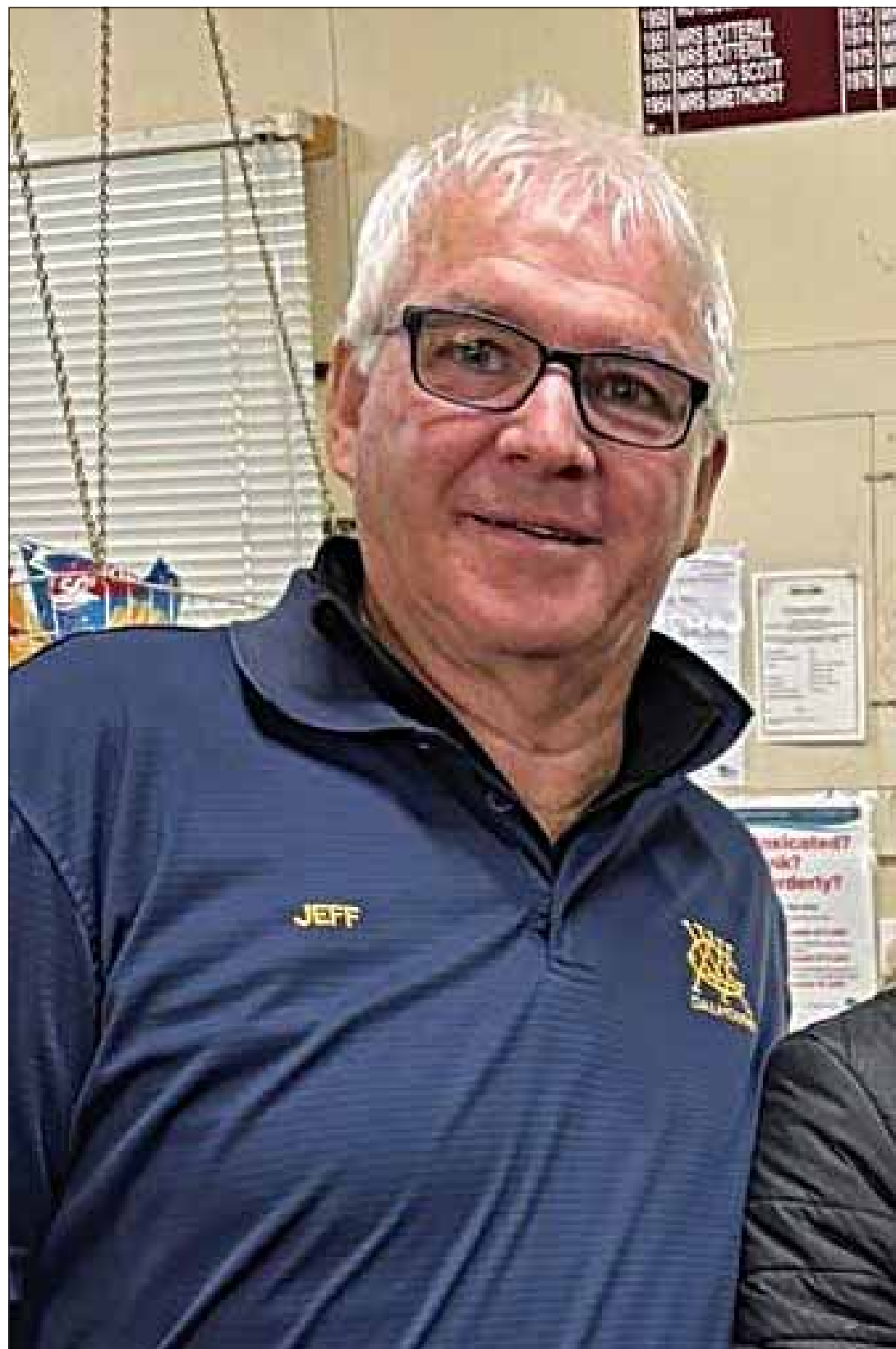


Junior age groups powering home in the 100 metre sprint. -S



Declan Armstrong raising the bar, one leap at a time. -S

Monthly Medal goes to Jeff



Jeff was the proud winner of the monthly medal. -S



Di Holdsworth the winner with an excellent nett 71. -S

by Alan Pell

SECOND round of the men's championships was played last Saturday. It was also monthly medal and putting. Twenty two competed and the winner of the day was Jeff Aurisch (24) with a nett 68. In a week he went from Wednesday's club award to club winner on Saturday.

Jeff won by one point from Paul Clayton (12) with nett 69 from third Andrew Bohn (8) with nett 70. There was no nearest the pin on the 11th and Bill Dredge took out the club award. Putting was won by Rob O'Halloran and Jeff Aurisch with 26 putts each.

In the Championships which are based on Gross scores, Anthony Coleman and Rick Wills are tied at 163 in A Grade with Brian Simmons next 171 and Paul Clayton 172. In B Grade Alan Pell is at 167, Tom White 173, and Jeff Moss 178. In C Grade Rob O'Halloran 193 leads from Phil Armstrong 195, Steve Rumney 197, and John Tanner 198. The third and final round will be played Saturday week the 26th October as the Yea Races are on next weekend.

The ladies played a stableford round on Saturday and Di Elliott (30) was the

winner with 37 points. Second was Judi Newman (43) with 36 points from third Cindy Armstrong (32) with 35 points.

For Friday social time 25 members and guests tackled the 10 Hole Mystery par three course. From all reports it was a fun way to get around the golf course coming from different angles. Khai took home the winners bottle of wine in the Ladies category, while Paul Clayton expanded his wine cellar after collecting in the men's section. Bob Glenister proved to be very knowledgeable on all things relating to money and he took out "Simon Says Money." In total we had more than 40 members and guests enjoy a selection of beef dishes prepared by celebrity chef Angus Galloway. Beautifully served with salads by our amazing ladies and enjoyed by all. Nicola Rule capped off a great evening when she was drawn out as the winner of the Yea Meats, meat tray raffle.

Chooklotto Winner Saturday was Vicki Clement's who won a bottle of red in lieu of poultry (bird flu) while brother Mick added to his collection of stubbie holders.

Squash is back

by Kristelle Leary

Kangaroos versus Echidnas

JORDAN versus Ethan: Jordan won two games and drew the third but Ethan concentrated on his serves and shot placement to win the final game and earn enough points to win the match. 61 to 59.

Mick versus Matt: Coming out strong, Matt took the firstly to games with a small margin. Mick came back to win the third but lost his mojo in the fourth, handing the match to Matt. 63 to 50.

Justin versus Simon (fill in): A great game with some excellent shots. Justin took a couple of games to get the measure of his opponent before running Simon around to court and taking a solid win. 72 to 54.

Jack versus James: A strong first half for James. Jack managed to reign his opponent in to keep the last half close, but the damage was done, and James took home the victory. 68 to 49.

Platypus versus Wombats

TYLER versus Lochlan: The match looked to be won in game three with Lochlan leading by eight points, but Tyler rose to the occasion and won the final game with double his opponents points to draw the match. 54 to 54.

Kristelle (fill in) versus Chris: Both players had some great shots and placement. Chris came out ready to play and had a good lead going into the fourth game. Kristelle attempted to turn it around in the final game but left her run too late. Chris was victorious. 64 to 59.

Michael M versus Daniel W: A strong start from Daniel. Both players fought back well with great dedication, hard hitting, good rallies and a racquet bent while hitting the opponent. Daniel did the ground work in the beginning to become champion. 53 to 46.

John versus Jim. With a combination of great long and short shots, Jim was beating John at his own game and had an eight point buffer after game two. John played an unflustered and precise third game to bring him back into contention until Jim steadied to take the final game and the match. 54 to 49.

Lions versus Leopards

BLAKE versus Beth: With a spring in her step, Beth started the match with a win. Blake kept at her until he finally took the final game. Unfortunately for him, he left it too late, and Beth had sailed through to the winners circle. 59 to 51.

Jodie versus Kristelle: Jumping into the fray, Jodie was a beast. She took points with beautiful serves and boasts the Kristelle couldn't manage to figure out. Jodie was the victor. 63 to 43.

Stuart versus Michael H: A dominant first half for Michael. Stuart spent the match trying to play catch up. The last two games were a draw, leaving the win to Michael. 71 to 57

Panthers versus Cheetahs

REECE versus Jess: A very close competition. Jess had the upper hand in the first two games as Reece got back into the swing of things. By the end of game four Reece had Jess figured out and had flicked the switch, winning the last two games and the match. 59 to 56.

Sam versus Travis: Always an entertaining match. Sam gave himself a good buffer in the first game which he utilised when Travis came for him in the next two games. Reeling it in, Sam won the final game to claim the match. 59 to 55.

Phil versus Jim: Jim annihilated Phil in the first half with a twenty point lead. Phil upped his game and made it harder for Jim, however Jim still won every game and subsequently the match. 62 to 38.

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Two bowl pairs tournament was a hit

by Angela Finn

TWENTY bowlers took part in the Two Bowl Pairs Tournament, sponsored by Life Member Anthony McCarthy last Saturday, October 12. The day began with a sausage sizzle lunch, before Cindy McLeish, State Member for Eildon, was welcomed by President Maurie Finn and invited to officially open our Bowls season by rolling a bowl down, showing good form in the process.

The format was three games of eight ends. The two bowl formats are made for fast paced games.

The weather was magnificent, although a fluctuating breeze kept everyone on their toes. The games were played in great spirits and enjoyed by all participants, regardless of their fortunes.

At the end of the day, only two pairs were three game winners. The pair who took out the honors with a plus 22 shot difference were Terry Muller and Howard Geldard.

Justin Branch and Arthur Parish with a plus 12 shot difference, were the runners up. Congratulations to these pairs who bowled consistently well for the afternoon, and congratulations to all who took part.

The club now looks forward to the Pennant season starting this Saturday, October 19 with an away game against Kyabram.



Cindy McLeish MP with Life Member, Anthony McCarthy, and his daughter Angela Finn. -S



State Member for Eildon, Cindy McLeish rolling the first bowl down the green. -S



Winners of the two Bowl Pairs Tournament Howard Geldard and Terry Muller. -S



Runners Up Justin Branch and Arthur Parish. -S



Yea Bowls Club President, Maurie Finn with his welcoming speech. -S