

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 30, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

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Paramedic Jacqui Graham at work. -S

Yea paramedic competes at World Ironman Championships

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) paramedics Jacqui Graham and Clare Harris competed in the Ironman World Championships that took place last month in France.

The triathlon consisted of a gruelling 3.8 kilometre ocean swim, a 180 kilometre bike ride and a 42.2 kilometre (marathon) run, and featured top competitors from across the globe.

Acting Yea Team Manager Jacqui Graham said it was a challenging but fulfilling experience.

"It was a tough course, ranked one of the toughest Ironman courses there is due to the hills, so I knew it was going to be a long day, but I'm happy with the end result," she said.

"My time was eleven hours and 18 minutes, and my goal was to hit around the eleven-hour mark so I'm happy with that."

She placed 37th in her age group and 129th out of more than 1000 competitors across all categories.

Jacqui said she appreciated the support she received from her hometown of Yea

and ambulance colleagues while she competed abroad.

"My whole town was behind me, I felt like I had the whole town tracking along with the app, and a lot of support from the ambulance world too."

Having completed the World Ironman Championships, Jacqui now has her eyes set on the Half Ironman World Championships set to take place in New Zealand on December 14.

"That one is a little less daunting knowing that it's half the distance, it'll make for a shorter and less enduring day," Jacqui said.

Craigieburn Paramedic Clare Harris also competed at the Ironman World Championship, with this event being the third she has taken part in.

"I've got a long history with endurance sports. I first started with marathons in 2015, then did ultra-marathons and finally did my first Ironman in 2022," Clare said.

Clare said that the World Ironman Championship was a challenging course to complete due to the mountainous terrain.

"The cycle leg was really hard as it had an elevation gain of 2400 metres. The last Ironman I did had an elevation gain of around 60 metres."

Clare had been training extensively in the lead-up to the competition, training on average 15 hours a week.

"It was a challenge finding the time to train, but I enjoy doing it as it's a great way to stay physically and mentally fit."

"I think anything if possible if you put your mind to it, and this is something that I really wanted to achieve."

Ambulance Victoria congratulates Jacqui and Clare for their fantastic effort abroad in the World Ironman Championships.



Jacqui competing at Nice in France. -S

MURRINDINDI FOOD AND WINE INC
MURRINDINDI HARVEST CELEBRATION
 SATURDAY 16TH NOV 2024 - YEA RAILWAY PARK - 11-4
 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.'

It's Free!

SUPPORT LOCAL
 put MURRINDINDI PRODUCE ON YOUR TABLE
 SHOP - EAT - DRINK - PLAY

murrindindaharvestcelebration.com.au

Alexandra Newspapers will be closed on

Tuesday, November 5 due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday.

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial
Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

IT'S NOT OKAY

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

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

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



The Yea Chronicle Standard

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au

(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au
SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

PUBLISHERS

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Rotary Club of Yea exchange student Haruho Tanaka

THE Rotary Club of Yea has welcomed its newest exchange student Haruho (Haru) Tanaka from Kanazawa City in central Japan. The city has approximately 500,000 people and is the capital of the Ishikawa prefecture.

Haru is 17 and arrived in mid-July and has settled in well, attending Yea High School and is staying with Anthony and Tomi Dredge, her first host family.

Haru is in year 10 at Yea High School, studying English, Maths, Science, Art, Humanities and PE and has already made some good friends.

Back home Haru's school in Kanazawa is a senior school (years 10 to 12), with almost 1000 students, about a 15 min car ride from her home. Coming to the small town of Yea from a large city and living on a farm has certainly provided Haru some very different experiences so far.

Haru has left behind dad Itsuro (who is president of a printing company), mum Megumi and her two pet cats, Mameta and Azuki.

Anthony and Tomi have pet dogs, a cat and other animals and Haru is loving the experience of living in a larger family with lots of animals as she really enjoys nature and is so happy getting to meet Australian animals.

She visited Healesville Sanctuary and has just returned from a Rotary Tropical Trek to Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef with 16 other Rotary Exchange students from 11 different countries, where a highlight was, besides snorkeling over the reef, getting to handle snakes and pat some of our interesting marsupials.

Haru speaks some English and it is rapidly improving as she is keen to learn. She is very friendly and happy and has fitted in well with

school, her host family and all the Rotarians at Yea, who are jointly sponsoring her for the year together with the Rotary Club of Broadmeadows. She is presenting to both clubs on Thursday, November 14.

As part of Rotary Exchange program, Haru regularly meets other exchange students. As well as the recent trip to Queensland, Haru will join up with her fellow exchange students at Healesville in a few weeks' time. What a fabulous opportunity this presents for these students.

Haru has adapted well to life in rural Victoria and is willing to try all foods but no surprises, she does not like Vegemite. She does however, love pavlova.

If you see Haru when you are out in the community, say hi. You will be rewarded with a smile and probably a giggle or too as well.



Haru with Yea Rotary Club president Penny Paxman. -S

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	9.00am Mon	1.39	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.58	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	6.51am Mon	0.71	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	8.07am Mon	0.20	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.29am Mon	0.63	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.22am Mon	0.90	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	3.61	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.62	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	1.22	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.33	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.54	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	4.09am Mon	1.25	rising	

**ISSUED AT 9.45AM ON MONDAY, 28 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 30 - November 5, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	9	24	Wednesday	9	25
Thursday	7	20	Thursday	7	20
Friday	6	21	Friday	5	20
Saturday	15	26	Saturday	16	27
Sunday	10	26	Sunday	10	27
Monday	8	20	Monday	9	21
Tuesday	9	23	Tuesday	9	23



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	0mm
Buxton	2mm
Eildon (AWS)	0.2mm
Flowerdale	0.4mm
Jamieson	0.6mm
Kinglake	4mm
Lake Eildon	0.2mm
Mansfield	N/Amm
Taggerty	2mm
Yarck	0mm
Yea	0.1mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.23m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	85.9%
Metres below full supply	3.65m
Daily inflow	1500ML
Release	2000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	70%

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

Yea CFA cooks for community

THE Yea CFA brigade rolled out the truck and set up a marquee last Saturday to cook some food for the community.

Designed simply to provide some good tucker and give people a chance to engage with their local CFA, members were working hard.

The Yea Fire Brigade truck was parked in the main street and on display.



The Yea Fire Brigade truck on display. -BD



Members of the Yea CFA brigade were out cooking for the community. -BD

Daryl and Tony raising funds for and awareness about polio. Rotary's sausage sizzle outside Yea FoodWorks on Thursday, October 24 was well received by locals and visitors, and raised funds for a good cause. -AR

Council finalists in Victorian Tourism Awards

Question:

It appears that MSC is a finalist in the VTIC award for Discover Dindi: www.vtic.com.au/news-item/17432/finalists-revealed

Are you able to provide comment on the achievement, and information on the team behind the promotion, as well as some photos?

Answer:

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has been named as a finalist in the prestigious Victorian Tourism Awards in the Local Government Award for Tourism category.

A council representative said, "This recognition highlights our tourism planning, tourism assets, innovative marketing, including Discover Dindi, and event development and management. Being a finalist in this category recognises our dedication to enhancing the visitor experience within the shire and contributing significantly to the Victorian tourism industry.

"Council has developed and implemented a range of strategies, programs, activities, and partnerships that support the visitor economy, acknowledging the importance of this sector to our economy. This includes partnerships with local businesses and

community groups, Tourism North East, Murrindindi Food and Wine Inc, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, and our volunteer-operated Visitor Information Centres. Partnerships and collaborations are a key to our success.

"Our team consistently supports local community-led events and larger visitor-attracting events, such as the upcoming Giro della Donna cycling event in Marysville, while also working to bring more significant events to our region.

"Throughout the 2023/24 financial year, we have contributed to the development of various innovative tourism initiatives including the Art on the Great Victorian Rail Trail Project and a range of Discover Dindi campaigns to drive destination awareness and increase visitation to our region. Visit the Discover Dindi website to learn more about what you can do in Murrindindi Shire at discoverdindi.com.au"

We are excited to celebrate this achievement and look forward to the announcement of the Victorian Tourism Awards winners on 21 November. Council would like to commend all finalists, every nomination is a result of hard work and commitment to tourism, and all should be celebrated.

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 Chris Walsh 0407 194 037

Reduction of VicRoads services at council

THERE has been a reduction in VicRoads services provided by Murrindindi Shire Council.

VicRoads were contacted about the changes. They advised that "VicRoads has an extensive partner network across the state which supports the delivery of registration and licensing services.

"VicRoads and Murrindindi Shire Council have reviewed the registration and licensing services provided at the council offices in Alexandra in light of declining customer demand.

"It was agreed that from Monday, October 14, this site will focus on providing licence photos and work diaries.

"Customers can complete a range of VicRoads services online at vicroads.vic.gov.au or call 131 171.

"To complete VicRoads services in person, the nearest location is the Seymour Customer Service Centre."

Fiction & Non-fiction
 Children's, Adult's, large print etc
 Money that is raised will go towards starting a Eildon Community Gym
 Supported by Eildon Opp Shop, Goulburn River Books and Eildon Action Inc.

EPIC BOOK SALE

EILDON
 FREE ENTRY

At the Eildon Community Centre

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd November 9am-4pm.

Book donations accepted!

Contact for more information:
 0400 087 411 or 0404 814 142

William Matthews Funerals

45 Cavehill Rd, Lilydale

24 HOUR SERVICE ALL AREAS BY THE MATTHEWS FAMILY

Pre Paid Funerals N.F.D.A Member
 Large Chapel with after service facilities for refreshments

Before you decide call
 Bill, Narelle, Beau or Melanie Matthews
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Darren Gilbert open studio

An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.

Sat. 2 and Sun. 3 November
 10.00am to 4.00pm each day
 5 Giffard Street, Yea, VIC. 3717
 or arrange another time 0421 378 451

Open the first weekend of every month.
 Up to date Open Studio days & times on www.monkeytaildesign.com

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



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*.

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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Epic Book sale at Eildon. Free entry, book donations accepted. Money raised will go towards starting an Eildon community gym. For details contact 0400 087 411 or 0404 814 142. Continues on Sunday.

Darren Gilbert Open Studios, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4pm. 5 Giffard Street, Yea.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

EVENT CANCELLED - Yarck Hotel are holding a Melbourne Cup Lunch. Commencing at 11am.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Alexandra show is on again. 9am-3pm. Entertainment, live music, petting zoo, gold panning, dingo display and much more. Enter

our competition for your chance to win one of two family passes.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

The Yea show is on again. Cookery, crafts, Classic cars, line dancing, Royal Australian Navy Band, roaming comic character, show bags and plenty more to fill in the day.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Grand Italian Feast at Holmesglen. Noon to 4pm. Enjoy a lazy afternoon of feasting with traditional Italian fare. Bookings essential 5774 2631.

The Yea Chronicle

Available from these retail outlets

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

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



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



Lyn and Boyd Geldard. -AR

Experience of a dialysis patient attending Seymour Dialysis Unit

by Boyd Geldard, Yarck

I AM a 76 year old who commenced dialysis three times per week at Seymour Dialysis Unit in May 2024.

Initially, transport to and from dialysis was provided by Alexandra Taxi Service. Communication about pick up times was provided and a friendly service was to be relied upon. The stress and anxiety which exists every day facing dialysis was minimised by the certainty of being picked up from home at the time advised as well as knowing that a driver would be waiting to take me home without having to wait around after what is a gruelling and exhausting process.

I have had triple bypass surgery and I have a pacemaker and four stents in my heart, and since the transport has been changed to National Patient Transport (NPT) I frequently experience chest pain during transport via this method due to the roughness of the journey. I have had to request the driver to stop on occasions as well as taking Nitrolingual spray to enable me to complete the journey.

On one occasion I had to undergo an ECG before being able to start dialysis and again on completion of dialysis before being able to leave which in turn delayed the other patient that travels at the same time, hence I had to make other arrangements for transport so that patient didn't have to wait for me. It was the jolting of the journey that caused the upset in my heart and subsequent unbearable pain.

Communication from NPT regarding pick up times is unreliable and sometimes I am left with the uncertainty about whether any transport has been arranged at all. This just adds to what is already a stressful and anxious existence. While I am very grateful of transport being provided, since the change in transport arrangements, every dialysis day I face the uncertainty of whether my heart will withstand the journey.

Apparently NPT does not provide transport on Saturdays (which is one of my dialysis days) so transport is via ambulance.

Being subject to an ambulance being available, it causes significantly increased

uncertainty as well as lengthening an already long and tiring day.

I have experienced that ambulance vehicles exacerbate the jolting and affect on my heart.

The wait time following the dialysis session has been excessive and last week the other patient who travels with me called a dialysis patient who lives in Seymour to request emergency transport to a drop off point where someone else could pick us up and get us home as there was no indication that we would be picked up at all.

The lady and her husband kindly obliged even though they did not have enough fuel. I reimbursed them for their generosity and kindness but they should not feel obliged to assist when the system lets people down.

I am sure you can understand that the current system is unsatisfactory and appropriate measures need to be taken. I would be eternally grateful if transport via taxi could be reinstated as this was a system that worked reliably and provided a safer journey particularly with my state of health.

A very special Open Gardens weekend

WHEN you visit gardens included in the Yea Rotary Open Gardens Weekend this year, you're going to experience something quite special.

Of the eight gardens open to the public, six are located on or close to Murrindindi Road, making them each a short drive from the other, while two are located in Yea township giving visitors a contrast between gardening on a large property and achieving what you want in a town garden.

All the owners have been working extremely hard to bring you beautiful landscaping full of contrasts, to fill their gardens with flowers, fruit and vegetables and to care for fantastic trees.

Some have started from scratch, others have taken over gardens started a very long

time ago. A couple have plants or seeds for sale and you'll even have the opportunity to walk along the river or pause on the banks and enjoy refreshments.

Be sure to take a garden map which will show you the gardens offering food and toilets and don't forget EFTPOS is not available at individual gardens so purchase your tickets via Trybooking, our website or bring cash on the day. Tickets will also be available at the Yea Water Discovery Centre in Yea township.

Yea Rotary Open Gardens is on Saturday and Sunday, November 9 and 10.

For more information phone 0407 096 128, email tickslife@bigpond.com or visit yearotary.org.au



Candlebark Bawden. -S



Kingsmere. -S



Wood farm. -S



REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES IN MURRINDINDI SHIRE



The following services will be held in Murrindindi Shire, to commemorate the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts.

FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER

Kinglake

- Middle Kinglake Primary School - 10.15 am at 1 Extons Road, Kinglake Central. All Welcome

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Alexandra

- private service for residents of Kellock Lodge at 10.30 am
- Alexandra RSL service - assembly at 10.45 am for an 11.00 am service at the Cenotaph in Leckie Park

Eildon

- Eildon RSL service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at the Cenotaph, Utah Place
- private service for residents of Darlingford Nursing Home 10.15 am assembly for 11.00 am service

Flowerdale

- Flowerdale Primary School Service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at 3377 Whittlesea-Yea Road. Flowerdale. All Welcome

Marysville

- Marysville RSL service - 10.50 am service and 11.00 am minute of silence at the Marysville Cenotaph, corner Murchison Street and Steavenson River

Yarck

- Yarck RSL service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at the Yarck Hume & Hovell Memorial, 6592 Maroondah Highway

Yea

- Yea Rotary service - 10.45 am assembly for an 11.00 am service at Yea Cenotaph, The Semi Circle
- private service for residents of Rosebank Nursing Home at 10.30 am

This year there are no services in: **Glenburn, Terip Terip, Thornton and Strath Creek**

WELCOME TO

Open Gardens

YEA & DISTRICT

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10
November 2024

10AM to 5PM

See 8 unique (6 country and 2 town) gardens

\$5 town gardens, \$8 country gardens and \$40 per 2-day pass to all gardens

Tickets at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CRUFX>

Also on sale at the weekend at Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre and at each garden gate (cash only)

Information available on Rotary Club of Yea website, by phoning 0407 096 128 or email tickslife@bigpond.com

Maps and garden descriptions will be available on the website by October

www.yearotary.org.au

Covering quilts in Flowerdale

THE Flowerdale Quilt Show took place last Saturday at the Flowerdale Community House, with a variety of carefully crafted and vibrant quilts on display for the public to admire.

Supported by the community house and with a grant from Murrindindi Shire Council, the quilting group of Flowerdale presented their great works. They also provided morning tea for those who attended, and the Flowerdale CFA were out the front cooking extra food.

The event is held every second year, and money raised from the quilt show goes towards supporting the Flowerdale CFA.

The Annette Burton Memorial Prize for best quilt was awarded to Robyn Howden for her colourful flower quilt.



It wasn't just quilts on display, there were also other crafty creations for people to admire. -BD



A variety of quilts were on display at the Flowerdale Community House. -BD



Winner of the Annette Burton Memorial Award for best quilt. -BD



The ladies of the Flowerdale quilting community chatting and enjoying morning tea. All their hard work made the day possible. -BD



Margaret with her quilt, named 'Drunkard's Path'. -BD



Quilts came in all patterns, sizes, and colours, giving visitors a wide variety to look at and admire. -BD



Noela, with her quilt decorated with poppies. The quilt is dedicated to her great, great uncle, Lt Col Moreton Williams, the man who ordered the first Allied shot of World War One, and who survived the war and lived to the age of 85. -BD



Members of the Flowerdale CFA out the front of the show, cooking for visitors. Pictured are Debbie Makin, Susan Cowan, Captain Peter Sharman, Ian Charles, and Brian Makin. -BD

Cicadas try to breach the human pain threshold

PEOPLE driving through part of the shire may have noticed a high pitched sound of late, heard over the sound of the engine and car radio. It is, of course, the cicada, and 2024 is shaping up to be a bumper season for the creature.

Well known varieties of cicadas in Australia include the common green grocer cicada, yellow Monday, chocolate soldier, black prince, floury baker, masked devil, razor grinder and blue moon. There's also the double drummer cicada, which is Australia's largest cicada, and the smallest is the pale grass pygmy cicada.

Male cicadas are the ones making all of the noise, as female cicadas don't sing. The male cicadas tend to be loudest during afternoons and dusk, during the warmer months of the year. Their call approaches 120 decibels, which is the pain threshold for

human hearing. They are one of the loudest insects in the world.

Some of the smaller cicadas have a song so high in pitch that the noise they make is beyond the range of human hearing.

The singing is the result of the rapid buckling of timbal ribs, which are amplified by resonance in an air sac. Each species of cicada has its own song, in order to attract a mate of their own kind.

While the singing is thought to be aimed at attracting a mate, it may also deter predatory birds.

Australian cicadas, such as the green grocer, tend to emerge every six or seven years with a peak emergence, however each year some will emerge. Through singing as a chorus, it also makes it more difficult for birds to identify the location of an individual cicada. Bats, spiders, ants, wasps, mantids (such as a praying mantis) and tree crickets also prey on cicadas.

Most of the cicada's life will be spent underground, nibbling on tree roots until they are ready to emerge, generally after seven years. They tend to climb after emerging and then split their skin and emerge with their wings unfolding. They have a wing span of between 2.5 and 15 centimetres. The cicadas then fly away to find a mate.

After mating, the female cicada will lay her eggs in a plant stem, pierced by its ovipositor (a spike at the tip of the abdomen). Adult cicadas then die, just a few weeks after reaching adulthood.

Around 200 cicada varieties have been described, and Dr Claire Keely, expert at Museums Victoria, estimated that there are another 200 cicada varieties which are yet to be described.

Cicadas are not locusts. Locusts are a species of migratory grasshopper.

Noise-cancelling headphones can be purchased from electronics retailers.



A greengrocer cicada. -Museums Victoria



Cicadas can emit a sound which is 120 decibels, uncomfortably close to the human pain threshold. -Museums Victoria

UPCOMING FEATURES

To book your spot in any of the upcoming features call Jo 5772 1002

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

2025 Events Calendar

Deadline date: November 27, 5pm

RESTORING OUR RIVERS 2024

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - NOW OPEN

REF: ATM_2024_2750

The Australian Government, represented by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, is inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to sell water from water rights owners the Southern Connected Murray-Darling Basin 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.

Owners of eligible water rights in the catchments listed below, 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. You must submit an EOI through this process if you want to be considered for any subsequent water purchasing in 2025 To read the [Request for Expression of Interest](#) and register your interest, please visit AusTender www.tenders.gov.au - and search for [Restoring our Rivers](#).

MORE INFORMATION: For more information on voluntary water purchasing, visit www.dceew.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@dceew.gov.au

HOW TO REGISTER:

Opened: **30 September 2024**
Closing date: **12 noon 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.

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

FIRE PREVENTION

for your home and property

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE,
BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.**

Go to fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create your personalised fire plan now.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



It's time to get your home bushfire ready

SPRING is here and it's time to get fire ready on your property. The declared fire season is just around the corner, it's a good idea now to get all those jobs done around the yard and continue to stay on top of it throughout the upcoming bushfire season.

Mowing your grass regularly not only looks appealing but it's also a requirement to keep your grass short especially throughout the fire danger period.

According to Murrindindi Shire Council, for the duration of the CFA Declared Fire Danger Period, grass must be managed in the following manner; for a residential block, vacant or occupied, up to one hectare in size, you must maintain grass to ensure it does not exceed 10 centimetres in height, and for property greater than one hectare you are required to cut all grass, or slash or mow grass around the perimeter of your property (a minimum of 10 meters from the property boundary), where possible and safe to do so.

Reducing fuel loads by cleaning up dried leaves and grass clippings and trimming

trees and shrubs, especially near the house and sheds, is another way to reduce your risk in the event of a bushfire.

Cleaning out gutters of any leaves and debris is another job on the list when getting your property bushfire ready. Gutter guards are a good investment and if you live in a bushfire prone area the metal type is the better option.

Check all your hoses, sprinkler systems, pumps and generators are in good working order. Doing regular checks on these items can really help you not get caught out during an emergency.

Have a walk around your home and see if any gaps need to be sealed. This can include the roof, windows, and doors. This can be fixed simply with a caulking gun in most cases. If you have open vents on the sides of your houses secure metal flyscreens to prevent embers coming into the walls of you home.

For any more information visit cfa.vic.gov.au or contact your local brigade for advice.

Roadside slashing commencing

MURRINDINDI Shire Council reduces fuel on 467 km of local roads and roadsides through their roadside slashing program, part of their fire prevention program.

The annual roadside slashing program commenced on Friday, October 18 and will continue until mid to late December.

During this time, please be mindful of contractors and their traffic management requirements as they work on improving safety for road users and protecting property and public infrastructure.

For more information about the program, please visit tinyurl.com/827ctrx5

Clean up your property with free green waste

THERE is one month left to go with council's free disposal of green waste at the Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Eildon, and Marysville.

Green waste can be disposed at each of the five Resource Recovery Centres. This includes domestic quantities of grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings, branches and tree trunks.

Residents can dispose of green waste for free during October and November in preparation for the CFA declared Fire Danger Period, and in April each year, and after a declared emergency or major storm event.

For green waste to be acceptable, it must not be mixed up with other materials. Branches and tree trunks must be no longer than 1.5 metres in length and be less than 25 centimetres in diameter. Branches and stumps larger than this will continue to incur a fee.

Residents need to show evidence they live in Murrindindi Shire such as a rate notice, or a current photo ID showing their Murrindindi Shire residential address.

Different charges apply for commercial volumes of green waste and green waste from businesses.

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FREE GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL

Until 30 November

From 1 October to 30 November, you can dispose of your green waste for FREE at Council's Resource Recovery Centres (RRC) in Alexandra, Yea, Kinglake, Eildon and Marysville.

This includes domestic quantities of grass clippings, leaves, garden trimmings, branches, and tree trunks. For green waste to be acceptable, it must:

- not be mixed up with other materials
- be no longer than 1.5 m in length and be less than 25 cm in diameter. Branches and stumps larger than this will continue to incur a fee.

For more information on green waste disposal, including RRC opening times, give Council a call on 5772 0333 or visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/greenwaste



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VESEP grants announced

CFA brigades and other volunteer emergency groups will share in almost \$11.2 million funding to purchase new equipment to help protect their communities.

The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) funding has been spread across 167 projects, including replacement vehicles for some brigades.

Locally, Molesworth CFA is to receive \$150,000 for minor facility improvements, Terip Terip CFA \$3334 for volunteer amenities, Yarck CFA \$86,667 for minor facility improvements, and Yea CFA \$18,555 for operational equipment. Kinglake SES is receiving approx \$97,000 to purchase a new vehicle which will be a replacement of an operational twin cab ute.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said, "This program provides \$2 for every \$1 of funding from the brigade and helps with the purchase of equipment such as vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft, trailers, and can also include minor facility improvements.

"There are also Special Access Grants available to provide a further financial boost for brigades that face challenges with fundraising."

Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes said, "The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program provides volunteers with the equipment and facilities they need to continue their selfless work safely.

"Our emergency services volunteers work incredibly hard to keep our communities safe, which is why we've invested more than \$138 million in VESEP grants to support the critical work they do.

"Congratulations to all the deserving volunteer groups in receiving grants. The Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program is an important annual program providing a critical boost to local volunteers, ensuring their equipment and facilities are up to date."

The full list of successful applicants has been published on the Emergency Management Victoria website.

Plan and prepare for the upcoming fire season

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging all community members to prepare for the upcoming fire season by cutting or slashing overgrown grass, cleaning up their properties, and making a fire plan.

Although the CFA Fire Danger Period hasn't been announced yet, the drier than average conditions indicate that it will soon be upon us. It's crucial for everyone to start preparing now for the threat of bushfires and grassfires.

Rural areas are more likely to be impacted by bushfires and grassfires, but it is important that owners of residential and industrial land also take the time to prepare their properties in advance of the Fire Danger Period.

Residential landowners are required to maintain the grass on their property to a height not exceeding 10 cm, to reduce fire risk throughout summer. If you own rural land over one hectare in size, you may be required to cut the grass around the perimeter of your property (a minimum of 10 meters from the property boundary), where possible to reduce that fuel load and slow any potential fire.

Community members are encouraged to make use of council's free green waste disposal. Information about this can be found on the opposite page.

As part of council's Fire Prevention Program, we are also taking steps to reduce fire risk across the shire. In the coming weeks, council's Fire Prevention officers will begin inspecting properties across Murrindindi Shire to identify potential fire hazards and work with property owners to reduce fuel loads and meet your fire prevention responsibilities. The Roadside Slashing Program is now underway, with contractors working across the shire to maintain over 460 km of council-managed roadsides.

For more information on how to prepare your property, visit cfa.vic.gov.au or murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireandheat

Murrindindi Shire Council's CEO Livia Bonazzi said, "Long range forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology point to a hotter and wetter than average summer, and it is important that our communities plan and prepare.

"I encourage everyone to take the time ahead of the Fire Danger Period to prepare or refresh your fire plan, clean up your property, and know where to get the right information during an emergency. The VicEmergency app and website are the primary source for emergency information. You can also find our local emergency broadcasters at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/emergencycontacts"

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE,
BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.**

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



Go to fireplanner.vic.gov.au to create your personalised fire plan now.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

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Lots on the schedule for Alexandra Show

WITH springtime well and truly here, the thoughts of many throughout the Murrindindi and Mansfield Shires turn to their local agricultural shows. A day to celebrate and champion all things agriculture, horticulture and production, the shows have been part of the local calendar for well over 130 years.

This year, the Alexandra Pastoral and Agricultural association is celebrating 150 continuous years of committees and 139 years of events.

In the past, livestock and families would arrive at the show grounds in all their finery.

The day was an opportunity to show off cattle, eggs, and baking skills and see what everyone else was doing with their breed stock.

While of late, the emphasis of shows has downgraded due to greater access to information, speedier communication and transport, the importance of promoting agriculture and horticulture in the towns has not.

With more and more agricultural land being taken for residential dwellings, the importance of highlighting agriculture and associated industries has never been higher. Whether it's the petting zoo and giving young people a chance to experience animals first hand, visiting the poultry pavilion and talking with experts about what breed of hen is best for your backyard, checking out the latest tractors and fuel delivery systems, or getting involved with the first ever hobby horse events, there is something for everyone.

This year, the committee, with the generous support of their sponsors, is excited to be showcasing roving dinosaurs, jumping castles, all day music, gold panning (thanks to the Alexandra and Eildon Lapidary Club), cattle display, shearing demonstration and a guess the weight competition. There will also be donkeys, working dog events, dog obedience displays, face painting, heaps of

kids activities, the mobile library, gymkhana, food, coffee and more.

Generous sponsors of this year's show include Murrindindi Shire Council; Mal Ryan and Glen solicitors; Eildon Outboard and Mercury motors; Dindi Kids who will also be running some free activities; O'Brien Real Estate; Taggerty Vet Clinic who will also be judging and running the Pet Parade at 1pm; Riddellvue Angus; Bruce Steuart with the generous supply of a truck for the musicians, and Simpsons fuel.

Association President, Matt Dean has said, "Without the generous support of these businesses, the show would not be able to continue."

Association Vice president and Ladies committee member, Pam Petersen has been encouraging the community to get involved and submit items into the Ladies Pavilion categories for months. With Facebook posts and workshops that were held at the Embassy of Ideas over the last school holidays, the committee is doing everything it can to get the community involved.

"It's still not too late to enter," Pam said.

"Have a look at the schedules for the horses, poultry and ladies pavilion on our website and make sure that you pre-purchase your show tickets as well. Entries for the ladies Pavilion are taken the days before the show so make

sure you check when the section entries need to be in by."

But what parts of the show are the committee members looking forward to most?

Well, Matt is keen to see cattle in the shed and the working dogs in action; Julie is looking forward to a soft serve from long time stall holder Mr Quick Whip and the photography section; Pam is excited to see if Helen Godfrey will have any competition in the fruit cake section and also for the sack races; and Leanne and Jo are looking forward to the result of months of work, with the smooth running of the gymkhana and the hobby horse events.

Individuals and businesses looking for more information about the show, including sponsorship, trade spaces and competition entries are encouraged to look at the show website: alexandrashow.com where there are links to everything as well as opportunities to pre-purchase gate tickets and tickets for face painting and the jumping castle.

For specific information not listed on the website, contact the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com.

With so much on within Murrindindi Shire over the weekend of November 9 and 10, make it a weekend of adventure with the Alexandra Show, the Marysville Running Festival and the Love me again outdoor education market.



The Yard Dog Trial will again be at the Alexandra Show. -RS

YOUR CHANCE TO WIN ONE OF TWO FAMILY TICKETS TO THE ALEXANDRA SHOW

2024 SHOWTIME NOVEMBER 9

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

DROP YOUR ENTRY INTO THE ALEXANDRA STANDARD OFFICE NO LATER THAN NOON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN. ONE ENTRY PER HOUSEHOLD - You will need to be able to collect your ticket prior noon, November 8.

*Staff and family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.



People buying showbags at last year's Alexandra Show. -RS

139th Alexandra Show

Saturday, November 9, 2024. 9am to 3pm

Featuring:

- Roving entertainment
- Live music
- Petting zoo
- try your luck at gold panning
- Dingo display and education
- Pet parade
- Horses, poultry, shearing, working dogs and more

Entry Fees: Adults \$10
Children. 5-17 \$5. Children U5 Free.

Schedules available online at alexandrashow.com
For sponsorship and membership enquiries contact the secretary at pna.alexandra@gmail.com



Many highlights at the upcoming Yea Show

THE Yea Show is going against the trend for rural agricultural shows by growing bigger and better every year.

The show's motto, 'Country Excellence', proudly showcases all that is the best in the farming community, including the skills around the homestead in cooking, crafts and horticulture. The Central Victorian Axemen's Association will once again run a Championship Woodchop at the Yea Show.

The show committee are delighted to have the Royal Australian Navy Rock Band entertaining you at the Yea Show. They will 'rock you' at 11am and 2pm. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Don't miss the new Virtual Reality Gaming with 10 headsets available and hundreds of games to choose from. It will be fun for all ages. The ever-popular dog high jump, the Young Farmers Challenge, comic characters roaming the ground for the little ones to get a hug or have a photo taken, find the baby animals scattered throughout the showgrounds for another photo opportunity and there's lots more to entertain you.

Two of the farming highlights are the prestigious Yea Cattle Show featuring not only our local stud champions but cattle coming in from all over Victoria and Southern NSW.

For many years the Yea Cattle Show has been the biggest showing of cattle outside the Royal Melbourne Show. It includes the highly contested Heifer Challenge on the Friday evening, followed on show day by

the stud beef cattle including Stud Cattle Junior Judges and Stud Cattle Junior Parade challenges and a strong Vealer Competition.

The Northern Region Sheep Yard Dog Association showcases highly trained and intelligent working dogs and finishes with the final of 'The Yea Cup' challenge which incorporates winners from four local shows, Seymour, Euroa, Alexandra and Yea. Competitors come from all over Victoria and Southern NSW for this prestigious award.

The fleece section will incorporate sheep shearing demonstrations and local spinners will be happy to showcase their age-old craft. An excellent and comprehensive six ring horse program on the arena presents a spectacular display of expertly groomed and trained horses and horsemanship. Dairy goats and poultry are popular events also.

Static displays and related products plus market stalls provide extra interest. A variety of foods will be available including Devonshire teas in the Pavilion. There will also be children's show rides, baby animals on display throughout the showgrounds, children's pet show, and demonstrations by our local line dancers all provide entertainment throughout the day.

New and enthusiastic stewards in the Pavilion sections have seen massive changes in location, variety and added interest. In cookery, prominent business leaders in Yea enthusiastically vie in the Men's Chocolate Cake baking challenge, you can enjoy a cuppa while you admire the entries and take home

a delicious preserve or two. The horticulture section always has a beautiful display of flowers and vegetables and now encompasses displays by the local pottery and garden clubs. The newly renovated Pavilion at the showgrounds will beautifully display the incredible and exquisite sewing, knitting,

and many other handcrafts which are always a highlight of the show.

The 107th Yea Show will be held on Saturday, November 23. A family ticket (two adults and two children) is \$35, adults are \$17, seniors/concession \$12, secondary students \$5, and children under 12 are free.



Brent with his horse at last year's Yea Show. -AR



Some of the artworks entered last year. -AR



The wood chopping will again be a popular attraction at the show. -AR

YEA AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL & HORTICULTURAL ASSOCIATION INC

YEA SHOW

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

- Victorian Axeman's Woodchop Championships
- Exquisite crafts
- Yea Cup Final Sheep Yard Dog Trial
- 6 ring horse arena
- Prestigious Yea Cattle Show including Heifer Challenge
- Goats
- Poultry
- Fleeces
- Classic cars
- Line dancers

- Cookery
- Shearing demonstrations and woolclassing
- Royal Australian Navy Rock Band, 11am and 2pm
- Level Up Gaming - 10 consoles and over 300 games
- Roaming comic characters
- Show bags
- Show rides

And lots more!



The steps to a renovation

WITH the many home renovation shows on television it's easy to get into mindset that a home renovation is quick and simple even for the average DIYers. Don't be fooled by all the smoke and mirrors.

When beginning a home renovation, you need to determine what your actual project is. This includes research and design. What do you want to achieve in the space you're creating? To reach these decisions it's good to engage with an architect or registered builder to help you prepare for the work and basically put the concept on paper.

Before you begin your project, research will include visiting your local council and learning about permits needed for your renovation. Not everything will need a permit for a renovation, for example, painting a bedroom and giving it a freshen up will not need a permit, but a new deck or pool will most certainly need a permit. It depends on the nature of the work.

It's important to research whether your project is affected by bushfire management overlays, risks of flooding and drainage issues, termite infestation, significant

snowfall potential, and land whether it is sewer or unsewered.

Once you've applied for your permits and everything is approved, works can commence. You need to ask yourself who is doing the work?

According to the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), if the value of the domestic building work you'll be doing is over \$16,000, you'll need to have a certificate of consent from the VBA to be an owner-builder. The value of the building work includes labour costs and materials. It's the estimated cost if you were to engage a registered builder to do the work. Your building surveyor or architect can help with calculating the cost of the work.

To become an owner-builder in Victoria, you'll need to meet eligibility criteria. For instance, unless you are building a small second dwelling, an owner-builder can only build or renovate one house every five years and must intend to live in the house once it is completed.

If you aren't doing the structural work yourself, it's time to find registered and

licensed tradespeople. These professionals must provide compliance certification after completion of works. For example, if you hire a plumber and they do works over \$750 they must provide a compliance certificate within five days of doing the work.

Once you've established who is undertaking what part of your renovation, the demolition can begin. If your home was built before 1990 you need to find out whether you have asbestos in your home. The safest way to remove asbestos is to use a licensed asbestos removalist. A licensed asbestos removalist must have a waste transport certificate for the waste, have a waste transport permit for the vehicle, take the asbestos to a licensed landfill.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), if you decide to remove asbestos yourself, follow guidance from Asbestos in Victoria at asbestos.vic.gov.au

If you are removing asbestos from your home you can use your own vehicle to transport domestic asbestos. You don't need a waste transport certificate

or vehicle permit. You must package asbestos in the right way and transport it to a licensed landfill.

Once the space is cleared from the old, in comes the new. This takes time and is not overnight. There is building, plumbing and electrical preparation work, and painting and styling once your room or area is complete.

With the cost of living crisis, people are trying to do as much as they can to save a dollar here or there. This can be achieved by doing the demolition work, or trying to tile an area yourself, and picking up a paintbrush and painting yourself.

One thing to keep in mind is, do you have the time to complete the works or is it easier paying for someone to do it all if you can afford to. It all depends on your personal circumstances and your experience with do it yourself projects and how much you're willing to learn.

There is nothing more frustrating than a half finished renovation or build, but it can be the most rewarding experience when you can see a project from start to finish.



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Double the opportunity with two homes on one block

THE Victorian Government is making it easier, faster and cheaper for Victorians to divide their blocks and build more homes.

Speaking at the Melbourne Press Club, Premier Jacinta Allan announced that the government will immediately commence an implementation review into how to fix the current system, where subdivisions take too long and often discourage home building. This is a review to outline the best way forward.

Ultimately, it will examine how our planning and building systems can be streamlined, enabling more Victorians to add a second home, build two new homes, or subdivide a block into two lots.

Options on the table include faster 10 day subdivisions (down from 60 days and often longer), criteria-based planning permit exemptions, or no requirement for a planning permit at all.

As part of the review, the Department of Transport and Planning will look at how approvals can be fast-tracked while maintaining standards to ensure Victorians can rely on a good quality home.

Clear limits will remain in place when it comes to things important to the community like trees and car parks, and overlays permit requirements such as in flood or heritage overlays will still apply.

The government will consult with industry and consider final options with the aim of implementing the reforms by April next year.

The move follows the government's change to regulations introduced late 2023, allowing homeowners to build small second homes, such as granny flats, without a planning permit.

By making it easier for homeowners to subdivide their land, it will be easier for more Victorians to find a home in an established suburb, close to transport, jobs, schools and services.

At the same time, the change will help Victorians wanting to downsize and set themselves up for retirement, allowing them to easily subdivide and either build another home or sell off the land to young Victorians and families.

Premier Jacinta Allan said, "This just makes sense. If you've got land you don't need, we'll make it easier for you to subdivide it and sell it, putting money back in your pocket and giving another Victorian the chance to buy their own home."

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny added, "This will help more young Victorians get the opportunity to live in the communities they grew up, close to the people they love."

To read more about the government's plans for more homes and more opportunity, visit vic.gov.au/more-homes

Council's Greenlight Portal to streamline Building and Planning.

MURRINDINDI Shire Council recently launched the 'Greenlight' customer portal to streamline the planning and building process. The new portal aims to make the application process easier and more efficient as it's all in one place.

The Building section is live, and Planning is not far away. You can follow your applications in real time, without needing to contact council, improving efficiency in the application process.

To find the new portal visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Planning-and-Building



Murrindindi Shire Council are streamlining the building and planning process. -Myotus



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Local primary schools combine for walkathon

YEA and Sacred Heart Primary Schools co-hosted the Yea Community Schools' fundraiser on Thursday, October 24.

The students walked up to 10km, sponsored by family and friends, raising funds for their respective school.

After a short assembly at Yea Primary School, students from the two schools took part in an activity rotation, and then after recess, set out on their walk. The starting line was at the Yea Railway Park.

On the walk, students turned back at 12.15pm, regardless of how far they had walked. Students were encouraged to look after and support each other along the way.

The day ended with a sausage sizzle and short assembly at Sacred Heart Primary School, which was appreciated by all of the students.



The students were helped across the road with the assistance of Victoria Police. -AR



The students had a fun day in the sun. -AR



The first student to cross the finish line was Evan. -AR



The students at Sacred Heart. -AR



Students lines up for a sausage after the walkathon. -AR



One of the students crossing the finish line. -AR



The students had worked up an appetite by the time they got to Sacred Heart. -AR



Leo, Lou, Craig and Stacey. -AR



Some of the students crossing the finish line, while others went back to support other students. -AR



Older students helping out the younger children. -AR



Students looking out for each other. -AR



The sausage sizzle at Sacred Heart Primary. -AR

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Ten tips to reduce the risk of harvester fires this season

THE Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) and fire safety experts are encouraging growers to implement practical measures to reduce the risk of harvester fires. Harvester hygiene and maintenance is vital.

About seven per cent of harvesters start a fire each year, in a range of crop types. One in 10 of these fires will cause significant damage to the machine or surrounding crop.

Kondinin Group research engineer Ben White said growers should maintain high levels of hygiene and pay attention to ongoing maintenance of machinery throughout harvest.

“Bearing failures are in many cases responsible for fires starting, so regular monitoring of bearing operating temperatures is important,” Mr White said.

“Operators should be conducting regular clean downs during harvest and exercising particular caution when harvesting leafy

pulse crops, as these are renowned for dust volatility.

“In areas where growers are harvesting frost-affected crops, these crops may create higher levels of fine dust which can make the harvester work harder, resulting in higher exhaust gas temperatures, adding to the risk of fires.”

10 tips to improve harvester fire safety

Most harvester fires are caused by dust and trash build-up and bearing failures. Clean the machine down regularly, starting at the front then working in a top-down approach. A final blast of air over the exhaust system to dislodge any dust that may have been disturbed and settled during the clean down is recommended.

Pulse crops are substantially more volatile than cereals so extra care and vigilance is required when harvesting these.

Monitoring and logging bearing temperatures with an infra-red heat gun or thermal imager helps identify at-risk bearings so they can be replaced before failure.

Recognise the big four factors that contribute to fires: relative humidity, ambient temperature, wind, and crop type and conditions. Abide by state-based grain harvesting codes of practice and declared harvest bans and observe the Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) protocol on high fire risk days.

Have at least the minimum required water and fire-fighting unit in the paddock being harvested.

Having a pair of extinguishers (water and ABE) at the cab entry ladder and a pair at the rear of the machine closer to the engine means fire-fighting options are available when and where they are needed. A fire suppression system provides the best chance of extinguishing a fire on a harvester.

Having a fire plan in place with the harvest team is imperative. Knowing who will do what and identifying communications channels to be used means everyone knows what to do. Having a listing of emergency numbers or uhf channels in the cab is essential.

Harvesting highly volatile crops like lentils across the paddock into the prevailing wind gives operators a better chance of containing the fire as incendiaries are blown onto stubble, not standing crop.

If operators do have a fire on board, pulling out of the crop immediately and facing the machine into the wind before attempting to fight it gives the operator the best chance of controlling the fire. Remember, harvesters are replaceable so prioritise personal safety.

Research has shown static does not have enough energy for the ignition of even the most volatile crop residues. Be mindful that it can, however, contribute to significant dust/fuel loads on the machine.

Caring for stock using stock containment areas

ONE way to help manage your stock is with the use of a stock containment area (SCA).

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer Clem Sturmfels said caring for stock can be challenging and a SCA can help to minimise loss or illness and reduce farmer stress.

“A SCA is a small, fenced section of farm set up to hold, feed and water livestock.

“Typical pens measure 50 by 50 metres which can hold approximately 500 sheep or 170 cattle and ensure stock have room to move around and spend time on their own,” he said.

Mr Sturmfels said having animals close-by makes feeding, watering, and management easier and more efficient.

“An additional benefit of containing stock is that you can maintain ground cover across the rest of the property, protecting soils, water, and pastures.

“It’s important that stock enter a SCA healthy and in good condition. They should be drenched, vaccinated, and conditioned to a grain-based diet.

“Diseases and health issues can spread quickly in containment, so regular inspection and monitoring is essential. Common issues such as acidosis and shy feeders need to be identified early, with affected stock being moved to a pen of their own,” Mr Sturmfels said.

“It’s vital stock have enough feed and supply of fresh water, plus shade during the hotter times of the day.

“A good understanding of the nutritional needs of different classes of stock is essential, along with a knowledge of the energy, roughage, and protein mix of various feed sources.

“The site and layout of a SCA involves thought and planning. Ideally, a SCA should be close to existing feed and stock handling facilities, and away from houses, waterways, and dams.

“Consider what feeding system you plan to use as this will impact the pen design and layout,” Mr Sturmfels said.

Check with your local council planning officer before starting construction as a planning permit may be required in some situations.

For more information on stock containment areas, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/land-and-pasture-management/stock-containment-areas-for-emergencies

Enhanced surveillance for animal disease in Victoria

Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

VICTORIA’S livestock industries are fortunate to be free of most of the serious diseases that affect animals in other parts of the world.

Despite this fact, on-going surveillance for new or exotic disease is important to reassure our trading partners of Victoria’s favourable disease status and to ensure the early detection of diseases that might impact on trade, public health, and farm or regional productivity.

Agriculture Victoria has an initiative that allows veterinarians who investigate and report on outbreaks of unusual or significant animal disease to be paid a subsidy to help cover the cost of the investigation and associated laboratory fees.

This subsidy may be paid when a large number of animals are affected or there is an unusual presentation of a disease; an initial investigation fails to establish a diagnosis, or veterinary treatment does not produce the expected response; clinical signs are consistent with an emergency disease without a clear alternative diagnosis; or findings suggest a possible effect on trade, public health or the viability of a farm, industry or region.

This will increase the likelihood of detecting a serious animal disease should one occur and assist in covering the cost to farmers of investigating and reporting an animal disease outbreak.

Payment of subsidies is conditional upon approval being given by Agriculture Victoria before the investigation begins.

When there is a genuine suspicion of an exotic or emergency disease Agriculture Victoria will undertake the disease investigation and cover the full cost of the investigation.

In summary, early detection of new or exotic disease depends on farmers, vets and government working together. Producers and animal owners should call their vet when an unusual disease occurs in their stock. Veterinary practitioners must remain vigilant and consider the possibility of new, unusual or exotic diseases. Unusual disease incidents should be fully investigated, and appropriate samples should be submitted to veterinary laboratories.

Early detection of emerging or exotic disease is the key to their effective management.

If you suspect an exotic or emergency disease, please contact your local veterinarian, or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

Calling on startups to solve farm safety challenges

THE state government is calling on startups to help solve farm safety and productivity challenges as part of a new program that aims to harness innovation and the technological knowledge of Victoria’s startup sector.

The CivVic Labs Farm Safety challenge is a bootcamp experience connecting aspiring and early stage startup founders with government to solve public sector challenges.

This challenge is part of Victoria’s AgTech Regional Innovation Network (AgRIN) and will run over six weeks.

Participating start ups will learn new startup skills, grow their connections and develop their business idea with government, supported by \$15,000 equity-free funding. At the end of the experience, they’ll pitch for a chance at a further \$35,000 to bring their startup ideas to life.

Farms make up 14 per cent of workplace fatalities in Victoria, despite employing only two per cent of working Victorians. On average, two people are hospitalised by an incident on a Victorian farm every day.

For more information about the CivVic Labs Farm Safety challenge and how to apply, visit launchvic.org

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

NOVEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for September, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandra. The November theme is **‘local food’**.

Sponsored by



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon November 27, 2024

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandra

Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com

facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire

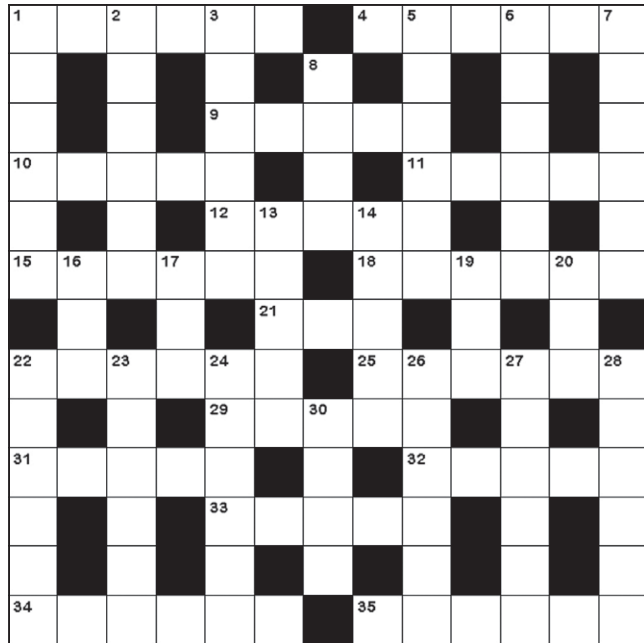
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 19

Crossword

ACROSS

1. Not secure enough.
4. Where flowers and vegetables grow.
9. An extra tire for the car.
10. Raise up with ropes and pulleys.
11. Not in any circumstances.
12. Flowed back out to sea.
15. Following fashionable trends.
18. Blemished by injury or rough wear.
21. Take something from somebody illegally.
22. A photographer's workroom.
25. Something forming a border.
29. Set a trap for.
31. Turn in a twisting or spinning motion.
32. Something new, unusual, or different.
33. Prevent from happening.
34. Wanting more and more of everything.
35. Carefree and happy and light hearted.



13. Famous English romantic poet.
14. A glowing piece of wood left from a fire.
16. A fixed and usually boring routine.
17. A gesture of agreement.
19. A floor covering, smaller than a carpet.
20. An indefinitely long period of time.
22. Planting seeds.
23. The single one of its kind.
24. A land mass that is surrounded by water.
26. Of or relating to the teeth.
27. Turn inside out or upside down.
28. In great numbers.
30. The highest point.

DOWN

1. The final result; the outcome.
3. Went without food.
5. The items to be considered.
6. Someone who drives a herd of animals.
7. Came close to.
8. A young sheep.

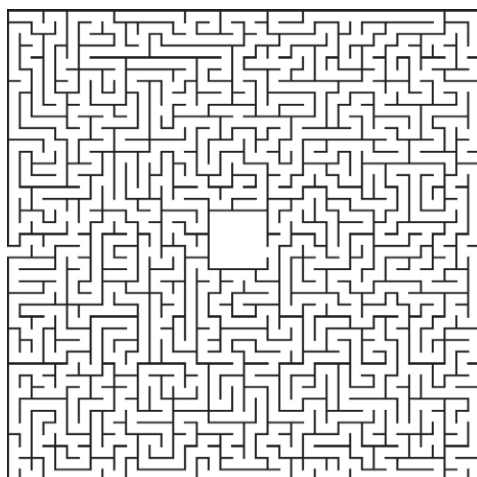
Word Search

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

Halloween

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| CANDY | SCARY |
| CAT | SKELETON |
| GHOST | SPIDER |
| MONSTER | TREAT |
| PUMPKIN | TRICK |
| SCARECROW | ZOMBIE |

Maze



Math Square

	+	8	-		7
÷		÷		-	
	+		-	1	6
+		÷		+	
	-		+		12
11		1			11

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Easy

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.



An Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre operator at a battery recycling station. -s

Keep batteries out of your bins

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is urging residents to keep household batteries out of their garbage and recycling bins and dispose of them safely at designated recycling drop-off points in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake.

Improper disposal of batteries can cause fires in bins, collections trucks and land fill sites, posing significant risks to public safety and the environment.

Household batteries are made up of toxic substances that can pose risks to you, your property and the people who empty your bins. This includes batteries in laptops, mobile phones, cameras, power tools and toys.

Recycling used batteries correctly means council can make the most of existing resources and rely less on mining new materials.

Simple ways to store your batteries safely at home before taking them to a drop-off location includes covering the ends of used batteries with duct tape or clear sticky tape to prevent sparking and reduce the risk of fire. Store batteries in a glass container and make sure the container is not airtight. Don't keep them in metal containers or with other metal objects. Store them in a cool, dry place away from heat sources. Keep them away from children and pets.

Residents can recycle AA, button and rechargeable batteries as well as batteries from cars, laptops, mobile phones, cameras, power tools and electronic toys by taking them to the following locations for safe disposal and recycling: Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre, Yea Resource Recovery Centre, Marysville Resource Recovery Centre, Kinglake Resource Recovery Centre, Alexandra FoodWorks, Yea FoodWorks, Eildon FoodWorks and Marysville Grocer.

Find more information on battery recycling at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Batteries

Murrindindi Shire Council's CEO Livia Bonazzi said, "Residents can make a significant difference to the safety of our community and environment by keeping batteries out of kerbside bins. When disposed of incorrectly, batteries can cause dangerous fires in bins, collection trucks, and at our Resource Recovery Centres, endangering our workers and residents alike. We've already seen this happen recently, and it's a risk we can all help prevent. Safely storing batteries at home and taking them to our recycling drop-off points is a simple yet powerful way to protect our team and contribute to a sustainable future for Murrindindi Shire."

Don't ghost the ATO: lodge your tax return before Halloween

CERTIFIED Practising Accountants (CPA) Australia is urging Aussies to dust the cobwebs off their tax returns and ensure they lodge by the Halloween deadline of Thursday, October 31.

But don't be fooled by scammers who target taxpayers rushing to the finish line.

"There's nothing ghoulish about the tax man, but failing to lodge your tax return on time could ultimately mean a scary penalty," says CPA Australia's Tax Lead, Jenny Wong.

"Rushing to lodge can also result in more tricks than treats as scammers will target people with last-minute calls to action, or promises of substantial refunds.

"So, if you haven't already done it, set aside some time over the next week to compile your evidence and get your return in on time. Or seek expert advice from a registered tax agent who can assist, especially if your finances are complicated."

Individuals who lodge their own tax returns are required to do so by October 31, but those who use a tax agent have longer to lodge, as long as they are on their agent's books by the end of October.

"We're all busy and time can get away from us, but lodging your tax return on time is really important," says Ms Wong.

"Leaving it until the last minute comes with the risk that you cut corners, get things wrong and don't submit your return accurately. You could ultimately receive a less favourable outcome as a result.

"If submitting yourself through myGov, make sure you check the pre-filled information

is correct, and don't just copy and paste the same deductions as last year.

"The more complex your earning activities and finances, the more you would benefit from professional help from a registered tax agent, like a CPA. They will ensure your tax return is completed thoroughly and accurately, plus you'll have longer to submit it. The sooner you get in touch, the better."

If you do miss the deadline, Ms Wong says contact the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as soon as possible.

"The ATO will usually take your personal circumstances into account and may not apply a penalty if this is your only late lodgement," she says.

Ms Wong also reminds Aussies to be vigilant of tax scams and don't click on links in SMS messages claiming to be from the ATO.

"Tax scams become more and more sophisticated every year, and scammers pray on the circumstances at the time. In this case the deadline to lodge is approaching.

"Be very wary of anyone offering unsolicited, last-minute help to file your tax returns, especially if the offer or promise of returns sounds too good to be true.

"Scams could come via email, social media, text message or phone call. It's also a good idea to remind your friends and family to be extra cautious as scammers step up their activity in the lead-up to the deadline."

CPA Australia recently released tips on how to spot a tax time scam, which can be found on their website at tinyurl.com/39rpy3s3

Student of the Week

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



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week two, Clara, Roy, Ruby, Ella and Teddy.

Keep up the great work.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Angus, Avarah, Lola, Kaden, John, Scarlett and Blake 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



The state of motorcycle road safety

THE Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (MRAA) recently held a forum in the Yea Shire Hall to discuss updating their policies as part of Motorcycle Awareness Month that runs in October.

Steve Bardsley, MRAA's Rider Safety Representative, discussed some of the key issues faced by motorcyclists in relation to road safety with this masthead.

Speaking about the recent forum, Mr Bardsley explained that it was a good opportunity for updating their advocacy policies.

"The forum was good and it's just all about setting the policy and then making sure that we're able to communicate with the motorcycle and traffic authorities in the most effective way," he said.

"We're working on policy. The MRAA has been around for a long time, since the 80s. It's time to take a look and refresh the policy and look at how we are going to deal with the issues that we face. We want to be seen as a credible motorcycle advocacy organisation."

Looking at the statistics, there has been a 41 per cent increase in motorcycle rider fatalities over the last 12 months in Victoria, increasing from 37 rider fatalities last year to 52 riders this year.

"Things haven't got any better, and we need to do more than look at motorcycle safety one month of the year. Any motorcycle safety initiative should be applauded, but I think the idea of motorcycle safety month isn't all that effective. It should be motorcycle safety every day of the year," Mr Bardsley said.

Steve Bardsley is of the opinion that a large part of the problem, and the reason for these increased motorcycle rider fatalities, is driver distraction.

Statistics show that in 66 per cent of motorcycle accidents, another vehicle is involved, and in 69 per cent of those cases, it was found that the driver was at fault. This largely shifts blame away from motorcycle riders and onto other road users.

"There is absolutely no doubt that one of the problems that causes driver distractions, is what's going on inside cars these days," Mr Bardsley said.

"When you look at modern car dashboards, it's usually one huge LED screen with thousands of images on it, and there are some studies saying that these types of more modern driving aids can be counterproductive. And then of course we've got mobile phones, and that has to be the biggest enemy of the roads, I think.

"I've always said no driver wants to come home knowing that he's killed a motorcycle rider. They don't set out in the morning thinking that is going to happen, and yet it's happened 52 times in Victoria alone this year.

"We need to educate drivers more about being aware and being more observant of motorcycles, and of course to not be distracted and concentrate on the road."

Mr Bardsley has published a number of academic studies on motorcycle safety over the years, including one on the effects of high-vision clothing on motorcycle safety.

His conclusion on the issue was that Hi-Viz has very little benefit for keeping motorcycle riders safe.

"Part of the problem is if a motorcycle rider is wearing a fluorescent vest, that doesn't make any difference if that driver is distracted," he said.

"It doesn't matter what he's wearing, and it doesn't make any difference to an impatient driver. It may help slightly, under certain circumstances, but generally speaking, it's not going to help."

Looking at motorcycle road safety from an advocacy perspective, Steve Bardsley believes that the issue is being handled incorrectly. He says there is a focus on motorcycle riders doing the wrong thing, rather than showing the true story that the data depicts.

"They're attacking the problem from the wrong end, holding motorcycle riders to blame for accidents that are not their fault and not getting down to the core of the problem," Mr Bardsley said.

Without the correct data they're going to find it difficult. But to be fair, in recent times, the police and the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) have been much better at communicating and listening to motorcycle riders.

"The problem isn't as difficult as it's made out to be. There just needs to be a focus on what can and cannot be done, and a willingness to do that. That's the most important thing. Even though I've said the TAC and the police are doing better in this regard, there's still a lot more to be done.

"The major strategies that we have here in Victoria don't work, and nobody can say they do. The figures show that they don't. The key now is to take a look at road safety strategies and ask 'are we on the wrong track? Why haven't they been working?' And nobody appears willing to do that."

Mr Bardsley also said that Victorian road surfaces are a big issue for motorcycle road safety. If a car hits a pothole, it might end up with a flat tyre or some broken suspension. If a motorcycle hits a pothole, it could flip upside down. He doesn't understand why money from the motorcycle road safety levy is not being used to fix Victorian roads. He is also critical of the motorcycle safety levy itself.

"There is money available because of the motorcycle safety levy, which is used not just for motorcycle safety initiatives, but for everything. It needs to be better spent. They've got millions of dollars collected from motorcycle riders in the bank which they're not using," he said.

"The motorcycle safety levy needs to be abolished, because it in itself is a suggestion that motorcycle riders are dangerous, and therefore need to pay a safety levy to be able to ride on the road. That's counterproductive, and it's not the case. There have been parliamentary inquiries, and many politicians, that recommended the motorcycle safety levy be abolished. But it's still there," Mr Bardsley concluded.

On the subject of motorcycle road safety, the TAC shared some information about



The topic of motorcycle road safety has had lots of discussion this October, which is Motorcycle Awareness Month. -Sergio Hernandez Trejo

what they are doing to increase the safety of riders on the road, following questions from this masthead.

"Sadly we have seen an increase in rider deaths this year. Drivers and riders share responsibility for keeping each other safe. It is critical that drivers are always on the lookout for motorcycles, and riders can help by ensuring they are visible to drivers through correct road positioning," the TAC responded.

"The Victorian Government continues to invest in programs, campaigns and infrastructure aimed at improving motorcycle safety in the short and long term, including: MotoCAP, a world-first protective gear star rating program; introduction of the world-leading motorcycle Graduated Licensing System; motorcyclist safety campaigns; rider packs for newly licensed riders; safer infrastructure projects; Motorcycling Community Engagement Panel (MCEP); introduction of an Australian Design Rule (ADR) for mandating anti-lock braking systems; introduction of motorcycle lane filtering legislation; Motorcycle Crash Card; on-road abrasion testing of motorcycle protective clothing.

"Projects are partly funded through the MSL, which was introduced in 2002 and has to date invested almost \$93 million in a range of targeted safety initiatives across motorcycle policy and law, education and research and road safety infrastructure improvements for motorcyclists.

"The Victorian Road Safety Partners are developing a new framework for investment in motorcycle safety in Victoria. This important work will include a review of the expenditure of the MSL.

"The Motorcycle Community Engagement Panel was established in 2020 to provide a forum for the exchange of information between the motorcycling community, other stakeholders, the Victorian Government and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

"It provides an opportunity for the motorcycling community to table ideas and proposals to improve rider safety. Panel members also advise on motorcycling trends in Victoria and provide input on how a proposed policy or project may impact the motorcycling community.

"MCEP established Motorcycle Awareness Month in 2022 in collaboration with the Transport Accident Commission, Department of Transport and Planning, and Victoria Police to remind motorists that road safety is a shared responsibility and that everyone has a role to play in keeping the roads safe."

Transport Accident Commission Head of Road Safety, Samantha Cockfield, said: "Motorcyclists are among our most vulnerable road users, which is why we have long invested in research, programs and initiatives to better protect riders.

"We strongly support the Motorcycle Safety Levy, which has played an important and effective role in helping fund motorcycling safety initiatives," she said.

"The establishment of the Motorcycle Community Engagement Panel and Motorcyclist Safety Month in recent years has been critical to building a better understanding of the issues that matter most to riders, and ensuring their views are reflected in projects and policies."

Bystander defibrillation has ongoing benefits

AMBULANCEVictoria (AV) paramedics are emphasising the importance of early intervention for cardiac arrest cases, following a study that found a defibrillator shock from a bystander can vastly improve survivors' quality of life 12 months on.

The data underpins AV's month-long *Shocktober* campaign, which highlights the life-saving importance of learning CPR and knowing how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

The Victorian study interviewed 1520 out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) patients who had a shockable heart rhythm and survived 12 months after cardiac arrest.

Of the participants, about 72 per cent were first shocked by paramedics, about 18 per cent were shocked by first responders and about 10 per cent by bystanders.

Findings showed that 12 months on from cardiac arrest, survivors who received bystander defibrillation were:

Seventy-seven per cent more likely to live at home without care, 72 per cent more

likely to have returned to work, and 53 per cent more likely to have had a good functional recovery when compared to survivors who waited longer to receive the first shock from paramedics.

AV Director Research and Evaluation Ziad Nehme said bystander intervention not only increased a cardiac arrest patient's chance of survival but could have life-changing effects long after the incident.

"Brain damage occurs quickly after the onset of cardiac arrest, as brain cells are starved of oxygen," he said.

"Bystander defibrillation halves the time to giving the first shock compared to waiting for paramedics, so the sooner defibrillation can be administered, the less brain damage to patients."

The study also shows survivors who received bystander defibrillation are more likely to be discharged home from hospital, and less likely to be discharged to a rehabilitation facility, compared to first responder or paramedic-shocked survivors.

Ziad said the research further supported paramedics' call to Victorians to learn CPR, and know where your nearest accessible AED is and how to use it.

"Victoria has the best cardiac arrest survival rate in Australia, and one of the best in the world, but we want to further improve those rates by increasing bystander intervention before paramedics arrive," he said.

"If you witness someone suffering a cardiac arrest, we urge you to call Triple Zero (000), start chest compressions and, if there's one nearby, grab a defibrillator and apply shocks as prompted before paramedics arrive. You don't need any training to use a defibrillator.

"It may not only save the patient's life but improve their quality of life long after the event."

Survivors' functional recovery was measured by the Glasgow Outcome Scale-Extended (GOS-E) and also assessed their ability to return to work and live at home without care.

Researchers from AV, Monash University, Victoria University and The Alfred Hospital published the research online, titled *'One-year quality-of-life outcomes of cardiac arrest survivors by initial defibrillation provider'*.

This Shocktober, AV encourages anyone comfortable performing hands-only CPR to sign up to be a GoodSAM Responder to help save more Victorians.

GoodSAM is a life-saving smartphone app that connects Victorians in cardiac arrest with members of the community who are willing to start CPR in the critical minutes before paramedics arrive.

There are currently more than 16,000 GoodSAM Responders across the state, but we always need more.

Visit ambulance.vic.gov.au/shocktober/ to learn more about the campaign, the GoodSAM app and how to perform CPR and use an AED.

Visit AV's AED Registry to find your nearest AED.

Last council meeting before changing of the guard

THE October meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council took place last Wednesday, October 25. It was the final meeting for the current group of councillors.

Cr Gerencser was an apology for the meeting, and there was no public participation.

Annual Report 2023-24

Mayor Damien Gallagher presented the Annual Report 2023-24. The Annual Report highlights council's achievements in the third year of their 2021 to 2025 plan. Highlights include delivery of the Capital Works program worth \$16.96 million on key projects, such as the redevelopment of the Eildon Reserves and road and drainage upgrades. Council adopted a 2024 to 2029 Economic Development Strategy, with priorities to boost key visitor economy and agricultural sectors, support visitors, and address the shire's emerging demographic needs and challenges. The report outlines the adoption of council's customer service policy, Murrindindi's planning scheme review, Eildon Pondage master plan, key worker housing strategy, kindergarten and childcare strategy, among other policies. Council engaged with community through their e-newsletter, the establishment of the Council Roads Advisory Group, and the reflecting on council's progress engagement activity. This mark of this council has been their focus on sustainable financial management, not just in performance, but through submissions to state and federal parliamentary inquiries into the financial stability of local councils. In particular, Murrindindi Shire Council has been disproportionately underfunded for many years, and advocacy has been a hallmark of council in 2023 and 2024. Council stood alongside community to advocate for local voices in hospital management, state and federal flood and roads funding, inclusive future management of state forests and parks, funding to support reinstatement of Breakaway Bridge, and tertiary learning access and addressing critical skills shortages. Some memorable moments from the report include supporting the upper Goulburn communities through the flood emergency response, hosting the governor of Victoria, conferring citizenship upon new Murrindindi Australians, and recognising the contributions of volunteers.

Council endorsed the Annual Report 2023-24.

Priority Action Plan - Quarterly Report September 30, 2024

The Priority Action Plan for the first quarter of 2024-25 was presented by Amanda Vogt. It was reported that of the 65 actions, 64 are on-track and one has been deferred. Under the Resilient Communities part of the plan, Ms Vogt reported that Murrindindi youth programs have engaged 807 young people

this quarter. Under Beautiful Townships and Rural Settings, it was reported that grant applications have been successful for eight road safety projects and two motorcycle safety projects and flood gauges at Molesworth have been installed, the flood gauge at Yea is live, and the King Parrot Creek flood gauge is being installed and calibrated. In terms of Growth and Opportunity, council has undertaken the implementation of the Economic Development Strategy that was approved by council on May 22. In the Our Protected Environment section, council has committed to the Goulburn Murray Solar Savers program which will provide affordable solar panels and the wastewater education project is now live. Under Transparency, Inclusion and Accountability, the e-newsletter is performing well, and website upgrades are underway with a new function being added.

Council noted the progress report.

Quarterly Finance Report

The report was presented by Michael Chesworth, outlining the results of the first quarter of the new financial year. Included in the report was a reconciliation of the carry forward and other quarterly adjustments to the budget, providing a clear view of the budget following adjustments. There is an operating surplus of \$24.19 million, which is \$847,000 below what was anticipated. Mr Chesworth reported there were no significant adjustments to the budget, and no significant variances.

Council adopted the Annual Revised Budget 2024-25 and noted the Quarterly Financial Report.

Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Report

Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Steve Schnick, was an apology for the meeting, so Mr Chesworth stepped in to present the report that covers January to June 2024. The report gave recognition to C Baxter, who has spent nine years as an independent committee member, and the work of Alan Studley. The report demonstrated the range of activities that the committee worked on.

Council noted the report.

Capital Works Program - Quarterly Report

Peter Bain presented the Capital Works quarterly report that covered the period from January to July 2024. There are 139 projects currently in the list for delivery, and the report includes a breakdown of the states of the various projects, including those that require more time or funding to complete. These include: the Eildon Reserve Redevelopment, which requires more time and funding; resealing of roads, which has a contract signed and is anticipated to be completed next year;

gravel roads re-sheeting, contract signed and estimated for completion next year; Eildon Pondage shade structure, which had works due to be commenced on site in mid-October; Maintongoon bridge replacement, which the contractor is preparing for final design; and a new trail construction at the Yea Wetlands, where works are expected to commence in November. The funding adjustment amounts have no impact on the overall budget.

Council voted to receive the quarterly report.

Councillor and CEO reports

Cr Gerencser was an apology and so gave no report, and Cr Lording declined to give a report.

Cr McAulay attended the last Business Resilience Breakfast at Jerusalem Creek's Café 501, with various businesses and organisations from the region also attending. She spoke about Murrindindi being listed as a finalist in the 2024 Victorian Industry Tourism Awards under the council category for the various projects council has been delivering. The innovation working groups Shaping Murrindindi's Future are developing projects and scopes to seek funding through the Community Development Fund, designed to support the local economy and community since native timber harvesting ended. Council has appointed Bill Bate as the Community Capacity Building Officer who will deliver a program of training and development programs for business, community, and individuals over the next 12 months. Cr McAulay also listed the various events that will be occurring over the next month and thanked everyone she worked with during this term on council, as well as the community and the many volunteers.

Cr Haslam began by saying that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the community as ward councillor for Eildon for the past four years. She continued by speaking to her portfolio matter of waste, which she is very passionate about. Murrindindi Shire Council will be introducing a four-bin system from July 2025, and National Recycling Week runs in November, where council will be out and about showing off the new bins. Cr Haslam gave a general summary of her four years as councillor, speaking to how things are looking up for Eildon after the devastation of the Covid-19 pandemic, and detailed many of the projects that she, and her fellow councillors, have worked on over the past four years.

Cr Walsh started his report by talking about the Yarck General Store and Petrol Station finally opening for business, after five years of stagnation. He spoke to some of the projects he worked on during his time in office, especially the work to generate an

application for funding for a study hub to be established in Yea. The submission was sent last week, and successful applicants will be announced in December. The October meeting of the Yea Saleyards Committee highlighted that things are progressing well in that side of business. Cr Walsh also took some time to reflect on his 12 years of being a councillor, in particular, the progressive diminution of the role and autonomy of local government. He thanked the people he has worked with over this time.

Cr Carpenter reported that roadside slashing has commenced within the shire, and that road resealing is now underway, with works currently in Alexandra. The Yea Swimming Pool has had a new wet deck installed, pool interior painted, pipework repaired, and the pool filled ready for summer. Cr Carpenter thanked all those she has worked with this term and wished them good luck in future endeavours.

Cr Damien Gallagher gave his final mayoral report, describing recent events and successes. He has been briefed by Rural Australians for Refugees on their progress with the sponsorship of asylum seekers, as well as going to a community morning tea in Terip Terip to acknowledge the work of their CFA brigade. Council conferred Australian Citizenship to two new Murrindindi Australians, and the Emergency Services Community Engagement Day took place in Yea while the Heritage Machinery Festival took place in Alexandra. The final assembly of the Hume Region Local Government Network took place this month. In local news, Cr Gallagher spoke about Ray Steyger not seeking renomination after 28 years as president of the Alexandra Football Netball Club, Peter Weeks being inducted to the Community Broadcasting Honour Roll for his work on UGFM Radio Murrindindi, and the Alexandra Fire Brigade celebrating 150 years of service. He then thanked all the people he has worked with, the community, and various organisations.

Murrindindi Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi reported that council's submission to the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund has been successful, providing money to build key worker housing in Eildon. Council will build 18 housing units with 33 bedrooms in total, to support a range of industries. As mentioned by Cr Walsh, council has applied for federal funding to establish a Regional University Study Hub in Murrindindi Shire. Ms Bonazzi also stated that a high-speed internet upgrade is now available in Marysville through the NBN for free, with residents able to register. To register, call 1300 275 799. In a similar vein to the councillors, Ms Bonazzi thanked the councillors for their dedication and service over their term.

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More homes and a fairer go for renters

MINISTER for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams joined Member for Ashwood Matt Fregon and local renters to announce that renters will soon have an easier way to resolve landlord disputes.

Rental Dispute Resolution Victoria (RDRV)

If renters have a simple dispute with their landlord, such as about repairs, maintenance, damage, bond claims or rental increases, it's not fair if it has to be dragged out in a formal hearing when it doesn't need to. There must be alternatives.

That's why the government will help renters resolve simple disputes through a free, public dispute resolution service.

Through RDRV, renters can easily call up, jump online or attend in person to access highly skilled dispute resolution experts who will help bring parties together to resolve rental disputes, and it will be free to access.

RDRV will commence its work in mid-2025, and that legislation will be introduced in November to make orders at RDRV binding and enforceable.

RDRV will sit in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and will also refer matters to Consumer Affairs Victoria for compliance and enforcement action.

More than 60 per cent of disputes are expected to be able to be resolved through RDRV. It's all about guiding parties to the fastest and best result, reducing time, stress and cost, and minimising the need for lawyers.

Cracking down on dodgy landlords

The government is cracking down on rental providers and estate agents who do the wrong thing, because renters shouldn't have to put up with conduct that is not only unfair but illegal.

Since March 2024, the renting taskforce has been monitoring the market and inspecting properties across the state to make sure rentals are being advertised fairly, and properties meet the mandatory minimum standards for safety and livability.

The government can announce that almost \$450,000 in fines have been issued for rental offences, including for not advertising a rental property at a fixed price, and not lodging a bond with the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority.

The taskforce has carried out inspection blitzes in areas where a lot of renters live, like Fitzroy North and Clayton, to ensure rental properties meet the minimum standards. More blitzes are scheduled before the end of the year.

When the taskforce identifies properties which do not meet the minimum standards, it works with the property agent and rental provider to make sure repairs are made so that a renter can move in. If a property isn't fixed and a renter moves in, this is an offence. Penalties will apply.

Making it easier for renters when they move

Renters will no longer be out of pocket for two bonds at once when they move. Instead they'll be able to simply transfer their previous bond to the new property.

The scheme's new IT system is expected to begin its testing phase in 2025.

To find out more, visit vic.gov.au/more-homes, vic.gov.au/protecting-renters-rights and consumer.vic.gov.au/rentalstandards

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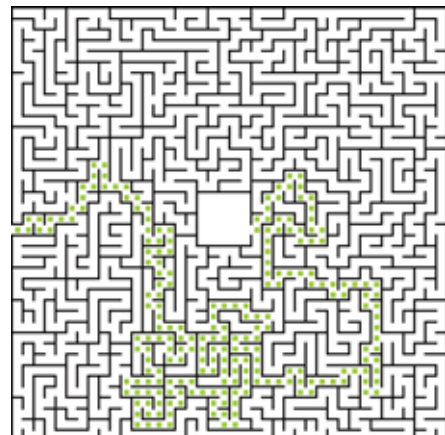
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Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

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Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

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It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

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Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

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Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Member vacancies - Victorian Class B cemetery trusts

The following Class B cemetery trusts are seeking new members. In these volunteer roles you will gain hands-on experience in managing a public cemetery and valuable governance skills as a member of a public board. Free governance training is provided.

EILDON WEIR CEMETERY TRUST GOBUR CEMETERY TRUST YARCK CEMETERY TRUST

Who should apply?

Trusts need people with a range of skills and experiences including administration, committees, and groundskeeping. Women and people from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

What it means to be a Victorian cemetery trust member

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for terms up to five years on the recommendation of the Minister for Health. Cemetery trusts are responsible for the management of public cemeteries, including planning for future cemetery services for their communities.

How to register your interest

Contact the applicable cemetery trust within two weeks of this advertisement date:

Victorian Class B cemetery trust	Contact details
Eildon Weir Cemetery Trust	0438 742 975
Gobur Cemetery Trust	goburcemeterytrust@yahoo.com
Yarck Cemetery Trust	5773 4281

Interested in further information about cemetery trusts?

Class B cemetery trust member vacancies are advertised and regularly updated on the 'Join a Public Board' website <https://www.boards.vic.gov.au/search-board-vacancies/victorian-class-b-cemetery-trust-volunteer-positions-vcv> all year round!

Simply go to the website for further information about Class B cemetery trusts, to view a full list of trusts that currently have vacancies and details how to apply!

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. We encourage applications from people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people. The trust will provide adjustments to the recruitment process upon request.

FSG315

PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of intention to apply for a Licence to Take and Use Water (Non-Consumptive Purposes), a Licence to Construct a Weir, Off Take and Outflow on a Waterway, and a Licence to Operate Works on a Waterway

GMW Reference No: BSW0151-24, WLCM0008-24, BSW0152-24

We Rubicon Station Pty Ltd
Of 411 Rubicon Road, Rubicon VIC 3712
Refer to Vic Roads Map: 62 F6 (ed. 8)
Have made application to Goulburn- Murray Water (GMW) for a Licence to:

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- Construct a Weir, Off Take and Outflow; and
- Operate Works

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To be constructed and used on land described as:

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11772	194				36	8	Taggerty

Any person able to demonstrate that their interests will be affected by the transfer of this Licence including any intended Surface Water use, is invited to make a formal submission setting out the nature of the impact within 14 days of receipt of this written notification. To make a submission please read the information available to download from. Make a submission about a licence application - Goulburn Murray Water (g-mwater.com.au) or contact GMW to arrange a copy to be posted to you. Submissions must be lodged using the GMW template available by either mail or email to, licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au or PO Box 165, TATURA VIC 3616.

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ALEXANDRA, 5 Aitken Street. Saturday, November 2. 8.30am-3pm. Collectables, vintage items, rusty farm items, 50's outdoor tables, antiques, garagenalia, old milk cans, heaps more.

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DEATH NOTICES

BUCKLER, Grace Mary (nee Ross).

13/07/1928 - 14/10/2024

Treasured memories of our Aunty 'Gracie' whose love of her family, friends, gardening, and nature will shine on. Loving thoughts are with Geoff, Colin and their families from Bob and Margie, Alison and Gary and families.



DEATH NOTICES

WILKS, Pat.

Passed away on 11/10/2024. Much loved and adored Nana to Keeley and Ireland. Loved and special friend to Carol and Kenny, Manny and Hayden, Ted, Cath and family.

Will be sadly missed.

WILKS, Pat. In loving memory of a wonderful friend. A silent thought, a secret tear keeps your memory in our hearts forever. Love, Naughty Nanna's of Yea.



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Job Vacancy ID: 1445945

Reception/General Administration Assistant

We are currently seeking a Receptionist/General Administration Assistant for our school. This is a full time fixed term 12 month leave replacement position commencing 28/01/2025.

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Applications can be made online via Recruitment Online or email your application to Alexandra.ps@education.vic.gov.au

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A number of people wandered around, chatting and admiring the classic cars. -BD



The conditions were perfect on Saturday for the Studebakers to be shown off. -BD

Studebakers in Yea

THE Studebaker Car Club of Australia met in Yea last Saturday for their annual show and shine. It was the first time the club has gathered in Yea, and the weather certainly turned on for them.

Over 25 classic Studebaker cars were parked up at the Yea Recreation Reserve, and members of the public wandered around and admired them alongside members of the club, making for a decent crowd on the day.



Marie Judd (right) in her Studebaker, chatting with a friend. -BD



The variety of the Studebakers was something to behold. -BD

Classifieds

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St Mary's Alexandria is looking for a friendly and bubbly receptionist. This position is initially for 12 months, with the possibility of ongoing employment. Hours are 8:30am – 4:00pm five days a week, FTE 0.93.

We are seeking enthusiastic applicants who are able to demonstrate excellent interpersonal and communication skills, support the vision and mission of St Mary's Catholic Primary School and our Catholic values. Applicants must display professional behaviours when engaging in child-connected work, have an ongoing interest in children and be willing to participate in a range of school related activities.

The suitably qualified applicant will:

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- Assist with the preparation of internal and external publications.
- Assist with the coordination of school functions and events.
- Complete electronic filing/scanning of all records related to enrolment.
- Ensure a tidy and professional presentation of the foyer and administration area.
- Provide administrative support in order to ensure an effective and efficient administration office.
- Assist to schedule appointments for staff.
- Fulfil the role for emergency procedures as outlined in the Emergency Management Plan.
- Maintain student health information displays, medical action plans and the administration of medication as per school policy.
- Carry out the duties for First Aid including but not limited to, managing the sickbay, ensure all first aid kits are stocked to WorkCover specifications and the First Aid room is maintained appropriately as per school policy.
- Manage the visitor attendance register and ensuring compliance with family access, court orders and duty of care obligations.

If you would like to join us in being part of a team that works to ensure growth and success in our students, please send details as outlined below. St Mary's is a child safe school and as such successful applicants should hold or be willing to acquire a **Working with Children Check** and a **National Police Record Check**.

How to apply:

A detailed position description and application are available by contacting the principal at principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au or visiting smalexandra.catholic.edu.au
Please include your recent employer details and two (2) referees
 Please express your interest by **Tuesday, November 5, 2024.**



The cars all lined up at the Recreation Reserve in Yea. -BD



Garry Hunter with his 1964 Studebaker Daytona convertible. -BD

SPORT

Championships begin for 2024 at Yea Golf Club



Yea Golf Club had a bunch of visitors from House of Golf Ringwood, who bussed to Yea for rounds of golf. -S

by Karen Sangster

TWELVE ladies took to the field to begin the stressful weeks at Yea Golf Club, competing for the much sought after 'champions of the golf field'. Once again a superb day for golfing. Weather as per requested and of course, the course itself was magnificent. The club offers many thanks to all the volunteers keeping it in tip top condition.

It was lovely to see two of our members return to the course, some travelling, some resting. Laraine Callander, a long time champion for many years and the club's very much travelled newbie, sort of, out to brush up on her golf.

Another special day for one of the members, Margie Wright celebrating her birthday. Happy birthday Margie and I am sure you enjoyed the thoughtfulness of both Penny and Sharon constructing your very cute birthday ice-cream cake.

As for the winner of the day, Judi Newman with (43) 72 nett, also leading D Grade for the first round. As is well known, the winner can change at the drop of a hat by the last round. Coming in second was Meryl Connell with (25) 73 on a countback from birthday girl Margie Wright (21). Meryl also leading B Grade on first round.

A grade, Miranda Gill and C Grade Penny Britton. Penny showed great form having a nearest the pin on the 18th just missing a birdie. The club gives a big congratulations to a recent winner, Cindy Armstrong making it to B Grade for the first time.

Wednesday's men's competition saw Trevor Connell (21) with 41 points win from Russ Wealands (26) 39 and Sam Wright (30) with 35. Martin Lowe won the club award and there was no nearest the pin on the 18th.

Mens Championships Decided

by Alan Pell

YEA Golf Club had 22 players in the last of three rounds to decide this year's championship.

In A Grade Anthony Coleman with 72 off the stick nett 68 (235) was the champion and the daily winner. Runner-up by six strokes in A Grade Championship was Rick Wills with 241. Rick was third in the daily winners with nett 69 on countback (241). Equal third in the championships in A Grade were Brian Simmons and Paul Clayton on 252. Paul was third in A Grade on the day. Rick had the best nett in A Grade with 214.

In B Grade the daily winner was Martin Lowe with nett 70 from second Neil Peterson 72 and third Jeff Moss 73. B Grade Champion was Alan Pell with 254 from second Jeff Moss 266 and Neil Peterson third with 272. Best nett score in B Grade was 212 by Alan Pell.

In C Grade the daily winner and champion was Rob O'Halloran with nett 69 (second on the overall daily winners on countback) from second Russ Wealands nett 73 and third Kevin Coghlan 76. Rob was Champion with 284 from second Phil Armstrong 297, equal third with 302 were John Tanner and Steve Rumney. Rob had the best C Grade nett with 218.

The Clarke Trophy for the best nett score in the championships went to Alan Pell with 212. Rick Wills was the nearest the pin on the 18th and Tom White was the lucky \$10 winner of the Club Award. Next Saturday is the first of two stableford rounds for the AH Smith Trophy.

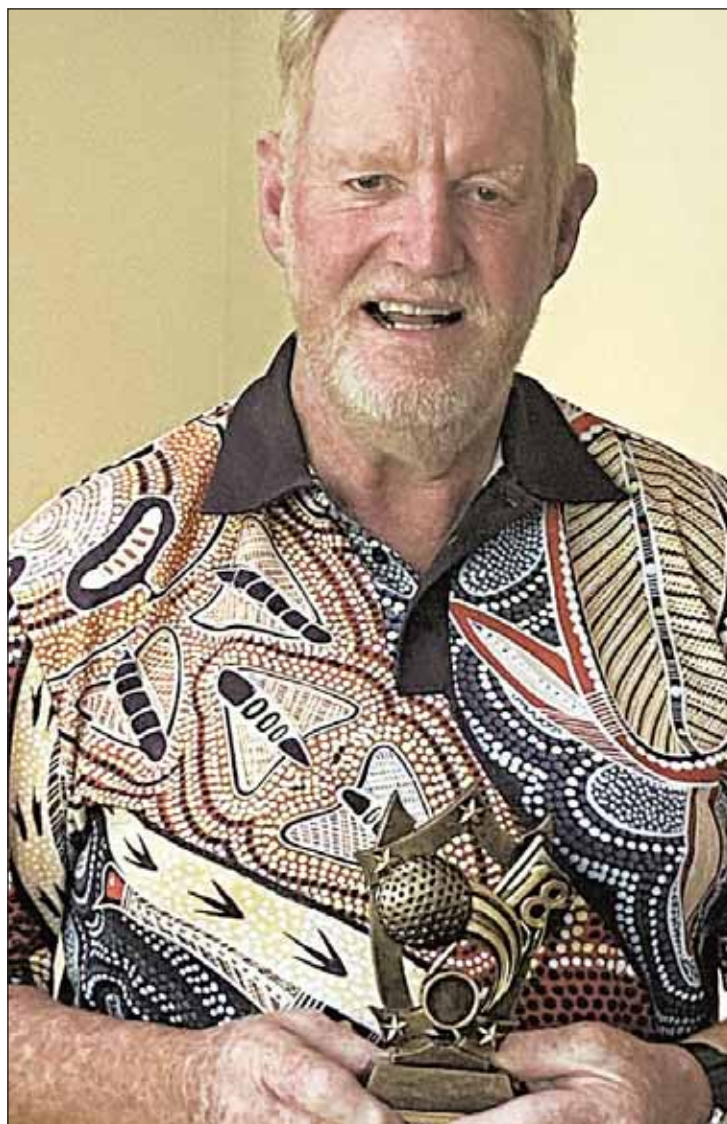
Chooklotto results saw new member Gary Antrobus win the \$100 cash from finalists Vicki Clement's and John Tanner. Unfortunately for the club, the chicken has crossed the road for the final time. Many thanks to John Tanner as chicken man for his initiative as everyone had a lot of fun with your Chooklotto.



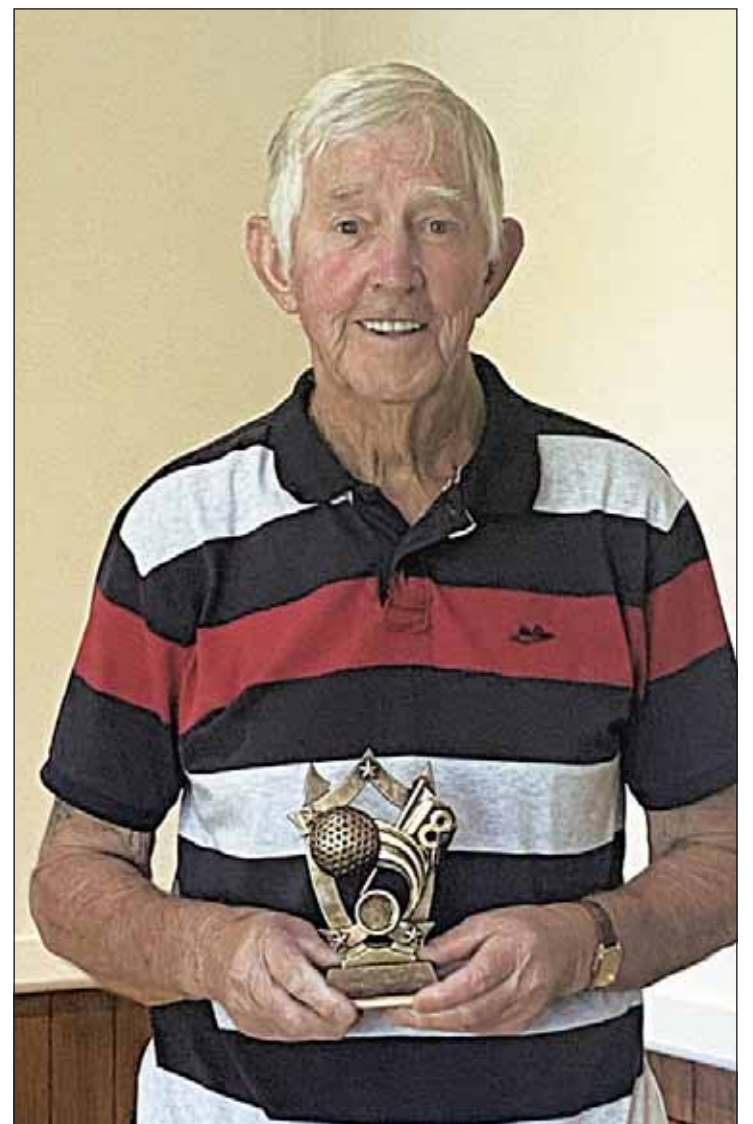
Judi Newman was the daily winner for Yea Golf Club. -S



Anthony Coleman was the A grade winner last week. -S



Alan Pell won the Clark Trophy last week. -S



Rob O'Halloran took victory in C grade. -S

Grants to upgrade community sports facilities

THE Victorian Government is investing millions across the state to upgrade and build new local sports facilities.

Applications are now open for the *Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund (RCSIF)* and the *2024-25 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund (LSIF)* to help local communities plan, design and build the sport facilities they need.

The four funding streams in the *Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund* will help regional communities plan and build everything from indoor stadiums and aquatic facilities, upgrades for women and girls, community facilities, and infrastructure

and planning to encourage people from all abilities to get involved.

Additional grants of up to \$50,000 are also available through the *Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund* to help boost participation for people with disability at the new or upgraded facilities.

The *RCSIF* is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* and the *All Abilities Sport Fund* and since the first round of the program opened has invested more than \$20 million in 26 projects across the state.

Through *LSIF*, metropolitan councils can apply for funds towards a range of community sports infrastructure and active recreation

projects including sports courts, lights, change rooms, playgrounds, skate parks, to benefit local clubs and communities.

The fund has three funding streams including community facilities, community sports lighting, and planning.

Since 2014 the state government has invested more than \$2.3 billion to deliver world class community sport infrastructure that boosts participation and improves accessibility for more Victorians.

Both funds open Monday, October 28, with *LSIF* closing on February 17, 2025, and *RCSIF* closing on March 17, 2025.

For more information about the funds or to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au/funding

Pennant bowls season underway in Yea

by Angela Finn

YEA Bowls Club has experienced fluctuating fortunes in the first two weeks of pennant this season. One win, one loss.

On Saturday, October 19, Yea played away at Kyabram and came away with a strong victory, winning on two of the three rinks with the total shots in Yea's favour: 69 to 56.

Rink one: Skip Justin Branch, Darren Sherman, Terry Muller and Michael Barrott won well, 29 shots to 14. Rink two: Skip Neil Rieschieck, Terry McInnes, Dick Dashwood and Viv Cavanagh also had a solid win, 27 shots to 20. Rink three: Skip Maurie Finn, with Doug Shirrefs, Rodney Pitt-Wood and Cliff Sinclair went down 13 shots to 22.

Saturday, October 26, Yea played at home against Colbinabbin. In a tight tussle, the lead on each rink changed multiple times, Yea finally went down on two of the three rinks, with the final score showing Yea 51 to Colbinabbin 58.

Rink one: Skip Justin Branch, Darren Sherman, Bob Hentschel and Michael Barrott, were down 15 shots to 23. Rink two: Skip Maurie Finn, Doug Shirrefs, Kym Cooper and Angela Finn finished the day 21 shots to 18. Rink three: Skip Neil Rieschieck, Terry Muller, Barb Tanner and Cliff Sinclair were defeated 17 shots to 15.

The club offers a big congratulations to Barb Tanner and Kym Cooper who played their very first games of pennant last weekend. And to Cliff Sinclair who played his first game of pennant for Yea, but has played pennant previously.

Next week, round three, will be an away game against Murchison.

Term four pennant continues at Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Kangaroos versus Koalas

JORDAN versus Eric: A consistently strong game for Jordan. Winning every game and the match, there was no question who the champion was. 81 to 42.

Justin versus Simon: Fantastic rallies. Justin just had a bit more in the tank in the last game to take home the win. 67 to 56.

Mick versus Lee: The ball was moving in this match. Fast and accurate shots were abundant with these two, but Mick came out on top. 68 to 35.

Echidnas versus Wombats

Ethan versus Lochlan: Both played well, displaying great court coverage and beautiful shots. Ethan was ahead going into the third game and continued to excel to claim the match. 69 to 44.

Matt versus Chris: Matt started with a strong first game. Bringing up the rear, Chris lessened the margin by winning the next two games only to get crushed in the finale. A devastating win to Matt. 70 to 48.

Jared versus Daniel W: With fire in his heart Daniel came to burn some rubber. Jared couldn't hold a candle against the blaze that was his opponent. A fierce victory for Daniel. 71 to 47.

James versus Derrick: An interesting match. Derrick won three games, which you would assume to be enough to win. Unfortunately for him, his absolute failure in game three allowed James to take home the match. 62 to 54.

Thursday Competition Tigers versus Cheetahs

Randy versus Jess: In the end, experience won out. Randy found some form in the final game, but Jess already had an unassailable lead and claimed her victory. 78 to 33.

Lucas versus Trav: Great rallies. Both adversaries had awesome shots, deep and mixed well with cheeky drop shots. Lucas pulled ahead to triumph. 63 to 50.

James versus Jim: Beginning with a strong start, Jim was in the lead. Turning the tide, James won the second by a point, only to have the third go to Jim again. In a shocking turn of events, James roused all the skills he could to win the final game and overthrow his opponent to take the match. 63 to 58.

Panthers versus Leopards

Sam versus Kristelle: If hitting a high fault was a sport Kristelle would have been amazing tonight. Sadly this is regular squash and her faults cost her dearly. Sam had some spectacular serves and return that only increased his massive lead for him to take home the win. 71 to 52.

Phil versus Michael H: Michael broke free in the third after two tight games. Lots of long rallies in the second. Phil fought on in survival mode, but Michael showed no mercy for the win. 68 to 46.



Merton cricketers did their best against Milawa. -S

Tight match against Milawa for Merton cricketers

MERTON Cricket Club hosted top side Milawa last Saturday with the visitors taking victory in an entertaining match which went down to the wire in the second last over.

Milawa won the toss and sent Merton in with the visitors on top early. With the wicket of the dangerous Luke Benton for zero, Jai Lerch-Mackinnon and Matt Storer both scoring runs at will, Lerch-Mackinnon was particularly damaging smashing 47 in quick time including three sixes.

Storer with 32 was Merton's next best scorer. D Witham with 3/43 and keeper N DeVries with four catches the top performers for the visitors.

Milawa started strong punishing any loose bowling and looked like cruising

to victory. However some tight bowling and good catching saw wickets fall in quick succession. Matt Storer 2/18 and son Adam 2/12 saw the game become a real contest with Milawa falling to 7/113.

A line ball stumping that went in the batsmen favour in the last five overs added to the excitement of the match, however the young Merton side probably didn't have quite enough runs to get over the line, with Milawa taking victory in the 34th over. J Papworth 42 and R Corsini 36 the top scorers.

The young brigade from H Berriman, N Whittall and H Craddock the other wicket takers. All sides have the bye over the long weekend then Merton host Delatite at the Merton Cricket Ground on November 9.

Sunny skies for Alexandra Cox Plate

HAVE you ever seen rain comin' down on a sunny day? Not last Saturday, not at Royal Alexandra Race Club. Torrential rain, record breaking years of flood and Covid-19 were faint memories as the club revelled in the return of Alexandra's Cox Plate Day meeting on a gorgeous day in front of a gorgeous crowd.

The opening race of Alexandra's season was a thriller with less than a length separating the place getters. Stalwart trainer Ron Hockley won the season's opening honours with seven year old, *Some Eclipse*, ridden by Tracey Johnson. After 30 starts, the horse finally broke it's maiden status proving that oldies can be goodies.

A special family remembered Pam on a day, in a way that reflected Pam's warm, inclusive and generous spirit. Pam's race was won by *Portobello Road* ridden by Leigh Taylor for trainer Tony Rosolini.

Bennett Williams, involved in several property developments in the area, sponsored race four. The race was won by *Feudal Empire* for trainer John Keane. Keane also trained *Jennizacinto*, winner of the last race.

Tom Brassart rode the double for Keane signalling the possible arrival of new dynamic trainer-rider duo.

Leading picnic trainer Troy Kilgower brought a string of five horses to the meeting. Grant Seccomb rode Kilgower's horse, *Miss Leyland*, to victory in race two, The Kyabram Hire Services Maiden 1540m.

The Whanregarwen Pastoral Trophy T2 1300m was won by the Paul Worthington trained *Pindara Point* ridden by Leigh Taylor.

It was significant that each winning horse was trained by the owner or, for, his family syndicate. That fact may be a punting tip or a feature of the intimacy of picnic racing. Whichever, picnic racing is truly grass roots racing and one of the reasons we love it so much.

Not since *Winx* last won her last Cox Plate have we enjoyed such a wondrous day at Royal Alexandra. President Chris Walsh thank all sponsors and patrons for turning up and supporting us through some tough years and look forward to seeing you at the 2025 Alexandra Cup on March 15.

More opportunities for women to be leaders in sport

THE Victorian Government is helping more women to take on leadership roles in the sport sector, with grants of up to \$10,000 for women to upskill and progress their careers.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence recently announced that more than 100 women will get access to professional development and training opportunities through the 2024-25 *Change Our Game Professional Development Scholarships Program*.

"This program is not only supporting women to advance their careers in sport, it's helping us work towards gender equity in the sport sector," Ms Spence said.

"We are shaping the future of sport for generations to come. We're getting more women into leadership roles which will deliver better experiences for girls now and into the future."

The program has six main streams, from supporting those in the early years of their careers or returning from a career break such as parental leave, through to executives and new and aspiring board members.

Recipients will get access to a range of professional development opportunities like governance training, access to leading career coaches, and courses specifically tailored to give women the skills and confidence to excel in their careers.

Erin Clout, who is the Head of Player Relations at Professional Footballers Australia, is doing a Foundations of Directorship course to build her skills and advance her aspirations to become a board director in the sport and recreation sector.

Since 2018, the *Change Our Game* program has provided more than 600 opportunities for women who work in a range of sporting organisations.

For more information on the program, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Triple the fun at Little Athletics

WHAT a delightful Saturday it turned out to be after a frosty night, setting the perfect scene for young athletes to shine. The crisp air didn't dampen spirits as participants dove headfirst into a day packed with excitement at Little Athletics.

The action kicked off with the 1500-metre race walk that had competitors striding with purpose, while the younger kids tackled their own 1100m challenge. Then it was triple jump time and the 400m sprint added a dash of speed to the day, and the discus and shot put events were in full swing, showcasing strength and technique.

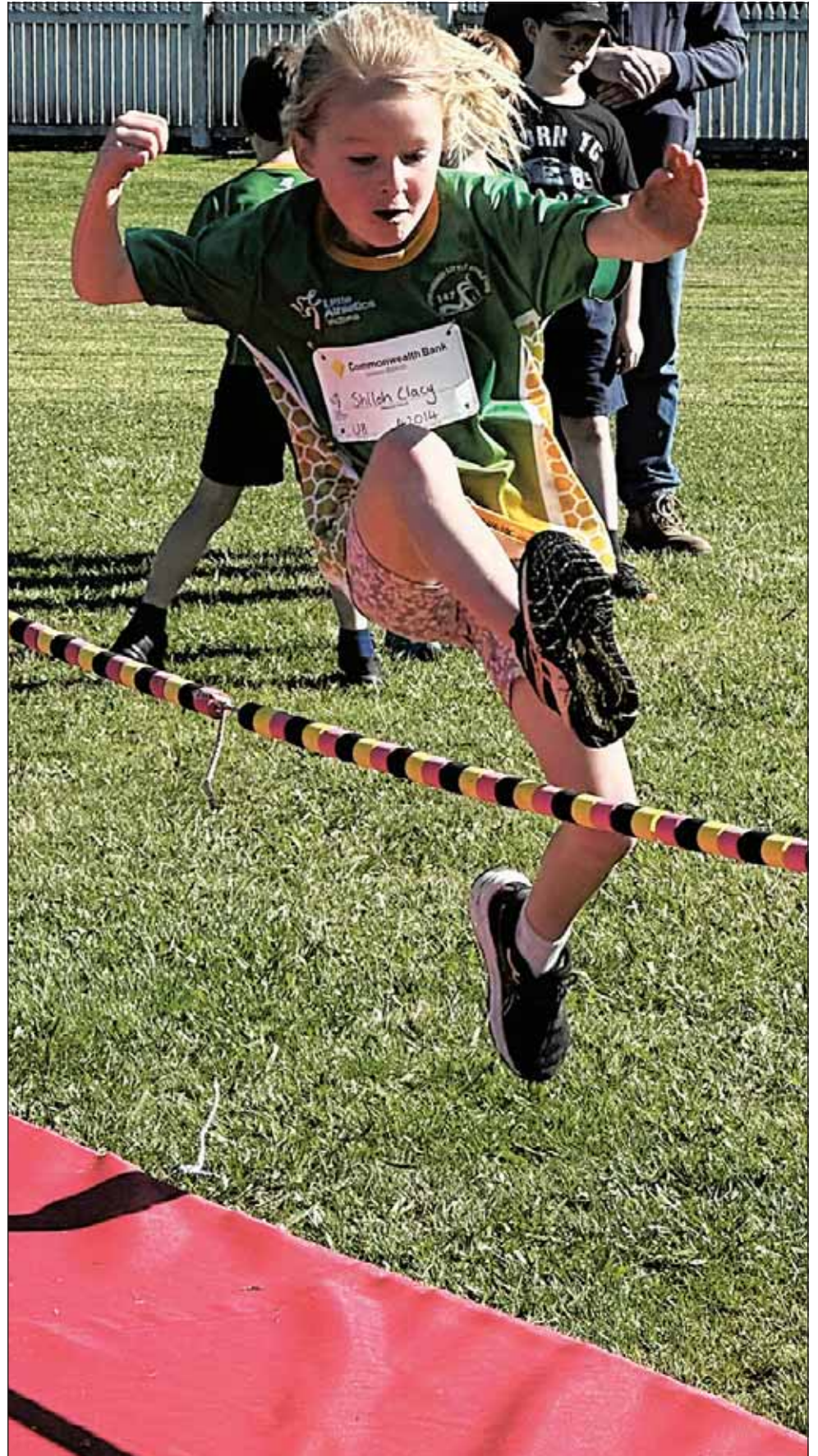
The junior athletes were particularly excited to explore the javelin experience, instead of traditional javelins, they threw vortexes, learning the ropes while having a blast. Several age groups also took on the junior

high jump, with many achieving personal bests, giving reason to celebrate.

To top it all off, juice box awards were handed out, rewarding the athletes' efforts and boosting morale. And let's not forget the sizzling sausages sold to hungry parents and athletes, an essential fundraiser for the club that brings everyone together.

The club gives a huge shout-out to the many parents who make these events possible. From marking lines during the week to starting races, measuring jumps and throws, coaching, and running the barbecue, your hard work does not go unnoticed. Without your support, the young athletes wouldn't be able to have such fun.

Here's to more fun-filled Saturdays at Little Athletics, where every leap, sprint, and throw counts.



Shiloh Clacy enjoying the under eight high jump session. -S



Benji Cavill clearing 110m in the high jump. -S



Ethan Boulton sending the discus. -S



Declan Baker flying through the triple jump. -S



Declan Armstrong bounding during the triple jump sequence. -S