

# 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](mailto:reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au) Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, January 15, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

Most trusted news source in the Murrindindi Shire since 1890

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

## Statewide hospital networks announced

ON Friday, January 10, the Victorian Government announced the creation of local health service networks. This new model of healthcare delivery emphasises the continuation of local leadership and governance while aiming to strengthen health services across Victoria, particularly in rural and regional areas.

These networks are grouped together by geographic regions and will support improved cooperation between local services, ensure doctors and specialists are available to care for patients closer to where they live, deliver clearer pathways in and out of hospital, and support better waitlist management across a region.

The final groupings were determined following extensive consultation with

health services, with consideration given to population growth, community need, clinical capability and distance between services.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital (YDMH) has been included in a network alongside Alexandra District Health (ADH), St. Vincent's Hospital and Eastern Health, which operates Box Hill, Maroondah, Healesville and Angliss Hospitals. This consortium will be called the East Metro and Murrindindi Healthcare Network.

It is distinct from the Murrindindi Health Network, which includes Murrindindi Shire Council, and aged care and disability organisations in the shire, in addition to our hospitals.

This grouping reflects the existing relationships between services and patient

flow for the greater part of the Murrindindi community. It also reflects preferred transport arrangements provided by Ambulance Victoria.

For some communities within Murrindindi, such as Flowerdale and Kinglake, Northern Health will remain the closest referral centre. The establishment of networks is expected to respect such arrangements.

Importantly, the new network structure will facilitate health planning for the entire Murrindindi region and create opportunities for more seamless transition of patients between services. It is anticipated that patients receiving care at St. Vincent's or Eastern Health will be assisted to return to their local health services as soon as their condition allows, enabling them to recuperate locally,

and be supported to return to home as quickly as possible. It is also expected that YDMH and Alexandra Hospital will be supported through the network to provide an increased range of services that over time will reduce the need for referral to metropolitan hospitals.

Importantly, the governance of each health service, including its board and CEO, unique identity and connection to their community, will remain unchanged.

YDMH Board Chair Ian Marshman said that Health Department officers have emphasised that the new network will operate in a manner that ensures that YDMH and ADH have a strong voice in determining network priorities and areas for collaboration. YDMH has also been assured its own independent leadership and board governance will not be affected.

Mr Marshman emphasised that the opportunity for systematic collaboration through the network with two major metropolitan teaching hospitals and close neighbour Alexandra District Health will enhance career opportunities for the local workforce and improve access to specialised care for patients.

In early 2025, health services will come together to discuss the priorities and arrangements for their network, focusing on four key priority areas, access and flow, workforce, clinical governance, and sustainability, before networks commence operation on July 1.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said, "Victoria's health system is one of the best in the world, and these reforms will deliver even better care by supporting health services to work together and ensuring local voices are heard.

"These networks will mean stronger referral pathways between health services, freeing up beds in busier hospitals, taking pressure off our dedicated workforce, and ensuring Victorians get care sooner, closer to home.

"At the centre of our health system reform is Victorian patients and staff. This is about expanding access to frontline services, particularly in regional and rural Victoria."

For more information on the Local Health Service Networks, please visit [health.vic.gov.au/local-health-service-networks](http://health.vic.gov.au/local-health-service-networks)



The first Yea Cruise Night of 2025 was held in lovely, sunny conditions on Saturday, January 11. More images on page 14 and 15. -photos by Dale McKeon (Plymouth Dale Photos) and Amanda Price

**Alexandra Newspaper's office will be CLOSED Monday, January 27**

**Deadline for classifieds artwork and bookings (deaths, funerals, meetings, for sale etc) for the edition of January 29 will be Friday, January 24 at 2pm.**

**General advertising and Trades deadlines for bookings and artwork will remain unchanged. Editorial deadlines remain unchanged.**



# Letters to the Editor

## CFA Funding Smoke and Mirrors

IN the dying days of the parliamentary year, the state government made grand announcements about extra funding for additional fire trucks for CFA volunteers and changes to how the emergency services will be funded in future. This came in the wake of earlier denials that CFA was having its funding stripped away in favour of the cost to pay for other aspects of the wider emergency management sector.

In early December, the Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes claimed the CFA budget had not been cut but increased. The facts are that in 2021 CFA received \$352 million in funding which has progressively been reduced to \$339 million in 2023/24. However, over the same period the amount "set aside" for funding other areas of the sector has gone from \$27 million to \$67 million. Increasing the budget by \$17 million in a single year while grabbing an additional \$40 million for other purposes is a cut in the operating budget that supports our volunteers and the staff who support them. It's a cut anyway you look at it.

Ms Symes also claimed that 78 per cent of CFA's funding is derived from the current Fire Services Property Levy despite the then-Treasurer, Tim Pallas, confirmed in parliament, earlier in the year, the figure was only 25 per cent. It is of interest that the Fire Rescue Victoria annual report has not been

tabled so it's impossible to determine who is correct.

Don't be fooled by the smoke and mirrors. Despite claims of additional funding, CFA funding is going down with this government cutting CFA's funding for the past five years.

Worse still, CFA trucks are the oldest in Australia with some trucks more than 34 years old. They belong in a museum not on a fireground. These old appliances require volunteers to travel on the back of the truck in danger of heat, smoke and toxic fumes, rather than all together in the safety of a modern twin-cab cabin.

Much of the CFA fleet is and will remain well behind international standards. 48 per cent of the fleet is over 15 years old; the usual period that manufacturers provide parts. 474 appliances, or just over 20 per cent of the fleet, are more than 25 years old. Our volunteers deserve better than this.

This is exemplified by one Alexandra Group brigade having had its 28 year old appliance replaced, last year, with an 18 year old appliance. That 28 year old appliance was then cascaded to a Yea Group brigade to enable a 30 plus year old vehicle to be retired (or has it?)

There are 2323 vehicles in the CFA fleet and government must replace 100 trucks per year to maintain a fleet age of 20 years for tankers and 15 years for pumpers requiring an investment of \$55m per year.

There are around 15 single cab fire trucks still in service across the Alexandra and Yea Groups, with volunteers having to ride on the back with nothing but a lap seatbelt securing them to the vehicle. Those volunteers are exposed to the elements. Something to think about during Summer when you are inside with the air-conditioning blasting away or it is bucketing down during winter.

The additional funding announced just before Christmas will go some way to retiring those antiquated vehicles but it won't be

sufficient to bring the fleet up to international standards. CFA volunteers deserve vehicles equipped with air-conditioning, ABS braking, airbags and other modern safety features not the museum pieces nearly half the service is responding in.

To further insult volunteers, the proposed new levy is to be called the Emergency Services and Volunteers levy, as if volunteers are the reason the government needs to increase their revenue grab. As some sort of compromise, some volunteers will be exempt from the proposed levy while others won't. We have no idea what 'active volunteer' means but we do know that not all volunteers are included. In particular, volunteers who rent their home or board or share contribute just as much as those who own their home.

Each and every one of us should be grateful of the work that our paid and volunteer emergency services workers do, regardless of which organisation they belong to. The government needs to focus on bringing the CFA fleet up to international standards without making it look as if they are pouring additional funds into an organisation that they have systematically defunding for years.

Government is putting the community at risk by continually defunding CFA.

CFA is an all-hazards all-year emergency service, not just a bushfire service, and all its people deserve a better deal than this Melbourne-centric government is offering. Murrindindi doesn't have rail crossings or tunnels but it does have a fantastic group of paid and unpaid emergency services workers who deserve better.

*Paul Denham AFSM, State Councillor, VFBV District 12 Council*

## On a road to nowhere

AFTER reading the article in the paper on the state of our roads, which the shire reported on, I thought I would let you know that I have had the same result from the Minister of Roads... Nothing.

I began emailing the minister on June 6, 2023, about the condition of our roads in the north east of Victoria. I sent in five photos of large holes and I have sent no less than six emails since then.

I have had one reply, but no outcome. The part I don't understand is that there was no immediate maintenance done after the floods in 2022. During that summer, the roads should have had extra money and maintenance done before the winter of 2023. There was none.

If the farmers who had their pasture decimated hadn't re-sown their paddocks, they would not have had grass the next year. I draw this analogy to demonstrate the lack of common sense the minister showed by not using the summer of 2022-23 to repair the flood damaged roads.

We have small business plumbers, builders, transport operators and electricians sending their staff out on roads which are unsafe. I would have thought this makes our roads an unsafe work place.

How can a government spend billions of dollars on tunnels and not spend any money on country roads?

I could go on and on about this meanspirited feeling our government has towards country taxpayers but I would ask you all to email the Minister of Roads expressing your concern for the safety of users of these terrible roads.

If you do email, stress the safety and cost of repairs to our vehicles please.

*Larry Fallon, Fallons Bus Service, Alexandra*

## Wind farm

The Victorian state government, through the Engage Victoria website, has opened another consultation that the SRRCG believes is worthwhile responding to. It's about the Biodiversity Impacts of Renewable Energy.

This consultation is quite technical and requires a lot of pre-reading and responses to

*Continued Page 7*

**Alexandra District Health**  
**5772 0900**  
**Yea & District Memorial Hospital**  
**5736 0400**  
**In an emergency dial**  
**000**

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

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**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

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| RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT |            |        |          |             |  |
|--|------------|--------|----------|-------------|--|
| STATION NAME                             | TIME       | HEIGHT | TENDENCY | FLOOD CLASS |  |
| Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S            | 9.00am Mon | 2.04   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Rubicon River at Rubicon                 | 9.00am Mon | 0.45   | steady   |             |  |
| Acheron River at Taggerty                | 6.46am Mon | 0.52   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Home Creek at Yarck                      | 8.50am Mon | 0.12   | steady   |             |  |
| Yea River at Devlins Bridge              | 9.00am Mon | 0.46   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Yea River at Yea GV Water PS             | 9.03am Mon | 0.32   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin              | 9.00am Mon | 3.99   | steady   |             |  |
| King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale          | 9.00am Mon | 0.37   | steady   | below minor |  |
| King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale             | 9.00am Mon | 0.14   | steady   |             |  |
| Goulburn River at Trawool                | 9.00am Mon | 1.71   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Sunday Creek at Tallarook                | 9.00am Mon | 0.19   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Goulburn River at Seymour                | 9.00am Mon | 1.95   | steady   | below minor |  |
| Whiteheads Creek at Seymour              | 7.03am Mon | 1.08   | steady   |             |  |

**\*\*ISSUED AT 9.16AM ON MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2025**

**ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS**

**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.

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**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

**Weekly Weather**  
 January 15 - January 21, 2024  
 Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

| Alexandra |     |      | Yea       |     |      |
|-----------|-----|------|-----------|-----|------|
| DAY       | LOW | HIGH | DAY       | LOW | HIGH |
| Wednesday | 12  | 28   | Wednesday | 12  | 28   |
| Thursday  | 12  | 22   | Thursday  | 13  | 23   |
| Friday    | 11  | 25   | Friday    | 11  | 25   |
| Saturday  | 12  | 27   | Saturday  | 12  | 28   |
| Sunday    | 15  | 29   | Sunday    | 15  | 30   |
| Monday    | 16  | 30   | Monday    | 16  | 31   |
| Tuesday   | 16  | 31   | Tuesday   | 16  | 31   |

**Standard The Yea Chronicle**

**DISTRICT RAINFALL**

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| Alexandra    | 12mm |
| Buxton       | 20mm |
| Eildon (AWS) | 10mm |
| Flowerdale   | 17mm |
| Jamieson     | 17mm |
| Kinglake     | 20mm |
| Lake Eildon  | 10mm |
| Mansfield    | 10mm |
| Taggerty     | 17mm |
| Yarck        | 27mm |
| Yea          | 40mm |

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

**LAKE EILDON**

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Height above sea level this week                | 283.65m |
| Capacity as at 9am Monday                       | 80.2%   |
| Metres below full supply                        | 5.25m   |
| Daily inflow                                    | 5000ML  |
| Release   | 4000ML  |
| Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change) | 69%     |

**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

# Free activities for Victorian families this summer

THE Victorian Government is giving busy families more fun and free activities to do this summer, from wildlife experiences to galleries and other chances to explore the great outdoors.

Deputy Premier Ben Carroll and Acting Minister for Environment Ros Spence welcomed some lively new residents to Melbourne Zoo recently. A family of eight male ring-tailed lemurs are ready to greet visitors for the summer holidays.

These playful primates are set to captivate visitors of all ages and are another great reason to take advantage of free entry for kids under 16 to Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and

Kyabram Fauna Park on weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

The new lemur family includes 11-year-old patriarch Hendrick and his seven energetic sons who range from one to three years old. Ring-tailed lemurs are native to Madagascar and are known for their striking eyes and striped tails, which they use for both communication and balance.

Kids Go Free is making Victoria's zoos more accessible to more Victorian families, giving kids across the state the opportunity to connect with nature and learn about the importance of protecting wildlife.

"These holidays are the perfect time to take your kids to the zoo for free and help

them to connect with wildlife and learn about conservation, while creating lasting memories with their friends and families," Ms Spence said.

For families wanting to explore the bush, the state government's \$9 million investment means free camping is now available at every national park and in state forests, offering lots of ways for the whole family to connect with nature, from swimming in our beaches or rivers to hiking or fishing.

Since the announcement of free camping at Parks Victoria's 131 paid camping grounds, more than 165,000 nights have been booked. That's 85,500 more than the same time last year.

"There is something for everyone in Victoria this summer, whether it's a visit to Victoria's world-class zoos and galleries or exploring our free campsites, there are lots of low-cost options for the whole family to enjoy," Mr Carroll said.

This January, families can also unleash their creativity with the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) Kids on Tour launching its largest-ever program with free workshops and activities at 150 venues like art galleries, libraries, community hubs, and hospitals across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

The NGV Kids Summer Festival is held until January 17 at Fed Square and offers a jam-packed schedule of free events for families to enjoy events, workshops and activities led by Victorian artists and creatives.

The popular week-long festival will kick off with a special launch day at Fed Square on January 11, featuring live dog shows, face-painting and free entry to the cats and dogs exhibition for kids. More than 14,000 children got involved in the festival last summer.

At NGV International, art-making activities throughout the festival will be inspired by the bright polka-dotted work of Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Another interactive children's exhibition is Kusama for Kids: The Obliteration Room and there are lots of colourful artworks on display for free on the ground floor of the gallery until April 21.

For more information on art workshops visit, [ngv.vic.gov.au](http://ngv.vic.gov.au) or to book a free campsite visit, [parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au)

## Second round of funding for Victorian forestry communities

VICTORIAN forestry towns and communities are being supported to create local jobs, take advantage of new business opportunities and plan their own future thanks to backing from the state government.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently opened round two of the \$22 million Community Development Fund, which will support projects and opportunities that will boost the local economy of forestry towns.

"We're supporting communities to implement the opportunities they've identified in their Local Development Strategies so they can build a strong and economically sustainable future," Ms Spence said.

"There are already great innovative projects coming from local communities and this funding will help bring more ideas and opportunities to fruition."

Two grant options are available, the first stream will make up to \$500,000 available for communities to undertake project management and to upskill community members to help identify future economic opportunities.

The second stream will make \$500,000 available for initiatives identified by local Innovation Working Groups and through the Local Development Strategies.

Innovation Working Groups include members of the community that are working to diversify their town's local economy where native timber harvesting was a significant source of jobs. These groups are community led and reflect local priorities and ambitions.

Innovation Working Groups can also apply for up to an additional \$1.5 million to pursue investment opportunities identified as part of the Local Development Strategy to create jobs and boost the local economy.

The communities of Murrindindi Shire are eligible to apply.

Funding is open to community organisations, business groups, educational and research organisations, businesses, local councils and utility service providers to implement projects and supporting infrastructure.

An expression of interest component and funding rounds will streamline the process and ensure communities that started their Local Development Strategy program later have equal access to support.

More than \$3 million in funding has already been awarded through the initial round of the Community Development Fund grants program to support communities as they transition to their next phase.

Funding for projects from round one of the program included a \$300,000 grant for community skills building and training for the Murrindindi community.

For more information visit [decca.vic.gov.au/forestry](http://decca.vic.gov.au/forestry)



The Ausnet helicopter. -S

## Ausnet to conduct aerial checks

ELECTRICITY company, Ausnet, has been conducting aerial inspections in Murrindindi Shire and nearby areas. The inspections commenced on Monday, January 13, and are expected to be completed today, Wednesday, January 15.

The locations included Buxton, Highlands, Taylors Bay, Marysville, Highlands, Dropmore, Caveat, Terip, Yarck and Ruffy.

An Ausnet spokesperson explained that AusNet carries out inspections throughout the year to help identify, monitor and repair wear and tear on powerlines and poles.

These routine aerial inspections help to support a reliable and safe electricity supply for communities across their network.

## New criminal underpayment laws enforceable by the Fair Work Ombudsman

NEW laws that classify intentional underpayment of wages or entitlements as a criminal offence came into effect on January 1.

This gives the Fair Work Ombudsman the power to investigate suspected criminal underpayment offences and refer suitable matters for criminal prosecution. If a person is convicted of a criminal offence, a court can impose fines, prison time, or both.

There are protections in place for businesses to avoid criminal prosecution. This includes the Voluntary Small Business Wage Compliance Code and cooperation agreements, which can be found at [fairwork.gov.au/about-us/compliance-and-enforcement/criminal-prosecution/voluntary-small-business-wage-compliance-code](http://fairwork.gov.au/about-us/compliance-and-enforcement/criminal-prosecution/voluntary-small-business-wage-compliance-code)

A small business owner will comply with the code if the underpayment wasn't intentional. Intentional conduct includes taking an action, such as paying less than an

employee's minimum entitlements on purpose or failing to take an action, such as not paying an employee on purpose.

According to the Fair Work Ombudsman, where an underpayment has occurred, they will look at the overall picture and the business' particular circumstances to determine whether the code has been satisfied.

Other January 1 workplace changes include: An increase to the maximum penalty for underpayment contraventions for a non-small business employer; new definitions and minimum pay rates for entry-level classifications in some awards; changes to classifications and minimum pay rates for some employees in the aged care sector.

For more details about the criminal underpayment laws or other workplace changes, visit [fairwork.gov.au/newsroom/news/new-criminal-underpayment-laws-start-1-january-2025](http://fairwork.gov.au/newsroom/news/new-criminal-underpayment-laws-start-1-january-2025)



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**THUMBS UP**  
**THUMBS DOWN**


**THUMBS DOWN:** To those drivers and riders on a daily basis putting other road users at risk with their driving at excessive speeds, overtaking on double lines or at speeds over the road limit, turns and lane changing without indicating, tail-gating, dipping headlights too late or not at all, ignoring 40kph school zones, speeding through our towns and not driving to the road conditions. Wake up.

**THUMBS DOWN:** To council for allowing our roadside verges in many rural areas to stand with metres tall dry vegetation and gum tree litter through summer and failing to complete its roadside slashing program to date. We do our fire prep, so why not council?

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

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

## William Matthews Funerals



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**COMMUNITY DIARY**

**Local Radio Frequency**

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

**WEEKLY**

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

**MONTHLY**

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



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

**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*.

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**FRIDAY, JANUARY 17**

Free health checks for the farming community at Yea Saleyards.

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**SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

Market@Yarck is on again from 9am. Plants, soap, preserves and jams, knitwear, jewellery and much more.

LEAP Resilience Project training for Flowerdale and Yea. Free training event – First 72 hours – preparedness training. Learn how to prepare for the first 72 hours after an emergency 10am-12.30pm at Yea Pioneer Reserve. For more information and to register visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hoursworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hoursworkshop) or call council on 5772 0333.

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**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22**

LEAP Resilience Project training for Marysville and Triangle. Free grant writing workshop, 1-4pm at Lakeview Room Marysville Community Centre. Tea and coffee provided. For more information and to register visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/trianglegrantworkshop) or call Danna on 5772 0333.

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**THURSDAY, JANUARY 23**

Yea Rotary 2025 Art show. Dress theme – sequins. Yea Town Hall opening night 7.30-9.30pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm. Final day Monday January 27, 10am-3pm. Bookings for opening night for catering purposes to [trybooking.com/CWRXH](http://trybooking.com/CWRXH)

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**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

Opera @ Eildon. Book your tickets now [trybooking.com/CVOSP](http://trybooking.com/CVOSP). For your chance to win two gold tickets, cut the coupon out of this week's paper and return to the *Alexandra Standard* office by, January 30.

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**Church Services**

**ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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

**ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA**

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

**CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA**

Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew  
 0459 402 547

St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm  
 Immaculate Conception Parish  
 Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am  
 Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

**CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE**

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

**SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA**

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

**UNITING CHURCH**

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

**Deadline approaches for Indi volunteer grants program**

MEMBER for Indi, Dr Helen Haines is reminding local community groups of the deadline for expressions of interest for the 2024-25 Volunteer Grants program.

Local community groups have until 5pm on Friday, January 17 to lodge an expression of interest for the next round, with between \$1000 and \$5000 available to support organisations to increase participation in volunteering and support children's wellbeing through volunteering.

"This year, the grant focuses on funding important but often expensive costs involved with volunteering, like insurance premiums, phone bills and

technology purchases, which are becoming increasingly more expensive." Dr Haines said.

"I encourage not-for-profit community organisations across Indi to consider putting in an expression of interest.

"Volunteer groups that I meet with across Indi tell me that grants like this go a long way in supporting volunteers to continue their important work."

There are two streams of grant funding in the 2024-25 Volunteer Grants program.

Stream one funds the purchase of communication or insurance items that will benefit a community organisation's

volunteers. Stream two funds the purchase of items or services, or running volunteer-led activities, with the main purpose for supporting the development of children under 18, or adults whose volunteering activities supports children's development and wellbeing.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of community members, with successful applicants then invited to apply to the Department of Social Services for a grant.

Details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at [helenhaines.org/resources/grants/volunteer-grants-2024-25/](http://helenhaines.org/resources/grants/volunteer-grants-2024-25/)

**Highlands-Caveat CFA ute stolen and recovered**

THE Highlands-Caveat CFA on Ghin Ghin Road, Highlands, was broken into sometime between 5am and 6am on January 9. A ute (slip-on) and firefighting equipment was stolen during the burglary.

CFA District 12 reported on Monday morning that the stolen slip-on from Highlands-Caveat CFA was located and recovered over the weekend.

They are unable to share more information than that at this time, but they wished to say a massive thank you to everyone who kept an eye out, shared and commented on their Facebook post, and sent messages of support and sightings.

CFA District 12 also thanks the Victoria Police for their work.

**Yea Wetlands: Police seeking information**

BETWEEN December 16 and 19, 2024, an unknown offender entered Yea Wetlands Park and removed approximately 80 survey pegs from a future development site within the park. The pegs were made of timber and plastic.

If you have any information about their whereabouts or witnessed any suspicious activity in the area, please contact Yea Police on 5797 2630 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

**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

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The ute that was stolen from the Highlands-Caveat CFA and later recovered. -S

## MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL NEWS



### FIRST 72 HOURS AND CHAINSAW TRAINING EVENTS

Calling Flowerdale, Yea and surrounds community members! As part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, funded by the Australian Government, Council is offering FREE training events. Registrations are essential. To find out more, and register, scan the QR codes, visit our website or call Council on 5772 0333.

#### First 72 Hours - Preparedness Training

Saturday 18 January  
10.00 am - 12.30 pm  
Yea Pioneer Reserve  
Raglan St, Yea

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hoursworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hoursworkshop)



Learn how to prepare for the first 72 hours after an emergency and how, together as a community, you can build knowledge and reduce vulnerabilities.

#### Chainsaw Operation Course

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 February  
9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Flowerdale Community House  
36 Silver Creek Rd, Flowerdale

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/chainsawtraining](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/chainsawtraining)



Perfect for beginners, or those looking to further their knowledge around the use, operation and servicing of chainsaws. Chainsaws are provided, however you will need to bring your own Personal Protective Equipment. Places are extremely limited, so please complete an Expression of Interest.

### CAN I OR CAN'T I? ON TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

Before you start up your BBQ, travel, or light a fire, first check if you can! On a day of Total Fire Ban it is important to ensure that no fires are lit in the open air, and all previously lit fires are fully extinguished before the day of Total Fire Ban begins.

For more information about what you can and can't do on a day of Total Fire Ban, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

### SLEEP SUPPORT

Are you navigating the beautiful yet challenging journey of sleep routines with your little one? Whether it's bedtime struggles, transitioning from cot to bed, or frequent nighttime awakenings, we are ready to assist via phone or in-home visits.

For more information or to book a session, visit our website at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/mch)

### NEW COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM

Council has launched its Community Capacity Building Program, designed to help businesses, volunteers, and community members in developing skills and becoming more sustainable.

The Program supports growth in communities through targeted training, mentoring and networking opportunities

If you or your organisation is interested in learning more, please contact Council's Community Capacity Building Officer Bill Bate on 5772 0333 or visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/capacity-building](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/capacity-building) to register your interest.

### KICKSTARTING 2025 WITH 'ALL THINGS BUSINESS'

A fantastic opportunity for both new and existing businesses and entrepreneurs in Murrindindi Shire to dive into 'All Things Business'. The event starts with a business breakfast, followed by an interactive workshop, and includes free business advisory services - all on the same day and at the same location:

Tuesday 18 February  
Commencing from 7.30 am  
Kinglake Pub, Lawson Room, 28 Whittlesea Kinglake Road.

All sessions require registrations. Reserve your spot at [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/smallbusiness](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/smallbusiness)



### VENUE HIRE FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Looking for a venue for your next community group meeting? Have you considered hiring one of Council's venues?

Council manages eight venues across Murrindindi Shire:

- Alexandra Council Chamber
- Alexandra Shire Hall
- Kinglake Community Centre
- Kinglake Service Centre – Meeting Room
- Thornton Memorial Hall
- Yea Council Chamber
- Yea Railway Reserve and Goods Shed
- Yea Shire Hall

To book a venue, or to learn more about other community-run venues, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/venuesforhire](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/venuesforhire)

### GRAVEL ROADS RESHEETING

The 2024-2025 Gravel Roads Resheeting Program is underway. Through this initiative, a selection of gravel roads within Murrindindi Shire will undergo renewal, enhancing the quality and longevity of the road infrastructure.

To view the roads scheduled for resheeting and the planned week for each project (weather permitting), visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/resheeting](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/resheeting)

### STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news) or follow us on Facebook.

### GET IN TOUCH

[customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)  
[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request)  
5772 0333

# Shared firefighting resources between America and Australia

THE raging fires that continue to burn in Los Angeles (LA), USA, raise questions around how firefighting resources shared between America and Australia are managed.

It is understood that resources, especially aerial, are often shared because these two countries have opposite fire seasons.

Questions put to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) by this masthead included: Given the terrible fires currently in Los Angeles, at the start of their winter, is this likely to change? Will Victoria require fewer shared resources,

and more which are solely owned, in future fire seasons?

DEECA responded with background saying that aircraft are procured for use by Victoria on multi-year contracts through a competitive process with the assistance of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC). This process ensures Victoria has access to the most suitable and fit-for-purpose aerial firefighting fleet to keep Victorians safer.

Aircraft are just one tool to keep the community safe and work to support thousands of firefighters, hundreds of

firefighting trucks, heavy machinery and plant equipment on the ground.

Victoria's partner agencies continue to work closely together to ensure Victoria has a contemporary, flexible and innovative aviation capability that helps to support and protect the community and environment every year.

"Victoria has 54 aircraft in its core fleet this higher-risk weather season, including firebombing aircraft, air supervision and airborne information gathering aircraft," a DEECA spokesperson responded.

"Victoria also has access to more than 100 aircraft from national and state resource sharing arrangements to help fight fires and keep the community safe.

"Victoria has multi-year contracts in place to ensure we have the appropriate aircraft available when we need them.

"Victoria's emergency services sector is thinking of its counterparts and communities in California during this difficult time."

## Ode to Yea

by Vicki Tyley

BENEATH the southern skies so vast and blue,

Lies a town where history whispers through.

Yea, a gem in Victoria's crown,

Where rivers flow and dreams resound.

Before the settlers, on this sacred land,

The Taungurung thrived, their stories grand.

By rivers' edge, their spirits would play,

In harmony with the dawn's first ray.

Muddy Creek they called you at the start,

A pastoral jewel, a settler's heart.

Gold's fleeting gleam drew many near,

Through Yea they passed, both hope and fear.

Colonel Yea, your name now bears,

A tribute to a soldier's cares.

With roads and rails, the town took shape,

Its fields alive with life's escape.

Sheep grazed the hills, crops lined the plain,

Farmers toiled through sun and rain.

Markets and shows brought cheer and pride,

As Yea grew strong, its roots spread wide.

Grand halls and stations, relics of old,

Tell tales of days both bright and bold.

The fossil's story, ancient and true,

Connects the earth's deep past to you.

The wetlands shimmer, a tranquil scene,

Where nature's hand paints hues serene.

Rails turned trails, where travellers roam,

Through Yea's embrace, they find their home.

Fires have scarred, and storms have wept,

Yet in Yea's heart, resilience is kept.

From ashes and trials, the spirit thrives,

A testament to enduring lives.

Today, you stand, both quaint and grand,

With bustling streets and gentle land.

A blend of past and future's light,

A town that glows through day and night.

Oh, Yea, your story we treasure and share,

A tapestry woven with love and care.

Through every season, your legacy stays,

A timeless jewel, where history plays.

## More offers for Victorian Year 12 graduates

THOUSANDS of Victorian Year 12 graduates are set to begin their journeys towards rewarding careers through university and TAFE as more young Victorians received offers for post-secondary courses.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll congratulated the Victorian graduates who received an offer from the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) for their preferred TAFE or university course.

VTAC issued 12,938 offers to students for undergraduate and vocational courses. This was the second round of offers, with four more rounds to come.

Including offers made in November and December, a total of 64,780 domestic study

offers have been issued for courses starting in 2025. This represents a 5.2 per cent increase compared to the 61,576 domestic offers released by the same time last year.

There are many education and training pathway options which deliver the skills and qualifications Victorians need to achieve their career goals.

TAFEs offer career pathways in a wide range of study areas, from carpentry and electrical trades to health and social care, as well as covering emerging areas to support transition to a carbon free economy, such as electric vehicles and hydrogen technology.

Victorians can access a wide range of TAFE courses without the cost of tuition fees, through Victoria's *Free TAFE program*.

More than 187,900 students have benefitted from Free TAFE since it was introduced in 2019, saving them more than \$550 million in tuition fees and providing them with strong employment opportunities upon completion.

There are now also more Free TAFE places available in construction qualifications and short courses, thanks to the Australian and Victorian governments, who are together providing 5200 more places in Free TAFE construction-related courses, including up to 1300 pre-apprenticeship places.

Students that haven't received an offer yet can either wait for further rounds of VTAC offers in January and February or change their VTAC preference if they meet course requirements. They can also apply directly to TAFEs without a VTAC offer.

For the full list of Free TAFE courses visit [vic.gov.au/free-tafe](http://vic.gov.au/free-tafe)

## Australia Day events across Murrindindi Shire

A NUMBER Of community-led events will be held across Murrindindi Shire on Sunday, January 26 (Australia Day).

For more information about each of the following community events, please get in touch with the event organisers.

Rotary Club of Yea is holding an Australia Day Breakfast on the grassed median strip opposite the Yea Shire Hall on High Street from 8am to 10am.

Lions Club of Marysville and District has organised a flag parade down Murchison Street, followed by a community picnic and live music in Burrengeen Park from 11am to 3pm.

Alexandra Events is holding an Australia Day event at Rotary Park from 7am to 10am.

Lions Club of Eildon is hosting an Australia Day event in Eildon Village, Main Street, Eildon, from 9.30am to noon.

Flowerdale Landcare Group is holding an Aboriginal and Taungurung Flag Raising Ceremony at the Flowerdale Community Hall on Saturday, January 25 at 6.30pm. Flowerdale Landcare Group is also holding an Australian Flag Raising Ceremony at the Flowerdale Community Hall on January 26 at 8am.

## Warning on battery disposal

MURRINDINDI Shire Council Mayor Damien Gallagher is alerting residents to the serious risks of improper battery disposal, following a dangerous fire at the Alexandra Landfill, believed to have been caused by a lithium battery incorrectly placed in household rubbish.

The fire broke out on Saturday, January 4, when a garbage load began emitting smoke, setting fire to surrounding waste at the landfill site.

Landfill staff quickly worked to isolate and control the burning material using on-site machinery to separate burning waste, before CFA emergency services arrived to fully extinguish the fire.

Mayor Gallagher said the fire is a serious reminder that batteries must be disposed of safely.

"This fire started during a very hot weekend, just one day before a Total Fire Ban was declared for Murrindindi Shire, and it could have had serious consequences. Batteries of any kind must not be placed in garbage or recycling bins. Even small household batteries can cause fires in bins, in garbage and recycling collection trucks, and at landfill sites. If this battery had caused a fire in the collection truck, the driver may have been forced to empty the load on the side of the road, creating a very hazardous situation during an extremely hot, dry and windy day.

"While attending the landfill fire on January 4, I witnessed the avoidable and potentially toxic conditions that council staff, dedicated CFA volunteers, and the community were exposed to. I strongly urge both visitors and residents of Murrindindi Shire to dispose of batteries safely and responsibly. Let's work together to keep our community safe by disposing of batteries the right way," Mayor Gallagher added.

Council regularly promotes safe and free battery disposal, encouraging residents to store unused batteries in a container and drop them off at the following locations: Alexandra Resource Recovery Centre, Eildon Resource Recovery Centre, Yea Resource Recovery Centre, Marysville Resource Recovery Centre, Kinglake Resource Recovery Centre, Alexandra FoodWorks, Yea FoodWorks, Eildon FoodWorks and Marysville Grocer.

For more information, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Batteries](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Services/Bins-Rubbish-and-Recycling/Batteries)

## Flowerdale bushfire under control

A BUSHFIRE occurred within the Mount Disappointment State Forest, North of Silver Creek, near Flowerdale on Sunday afternoon. It was reported that the bushfire was under control on Monday morning.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) handled the fire due to it occurring within their area of management.

The fire was initially spotted by a fire tower, and FFMVic reported that it posed no risk to community.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CVOSP>

### OPERA @ EILDON

15th FEB 2025

## Your chance to win two gold tickets to Opera @ Eildon

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

For your chance to win 2 gold tickets to Opera @ Eildon on February 15, 2025 return this form by noon Thursday January 30, 2025.

Alexandra Newspapers, 43 Grant St, PO Box 5, Alexandra VIC 3714

**Photocopies will not be accepted.**

**One entry per household.**

Winner will be notified by phone and published in the first edition of the month. T&C: Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.



Yea and District Memorial Hospital CEO Elizabeth Sinclair, Helen Haines MP and board chair Ian Marshman. -S

## Upgrades on the way for Rosebank Hostel

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines has welcomed \$268,602 in funding for Rosebank Hostel in round two of the Aged Care Capital Assistance Program.

The funding will enable the service to refurbish 25 resident rooms, common areas and hallways, as well as purchase mobility equipment.

Dr Haines said capital assistance funding was vital to the safety and sustainability of regional aged care services.

"I was delighted to provide a letter of support for Yea and District Memorial Hospital for their funding application and even more delighted to receive the news that they were successful.

"This refurbishment will enable Rosebank Hostel to create a more homelike, comfortable and functional

environment and I saw this first-hand when I met with the CEO on a recent visit."

Dr Haines said aged care services like the one provided by Yea and District Memorial Hospital rely on government support for capital upgrades.

"I'm always working with services to provide information and support for grant opportunities.

"Rosebank Hostel and Nursing Home is the only residential aged care service located in the western side of the Murrindindi Shire and services a large, and ageing, population.

"I congratulate the board and staff and Yea and District Memorial Hospital for their work to create a strong case for funding to support their community."

## What3words is a valuable location finder

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) paramedics are calling on the Victorian community to make use of what3words via the Emergency Plus app, describing it as a life-saving tool.

What3words is a program linked to the Emergency Plus app which divides the world into three metre squares with each square assigned a unique combination of three words.

Just these words can be used to find a precise location, which can be invaluable in life-threatening emergencies when every minute counts.

Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedic Matt Nadin said what3words was crucial in helping locate a woman in urgent need of medical attention.

"We were having difficulty locating the patient based off their description alone," Matt said.

"We felt that time was running out and we had exhausted all our traditional methods to establish their location.

"I suggested instructing the patient to use what3words and this simple step allowed us to pinpoint their location and reach them within minutes."

The Emergency Plus app shows a patient's latitude and longitude in addition to their unique three words.

Calls to Triple Zero (000), SES and for non-urgent police matters can be made directly through the Emergency Plus app.

What3words can also be accessed through its own website and app.

Matt said all Victorians with a mobile device should ensure they have quick access to what3words.

"It's an incredible tool if you're in an emergency and don't know exactly where you are," he said.

"Whether that's in a rural or remote area, along a freeway or highway, or simply in a new place, what3words takes away the guesswork which helps us reach you faster.

"You can tell a Triple Zero call taker your three words and they will know what to do to pass this location information on to all required emergency services."

Location services via the Emergency Plus app can be pre-loaded and used without an internet connection.

For more information, visit [emergencyplus.com.au](http://emergencyplus.com.au)



## Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

### Wind farm

The Victorian state government, through the Engage Victoria website, has opened another consultation that the SRRCG believes is worthwhile responding to. It's about the Biodiversity Impacts of Renewable Energy.

This consultation is quite technical and requires a lot of pre-reading and responses to specific questions related to the discussion paper and draft handbook.

Instead, we are looking for people who have relevant expertise to join a working group that will respond on behalf of our community.

If you have any knowledge or expertise in ecology, biodiversity, or endangered species in relation to the Strathbogies Ranges and Middle Goulburn area, and wish to contribute to the working group, please contact me via email to [info@srrcg.com](mailto:info@srrcg.com)

Submissions to the current consultation on the biodiversity impacts of renewable energy close on Saturday, February 16.

Darryl Otzen, Secretary,  
Strathbogies Responsible Renewables  
Community Group

## LEAP TRAINING EVENTS FOR FLOWERDALE AND YEA



Calling Flowerdale and Yea community members! As part of the LEAPing into Resilience Project, funded by the Australian Government, Council is offering two FREE training events in Yea and Flowerdale.

### First 72 Hours - Preparedness Training

Saturday 18 January

10.00 am - 12.30 pm

Yea Pioneer Reserve,

Raglan St, Yea

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hoursworkshop](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/72hoursworkshop)



Learn how to prepare for the first 72 hours after an emergency and how, as a community, you can build knowledge and reduce vulnerabilities.

### Chainsaw Operation Course

Friday 7 and Saturday 8 February

9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Flowerdale Community House,

36 Silver Creek Rd, Flowerdale

[murrindindi.vic.gov.au/chainsawtraining](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/chainsawtraining)



Perfect for beginners, or those looking to further their knowledge around the use, operation and servicing of chainsaws. Chainsaws are provided, however you will need to bring your own Personal Protective Equipment. Places are extremely limited, so please complete an Expression of Interest.



Registrations are essential. To find out more, scan the QR codes, visit our website or call Council on 5772 0333.

# Delivering for our community

My office assists thousands of constituents with Centrelink, Medicare, NDIS, My Aged Care, telecommunications and immigration issues.

If you need help with any Commonwealth service, please email, phone or visit my office.



Helen Haines MP  
INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta  
03 5721 7077

79 High Street, Wodonga  
02 6024 6284

[helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au)

# Community Capacity Building Program in Murrindindi Shire

MURRINDINDI Shire Council is pleased to announce the launch of its Community Capacity Building Program, designed to help businesses, volunteers, and community members in developing skills and becoming more sustainable. This initiative offers a valuable opportunity for personal and professional development while contributing to the growth and resilience of our community.

The program includes tailored training, mentoring, and networking events aimed at equipping participants with practical skills and knowledge. By strengthening the capacity of individuals and organisations, the program seeks to build on the foundations of our connected and resilient community.

Council invites individuals and organisations from across the shire to get involved. This is your opportunity to

be part of something that not only helps you grow skills and knowledge but also contributes to the broader community's success and sustainability.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to make a positive impact. Join council and be part of building a brighter future for Murrindindi Shire.

If you or your organisation is interested in knowing more and can benefit from the program, please contact council's Community Capacity Building Officer Bill Bate on 5772 0333 or via email at [wbate@murrindindi.vic.gov.au](mailto:wbate@murrindindi.vic.gov.au)

This project is made possible with funding from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Community Development Fund.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor Damien Gallagher remarked, "Our Shire

is fortunate to have a diverse and dedicated range of community groups and volunteers who already contribute so much. Council's Community Capacity Building Program is designed to support and enhance these efforts, providing local groups and individuals with tools to grow, innovate and thrive.

"Get ready to supercharge your skills. Participants will dive into dynamic training sessions on grant writing, unleash their leadership potential, craft winning business plans, master social media marketing, and benefit from top-notch mentoring programs for small businesses," Cr Gallagher added.

"I encourage everyone to participate or spread the word about this initiative. Together, we can build a stronger future for Murrindindi Shire."



Bill Bate. -S

## Victorians urged to stay SunSmart after new data released

EXPERTS are calling for Victorians to get SunSmart or risk sunburn, which increases your lifetime risk of skin cancer and can even result in presentation to a hospital emergency department.

SunSmart recently released new emergency department sunburn data from the Victorian Department of Health reinforcing the urgent need for us to adopt all five forms of sun protection as we reach extreme UV levels across the state over the coming months.

At a glance, the data shows: That 289 Victorians presented to emergency

departments in Victorian public hospitals last year with sunburn, with nearly half (47 per cent) of these presentations occurring in January 2024; adolescents aged 15 to 19 years are most likely (19 per cent) to present to emergency departments with sunburn than any other age group, closely followed by young adults aged 20 to 24 (18 per cent); since 2004-05, men are slightly more likely to present at emergency departments with sunburn than women, 53 per cent male and 47 per cent female; Victorians are 11.5 times more likely to present with sunburn to emergency departments in the peak season

(November to February) than off season (March to October).

Head of SunSmart, Emma Glassenbury said the data served as a reminder for just how serious sunburn can be.

"No one should wind up in hospital emergency departments purely from enjoying time outdoors, particularly when sunburn is easily preventable. We want to encourage all Victorians to consider their access to shade, remember to regularly reapply sunscreen, keep their sunnies on, slip on covering clothes and don a wide brim hat this summer to keep themselves safe," Ms Glassenbury said.

"It's wonderful to be outdoors, enjoying our beautiful state and climate. However, time outdoors also means exposure to extreme levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation that in the peak of summer can cause the first signs of sunburn in as little as 11 minutes without sun protection."

Director of the Victorian Melanoma Service at the Alfred Hospital, Professor Victoria Mar, said she hoped the numbers of Victorians experiencing extreme sunburn would start to fall in coming years.

"Year on year, too many young Victorians continue to risk their skin when enjoying time outdoors over summer. Severe sunburn requires medical attention, and while we will always be available to treat symptoms like blistering, headache and nausea, we cannot undo the patient's UV damage. UV damage during childhood and adolescence significantly increases a person's lifetime risk of skin cancer," Professor Mar said.

Someone who knows all too well the harms of UV damage is 33 year old Sarah Sheridan.

Sarah describes herself as 'solar powered', someone who loves being outdoors. But these days you'll find sunscreen stashed in every handbag, plus long-sleeved clothing, a hat and sunnies always within reach.

"I remember a horrific sunburn where my entire back blistered and peeled. I was even partial to a 10-pass solarium special deal when I was in my late teens to early 20s. But these days, it's SPF 50+ every day."

Sarah's previous exposure to dangerous UV caught up with her.

"A few years ago I noticed a mole on my face changing shape. My GP suggested it be removed as a preventative measure. Then testing showed damage to my eyes, and my optometrist suggested I work hard to limit sun exposure."

Sarah says getting older and becoming wiser to the damage caused by UV has led to significant shifts in her behaviour.

"If I could go back and tell myself to avoid getting so sunburnt often, and to get out of that sunbed, I'd do it in a second. But I can stop further damage to my skin, and to look after it the best I can."

Ms Glassenbury echoed Sarah's sentiments and urged those heading outdoors to get prepared for sun exposure.

"Summer is a time for fun with friends and family. Let's keep it that way and remember to stay SunSmart together. The good news is that skin cancer is one of the most preventable cancers and we can protect ourselves and our loved ones by using all five forms of sun protection. We want all Victorians to enjoy a sunburn-free summer and reduce their risk of skin cancer," Ms Glassenbury concluded.

**Rotary Club of Yea**  **2025**

# ART Show

**DRESS THEME - SEQUINS**

Wear something that reflects the **MAGIC** of Rotary

**TOWN HALL, HIGH ST, YEA**

**OPENING NIGHT - \$25**

**THURSDAY 23 JANUARY 7.30pm-9.30pm**

**ART SHOW TIMES**

**Fri 24, Sat 25 and Sun 26 10am - 5pm**

**Final Day Monday 27 10am - 3pm**

**Entry \$5 - Children Free**

Please book for Opening Night (to assist with catering) at:  
<https://www.trybooking.com/CWRXH>



[www.yearotary.org.au](http://www.yearotary.org.au)

## Rotary Club of Yea Annual Art Show coming soon

THE Rotary Club of Yea is pleased to be hosting their 39th Annual Art Show in the Yea Shire Hall from Thursday, January 23 until Monday, January 27, 2025. Opening night runs from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on the Thursday, with entry price of \$25.

Prizes this year total \$7250, with first prize being \$2500. There are two \$1000 prizes as well as a special award of \$500. Section winners receive \$250.

Yea Rotary Club thanks the Frank Hargrave Family Trust for their generous ongoing support as well as the many other sponsors for their generosity. The raffle prize is once again a beautiful painting by talented artist Julian Bruer.

Opening night is at the Yea Shire Hall on Thursday, January 23 with delicious finger food, bubbles and first dibs on viewing and perhaps purchasing artwork. You will hear

from the judge about who won and why, which is always an interesting process.

This year, the theme is the Magic of Rotary, which is the theme of Rotary International for the year and so attendees are invited to wear something magical or sparkly. Come along and join in the fun and help make the evening colourful and fun.

Please book for opening night via Try Booking at [trybooking.com/CWRXH](https://www.trybooking.com/CWRXH) (preferred method) or RSVP to Glenda Woods on 0428 321 545 to enable the club to get the catering right and you can pay at the door.

Save the dates and for just \$5 entry on all days except opening night, you will be able to view some excellent artwork from 10am to 5pm each day except for Monday, January 27 where doors close at 3pm.



# Know your rights with stray animals

WHAT would you do if you found a stray dog or cat, either on your property or wandering along the road? Is it your responsibility to deal with the animal or do you just let them go about their day?

According to Agriculture Victoria it is a legal requirement as soon as reasonably possible after finding a lost or stray animal that you must take the animal to the local council in which it was found or allow a council authorised officer to collect the pet from you; they will instruct you on what to do next, whether they will collect the animal, whether you need to bring it into the pound, or whether it needs to be trapped.

Council will check the animal for identification, either a collar and registration

tag, or a microchip. If identified, council will be able to reunite the animal with its owner.

If council cannot identify the owner, it keeps the animal for a period to give the owner a chance to reclaim it.

The animals can also be taken to a local vet that agrees to accept lost pets, it is recommended you call prior to see if they accept lost pets for reunification; this is also the first point of contact if the animal is injured and needs medical intervention.

The animal can also be taken to a registered animal shelter; or a person or business that has an 84Y agreement with council where the pet was found.

If you wish to provide a home for the animal you may go down as the Interested Party, which means that if the animal passes all

health and temperament checks you may adopt it.

Interestingly, if you reunite a dog or cat directly with its owner rather than following the legislative requirements, you may be fined.

Under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 if you see a dog or cat on your private property without permission, more than once without the permission of the owner or occupier of the property, the owner occupier or authorised officer may seize the dog or cat while on the property.

In the Murrindindi Shire if you come across a stray animal you generally have services to help you.

Natalie Stewart, Murrindindi Shire's Acting Director Community and Development said, "Council uses an after-hours ranger service to

handle animal management issues reported outside of business hours (Monday to Friday from 8.15 am to 5.00 pm), including weekends and public holidays. This service handles reports of livestock on council-managed roads, dog attacks, and pets that are found wandering. If the matter is urgent or it's an emergency situation, our after-hours service will attend outside our regular business hours.

"If a community member finds a wandering animal over the weekend and can contain it, either with a leash (for dogs or cats) or within their property, and report it to council, our after-hours service will attend to pick up the animal as soon as possible. If the animal is wearing a registration tag, it can be reunited with its owner more quickly. However, due to the large area the rangers cover and other calls they may be attending, they can't always respond immediately. We advise community members to safely contain wandering animals until rangers arrive. We cannot force community members to keep lost animals contained.

"The *Domestic Animals Act* requires pet owners to keep their animals securely contained at all times. We promote responsible pet ownership through education. Keeping our community safe is a shared responsibility. Pet owners must ensure their pets are securely contained for the safety of everyone and their pets. It's also important for dogs and cats over the age of three months must be microchipped and registered with council. This helps us reunite lost pets with their owners. For more information and to register your pet, or renew your pet registration, visit [murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pets](http://murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pets)

At the end of the day, responsible pet ownership is the core issue. Having a pet takes long term commitment, this includes providing fresh water and proper nutrition, a sheltered area and a place to roam free in a contained area, microchipping and registration, time and attention, grooming and veterinary care and mental and physical stimulation.

## Aurora lights up the sky

ON the evening of January 1 and into January 2, Victoria was again treated to a spectacular aurora. Many locals headed outside with the camera or phone and started snapping.

The sky was lit up in a huge range of colours and it was a truly extraordinary night.

To keep an eye on whether an aurora might be happening, you can keep an eye on the Bureau of Meteorology's aurora page, [sws.bom.gov.au/Aurora](http://sws.bom.gov.au/Aurora)

There are also some Facebook pages about Auroras in Victoria and Australia which you could join as they provide notifications, and some spectacular photos.



The aurora on the evening of January 1, as seen from UT Creek Road. -Jo Noble

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.  
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WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

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**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



# Topics revealed for upcoming Treaty negotiations

THE Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria have agreed the focus for the first round of Treaty negotiations in Victoria.

This follows close to a decade of preparatory work by the parties, including Australia's first

Treaty legislation passed by the Victorian Parliament in 2018, and the *Treaty Authority Act* which received bipartisan support in the Victorian Parliament in 2022.

Treaty is about making a better and fairer state for every Victorian. Treaty will achieve practical change, with the initial round of negotiations focusing on securing a foundation for Treaty in Victoria that recognises the relationship between the state and First Peoples.

Key areas will include structural measures to support reconciliation, truth, education and healing between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Victorians.

The Victorian Government and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria have agreed to discuss the following topics: The principles and objectives for statewide Treaty; the legal recognition and effect of a statewide

Treaty; the creation of an ongoing First Peoples' representative body, including evolving the First Peoples' Assembly into an ongoing representative body; governance and oversight of a representative body; the role of a representative body in decision-making relating to Victorian Government programs and services for First Peoples; interaction between a representative body and the Victorian Parliament and government; implementing the accountability mechanism under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap; work to support ongoing truth-telling, education, healing and reconciliation in Victoria; and dispute resolution under a statewide Treaty Processes for negotiating future iterations of a statewide Treaty.

The parties have also agreed to add additional subject matters by agreement as

negotiations proceed, and these will also be shared with the public.

The Victorian Government will be represented by senior Department of Premier and Cabinet executives, and appointed Member Negotiators will represent the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

The First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria was established in 2018 and has proven to be an effective way for Aboriginal Victorians to have a say as Victoria continues to work together towards reconciliation.

Negotiations are overseen by the independent Treaty Authority according to rules set out in the Treaty Negotiation Framework. Negotiations will resume in January with weekly talks, and parties will release regular joint statements to keep Victorians updated.

## POLICE REPORT

A BOATIE lost his licence on the weekend before Christmas after being caught more than double the legal blood alcohol limit on Lake Eildon. The 54 year old skipper had several passengers on board a ski boat when he was intercepted by the Water Police Squad about 12.45pm on Sunday, December 22. Water Police inspected his vessel before conducting a preliminary breath test which returned a positive result. The man subsequently underwent an evidentiary breath test on the police boat and returned an alleged reading of 0.122. His marine licence was immediately suspended for six months, and he was fined \$840.

POLICE have advised that they will be doing patrols of camping areas in coming weeks, and there will also be greater focus on drug and alcohol testing throughout Murrindindi Shire.

PRIOR to Christmas, it was discovered that the Yea Angling Club had been burgled. The burglary is believed to have taken place between December 16 and 21. Some of the property was discovered at a house in Broadford, and so far one person has been charged with handling stolen goods.

POLICE were generally pleased with the behaviour of the crowd at the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, with only minor incidents on the evening.

# Road maintenance FOI hits a pothole

AS outlined in the last edition of 2024, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request was submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on August 15. It sought to find out the total annual spend on road repairs and maintenance in Murrindindi Shire across each of the past 10 financial (or calendar) years. After long delays, the response was received on December 30.

The request was denied on the basis of s27(1)(e) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Unfortunately, there is no s27(1)(e) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

The refusal also stated, "In response to your request, DTP's Barwon South West Grampians Region conducted a thorough and diligent search and confirmed that the documents requested in the FOI request do not exist."

They added, "DTP's Barwon South West Grampians Region has advised that the budgetary information is unable to be broken down to the municipal level. Thus, information requested for Murrindindi Shire does not exist."

Barwon South West Grampians Region? This appears to be on the opposite side of the state to Murrindindi Shire, however it was explained that this regional office organised road repairs across regional Victoria.

The FOI officer has been asked about the smallest portion that the road maintenance expenditure can be broken down into, however we are yet to hear back. A new FOI is likely to be submitted.

## UPCOMING FEATURES

Let's eat,  
it's our treat



Publishing: February 5

Deadline: January 30, 5pm



Live Well, Feel Good

Publishing: February 12

Deadline: February 4, 5pm

Work  
Local



Publishing: February 19

Deadline: February 13, 5pm

Let's eat,  
it's our treat



Publishing: March 5

Deadline: February 27, 5pm



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Development Opportunity -  
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)  
Eildon, Victoria

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is Australia's largest rural water corporation. We manage, store and deliver water through approximately 10,000 km of delivery and drainage infrastructure to more than 25,000 active customers in northern Victoria.

We are currently seeking Expressions of Interests (EOIs) from the open market for the lease of a part parcel of land for renewable energy opportunities, specifically targeting battery storage.

The site, known as Observation Point, is located at the corner of Sugarloaf Road and Alliance Drive in Eildon, within the upper pondage of Lake Eildon.

GMW encourages proposals that demonstrate:

- long term viability
- sustainability
- environmental sensitivity, and
- community engagement.

Expressions of interest including a detailed development proposal must be received by GMW no later than 5pm Friday 31 January 2025.

For further information:

visit our website: [www.g-mwater.com.au/news-updates/notices](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news-updates/notices)  
or email [EOI@gmwater.com.au](mailto:EOI@gmwater.com.au)

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\*Terms and conditions apply

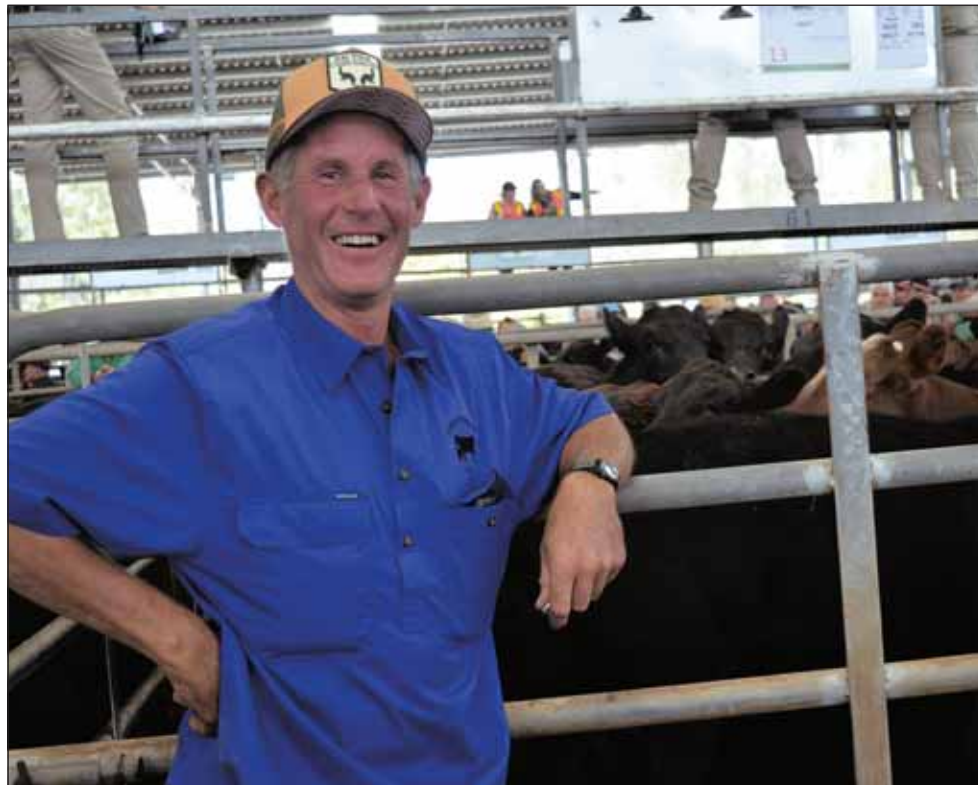
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VICTORIA

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# ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

## Solid start to year in Nutrien Yea weaner sale



Lloyd Bett pictured with the angus cattle he was selling on the day. He was also selling heifers. -BD



Nutrien hosted the first cattle sale of the year. -BD



The lanes were full of farmers eager to get 2025 started right. -BD

by Bailey Dixon

A GOOD start to the new year for the Yea Saleyards, with 2845 cattle yarded last Friday and large crowds at the first Yea cattle sale for 2025, the Nutrien Yea Upper Goulburn River Weaner Sale.

There were just over 1650 steers yarded and around 1160 heifers at the sale, with the majority being Angus cattle.

Coming off the back of strong weaner prices at almost 500c/kg in the early Victorian sales of the year, the prices at Yea dropped for liveweight sales, with the top steer pen fetching 406c/kg and the top heifer pen fetching 350c/kg.

The average price per head sat at \$1208, with the average weight per head amounting to 314.3kg, including both steers and heifers. Running the numbers revealed an average price of 384c/kg for the sale.

The next cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards will be the Elders Yea Annual Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale, which is spread across two days, taking place on Wednesday, January 15 and Friday, January 17.

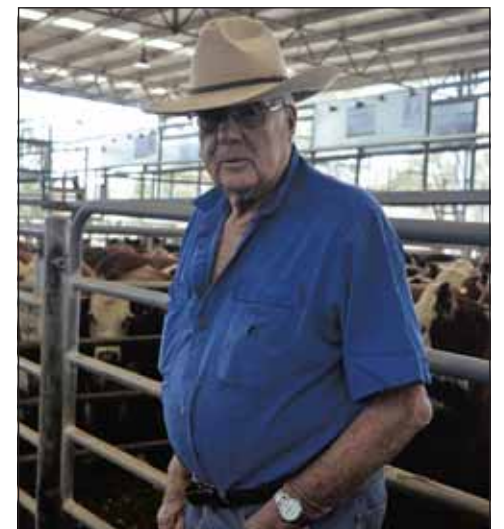
The Wednesday sale begins at midday and will see Euro X steers and all breed heifers sold.

The Friday sale will see Angus and British bred steers sold, beginning at 9.30am, and Yea and District Memorial Hospital will be providing free skin checks on the day as well.

For more information around upcoming cattle sales and Yea Saleyard details, visit [yeasaleyards.com.au](http://yeasaleyards.com.au)



The first cattle sale of the year for the Yea Saleyards occurred last Friday with a large crowd and good yarding. -BD



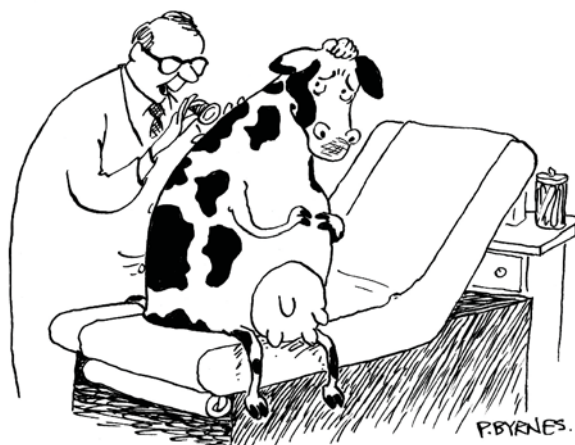
Local farmer John Sinclair attended the sale to support those who were selling cattle. -BD

### FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community

- #### Skin Checks
- Check
  - Freeze
  - Incisions
  - Pathology

Yea Saleyards  
 Friday 17 January 2025  
 Friday 7 February 2025

Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page



| STOCK REPORT 10 JANUARY 2025                            |                |         |         |
|---|----------------|---------|---------|
| Nutrien Yea Upper Goulburn Rivers Annual Classic Weaner | Total Yarding  | Steers  | Heifers |
| Number of head  | 2,845          |         |         |
| Average \$ per head                                     | \$1,208        |         |         |
| Average weight per head                                 | 314.3kg        |         |         |
| Top price per head                                      |                | \$1,790 | \$1,430 |
| Top weight  |                | 446.9kg | 407.8kg |
| Turnover  | \$3.43 million |         |         |

# PUZZLES

**SOLUTIONS**  
Page 15



Are you ensuring the wellbeing of your livestock in the heat? -Forest and Kim Starr

## Managing livestock and heat stress

by Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

AS we move through summer, heat stress in livestock can become a major issue both for production levels and animal welfare, but there are precautions that you can take.

The ideal temperature range for cattle is between five and 25 degrees, and for adult pigs just 18 to 20 degrees.

It is important to remember high producing livestock, such as dairy cows, are the animals most sensitive to heat stress. Poultry have been known to perish due to heat stress on very hot days.

As temperatures rise, animals use their energy to cool themselves. This results in reduced production or weight gain. Feed intake is also reduced further increasing these impacts. High humidity can also play a significant role in heat stress.

For any given temperature, the degree of heat stress increases as the relative humidity increases. Heat stress can significantly impact the production and animal welfare of your stock.

Check your livestock daily, looking for any signs of stress during hot weather.

Heat stressed livestock will seek out shade, drink more, eat less, stand rather than laying down, pant, may produce less milk and can be less fertile.

On hot days, give livestock unlimited access to shade or shelter and good quality, cool drinking water. Make sure you are ready to implement your fire plan. Avoid moving animals during the hottest part of the day and try to avoid on extreme days.

High quality feed should be given during the evening when it is cooler, as livestock are more likely to consume it. If you are not living at a property, arrange for a neighbour to check on animals in your absence.

By making some minor management changes and taking a little extra care of your livestock in extreme hot weather, the effects of heat stress can be substantially reduced delivering better welfare and production outcomes.

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

## A letter from Victoria Police to farmers

by Inspector Paul Hargreaves, Victoria Police Farm Crime Coordination Unit

TO Victorian farmers,

The Victoria Police Farm Crime Coordination Unit is dedicated to addressing crimes that affect rural communities, including livestock theft, fuel and machinery theft, tool theft, and illegal hunting or shooting. Our primary focus is on crime prevention and enhancing safety and security on farms.

This year, we've witnessed far too many incidents resulting in the loss of animals, vehicles, and equipment. Of particular concern is firearm theft, which poses a serious threat to public safety when these weapons fall into the wrong hands.

To help protect your farm, we recommend the following simple but effective steps: Locking gates, sheds and machinery and securing tools; counting and checking stock regularly; installing security signage, simple CCTV and other tech that identifies illegal entry to your property; working with neighbours to identify and report suspicious activity around farms.

If you are a firearm owner, please consider: The compliance of your safe storage with the *Firearms Act 1996*, which can be found at [legislation.vic.gov.au](http://legislation.vic.gov.au); the location of your safe, with the preferred option at an occupied residence; the security and safe keeping of

your safe keys; the location of tools, including cordless equipment, that could assist an offender gaining entry; your need to maintain ownership of firearms.

If wanting to surrender a firearm there is a current amnesty in Victoria.

The Farm Crime Coordination Unit want to remind you of the importance of farm safety, especially during the busy summer months. Increased activity on farms during hay cutting, cropping, and stock transportation heightens the risk of accidents involving machinery or vehicles, as well as the potential for fires.

While accidents can happen, the serious injuries or fatalities that may result often lead us to reflect on what could have been done differently. Please take the time to plan your activities carefully and prioritise safety for yourself, your family, and your workers.

Victoria Police and more specifically your Farm Crime Liaison Officers, can be located at [police.vic.gov.au/farm-crime-liaison-officers](http://police.vic.gov.au/farm-crime-liaison-officers)

In an emergency, always call 000 and anyone with any information about crimes can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential crime report at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

Visit your local eyewatch page for updates and community engagement.

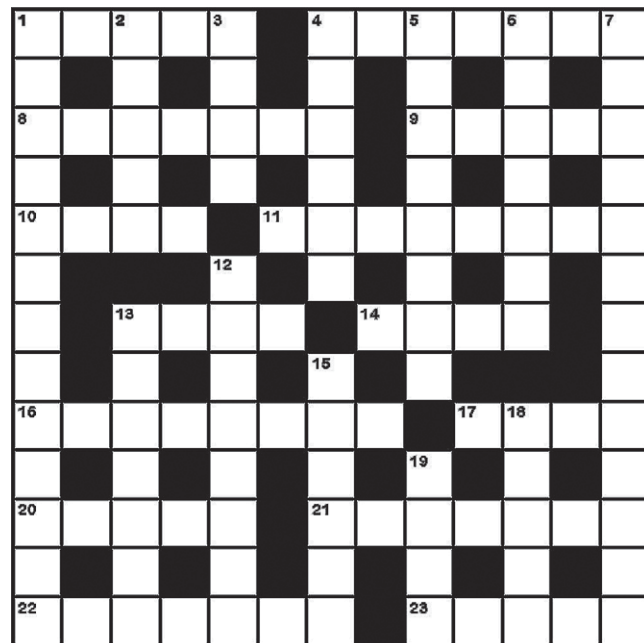
### Crossword

#### ACROSS

- Muscular strength.
- Scrounged around for food.
- Mythical flying horse.
- Moves around sadly and aimlessly.
- Quite keen on.
- Having a deeply disquieting effect.
- Slick and superficial way of talking.
- Charges for professional services.
- A dark golden-brown horse.
- Appear to be.
- A keepsake or souvenir.
- A very young baby.
- Given freely to a cause or fund.
- Hunts and kills.

#### DOWN

- Highly developed and complex.
- The hours of darkness.



- Having great knowledge.
- Involving financial matters.
- Memory prompter.
- Small aquarium fish.
- Conflicts and disputes.
- Clearly defined.
- Small cucumbers pickled whole.
- Changed direction.
- Call to mind.
- An equal exchange.

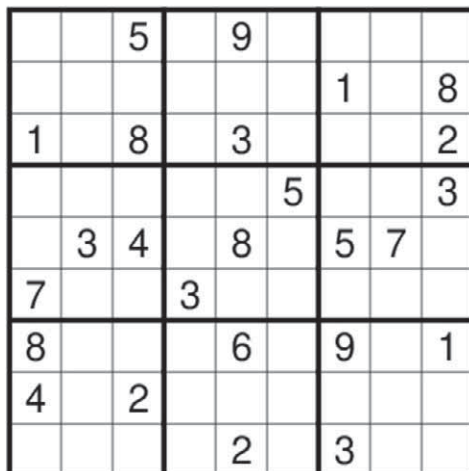
### Word Search

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

#### Car Brands

- FIAT
- FORD
- GREATWALL
- HOLDEN
- HYUNDAI
- ISUZU
- LAMBORGHINI
- MASERATI
- MAZDA
- MERCEDES
- NISSAN
- PEUGEOT
- RANGEROVER
- ROLLSROYCE
- TOYOTA

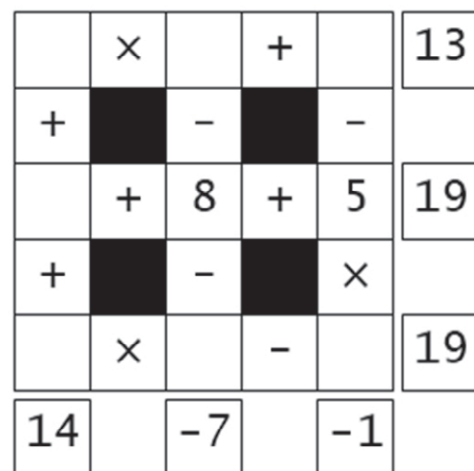
### Sudoku



Difficulty: Hard

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

### Math Square



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.



# Great fun at Yea Cruise Night

ON Saturday, January 11, the first Yea Cruise Night for 2025 was held on High Street in Yea.

Organiser Dale McKeon said, "We had a great turnout with many people attending for the first time. There was a very eclectic mix of vehicles as always."

"Once again, we'd like to thank our sponsors and supporters for their contributions which assist us in the running of this event for our community."

The next Yea Cruise Night will be held on Saturday, February 8.

*Photos by Dale McKeon (Plymouth Dale Photos) and Amanda Price.*



# BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

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# Great fun at Yea Cruise Night



-photos by Dale McKeon (Plymouth Dale Photos) and Amanda Price

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# PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | I | N | E | W | F | O | R | A | G | E | D |
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| T | O | K | E | N | N | E | W | B | O | R | N |
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| D | O | N | A | T | E | D | P | R | E | Y | S |

#### MATH SQUARES

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|----|---|----|---|----|----|
| 1  | x | 4  | + | 9  | 13 |
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| 6  | + | 8  | + | 5  | 19 |
| +  |   | -  |   | x  |    |
| 7  | x | 3  | - | 2  | 19 |
| 14 |   | -7 |   | -1 |    |

#### SUDOKU

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

#### MAZE

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## Keeping everyone safe while driving

by Bill Winters, Roadsafe Goulburn Valley

LET'S imagine that during the following weeks as we approach a return to work and school that there will be no lives lost on our roads.

RoadSafe Goulburn Valley would like to remind all that we can as individuals take some measures to ensure that we and our loved ones are safer on regional roads.

Let's make that pledge to drive in a safe manner, devoid of distractions such as mobile phones, and not put others in danger because of risky behavior. No speeding, driving while tired, under the influence of alcohol and or drugs.

Attitude and behavior are the key words. Can we not proffer some common courtesy towards others? Yes, the journey may take a fraction longer however you will not put vulnerable road users, especially those whose jobs places them in harm's way.

Be patient, slow down and give vulnerable road users adequate space that they need to be safe.

There will be many new bike riders on the roads at busy times of the day and many parents dropping and picking up students. Be aware.

Road statistics indicate that approximately 70 per cent of collisions will be locals on local roads.

The question to ponder: Is that complacency, lack of attention? It could be many things. We know our roads, but we shouldn't take our eyes and minds away from the responsibility of operating a motor vehicle in a safe manner.

The other 30 per cent appear to be from outside our region and therefore at greater risk because of the 'unknown' of road conditions, environment, infrastructure in and around poor to very poor roads and intersections.

Wishing everyone a safe return to work and school and please let's make this the start to reduce the number of lives lost on our roads and that our first responders also have a break.

## Council's roadside slashing program

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked about the progress of their roadside slashing programs.

Council said that they are progressing with the roadside slashing works, delivered through two main programs: the Fire Prevention Roadside Slashing Program and the general Roadside Slashing Program.


The Fire Prevention Slashing Program began in late November and is now complete. Contractors have successfully slashed approximately 450-500 km of roadsides across the shire.

While the available budget and the vast area of the shire mean this program is focused on specific priorities, council ensures key areas are addressed to reduce fire risk.

The general Roadside Slashing Program is also underway. Council assesses roadsides across the shire on an ongoing basis to guide this program, prioritising slashing based on criteria outlined in the Road Management Plan.

Additionally, VicRoads manages slashing works on highways and major roads in the shire, including Buxton-Marysville Road, Marysville Road and the Melba and Maroondah Highways, among others.


### DEATH NOTICES



**WETERINGS**  
 Antonius 'Tony'.  
 Passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Monday, January 6, 2025 after a brief illness. Beloved husband of Anne and cherished father to Ryan, Shane and Jaimie. Loving brother to Tom (dec), Liz and Pierre. Pop to Hunter, Vaida, Avery, Esme and Halle. Dad will be sadly missed by all who knew him. A highly respected member of Victoria Police and the Yea community. A wicked sense of humour and infectious smile. A man who helped many.

### FUNERAL NOTICES

**HUNT, Ernest Norman 'Ernie'.**  
 Funeral service to be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra at 11am followed by a burial at the Cathkin Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Royal Children's Hospital - The Wooden Bilby appeal. Envelopes will be available in the Chapel.




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**NICHOLLS.**  
 A Funeral Service to celebrate the life of Dick Nicholls was held at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, January 8 2025.



McCormack FUNERALS  
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 Peace of Mind  
 A.F.D.A. 1800 080 909  
 www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

**SEIR.**  
 A mass of Thanksgiving celebrating the life of Marie Sier will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Yea on Thursday, January 16, 2025 commencing at 10.30am



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 Inc. BAFORDS Murrindindi  
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### DEATH NOTICES

**HUNT, Ernest Norman 'Ernie'.**  
 10/02/1939 – 25/12/2024  
 Passed away peacefully at Kellock Lodge, Alexandra aged 85 years.  
 Loved and loving husband of Margaret for 61 years. Loving father of Trevor and his wife Ali, and Leanne. A proud and cherished grandad to Emily, Brooke and Natalie, and 'Uncle Bill' to Raelene and Brendan, Alana and Jack.  
 Forever in our hearts.

**HUNT, Ernie.** A great mate lost to the woodturners in the sky. A special friend and mate, a loving husband, father and caring man. Miss you mate, Barry and Trish.

**NICHOLLS, (Dick)**  
 Arthur Ronald Robert  
 10/06/1932 – 28/12/2024  
 Dearly loved and loving husband of Wendy.  
 Dearly loved dad of Stephen and Wayne, and daughters in law Mari and Judy.  
 Loved pop of Sean and Maddie and their partners Mia and Damin.  
*Forever and always in our hearts.*

**NICHOLLS, Dick.**  
 Thoughts for the loss of our very valued member of Alexandra Eildon Lapidary Club. Sympathy to the family.

**SIER, Marie Elizabeth**  
 02/03/1936-04/01/2025  
 Dearly loved wife of Adrian (dec.)  
 Much loved mum of Sean and Maureen, Adrian and Jodie, Michael and Sande, Peter and Simone.  
 Loved nanni to Melinda and Chris, Jessica and Patrick, Harri, Mitch and Ellie, Jamaya and Connor.  
 Loved great nanni to Sam, Mackenzie and Savannah.  
 Dearly missed.  
 Rest in Peace.



ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

### DEATH NOTICES



**Vale**  
**EDDY, James (Max)**  
 The Chairman, Board, Management and members of CFA regret the passing of their colleague and offer their deepest sympathy to his family.  
 Max was a Terip Terip CFA member for over 66 years and made a significant contribution during his time and will be missed.  
*May he rest in Peace.*

**HULL, Daryl Roderick.**  
 26/07/1950 - 07/01/2025.  
 Daryl passed away peacefully in his beloved Marysville cottage aged 74. Daryl was a brilliant pianist, artist; gifted and courageous photographer; a kind, generous and joyful soul to the many he met in his life. Deeply missed by brother Dennis, Leonie and Robert Hull and Perri, Steven, William and Emily Moore. TIGHT TYRES DAZ. Private cremation and memorial celebration TBA.

**HULL, Daryl.**  
 26/07/1950 - 07/01/2025.  
 A dear friend and a wonderful man. He will be missed. Rest in Peace.  
 Anne Richey.

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### MEETINGS



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Yea & District Memorial Hospital, Chair, Mr Ian Marshman AO, warmly invites members of the community to attend the hospital's 2024 Annual General Meeting.  
**5pm, Tuesday, January 28, 2025**  
 The Boardroom, The Grace Bennetts Centre  
 Yea & District Memorial Hospital  
 (entry via Miller Street)  
**RSVP please email**  
 Chloe.Harward@ydmh.org.au  
 or call 5736 0490  
**by 5pm, Friday, January 24.**

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Advertisement  
**Australians Celebrate Australia Day**  
 Be thankful the Poms claimed Australia first and set up a Democratic system for all people and saved the Indigenous from remaining destitute.  
 Authorised by Raymond Donkin, Buxton.



## Classified information

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**Death notices**  
 Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

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**Animals**  
 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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## TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.



# Koriella Fire Brigade seeking reinstallation of toilet

by Scott Reeves, Koriella Fire  
Brigade Captain

THE Koriella Fire Brigade was established back in 1948, a proud history we have. In 2010 the brigade was issued its first toilet, a CFA modular toilet installed on private land next door to the current station location, for us it was a little ripper.

It served us well, one pan and a hand basin with a small electric 20L hot water heater, a perfect toilet for the brigade's use.

In July 2022 the owner of the private property next door passed away (an ex-captain of the brigade) and the land was duly put up for auction and sold to new owners. The conundrum that ensued was to relocate this toilet back onto CFA land.

Here's the puzzling timeline and the chain of events of the toilet reinstallation.

In November 2022 discussions commenced with CFA to move the toilet back onto CFA land after months of lease and rental options haggling with the new owner to have the toilet remain in its situation and not moved off private property onto CFA land. (Not all of the new owners doing).

In May 2023 an old tin builders toilet mounted on a trailer arrived as the temporary fix due to restricted access to the current toilet located on private land. There were also surveyors on site.

June 2023 saw local plumbers on site and the modular toilet was disconnected and pushed onto CFA land. (Unsure why it wasn't ever reconnected).

In July 2023 tree removalists were on site to remove only one tree of four trees originally requested. The boundary line tree was the only one to be removed. A fencer was also on site to build a boundary line stranded fence.

So from here the modular toilet remains disconnected including the 10K water tank (now empty) that fed the toilet as we headed into a hot sweaty 2023 fire danger period with our tin sheeted builders toilet.

In April 2024 we received the first conceptual plan of the relocation and reinstallation of the modular toilet from CFA.

In July 2024 we received CFAs first official draft of the relocation of the modular toilet. We then received two further updated drafts of the relocation of the modular toilet throughout July.

Another updated draft of the relocation of the modular toilet was received in August 2024.

By October 2024 we were notified that the planning permit had been issued, and that the works will commence in November 2024.

Finally on November 8, 2024, the project manager (the plumber) informed me that they would be onsite shortly to commence works on the toilet. On Tuesday, November 12, 2024, over 12 months later, works began on the relocation and reinstallation of the toilet.

We headed into another fire danger period, this one for 2024, with the trailer mounted tin dunny still in situation, looking forward to the works being completed soon.

On Wednesday, December 4 2024, the majority of the works were completed bar some default works still needing to be completed. We were advised from HQ CFA (Melbourne) we were not allowed to use the toilet until these works were completed and the works were officially signed off.

Being such an interesting case, a modern-day operational CFA brigade without a toilet for so long is unheard of which also implies the lack of storage and change room facilities that this station also still lacks.

One can only assume that we continue to be not part of the CFA *Gender Equality program* with four operational female firefighters among us or of first world class facilities category, however, we do now have our modular toilet back, a throne for all to regally pass personal business and completing paperwork in a small private outdoor space...aaah so good to be living in a third world space.



The throne room can be seen on the right hand side of the shed. -S

## Staying safe while hiking

THE summer months are a popular time in Australia for getting out and about in nature, especially in the form of hiking and exploring our natural wonders.

Yet with recent news detailing the miracle finding of the hiker, Hadi Nazri, who was found alive after 13 days of being lost in Kosciuszko National Park, it's important to keep safety and preparedness in mind.

Risks on the hiking trail can include rapidly changing weather conditions and heat, medical emergencies like sprains, and

environmental dangers such as rockslides or bushfires, to name a few.

In Australia, there is also the risk from local wildlife like snakes and spiders.

To combat this, preparation is key. Before going hiking, check out the area that you'll be walking and notify someone of where you will be. It can be particularly helpful to tell a friend where you will be starting and where you are hoping to end up, so they can track your route if something goes wrong.

Check the weather conditions before heading out for the day, as extreme weather can leave you stranded.

Bring appropriate footwear in the form of hiking boots that are comfortable and fitted. The wrong kind of footwear can put excess pressure on your heels and ankles, leading to increased chance of injury.

Make sure that you dress for the conditions, remembering that it often gets cooler overnight and is sweltering during the day. Wear layers that can be added or removed based on the temperature.

Take a hiking pack with you, but make sure that it is not too heavy. If the pack is too heavy, it can again increase chances of injury and lead to extreme exhaustion.

Key things to include in a hiking pack are a compass and a map for when your GPS loses reception, a whistle or mirror to signal for help in emergencies, a First Aid kit (including snake bite kit if possible), a firestarter such as a lighter, waterproof matches or flint and striker, multi-tool and pocket knife, and a tarp or blanket to provide shelter in an emergency.

It is also advised to include water or hydrolytes (eg. coconut water) and some basic food like muesli bars, nuts, or dried fruit. These are light and compact but can make a big difference in an emergency. It is vital when hiking to maintain proper hydration and keep your energy levels high.

If going for a long hike, keeping a manageable pace is also important. Over-exerting can lead to injuries, while taking regular breaks and not pushing too hard helps keep the hike fun. Know your limits.

With all that said, hiking can be a very enjoyable activity if treated with the appropriate amount of respect and caution. In Murrindindi Shire there are some great areas for hiking, including the Cathedral Range State Park, Lake Mountain, and the areas around Lake Eildon.

For trail ideas in Murrindindi, visit [discoverindindi.com.au/explore/walk](http://discoverindindi.com.au/explore/walk)



Hikers journeying through the picturesque wilderness on offer. -Ben Maxwell

## New campaign to promote safe transport following country races

A NEW campaign is set to be rolled out across regional Victoria, encouraging Victorians to get home safely from country races.

The Transport Accident Commission's 'Ready' campaign with Country Racing Victoria will highlight the risks associated with driving to and from races when alcohol is involved.

The new content features 'Everyday Heroes', who play significant roles in making a race day happen, including a horse handler, an operations manager and a designated driver.

This year's campaign follows a tragic year on Victoria's roads in 2024, with 282 lives lost compared with 295 in 2023. More than half of the fatalities in 2024 occurred in regional areas.

The campaign will be prominent on social media and in race book advertisements in the run-up to country race events across Victoria to highlight the various transport options available to those attending regional events, such as taxis, rideshares and shuttle buses.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said "If you plan on having a drink at

the races, taking a taxi, train, bus or lift home is your best bet."

The Yea Racecourse run a free shuttle bus on racedays that operates from all accommodation venues in Yea from 11am.

The TAC will be present at more than 20 Country Cups, where punters will have the opportunity to enter a prize draw to win \$500 fuel vouchers and learn about the dangers of drink-driving.

Country Racing Victoria (CRV) Chairman Chas Armytage said "It is vital for all

racegoers to plan ahead not only for the event itself but also for their transportation needs. CRV and country clubs remain committed to working with the TAC to promote this important educational message."

For more information on the campaign, visit the TAC website: [tac.vic.gov.au/country-racing-victoria](http://tac.vic.gov.au/country-racing-victoria)

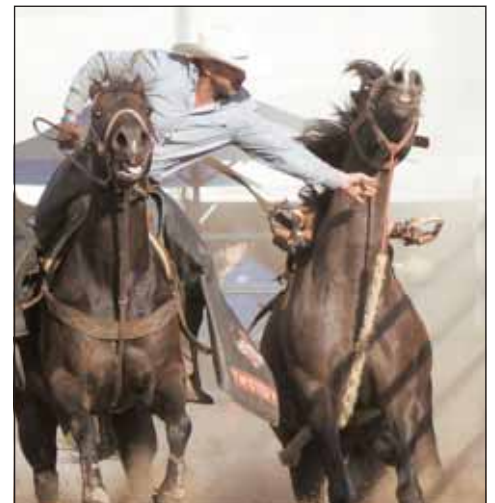
More than \$1.1 billion is being invested until 2028 in road safety initiatives by the state government, as part of a newly launched Road Safety Action Plan Two to help prevent serious crashes and keep Victorians safe.

SPORT

# Rodeo draws 5000 people to Alexandra



-photos by AR



THE seventh Alexandra Pro Rodeo was held on January, Saturday 11. With a warmish evening, the crowd arrived early to enjoy music from Paul Costa before the event went underway.

Event organiser Andrew Embling said the crowds were getting close to record numbers with around 5000 people including families.

Andrew said, "Local artist Taylah Arnett did an unbelievable version of the National Anthem, then the first session of rodeo happened, then the second event of the Bronc and Bareback Horses was on with the new contractor, Gill Brothers. They buck really well," Andrew said.

Following the rodeo, there was great music from Danny Phegan, which everyone enjoyed.

With 30-odd people on security, and local police in attendance, the crowd was well behaved. "It was pretty incident free," Andrew said.

"It was a generally well-run rodeo, people loved it. There was a lot of great help and great to have so many sponsors. Fineblade had water on the arena through the night and Stuart Coward from E-Tech roughed up a bit of dirt. They're the sort of things people do for you.

"We also had water fountains here. We did cop a fair bit of abuse about what was put on the tickets but it was no different to any other year. We had free water here for everybody. Bottles of water were handed out to patrons at the end of the night when they left.

"With the camping, there might have been people who played up at caravan park. We did have security from 8.30pm to 2.30am but it seems as soon as security leaves someone has decided to make their car sounds like crackers going off.

"The rodeo was a real family affair. Families loved it, including the rides and clothing. The main thing is the town certainly did well out of it as well. Our town was a lot busier on Friday, and when it came to Saturday, talk to any shop keeper, they were very busy on Saturday and all the take away food shops that were open on Sunday certainly did a great job."

When asked is it time for preparation underway for next year, Andrew said "We will go through it all and see where we are at. Hopefully we will run another rodeo."



# SPORT



# The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

## Golf doesn't stop through Christmas

by Alan Pell

ON Saturday, December 21 saw the first mixed stableford event for the summer. Thirty five golfers played on the day with Bill Dredge (26) winning on countback with 37 points. Second was Val Howard (49) in her comeback after a spell from the game. Third was Cindy

Armstrong (29) from husband Phil (20) both with 35 points. Judi Newman (39) with 34 points was fifth. John Phillips was nearest the pin on the 14th and one of the best golfers Mic Spagnolo won the club award.

Thursday "Boxing Day" only saw five golfers play in the morning as the weather got hot and windy during the day. Best of the

group was Zach Pell (20) with 33 points with his brother Darcy winning the club award.

Amid much cooler weather than that was experienced, 'Royal Yea' had 40 golfers contest a stableford event on Saturday, December 28. Winning with 38 points was a past member Michael Willis (16) who was visiting us from Alice Springs. Second was

Lady Captain Jan Wealands (32) with 36 points on countback from third Neil Peterson (17). Fourth on countback with 35 points was Gareth Antrobus (40) from Kevin Coghlan (24) fifth. Also on 35 points were Cindy Armstrong (28) and Oakley Ness (22). Rick Wills was nearest the pin on the 18th and John Tanner was the lucky \$10 club award winner.

### Golf in the new year

WITH clear skies and bright sunshine the order of the day, 28 golfers fronted up for Wednesday's new years day mixed stableford event. Most appeared in good health with no lingering signs of over celebrating the arrival of the new year. A great turnout.

Tarris Dunne (36) who has spent considerable time practicing over the past month reaped the rewards, returning to the clubhouse with a great score of 40 points. Playing partner and visitor from Mansfield Nick Wilcox (31) made sure Tarris earned the win, also finishing with 40 points, but relegated to second place on countback.

Tony Rule (18) who is relishing his time away from the office, posted a very respectable 39 points (including a birdie on the 12th) to take out third place.

The leading light from the ladies group was Carolyn Webber (52) who shone brightly with a wonderful 36 points, taking out fourth place. One of the newer members Anthony La Grutta, who travels up from Yarra Glen also posted 36 points taking home fifth place on countback. Anthony also collected nearest the pin on the second hole. There were no winners for the ladies' nearest the pin.

A special mention to Addison Scott a 13-year-old young lady, playing just her third round of competition golf who posted a great score of 34 points to finish in sixth place. Well done, Addi.

The celebrated club award was given to Jeff Aurisch who has travelled far and wide over the past few weeks, looking for some chill.

On Saturday, January 4 most players were finished in the morning before the high of 39 degrees later in the day. We have had lots of green fee players over the week and this trend continued Saturday with 38 members and guests competing in a stableford round. Winner of the day was Sue Aurisch (30) with 42 points. Second on countback was Allan Coates (10) from third Kevin Coghlan (24) both with 41 points. Fourth was Neil Peterson (16) with 39 from fifth Di Elliott (28) with 37. Phil Armstrong was nearest the pin on the second and to complete a family affair Jeff Aurisch won the club award again.

Saturdays in December and January will see Mixed Stableford events, the third round of the Gender Trophy was held on Wednesday, January 8 and the second round of the Murrindindi Masters was held in Alexandra on Saturday, January 11.



Captain Alan congratulates Val Howard on her 37 points. -S

## Slow outfields a challenge for Merton cricketers

LOOKING back to December, Merton cricketers hosted the Beechworth Wanderers for the last game before the Christmas break.

Merton won the toss and batted making 227 all out in the 36th over on a slow outfield. In form opener Ross Mackinnon again top scoring with 76 off 71 balls while young gun Adam Storer smashed 45 off 30 balls with one huge six that almost landed in the recreation reserve dam.

Captain Jai Lerch-Mackinnon with 21 off 10 deliveries saw the score move along, while Josh Johnson and Daryl King both with 18 did the job with the bat. L

Fitzpatrick easily the best Beechworth bowler with 3/25 off eight overs.

Beechworth took the game on taking advantage of any loose bowling lead by captain Dylan Pool smashing 70 with fellow team mate Rahma Schlitz 51 saw the visitors at 1/125 at one point, however when James Benton took the vital wicket of Pool the run rate fell and the wickets started to tumble, led by Benton with 4/29 and young brother William with 2/10 saw Beechworth finish their 36 overs on 8/179.

Johnson and Mackinnon the other wicket takers. Merton sits fourth on the Wangaratta

and District Cricket Association (WDCA) B grade ladder with some big games versus the top three sides early in the new year. WDCA B grade ladder: Yarrowonga, Benalla, Milawa, Merton, Rovers United, Rutherglen, Greta, City Colts, Ovens Valley, Beechworth, Delatite.

### First match of the new year

MERTON started the new year with a poor performance when they travelled to Greta on Saturday. Merton batting first could only manage 53 all out in the 35th over on a turf wicket and a painfully slow outfield.

Luke Benton 10 and son James 14 the only batsmen to reach double figures. J Hill with 4/6 the home sides best bowler. All the Greta bowler's showed great patience and discipline bowling a tight line and length.

The home side passed Merton's total two wicket down with Berriman and Whittall the wicket takers. The road trip to Mulwala to take on top side Yarrowonga awaits the Merton side with a massive turnaround required to be competitive against their experienced line-up.