

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

With which is incorporated The Yea Telegraph, The Yea Telephone and Upper Goulburn Advocate

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, December 11, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

Free camping across Victoria



Page 3

Council seeking feedback



Page 5

Well being day for Sacred Heart



Page 11

Weekend sport coverage



Page 15-16



Fire safety essentials meeting with a view

ON Thursday, December 5, residents from Strath Creek and Reedy Creek gathered at the Murchison Gap Lookout to get all the important information from Fire Safety Presenter Kylie Comte about preparing for this summer.

It was a beautiful evening and attendees were treated to a stunning backdrop looking over the Goulburn Valley.

To find out about Fire Safety Essentials Sessions, go to cfa.vic.gov.au

A spectacular location for fire safety preparation. -Nathan Tyler, Strath Reedy Creek CFA

Indi Volunteer Grants program opens for community organisations

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines has launched Expressions of Interest for the 2024-25 Volunteer Grants program.

Grants of between \$1000 and \$5000 are available to support the work of local community organisations to increase participation in volunteering and enable the inclusion of vulnerable people.

“Volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities and there is always strong interest in these grants from a variety of hard-working, community focused organisations,” Dr Haines said.

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 volunteered activities, with the main purpose for supporting the development of children under 18, or adults whose volunteering activities supports children’s development and wellbeing.

“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.

“There is also a strong focus on supporting the development and wellbeing of our young people.

“I am always inspired by the passion and hard work of volunteer groups that I meet with across Indi and they tell me that grants like this go a long way in supporting volunteers to continue their important work.

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

“Volunteers support our communities in so many and varied ways and I pay tribute to them for their continued commitment and hard work.”

Details on the eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found at helenhaines.org/resources/grants/volunteer-grants-2024-25/

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Thank you for your continued support

Our office will be closed from 1pm, December 18 until 9am Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Our first edition for 2025 will be available on Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

The Yea Chronicle Standard

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

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

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS DOWN: To council for lack of acknowledgement of the fact that Hume and Hovell passed through the area which is now our shire in the first week of December 1824. It is part of our history.

THUMBS UP: Pleased to read that our new and re-elected shire councillors have embraced the concept of reporting on their portfolios and activities. Fingers crossed a written report will always be submitted in absentia at every council meeting.

THUMBS UP: To all the regular Letter to the Editor contributors. As regional residents we lack voice and are stifled by distance. Do yourself a favour and enrol in Engage Victoria. It is also a 'gateway' to having your opinion heard. Also there is another avenue, 'They work for you'. Take a look.

THUMBS UP: To all of the CFA brigades across our shire for their continuous efforts to ensure our safety and preparedness, with not only sacrificing their time (all voluntarily), to protect us during emergencies but also conducting property visits, and installing fire alarms for the vulnerable with their community engagement programs.

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

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

Letters to the Editor

CFA funding

I WANT to set the record straight on reports regarding the CFA's funding. I know it has caused some fear and anger in our regional communities. Reports of an almost \$70m cut from the CFA are wrong.

Every year, a certain amount of money within our emergency services' budgets is earmarked for specific projects and services, like funding for the rollout of 18,000 new Motorola radios to brigades.

Setting aside these funds isn't a cut. Every dollar of these quarantined amounts is spent on CFA, directly benefitting the CFA and their volunteers.

Government departments manage many of these projects and they pay the bill. It streamlines administration and takes the burden off emergency services so they can focus on what they do best, keeping Victorians safe.

This year, more than \$337 million in CFA base funding has been allocated, an increase of almost \$17 million on the comparable figure last year.

This doesn't include the money we invest on top of this on new trucks, uniforms and upgrading stations.

The Fire Services Property Levy funds almost 78 per cent of the CFA's total funding needs, not 25 per cent.

I know National Party members are out there with their negativity trying to spin a false narrative about cuts. They should support, not scare country communities and stick to the facts. Labor has delivered 80 new tankers since 2018, 22 are being built and 15 pumpers are on order. The Nationals didn't fund a single truck in their last few years in government, and they slashed \$66 million from the CFA budget whilst in office.

It's disappointing that I must correct this unhelpful misinformation, but it's a further opportunity to recognise and thank our amazing CFA brigades and all emergency services. I want you to know our Government will always give you what you need to continue keeping Victorians safe.

Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Emergency Services

Be prepared for power outages

WITH the busy summer period fast approaching AusNet are preparing for higher energy demands and extreme weather events that may cause widespread outages across the network.

It's important to know what to do before, during and after an outage so you are best prepared.

AusNet are encouraging customers to be prepared for severe storms and the outages they can cause. As the climate changes, storms have become more common across Victoria and not only does this increase the chance of outages but it can also have other impacts.

To be prepared for weather events and power outages register your mobile number with your electricity retailer. They'll pass it onto AusNet so you can receive a text during an emergency or outage. Save AusNet's outage tracker to your mobile device or computer so you can see the latest information and restoration times during an outage. Save 131 799 and our report a fault page in your phone so you can report any interruptions to your electricity supply.

Weekly Weather
December 11-December 17, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	8	23	Wednesday	9	24
Thursday	10	26	Thursday	10	26
Friday	12	24	Friday	12	25
Saturday	9	23	Saturday	10	24
Sunday	9	27	Sunday	9	27
Monday	11	30	Monday	11	32
Tuesday	11	29	Tuesday	14	28

Standard **The Yea Chronicle**

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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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	10.00am Mon	1.33	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	10.00am Mon	0.56	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.48am Mon	0.67	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarek	10.29am Mon	0.17	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	8.29am Mon	0.54	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	9.21am Mon	0.77	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	10.00am Mon	3.58	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	10.00am Mon	0.47	steady	below minor
King Parrot Ck at Kerrisdale	10.00am Mon	0.28	steady	
Goulburn River at Trawool	10.00am Mon	1.15	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	10.00am Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	10.00am Mon	1.43	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.06am Mon	1.17	steady	

****ISSUED AT 10.46AM ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024**

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	30mm
Buxton.....	55mm
Eildon (AWS).....	27mm
Flowerdale.....	19mm
Jamieson.....	58mm
Kinglake.....	28mm
Lake Eildon.....	33mm
Mansfield.....	38mm
Taggerty.....	29mm
Yarek.....	29mm
Yea.....	18mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	284.98m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	.85%
Metres below full supply.....	3.92m
Daily inflow.....	2000ML
Release.....	2000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	48.9%

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

Council on Local Government Sustainability Report

THE Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee recently released their report on Local Government Funding and Services in Victoria, following a Parliamentary Inquiry into the issue. Murrindindi Shire Council, being directly affected by the issue, released the following statement regarding the Local Government Sustainability Report.

“Murrindindi Shire Council welcomes the release of the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee’s report following the Parliamentary Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services in Victoria.

“The report’s findings and recommendations highlight the critical challenges facing rural councils like Murrindindi, particularly around financial sustainability, equitable grant allocation, and addressing cost shifting from other levels of government.

“We are pleased to see that our submission and advocacy have contributed significantly to the inquiry’s recommendations. The recognition of unique challenges, such

as maintaining services across dispersed communities, addressing the growing renewal gap for critical infrastructure, and the disproportionate impact of funding models, reflects the lived experience of our residents and council.

“Murrindindi has been impacted by successive years of underfunding on a per capita and overall basis as compared to peer councils, further compounding these challenges.

“The report’s recommendations to review the financial assistance grant distribution model and address cost shifting are especially important for small rural councils. Our ratepayers are already heavy-lifting contributors to council revenue through above-average rates, so these recommendations acknowledge the pressing need for fairer and more equitable funding to support councils like Murrindindi.

“These measures can help ensure councils like ours have the resources needed to sustain essential services and plan for future growth,

while addressing the inequities in the current funding system.

“As a council that has consistently raised concerns about the strain of underfunded responsibilities and inequitable grant allocations, we strongly support the committee’s call for systemic change to ensure rural councils can effectively serve their communities.

“We look forward to collaborating with all levels of government to deliver these recommendations and create a fairer, more sustainable framework for local government funding.

“With thanks to the committee, we keenly await the Victorian Government’s response to the report and anticipate the full implementation of its recommendations. Their adoption would represent a significant step towards ensuring that councils like Murrindindi can continue to deliver for their communities now and into the future.”

Free camping across Victoria

THE Victorian Government is helping families and boosting regional tourism this summer by making camping free in every national park and state forest in Victoria.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos recently announced the start of free camping season across all of Park Victoria’s 131 paid camping grounds.

Since the announcement, there has been an 115 percent increase in Parks Victoria campsite bookings, as Victorians take advantage of the chance to stay and explore some of the state’s most iconic destinations from Wilsons Promontory to Lake Eildon.

Free camping will run from December 1, until June 30, 2025, with almost 100,000 nights of free camping already booked.

The government’s \$9 million investment means free camping is now available at every national park and state forest, which is expected to attract new visitors to towns all over regional Victoria.

As part of free camping, the government has invested \$1.7 million for additional maintenance, repairs and operating costs to ensure campgrounds are kept clean and safe for every visitor.

More than 50 million people visit Victoria’s iconic state forests and national parks every year, for camping, hiking, fishing and hunting, four-wheel driving, trail bike riding, horse riding, birdwatching and many more outdoor activities.

In addition to free camping, the government’s \$106.6 million investment in Victoria’s Great Outdoors has delivered 31 new and 60 upgraded campgrounds, as well as 155 upgraded four-wheel drive tracks and 16 walking tracks totalling 31 kilometres.

There are still plenty of free bookable campsites available in December and up to June 30, including popular campgrounds from Aire River West in the Great Otway National Park to Neds Gully in the Cathedral Ranges.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos said, “Busy families deserve a great holiday in our great outdoors, with 100,000 nights already booked we know Victorians will be making incredible memories in nature thanks to free camping.

“We’re making camping accessible to every Victorian. It’s great for families, great for regional towns, great for businesses and great for local jobs.”

To book a free camping site visit parks.vic.gov.au

Children getting ready for first day of kinder

THE Victorian Government is making sure the new state-delivered kindergartens opening in 2025 are filled with furniture, fixtures and equipment, making sure kindergartens have the modern facilities they need to help little learners thrive.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced that funding will be provided for six kinders across the Northern Victoria region opening next year to purchase furniture such as desks and chairs, fixtures like blinds and lamps and equipment such as stoves, dishwashers, play, IT equipment, and medical items.

Service providers opening a new kinder delivered by the state will receive up to \$100,000 for each 33 place kindergarten room to prepare for their opening.

The service providers include the Yea Primary School Kindergarten (interim name).

Eligible purchases made over the past six months will also be reimbursed, ensuring that state-delivered kinders opening in 2025 are ready for children to learn from their very first day.

The *Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment Funding Policy* is part of the government’s nation-leading work helping kindergartens deliver high-quality early learning facilities. This funding, delivered on top of our *Best Start, Best Life* reforms, will support the fit-out of kinders on school sites and on third-party sites.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said, “This investment will ensure kinders in Northern Victoria have the modern facilities they need to help children learn, play, and grow.”

Meal on Wheels service to continue

THERE have been concerns raised in the community recently about whether the meal delivery service will continue in Murrindindi Shire.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health (SCCH) have advised that Commonwealth Home Support Program clients will continue to receive their meal service.

From Wednesday, January 1, 2025, SCCH will manage the Commonwealth Home Support Program service for the Mitchell, Strathbogie and Murrindindi local government areas.

SCCH will manage the meals service, which will be delivered by its contractors. Clients will continue to receive ready to eat healthy meals delivered to their door.

While Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health will manage the contract, Nexus Primary Health has been engaged to continue to deliver most Commonwealth Home Support Program services through a subcontract model.

As members of the Alliance of Rural and Regional Community Health, SCCH partners with Nexus on a number of projects.

The earth moved

ON Wednesday, December 4, many people in the shire were startled by an earthquake which occurred at 6.25pm.

The quake was initially recorded by Geoscience Australia at magnitude three, but this was later revised to 2.9.

The epicentre of the earthquake was near the end of Cathedral Lane, behind the Cathedral Range in the Rubicon State Forest, at a depth of 1km.

By the following day, 36 people had provided ‘felt reports’ to the organisation, but plenty more reported feeling the earthquake on social media.

Local NAPLAN results

THE National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results were announced on Wednesday, December 4. NAPLAN is a national assessment undertaken by all Australian children. It provides comparable data about student performance in literacy and numeracy nationally and over time.

Below is a summary of the local results and the best performing schools. To find out more about specific schools, visit myschool.edu.au

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Year three

Eildon Primary School received the best year three results within the primary schools in Murrindindi Shire in reading (445), writing (449) and spelling (446).

Yea Primary School received the best results in grammar (469) and Yea’s Sacred Heart Primary School in numeracy (427).

Year five

In the year five results, Eildon Primary received the best results in reading (530) and Spelling (533), and Middle Kinglake Primary School received the best results in writing (528), grammar (521) and numeracy (519).

Rankings

Eildon Primary School ranked 332 with a year five average of 516.8.

Middle Kinglake Primary School ranked 351 with a year five average of 515.8.

Kinglake Primary School ranked 943 with a year five average of 486.

St Mary’s Primary School Alexandra ranked 993 with a year five average of 483.4.

Yea Primary School ranked 1184 with a year five average of 474.2.

Marysville Primary School ranked 1210 with a year five average of 472.

Kinglake West Primary School ranked 1244 with a year five average of 470.

Alexandra Primary School ranked 1402 with a year five average of 458.

Sacred Heart Primary School Yea ranked 1468 with a year five average of 451.2.

Buxton and Flowerdale Primary Schools weren’t in the rankings due to their low populations.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Year seven

Yea High School scored higher than Alexandra Secondary College in all year seven categories.

For spelling, the results were Yea 516 to Alexandra 499; writing 519 to 500; spelling 497 to 480; grammar 506 to 486; and numeracy 512 to 499.

Year nine

Alexandra Secondary College did better in the year nine category. They received higher results in reading (550) and writing (545) and numeracy (541), while Yea High School received higher scores in spelling (538) and grammar (535).

Rankings

Alexandra Secondary College ranked 466 with a year nine average of 537.6.

Yea High School ranked 499 with a year nine average of 528.6.

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COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency

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

WEEKLY

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

MONTHLY

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



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

Out & About



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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home AGM will be held at 1.30pm in the North Lounge room. Video conference available on request. All welcome, RSVP by December 10 to 5774 2711 or email darlingford@dughn.com.au

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Alexandra Christmas Carnival and Carols will be at Rotary Park. Carnival 5pm, carols start 7.30pm. Santa arrives 7pm. There will be coffee, ice cream and a barbecue. BYO chairs, rug and picnic.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Santa is dropping into Alexandra from approximately 9.15am with the Alexandra Fire

Brigade. Listen for the siren and make sure you go out and say hi to santa and get a bag of lollies. (This event may be cancelled if there is an emergency requiring CFA attendance.)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Embassy of Ideas Community Christmas Day gathering. St Johns Hall, 39 Downey Street, Alexandra. Free community Christmas lunch, all food provided, everyone is welcome. Bookings essential by December 20. Call or text Sasha 0422 225 801 or email embassyofideas@gmail.com

Beware of scams as Christmas approaches

THE Victorian Government is urging Victorians to be aware of online scams in the lead up to the festive season.

Boxing Day, New Year, Black Friday and Cyber Monday are massive retail events in Australia, with an estimated \$30 billion spent over the summer of 2023-24, and online scammers and cyber criminals can take advantage of more people shopping online.

Scamwatch reports that Australians lost \$7.1 million to online shopping scams in 2023, with \$1.65 million from within Victoria.

A common scam to look out for is notifications about parcel deliveries. Consumers may receive texts, emails or notifications asking them to click on a link, but should always try to validate these requests by going through the courier's official website or app.

While anyone can fall victim to a scam, there are some ways Victorians can protect themselves.

Spot a scam by looking out for red flags including: A product or service that sounds 'too good to be true'; a sense of urgency or pressure to act quickly; an unusual web address or web address that's different to the usual webpage for a seller; an unusual or specific method of payment, for example, cryptocurrency or gift card payment.

It always pays to be extra cautious by checking the business' website, social media accounts or contacting the business independently to check whether a call or message is genuine.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams said, "Doing your shopping online

can be cheap and convenient, but keep an eye out for deals that are too good to be true.

"If something doesn't look right, think before you click, and seek support from Consumer Affairs Victoria if you think you've been scammed online."

Service Victoria has launched a new Spot a Scam quiz to help Victorians improve their knowledge of scams. The quiz tests if consumers know how to recognise a scam, and then provides tailored practical advice and information.

Victorians can test their scam knowledge now on the Service Victoria app and website at service.vic.gov.au/spotascam

Scams can be reported to Consumer Affairs Victoria at consumer.vic.gov.au/contact-us

Yea Carols return to Railway Park

THE beloved annual Christmas Carols event returns to Yea Railway Park on December 15. The organisers opted for a Sunday this year, making it easier for families to attend without stress.

Join the Yea Carols Choir and Band in a celebration of community and seasonal spirit. They'll have special performances from Yea Primary and Sacred Heart schools as well as showcase songs from Julian Laucius, Madeleine Lezon and Lucy Pennington.

And of course a very special guest will arrive at the end of the concert.

The barbecue will be available from 5.30pm, the concert starts 6pm. The carols are presented by Yea Arts Inc and Yea Rotary.



Some of the performers who will be at the Yea Carols. -S

The Yea Chronicle

Available from these retail outlets

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

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Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

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

UNITING CHURCH

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

Mental health support for emergency services

THE Victorian Government is making sure emergency services staff and volunteers have access to tailored mental health and wellbeing supports.

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes announced a new \$1 million Mental Wellbeing Grant initiative to be shared across five agencies.

“Our emergency service workers and volunteers work hard every day to protect the community, that’s why we’re ensuring they’re able to look after their mental health so they can continue their critical work,” Ms Symes said.

The initiative is part of the government’s Emergency Responders Health Program which aims to strengthen mental wellbeing supports and projects for emergency workers and volunteers.

Life Saving Victoria (LSV) has received a grant of \$200,000 to launch a cultural development initiative focused on inclusivity, respect, and psychological safety for volunteers and staff.

The project will include education and training across age groups, peer-support and enhanced mental health resources for lifesavers.

Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue units will also benefit from a grant of \$180,000 to develop a statewide Marine Search and Rescue mental health and wellbeing strategy. This long-term strategy will support the diverse organisations and volunteers who undertake this challenging and often traumatising work.

The grants will also fund projects to support emergency responders at Ambulance Victoria, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES).

Emergency Management Commissioner Rick Nugent said, “I look forward to continuing to support our first responders through the Mental Wellbeing Grant Initiative and extend my gratitude to all of our emergency services for the work they do day in, day out.”

Young Australians are experiencing sexual harrassment

ACCORDING to a new report from the Australian Institute of Family Studies 54 per cent of young Australians, aged from 16 to 19 years have experienced sexual harrassment in the last 12 months. Sexual harrassment is a term that includes touching and grabbing, sexual remarks and showing sexually explicit images.

Young females were more likely to have experienced sexual harrassment than young males, at 65 per cent and 43 per cent respectively. Young females were mostly subjected to sexual harrassment by strangers, with young males mostly subjected to it by friends.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer (LGBTQ+) people aged 18 to 19 years were more likely to experience sexual harrassment than non-LGBTQ+ people (49 per cent compared to 31 per cent respectively). The proportion was higher again for LGBTQ+ females aged 18 to 19 years (59 per cent).

Of the 18 to 19 year olds who had been sexually harassed in the past 12 months when surveyed in 2018, 48 per cent experienced it at a bar, club or party, 27 per cent online, 18 per cent at work, and 12 per cent at a place of study. Forty per cent of 16 to 17 year olds experienced sexual harrassment at a place of study.

The research is based on data from *Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)*, which has been following 10,000 children since 2004.

LSAC is managed by AIFS on behalf of the Department of Social Services.

Lead author and Research Fellow at AIFS, Dr Neha Swami, said the findings indicate that more needs to be done to prevent sexual harrassment, particularly online and in public spaces.

“Of the older teens we surveyed who had experienced sexual harrassment, 53 per cent of females and 39 per cent of males experienced it at a party, club or bar, showing many young people have extremely negative experiences when trying to enjoy themselves on a night out,” Dr Swami said.

“Given more than one quarter experienced sexual harrassment online, programs and policies that support healthy interactions online, making it clear that certain comments and images can make people feel degraded and humiliated, could help.

“Strong mechanisms for reporting and responding to harassing behaviours in bars and clubs could also be a focus for helping reduce rates,” Dr Swami said.

The research revealed that having relationships with parents and friends characterised by trust and healthy communication at 16 to 17 years played a critical role in reducing the likelihood of experiencing sexual harrassment at 18 to 19 years.

Dr Swami said the report provides strong evidence to support policy and program development.

“While sexual harrassment is always the fault of the perpetrator, programs that help adolescents foster healthy relationships with parents and peers at ages 16 to 17 years may help to reduce the likelihood of them experiencing sexual harrassment later on,” Dr Swami said.

“As a parent, building a strong, trusting relationship with your child when they’re young, and nurturing that all the way through to early adulthood could be highly beneficial.”

Dr Swami said social media companies also need to take note of the findings related to social media content sharing.

Fifty three per cent of females and 33 per cent of males who shared or posted on social media hourly or several times a day experienced some form of sexual harrassment in the past 12 months, compared to 35 per cent of females and 17 per cent of males who posted or shared on social media once a month or less.

“Sharing content on social media shouldn’t increase a young person’s risk of sexual harrassment. That is a clear signal to governments and social media companies that more needs to be done to prevent perpetration and protect teens online,” Dr Swami said.

This study is the first Australian evidence from a nationally representative sample on the experience and nature of sexual harrassment among young people that includes those under 18 years.

DECLARATION AND NAMING OF NEW ROAD Providence Rise, Killingworth



At the scheduled meeting on 27 November 2024, Council resolved to declare a new road as a public highway on an existing road reserve at 110 Old Killingworth Road, Killingworth.

It is proposed to name the road PROVIDENCE RISE in recognition of the historical significance of this area. The proposed name is in accordance with the Naming Rules set by Geographic Names Victoria.

Before Council submits the new name to the Registrar of Public Names Victoria for ratification, Council welcomes comments from the community in favour or against the proposed name.

Community members can provide comments or seek more information on the proposed name until 11 January 2025 by emailing assets@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or by calling Council on 5772 0333.

Once a new name is accepted by the Registrar, Council will declare the road as a public road to be managed and maintained by Council.

UPCOMING FEATURES

Work Local



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Christmas Wishes



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Last publication 2024 - December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

First publication 2025 - January 15

Deadline: January 9, 5pm

Let's eat, it's our treat



Publishing: February 5

Deadline: January 30, 5pm

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Yea & District Community Bank® Branch



YEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Congratulations to the following students, winners of the Values Award this week.

Well done to Xavier, Finn, Xander, Jade, Auroha and Charlotte.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Olivia, Sophie and Ollie for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



FFM fight for better wages and conditions

ON Thursday, November 28 the Australian Workers' Union (AWU) members working for Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) employed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) initiated protected industrial action. This started with a thirty-minute work stoppage and the introduction to some protected actions to get their point across about the poor wages and conditions that is seen across this much needed industry.

The AWU lodged a dispute with the Fair Work Commission in April, and they have been negotiating an enterprise agreement since June. Negotiations about wages have been stalled due to the Victorian Government's wage mandates increases no greater than three per cent per annum.

James Newbold, AWU Organiser for Northeast Victoria spoke to this masthead about the issues at hand among FFMV and other government staff.

"These FFMV workers are paid in the bottom five per cent of the Victorian Public Service according to our calculations. We have been clear, DEECA don't control the purse strings with wages and superannuation that's treasury, this is Tim Pallas we are talking about here," James said.

"DEECA have said we would love to give a pay rise but that's not our decision and we have told DEECA as the representatives of negotiations if we got the right wages outcome, our list of dozens of other issues we are looking to work on, that could all fall on to the wayside just to get this done. So many issues are created for our members around work life balance, the risk they are willing to take because they need every opportunity. They can get to make more income... Up to 800 people are taking part. Under this agreement we are not just talking about firefighters on the ground we are talking about vertebrae species management officers who protect farmers and their livestock from predators, and fire tower lookout staff."

The actions that have been introduced recently, James said, "We took a 30 minute stoppage last Thursday (November 28) a lot of our members have taken photos of their crews and that is ammunition for us as a union on their behalf, to approach politicians and ask why these people are paid so little for such important work that's about protecting the public, protecting the environment and protecting landowners and things like that.

"Some of the big ones that will have most impact is refusing to fill in log books of vehicles, unless there is an emergency; it means the department is basically paying fringe benefits tax every time someone has to drive in a vehicle, that's my understanding; and another big one is to be taking meal breaks back at the work centre, that means if someone has to do a job that's two hours away

and then the manager will usually figure out pretty quick they can send someone out and start the job they will get to the job and then they have to head back to the work centre for lunch.

"Usually these guys/girls are taking their lunch out in the middle of nowhere in their vehicles, no toilets, no heating facilities, maybe they have some stuff in some of the vehicles but it's a rough and ready operation in that way. They don't get paid for their lunch breaks despite that, so it does send a message for them to be taking their lunch back at the work centres in a suitable facility."

When James was asked if all this will make a difference to the conditions, he said, "We have talked to the members about expecting it to be a marathon rather than a sprint. A lot of these actions you won't really see the effect of them for a month or two....There will be a bunch of more actions coming soon as well, we have started a list of more actions we will add some more in before Christmas for people to settle into and let those start taking effect over the break."

James added, "The key message though, to the community is, whenever there is an emergency event happening which means our members start getting paid an emergency support or emergency field allowance... we put a stop to those actions, so it means if there is a big fire, flood, lightning strike, we have put a carve out around those actions that have an operational impact. That's because our members want to put the community first."

According to the AWU, FFMV employees are the first workers on the ground when communities are threatened by bushfires. These workers are also Victoria's first line of defence when flood and storms strike. Their skills are invaluable in recovery and prevention. This workforce is also called upon when agricultural disease outbreaks occur such as the Avian Influenza outbreak in the West of Victoria this year, with FFMV employees sent to manage and contain the outbreak. FFMV employees were also deployed during the COVID-19 pandemic fulfilling various roles on behalf of the Victorian Government.

The wage increases the AWU and FFMV staff are fighting for will be applied to the base rate of pay. James said, "At the moment we have a situation where our members are incentivised to look forward to an emergency that has happened because that's when they get paid well, we don't want people to have to look forward to that, we don't want people to look forward to dangerous and risky work because they get paid more then, and yes they deserve to be paid more for that, but if they have a liveable base rate that means that the compensation they get through fire season is for the risk and it's not what they are relying on to pay their mortgage."

Summer's not a silly season

An open letter from Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria

LAST week you might have noticed a pick-up in news articles and broadcasts forecasting a hot, dry summer, and high potential for fire in some areas of the state. That news has come from the seasonal summer outlook distributed on Thursday, November 28 by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), the national council for fire and emergency services in Australia and New Zealand.

The Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer gives a picture of the likelihood of fire over the summer months, at both a state and national level. This year's outlook for Victoria predicts higher potential for fire for most of western Victoria, as well as southwest Gippsland, including Mornington Peninsula, greater Melbourne and north-east Victoria.

The potential has been assessed this way because of the dry conditions in those areas, the availability of vegetation (for example, grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and fallen branches) to 'fuel' fires, high temperatures and the continuing lack of rainfall to bring moisture to the landscape.

The fire potential elsewhere in Victoria has been assessed as 'normal', but hot, dry and windy weather can still pose a risk in areas dominated by forests, woodlands, or dense, low shrubs.

'Normal' is no reason to be complacent, but you should know that Victoria is prepared and that our land and fire agencies have worked all year to reduce our bushfire risk.

We are prepared and ready to respond

On public land this year, FFMVic carried out risk reduction works across more than 138,000 hectares, and because it isn't just about this summer or this season, I'm happy to tell you that we also carried out works on more than 90,000 hectares the year before. The impacts are cumulative.

Risk reduction works include planned burns, mowing, mulching, slashing and spraying. Collectively, we call these works 'fuel management'. They reduce the amount of vegetation (for example, grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and fallen branches) available to 'fuel' a fire, thereby reducing the likely speed or intensity of a bushfire.

These qualities can help fire crews to respond and put out fires while they are still small, before they can impact communities, assets, infrastructure and the environment. You can find out about planned burns happening near you at plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au

In November we saw some of the reward for those efforts, with a fire in the Great Otway National Park, the Chapple Vale-Colac Tree Road fire, showing reduced spread in the footprint of one of our planned burns back in August. Thankfully, the fire was able to be contained before hotter temperatures set in just days later. Our crews remain in the area to manage hot spots and reinforce those control lines.

Recent weeks have also shown how we work together with and alongside our emergency sector partners. On the frontline, FFMVic has close to 1800 personnel, including full-time and seasonal firefighters, fire lookout observers and fire support officers. In recent months, many of them have completed training and accreditation to make sure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to be safe and help keep communities safe this summer.

They are supported by hundreds of emergency and incident management staff, including surge staff who have a fire and emergency role in addition to their day job, as well as firefighting equipment. This includes tankers, earthmoving equipment and aircraft positioned across the state, as well as additional aircraft that can be called upon when needed.

You can find out more about our work at ffm.vic.gov.au

What you can do

Summer is a festive time in Victoria. We often have opportunities to steal a bit of magic as the year comes to an end, to come together with loved ones, to get away, to get in a bit more sleep, and a few more late nights, and to reflect on the year gone by.

But opportunity is never without responsibility. Now is also the time to prepare yourself and your loved ones for the fire season. Here are some quick tips to help you get started.

Five ways with fire

Visit cfa.vic.gov.au to help you get started on a Bushfire Plan so you know what you will do in case of fire; download and get to know the VicEmergency app, then set up 'watch zones' and turn on notifications to be kept up to date wherever you are; get to know the Australian Fire Danger Ratings System, and work out what fire danger rating will trigger your Bushfire Plan; plan your travel. Head to exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au to help you stay safe when visiting state forests; never leave a campfire unattended, if they are cool to touch, they are safe to leave.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you're having trouble with energy bills, you're not alone. You can get free help through the Victorian Government's Energy Assistance Program. It can help you to save energy at home, switch to a better energy deal, access eligible energy concessions, manage energy debt and contact your retailer.

To save on your energy bills call **1800 161 215** today and you'll be connected to Energy Assistance Program delivery partner Anglicare Victoria.



To find out more, scan the QR code to visit the energy.vic.gov.au website.

SHAPE THE ALEXANDRA EAST DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Council has secured funding to create the Alexandra East Development Plan (AEDP), which will guide the future use and development of 71 hectares of land in Alexandra's major residential growth area.

Join the Community Reference Group and share your thoughts on how the Development Plan can best meet the needs of the Alexandra community. Submit your expression of interest to join the Group by 12 noon on Friday 20 December 2024.

For more information or to submit your EOI, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/aedp or call 5772 0333.



PREPARE FOR FIRE SEASON

The CFA declared Fire Danger Period is now in effect. If you haven't already, now is the time to prepare your property. Council officers are inspecting properties across Murrindindi Shire for fire hazards.

If a fire hazard is identified, a Fire Prevention Notice will be issued detailing required actions. For information about Fire Prevention Notices, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/fireprevention

For information on preparing your property, visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

Council's Roadside Slashing Program is also underway across the Shire throughout November and December. Find more details at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/slashing

HOLIDAY OPERATING HOURS 2024/25

LIBRARIES AND CUSTOMER SERVICE (INCLUDING THE MOBILE LIBRARY), MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CENTRES:

- Tuesday 24 December 2024: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm
- Wednesday 25 December – Wednesday 1 January 2025: CLOSED
- Thursday 2 January 2025: Usual hours resume

SWIMMING POOLS

- Monday 25 December 2024: CLOSED
- Wednesday 1 January 2025: Closed for morning swimming, open from 1.00 pm

Find out more at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/pools

KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICES

Kerbside bin collection will not occur on Wednesday 25 December 2024 (Christmas Day) or Wednesday 1 January 2025 (New Years Day).

During the weeks commencing 23 and 30 December, from Wednesday to Friday, collections will occur a day later, including Fridays, which will be collected on Saturday. For a full list of holiday collection dates visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/holidayhours

RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRES AND ALEXANDRA LANDFILL

All Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs) are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. RRCs are also closed on Total Fire Ban days.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

- Maternal and Child Health Advice Line: 13 22 29
- Poisons Information Line (24 hours): 13 11 26
- Community Safety or Infrastructure Services - after hours emergency: 5772 0333 (for issues such as stock on roads, dog attacks, dangerous road conditions etc).

For more information about our holiday operating hours, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/holidayhours

IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE 2025

We provide a comprehensive childhood immunisation service, free to children between 6 weeks and less than 5 years old. Sessions are conducted in Yea, Kinglake and Alexandra by appointment only.

Our nurses are available to discuss immunisation and give the required vaccines. For more information and the 2025 schedule, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/immunisation

STAY INFORMED

To stay up to date with the latest Council news, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/news or follow us on Facebook.

GET IN TOUCH

customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au/request
5772 0333



Pool entry is free this season. -Adrian Pingstone

The health benefits of swimming

THE heat of summer is already here, and the water is a good option for Murrindindi Shire residents to cool off, especially with free pool entry for the 2024/25 season.

Swimming is not just a fun activity, but also has a number of health benefits that are often not talked about.

The exercise of swimming keeps your heart rate up but reduces the impact stress on your body when compared with regular exercise. It also builds stamina, muscle strength, and cardiovascular fitness. When you are swimming, your whole body is working,

meaning that it builds all the muscles and provides a full-body workout as well.

The motions of swimming can also be incredibly relaxing, helping to alleviate stress and improving coordination and flexibility.

Just be sure that when swimming, you don't overwork your body. If you haven't done it in a while, start slowly, and no matter what experience level you are, always warm up and drink plenty of water.

Local pools with free entry include Yea, Alexandra, Marysville, and Eildon.

Private health rebates available

BODY THERAPY & WELLNESS
 MASSAGE AND HEALTH ESSENTIALS
www.body-therapy.com.au

Remedial Massage & Infrared Sauna

Remedial massage, Sports massage, Deep Tissue massage, Foot massage, Slide/Fascial Cupping

0411 289 828
 3/111 Grant St, Alexandra

Yea & District MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Caring for our Community

Services Include:

- 24 Hour Urgent Care Centre
- Acute Care
- Rosebank Residential Aged Care
- District Nursing Service
- Community Health Services
 - Dietitian Services
 - Cardiac Health Program
 - Diabetes Education
 - Speech Pathology
 - Mental Health Services

(03) 5736 0400
 YEAHOSPITAL.ORG.AU
 45 STATION STREET, YEA 3717

FREE Health Checks FOR THE FARMING COMMUNITY

Monthly Health Checks at the Yea Saleyards

January 17th & February 7th

- Southern Skin Cancer Clinic offering full skin checks & treatments

March 7th

- The Bone Bus - by Measure Up offering free bone density scanning

For more information contact Yea Hospital on (03) 5736 0400
www.yeahospital.org.au

Murrindindi Yea & District Memorial Hospital

Here for You

DECEMBER COMMUNITY UPDATE - GOULBURN VALLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Stay Informed: Thunderstorm Asthma & Summer Heat Tips

GV PHU Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit

GVHealth

Thunderstorm asthma occurs when storms combine with high grass pollen levels, breaking the pollen into tiny particles that can be inhaled deeply, triggering intense asthma symptoms.

People with asthma or hay fever, especially those who wheeze or cough, are most at risk, with those having a history of respiratory conditions particularly vulnerable to more intense symptoms.

Symptoms to Watch For:

- Shortness of breath
- Chest tightness
- Wheezing
- Persistent coughing

Keep your asthma or hay fever plan up to date and carry your medication to reduce the risk of severe asthma attacks. Stay informed by following GV PHU socials and download the VicEmergency app for updates on Thunderstorm asthma and other health issues.

Tips to stay cool this summer:

- 1 Keep cool**
 Use air conditioning or a fan, wear loose clothing, and keep skin cool with a damp sponge or cool showers.
- 2 Stay hydrated**
 Drink water regularly, even before you feel thirsty, especially when outdoors or active.
- 3 Plan ahead**
 Reschedule activities for cooler times and avoid outdoor exercise in the heat.
- 4 Check in**
 Check in with family, friends, and neighbours, especially those at higher risk during extreme heat.
- 5 Stay updated**
 Monitor the weather and Heatwave warnings via the Bureau of Meteorology website or app, and subscribe to Department of Health alerts.

Stay Safe, Stay Protected!

BOLO DECEMBER REPORT (Be On the Look Out)

Gastro remains persistent within our community, especially for young children and those at higher risk. Make sure to wash hands regularly with soap, keep sick children isolated for 48 hours, disinfect surfaces, and ensure they stay hydrated. If symptoms persist, seek medical advice.

With **COVID-19** still circulating, most cases can be managed at home, but if symptoms worsen, seek medical attention. Remember, it's important to avoid visiting vulnerable people if you or your family members are feeling unwell.

Whooping cough remains a risk, particularly for babies and young children. Ensure vaccinations are up to date, and seek early medical advice if a persistent cough develops.

For the latest updates, advice, or support, visit the Better Health website or contact the GV Public Health Unit at 1800 313 070.

Wishing all of our community and partners a safe and happy festive season.



Speed cameras can be anywhere.

If you speed, even a little over the limit, you can expect a minimum fine of \$247 and 1 demerit point. Police and speed cameras can be anywhere, so why take the risk? Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.



ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Keep your eyes open this hay season

AS hay season is underway, farmer fatigue is something that shouldn't be dismissed, as this busy period requires long hours, intense work and exposure to the various weather elements which contributes to fatigue.

According to Agriculture Victoria, farms make up 14 per cent of all workplace fatalities, despite employing only two per cent of working Victorians. On average two people are injured on Victorian farms every day with some of the key risk factors being unsafe or unfamiliar equipment use, animal handling, electrical safety, and working long hours and in isolation.

When it comes to working long hours, some signs of fatigue can include slower reaction times, poor concentration, making mistakes, poor coordination, lack of energy and irritability, feeling unwell with physical symptoms and nodding off or experiencing micro sleeps.

During the busy periods on the farm some strategies to take under your belt include: prioritising sleep, increasing water intake, eating a healthy diet, and limiting caffeine and alcohol intake as this gives to the best chance to get through the long days and nights.

Some common risks at harvest time can include fatigue, working alone with heavy machinery, working near overhead powerlines and increased vehicle traffic. Having extra safety measures in place to ensure everyone is safe working on the farm will make it a smoother process for all.

Worksafe suggests during these times: Take adequate breaks after each day so you, contractors and workers have enough time to travel home, relax and get a proper amount of sleep; have a system in place to stay in contact with isolated workers on the farm; maintaining a safe distance from all powerlines and not storing, loading or unloading items near overhead powerlines; have appropriate guarding on all machinery that you use and making sure machinery is shut down before attempting to clear blockages; and making sure all contractors and seasonal workers that are employed have an induction to the property and the job and are consulted about safety issues, and all their machinery tickets are up to date and they are competent.

Strike before the flies do: managing flystrike

Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

FLYSTRIKE costs the Australian sheep industry approximately \$173 million annually, due to lost production, treatment costs and deaths. Reducing the risk of flystrike has immense benefits to the health and wellbeing of the sheep and productivity.

The major fly responsible for flystrike in sheep is the green blowfly, *Lucilia cuprina*. *Lucilia cuprina* is thought to be responsible for 90 per cent of flystrike cases.

Lucilia cuprina begins to become active when temperatures are above 15 degrees and is most active when temperatures are between 26 and 36 degrees. It prefers calm conditions. Each female fly can have up to 300 viable offspring and, with a 21-day life cycle, when conditions are optimal, fly numbers can increase rapidly.

The fly has a small flight range, so most of the flies you see are probably produced on your own property. The fly is attracted to odour and moisture, so the risk of flystrike increases when there is regular, consistent rainfall that keeps the sheep's skin moist.

The sheep most susceptible to flystrike are those with breech wrinkles, long wool, dags, urine stain, fleece rot, dermatitis and/or wounds. Plus, sheep that have been previously fly-struck have a relatively higher likelihood of being re-struck.

The prevention of flystrike requires an integrated plan and includes the following: Selection of sheep and marking of lambs to produce a flock with a relatively low susceptibility to flystrike; shearing and crutching timed before the peak flystrike risk period; correct use of preventative chemicals timed to give protection during the peak flystrike risk period; worm control

and dietary management to help reduce the prevalence of dags; selection of relatively open, windy, dry paddocks; removal of infective material and carcasses that may attract flies.

As conditions become more favourable to flystrike, sheep should be monitored more regularly for flystrike.

If a fly-struck sheep is found, the affected area should be immediately treated by clipping close to the skin, dressed to prevent a re-strike, and the sheep should be moved to a hospital paddock to reduce the risk to the rest of the flock. Any maggots should be collected and killed to help reduce the build-up of fly numbers.


For further advice please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer, or visit websites flyboss.com.au/ and wool.com/sheep/welfare/breech-flystrike/

Last cattle sale for 2024 in Yea

LAST Friday, December 6 saw the last cattle sale at the Yea Saleyards for 2024. About 2200 cattle were yarded, with the average price per head increasing from last month's store sale.

The next sale in Yea is on January 10, with the Nutrien Yea Upper Goulburn Rivers Annual Classic weaner sale. This is followed by four more sales in January, for a total of five sales in the first month of the new year.

More information can be found on the Yea Saleyards Facebook page, or by visiting yeasaleyards.com.au

 STOCK REPORT 6 DECEMBER 2024				
6 December 2024 Store Sale (Elders/Nutrien)	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers	Cows & Calves
Number of head	2,130			63
Average \$ per head	\$1,732			
Average weight per head	359.4kg			
Top price per head		\$2,250	\$1,780	\$1,740
Top weight		797.5kg	645kg	
Turnover	\$2.49 million			

-S

Funding for wildlife rescue volunteers

THE Victorian Government is boosting funding for Victoria's wildlife rescue volunteers who dedicate their time and expertise to care for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos opened applications for the Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants with up to \$3000 in funding available as part of a \$300,000 investment to support wildlife rescue volunteers provide native animals in need of rehabilitation.

"We're supporting wildlife volunteers to provide the best possible care to the animals they work with, by supporting them with training, equipment and resources to carry out best-practice treatment," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"Wildlife shelters and foster carers across Victoria play an essential role in the recovery and rehabilitation of native animals that have been injured or orphaned."

Wildlife shelter operators and foster carers can apply for funding to cover a range of expenses, including equipment, vet fees, training, feed and medication.

Wildlife shelter operators can apply for up to \$3000. Foster carers can apply for up to \$2000.

In January this year, \$230,000 worth of grants were awarded to support 102 wildlife organisations continue to provide vital care for thousands of native animals across Victoria, enhancing facilities to treat, house and rehabilitate wildlife for release while boosting skills and knowledge through education and training.

Since 2015, the state government has invested \$6.3 million to support the work of foster carers, authorised wildlife shelter operators and key wildlife organisations, building on a historic \$609 million investment in Victoria's environment since 2014.

Applications opened on Tuesday, November 25, 2024 and close on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

For more information on Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants and to submit an application visit, wildlife.vic.gov.au/grants/wildlife-rehabilitator-grants/

Safety first on a ladder

AS the preparations begin around the home with Christmas decorations, and completing that never ending list of jobs the Victorian Government is asking to put ladder safety on the top of the list.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas reminds Victorians to stay safe when climbing ladders, as data from the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit showed hospital admissions for ladder falls at home over the past decade have increased by 49 per cent among Victorians aged 55 years and over.

Most of those presenting at Victorian hospitals for ladder-related falls are male, and the large majority are aged between 50 and 79 years old.

Falling from a ladder can result in serious, and sometimes fatal injuries, including bone fractures and brain and head injuries, and those who are seriously injured can often struggle to fully recover from such physical trauma.

Lifelong injuries like these can affect basic everyday functions, such as walking and talking. This can have a massive impact on an individual's independence and quality of

life and limit someone from taking public transport or driving.

During the festive season and upcoming summer, the rate of people turning up at emergency departments with injuries from jobs at home increases exponentially, but there are simple things we can all do to stay safe at home.

Those climbing a ladder should always take the necessary precautions including: Making sure the ladder is the right height for the job and in good working condition; placing the ladder on dry, firm, and level ground away from outward-opening doors or windows; staying in the centre of the ladder as they climb, and only climb as far as the second step from the top; working within their arm's reach and never lean too far from the ladder; always maintaining three points of contact with the ladder; using both feet and one hand when using a tool, avoid climbing in wet, windy, or hot weather, and ensuring someone else is home when climbing and ideally having someone to hold the ladder.

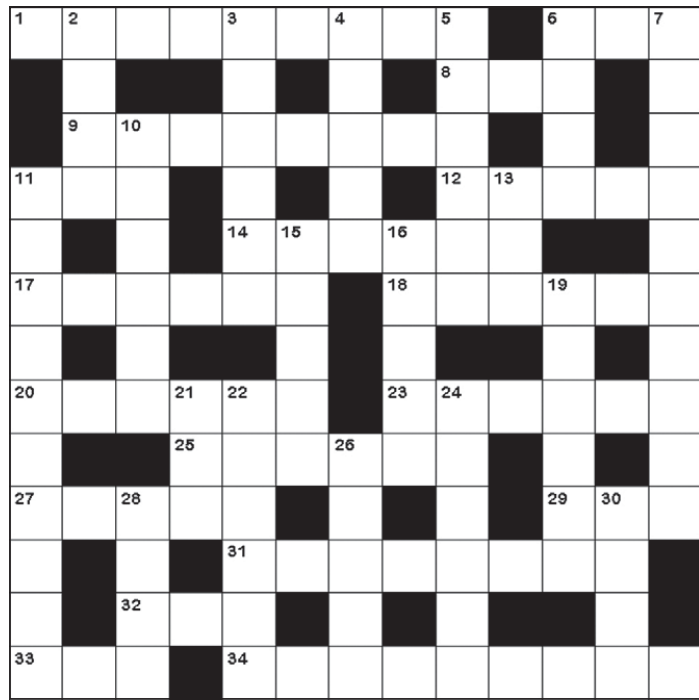
For more information please visit, betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/ladder-safety

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Psychologically painful.
 - Runners used for gliding over snow.
 - Make a long tear in.
 - Picture with gradually fading edges.
 - Adult female bird.
 - Person who makes a gift of an organ.
 - Stay behind after everyone has left.
 - An icon to represent yourself online.
 - Takes without the owner's consent.
 - Has beautiful natural scenery.
 - Make moist.
 - With laces undone.
 - Having a circular shape.
 - The colour of a ripe tomato.
 - Forced to leave a place.
 - Assume a reclining position.
 - Brightly coloured and showy.
 - Loathing and disliking intensely.



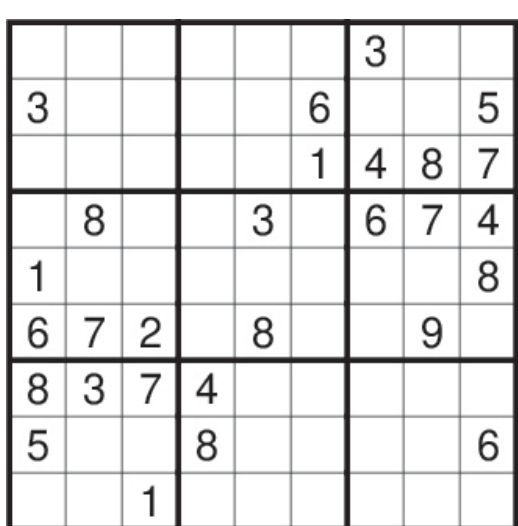
- DOWN**
- A dance party that lasts all night.
 - A commonly repeated word or phrase.
 - An object serving as a tribal emblem.
 - Money available for a client to borrow.
 - Go for a short drive in a car.
 - Kept in captivity.
 - Breath in deeply.
 - Self-willed and obstinate.
 - A single person or thing.
 - Upright in position.
 - An incidental remark.
 - Have an ambitious plan.
 - A woman religious.
 - An expression of surprise.
 - Fully developed and mature persons.
 - A contribution of information.
 - Deficient in beauty.
 - The garden of Adam and Eve.

Word Search

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

- Fairytales Characters**
- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| ALADDIN | PINOCCHIO |
| BASHFUL | RAPUNZEL |
| CINDERELLA | REDRIDINGHOOD |
| DOPEY | SLEEPINGBEAUTY |
| GOLDILOCKS | SLEEPY |
| HAPPY | SNOWWHITE |

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.

Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
				21				

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
			11					

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
	1						

$$\begin{array}{r} M \\ 11 \overline{) 25} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} T \\ 1 \overline{) 23} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} M \\ 11 \overline{) 21} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} E \\ 2 \overline{) 24} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} E \\ 14 \overline{) 21} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} E \\ 16 \overline{) 14} \end{array}$$

Math Square

	x		+	2	37
+		x		+	
	+		x		58
+		+		÷	
	-		x	3	-23
10		50		5	

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.



Ollie, Toby, Alex and Angus. -S

Wellbeing day for Sacred Heart students

SACRED Heart students participated in a Mental Health and Wellbeing Day on Tuesday, December 3 where they learned valuable strategies for emotional regulation. Siobhan, Occupational Therapist from Dindi Kids, guided students through various activities designed to help them manage emotions such as anger, excitement, and sadness.

Coleman, an activity that encouraged both artistic expression and emotional calming. Additionally, students developed personalised 'tool belts' of coping strategies to help regulate their emotions, ensuring safety for themselves and others. The event was made possible through grant funding from Foundation Murrindindi.



Ted and Ainslie -S



Oreti. -S



Kaden, Olivia, Matilda, Max, Harley and Shaelee. -S

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Lithium-ion battery warning as Christmas approaches

VICTORIAN fire agencies are urging residents to be aware of the risks associated with lithium-ion battery products this festive season following a lithium-ion battery explosion on an e-bike.

As a result, a Langwarrin family lost their entire garage last month (November 14), with the near miss alerted to by their 21-year-old daughter just minutes before the whole structure went up in flames.

Property owner Jamie Universita said he was unaware of the dangers lithium-ion battery products could cause if damaged and was thankful his e-bike was stored in the garage away from living and sleeping areas.

"We are just so lucky our daughter and her friends were at home at that very moment to pack their car for a camping weekend, and were quick enough to take action," Jamie said.

"She initially heard crackling sounds and saw electrical sparks, and after ringing me to let me know, she removed my car from the garage and called the fire brigade who told her not to hose it down."

Jamie said once the bike exploded into a fireball, they lost everything in a matter of minutes.

"It could have been so much worse, we're just so grateful the firefighters were able to contain it before it stretched further to the house. Everything can be replaced," Jamie said.

"I had no idea products like my e-bike were capable of doing something like this. I really urge everyone to buy from a reputable brand and to pay close attention to them."

Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said incidents such as these are a strong reminder for residents to understand how they can prevent devices and batteries from catching fire.

"It's important Victorians are checking their devices for damage regularly before charging, and that they're only using a compatible charger that has been supplied with the device," Mr Heffernan said.

"Please only purchase and use equipment from reputable manufacturers and suppliers.

"We strongly recommend households install interconnected smoke alarms where devices such as these are charged, so residents and firefighters are alerted as soon as possible."

Ahead of Christmas gifting and school holiday activities, Fire Rescue Victoria Deputy Commissioner Community Safety Joshua Fischer said Victorians should learn about safely purchasing and handling lithium-ion battery-powered devices of all types.

"It's essential to only use devices from reliable manufacturers and to follow their instructions. Larger devices such as e-bikes or e-scooters should only ever be charged in areas such as garages or sheds that are away from living areas and exits," said Mr Fischer.

"Phones, computers, toys and power tools should never be left unattended while charging, or on soft flammable surfaces such as beds or pillows. They should also not be left in direct sunlight or in parked vehicles where they can quickly heat up."

"We want all Victorians to stay safe this season, so please be aware of the warning signs of lithium-ion battery fires such as strong odours, discolouration, bulging, and abnormal sounds. Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and we encourage you to familiarise yourself with the tips on our websites to better understand how to store and charge your device correctly."

Lithium-ion battery safety tips include: Only buy lithium-ion battery products from a reputable supplier and follow the manufacturer's instructions; only use the charger supplied with the device, or one that is compatible with the battery and meets Australian Standards; check e-scooters and e-bikes for damage before charging; do not charge a battery that is damaged, or a device containing a damaged battery; install interconnected smoke alarms where devices are often charged; for large devices such as e-bikes and e-scooters, only charge them in areas such as garages and sheds and away from exits and living areas; never charge your device on or near flammable surfaces, such as beds or pillows, as this can contribute to overheating and start a fire; do not overcharge your device; do not leave a charging device in direct sunlight; do not store lithium-ion batteries in areas where they are exposed to heat or moisture.

Find more information at cfa.vic.gov.au/batterysafety and frv.vic.gov.au/battery-safety

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E	H		R	E	M	A	I	N				I
A	V	A	T	A	R		S	T	E	A	L	S
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CRYPTOGRAM

MY HOW TIME FLIES

SUDOKU

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

MATH SQUARES

5	x	7	+	2	37
+		x		+	
4	+	6	x	9	58
+		+		÷	
1	-	8	x	3	-23
10		50		5	

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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

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DEATH NOTICES

HISCOCK, Wendy Leah Anderson
18/04/1940-29/11/2024
Late of 'Old Ghin Ghin' and Yea. Aunt, cousin, community member and friend of many. Daughter of Ossie (dec) and Leah (dec). Sister of Kerry (dec) and Julie.

Someone who lived and loved to serve her community.

DEATH NOTICES

HISCOCK, Wendy Leah Anderson
18/04/1940-29/11/2024
Thank you Wendy for your huge commitment to the CFA in safeguarding our community through many fires and other emergency incidents over so many years. Your local knowledge and experience was unsurpassed. Dearly remembered and lifetime friend to Neil and Jan Beer. We will miss your regular phone calls.

FUNERAL NOTICES

HISCOCK. The funeral service to celebrate the life of Wendy Hiscock will be held at the Yea Recreation Reserve, 20 Snodgrass Street Yea on Thursday December 12, 2024 commencing at 2pm. Following the service the funeral cortège will proceed to the Yea Cemetery.



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BEREAVEMENT THANKS

AUSTIN, David

Thank you to everyone who attended David's Memorial Service and/or sent cards, condolences and flowers. Special thanks to the celebrant - Rhonda Edwards, Damien at N J Todd Funeral Directors and members of the Seymour Bowling Club for catering after the service. The support of friends, neighbours, ex clients and WATCO members has been deeply appreciated.

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Melbourne Football Club visited Yea High School on November 25. Students had the opportunity to meet players Shane McAdam, Andy Moniz-Wakefield, Aidan Johnson, Daniel Turner, Koltyn Tholstrup, Harry Sharp, Clayton Oliver and Max Gawn. -S

Melbourne Football Club visits Yea High School



The students and players. -S



Students getting autographs. -S



Students getting a selfie with Max Gawn. -S



Max Gawn with one of the students. -S



Yea Primary students having fun on Teacher Planning Day

TEACHER Planning Day at Yea Primary School was a day of fun for the students, including a water fight. The students all had a terrific day.

-S



Local students take part in junior golfers program



More of the local children involved in the Alexandra Golf Club's Junior Golf Program. -S



Twenty-eight primary and secondary students from across Murrindindi Shire participated in Alexandra Golf Club's five-week Junior Golf Program. PGA Golf Professional and Alexandra local Matt Jager and Club Captain Luke Heard ran the program focused on introducing kids to golf and helping others to develop their existing skills. -S

Round eight of term two for Alexandra Squash Club

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Kangaroos versus Wombats

JORDAN versus Lochlan: A great match. Both players took different approaches to the match. Lochlan had a big win in game three, but Jordan came out on top. 65 to 54.

Mick versus Chris: These two had some good rallies with beautiful deep shots. Despite Chris's efforts, Mick got the upper hand using drives along the side walls. Mick claimed the win. 67 to 44.

Justin versus Daniel W: A spectacle to behold, this is always an entertaining game to watch. There was only a point in it going into the final game and both players fought hard until the last second. When the timer stopped Justin landed on top for victory. 64 to 57.

Platypus versus Koalas

Tyler versus Eric: It was a very one-sided match. Tyler was just too strong for his opponent and took home a commanding win. 82 to 38.

Sally versus Matt (fill in): What would have been a close match turned into a rout when Matt filled in for Lee. Matt's tennis pro style had the goods as he cruised to victory. 72 to 44.

Michael versus Simon: A close match with great rallies. Michael held the momentum at half-time but played complacently, allowing Simon to get on a roll and tie the match. 54 to 54.

John versus Daniel K: John played plenty of shots. Unfortunately, he was against an in-form Daniel and was sent as a steer to the abattoir. Daniel played shots from every angle to win all four games and the match. 69 to 49.

Thursday Competition Tigers versus Cheetahs

Randy versus Jess: The server tended to hold the power in the game. Both had some good shots and Jess was playing strong. Randy had too many unforced errors, helping Jess in her win. 86 to 36.

Lucas versus Travis: Opponents were on even standing. Lucas's

serve made the difference and swung the match in his favour to take the win. 65 to 46.

James versus Jim: James came out firing and had Jim on the back foot. Jim mixed up the shots and clawed things back to a respectable score in the first game. Jim's choice of pace frustrated James and Jim won the next three games to take home a comfortable win. 59 to 47.

Panthers versus Leopards

Reece versus Blake (fill in): Blake has recently had a shift in his game, he is reading the play better and seems more focused. Reece was not ready for this, and Blake got the better of him with some crafty shots to take the match. 71 to 40.

Sam versus Matt (fill in): A high intensity and hard-hitting match. Matt had more in the tank, outrunning and outplaying Sam. 75 to 56.

Phil versus Michael H: A very close match down to the nail-biting last few rallies. Phil just clawed back the points needed for a victory. 52 to 51.



Sam plays a backhand against Matt. -S

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Yea ladies' golf season 2024 reaches conclusion

by Karen Sangster

WHAT a wonderful day to celebrate the end of 2024 Season. Beautiful day, wonderful course and a scrumptious lunch and drinkie poos to top it off.

Eighteen girls travelled to Mansfield for the festivities. Ambrose the name of the game for the day, which, as we know can be very interesting, depending on the accuracy of flight for each ball hit. Of course it is the ball's fault getting into these somewhat dicey positions, not the person holding the implement striking it. Makes for a lot of laughs. Lots of, oh sorry. Ha Ha. Lots of fun.

Upon completion of said game, all piled into the club house for lunch and presentations. This year proved to be one of the most entertaining ever, at least that I can remember.

Starting off, the daily winners, who obviously stayed on the course, Team, Jo

Clayton and Khai Mohamed-Noir, receiving a very cute prize. Novelty golf towels. Appropriately one saying, "I play like a girl". Well done girls.

We then moved onto the serious side of presentations, being the announcement of the Club Champions, year 2024. Four games, best scores for three.

A very exciting game this year. A play off for overall champion. I can not remember the last time, if any, happening before. If there were, it was a long, long time ago.

A Grade Winner, Miranda Gill and B Grade Winner, Christine Simmons, who had had an outstanding three rounds, both 278 strokes went out to compete for the final winner. Starting on hole 10, Christine having the first two of her strokes, going to where she was very happy with the results. The third however, not so lucky whereas Miranda on

the other hand, had an awesome shot, landing on the green for three, close to the hole. Pressure was on.

Christine made her next attempt, a little short, then the fourth, on the green, but further from the hole than Miranda. Next Christine first to putt, missed. Miranda then to putt, also missed but very close to the hole. A little tap and it was in for five. Game over as Christine was already five and had to putt again.

Congratulations to both girls. A very fine effort from both. A very nerve wracking experience, lots of pressure. Played to the end with great professionalism. As I said before Miranda Gill this year's overall winner, the club champion. Also winning A Grade. You certainly are a champion.

Christine, winning B Grade 10 strokes ahead of the rest of B Graders. An outstanding

effort. For her great scores Christine was also awarded the Handicap Winner with a score of 204. Twelve strokes ahead. As you can imagine her handicap is going down down down. A great year. Congratulations, keep it up.

Moving onto C Grade, another close tussle. But our wonderful Penny Britton, affectionately known as Penny Button (stuck after a typo on her name) was the victor, putting her head down on the last round enabling her to be 10 strokes ahead.

Last but not least, D Grades winner, none other than our wonderful caterer, Queen of all foods prepared. Judi Newman. Judi has done a wonderful job, not only playing, but organising many a meal for lots of functions etc. A very time consuming job.

Thinking, well that's it for the day. We were all wrong, well except for two members. We, the rest were all duly surprised and entertained to the max. So many giggles. My hat goes off to the organisation and creativity to Sharon Grogan, who also had a co conspirator, Penny Britton. Both executed the exercise with frivolity, most humorous. And very generous. All being at her own expense. Biggest of thanks Sharon.

The surprise, a bunch of awards, all with a twist. You really had to be there to appreciate the humour. First it was to the three red heads, mind you all three girls, confused, none had red hair. The end, opening their gifts. Each a box of Matches (Red Heads) their title, "The Match committee". Another, the captain, her pressy, a hilarious hat and bottles of power aid. (Power of the Captain).

A flush award, upon opening gift, a roll of toilet paper and flush beads. Awarded to the cleaner of the toilets. The event organiser received and advent chocolate calendar. Social Butterfly award. Organiser of the social activities, another for the kitchen, cart organisers, called the cartel award. The list goes on.

It was an absolute wonderful day ending with so much laughter, good for the soul. Best of luck with the ongoing Gender Challenge Ladies. No cooking.



Judi Newman D Grade champion. -S



The Yea Golf Club ladies enjoying their Christmas break-up. -S



The daily winners for the Christmas break-up. -S



Penny Britton was C Grade champion. -S



Miranda Gill was champion for 2024. -S



Christine Simmons was B Grade handicap champion. -S