

The Yea Chronicle

92 High Street, Yea. PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5797 2468 or (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5797 2257; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, April 7, 2021 \$1.50 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au



Noah, Ben and Ava were happy with the goodies collected from the fire truck at the Yea Railway Market on Saturday, April 3. More images on page 12. -TM

Yea Primary School farewells Debbie George

by Tricia Mifsud

DEBBIE George, who served as Yea Primary School's principal for 12 and a half years has announced her retirement.

Initially a primary school teacher, Debbie taught at various schools in Melbourne before travelling north to teach in Mildura. She also lectured at La Trove University in Shepparton and Seymour GOTAFE while studying her Masters of Teaching.

It was former Puckapunyal principal Ray Pitman who instilled the thought in Debbie

that perhaps being a principal is something she would be interested in.

"I never actually thought to do this role, but Ray Pitman said there was a school going nearby and he said, 'why don't you apply' and I replied 'why would I, I have never thought about [being a principal]," Debbie said.

"So I didn't apply to that one, but it got me thinking and I thought maybe there's something more. I just wanted though to find one school, and I was so lucky and so blessed really to have found Yea to be honest."

In term four of 2008, Debbie came to Yea Primary as acting principal, filling in the position left by Meg Dallas. Little did Debbie know, that what she thought would be an interim role, would turn into over a decades' service.

"Meg was here for seven years and I remember at the time thinking, 'that's amazing, I'll never do seven.' And now it's been 12 and a half. So I came here and was acting for term four 2008. And then I was give the position, beginning in term one 2009," she said.

It was far from an easy start for Debbie, who took her first official principal position during the Black Saturday bushfires. Since then, Debbie is thankful that the school hasn't had to endure any other challenging time; other than COVID-19 over the last year.

The most challenging aspect of her job she said was ensuring all the families at the primary school felt included and always had their needs met.

"The biggest challenges we have is that we average about 140 to 150 children, which usually is about 80 families. What we have

to do is combine all those different personalities, so that we can make a workable team within the school," she said.

"Not only do we work with the kids who are all different and need different things, there are all their families. This means there's different moral compasses, different attitudes to discipline, and different attitudes to how people talk to the kids and bring up their kids and how much support they're willing to give their kids as opposed to how much we think they need.

Continued Page 12

★ **CLOSED ANZAC DAY - MONDAY, APRIL 26** ★

EARLY DEADLINES APPLY

★ EGN - 5PM THURSDAY, APRIL 22. ARTWORK - 5PM THURSDAY, APRIL 22 ★

★ CLASSIFIEDS INC DEATH NOTICES - 10AM FRIDAY, APRIL 23 ★

★ TRADES WILL REMAIN THE SAME - NOON THURSDAY ★

★ EDITORIAL, SPORTS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - 10AM MONDAY, APRIL 26 ★

Lest we forget

43 Grant Street, Alexandra Ph: 57721002
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The Yea Chronicle

THE ALEXANDRA, EILDON, MARYSVILLE
Standard

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters published are the opinion of the writer and not necessarily the opinion of **Alexandra Newspapers**. Submit your letter via our Facebook page, email or mail www.facebook.com/AlexandraNewspapers editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au PO Box 5 Alexandra, 3714

LETTERS MUST NOT EXCEED 300 WORDS

Submitted letters will be edited at the discretion of **Alexandra Newspapers**. Letters larger than **300** words, will not be published. Letters which are offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks will not be published. All letters must contain contact details of writer; name, address and telephone number, (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details **will not** be published. Deadline is 10am Monday



Letters to the Editor

Environment

I READ with worry a letter to the editor from your March 31 publication that seems to be written by someone with almost no ability for clear thinking. Let's pull apart their claims.

Smoke pollution: our forests have evolved with fire, 60,000 years of it, fire is used to clear fire prone litter, smoke is a fact of life. It seems like the writer wants another Black Saturday, seems the answer is yes.

He is 100 per cent wrong on carbon sequestration. Chopping a tree down does not release carbon, it is actually stored in the end product for 100s of years, the tree regrows and hey presto, tonnes more carbon sequestered. I suggest you Google the abhorrent, and environmentally approved, biomass industry.

As for habitat, those protesting sustainable forestry in Alexandra are directly destroying orangutan rainforests overseas, and speeding up the process. The useful dullards of the green movement are not altering global demand for wood, just moving the supply to a country with zero regulation

Name and address supplied but withheld by request.

Rail trail

WE are constantly being warned about the hazards of fire risk and the risk of unstoppable grass fires in the surrounding bush. The rail trail is constantly promoted as great for tourists, and the local community are encouraged to cycle and walk. It needs urgent maintenance.

Having walked this trail from the tramway station area past Prospect Lane at least twice a week for six years, I have noticed and am deeply concerned at the huge fuel growth that has been allowed to accumulate to create a massive fire hazard.

The trail is narrowing in many places because grass and weeds, including rye grass, are growing up to two metres high on either side of the trail. A couple of trees with hardly any root hang on a dangerous angle, ready to collapse over the trail.

Before Maintongoon Road, there is huge long grass and weeds. Grass and weeds encroach on the trail on either side, narrowing the trail for bicycles. Dead tree and branches have been lying around for years.

Over Maintongoon Road, just before the bridge, rye grass and thistles are six feet high. Then in particular, on the right hand side of the bridge and to the full length of the bridge, massive blackberry patches are growing to eight feet high, and even growing through onto the bridge. A couple of beautiful 60 foot trees have ivy growing up almost 40 feet, which will eventually bring down the trees. It is a massive snake area. The creek is almost covered by blackberries.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request.

Were you there?

POLICE have returned to Wonnangatta Valley this week to continue their search for missing campers Russell Hill and Carol Clay.

Members of police Search and Rescue were joined by NSW cadaver dogs to continue searching for the missing campers who have not been seen since March, 2020

This is the second time NSW cadaver dogs have assisted in the search for Russell and Carol.

Police believe Russell left his Drouin home on Thursday, March 19, 2020 collected Carol from her home in Pakenham in his white Toyota Landcruiser, then travelled via Licola spending one night at Howitt High Plains before heading into Wonnangatta Valley on Friday, March 20.

Russell was last heard from on Friday, March 20, 2020 via HF radio stating he was at Wonnangatta Valley in the Victorian Alps.

Campers found Russell's vehicle with signs of minor fire damage at their campsite, which was completely destroyed by fire, near Dry River Creek Track in the Wonnangatta Valley on Saturday, March 21, 2020.

Missing Persons Squad detectives, with the assistance of specialist police, have conducted numerous searches in and around the Wonnangatta Valley over the last 12 months, however Russell and Carol have not been located.

Investigators are also continuing to appeal to anyone who was in the Wonnangatta area around that time, including campers, 4x4 day trippers, hunters, fishermen or trail bike riders, regardless of whether they saw or heard anything.

Detectives are also keen to speak to anyone who was in the area of Howitt Plains and Zeka Spur Track on March 19 or 20, 2020, and the Wonnangatta Valley and Wonnangatta Station between March 20-24 who has not yet made contact with police is urged to come forward.

Detectives have also established that Russell was camping alone with his Landcruiser in the area of the King Billy and Bluff Track between Wednesday, March 11 and Friday, March 13, 2020.

Police are keen to speak to anyone in that area on those dates.

Information was later received about a sighting of an older person or pair in the Black Snake Creek, Eaglevale River crossing and the Ollies Jump area on Sunday, March 22, or Monday, March 23, 2020, however police have never been able to establish if this was the missing campers.

Detectives are calling for anyone in this area, or any older couple who may be these persons, to also come forward.

Officer in charge of the Missing Persons Squad, Detective Acting Inspector Anthony Combridge, said "It has been over 12 months since Russell Hill and Carol Clay disappeared and we are committed to finding the answers on what happened to them."

"We will continue to search the area and encourage anyone with information to come forward, no matter how small they think that information might be."

Anyone who sights Russell or Carol is urged to contact triple zero (000) immediately.

Anyone with any other information regarding their disappearance or who has any CCTV or dashcam footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or log onto crimestoppersvic.com.au

The Yea Chronicle **Standard**
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Correction

WE would like to apologise for the incorrect name printed in last week's article, *Supporting families with special needs children*. The quotes in the article should be attributed to Liz Klein, coordinator of Inspired Carers.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request.

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 1300 222 222
Sun Alanon Recovery Anglican Church, Alexandra 5.30pm.

MONTHLY
1st Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
1st Mon St Lukes Seniors St Lukes Church Ph 5797 2281
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057
1st Sat Yea Dance Group, 8pm Yea Shire Hall
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
2nd Wed Yea Camera Club, 7pm RSL Hall. Ph 0429 200 762
2nd Thu Yea Garden Club Tennis rooms 1.30pm Ph 0439 870 315
4th Thu Yea CWA Yea RSL Hall, 10.30am Ph 5797 2998
Last Fri Yea-Kinglake RSL, 11.30am RSL Hall, Ph 5796 9353

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

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday noon
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

Cycle Dindi

over the hills and not so far away

SATURDAY 17 APRIL 2021

A charity bicycle event along the Great Victorian Rail Trail THE LAST WEEKEND OF THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Registrations open January 2021
Email cycledindi21@gmail.com

The event on the Great Victorian Rail Trail will be centred on the lovely townships of Yea and Alexandra and will include an opportunity to ride across the iconic Bonnie Doon bridge. This event is a fund raiser for Rotary Youth Projects

Rotary
Clubs of Alexandra and Yea and the Friends of the GVRT

What do I get for my money?
• Billy tea, damper and BBQ lunch at Cathkin
• Free admission to Nutfield a working farm, with free Devonshire Tea in the shearing shed, sheep dog demonstration and trailer ride.

DISTANCE	ADULT	SNR	CONC
Yea to Bonnie Doon (return) 121 kms	\$50	\$40	\$10
Bonnie Doon to Yea (return) 121 kms	\$50	\$40	\$10
Bonnie Doon to Cathkin (return) 80 km	\$50	\$40	\$10
Yea to Cathkin (return) 42 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Yea to Alexandra (return) 61 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Alexandra to Yea (return) 61 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10
Alexandra to Cathkin (return) 26 kms	\$40	\$30	\$10

How Much?
That depends on which distance you ride

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Interested?
contact Melinda (Alexandra) 0418 378 806
Julie (Yea) 0447 762 557
or Ross (Mansfield) 0439 046 199
www.rotaryalexandra.org.au
www.yearotary.org.au

* Concession applies to school age children • Under school age free
• SNR - relevant seniors card must be held • Group discount available on request

Local artist celebrates exhibition opening

by Tricia Mifsud

LOCAL artist Meg Heres celebrated the opening of her latest art exhibition at Marmalades café in Yea on the evening of Thursday, April 1.

With no particular theme for the exhibition, visitors can expect to view paintings taken of local landscapes, as well as some paintings from Meg's time overseas.

"There's no theme because I don't believe in themes. I love to paint all sorts of things. This year however, most of the paintings in the exhibition are oil paintings," Meg said.

Without giving away too much for those planning on visiting the exhibition, Meg shared some of the paintings on display.

"There is a painting from France. The painting I do on Europe, I usually do on site while I'm over visiting. I've got some scenes from various things I watched in Yea, and also an early morning scene from Flemington with the horses in the morning light."

Meg has regularly put an art exhibition on over the Easter weekend in Yea, sharing the paintings she has created since 1968.

"I started painting when I was 32, so since 1968. The reason why I was painting is because I had a full time job at Myer but when I married my husband, he



Meg Heres (right) standing alongside Noel Stevenson who opened the exhibition Thursday night. -S

said to me I didn't have to go to work. I was like a machine that had stopped," she said.

"I became very house proud, he then decided I needed a hobby. I wasn't going to have a hobby unless he had a hobby," she said.

Meg enrolled her husband in a woodwork class, to which he

responded that she should try pottery. The pottery class had reached capacity, leading Meg to try out drawing.

It was from here that Meg found a love for art, and eventually went on learning modern art and the use of watercolour at Monash University.

Meg hopes to see many community residents come to view the exhibition.

"I hope that my exhibition gives the viewer as much pleasure as I experience when painting it."

The exhibition will be on display at Marmalades café until Sunday, April 25.

Murrindindi's population changes

THE Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released new data on local government areas (LGAs) around Australia on March 30, and the results for Murrindindi Shire provide an insight into how our population has changed since 2017.

The ABS noted that the information provided below is based on estimates only.

In 2017, there were 125 births in the shire and 121 deaths, meaning that there was a natural increase of four.

By 2020, there were 106 births and 126 deaths, a natural decrease of 20. While the death rate has remained relatively steady, the birth rate has been falling. In 2018, there were 125 births; in 2019, there were 117.

This may have an impact on local schools in the future, particularly if the birth rate continues to decrease.

The 2020 data may however have been impacted by COVID-19, with people choosing not to have children at such a tempestuous time. It will be interesting to see whether the birth rate increases in 2021.

There has also been a shift in 'internal arrivals', people arriving in the shire from elsewhere in Australia. In 2017, there were 1003 new internal arrivals; in 2018 there were 1158; in 2019 there were 1125. Surprisingly, given the pandemic, the numbers dropped in 2020 to 1099.

Internal departures were 878 in 2017; 965 in 2018; 1069 in 2019; and 1024 in 2020, so the pandemic may have stemmed the departure tide in 2020, due to the lower restrictions in regional areas and the quality of life during the lockdown.

The net internal migration was down in all Australian capital cities, aside from in Perth and Brisbane. Sydney was the most heavily impacted. Despite this, Melbourne had the largest population increase, growing by 80,000 people.

International arrivals in Murrindindi in 2020 were down by only nine, compared to the previous year, with 78 compared to 87. Overseas departures were up slightly, with 40 internationals leaving the shire in 2020 compared to 34 in 2019.

The overall population in Murrindindi Shire continued to climb, in a slow and steady way. The population in 2017 was 14,234, and in 2020 it stood at 14,661.

Pride of Workmanship evening

THE Rotary Club of Yea has long been involved in vocational programs such as the L2P driver education program, career days and mock interviews with Yea High School students.

The club also provides employers with an opportunity to recognise employees and volunteers through the Pride of Workmanship (POW) award which recognises a job well done. The POW award acknowledges staff and volunteers who display outstanding qualities in terms of approach, attitude, dedication and commitment.

At a recent meeting, Judi Newman was the recipient of a POW award in recognition of her excellent customer service skills. Judi was nominated by the Y Water Discovery Centre Customer Service Officer, Pauline Roberts who spoke glowingly of Judi's bright, bubbly and efficient personality. She also has an excellent eye for detail and presentation. Judi has volunteered on a weekly basis for the past five years at the centre but is always willing to fill any extra gaps on the roster.



Rotarian Julie Lynch, recipient Judi Newman and Pauline Roberts from the Y Water Discovery Centre. -S

The club members congratulated Judi on her worthy recognition.

The YWDC's role in the nomination of a POW award was also acknowledged with


the presentation of a certificate, accepted by Pauline.

Later in the year other recipients will be recognised as the club encourages a sense of community pride in individual achievements.

Bollygum Community Market
Sunday, April 11
10am-2pm
 Bollygum Park
 40 Whittlesea-Kinglake Road, Kinglake
 New stallholders welcome
 0474 837 900

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Yea Railway Market

This week's Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH
Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Kinglake.
Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.
Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala
Church Office: 9716 2042 or 5716 2028

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA
Sunday Service time
9.30am all year
Mother Eden Nicholls Ph: 0437 937 433

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA
Parish Administrator, Father Vinh Nguyen
Parish Priest Ph 0434 520 667
St Matthew's, Eildon Saturday 6pm
St Mary's, 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
Enquiries: Val Borrie, Secretary Ph 5797 2286
Sunday Service 9am

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

Kimberly and her family, on the left, smelling a unique 'monkey farts' candle at the Debbie Does Candles and Natural Soaps stall. -TM



Rae and Sam at their Intimo stall. -TM



Marqo the Magician surprising William with his tricks. -TM



Chris, 'The Cheese Lady' happily serving a customer at her stall. -TM

The Yea Chronicle

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This marks day 2 of this collection of rare and collectables items obtained over many years and all for genuine sale. Full listing with pictures will be posted on our online auction site approx 2 weeks prior to sale at <http://emblingrural.com.au/online-auctions>

Onsite inspection Saturday, April 17 - 10am to 3pm. No inspection available on Sunday
Online bids can be made prior to sale. See website for details.

Onsite bidders must register onsite before start of auction.

Numbers system will be operating. Photo ID required. Strictly no dogs.

GST does not apply and there is no buyer's premium. Cash or Cheque only.

Directions: 9 Aisla Street, Mansfield. Look for signs

COVID-19: Masks are required to be carried and social distancing protocols apply. All attendees will be required to record personal details, in addition to buyer registration. We reserve the right to limit numbers.

www.emblingrural.com.au



EMBLING RURAL – ALEXANDRA

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Youth Survey 2021 is open

MISSION Australia's *Youth Survey 2021* is now open. Young people aged 15 to 19 across Victoria and nationwide are encouraged to have their say.

Celebrating its 20th year, the *Youth Survey* is the largest online survey of its kind and provides important insights into the experiences and views of young people.

In 2021 as the impacts of COVID-19 become clearer, it is important for young people from Victoria to express their aspirations, issues and concerns. Mission Australia's *Youth Survey* provides a critical platform for young people to do just that

The *Youth Survey 2020* was completed by more than 25,800 young people aged between 15 and 19 years, including 5826 young people in Victoria.

Last year, young people from Victoria nominated COVID-19, equity and discrimination, and mental health as the most important issues facing Australia today.

A higher proportion of young people in Victoria nominated COVID-19 and mental health as the most important issues facing Australia today, compared with other states such as NSW. This perhaps is a reflection on the long and strict Victorian lockdown measures, as well as the higher number of cases experienced in Victoria compared to other states.

Almost half of respondents from Victoria said coping with stress was their top issue of personal concern. Body image and mental health were nominated the next two issues of most concern.

Youth Survey 2021 is expected to close Monday, August 9. To take part in the survey, visit www.missionaustralia.com.au/youthsurvey

CycleDindi back on track



Abbey Road

Brisbane cyclist Craig Schlenker at Abbey Rd in the UK. -S

CYCLEDINDI will return for a fifth time in six years on Saturday, April 17. The event showcases the wonderfully scenic Great Victorian Rail Trail, through the shires of Murrindindi and Mansfield.

Organised by the Rotary Clubs of Yea and Alexandra with assistance from the Friends of the Great Victorian Rail Trail, CycleDindi 21 is a fully supported, family friendly bicycle ride.

It starts at Alexandra, Bonnie Doon or Yea, depending on the preferred distance and which starting location is easier to access.

There are three choices of long rides if you start in Bonnie Doon or Yea. These rides are either 121km or 80km.

The short rides are either 61kms, 42kms or 26kms and are either from Yea to Cathkin, Yea to Alexandra or Alexandra to Cathkin.

Lunch will be provided on the Goulburn River on private property at Cathkin. Riders always enjoy this scenic and peaceful location.

Prices are \$40 or \$50 for adults, depending on the length of the ride, and there are discounts for seniors. The price for school age children is just \$10, no matter which ride they select.

This year, the ride has attracted an interstate rider, Craig from Brisbane. In 2004 Craig traded four wheels and motor for two wheels and handlebar. He found that the pros far outweighed the cons, with fun, fitness and rockstar parking. He hasn't looked back, and since making the change, he has ridden numerous trails in Australia and Europe.

Craig became intrigued by the CycleDindi21 event after reading about it in the *Rail Trails Australia* monthly post-out, so he decided to taken up the challenge to get himself and his bike from Brisbane to the Gold Coast



The sheep dogs at work at Nutfield. -S



Lunch will be provided on the Goulburn River. -S

Airport by train for the half-price flight to Melbourne, and then to travel on the V-line from Southern Cross to Tallarook. From there, he will ride the Great Victorian Rail Trail from its starting point so that he is in Yea on Saturday, April 17 for the start of CycleDindi21. He will then retrace his steps back to Tullamarine, Gold Coast and home to Brisbane.

The organisers are hoping that state borders will be open so Craig

can safely get to Victoria and back home again.

The gentle gradients along much of the route make it suitable for most ages and fitness levels. The trail is a beautiful journey, traversing rolling hills with stunning views and a ride through the historic Cheviot Tunnel.

There is fun to be had in the shearing shed, with a chance to view sheep dogs at work. This will happen at a working farm,

Nutfield, on the rail trail route and includes a delicious home-made Devonshire tea, included in the entry price. This has been a feature of all CycleDindi rides to date and has proven to be exceptionally popular with all riders.

Non-riders are welcome to both lunch and the sheep dog demo for a modest cost. There will even be a coffee van at lunch so everyone can get their fix.

CycleDindi21 is a major fundraiser to support a variety of youth programs in the communities of Yea and Alexandra.

Entry forms available at Rotary websites yearotary.org.au or rotaryalexandra.org.au

Follow CycleDindi21 updates on Facebook. Queries to cycledindi21@gmail.com and bookings can be made via direct deposit or at trybooking.com/BNWEF



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Not sure if you have found a European wasp? Use this picture to help identify what insect you have found. -S

European wasp identification and treatment

DO you know how to tell the difference between a European wasp and a native wasp? While many different species of wasps, bees and flies have black and yellow stripes, there are differences in both the appearance and behaviour of European wasps that will help you tell the difference.

Council's Environment Portfolio Councillor Karine Haslam is urging community members to keep an eye out on their property for European wasps and take action to destroy nests.

"European wasps are a declared pest in Australia. This is due to their aggressive nature and the fact that they like living around people, where there are ready food sources available. This isn't an ideal combination of characteristics for any flying insect, let alone a wasp," Cr Haslam said.

"There are some key behaviours you should keep an eye out for to help you identify European wasps. They are commonly attracted to human food and pet food (in particular fish and meat), garbage and the sugars found in some fruit and drinks. You won't usually see other wasp or bee species attracted to these sorts of foods. European wasps also make numerous trips between a food source and their nest."

In terms of appearances, both European wasps and their nests are distinctively

different to other native wasp species. Paper wasps are commonly mistaken for European wasps, however European wasps have shorter and thicker bodies and have black antennae, whereas the Paper wasps have orange-brown antennae. The back legs of Paper wasps hang down while they fly and they're often seen hovering over lawns, bushes and water sources. European wasps don't tend to hang around in one place for too long, they fly very quickly and hold their legs close to their bodies.

"Autumn is the most critical season for European wasps because it is when the next generation of queens and male wasps are produced. If we can treat nests now, we can stop these new wasps mating and flying off to build more nests," she said.

"If you locate a European wasp nest on your property, you can either get in touch with a professional pest control service or you can treat the nest yourself using chemicals from your local hardware store or supermarket.

"To avoid receiving a nasty sting, make sure you treat the nest at night when wasp activity is low, and cover your torch with red cellophane as insects can't see red light. We also recommend wearing protective clothing and a bee veil," Cr Haslam said.

People requiring further advice on how to deal with a wasp nest on their property or to report a nest on council land can call 5772 0333.



RABBIT MANAGEMENT

Did you know that rabbits are considered a serious pest in Victoria? They degrade our agricultural land, roads, parks and reserves, and they destroy native vegetation and compete with native animals for food and habitat. Rabbits are also well suited to Australian conditions and breed prolifically.

Rabbit control is most effective during early-Autumn, as breeding has generally paused during this time and rabbit populations are lower.

To find out more information about how to manage rabbits on your property, visit Council's website and search 'pests'. You can download our rabbit management brochure and one-page calendar to help you plan your rabbit control activities. The calendar is also available as a handy fridge magnet, which we can arrange to have sent to you, along with a copy of the brochure.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING PERMIT (APP) SCHEME

Do you hold a Disability Parking Permit? The Victorian Government has made changes to the way you will renew your permit and for any new permit applications. When you apply for or renew your permit, you will now do so through the Accessible Parking Permit (APP) Scheme and online administration system, which aligns with the national Australian Disability Permit Scheme (ADPS) and streamlines the application process, making it simpler and consistent across the state. Councils across Victoria administer this scheme for the Victorian Government.

For more information about these changes, including how to apply, please visit Council's website and search 'disability parking permit', give us a call or drop in to one of our service centres.

JOBS AT COUNCIL

Customer Service Coordinator

Do you value connecting with customers and delivering a quality customer experience? Are you innovative and motivating? Are you system-savvy and love using data to support change? If you answered 'yes, yes, yes' - we'd like to talk to you. Council is looking for a Customer Service Coordinator who can help us continue our 'Customer First' journey, so we ensure our customers are at the centre of all our interactions and processes.

Customer Service Officers (part time and casual)

Council is seeking talented and motivated individuals to join our customer and library service team (including Council's Customer Contact Centre). We are looking for people with experience in delivering exceptional customer service. If you think you know the difference between serving customers and delighting customers with your service, please apply to join our amazing team.

As the first point of contact with Council's customers, you will be keen to find solutions and handle enquiries from beginning to end. You will be an active listener, have a positive 'can-do' attitude and be able to provide prompt and friendly customer service for the full range of Council and Library Services.

For more information about vacant positions, including position descriptions, and to apply, please visit the 'jobs' section of our website. Applications for the positions above close at 5.00 pm on Monday 19 April.



Get in touch with Council
customer@murrindindi.vic.gov.au
murrindindi.vic.gov.au
5772 0333

Victoria leading the way towards gender equality

VICTORIA has taken a nation-leading step towards achieving gender equal workplaces in the public sector, with the commencement of the Australian first *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

The new act requires 300 public sector employers, including local councils and universities, to report on and improve gender equality in the workplace.

Victoria's inaugural Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner Dr Niki Vincent is working with public sector workplaces, which employ more than 380,000 people, to close the gender pay gap, improve gender equality at all levels of the workforce and eliminate workplace sexual harassment.

"The Gender Equality Act is the first of its kind in Australia, requiring public sector organisations to show real progress on gender equality in the workplace and our community," she said.

"The Act will have far-reaching benefits, not only for public sector workers who make up 11 per cent of the Victorian workforce, but for the people they serve."

Organisations will also need to undertake gender impact assessments, ensuring that policies, programs and services consider the different needs of Victorians of all genders.

International evidence shows that when compelled to identify gender gaps and develop a plan to address those gaps, organisations take deliberate and positive action.

The Victorian Government is driving gender equality with a \$435 million investment in progressing gender equality and ending family violence, including more than \$13 million to implement the *Gender Equality Act*.

This funding was part of a targeted range of economic supports that put women at the heart of Victoria's economic recovery as we move through the coronavirus pandemic, including \$150 million to support 6900 women into job placements, and \$170 million to make kinder free in 2021.

Dr Vincent and the Commission are undertaking extensive consultation with the sector and are providing support to organisations to fulfill their obligations under the Act.

The Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector has published detailed guidance and resources on genderequalitycommission.vic.gov.au and will provide training and support to organisations.

Disability Support Worker – Yea



Southern Cross is seeking motivated, caring and committed people to provide support to a 61-year-old man with a spinal cord injury to enable independence by providing a service to assist him in his own home. There are a variety of hours available, you can nominate these during the on-line application process. To be successful you will have a minimum of 6 months experience providing care, current references, mobile phone, NDIS clearance, driver's license and reliable transport.



If you meet the above - please go to the support worker information section at www.scch.com.au to complete an application form with the following job reference: 408DR or Scan the QR code.
National Contact Centre: Level 1, 50 O'Connell St, Parramatta, NSW 2150
Ph: 1800 989 000 (ext 506)



Community celebrates Indigenous book launch

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was pleased to host a wonderful event on Saturday, March 27 at its Alexandra Library, the launch of *On Taungurung Land: Sharing History and Culture* by Uncle Roy Patterson and Dr Jennifer Jones.

Murrindindi Shire Mayor Sandice McAulay said she was proud to welcome guests with an acknowledgement to country, including a number of Uncle Roy's family.

"This was a truly joyous occasion, attended by over 50 guests. Sadly, Uncle Roy passed away in 2017. But, as his family and Dr Jones agreed, he would have been very proud to have stood with us for the launch of this important work," Cr McAulay said.

"Uncle Roy wanted to ensure his knowledge wasn't lost to us. And I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Jones for this wonderful and informative book. I feel richer for having read it."

Dr Jones was a co-author of the book alongside Uncle Roy, who together gathered stories and made recordings. They would visit places of importance, and even experienced the taste and effect of bush tucker together.

Cr McAulay shared her special connection to the book.

"I have a special connection to this wonderful book. My husband Ray and I were lucky enough to host many of the meetings between Dr Jennifer Jones and Uncle Roy at our store in Taggerty, where together they discussed Uncle Roy's knowledge, memories and stories, which form the basis of this book," she said.



Right to left, co-author Dr Jennifer Jones, Mayor Sandice McAulay, Keith Patterson (Uncle Roy's son), Uncle Roy's grand-daughter Ricky Patterson (wearing glasses) and her three children. Jessica Patterson, Uncle Roy's daughter, also participated in the launch via video link from Sydney. -S

"This memoir is significant as it plays an important role in preserving and sharing the knowledge of locally-available bush tucker, bush medicine and local indigenous culture and history of the Taungurung people.

"It is also a wonderful homage to a man who was so keen to

share his culture and respect for this land. Uncle Roy wanted to revive and strengthen Taungurung cultural ways and for this knowledge to instil wider respect for Taungurung clan values."

"In 2016, council was approached to offer support to publish the book, in which they

were proud to be a part of a project that paid respects to the traditional owners of the land in which we live and work on.

"Council was pleased to have been approached back in 2016 to support Dr Jones in making a grant application to the Victorian

Government to assist with publication of this work.

Council gratefully acknowledges the support of the Victoria Government and Public Record Office Victoria for making this project possible under its Local History Grants Program," Cr McAulay said.



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Real Estate

GUIDE



Highest level on record

THE Australian Bureau of Statistics building approvals data for February 2021 show that approvals for private sector houses have yet again risen to the highest level on record.

HomeBuilder has delivered effective support and stimulus to protect the jobs of the one million Australians employed in the construction sector.

In February, approvals for private sector houses rose 15.1 per cent with 13,939 approvals recorded. This is the highest level on record since the ABS began the series in 1983 and exceeds the previous record in December last year.

Building approvals for private sector houses in February 2021 are up 57.5 per cent compared to the same time last year.

These record results solidify other recent key measures of success such as; New home sales rose by 60.5 per cent across the nation in the three months to February compared with the same period last year according to the Housing Industry Association (HIA); Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the HIA found national new home sales in 2020 increased by 32.5 per cent compared to 2019; and a 50 per cent increase in first home buyers in 2020 compared with 2019 according to the Real Estate Institute of Australia.

Treasury estimates HomeBuilder will support up to \$18 billion worth of residential construction projects. HomeBuilder is supporting the economic comeback and will continue to support residential construction jobs well into 2022.

More information on HomeBuilder can be found at treasury.gov.au/coronavirus/homebuilder

Have you considered construction?

WITH tens of thousands of Victorians expected to lose their jobs after the withdrawal of the Federal Government's JobKeeper scheme, Master Builders Victoria (MBV) is urging Victorians to potentially consider a new career in building and construction, at a time when the industry is desperately short of tradespeople.

The \$90 billion JobKeeper scheme which had been a financial lifeline for many businesses, officially ended on Sunday, March 28, with Federal Treasury speculating that up to 150,000 jobs could now be lost across Australia.

MBV CEO, Rebecca Casson is urging Victorians who find themselves facing unemployment to consider a career change into building and construction.

"Unfortunately, there will be many hard-working Victorians who will find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own," she said.

"However, at the same time, in the building and construction industry we are now facing a huge boom in demand, and an unprecedented shortage in many trades and skills. There could be some very good opportunities for Victorians who find themselves unemployed to think about a whole new career, especially women who currently make

up only one per cent of the industry in Australia," she said.

Ms Casson also applauded the announcement by the Victorian Government of the formation of the new body Apprenticeships Victoria.

"This is a terrific initiative which will provide support and create much better pathways for potential apprentices of all ages, to make their way into the workforce and it couldn't have come at a better time."

Twenty-eight year old Luke Hartley was a late starter to his apprenticeship, taking on a carpentry apprenticeship three years ago, after studying Commerce and then Construction Management at university.

"Best thing I've ever done! There's so much work around and I love being on the tools and combining that with what I learnt at uni. I think like so many other young people, I almost felt like I had no other option other than going to uni, but I know now where I'd rather be," he said.

"If anybody wanted my opinion about whether they should think about a trade, I'd say definitely."

A recent survey found almost 80 per cent of Victorian building and construction businesses are currently experiencing significant delays in being able to secure key tradespeople.

Ms Casson also reminded MBV members that last week, the Victorian Government introduced the \$250 million Jobs Victoria Fund which will provide a wage subsidy of up to \$20,000 per eligible employee to meet the costs of taking on new workers for the first 12 months of their employment.

"This new fund is a welcome and positive initiative focusing on several priority groups identified by the government as being disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19, including women, and I encourage our members to take a look at whether they can utilise the fund to help them take on more team members," she said.

Supporting women is a key objective of the program, and other priority groups include people who have been unemployed for more than six months, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, workers with disabilities, newly arrived migrants from non-English speaking backgrounds, and workers aged under 25 or over 45.

"While the pandemic has certainly had a significant impact on the building and construction industry, we remain optimistic that out of the adversity our sector has been confronted with, we'll start seeing new opportunities for people to join our industry and support for the companies looking to employ them," Ms Casson said.

D.A. Robinson

We Need More Listings!

THE MARKET IS STILL RUNNING HOT WITH LISTINGS AND RENTALS BEING SOLD AND LEASED AT A GREAT RATE

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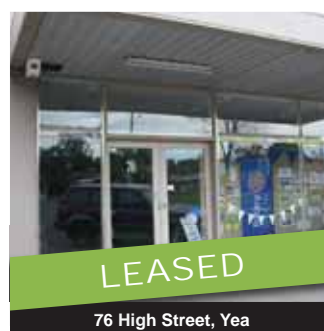
So if you are thinking of selling or leasing, call us for a sale or rental appraisal now and jump on the Yea train.

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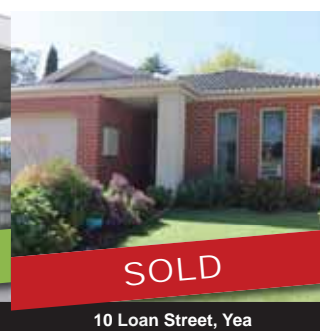
Rentals

Jan Gillmartin 0417 429 441



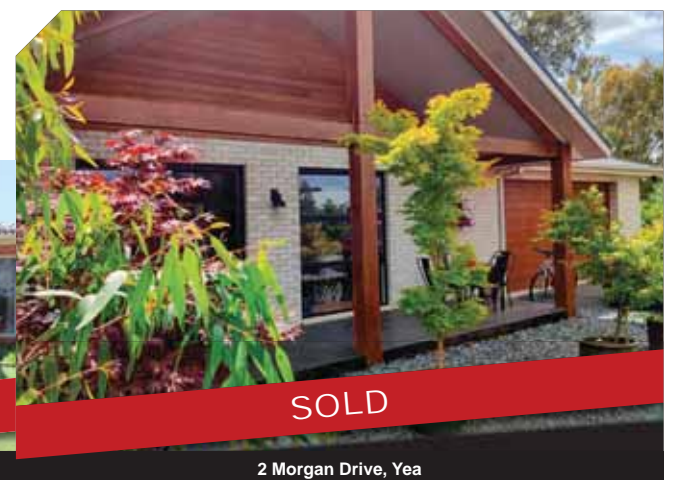
LEASED

76 High Street, Yea



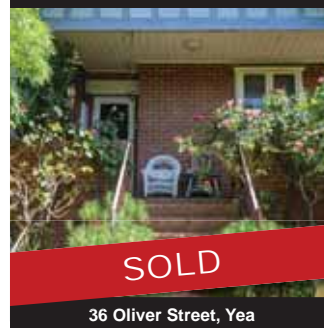
SOLD

10 Loan Street, Yea



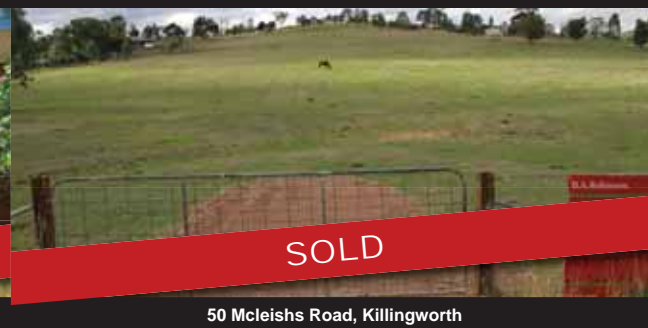
SOLD

2 Morgan Drive, Yea



SOLD

36 Oliver Street, Yea



SOLD

50 Mcleishs Road, Killingworth



SOLD

10 Lyons Street, Yea

84 High Street, Yea - Phone: 5797 2500
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2030Yea at the Yea Library

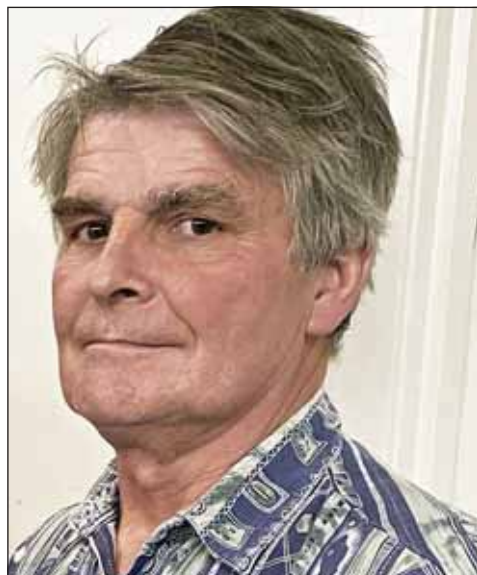
2030YEA is keen to support Yea to become 100 per cent renewable by 2030. They are hosting six presentations on renewables and adapting to climate change.

The six Thursday early evening presentations planned for Yea Library start on April 8 at 5.30pm. The one hour session will provide useful and practical information for Yea residents.

The speakers are a great lineup of locals and regional luminaries.



Elaine Furniss. -S



Alister Huth. -S



John Anderson. -S



Clare Daly. -S



Ron Litjens. -S



Matt Charles Jones. -S



Thomas McKenzie. -S



Grant Wyett. -S

April 8

John Anderson, 2030Yea's hardworking treasurer and former electrical engineer, will teach people how to read their electricity bills and how to find an alternative electricity retailer if the one you have is far too expensive. If you're a pensioner or have another Centrelink concession card, you may be able to collect \$250 just for going through the exercise of finding a better deal. Don't forget to bring along your latest electricity bill.

April 15

Grant Wyett, a new local from Glenburn and Operations Manager for RACV Solar, along with his work colleague Tom McKenzie, will be talking people through the maze that is trying to decide about renewables, including which solar PV, which battery, and what the government incentives are for each of them. RACV Solar is all set to put solar and batteries at the Yea Rec Reserve very soon.

April 22

Matthew Charles-Jones, who has led Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) along the 100 per cent renewable path since they started in 2014, will talk about community energy and how Yea might go about making the most of it. Matt is a legend in the field. He works for Mondo, Ausnet's commercial business which provides infrastructure, utility and community energy services.

April 29

Elaine Furniss and Ron Litjens, both Yea locals, will be talking about home energy efficiency. Ron's going to teach people how to use some useful assessment tools that 2030Yea has been able to purchase for the Yea Library, such as a thermal imaging

camera and a power mate which can show you just where your home energy efficiency might be falling down. Elaine's going to show a short video about what makes her newly-built home energy efficient. Who wouldn't want a \$9 per month energy bill. There'll be a list of tips and tricks from a number of sources, to which the audience, will be free to add.

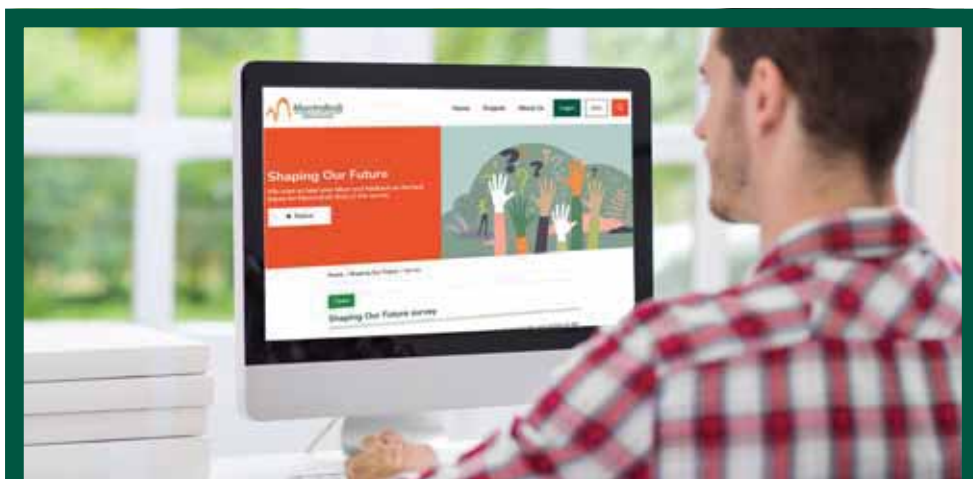
May 8

Clare Daly, a 2030Yea committee stalwart, will be launching 2030Yea's three new short videos related to climate adaptation on the topics of regenerative agriculture, Yea community garden, compost and food table, and a local home energy audit right here in Yea. DELWP provided funding for these videos and *Out on a Lim* was the local video production team. All of the movie stars are Yea locals. They will also introduce people to the new climate adaptation pages on the 2030Yea website including audio interviews with more Yea locals and some terrific Yea images.

May 15

Alister Huth, intrepid 2030Yea farmer and committee member from Limestone, will be hosting two short TEDx videos on regenerative agriculture and a Q&A on Zoom with Brian Wehlburg from Inside Outside Management and Holistic Agriculture. Brian ran a recent holistic management workshop at Buxton, auspiced by Upper Goulburn Landcare Network.

The organisers are very grateful to Yea Library and Murrindindi Shire Council for hosting these presentations and hope that people will pop in to join them for an hour before their later evening meetings and television specials.



HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

Complete our online survey and tell us what you think is important for the future of Murrindindi Shire. Your feedback will help us develop a new Council Plan, which will guide our work over the next four years.

Visit thelooop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/future

You can also join an interactive community workshop at **7.00 pm on Thursday 22 April**, where we will run through the survey together and gather your feedback. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and chat with Council officers about your ideas. Registrations are essential. To register, visit thelooop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/future

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murrindindi.vic.gov.au
5772 0333



KIDS PUZZLES

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Colour



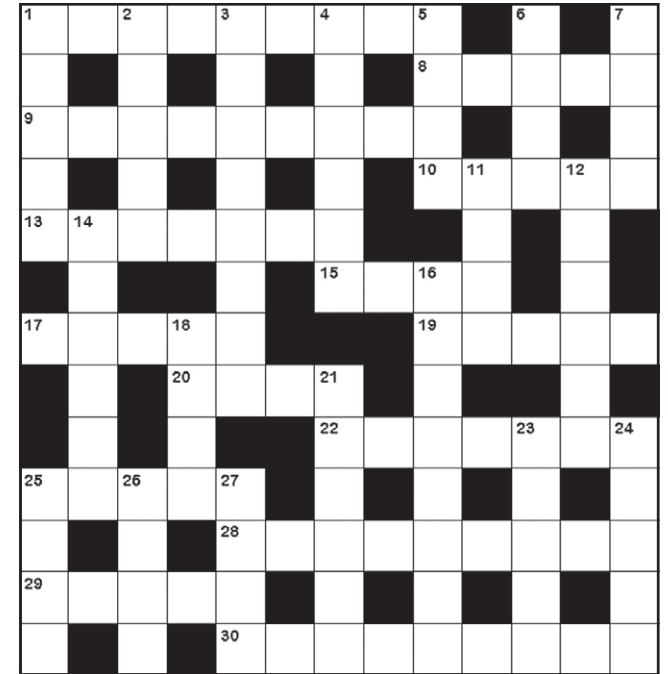
Crossword

ACROSS

- Things from which a choice may be made.
- Having no inherent ability to move or to resist motion.
- Bitterly scathing and venomous manner of speech.
- A mournful, poetic lament for a deceased person.
- Giving only major points or a rough outline.
- Engage in a brief and petty quarrel.
- A spirited horse used for state or war.
- Took the first steps in carrying out an action.
- Extending far downward below a surface.
- Narcotic drugs that contain an opium derivative.
- The post at the top or bottom of a flight of stairs.
- Inspiring affection or warm sympathy.
- A rack or ledge fixed to a wall to store objects.
- One who inflicts severe physical or mental suffering.

DOWN

- Puts goods and money in reserve for future use.
- Graceful, moving and bending with ease.
- Synchronise or occur at or during the same time.
- Fits pieces of wood into prepared slots in a surface.
- Having a pleasant or attractive appearance.



- An elaborate, often outdoor entertainment.
- Continue to be in the same place or condition.
- Ripening towards the end of the season.
- A place where cars are serviced and repaired.
- A pot with a handle and a spout for boiling water.
- Formally renounce all duties and obligations.
- Think about something at length and in depth.
- Put the wrong spin on someone's words or idea.
- White granules used to sweeten tea and coffee.
- Where a bird lays eggs and shelters its young.
- A wild plant growing where it is not wanted.
- Allowed to play without interference or assistance.

Word Search: Farming

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

- AVOCADO
- BEANS
- CARROT
- CHICKEN
- DUCK
- GARLIC
- GOATS
- LAMB
- LETTUCE
- ONION
- PEAS
- PUMPKIN
- RADISH
- SPROUTS
- SQUASH

Word Search: Occupations

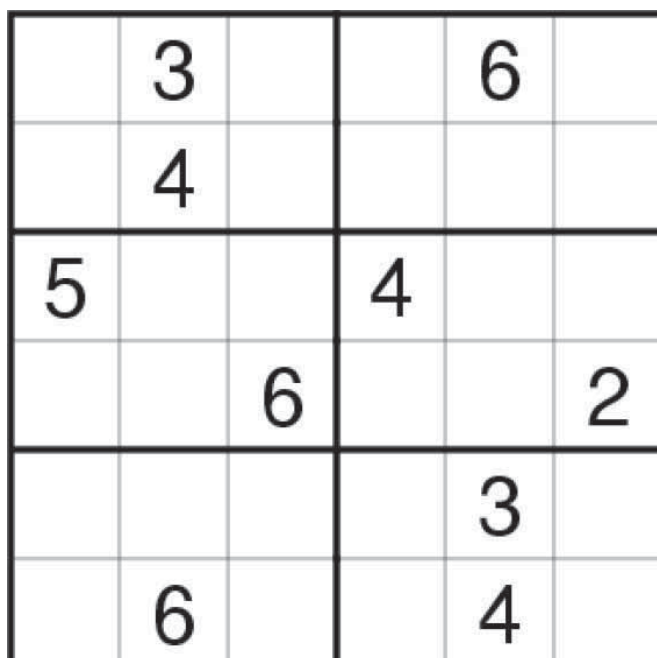
R E B M U L P F T P P L D J J
 R N N U R S E S M I G J U C M
 Z E Z L N T I R V O R D A L X
 T R V N A T L N J L G F W G Y
 J A M I N W A C T E T R I T G
 R R I E R M Y O O T C E L S Q
 C E D L E D N E L R S G Z I H
 N K H R O D T P R E D N D R I
 V X I C I R Y R O T C O D O B
 A F Q V A L U B L N Y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

- BAKER
- CARPENTER
- DENTIST
- DIVER
- DOCTOR
- DRIVER
- ENGINEER
- FIREMAN
- FISHMONGER
- FLORIST
- JUDGE
- LAWYER
- NURSE
- PIOLET
- PLUMBER
- POLICEMAN
- TAILOR
- TEACHER

Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 6. Every row and column and every group of 6 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number only once.



Trivia

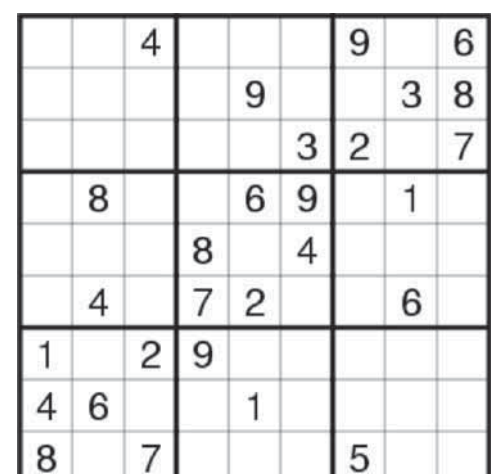
Q: Where was the below image taken?



Sudoku

Difficulty: Medium

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



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The Yea Chronicle





Yea High School's vegetable garden

IN year nine, students at Yea High School study a subject called Patch to Plate, in which they aim to grow vegetables for use in the school kitchen. They have been working on the vegetable patch for the past two years.

The garden was in disarray after a six week absence over the Christmas holidays, with weeds taking over. Students got to work under the guidance of teacher Mrs Sandy Redden, picking the vegetables which had survived, mainly tomatoes and zucchini, and

collecting seeds and rejuvenating the garden.

Weeding was the first task, followed by mulching then replanting some vegies starting with seeds. They were also helped by Mrs Redden's husband who

kindly whizzer snipped, mowed, repaired the hothouse, and erected a climbing frame.

Some of the boys carted gravel to make the paths more winter-friendly, and to aid in weed control. The vegetable patch is now

looking great, and the students are excited to fill it with vegetables for the school kitchen.

Any leftover animal manure or old hay or straw donations for the no-dig garden would be greatly appreciated.

Yea Primary School farewells Debbie George

Continued from Page 1

"So trying to combine it all into one cohesive working unit is a huge job, but that's a lot of what my job encompasses."

Debbie was at the front of many changes that occurred at the school during her tenure including the inclusion of teaching ukulele, a stronger emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, the upgrade of portables to building and revamping the open spaces so that the asphalt was replaced with synthetic grass.

One of the major inclusions into the school's curriculum was the inclusion of Chinese language across all the year levels.

Debbie reached out to an online platform, *Meg Languages*, making Yea Primary the first school to work alongside the language teaching program back in 2013. So while the rest of world has learnt over the last 12 months the capabilities of teaching online, Debbie and her students had been accustomed to the teaching style for years.

"Not many of our students were going into the city and experiencing other cultures, especially at the time when the program was introduced, we didn't have any families who were of another culture," she said.

"So we started studying a different Asian country every term, but then after a while, I had come across an email from these guys and I spoke to my staff about

their thoughts on teaching Chinese to the students.

"Each grade has their own teacher who's based in Beijing. The actual program is organised by two Australians, one who'd lived in China and is fluent in Mandarin.

"We are sent flashcards and workbooks and the teacher streams in to teach the class. As a school, we do not have to try and organise anything, as the program ensures we have all the resources to successfully run the program virtually."

Maintaining two-ways relationships with the students and their families was another crucial agenda for Debbie who implemented what she considered a restorative justice method when handling situations.

"What we encourage the kids to do, which is really important is to tell us if they're not happy with something someone said, or done something that they're not comfortable with, so that we can help them," she said.

"Whereas when I say that to kids who come when they're older from other schools, they say things like 'no that's dibby dobby'. No it's not if you've tried to fix something, and you can't, and you need help. It means you're a bigger person by asking for help.

"We talk to everyone that's involved in the problem. So the idea is, at the end, you come out with exactly what's happened, everyone's been able to talk about what's

happened and how they feel. They then leave knowing it's sorted and done with."

In retirement, Debbie hopes to spend more time with her own family, with plans of visiting Perth to see her grandchildren as well as looking after her grandchild in Melbourne once a week.

"Some people say you wake up one day and you know it's time, well I didn't. I agonised over the decision for a long time but since making the decision, I haven't felt like I made the wrong decision," she said.

"I think it's the right time for me to see what's in the next chapter of my life. I've got grandchildren that I want to be able to spend more time with. I feel like often I put the school ahead of my family, so that's going to be great to be able to have the time to do other things."

Debbie is adamant that she won't become a stranger to Yea Primary and the events that the school hold.

"I'll still go and watch the kids play footy and netball. I love doing that. If I don't do these things, I will just miss the contact I have been able to have with them for so long."

Debbie will take long service leave in term two before officially retiring in the latter half of the year.

"I'd like to thank everyone for their support and care. I've been really lucky to work in a town where everyone looks out for one another. It's been terrific."

Register for Melbourne Anzac March

REGISTRATIONS to take part in the Anzac Day commemorative march in Melbourne opened on Tuesday, April 6 at 9am.

Under the current health restrictions, the march to the Shrine of Remembrance will go ahead, with an approved maximum of 5500 participants marching along St Kilda Road.

RSL Victoria has been working with the Victorian Government and the Anzac Day Commemoration Council on all State-wide COVID-Safe commemorations, which includes the Melbourne Anzac Day Dawn Service, city march, and commemorative service.

All RSL Victoria sub branches and Victorian associations have been notified to share registration information with veterans, serving or ex-serving in their networks who may wish to march to the Shrine of Remembrance on Anzac Day.

To register, visit: register.rslvic.com.au

Once people submit their registration online, they will receive an automatic response to let them know that their registration has been submitted. They will then receive further communication the week commencing Monday, April 13. Registration does not automatically guarantee a place.

Priority will be allocated to Australian and New Zealand Veterans (current and ex-service members of the Defences Force). If places remain, tickets will then be assigned to allied forces, followed by descendants.

Allocation of tickets will be considered based on the time of when registrations are submitted, and the priority listed above.

All registrations will be stored in a centralised system. If health advice changes to allow more participants, additional tickets will be released accordingly.

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DEATH NOTICES

KYLSTRA, Wytze (Vince)
Whanregarwen CFA

Captain Steve Prothero and members are greatly saddened by the sudden passing of Wytze and offer our sincere condolences to the Kylstra family. Wytze was a valued long-term member of our brigade and was Captain from 1996 to 2000. He was an inspiration, great friend and mentor to us and to the wider community. We will miss him.



DEATH NOTICES



KYLSTRA, Wytze
A loved and respected member of the CFA. Our condolences to his wife and family from the Acheron Fire Brigade.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Memorial Service

The Shaw family would like to extend an invitation to the community to attend a memorial service

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23/08/1932-17/03/2020 (aged 87)

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MEETINGS



The Yea Show AGM will be held on Tuesday April 13, 7.30pm at the Tennis Club Rooms.
Rodney Ridd - secretary
0417 340 838

MEETINGS

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT INC.

Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6pm. Alexandra Library, Grant Street, Alexandra. New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee positions available from the library or from the secretary: proctor@virtual.net.au. For more information please phone 0423 043 564.

YARCK RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AGM AND POST SEASON MEETING will be held on Wednesday, April 21 at 6.30pm in the fire station meeting room. Supper is provided. All welcome.

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Logging regrowth impacted by deer



IT appears that deer have been having a significant impact on regrowth following logging in Murrindindi, along with other areas.

In November 2019, the *Regional Forest Agreements Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) Scientific Advice to Support Regional Forest Agreement Negotiations* stated in a document published by DELWP, "Invasive species have had substantial negative impacts on Australian biota and ecosystems. There are emerging invasive species issues in some forest ecosystems, e.g. sambar deer, as well as established long-term problems in these same system e.g. cats, foxes and blackberry. There may also be interactions between invasive species and other drivers such as disturbance e.g. increased foraging by feral predators in burned areas and deer browsing effects in areas of postlogging regeneration."

In *Browsing Impacts of Introduced Sambar Deer (Rusa unicolor) in the Mountain Ash Forests of the Victorian Central Highlands, Australia*, published by the Federal Department of the Environment, it states, "Deer herbivory is known to compromise multiple stages of plant life cycles: consumption of seedlings preventing establishment, consumption of shoots of juvenile plants reducing survival and growth, consumption of shoots of adult plants reducing seed production, and consumption of seeds preventing regeneration."

"Keith and Pellow (2005) proposed that the greatest influence of deer on population viability of species is in preventing the establishment of seedlings and reducing seed production. Deer often target seedlings and saplings, and tree species are most vulnerable at this stage."

They added, "Peel et al. (2005) observed that sambar can devastate regrowth after fire or logging. Deer can also prevent seedling establishment by destroying thickets that act as nursery sites or regeneration refuges."

The Feral Herald at the website invasives.org.au outlines a scheme in the Bogong High Plains, where fencing is being installed to protect important sites from feral deer and horses. The article says that "The new fences do have negative aspects and come at considerable cost. They are expensive to build (up to \$50 a metre), require ongoing maintenance, need to be physically dropped and re-instated each year [due to the snow] and have a significant visual impact on the outstanding treeless natural landscape of the Bogong High Plains."

"This bold approach to the protection of biodiversity assets in natural areas raises a number of important questions. Do we continue to build fences across these landscapes to protect natural values from feral deer and horses, allow the damage to continue, or do we fight back hard against the invasion of these feral intruders to protect our pristine natural areas?"

The Victorian Deer Control Strategy, released in October 2020, states, "Current DELWP data and analysis from the Strategic Management Prospects tool also suggests that over a thousand species of flora and fauna would benefit from deer control efforts across the state."

It makes no mention of the impact of deer on logging regeneration, with the initial focus being on "a \$1 million investment to manage the growing problem of deer in the outer northern and eastern suburbs of Melbourne," according to the premier's October 30, 2020 announcement.

It's believed that while there is currently little in the way of regeneration fencing in Murrindindi and no regeneration fencing in the Rubicon and Snobs Creek areas, a VicForests tender which closed in December 2020 called for experienced contractors for the construction and removal of deer fencing, adding that the work is a part of the VicForests' Regeneration Program. The tender "involves the fencing of eight areas to provide protection for regenerating sites and the removal of four existing fences on successfully regenerated sites. The work is in the Toolangi, Acheron and Black Range areas."

Contacted about the challenges caused by deer with regard to forest regeneration, a VicForests' spokesperson said, "Since the 2009 fires, animal browsing, particularly that of the sambar deer, has had a significant impact on VicForests' coupe regeneration in the Alexandra area."

"Where necessary, VicForests mitigates the environmental impacts of browsing by constructing fencing and tree guards as well as continuing to adapt our regeneration practices."

"VicForests is proud to be employing local contractors for its replanting and fencing work to help support regional families and townships."

VicForests provided the following as background, "VicForests regrows the forest in all coupes it harvests. The sambar deer is the animal species that has had the most impact on VicForests' regeneration practices in the Alexandra area. While animal browsing has brought new challenges on some sites, VicForests is committed to regenerating all coupes which it harvests. VicForests recycles 90 per cent of its fencing equipment on a coupe-by-coupe basis and removes this infrastructure after approximately two to three years once plants are established. All VicForests' timber harvesting and regeneration operations are conducted in line with Victoria's strict environmental regulations and the State's Forest Management Zoning scheme."

Deer are not only causing challenges for logging regrowth. They are also the bane of a wide range of farmers, orchardists and viticulturalists, and a significant hazard for drivers.

SPORT



Some of the winners: Phil Wojtowycz (Corowa), Royce Wojtowycz (Corowa), Lachlan McDonald (Wangaratta), Colin Finn and Peter Finn (Echuca). -S

Night clay target shoot

Mansfield Clay Target Club report by Marty McLachlan

THE Mansfield Clay Target Club night shoot was held on Saturday, April 3 in calm and fine conditions. The evening attracted a small field of shooters, many of whom stayed in town and attended the day shoot the following morning.

The program included the North East Zone night 25 target tower point-score, NEZ 25 target tower single barrel and finally the state night 40 mixed targets. Competitors from other neighbouring clubs included Alexandra, Woods Point, Cosgrove, Euroa, and Echuca.

Event one was underway under lights soon after sunset. With the Echuca father and son combo setting a high standard for the evening, Colin Finn overall 72 out of a possible 75, and Peter Finn took out AA grade on 66, Mansfield A Grade local Anthony Kirley 67, B and C Grades also went Mansfield way with Phillip Desmond 68 and John Winters 69.

With no shoot-offs it was straight into event two, the 25-target single barrel tower. Colin Finn, overall with 24. AA Grade Peter Finn 23, A Grade Anthony Kirley 17, B Grade Allan Kidd 18, C Grade John Winters 18.

The big trap event, mixed targets, comprised 10 target double barrel, 10 target single, 10 target points and five pair double rise with a maximum score of 60, this was a State Title event. Daniel Chinn was victorious with a great score of 56. AA Grade was taken by Anthony Kirley 52. A Grade was a tie with Marty McLachlan and Colin Finn both on 45, Marty came up trumps after a 14 point shoot off. C Grade was taken out by Kirsten Chinn on 42 over John Desmond by a single point. After presentations it was home for a break to return the following morning.

The Sunday event was made up of 50 target skeet and 20 target tower. Things

kicked off at 10.30am with a larger gathering than Saturday with five squads. Colin Finn once again demonstrated his ability with an overall result of 49 equalled by Corowa member Royce Wojtowycz. Colin won the shoot-off with a result of 51 from 52 targets giving him overall and Royce A Grade. Wangaratta's Mark McDonald AA Grade on 45. Peter Finn won B Grade with 48 and, Phil Wojtowycz C Grade with 44. Other winners were Junior High Gun Lachlan McDonald 41, Ladies High Gun Leslie Wojtowycz 41, and Veteran High Gun Brian Reid 48. This event was co-hosted and sponsored very generously by the Wangaratta CTC skeet shooters with Mansfield Clay Target Club honoured to host the Atwood Law Annual Cup. Trophies were awarded for overall and Junior High Gun and first and second prizes in each grade.

Rounding up a big weekend was the final 20 target tower event, being a cash divide, there were no shoot-offs with drawn results splitting the kitty. AA Grade was shared by Royce Wojtowycz and Russel Barnes each with a perfect score. B Grade was taken out by Allan Kidd 17 and C Grade was also a tie between Kirsten Chinn and Phil Wojtowycz on 17.

Mansfield Clay Target Gun hosts their next competition Saturday, April 17 with another 75-target night shoot back-to-back with the Anzac Memorial 90 target events on Sunday.

The club is family focused with lunch provided. Junior shooters are sponsored by the club with fees waived for all competitions. If you are interested in attending for a shoot or to have a look at the facilities just turn up to the club, Pikes Road Mansfield. Thursday practice sessions will continue post daylight savings from 4.30pm. All welcome to come along and have a try, no licence required for first time shooters, just turn up, or for more information telephone Marty 0439 102 285.

New junior and senior cards to inspire love of fishing

JUNIOR and senior fishers now have new gear to boost their fishing passion, with the introduction of free Recreational Fishing Cards.

Minister for Fishing and Boating Melissa Horne said the cards will inspire stewardship and a connection to recreational fishing for people not required to hold a fishing licence.

"These new cards will inspire the next generation's love of fishing and promote a sense of continued belonging amongst those who have been fishing for years," she said.

Public consultation regarding the new cards was overwhelmingly positive and the Victorian Fisheries Authority is

making the new cards available from Thursday, April 1.

The cards complement work being done through a range of projects as part of the government's \$35 million investment to get more people fishing, more often, in more places.

The feedback received through consultation indicated fishers who do not require a licence, juniors and seniors, still wanted a sense of belonging to the fishing community and felt cards would give them that.

The new fishing cards are now available online through Service Victoria and a new one will be produced each year, appealing to those who like collecting.

People under the age of 18, over 70, and holders of Seniors Cards are exempt from the need to purchase a Recreational Fishing Licence in Victoria.

The new Recreational Fishing Cards are not funded by the sale of recreational fishing licences. Money from licence sales will continue to be put to work improving fishing across Victoria through grant programs, fish production at Fisheries' Snobs Creek hatchery, better access and facilities, and extra Fisheries Officers.

To find out more about the free Recreational Fishing Cards, including how to get one, visit vfa.vic.gov.au/fishingcards

Easter weekend speedway meeting attracts top competitors

Alexandra Speedway report
by Dean Thompson

IT is becoming nearly impossible to stop him, Anthony Beare from Mount Gambier has won his seventh Victorian Street Stock title, this time at Alexandra Speedway when he defeated a class field on the fast flowing and popular track. Beare was among a host of popular winners on the Easter weekend meeting with Josh Service, Kacey Ingram, James Oliver, and Dylan Barrow also securing victory in their classes.

The Victorian Street Stock title had attracted cars from New South Wales, South Australia, and all over Victoria to compete, with a healthy number of locals also lining up. Eight qualifiers and a preliminary final for each driver on Friday night started the action before the final two qualifiers and the feature race action on Saturday.

There was almost no better way to start the weekend's racing than when on Friday night Alexandra club chief steward Dale Morrison, on a night off from official duties, was a popular winner in the first heat race, leading to the finish three other Alexandra members to make up the first four.

Steven Watts from Warrnambool, Ricky Cornwall from Kilsyth, and Beare won first round qualifiers. Adrian Lawrence from Traralgon, Beare and Cornwall both making it two from two, and Jacob Mills from Victoria's North East were winners in round two.

Friday night closed with wins to Anthony Beare from Morris Ahearn of Bendigo, and Jason Duell in one preliminary final while in the other, Mills defeated Geelong based racer Jason Degoldi, and Shane Roycroft from Kialla in the other.

A night of socialising and a morning of repairs was followed by the final nights racing with Morrison once again kicking off the action with a win. Beare making it three wins from three starts to this point, Matt Nelson from Woori Yallock and Lawrence took race wins in round three, before David Barrie. Beare making a clean sweep of four wins from



Anthony Beare from Mount Gambier, the new Victorian Champion in street stocks. -S



On the podium: third Morris Ahearn from Bendigo, first Anthony Beare, and third Jason Degoldi from Geelong. -S

four starts. Roycroft and Degoldi won in the final qualifiers.

After a last chance qualifier elevated the first four finishers the feature race, a marathon 35 laps on the 570-metre-long track was to be a gruelling test. Early in the feature race top qualifier Beare led Ahearn, Cornwall, Degoldi, and Roycroft. Lawrence brought himself into the battle with Roycroft then Cornwall being dislodged from the front pack a third of the race in. Watts slotted

into the top five and by lap 15 Degoldi was second behind Beare.

Watts was dislodged from the lead pack and New South Wales visitor Chris Marino slotted into the podium position. When the chequered flag unfurled to end the title race Beare had a six second victory margin from Degoldi, Ahearn, Marino, and Lawrence the top Alexandra member to finish.

Across the weekend Beare set new one lap, 10 lap and 15 lap

records for the class and continued his reign as the 'G.O.A.T.' of Street Stock racing with a seventh Victorian title to go along with his four national titles and nine South Australian titles and multiple other titles around Australia.

Junior Sedan action saw Wandin racer and Alexandra member Dylan Barrow pick up a Top Star class feature win in an all-Alexandra member podium in front of Jayden Bryant, Breanna Simpson, Jack Randall, and Seth Sloane. Barrows was never headed in the feature race winning by just .331 of a second at the finish line as Bryant tried in vain to take the win.

James Oliver was too classy in the New Star class of Juniors as he won by over four seconds from Maddy Capon, the returning Rye Orme, his sister Christine Oliver, and the visiting Miller Throckmorton. James led all the way from the drop of the green flag to pick up back-to-back wins at the venue.

In Sports Sedan action the crowd-pleasing popular club class saw popular club man Josh Service winning in a class line up from Brendan Miller, Steve Kershaw, Dale Smith, and Steven Akil in another all-Alexandra podium result. Consistent laps from Service at the front of the field kept a distance between him and those who had to work their way through several positional battles trying to catch up.

Finally, young gun Kacey Ingram from Warragul won the Standard Saloon final, defeating Jeff Oldfield, Wayne Sheerman, Victor Benson, and Jaimi Barber from Benalla. Ingram, visiting Alexandra for the first time as an adult racer, took the lead from Sheerman on lap nine of 15 and took a feature race win.

Alexandra Speedway is back again on May 8 with dog leg circuit racing including the popular Crash and Bash Class, a Ladies Open Sedan feature and club classes.



The Alexandra junior tennis players in section five at the BDJTA Summer Games were runners up after a great effort. Alex Southam, Dylan Rule, Mathew Thomas and Jack Fallon. Tim Thomas was absent. -S



The Alexandra section four junior tennis players in the BDJTA Summer Games won the premiership. Oliver Hoornweg, Kalan Lyttle, Will Fallon and James Gilmore. Mia Fitzpatrick was absent. -S

Alexandra to host veterans cricket matches

ALEXANDRA Cricket Club will hold its end of season Presentation Night at the Corner Hotel Alexandra on April 9.

There are still further matches however, on Monday, April 12, Wednesday 14 and Friday 16 Alexandra Cricket Club will host the Victorian Veterans Cricket Association who will be playing over 60s cricket at Leckie Park. Some fabulous cricket will be on display so come along and enjoy the games.

For further information contact the club president Darren Waixel on 0408 576 758.

The Chronicle Sport



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CBD finals held at Yea

Yea bowls report by Viv Cavanagh

BOTH the Division 1 and Division 2 Central Bowls Division Pennant Finals were held at the Yea Bowls Club recently. Due to a wash-out during the Division 2 game the teams returned the following week to finish the competition.

On March 20, Kilmore 81 defeated Broadford 60 in the Division 1 grand final.

The Division 2 grand final was played on March 21 and 27. Wallan 82 defeated Seymour VRI 44.



The pennant winners in division one. -S



The pennant winners in division two. -S

Change to handicap ratings for Yea golfers

Yea golf report by Alan Pell

EIGHTEEN men contested a stableford event on Wednesday, March 31 at the Yea Golf Club. Local pharmacist David Ngo (20) with 40 points won from Steve Rumney (27) with 38. Bob Glenister (12) was third with 35 from fourth Neil Peterson (13) 34 on countback from Michael Sheather (38). There was no nearest the pin on the second and Brian Priestley won the Club Award.

Saturday, April 3 saw the first round with everyone's handicap shortened because the club has been rated on the blue course as 69 not 71 as it had been. This reflects some short-term pain for long time gain. It will reflect a truer handicap in comparison with other courses. Saturday will also see a local rule change with the horse trailer paddock being declared an OOB area, not GUR as it has been.

Saturday saw 23 players contest the second of two rounds for the board event, the Barry Moore Trophy. Even with a reduced handicap of 10 Lachie Wischer produced 40 points to win the day and take the Barry Moore by three points, with a two-round total of 84. Second with 39 points on the day and second in the Barry Moore was two-time defender Kevin Coghlan (18) who was trying to make it three years in a row. Third on the day was John Tanner (20) with 37 points

from fourth Rick Wills (6) 36 and, fifth Bill Dredge (17) 34. Lachie was nearest the pin on the second and Greg Clements won the Club Award.

The club is moving to One Golf digital recording on mobile phone as an option for all competitions. Cards are still required at this stage and interested members can download the mi score app to trial this system. Contact club captains or Wayne Rowe for assistance.