

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, September 4, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

Severe winds and storms hit the shire

MURRINDINDI Shire experienced a significant period of extreme weather last week. Murrindindi Shire Council gave a report on their works regarding the extreme weather, and Marysville SES had a busy week while managing to keep people updated regarding incidents. Peter Weeks from Alexandra SES also gave an update on current operations for the SES.

Murrindindi Shire Council update

Published on August 30, Murrindindi Shire Council (MSC) said that following Sunday's storm and recent severe weather, they continue their clean up efforts to clear fallen trees and debris from roads, roadsides and public areas. So far, the priority has been providing access for residents to roads and properties and fixing immediate safety hazards.

MSC will continue to assess dangerous trees so they can make areas safe for the public and their dedicated tree crews are helping complete this work. They are still assessing storm damage across the shire, so please report any urgent issues to them by calling 5772 0333.

You can also submit non-urgent issues through council's online request system.

Council asked that people be mindful that the clean up will take a few weeks to complete, so be patient with them as they prioritise your requests.

Marysville SES update

A wind storm on Tuesday night, August 27 and Wednesday morning, August 28, led to the closure of Marysville-Woods Point Road at 5.30am on Wednesday, due to significant storm damage and risks to safety.

Marysville SES crews had a challenging night working alongside Ambulance Victoria, with dozens of large trees down on the road. Lady Talbot Drive was also closed past the bitumen.

The week's severe weather kept Marysville SES very busy, with dozens of trees being cleared from roads and properties. On Thursday morning, August 27, they were called to Buxton to clear a tree blocking a driveway. The tree was cut from the drive to allow the resident to be able to leave and access the property safely.

SES received several calls for minor road hazards, and responded to jobs in Fernshaw and Narbethong. A large tree near Cumberland Junction was passed to VicRoads for action, and a further call was received for a tree blocking a forest road at Cambarville.

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, August 28, they were called to assist Ambulance Victoria (AV) with accessing a patient, after the AV crew came across a fallen tree blocking the Marysville-Woods Point Road. Around six trees needed to be cleared on the way in, and a further dozen on the way back. This complex and challenging task was undertaken cautiously, with crews using short breaks in the weather to tackle the tree removal. The crews returned to Marysville around 5.30am. They also arranged for a formal road closure to be enacted, and local VicRoads contractors undertook a major clean up once daylight arrived.

With large amounts of severe weather, Marysville SES gave some practical tips, including; plan any essentials travel carefully, and avoid driving during severe

wind or rain. Report any road hazards to VicRoads; expect lots of fallen trees on forest roads; if you can avoid heading to remote parts of the bush this week please do, or be prepared to change your route if you find a hazard; report hazards on forest roads to DEECA, or Police Victoria for state and national parks.

The Maroondah Highway in Fernshaw was closed early on Monday morning, September 2, but reopened around 8am. Tree removal works were still in progress by VicRoads crews going into the day.

The Marysville SES were on scene at a large tree blocking Maroondah Highway in Fernshaw. Many other trees fell causing smaller road hazards, including one involving powerlines closer to Healesville. VicRoads and Victoria Police responded to assist also. Several smaller trees were also being worked on along the Highway between Buxton and Narbethong, and the Marysville Road.

Alexandra SES

Peter Weeks, from the Alexandra SES Unit, gave an update on current operations.

"We've had some pretty strong winds overnight. The wind picked up late last night [Sunday] and during the night a number of trees were down around the state. I believe we [SES] have had over 1172 jobs around the state. We might even be up around 1500 at the moment," Peter said.

"At 6am this morning [Monday] we had 495 jobs across the state. Locally we've only had a couple of jobs. Marysville had a couple of jobs on the spur. At 4.15am this morning at the Eildon fire tower there was a 104 km/h north north-westerly wind gust. Around about that time we got called out to a tree down at the Goulburn River bridge, across the highway there.

"It's been very busy, a lot of units south of the ranges, in Melbourne and round southern parts of the state are extremely busy. The SES are calling for crews to come and assist with some of those jobs at the moment," Peter concluded.



Emergency services have been kept busy during the recent very windy weather. -S

Five people injured in vehicle rollover

EMERGENCY services responded to a single vehicle rollover in Alexandra on Sunday, September 1.

It is understood the vehicle lost control before rolling on the Goulburn Valley Highway heading towards Mt Pleasant Road at about 1pm.

It's understood that there was an over-correction, and the vehicle rolled twice, with the vehicle then landing on its roof. Five people were in the vehicle.

The learner driver, a 17-year-old Alexandra boy, was flown

to the Alfred Hospital with life-threatening injuries.

A man in his 50s, a woman in her 50s, a man in his 20s and a woman in her 20s, all suffered non-life-threatening upper body injuries. They were taken to hospital in The Northern Hospital for observation. All five are understood to be members of the one family.

The Goulburn Valley Highway was closed in both directions between Grant Street (Mt Pleasant Road) and U T Creek Road following the incident,

with motorists asked to detour via the Maroondah Highway and Taggerty-Thornton Road. Limited local traffic was permitted under the direction of emergency services.

The exact circumstances surrounding the crash are yet to be determined and investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has dashcam or CCTV footage, are urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or visit crimestoppers.com.au



Emergency vehicles at the site of the vehicle rollover in which five members of a family were injured. -S





Premier

YEARLING SALE

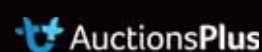
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E info@paringallivestock.com.au



SCAN FOR SALE INFO



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5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000



Letters to the Editor

FoodWorks

THE staff at FoodWorks are very obliging and friendly. Yes, the prices at Aldis are cheaper but you don't get the excellent service you get here.

If we do all our shopping out of town we will soon be moaning when even more shops close.

I buy all my electrics here as if something goes wrong and it happens of course, the item is fixed or replaced cheerfully and professionally.

Support this wonderful town or it won't stay wonderful.

Val Lethbridge, Alexandra

FoodWorks

YOU went fishing and you caught me. In response to Ian Perry, who wrote in last

week's Letters to the Editor, my what a big chip on your shoulders about everything in our little town.

We all shop out of town every so often but you don't get the friendly and helpful staff we have here in FoodWorks and our other small businesses. They all do their bit by sponsoring sporting events and many organisations, some of whom would not survive without it.

Having recently lost my wife to dementia, the love and care we both received from all the staff at FoodWorks, and small businesses and their staff, was incredible. It's not something you get in larger towns. Money is not everything.

Maybe you need to get your head out of the sand and stand for council or parliament. Maybe you could relocate to Seymour where there are four supermarkets.

John Munn, Alexandra

FoodWorks

THERE has been considerable comment recently about supermarkets in our towns. I have lived my life in Yea and have been involved in business, sport and community organisations for over 50 years. I have seen the development and improvement in our supermarkets and other businesses over that period. I think we are very fortunate to have the retail businesses we currently have. Many towns the size of Yea and Alexandra are not so fortunate, and their populations are forced to travel for everyday supplies.

Recently, during the Olympic Games, we were bombarded with advertising from large corporate bodies telling us what great supporters of the Australian community they were. I suspect these bodies spend a lot more money telling us how wonderful they are than actually supporting community organisations.

On the other hand, support from our local businesses, and in particular our supermarkets, happens every day. A couple of examples quickly come to mind. The

Murrindindi Masters golf tournament held at the four golf clubs in our shire has been sponsored for many thousands of dollars by FoodWorks since the Black Saturday bushfires. The Picnic Races in Yea are also strongly supported by FoodWorks.

These local businesses are not perfect, but haven't we been reading for months now about alleged poor behaviour from the major chains? Our local businesses employ many of our residents and I don't see them switching to the style favoured by the chains where you do all your own work.

From a personal point of view, and from community organisations I'm involved in, I really appreciate the support received from local businesses and supermarkets. I encourage people to continue to support their local businesses. It's in all our interests.

Gary Pollard, Yea

FoodWorks

HOW sad that Ian Perry can be so critical about our beautiful town. Just move to Seymour where you maybe can live your dream.

Surely this person does not have the audacity to shop in Reddrops. As for the cheap shot about 'supporting local clubs', Reddrops are wonderful supporters of our sporting clubs as well as supporting other community projects, of which many townspeople are unaware and I might say take for granted.

Many young people and school leavers are employed by Reddrops to help them on their way to get a foothold in life, and even if the prices are slightly higher than other towns, factor in freight costs.

We are so lucky to have wonderful friendly staff and delivery for people who cannot get to the shop. Can you go to Seymour and a bright sunny face greets you by name? Who offers to give you a hand if you are a bit feeble or notices that you are feeling ordinary?

Continued Page 14

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency	
UGFM 106.9	Alexandra / Lake Eildon
UGFM 88.9	Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.5	Marysville / Lake Mountain
UGFM 98.9	Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5	Kinglake Ranges

WEEKLY
Tues Art Group Eildon(Alex Tennis Rooms) 10am-3pm Ph 5773 2306

Tue Seniors Carpet Bowls 1.15pm
Wed Social Bowls 11am Alexandra Bowls Club Ph 5772 1150
Thu Take off weight naturally 5.45pm 5773 2427
Fri Seniors Social Club 1pm
Sun AA 7pm Anglican Church, Alexandra Ph 0402 428 086
Sun Alanon Recovery 5.30pm. Ph Sheila 0402 428 086
Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 5772 1057
Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFCA complex Ph 0418 576 666
Fri Communitea 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318
1st Sat Alexandra Quilters RSL Hall 10am-3pm Ph 0437 005 465
1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas
2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285
2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
2nd Sat Alexandra Market - at Station Street Ph 0427 509 988
2nd Sat Alex Repair Café 1-3pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Sat Murrindindi Men 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801
3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318
3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252
3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas
3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913
4th Tue Yarck CWA Meeting, 10.30am Yarck Hall.
4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.
4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517
Last Fri Carers Group 10am. Free morning tea. 0418 402 455

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

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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.45	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.71	rising	
Acheron River at Taggerty	12.00pm Mon	0.82	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.23pm Mon	0.22	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	6.47am Mon	0.60	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	11.22am Mon	0.88	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.70	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.61	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.34	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.34	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.64	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.13pm Mon	1.33	steady	

**ISSUED AT 12.46PM ON MONDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2024

Weekly Weather

September 4 - September 10, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	11	18	Wednesday	12	18
Thursday	14	18	Thursday	15	19
Friday	8	21	Friday	8	22
Saturday	5	17	Saturday	5	17
Sunday	8	15	Sunday	7	16
Monday	6	16	Monday	6	17
Tuesday	7	18	Tuesday	7	18

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.

Like us on Facebook **Standard** *The Yea Chronicle*

DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	4mm
Buxton.....	N/Amm
Eildon (AWS).....	6mm
Flowerdale.....	8mm
Jamieson.....	30mm
Kinglake.....	6mm
Lake Eildon.....	11mm
Mansfield.....	2mm
Taggerty.....	14mm
Yarck.....	5mm
Yea.....	3mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	286.07m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	.89%
Metres below full supply.....	2.83m
Daily inflow.....	3000ML
Release.....	2200ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	48.4%

Standard

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
Thumbsup/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

Commemorating the fourth light horse regiment

by Joy Burchell

ON Sunday, August 11, an afternoon to commemorate 110 years since the 4th Light Horse Regiment was formed, was held at the Shrine of Remembrance.

My Uncle William Brown Kerr of Taggerty was in the first enlistment along with other locals; some of who are listed below.

No. 218 James William Arbothnot of Bonnie Doon; No. 226 Charles Bird of Mansfield; No. 532 David Keir Borrie of Yea; No. 232 Richard James Coles of Yea; No. 530 Charles Cookson of Alexandra; No. 242 John Robert Cusgrove of Yea; No.250 Clive Clarence Doyle of Seymour; No.252 Alexander Raymond Doyle of Seymour; No. 248 Donald William Drysdale of Yea; No. 276 Edward John Harding of Alexandra; No. 283 Henry Gibson Jebb of Mansfield; No.287 John Michael Kennedy of Bonnie Doon; No.288 Sylvester Daniel Kennedy of Bonnie Doon; No.286 William Brown Kerr of Taggerty; No. 290 Robert Kidd of Yea; No.289 Walter Knights of Mansfield; No. 297 Gilbert Lambden of Seymour; No. 307 James Stanley Mackrell of Merton; No number Robert Steven McAldin of Molesworth; No number Leslie Cecil Maygar of Longwood; No. 300 Kennedy McKay of Mansfield; No.299 Vivian Claude McKenzie of Yea; No.556 Harry William McLeish of Yea; No.314 Ronald McLeish of Yea; No number Roy Stanley McLeish of Yea; No.313 William Carlyle McLeish of Yea; No.336 William Shirley of Yea ; No.334 William Archibald Snodgrass of Yea; No.358 Curthen Waddell of Yea; No.359 James Francis Webb of Euroa.

Mrs Susan Meyer, President of 4th Light Horse Regiment Memorial Association is an active member arranging various dinners and reunions for members.



Light horse re-enactment group with members Joy Burchell and Lois Burgland both daughters of World War One Servicemen. -S

Extra money soon available for school costs

THE Victorian Government's \$400 School Saving Bonus supports all students at government schools and eligible students at non-government schools, and now, families will be able to spend their bonus on more items.

The \$400 School Saving Bonus, has been used to cover the cost of uniforms, camps, excursions, and other extracurricular activities through the year, and can also be spent on textbooks.

"We know how tough it is for a lot of families right now," Premier Jacinta Allan said.

"We're giving busy families one less thing to worry about with \$400 for school costs like uniforms, excursions and textbooks."

Schools and families will get more information about how the \$400 School Saving Bonus can be accessed later this year, so families have time to plan and budget for the 2025 school year.

The one-off bonus will be available from late November 2024. It will be applied for each child, so a family with three school children will receive \$1200 in support to spend on school costs.

"Getting a world-class public education in Victoria will always be free, but supplies and extracurricular activities can really add up for families," Minister for Education, Ben Carroll said.

The government has worked to make the process of getting and spending the \$400 School Saving Bonus as easy and as flexible as possible for busy families and schools.

No family of a child in a government school will need to apply for their bonus as it is free, automatic and universal.

In term four, families will receive a code granting them access to the bonus. They will

get to choose how much of the funds they want allocated to a uniform and textbook voucher, and how much they want to use on school activities like camps, sports, excursions, graduations, and other eligible programs.

The voucher for uniforms and books will be redeemable at a school-approved uniform or textbook supplier, while funds that families allocate to school activities will be managed through the school.

The voucher can be combined if families have children at different schools but use the same supplier for uniforms and textbooks. Families can also use the voucher to buy second-hand uniforms and textbooks directly from schools.

For families of students at a non-government school, the \$400 will be provided directly to each school, to be managed in consultation with the student's family and in line with the intent of the program.

Non-government school families who are eligible for the means-tested *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund* (including healthcare and concession card holders) are eligible for the School Saving Bonus. Their application process will be the same as that for the *Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund*.

The School Saving Bonus was announced as part of a \$287 million package in the *Victorian Budget 2024/25*, and it will help up to 700,000 students, including around 44,000 non-government students.

The state government is also tripling the Glasses for Kids program, and providing free, nutritious breakfasts at every government school. For more information on the \$400 School Saving Bonus, visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus

Murrindindi performs well in bridal awards

THE Victorian Australian Bridal Industry Awards were held on the evening of Tuesday, August 28, and local businesses showed up strongly.

Flowerdale Estate was a finalist in the Ceremony Values category with 96.11 per cent, coming in 18th overall. In the Function Coordinator category, they achieved 95.15 per cent, putting them in 22nd place in Victoria. In the Reception Venue category, they achieved a 96.45 per cent, putting them in 17th place.

Flowers by Nici was a finalist in the Flowers and Bouquets category with a 97.9 per cent, achieving sixth place.

My Little Country Kitchen, based in Kinglake, achieved second place in the Independent Wedding Caterers category, with 99.88 per cent.

Trawool Estate, ever so slightly outside of the shire, was the winner of the 1st Night Honeymoon award with 99.93 per cent. They were also finalists in the Ceremony Venues category, with 96.87 per cent, and Function Coordinator with 97.33 per cent. In the Hotel or Resort Reception Category, they came in third with 99.28 per cent.

Congratulations to all.

Marysville Market

Sunday, September 8
from 9am to 1pm

All your favourite stalls are back along with distillers, sewing notions, pottery and handcrafts.

Gourmet Sausage sizzle.

Text 0429 421 939 to book a stall

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Spring firewood collection opens September 1

VICTORIANS can prepare for next winter by collecting free firewood for personal use from state forest collection areas from September 1 until November 30.

Domestic firewood in state forests is provided from fallen trees and forest management works to clean up after storms, to reduce bushfire risk and create safe access to forests for visitors and emergency workers.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) balances access to firewood with safety, forest values, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

"People can collect up to two cubic metres per person per day with a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year as long as they collect from designated firewood collection areas during a firewood season," Forest Fire Management Victoria Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy said.

Maps for this spring season's designated collection areas will be live from midnight, Sunday, September 1, at ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood

"Demand for firewood is always high, so we prioritise availability for local communities and those who depend on firewood as their primary source for heating and cooking.

"It's important Victorians plan their firewood needs early as it can take at least eight to 12 months for firewood collected during the collection seasons to be dry enough to burn safely and effectively."

It's illegal to collect wood outside designated areas or to chop down or damage any dead or standing trees. It's also an offence to take vehicles off formed roads to collect or load.

"Most people do the right thing by sticking to the collection limits and following the rules," Aaron said.

The Conservation Regulator and Parks Victoria are targeting the illegal take of firewood from Victoria's forests, parks, and reserves through Taskforce Ironbark. Authorised officers are patrolling public land and can issue fines of more than \$750 to those caught breaking the rules, and serious offences have a maximum penalty of \$9879 and/or one year in prison. Community members can help by reporting any suspected illegal firewood collection to 136 186.

The Victorian Government provides targeted energy support and concessions for people on low incomes who buy firewood or need assistance with their energy costs. This includes tailored support via the Energy Assistance Program, a \$250 rebate for eligible households from the *Energy Bill Relief Fund*, payments of between \$55 and \$619 per year for eligible households that rely on non-mains energy including firewood for heating and cooking, and up to \$650 via the *Non-Mains Utility Relief Grant* for Victorians on low incomes who rely on firewood as their only source of fixed heating.

More information about financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who buy firewood at ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support

Darren Gilbert open studio
An open art studio of organic metal sculptures and pen & ink artworks of Australian animals.
Sat. 7th and Sun. 8th September
10.00am to 4.00pm each day
5 Giffard Street, Yea, VIC. 3717
or arrange another time 0421 378 451
Open the first weekend of every month.
Up to date Open Studio days & times on www.monkeytaildesign.com



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- Alexandra FoodWorks
- Alexandra Newsagency
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- Simpsons Caltex
- Taggerty Store
- Thornton Store
- Shell Thornton
- Yarck Meat and Produce
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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*.

Make sure your enrolment details are up to date for the October Murrindindi Shire Council election. Visit vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment to check or update your details.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary AGM will be held at 2pm in Grace Bennetts Centre meeting room, Yea. RSVP to Ruth Crockett 5797 3057.



THUMBS UP: To the friendly and efficient staff at FoodWorks. I love shopping there because you are all obliging and kind.

THUMBS UP: To FoodWorks Alexandra. The grocery deliveries are such a big help for people with disabilities, etcetera. The staff at FoodWorks are always helpful. This is a big shout out to the staff who take the orders over the phone, ones who pack, and the cheerful drivers who deliver. A great thank you to you all.

THUMBS UP: To Chris's TV service for exemplary work. We are fortunate to have such a great operator in this area.

THUMBS UP: To all the people who went out and picked daffodils. Well done to Ken and Tiny who sold them at Eildon. We made \$922.

THUMBS DOWN: To the shire councillors who voted against the Dindi Events proposal (agenda item 4.2) at the August meeting. Finally, an innovative approach and plan that would share expertise to sustain events, with financial support and measurable KPIs, but voted against under the guise of deferring to the incoming councillors as the decision makers. Deal with the here and now and stop procrastinating. Be decisive.

THUMBS DOWN: To the shire councillors who do not present a report in person or in absentia at monthly meetings. How can we judge that you are truly representing us, your constituents, if you don't enlighten us?

THUMBS DOWN: Before you cast your vote for this year's council elections, inform yourself by watching August's meeting before you make your decision. Be aware that you will need four hours of your time that you will never retrieve. Much of the time is spent on protocol rather than substance. "Councillor this/that blah, blah." Mostly when asked to talk to why they are raising or supporting a motion they don't or can't.

THUMBS UP: To the route 684 bus drivers who came to our assistance whenever required. Special thanks to Andy recently.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Free health checks for the farming community. Mental health education and suicide awareness. Yea Saleyards. For further information visit yeasaleyards.com.au

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Darren Gilbert Open Studio 10am-4pm. 5 Giffard Street, Yea, continues through until Sunday, or by arrangement at other times 0421 378 451.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Walk. Registration 8.30am, event start 9am. Rail trail loop: Yea Railway Station to Two Bridges. For more information and to register visit gvsag.org.au or phone 0417 907 278.

No more parks event. You are invited to take part in No More Parks at Woods Point. Noon - 2pm. Authorised by Leonie Blackwell, Eastern Region Community Advocacy.

Marysville Market is back, 9am-1pm. All your favourite stalls are back along with distillers, sewing notions, pottery and handcrafts. Text 0429 421 939.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

The Alexandra Op Shop AGM will be held at 10am in the RSL Hall.

Yea Saleyards committee are seeking expressions of interest to fill a community-farming representative vacancy. Nominations will be accepted until September 9. For details contact Lisa Elward lward@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Yea Saleyards AGM will be held at 5pm at the saleyard canteen. For nomination forms contact Lisa Elward lward@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Eildon Community Opportunity Shop AGM will be held at 2pm.

ADTTA will hold their AGM at 6pm. All businesses invited to attend. For details visit alexandratourism.com/agm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Riddellvue Angus Stud 2024 Spring bull and female sale. On property Markwood and Auctionsplus. 35-18 month bulls and 19 registered females. Contact Ian Bates 0418 367 209 or visit riddellvue.com.au.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Preliminary Notice - Alex Scott and staff first Yea store cattle sale commencing at 9.30am, Yea Saleyards. Additional entries welcomed. Contact David 0409 443 473.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Weekend at Nan's, a short film by Matt Harris, will be screening at Peppers Marysville. Bar open 5pm, movie 6.30pm. Free entry, all welcome.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Alexandra Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the Embassy of Ideas. All welcome.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Paringa Livestock Premier Yearling Sale on property Yea. Contact Tom Lawson 0434 146 795 or email info@paringalivestock.com.au for further details.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Alexandra Lawn Tennis Club AGM will be held at 5.30pm at The Corner Hotel, Alexandra. Existing and new members welcome. General meeting to follow. For further information contact Troy 0434 122 602.

Alexandra Race Club AGM will be held at noon followed by a light lunch at 1.30pm. ARC Entertainment Centre, Gordon Street, Alexandra. RSVP alexandraraceclub@gmail.com or phone the secretary 0467 413 767 for further information.

Church Services

ANGLICAN

St Johns Alexandra
9am Eucharist each Sunday
Children welcome.
Rev Mario Hendricks -
Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.
Presbytery 0468 810 871
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St Andrews, Downey Street,
Alexandra
Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Contact: Ps Steven Turner
Ph: 0413 127 283
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street, Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

A Christian community of the Baptist
Union of Victoria Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Pastor - Geoffrey Johnstone
0481 472 152

Local artist showcases the region in her art

SEPTEMBER artist of the month at Alexandra Visitor Information Centre is local artist Susan McIntyre.

Susan is an established artist based in Victoria, Australia. With a background in

botanical art, Susan finds inspiration in nature, drawing on the unique beauty of different landscapes and botanical environments. Susan's work is distinguished by its exquisite detail and vibrant depiction of flora reflecting her passion of the natural world.

Susan's journey as an artist began early, influenced by her experiences growing up in Victoria and her love for the landscapes of the region. Susan blends her artistic skills with personal memories, from her early days spent at Lake Eildon in 1958 to her memorable seaside holidays on the Mornington Peninsula.

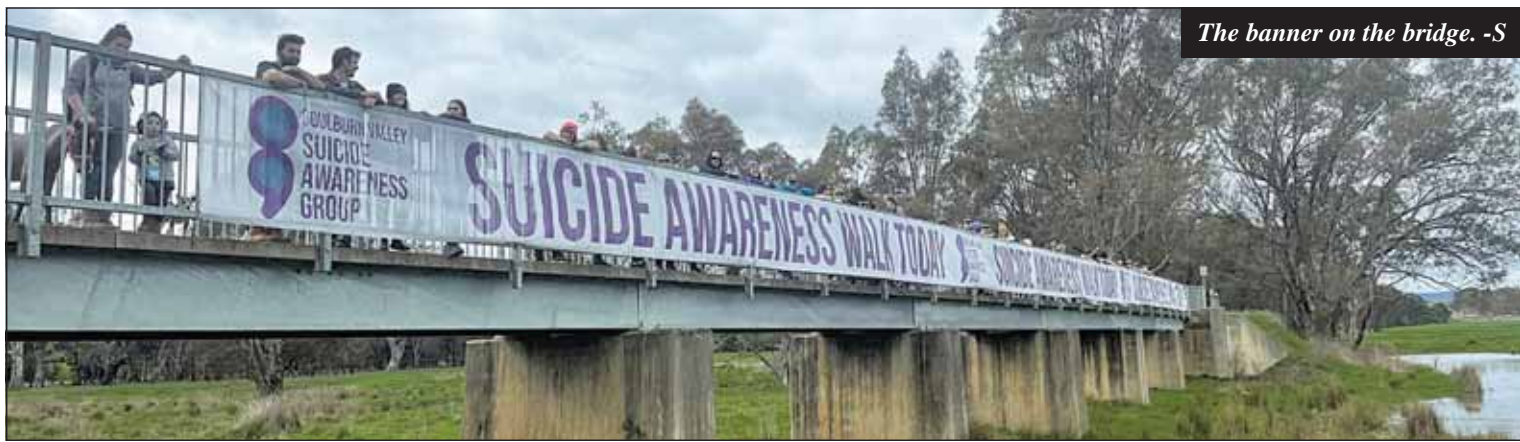
Susan finds inspiration in her studio and her home that overlooks Taylor Bay at Lake Eildon. Her recent works focus on capturing the essence of Lake Eildon, aiming to evoke a sense of peace and connection with nature in those who view her art.

Susan has exhibited her art in numerous galleries and has developed a following of collectors who appreciate her ability to express the ever changing moods of nature.

You can find Susan's work at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre throughout the month of September.



Artist Susan McIntyre with her beautiful work. -S



The banner on the bridge. -S

Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Walk

THIS Sunday, September 9, will see the fourth annual Suicide Awareness Walk commence at the Yea Railway Park.

People attend from far and wide, including many from beyond the shire, and are registering to walk at 8.30am or have already registered online.

Founder of the walk, Jacky Gilbee said the walk "is a great opportunity that only occurs once a year in Yea for anyone touched by suicide or who would like to support others, to come together in solidarity."

After registration, Rotary emcee David Anderson will open the morning, introducing Taungurung elder Auntie Angela, and guest speakers Steven

Neffs from *We Listen* (Shepparton) and Nigel Lyttle (principal of Alexandra Secondary College).

The morning continues with an honour role of people being remembered on the day by walkers read out by Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish, and then attendees set out on the walk along the rail trail, assembling at a huge banner on the twin bridges alongside the Melba Highway for a photo, before returning to a barbecue lunch provided by Yea Rotary.

This event is completely free and as Jacky says, "Everyone is welcome, including four legged friends that are so important to keeping us comforted and cared for after loss. We aim to provide a

morning that is supportive, not sad, with our local music man David Deans Draper providing some uplifting tunes behind the lunchtime chatter."

Some great local sponsors and volunteers help keep this event free and have also enabled the Suicide Awareness Group to provide bereavement support groups (monthly at the Yea RSL rooms) and the Alexandra Youth SPOT at the Embassy of Ideas.

To register for the walk or for more information on the work of the volunteers from the group, head to gvsag.org.au

The walk is proudly supported by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and Australia Post Community Foundation.

Wood Point protest event

COMMUNITY Advocacy Eastern Region in conjunction with Victorians Against the Great Forest National Park will be holding a 'No More Parks' event on Sunday, September 8 at noon.

The venue is the Woods Point Commercial Hotel. A human sign spelling, 'No More Parks' will be created and photographed. It will be followed by a barbecue lunch.

Merchandise relating to 'Leave our forests alone' will be available for sale at a discounted price.

Rainbow stockings

THOUSANDS of small rainbow trout, averaging 200 grams each, will be stocked across the state ready for the school holidays, as well as 1000 large rainbow trout in 17 metropolitan locations.

Junior fishers will be able to get in on the action using their free Little Angler Kits, which were given to school aged children to inspire more kids to get outdoors and give fishing a go. The kits provide information on what bait they should use and how to rig up.

For regional Victorians who love to catch trout from the river, the season re-opens on Saturday September 7. To celebrate, large rainbow trout will be stocked around Eildon as part of the Goulburn Fishing Festival.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos said, "There has never been a better time to throw your line into Melbourne's lakes, with these huge rainbow trout giving everyone the opportunity for the catch of a lifetime.

"Fishing is a great way to get outside and spend time with family and friends in nature."

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club report

by president Marj Hall

THERE was an enthusiastic attendance at Friday's social meeting. Maybe the signs of spring have lightened people's moods.

However, the meeting started with a valed and one minute silence for Valda MacRae who passed away on Wednesday, August 28. Sympathy to her family and particularly

to club secretary Mike. Mike has been a wonderful friend, partner and carer for Val.

The members welcomed Yvonne on her first visit to the club, followed by the usual afternoon activities. Comedy corner provided some really entertaining jokes courtesy of Joan.

The lucky winners of the chocolate bars in the Spin the Wheel raffle were Jan, Ann and Marj. A rapid exodus followed to enjoy

a bingo session where John R, Jack B and Brenda B took the spoils.

Following afternoon tea, the hall echoed to the guffaws of the UNO players while the tea room reflected only the intense silence of the '500' players.

A gentle reminder that next Friday, September 6, there will be a committee meeting in the hall at 10.30am and the usual business meeting at 1.30pm.

Come join us at the Woods Point Commercial Hotel

NO MORE PARKS EVENT



It's time to send a message to the government that the bush is for everyone.

We need you to come, gather next to the Hotel and spell out "NO MORE PARKS".

Sunday September 8, 2024 12 to 2pm

- 4x4 clubs and drivers ● Dirt bike riders ● Prospectors
- Horse riders ● Free campers ● Hunters

IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND PROTECT YOUR HERITAGE, CULTURE, HOBBIES AND SANITY PLACE.



Authorised by Leonie Blackwell, Eastern Region Community Advocacy, 45 Commercial Pl, Drouin.



Join us for a pause in time to reflect and remember.

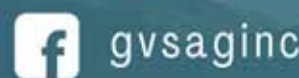
Forth Annual GOULBURN VALLEY Suicide Awareness Walk
Sunday 8th September 2024

Registration 8:30 am; Event Start 9:00 am
Rail Trail Loop: Yea Railway Station to Two Bridges

Walking to remember those lost, raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support families and friends in our Goulburn Valley community.

For more information, to volunteer, & to register:

www.gvsag.org.au

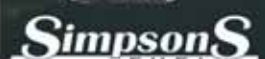


If after reading this you need support, please ring:
LIFELINE 13 11 14 OR BEYOND BLUE 1300 22 46 36

In partnership with:



Cindy MCLEISH MLA
MEMBER FOR EILDON



And proudly printed by Cindy McLeish MP

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Liesse Hogan – 5/6A

Liesse always a quiet achiever. She is a kind and caring member of class who strives to do her best. She is inclusive and welcoming. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Liesse.

You are a star.



Huntah has been focused on working cooperatively with others in class.

Keep it up Huntah.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Corbyn and Kaaisha displayed the school values of Respect and Cooperation this week. Well done.



Tahj

Tahj is a great friend and always makes sure his peers are feeling happy and supported. He is an engaged and energetic student that enjoys learning. Tahj is quick to grasp topics and is building confidence when accepting challenges. Fantastic effort, Tahj.

Congratulations Tahj!

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Details of council's grants and sponsorships for 2023-2024

MURRINDINDI Shire Council's revamped 2023-24 Grants and Sponsorships Program has been a resounding success, with 124 grant applications received. The program has provided a total of \$205,648 in funding to support local groups, individuals, and events.

The funding was distributed among six different grant streams, 53 quick response grants totalling \$84,117, six sponsorship grants totalling \$13,700, 12 community project grants totalling \$53,006, seven local events grants totalling \$20,825, and three events of major significance grants totalling \$34,000.

The Grants and Sponsorships Program has supported a wide range of local groups, individuals and events over the past financial year highlighting the community's leadership and passion in enhancing social and economic outcomes. For a full list of recipients, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grantrecipients2024

One of the highlights of the program last financial year was the Thornton Trike Track, a priority stemming from the Thornton Community Plan developed in 2023. This project provided the platform to advance the community plan and has been popular with the community, encouraging people to go outdoors, stay active and connect with each other while developing our young people in road safety.

Another success story is the *Comedy for a Cause* event held by the Murrindindi Ranges Wildlife Shelter. The event, which took place at the Flowerdale Hall on Saturday, April 13, raised a total of \$6780.61. The funds will be used to purchase an x-ray machine and other equipment for the shelter in support for injured wildlife. The event was well-received, with 76 attendees enjoying a night of laughter and fun, all while supporting a good cause.

For more information about the program or to apply for a grant, please visit council's website murrindindi.vic.gov.au/grants or contact their grants and sponsorships team at 5772 0333.

Council's Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said "I am incredibly proud of the impact that the 2023-24 Grants and Sponsorships Program has had on our community.

"The success of this program is a testament to the strength and resilience of our local groups, volunteers and individuals. Their innovative projects and events have not only enriched our community but also showcased the spirit of our shire. We look forward to continuing to support these initiatives and seeing what our community can achieve in the future."



The new team for the Yea and District Community Bank (Bendigo Bank), consisting of Jess, Jo Kilpatrick (Branch Operations Manager) and Amy. -BD

Extended hours and new faces at Australia's most trusted bank

COMMUNITY Bank Yea and District, proudly part of Bendigo Bank, has recently undergone some changes to its local structure, with a promotion and two new staff members joining the team.

With a growing team, Community Bank Yea and District will now be opening at lunchtime, which will allow customers to access the full-service branch between 10am and 3.30pm on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Jo Kilpatrick, who has been working at Community Bank Yea and

District branch for almost nine years, was promoted to Branch Operations Manager in July, providing a new face for the business.

Supporting Jo and their customers are Amy and Jess, who have recently joined the team.

Amy has lived in Yea for seven years and is eager to get to better know the community. She has two children and Bendigo Bank is her first customer service job after taking a break to start a family.

Jess was born and raised in Yarck and applied for the job in Yea after

seeking a career change. She has studied at university and is keen to apply her experience in a role that helps customers achieve their financial goals.

The Community Bank Yea and District team wish to express their gratitude to the community for their support while the new team settles in and they look forward to their future interactions with customers and the community in future as they focus on delivering a better banking experience.

Father's Day at St Mary's Primary School



The Father's Day event took place in the school hall, followed by outdoor learning. -S



Some of the fathers and children who attended the Father's Day celebration at St Mary's Primary School on Friday, August 30. -S



The happy staff members serving the food. -S

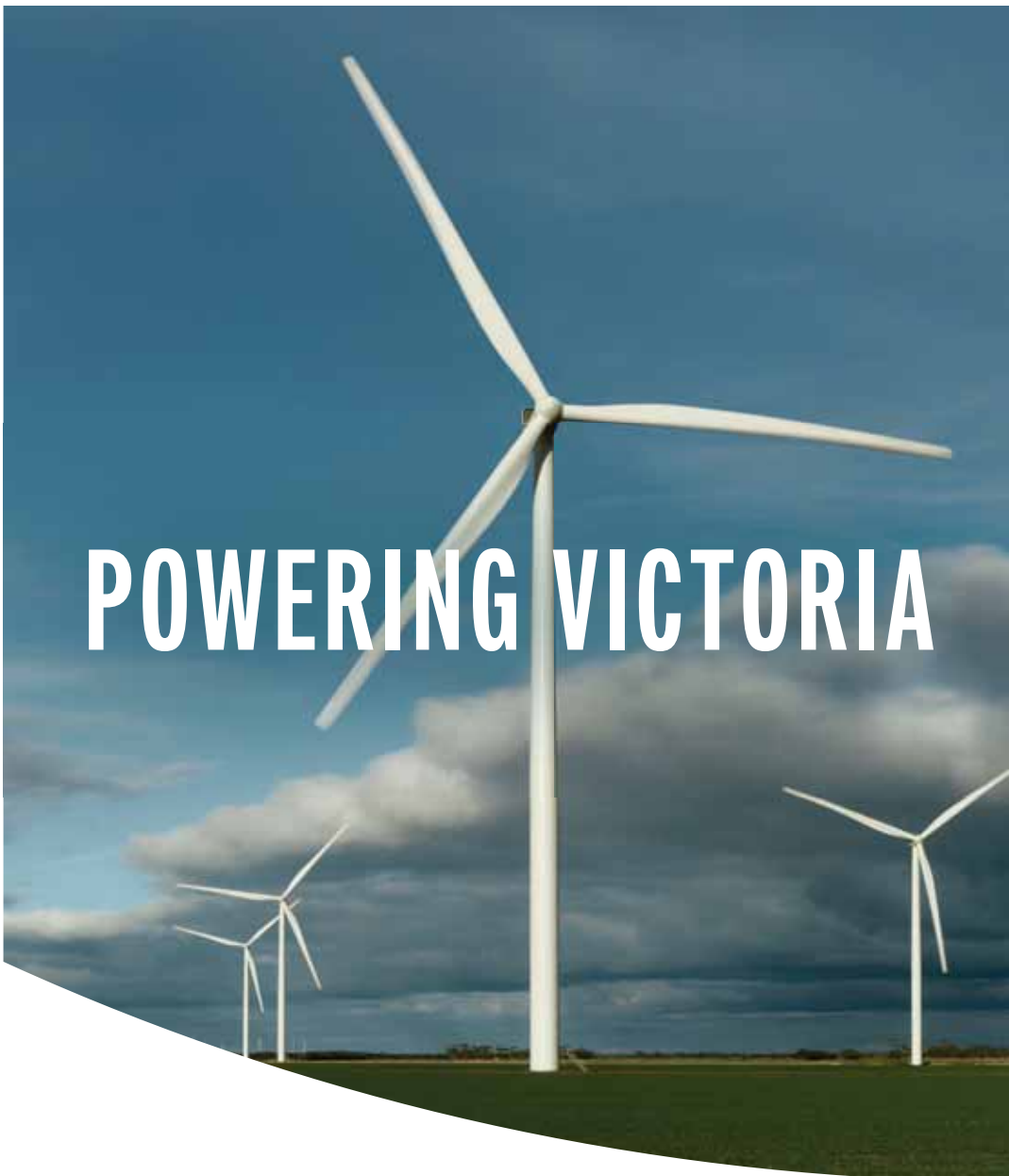


The Father's Day breakfast at Alexandra Primary School provided the opportunity for the children to celebrate their dads. -AR

Father's Day at Alexandra Primary School



The Father's Day celebration at Alexandra Primary School involved a barbecue breakfast on Friday, August 30. -AR



POWERING VICTORIA



FOR VICTORIANS

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To deliver renewable, affordable, reliable energy.
Helping reduce energy bills, drive down emissions and create jobs.
It's renewable energy powering Victoria for Victorians.

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

John Walsh: What is it like being a councillor?

COUNCILLOR John Walsh, who looks after the Portfolio of Governance and Corporate Services and represents Koriella Ward, has announced that he won't be standing in the next council election. During his time with council, he has not only been a councillor but has also been mayor. We chatted to him to find out more about what people might expect if they make the decision to stand in the local government elections.

What do you believe that new councillors should expect when they start in the role?

There's an awful lot to learn and the induction training is very good, but it's quite extensive and that takes up most of the time over the first few weeks. It pretty much covers everything you need to know. You can't obviously learn everything about the job within a few weeks, but it gives you the basics, so you've got a good platform to build on.

How much time each week needs to be devoted to the role?

It should be around a maximum of, I think once you get into the hang of it, about 20 hours or something like that. You need to do a lot of reading, and you need to have an open attitude to things. That helps you. If you come in with a closed attitude, you find that the reading tends to lock into a particular way of thinking, and then suddenly you come to a dead end, whereas if you have an open mind about things, generally, you can weigh up issues all the way down, and then come to a logical conclusion.

How robust are the discussions outside of council meetings?

All right, let's tackle the councillors. Again, it can be quite robust in that people are expressing their points of view. That can be a good discussion. That doesn't lead to decisions because you're going through, you're taking in other people's information and that then leads you to your decision at the end of the day or come to a meeting, something like that.

With the members of the public, it varies depending on the issue. Some things, everyone's in general agreement. With other things, it could get a little heated. I'm sort

of fortunate in that I don't use Facebook and at times on Facebook it can get a little abusive, but in the last four years haven't really experienced that because I don't use it.

What would you say are the hardest aspects of being a councillor?

Well, apart from the initial understanding of the rules and regulations, and to recognise that there are rules and regulations, and that you can't operate outside those, I think the hardest thing to do is to understand them fully and to then learn how you can operate successfully within those rules and regulations, and to keep them in mind. Once you have your own particular values and views and those of your community, then you've got a pretty clear path how to work within the regulations.

How do you handle conversations with people in the shire who have strong opinions on different matters?

Generally, I like to listen to what their opinions are, and then I'll put, potentially, the counter argument, not necessarily for or against what they're saying, but I like to then have people flesh out their views so I can ensure that they've covered them well and they're well-based and that it's not just something they've just heard from someone else or just sort of read something on Facebook or whatever, but they've thought about it as well, and then I can weigh up the value of that opinion.

What have you learned about yourself during your time as a councillor?

How quickly one can become an old and grumpy person. The trick is to then realise that's what's going on and take a step back and think, well, what's the other point of view? What is it that is irking you and then try and see, well, how do I live with that? How do I handle it?

What will you miss about being a councillor?

The opportunity to meet different people in different settings. As a councillor, you get to go to see people in different industries, doing different things, helping other people and the way they do that, and then at the same time,

you're talking to them about their aspirations and everything. It gives you a good feeling and a range of views on just life in general, and that has been most enjoyable.

Are there particular skills that people need as a councillor?

I think the biggest one is to be prepared to do the work, recognise that it's an important job, and to recognise that you are representing people and you are handling public money. It's not a social gathering, it's a work environment that you're in, even though at times you're discussing things in a way that might be seen as a social gathering, it is still something that's geared towards a particular objective.

Would you recommend being a councillor?

Yes, I would. I think the key to it is to have some clear objectives in the time as being a councillor, but be open to other people's clear objectives as well. I'm a firm believer that to come on to council is to undertake some work to improve the lot of the community. It isn't there just to go to social events or the like, or just to get title 'councillor', which some people in the past have deemed is something that is their only objective it seems, but I think if you're there to do what's good for your community, so listen to your community, be prepared to work and understand what the issues are, put the time in, and then once you've formed a view, be prepared to pursue that view or that objective or that project.

What are you most proud of from your time as a councillor?

I could go right back and talk about things that happened after the 2009 fires and that sort of stuff but I won't go into that. For this term, that's probably a better way to look at it I think, the fact that I've had a small part to play in the ongoing success of the sale yards, and the now further expansion of the sale yards and catering for additional sales. We'll see how well that goes, but I think it should go okay. The work in terms of getting the idea of having a greenhouse gas target, getting the first of the EV's in place, and if we're going to meet that target, then this will just be the first of many as we roll through



Councillor John Walsh. -S

and fits in well before 2035, if we're going to achieve that target. So those sorts of things I think these were the main issues in the current term of council.

What's next for you after you finish this term?

Good question. Still trying to sort that out. I'm not standing again. I think that's probably well known. I think I made that clear within the first few months of being elected last time. For family reasons, will be probably moving out of the area, and so that's going to offer up some new challenges. I had said that I was going to step back from all the community engagement work outside of council as well. I wanted to see what it was like not to be in a committee, which is something I've been involved in in one form or another for at least the last 60 years. But then, I was caught out because we might end up in Bendigo checking out the details of the food share program up there, not that we need the food share, but I think I might be able to help out, so we'll see what happens? I know I'd go nuts if I didn't have something else to do.

With our level of indecision [the move to Bendigo] could take quite some time before we actually leave.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I would encourage anyone to or anyone who's got a desire to make positive change to put their hand up for election, and whoever gets elected, I wish them all the best.

New youth offender and organised crime laws passed

THE Victorian Government has passed new youth justice and organised crime laws.

The youth justice laws will deliver tough consequences for repeat and serious offenders, and allow for more early intervention to keep children out of the justice system.

The *Youth Justice Bill 2024* and several amendments to the *Bail Act* will ensure that serious youth offenders face consequences for their actions.

These changes include strengthening the bail test by making it clear that bail decision makers must assess both the risk to community safety and the risk of further serious offending when deciding if bail is appropriate.

This will make it explicit that if they believe a young person poses an unacceptable risk of committing a schedule one or two offence while on bail, that is a clear reason to refuse bail.

The *Bail Act* will also be amended to specifically call out alarming crimes such as aggravated burglary or robbery, dangerous driving, carjacking or home invasion as explicit examples of offences that present an unacceptable risk to community safety.

The ability of police to apply for bail revocation for repeat offenders will be strengthened and clarified, with any offending or likely offending, or any serious breaches of bail conditions, grounds to seek revocation.

A new separate offence will be created for committing a serious crime including aggravated burglary, carjacking, murder and rape, while on bail.

The bill raises the age of criminal responsibility for children up to 12 years old, making Victoria the first state in the country to do so.

It also provides appropriate measures to keep children out of the youth justice system and give them better outcomes such as the codification of *doli incapax*.

The bill also includes a trial of electronic monitoring and more intensive bail supervision, stronger powers to transfer young people aged over 18 to adult prison where they are a serious risk to others and more tailored sentencing options for courts to address the behaviour that led to the offending.

The bill will allow for more young people on bail or on remand to participate in treatment and rehabilitation without prejudicing their case, helping them get back on a better path, sooner.

It will also introduce more options for restorative justice, bringing offenders face to face with victims to hear directly about the harm they've caused, which is proven to help victims heal, while giving offenders real insight into the behaviour.

A new Youth Justice Victims Register will also be created, enabling victims to receive relevant updates and to provide information to the Youth Parole Board to help inform parole decisions.

Loopholes will be closed to crack down on those who seek to exploit children to do their dirty work, including lowering the age of prosecution for recruiting children into criminal activity from 21 to 18 years old.

The bill will also create more pathways to re-engage young people in school, in jobs and in other support programs, helping to keep them out of trouble and keep Victorians safe.

In addition to legislated changes, the delivery of an additional Magistrate to be in place this year, supporting the Children's Court's capacity to hear these cases quickly will be fast tracked.

The government will also expand Victoria Police's dedicated team of prosecutors, boosting their capability to respond to and prosecute this cohort quickly.

A new, ongoing Council on Bail, Rehabilitation and Accountability (COBRA) will be established, made up of experts including police, Youth Justice, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Department of Health, schools and others as needed, to explore what is driving the actions of this group of reoffenders and how to stop them.

COBRA will report directly to Ministers, informing government of any trends, concerns or ideas so action can be taken promptly.

Youth crime prevention programs will also be reviewed to see what's working and what's not with the aim to target investment to programs with the greatest likelihood of success.

These changes are a result of direct feedback from multiple meetings with police, the judiciary and youth justice workers around the response to youth offending.

Organised crime

The Victorian Government is also cracking down on organised crime and bikie gangs with some of the toughest laws in Australia to stop thuggery and bad behaviour.

Under the *Criminal Organisations Control Amendment Bill 2024* introduced into parliament last week, new and improved laws will strengthen Victoria's unlawful association scheme, introduce a new serious crime prevention order and prohibit the public display of gang colours.

As part of the changes members of specified organised crime groups will be banned from entering Victorian Government worksites, ensuring these

sites are free from the influence of outlaw gangs and criminal groups.

This will complement work being done by the Federal Government to stamp out rotten culture that has been exposed in the construction industry.

The strengthened unlawful association scheme will give Victoria Police more power to stop criminals associating with each other and to discourage other people from joining them in a criminal network.

The threshold for issuing unlawful association notices will be lowered to allow police to issue them more easily and in a wider range of circumstances, with up to three years of prison for an order breach.

The Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission will have new responsibilities to monitor, oversee and report on the operation of the scheme.

A new Serious Crime Prevention Order (SCPO) scheme will also come into effect, this will allow the Chief Commissioner of Police to apply to a court to impose a broad range of conditions on someone who has participated in serious criminal activity or is likely to help another person who is engaging in serious criminal behaviour.

The SCPO scheme has been designed to restrict the activities of organised crime group leaders, an SCPO might include prohibiting that person from leaving Victoria or possessing firearms or certain amounts of cash.

Outlaw motorcycle gang members that wear and display their colours, such as patches, logos or other insignia to represent their gang membership, intimidate others and to attract and recruit new members. The bill will ban the public display of the insignia of certain criminal groups, including wearing it on clothing or jewellery and displaying it on signs, flags or vehicles.

An Hour with an Ambo in Taggerty

ALEXANDRA-based community support coordinator with Ambulance Victoria, Mick de Groot, spoke at An Hour with an Ambo at CH@T in Taggerty on Tuesday, August 27. The event is expected to occur at the venue on the last Tuesday of the month moving forward. Next month's talk will be on strokes.

For the inaugural talk, Mick spoke about infections (particularly chest infections), as well as pneumonia.

He noted that bacterial infections can be treated with antibiotics, and viruses such as COVID-19 can be treated with anti-viral medication, but these are unfortunately expensive and are therefore only recommended for older people, the very young or people with co-morbidities.

He said that people should consult a doctor or go to hospital if they are suffering from shortness of breath or it hurts to breathe, they have a fever of over 40 degrees, if there is excessive phlegm when coughing, if there is blood in the phlegm, if the person is showing no signs of improvement, or if they have heart or lung issues.

Pneumonia is often caused by bacteria or a virus, and is a condition where fluid fills the lungs. People at risk include babies, people aged over 70, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

He strongly recommended that people receive an annual flu vaccination and a pneumonia vaccination, noting that while it won't prevent the illness, they prepare the body to mount a response.

People should call Triple Zero when there is a life threatening emergency, such as chest pain or tightness, difficulty breathing, extreme pain, large burns, serious accidents or trauma, severe bleeding, sudden numbness or paralysis of the face or a limb, or unconsciousness.

The other options for medical issues include the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), Nurse-on-Call, or attending an Urgent Care Centre (previously known as Priority Primary Care Centres).

VVED allows people to talk to an emergency department doctor or nurse remotely, using any internet-connected computer, tablet or smart phone. They can issue scripts, and a Medicare card is not required to access the services as long as the person lives in Victoria. The wait time varies and might be 30 to 90 minutes. VVED is also used by aged care homes, ambulance services and smaller hospitals. It allows people to stay in the comfort of their own home, and the service is free. If the issue is life threatening however, always call an ambulance. More information can be found at vved.org.au

Urgent Care Centres provide GP-led care to people who need urgent care, but not an emergency response. More information can be found at health.vic.gov.au/priority-primary-care-centres

The other option is to contact Nurse-on-Call to ask for their advice. They can be contacted on 1300 60 60 24.



Mick de Groot speaking to attendees at the Hour with an Ambo event in Taggerty. -AR

Urgent Care Clinics renamed but not relocated closer to the shire

THE Victorian Government's Priority Primary Care Clinics, which are currently averaging 7000 patient visits each week through both walk ins and appointments, are this month marking half a million visits from Victorians in need.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas visited Access Community Health in Richmond to announce the clinics will now be known as Urgent Care Clinics, to make it simpler for Victorians to know how and where to get the right kind of care.

The 29 clinics were set up by the government to reduce pressure on busy emergency departments, with patient survey data revealing around 50 per cent would have gone to emergency if the clinics did not exist.

General practitioners are the backbone of primary care, which is why highly experienced GPs lead the clinics, backed by nurses.

The clinics are free for anyone with or without a Medicare card. People can seek care for a range of reasons including sprains, broken bones, mild burns, respiratory illness, tonsillitis, ear infections and urinary tract infections.

Hospitals, paramedics, Nurse on Call, and the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) are also using the clinics as a safe and effective referral option, with around 36 per cent of patients coming via these services. The clinics also receive referrals from GP clinics and pharmacies.

The clinics are popular with regional Victorians, with more than 142,000 patients seen at the nine clinics in country Victoria.

As these clinics become further embedded in our health system, they may become aligned with national Medicare Urgent Care Clinics. The Commonwealth has now taken over funding 10 of Victoria's existing clinics as part of its responsibility for delivering primary care across Australia.

More than 360,000 virtual consultations have been completed at VVEDs since 2020. Eighty-six per cent of these callers did not require a physical care.

If faced with a medical emergency, people should still call Triple Zero or present to their closest hospital emergency department.

The closest urgent care centres to Murrindindi Shire are in Wallan, Epping, Craigieburn and Bayswater.



WEEKEND AT NAN'S

A SHORT FILM BY MATT HARRIS

SCREENING @ PEPPERS MARYSVILLE ON SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 14. BAR OPEN 5PM - MOVIE SCREENING 630PM -
LIVE MUSIC BY JACKSON HARRIS & OSCAR KENDALL AFTER!!



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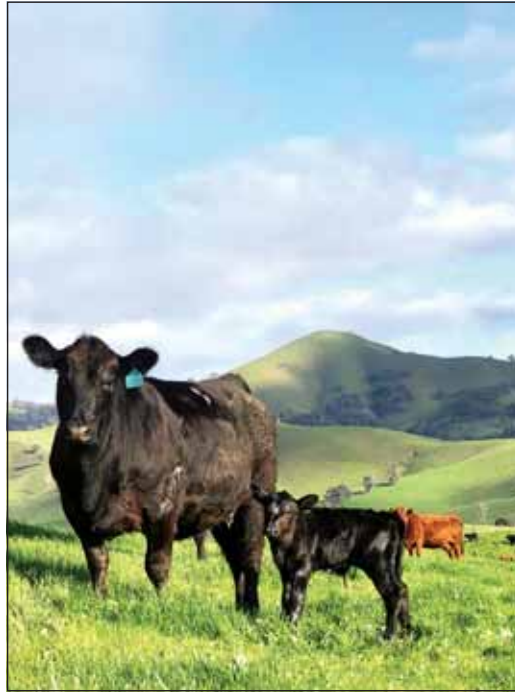


ON THE LAND

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SAVE THE DATE

- SEPTEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
Free health checks for the farming community.
Mental health and suicide awareness.
- SEPTEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- OCTOBER 4, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- OCTOBER 11, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 8, Yea Saleyards**
Store Sale
- NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale
- NOVEMBER 29, Yea Saleyards**
Weaner Sale



The Paringa Livestock annual bull sale will be on September 19. -S

Paringa's annual bull sale

PARINGA Livestock will be holding their annual bull sale on September 19, with this year marking 20 years of operation for Paringa Livestock Genetics.

Olivia and Tom Lawson, the business's owners and operators, spoke about 20 years of Paringa and what they will have on offer at their sale this year.

"We're a small family business, so Olivia and I own and run the business, and we're hands on full-time farmers. We've produced genetics that have ended up all around Australia and around the world," Tom Lawson said.

"We are celebrating 20 years of Paringa, operating as Paringa Livestock Genetics. We've been operating out of the Yea district for, well, my husband's been there his entire life, so five decades, breeding genetics, but 20 years as Paringa," Olivia added.

They will have a selection of quality bulls on sale at their property in Murrindindi in September.

"We will be offering 45 yearling bulls. They are top of the drop, so the elite bulls out of this year's drop. They were born in spring, so July and August 2023, so they'll be just reaching 14 months of age on sale day. Paringa genetics are renowned for sleep easy calving ease, and this year 97 per cent of all bulls are suitable for heifers," Olivia Lawson said.

"Bull sales are part of our offering, and we've also been working on large-scale custom breeding programs for clients all over the country, as well as holding on-farm auctions each year.

"Our bull centre is at Murrindindi. That's where we'll be hosting the sale as we usually do, but we also manage country in the Yea valley and north of Ballarat.

Continued Page 12

SEPTEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for September, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra. The September theme is 'Spring foliage'.

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

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter.

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facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

AUGUST PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNER

'your pet' August competition winner is Olivia Wood age 7. Bundy



\$50 voucher kindly sponsored by



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Submit your photo entry to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon September 27, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

The September theme is 'spring foliage'.

T&Cs: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. One photo per entry. Photo must be taken in the Murrindindi shire and are not to be digitally altered or enhanced.



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Mental Health Education & Suicide Awareness

Yea Saleyards Friday 6 September 2024



Real Estate GUIDE

Consider all costs when buying property

WHEN it comes to buying a property, it's not just one cost and you're done. There are many costs for buying a house on top of deposits, interests and mortgage repayments.

According to Canstar, excluding interest and the deposit, upfront costs can total as much as \$40,000 or more, depending on the conditions of your loan, where you live and how much you want to borrow.

The extras that people don't tend to think about when purchasing property but most definitely need to be accounted for is stamp duty, transfer of registration fees, bank charges, legal and conveyancing fees, moving costs, inspection fees, rates and mortgage insurance.

Stamp duty is also known as transfer duty, this is a government tax on large transactions such as real estate. Stamp Duty amounts depend entirely on which state you're purchasing in and how much the house costs.

Bank charges can involve the loan application and establishment fees when applying for your home loan. These can vary among different lenders and any changes that are made can add additional charges along the way.

Legal and conveyancing fees are from conveyancers transferring the legal title of a property from the previous owner to the new owner. This process also involves negotiating contracts to finalising the settlements and submitting documentation to government departments on the buyers behalf.

Moving costs can vary, considering how much you have to move, how far away you are moving to and whether or not you are hiring removalist or doing



it yourself. This varying cost is also important to your budget.

Inspection fees are important to factor in as obtaining building and pest inspections can reduce larger costs down the track that you weren't expecting to pay.

Mortgage insurance is usually a mandatory cost from your lender in the event that you default on your home loan. It's often required for home buyers who take out a home loan with a deposit that's less than 20 per cent. House insurance is also another added cost once you're in your brand new home.

There is assistance for first home owners, the Victorian Government offers the following to eligible first home owners. These incentives include, no stamp duty tax on properties up to \$600,000, reduced stamp duty tax on properties up to \$750,000, buying off the plan concessions, and first Home Owner Grants.

There may be other concessions or exemptions available if you are a pensioner, a first home owner with family, and purchasing off the plan.

For more information on grants and incentives visit the state revenue office at sro.vic.gov.au

Short stay levy bill introduced

The *Short Stay Levy Bill 2024* was introduced into state parliament last fortnight. Announced as part of the landmark *Housing Statement*, the final policy was informed by consultation with local councils, industry and tourism bodies to get the balance right for communities across Victoria.

"We're unlocking more homes for real rentals, and unlocking more funding for social housing," Treasurer Tim Pallas said.

"This is an important step towards making more properties available for long term rental, and we've consulted with the sector to make sure we've got the balance right."

The legislation introduces a 7.5 per cent levy from January 1, 2025, on short stay accommodation bookings, including bookings made through platforms such as Airbnb and Stayz.

Short stay rentals reduce the number of properties available for longer term accommodation for families who need a place to live. In Victoria, there are around 63,000 short stay accommodation places with nearly half of these in regional Victoria. Almost 50,000 of those places are entire homes which are not available for long term rental.

Expected to raise around \$60 million a year, all revenue will go to *Homes Victoria* to support the building and maintenance of social and affordable housing with 25 per cent of funds to be invested in regional Victoria.

The levy will not apply to a homeowner leasing out all or part of their principal place of residence for a short stay. When a homeowner goes on holiday and someone else stays there temporarily, the levy does not apply.

Commercial accommodation such as hotels, motels and caravan parks are also exempt. The levy will also only apply to stays less than 28 days.

Transitional arrangements will be in place, and the levy will not apply to bookings made prior to January 1, 2025.

The state government is also giving local communities the ability to respond to local concerns with owners' corporations now able to ban short stays in their developments if approved by 75 per cent of owners. There will also be changes to the planning system to give local councils the power to regulate short stay accommodation.

Governments across Australia and around the world have taken steps to regulate short stay accommodation, including the use of short stay booking levies, to tackle challenges with the supply of longer term rental accommodation and manage the impacts of short stay accommodation on local communities.

Minister for Housing Harriet Shing said, "The demand for housing has never been greater around Australia, and the Victorian short stay levy will support the delivery of more social housing and encourage more people to use their properties for permanent rental accommodation across the state."

The opposition Shadow Treasurer, Brad Rowswell, said, "This tax will do nothing to address the fundamental causes of Victoria's housing affordability crisis and isn't about getting more homes built."

"It's about bailing out Labor's Homes Victoria agency, which is \$185.6 million in the red."

"Under Labor, Victoria already has the highest property taxes in the nation, which are driving away the investment needed to get more homes built."

Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sport and Events, Sam Groth, said, "This tax will impact regional Victoria and the tourism economy. Every dollar on Labor's tax is one less that can go into businesses and supporting local jobs."

"The Allan Labor Government has barely communicated about the rollout of new tax within the tourism sector, in a typical act of arrogance and lack of transparency."

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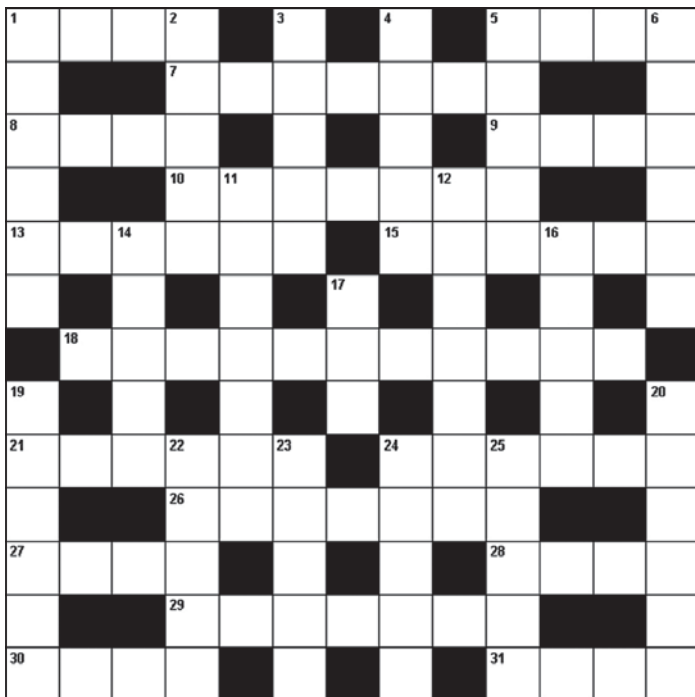
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 16

Crossword

ACROSS

- State of prolonged mutual hostility.
- Not what it seems to be.
- Filled with bright light.
- Large Atlantic mackerel.
- Beautiful Australian gemstone.
- Small open boat fitted with oars or sails.
- An internal-combustion engine.
- Three times as many.
- Having some excuse.
- Made liquid by heat.
- One who watches.
- Not precisely accurate.
- Calm by deception.
- Female red deer.
- Keep from having.
- A small grey requiem shark.
- A narrow fissure in rock.



DOWN

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. A deceptive front. | 11. An uncivilised or barbaric person. | 19. Charm against evil or injury. |
| 2. Waste matter that should be removed. | 12. Derived from living organisms. | 20. A source of honour. |
| 3. Considered the best of its kind. | 14. Evenly balanced. | 22. Diacritical mark ~ placed over a letter. |
| 5. Steplike excavation made in a mine. | 16. Rule made by a local authority. | 23. Turnips. |
| 6. Low-growing eucalypts. | 17. Toward the stern of a ship. | 24. Lacking taste or flavour. |
| | | 25. The upper regions of the atmosphere. |

Word Search

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

Math Square

	+		×		8
+		+		+	
3	×		-		12
-		+		+	
	+		+	4	17
-3		18		14	

AFL Nicknames

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| BLUES | GIANTS |
| BOMBERS | LIONS |
| CATS | MAGPIES |
| CROWS | SAINTS |
| DEVILS | SUNS |
| EAGLES | SWANS |

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

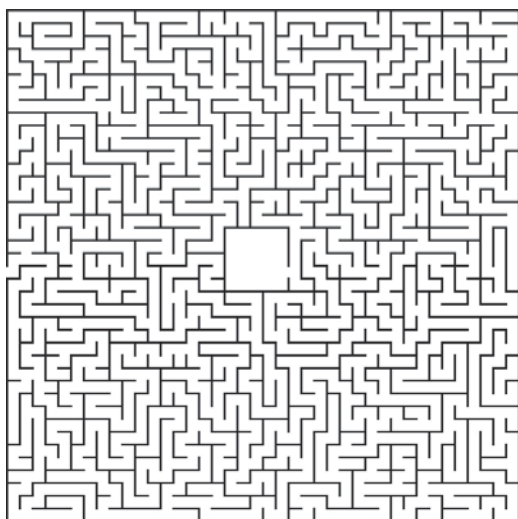
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

Maze



Feedback sought on dingo conservation and management

FARMERS, Traditional Owners and environmental groups across the state are being called upon to help shape the review of dingo conservation and wild dog management in Victoria.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence and Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos announced face-to-face and online consultation as part of the review.

Consultation will take place in early September and include five in-person sessions for farmers across regional Victoria and one online. These sessions will build on previous surveys and consultation and to appropriately balance the protection of livestock and the conservation of dingoes.

This targeted consultation will seek feedback on the economic and social impacts of the dingo unprotection order.

This consultation will build on the government's understanding of the different views about the current order. This has been informed by recent stakeholder engagement, correspondence and data collection including the livestock predation survey conducted.

The Ministers for Environment and Agriculture will jointly consider this feedback, alongside the latest scientific research and data, in determining the future policy settings beyond October 1, when the current dingo unprotection order is due to expire.

Dingoes are listed as a threatened species under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*. The dingo unprotection order only permits control activities on specified private land and within a three kilometre buffer zone on public land in the east of Victoria.

To find out more about the consultation visit, agriculture.vic.gov.au/dingoreview



This photograph, taken by Steve Lynch, shows a very orange UT Creek near Binns-McCrae Road on August 28 following the rain.



An example of Paringa Livestock's cattle. -S

Paringa's annual bull sale

Continued from Page 10

"Probably the other exciting thing about this sale offering is it's the first time we've had a straight Angus and composite Angus bulls from the same database," Tom added. "It's the first year we've been able to offer Breedplan EBVs on the Stabilizers as well as the Angus."

The pair spoke about the work they put into the Paringa Livestock cattle.

"We run an intensive grazing system, with a regenerative-type model," Tom explained.

"Generational turnover is one of the most powerful tools for genetics, so we're combining that with selection of the way we run our cattle. Our cattle are very easy-doing and calving. They have high carcass weight and high carcass quality. The cows have really good mothering abilities."

Olivia also added, "The bulls have all been run on grass for their lifetime in a large mob. They were fence-line weaned, not yard-weaned and have been managed using low stress stock handling principles."

More details can be found about Paringa Livestock, as well as the information regarding their upcoming sale, at paringalivestock.com.au

Murrindindi Shire Council August meeting

THE August meeting of the Murrindindi Shire Council was held on Wednesday, August 28.

Councillor Carpenter requested leave from August 20 to September 3, and apologies were received from Crs Carpenter and Gerencer.

Mayor Damien Gallagher noted he had a conflict of interest regarding item 4.2, the Dindi Events proposal, as he is a director of Alexandra Events Corporation Limited.

Public participation

Caolan O'Connor spoke about the Dindi Events proposal representing Alexandra Events. The proposal has been a topic of community and council for over a year now as the health of regional events are worsening.

Mr O'Connor fears that 40 per cent of events in the current calendar will not exist in five years' time unless some action is taken to support community events and organisers across the Murrindindi Shire. Declining volunteerism is another factor. Dindi Events seeks to support those challenges. They want to create a network that key organisers can lean on and support each other, and provide significant administrative support to organisers enabling community groups to access skills. It's about reducing event costs, making marketing more efficient, reducing high fees, and providing access to equipment for events organisers. It's about increasing the visibility and capacity of our region. If successful, Mr O'Connor said that they would be aiming to access funding through the state government's regional events funding and other sources.

Councillor Walsh asked why they haven't put in such an application in the past, and Mr O'Connor explained that it was about long term planning in a post-COVID-19 environment.

Cr Haslam asked whether council could just run programs that will help event organisers, such as the previous traffic management course.

Mr O'Connor said, "This is a chance to grow and when we have approached businesses about this new idea, people are on board and it's better than the status quo."

Bill Bate approached the councillors on the matter on behalf of Marysville. He spoke of all the wonderful things about the area, and what is blocking events. There is a capacity limit for organisations to run events with volunteers. "It limits our ability to grow the events sector. I'm in support of the collaborative effort that this [the Dindi Events proposal] will bring. A coordinated response."

Maureen Thurston, president of Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism (MTBT), also came to support the proposal. She said, "A coordinated effort makes sense... If we work together and get more bang for our buck."

Community Plan for Flowerdale

In 2023, council resolved to focus on Flowerdale for the next community planning opportunity. The first activity in Flowerdale was the formation of a core team of local people, to guide the process and ensure strong local ownership from the beginning. Five community members volunteered to be part of this guiding group. The core team has remained essential to the running of the program throughout the subsequent months and the full complement of five original members remains in place today. The core team guided all engagement activities that led to the content of the plan, including planning of and participation in the community barbecue to launch the program, the series of three 'Community Conversations' held in April 2024 at the Flowerdale Community House and the Flowerdale Hall, and the community dinner and prioritisation session held on Friday, May 10. The priorities listed in the plan are football goal posts at the cricket ground, strengthen and support the existing 'Clean Up Australia' activities, 'Food for Flowerdale', revive the annual Community Day, more arts and arts-related activities around Flowerdale, more sports and social events at the Recreation Reserve, BMX track working group, and the formation of an advocacy group to lobby for hard rubbish collection. Action Teams have already started implementing some of these priority projects including the annual Community Day, arts activities and 'Food for Flowerdale'. The Flowerdale Community Plan will be 'held' by the Flowerdale Community House.

Dindi Events proposal

As a conflict of interest Mayor Damien Gallagher excused himself from the meeting and Cr Lording was voted in to conduct this part of the meeting. B Harnwell, Manager Economic Development, presented the report.

The report presented for endorsement the proposal from Alexandra Events for a sponsorship agreement to support the Dindi Events program, which will foster the opportunity for greater collaboration between communities and organisations who wish to organise and facilitate public events within the shire.

Alexandra Events has historically held the Truck, Ute and Rod show and the Alexandra Pro Rodeo, with council supporting with in-kind support and cash sponsorship. The Truck, Ute and Rod Show generated an increased spend in the region of \$1,645,290 (2024), while the 2023 Rodeo generated additional spend of \$69,385 in Alexandra. Local community groups also benefit through fund raising activities at these events. The Dindi Events proposal seeks to utilise this experience and resources to help grow a calendar of significant events across the shire throughout the year.

The proposal included \$30,000 in year one, plus in-kind support of \$13,000, which is a similar level of sponsorship provided to the truck show and the rodeo in recent years and seed funding to establish the new approach. The proposal includes for year one the priority of establishing the approaches and partnerships, followed with a five-year plan to grow events and a scaling back of council investment, with external sponsors and grants being sought.

The recognition of in-kind support to events is now included within agreements. No additional application for sponsorship for the truck show or the rodeo is proposed by the organisers under this proposal. It is proposed that council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a five year agreement with Alexandra Events Corporation Limited for the establishment of the Dindi Events program, with funding up to a maximum of year one \$43,000 (\$30,000 cash and \$13,000 in-kind), year two \$38,000 (\$25,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind), year three \$33,000 (\$20,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind), year four \$28,000 (\$15,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind), and year five \$23,000 (\$10,000 cash and \$13,000 plus CPI in-kind). The agreement will include reporting and monitoring requirements for the events and the events program.

Cr McAulay moved the motion to move the officer recommendation that the funding be approved, but no other councillors seconded the motion. The motion lapsed. Councillor Walsh sought to defer consideration for the next council, after the election, and Cr Haslam seconded this.

Cr Walsh said, "My main concern is the proposal hasn't been fully fleshed out and [there are] questions in my mind on how it's going to work, and I don't believe in some instances the overall objectives of the current policies of grants and sponsorships are being currently acknowledged."

Cr Haslam said, "I feel rushed with this and a lot of grey area needs to be worked on, getting more supports on other events small and large and having, more time to consider a bit more. The bones are good, let's work on that."

The decision was deferred.

Grants and Sponsorship Program

Fifteen applications were considered for funding in this period. Of these, 11 applications were funded under delegation, and four applications were being recommended for funding by council.

It was asked to endorse the funding of the following applications as recommended by the Grants and Sponsorship Assessment Panel: Alexandra Community Hub Inc \$5000 to purchase of vehicle for the L2P Driver Education Program, Rotary Club of Kinglake Ranges Inc \$5000 for sponsorship of the Lift the Lid Walk as part of the Show 'n' Shine Car, Bike and Music Festival, Tri Gym Inc \$4095 for the establishment of Triangle Pickle Ball Program, and Toolangi Castella Community House Inc \$5000 for the installation of acoustic panels at the CJ Dennis Hall.

Reports

People and Corporate Performance

Cr McAulay moved the new communication policy adoption, all were in favour.

Preliminary 2023/24 Financial Results and Carry Forward Adjustments into 2024/25 were presented as reported by Mr Chesworth. End-of-year processes have progressed to determine a preliminary or interim result for 2023/24, pending the finalisation of the annual Victoria Auditor General Office audit. The result for the 2023/24 financial year (subject to any adjustments recommended by VAGO) reflects a \$7.9m negative variance to the revised budget on the Net Operating Result line. A revised budgeted operating surplus of \$5.1m has become a \$2.9m deficit.

Two main factors that have caused this is unexpected payment to council of the 2024/25 Federal Assistance Grant income (\$5.1m) via the Victorian Grants Commission in July 2024 rather than in June 2024 as budgeted, and Capital Grant Income of \$3.1m has been reallocated from income to unearned income in compliance with accounting standards. Council accepted the report.

37 Extons Road, Kinglake Central - Transfer of Land

Mr Chesworth sought council endorsement for the transfer of an undeveloped portion of council-owned land at 37 Extons Road Kinglake, without consideration (payment), to the adjoining landholder, who originally donated the land to council to enable the rebuilding of the Middle Kinglake Primary School and associated educational facilities.

The land in Kinglake was donated to council by an adjoining landholder following the 2009 bushfires with the specific purpose to enable the reconstruction of the Middle Kinglake Primary School and Early Years Learning Centre on one site. The donated land was rezoned to a Public Use Zone by the Minister for Planning to reflect its purpose.

Council leased the land to the Department of Education in 2011 and the School and Early Years Learning Centre were constructed and have been operational for many years. As this land is not required for the purpose it was donated, and being educational purposes, council has commenced a process to potentially transfer the unused portion of land back to the original donor. At its July 24 meeting, council resolved to give public notice of its intention and to consider any public submissions received. No submissions were received following and it was recommended the transfer of land proceed.

CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee - Extension of Appointment of Independent Member

A report was presented to seek council's endorsement to extend the appointment of Ms Marilyn Kearney as the independent member of the CEO Employment and Remuneration Committee for a further one-year term. Councillor Lording moved and Cr McAulay seconded.

Reports, Assets and Environment Group

A report was presented that provides the end of year result for the delivery of the capital works program (CWP) for the 2023/24 financial year and recommends carry forward projects for the inclusion into the Capital Works Program for the 2024/25 financial year.

Council achieved some savings this year with improved project management processes where no savings were delivered in the year before. Although the proposed Carry Forward is like the previous year, \$2.2m worth of work has already been performed (Earned Value) so the additional workload for 2024/25 will only be worth \$3.5m and is an effective reduction in carry forward.

Kerbside Collection Services Policy

The policy proposes parameters for the future kerbside collection services including collection frequencies, where services would be mandatory or optional, and the framework for Waste and Recycling Charges to recover the cost of the services. Community consultation on the policy was undertaken from April to June 2024, garnering 209 responses. Broadly the responses indicated a majority of the community support the service model and the conditions outlined in the policy, however where opportunity was

provided for open commentary, many people expressed opposition to various aspects of the proposed services.

In 2025, council will introduce a four bin kerbside collection service in response to requirements placed upon council by the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021*. The service will be primarily delivered as a four-bin kerbside service, the collection frequencies for each stream (general waste fortnightly, organics weekly, mixed recycling fortnightly and glass monthly).

Council amended the motion to include in the policy provision for a choice of 80L or 120L bins as part of the rollout of the glass collection.

Flat Lead Road Forestry Project

Further investigation into costs and benefits of a proposed forestry use for the council property at Flat Lead Road, Yea. It provides for an expanded forestry model with key life spans of 30 and 100 years as explained below and recommends commencement of the Flat Lead Road Forestry Project.

The Flat Lead Road Forestry Project proposes to use about 56.4 hectares of the site for multiuse forestry and carbon credit production and the remaining 18 hectares directly opposite the Yea Saleyards to be set aside for future council uses

It is proposed to fund the implementation of the multiple forestry model from borrowings as outlined in council's adopted 2024/25 Annual Budget.

There are four uses proposed for the Flat Lead Road Forestry Project, these are timber plantation (native species), carbon farming, mixed native vegetation and grazing.

There was a recommendation that council approve the Flat Lead Road Forestry Project for implementation, approve the funding of the project from council borrowings to a maximum of \$380,000, as foreshadowed in council's Annual Budget 2024/25, and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign any necessary registration and licensing applications for the Project. Council endorsed the proposal.

Contract 24/15 - Quarry Products Panel

It recommended to award suitable contractors for Quarry Products Panel Contract for an initial period of three years with an optional two-year extension period subject to satisfactory performance by the supplier and at the discretion of council. Seven submissions were received at the close of the tender.

Contract 24/13 - Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks Strath Creek

The report recommended the awarding of Flood Recovery Bridge and Roadworks, Strath Creek, to a suitable contractor. A number of claims under this funding arrangement have been submitted by council, however due to the number of other claims Victoria wide, they are still waiting for the outcomes of their submission. The scope of the works is to undertake various repair works on Richards Bridge King Parrott Road, Strath Creek; Raytons Bridge on Fairview Road, Kerrisdale; and multiple roads in the Strath Creek, Kerrisdale and Flowerdale areas.

Contract 24/1 - Gravel Roads Resheeting Program 24/25

This report recommended awarding a suitable contractor for CONT24/1 Gravel Roads – Resheeting Program 2024-2025. The scope of the contract is to undertake rehabilitation works by resheeting unsealed pavements on 14 roads and a further nine roads, should funding become available through Roads to Recovery funding or savings that are proposed to be carry forward from the 2023/2024 capital works program. Additionally, the scope includes the rehabilitation of the shoulders for two sealed roads.

Sealed Roads Resealing Program 24/25

The scope of the contract is to undertake rehabilitation works to repair localised failures of road pavement and seal on eleven roads and a further two roads should funding become available through Roads to Recovery funding. Council recently conducted a public tender and five submissions were received at the close of tender. It was awarded to Tender Two for the lump sum price of \$957,957.



Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

A lovely phone call to let you know some items are unavailable and perhaps a substitute would suffice is really wonderful. Does Ian really think Aldi would do this? Then if you dislike Reddrops pricing, do you factor in the cost of fuel and of course perhaps lunch and a coffee to travel to and from Seymour.

As for McDonalds in town, we do not need it for the health of our children. We have plenty of good takeaway shops and coffee shops. Look at Rounda, around the clock for the truck show weekend. He and others are wonderful. We are a community, in case Ian is not aware. Our town has brilliant volunteers too which is again a community involvement.

Wayne Miller's letter was splendid. Wayne and family ran a great business and though Wayne has retired, he is a volunteer on many town projects, a strong supporter and member of our community.

Unfortunately, Ian's rantings and ramblings regarding council, etcetera, are not worth comment. The options are open to anyone who is discontented. If you don't like it and can do better, stand for council or volunteer. There are many opportunities to show your

face, ideas and energies. Don't knock what we have got in our community. There are plenty of opportunities and commitment for many here. Get in and give a hand please. Stop knocking our shire or the option is always there to relocate.

Maureen May, Alexandra

Hospitals and health care

THE impacts of the pandemic are still being felt by health systems worldwide, and Victoria is no exception. We've seen healthcare costs go up, workforce challenges, people not being able to see a GP and people arriving to our hospitals sicker.

To address these issues, we have already made good progress with a number of important initiatives such as our Priority Primary Care Centres, the delivery of more planned surgery than ever before, the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals and the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

But there is much more to do, and our government is always looking at how we can improve patient care. That's what Victorians expect of us.

This is why we are working to create a more connected system that delivers the right

care, at the right time, in the right place, for all Victorians.

However, I am not convinced that forcing hospitals to amalgamate against their wishes improves patient care. I believe that locals know their community's health needs best and, together with their health service leaders, their voices must be listened to in the delivery of local healthcare.

Instead, our hospitals will retain their local boards while we bring them closer together through strengthened networks, enabling them to work together to deliver better and less fragmented care, as close to home as possible for all Victorians, wherever they live.

We will establish Hospitals Victoria to help hospitals focus on delivering frontline care. Currently, hospitals use different payroll and IT systems, and Hospitals Victoria will work to streamline these back-office functions so hospitals can concentrate on what matters most, delivering world-class care.

Our government has made record investments in hospitals, including recruiting more doctors and nurses, building new hospitals, and securing a record pay deal for Victorian nurses.

We'll continue to build on that record, investing an additional \$1.5 billion bringing to more than \$20 billion we allocated in this year's Budget, funding that hospitals told us they needed, and we've delivered.

Labor has a long and proud history of supporting the healthcare of Victorians by growing the workforce, delivering more funding to the system and building new hospitals, in stark contrast to the Liberal-National parties whose track record is one of cutting funding, sacking healthcare workers and closing and privatising hospitals.

Mary-Anne Thomas (Minister for Health, Minister for Health Infrastructure and Minister for Ambulance Services)

Alexandra library

I WOULD like to thank the library staff, particularly Lisa, and the tech group on a Friday at the library for their patience and encouragement and support, particularly in relation to technology use. Many of us wouldn't be able to do what we do without you.

Anne Larkin, Whanregarwin

Bob Gillespie celebrates 90th birthday

THE Alexandra Information Centre hosted a morning tea on Friday to celebrate Bob Gillespie's 90th birthday.

Born in 1934, Bob came to Alexandra in 1937 and has been a valued volunteer at the centre, sharing his vast knowledge and experience with visitors and travellers of our beautiful town and surrounds.

A number of volunteers and friends of Bob shared in his stories and reflections of his life well lived. The community is lucky to have such a true gentleman and respected citizen of Alexandra.

Bob commented on the large number of volunteers that run the various festivals and activities in Alexandra.

As Bob remarked, "volunteering at the information centre is both rewarding and interesting".

If anyone is interested in volunteering call in to the information centre for a chat or call on 5772 1100.



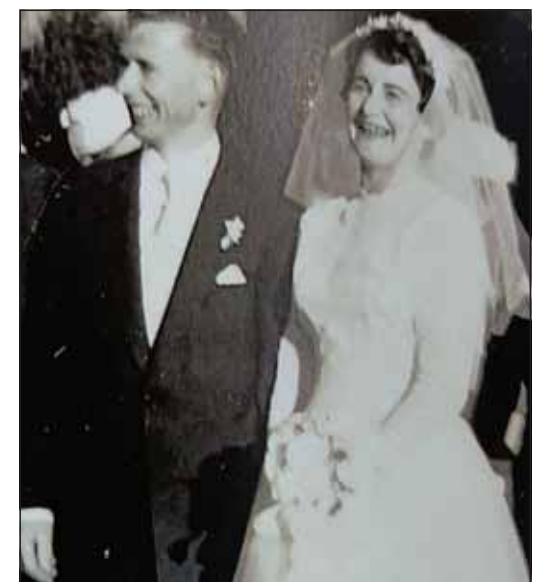
Bob Gillespie's 90th birthday was celebrated at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre on Friday, August 30. He is pictured in the centre of this image. -AR



The Alexandra and Eildon Brass Band. -S



Bob Gillespie with his sisters. -S



Bob and Pam Gillespie on their wedding day. -S

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Spring into action and update your asthma action plan

AS we leave the winter months behind and look forward to warmer days ahead, Ambulance Victoria (AV) paramedics are urging Victorians to update their asthma plans to stay safe this spring.

Spring conditions often present allergens and triggers for people living with asthma and if it's unmanaged or not prevented, it can develop into a serious health concern.

Around one in nine Victorians live with asthma and it can affect people of all ages.

Ambulance Victoria Director Emergency Management Justin Dunlop said our paramedics know well that if people don't have an asthma action plan in place, it can become life-threatening.

"The conditions will change quickly in the coming weeks, so we want everyone with asthma to be ready with a plan," he said.

"It's simple. Visit your GP and they can create an action plan with you.

"Everyone's asthma action plan will look different, and it will help you manage your condition, ensuring you don't find yourself in an emergency."

Adults should update their asthma action plan yearly, and for children, every six months is recommended.

Common triggers for asthma include outdoor allergens such as pollen, dust, air pollution and even thunderstorms, while gas cooktops, mould and dust mites inside the home can also cause a reaction.

Keep an eye out for symptoms such as wheezing, breathlessness, shortness of breath, coughing and chest tightness.

"By taking preventative action and taking asthma seriously, you're making a real difference for our busy paramedics who are facing high demand," Justin said.

"Follow your asthma action plan, and most importantly, if a person is having difficulty breathing and their reliever medicine is not working, don't delay in calling Triple Zero (000)."

You can access Asthma Australia's online resources at asthma.org.au

To learn more about asthma action plans, visit the Better Health website at betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionandtreatments/asthma-action-plans

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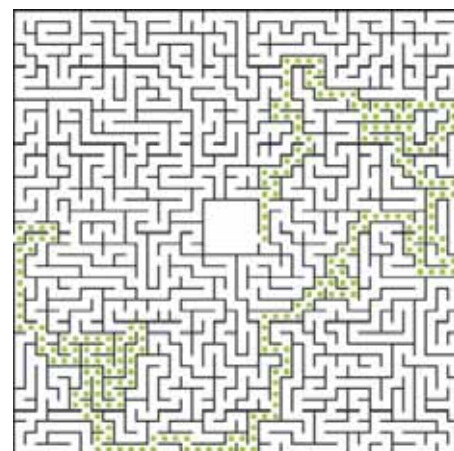
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There are three categories of activities funded in the program, they are, youth engagement and participation, youth development, and youth celebration and events.

This includes activities that promote the voices of young people and their participation in decision making, help them develop new skills and showcase and recognise their contribution to their communities.

More than 70,000 young Victorians were engaged and supported in 2023 across more than 90 initiatives as part of the 2022-2024 Engage! Program, including vocational training workshops, mentoring groups and local events that took place in metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Grant applications are open until September 23.

For more information about the program, or to apply visit vic.gov.au/engage-2025-2027

Grants for young Victorians

THE Victorian Government has announced the opening of applications for Engage! 2025-2027 to help young Victorians take the lead, build life skills and showcase their talents and contribution in the community.

Grants of between \$60,000 and \$180,000 over three years or \$20,000 to \$60,000 per annum are available for youth participation and engagement activities across Victoria.

The grants will fund community organisations, local governments, Aboriginal entities and social enterprises to work with young people aged from 12 to 25 to design and deliver activities that suit their interests and the goals they aspire to achieve.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



Exhibition of Amended Development Plan BINNS-MCCRAES ROAD ALEXANDRA Development Plan approved by Murrindindi Shire Council on 28 August 2013

Land:

- 5 Binns McCraes Road – Lots 2019 and 2021 on PP 2009.
- 17 Binns McCraes Road – Lot 1 on PS 7011237 (IN1Z land only).
- 39 Binns McCraes Road – Lot 1 on PS 704002 (IN1Z land only, south side of Binns McCraes Road).
- 39 Binns McCraes Road – Lot 1 on PS 718353 (IN1Z land only, north side of Binns McCraes Road).
- Lot 2022 on PP 2009.
- Lot 2023 on PP 2209.

Proposal: A draft amended development plan has been prepared to include land located at 39 Binns McCraes Road Alexandra.

The plan has been prepared to indicate the site assessment, layout, servicing and conditions for the future use and development of the land.

Planning controls:

Zoning: Industrial 1 Zone (I1Z)
Overlays: Development Plan Overlay 4 (DPO4)

The Development Plan Overlay requires that Murrindindi Shire Council approve a development plan before any planning permit is granted for any use, development or subdivision of the land.

Where the development plan is available for inspection:

The draft development plan is on display at Murrindindi Shire Council offices in Perkins Street, Alexandra and can be viewed online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Date for submissions: Any submission to the draft development plan must be sent to Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714 or planning@murrindindi.vic.gov.au by 2 October 2024.

Enquiries:
Planning Department, Murrindindi Shire Council (03) 5772 0333.

SITUATION VACANT



**Classroom Teacher: Ongoing FTE 1.0
Commencing January 28, 2025**

**Classroom Teacher: Fixed Term FTE 1.0
Commencing January 28, 2025 and concluding January 26, 2026**

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons to join our school community for the fixed term, full time position of Classroom Teacher.

The Opportunity

A great opportunity exists for a teacher to join our positive, supportive and close-knit school environment.

Why choose to work at St Mary's:

At St Mary's we

- promote the safety, wellbeing protection and inclusion of all children
- are a supportive and collaborative school environment who values each staff member
- embrace feedback as part of our learning culture
- commit to the use and analysis of data to inform teaching
- strive to ensure that students reach their full potential
- support colleagues with mentoring from experienced leaders and fellow colleagues

Selection criteria:

- willingness to collaborate, support and contribute to the building of a professional learning culture
- commitment to working with students from diverse backgrounds
- ability to plan and implement engaging learning experiences based on current learning and evidence-based teaching practices
- commitment to Catholic education and identity
- willingness to build strong partnerships and links between our families and school
- ability to adhere to St Mary's Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct and other policies relevant to Ministerial Order 1359
- current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching with an up to date Criminal Record check
- an ability to develop and maintain respectful and caring relationships with students, families and colleagues
- an understanding and demonstrated use of evidence based best practice
- a capacity to use data to make informed decisions about learning and teaching
- accreditation to teach Religious Education in a Catholic School is desirable (or be willing to study for accreditation)

Please include the following in your application:

- Your CV including a cover letter addressing the selection criteria.
- Mobile phone contact details for 3 referees including current/most recent Principal/employer

How to apply:

A detailed position description and application requirements are available by accessing the school website at smalexandra.catholic.edu.au or by contacting the principal via email - principal@smalexandra.catholic.edu.au

Applications close: September 20, 2024

St Mary's is a child safe school

FOR SALE

ALEXANDRA, Yakima bike rack, holds four bikes. VGC. \$400. Ph 0414 613 430.

MEETINGS



Alexandra Race Club AGM will be held on Sunday, September 22 at noon followed by a light lunch at 1.30pm at ARC Entertainment Centre, Gordon Street, Alexandra. All welcome. RSVP alexandraraceclub@gmail.com.

Contact secretary for more information on 0467 413 767.

ALEXANDRA Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club AGM will be held on Monday, September 16, at 6pm at the Embassy of Ideas All past, present and new members welcome.

THE ALEXANDRA OPPORTUNITY SHOP Inc. Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, at 10am at the RSL Hall.

TENDERS

TENDERS are invited for the grazing lease, sheep and cattle (no bulls or rams) on the Gobur Racecourse and Recreation Reserve of approx. 50 acres. Term of the lease is for three years, payable yearly in advance. Conditions apply. Commencement date, November 1, 2024. Tenders to be submitted by mail and marked Tenders to Secretary Nicole Marshall 43 Pennington Lane, Gobur, Vic, 3719 by 5pm Friday, September 27, 2024. Ph 0417 311 954 Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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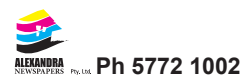
A one bedroom apartment at Eildon Waters Holiday Park. The unit is very clean and tidy with one bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living area in a quiet part of the park. There is no use of the facilities such as pool etc. \$275 per week including electricity, and water. Contact Jamie on 0428 880 442 and have three referees from previous landlords and proof of employment.

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Murrindindi Shire Council Maternal and Child Health team members Faye, Nathalie, Susan, Natalee, Louise and Beth -S

Council champions child safety for National Child Protection Week

IN recognition of National Child Protection Week (September 1 to 7), Murrindindi Shire Council is celebrating the range of council services that support children and families in our community, as well as encouraging community members to do their bit to keep children safe.

Council's Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services provide essential health checks, support, and guidance for families with young children, promoting their physical and emotional well-being.

The Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP) programs offer parents and caregivers of children up to 12 months of age valuable resources and activities to foster early childhood development and strengthen family bonds. And council's supported playgroups provide preschool children a facilitated program focussed on play as well as offering parents assistance and guidance in the development of their children in readiness for kindergarten programs.

Council's family daycare services offer a safe, nurturing and flexible childcare option, allowing children to thrive in a home-based environment. The Murrindindi Library Service operates three libraries and a mobile library, providing a range of educational programs and resources, to foster a love of learning and literacy among children and families.

In line with the theme of this year's Child Protection Week, "Every Conversation Matters", there are a range of actions everyday people can take to create safer and healthier communities for young people and for everyone.

Actions include checking in with a young person in your life, learning about child protection issues and raising awareness within your networks, join in or volunteer at local events, offer support to young families by way of babysitting, providing meals or just being a listening ear and spend time with the children in your life, listen to them and respect their opinions.

To find out more about National Child Protection Week, visit the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect website at napcan.org.au/ncpw

To learn more about council's services for all ages visit their website at murrindindi.vic.gov.au

Council's Community Wellbeing and Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Sandice McAulay said "National Child Protection Week is a timely reminder of our collective responsibility to protect our children. Murrindindi Shire Council is committed to providing the resources and support needed to ensure every child in our community feels safe and valued.

"We invite all community members to engage with these services and join the conversation on child protection. Together, we can make a difference and create a safer future for our children," Ms Sandice said.

Siren testing at Alexandra Fire Brigade

THE Alexandra Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade will be testing their fire siren over the next six months.

Testing began on September 1, and the siren will now be sounded on the second Sunday of the month between 9am and 9.30am. There will be four cycles of the siren.

This testing will affect the Alexandra township, so locals should be aware of the timing.

The Alexandra CFA Brigade urges everyone to inform friends, neighbours, and any elderly members of the community about this testing.



The Ponderosa had a great turn out. -S

Ponderosa on the Pondage

THE Grand Ponderosa Training Day on Eildon Pondage was held by the Lake Eildon Rowing Club for the first time in its short history on Saturday, August 31. Thirty-four scullers from rowing clubs in Melbourne made the trip with many staying overnight on Friday and some on Saturday night also.

The course was a four kilometre lap of the pondage that finished up in front of the jetty at Lions Rotunda. The weather was fair and there was even a rainbow that came out to greet the scullers.

The 1992 Olympic champion Peter Antonie was in attendance as well as world champion from 1974 Australian Four, Geoff Rees.

The winner of the four kilometre time trial was Tyler Fitzpatrick in the Male division in a time of 13:43 minutes. The Female division winner was Christine Carmiller in a very fast time of 14:18 minutes.

MP Cindy McLeish, Cr Karine Haslam and Mayor Damien Gallagher were all there to witness the event. The future looks bright for future events of this kind being held at Eildon Pondage.



Rowers getting ready for the Ponderosa event. -S

Close games by all

by Kristelle Leary

Blue Vein versus Feta

ETHAN versus Tyler: A close match with see-sawing games. It was a fight to the end, with the overall margin never being more than two points at the end of each match. Tyler managed to sneak ahead for the win. 55 to 53.

Jess (fill in) versus Chris (fill in): Jess gained an early lead, but Chris fought back in the third game to close the margin. Coming back in fired up, Jess won the final game and the match. 60 to 52.

Pep versus Phil: Taking a big lead in the first, Phil used placement and deception to get ahead. Pep fought back using raw power to close the deficit and win the next three games. Phil put in a valiant effort, but Pep came out on top with a one point win. 57 to 56.

James versus Jim (Fill in): James tried to blast his way to victory, but the warmer weather kept the ball up and in play for Jim to return with precise shots. Jim claimed all games and the match. 62 to 48.

Camembert versus Mozzarella

Lachlan versus Eric: Some nice rallies and sneaky shots. In the end Lachlan was too good for Eric. 67 to 36.

Lee versus Mick: Three very close games. Players were well matched and made each other run to win every point. Mick had to come from behind in the final game take the win. 54 to 48.

Justin (fill in) versus Simon: Great match to watch. Both opponents playing with finesse. Justin was triumphant, but since being away for a while Simon did well. 68 to 53.

John versus Derrick: A quality match as expected. Derrick was able to edge ahead in each game to win the match. 59 to 48.

Barracudas versus Orcas

Matthew versus Blake: Matthew persisted, but Blake's experiences won out with a clean sweep of games. 82 to 31.

Lucas versus Kristelle: Four very close games. The match started with a tie before Lucas took the next two. Kristelle kept getting behind in each game and then closing the margin. Finally managing to get in front Kristelle took the final game, but Lucas was triumphant. 63 to 60.

Michael H (fill in) versus Stuart: Every game was a nail biter with neither player able to get the upper hand. Michael came through to secure the match. 61 to 56.

Hammerheads versus Stingrays

Chris (fill in) versus Jessica: A very tight match. Chris took three games to Jessica's one very impactful win. Jessica made enough of an impact in that one game to take home the trophy. 56 to 54.

Jodie versus Travis: Once Jodie got going, she was a force to be reckoned with that Travis struggled to stop. Looking resplendent in her pink-button down, Jodie played short shots off the sidewalls and Travis could not get the ball away from her. A comfortable win for Jodie. 72 to 33.

Michael M versus Jim: Jim's pinpoint serves and deep shots made it tough for his opponent. Michael's commitment to getting to each point was unwavering. With a solid lead, Jim was victorious. 70 to 33.

Final teams decided in winter tennis

by Rhonda Carpenter

DELATITE welcomed Terip for their match in Mansfield, while Wappan hosted local opponent Mansfield. Benalla hosted Creighton's Creek and Euroa met Moglonemby last Monday.

Delatite included Natalie Bergsma and Fiona Lindsay into the side for an entertaining clash with Terip. Jo O'Brien, Pat Howard and Deb Mims gave their all against the top team.

Combining strongly Fiona and Pat challenged in their set, got ahead and were unlucky to lose 6-8. Terip's Cindy Hayes, Bec Lyttle, Phoebe Macdermid and Jenny Martin were convincing in the other sets, winning 6/48 to 0/17.

Benalla's Kate Campbell, Claire Sharp, Maureen Jewell and Julie Harrington were putting on a master class over Creighton's Creek in Benalla. They won 6/48 to 0/16.

Euroa's Lyndall Bigland, Faye Mollison, Ruth Nolan and Mary Dewis did not let their opponent Moglonemby into the match. Deb Seach and Lyn Johnson put up a fight in theirs, losing 6-8. But Euroa had all the answers and defeated them 6/48 to 0/10.

The closest contest of the round was between Mansfield's Peta Kelly, Amanda Steele, Sophie Yencken and

Clare Beecham against Wappan's Liza Karras, Jenny Bell, Kimberley Marsden and Rhonda Carpenter.

It was a hard-fought battle with the teams closely splitting the sets two each before the final pairs. Jenny Bell always up for a lengthy hit, played in two tiebreakers, losing the opener 5-7 with partner Liza in a fantastic set, and winning 7-2 with teammate Rhonda.

Only one game separated the teams, when Peta and Clare won theirs 8-2, Kimberley and Jenny took theirs 8-0.

Exhausted players left the courts unclear of the outcome, but when additions were made Wappan won the match by one game, 3/37 to 3/36.

After Round 17 Terip has 120 points, Benalla 107, Euroa 101, Mansfield 92, Wappan 78, Seven Creeks 74, Creighton's Creek 65, Moglonemby 38 and Delatite 5.

With one final round yet to play, the final four is set. Congratulations to the teams who have made the finals this year: Terip, Benalla, Euroa and Mansfield.

For a spot in the Grand Final Benalla and Euroa will play off, and Mansfield will take on the reigning premier Terip. Terip has yet to beat them this year.

Changing weather at Marysville Golf Club

by Lesley Rundle

FOUR seasons in one day hit Marysville on Saturday and the golfers had to rearrange their clothing each time the weather changed. There was sunshine, hail, wind and rain but at least there wasn't any snow. During the episodes of strong winds, a number of members were seen chasing after their umbrellas as they rolled across the fairways.

The Neil Murphy Trophy is a stableford competition for the men and the ladies. Congratulations to Richie Clark (14) for having 35 points, the best score of the day and thus winning the Neil Murphy Trophy. The ladies daily winner was Sabrina Stow (22) with 34 points and the men's daily winner was Steve Berry (11) also with 34 points.

The nearest the pins were won by Richie Clark, Gail Leigh and Steve Berry who also won the golden shot. Next Saturday both the men and the ladies will play stroke for the September monthly medal and the ladies round will include the final of the Barton Shield.

The club AGM will be held before play on Saturday, September 14 and members are asked to nominate players for committee membership as soon as possible.

Detailed information regarding the Trivia Night on September 21, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the back nine holes and fundraiser on Saturday, November 9 and the mixed Dalhousie Tournament the following day can be read on the Marysville Golf Clubs' website.

Good numbers as Alexandra Golf Club heads into better weather

by Elizabeth Goss

THE typical spring weather did not deter players with good numbers last Tuesday and Saturday. The winner on Tuesday last week was Paul Martin with (31) 38 points on a countback from Nick Emmerson with (20) 38 points. Next came Alan Kirkpatrick with (24) 35 points.

Nearest the pin on the seventh and 18th went to Brad Newton and on the 17th to Nick Emmerson. Ball rundown: Brad Newton, Russell Purcell and Frank Devries.

Only a few ladies were able to play on Wednesday so there was no competition. Those who were there

enjoyed a round of nine holes with coffee and a chat after.

Saturday was a stableford round with Simon Rouget the winner with 40 points. The runner-up was Brad Newton with 34 points on a countback from Matt Richards on 34 points. Next came Brad Kidd with 32 points on a countback from Michael Bossonet on 32 points.

Nearest the pin on the fifth went to Brad Newton, on the seventh to Mick Holohan, on the 12th to Michael Bossonet and on the 18th to John Steer. Daniel Burns won the raffle.

Next Saturday, September 7 is stroke, monthly medal and count your putts.

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Ashlee Frankcombe with a spring in her step. -S



Maddy Northmore moving with the ball and avoiding the competition. -S

Awards for junior sport stars

LAST Sunday the Goulburn Murray Junior League held its presentation function in Shepparton for all grades of junior football and netball across the Seymour and Shepparton junior competitions. A number of Alexandra players were invited to attend the event, and the club achieved the following outcomes:

Under 11 Netball

Zoe Coller: Runners Up Best and Fairest, 23 Votes

Fourth place: Jayde Stewart, 15 Votes

Fifth place: Ruby Bermingham, 13 Votes

Under 13 Netball

Fifth place: Tilly Miljkovic, 17 Votes

Under 15 Netball

Marli Coller: Runners Up Best and Fairest, 15 Votes

Fourth place: Ava Krijt and Ashlyn Newman, 13 Votes

Under 14 Football

Fifth place: Jaiden Dimech

Congratulations to all of the players for the recognition of their respective seasons.

Well done to all players, coaches, support staff, sponsors and supporters on a fantastic 2024 season.

The club Junior Presentation function is at the club rooms on Sunday, October 6 starting at noon. If you would like to sponsor any trophies and medallions for the junior teams, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.

Senior Netball

Last Sunday, the D grade netballers played Yarra Glen in an Elimination First Semi Final at Yarra Glen but lost 18 to 26 so the team concludes their season, well done to coach

Ellie Hedger, support staff and players on a great season.

The club Senior Presentation function is at Peppers Marysville on Saturday, October 5. Tickets available to purchase online through Trybooking. If you would like to sponsor any trophies for the senior teams, please contact Ray Steyger on 5772 2627.

Upcoming events include Sunday, September 15 when the Nutbush Bash comes to the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve from 11am onwards, the club is supplying canteen and bar facilities.



D grade netballer Rose Hurrey with the ball in play. -S



Junior netballers, Marli (under 15s) and Zoe (under 11s) Coller, were both runners-up in the Outer East League best and fairest. -S



Reese Stewart strongly contesting possession of the ball with fierce opposition. -S