

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, November 27, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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murrindindibusiness.com.au

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New Mayor elected



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Weekend sport coverage



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Clubman cars lined up at the spillway carpark in Eildon. More images on page 17. -AR

Negotiations begin for Australia's first Treaty

THE Victorian Government and First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria made history last week with the opening of negotiations for Australia's first Treaty.

Premier Jacinta Allan, Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins, the Victorian Government and the elected members of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria recently hosted a community ceremony at Darebin Parklands on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country for the ceremonial opening of Treaty negotiations.

"If you listen to the people directly affected by policies, you get better outcomes. That's commonsense," Ms Allan said.

"Treaty is about making a better and fairer state for every Victorian."

The first statewide Treaty will be negotiated between the State of Victoria and the democratically elected body representing First Peoples, the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria, in line with Treaty legislation and the Treaty Negotiation Framework.

The Victorian Government has worked with First Peoples for the past eight years to lay the foundations for Treaty negotiations, including passing two acts of parliament and delivering on policies across every level of government.

Since 2019 the democratically elected Members of the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria have been talking with their communities in every corner of Victoria to listen to the hopes, needs and aspirations about how Treaty should be negotiated and what it should deliver.

Treaty is about making a better and fairer state for every Victorian and coming up with practical solutions on key issues for First Peoples, from keeping culture strong to improving the way services are delivered.

In addition to the statewide Treaties to be negotiated by the Assembly, the various Traditional Owner groups across Victoria will be able to negotiate Treaties that reflect the priorities and aspirations in their local area.

Treaty is an opportunity to recognise the history that Victorians share and create a better and more equal future for all Victorians.

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples Natalie Hutchins said, "This is a historic day for our state and for our nation. Treaty will be a practical agreement, and a chance for all of us to build a more equitable and inclusive Victoria, which we can all take pride in."

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Co-Chair Ngarra Murray said, "We commence these negotiations with the support of our communities. Treaty is from the ground up and talking to our communities at every step. We are ready, we are prepared, and we look forward to a better future for our children, families and communities."

First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria Co-Chair Rueben Berg added, "Whether it's caring for land and keeping culture strong or improving the way services like health and education are delivered at a local level, we want to negotiate a Treaty that will empower Aboriginal communities for generations to come."

"Treaty negotiations will draw a line in the sand, right past wrongs, and deliver real improvements to the lives of First Peoples in housing, education, health, employment. The past cannot be changed. What we can do now is sit down respectfully and negotiate how we move forward."

More details about the statewide Treaty can be found at firstpeoplesvic.org/treaty-explainer

Reference Group needed for the Alexandra East Development Plan

MURRINDINDI Shire Council has secured funding to create the Alexandra East Development Plan (AEDP), which will guide the future use and development of 71 hectares of land in Alexandra's major residential growth area. They are calling on community members to join the Community Reference Group and be involved in preparing this plan to ensure it considers local knowledge and meets the needs of the Alexandra community.

Murrindindi Shire, like many areas in Victoria, is facing housing shortages. The AEDP will provide a clear vision for the future of the land east of Wattle Street as well as areas around the Alexandra Hospital and the Menzies Services' land north of the Goulburn Valley Highway. This will support coordinated, sustainable growth that integrates well with the existing township. This plan aims to encourage well-designed residential development that contributes to housing affordability and boosts the local economy.

Interested community members are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest to join the Community Reference Group by noon on Friday, December 20. Council wants to hear your thoughts on how the development plan can best meet the needs of the Alexandra community, how council can preserve key attributes of the area, what types of housing

would be suitable, and any insights you have about the area's heritage or environment. The group will meet several times in the first half of 2025.

There will also be many opportunities for the broader community to provide feedback on the options and draft plans as the project progresses next year.

For more information and to register for the Community Reference Group, visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/aedp or call council on 5772 0333.

This project is made possible with funding of \$968,000 from the Australian Government's Housing Support Program.

Murrindindi Shire Council's Mayor and Red Gate Ward Councillor Damien Gallagher said, "We value local knowledge in shaping the Alexandra East Development Plan. In Murrindindi Shire, we are tackling an emerging housing shortage and ageing demographics. Housing growth is crucial for the health of our community and economy, and the AEDP will facilitate approximately 700 new housing lots over time, attracting young families while making sure growth is appropriate, sustainable and addresses community needs well into the future. Development plans go beyond housing. They address issues like connectivity, drainage and infrastructure,

services like telecommunications, water and sewerage, environmental issues and heritage considerations. Our goal is collaborate with local residents to develop a plan that is fit for purpose."



The area proposed for further development. -S

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

Good karma Christmas

HAS someone done something lovely for you this year? Let's spread some good karma this Christmas and share some stories of good things that have been done this year.

Has someone mowed your lawn when you were unwell? Has someone unexpectedly paid for your groceries? Has someone showed their care through baking? Does someone look after your pet when you're away?

It's times for these acts of kindness to be recognised. If someone has done something nice for you this year, send us a short note about it and we'll include it in the paper.

Email editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

POLICE REPORT

A THEFT of a 45kg gas bottle was reported to the Alexandra Police on Thursday, November 21. The theft occurred between 7pm on Monday, November 18 and 8am on November 20 from the Masonic Hall on Webster Street, Alexandra. The gas bottle was in a wire cage on the northern side of the building which was secured by a padlock. The padlock was removed from the cage and taken from the scene. The gas bottle was stolen and the cage was then closed. Police are asking anyone with any information to contact Alexandra Police on 5772 1040 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

THUMBS UP THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: To the Alexandra library for hosting the book launch of *The Secret Library of Tayos* by local indie author C J Bessell. I was a just 'walk in' and it was a delightful and informative morning spent. How lucky we are to have such an engaging library space.

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

Standard The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

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 (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 0456 583 611
Thu 7.00-10pm SES, SES/CFA 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 Probus 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.

PUBLISHERS

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IT'S NOT OKAY

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

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

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT					
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS	
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	1.58	rising	below mino	
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.55	steady		
Acheron River at Taggerty	10.10am Mon	0.65	steady	below minor	
Home Creek at Yarck	11.49am Mon	0.14	steady		
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	11.29am Mon	0.55	steady	below minor	
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	12.22pm Mon	0.56	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	3.79	steady		
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.50	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	1.49	steady	below minor	
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.29	steady	below minor	
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	1.77	steady	below minor	
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	10.32am Mon	1.16	steady		

**ISSUED AT 12.46PM ON MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2024

Don't leave your pets in the car

WITH temperatures set to climb over the coming months, it's good think about keeping your pets safe and cool.

It is illegal to leave an animal unattended inside a car when outside temperatures are at or above 28 degrees because of the risk of heat stress and causing potential death.

If you do find a distressed dog in a car, call 000 immediately, even with the windows open, a parked car can quickly become a furnace. Pets can get heat stroke, brain damage or die in as little as four to six minutes.

Help your pets stay cool at home by freezing treats or setting up a little wading pool for them to cool down in and make sure they have access to plenty of shade and water. Fill two bowls with water in case one is knocked over. If you're going to walk them on hot days make sure its done early in the day. Roads and footpaths heat up very quickly, if its too hot to touch with the back of your hand for seven seconds, it's too hot for your dog to walk on.

Alexandra and District Senior Citizens report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

The Friday social meeting was chaired by vice president Yvonne and although a little down on numbers there were some healthy discussions on future club activities before Comedy Corner, the chocolate raffle and the usual refreshments and card games.

A few reminders. There is no social meeting this week (November 29) as members are visiting Koala Cherries. Muster at the clubroom at 1pm. Private transport to Yarck. The final business meeting for the year will be held on Friday, December 6, which will be your last chance to get your name on the list for the Christmas Lunch which will be held on Friday, December 13 at the Rubicon Hotel in Thornton. The final meeting for the year will be on December 20 when members might even sing some carols. It looks like summer is rapidly approaching so don't forget to keep hydrated. Meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

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.

Weekly Weather

November 27 - December 3, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra			Yea		
DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	15	24	Wednesday	14	25
Thursday	15	27	Thursday	14	27
Friday	17	28	Friday	16	28
Saturday	15	23	Saturday	15	24
Sunday	13	24	Sunday	13	24
Monday	17	28	Monday	17	28
Tuesday	15	28	Tuesday	15	29

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DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra.....	15mm
Buxton.....	13mm
Eildon (AWS).....	18mm
Flowerdale.....	10mm
Jamieson.....	19mm
Kinglake.....	12mm
Lake Eildon.....	17mm
Mansfield.....	N/Amm
Taggerty.....	13mm
Yarck.....	16mm
Yea.....	13mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week.....	284.74m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	84.1%
Metres below full supply.....	4.16m
Daily inflow.....	3000ML
Release.....	2500ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	63%

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

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

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

Flood recovery update from council

OVER the last two years, Murrindindi Shire has experienced six declared natural disaster events, including devastating floods in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Murrindindi Shire Council continues to repair damage to local roads and infrastructure from these events, seeking funding from state and federal governments to restore community assets.

From the October 2022 floods, which damaged \$30 million of council assets, to the January 2024 floods, which caused a further \$10 million asset damage, recovery across the shire has been laborious and costly. This does not include the unquantifiable amount of damage to private property, livestock and the environment. Over these events, council has continued to focus on community safety, asset longevity and pursuing all potential opportunities for the reinstatement of our infrastructure.

This has required significant planning and collaboration with external agencies and adherence to complex funding processes. Due to the magnitude of damage, council requires funding from the Department of Transport and

Planning's (DTP) Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), which provide funding to reinstate assets to their prior condition. If we are unable to meet strict conditions, we are unable to be reimbursed for the cost of repairs. The timelines for repair work are determined by funding agency approval.

Currently, council has completed \$2.8 million worth of asset repairs, including on 11.2km of council roads. These costs exclude relief and recovery activities, the protection of public and personal assets, and debris and waste removal. All expenditure claims for 2022, 2023 and 2024 declared flood events, totaling over \$3.2 million, have been submitted to the DTP with an estimated \$24 million of works planned to be delivered over the next two years.

As climate impacts are becoming more significant for our community, council continues to advocate for additional support from state and federal governments to improve our infrastructure and rebuild damaged assets to contemporary standards, rather than replacing what was there.

For more information on flood recovery works, visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floodrepairworks or get updates straight to your inbox by signing up to our Flood Recovery Newsletter at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said, "Council recognises the profound and ongoing impacts of natural disasters in recent years, and the complexity of our recovery efforts.

"Repairs and restoration to roads and infrastructure will be ongoing and is not a task that can be completed overnight. Council is dedicated to getting the most out of Disaster Recovery Funding. We always look for ways to rebuild stronger and more resilient assets. We understand the community is affected by damaged assets, so we push for more government funding to improve them. By seeking extra support now, we hope to prevent expensive and repeated repairs from future severe weather events exacerbated by climate change. Your patience and support are important to us as we navigate the aftermath of these significant flood events."

Gender equality data released

AUSTRALIA'S 2023-24 Gender Equality Scorecard and the new total remuneration gender pay gap was released by Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) showing the gender pay gap is at 21.8 per cent.

This data is showing that Australia still has a sizable and pervasive gender pay gap.

The total remuneration gender pay gap has dropped by 0.6 percentage points to 21.1 per cent, when compared to last year. With CEO and Head of Business data added in for the first time, it has increased marginally to 21.8 per cent. Women earn, on average, 78 cents for every dollar men earn, equating to \$28,425 less each year, while 50 per cent of employers have an average total remuneration gender pay gap over 12.1 per cent and a median gender pay gap over 8.9 per cent which decreased from 9.1 cent last year. A majority of employers overall (56.4 per cent) and the majority in every industry improved their average total remuneration gender pay gap over the last year.

The proportion of employers conducting a gender pay gap analysis increased 13 pp to 68 per cent. Of those, 90 per cent did the analysis in the past 12 months and the proportion taking action on the results increased 15pp to 75 per cent. More employers have a gender equality policy (up 20pp to 51 per cent) and more employers consulted their employees (up 22pp to 69 per cent). Nearly half of all employers (45 per cent) are setting targets. Of those, 68 per cent are setting targets to increase women in management, 59 per cent set targets to reduce their gender pay gap and 35 per cent to have a gender balanced governing body. More employers are offering paid parental leave (up 5pp to 68 per cent) and a greater proportion of primary carer parental leave (up 3pp to 17 per cent) is being taken by men.

WGEA's analysis found the most significant contributor to the gender pay gap reduction is an increase in the wages of low paid workers, particularly in Residential Aged Care, where women make up approximately 80 per cent of employees.

Just one in four CEO/HOBs are women and the gender pay gap for these key roles is the highest of all managers at 27.1 per cent. Women CEO/HOBs are paid, on average, \$158,632 less in total remuneration than men one in four boards still have no women and in men-dominated industries this is 41 per cent 100 per cent of occupations and industries have a gender pay gap in favour of men 30 per cent of women work part-time, but only seven per cent of manager roles are part-time, 28 per cent of employers are not collecting information on the prevalence of sexual harassment in their workplace.

The results published provide a comprehensive insight into workplace gender equality in Australia, using information reported to WGEA in its annual Employer Census.

Consultation open for feedback around the great outdoors

THE Victorian Government wants more people to get out and explore the great outdoors, with the opening of consultation by the Great Outdoors Taskforce.

Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos announced that Victorians can share their ideas for the future of our forests with the Great Outdoors Taskforce consultation.

"Victoria is home to some of the most impressive forests in the world, and we want as many Victorians as possible to enjoy the great outdoors," Mr Dimopoulos said.

"We want to grow opportunities for Victorians to enjoy the outdoors and ensure our forests continue to attract visitors from across the globe to camp, bush walk, hunt, horse ride, BMX, four-wheel drive, walk their dogs, fish and more."

The state government established the Great Outdoors Taskforce

earlier this year, to consult with the Victorian community and provide recommendations to government on the management of state forests in Gippsland, East Gippsland and the North East.

It's important to note that the taskforce is different to the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement that has been engaging with Victorians on the future management and uses of the Central Highlands and Strathbogie Ranges state forests.

This is a landmark opportunity to open up 1.8 million hectares of Victoria's native forests that were formerly used for native timber harvesting, with new opportunities for recreation and tourism, while also ensuring protection for the things Victorians love about the bush.

Great Outdoors Taskforce chair, Lisa Neville, said, "The outdoors are there to be experienced and admired, not locked away. Our focus is to bring

more families to the bush and more jobs to the regions, while still protecting our environment."

The Great Outdoors Taskforce will ensure options for future uses and care of the forest are explored, including protecting the unique things that Victorians love most about the environment while also maximising recreational opportunities.

The taskforce will not be making any recommendation for large-scale changes to land tenure.

There is already so much to explore in Victoria, with free camping this summer, 31 new and 60 upgraded campgrounds, as well as 155 upgraded four-wheel drive tracks, and 16 walking tracks totalling 31 kilometres recently completed as part of a \$106.6 million investment in Victoria's great outdoors.

The consultation is open until January 12, 2025. To have your say visit engage.vic.gov.au/the-future-of-state-forests

Digital driving licences available for P and L plates

FROM Tuesday, digital driver licences will be available for drivers on their Ls and Ps, making it easier for almost 800,000 Victorians to carry their licence on their phone.

More than 1.2 million Victorians have activated a digital driver licence on their smartphone since they were launched by the state government in May this year.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Melissa Horne, spoke about the progress of digital driver licence rollouts.

"Approximately 800,000 L and P platers will be able to access their licence on their phone just in time for summer, making it easier for them to go about their lives whether that's driving around, going to a gig, or collecting a parcel," Ms Horne said.

"We've seen more than 1.2 million Victorians access their licence on their phones since we launched this technology in May, and I'm sure we'll

continue to see a strong take up from our younger drivers."

Feedback from Victorians has been overwhelmingly positive, with ease of use and convenience being the most common reasons for people embracing the technology.

Physical licences will continue to be issued for all Victorian drivers and can continue to be used for identification purposes, with the digital driver licence being optional.

Drivers can add their digital licence to the Service Victoria app or myVicRoads app on their smartphone.

Minister for Government Services, Gabrielle Williams, said, "The digital driver licence joins more than 170 safe, secure and easy to use services on the Service Victoria app, including fishing licences and Working with Children check cards."

"Now drivers with their L or P plates can access their digital driver licence along with all the other services on the Service Victoria app."

The digital driver licence has a highly secure, timed QR code that can be scanned by businesses and other authorities to verify authenticity and prevent fraudulent use. Digital licences also detail when a licence has been cancelled or suspended.

The licences can also be updated in real-time if there are changes to licence conditions or personal information like home addresses.

The state government has been working with licenced venues, and licences will now be compatible with major scanning technology, increasing ease of use for both customers and venues across Victoria.

Visit the VicRoads or Service Victoria websites to find out more about the digital driver licence.

Help raise funds for Movember

ALEXANDRA CFA is at it again with raising awareness for Movember, so far, with some great results.

The communities passion to help the team raise money for Movember has held the team as the lead fundraising fire brigade team for CFA three years running and with most of the members coming in the top 10.

The team says, "Our team Captain Brenton may have set the bar pretty high at \$20,000 but in reality, if we raised no money and just started a conversation that's a win in our eyes."

Alexandra Fire Brigade is so far coming first among the fire brigades, raising \$4323.14, with Langwarrin Fire-Mo brigade coming second with \$1871.28 and CFA Rockbank third with \$350.

The team tally is as follows: Craig Aiton \$875.00, Anthony Kilpatrick \$780.00, Fletch Fletcher \$750.00, Sam Fawke \$650.86, Brenton Doyle Smith \$611.42, Chris Lynch \$610.86, Bailey Smith \$475.00, Matthew Leadingham \$400.00, Travis Pearce \$350.00, Ayden Embling \$320.00

If you haven't donated to this wonderful cause, there is still time. Visit au.movember.com/team/2409656

ELECTRICIAN
Grimshaw Electrics
 For all your electrical and communication requirements
 Peter Donald
 0429 808 596
 REC 16666 A/H 03 5773 2457

Alexandra Museum & Steam Train Rides
 Open Friday November 29, noon until late
 7 Station Street Alexandra
 All information can be found at:
alexandratramway.org.au
 or by contacting 0427 509 988

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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*.

Alexandra. For more information email onemanworkshops@gmail.com or call Nate 0406 759 254 or David 0417 022 468.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN THE MURRINDINDI SHIRE CAME INTO FORCE ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

Kellock Lodge AGM will be held at 6.15pm at 15 Bon Street, Alexandra. RSVP attendance by COB November 24. Phone 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au. Zoom link is available on request.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Community Drop in session Goulburn and Broken Rivers flood study. 4 to 7pm at Molesworth Public Hall. For more details visit gbcma.vic.gov.au

Alexandra District Health AGM will be held at 4pm at the hospital. All welcome, refreshments will be available after the meeting. RSVP Jennifer Creed by November 28.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Free Prostate and Cervical cancer screening kits available from Yea Saleyards at the weaner sale.

Marysville Market, 9am-1pm. All your favourite vendors including local gin and whiskey distillers, honey, jams, candles, and much more. Plenty of Christmas gift ideas.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Alexandra Museum and Stream train rides, noon until late. More information can be found at alexandratramway.org.au or contact 0427 509 988.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Call in in. A workshop for men to talk mental health. 9.30-11.30am at Embassy of Ideas,

Climate report released

THE State of the Climate Report 2024 has found Australia's weather and climate has continued to change, with an increase in extreme heat events, longer fire seasons, more intense heavy rainfall, and sea level rise.

The report is prepared every two years and was recently released by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, and the Bureau of Meteorology.

The report draws on the latest national and international climate research, monitoring, and projection information to describe changes and long term trends in Australia's climate.

Scientists found the oceans around Australia are continuing to warm, with increases in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere leading to more acidic oceans, particularly south of Australia.

CSIRO Research Manager Dr Jaci Brown said warming of the ocean has contributed to longer and more frequent marine heatwaves, with the highest average sea surface temperature on record occurring in 2022.

"Increases in temperature have contributed to significant impacts on marine habitats, species and ecosystem health, such as the most recent mass coral bleaching event on the Great Barrier Reef this year," Dr Brown said.

"Rising sea levels around Australia are increasing the risk of inundation and damage to coastal infrastructure and communities.

"Global mean sea level is increasing, having risen by around 22 centimetres since 1900. Half of this rise has occurred since 1970. The rates of sea level rise vary across the Australian region, with the largest increases in the north and south east of the Australian continent."

The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continues to increase, contributing to climate change, with 2023 the warmest year on record globally.

Dr Karl Braganza, Climate Services Manager at the Bureau of Meteorology, said Australia is continuing to warm, with eight of the nine warmest years on record occurring since 2013.

"This warming has led to an increase in extreme fire weather, and longer fire seasons across large parts of the country," Dr Braganza said.

The report describes the shift toward drier conditions between April to October across the southwest and southeast, and reduced rainfall in southwest Australia now seems to be a permanent feature of the climate.

"The lower rainfall in the cooler months is leading to lower average streamflow in those regions, which can impact soil moisture and water storage levels and increase the risk of drought. Droughts this century have been significantly hotter than those in the past," Dr Braganza said.

"However, when heavy rainfall events occur, they are becoming more intense, with an increase of around 10 per cent or more in some regions.

"The largest increases are in the north of the country, with seven of the 10 wettest wet seasons since 1998 occurring in northern Australia."

Although Australian emissions have declined since 2005, Australia is projected to see continued warming over the coming decades, with more extremely hot days and fewer extremely cool days.

The rate of emissions decline will need to accelerate from now to meet Australia's 2030 emissions targets.

State of the Climate 2024 is the eighth report in a series published every two years by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology. The findings highlight the importance of ongoing monitoring and help to inform and manage climate risk.

The 2024 report can be found on the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology websites.

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 part of the Baptist
Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559



An Ecumenical Christmas Carol Celebration Service

You are cordially invited to join us for a
joyous Ecumenical Christmas Carolling
get-together

Date: Friday, 6th December 2024, 6pm
Venue: St Mary's Catholic Church
Nihil St Street, Alexandra




Refreshments will be served after the service

For further information contact: Fr. Mario Hendricks
Mobile 0435 953 777 or email: mdphen@yahoo.com

Mayor and deputy mayor appointed

ON Wednesday November 20 Murrindindi Shire Council held a special meeting of council at the Alexandra Chambers to elect the new mayor.

CEO Livia Bonazzi chaired the meeting until a new mayor was elected. After the acknowledgment of country, Cr Sue Carpenter read the pledge on behalf of all councillors present.

There were no apologies for the meeting or request for planned leave and no disclosures of interest were made.

Firstly, there was a confirmation of swearing in of councillors. The seven elected representatives for Murrindindi Shire were officially declared by the Victorian electoral commission on Tuesday, November 12. All elected representatives took the Oath or Affirmation of Office in the presence of the Chief Executive Officer on November 13 at 5pm in Alexandra.

Office of deputy mayor was established; council has previously resolved to establish the office of deputy mayor to assist the mayor and fulfil the duties of the mayor if the mayor is unavailable.

The decision of whether an elected mayor served a one year or two year term then needed deciding. Cr Lording proposed the motion that mayor be appointed for a one year term for the duration of this council term. All councillors were in favour and the motion was carried.

Nominations for election of mayor was next on the agenda. Cr Carpenter nominated Cr Gallagher, and Cr Carr seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for elected mayor. Motion was carried forward for Damien Gallagher to be the mayor for Murrindindi Shire Council for a one year term.

Mayor Gallagher began to chair the meeting at this point and started with the following words, "To our community of Murrindindi Shire, you have delivered a council of deeply committed people dedicated to your service.

Each brings a wealth of life experience and a diversity of expertise.

"Tonight, I thank my fellow councillors for entrusting me with the honour of leading Murrindindi Shire Council.

"Here in Murrindindi's Chambers, there are no long, flowing robes, nor extravagant regalia. Nevertheless, the weight of this humble mayoral chain carrying the Murrindindi Shire Council insignia is immense. It's the weight of expectation of our community for us to deliver sound financial management, to demonstrate deep consideration of issues, and to maintain the highest standards of respect for one another as we come together to make decisions in their interest.

"It's also the weight of my expectation to honour the dedication of those that have come before us to serve our community at this table. This evening, I recognise the stewardship of the previous council, and I thank Crs Gerencser, Haslam, and Walsh for their contributions.

"I'd like to thank my family for their love and support, and I acknowledge the patience and generosity of those around each of us to barrack for us, and to help and guide us.

"Our attention now turns to engaging with our community and together, establishing a credible plan to achieve our community's vision for the future of this special place.

"Council's plan will be executed by a capable council organisation team. To those who deliver and support community infrastructure and to the professionals who deliver services to our community, my commitment is to support council leadership to foster a culture of respect, impact, and high performance.

"As mayor I will advocate for opportunities for our commercial, agricultural, and industrial employers; I will continue to advocate for our community's equitable access to recurrent, untied grant funding; I'll work with colleagues across the state to ensure that local government is recognised as valuable partner providing vital services

and amenities to our community; we will work toward your vision for a prosperous, sustainable future; and I will represent Murrindindi inclusively and with pride to the very best of my ability.

"I'm looking forward with great optimism," Mayor Gallagher said.

Nominations were then presented for Deputy Mayor. Cr Carpenter nominated Cr Carr as deputy mayor. Cr Carr accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations and Cr Carr was elected as deputy mayor.

Mr Chesworth introduced councillor portfolios. The councillor portfolio system enables portfolios to be established and assigned to councillors annually, so they focus on specific functions, have input into portfolio strategy and policy development and lead council discussions on portfolio issues.

The portfolio structure and councillor appointments are as follows: Cr McAulay, Planning and Compliance; Cr Adams, Youth, Community Wellbeing and Economic Development; Cr Lording, Roads, Operations and Maintenance; Cr Carpenter, Sustainability and Assets; Cr Hildebrand, Governance, Corporate Services and Emergency Management; Cr Carr, Service Experience and Communications. All councillors moved the motions of the designated portfolios.

Councillor representative appointments were determined to appoint councillors as representatives to various internal committees and external bodies. Councils list of committees and organisations for which council has current appointments has been divided among council committee and external bodies. It was recommended council appoints representatives to these committees and bodies for 12 months and the appointments will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Cr McAulay moved the motion that the following councillors are council representatives to the committees and organisations: Cr Adams and Cr McAulay, Audit and risk committee; Cr Gallagher, Cr



Mayor Damien Gallagher and Deputy Mayor Anita Carr. -S

Carr and Cr Lording, Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee; Cr McAulay, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee; Cr Carpenter, Council Roads Advisory Group (CRAG); Cr Hildebrand and Cr Gallagher, the Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee.

You can find out which councillors are appointed to external committees by visiting the Murrindindi Shire website and looking at the minutes from the special meeting of council on Wednesday, November 20.

Put Murrindindi on Your Table - a Christmas Poem

by Sam Hicks plus artificial intelligence (AI)

THIS Christmas, let your table gleam,
With local treasures, it is a festive dream.
Here's how to make each meal divine,
With Murrindindi's gifts of food and wine.

Buy Locally

Support the shops both big and small,
Each purchase helps the region thrive for all.

Fill your feast with truffles, stone fruits near,
And spread the joy of Christmas cheer.

Savour Food and Wine

Indulge in flavours bold and true,
With every bite, the region shines through.
Sourdough bread and honey sweet,
Murrindindi's bounty can't be beat.

Dine Out with Delight

At cafés, pubs, and restaurants sweet,
Enjoy a meal where hearts do meet.
Each bite a story, rich and deep,
Of local hands that sow and reap.

Discover Breweries and More

Explore the cellars, discover beverages and distillers' art,
Each sip a piece of Murrindindi's heart.

Add fresh trout, salmon, cheese adorned
with micro greens and olive oil fine,
A journey through flavours, truly divine.

Visit Butchers' Bounty

Freshest cuts with service warm,
Local and regional meat that's raised with charm.
From sauces to eggs, it's all so near,
A butcher's love for Christmas cheer.

Craft Custom Hampers

Create a gift both rich and rare,
With handmade delights of food, wine and beverages to share.
Hampers made with care and thought,
A taste of joy in every lot.

Celebrate Markets, Shows, Arts, and Media

Join festivals, explore ag and art shows, hear local musicians play,
Support local press and radio to light your way.
Discover relishes, quince jelly, sauces, and cordials sweet,
At Murrindindi's stalls where treasures meet.
From spun fleeces to plants, photos and stories unfold,
A vibrant showcase of gifts, artistic talents and country gold.

Gift an Experience

Share a stay, or an adventure bold,
From houseboats on Eildon to slopes of snow and cold.
Boating, water skiing, 4WD driving and walks are so grand,
Snowy peaks, rivers full of trout or waterfalls in the land.
Cosy B&Bs, inns, and motels await,
A gift of local adventure is always great.

Dining Vouchers to Share

A locally roasted coffee, handmade cake, or meal to give,
Moments cherished, stories to live.
With every bite, the love expands,
Spreading Murrindindi's generous hands.

Treasure Artisan Creations

Paintings, crafts, cards, and sculptures fine,
Each piece is a glimpse of talent's shine.
A region's art, its culture's face,
Bring local beauty into your space.

Support Local Services and Learn

Trades and professionals, all nearby,
Offer skills and workshops to help you fly.
From repairs to crafts, or new skills to grow,
Murrindindi's experts are the way to go.

Spread the Spirit with Your Choices

Let your gifts, meals, and gestures show,
How much you care, how far love can go.
Put Murrindindi on your table's spread,
Where joy is shared, and love is fed.



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sharethedignity.org.au

to learn more about the organisation, to get help, to donate, to volunteer, or to support the organization by making a purchase in their online shop.



Alexandra Newspapers is proud to be a collection point for all donations to go toward it's in the bag program run by share the dignity.



GREAT VIC BIKE RIDE

GREAT VIC BIKE RIDE 2024

Saturday 23rd November - Sunday December 1st

ROAD CLOSURE - SKYLINE ROAD

Saturday November 30th - 6.30am to 11am

From Taylor Bay Road - UT Creek Road

Changed traffic conditions in the Alexandra region

Friday 29th Nov & Saturday 30th November

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra



ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Lawson Ratten – Foundation
Lawson shows the school values of respect and care in the way he assisted other, more nervous students in our kinder to prep transition session. Lawson made a huge difference to the experience of our future students. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Lawson. You are a star.

BUXTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Emmett is kind to all and speaks up for others. Congratulations Emmett.

EILDON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Hailey and Lucy demonstrated Respect and Achievement throughout all their work this week.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



Kason
Kason is one of the kindest members of our class. He is always looking out for others and making sure he helps out where he can. Kason demonstrates great focus and determination when learning and has more recently achieved a goal of not giving up when learning is a little more challenging. He arrives each morning with a huge smile on his face and loads of enthusiasm. We really appreciate the energy and warmth you bring to our school. Congratulations Kason.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch



Who let the cats out?

RESPONSIBLE pet ownership is meant to be a given when you own pets. When the rules aren't set in concrete however, it can be open to interpretation and problems can arise.

Wandering animals such as cats can cause problems in the community. While social media platforms can be helpful in finding a lost or wandering cat, it can be troublesome when repeat offenders are identified regularly through these channels. Some may ask, why aren't these people looking after their pets?

Under the Murrindindi Shire's domestic animal plan, a council survey took place in March to April 2021 and it found 45.92 per cent of participants had concerns about wandering cats. Back then, 696 cats were registered within the shire.

Cat curfews don't exist in Murrindindi Shire, or in the nearby Strathbogie Shire Council and Mansfield Shire Council.

Mitchell Shire does have a cat curfew. It was introduced in October 2019 and it requires cats to be confined to the owner's premises overnight between sunset and sunrise. Cats which are not confined during the day (during non-curfew hours) can still be trapped if a resident objects to the cat being on their property.

Yarra Ranges Council has a 24/7 cat curfew in place which means residents must always keep their cats within their property boundary. This means that cats can be kept in your front yard where the cat is unable to leave your property boundary, in your backyard where the cat is unable to leave your property boundary, inside your house, or in a suitable cat enclosure.

Although Murrindindi Shire recommends that owners keep their cat on their property, nuisance and wandering cats do occur in the neighbourhood.

Under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, if a dog or cat has been present on private property on more than one occasion without the permission of the owner or occupier of the property, the owner or occupier of private property or an authorised officer may seize the dog or cat while it is present on the property. The owner or occupier of the private property or the authorised officer who has seized a dog

or cat must immediately notify council of the municipal district in which the property is situated.

According to Agriculture Victoria (animal welfare), cats should be confined to the owner's property from dusk until dawn and preferably at all other times, for the protection of the cat's welfare. Keeping cats confined reduces the chances of them being hit by cars or involved in fights with other cats or dogs, contracting diseases such as cat flu and feline AIDS from other cats, as well as protecting them from poisons, theft or trapping. It also reduces predation by cats on wildlife.

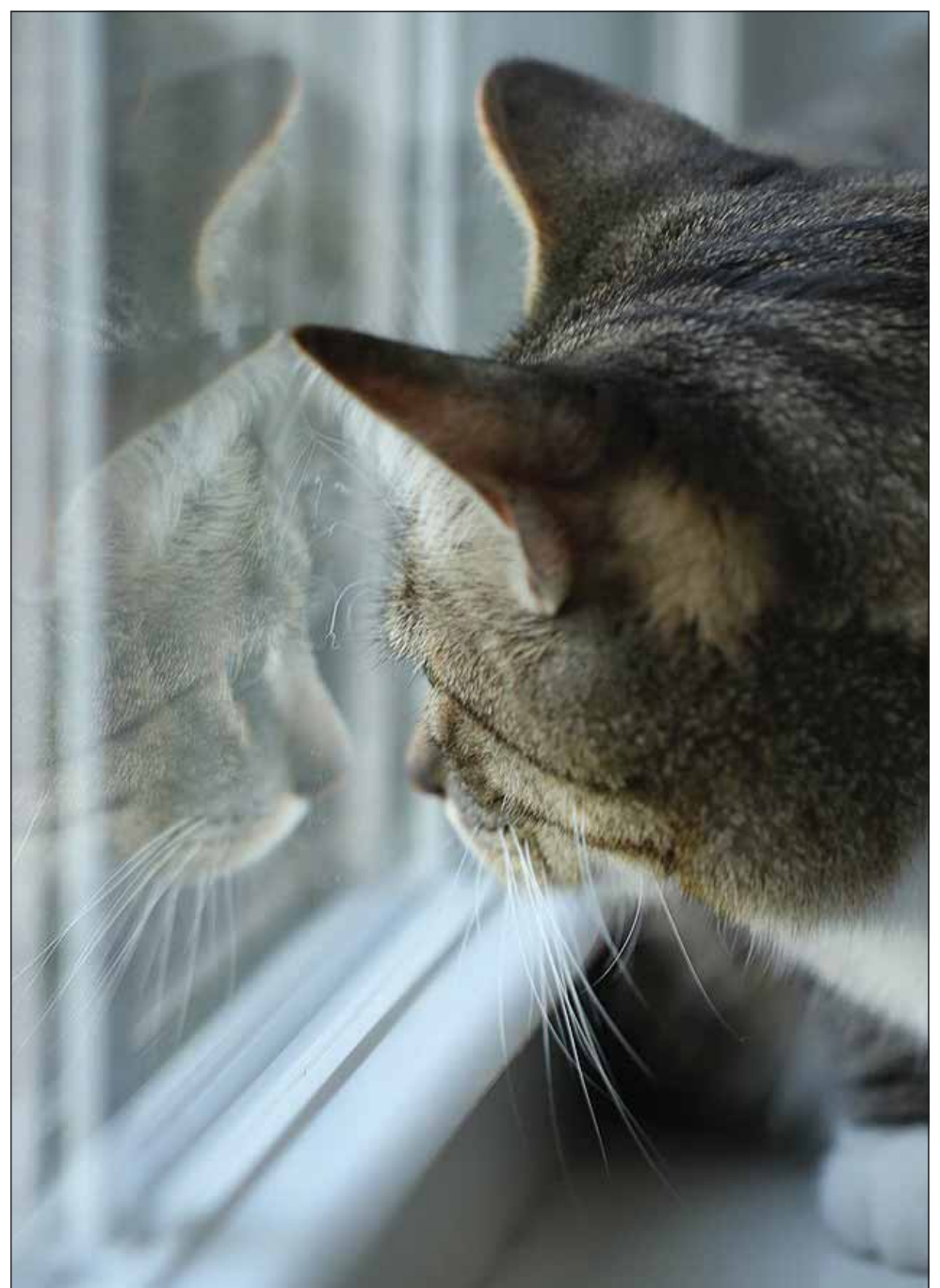
If cats are inside on a permanent basis, they need to be exposed to sunlight to ensure good health. Long periods of access to sunlight through a window or flyscreen is generally sufficient.

Cats can be contained to your property easily by keeping them in the house at all times. You could buy or build a cat enclosure which can be separate or connected to a cat door into the house, enclose the verandahs, or making property fences cat proof such as placing netting at an inward angle on top of the fence or adding a ledge to the inside of the fence so that cats cannot climb over.

Cat modules and enclosures are a great way to provide an interesting environment for your cats. These areas need to be easily cleaned and maintained with human access points available in case of emergency.

Cats need physical exercise. You can provide this in cat modules and enclosures by providing platforms at different heights for them to explore, as well as climbing frames and swings. Scratching poles also need to be made available for confined cats. If a cat isn't stimulated enough while being confined, it will lead to the development of destructive behaviour or a bored cat with little or no interest in their environment. To help with boredom in cats you can provide visual stimulation such as access to the world around them so they can see other activities going on.

If you make your cat's home a stimulating and appealing environment there is no need for them to be roaming free out in the neighbourhood.



It might seem interesting out there but it's much safer for cats to stay at home. -photochem PA

Want more national parks deer?

ON Wednesday, November 13, Jeff Bourman from The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party, Member for Eastern Victoria in the Legislative Council, called on the government to “open appropriate tracts of applicable national parks at suitable times to recreational hunters to increase opportunities for Victoria’s burgeoning recreational deer-hunting community to engage in their chosen outdoor recreation.”

He said that 220,000 people in Victoria have a shooters licence, and that the activity has significant economic impacts. He was critical of the cost of helicopter culling, and believes that if deer are reclassified as a pest species, fewer will be shot.

He said, “If deer are declared a pest, then the landowner is required to control them at the landowner’s cost. Game animals are managed by the government, and therefore in this case we pay to hunt game animals. What you can do on a farm, on private land, now, obviously subject to animal welfare concerns, is shoot them any time of the day or night, as long as you abide by safety rules and calibre rules and such. So to declare them a pest would do nothing except make farmers have to pay for it, whereas now it is the government’s problem.”

He believes that the government should investigate “whether we can get recreational hunters into more appropriate existing national parks at appropriate times to reduce the number of deer.”

Katherine Copsey from the Greens responded, “Rather than giving open slather to hunters in more of our national parks, the government should be urgently removing deer from the Wildlife Act 1975 to reflect their true status as an invasive pest species. It is

ridiculous that deer are protected under the Wildlife Act. The reason that this act now protects invasive feral deer as game animals is pressure from the shooting lobby. Last year Labor had the perfect opportunity to address this issue in the *Victorian Deer Control Strategy*, and instead once again they caved into pressure from the shooting lobby, which has a vested interest in continuing populations of deer at high levels so that they can shoot at them.”

John Berger from the Labor Party offered the Labor Party’s support for the motion, and spoke about the government’s *Victorian Deer Control Strategy* and the use of wild venison meat overseas.

Melina Bath from the Nationals called on the government to continue to open up tracts of land in applicable national parks. She said, “Deer hunting provides specifically over \$100 million and over 3000 full-time equivalent jobs across the state... many of those are in regional Victoria.”

Ms Bath also took the opportunity to comment on the possible new national parks being created, commenting on fire containment, pests and weeds.

Georgie Purcell from the Animal Justice Party, “deer hunters are already killing a massive 140,000 deer per year. But not content with this, they are now asking to shoot alongside children on their family strolls when they are enjoying the beauty and peace of our national parks. They want children to learn that there is no place of peace, that they should expect to see weapons and hear the sounds of gunshots in their place of play and recreation. People should not have to witness the piles of carcasses left rotting

and the destruction of our state’s nature at the hands of hunters. Our parks should be shared and peaceful places. As Ms Copsey touched on, we have already seen areas of our land and recreational spaces locked away during the duck-shooting season to appease a very, very small minority. The safety of cyclists, children, families, runners, birdwatchers and every other national park user should not be an afterthought.”

Tom McIntosh from the Labor Party said, “The role of government is to represent all Victorians, and that means that we can protect natural environments, we can protect biodiversity, but we can also ensure that there are places for people to get into nature, whether that is bushwalking, whether that is camping, whether that is fishing or whether that is hunting.”

He agreed that deer numbers must not rise, and said, “I have met with locals around Gippsland, and they are looking at sausages, steaks and this sort of production, which can either be consumed here in Victoria or exported, and looking at mobile commercial abattoirs and ways that we can use this meat so it is not going to waste.”

Wendy Lovell from the Liberal Party noted that a 2020 study found that deer hunting accounted for \$200 million in economic contributions to regional Victoria, and pointed out the environment damage caused by deer. She said that the numbers need to be controlled. She suggested seasonal shooting for recreational hunter in national parks.

Libertarian David Limbrick said, “What we are actually talking about here is the possibility of opening up more national parks to be available for hunters to enter and



Legislative council agrees to motion asking that the government “open appropriate tracts of applicable national parks at suitable times to recreational hunters to increase opportunities for Victoria’s burgeoning recreational deer-hunting community to engage in their chosen outdoor recreation.”
-Mydhili Bayyapunedi

shoot and hunt deer. I think this is a good thing.”

He added, “I am very happy to hear the government speak about this rather than locking up national parks... At least we are talking about opening up parks to more activities, because after all these parks are owned by the people of Victoria and they should have access to them for whatever activities they want to engage in in those parks.”

Labor’s Michael Galea said, “It is not the deer’s fault that they are here; they do not know any better. It was a damned fool who introduced them however many years ago, just like the damned fool that introduced rabbits to this place as well,” and

stated the government’s support for the motion.

Bev McArthur from the Liberal Party said, “Deer hunting is not just a premier hunting activity, it is an essential part of Victoria’s conservation strategy, contributing significantly to maintaining ecological balance.” She also commented on how much deer hunters help farmers avoid economic loss resulting from deer, and that the Indigenous community generally regard deer as an animal which negatively impacts the health of Country.

The motion was agreed to.

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



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HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Shop Local This Christmas



The Marysville market is a great way to catch up with friends, grab a special treat, and help the local community. -AR



President of the Marysville Market Robert Vandergragt presenting a \$1000 cheque to Marysville SES volunteers Di Gaylard and David Alleway. -S

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- A journey of -

150 YEARS

from The Alexandra Times
to The Alexandra Standard
(A collection of articles)

Compiled and published by Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 2020.

Shop local at the Marysville Market

THE last Marysville Market before Christmas is just around the corner and it's a great way to get your shopping done before the festive season starts.

There will be sellers of gin and whisky distillers, clothing, preserves, honey, Christmas cakes and puddings, scented candles, produce, coffee stalls and a food truck, plants and succulents, assorted giftware, the Lions Club will be selling their

Christmas cakes, and the Triangle Men's Shed will be holding a sausage sizzle, and entertainment on the day will be Noel Pearson as he performs musical favourites from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

The market is averaging about 30 stalls a month and there are a wide range of things to choose from. Market volunteer Gaby said the stalls are very good quality. "These are professional producers and stall holders. This is their living, and they do it very well."

Shopping at Marysville Market helps the local community in more ways than one. As it's all run by volunteers, any money leftover after the outgoings is given to community groups. So far, these groups have been Narbeview Wildlife Shelter, Taggerty CH@T, Marysville SES, the Triangle, and local schools.

"If you go shopping at the Marysville Market, you're supporting your neighbours, local stallholders, and local community groups. You can also save fuel while getting your gifts. The markets have a big choice to choose from with last minute gifts and some more high-end gifts. There is something for everyone," Gaby said.

Gaby also mentioned that all community and school groups are more than welcome to stick up their hand and do future sausage sizzles and raise some money.

Marysville Market is on Sunday, December 8 at Settlers Park in Marysville from 9am to 1pm and the following market is on Sunday, January 12.

Marysville Market

Sunday, December 8
from 9am to 1pm

All your favourite vendors including local gin and whiskey distillers, Cathedral Honey, Hannah's Pantry, Glenfield Jams, Scented Lane Candles, Clothing by Dacy Lane and plenty of stalls with great gift ideas for Christmas.

- Local food stalls
- Live music

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to book a stall

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9.30 - 11.30 AM
SATURDAY

30
NOVEMBER

EMBASSY OF IDEAS
ALEXANDRA

3 BAYLEY STREET
ALEXANDRA VIC 3714

Calling all men! Join Nate (local social worker) and Dave (local tradie) for a casual session to chat about mental and emotional health, as well as tips about how to improve your personal happiness. Catering will be provided, and the session is **100% FREE!** Places are limited. Register now via the QR code or reach out to the guys by email or phone (details below).



Disclaimer

Please note that this event is a casual educational session and does not serve as a replacement for psychological therapy or medical advice from a GP.



For more Information

Email onemanworkshops@gmail.com



Call Nate on 0406 759 254,
or David on 0417 022 468.

This initiative is supported by Murrindindi Shire Council and made possible by the Free From Violence Local Government Program.



FACILITATORS



Nate Proctor, Social Worker



David Webb, Local Tradie



REGISTER NOW!



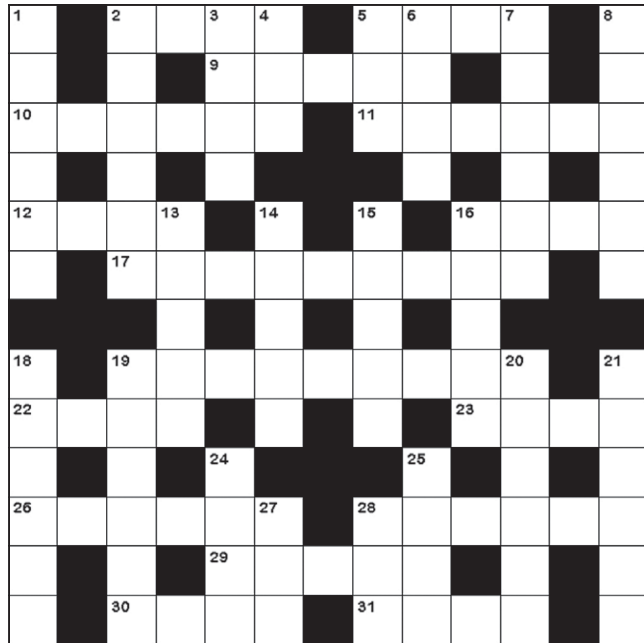
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 15

Crossword

ACROSS

- 2. Provided with clothing.
- 5. A small island.
- 9. Made by combining materials and parts.
- 10. Quick and light in movement.
- 11. Leave slowly and hesitantly.
- 12. An equal exchange.
- 16. A fit of shivering.
- 17. Capable of being tracked.
- 19. Causing a loss of self-respect.
- 22. Too dry to support vegetation.
- 23. Simple and uncomplicated.
- 26. Recognition for one's work.
- 28. One who destroys or defaces property.
- 29. A very pale purple colour.
- 30. A prong on a fork.
- 31. An opening made by pulling apart.



DOWN

- 1. Not given to lying.
- 2. Any contest or struggle.
- 3. Having a strong healthy body.
- 4. Scheduled to arrive.
- 5. Not in good health.
- 6. Mix ingredients with a spoon.
- 7. Be involved in an activity.
- 8. Work in a chosen occupation.
- 13. Forced open with a lever.
- 14. Open contempt for another person.
- 15. Black-and-white bear from China.
- 16. Without anybody else.
- 18. An object kept as a symbol of a team.
- 19. Guide the actors in plays and films.
- 20. Mature male goose.
- 21. Rode a bike.
- 24. A furnace for firing pottery.
- 25. The distance covered by one step.
- 27. Fasten with a piece of string.
- 28. A large open tub.

Word Search

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

Math Square

	-		-		-6
+		-		+	
	+	5	x		51
÷		-		-	
	+	7	-		5
6		-11		13	

Eat your veggies

- ASPARAGUS ONION
- BROCCOLI POTATO
- CABBAGE PUMPKIN
- CAULIFLOWER RUNNERBEANS
- EGGPLANT TURNIP
- GREENBEANS ZUCCHINI

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.

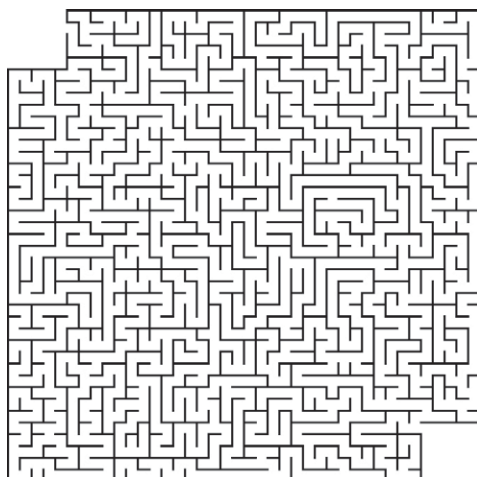
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

Maze



Appeal for information on 30 year old mystery

DETECTIVES from the Missing Persons Squad released images to appeal for public information on the 30th anniversary of the suspicious disappearance of Mark Jansen on November 12, 1994.

Thirty-one year old Mark was last seen in the car park at the rear of the Fruit City Complex on Pultney Street in Dandenong about 5pm on Saturday, November 12.

Mark co-owned a fresh fish shop located at the complex with his business partner.

When he left, he was seen getting into a car, a 1981 to 1985 yellow coloured Holden Gemini sedan, with unknown registration. The vehicle was described as in poor condition and the hub caps were missing. Two men and a woman were seen in the car with him.

At the time of his disappearance, Mark shared two young daughters with his ex-wife and was living in a caravan in Dandenong.

On March 13, 2014 partial skeletal remains

were found after a fire in an isolated bushland area near Marysville resulted in an excavator being sent to help rehabilitate the land in an area in the Big River State Forest on Morris Road in Marysville. Following DNA testing, the remains were confirmed to be that of Mark Jansen.

An extensive search of the bushland in Marysville was subsequently undertaken, however no further remains were located.

Police are aware that Mark had been declared bankrupt earlier that year and had incurred a number of debts to various people. It is believed Mark might have also had some low level involvement in trafficking drugs of dependence prior to his disappearance.

Investigators believe Mark met with foul play and are seeking public assistance to help identify those involved to be able to provide answers to Mark's family.

Police have released images of Mark and a sketch of the persons seen with Mark as well as an image of the vehicle in the hope someone can provide information on his movements in the lead up to his disappearance.

Investigators believe the two men and the woman seen in Mark's vehicle with him will be able to assist with their enquiries and remain very keen to speak to them.

Despite a significant investigation over the past 30 years, no one has been charged in relation to Mark's disappearance and the circumstances surrounding exactly what happened to him remain a mystery.

Detective Inspector Dave Dunstan from the Missing Persons Squad said, "To go 30 years without having any answers about what happened to your father or brother is almost unimaginable.

"Mark's two daughters have had to grow up without ever really knowing their father, and there are so many milestones in their lives he never got to be a part of. No family should experience that.

"There will absolutely be people who know what happened to Mark and who is responsible, and we are appealing for those people to come forward and speak to police.

"It has been 30 years, but it is absolutely not too late to do the right thing. Any new information provided to police will be thoroughly investigated. Mark's family deserves answers."

Anyone with information on Mark's disappearance or the three people he was with is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at crimestoppersvic.com.au



Mark Jansen. -S

MISSING PERSON

Mark MORINUS JANSEN who was 31 years old at the time of his disappearance, was last seen in the car park at the rear of the Fruit City Complex, Pultney St., Dandenong at about 5pm on Saturday the 12th of November, 1994, by his business partner. At this time Mark was in a yellow coloured Holden Gemini Sedan (registration number not known), which is said to have been in poor condition. There was nothing distinctive about this vehicle other than that the hub caps were missing from all four wheels.

Police wish to identify the 2 males and 1 female who were in the yellow Holden Gemini with Mark. These persons may be able to assist Police in locating him. Descriptions of those persons are as follows:-

1st Male: 25-30 years of age
178cm (5'10") tall
Caucasian
Medium build
Clean shaven with dark, short hair.

2nd Male: 25-30 years of age
167.5 cm (5'6") tall
Caucasian
Stocky build
Clean shaven with dark collar length hair.

Female: Approx. 30 years of age
Height not known
Caucasian
Slim build. Fair, straight, shoulder length hair which was probably dyed blonde.

Any person who can assist in this matter is requested to contact Crime Stoppers on:-

1800 333 000 or the Homicide Squad- Missing Persons Unit on the toll free ph. no. 038 808 606.

The missing person flyer showing the identikit photos of three people who were travelling in a vehicle with Mr Jansen. -S

Real Estate GUIDE

More city dwellers looking for a tree change

NEW research commissioned by the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) shows the number of city dwellers looking to relocate to the regions has doubled over the past 18 months, demonstrating an urgent need for solutions to regional pressure points.

The results of a nationwide survey shows 40 per cent of capital city residents are considering a move to regional Australia, up from 20 per cent in May 2023.

RAI CEO Liz Ritchie said the research should ring alarm bells for policymakers, industry and regional leaders.

“Demand for regional living has never been higher, but as a nation we are not keeping pace with delivering the fundamental building blocks that are needed as we rebalance the nation,” Ms Ritchie said.

The new market research comes at the same time as the release of the RAI’s *Year two Progress Report on the Regionalisation Ambition*, which shows key regional metrics tracking housing, education and migration have gone backwards over the past 12 months, including the regional rental vacancy rate decreasing, this was 1.3 per cent in 2024 versus 1.5 per cent in 2023; the regional building approvals declining, this was down 9.4 per cent between May 2023 and May 2024; the regional student school attainment rate dropping, 67.3 per cent in 2022 versus 71.4 per cent in 2021, and the percentage of migrants settling in the regions falling from 16.5 per cent in 2022/23 versus 18.6 per cent in 2021/22.

“Regional Australia is simultaneously experiencing two unprecedented transformations, a once in a lifetime population shift and the net zero transition, which is increasing demand and need for improved services and infrastructure in regional communities,” Ms Ritchie said.

“Falling behind on critical targets is not in the nation’s best interests and we can’t afford to squander this opportunity to better our country.

“Many regions are already struggling with housing, particularly rental markets, and until region specific policy measures are put in place, this will only be further magnified,” Ms Ritchie said.

Launched in 2022, the *Regionalisation Ambition* is a 10 year framework for creating a more prosperous, productive and inclusive regional Australia, which the RAI reports on annually.

The year two progress report shows, of the 17 targets measured over the past year, 10 are moving in the right direction, including the regional recruitment difficulty rate easing, this was 63 per cent in 2023 versus 69 per cent in 2022; the number of medical practitioners working in regions increasing, with 353 FTE per 100,000 population in 2023 versus 334 FTE in 2021, and Regional Australia’s younger population from 15 to 39 years share rising, this was 30 per cent in 2023 versus 29.8 per cent in 2021.

Ms Ritchie said this movement, turning the dial on some of the biggest issues regional Australia is facing should be celebrated.

“However, without continued improvements on measures around housing, education and migration there would continue to be a challenge for any government to play catch up,” Ms Ritchie said.

Ms Ritchie acknowledged the work the Federal Government is undertaking, notably the creation of the *Housing Australia Future Fund*, its response to the recommendations within the Australian Universities Accord and the confirmation of the Regional Migration Settings Review.

“The foundations for implementing change are being laid, including through the *Regional Investment Framework*, but now we must build the structures to deliver that,” Ms Ritchie said.

“The RAI is calling for a long term plan for regional Australia’s future that considers population movement, the skilled workforce requirement, service provision and infrastructure needs. Given Australia’s changing population pattern, this is vitally important.

“A place based decision making model, that would enable regions to have a greater say on how federal, state and territory government funding is spent is also critical. There are responses to issues around housing and the attraction of overseas arrivals already underway in regional Australia and they deserve to be heard,” she said.

“Likewise, regional communities need further support to play a bigger role in the net zero transition, through improving communication and having a seat at the table to ensure long standing benefits are delivered to the regions alongside solar panels, wind turbines and transmission lines,” Ms Ritchie concluded.

Don’t be afraid to dob in illegal builders and plumbers

THE Victorian Government and Victorian Building Authority (VBA) are encouraging Victorians to help them crack down on illegal building and plumbing practices across the state by reporting unregistered workers.

Starting last week, Victorians can anonymously dob in unregistered builders and plumbers who operate without proper qualifications, insurance, or compliance with industry standards through a new dob in form.

Currently, one in 10 complaints received by the VBA involves unregistered workers who often target unsuspecting Victorians through digital platforms including Airtasker, Hipages, and Facebook Marketplace.

These illegal operators can put Victorians at risk of unsafe installations, costly repairs, and a lack of legal recourse and insurance when things go wrong.

A recent inspection blitz by the VBA uncovered 33 unregistered workers across more than 1100 building sites since mid October, with five employers also found enabling illegal work. These inspections are part of an ongoing statewide crackdown, informed by public tip offs, VBA intelligence, and data analytics.


This crackdown comes after the state government announced an overhaul of the building regulator, replacing the VBA with a new more powerful watchdog, the Building and Plumbing Commission.

The new watchdog will bring together all aspects of building quality control into a single agency, and it will be given tough new powers to protect Victorian families and their homes.

Victorians can dob-in unregistered builders and plumbers anonymously through the VBA’s online dob-in form *Report Unregistered Building and Unlicensed Plumbing Work*. Victorians are urged to only hire practitioners who can prove their registration or licensing, they can check worker registration at Find a Practitioner.

You can find more information at vba.vic.gov.au

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Asef Yawari and his two boys, Shahriyar and Mahdi yar. -S

Helping hand to refugees

by Rev Dr D Paul Dalzell

RURAL Australians for Refugees in Alexandra has begun serious fundraising to bring a Refugee Family from Afghanistan to Australia.

Recently a group of members cut up and split the last of a huge red gum tree donated by Robyn and John Walsh.

Paul Dalzell, convener of Rural Australians for Refugees Alexandra said, "We are hoping to bring our sponsored family, Asef Yawari and his wife Maria and their two boys to Australia under the 'Talent Beyond Boundaries' program. Talent Beyond Boundaries links up refugees with employers in Australia. It takes quite a lot of money, which is why we have to get busy fundraising."

"We are really grateful to Robyn and John for the donation of the tree. It will go some way to raising enough funds. If anyone is prepared to offer him a job in construction, that is also a necessary part of the process. Without a job offer, nothing can happen," Paul said.

Asef Yawari and his family have been in hiding or over the border from Afghanistan in

Pakistan since August 2021. They have been supported by Alexandra Rural Australians for Refugees. Since the options for refugee visas in Australia and Europe have dried up, Talent Beyond Boundaries remains the only viable long term solution for the Yawari family.

Offers of employment or donations can be made by contacting Rural Australians for Refugees Alexandra on 0467 682 036.

UPCOMING FEATURES

Let's eat, it's our treat

Publishing: December 4

Deadline: November 28, 5pm

Live Well, Feel Good

Publishing: December 11

Deadline: December 5, 5pm

Work Local

Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Christmas Wishes

Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm



David Hall, Elizabeth O'Donnell and Bev Dick feeding on the wood splitter. -S



Bev Dick on the chainsaw. -S



Robyn Walsh. -S



Dave Gamble on the wood splitter. -S

ON THE LAND

Agriculture, Horticulture, Viticulture, Aquaculture and Silviculture

Spring Feature Store Sale at Yea



The McCarthy family, who were winners of the Yea Community Bank Award for heifers. Pictured are Joe, Anthony, Matthew, Angela and Tess. -S



Winners of the Yea Community Bank Award for steers. Pictured are Erin and Malcolm White from Inverugie Pastoral. -S



Ian and Judi Marshman with Chris Pollard celebrating their win of the Zoetis Drench Park Award for steers. -S

Monta-ewes versus Cow-pulets: Murrindindi Shire's agriculture industry

MURRINDINDI Shire is known for its natural beauty, in the form of Lake Eildon, the Great Victorian Rail Trail, and close proximity to snow fields such as Mount Buller and Lake Mountain. It is close enough to Melbourne to make it a popular tourist destination, and many car clubs like to explore the roads around the shire.

Yet Murrindindi Shire is also an agricultural area, mainly focused on livestock. The Yea Saleyards are booming with business at the moment, both as a result of the Pakenham Saleyards closing and the big yearly sales taking place in November.

Yet statistically, what is the main agricultural focus of Murrindindi Shire? This masthead researched the commodity numbers in Murrindindi Shire, to find out just where the shire's agricultural focus lies.

Would it surprise people to learn that sheep actually outnumber cattle from a numbers standpoint? That there are more apples than cherries produced in the shire? That in the 2020 to 2021 financial year, poultry in Murrindindi Shire had a gross value of \$25 million, despite there only being 15 reported poultry?

Starting with the big numbers, livestock is the main factor in Murrindindi Shire's agricultural market without a doubt. With a total gross value of \$105 million, livestock occupies 55.20 per cent of the shire's agricultural market.

Of that, there are some 107,139 sheep and lambs, compared to 79,337 meat cattle and 1357 dairy cattle. That means that sheep and lambs occupy 56.83 per cent of the livestock market for the shire, compared to 42.81 per cent for meat and dairy cattle combined.

To bring that back into perspective however, many more sheep can be cultivated in a smaller space than cows can. The roles are reversed when it comes to gross value. Sheep and lambs have a \$19 million gross value, compared to a \$58 million gross value for meat cattle. That's 10.02 per cent and 30.58 per cent respectively.

In terms of fruits and nuts, which make up 16.58 per cent of the shire's agricultural market, there are more apples produced than cherries. According to the census data, there were some 270,000 apple trees that produced 2898 apples in 2020-2021, compared to 105,968 cherry trees that produced 1700 cherries in the same period. However, cherries generated more gross value, with \$24 million versus \$6 million for apples.

The final odd fact is that in the 2020-21 financial year, the gross value of poultry in Murrindindi Shire was \$25 million, despite there being only 15 reported poultry. This brings into question the accuracy of the census, and how many correct answers were submitted.

For the full breakdown of commodities in Murrindindi Shire, visit agriculture.gov.au/abares/aclump/land-use/agriculture-census-dashboards-lga and navigate to the 'By region' tab, then scroll down the list of LGAs and select Murrindindi Shire.

When asked about the Murrindindi Shire agricultural industry, Murrindindi Shire Council provided the following response.

"The Sheep, Grains, Beef and Dairy Cattle sector is a key contributor to Murrindindi Shire's economy, generating an annual output of \$220.6 million (12.7 per cent of total regional output) and supporting 449 jobs (nine per cent of total regional employment).

"Beef cattle farming is the most prominent sub-sector, with a significant number of businesses across different farming types, including: 22 specialised sheep farming businesses; 291 specialised beef cattle farming businesses; 1243 mixed sheep-beef cattle farming businesses; 56 grain-sheep or grain-beef cattle farming businesses; six grain farming businesses (excluding rice); and 11 dairy cattle farming businesses.

"The sector contributes notably to the regional economy and is a major employer," council finished.

STOCK REPORT 22 NOVEMBER 2024			
22 November 2024 Weaner Sale (Nutrien)	Total Yarding	Steers	Heifers
Number of head	2,943		
Average \$ per head	\$1,055		
Average weight per head	304.9kg		
Top price per head		\$1,500	\$1,100
Top weight		417.7kg	367.7kg
Turnover	\$3.09 million		

Upcoming sales to round out 2024 include: Elders Yea Spring Feature Store Sale on November 29, plus free health checks; Elders and Nutrien Store Sale on December 6, plus free health checks; and the Alex Scott and Staff Weaner Sale was postponed from December 13 to January 31.

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CHARLOTTE Peak is the police union representative, based at Benalla. Murrindindi Shire is within her union area. She was interviewed about the current police industrial action, aiming for higher rates of pay for members of the force.

She was asked what differences the community may notice during the industrial action.

Many people will have seen writing on the local police vehicles and highway patrol vehicles recently. Charlotte explained, "They're designed to create attention and draw people towards our cause. The slogans are varied and you'll see some that probably target the Premier and also the Chief Commissioner."

Initially, the slogans were pre-authorised but now some police are making up their own car window slogans.

Charlotte said that some of the slogans are puns around Chief Commissioner Shane Patton's name, such as 'No patton of no confidence' or 'There is a patton there.' The New South Wales Police were recently successful in gaining a significant payrise, so one of the other Victorian slogans is 'Looking for a career, not just a job? Try NSW police where you get fair pay'.

She commented that in addition to higher pay rates, they are also seeking to resolve the issue of unpaid overtime, a systemic issue in the force with members working an average of 100 hours per year of unpaid overtime. The union believes that the police should be looked after instead of wasting money on the Scottish Commonwealth Games and statues of former premier Daniel Andrews.

They are seeking a 24 per cent payrise over four years and the introduction of 8.5 hour shifts. Police members rejected an offer of a three per cent increase in June.

Charlotte added, "The big thing to note is that industrial action doesn't affect police resourcing in the area at all. Police resourcing in the area is really poor already. But that's not as a result of industrial action. It's what industrial action is intending to highlight."

There was a walk-out at the Police Academy and a couple of the larger police stations in the metropolitan area recently, however "there's not likely to be anything like that out here. It could potentially. It's not planned at the moment," she said.

Any walkouts don't affect emergencies. Charlotte said that as part of the industrial action, they may stop doing paperwork, non-urgent watch house inquiries, and so on.

Considering the Murrindindi crews are pretty much always on the road, it's unlikely that this would change. They may however stop giving out penalty notices, unless the penalty notice attracts an immediate loss of licence, or it's a drink driving or drug driving matter.

The ban on penalty notices is aimed at hitting the government's hip pocket.

The police are likely to either give out warnings, or they will be sent to court instead of issuing penalty notices, "which then clogs up the court system," Charlotte said. "Which the court doesn't like." This is also aimed at getting the government's attention.

Charlotte explained, "Victoria Police made an application to Fair Work to make a declaration request. Fair Work make a declaration about intractable bargaining, basically saying that the parties, being Victoria Police and the Police Association, are not going to be able to reach an outcome."

There are a variety of rules requiring that the parties bargain in good faith before such an application can be made.

Charlotte attended the Fair Work hearing. She said Victoria Police argued that an agreement would never be reached and that the Police Association argued that Victoria Police hadn't actually negotiated.

Charlotte believes that the battle may be long and protracted because they haven't got a determination or declaration from Fair Work yet about whether or not they are going to side with Victoria Police.

Police in the Northern Territory receive 28 per cent more than Victorian Police, as well as transfer bonuses. NSW Police just received a large payrise, and Queensland are offering a \$20,000 sign-on bonus to experienced police. There are large temptations for experienced Victorian police officers to move to other states. She noted that the government wage policy can be altered for retention reasons.

"It's definitely an interesting time," Charlotte said. "All we want is a fair deal."

The Fair Work Commissioner is expected to release her decision before the end of the year.

PUZZLES SOLUTIONS

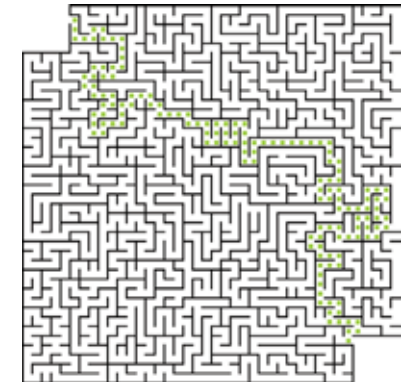
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TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

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

Print Post Approved - PP 10000292.

MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH

The Board of Directors of Alexandra District Health invite you to join us for our
2023-2024 Annual General Meeting

This event will be held on
Thursday 5th December 2024 at 4.00pm, at Alexandra District Hospital.

- ✓ **Community Aged Care Services Update - Chris Wasley**
- ✓ **Aged Care - The Cost of Care - Sharyn Wedlock**

Please join us for refreshments served afterwards

Please RSVP to Jennifer Creed by 28th November, 2024

5772 0924 jennifer.creed@adh.org.au

MEETINGS

Registration No: A0018756R

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd Annual General Meeting of Darlingford Upper Goulburn Nursing Home Inc will be held on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024 commencing at 1.30pm in North Lounge Room. Video conferencing available, please email request to. darlingford@dugh.com.au**

Business of the Meeting:

- to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting
- to receive and consider:
 - (a) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year
 - (b) the financial statements of the association for the preceding financial year
- to elect the members of the committee;
- Appointment of Auditor

Applications for a position on the Board of Management are invited. Please contact Darlingford on 5774 2711. ALL WELCOME

Please RSVP by December 10, 2024

SITUATION VACANT

Administrative Officer, Part Time 3-4 Days/Week

We are seeking a dedicated Administrative Assistant, to join our team. This position is a part time role 3-4 full days a week. This role requires a warm and friendly demeanour, a can-do attitude and a willingness to learn and provide support when needed. You'll work autonomously and as part of a driven and caring team.

Mandatory Requirements:

- Influenza vaccination
- Current police check

Essential:

- Relevant experience in an administrative support role
- Bookkeeping experience
- Payroll and Rostering experience
- Previous experience in Aged care
- Excellent computer skills with ability to understand and use IT applications and platforms.

Food Services, Cleaning &/or Laundry Staff

We are searching for Food Services & Cleaning Staff to join our friendly team on a casual or part time basis and to provide quality services to our valued residents. Includes weekend work.

Requirements:

- Current police check
- Influenza vaccination
- Food Safety Level 1 Certificate(or commitment to complete)
- To complete ongoing training

Benefits:

- Attractive salary packaging
- Employee Assistance Program available
- Supportive management team
- Ongoing Professional Development
- Remuneration as per Health and Allied Services, Managers and Administrative Workers (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025.

Please telephone reception (03) 5774 2711 for a position description or email your resumé to dwalsh@dugh.com.au. Admission Officer position closes by midday on Monday, December 2, 2024

Kellock Lodge
Alexandra Inc.
RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, December 2, 2024 at 6.15 pm Residents, families and members of the Alexandra and district community are warmly invited to the Annual General Meeting of Kellock Lodge - Alexandra Incorporated to be held at Kellock Lodge, 15 Bon St Alexandra 3714

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meetings held on November 15, 2023
2. To receive the Annual Reports for year ending 30 June 2024
3. To receive the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2024 (KLA Inc.)
4. Questions and general business

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Applications are invited from members of the Alexandra and district Community to join the Board of Management as a Director. The position is honorary, and Board Directors are required to be available for board meetings and committees. Expressions of interest should be addressed to the Board Chair, Kellock Lodge 15 Bon Street Alexandra, Vic, 3714 (or by email to: info@kellocklodge.com.au) and include a cover letter and brief resume. Applications close of business Monday November 25, 2024. Please RSVP your attendance for the meeting by close of business Monday 24 November. Contact reception on 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au. Zoom link available by request. Membership of KLA Inc. is welcomed, with forms available from reception on 5770 2100 or info@kellocklodge.com.au.

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Classifieds

Clubmans in Eildon

DEATH NOTICES

BOWD, Trevor
26/10/1953 – 27/10/2024
Passed away at Alexandra District Health. Husband of Roslyn, cherished dad of Steph, Josh, Chris and Rochelle. A good man with fun in his heart and kind words. A memorial was held on November 1, 2024.

MULLER, Katharina, (Kath)
11/12/1925 – 19/11/2024
Passed away at Darlingford Nursing Home.
Loved wife of Ernest.
Together again.

PARKINSON, Dorothy Jean (nee Stillman)
08/05/1930-16/11/2024
Wife of Rocky (Snr). Loved mother of Neil, Yvonne, Anne, Gwenda, Cheryl, Leonie (dec.) and Craig.
Nanna to 17 grand children, 32 great grand children and great-great nanna to six.
Resting Peacefully.

IN MEMORIAM

TAYLOR, Dillon.
30/11/2015. Forever 29.
Much loved son of Lynda and Bernie. Dillon, words cannot express how much we all miss you.
We cherish our beautiful memories and hold you forever in our hearts. Love mum, dad, Shauna, Shane, Riley, Ivy and Mack.

MEETINGS

FRIENDS of Kellock Inc. All members are warmly invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at 9.30am at Kellock Lodge, Bon Street, Alexandra.

FUNERAL NOTICES

MULLER, Katharina
A graveside service will be held at Eildon Cemetery on Thursday, November 28, commencing at 11am.
McCormack FUNERALS
Peace of Mind
AFDA 1800 080 909
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

PARKINSON, Dorothy Jean
(nee Stillman).
A service celebrating the life of Dorothy will be held at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, November 27 commencing at noon.
Followed by a burial at Alexandra Lawn Cemetery.
McCormack FUNERALS
Peace of Mind
AFDA 1800 080 909
www.mccormackfunerals.com.au

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LAST Wednesday saw a number of clubman cars at the Eildon Dam Wall for the third day of the biannual meeting of the Victorian Clubman Builders Group.

Clubman owners gathered from all around Australia with their precious cars, some professionally built and others lovingly home-made, for a three day adventure around Victoria.

The first day was spent cruising to Mount Buller and back from Mansfield, the second taking their cars for hot laps around Winton Raceway, and the third touring around Lake Eildon.

Clubmans are a replica of the Lotus 7, and most are built by the owners as kit cars. They are low to the ground, very lightweight and have good speed and precision handling despite being relatively low-powered.



Parked up at the Eildon Spillway carpark. -AR



Gringo with his car. -AR



The vehicles were parked overlooking the Eildon Pondage. -BD



The vehicles on the Eildon dam wall. -AR



Clubmans are a replica of the Lotus 7, and are primarily kit cars built by their owners. -AR

Weather extremes for Giro della Donna

THE Giro della Donna cycle race was held in Marysville on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, 23 and 24, in challenging conditions. Saturday had temperatures in the mid-30s, and on Sunday it was much milder with rain.

Matthew White, the Giro della Donna head of commercial and marketing said, "I guess like any outdoor event, the weather is always a challenge and we probably felt it a little bit more than most, especially given that this was the first time that Giro della Donna has been held in in Marysville.

"There were definitely warm conditions on Saturday for the Gravel Giro and Criteria in town, but it didn't affect numbers too much. Where our numbers were affected was on the full course, 145 kilometre Giro della Donna main event, where we had a number of people that had registered but didn't show for the event."

There were 1200 entries, but due to the weather, about 200 people didn't participate. COVID-19 has also been active in Melbourne recently, which may also explain some of the absences.

On Saturday, the race start times were delayed until later in the afternoon, and it rained all day on Sunday.

Despite this, Matt said, "Look, honestly, the spirits of all of the competitors when they came across the line, the sense of achievement from

being able to accomplish what for many of them was a goal, maybe a couple of years in the making, they were ecstatic to be there."

There were four medical cases over the course of the weekend, including one for hypothermia.

Matt said of the race, "The support that we had from Murrindindi Shire Council and of course from the community of Marysville itself was nothing short of phenomenal. We are so happy to have made the move from Warburton up and over into Marysville. It's a great environment for cycling, a really fantastic community and we're looking forward to making this a home for Giro della Donna for the foreseeable future."

"It really comes down to the support of Murrindindi Shire Council, the desire for Marysville to become a cycling centre for cycle tourism, great support from Ride High Country and Tourism North East and Peppers at Marysville who all share a collaborative and unifying vision of helping Marysville to become one of the cycle tourism premiere destinations in the country."

He added, "We're really, really appreciative of the community support. I can't understate how amazing that was."

They are expecting to be back in November next year.



The start of the Giro della Donna. -AR



The cyclists climbing Murchison Street in Marysville at the start of the Giro della Donna. -AR

Ecumenical carol service

ON Friday, December 6, all of the churches in the district will get together to welcome the advent of the Christmas season. This event will take place at St Mary's Catholic Church, Nihil Street, Alexandra at 6pm.

This joyous season beckons us to celebrate the message of peace and well-being for all people. They are inviting everyone in the district and beyond to come and join in singing carols together, but more importantly to celebrate our common humanity, our vision of sheer unity and the prosperity of all people.

For further details contact Fr Mario Hendricks on 0435 953 777 or email mdp@phen@yahoo.com

SPORT

Back to routine for Marysville Golfers



Golf clinic participants with coach Travers Harrison second from right. -S

by Lesley Rundle

AFTER a busy few weeks at the club last Saturday, golfers returned to the regular competition and played a stableford round for the captains trophies. A few golfers were put off by the forecast 33 degree heat and stayed at home to keep cool, but a number of golfers soldiered on and enjoyed the day.

The Stow family had a successful day with Travers (20) winning the men's section with 40 points and Sabrina (23) with 39 points winning the ladies trophy. The men's runner up was Alan Howard (16) with 36 points and Lesley Rundle (34) was the ladies runner

up also with 36 points on a countback from Helen Howard. The nearest the pins were won by Alex Bullard (2) Richy Clark and Jody Doran. It was great to welcome new junior member Billy Baker to the competition and members hope he will continue to play regularly and enjoy competition play.

Next Saturday the men will play the final of the Par Shield and the ladies will play stableford for the Norman Trophy. Members are asked to please sign the list in the clubrooms if they intend playing in the second round of the Foodworks Murrindindi Masters at Alexandra on January 11. Also please let Alan Howard know if they are

attending the lunch at the Presentation Day on December 21.

On another hot day the Thursday golfers played stroke on the front nine holes. The winner was Richy Clark (5) with an impressive nett 35 and 12 putts on a countback from Geoff Ferguson (8). Richy's round included a 20 foot putt on the ninth hole for a Par and Ken Whittingham won the nearest the pin on the hole.

Last Thursday six members spent a day at the Spring Valley Golf Club in Clayton South being coached by Travis Harrison of the Brighton Golf Academy. Every aspect of

the game was covered including long shots, bunker play, lining up putts, and course management with Travers accompanying the players around nine holes. It was a full day of practice and information and all participants enjoyed the experience. They now have to put into practice what they learnt. Participants thank Travers for his time and individual and group coaching.

This Friday the 16th Annual Golf and Cycling event is being held at Marysville. For \$50, including lunch, members are invited to play in this relaxing and fun day. To register and for more information please contact Steve Coker on 0419 755 577.

Mixed results for Bowls

by Marie Evans

ALL Bowls games were played away last round. Midweek games travelled to Merrigum. Last Saturday, division four played East Shepparton and division six were at Shepparton Park. The GV Conditions of Play provide for an early start of 9.15am or a time negotiated by clubs. Fortunately for the Alexandra sides, each venue has a large undercover playing area which somewhat improved conditions.

It was an early start for all games with Alexandra bowlers leaving at 7.30am. Not unusual for mid week, but a new experience for Saturday bowlers.

Midweek found the green challenging at Merrigum. However, David Nicklos (Skip), Trevor Stewart, Craig Parkinson and Denice Chisolm had a great game. Alexandra led 15 to 10 at the lunch break but it was 15 all on end sixteen. Alexandra regained the lead on end seventeen and were four shots up, 19 to 15. They were 21 to 19 on end twenty but Merrigum won the last end to win 21 to 22.

On the other rinks the games were not as close. Doug Cooper (Skip), John Blamey, Ian Franklin and Levi Ronalds had a game to forget as did Bob Mayfield (Skip), Christine Mayfield, Pauline Gilmore and Clive Murphy. Next round is against Shepparton Golf who are fourth on the ladder and midweek players are looking forward to a return to their home green, though rain is predicted.

On Saturday, division six players were undercover at Shepparton Park. The best

rink on the day for Alexandra was Mark Stone (Skip), Pauline Gilmore, Craig Parkinson, and Rob Roach. Alexandra began well. They led 10 to 0 on end three but their opposition won the next five ends to lead 13 to 10 on end eight. Shep Park maintained their lead and were 24 to 16 up on end eighteen. Alexandra won the last three ends but lost 24 to 19.

Ray Mathieson (Skip), John Blamey, Anne Gunton, Stephen Kirby led eight to six on end nine but trailed 12 to 19 by end fifteen. Shep Park won four out of the last six ends to win 15 to 27. Rodd Petersen (Skip) Mal Gill, Warren Nelson and Ian Franklin won nine ends out of 21. They trailed eight to 14 on end fourteen. Their opposition won five out of the last seven ends to win 25 to 12.

Next round division six play away again for their third game in a row. This time they travel to Nagambie, who are second on the ladder behind Euroa.

Division four had only one winning rink for the game against East Shepparton. Doug Cooper (Skip), Ben Gilchrist, Ken Argent and Denice Chisolm had a great win 32 to 15. They led 10 to 0 on end two. It was 18 to 12 by end thirteen. Alexandra won five out of the last eight ends to win 32 to 15. Congratulations to the rink.

However, the good news stopped there. Greg Gilmore (Skip), Larry Scott, Marie Evans and Lauren Gilchrist were 15 all on end thirteen but won only one end after that and lost 16 to 28.



Division four Winning Rink Doug Cooper, Denice Chisolm Ben Gilchrist, and Ken Argent. -S

David Nicklos (Skip), Bob Mayfield, Scott Ferrier and Christine Mayfield trailed 4 to 16 on end thirteen. They lost 10 to 25. Tim Langmead (Skip), Bob Benghamy, Andy Tobias and Saxon Langmead had no luck and also lost their game.

The defeat has Alexandra now sitting in third place on the ladder with 71 points. Ladder leaders are Euroa 76 and Dookie 74. Round 7 is home against Shepparton Park who are in eighth spot. Alexandra will be looking for a much improved result.

Close matches in sweltering heat for Alexandra squash



Daniel drops a shot out of reach for James. -S

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition Kangaroos versus Platypus

JORDAN versus Tyler: Jordan started strong and kept up the pace throughout the match. Tyler made an attempt at reigning in his opponent, but Jordan was too strong and took home the match. 76 to 54.

Mick versus Sally: With a spring in his step, Mick bounced around the court to take the lead. Slow out of the gates, Sally was consistent in the games though it proved to be not enough against her opponent. Mick for the win. 64 to 45.

Justin versus Michael M: Both players started off plagued with errors. Michael conceded a six-point lead in the first half. Simplifying his game with cross-court flicks, Michael managed to wrong-foot Justin enough to take the lead and hang on for a three-point win.

Jack versus John: For the main event, Jack and John played a tense match. At times it became a mix of squash and MMA as each player scrambled past the other to get the winning shot. Jack shot out of the blocks with an early nine point lead that John could only partly reel in. Jack was king of the court. 57 to 52.

Echidnas versus Koalas

Ethan versus Eric: These opponents had some lovely rallies. Unfortunately for Eric,

Ethan had a super serve that played a huge part in his win. 74 to 30.

Matt versus Lee: Matt's placement game was on song and Lee had no answer for his combinations of drop shots and drives. Matt swept up all four games for a comfortable win. 86 to 37.

Jared versus Simon: A spectacular game that was ridiculously close. Both players had the shots, but Jared was barely too good to take home the win by a point. 56 to 55.

James versus Daniel K: Daniel was too good on the night and had James fumbling to keep up. James played some unbelievable boasts but he wasn't given enough opportunities to utilise his skills. Daniel with a solid win. 72 to 45.

Thursday Competition Lions versus Leopards

Blake versus Beth: Good shots from both players but Blake managed to hold the edge for most of the game. Beth put up a real challenge in the last game only to draw the game. Blake happily claimed the win. 64 to 51.

Jodie versus Kristelle: Neither player was enjoying the warmth, yet they persisted and played a very close match. Going into the last game the scores were tied, leaving the last game as the decider. Jodie pipped Kristelle at the post to take

the game and match by three-points. 59 to 56.

Stuart versus Daniel W (fill in): Watching this match was as entertaining as one could hope. Daniel put in so much effort, running everything down and making wild shots. Stuart was slapping the ball in all directions, keeping Daniel running and sliding on the court. Eventually, Stuart well and truly got the upper hand on Daniel to win the match. 67 to 45.

Panthers versus Cheetahs

Reece versus Jess: Jess bolted in the first two games before running out of puff. Reece made a comeback in the final two games but was too many points behind to take the lead. Jess stayed ahead to claim victory. 56 to 47.

Sam versus Travis: Sibling rivalry continues in a tough see-sawing match. Travis took the first game, but Sam appeared to take control after the third game. That lasted until Travis made a huge comeback in the final game to overhaul an eight-point deficit to win the match by two points. 59 to 57.

James (fill in) versus Jim: A closer game than the scores showed. Multiple back-to-back long rallies. Jim held his composure while James cracked, allowing Jim to run away with the win in the final match. 65 to 43.

Annual charity day for Eildon Golf Club

by Puttomatic

A BIG week was had at the Eildon Golf Club last week. Friday the club co-hosted the annual charity day with Eildon Events. It was a great day with 71 players descending on the Eildon Golf Club to support the charity day and they were treated to a near perfect day for golf and all things community.

There were colourful getups and even more colourful golfing abilities on show. Everyone took part in great spirit and were there to support the great work that charities like Eildon Events do for the community.

The club gives a huge shout out and thank you to all the organisers and the countless volunteers who put many hours of hard work making the day a massive success, from arranging the catering and prizes to those who worked incredibly hard to get the golf course in such fantastic condition.

The charity day winners were: Ladies' B Grade winner was Jenny Kouraus while the runner-up was Sandi McLearn; ladies' Calloway winner was Sue Aitken, with the runner-up being Pam Carpenter; men's A Grade winner was Glenn Whyte, with runner-up Kerry Power; B Grade winner was Terrence Lunt, with runner-up being Mark Roberts; Calloway winner was Brett Lyon on a countback from Nick Munro.

On Saturday with an early start due to forecast 37-degree day, the club had their fourth round of the club championships combined with the first round of the summer cup and the November monthly medal competitions.

Wayne Kupke recorded an impressive nett 64 to take out the medal, from Ian Lakeland who also had a great round with a 68 nett. Ball rundowns went to Ken Collier 69 nett, Phil Dally 70 nett, Rod Taylor 71 nett and Michael McLearn also with a 71 nett.

Ken Collier also won the nearest the pin with his second shot on the par four-third, no winners on the fifth or 11th, Adam Kupke took out the 12th with Phil Dally getting the closest on the 14th. Adam also had a birdie on the eighth hole, and received the eagles nest win with an eagle on the par four-seventh. Colin Long took out the carry over entry draw and Mark Mackwell had a win with the swindle draw.

This week the Eildon Golf Club have the Anchorage Boat Day, which is generously sponsored by Anchorage Houseboats and is a four ball best ball competition. The club would love to see a big turn up for this annual day.

Good numbers for Stableford

by Elizabeth Goss

LAST Tuesday week there were good numbers for the Stableford round. The winner was Bill Wind (28) 39 points followed by Paul Martin (29) 38 points. Next came John Greatorex (18) 37 points. Nearest the pin on the seventh went to Russell Hack, on the 17th to Paul Martin and on the 18th to Leo Dyne. Ball Rundown: Graham Emmerson and Russell Purcell.

Good numbers again last Wednesday. The winner was Barb Doyle (16) 36 points. The runner up was Judy Pearson (25) 34 points and next Marie Stace (30) 33 points. Nearest the pin on the second was Barb Doyle, on the 12th Marie Stace and on the 18th Sue Greatorex. Next Wednesday, December 4 is Stableford.

With the extreme heat last Saturday there was an early start. Alan Kirkpatrick was the winner with (27) 40 points followed by Dave Silverman (12) 38 points. Next came Michael Bossonnet (12) 37 points then Len Jenkins (19) 36 points on a countback from Matt Richards (4) 36 points. Nearest the pin on the second went to Michael Bossonnet, on the fifth and 12th to Brendan Smith, on the seventh to Michael Holohan and on the 18th to Matt Richards. This Saturday, November 30 is a four ball best ball Stableford.

Redbacks play Avenel in Rebel Park

by Scott Whitehead

THE B grade Redbacks were hosting Avenel at Rebel Park in what was a top-of-the-table clash. Home games are usually played on the turf wicket of Leckie Park. However, the draw for this season is confoundingly peculiar and has resulted in both the A and B grades simultaneously playing at home.

High-scoring batsmen James Kidd and Benny Broadway were unavailable to play as were junior players, Mitchell Rowntree and Logan Conway. Levi Ronalds and Dusty Fitzpatrick came into the side to boost numbers.

Captain Michael Mawson won the toss and had no hesitation in electing to bat on the artificial pitch and was hoping that a long innings in the 35-degree heat would tire out Avenel.

Mawson and Will Ellis opened the batting and took on the highly-credentialled Avenel fast bowlers, Oscar Valladares and Christian Papi. In an opening partnership of 41 runs, Mawson entertained the crowd by smacking five boundaries on the way to a rapid score of 25 runs.

Ellis played exactly the resolute defence that he was selected for. He also entertained the spectators by being repeatedly hit on the box on the way to a score of seven.

After Mawson was bowled out playing an inexplicable defensive shot to Jamie Kanters, wickets fell in quick

succession. Ben Geldart was bowled for zero and then Will Ellis, Levi Ronalds and Banjo Fitzparick all became the victims of a hat-trick to Travis Stefanos.

Jordan Ferrier and Lucas Crane put on 33 for the sixth wicket. Jordan pushed the ball all around to accumulate 20 runs. After surviving a very close leg before wicket call, Crane impressed by taking daring quick singles, putting the Avenel fielders under pressure and inducing arguments among them.

After this partnership, the Redbacks were soon all-out for 95 in the 33rd over.

Avenel's run-chase began badly when big-hitting Aaron Kent was caught behind for a duck. Will Ellis and Ben Geldart's opening overs kept the run-rate slow. The momentum of the match soon swung back to Avenel with the home bowlers unable to unseat the batting pair of Travis Stefanos and Gus Leunig. Leunig made 62 by picking-off any loose bowling.

Luke Wal, Thaya Sathasivam and Levi Ronalds bowled well but couldn't stop Avenel reaching the victory target in 21 overs.

Alexandra's team are commended for their competitive efforts and the club thank Avenel for the spirit in which they played. They even supplied one of their own players to field for the Redbacks after a player left for work.

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard Sport

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SPORTS EDITORIAL - sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Bronze Medallion recipients for Personal Bests awards on November 16. -S

Little Aths breaking records

IT has been a fortnight of ups and downs but thankfully the ups were plenty. A team of athletes had been training for weeks and working towards representing Murrindindi Little Athletics at the Regional Relays in Shepparton on Sunday, November 17. This was unfortunately called off on the morning with many members almost at the venue. A massive storm cell swept over Shepparton in the early hours of the morning wreaking havoc with the venue and caused power outages. The event was then rescheduled to the next Saturday which did not work for everyone at such short notice, so the big team ended up very small and only able to send one relay team, who then had to endure 37 degrees temperatures. The team did us proud and managed to secure a fourth in the 4x100 metres. Congratulations to Viyan Solanki, Hamish Dalton, Jake Aldrick, and Logan Steiner on competing at Regional Level.

Over the past two weekends many club records have been broken at the normal

Saturday meets. Levi Campbell is leading the charge with club records in under 14 javelin, long jump, high jump, 200 metre hurdles, and shot put, Ivy Duncan under nine 700 metre race walk and 70 metre sprint, Cate Caswell in the under 15 200 metre hurdles, Charlotte Boulton in the under 14 200 metre hurdles, Clay Hilder in the under 12 1100 metre race walk, Hazel Dalton in the under seven 500 metre, Sienna Duncan in the under 12 1100 metre race walk, and Kai Goonan in the under seven 70 metre Sprint.

Many members have been achieving bronze personal best medallions and last Saturday the club awarded its first recipient for Personal Best achieved to Under 14 boy Chase Hilder. Reminder to members that there is no Little Aths on Saturday, November 30 due to the Great Victorian Bike Ride using the oval. See all members the following Saturday for the annual multi event a favourite day of many of the athletes.



Levi Campbell with five new centre records. -S



Members who received Bronze or Silver Personal best medallions. -S



New Club records Sienna Duncan, Hazel Dalton, Charlotte Boulton, Clay Hilder, and Ivy Duncan. -S