

The Yea Chronicle

PO Box 5, Alexandra Vic. 3714

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

Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Your community newspaper since 1885 Wednesday, October 2, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Ilona Gerencser speaks about her time on council

MURRINDINDI Shire Councillor Ilona Gerencser, representing Kinglake ward, has decided not to stand for council in this election. Council-watchers may have noticed that she has been absent from council meetings and activities in recent times.

She said that she was happy for the community to know what has been going on in the past year, "because I think it gives clarity as to why I haven't been involved. And I think people need to know obviously the severity of it, and that I haven't just backed away and forgotten about everyone."

Ilona was diagnosed with a brain tumour, a glioblastoma, on October 26, 2023. Ilona said, it's at "grade four, so it's terminal. It's just come back again too, so off to have another operation. That's basically why I had to step back, because I can't drive... I've had seizures. It's quite serious."

Ilona continued, "So that's basically why I stepped back. I love doing the council, and I was going to put my hand up again, but when this started happening again, I thought, no, I need to concentrate on being healthy and stop worrying about Kinglake so much, even though I still worry about them."

She said of being a councillor, "It's not an easy job by any means, but I have enjoyed the challenge of it. It was just a bit weird because I think the last time I ever went to one of the briefings, I was having a bit of a vague day, and that was just before the diagnosis. So I got to Alexandra and I thought, I don't feel that great, and then within the next few days, I was in hospital and having an operation."

She's only had the one operation so far, with the next operation being to remove the parts of the tumour which were left behind and have grown back.

She had another seizure on Friday, September 13 while in Queensland with her family.

"Now we've gone back and we're just like, no it's time to get it out because the chemotherapy is not working," she said.

"Hopefully people won't be too upset with the fact that I couldn't do everything I wanted to do. I mean, there's still a lot of stuff in progress that's happening. If people read the [council] budget, obviously they'll see what's coming up in Kinglake and stuff, so I'm hoping they'll be happy with all of that."

During her illness, she has been fortunate to have a lot of family support, adding that "Kinglake has been amazing. I've got a very big support base up here, which is good. I suppose that's what happens when you live



Ilona Gerencser. -S

up here or anywhere for a little while, but I'm not used to the very small community help, because I don't think I've ever had that much support. What happened was when I went into hospital, everyone just rallied around. I had to leave my dogs and everything and just go into hospital and that was it for six weeks.

"They are fantastic community up here and I love them to bits."

Asked what she is most proud of from her time as a councillor, Ilona said, "I think the streetscape, I suppose, getting that done because that was sort of hanging around for such a long time. I wanted that to get finished and they're going to complete the other one hopefully soon. I'm still not going to stop nagging them. Because I think we need to finish what we started."

"So there's a streetscape, the village that nobody really wanted because we can't, we couldn't sustain anymore shops up here. We can't even get people in the shops that we've

got now. Lots of empty shops and people who've got nowhere to shop. We haven't even got an opp shop anymore."

The building was hit by a car some time ago and the building is yet to be fixed.

She continued, "I'm still trying to hopefully get all these other projects finished. What have we got on the agenda? Our community centre needs to be refurbished because at the market this weekend, it all flooded from the toilets. It all came up through the floor. It was horrible. We've got our footy oval that we need to get done. A few other projects. They've assured me that they'll all get done."

She added that Bollygum playground also needs some attention and commented that it was a shame when the market closed down. She said, "They did a good job the other day when they fixed all the posts that had been broken by vandals."

Ilona was also asked what advice she would give to the two candidates standing



DAYLIGHT SAVING:
Spring has sprung, so don't forget that on October 6, it's time to 'spring forward' an hour (rather than 'fall back'). -Ermell

in Kinglake ward. She said, "Concentrate on the community and if you have an agenda, forget about it because the community is most important."

Asked what she learnt about being a councillor, she responded, "I think I learned that we haven't got as much control as we think we do, and you have to really work as a team and it's not all about just your town. It's about the whole shire. There are a lot of rules and regulations, and if you don't follow them, as we found from Strathbogie and everywhere else, you won't be on council anymore. Focus on the whole community and not just what you want."

She added, "I've absolutely loved it and like I said, if I could, I would have done it again. I'm hoping that maybe in four years' time, if I'm better, I'll put my hand up again."

"If you are thinking about it in the future, give it a go and just look forward to it and don't think of it as a bad thing to do, and try and brush off the comments because obviously everyone has their opinion as to what you should be doing, but most of the time they don't know what they're talking about."

Ilona is currently enjoying reading books and doing a lot of shopping, more than she has done in her whole life. During her 17 years in the police force, she didn't have much time to go shopping, but she's making the most of it now. The only challenge is that other people have to drive her around.

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Letters to the Editor

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial
Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Council elections

IT is great to see that in this year's council elections every ward is being contested, so it behoves us to closely examine the claims and qualities of the candidates. In the voting pack there are statements from each of the candidates which is a good place to start but do they stand up to scrutiny? If you don't know the candidate and their qualifications and activities in the community or work then please take time to talk to friends and neighbours to flesh out the bones.

Past experience as a councillor may be good or bad. Holding the office is not as relevant as the way they did the job.

A councillor is similar to a board member of a corporation. Councillors set the direction for operations, oversee the finances and double check proper process is being followed. The broad range of services provided by council requires councillors to acquire a commensurate broad understanding across all activities. Every year, each councillor is allocated a subset of council operations on which to concentrate and learn. Rotation of these portfolios of responsibilities enables the councillors, as a group, to enhance their knowledge across the board and make better decisions.

A problem with the current council has been that we allowed councillors to stick with portfolio areas in which they felt comfortable rather than challenging each other to expand our knowledge. I was guilty, having accepted the Governance and Finance role so often that some others had little idea of procedure nor key considerations of budgets, rates and rating strategies. There is also the danger that a councillor can become so focused on one area that they start to believe they are directly responsible for operations in that area which is contrary to their role and to the Local Government Act.

So, I would encourage everyone in their assessment of candidates to take time to gain an insight into how well a candidate

can assimilate, and learn from, new ideas and knowledge and how well they can communicate their experience or ideas.

John Walsh, Yarck

Council election

I HAVE requested that this Letter to the Editor be published anonymously. I do not represent the views of my ward, am not contesting a seat in this upcoming election and have never served on any council. I am 'Jo Citizen' doing my due diligence to ensure my vote counts towards the running of our shire for the next four years.

I have scrutinised each of the 15 candidates responses to the four questions posed.

Question one: Biography. Hubris, rhetoric and padding aside I looked to what each candidate gives back to their community as volunteering was highest on my agenda. A number of candidates made no mention of this. Perhaps they forgot? In no order, lived experience, qualifications and business acumen are essential but only represents a small percentage of 'must' skills to fulfill the role of a competent councillor who represents me.

Question two: Political affiliations. The candidates who identified as Libertarian lost my vote. How can you represent me in the third tier of government when your party's philosophy is 'live your life your way'? You are representing your ward not yourself. The question going forward should be are you or have you ever been a member of a political party? If so, name them and when?

Question three: Concerns and goals. Potential councillors who canvass using 'Motherhood' statement lose my vote. Frankly, some of the statements that I read, such as "spending public money wisely," flies in the face of what our immediate past councillors have been doing. "Have faith that council will encourage young families." They are already doing this. In my opinion as a 'Jo Murrindindi Citizen' under Damien's

tutelage, dollars have been allocated and spent wisely and I would argue that in my ward all new families are welcomed and encouraged to be active participants in volunteering, etcetera.

Compare the Murrindindi versus Whitehorse population, 15,300 versus 178,500, with commensurate annual rates (approximately \$2000 per annum). Do the maths and decide for yourself if our council has been fiscally responsible. You will be surprised at how well they have been able to divide the 'loaves and fishes'.

Question four: Vision. My vision is for the elected councillors to be out and about, get to know your community by rolling up your sleeves and being present. Turning up to a council meeting monthly and making decisions on my behalf won't cut it if you do not communicate effectively. This is not posting something on social media. Many of us will or do not use social media. Let me know what you have done for me at each council meeting. Make a verbal report if you are present at the council meeting, or a written report in absentia. I watch the UGFM cast and scrutinise the synopsis in the *Standard's* publication monthly. Your performance or lack thereof counts towards my evaluation of your representation on my behalf.

Lastly, as we each cast our vote ask yourself if it passes the 'smell test'? If it's 'off' throw it out.

Name and address supplied but withheld by request

Indi supporting Hamas

IT'S bad enough watching our major city, Melbourne, become a cross between 1930s Berlin and present day Sana'a with militant protests daily supporting the destruction of Israel without our elected MP for Indi supporting a terror organisation.

Continued Page 4

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.



The Yea Chronicle

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- Alexandra FoodWorks
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RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon D/S	12.00pm Mon	2.53	steady	below minor
Rubicon River at Rubicon	12.00pm Mon	0.58	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	11.53am Mon	0.75	steady	below minor
Home Creek at Yarck	12.00pm Mon	0.19	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	10.28am Mon	0.58	steady	below minor
Yea River at Yea GV Water PS	11.22am Mon	0.75	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	12.00pm Mon	4.55	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	12.00pm Mon	0.54	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Trawool	12.00pm Mon	2.47	steady	below minor
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	12.00pm Mon	0.32	steady	below minor
Goulburn River at Seymour	12.00pm Mon	2.56	steady	below minor
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	12.11pm Mon	1.21	steady	

**ISSUED AT 12.15PM ON MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2024



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

October 2 - October 8, 2024

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY	LOW	HIGH	DAY	LOW	HIGH
Wednesday	7	21	Wednesday	7	22
Thursday	12	24	Thursday	13	24
Friday	10	18	Friday	10	19
Saturday	11	18	Saturday	11	19
Sunday	11	20	Sunday	10	21
Monday	6	18	Monday	6	19
Tuesday	5	16	Tuesday	5	17



DISTRICT RAINFALL

Alexandra	8mm
Buxton	12mm
Eildon (AWS)	10mm
Flowerdale	7mm
Jamieson	12mm
Kinglake	11mm
Lake Eildon	13mm
Mansfield	0.6mm
Taggerty	11mm
Yarck	7mm
Yea	6mm

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

Height above sea level this week	285.57m
Capacity as at 9am Monday	87.1%
Metres below full supply	3.33m
Daily inflow	2000ML
Release	8750ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change)	92.4%

The Yea Chronicle

DEADLINES

Real Estate	Thursday 5pm
Trades & Services	Thursday noon
Early General News	Thursday 5pm
Classifieds	Monday noon
Editorial	Monday 9am
Sports Editorial	Monday 10am
Letters to the Editor	Monday 9am
Thumbs up/down	Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office on

5772 1002 or

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Foundation Murrindindi announces grant recipients

LAST week Foundation Murrindindi announced the successful grant recipients of the recent Connecting Communities Grant Round. The following organisations and initiatives received support to locally deliver projects that foster community connections; Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House with their volunteer appreciation event, Murrindindi Carers Group for the Carers Christmas gathering, Yea Community House with the youth movie nights, Kinglake Country Womens Association for Light up Kinglake at Christmas, Flowerdale Community-House's Community Christmas Lunch, Murrindindi East U3A with their Seniors week events and movie screening, and The Flowerdale Sports Club Inc for Mini Golf.

Sudden changes to health transport

ON Thursday, September 26, Marie Bristow raised concerns on Facebook, saying that just a day earlier, local patients receiving dialysis at Seymour had been advised that they would no longer have transport to and from their treatment paid for through Non-Emergency Patient Transport, run by Ambulance Victoria.

Marie said that without the support, people needing the treatment from Alexandra would need to pay almost \$350 for each return trip in taxi if family and friends or volunteer drivers are not available, and they need treatment three times each week, for three to five hours each. This is obviously untenable for people on pensions or similar.

It's understood that the changes may also impact people receiving cancer treatments or transplant treatments, if they don't meet the criteria determined by Ambulance Victoria.

This tightening of the rules is likely to have an enormous impact on patients, particularly those living in regional areas, away from large hospitals.

Ambulance Victoria were contacted about the issue. Executive Director Specialist Operations and Coordination (Acting), Michael Georgiou said, "There has been no change to eligibility for NEPT. These rules ensure it's available for those who need clinical care during transport and help ambulance services focus on the sickest Victorians first.

"Each time NEPT is used for someone who doesn't need clinical care, it puts extra pressure on paramedics and we're working with health services to ensure bookings follow the rules and to share other transport options, like public transport, taxis, or community services."

Ambulance Victoria also advised that Non-Emergency Patient Transport (NEPT) is for patients who require clinical monitoring or supervision during transport, but do not require an emergency ambulance. To ensure NEPT can support those who need the service, eligibility criteria will enforce existing NEPT Regulations from Monday, September 30. This means any bookings that do not meet this criteria will no longer be accepted.

They added that this will help Ambulance Victoria to significantly reduce the strain on air and road ambulances, and ensure that NEPT services can continue to meet the needs of the growing Victorian community, while also improving overall ambulance availability.

It should be noted that locally, patients have been using taxis rather than NEPT ambulances, reimbursed through the program.

Ambulance Victoria said that there has been a significant 25 per cent increase in demand for NEPT since 2019, meaning at times Ambulance Victoria has needed to use emergency vehicles for these non-emergency trips, to help meet demand. Recent analysis of these bookings shows that at least one in 10 patients currently accessing NEPT resources don't meet the existing criteria, because they don't need clinical monitoring or supervision for their travel and could use alternative transport options.

Criteria to qualify for the use of NEPT services includes: The patient must require active clinical monitoring, care or supervision during transport provided by either a paramedic, health professional or qualified Patient Transport Officer or Attendant; and the transport must have been authorised by an appropriate health professional, require the use of specialised medical equipment contained within the vehicle, or require the clinical skill levels and qualifications of the staff in the vehicle, or have an illness or a disability that makes it impractical to use any other form of transport, for example, severe immobility or disorientation.

Bookings that do not meet the criteria for NEPT will no longer be provided transport, including taxis.

AV said they have been working with health services to communicate these changes with their patients so that they can explore alternative transport options.

The Department of Health were also contacted but their response was very similar to the one received from Ambulance Victoria.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish commented, "I would expect that non-emergency patient transport be arranged, so people aren't left in the lurch. It should be at the very least, especially with the service ending so quickly after patients were informed.

"Taxis are prohibitive and it is difficult to find someone to commit to driving that distance several times a week."

It's understood that members of the community have begun discussions to develop workarounds and to hopefully create positive outcomes for the people impacted by this change.



THUMBS DOWN: To think that a privately owned Italian sustainable energy company is allowed to come into our country, litter its pristine, scenic rural areas with hundreds of monstrous wind turbines and associated infrastructure, and take the money and run.

THUMBS DOWN: To council for not doing something about the longtime potholed section of the Goulburn Valley Highway as it enters Yea's High Street from the east.

THUMBS UP: To those maintaining Yea township's lawn areas to include the edging which was sorely needed. They are looking a treat.

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

Council pens letter to minister

ON Monday, September 30, Murrindindi Shire Council wrote to Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister for Health, Health Infrastructure and Ambulance Services, seeking urgent clarification regarding community concerns about the withdrawal of transport services for patients requiring dialysis, cancer treatment and other critical care.

This follows feedback that transport to Seymour for dialysis treatment, a lifeline for patients, was discontinued on September 30.

Council said that the issue is of significant concern to the community, which already experiences a higher incidence of chronic health conditions, including kidney disease, compared to the

Victorian average. Living in Murrindindi Shire should not impede access to critical public health services.

Council is eager to work with the government to explore opportunities for expanding health services within the shire, including the possibility of providing dialysis locally. This would alleviate the financial and logistical burden of transport while also addressing the challenges of distance and the lack of public transport. Reducing these barriers would improve early diagnosis and treatment, preventing the progression of chronic conditions that can worsen due to delayed care.

Council will continue to advocate for the expansion and continuity of essential healthcare support.

Darren Gilbert
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SATURDAY
26 OCTOBER 2024



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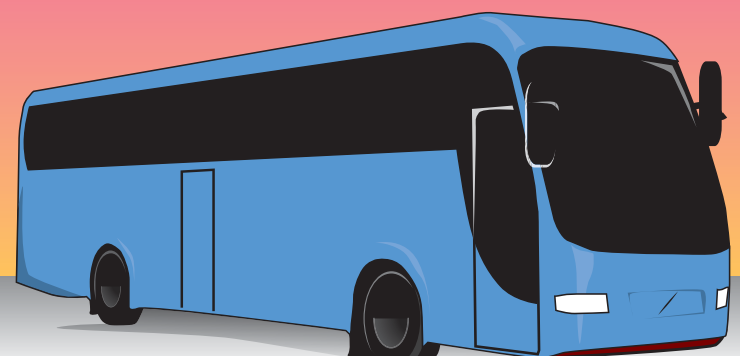
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- \$15pp or \$10pp for concession card holders
- Children 16 and under FREE
- Gates open at noon ~ first race at 1.15pm



BOOKINGS: country.racing.com/alexandra



Take the bus to the Alexandra Races Cox Plate Day October 26



3 Routes; Eildon, Marysville or Yea.

Bookings essential country.racing.com/alexandra

\$10 return, Children 15 and under Free.
Everyone, even children, must have a reserved seat





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COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges
WEEKLY
Thu Town Club, RSL Hall, 6-8pm. Ph 5797 2179
Sun AA Anglican Church, Alexandra 7pm PH 0402 428 086
MONTHLY
1st Mon St Luke's Seniors, St Lukes Hall, Ph Jenny 0407 972 099
1st Thu Yea Hospital/Rosebank Aux 2pm. Ph 5797 3057

Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH
Cnr Bald Spur/Whittlesea Kinglake Rds, Sunday Services, 8.30am Communion.
Minister: Rev. Ruwan Palapathwala 0458 113 099
ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEa
Sunday Service time 11am
Prayerful Reflection - held each Tuesday, 10am to 11am - all welcome
CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEa
Parish Priest, Father Jose Mathew 0459 402 547
CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE
Fr Martin Ashe, Parish Priest Ph 9717 6482
SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEa
Station Street Yea Sunday Service 11.15am
UNITING CHURCH
1st and 3rd Sundays 9am, 1050 Main Road, Kinglake West. 9716 2330

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.

Check this edition for the Free lunches for seniors in October throughout the shire.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Thornton Online clearing sale commencing at noon. Concluding Monday, October 7 at noon. Inspection Wednesday, October 2, 10am-2pm. Contact Embling Rural for full details 0418 266 038.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Alexandra Museum - Station Street. Heritage Machinery Festival, Saturday and Sunday 9am-3pm. Steam train rides, working stationary engines, vintage cars, blacksmith and more. For more information contact Peter 0479 066 221 or email alexandra.rally@yahoo.com

Darren Gilbert Open Studio, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm each day. 5 Giffard Street, Yea. Open for inspections on other days by arrangement.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Gather and network - Eildon and Lake Eildon. Free business breakfast event at Cafe 501 - Jerusalem Creek Road, Eildon 7.30-9am. Book now at murrindindifoodandwine.org.au

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Diabetes community screening at Eildon Community Centre, High Street, Eildon. 10am-noon. Onsite diabetes screening and health checks. Walks in only, no booking required. For further information contact Melissa or Angel at Alexandra District Health 5772 0900.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Eildon Golf Club AGM will be held at 6pm at the golf club. For more details email rod.taylor.rmt@gmail.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Round 13 Yea Skate Park, skate, scooter, BMX, roller skate. Registration and warm up 10.30am. Competition starts 11am. All ages event. No drugs, alcohol, cigarette and vape free.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Eildon Action AGM will be held at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Alexandra Race Club Cox Plate Day. Music, tote and bookies, \$15 per person. Children under 16 free. \$10 for Concession Card holders. First race at 1.15pm. There will be a bus available bookings essential country. racing.com/Alexandra.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Alexandra and District Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held at 10am at Briggs Oval.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

Embassy of Ideas AGM will be held at 6pm at 3 Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

Check for unclaimed superannuation

AUSTRALIANS are currently missing more than \$17.8 billion in lost and unclaimed superannuation.

Latest data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) has revealed many Australians have forgotten to update their contact details so their super fund can't find them.

Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosenzweig said the ATO wants to reunite people with their lost and unclaimed super.

"Since 2021, the ATO has reunited almost \$6.4 billion of unclaimed super with its owners. But there is still more than \$17.8 billion waiting to be found," Ms Rosenzweig said.

"If you've changed job, moved house or simply forgotten to update your details, you may have lost or unclaimed super.

"We're urging Australians to check if some of the \$17.8 billion in lost and unclaimed super belongs to them. Even if you've retired

you could have lost or unclaimed super. The ATO is holding \$471 million on behalf of people aged 65 plus.

"Superannuation is a key part of your retirement, and we want to make sure Australians are claiming the investment they've worked for," Ms Rosenzweig said.

The first step is checking your super account details, either online or by contacting your fund.

The ATO's five step Super Health Check can help you get your super back where it belongs in just a couple of minutes. All you need to do is; confirm your contact details, check super balances and employer contributions, look for lost and unclaimed super, find multiple accounts and consider consolidating, and confirm nominated beneficiaries.

For more information visit Super Health Check on the ATO website.



FREE LUNCHES FOR SENIORS IN OCTOBER

Calling all community members aged 60 and over! In recognition of Seniors Festival in October, Council is hosting free lunches for you to promote active ageing and social participation. Hear from guest speakers and enjoy a performance by local musician Steve Paix!

- Event details:
- Tuesday 22 October in Kinglake from 12 noon to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 24 October in Marysville from 12 noon to 2.30 pm
- Wednesday 30 October in Yea from 12 noon to 2.30 pm
- Thursday 31 October in Alexandra from 12 noon to 2.30 pm

Bookings are essential.

Please visit theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/seniors2024 or contact Council's Access and Inclusion Officer, Andrew Langley on 5772 0333. Grab a friend, come on your own, just don't miss out - last year these events were a big hit!

Registrations close 12 noon on Monday 14 October for catering (or sooner if sold out).



Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 2

I have written to Helen Haines twice about my concern Australia is sending money to UNRWA, an education organisation that is UN endorsed but controlled by Hamas. Each time I wrote a reply would come back six weeks later saying how important it was to support education in Palestine. Education, what a positive word until you realise every aspect of their education system is based on antisemitism, anti USA and anti Western countries. The donations go to Hamas so the amount that actually gets spent on education is debatable. Given there are four Palestinian billionaires living in Qatar siphoning off huge amounts of aid money while the whole of Gaza was constructed to be an underground bunker for the sole purpose of destroying its neighbour, the answer to that is minimal. So our Federal Government has donated eighty million dollars to UNRWA and other Hamas causes, one reason I wouldn't vote Labour but Helen Haines is an Independent, so what has possessed her to blindly support Hamas. Alexandra is not a town that supports violence and terror. Our sitting MP needs to get that message. Tom Collins, Alexandra

Concerns raised about the CFAs ageing fleet

YEA Group Officer for the Murrindindi CFA Group and Captain of Limestone Brigade, Paul Stanley, has expressed his concerns about the ageing truck fleet in Murrindindi Shire.

He said that the CFA currently have 193 tankers aged over 30 years, adding that they are all in rural fire stations. He said, "As I tried to explain to Jaclyn Symes, bushfire start in the bush. It's all right giving all these fancy tankers and equipment to people on the periphery of Melbourne, but that's where their votes are."

He said, "My concern about the older tankers, is that even though when we're at a fire, we fight off the back of a truck. But we also, with the old tankers, we have to travel to and return from on the back of a truck. We go out in minus five degrees here to road accidents during winter, and we go out at 40 plus degrees in summer and we're on tankers that really don't comply with the emission control now. Before we even get to a fire, we've usually sucked in a lot of exhaust fumes, a lot of dust and a lot of heat. And then we've got to come home in it."

"If we get called out at 3pm, we're guaranteed to be out for 15 hours, until 8am the next morning, minimum. And that's with nothing, no food, nothing... We're just volunteers," he said.

If something happens on the back of one of those trucks, such as a tree falling down on the truck the way to a fire, Mr Stanley believes that the people on the back are going to lose their legs or at worst, they'll die. He's told politicians that they will end up standing in front of a coroner or grieving family members

over such a situation, "trying to explain why we are still driving around on trucks that are not fit for purpose in 2024. They might have been fit for purpose 32 years ago, but they're not fit anymore."

Mr Stanley believes that while previously, there was the aim of having no trucks over 25 years of age, now "It's while they're roadworthy."

He continued, "There are classes of brigade. Limestone is a class one brigade, which is just the straight rural. We fight bushfires, even though we we're the second call for Yea urban, and we also turn out the house fires and the car fires and accidents but we're just a class one brigade. So if you're a class one or class two brigade, you're sort of considered further down the pecking order. You don't get what other brigades closer to Melbourne get."

In terms of maximum truck ages, Mr Stanley said, "I think originally it was 15 years many years ago. Then it went to 20. Then it went to 25. And now it's as long as the vehicle is roadworthy. They say that they're checked for safety every year, but nobody can check a truck to attend every single type of incident on a bush fire, because they're all different."

"As Jacqueline Symes says, 'Well, I'd love to have you know, \$600 million to change all these trucks over, but unfortunately I haven't got it.'"

In the CFA annual report for 2022/23, it says, "The delivery of 50 new crew cab tankers is well underway with 17 completed by June 2023. These vehicles are replacing single cab tankers, which will eliminate

the need for crew to be on the back while travelling to and from an incident. The remaining tankers should be completed by May 2024."

Mr Stanley laughed at the quote.

He said, "My biggest concern is when I send one of my crews out onto the fire ground, I want to make sure they're going to come home. Otherwise, forgetting the fact that even if I had done everything right, I've got to live with it if something happens to someone. And that's why I'm so adamant that they should not be on the back of truck."

"The only thing we can now do, we won't let them ride to fires on the back of trucks. We put them in what they call a forward command vehicle, which is just a five seat utility that we have in the station and we would drive them to the fire scene, and then get on the truck once they get to the fire ground, but that's we shouldn't have to do that."

"The 40 trucks that they've originally spoken about just aren't happening. I think the last time I researched it, which was about six or eight months ago, they only had four on the production line. I mean, you're talking nearly \$250,000 a truck, and the government's got to fund it," he said.

He commented that the Flowerdale fire was the biggest fire in the state two years ago, but we haven't had any major fires in the last four or five years, and therefore the government doesn't want to spend any money on it. He said that they are however spending on Fire Rescue Victoria, which cost \$1 billion to run last year.

There's a huge amount goes in the Fire Services Levy as well, with some farmers paying a 77 per cent increase in their Fire Services Levy in the last year. "That money is not coming back to the CFA," Mr Stanley said. "If anything, we're getting our budget cut."

He's deeply concerned about volunteer numbers, and said that they just don't have the younger people coming through. "Volunteerism has changed a hell of a lot over the last 10 years. Kids would rather sit in front of the TV shooting people rather than coming out and getting outside the fresh air," he said, adding that it's a situation which doesn't just impact the CFA.

"I don't know what the future of the CFA is I really don't. Not in rural areas," he said.

In the Yea Group, Mr Stanley believes that six out of the 12 trucks are single cab, known as 24Ds. He was uncertain of the numbers on the Alexandra side.

The Limestone Brigade recently received Buxton CFA's 25 year old 24D tanker as their new tanker, replacing the 32 year old one.

Mr Stanley said, "Ours was really starting to struggle. If we were going up the hill with our lights and sirens on, someone on a push bike could overtake us."

On Wednesday, September 18, the CFA announced new tankers for Euroa, Shepparton, Numurkah and Nathalia.

When contacted about whether there would be new tankers coming for Murrindindi Shire's brigades, a CFA spokesperson simply said, "CFA allocates new appliances based on a statewide prioritisation."

Nationals say regions left in the dark over wind turbine fire safety

THE Nationals are saying that the safety of regional communities is being placed at risk as it is revealed the Victorian Government's energy regulator has no records of internal fire suppression equipment being installed in any of Victoria's nearly 1500 wind turbines.

The majority of Victoria's wind farm turbines are located in some of the state's most fire prone areas, with some future projects set to be located in timber plantations.

The Nationals say that with another 900 turbines in the pipeline across regional Victoria, under-resourced CFA volunteers have been left in the dark as to which of them pose the greater fire risk to their local communities. A wind turbine fire near Portland in June this year had to be left to burn, as there is no equipment available to fight fires at such heights. A high-intensity fire 200 metres in the air can spray burning oil and fiberglass kilometres in certain conditions. While there have only been about three turbine

fires in Victoria to date, the risk increases as ageing wind turbines degrade.

Leaders in the wind industry have confirmed that internal fire suppression equipment is optional and are not compulsory for turbines in Victoria.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Richard Riordan, said, "Regional fire safety should not be optional. The government is fast tracking the wind industry in regional Victoria but failing to ensure fire safety standards keep pace."

"The Allan Government must immediately undertake a full audit of all turbines and immediately inform regional communities of the relevant risk."

Shadow Minister for Energy, Affordability and Security, David Davis, added, "The Allan Labor Government must take responsibility for the fire safety of wind turbines across the state and ensure energy safety regulations are unequivocal and strong. They must ensure existing wind turbines are audited and verified, particularly as wind farms age."

Kim Travers: Candidate for King Parrot Ward

Advertorial

KIM Travers running for King Parrot ward in the upcoming Murrindindi Shire Council election. "King Parrot does have a nice ring to it but is not the reason I am running as a candidate in King Parrot Ward," Ms Travers said.

Kim lives in the area and volunteers for the local community. You can find her most Sundays at the Flowerdale Op Shop, or at a local barefoot bowls that she helps to organise through the sports board.

She wants the King Parrot corner of the shire to be lifted up, with a fairer access to services and infrastructure. She's met many talented people in the ward and said it has been a real experience talking to locals and seeing the span from significant wealth to genuine struggle.

She said, "The range of occupations and talent and skill that lies in our small ward is so full of potential. Getting that pool of experience and skills into council strategy and decision-making is key."

"You need a councilor who is at hand listening, advocating and reporting back directly to you. Being close to hand and accountable will make all the difference to locals here."

"I've read that our local male King Parrot is the only Australian bird with an entirely red head. I didn't know this until I moved into this corner of Murrindindi. If you want a true local as your representative you can vote for Kim Travers in the October elections."

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Council Elections October 2024



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Murrindindi Shire Council September meeting

THE September meeting of Murrindindi Shire Council was held on September 25. It was the last meeting of the current council prior to the election. Only four councillors were present at the meeting, Crs Gallagher, McAulay, Walsh and Lording. Apologies were received from Crs Carpenter, Gerencser and Haslam.

In open forum, Kathryn Dickie from Glenburn asked council to support and advocate on their behalf to the Department of Transport and Planning in reducing the speed limit on West Bridge Road and Glenburn-Kinglake Road from 80km/h and 100km/h to 60km/h, for the safety and well being of the community. She said that high powered vehicles often use the road as a track, and that the frequent turns means that it's not possible to travel at 100km/h, and they often veer into oncoming traffic. Wildlife is also at risk. It's also pedestrians, including school children, at risk as there are no footpaths. She said that the proposal has "100 per cent backing from the community," and that the car club organisers are also in support.

Community and Development Group reports

The findings report was presented by Andrew Paxton, outlining progress on the 2021-2025 Council Plan, and which may help to guide the development of the next plan. It will help the new council to better understand the community's aspirations. The engagement process resulted in over 350 pieces of feedback. Council voted to note the findings, and thanked the community participants for their feedback.

Financial and Performance statements

The report presents the draft 2023/24 Annual Financial Statements and Performance Statement for consideration and adoption in principle. These statements were reviewed by council's Audit and Risk Committee and the committee has also recommended in principle approval by council.

This financial year, there was an operating deficit of \$1.6 million, which was a \$2.7 million unfavourable variance compared with the original adopted budget. Mr Chesworth explained that this was mainly due to increases in expenditure on contractors and materials associated with flood recovery activity, and

the need to complete projects carried forward from the previous year. It was also due to temporary filling of staff vacancies.

Another major contributor was the timing of the Commonwealth Government's financial assistance grants. Council had budgeted to receive \$4.9 million in June, but it was received a month later, in July, pushing it into the new financial year. This was offset by the receipt of \$4.7 million in emergency flood recovery funding (non capital) and increased capital funding of \$1.18 million Roads to Recovery funding, both of which were not in the original adopted budget.

According to the report, council experienced a decline in the adjusted underlying deficit falling from minus eight per cent to minus 16 per cent, which is a result of the increased expenditure described above, and additional (non-budgeted) capital grants received during the year which increased the value of the capital grants that needed to be removed from the underlying result calculation. Continuous underlying deficits can result in a reduction in council's financial position and sustainability over the longer term and this will need to remain a focus in council's longer term financial strategy.

Mr Chesworth asked that the officer recommendation be updated to state that the adoption of the statement is subject to further minor adjustments due to the Landfill Rehabilitation Provision from non-current to current liability due to works planned for 2024/5. Councillors endorsed this.

In comments, Cr Lording said that while he was disappointed by the deficit, a lot of things happen during the year. Cr Walsh noted "the constant problem of trying to juggle services against the diminishing financial support base."

Audit and Risk Committee

The minutes and re-appointment of chair, Steve Schinck, were both approved by council.

Council's Road Advisory Group

The Road Advisory Group provided a summary of their deliberative engagement. Some of their recommendations have been implemented or are completed. These include that the Special Charge Scheme Policy be updated to ensure the scheme is

more equitable; continuing advocacy to the Department of Transport and Planning to lower speed limits particularly in high-risk areas; commencing the review of work practices to identify efficiencies in ensuring maximum time is spent on maintaining roads; and the rapid response and tree crew is now in operation ensuring that road maintenance crews are not being diverted to other urgent maintenance works. This was accepted by councillors.

Councillor Reports

Cr Lording provided no report, citing caretaker period.

Cr McAulay provided a calendar of events and commented on how spring is nearly here.

Cr Haslam provided a report via Cr Gallagher. She spoke about the licence to operate the new landfill, the education plan for the new four bin service, trees in the shire, council's sign-up to a renewables buying group, the summer road works planned, the Eildon Reserves redevelopment and asset management plans.

Cr Walsh spoke about the Greenhouse Alliance Conference in Melbourne with Cr Haslam. He also attended the MAV conference, and in both cases, used a council's electric vehicle. He encouraged the community in this regard. He said that he was pleased to see that there will be elections in all wards of the shire in the upcoming council election. He encouraged voters to find out more about what each candidate in their ward is proposing for the next four years. Do they know about council revenues and deficit budgets? What changes to services are they proposing if rate caps are less than the increases faced by council? Do they understand the rules and regulations under which councils operate? Will they meet your personal, local and shire objectives? Do they have enough time for the role? He thanked all who have stood for election and wished them all the best.

Cr Carpenter provided a report via Cr Gallagher. She commented on council's tree planting, the road grading program, line marking and roadside slashing.

Cr Gallagher spoke about the passing of Joan Collier aged 95, and her involvement with the Country Women's Association (CWA)

and Alexandra Show. Her husband Max passed away just seven weeks earlier and they are now reunited. He also spoke about the Grand Ponderosa Cup and the Goulburn Valley Suicide Awareness Group walk. He congratulated Gordon Simpson on his reappointment as president of the Alexandra and District Traders and Tourism Association and the executive group, and congratulated the First Alexandra Scout Group who shared the contributions and volunteer contributions. In addition, he congratulated the Alexandra Race Club on being awarded Country Picnic Racing Club of the Year and commented on the financial contribution the club makes to the area. He spoke about the community concerns about the Victorian Government's Land Taxes and Short Stay Levy and said that it is within council's sphere of interest but not in their direct control. Council officers have sought answers from the State Revenue Office (SRO). He recognised Jackie Ashe, Dan Crane and Sam Hicks for their work helping locals, and advised that there will be SRO information sessions upcoming. He mentioned the ABC's interest in council's advocacy efforts around the flood, and in Livia Bonazzi's presentation on the local government financial sustainability and challenges. He encouraged residents to engage in the forthcoming election process. At the recent Municipal Association of Victoria Conference, Cr Walsh was recognised with an award for his 10 years of service and received a Mayor Emeritus recognition. He added, "And then he put Raygun to shame on the dance floor."

CEO report

CEO Livia Bonazzi commented on the upcoming election and the rules around the election period, including not making major decisions or allocating significant resources. She said that both state and federal governments are conducting parallel inquiries into local government sustainability, and she had the privilege of presenting to the Victorian inquiry recently. The day after the council meeting, she attended the public hearing for the Federal inquiry. Murrindindi Shire has made substantial submissions to both inquiries, and said that she hopes for large scale reforms.

Murrindindi Shire Council postal election

My council, my vote

An election will be held for Murrindindi Shire Council.

Check the mail for your ballot pack

Ballot packs containing voting material will be mailed to enrolled voters from **Monday 7 October**.

This is a postal election only.

If you do not receive your ballot pack by **Tuesday 15 October** please visit vec.vic.gov.au to complete the online replacement form, or call **131 832** to arrange a replacement.

Candidates

Candidates who have nominated for election are listed in the ballot packs and at vec.vic.gov.au

A photo and candidate statement will also be included if provided by candidates. Responses to a candidate questionnaire, if provided, are available at vec.vic.gov.au

How to vote correctly

You must complete your ballot paper correctly for your vote to count. Put the number 1 in the box next to the candidate you want to see elected, then number all the other boxes in order of your choice. You must number **every box** and only use each number once.

How to return your ballot pack

Put your completed ballot paper in the ballot paper envelope, complete the declaration, then post it ASAP using the reply-paid envelope provided, or hand deliver it during election office hours to:

Murrindindi Shire Council Yea Office
15 The Semi Circle
Yea

Voting is compulsory

Voting is compulsory for all voters who were enrolled at 4 pm on Wednesday 7 August. This includes state-enrolled and council-enrolled voters.

If you don't vote and don't have a valid excuse, you may be fined.

Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand delivered by **6 pm Friday 25 October**.

State-enrolled voters can register for free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders at vec.vic.gov.au

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For enquiries in languages other than English:

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Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



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Influenza on the rise in Murrindindi

WINTER is behind us now but influenza is still on the rise. According to the Victorian Department of Health's *Surveillance of Notifiable Conditions in Victoria*, Murrindindi Shire has seen a considerable increase in influenza cases this year.

In the past 12 months, at the time of writing, the Murrindindi Shire has seen 142 cases of influenza and this year to date it's 129 cases. In 2023, a total of 79 cases of influenza were reported. The last time Murrindindi Shire saw numbers over 100 with influenza was back in 2019 with 101 cases.

Children have been suffering most from influenza in the Murrindindi Shire this year, with 21 cases being between the ages of zero to four years old, 12 cases from five to nine years old, and 18 cases from 10 to 14 years old.

Males have contracted influenza more than women, with 66 cases. Women had 62 cases, and no specified gender was one.

If you contract influenza, make sure that you get plenty of rest and drink lots of water. Stay at home to avoid spreading the disease.

To avoid catching the disease, practice good hygiene with coughs and sneezes. Cough or sneeze into your elbow rather than your hand. Try not to share cups, plates or cutlery as this can spread germs to others. Put all your tissues in the bin after use. Keep surfaces such as bench tops, phones, keyboards, doorhandles and light switches clean by using an antibacterial disinfectant. Wash your hands regularly with warm soapy water, or you can use sanitiser if water isn't available.

The use of antibiotics doesn't help combat the flu as it's caused by viruses, not bacterial infections. If at any time you are unsure about your symptoms visit your doctor or contact your urgent care centre, or the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

Have your say on Maternal and Child Health Services

THE Department of Health has launched a statewide survey to gather valuable feedback on the Victorian Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service, a free health service available for all Victorian families with children from birth to school age.

All parents, mothers, fathers, carers and families who have accessed Victorian MCH services in the past two years are invited to participate and share their experiences.

The survey encompasses all components of the MCH Service, these include the Universal MCH program including the 10 Key Ages and Stages visits, the Enhanced MCH Program, the Aboriginal MCH program and the 24 hour telephone support service, the MCH line.

Anonymous feedback gathered in the survey will provide valuable insights into what's working well and where improvements can be made, helping to better support Victorian children and families.

By sharing their experiences, families can directly shape the future of the service, ensuring it supports the health and wellbeing journeys of parents, carers and families in raising happy and healthy children.

The survey is available in 10 community languages, in addition to English. The survey is open until November 17. To read more and have your say visit engage.vic.gov.au

Kitchen gardens for older Victorians

THE Victorian Government is brightening the lives of Victorians living in Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services (PSRACS) with \$1.68 million in grants funded to improve or construct kitchen gardens.

More than 70 aged care services have received funding through the second round of the *Public Sector Residential Aged Care Services (PSRACS) and Community Kitchen Garden Initiative*.

Rosebank Hostel and Rosebank Nursing Home operated by Yea and District Memorial Hospital residents have received \$5000 for minor enhancements to improve the garden funded in round one of PSRACS.

The grants program was established in 2021 following a recommendation from the *Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety*, that called for aged care services to place a greater emphasis on improving community engagement, reducing social isolation, and enhancing resident wellbeing.

The goals and design of the gardens are decided by the residents of the aged care service giving them the autonomy to prepare and enjoy the food they have grown, with the social aspect of maintaining these gardens also playing an important role in strengthening the connections of residents.

The program was launched in 2021 and was designed to support residents to age well through community connection, accessible outdoor spaces and lifestyle programs to keep people active, with the first round delivering significant and tangible benefits to health and wellbeing of residents across Victoria's PSRACS.

Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt said, "We know that gardening is beneficial for both physical and mental health, and these grants are helping older Victorians keep up a hobby they love and enjoy good company, all while receiving the aged care they need. Victoria is one of the only states in the country providing a public option for aged care, and we're proud that we continue to deliver initiatives that enhance the quality-of-care older Victorians deserve."

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes added, "Gardening brings so many health benefits, and these grants are helping older members in our local communities stay active and connected with each other while getting the aged care support they rely on."



Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes and Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt, at an aged care event earlier in the year. -S

VNPA calls for deer pest classification

THE Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) has lead the creation of a letter calling for the unprotection of feral deer, with the desire for them to instead be listed as a pest.

This would bring the animal into alignment with other pests, including foxes and rabbits, allowing for greater population control measures.

Addressed to Minister for Environment and Outdoor Recreation, Steve Dimopoulos, and Minister for Agriculture, Ros Spence, the letter has over 100 signatures, including academics, land managers, and conservation groups.

The letter reads, "Stop protecting feral deer. A few deer released 150 years ago for game have now become a large uncontained and uncontrolled feral population. Feral deer must be removed from the *Wildlife Act 1975* to enable them to be dealt with as an established pest animal, no longer a game animal.

"We strongly urge you [Ministers in the Victorian Government] to take the opportunity to amend both the *Wildlife Act 1975* while it is under statutory review, and subsequently recognise all feral deer as established pest species under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*."

The letter also gives a depiction of the cost of not reigning in the feral deer population.

"Nationally, a recent study found that the cost of feral deer to agriculture is \$69 million annually. Frontier Economics found that over the next 30 years the losses in agriculture in Victoria due to feral deer impacts will be up to \$500 million.

"Declaring deer a pest would hardly be a burden for farmers any more than for declared pests such as feral pigs, foxes or rabbits."

Jordan Crook, from the VNPA, told *The Guardian* that the Victorian deer population is a problem, and needs to be dealt with.

"Feral deer are spreading across the state at a rapid rate, destroying critical habitat for threatened species such as rainforests and alpine bogs, and starting to heavily impact



A wild deer. -Simon Rizzi

agricultural production and increasingly becoming a road hazard.

"It's time to list feral deer as a pest, invest in effective and science-based control, and where possible, eradicate feral deer populations," Mr Crook said.

The Australian Deer Association (ADA) has a different opinion on classifying deer as a pest. They believe that feral deer being listed as game is the right option going into the future, with hunters able to manage the population.

"The concept that wild deer are protected in Victoria when they can be hunted up to 365 days a year is divorced from reality," an ADA spokesperson said.

"The government and its agencies go to great lengths to explain that game status does not impact the management of wild deer.

"Game status provides the framework for regulating the 50,000 licenced deer hunters in the state, who contribute close to 250 million dollars to the Victorian economy annually.

"Recreational deer hunters remove and consume the most wild deer in the landscape, game status provides access to public land to enable them to do this."

To read the VNPA letter to parliament in full, visit vnpa.org.au/joint-letter-stop-protecting-feral-deer/

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ON THE LAND

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Grant funding for communities to fight pests and weeds

THE Victorian Government is investing an additional \$780,500 in support for community groups to protect their local environment, industries and cultural heritage from biosecurity threats.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence has opened the third round of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program, which provides community groups funding to deliver projects that educate, strengthen relationships and promote collaboration to manage established weeds and pest animals at a local level over a two year period.

“We’re proud to be helping Victorian communities to play an active role in managing invasive pests and weeds at a

local level that affect our environment,” Ms Spence said.

Grants of between \$10,000 and \$50,000 are available to a wide range of agricultural and environmental not-for-profit organisations, including Landcare groups and networks.

This is on top of \$250,000 made available to Victoria’s four Community Pest Management Groups, in the Victorian Blackberry Taskforce, the Victorian Gorse Taskforce, the Victorian Rabbit Action Network and the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, to expand their reach and strengthen partnerships with local communities.

The Partnerships Against Pests grants program has been embraced by Victorian

community groups which have used the funding to help strengthen efforts to reduce the impact of invasive weeds and pests on Victorian landscapes.

The Victorian Invasive Pest Advisory Board Chair, Andrew Maclean, voiced his support for the grant funding.

“The Victorian Invasive Pests Advisory Board welcomes the third round of the Partnerships Against Pests grants and the extension of project tenures to include two-year projects. Funding projects for longer will enable community groups to design and deliver innovative and sustainable established invasive species projects,” Mr Maclean said.

An example of this from round two of the program is a \$30,000 grant for Bush Heritage Australia, in partnership with DJANDAK share the story about how they successfully removed wheel cactus at Buckrabanyule, a sacred site for the Dja Dja Wurrung people and wider Kulin Nation.

The Partnerships Against Pests funding is being used to promote this story of ‘Country, cactus and combating invasives’, so that a much wider audience can learn from their collaboration.

For details about the Partnerships Against Pests grants program and webinar visit, agriculture.vic.gov.au

Update on dingo conservation and management

THE Victorian Government is setting out the future of dingo conservation and management in Victoria and supporting farmers with an additional \$2 million investment into non-lethal dingo controls and population research.

Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, and Minister for Agriculture, Ros Spence, recently announced the continuation of the dingo unprotection order in north east and eastern Victoria, which permits the control of dingoes on private land and along the boundaries of public land until January 1, 2028.

“We are striking the right balance between protecting our vulnerable dingo populations while giving farmers the ability to protect their livestock, and we will regularly engage

to ensure settings continue to achieve this balance,” Mr Dimopoulos said.

“We’re supporting Traditional Owners to care for Country, and providing more resources to analyse statewide dingo population trends and effective conservation management measures.”

Dingoes will continue to be protected in the north west of the state where the dingo population is critically low. Lethal controls will not be permitted on private or public land in the north west. There is little evidence that dingoes are present in large numbers in these parts of the state.

To support farmers to protect their livestock the state government is investing more than \$2 million to undertake dingo monitoring and

support for north west farmers to adopting non-lethal dingo management strategies.

“Renewing the unprotection order gives stability and certainty to livestock producers in the north east and eastern Victoria, enabling them to continue to protect their livestock from dingo predation,” Ms Spence said.

“We’re supporting our north west farmers with a \$2 million package into non-lethal dingo management strategies to protect their livestock and future.”

The new support package will fund trials, research and on-ground advice on non-lethal dingo management strategies that minimise the risk of livestock predation in the north west, building on the work already underway as part of the \$550,000 North West Vertebrate Pest Management program announced in March this year.

The Wild Dog Management Program will be expanded to include extra supports for farmers through targeted controls of a wider range of vertebrates including deer, foxes, pigs and wild cats and to reflect this expansion, will be renamed the Vertebrate Species Management Program.

The wild dog component of the Victorian Fox and Wild Dog Bounty program will cease, with the final opportunity to submit wild dog parts at Maffra on October 16. The bounty for foxes will increase from \$10 to \$13 per scalp until June 30, 2025.

The remaking of the new dingo unprotection order follows a review of dingo conservation and management with feedback from Traditional Owners, farmers and landholders alongside scientific research.

For more details about the order visit wildlife.vic.gov.au and for farmers support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au



The dingo unprotection order has been extended. -S

Livestock predation survey preliminary results

PRELIMINARY results from Agriculture Victoria’s recent livestock predation survey will be discussed at targeted dingo conservation and management consultation activities being held across the state.

More than 500 Victorian livestock producers responded to the survey issued in July, providing valuable information about the levels and frequency of livestock attacks on their properties, the effectiveness of control methods and the impact of livestock predation on farmers and their local communities.

The insights collected through the survey will be considered alongside scientific research, conversations and perspectives from Traditional Owners, environmental and agricultural groups, and feedback collected through stakeholder engagement activities as part of Victoria’s review of its approach to dingo conservation and management.

Of the 500 survey respondents, approximately 72 per cent were located in eastern Victoria, three per cent in the north west.

The survey showed that livestock predation is an ongoing concern to sheep farmers whose properties border public land.

Just over half of the survey respondents reported incidents of livestock being maimed or killed by a wild dog or dingo in the past five years.

Valuable insights into the methods of control being used to manage predation were revealed through the survey.

Most producers (84 per cent) said they were using a mix of lethal and non-lethal control methods to manage predation with the most common forms of control methods being shooting, 1080 ground baiting, trapping, farm hygiene, exclusion fencing and guardian animals.

Agriculture Victoria is grateful to the hundreds of producers who took the time to take part in the survey.

Having up-to-date insights and perspectives from producers in relation to livestock predation on private properties across the state is an important input to Victoria’s dingo conservation and management review.

The survey results will continue to be analysed to help build Agriculture Victoria’s understanding of producer’ perspectives on this complex issue.

For more information about consultation sessions being held across Victoria visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dingoreview

SEPTEMBER PHOTO COMPETITION

WINNER

‘SPRING FOLIAGE’ September competition winner is the Elms-Smith family - Alexandra.



\$50 voucher kindly sponsored by



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Submit your photo entry to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon October 24, for your chance to win a \$50 gift voucher from Dindi Country Clothing in Alexandra.

The October theme is “TRANSPORTATION”.

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

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 4, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

OCTOBER 11, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

NOVEMBER 1, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

NOVEMBER 8, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

NOVEMBER 22, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

NOVEMBER 29, Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

DECEMBER 6, Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale

DECEMBER 13, Yea Saleyards

Store Sale

JANUARY 10, 2025 Yea Saleyards

Weaner Sale



Let's eat, it's our treat

Variety of food cultures at Rubicon Hotel

DARREN Thomas has been running the Rubicon Hotel in Thornton for over a decade and has worked hard to create a good atmosphere with a variety of quality food.

“We’ve been there for 11 and a half years, so family owned and run. We’ve got a manager, Dwayne Cornelius, and we’ve also got Melissa who runs our admin. She’s been with us for 11 and a half years, so she’s a local. There are probably 35 to 40 local staff.

“We’ve got some overseas chefs. We got them last year, and they got us out of trouble. We were struggling to get chefs. We’ve got Italian, Nepalese, Korean, Taiwanese and Indonesian chefs. Some really good food cultures, and that’s showing in our food with how well it’s going.”

The Rubicon Hotel also operates a number of other enterprises within the same location.

“We’ve got the pizza van outside which has been fantastic. Some beautiful pizzas and we’re doing specials each week. And then we’ve also got Post Office, Tattslotto, Thirsty Camel bottle shop, bistro and bar, and accommodation. It’s a one-stop shop really, and we also have a courtesy bus,” Darren said.

The locals are part of what keeps the Rubicon Hotel operating at its peak. They support the business, and then Darren tries to support them in return.

“The locals keep us going through the year, and you want to support your locals. We do, by looking after them but also local events and fundraising, which we try and get on board with. We also try to look after our tourists as well, which makes a difference. We do a lot of fundraising, we do a lot of the little individual stuff, we give to a lot of the local charities,” Darren explained.

The Rubicon Hotel has a number of events coming up in the near future, including a show with retired Essendon and Richmond players, a hypnotist by the name of the Bizarre Gazzard, and a comedy show in the near future.

For more information about upcoming events, visit rubiconhotel.com.au



A great dining experience at Trawool Estate. -S

Eat local at The Trawool Estate

NESTLED in a stunning bushland valley, The Trawool Estate is not just a luxury retreat but also a foodies paradise. Renowned for its commitment to local produce and sustainable practices, the Estate offers a unique dining experience that celebrates the bounty of the Goulburn Valley region. On site restaurants, Wild Water and Turbine, deliver farm to table dining which showcase the best seasonal ingredients, while supporting local farmers and reducing environmental impact of food transportation.

At Wild Water, soak up the most stunning views of the National Trust listed Trawool Valley while enjoying beautiful Australian cuisine with a focus on fresh, regional produce. The restaurant’s menu changes with the seasons, and has regular specials, ensuring you are treated to dishes made from ingredients at their peak of flavour. “Whether it’s cuts of meat sourced from local farms or freshly picked vegetables grow in our own veggie and herb gardens, every dish is a celebration of the land surrounding us,” says Executive Chef Sam Wills. With his childhood spent in Spain, you’ll always find mediterranean delights throughout his menu, currently you’ll find mussels, rabbit gnocchi and chicken coletta on the all day menu.

Turbine, on the other hand, offers a completely different experience, set in the depths of the building, this sultry speakeasy style cocktail venue draws on the Sri Lankan heritage of Chef Usitha’s menu. Share style makes for the perfect date night or friends get together, a menu you don’t want to miss, as it changes seasonally to different cuisines.

Want something for the family? The Herb Garden Pizzeria is the perfect place for a laid back afternoon with great drinks and wood-fired pizza, sitting alongside the Great Victorian Rail Trail. With plenty of space for kids to explore and pizzas made with fresh, local ingredients, including herbs picked straight from the garden, The Herb Garden offers a simple, tasty, and relaxed dining experience for all ages.

Dining at The Trawool Estate is not just about enjoying delicious food with your people, it’s about engaging with the local region and making conscious choices that have a positive impact on the environment and community. So why not book into The Trawool Estate soon and enjoy great food while making a positive impact on local livelihoods.



Let's eat; it's our treat

Your chance to WIN a \$50 meal voucher

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....

For your chance to win a \$50 meal, returns this voucher by Thursday, October 17 noon to:

Alexandra Newspapers,
PO Box 5, Alexandra, 3714

Photocopies will not be accepted.

One entry per household.

T&C: Only venues advertised in this feature are eligible to be chosen. Winner will be contacted by phone and name published in next edition of the feature. Voucher is not redeemable for cash. To be used for one purchase only. Multiple vouchers cannot be saved and used together. Staff or family of Alexandra Newspapers are ineligible to enter. Original form must be returned.



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EST. 1868

THORNTON, VICTORIA

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TUESDAY \$18 Curry Night
WEDNESDAY \$18 Kiev Night

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EST. 1868

THORNTON, VICTORIA

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How to be better prepared for blackouts

IN the event of a power blackout, here are some tips to help you ride out the storm.

Have a kit available in the event of an emergency. This can include battery operated torches and radios, spare batteries, and matches to light a gas stove or cooker. Candles are also recommended.

Charge all your battery packs and phones if you know that a significant weather event is on the way. Battery packs are a great investment as they can charge your phone or tablet, keeping you connected in an emergency (and keeping you entertained). You can also purchase solar powered battery packs.

Don't forget that you can also charge your phone or other small devices in a car, if you have a USB charger.

Make sure you always have some cash on you in the event that electronic payment systems go down during an outage.

You should also make sure that you know how to open your garage or fence manually so you can leave if the power goes out.

If you have an electric water pump, stock up on bottled water.

If possible, don't open your fridge or freezer. This will keep the cold air in and your food will last longer. However, if the blackout lasts for more than four hours, you will have to discard most of the food.

Make use of outdoor barbecues if you feel like a hot meal. Alternatively, small gas bottle cookers can be purchased cheaply to make some pasta or a cup of coffee during a blackout.

Check your camping kit for items which may be helpful, such as LED lights.

If you're heading to bed, make sure that you turn off the light switches to make sure you aren't awoken by bright lights when the power comes back on.

In Murrindindi, and in many other shires, libraries have generators. You can charge your phones and relax with a good book. If the weather is very hot, you can also make use of their air-conditioning. This is particularly important for elderly people or people in poor health.

If people rely on electrical medical equipment, they can register with Ausnet. You'll be entitled to enhanced customer protections including additional support before and during a power or gas outage.

Life support customers need to be ready to activate their emergency plan when weather warnings take place, call AusNet's priority line on 1800 818 832.

You can report faults and emergencies online at ausnetservices.com.au/outages/report-a-fault or on 131 799

For emergency services, call the SES on 132 500, or if you are in immediate danger, call police, fire or ambulance on Triple Zero.

Murray Cod season ends

THE iconic Murray cod is due for a rest during the closed season until November 30

During this time, cod are at their most vulnerable as they are in breeding mode. All fishers can help Murray cod to successfully spawn and ensure great cod fishing for future generations by ensuring they do not use fishing techniques which are likely to catch cod during this time.

September 1 also marked the closure of Murray spiny freshwater crayfish and river blackfish fishing seasons.

Locally the Murray cod closed season does not apply to Lake Eildon, and this also includes waters at Arcadia Pondage, waters of the Wimmera and Millicent basins (except the Wimmera River), waters south of the Great Dividing Range (except Yarra River), Lake Eppalock, Cairn Curran Reservoir and Lake Nillahcootie.



Megan Bennett, a Veterinary Nurse at Yea Veterinary Hospital, with members of Murrindindi Shire Council's Community Safety team, Malcolm Scheele, Jess Robinson and Jessica Clough. -S

Free cat-snip

THANKS to a grant from the Victorian Government, Murrindindi Shire Council is offering a free desexing, microchipping, worming, vaccination and registration package for valid Pensioner Concession Card holders in the Murrindindi community who care for any cat, whether owned or stray.

Council's *Purrfect Care Program* aims to reduce cat overpopulation and address the issue of feral cats by making desexing services free to pet owners who need it most.

Feral cats threaten the survival of native wildlife in Murrindindi Shire and are a major cause of decline for many land-based endangered animals across the country, including the bilby, bandicoot and numbat.

A major contributing factor to the feral cat overpopulation problem is people feeding unowned cats but not taking full ownership or responsibility for them. The *Purrfect Care Program* will help prevent unwanted litters, ensure lost cats can find their way back home, minimise diseases and promote responsible pet ownership.

Eligible Pensioner Concession Card holders are encouraged to submit an online application before December 6, 2024 at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/catcareprogram

For more information or assistance completing the form, call council on 5772 0333.

Council's *Purrfect Care Program* is made possible through the Victorian Government's *Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program* and support from local veterinary clinics.

If you are not a Pensioner Concession Card holder, Animal Aid Coldstream is offering free microchipping for up to two cats/kittens to Murrindindi Shire residents. For more information visit animalaid.org.au/microchipping

Murrindindi Shire Council's CEO Livia Bonazzi said "Keeping our cats healthy and safe is the responsibility of every cat owner, whether you care for your own cat or your neighbourhood stray. This benefits our feline friends and also supports our environment and the diverse species that share it.

"We recognise that many in our community may find it difficult to access the necessary resources to take full responsibility for the ownership and care of stray cats, which is why we are pleased we can offer this program. We strongly encourage all eligible cat owners to participate in making our environment safer for all."

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YEA SKATE PARK
SUNDAY OCTOBER 13TH

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Rural City of Wangaratta INDIGO SHIRE COUNCIL towongshire

ALPINE Mansfield Shire BENALLA RURAL CITY Albury City moira Youth

Call for illegal exotic pet surrender

FOLLOWING the discovery of the largest known domestic illegal exotic animal trade network ever uncovered in Victoria, Crime Stoppers Victoria is sending a clear message to owners of illegal exotic pets to surrender these animals now or risk getting caught.

This illegal trade poses a severe risk to public health, the farming community and local wildlife.

The 'Your Pet, Our Pest' campaign encourages owners of illegal exotic pets to voluntarily surrender their animals at one of four new surrender locations: RSPCA Burwood East, RSPCA Peninsula, Second Chance Animal Rescue in Craigieburn, and the Bird and Exotic Animal Clinic in Williamstown North.

These reputable organisations are offering a no-questions-asked policy when accepting exotic animal surrenders.

Chief Executive of Crime Stoppers Victoria, Stella Smith, explains, "This illegal trade prioritises profit over the well-being of the animals and the environment. These animals are not suitable pets and pose a severe risk to our community.

"We urge Victorians to take action to help end the trafficking and ownership of illegal exotic pets."

Adam Kay, Biosecurity Manager at Agriculture Victoria, warns, "The illegal trade of exotic pests threatens Victoria's ecosystem and biosecurity. These animals are often stolen or bred under inhumane

conditions. If smuggled into Australia without appropriate quarantine, they have the potential to carry diseases like rabies that can spread to local wildlife, pets, and even humans."

Mr Kay explains, "Online marketplaces have made it easier for traffickers to sell exotic pest animals illegally, putting many Victorians at risk of unknowingly purchasing these animals and committing an offence.

"With ongoing investigations into the illegal exotic animal trade network and several related cases before the courts, now is the best time for owners to surrender any illegal exotic pets before getting caught."

Penalties for illegally importing, keeping, breeding, or trading exotic pests, such as the African pygmy hedgehog, can reach up to \$95,000.

Ms Smith emphasises, "If you have an illegal exotic pet, now is the time to surrender it before someone reports you."

Illegal exotic pets can be surrendered anonymously. For more information about surrendering your illegal exotic pet and for surrender locations visit crimestoppers.vic.com.au

If you know someone who has an illegal exotic pet or someone who is involved in the trade of illegal exotic animals, let Crime Stoppers Victoria know. You can report anonymously online or by calling 1800 333 000.

Murrindindi: the Cinderella of Victorian Councils

MURRINDINDI Shire CEO, Livia Bonazzi, spoke at the Victorian Government Inquiry into Local Government funding on September 19, describing Murrindindi as “the Cinderella of the Victorian Councils.” Her full speech was as follows.

“We make the case for urgent changes and reforms to the way the local government is funded and supported, and I trust that you will concur with us that Murrindindi Shire Council has an even greater need than most other councils of extra financial support.

“Apparently, some people also referred to Murrindindi as the Cinderella of the Victorian Councils. Just to provide a little bit of a snapshot, Murrindindi spans across 3900 square kilometres, we got about 15,500 in population and we covered townships from Eildon, Alexandra, Yea, Marysville and Kinglake.

“We have an issue with ageing population. More than a quarter of population is aged 65 and above, and by 2034 that will double to 50.2 per cent. That will increase service demands.

“We have suffered from isolation with poor or inexistent public transport and digital connectivity. It just worsens our access. We have very high cost to serve. We only have 12 residents per kilometre of local roads compared to 287 residents in the metropolitan area.

“Our costs are increasing as well. Materials and contractors and insurance have gone up 30 to 40 per cent in the last two years and also cost-shift and our out-of-pocket expenses for the full services have doubled due to cost-shifting in the last four years.

“We pride ourselves in having very lean operations, so council already does its bit. It’s from an organisational perspective. So our community also does its bit by enduring lower levels of service than the rest of Victoria. And that’s reflected in low community satisfaction and degrading community satisfaction for our services.

“Community, also the ratepayers, do their bit. They pay higher rates than the average, \$100 more, and so any further increase or

any variation to the rate cut would be seen as unfair and unpalatable.

“We don’t have many options for further revenue. We don’t have parking fees. It’s not feasible. And then also we have insufficient grant funding, so I make a case for further support to sustain financial viability and avoid eroding essential services. A small rural council requires sufficient support to maintain critical services and ensures stability of their communities.

“As analysis has shown, Murrindindi Shire is represented in the state lower house by only one member of Parliament and in the Federal House of Representatives, also by a single member of Parliament. Compare this with other local government areas (LGAs) that have 10 members in each level of state and federal, a total of 20, all championing their cause. This imbalance in political representation of local government areas results in undesirable outcomes due to the allocation of critical funding being in large part determined on advocacy by the local MPs, their political connections and influence, rather than real need or equity.

“The issue here is not just scarce government funding, but inappropriate distribution of the funding pool. Therefore, a major part of the solution to the financial sustainability of local government must consider how a grant pool of funding is allocated to ensure the more needy LGA’s receive their fair share, as well as securing an overall increase in the total grant funding pool through the Commonwealth, the focus to shift from political influence to actual need, ensuring the funding is allocated more fairly, and that historically underfunded councils like Murrindindi receive a fair share, potentially through significant lump sums in catch-up grants, in the spirit of restorative justice.

“The current funding models are outdated, inequitable and unsuited to the realities that we face in rural Victoria. Murrindindi Shire Council is not viable, let alone allowed to thrive under these conditions, and we’re not alone.



Shire CEO Livia Bonazzi. -S

“The changes that we seek will not only support our community today, but will build a more sustainable future for all rural councils.

to ensure a fairer, more sustainable future local government in Victoria.”

Ms Bonazzi also presented to the Federal Government inquiry on Friday, September 26 in Wallan.

“I hope that you will take our recommendations to heart and work with us

McLeish remains concerned about roads

MEMBER for Eildon Cindy McLeish is still concerned that the Victorian Government is treating Victorians like fools by constantly blaming the condition of our roads on ‘repeated flooding’ and ‘unprecedented rainfall’.

She said roads across the electorate are crumbling due to funding cuts and neglect, not freak weather events.

Ms McLeish said that state budget papers indicate the area of road subject to resurfacing or rehabilitation has fallen from nine million square metres two years ago to just three million this financial year, and said that the government undertook just 343,000 square metres of works in 2023/24.

“Alarming, the roads maintenance budget is 16 per cent less now than it was

in 2020 and our roads continue to get worse for it. The Melba Highway, Warburton Highway, Eltham-Yarra Glen Road, to name only a few, are in a constant state of chaos. The Allan Labor Government cannot solely claim the weather is to blame for the sad state of our roads,” she said.

“Years of neglect and ‘patch up jobs’ have left our roads in a dire state with serious and recurring surface issues.

“Re-sealing protects the road network against water penetration that causes potholes and damaged roads. Not hazard signs that Labor whack up as a solution.

“Not surprisingly, the government has confirmed that almost 1200 Victorians have lodged claims for damage caused by dodgy roads last financial year alone.”



Cindy McLeish. -S

Big tech and banks need to pull their weight in the fight against scams

Read my speech in Parliament



Helen Haines MP

INDEPENDENT FEDERAL MEMBER FOR INDI

117 Murphy Street, Wangaratta
03 5721 7077
79 High Street, Wodonga
02 6024 6284
helen.haines.mp@aph.gov.au
helehaines.org.au

Paul Galea: council candidate in Cheviot Ward

Advertorial

PAUL Galea is candidate for Cheviot Ward in the upcoming Murrindindi Shire Council elections. Paul is a personable and empathetic leader who promotes initiative, respect and teamwork.

Paul decided to run for council because he believes his background in project management, strategic governance and operating two small businesses over the past 22 years will provide a positive and lasting contribution to a newly elected council.

His intent over the next four years is to 'move the needle' in terms of council's performance and community satisfaction. He wants community members to have more

of a say in what their council is doing for them and in return for council to be more transparent on how it conducts its business.

He understands the importance of tourism to our shire based on the four bed and breakfasts he operates from his hobby farm in Flowerdale. He believes councils should assist citizens across the shire by cutting the red tape associated with the often onerous planning processes and approvals required.

Within Cheviot Ward, he senses the Flowerdale and Strath Creek communities don't enjoy the same equities as their Yea counterparts and would like to see a rebalancing of sorts regarding the approval of council grants and projects for those communities.



Vote Paul Galea
Independent Candidate
for Cheviot Ward
Murrindindi Shire Council

Celebrities coming to Alexandra Open Gardens

AS part of Alexandra and District Open Gardens, one of the participating open garden owners, Marian Rennie has been successful in securing three guest speakers to talk about *Ways to the Future* on Sunday, October 27 from 1pm onwards.

Costa Georgiadis is Australia's most famous landscape architect and television presenter who has an all-consuming passion for plants and people. He knows how to bring out the best in both and takes great pleasure in bringing them together. His holistic approach is all about gardening, the soil and the soul.



Costa Georgiadis. -S

Joining Costa will be Joost Bakker from Future Food Systems and the man behind the creation of the zero waste Greenhouse that was beside Federation Square. Joost received global attention for the Greenhouse By Joost restaurants in 2008 to 2012, as well as his project that demonstrated non-toxic sustainable materials that could be used to resist a wild simulated bushfire.

Peter Burgess is co-founder of the Melbourne based Rainbow Bee Eater. RBE's ECHO2 biochar and syngas system was installed in June 2024 at Holla-Fresh in Tantanool SA. This provides conversion of biomass residue (instead of going to landfill) into hot water, electricity, bio char and horticultural CO2. Low cost, carbon negative, renewable energy from biomass.

The three guest speakers will be discussing gardens, the future and flowers. Marian is also encouraging people to join in and parade around the garden in wearable floral creations with prizes for the most creative entries.

There will be a licensed café with Little River Wines and On Point Brewery with Solomon and Lacey providing music during the afternoon.

The event will be at Rennies at Acheron, 132 Breakaway Road, Acheron (entry via Alexandra).

For more information and description of all nine of the open gardens and attractions go to alexandraopengardens.com.au

Entry is \$5pp per individual garden or \$40pp for an all-garden pass. Tickets are available on the weekend at each garden gate. Cash only as there is no card payment facilities. You can also purchase an all-gardens weekend pass through Trybooking. QR code is available on the event's website.



Careers Advisor sessions from

gotafe

Sessions held on Friday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th October; 10am - 3pm
(4 x 1hr One-on-one sessions)

Alexandra Community Hub
38A Downey St, Alexandra

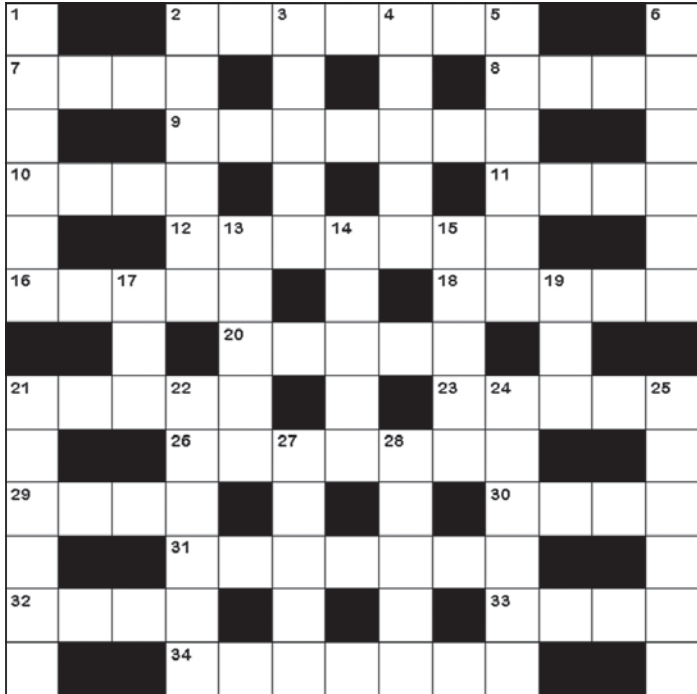
MURRINDINDI HEALTH NETWORK
gotafe

PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 16

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- The largest ocean in the world.
 - Come off second best.
 - As well as.
 - Side roads that are little travelled.
 - Have no feeling.
 - Flip a coin.
 - From the side.
 - A small miserable dwelling.
 - The knob on the staircase handrail.
 - Not secret or hidden.
 - Prince of Darkness.
 - Model of excellence.
 - Leafy salad vegetable.
 - A score of zero in tennis.
 - Makes a request.
 - A piece of cloth that is left over.
 - A point that is open to argument.
 - Keep out of sight.
 - Plumbing fixtures that spray water.



- A natural talent.
- A large and stately mansion.
- A small amount of solid food.
- Isolated from everyone.
- Put in a great effort.
- An absurd or silly action.
- Examine carefully.
- Dainty and diminutive.
- A serious and dignified manner.
- Signals that warn of attack or danger.
- Loss of lives.
- Pay close attention to.
- The rhythm and rate of music.
- The act of using.

- DOWN**
- Draw back suddenly in shock.
 - A small smooth rounded rock.
 - A unit of weight for gold.

Word Search

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

Math Square

	-		+		11
x		+		÷	
6	+		-		9
-		-		+	
	+		+	9	13
29		6		11	

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.

- Australian native flowers**
- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| ACACIA | GERALDTON |
| BANKSIA | HAKEA |
| BORONIA | PIGFACE |
| BOTTLEBRUSH | WARATAH |
| EUCALYPTUS | WATTLE |
| FLANNEL | WAXFLOWER |

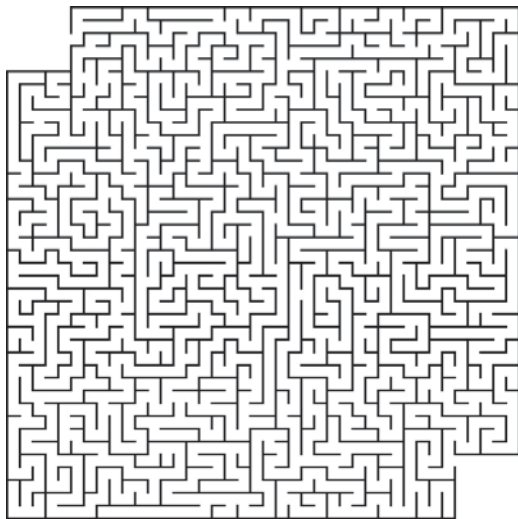
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Medium

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

Maze



A tiger snake. -S

Snake season is here

AS temperatures begin to rise, snakes are emerging from a period of reduced activity during winter seeking food and mates. Snakes may be more visible during the warmer months, but it's important to remember that they will generally avoid people.

Abby Smith, Senior Wildlife Projects Officer, from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) said, "Most snake bites occur when people try to capture or kill them. Snakes may defend themselves if they feel threatened. It's best to leave them alone and keep dogs on leads when out walking."

Supervise pets and children closely in areas where snakes are known to occur. Ms Smith said, "Talk to kids about snake safety; what to wear, staying on the path and not putting your hands in long grass, under rocks or tin."

It's important to remember that snakes present little or no danger to people when left alone. When in the bush make sure to wear long pants and proper shoes, carry

your mobile and snake bandages. Keep your pets away from areas with snakes. If you suspect your pet has been bitten, seek veterinary attention immediately.

Around the home make sure to maintain lawns and clean up around your house, snakes are attracted to shelter such as piles of rocks and timber, sheets of metal, and building materials. Untidy bird aviaries may attract rodents, which snakes eat; so make sure to clean up after your birds.

Don't attempt to capture or harm snakes; instead call a licensed snake catcher. If someone is bitten, call 000 immediately.

Snakes are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, and capturing, harming, or killing them is illegal. You can report wildlife crime to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000. For more information contact DEECA on 136 186.

For essential snake bite first aid information, visit stjohnvic.com.au/news/snake-bite-first-aid-tips/

How do you know if your pet has suffered a snake bite?

SNAKES are coming out of hibernation and warming themselves in the sun. They can pose a problem for humans, but if you don't attack the snake, there is little chance that you will be bitten.

Your pets don't know this, and may investigate the snake, with potentially disastrous results. Do you know what to do if your pet gets bitten, and do you know the snakebite symptoms in pets? They can vary according to the type of snake, the location of the bite and the level of venom injected.

Cats and dogs are the most common domestic species bitten by snakes, but horses may also suffer snake bites.

Tiger snake and brown snake bites could display as paralysis, muscle weakness or coagulopathy, which is the limiting of the blood's ability to clot.

According to the RSPCA, other signs of snake bite could include sudden weakness and collapse which may be followed by apparent recovery, shaking or twitching, reduced eye blinking, loss of bladder or bowel control, dilated pupils, paralysis, difficult or fast breathing, bleeding from the nose or mouth and/or the site of the bite, refusal to eat (this particularly impacts cats), and bloody or dark coloured urine.

The symptoms may show within minutes, but they could be up to 25 hours later.

If you suspect that your pet has been bitten by a snake, take them to a vet immediately. Call ahead so the vet knows that you're on the way and you're not wasting time if the vet isn't available. This also give the vet the chance to prepare for your pet's arrival.

Keep the pet calm and quiet. Apply a pressure bandage above and below the snake bite if possible, depending on the location of the bite. If they have been bitten on the face or neck, remove the pet's collar to avoid swelling issues. Don't wash the bite location or apply a tourniquet.

Don't try to catch or kill the snake. If possible, take a photo of it from a safe distance but do not put yourself at risk. If needed, the vet can test which kind of antivenom is needed.

The vet bill for saving a pet following a snake bite can be large, so it's best to try to keep your pets away from snakes in the first place. Snake avoidance training is available for dogs.

Approximately 80 per cent of pets survive snake bites if they are treated quickly.

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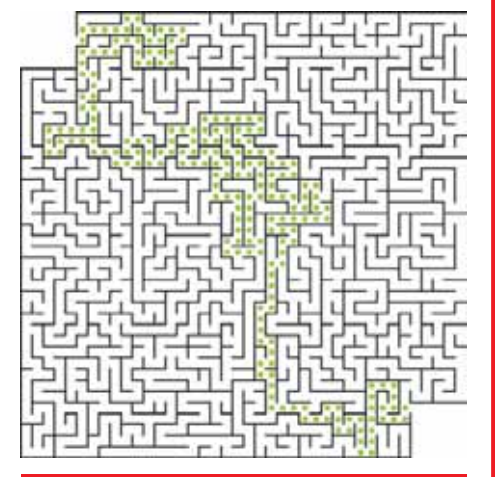
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MEETINGS

EMBASSY OF IDEAS. AGM will be held on Monday, October 28 at 6pm at EOI, 3, Bailey Street, Alexandra. All welcome.

MEETINGS

EILDON ACTION INC will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre - 1 Main Street, Eildon. The agenda of the meeting will be to report on the finances for the year July 1 to June 30, 2024, elect office-bearers and set membership fees for the next year.

DEATH NOTICES

COOKSON,
Geoffrey Neville
20/01/1931 -
27/09/2024

Aged 93.
Beloved husband of June. Loved father of Fiona and Geoff, Warwick (dec) and Trish. Granddad to Will and Amanda, Jack, Mackinlay, Molly and Gus. Great grandad to Bolton and Harrison.

Passed away peacefully at Kellock Lodge. At rest.

COOKSON,
Geoffrey Neville

A funeral service celebrating the life of Geoff will be held at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Saturday, October 5, 2024 commencing at 11.30am followed by a private burial.



MARSHALL,
Robert Thomas
'Bob'

The Marysville RSL Sub-Branch is sad to report that their esteemed member and friend, Bob, passed away on September 10 after a long illness.

We extend our deepest sympathy to wife Joan, their extensive family and many, many friends.

LEST WE FORGET



SITUATION VACANT



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NOW HIRING FINANCE OFFICERS

The Reddrop Group are looking for Finance Officers to join our Finance Team based at Alexandra FoodWorks.

The positions are full-time (38 hour week) with hours normally 9am until 5:30pm, however, some flexibility is available. Part-time hours may be considered for the right applicant/s.

Our Finance Officers are responsible for a broad range of tasks including supplier invoicing, balancing daily sales, data management and problem solving.

Ideally we are looking for people who have good computer skills, can work well as part of a team or unsupervised, are reliable and have good communication skills. An ability to multi-task and prioritise work, as well as be attentive to detail and accuracy is also vital.

Experience or knowledge of the finance area, such as knowledge of GST and general ledger accounts would be an advantage, however, it is not essential and we are happy to provide training to a candidate that shows enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

To apply for a position, please email your covering letter, resume (with references), and contact details to jobs@reddrop.com.au



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For additional information, parties must register their interest by Friday, October 11, 2024 via email to rory.hazeldine@hvp.com.au

More workers needed in building and construction

RELEASING their *Future of the Workforce Report*, Master Builders Australia forecasts the building and construction industry needs 130,000 additional workers this year to overcome workforce shortages.

This shortfall is on top of those required for natural attrition and requires Federal and state governments to prioritise reforms that will attract and retain more workers.

“While it is a significant number, this presents an opportunity for growth in an industry that is pivotal to the nation’s economic success,” Master Builders CEO, Denita Wawn, said.

The report takes a closer look at the current state of the industry, the impact of chronic workforce shortages, and recommends sensible policy measures to relieve the pressure.

As the country’s second largest industry employer, one in 11 Australians work in building and construction, but the number of people joining the industry each year is not enough to keep up with demand.

Ms Wawn added, “This is the very workforce needed to deliver the homes and supporting infrastructure we desperately need. Productivity has declined 18 per cent over the last decade putting significant pressures on workers and employers.

“Despite challenges, the industry is in a unique position to grow and innovate. There is a strong pipeline of work for the industry across the housing, commercial and civil sectors, presenting a great opportunity for people to join.”

“There’s no quick fix to the critical workforce shortages,” Ms Wawn said, “it will require a holistic approach across Federal Government portfolios from migration, skills and training through to industrial relations.

“Proposed solutions include increasing trade apprenticeships, leveraging skilled migration from similar regions, and fostering a diverse, inclusive culture to attract new talent from across the economy.”

Consider all costs when buying property

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Inspect away before you purchase a home

MAKING sure you inspect a property from top to bottom before you purchase it can save you many dollars down the track.

Before you purchase a property, you should make several visits before signing on the dotted line. When visiting a property for the first time it’s a good idea to go on your first impression of the place, see if it meets your personal requirements such as location, size, age, style and access to facilities.

Having a closer look at the property on the second visit can give you time to assess if any repairs need to take place and to see if the home is in good structural condition.

Things to look out for can include sloping floors including noisy and bouncy areas, sign of dampness on the walls and windows, mouldy walls, lifting tiles and peeling paint can be a sign of moisture problems, blisters and bubbles on walls can indicate termite activity, if you see large cracks seek advice from a structural engineer as the house stumps might need to be replaced. A sagging roof or broken roof tiles can indicate roof repairs are needed. Checking to see if the home has asbestos and these areas are deteriorating or exposed will need to be repaired or removed. Consider getting an asbestos assessment done if the property was built before 1990.

If the property you are looking at has been renovated, you need to check the Section 32 and contact the local council to find out the correct planning and building permits were sorted to get the works done.

According to Consumers Affairs Victoria, “before signing the contract to purchase a home, it is wise to get a qualified building inspector surveyor or architect to provide a professional building inspection report. The fee for a professional inspection service is small compared with the cost of buying a property that needs extensive unforeseen repairs. A qualified inspector will know what to look for and will see through any cosmetic improvements that cover up faults.”

The written building inspection report will list any faults in the property, whether they can be repaired, and how much these repairs are likely to cost. It is advised to use an inspection service with full professional indemnity insurance as this will protect you if the inspection doesn’t list a problem that must be fixed. Getting your own reports done rather through an estate agent is the best way to make sure it’s an independent report and accurate.

Getting a pest inspection done is also a good idea to check for termites or other infestations. The Victorian Building

Authority claims that termites cause more damage to Australian houses than fire, floods and storms combined, and the damage may not be covered by household insurance.

For more information on all the checks to be done before purchasing a home visit vba.vic.gov.au

Getting ahead on your home loan

THERE are many options available when it comes to paying off your home loan. The options on offer suit different people with different needs and financial capabilities.

The most common home loan repayment is made monthly. Some lenders may offer the option to make home loan repayments on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

It is understood that weekly and fortnightly repayments can save you money compared to monthly repayments, depending on how the interest is accrued on the overall loan.

Canstar explained, “The interest on the outstanding balance of a home loan is generally calculated daily, then added up over the period of your loan repayment. If that repayment period is monthly then that soon adds up to about 30 days of interest, depending on the number of days in the month and how your lender makes the calculation.

“If you can increase the frequency of your repayments, to fortnightly or weekly, then you eat away at the outstanding amount of your loan much earlier. This can save you money in interest over the life of your loan.”

Another bonus in paying your home loan fortnightly is that by paying half the monthly amount each fortnight you get ahead as you make an extra month’s repayment each year. This can go on to the loan or in a redraw facility to have available in case of an emergency.

Trying to put extra money on your mortgage whenever possible can cut your loan by years. Sometimes this isn’t possible with high interest rates but when rates do go down if you keep paying the higher amount, you will be well on your way to paying off your mortgage sooner.

Talking to your lender about opening an offset account may also help you get ahead. These accounts are linked to your mortgage. The balance of that account is connected to the mortgage and reduces the amount of overall interest you pay which helps you pay off your mortgage quicker.

Shopping around for a lower interest rate can be a bit tricky in the current climate but lenders are always competitive and striving to get your business. As this process takes a lot of time if you do decide to switch banks or to different loan types make sure its worth it as there is usually fees for changing and closing loans and choosing new lenders.

The underquoting taskforce isn’t going anywhere

THE Victorian Government has announced it will make the underquoting taskforce permanent, to focus on dishonest conduct in the real estate industry.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams made the announcement with inspectors from the underquoting taskforce in Melbourne.

The taskforce was initially planned as a two year operation but will now be a permanent enforcement arm of Consumer Affairs Victoria. The taskforce’s work will protect Victorians from the illegal practice of underquoting while creating a fairer market for the many estate agents who do the right thing.

Since it was established, the taskforce has monitored more than 1900 sales campaigns, attended more than 180 auctions, issued more than 320 official warnings and fines totalling more than \$1.6 million. The taskforce also educates industry professionals on their responsibilities at auctions, with a focus on repeat non compliance.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has launched two new criminal court proceedings against estate agencies who elected not to pay their fines after being caught allegedly advertising properties for uncertain amounts. Fines for this offence are \$2371 for individuals and \$11,855 for companies.

The underquoting taskforce continues to receive a high volume of reports through the dedicated underquoting complaints webform, with more than 2800 reports submitted since it launched.

There was a 70 per cent increase in reports received by the taskforce in 2023/24, and an increasing number of these reports come from estate agents, showing that those who do the right thing are frustrated by dodgy competitors.

Making the taskforce permanent ensures there will continue to be zero tolerance for deceptive practices in the real estate industry.

Information on how to report underquoting can be found at consumer.vic.gov.au/housing

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heat pump hot water system improvements

VICTORIA and New South Wales have joined forces with industry to improve the development of heat pump technology as consumer interest rapidly grows.

Funded by both the Victorian and NSW Governments, the industry-led *Roadmap for Heat Pump Hot Water Systems in Australia*, developed by Energy Efficiency Council (EEC), provides industry and governments a path forward to scale up the heat pump hot water market.

The roadmap includes 17 recommended actions including revising standards, end-of-life stewardship, industry training, product quality, consumer protections, minimum energy performance standards, and auditing of installations.

In the last 12 months, the uptake of heat pumps in both states has been significant, with more than 104,000 across both states, driven by the Victorian Solar Homes Program and the NSW Energy Savings Scheme.

In Australia, water heating is a major source of household energy, accounting for around 23 per cent of a home’s total energy use. By replacing a gas hot water system with a quality heat pump hot water system, consumers are estimated to save up to \$250 per year, on top of additional savings in going all electric.

To progress the recommendations, both governments will progress a key recommendation to develop a consultation group of industry representatives to support and oversee the development of systems and standards.

Beyond the roadmap, both government’s advocated to urgently progress minimum energy performance standards at the recent Energy and Climate Minister’s Council meeting. Ministers endorsed this key recommendation from the roadmap.

For more information and to download the Roadmap, visit the EEC website at eec.org.au

Competition ahead for Kelpie youngster Sue

AOIDH Doyle, a local resident of Fawcett, is participating in the 2024 Cobber Challenge Masters Edition with his Kelpie, Sue, starting October 7.

Sue is the daughter of Snip, a previous Australian Yard Dog champion, Supreme Stock Dog winner, and various other competition winners. Aoidh is a shearing contractor and the operator of Whisper Kelpies and Livestock Services, running both sheep and cattle.

Being the daughter of a superstar farm dog marks her as good stock, and Aoidh talked about how naturally farm work came to her.

“Sue is the daughter of Snip, who was the Australian Yard Dog champion this year and National Kelpie Trial winner and Supreme Stock Dog winner. This year, I couldn’t enter Snip in it because she had pups. She’s had pups on her, so she’s out of work for a bit. Sue is the daughter of hers, and she’s 20 months old. She’s the next best thing coming through in our team.

“She’s a real natural all-rounder. She works real nice in the paddock, and has heaps of punch when it comes to the yard work as well. She’s just a real natural and easy to train. You get some dogs like that. It’s just like humans. Some people are good at footy, and other have to train all the time to get good,” Aoidh said.

The Masters Edition of the Cobber Challenge is where a selection of the nation’s very



Aoidh Doyle with his dog Sue. -S

best working dogs battle it out for the coveted title of Australia’s ultimate working dog. This year there are eight dogs competing, with Sue one of them.

Each dog wears a GPS tracking collar to record their distance, speed and duration for each day they work, with points accumulated based on performance. After two

weeks, the dog with the most points wins.

“This year they’re doing the Masters Edition, which is all the blokes that have been sponsored as Cobber ambassadors. We’re all against each other this year. Everyone’s got to put a tracking collar on their dog every day, and then they record all the data of the distance and everything the

dog travels each day. There are some dogs doing up to 60 kilometres per day.

“With what I’m doing, I’m sort of penning up more in the sheds, so I’m not really doing as many kilometres. It’s still a hard day’s work, I’m just not getting the k’s up because I’m not out in the paddocks mustering as much as the others.”

In terms of what he hopes to achieve in this year’s Cobber Challenge, Aoidh is approaching the competition with a very practical mindset.

“It’s good to compare the work you’re doing with other people. Compare what sort of distances they’re doing each day to what you’re doing. It’s a bit of fun for us all as well,” he said.

Aoidh also has future plans to enter Sue in lots of different competitions.

“She’ll do a lot of dog trialling, like yard dog trialling, cattle trialling and utilities,” he concluded.

To follow along with all the action of this year’s Cobber Challenge, visit cobberchallenge.com.au

Prepare for thunderstorm asthma this spring

WITH thunderstorm season starting on October 1, the Goulburn Valley Public Health Unit (GVPHU) urges people who experience asthma and hay fever to prepare now.

Dr Will Cross, GVPHU Clinical Director, emphasises the importance of preparation, “If you have asthma or experience seasonal asthma, it’s important to have an up-to-date asthma action plan and manage your symptoms with advice from your General Practitioner.

“An asthma action plan is a simple guide created with your doctor to help you manage your asthma and know what to do if your symptoms get worse. Make sure you have your asthma medication with you at all times during this high-risk season,” said Dr. Cross.

Thunderstorm asthma is a rare weather-related event that primarily occurs during spring but can extend into December, aligned with the grass pollen season. It occurs during spring thunderstorms when pollen grains are swept up into the air and break into tiny particles.

These particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and trigger sudden asthma flare-ups, particularly in people with pre-existing asthma or hay fever. Episodes triggered during these events can be much more severe than regular asthma attacks, so even those with mild pre-existing conditions should be prepared.

You are at higher risk of thunderstorm asthma if you

experience seasonal hay fever; have current asthma; have a history of asthma; have undiagnosed asthma.

The GVPHU recommends the following steps to reduce the risk of thunderstorm asthma when it is a known trigger. Use your preventer medication. If you have been prescribed a preventer inhaler, use it as directed, especially during spring; manage hay fever. Keep hay fever symptoms under control with advice from your general practitioner (GP) or pharmacist, as this can help prevent asthma flare-ups, particularly during thunderstorm events; monitor pollen levels. Check daily pollen forecasts through the Vic Emergency website or app. Try to stay indoors on high pollen days. Keep your and loved one’s asthma action plans up to date and ensure you have enough medication on hand, including inhalers and antihistamines.

Thunderstorm asthma can be serious. Make sure you’re prepared this season. Talk to your GP about an asthma action plan. Ensure you have enough medication. Keep an eye on the weather and pollen forecasts.

For more information and resources on thunderstorm asthma, visit: gvhealth.org.au/public-health-unit or betterhealth.vic.gov.au/thunderstorm-asthma

For more information on Asthma Action Plans visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Zoos Victoria calls for aid in protecting Bogong moths

ZOOS Victoria is working to help protect the Mountain pygmy-possum by looking after the Bogong moth. They are calling for assistance with this task, by asking people to submit their sightings of Bogong moths to the Zoos Victoria online Moth Tracker webpage.

Bogong moths migrate up to 1000 kilometres each spring to Australia’s alpine zone, where they become food for the Mountain pygmy-possum.

There are usually billions of Bogong moths that fly to the mountains, but their numbers have been significantly decreasing over recent years. This means there may not be enough food for the possums.

Zoos Victoria are therefore asking people to report their sightings of Bogong moths. All people have to do is if they see a Bogong moth, take a photo and upload it to the Zoos Victoria Moth Tracker webpage. This will help scientists better understand the habits and patterns of the Bogong moth.

To tell if the moth you are looking at is a Bogong moth, there are a number of defining characteristics. Bogong moths have a body length of around 2.5 to 3.5 centimetres; they have a dark strip that runs down each wing; they have a circular spot at the top of the stripe; they have a spot at the bottom of the stripe shaped like a kidney; both spots are the same colour.

Bogong moths were added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Endangered Species list in 2021. They usually migrate in spring, particularly from southern Queensland, central NSW and western Victoria to the Australian Alps, and then make the return journey in autumn. Recent information suggest they may also be found in South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

Zoos Victoria also recommends that during Bogong moth migration periods (September to December and February to April) people turn



A Bogong moth. -Zoos Victoria

off unnecessary outdoor lights at night. This can reduce light pollution, allowing the moths to better navigate their journey. Planting native flowers and not using insecticides can also help.

For more information and to find the Moth Tracker webpage, visit zoo.org.au/moth-tracker/

The Chronicle Sport



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Golfers in their footy colours. -S

Great scores in recent stableford

by Alan Pell and Phil Armstrong

AT the recent Wednesday Stableford event 25 members assembled to compete. The course was in fantastic condition and an absolute credit to the dedicated team of volunteers at Yea Golf Club.

In the Men's event Mick Spagnolo (9) took full advantage of the course conditions with a scintillating round of 73 off the stick to register 42 points. Gary Pollard (15) also appreciated the extra run, coming back to the clubhouse with 40 points and taking out second place. Alan Pell (16) rounded out the place getters with a not too shabby 38 points. Mick "The Barman" Sheather hit it long and straight on the 18th hole to win nearest the pin. John Renehan (52) collected the club award.

The Ladies event also produced some excellent results. None better than Khai Jarvis (38) recording a whopping 44 points. Recently returned from a European Escapade, Meryl Connell (25) was in great

form also with 39 points. Vicki Clements (25), Sharon Groganong (Phil Armstrong 27) and Di "The Bandit" Holdsworth (27) all posted a very commendable 36 points. Vicki took the chocolates on countback for third place and the others had to settle for boiled lollies. No nearest the pin in the ladies event.

Last Friday the Yea Golf Club hosted the Bruce Kindred Cup. A four ball best ball Stableford event in recognition of one of our past Presidents and great contributors to Yea Golf Club. It was open to all members and guests. Competitors were encouraged to wear their footy team's colours and make it a fun day.

Twenty seven golfers played both stableford and four ball on a beautiful spring grand-final holiday Friday at Royal Yea Golf Club, playing from a shotgun start at 9.30am all players wore their favourite footy colours. Bruce would have worn his Magpie Colours and be very proud of his 23 Premiers.

Winner of the Men's Stableford was Gary Pollard (14) with 37 points on countback from Peter Johnston (18). Third was Mic Spagnolo (8) with 36 points. In the ladies event Jo Clayton (22) with an excellent 41 points was the winner from Vicki Clements (25) on 37 on countback from Di Holdsworth (33) third.

In the four ball best ball the winners by one point were Gary Pollard/Di Elliott with 45 points. Second on countback were Mic Sheather/Vicki Clements with 44 points from Mic Spagnolo/Peter Johnston third.

Nearest the pins on the day went to Gary Pollard/Jan Wealands on the second, Tom White/Miranda Gill on the 11th, Peter Johnston/Di Elliott on the 14th and Paul Clayton/Sue Aurisch on the 18th. President Gary spoke about the contribution to Yea Golf Club that Bruce Kindred achieved. A life member whose legacy to the club was that he was always looking for improvement. Bruce was a volunteer, committee member and Dalhousie Veteran delegate for many years.

On Grand Final Day 12 Men played Saturday morning in a Stableford Competition before the

AFL Grand final. Winner with 42 points was Zach Pell (23) from second his dad in Alan Pell (16) with 39 points. Steve Wealands (13) with 37 points was third on countback from Andrew Bohn (8) and John Phillips (19). Andrew Bohn was nearest the pin on the 18th and Bill Dredge won the club award.

Last Thursday at Seymour Golf Club the Vets played a three person Ambrose event. Called the Presidents Cup, it was the first time Yea has ever won the event. The team of Jeff Aurisch, John Tanner and Vicki Clements with a nett 73 were the successful team.



Bruce Kindred was a volunteer, committee member and Dalhousie Veteran delegate for many years. -S



In the four ball best ball the winners by one point were Gary Pollard and Di Elliott with 45 points. -S



Winners of the Presidents Cup was Yea players Jeff Aurisch, John Tanner, and Vicki Clements. -S