

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, November 27, 2024 \$2.00 inc. GST

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Little Aths breaking records



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CLASS OF 2024: Congratulations to Yea High School's graduates, pictured at their valedictory dinner, held at Flowerdale Estate on November 21. More on page 3. -S

Flood recovery update from council

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

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

This has required significant planning and collaboration with external agencies and adherence to complex funding processes. Due to the magnitude of damage, council requires funding from the Department of Transport and Planning's (DTP) Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), which provide funding to reinstate assets to their prior condition. If we are unable to meet strict conditions, we are unable to be reimbursed for the cost of repairs. The timelines for repair work are determined by funding agency approval.

Currently, council has completed \$2.8 million worth of asset repairs, including on 11.2km of council roads. These costs exclude relief and recovery activities, the protection of public and personal assets, and debris and waste removal. All expenditure claims for 2022, 2023 and 2024 declared flood

events, totaling over \$3.2 million, have been submitted to the DTP with an estimated \$24 million of works planned to be delivered over the next two years.

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

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

Murrindindi Shire Council Mayor Cr Damien Gallagher said, "Council recognises

the profound and ongoing impacts of natural disasters in recent years, and the complexity of our recovery efforts.

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

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital 5736 0400

In an emergency dial 000

COMMUNITY DIARY

Local Radio Frequency
UGFM 88.9 Yea / Highlands
UGFM 98.9 Flowerdale / Hazeldene
UGFM 94.5 Kinglake Ranges

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

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

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

The Yea Chronicle Standard

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Put Murrindindi on Your Table – a Christmas Poem

by Sam Hicks plus artificial intelligence (AI)

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

Buy Locally
Support the shops both big and small,
Each purchase helps the region thrive for all.
Fill your feast with truffles, stone fruits near,
And spread the joy of Christmas cheer.

Don't leave your pets in the car

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discover Breweries and More
Explore the cellars, discover beverages and distillers' art,
Each sip a piece of Murrindindi's heart.
Add fresh trout, salmon, cheese adorned with micro greens and olive oil fine,
A journey through flavours, truly divine.

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

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

Celebrate Markets, Shows, Arts, and Media
Join festivals, explore ag and art shows, hear local musicians play,
Support local press and radio to light your way.
Discover relishes, quince jelly, sauces, and cordials sweet,
At Murrindindi's stalls where treasures meet.

From spun fleeces to plants, photos and stories unfold,
A vibrant showcase of gifts, artistic talents and country gold.

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

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

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

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

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

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT

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

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

ALEXANDRA NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

Letters **must be 300 words or less**. We will not publish defamatory letters, or content which is offensive, threatening or containing personal attacks. Submitted letters may be edited before going to print.
All letters must contain writers name, address and contact number. (not necessarily for publication). Letters without these details supplied cannot not be published. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

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Standard
The Yea Chronicle

Weekly Weather
November 27 - December 3, 2024
Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

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

Standard The Yea Chronicle

DISTRICT RAINFALL

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

Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday

LAKE EILDON

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

The 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

Yea High School's valedictory dinner



Yea High School principal Brian D'Arcy, special guest speaker Clare Walker and assistant principal Jacinta Byers. -S



The place settings at Flowerdale Estate for the Yea High School Valedictory Dinner. The event was held on Thursday, December 21. -S

Police won't cop that

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Digital driving licences available for P and L plates

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

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

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

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

"We've seen more than 1.2 million Victorians access their licence on their phones since we launched this technology in May, and I'm sure we'll continue to see a strong take up from our younger drivers."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good karma Christmas

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

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

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

Email editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

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

Available from these retail outlets

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

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



Church Services

ST PETER'S MEMORIAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ALEXANDRA AND YEA

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

CATHOLIC PARISH OF KINGLAKE

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

SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YEA

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

UNITING CHURCH

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

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Alexandra Historical Society AGM will be held at 2pm at Dove Cottage.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

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

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

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



An Ecumenical Christmas Carol Celebration Service

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

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




Refreshments will be served after the service

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

Have you made your farm fire ready?

by Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

VICTORIAN producers are more aware than most of the importance of being prepared and having a plan in place for livestock during a fire.

With the fire season almost upon us, now is the time for livestock owners to get prepared and have a clear strategy to apply in the possibility of a fire emergency on their farm.

A key factor in minimising the threat to livestock during a bush fire or on extreme fire danger days, is to identify safer areas on farm where livestock can be moved to.

The area you choose will depend on the type of livestock and their expected behaviour during a fire.

To reduce potential injury and death to livestock you should consider relocating stock to designated low risk areas during days of high fire danger and Total Fire Bans.

Low risk areas include; bare areas such as ploughed paddocks, and areas cultivated and kept free of combustible vegetation bared-out paddocks, provided they are well defended by fire breaks irrigated paddocks or paddocks containing green summer crops stockyards that can be wet in advance. However, the yards must be well defended as the fire front passes. Dams and swamps are another possible option.

All low-risk areas should have sufficient drinking water to enable stock to remain in the area for extended periods of high fire risk and high temperatures.

Stockyards have been known to successfully hold stock during a fire if protected by a firebreak. If this is your preferred option, consider using a sprinkler system since stock being held together on a hot day can suffer heat stress.

Horses should not be locked up in small areas or stables but moved to an open paddock with minimal vegetation, so they can move freely. Horses and cattle are adept at avoiding a fire moving themselves to safe open areas and usually suffer minimal burns if left to do so.

If equipment such as rugs, halters and flyveils remain on horses, the plastic may melt, and metal buckles can burn the animal. Therefore, consider using rope halters for easier handling and management.

It's crucial not to open gates that may allow stock access to public roadways, as any animals will be a hazard to traffic in smoky conditions.

On days of extreme fire danger or on the day before, stock should be moved into lower risk areas on-farm, or to a safer property.

Agriculture Victoria advises livestock owners to act early and do not get caught trying to move stock as a fire approaches. Listen to weather forecasts and observe your own environment to help you decide when to put your plan into action.

For further assistance on preparing a farm and livestock bushfire plan contact the Agriculture Victoria Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

for all your

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Alexandra Newspapers
43 Grant Street
Alexandra 3714

Mayor and deputy mayor appointed

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"As mayor I will advocate for opportunities for our commercial, agricultural, and industrial employers; I will continue to advocate for our community's equitable access to recurrent, untied grant funding; I'll work with colleagues across the state to ensure that local government is recognised as valuable partner providing vital services and amenities to our community; we will work toward your vision for a prosperous, sustainable future; and I will represent Murrindindi inclusively and with pride to the very best of my ability.

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

Nominations were then presented for Deputy Mayor. Cr Carpenter nominated Cr Carr as deputy mayor. Cr Carr accepted the

nomination. There were no other nominations and Cr Carr was elected as deputy mayor.

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

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

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

Cr McAulay moved the motion that the following councillors are council representatives to the committees and organisations: Cr Adams and Cr McAulay, Audit and risk committee; Cr Gallagher, Cr Carr and Cr Lording, Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Committee; Cr McAulay, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee; Cr Carpenter, Council Roads Advisory Group (CRAG); Cr Hildebrand and Cr Gallagher, the Yea Saleyards Community Asset Committee.

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

Gender equality data released

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Consultation open for feedback around the great outdoors

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

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

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

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

The state government established the Great Outdoors Taskforce earlier this year,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Congratulations to our Values Award winners from week six.

Excellent job Charlie, Harry, Tyrese, Sofi and Leni.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL



Congratulations to Matthew, Alex, Angus, Milly, Daisy and Blake for receiving awards for outstanding actions that align with our school values of Respect, Resilience and Safety.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by Kinglake branch



New tobacco licencing scheme

TOBACCO is estimated to kill 4000 Victorians and about 20,000 people around Australia every year, making it the leading cause of preventable deaths and years of life lost. This is why VicHealth has welcomed the recent announcement by the Victorian Government to introduce a tobacco retail licencing scheme.

VicHealth CEO, Dr Sandro Demaio, supports the new retail licencing scheme for tobacco, saying it will save lives.

“A tobacco licencing scheme will remove dishonest sellers from the market, ensuring they aren’t peddling poison to school children, or selling illicit tobacco or vapes,” Dr Demaio said.

“Currently, tobacco can be sold by anyone, anywhere in Victoria, with no

requirement for retailers to notify the Victorian Government.”

The health impacts from tobacco and vaping are enormous.

Victoria alone spends more than \$600-million dollars a year on smoking-related healthcare including costs associated with primary and specialist medical care, hospitals, nursing homes, pharmaceuticals and ambulances.

“Tobacco is the only product that will kill two out of three of its users, and it doesn’t discriminate. Alarmingly, the latest data shows Australian teen smoking has increased for the first time in a quarter of a century, on the back of rising use of vapes,” said Michelle Murray, VicHealth Executive Manager, Health Promotion Systems.

Negotiations begin for Australia’s first Treaty

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING FEATURES

Let’s eat,
it’s our treat



Publishing: December 4

Deadline: November 28, 5pm



Publishing: December 11

Deadline: December 5, 5pm

Work
Local



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Christmas
Wishes



Publishing: December 18

Deadline: December 12, 5pm

Funding to support and honour Veterans

LAST week the Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman announced that the state government is contributing more to support and honour veterans by opening applications for two new rounds of the *Veterans Capital Works and Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honours 2024-25 grant programs*.

Veterans Capital Works 2024-25 grants will provide between \$5000 and \$50,000 to support projects that build or improve buildings and facilities for organisations that deliver services to veterans, their families and communities.

Funded projects may include the upgrade, development or improvement of facility spaces, accessibility, sustainability or other aspects of venues.

Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour 2024-25 grants provide up to \$30,000 to restore or

change war memorials, honour rolls and avenues of honour, to reflect their original condition or better reflect veteran service in the community.

The program supports local war memorials that commemorate Victorians who served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Applications for grants in both programs are open until February 3, 2025.

For more information about Veterans Capital Works grants or to apply, visit vic.gov.au/veterans-capital-works-grant-program

To learn more about Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour grants or apply, visit vic.gov.au/restoring-community-war-memorials-and-avenues-honour

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30
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Calling all men! Join Nate (local social worker) and Dave (local tradie) for a casual session to chat about mental and emotional health, as well as tips about how to improve your personal happiness. Catering will be provided, and the session is **100% FREE!** Places are limited. Register now via the QR code or reach out to the guys by email or phone (details below).



Disclaimer

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



For more Information

Email onemanworkshops@gmail.com



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

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



FACILITATORS



Nate Proctor, Social Worker



David Webb, Local Tradie



REGISTER NOW!



Shop Local This Christmas



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



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

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Shop local at the Marysville Market

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marysville Market

Sunday, December 8
from 9am to 1pm

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Want more national parks deer?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

stated the government’s support for the motion.

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

The motion was agreed to.

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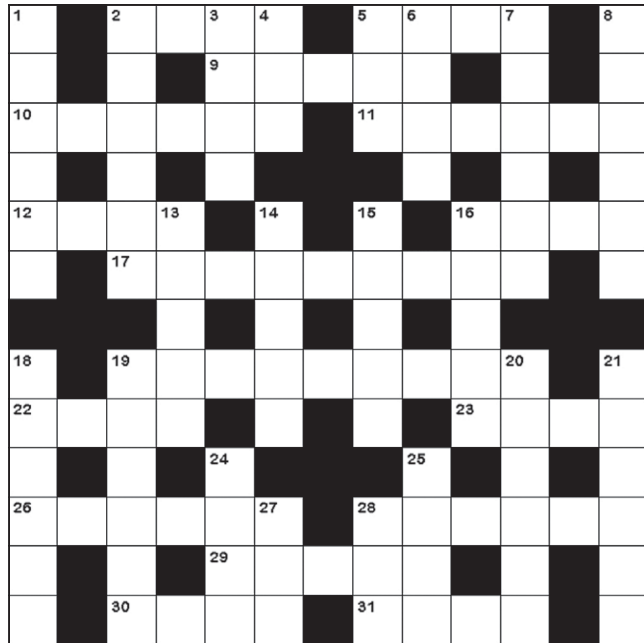
PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 12

Crossword

ACROSS

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



DOWN

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

Word Search

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

Math Square

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

Eat your veggies

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

Fill in the missing numbers.

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

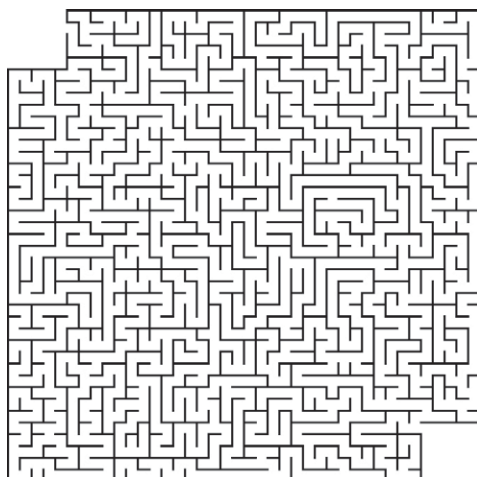
Sudoku

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

Difficulty: Hard

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

Maze



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

Who let the cats out?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

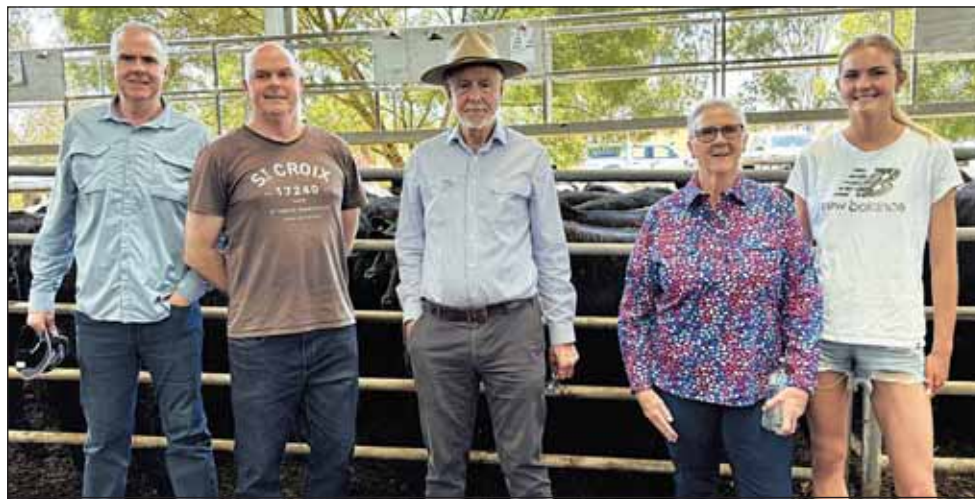
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Spring Feature Store Sale at Yea



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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That's 10.02 per cent and 30.58 per cent respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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More city dwellers looking for a tree change

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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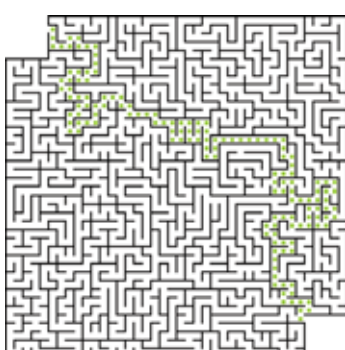
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MEETINGS

ALEXANDRA DISTRICT HEALTH

The Board of Directors of Alexandra District Health invite you to join us for our

2023-2024 Annual General Meeting

This event will be held on

Thursday 5th December 2024 at 4.00pm, at Alexandra District Hospital.

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

Please join us for refreshments served afterwards

Please RSVP to Jennifer Creed by 28th November, 2024

5772 0924 jennifer.creed@adh.org.au

MEETINGS



Registration No: A0018756R

NOTICE OF ANNUAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Business of the Meeting:

- to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting
 - to receive and consider:
 - (a) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year
 - (b) the financial statements of the association for the preceding financial year
 - to elect the members of the committee;
 - Appointment of Auditor
- Applications for a position on the Board of Management are invited. Please contact Darlingford on 5774 2711. ALL WELCOME**
- Please RSVP by December 10, 2024**

SITUATION VACANT



Administrative Officer, Part Time 3-4 Days/Week

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

Mandatory Requirements:

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- Current police check

Essential:

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Food Services, Cleaning &/or Laundry Staff

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

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

BUSINESS

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

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

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

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ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

Standard
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Classifieds

DEATH NOTICES

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

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

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


IN MEMORIAM


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

MEETINGS

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

MULLER, Katharina
A graveside service will be held at Eildon Cemetery on Thursday, November 28, commencing at 11am.

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PARKINSON, Dorothy Jean
(nee Stillman).
A service celebrating the life of Dorothy will be held at Murrindindi Chapel, 21 Johnston Street, Alexandra on Wednesday, November 27 commencing at noon.
Followed by a burial at Alexandra Lawn Cemetery.

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Good numbers at the Yea Show despite the heat



A kid waiting for some pats. -AR



There were plenty of games for the children. -AR



Alexandra District Health and Murrindindi Shire Council both had stalls at the show. -AR



The Dindi Line Dancers put on a colourful display. -AR

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Some beautiful artworks. -AR



One of the lovely hand-made items. -AR



People looking at the wonderful photos on display. -AR



Roy enjoying the children's entertainment. -AR



Yea Spin and Yarn. -AR



The sheepdog trials were a big hit with the attendees. -AR



There were a variety of heritage machinery pieces. -AR



The Yea Cattle Show. -AR



Some of the equestrians in the centre of the showgrounds. -AR



Preserves at the show. -AR



Denise Sheather with her prize-winning item.



Leah, Indi, Ella and Sandra enjoying the schoolchildren's display. -AR



A competitor in the Yea Cattle Show. -AR



Roaming characters for the children to meet. -AR

The Chronicle Sport



Sports Editorial: sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Little Aths breaking records



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



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

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

Over the past two weekends many club records have been broken at the normal Saturday meets. Levi Campbell is leading the charge with club records in under 14 javelin, long jump, high jump, 200 metre hurdles, and shot put, Ivy Duncan under nine 700 metre race walk and 70 metre



Levi Campbell with five new centre records. -S

sprint, Cate Caswell in the under 15 200 metre hurdles, Charlotte Boulton in the under 14 200 metre hurdles, Clay Hilder in the under 12 1100 metre race walk, Hazel Dalton in the under seven 500 metre, Sienna Duncan in the under 12 1100 metre race walk, and Kai Goonan in the under seven 70 metre Sprint.

Many members have been achieving bronze personal best

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



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

Michael Spagnolo bags monthly medal in Yea

by Alan Pell

SEVENTEEN men vied for the monthly medal last Saturday at Yea Golf Club. Winner with 72 off the stick nett 65 was Michael Spagnolo (7). Also having a great round was Martin Lowe (18) with nett 66 second.

Third with nett 69 was Tony Rule (19) on countback from fourth Gary Pollard (13). Nearest the pin on the 18th was John Phillips and the putting was won by Mic and Martin both with 22 putts. The lucky club award \$10 went to Rick Wills.

Last Saturday night the club had a tree fall next to the clubhouse, fortunately there were no cars around.

Last Wednesday's golf saw 16 players in a par event. Winner was Brendan Chenhall (15) with plus one on countback from Alan Pell (12). Third was Russ Wealands (26) on square from fourth Sam Wright (29) on minus one.

Mic Spagnolo was nearest the pin on the 14th and Bill Dredge won the club award.



A tree blew down near the Yea Golf Club's clubhouse over the week. Luckily there were no cars in the vicinity and no-one was injured. -S