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WILDLIFE HOMES

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IT'S RODEO TIME

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IMMACULATE HOME



TIME TO HAVE A BALL: The Hume Indoor Cricket Centre will provide cricketers with an all-seasons training space.

Indoor centre opens

CRICKETERS in Melbourne's north can look forward to honing their skills and smashing sixes at the new Hume Indoor Cricket Centre, backed by the State Government.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence joined Hume City Council Mayor, Councillor Jarrod Bell, Cricket Victoria, and Greenvale Kangaroos

Cricket Club on February 7 to officially open the Centre at Greenvale Recreation Reserve, backed by \$1.5 million from the State Government.

With Australia's recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy test win against India and the return of the Women's Ashes to the hallowed turf of the MCG, cricket is front and centre in the hearts and minds of Victorians right now.

The indoor centre means year-round opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to develop their skills through community and competitive

programs, tournaments, and camps.

The venue will cater for the growing cricketing community in the local area by supporting players to take their batting, fielding, and bowling skills to the next level.

Ms Spence said the new facilities will provide more opportunities for cricketers.

"Cricket has always been one of the most loved sports

in Australia and these new facilities mean players can get out with their friends and practice their skills all year round," she said.

"We're giving the local cricket community quality, modern facilities they can be proud of, and that foster the next generation of Victorian cricket stars."

Member for Greenvale Iwan Walters said the new facility

would be the envy of cricketers around the state.

"This is a major boost for our booming cricket community who now have world class facilities to enjoy playing the sport they love, closer to home," he said.

Hume City Council contributed \$9.4 million towards the purpose-built facility.

For more information, visit www.sport.vic.gov.au.



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Business awards nominations open

THE City of Whittlesea will be celebrating the exceptional talent and innovation of its business community at the third annual City of Whittlesea Business Awards.

Nominations are now open for businesses to be recognised for their achievements, contributions, and commitment to excellence.

The awards offer a platform for entrepreneurs, innovators, and hardworking operators across the City of Whittlesea to showcase their successes and contributions to the community and industry.

The City of Whittlesea Business Awards are about recognising excellence and inspiring the business community to strive for a higher standard of innovation, sustainability, and service.

The awards will be open exclusively for members of the City of Whittlesea Business Network to self-nominate and enter one of the seven award categories. These categories will be judged by an independent panel and the finalists will be invited to the awards evening where the winners will be announced. In addition to the seven judged awards, one business will be awarded the City of Whittlesea Business of the Year award.

City of Whittlesea Deputy Mayor Daniela Zinni emphasised that the City of Whittlesea Business Awards were a true reflection of the rich and varied stories that made the business community exceptional, and stated that businesses deserved to be celebrated for their achievements.

“These awards shine a spotlight on the hard work and achievements of our local businesses, showcasing the best of what the City of Whittlesea has to offer,” she said.

“Nominate your business and let’s come together to celebrate your success and the vital role businesses play in our community.

“Businesses across the City of Whittlesea support the economic prosperity of the municipality by providing employment opportunities and delivering exceptional products and services.

“We’re thrilled to be able to celebrate this contribution at our 2025 Business Awards.”

Nominations for the awards close at 5pm on March 7. All finalists will be announced on April 1, with winners celebrated at a gala awards evening on May 29 at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre in South Morang.

To enter your business for the City of Whittlesea Business Awards, visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessAwards.

Police Beat

RSPCA convicts two

SUGARLOAF CREEK

A 27-year-old Sugarloaf Creek woman was convicted of two counts of animal cruelty at the Seymour Magistrates Court on Thursday, January 16.

RSPCA Victoria Inspectors attended a property in Sugarloaf Creek after receiving a cruelty report from a member of the public who found two visibly underweight dogs without access to water.

The inspectors instructed the woman to immediately provide the animals with water and created a written feeding plan and flea treatments for the animals.

Despite initially regaining weight, the Inspectors found the two dogs were soon underweight again without access to water and seized the animals.

KILMORE

A 57-year-old Kilmore man pleaded guilty to four charges of animal cruelty at the Seymour Magistrates Court on Thursday, January 16.

RSPCA Victoria Inspectors attended a property in Kilmore after receiving a tip-off from a member of the public about a group of abandoned cats and a dog living in squalid conditions.

The property had an extensive buildup of faeces and urine inside with no food or water available for the animals, who were suffering from significant dental disease, cat flu, flea infestations, matted fur, and had ingested foreign objects.

The bee in my bonnet

with Emily Waite



Let’s talk trash

SPECIFICALLY, roadside dumping.

A tale as old as time, roadside dumping has plagued the shire for decades. A quick glance through our archives reveals hundreds of articles written on the issue, with one of the earliest appearing in the *Review* on June 1, 2004—nearly 21 years ago.

Titled *Roadside dumping fears increase*, the article warned that Mitchell Shire Council’s proposed hike in waste and resource recovery fees would only worsen an already persistent problem. At the time, the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group was routinely clearing 20 to 30 bags of rubbish off the side of the Broadford-Epping Road every two months.

Back then, the cost to dispose of a cubic metre of waste was set to rise from \$26 to \$28. Today, that fee has soared to \$95 for ratepayers and \$190 for non-ratepayers.

While the fees are no doubt a factor in many dumping incidents, laziness, a blatant disregard for the environment and community, and a sense of entitlement are also driving forces behind the problem.

A lack of awareness about environmental impact certainly isn’t the issue. Recycling and responsible waste management aren’t rocket science, and its importance has been drilled into each of us from childhood—generations have grown up with slogans such as ‘Do the right thing, use the right bin,’ and ‘Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.’

Unfortunately, once rubbish is dumped, it then needs to be cleared.



HIDDEN DANGERS: This grassy mound, located on the side of the northbound Hume Freeway Kilmore-Wandong off-ramp conceals hazardous items.



RUBBLE TROUBLE: Bricks, cement, and rebar can be spotted in the now-grassy mound that was dumped almost a year ago.

This is where the ongoing issue of the unsightly mess worsens, as authorities often fall short in addressing waste clean-up promptly.

An example of this is the grassy mound that sits on the left side of the northbound Hume Freeway Kilmore-Wandong exit. While it appears to be a relatively harmless pile of dirt, now overgrown with weeds and grass, it conceals rocks, bricks, and cement below the surface—a dangerous combination for a road where drivers must decelerate from 110km/h to a complete stop.

It was dumped nearly a year ago, just before March 1, 2024, and reported to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) shortly after, with assurances that crews would be onsite to

remove the rubbish the following week.

Curiously, this is a similar response the *Review* received from the DTP on November 6, eight months after the initial report, that stated that the pile would be cleared within days. Yet, on November 21, the mound remained untouched, prompting the *Review* to follow up once again—this time with no reply.

Whether or not crews were ever sent out to the site remains a mystery, but an email received on February 17 stated that the DTP was planning to remove rubbish along Epping-Kilmore Road—not the road in question, but perhaps a simple misunderstanding.

Only time will tell if this mess is finally cleaned up, or if it’s just another load of rubbish.



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First class for Old Boys

THE 78th annual reunion of the Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys Association held on Australia Day was first class in many ways.

Held at the Shamrock Hotel, Michael B Halley and friends recalled that Bill Hardman, son of the owner in the 1950s, was a student taught by the Marist Brothers. A number of boys who would have been Bill's classmates were joined by alumnus that were students before or after him.

The reunions have become family affairs, as the passing of time has reduced the membership. In the past 12 months, the association has sadly added 13 boys to the Deceased Remembrance Roll.

The records of the school have been lost, so the actual number of

boys who passed through the gates at the corner of Powlett and Hutton Street is not known, but nearly 400 deaths have been identified.

The congregation consisted of members and their families, which President Roley Sandilands stated was 'first class', in addition to the fare and the service provided by the attentive staff. Registrants were able to select from six sumptuous and generous meals, and treated to a delightful display of members' memorabilia.

Next year's reunion will be the responsibility of the new committee, and as always, the group will be seeking first class candidates.

A committee to be determined at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.



A HAPPY REUNION: Old Boys Association Secretary Michael Halley, Brother Kevin Hoare, President Roley Sandilands, Treasurer Len Young, and Ex Officio Pat Clohesy enjoyed reminiscing on the good old days.

Information sought for decision-making

THE City of Whittlesea is excited to announce the next round of the Community Insights Study is now open.

A select number of households in the City of Whittlesea have been randomly chosen to participate, and the insights gathered from this study will be vital in shaping future decisions and improving services for the local community.

The Community Insights Study is conducted three times per year, and explores various aspects of community life, providing a better understanding of residents' experiences over time.

The study is completely voluntary, and residents may be invited to complete a survey via mail or email. The deadline for participation in the current survey is March 9. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and the information provided is confidential.

City of Whittlesea Deputy Mayor Daniela Zinni said residents' feedback would help build the community footprint.

"By taking part in the Community Insights Study, you are

playing an important role in building a stronger and safer community," she said.

"This survey is about more than just data, it is about listening to our residents and using their insights to make the City of Whittlesea an even better place to live, work, and play.

"Every voice counts in building a stronger, more connected community. If you have been selected, please take part and help shape the future of our city."

For more information about the Community Insights Study, and to view past survey results, visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityinsights.

Have a news tip?

We want to hear from you!

5734 3344, or news@ncreview.com.au

North Central Review
Whittlesea Review



WORDS OF WISDOM

What makes you happy?

Aedan, age 6: Learning different things.

Odin, age 6: My friends.

Brooke, age 8: Cuddling animals.

What advice do you have for others?

Adelaide, age 6: Make a funny joke.

Zoe, age 7: Always be kind. Even if it's a robber, just say, 'Please don't steal my stuff.'

Ryder, age 6: Deep breathing and sit on a chair for a while to calm down.

What is one thing everyone should do?

Kyrah, age 11: Be nice and respectful.

Ava, age 9: Keep smiling.

Maram, age 12: Have a better life.

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FEB 8 • FEB 15 • FEB 22



New clubhouse set to dazzle

CONSTRUCTION for a \$13.5 million state-of-the-art clubhouse is now underway at Halcyon Highlands, a land lease community designed for over 55s in Mickleham.

Designed by award-winning architects ClarkeHopkinsClarke and built by Insitu Group, the new clubhouse will provide homeowners with a range of resort-quality facilities that support an active lifestyle and community connections.

The clubhouse will provide homeowners with access to facilities like a modern lounge and bar, library, games equipment, and gold-class style cinema, as well as a wellness precinct with premium sports facilities, including a heated pool, pickleball court, fully equipped gym, and golf simulator.

Halcyon Highlands lies within Stockland's established and award-winning master-planned community, Stockland Highlands, with access to schools, shops, major sporting facilities, nature reserves, and playgrounds. The community is also close to transport links including Craigieburn station, Tullamarine Airport, the Hume Highway, and bus services.

Once complete, Halcyon Highlands will comprise

around 239 architecturally designed homes, each with a 7 star energy rating and a 3.9 kilowatt solar system as standard.

Stockland Halcyon Victoria General Manager James Westh said the construction marked an exciting milestone for the organisation.

"We understand that Victorians over 55 years of age are looking for more than just a home—they want to experience an active and dynamic lifestyle close to friends and family, with quality amenities close by," he said.

"The new clubhouse will provide home owners with a range of premium facilities that cater to group sports and recreation, social activities like the cinema, or a space to relax in the wellness precinct, meaning there's something for everyone.

"We look forward to seeing the Halcyon Highlands community enjoy the space once we complete construction of the clubhouse, which is expected in early 2026."



IN THE TREETOPS: A crane was used to install the hollows safely.



A HOME AMONG THE GUM TREES: The hollows will provide wildlife with a safe retreat.

Big build protects wildlife

LOCAL native animals are enjoying safe new homes in Greenvale's treetops, courtesy of the Mickleham Road Upgrade Stage One.

As part of the project's efforts to support local biodiversity, the project team has installed 12 habitat hollows in native trees along the project area.

The hollows are intended to provide critical nesting and sheltering sites for a variety of native wildlife species, including lorikeets and possums.

Created from salvaged and repurposed hollow logs, they were carefully installed in native trees selected for their dense canopies, suitable height, and accessibility.

The hollows mimic natural nesting environments while offering improved insulation, durability, and protection against predators and the elements.

Ecologists and arborists advised the project team to help achieve the best outcomes for the hollows and their intended inhabitants.

Each hollow was securely attached to the trees using chains and screw loops, with locations GPS-mapped to facilitate future monitoring.

Ongoing monitoring will assess usage during the breeding season, with inspections planned for spring 2025.

The aim of the initiative is to observe native species nesting and raising young, demonstrat-

ing the hollows' effectiveness in supporting biodiversity.

Major Road Projects Program Director Dipal Sorathia highlighted the importance of supporting local wildlife in the face of construction.

"While the upgrade focused on improving travel efficiency and safety, it was also important to support sustainability and local biodiversity," he said.

"The installation of the habitat hollows highlights our commitment to achieving this balance."

The Mickleham Road Upgrade Stage One has added lanes in both directions and upgraded key intersections between Somerton Road and Dellamore Boulevard.

The project has also built sections of shared-use paths for pedestrian and cyclists, boosting active transport opportunities between Greenvale and Mernda.

The project completed major works in December, delivering safer and more reliable travel more than six months ahead of schedule.

Crews are expected to complete the project's finishing touches, including landscaping and lighting, by the end of March. During these works, temporary lane closures and reduced speeds will be in place to protect the community and work crews.

For more information, visit www.bigbuild.vic.gov.au/mickleham.

Melba Highway landslip repair works

We're completing critical landslip repairs on the Melba Highway in Dixons Creek, between Healesville-Kinglake Road and north of Hunts Lane.

Melba Highway will be closed to traffic and detours will be in place from **17 February to late March**.

Labour Day long weekend

Melba Highway will open in both directions for the Labour Day long weekend from **Friday 7 March until Tuesday 11 March** with reduced speed limits.

Please support local businesses which remain open during works and are accessible by travelling via Yarra Glen.



Scan the QR code or find out more at transport.vic.gov.au/melbahighway





GAZEBO GOALS: Inland Rail is making sure the Broadford Scouts Groups stay covered with a generous grant.

Grant boosts Broadford scouts

THE First Broadford Scout Group has made critical purchases thanks to funding from Inland Rail.

The latest grant is the group's third in the last few years, receiving \$1882, which has helped them to purchase goods that will enhance the skillsets of their members.

First Broadford Scout Group secretary Tanya Maiwald said the purchase of a gazebo, which was the most pressing need for the group, was made possible by the awarding of the grant.

"The gazebo was the most important item we bought with the grant, and we also got two

light kits, as the scouts go camping a fair bit," she said.

"They are battery-powered, and you hang them into the tent for evening games and craft.

"They also got eskies to carry barbecue items. That was bought with our latest grant."

Ms Maiwald was grateful for the support Inland Rail provided groups around the Broadford community, noting how visible they were at events.

"Inland Rail have a community funding program, and every one or two years, community groups within the growth corridor are eligible to apply," she said.

"They have a good team that go out into the community, and you get to know them. They turn up to Broadford's Australia Day festival and they always have street stalls.

"We had a few Inland Rail representatives at our yearly December barbecue for the kids in the scouting year."

Ms Maiwald also noted how it has helped the scouts become one of the biggest youth groups in Broadford, with new members above the age of five always welcome.

"This is one of the largest youth groups in Broadford, with 70 to 80 kids from Broadford and surrounds, and around 50 to 60 families," she said.

"The kids meet every week during the school terms, and they go on events such as camps, excursions, travels to Melbourne, a flag raising at the Australia Day ceremony, carrying the flag at ANZAC Day.

"We do heaps of community work, and a lot of interactions and visibility. They do amazing things."

Another sisterly act

By Jo Kubeil

THE Mitchell and Honbetsu delegation 2025 congregated at the Greater Beveridge Community Centre earlier this month to be introduced to their Mitchell Shire host families.

The Honbetsu sister program was established between the then-Kilmore Shire and Honbetsu Shire in 1991, and now the Mitchell

Shire Council, Bendigo Bank Wallan and District, and volunteers are keeping the connection alive.

Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne Tokuro Furuya attended the event along with 30 students and six chaperones, whose road and air voyage took around 24 hours.

While Honbetsu (9000) is not as populated as the Mitchell Shire (53,723), it shares a similar landscape and agricultural demography.

In Honbetsu, its primary agricultural products are soybean, dairy, and sugar beets, while in the Mitchell Shire, the primary products are livestock, wool, and horticulture.

The students spent four days with their hosts, with one host family showing their delegate to the Wallan Market, while another rediscovered Mount Disappointment through their visitor's eyes.

An Aussie BBQ was of course high on the list of things to do for most, as well as providing delegates with a taste of Australian classics such as Vegemite, lamingtons, and pavlovas.



WELCOME TO THE SHIRE: Chairman of the Mitchell Honbetsu Sister City Association Chris Garrett, Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne Tokuro Furuya, Bendigo Bank Wallan and District Branch Manager Jackie Ginefra, and Mitchell Shire Council Councillor Claudia James welcomed the Mitchell and Honbetsu delegation to the shire.


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Council News



Free music event for the whole community

The Seymour River and Ranges Music Festival free, community event hosted by Mitchell Shire Council, coming to Kings Park on Saturday 15 March.

Our incredible line-up includes the soulful sounds of The Black Sorrows, country rising star Taylor Sheridan, festival favourites Kingswood and country duo Carter & Carter. Plus, community performances including dance, bands and DJs.

There will be a variety of food trucks and a pop-up bar to keep your energy going. Entertain the kids with a range of fun activities in the Youth Activation area or pick up a treasure at the market stalls.

Tickets are limited so get in quick! More information and ticket bookings visit mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/events



Mitchell Shire needs...

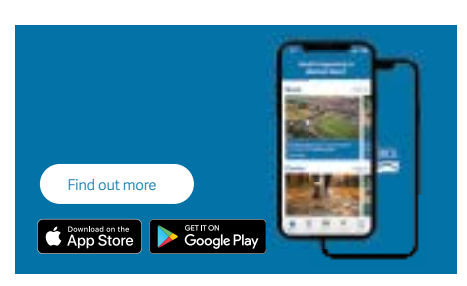
Finish this sentence by taking a closer look at our 2025/26 Budget Development Document, Draft 10-Year Capital Works Program and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan and share your thoughts and suggestions with us.

Attend a pop-up session to give feedback in person:

- Gaol Cafe Kilmore Market, Sunday 23 February

Visit engagingmitchellshire.com to provide input and see a full list of proposed projects.

Submissions close Friday 28 February.



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Stay connected and informed with all things Mitchell! Our app is now available on the App Store and Google Play.

Key Features:

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New Bins start soon

Don't miss bin day

Download the My Mitchell App:

- Set bin day reminders
- Lodge bin service requests
- Report a missed bin
- View the A to Z guide

The new glass and food and garden organics bins are part of the upcoming kerbside collection changes starting March 2025.

mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/waste

Contact us

Customer and Library Service Centres in Broadford, Kilmore, Seymour and Wallan 5734 6200

mitchellshire.vic.gov.au engagingmitchellshire.com

Collection day changes

MORE than 40 streets in the shire will move to a new bin collection day from March 4.

Alongside the introduction of Mitchell Shire's new four bin system, several properties in the region will no longer place their bins out on a Monday night, but instead on a Wednesday evening for a Thursday morning collection.

Affected properties include:

Beveridge: Arrowsmith Street, Bellyn Court, Carney Court, Goshawk Street, Kelly Street, Kestrel Street, Kite Street, Kookaburra Way, Lithgow Street, Lynwood Drive, Minton Street, Nankeen Loop, Old Hume Hwy, Sparrowhawk Drive, Spring Street, and Stewart Street.

Clonbinane: Ryans Rise.

Heathcote Junction: North Mountain Road, Simmonds Court, and South Mountain Road.

Kilmore East: Bakers Road, Duffy Street, Gavan Street, Kilmore East Road, Louis Rise, O'Gradys Road, and O'Sheas Road.

Upper Plenty: Clarkes Road, Cleves Road South, Epping Kilmore Road, Hadfield Road West, Mahady Road, Mugavins Road, Munts Road, South Mountain Road, and Wallan Whittlesea Road.

Wallan: Hart Court.

Wandong: Barwon Drive, Chesterfield Drive, Epping Kilmore Road, Mathiesons Road, Morphett Rise, O'Gradys Road, Quarry Siding Road, Sir Leo Curtis Drive, Swan Court, and Yarra Court.



MIND THE GAP: Underground works in Lancefield have recently been completed.

Sewer upgrades in Lancefield

GREATER Western Water (GWW) has completed a major upgrade to Lancefield's sewer network, ensuring reliable sewer services for customers well into the future.

The project involved replacing 6.5 kilometres of sewer pipes along Lancefield-Tooborac Road, Lancefield-Kilmore Road, and Racecourse Road, completed in stages over several months.

GWW General Manager for Infrastructure and Growth Ian Burton said the upgrade was necessary to improve network reliability and reduce the risk of sewage spills.

"The new sewer main provides a significant

increase in capacity, ensuring our infrastructure is keeping up with future demand," he said.

"We'd like to thank the Lancefield community for their support and understanding while we completed these essential works.

"Our consultation with local residents and businesses was especially important to help shape our planning and minimise construction impacts."

Part of the upgrade was completed using trenchless technology, which replaces mains without major digging. This method helped reduce disruption for the community and minimise environmental impacts.

New kerbside bins start in March!

Your new kerbside collection service begins in March. To learn about what goes in each bin visit our A to Z guide on our website or App.

For your bin collection calendar, download the **My Mitchell App** or visit:

mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/waste



Landholders invited to apply

LANDHOLDERS across the region can now enjoy the benefits of having carbon-offsetting native vegetation on their property.

Managed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) with funding from the City of Greater Bendigo, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, and Mount Alexander Shire Council, Grow Towards Zero is a project that will seek to support landowners of individual sites where the combined planting area is five hectares or more, or a group of neighbouring landholders are looking to create corridors of native vegetation.

CMA Business Development Manager Matthew



LET'S REACH NET ZERO: Landholders interested in boosting their property's natural environment are invited to apply for an exciting new program.

Dawson invited expressions of interest from landholders across the North Central CMA region or within the areas of participating councils.

"We're looking for landholders keen to have trees planted on their property to offset local carbon emissions and take on-ground climate change action," he said.

"Native trees and shrubs bring all kinds of benefits to a property. As well as looking great, native vegetation means increased habitat for wildlife, and can help reduce soil and wind erosion.

"Undertaking revegetation on private property can be costly. This program addresses this by using carbon offset needs to source and plant the trees and



GREEN BENEFITS: Protect your property and the wider environment with support from CMA.

shrubs and maintain them for two years.

"Landholders won't need to provide a financial contribution to set up the sites or be required to place a covenant over the site, and by joining this program, landowners will be keeping carbon credits within the local economy."

The first round of expressions of interest for the project is open until March 31, 2025.

The project will develop a portfolio of potential sites, with intentions to stagger implementation on a selection over the coming few years.

For more information, visit www.nccma.vic.gov.au/grow-towards-zero.



POSITIVE NEWS

Your weekly dose of good news from around the shire.

Nathan Oliver: Great to see the back of the Kilmore fish and chips/two dollar store is finally being fixed!

Jenine Anderson Heller: The new lease of life at the Broadford Community Garden and great community involvement.

Jane Thomas: Wellington Street, Wallan, being paved and footpaths fixed.

Fran Cleeland: How great it was the other day when an ambulance was trying to get through the main street [with] lights and sirens, and every car and truck in front and behind me moved as far to the left as possible. Good on you everyone, it was great. It might've been someone you know needing to get to hospital and you all did as much as you could to help. Wonderful.

Eco-friendly homes now available

THE first release of sustainable homes in the latest land lease community in Beveridge is attracting strong interest from local downsizers looking for green, low maintenance homes, and lifestyle benefits, according to developer Ingenia Lifestyle.

The community is the first in Australia to achieve a Green Star Homes Designed assessment for all designs across the 262 home community from the Green Building Council of Australia. Green Star Homes are cheaper to run, more comfortable to live in, and good for the planet, and can save residents over \$2000 a year on household bills compared to an original 30 year old gas powered home.

The masterplan features 262 architecturally designed homes and resort-style facilities spread over 10 hectares.

Priced from \$475,000**, the homes come with a host of sustainable features such as solar power, hot water heat pump, high performance insulation, all electric appliances, thermally efficient windows, and heat recovery ventilation.

Ingenia Chief Executive John Carfi was excited to offer quality homes at an affordable price.

"We're pioneering a new era of sustainable land lease communities that enhances residents quality of life while lowering running costs," he said.

"With people living longer, retirement dollars need to stretch further. We're proud to offer retirees homes that represent the future of affordable, sustainable retirement living right here in Beveridge."

Retirees Jon and Cheryl Abbott said the home's green features were a big attraction.

"We currently live in a 43 year old house so moving into a home that uses less energy and is more environmentally friendly is a big tick for us," they said.

"Like everyone, we're not immune to cost of living pressures, so bill savings will be a significant benefit stemming from our decision."

The community clubhouse will feature a lounge area, bar and billiard tables, gold-class-style cinema, indoor heated pool, gym and yoga studio, library, hair salon, croquet and pickleball courts, BBQ area, community garden, and workshop.

Construction of the homes has commenced, with the first



A NATION FIRST: Ingenia's Beveridge community is the first in Australia to be given the stamp of approval in the Green Star Homes Designed assessment.

residents expected to move in around mid-2025.

Land lease communities are an increasingly popular option for senior Australians seeking affordable homes, premium facilities and social activities, with more than 130,000 retirees living in land lease communities around the country.***

The Ingenia land lease model means the buyer owns the house but leases the land it is



A NEW BEGINNING: Ingenia Chief Executive John Carfi is thrilled to offer retirees Jon and Cheryl Abbott an affordable, sustainable home.

on via a weekly site rental fee. There are no exit fees, deferred management fees (DMF), or stamp duty, and buyers get to keep any capital gains.

For more information, visit www.ingenialifestyle.com.au/springside-beveridge or visit the sales office at Craigieburn Central Shopping Centre, opposite Australia Post.

Ingenia Lifestyle
Springside

Retire in style

New homes are selling now from \$475,000* at Ingenia Lifestyle Springside - a brand new community boasting resort-style facilities in picturesque Beveridge.

Downsize to luxury living with low-maintenance 2 and 3 bedroom home designs you'll love, plus save over \$2,000 a year on bills** with our healthy homes, full of sustainable features all included in the purchase price. Our first new homes are move-in ready from mid this year.

Visit our sales office at Craigieburn Central, opposite Australia Post, or call **8723 0136** to book an appointment.

Ingenia Lifestyle Beveridge



Free up money

Low maintenance living

No exit fees or stamp duty

Keep any capital gains

Resort-style facilities

A green healthy home

*Price is based on owning your home and leasing the land and is correct at the time of printing and subject to change without notice. 29.1.25.

** Compared to an original 30 year old gas home based on Kinesis 'Green Star Home Sustainability Analysis Report,' Oct 2024.

Visit Ingenialifestyle.com.au/Beveridge for more information.



An exciting \$4.5 million upgrade

IT'S OFFICIAL: Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes (L) stands with Broadford Secondary College school captains Abby Robinson and Sam McGhie (C) and principal Tania Pearson (R) as they cut the ribbons to declare the school's new portables open.

By Jo Kubeil

STUDENTS at Broadford Secondary College (BSC) recently celebrated the official opening of their new, portable classrooms.

Offering senior students new areas to undertake several subjects, BSC principal Tania Pearson announced that one portable would host Japanese and textiles classes, while the remaining two would be used for other classes which do not require practical equipment, such as science and technology.

"Make them places where your ideas flourish and your goals become a reality," she said.

As promised by Minister for Education Ben Carroll, the \$4.5 million hub includes three double-storey classrooms and a new toilet facility, providing a

modern, flexible, fit-for-purpose learning environment for all.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony, reminiscing on her last visit to the college in May 2019 when she cut the ribbon for a project coming in at \$4.4 million.

That project saw state-of-the-art classrooms, a refurbished library, and a new literacy centre built for staff and students, alongside additional upgrades such as accessible toilets, outdoor learning spaces, and landscaping.

Ms Symes said the new project would deliver an additional \$140,000 for the classrooms' furnishing.

"I'm sure with the interest in textiles, there might be some feedback in relation as to how to deck out the new buildings," she said.

"This investment at Broadford Secondary College will help to ensure that every local student can get a great education in a state-of-the-art classroom."

On the topic of Kilmore gaining a secondary college, Ms Symes said she was very interested in pursuing the project, and had held conversations with Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas to discuss its viability.

"You couldn't open one tomorrow, because it would impact Wallan and Broadford," she said.

"It is something I am pursuing, but I can't make any announcements on that."

Ms Pearson said that enrolments for BSC have been zoned, and that there was currently a waiting list for students.

PET OF THE WEEK

KICKING off our new segment, *Pet of the week*, is Cheryl from Broadford.

Doesn't she look dazzling in her hat? Keep clucking away Cheryl!

Do you own a Very Important Pet? Email us their best picture to news@ncreview.com.au with their name and town, or hand in a photo to our reception staff at 3/87 Sydney Street, Kilmore.



It's rodeo time!

THIS weekend, the Whittlesea Rodeo is set to deliver an adrenaline-pumping spectacle, featuring the best bull riders and bulls the area has ever seen!

Part of the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Australian tour, the rodeo will bring enthusiasts from near and far to experience all the excitement on February 22.

The action-packed schedule will also in-

clude a thrilling saddle bronc event!

For the first time ever, freestyle motorbike riders will join the fun, wowing the crowd with their daring stunts and heart-stopping tricks.

There will be food trucks offering tasty treats like ice cream and wood-fired pizza, a licensed bar to keep you refreshed, and western wear stalls with

high-quality cowboy and cowgirl fashions.

The gates to Whittlesea's showgrounds will open at 5pm, promising a night of family-friendly entertainment you won't want to miss.

Tickets start from just \$20, so be sure to grab yours before it's too late!

To book, visit <https://www.ticketebo.com.au/tarraroo-rodeo/whittlesea-pro-rodeo-2025>.

Broadford site establishment works

February – March 2025



John Holland is establishing several work areas near Broadford's Short Street bridge as part of the Inland Rail project. These sites will store materials, equipment and worker facilities, ahead of construction starting later this year.

Sites will be established at:

- 18-20 Short Street
- 16 Rupert Street
- Rupert Reserve

Hours of works:

- 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday
- 7am to 1pm, Saturdays

What is happening?

- Sites will be fenced to restrict public access, including Rupert Reserve
- Building demolition at 16 Rupert Street
- Playground removal from Rupert Reserve. The closest alternative playground is at 26 Sutherland Street.
- Approved tree and vegetation removal
- Construction of a hardstand and installation of temporary fencing, barriers, lighting and establishing safe entry and exit points for vehicles
- At some sites, temporary buildings and amenities for workers will also be delivered.

What to expect?

- Additional truck movements when materials are delivered to and from these sites
- Traffic management on Short Street bridge during approved tree and vegetation removal
- In some instances, generators will be used until a power supply is connected
- Nearby residents may notice some vibration during construction of the hardstands.

Scan to view latest works notifications



1800 732 761
inlandrail.com.au/b2a





PBR WHITTLESEA

FEBRUARY 22ND

WHITTLESEA SHOWGROUNDS




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WHEN: Every Monday
(except for public or school holidays)
TIME: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Seymour Sports and Aquatics Centre
Pollard Street, Seymour VIC 3660

For further information or to register contact
Wendy Kelly of Nexus Primary Health on
wendyk@nexusprimaryhealth.org.au or 0488 541 439.

Let's shoot for success together!



This is a COVID-safe, all-ages, alcohol-free event. We aim to make this event accessible and inclusive to all of the community. If you would like to attend this event and have specific access needs, please contact Wendy Kelly and we will do our best to accommodate you.

The school bag essential

AS children and parents get back into the swing of school, Asthma Australia is urging parents to update their child's Asthma Action Plan (AAP).

Just like packing a school hat, this simple step helps ensure your child's asthma is well-managed, and helps teachers, coaches, and caregivers know exactly what to do if a flare-up occurs. Given the time children spend at school, managing asthma effectively is critical.

Asthma Australia Chief Executive Kate Miranda said whether it's from the sun's rays or unexpected asthma flare-ups, an updated AAP is essential and helps to relieve the burden on children.

"Sending your child back to school without an updated written AAP is just like sending them to play in the sun without a hat on," she said.

"They are exposed. It's one of those small but important steps to keep them protected."

AAP explained:

An AAP is a personalised guide created by your doctor to manage your child's asthma.

It's like an instruction manual for asthma that outlines how to handle flare-ups, monitor symptoms, and provide appropriate

treatment. Regardless of how mild your child's asthma may seem, everyone with asthma should have one.

The plan covers four key areas:

1. How to look after your child's asthma daily: Instructions for everyday asthma management.
2. What to do if asthma starts to flare up: Steps to take if symptoms worsen.



MANAGE WISELY: Asthma is the leading cause of disease burden in children under 15, with four in 10 missing school each year due to the illness.

3. What to do if asthma becomes severe: Emergency actions if the flare-up becomes serious.

4. What to do in an asthma emergency: Instructions for life-threatening asthma attacks.

Asthma Australia offers both colour and black-and-white versions of the AAP, which is suitable for both children and adults, and most importantly, is accepted by schools and child-care facilities across Australia.

Asthma Australia's back-to-school checklist:

To help ensure your child's asthma is well-managed at school, Asthma Australia has also created a checklist for parents, with steps including booking an asthma review, updating your child's AAP, checking and updating medicines, and connecting with the child's school.

Asthma Australia is the nation's peak body representing 2.7 million Australians living with asthma. There is no cure, but most people with asthma can manage their condition by preparing for the flare ups and education.

For more information, visit www.bit.ly/3WFETpN.

Here for You

FEBRUARY COMMUNITY UPDATE - GOULBURN VALLEY PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT



Stay Safe This Summer!

What is Japanese Encephalitis (JE) Virus?

JE is a serious mosquito-borne illness that poses a health risk across Victoria, especially during the middle of the warmer months. It can cause severe neurological symptoms, and while rare, it can be serious. Protecting yourself from mosquito bites is the best way to reduce the risk of JE.



Here's how to protect yourself and your family:

- Use mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET on exposed skin.
- Wear long, loose-fitting clothing to limit skin exposure to mosquitoes.

- Protect sleeping areas with mosquito nets or screens to prevent bites while resting.

- Avoid outdoor activities at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes are most active.

- Remove standing water around your home, as it provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Vaccination is an important way to protect against JE. Vaccination is available free-of-charge for specific groups, including those living in high-risk LGAs in northern Victoria. Check your eligibility on the www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/japanese-encephalitis

Vaccines are available to eligible people through participating councils, GPs and local pharmacies near you. Please note that may be a consultation fee to administer the vaccine, check with your chosen provider when you are booking. More info can be found here, <https://www.gvhealth.org.au/public-health-unit/japanese-encephalitis/>

BOLO FEBRUARY REPORT (Be On the Look Out) !

Mpx is a health risk, and it's important to stay informed and take precautions. Symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, and a rash can appear, and anyone in close contact with an infected person is at risk. Avoid sharing personal items like towels or clothes, practice good hygiene, and get vaccinated if eligible. Mpx symptoms typically resolve within a few weeks, but in more severe cases, it can lead to complications requiring medical attention.

Measles continues to be a concern in Victoria, with cases reported from overseas travellers. It is highly infectious and can cause serious complications, including pneumonia and other health issues. Monitor for symptoms if exposed, and visit www.health.vic.gov.au for exposure sites and vaccination details.

For the latest updates, advice, or support, visit the Better Health website or contact the GV Public Health Unit at 1800 313 070. Protect yourself and others by staying informed and following health recommendations.



A CONTROVERSIAL FIGURE: Born in Drungague, Ireland, ex-constable Hugh Bracken has been hailed as both a hero and shunned by society for his actions in Ned Kelly's capture. Credit: Greta Cemetery Trust, WE Barnes.

Dignity restored for Bracken

By Jo Kubeil

ON the 125th anniversary of his death, a memorial for ex-constable Hugh Bracken will be unveiled at a public ceremony.

Members of Wallan Police, where Bracken was occasionally stationed at, will also be in attendance, hoping to highlight the importance of mental health treatments within the force.

Greta Cemetery Trust, who list Bracken as being buried at the Wallan Cemetery, state that he served as a constable with Victoria Police intermittently over a span of 13 years.

Victoria Police Historical Graves committee member Ralph Stavely said Bracken played a key role in the capture of the infamous Ned Kelly, whose birthplace and early education centred around Beveridge.

The Ned Kelly tale is one of curiosity and drama. It is well documented that Ned Kelly formed a gang to commit both petty and heinous crimes, and partly due to the gang's knowledge of local scrub and tracks, was able to elude police and their efforts to capture them for years.

Stationed at Glenrowan, Bracken joined his peers to search for the infamous Kelly Gang on November 2, 1878, and was present for the historical Glenrowan Inn siege.

During the siege, Bracken was kidnapped and held

hostage, before managing to escape and successfully warn Wangaratta Police of the gang's activities.

Despite the traumatic experience, he returned with more law enforcement, and showed great coolness and bravery, even towards Ned Kelly himself.

Mr Stavely said Bracken prevented a senior officer from taking Ned Kelly's life on the day of his final capture on June 28, 1880, and was consequently shunned for standing up for justice instead of seeking revenge.

Three years later, he was discharged from the force after being assessed as medically unfit for further service, which is believed to be due to his suffering of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Sadly, he took his own life on February 23, 1990.

He was never honoured with a headstone, and there are no details as to the section or plot that Bracken was buried in at the Wallan Cemetery, a fact many have deemed unjust.

To right this wrong and ensure his story is not forgotten, Mr Stavely and Greta Cemetery Trust secretary Noeleen Lloyd collaborated with the Wallan Cemetery Trust com-

mittee to fundraise for a dignified memorial plaque, and a storyboard for public perusal.

Ms Lloyd, who is the great-grandniece of Kelly gang members Steve Hart and the great-granddaughter of Thomas Lloyd Junior, said there had been an outpouring of support for the project, which saw an impressive \$10,000 raised to honour Bracken's memory.

Ms Lloyd told journalist Jordan Duursma at *Wangaratta Chronicle* that Bracken's chapter in early colonial Australian history should not be ignored.

"Hugh Bracken deserves to have his story told and every dollar donated has counted," she said.

"We want to share his life story and shine a light on PTSD and mental illness."

The Victoria Police Historical Graves committee could not provide financial support for the project, as their funding is limited to Victoria Police Honour Roll members, which does not include Bracken.

However, both the committee and Victoria Police members remain committed to partaking in the unveiling ceremony, and hope that Bracken's story spearheads improved mental health support systems for past and present police officers.

The public ceremony will be held on February 23 at the Wallan Cemetery, located at 148 Queen Street, Wallan, beginning at 10.30am.

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AusNet responds to outages

By Emily Waite

AUSNET has finally responded to enquiries relating to the shire's almost 24-hour outage in December.

On Monday, December 16, residents in parts of Broadford and Kilmore East lost power just before 7pm, as temperatures reached a searing 38 degrees.

Though power was restored to the majority of locals by 11am the following morning, residents in parts of Kilmore East had to wait until 1.30pm, while those in Broadford had to wait until the evening to be reconnected after experiencing a second outage at 11.30am.

While AusNet had previously informed the *Review* that the outages were due to Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (REFCLs), which must be activated on Total Fire Ban days to prevent energy flow to powerlines if vegetation contact is detected, they did not initially respond to enquiries as to why it took inspectors almost 12 hours to patrol the lines, nor state why the technology had not been improved to quickly

locate and identify the trigger of the REFCLs.

However, a follow-up was successful in garnering a response, with AusNet's spokesperson highlighting the importance of workers' safety when restoring power.

"Our priority is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible," they said.

"In this instance, the patrols started at 7.36pm.

"Six hundred and 22 customers had their power restored by 8pm, with 122 restored by 1am. Patrols were then put on hold for safety reasons, with a helicopter patrol and additional field crews arranged for first light."

The spokesperson also delivered positive news for the latter enquiry, stating that a trial had proved successful in easing delays in restoring power when REFCLs were activated.

Currently, when REFCLs are triggered, the entire

feeder line is disconnected from power, rather than just a single line or a few sections.

Before electricity can be restored, the lines must be physically patrolled to locate, identify—and if required—clear the cause of the fault, which is often a time-consuming process.

"We are currently trialling new switching gear on lines which have been historically challenging, to help narrow down the location of faults on a REFCL feeder," AusNet's spokesperson said.

"For example, on the Euroa line, which is 1200km long, we have installed smart reclosers, which assist in identifying the fault location.

"On other REFCL feeders, the existing smart reclosers are being trialled with new settings to enhance the fault targeting and fault location."

The spokesperson also informed the *Review* that Broadford's second outage, which occurred 30 minutes after power was restored, was the result of 'an unrelated issue with substation equipment.'

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BEVERIDGE TO ALBURY

Sharing the latest Wandong design

We know the community is eager to understand how Inland Rail is being delivered in Wandong. That's why we're excited to share the latest design for the Broadford-Wandong Road bridge which incorporates your feedback.

We're replacing the bridge with a new higher bridge to allow sufficient clearance for double-stacked freight trains.

You've told us safety, connectivity, visual amenity and extending Pickett Walk is important to you and we've improved the design to deliver these outcomes.

Between **24 February and 24 March**, we'll be sharing the design and listening to your feedback.

Talk to the team

You can meet our team including subject matter experts and our construction partner John Holland at the below locations:

Outside Crumbs and Co, Wandong Plaza Shop 7/3272 Epping-Kilmore Rd

- Mondays: 24 February and 3, 17 & 24 March, 10am-1pm
- Saturdays: 1 & 15 March, community barbeque, 10am-1pm

Magpie and Stump Hotel, 3313 Epping-Kilmore Rd, Wandong
Friday 7 March, 5.30pm-7.30pm

Wandong Primary School (Outside St Michael's Church, 11 Dry Creek Crescent)
Thursday 13 March, 2.30pm-4pm



Find out more 1800 732 761 inlandrail.com.au/b2a





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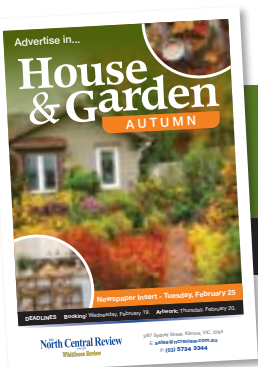
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Newspaper Insert: *Tuesday, February 25*
Bookings by: *Wednesday February 19*

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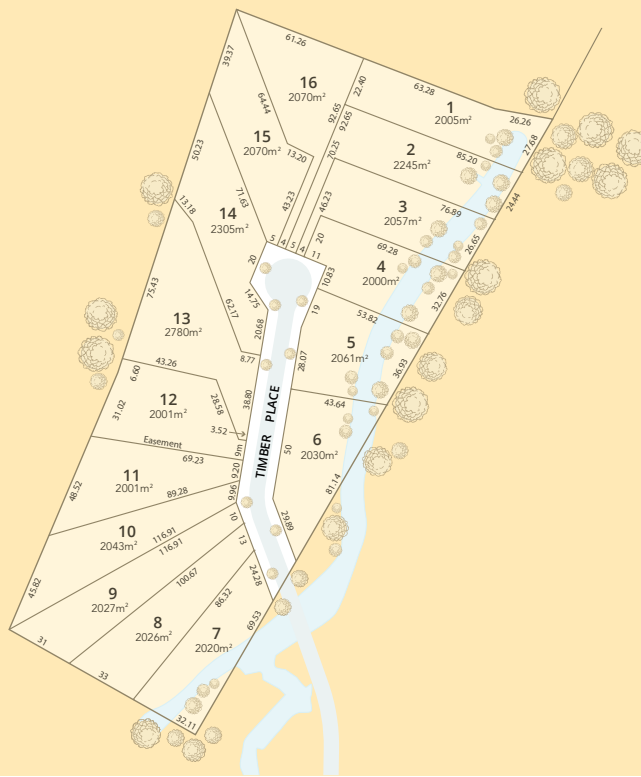
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TC's - The car giveaway is organised and run by RW Developments.



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thorsen.com.au/project/3

Contact Ashley Thorsen 0433-311-100
Ashley@thorsen.com.au

This plan is an artist's impression and is indicative only. Lot detail is subject to change without notice. Buyers should refer to the contract of sale for the basis of all decisions relating to the purchase of land.



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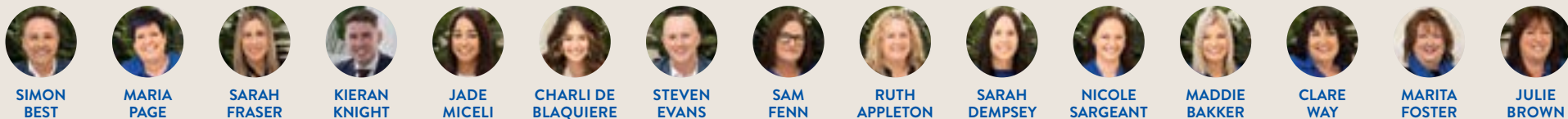
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3	425	\$297,500
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7	429	\$297,500
9	431	\$297,500
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34	453	\$302,500
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The home features three generous bedrooms, two contemporary bathrooms, and a single-car garage, all within a thoughtfully designed open-plan layout. The large, light-filled living area seamlessly flows into the stylish kitchen and dining spaces, creating the perfect setting for family living. The alfresco area extends the living space outdoors, ideal for entertaining friends and family all year round, no matter the weather.

Additional premium features include soaring high ceilings, lush front and rear landscaping, and a coloured concrete driveway and path that add a touch of luxury.

Inside, you'll find tasteful floor coverings throughout, along with decorative light fittings that enhance the home's aesthetic. The modern kitchen is a stand-out, complete with 900mm kitchen appliances, stone



benchtops, and a convenient dishwasher. Plantation shutters add a sophisticated finish to the windows, while the home is equipped with a TV antenna and TV point for your entertainment needs.

For year-round comfort, the home offers gas ducted heating and evaporative cooling. The property also boasts impressive energy efficiency with a gas-boosted solar hot water system and an excellent Energy Rating, ensuring low running costs. For peace of mind, the home is equipped with a CCTV system and an alarm, enhancing security.



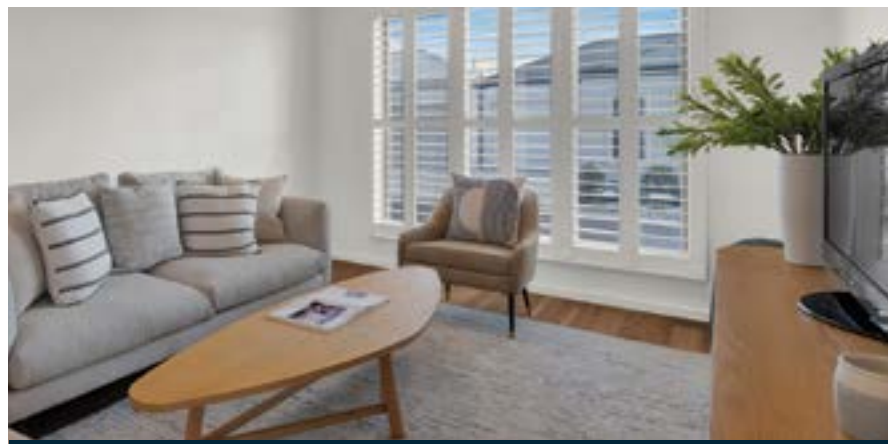
The single-car garage has internal access, making it easy to bring in groceries or unload after a long day. Additionally, there is a good amount of off-street parking, providing extra convenience for guests or additional vehicles.



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your local area specialist



WALLAN **FOR SALE**
51 Watergum Way, Wallan **\$600,000**

SPACIOUS FOUR BEDROOM ON A LARGE BLOCK 4  2  2 

This spacious family home on a generous 528 sqm block offers great convenience. It has four well-sized bedrooms, including a master with an ensuite and walk-in robe, while the others feature built-in robes and share a full family bathroom and separate toilet. The large kitchen boasts ample bench space, storage for groceries, and is equipped with a gas cooktop, electric oven, and stainless steel dishwasher.



WALLAN **FOR SALE**
54 Boronia Avenue, Wallan **\$580,000 - \$620,000**

FOUR BEDROOM HOME IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION 4  2  2 

This well-presented home is ideal for first-time buyers, downsizers, or investors. **Features include:** Four spacious bedrooms. The master has a walk-in robe, shelving, and an ensuite. The other three bedrooms have built-in robes and share a family bathroom and separate toilet. Open-plan Kitchen with a walk-in pantry, 900mm stainless steel appliances, 40mm stone benchtops, and plenty of cupboard space and much more.



WALLAN **FOR SALE**
9 Riceflower Rise, Wallan **\$530,000 - \$550,000**

IMMACULATE THREE BEDROOM HOME OPPOSITE PARKLAND 3  2  1 

If you are looking for a family home, in excellent condition, and want a gorgeous view, this is one to put on your short-list. This property has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a single garage and an contemporary open-plan design. There's plenty of room for all the family with large open plan living area, modern kitchen, spacious dining area complimented with alfresco perfect for entertaining all year round.



HIDDEN VALLEY **FOR SALE**
32 Aurina Drive, Hidden Valley **\$1,050,000 - \$1,100,000**

CONTEMPORARY FAMILY HOME ON A HUGE ALLOTMENT 4  2  2 

If you are looking for a modern four bedroom home, with all the modern up-to-date features and a large block of land in a quiet cul-de-sac, this is one to put onto your shortlist. With four spacious bedrooms, the master has a parents' retreat, excellent garden views, a huge double walk-in robe, a full ensuite bathroom with an oversized shower, double vanity and a separate toilet.



HIDDEN VALLEY **FOR SALE**
24 Cavallo Crescent, Hidden Valley **\$1,300,000 - \$1,400,000**

PERFECTLY POSITIONED RANCH STYLE HOME ON OVER ONE ACRE 4  2  2 

This is what Hidden Valley is all about, great views, plenty of land, large quality homes and city conveniences.. This property has the lot on 5420 sqm. approx. Beautifully presented with plenty of rooms for the large family, this home is sure to impress. It has just been repainted and new flooring and carpet to the majority of the house. Boasting four bedrooms and three living spaces plus an outside entertaining area, there is space for all occasions.



HIDDEN VALLEY **SOLD**
28 Lucca Way, Hidden Valley **\$1,050,000 - \$1,150,000**

HIDDEN VALLEY OASIS: LUXURIOUS FOUR-BEDROOM HOUSE 4  3  3 

Escape to your own private oasis at 28 Lucca Way, Hidden Valley. This luxurious four bedroom house offers the perfect blend of space, style, and tranquility. With breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside and the Melbourne CBD, this property is a true haven for those seeking a peaceful retreat. Step inside and be greeted by the three spacious living areas, designed to maximise comfort and relaxation.

Growing communities invested

THE State Government has opened a new round of funding to deliver the infrastructure and services Victorians need in growing communities.

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny recently opened applications for the latest round of the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC), which will invest \$150 million to deliver transport projects, including more bus services, train stations, intersections, roads, bike paths, and walking paths in the suburbs.

Government departments, agencies, and local councils will be able to apply for this round of grants to ensure communities in growing suburbs have access to the services they need, close to where they live.

The GAIC fund is a one-off contribution payable by landowners developing certain land zoned for urban use and development in the Mitchell Shire and also Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Whittlesea, and Wyndham local government areas.

To date, the program has provided more than \$1 billion in funding for more than 150 infrastructure projects across these growth areas—including for ambulance stations, parks, schools, and public transport.

Ms Kilkenny said the program allowed property developers to contribute to funding for local infrastructure and services in the areas where they build more homes.

“We know more Victorians want to live close to transport—and this investment will deliver the public transport, the roads, and critical infrastructure Victorian families need in our fastest growing suburbs,” she said.

“We’re also ensuring that places where homes get built get the infrastructure they need through a fairer system that applies to every city, suburb, and town across the state.”

Applications for this GAIC round are now open and will close at noon on Friday, February 28, 2025.

Successful projects will be confirmed and announced next year.

Home blitz in thousands

MORE HOMES, MORE OPPORTUNITIES: More than 150 homes are built in Victoria each day.

VICTORIA continues to build thousands of more homes than any other state, with more than 61,000 homes completed over the past 12 months—equivalent to building around 168 homes every single day.

ABS data recently released shows that Victoria built 61,300 homes over the year to the end of the September quarter 2024—15,600 more homes than New South Wales and 28,500 more than Queensland.

The data on homes completed in Victoria is an 8.8 per cent increase year on year, while New South Wales built 45,692 homes—a 4.4 per cent decline year on year.

In addition to these findings, the ABS also confirmed Victoria continues to set the national benchmark for home approvals—approving 10,600

more homes than New South Wales and 17,000 more homes than Queensland.

As well as building and approving more homes than any other state, Victoria is also the most popular place in the nation to be a first home buyer.

In the last financial year, Victoria accounted for more than 30 per cent of first home buyer loans in Australia, the highest across the nation.

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny said that while the numbers were encouraging, more needed to be done to secure the market.

“Victoria continues to be number one in home approvals, number one in home starts, number one in home completions—and best of all number one in first home buyers,” she said.

“While these results are encouraging, we know there is more work to do—that’s why working to get more homes off the ground faster, so more Victorians have the opportunity to buy or rent a place close to their family, their jobs, or where they grew up.”

The State Government will look to introduce bold reforms to deliver more homes near

train stations in suburbs close to the city, a 10-year pipeline of land for family homes and backyards, off-the-plan tax concessions, more townhouses in the suburbs, and more green spaces.

Since the release of the Housing Statement, Ms Kilkenny has used her powers to deliver more than 15,000 homes—a more than 100 per cent increase on previous periods.

The government will soon release its new plan for Victoria, the first ever whole-of-state plan setting out how to further improve housing affordability and choice through to 2050 as the population grows and establishes final housing targets for every Victorian local government area.

Rentals

BARRYPLANT
(03) 5782 2400

RESIDENTIAL

110A SOUTH MOUNTAIN ROAD, UPPER PLENTY

\$530 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2
- Spacious living area with polished timber floors
 - Well equipped kitchen with plenty of storage
 - 4 generous sized bedrooms, master with access to ensuite
 - Split system and wood-burning fireplace

5 PLOVER WAY, WALLAN

\$530 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 2
- Four generously sized bedrooms, master with ensuite
 - Gourmet kitchen with large walk-in butlers pantry
 - Open plan living dining area

14 PLOVER WAY, WALLAN

\$530 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 2
- 4 Spacious Bedrooms
 - Master Ensuite with Huge Shower
 - Open Plan Living
 - Modern Kitchen

225 KILMORE LANCEFIELD ROAD, FORBES

\$650 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 3 2 4
- 3 bedrooms, master with semi ensuite
 - Spacious rumpus room and separate lounge room both with wood heaters
 - Fresh modern and low maintenance

25 MARKET LANE, WALLAN

\$335 P/W – AVAILABLE 1ST MARCH

- 1 1
- 1 bedroom
 - Open plan Kitchen living area
 - Gas heating and split system cooling
 - Double garage

BARRYPLANT
(03) 5782 2400

RESIDENTIAL

6/38 CORKWOOD CRESCENT, WALLAN

\$380 P/W – AVAILABLE 28TH MARCH

- 2 1 1
- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom Unit
 - Open plan kitchen/meals/living
 - Ducted heating throughout
 - European style laundry, single remote garage

23 NANKEEN LOOP, BEVERIDGE

\$490 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 2
- 4 generous bedrooms
 - 2 modern bathrooms
 - 2 large living areas for relaxation and entertainment
 - Easy-to-maintain block

14 MEDALLION AVENUE, BEVERIDGE

\$395 P/W – AVAILABLE 21ST FEBRUARY

- 2 2 1
- 2 bedroom, 2 bathrooms
 - Open plan kitchen/living area with dishwasher
 - Single car garage, low maintenance private courtyard

3/4 WATERWAY COURT, KILMORE

\$420 P/W – AVAILABLE 17TH FEBRUARY

- 3 2 1
- 3 bedrooms all with built in robes
 - Ensuite to main bedroom
 - Excellent living and kitchen
 - European laundry and ample storage

2/97 WELLINGTON STREET, WALLAN

\$360 P/W – AVAILABLE 17TH FEBRUARY

- 2 1 1
- 2 Bedrooms with robes
 - Large open plan kitchen/living area
 - Two way bathroom
 - Low maintenance courtyard

BARRYPLANT
(03) 5782 2400

RESIDENTIAL

58 PETAL CRESCENT, WALLAN

\$480 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 2
- 4 Spacious Bedrooms - Ideal for families or professionals seeking extra space.
 - 2 Separate Living Areas - Plenty of room for entertaining, relaxing, or working from home.
 - Double Garage - Secure parking for two vehicles with additional storage space.
 - Low-Maintenance Yard - Enjoy outdoor living without the hassle of upkeep.

5 TELOPEA AVENUE, WALLAN

\$460 P/W – AVAILABLE 21ST FEBRUARY

- 4 2 2
- 4 good sized bedrooms, master with ensuite and walk in robe
 - Gas ducted heating plus split system cooling
 - Double garage and fully fenced yard

2 ROSELLA WAY, WALLAN

\$475 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 2
- 4 generously sized bedrooms
 - Master with ensuite
 - Ducted heating and evaporative cooling
 - Gourmet kitchen and spacious living areas

COMMERCIAL

58-60 SYDNEY STREET, KILMORE

AVAILABLE NOW

- 110m² approx. completely renovated building
- Includes showroom, office, kitchen and 2 toilets
- 1200m² approx. site zoned Commercial 1

BARRYPLANT
(03) 5782 2400

COMMERCIAL

22 COMMERCIAL DRIVE, WALLAN

\$64,375 PLUS GST PLUS OUTGOINGS PER ANNUM – AVAILABLE MAR 2025

- 533m² including 2 toilets and kitchen/lunchroom
- 8 allocated parking spaces
- 3 roller doors to front, rear and side shared driveway
- 80m² fenced and concreted rear yard, with drainage
- Includes 3 phase and 15amp outlets, security alarm and cameras and removable bollards

2/88 WATSON STREET, WALLAN

\$45,000 PLUS GST PLUS OUTGOINGS - AVAILABLE NOW

- 190m² shop suitable for retail and office purposes
- Includes heating/cooling, amenities, kitchenette and office layout
- 3 allocated parking spaces

WAREHOUSES 1 – 4, 1 ENTERPRISE WAY, WALLAN

PRICED FROM \$24,000PLUS GST PLUS OUTGOINGS

- Under construction, available 30 April 2025
- Sizes from 165m² to 197m²
- 2 allocated parking spaces per premises
- Includes reception area (with split system), two toilets & Kitchenette

BARRYPLANT

Check on: www.realestate.com.au for the next available open for inspection time.

Register your interest by clicking the “Get in Touch” tab for further information.

Wilson Partners
(03) 5781 1999

RESIDENTIAL

2/45 WHITE STREET, KILMORE

\$380 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 2 1 1
- Close to all schools
 - Generous sized yard
 - Large shed at rear

39 ALLAN STREET, KILMORE

\$480 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 2 2 1
- Brand new townhouse
 - European laundry
 - Close to local amenities

6 MIKADA BOULEVARD, KILMORE

\$450 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 3 2 2
- Ducted heating
 - Walk in pantry
 - Low maintenance yard

20 CHARLES STREET, WALLAN

\$500 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 1
- Low maintenance yard
 - Close to nearby school
 - Close to wetlands and walking tracks

33 RICHMOND STREET, WALLAN

\$440 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 3 2 2
- Decked alfresco
 - Ducted heating and split system
 - Quiet location

125 QUEEN STREET, WALLAN

\$430 P/W

- 3 2 1
- Well sized yard with garden shed
 - Split system heating and cooling
 - Close to nearby park

35 PINNIGER STREET, BROADFORD

\$450 P/W

- 5 1 1
- Ducted heating
 - Walking distance to train station
 - Generous sized yard

Wilson Partners
(03) 5781 1999

RESIDENTIAL

20 PAMELA COURT, WALLAN

\$435 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 3 2 2
- Ducted heating and Evap Cooling
 - Rear roller door access
 - Well sized yard with garden shed

3/11 RAGLAN STREET, WALLAN

\$410 P/W –

- 3 2 1
- Low maintenance Garden
 - Ducted heating
 - Close to all amenities

34 BELLADONNA CIRCUIT, WALLAN

\$480 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 4 2 2
- Ducted heating and Evap cooling
 - Low maintenance yard
 - Close to nearby school

4/54 MELBOURNE STREET, KILMORE

\$460 P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- 2 1 1
- Private balcony
 - Close to local amenities
 - Brand new townhouse

COMMERCIAL

1/34 FREEWAY DRIVE, WALLAN

\$920P/W – AVAILABLE NOW

- Brand new warehouse
- Floor area 388m² approx
- 2 year initial with further terms

Who Let It?®

Wilson Partners

Applications via 2Apply.

VISIT: www.wilsonpartners.com.au/renting

for further information on our application and inspection process.

Wilson Partners



18 Boronia Avenue, **WALLAN**

4 2 2

A lot to love

- High-end floating floorboards
- Plantation shutters throughout
- Undercover alfresco entertaining area
- Versatile 4th bedroom/home office with water connected

Land size
508m² approx.

NEW LISTING

\$615,000 - \$665,000



GEORGINA SMITH

Director

0490 663 721



13 Walnut Grove Court, **KILMORE**

3 2 4

Built for the family

- Great sized family home
- Charming horseshoe driveway
- Sought after Mannagum Estate location
- Generous 1161m² block

Land size
1,161m² approx.

NEW LISTING

\$770,000 - \$840,000



GEORGINA SMITH

Director

0490 663 721



6 Gina Court, **KILMORE**

3 1 1

Sweet & Petite

- Freshly painted throughout
- Brand new floating floors
- Galley style kitchen
- Spacious landscaped backyard

Land size
349m² approx.

NEW LISTING

\$440,000 - \$480,000



GEORGINA SMITH

Director

0490 663 721



57 Heritage Drive, **BROADFORD**

3 2 2

Charming 3-Bedroom Home in a Sought-After Location

- Generous 748m² block
- Decked entertaining area
- Desirable location
- Manicured gardens

Land size
748m² approx.

SOLD



GEORGINA SMITH

Director

0490 663 721



Same name.

New direction.

5781 1999

Who Let It?®

1/33-35 Sydney Street, Kilmore 3764

Who Sold It?®



FOR SALE

2061m² 5 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 2 carports

KILMORE | 74 The Elms Boulevard

Quality and Space in The Elms

- This impressive residence in the peaceful Elms Estate offers the perfect blend of space, comfort, and style
- Five generously sized bedrooms including a luxurious master suite with ensuite, walk-in robe, and private balcony
- Expansive kitchen, featuring quality appliances, ample cabinetry and a walk-in pantry and multiple living areas

FOR SALE
\$990,000 to \$1,060,000
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L31693076



FOR SALE

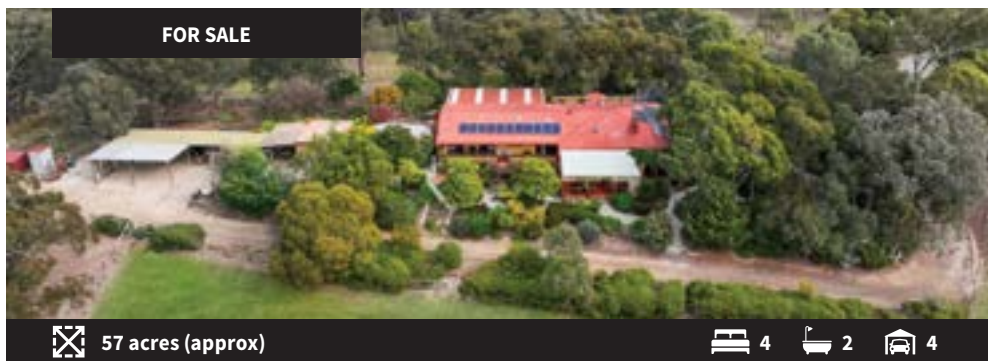
372m² 3 bedrooms 1 bathroom 1 carport

KILMORE | 2/29 Albert Street

Great Location, Perfect Presentation

- This beautifully updated brick veneer property offers a perfect blend of comfort and convenience in a prime location
- Freshly painted throughout, with brand-new flooring and window furnishings and within walking distance to Kilmore's charming main street, shops, cafes, schools, and sporting facilities
- Well-equipped kitchen with brand-new oven and a dining area

FOR SALE
\$395,000 to \$425,000
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L32396738



FOR SALE

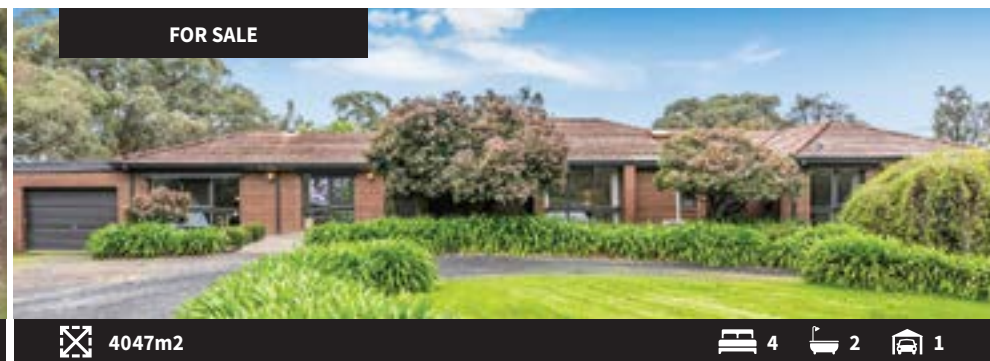
57 acres (approx) 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 4 carports

BROADFORD | 510 Elliotts Road

"Carrandor"

- A glorious country retreat on 57 acres (23.07 hectares) with an inviting and well-presented home nestled amidst delightful gardens, majestic native trees and numerous outdoor living spaces
- Four robed bedrooms with the main bedroom including an ensuite, WIR and sliding door to the expansive deck, gas ducted heating, four car carport and 22 panel solar system and shedding

FOR SALE
\$1,190,000 to \$1,220,000
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L23937424



FOR SALE

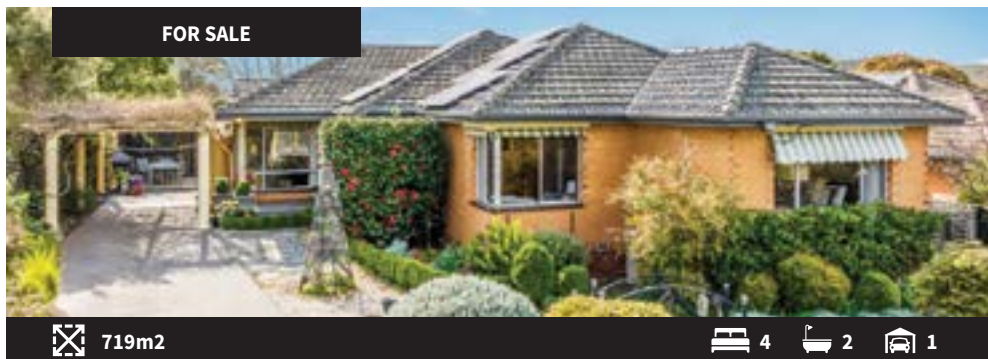
4047m² 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1 carport

KILMORE EAST | 1 Duffy Street

Bright, Spacious and Secluded

- Located on a leafy allotment of approximately an acre in a quiet cul-de-sac this light-filled family home promises a peaceful and picturesque lifestyle within walking distance to Kilmore East Train Station
- A modern kitchen lies at the heart of the home and includes quality appliances and ample storage space. Four robed bedrooms with the main bedroom including a spacious ensuite

FOR SALE
\$850,000 to \$890,000
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L27589385



FOR SALE

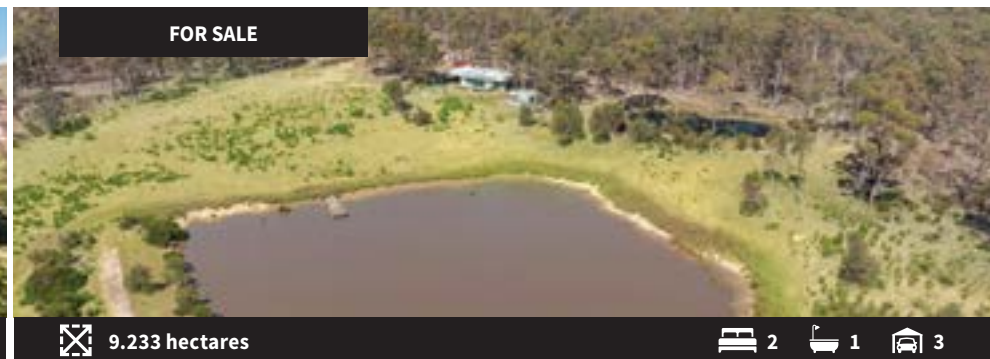
719m² 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1 carport

KILMORE | 16 Fitzroy Street

Quality and Convenience

- Spacious kitchen with beautiful granite benchtops and polished timber floors, meals area, carpeted lounge with quality window furnishings, glass sliding door to the conservatory and R/C SS
- 12-panel solar system, gas ducted heating, 9ft ceilings throughout, euro laundry, outdoor blinds, arbor carport, workshop and studio and lovely established gardens

FOR SALE
\$640,000 to \$660,000
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L22434400



FOR SALE

9.233 hectares 2 bedrooms 1 bathroom 3 carports

HEATHCOTE DISTRICT | 175 Chamberlain Road

Peaceful Country Retreat

- Discover the perfect blend of rustic charm and natural tranquillity at this serene 9.233 hectare Rural Lifestyle zoned property just a short drive from Heathcote
- Neat and secure two-bedroom, one bathroom weekender accommodation including a kitchen and meals area, large timber deck, triple carport, bungalow, shipping container and two dams

FOR SALE
\$375,000 to \$395,000
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L30241377



FOR SALE

2013m² 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 3 carports

WANDONG | 89 Rail Street

Modern Convenience

- Set on a conveniently located 2,013m² allotment this well-appointed property in the heart of Wandong is ideal for families and those seeking space to grow
- An expansive and light-filled open-plan living area and modern kitchen 900mm stove top and oven
- Ducted heating, a split-system unit and ceiling fans throughout

SOLD
By Nutrien Harcourts Kilmore
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L25568831



FOR SALE

842m² 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 3 carports

WALLAN | 8 Acacia Way

Spacious Home on Large Allotment

- Light-filled north-facing living areas, spacious pergola, side vehicle access and shed
- Main bedroom with WIR, ensuite, bay window and R/C split system, three bedrooms with BIRS and a fifth robed bedroom or study
- Double garage, gas ducted heating, evaporative cooling, security screen front door, solar system, veggie garden and spacious rear yard

SOLD
By Nutrien Harcourts Kilmore
Agent Jeanette Laffan
M: 0438 452 641
jeanette.laffan@nutrien.com.au
Nutrien Harcourts ID: L23404971

Response to 'Bypass fairytale' (11/02/25)

Dear Editor,
I wonder if Brian Mawhinney will send me a bill one day. I've been living rent-free in his head for so long that even after moving years ago to Traralgon, he still fixates on rewriting history—this time about the Kilmore-Wallan Bypass.

Mr Mawhinney knows full well it was in fact the Liberal Party that in 2010 promised the bypass.

He was there. He proudly stood for a photograph for this newspaper, alongside then-Liberal State MP Donna Petrovich and Liberal Leader Ted Baillieu at the Wallan Free Mechanics Institute, celebrating their \$130 million promise.

He even featured on a Liberal flyer distributed through Kilmore and Wallan, to sell the commitment.

That 'commitment' turned out to be nothing more than three route options—one of which proposed running the road through Monument Hill. An empty promise to have it started by 2013 and finished by 2017.

Many residents will remember the massive Liberal billboards declaring 'WALLAN-KILMOREBYPASS FULLY FUNDED!'—only to discover that less than \$10 million had been allocated for a project costed at \$130 million.

As a regular Liberal campaigner, Mr Mawhinney is duty-bound to ignore that neither State nor Federal Labor has ever promised a bypass.

What we have promised—and has been fully funded—is the Wallan Ramps project, which will soon begin construction.

Mr Mawhinney conveniently overlooks that his Liberal-National friends never delivered on the firm promise he once enthusiastically promoted. Also happily forgotten is that 'Wallan' has been dropped from the latest version of the plan, now rebranded as the 'Kilmore Bypass' which still funnels traffic through Wallan.

And let's not forget, during their nearly 10 years in power, the Federal Liberal-National Government did nothing for McEwen. They did promise \$50 million for the Hume Highway but failed to deliver that too.

If Mr Mawhinney is confused about responsibility, perhaps he should take the word of former Liberal MP Fran Bailey, who wrote to *The Free Press* in 2006 stating that this project "is not on the national register," and was the responsibility of the State Government.

From his distant Gippsland perch, Mr Mawhinney is entitled to be anti-Labor, but he should at least be honest with the facts.

*Rob Mitchell
Member for McEwen*

Cost-of-living crisis is a crisis

Dear Editor,

A recent survey found that almost 50 per cent of the population has less than \$1000 in their bank account, at any one time.

The same survey also found that over 75 per cent of those surveyed were currently

Wednesday, February 13

RESIDENTS expressed their frustration at the state of the shire's DTP-managed roads such as Kilmore's Sydney Street.

Jake Meli: Smash my head in the truck on the dips. Been through three tyres in my custom car on the potholes and raised tar sections. Roads in rural towns are better kept than a larger town like Wallan, it's a joke.

Julie O'Neill: We need some more botanical gardens planted in the potholes in Wallan on [the] Northern Highway and Watson Street intersection, northbound lane.

Lucas Car: Imagine riding a bike on that, legally anyone over 12 has to ride their bike through that to get to the shops.

Melina Bektas: Absolutely insufferable!!

Andrew Harro Harrison: The main street in Kilmore is absolutely ridiculous, they did half a job with the road repairs, they should've just redone the entire length. Everyday, people are swerving to miss the ones that weren't fixed.

Kerryn Oakley: A lot of them are dangerous, especially when people try to miss them and nearly hit other vehicles.



KILMORE FREE PRESS, FEBRUARY 19, 1986: Pyalong nursery attendant Lee Miller smiles with some of the seedlings of the trees she had propagated. "I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree," she declared.

facing 'financial stress'. Effectively living from pay cheque to pay cheque.

A recipe for disaster should an emergency arise. No wonder mental health issues in our society are on the rise.

Michael J Gamble

Footpath problem persists

Dear Editor,

The rear carpark entry to ALDI in Seymour (from Bishop Street) has the same footpath problem that has been highlighted in Kilmore and the front entrance from Tallarook Street has no footpath at all. Dodging car park traffic is unpleasant and dangerous for all pedestrians and especially for disabled persons such as myself. Any chance of a fix?

*Phillip Chandler
Broadford*

Kilmore is just a drive-through

Dear Editor,

Recently driving through Kilmore once again on our holiday, and stopped at Hudson Park for a toilet break. Enjoyed the park but thought how nice it would be if Kilmore had a small lake or large duck pond in the park for people to enjoy, along with the ducks!

The creek could have a diversion to the middle of the park and back to the creek again so as there was a flow, and a few seats around would be welcoming and enjoyable.

As it is, a toilet break is all it seems to be used for. No one stays a while or walks down the main street, maybe spend some money there. Although there does not seem to be much to entice a walk in the street with

all the traffic and huge trucks, I must say!

Hence, Woodend, Kyneton, and Bendigo are where people head. Pubs, cafes, restaurants, and antique shops. That's where we all spend our money.

It's a shame, no foresight or innovation. Kilmore will always be a drive-through.

*Janice
Camberwell*

The blame game

Dear Editor,

Here we go again. The blame game's back on.

On the radio airwaves [recently], Premier Jacinta Allan once again blamed floods for the shocking state of our regional roads.

Driving around regional Victoria last week, I was genuinely

shocked—again—at the potholes and crumbling surfaces, and it is ridiculous to continually blame rain events.

Victorians already pay some of the highest vehicle registration fees in the country.

So, where's that money going?

Memo Premier Allan: Forget the excuses and just get on with fixing potholes.

Enough is enough. It's time for real action to fix our roads and restore safety, not more Labor political spin.

Labor can't manage roads and regional Victorians are paying the price.

*Danny O'Brien MP
Leader of The Nationals
Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety*

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL
WHEN YOU LEAVE.**

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to emergency.vic.gov.au

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



ACTIVITY ZONE

WINNER

Congratulations to
Aubrey Fennell of Kilmore
 for winning last week's colouring competition

BIRTHDAYS

Harper Draper
 Wallan, 18 February

Ryan Whyte
 Kilmore, 20 February

Amelia MacEwan
 18 February

Poppy Tempini
 Broadford, 21 February

Beau Seleck
 North Warrandyte,
 20 February

Deanna Jayathilaka
 Wallan, 24 February

Milla Batey
 Romsey, 20 February

Aiden Clarke
 Wallan, 24 February

JOKES

Q: Why did the pineapple stop in the middle of the road?

A: It ran out of juice!

Q: What did the pineapple say to the pizza?

A: You're making me feel so Hawaiian right now!

SCAN HERE FOR
**MORE
 PUZZLES**



NCREVIEW.COM.AU/PUZZLES

FAMILY QUIZ

- Whose face is on the \$10 note?
- How many stars are on the Australian flag?
- What is the international telephone code for Australia?
- What city in Australia is hosting the Commonwealth Games?
- The platypus and echidna are the only marsupials in the world that can...
- What does ANZAC stand for?
- True or false: Australia has the world's longest fence.
- What is Australian slang for 'city'?
- What is the flora emblem for Australia?
- What bank was formerly known as The Bank of NSW?

ANSWERS: 1. Banjo Paterson 2. 6 3. +61 4. Gold Coast 5. Lay eggs 6. Australian and New Zealand Army Corps 7. True 8. Big smoke 9. Golden Wattle 10. Westpac

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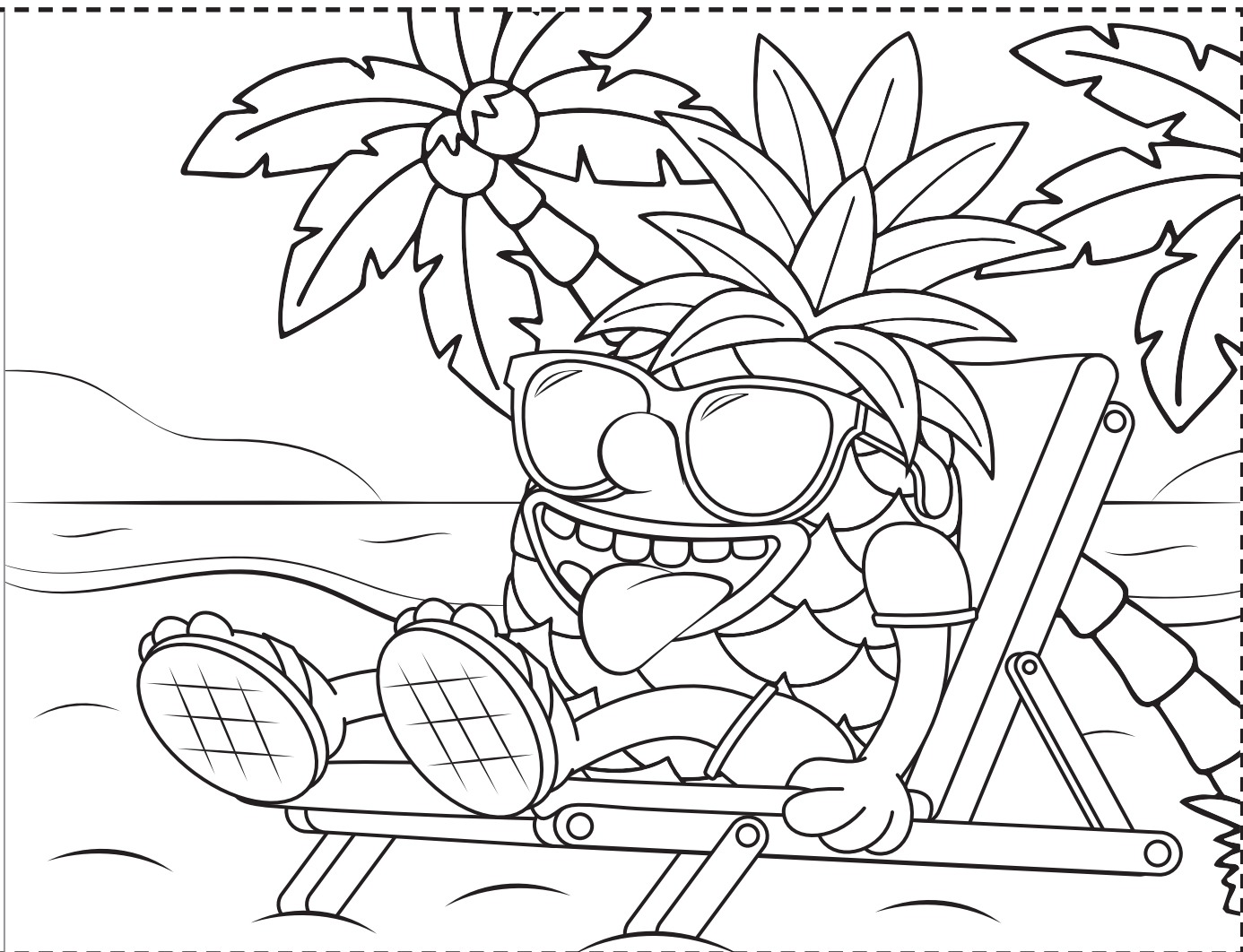
Entries close 11am Monday prior to edition (Mail entries to be sent by Friday night)

NAME:

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ACTIVITY ZONE

GIANT CROSSWORD

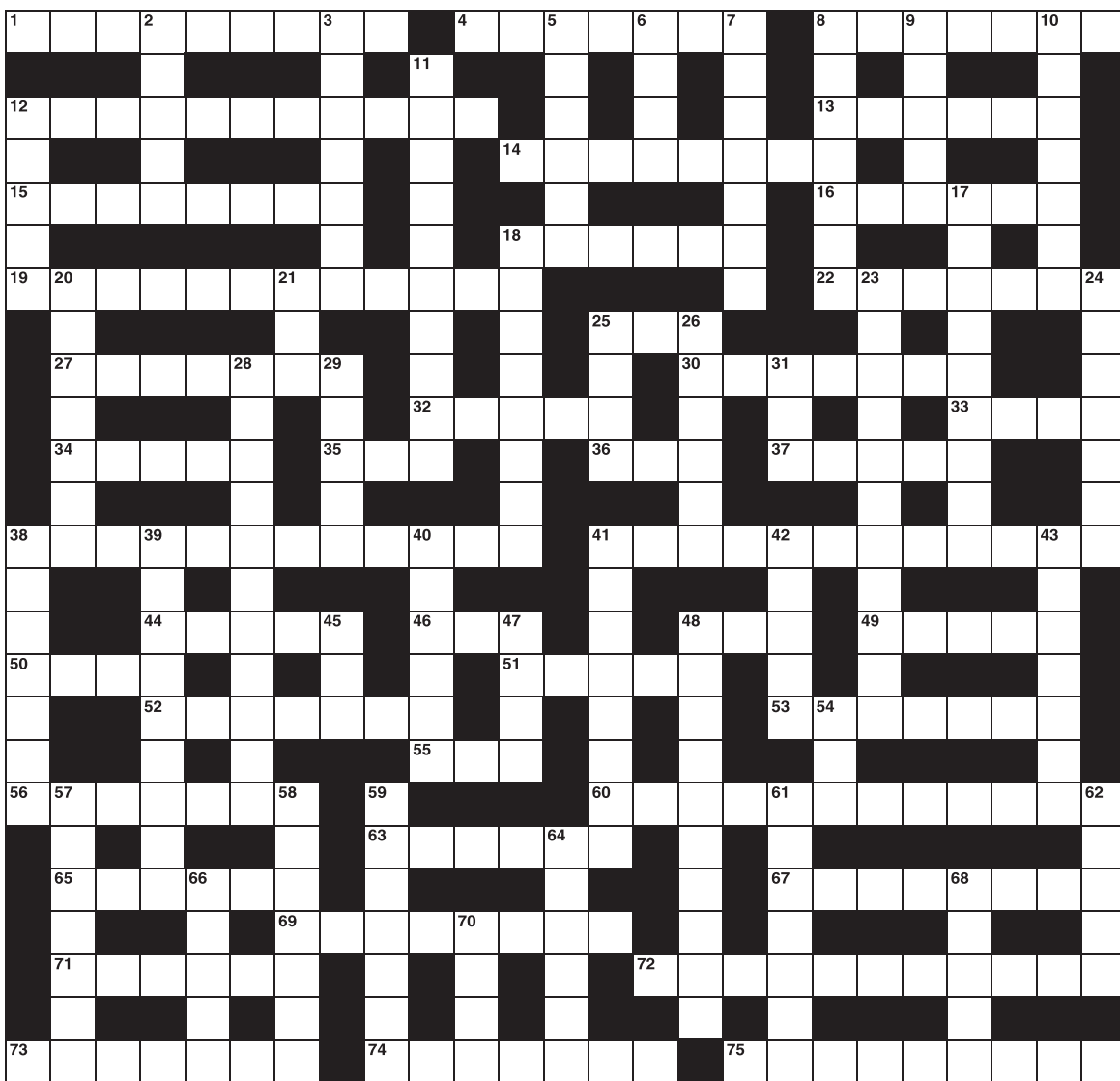
No. 003

ACROSS

- 1 Lisa and Jessica Origliasso band (9)
- 4 Shellfish (7)
- 8 Mythical monster (7)
- 12 Membranous sac enclosing the heart (11)
- 13 Clothing (6)
- 14 Floor covering (8)
- 15 Plant yielding fragrant oil (8)
- 16 Business in the front, party in the back (6)
- 18 Catlike (6)
- 19 Decorative protective chair cloth (12)
- 22 Muslim month of fasting (7)
- 25 Delicacy (3)
- 27 Snoopy cartoon (7)
- 30 Historic English city (7)
- 32 Unprotected (5)
- 33 Time for bargains (4)
- 34 Fusion (5)
- 35 Plus (3)
- 36 Two (3)
- 37 The same (5)
- 38 Reverberation (12)
- 41 False pregnancy (12)
- 44 '70s dance genre (5)
- 46 Senesce (3)
- 48 Trap (3)
- 49 Deep chasm (5)
- 50 Labyrinth (4)
- 51 Reside (5)
- 52 Blood condition (7)
- 53 Melodious (7)
- 55 Pillager (3)
- 56 Word matching another in meaning (7)
- 60 Annoying someone (12)
- 63 Story in instalments (6)
- 65 Australia's northernmost capital city (6)
- 67 Water is one (8)
- 69 Where Franz Ferdinand was assassinated (8)
- 71 Bluish-violet colour (6)
- 72 American football position (11)
- 73 Pickle (7)
- 74 Undergarments (7)
- 75 Audience member (9)

DOWN

- 2 Compound of oxygen and another element (5)
- 3 Pyrenees country (7)
- 5 Central American country (6)
- 6 Root vegetable (4)
- 7 Arbitrator (7)
- 8 Syntax (7)
- 9 It's gathered by spies (5)
- 10 Sluggishness (7)
- 11 Australian state (10)
- 12 Lively Bohemian dance of the 19th century (5)
- 17 Repulsive (9)
- 18 US Founding Father, Benjamin — (8)
- 20 Roman god of the sea (7)
- 21 Baby bed (3)
- 23 Members of a superior class (11)
- 24 Agent of retributive justice (7)
- 25 Former PM, Kevin — (4)
- 26 Call for repeat (6)
- 28 Inessential (11)
- 29 Heavenly bodies (5)
- 31 Taylor Swift's fourth album (3)
- 38 Equilateral parallelogram (7)
- 39 Captain Cook's ship (9)
- 40 Jewish prophet (6)
- 41 Support for a column (8)
- 42 Sturdy fabric (5)
- 43 Diabetic's medication (7)
- 45 Electrical unit (3)
- 47 Perfect place (4)
- 48 Over-indulgence (10)
- 54 Famous card game (3)
- 57 Language spoken by Eastern European Jews (7)
- 58 Rainy season storm (7)
- 59 Large flightless bird (7)
- 61 Jelly sweet (7)
- 62 Of Greece (5)
- 64 Recommended opinion (6)
- 66 Egg beater (5)
- 68 Hooded snake (5)
- 70 Mandibles (4)



CROSS MATH

Insert each number from 1 to 9 in the shaded squares to solve all the horizontal and vertical equations. Multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

×	×	=	216
+	+	+	
×	×	=	42
-	+	-	
+	÷	=	7
=	=	=	
10	8	13	No. 3

4x4

No. 003

ACROSS

- 1 Circle of light
- 5 Declare
- 6 Borrow
- 7 Finishes

DOWN

- 1 Healthy
- 2 English river
- 3 Stack; pack; fill
- 4 Possesses

1	2	3	4
5			
6			
7			

SUDOKU

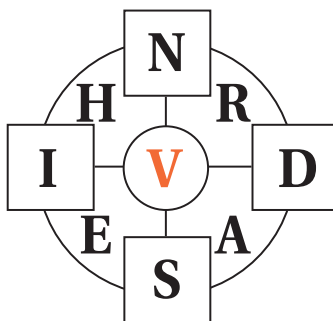
No. 003

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

9-LETTER

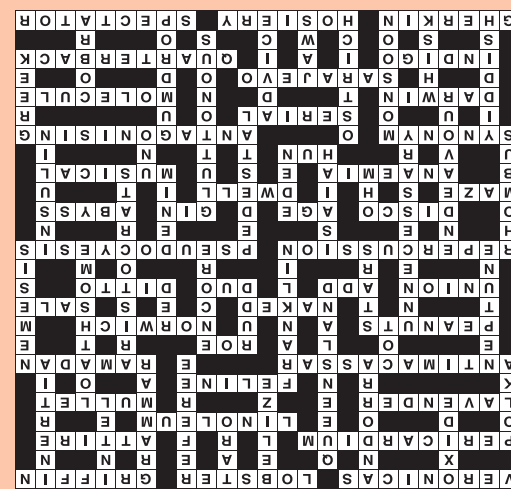
No. 003

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".



Today's Aim:
 28 words: **Good**
 42 words: **Very good**
 56 words: **Excellent**

TODAY'S SOLUTIONS



SUDOKU

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

CROSS MATH

0	18	13
=	=	=
3	=	1
	+	-
	+	+
30	=	5
	+	+
	+	×
	+	×
4	÷	8
	-	6

- 4x4**
 4. Owns.
 2. Avon, 3. Load,
 DOWN: 1. Hale,
 7. Ends.
 5. Avon, 6. Loan,
 ACROSS: 1. Halo,
9-LETTER WORD
 vine, visa, visne
 vian, vide, vied,
 vein, vend, vera,
 VARNISHED, vase,
 varied, varnish,
 vanished, vane,
 vain, vainer, vane,
 shaved, shiver,
 shiver, shive,
 shaven, shaver,
 saver, shave, shaved,
 riven, save, saved,
 rished, rive, rived,
 ravine, ravish,
 rave, raved, raven,
 invader, naive, nave,
 haven, hive, invade,
 drive, driven, have,
 divan, dive, diver,
 avid, dervish, diva,
 adviser, aver,

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- Bin Hire
- Blinds & Curtains
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- Builders & Carpenters
- Building & Renovations
- Caravan Repairs
- Carpenters
- Carpet Cleaning
- Car Detailing
- Car Removal
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- Concrete Drilling & Sawing
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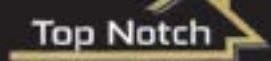
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GRASS FIRE SUNDAY AFTERNOON FEB 9TH - The fire was on land in the Macedon Shire and accessed via Union Lane Bylands. The owners of the land would like to thank the well trained professional response by the volunteer firefighters who managed to contain the fire shortly after arriving. We also thank the people attending the Pretty Sally Riding Ranch who noticed smoke and called the fire brigade and made first attendance to the site.

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COOK – We send our most sincere thanks for your kind expressions of sympathy in our recent loss of Alan. We dearly appreciate your thoughtfulness and your kindness will always be remembered. – Lorraine, Peter, Aime, Ben, Tom Cook.

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Market Days

1ST SATURDAY of the month

- Go Nagambie Market 9am-1pm.
- Heathcote Lion's Club Bush Market 8.30am-1pm
- Yea Railway Market 8.30am-12.30pm.

1ST SUNDAY of the month

- Tallarook Farmers Market 9am-1pm.

2ND SATURDAY of the month

- Sunbury Village Market 9am-2pm.
- Wallan Old Time Market 9am-2pm.

2ND SUNDAY of the month

- Avenel Market Jubilee Park, Avenel. 9am-1pm.
- Romsey Arts & Craft Market Lancefield-Romsey Lions Club, Romsey Skate Park. 9am-1pm.

3RD SATURDAY of the month

- Riddells Creek Farmers Market 9am-1pm.
- Trackside Market Kilmore Trackside, 10am-2pm.

3RD SUNDAY of the month

- Seymour Rotary Market 9am-1pm.

4TH SATURDAY of the month

- Lancefield & District Farmers Market 9am-1pm.

4TH SUNDAY of the month

- Nagambie Farmers Market Tahbilk Winery. 10am-2pm.
- Kinglake Produce & Artisan Market 10am-2pm.

LAST SUNDAY of the month

- Mooroopna Market WB Ferrari Park. 9am to 2pm.
- Gaol Cafe Market Old Kilmore Gaol. 9am-2pm

EVERY MONDAY of the month

- Whittlesea Monday Market Whittlesea Showgrounds, 8am-1pm.

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PLEASE NOTE: Market Days, dates and cancellations may be subject to change without notice.

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Clubs' chance to bolster women's programs

THE Federal Government is supporting more women and girls to get involved in the sports they love by providing more funds for sporting clubs and organisations to encourage and foster female participation.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes recently announced that applications are now open for the 2024-25 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program.

The program delivers grants of up to \$10,000 to community sport and recreation clubs to support new women's programs, the hosting of a women's round, and opportunities for club leadership roles.

Now in its eighth year, the Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program has provided more than \$2.9 million towards 580 grants.

Ms Symes urged sporting clubs and organisations to apply for the program.

"The Change Our Game Community Activation Grants program is a fantastic opportunity for our community sport and active recreation clubs to showcase the important roles women and girls play and deserve," she said.

"I encourage all eligible organisations to consider applying."

Through the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which has seen all Victorian councils and Alpine Resorts Victoria adopt local gender equitable access policies and the Community Activation Grants Program, the Federal Government is helping achieve more equitable access and increase the number of women and girls actively taking part in sport.

Applications for this program close at 5pm AEDT, Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

For more information, visit www.changeourgame.vic.gov.au.

Broadford's

\$1.1 million project

MITCHELL Shire Council (MSC) has received just short of \$1 million to upgrade a local sports and recreation facility in Broadford.

Council will use the money for the Harley Hammond Reserve Netball Courts and Lighting Upgrade project to deliver two new fit-for-purpose and compliant netball courts, addressing current and future participation needs for females in the town.

Awarded \$967,250 through the \$200 million Play Our Way Program, which aims to remove barriers, address

discrimination, and promote equality for women and girls in sport and physical activity, council will also contribute \$200,000 to the project.

In addition to the netball court and lighting upgrades, council will also deliver a new play space.

The upgrades will enhance the sporting experience for players, officials, and spectators while

creating a safer, more accessible environment.

MSC Mayor Councillor John Dougall welcomed the funding and emphasised the impact the project would have on the local community.

"We know that access to quality sporting facilities is essential in encouraging participation, particularly for women and girls," he said.

"This project will ensure Broadford's netballers have the facilities they need to train and compete in a safe and inclusive environment.

"It's also a fantastic result for the wider community, with the growing number of

families in our region able to enjoy a new play space.

"We're grateful to the [Federal] Government for supporting our community through the Play Our Way Program.

"These upgrades will encourage more women and girls to get involved in sport and are a positive result for local families."

Works are expected to begin mid-2025 and be completed by early 2026. Council looks forward to working with the community throughout the project's delivery and will provide updates as works progress.



World-beaters' increased Pulse

WORLD SUCCESS: Daniel James experienced the thrill of taking world titles with his Kilmore-based Pulse Race Boats organisation.

AN incredible piece of history was made in Kilmore recently, with Pulse Race Boats and owner/director Daniel James becoming the first Australian manufacturer to win the World Series in the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) championships.

The event was held across two rounds in the New Zealand Jetsprint Championship, with round one at the NOVUS Glass Wanaka Aquatrack, and round two at the Shelter View Jet Sprint Track in Wanganui.

Through the work of Australian drivers Bastian and Tahleah Mullan in the MTW LS Class, and fellow Aussies Phonsy Mullan and Narelle Pellow-Djukic in the Unlimited Speedboats categories, Pulse was able to score a momentous success which has brought the Kilmore-based brand increased worldwide attention.

James said that after just a short time in the industry, it was surreal to have landed such achievements.

"It's definitely escalated. We have only been going for two or three years, something that started off as something small, and now three years later we are the number one manufacturer in the world," he said.

"We had seven of the 52 entries for the World Series. The worst finisher was ninth overall in the class and we had five finishes on the podium across all classes, so it was a hugely successful weekend.

"There's a lot of different moving parts with every team. We supply the boats and safety equipment, but the teams then choose the manufacturer and g-units, the crews, and drivers. The boats that won both the World Series are Australian-driven boats with Australian engines."

James said the attention to detail at Pulse helped make the difference across the World Series events.

"One of the biggest things of the boats is producing the same product every time," he said.

"It's something we spend a lot of time early with, getting the right people involved with our CAD stuff and our laser cutting and folding.

"Every boat we produce, we assure is identical to the one produced before it."

The success has seen Pulse and James look to start thinking about significant expansion of the business.

"We've had a lot of interest and phone calls since the World Series, which is fantastic," he said.

"Even before then, we supplied one boat in America and one in New Zealand, so we are already starting to expand overseas, which is the goal as the sport is worldwide.

"At the moment, we want to capitalise on our success in the World Series and expand on that. We are also lucky to have Lake Eppalock not too far from home, so we are branching out into the miniboat market as well."

To James, it is a victory against all odds.

"Not many people know we're here and when we started, it wasn't meant to expand as much as it already has," he said.

"It's great, we have a lot of community support in Kilmore and Shepparton, where we're originally from."

Country Week exploits

A LOSS in the final game of Melbourne Country Week has prevented the Gisborne District Cricket Association (GDCA) from earning a potential promotion to the top division of the Victorian Country Cricket League.

Broadford's Gareth Sharp, Romsey quintet Benjamin Way, Chris Burkett, Taylor Stevenson, Thomas Boyer, and Aaron Paterson, and Wallan's Nathan Fowler, have all played their part throughout the Senior Men's Division Two tournament.

The GDCA had a slow start when they came up against perennial Division Two contender Ballarat to open the tournament on Monday at Eastern Oval, losing by six wickets, with Ballarat chasing Gisborne's target of 174 with 18 overs to spare.

However, a confidence boosting 190-run win over Wangaratta on Tuesday at Windy Hill helped give the GDCA a big boost, with Woodend's Marcus Stewart starting with an unbeaten 152 in their 7/325, before bowling Wangaratta out for 135. Fowler played his part too, scoring a quick-fire 50 off just 30 balls.

The GDCA scored a second win on Wednesday, taking a six-wicket win over Kingston Hawthorn at Harry Trott Oval, chasing down the target of 107 in just 15.4 overs.

Stevenson scored 27 off 25 balls, while Fowler (21 off 13), Way (23 off 22) and Boyer (12 off eight, including the winning runs) also contributed heavily.

However, a batting collapse against Bellarine Peninsula at Aberfeldie Park on Thursday meant the GDCA missed out on the final, and the promotion with it.

Stevenson top scored with 27 as the GDCA were bowled out for 119, while Boyer (17) also contributed.

Bellarine Peninsula were able to chase down the target with seven and a half overs to spare, winning by five wickets.

Sport

Scoreboard

CRICKET

GISBORNE AND DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

ROUND 12

TWO-DAY MATCH RESULTS

MCINTYRE CUP FIRSTS

BROADFORD 2/59

(Sikander Sharma 16, Mitchell Collier 16, and Riley Nolan 25. Riley Nolan 5/16.5, and 1C. James Ingham 2C, and Brayden Hickey 3/18) *defeated by* RUPERTSWOOD 10/257 (Kevin Barker 55, Matthew Twentyman 25, and Ned Crotty 73. Joe Honner 3/5, Deegan Campbell 2/6, and 2C).

JOHNSTONE SHIELD FIRSTS

AINTREE 10/262 (Kamal Parmar 53, Charandeep Kalsi 73, and Abhishek Garhwal 46. Kamal Parmar 2/11, and 1 C. Abhishek Garhwal 2/13, and Vamshi Paka 1/9) *defeated by* WALLAN 7/266 (Spencer Whittingham 45, Nathan Fowler 70, and Ryan Cumberland 60. Scott O'Donnell 6/22.4, and 1ROA, Mitch Van De Duim 2C, and Spence Whittingham 1C, and 1 ROU).

KILMORE 10/152 (Steven Burns 28, Ryan Knight 29, and Marcus Davern 33. Josh Squire 3/5, Steven Burns 2/2, and Marcus Davern 1S) *defeated* EYNEBURY 10/78 (Jason Davis 11, Ryan Cran 19, and Gurpreet Singh 15no. Josh Watson 2/5, Ryan Cran 1/3, and 1C).

JOHNSTONE SHIELD SECONDS

AINTREE 8/296 (Narinder Singh 43, Gurtej Singh Gill 91no, and Ankur Harkut 38. Narinder Singh 3C/WK, Gurtej Nihal 3/12.1, and 2C, and Sukhjit 2/8, and 1ROU) *defeated* WALLAN 10/102 (Josh Cumberland 29, Darien Blair 12, and Chase Fowler 19. Beau Fowler 2/11, Nathan Reus 2/11, and Darby Bishop 1C).

EYNEBURY 9/219 (Brandon Shearson 28, Matthew McMullen, and Cameron Price 58. Troy Beasley 2/18, Paul Jones 4/5.2, and David Kershaw 1C/WK) *in progress* KILMORE 9/160 (Cameron Bryant 60, Zac Osmond 14, and Noah Fairweather 22. Hayden Proctor 2/7, Cael Crowley 2/5, and 1 ROA).

JENSON SHIELD FIRSTS

ROUND 14

ONE DAY MATCH

WALLAN 5/167 (Jason Dodd 43, Robbie Fowler 43no, and Harkanwar Singh Sandhu 34no. Jasper George 3/8, Jedda Hubball 1/5, and Chris Vecchie 1/8, and 1 ROA) *defeated* SUNBURY UNITED 7/164 (Fill-in 42, Harrison Knott 53, and Cody McDorman 14no. Cody McDorman 1/7, Harrison Knott 2/8, and 1C, and Samuel McMahon 1C).

JENSON SHIELD THIRDS

MELTON CENTRALS 6/286 (Steve Robertson 100, Mathew Murphy 24, and Daniel Dawes 94. Amninder Singh 3/8, Candace Hulett 3S, Daniel Letchford 4/5, and Daniel Dawes 1/5, and 1C) *defeated* KILMORE 10/165 (Toby Ciacia 24, Brent Proctor 38, and Robert Parkinson 28. Adam Ciacia 1/2, and 1C, Callum Peggie 1/8, and 1C, and Brent Procot 3/8, and 1C).

KOOKABURRA WOMEN'S LEAGUE

ROUND 13

BACCHUS MARSH 0/250 (Ashley Gillard 70no, Sarah Bamford 71no, and Emily Kennedy 53no. Tomeka Fowler 2/6, Emily Kennedy 2/2.3, and 1C) *defeated* KILMORE 7/139 (Taylah Logie 82no, Renee Randall 19, and Justine Muston 7. Taylah Logie 0/6, Jaye Price 0/6, and Renee Randall 0/3).

GOLF

BROADFORD GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12

MIXED STABLEFORD

Dennis Austin	47
Maureen Wheeler	41c/b
Anthony Schultz	41
Laurie McDonald	40c/b

NTP:	Brian Inness	4th
	Sandra O'Connor	9th
	Dennis Austin	11th
	Paul Howe	16th
D&P:	Ray Lejins	7th
	Anthony Schultz	12th

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15

MIXED STABLEFORD

OVERALL WINNER

Chris Ericksson	44
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A GRADE

Barry Nesbitt	38
Greg Hanson	36

GOLF

B GRADE

Chris Ericksson	44
Ian Solyom	38

C GRADE

Des O'Connor	42c/b	
Chris Spencer	42	
Wayne Ormsby	6thE	
Joe Mirabella	6thE	
NTP:	Robert Rowe	4th
	Anthony Cavanagh	9th
	Chris Hanson	11th
D&P:	Des O'Connor	7th
	Cameron Towt	12th

KILMORE GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY

STABLEFORD RED TEES

Cheryle Andersen	38	
Bea Lay	39	
NTP:	Jill Banon	10th
	Bea Lay	17th

STABLEFORD WHITE TEES

Ian Wood	37	
R Campbell	33c/b	
NTP:	Ian Wood	10th

GOLF

Rick Campbell 17th

SATURDAY

LADIES STROKE RED TEES

Saowapa McDowall	77c/b	
Cheryle Andersen	77	
NTP:	Cheryle Andersen	17th

MEN'S STABLEFORD WHITE TEE

Rodney Williams	36
Rick Campbell	38

ROMSEY GOLF CLUB

WEDNESDAY

ROUND

SUMMER CUP-PAR

LANCEFIELD GOLF CLUB

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11

LEGEND'S STABLEFORD

Steve Draper	39
John Wilson	37
Graham Mau	35

GOLF

WEDNESDAY

ROUND 1

DOROTHY HAYES MATCH PLAY

Brennan vs Notman	5/4
Mee vs Flentjar	5/3
Cruise vs Laycock	5/4
Matthews vs Stevens	2up
Bentley vs Nicholas	3/2
Murchison vs Beaumont	4/3
Robinson vs Pattinson	5/4

TWILIGHT STABLEFORD

Chris Enright	23
---------------	----

SATURDAY

MULTIPLE 4BBB – MIXED

Kaylene Cruise/Greg Parks	71
Sheena/Barry Flentjar	69
Steve/Susie Kosa	67

STABLEFORD PRIZE WINNERS

Steve Kosa	37
Annie Balla	45

SWIMMING

PYALONG PIRANHAS

KYABRAM SWIMMING CLUBS

ANNUAL ENCOURAGEMENT MEET

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8

Piranha team members (30) competed against swimmers from Shepparton, Mansfield, Seymour, Kerang, Echuca, Bendigo, Tongala, Yea, and Kyabram clubs, creating a frenzy in the water and bringing home multiple placings.

Members competed in age divisions ranging from under seven through to over 60. For many of the Piranhas swimmers, this was their first taste of what's involved with competitive swimming.

Notably, all swimmers produced at least one Personal BEST time during the competition with many securing multiple event PB's.

Kim Hayes

1st	50m Butterfly
3rd	50m Freestyle

Emma Sobey

1st	25m Butterfly
3rd	50m Backstroke
3rd	50m Freestyle

Ben Meckciem

1st	25m Butterfly
-----	---------------

Matthew Skewes

2nd	50m Butterfly
2nd	50m Backstroke
2nd	50m Breaststroke
2nd	50m Freestyle

Ivy Atkin

1st	25m Backstroke
2nd	25m Freestyle

Reagan Robertson

3rd	25m Breaststroke
-----	------------------

SWIMMING

Banjo Eberbach

2nd	25m Backstroke
3rd	25m Breaststroke
2nd	25m Freestyle

Lucas Smith

3rd	25m Backstroke
1st	25m Breaststroke
3rd	25m Freestyle

Jack Dexton-Swift

1st	50m Backstroke
2nd	50m Freestyle

Zac Smith

2nd	50m Backstroke
1st	50m Breaststroke
3rd	50m Freestyle

Milla Robertson

3rd	50m Backstroke
2nd	50m Breaststroke
2nd	50m Freestyle

Claire James

1st	50m Backstroke
2nd	50m Breaststroke

Zoe Collings

2nd	50m Backstroke
2nd	50m Breaststroke

Tayla Maher

3rd	50m Backstroke
-----	----------------

Lucas Maher

2nd	25m Freestyle
-----	---------------

Jeff Eberbach

2nd	50m Backstroke
3rd	50m Breaststroke

Glen Eberbach

2nd	50m Freestyle
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The ripple effect

By Jo Kubeil

THIS summer, a local hopes to help residents grab a fishing rod, drop a line, and in between, have a good old-fashioned chat in his fourth event to support mental health patients.

Fishing For Mental Health is running with support from members of the Victorian Police force for the first time, and extra special guests will include Encourage Church Pastor Tim Emonson who will bless the occasion.

Patrick Bliem, a representative from the Mitchell Shire Suicide Prevention Network will also attend, and local bands Redgum and Lost Souls will provide entertainment.

Organiser and Lancefield resident 'Jack' hopes the police involvement will help heal the discord between police and people in crisis presenting with mental health concerns.

"They're trying to break down the barriers between the community and the police because by the time they get to mental health patients, it's too late," he said.

Impacted by two major mental health episodes throughout his lifetime, Jack also shared that he has bipolar disorder.

The first episode occurred at 31 years of age after a marriage breakdown.

"My brain shut down so bad that I laid there for six weeks in a mental institution, dribbling," he said.

The second episode occurred three years ago. After another failed romance, Jack said he ran away to live in the bush for eight months, becoming dangerously thin by the time he was found, and experienced two days of morbidity-blindness.

"There was so much homelessness up [at Doolans Bend on the Murray River]," he said.

"While I was blind, I started having these dreams about helping [others]."

These dreams were the beginning of bigger fish to fry. Sponsoring Jack's dream now are the Lancefield and Romsey Bendigo Bank Community branches, and Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell, who has donated 10 tubs of worm bait.

Romsey Supa IGA have pledged 100 snags and salads, while Country Gourmet Meat and Poultry have offered 50 hamburgers.

There will be mystery prizes donated by Romsey Hair Hub to win, and the Lost Watering Hole Lancefield Brewery have agreed to offer a meal deal to participants.

Romsey's Earthline Excavations are lending a hand by transporting the gear to and from the event, which includes 45 four-man tents that Jack said he has on occasion paid forward to homeless people.

"[The event is] taking off like a roller coaster," he said.

Rods and rigging are included in the cost, and there's a good chance the Murray Cod, Yellow Belly, Redfin, trout, and roach fish will be biting!

Fishing for mental health participants can meet at the Lauriston Reservoir Playground, Kyneton, on Wednesday, February 26, between 9am and 2pm.

For all enquiries, call Jack on 0472 829 991.

Hopes find success at Bendigo

SEYMOUR trainers Lee and Shannon Hope saddled Scillato to score her second win from as many starts at Bendigo earlier this month.

The three-year-old filly raced greenly in the final stages, yet finished only a second outside the track record for 1100 metres.

Jockey Cory Parish settled Scillato in the trail and the filly ran away to finish 2.5 lengths ahead of second-placed Snappy Tycoon.

Scillato had previously scored her maiden win by four lengths over 1000 metres at Seymour on January 16, again ridden by Parish.

If pedigree is any indication, Scillato should handle more ground given time and maturity. She is out of the High Chapparel mare Supre, who won from 1400 up to 1600 metres.

Supre is out of a Reset mare, also a source of stamina, being by the champion staying sire Zabeel.

Scillato is owned by long time stable client Alpara Lodge who also owned and raced Supre.

Interestingly, Alpara Lodge raced the Group One winning mare Fenway, also trained by Lee and Shannon Hope.

Fenway was bred on the High Chapparel-Zabeel cross, being by High Chapparel out of the Zabeel mare Deedra.

Fenway ran second in the Australasian Oaks at Morphettville before winning the Group One Vinery Stud Stakes at Rosehill, among her stakes performances.

Scillato is by Triple Crown winner American Pharoah, an eight-time Group One winner in the USA.

The Hopes have no immediate plans for Scillato, preferring to let the filly recover from the run before looking at their options.

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Sulky snippets

By Len Baker

CHARLIE AND DARREN SALUTE

KILMORE harness raced last Thursday with a nine event card.

The night was highlighted by 85-year-old Whittlesea Octogenarian co-owner/trainer Charlie Farrugia and grandson driver Darren Zahra's home bred and raced Lincoln Royal-Mind Dancer gelding Royal Edard winning the 1690m Carlton & United Breweries Pace. Enjoying a sweet passage from gate four trailing Pinnacle Hope which led from outside the front line, Royal Edard, after angling away from the markers on turning, was too strong over the concluding stages for the pacemaker, scoring by 1.7m in a mile rate of 1-58.6. Home And Dry (one/two) was third 4.3m back. It was Royal Edard's first suc-

cess since winning at Gunbower in December 2023.

Sutton Grange breeder/owner/trainer Clive Henderson's 5YO Sportswriter-Dance Of Fire gelding Edward Grange chalked up his seventh success at start 42 when greeting the judge in the C & M Build Group Pace over 1690m.

Driven by 'ace' reinsman James Herbertson, Edward Grange (gate three) possied behind the leader Cheerstolou, which burnt across the face of the field from gate five before being relegated to three pegs after My Way in the open from gate two assumed control. Moving to be one/one approaching the home turn, Edward Grange finished his race off well after angling wide in the straight to record a 2.5m margin over Nakula (four wide last lap from the tail),

with Ozzie Sunshine which raced exposed from outside the front line, narrowly taking over on the home turn and battling away strongly for third 5.1m away. The mile rate a slick 1-54.

The Beraldo Coffee 3YO Maiden Pace over 1690m saw Bettors Delight-Ghadas Delight gelding The Wise Guy victorious when making his race debut. Trained at Murchison North by Shane Sander-son and driven by son Ryan, The Wise Guy settled one/one from gate three on the second line as Fifty Seven Chevy went like one to lead from outside the front line, giving his rivals something to chase for local Monique Burnett. Dropping to trail the leader in the last lap, The Wise Guy ran home stylishly to prevail by 6m in a rate of 1-56.6 from Fifty Seven Chevy, who's win is not too far off. Raging hot favourite Apollo Storm, which galloped in the first lap when three back in the moving line and tailing

out, made up many yards for third 13.1m away.

Leichardt trainer Scott Rains combined with Maryborough's Louis Emerson to land the Jet Roofing Concession Drivers Pace over 2180m with 4YO Betting Line-Dee Emm Dancer gelding Kalkadoon Dreaming. Restrained to the rear from outside the front line, Kalkadoon Dreaming, letting rip four wide in the last lap to be outside the pacemaker Lollipop, which had crossed Micton Mouse before the final bend, ran home best to gain the day, accounting for a game Lollipop who was super by 2.6m. Really Smartie (three wide last lap from mid-field) was third 13m away. The mile rate 2-01.2.

The O'Brien Electrical Pace over 2180m went the way of Cranbourne trainer/driver Scott Ewen's 7YO mare Blazin Heaven, a daughter of Rock N Roll Heaven and Good Girl Becqui who chalked up her 14th success in 112 outings,

returning a mile rate of 2-01. Beginning fast from gate four, along with Monsieur Flamel inside her leading momentarily, Blazin Heaven was able to cross and lead, turning into the back straight on the first occasion, and held too many guns for Monsieur Flamel along the sprint lane by 2.1m, which was given every opportunity to run her down. Direct Command, after being eased to the tail from outside the front line, went forward mid-race to park outside the winner and battled on gamely for third 3.1m away.

Another Cranbourne winner on the night was 4YO Rock N Roll Heaven-Narree Rose mare Love A Bell for trainer Rick Cashman and partners in the 2180m MC Security Pace. Driven by Chris Alford, Love A Bell enjoyed a sweet one/one passage from gate four as Sunstar led from gate two with Ubeta Knot (gate three) caught exposed. Easing three wide on turning, Love

A Belle rallied late to prevail by a half head from Sunstar who refused to give in, with Ubeta Knot giving her all after the tough trip for third a head away in a thrilling finish. The mile rate 1-59.7.

The Buds & Branches Florist Pace over 2180m went the way of Derrinal trainer/driver Glen Bull's 6YO Pet Rock-Vansumic gelding Michen Roy in a rate of 2-01. Starting solo on the second line, Michen Roy settled three back in the moving line as polemarker Ruby Wingate began fast to easily retail the front running, with tough grinder Forgone Conclusion (gate three) outside her, favourite Our Bella Lucia (gate five one/one), and Michen Roy one/two. Moving three wide in the back straight as Forgone Conclusion took care of the leader, Michen Roy ran on best out wide to gain the day from Our Bella Lucia in the centre by a metre, with Apache Plume running on late after following the winner all the way third 4.3m back.

Kialla owner/trainer Mitchell Frost used the services of co-Kialla based Tasmyn Potter to land the 2180m TAB & Older Maiden Pace aboard cleverly named 4YO Vincent-Come Dance With Me mare Savoy Ballroom. Racing roughly from gate two as the start was affected, Savoy Ballroom settled three back in the moving line with Muselet (gate four) leading from Here Comes Lenny (gate five), and With In Reason easing away from inside the second line to possie one/two. Set slight mid-race with a great turn of speed to lead approaching the bell, Savoy Ballroom couldn't be caught to run out a 5.1m victory over Muselet and With In Reason who was 1.5m away in third place. The mile rate 2-01.6.

The Momentum Gaming Pace over 2180m concluded the night and it was Tasmyn Potter who was again victorious, combining with Junortoun trainer Michelle Phillips and former Sunraysia 7YO Sunshine Beach-Maise Reign mare Martha Lavinia, a winner of 17 races. Despite racing uncovered from gate five outside polemarker Archa, Martha Lavinia, after taking a slender lead on the home turn, just lasted by a head from That Majya Look, which followed her throughout from gate three, with Archa holding down third 1.4m away. The mile rate 2-00.2.

Kilmore will race again on Thursday, February 27.

From the boundary



By Ray Carroll

WORTHY TRIBUTE

IN view of Neale Daniher's 'Australian of the Year' honour which delighted millions of people, I hereby reprint a story from one of my books, *The stars look down*.

★★★



Of all the many hundreds of students I had the privilege of being associated with over the years at ACK, Neale Daniher is right up there at the summit.

He came south to Kilmore in 1977 and his two years at Assumption were outstanding in all respects—in the classrooms, playing fields, and extracurricular pursuits.

Neale came from a wonderful family background—great parents and 10 siblings—reared on a far northern Riverina farm. The wide brown land with its vast blue skies has nurtured countless fine, tough men and strong, resilient women.

The Daniher story has been well-documented over the years. It's the inspiring tale of four brothers who all got to play at AFL's elite level.

Neale, Terry, Anthony, and Chris won wide acclaim for their footballing prowess and their down-to-earth honesty and collective sense of humour. None took themselves overly seriously.

Seven sisters could not be ignored, talented and skilled in varied areas in their own right. They were as proud of their brothers as the latter were proud of the 'girls',

All 11 offspring would admit to owing much to parents Jim and Edna. Stoic country folk, highly-respected, they instilled faith reinforced values in their children—the values that stand the test of time and sadly, are not as prevalent in modern day Australia.

Faraway

It's a long trek from Ungarie, a tiny dot on the NSW map, to the great stadiums of the AFL, and it is one of this nation's remarkable sport achievements that four bush lads would progress from the tiny outpost to grace the playing fields of Australia's most popular winter sport.

Jim and Edna have taken much pride in the achievements of their sons and daughters. Jim was a considerable sporting identity in the far flung outpost of the code, and did much over long years to further football's cause.

Stories of the family's Christmases well into the children's late teenage years are nostalgic 'postcards' of rural New South Wales, evoking images of Mary Grant Bruce's classic stories.

A visit

In Neale's college years, his folks got to visit rarely because of distance, but they came south to vital First XVIII and First XI games, and I was so impressed with these stoic folk that I promised Neale I would one day make the trip to visit them.

Well, it took me 30 years to fulfil that promise, but I'm glad the effort was made.

An archetypal country homestead with wide verandas amid gently rolling farm fields has been the family home across generations.

Jim and Edna, now in the late evening of long, hard-working lives, are magnificent people.

★★★

Neale was an immediate success story on the playing fields of Assumption.

His first hit out for the cricket XI produced a superb 157 versus a strong Mentone attack, and he scored in prolific manner across the AGSV summer of 1977 and '78.

An astute and inspirational leader, he guided the Dark and Light Blues to the '78 title. One century on a lively pitch at Ivanhoe was a classic.

Simon O'Donnell, of later Australian cricket fame, was a junior member of the 1978 side and testifies to Neale's undoubted class as a willow wielder. Had Essendon not claimed him for football straight from school, I'm certain he could have progressed to the highest levels of the game.

Through the mists of time I still 'see' his classic cover and on and off drives. The on-drive is the hallmark of the truly-gifted player. His performances on the fields of winter are still etched in memory.

At centre half back or half forward, he was brilliant and he thrilled the large crowds of those times. Eight goals from CHF at St Pat's Ballarat was a glorious cameo—something akin to his amazing four goals in time-on to give the Bombers a sensational win over Carlton at Princes Park a couple of years later.

Neale played a dominant role in ACK's 1978 title and captained the XVIII brilliantly to honours in his final year.

★★★

A top performer also academically, Neale made a splendid impression on all and many of his legion of college pals remain firm friends today.

Testimony to his impact on others was recently illustrated when Colbinabbin ex-students Jim and Janine Morgan drove their farm ute all the way to Perth as an act of solidarity when they heard of their loyal friend's health setback. Jim, a full back in 1978, lost his leg in a farm accident a few years ago.

★★★

AFL's chronicles tell us that Neale went straight from college to Essendon's senior team where he played 82 games, was made captain before turning 21, and was selected for the Big V. He was the Bomber's best and fairest in 1981. Sadly, severe knee injuries cut short a career that suggested he would have been a genuine superstar of the 80s.

Neale was part of the Bombers coaching panel from 1992, then followed an apprenticeship coaching role at Fremantle before he was appointed coach of Melbourne in 1998. He coached the Demons into six finals campaigns in his 10 years there.

★★★

Neale's wife Jan is a wonderful person and the couple have four fine children, two boys and two girls. Shortly, the family will return to Melbourne from Perth where Neale has been a highly-regarded football operations manager at West Coast.

★★★

I've long regarded Neale as a worthy role model and Assumption will count itself fortunate in future years if another such student graces its halls and portals.

★★★

I am very grateful for Neale's genuine friendship and support from the time of his schooldays, which has extended even to him stopping by in a hire car in times when West Coast played in Melbourne.

★★★

VARIA



Young area folk Caiden and Keira were walking their dogs Blaize and Paddy the other day, and allowed me to take the photo.

★★★

THE names Cummins and Dowling are generational ones at Assumption. Great families from the Yarrowonga region, I was really pleased to see Dan Dowling and his wife Hannah (Cummins) when they called by with young daughter Grace last week. The couple have fond memories of their college years. Dan, a successful farmer, recalls being coached in Under 15XVIII by Ned Pannigo. Ned is a Vietnam veteran and fire brigade legend in the Wallan and Beveridge area. Hannah and her sister Lauren gave me great assistance with the footy and cricket at ACK. Lauren's son Max is a champion young cyclist with a bright future beckoning.



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Battle against the rain

By Michael Thompson

WHILE rain swept through the northern suburbs on Saturday, there was still plenty of intriguing cricket that was played in the Diamond Valley Cricket Association (DVCA).

In the Mash Shield, Laurimar will need 139 runs to take second place away from Mernda this week, as well as booking their own spot in the finals, after successfully bowling the Demons out for 138 runs without losing a wicket at stumps.

An even team performance across the board for the Power

saw Travis Baker finish with 3/31, while Bailey Lawrenson, and Luke and Patrick Richardson finished with two wickets apiece, restricting the Demons after starting strongly at 1/56.

For Mernda, Alex Mitris top scored with 25 runs, while Robert Turnbull scored 22. However, despite six batters

scoring in double digits, none could convert their solid starts.

Late wickets helped South Morang breathe a little easier in their quest to keep the pressure on for a spot in the Mash Shield finals, but they will still need their bowling to be on song for the second day of play against bottom-placed Thom-

astown as they cling on to a 122-run lead.

Karl Heckmann gave the Lions the start they wanted with 47 runs, but it was Ricky Lee and Daniel Watson who helped steady the ship after they hit 4/79. Sharing a 116-run partnership, Lee top scored with 68 runs, while Watson fell just short of a half-century, dismissed on 49.

South Morang eventually declared at 8/212, but Thomastown got off to a good start, sitting at 2/69, before a late push saw them reduced to 4/90 at the end of the day's play.

Blair Cass kept his bowling tight when called upon, taking 2/6 off 10 overs, which included seven maidens.

A rain-affected affair saw just 26 overs bowled at Eltham College as Whittlesea's Firsts ventured over to Research Eltham Collegians, but the Eagles struggled greatly as they were restricted to 6/61.

Nathan Heaney has top-scored for the moment with 18, but Binith Jayasinghe, sitting unbeaten on 16, will be called upon to build partnerships this Saturday to ensure the Eagles have a competitive scoreline.

Whittlesea's Seconds had a better time, and remain in the hunt for a top four spot as they chased down North Eltham's target of 5/141, scoring 6/145 to take victory by four wickets.

It was Jack Jerabek who again shone for the Eagles, leading the way with the ball to take 2/30, before anchoring their chase with 34 runs. Lochaden Graham's 18 and Dinesh Arachchige's 13 helped provide a partnership to get them home with eight balls to spare.

In other highlights, Mernda's Seconds team will need to chase down 222 runs on the second day's play on Saturday to move into the top four at North Eltham's expense.

Mernda's bowlers struggled to gain traction, with four bowlers taking a wicket each.

It was a day to savour for Laurimar youngster Cooper Lawrenson as he recorded his maiden senior century in the Power's Seconds' clash with Dennis, with the Power scoring 5/238 as they look to ensure they do not receive the wooden spoon.

Play for the day in South Morang's Seconds clash with North Eltham was abandoned, which will mean a one-day game this week will decide whether the Lions can remain on top of the D Grade ladder.



ON THE MOVE: South Morang's Ricky Lee plays a cut shot as part of his top-scoring 68 on Saturday.



LOADING UP: South Morang's Daniel Watson looks to go large in his 49 on Saturday.



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