

BRIMBANK & NORTHWEST

Star Weekly

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Holy Eucharist School, St Albans. Pic of principal Michael Bonnici (front) with some students, staff, parents and workers at the school's construction site. (Damjan Janevski) 572572_01

Blessed be these bricks

On Thursday, Holy Eucharist School celebrated an exciting milestone with the commencement ceremony of the redevelopment of its Leonie Glennen Learning Centre.

The occasion brought together members of the school community, parishioners and government representatives.

The redevelopment will see an extensive refurbishment of the junior school building, including eight classrooms, student toilets and a meeting room.

The school has received \$1.4 million from the state government, with further contributions from the school and Catholic development fund.

The ceremony concluded with Father Tuan-Anh blessing the first brick, marking the official beginning of the redevelopment and symbolising the strong foundations upon which our school community continues to build.

"This project honours our past, responds to our present needs and invests in our future," said school principal Michael Bonnici.

West safety push

By Sebastian Conidi

Brimbank traders and residents have again raised safety concerns as Brimbank council continues to push for more a coordinated approach, including reopening Keilor Downs police station 24-7.

During the 18 August council meeting, councillors expressed their frustrations about how long it has taken for rising crime in the west to be acknowledged.

The death of Sunshine trader Van Viet Truong, who was assaulted outside his store in early August, sparked public discussion over the rise of youth crime in Melbourne's west.

On 5 August, mayors from councils across the west released a joint statement

requesting stronger police presence and protection, while members of the public are calling for safer communities and stronger protection.

The state government announced it would expand frontline support for the west, increasing the presence of Protective Service Officers (PSOs) across Victoria, including Sunshine and St Albans.

In a report tabled on Tuesday, council called for increased and sustained Victoria Police resourcing and operational responses across Brimbank, especially in Sunshine and St Albans.

The councillors wanted an expansion of expanded of powers, designation areas and the operational capacity of Protective Services Officers in Sunshine, St Albans

and Watergardens to support Victoria Police and for Keilor Downs police station to have consistent daily access and more funding for prevention programs.

Council will also assess further safety improvements in Sunshine and St Albans.

"Some businesses had changed their staffing and operating arrangements because of safety concerns," the report said.

"A recurring concern raised by traders in Sunshine during these visits was that police did not attend, or did not attend promptly, when businesses reported theft, property damage, fighting, abuse or behaviour they considered threatening."

The St Albans Business Association identified the need for stronger

involvement from police with a large amount of on-street trading, and raised concerns about possible under-reporting of incidents, and requested council advocate for an expanded PSO presence beyond the St Albans station precinct into the surrounding activity centre.

However, Victoria Police said council had not raised these issues in recent months.

"Brimbank council has not raised this issue with Victoria Police in recent weeks, nor are we aware of any specific examples about delayed police responses to crimes reported by traders in recent months," a Victoria Police spokesperson said.

■ Continued: Page 5.

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Tuesday, 25 August, 2026 **BRIMBANK & NORTHWEST STAR WEEKLY 3**

Pause data hubs: Council

By Sebastian Conidi

Brimbank council has taken a firm stand alongside other councils against the development of AI-powering data centres, demanding a temporary halt to approvals in Melbourne’s west.

At its meeting on 18 August, council unanimously voted to advocate for an immediate moratorium on all new data centres and expansions. A moratorium is a mandatory “pause button”—a temporary freeze that stops any new approvals until strict planning rules, environmental safeguards, and community consultations are officially put in place.

Community fears about the spread of data centres remain ongoing, demonstrated by a large rally on 9 August in West Footscray in response to community grievances over the noise and vibration of the local data centre.

Last week, Footscray MP Katie Hall voted against a moratorium despite initially showing public support.

Brimbank has joined with other western region councils through the Western Alliance for Greenhouse Action (WAGA). Brimbank currently has data centres in Deer Park, Derrimut, and Brooklyn. There are also data centres in neighbouring areas such as Tullamarine, West Footscray and a

proposed one for Spotswood. An application by Melbourne-based company Syncline to build what would be the country’s largest data centre in Plumpton, just outside Sydenham, is currently under review.

The council endorsed a WAGA submission to a Senate Inquiry into AI and Data Centres.

Councillor Daniel Kruk expressed that “council don’t have a seat at the table”.

“We need to have a say in planning regulations.”

Councillor Lucy Nguyen described the west as a “dumping ground for undesirable facilities”.

“These proposals bypass local councils

and there are no community consultations.”

Councillor Joh Bauch said “it seems like there is more permit work and regulation to deal with a cubby house than it is to build a data centre close to residential homes”.

Mayor Virginia Tachos went further, warning that data centres risk becoming “the new landfills for the west”.

The state government responded stating projects are thoroughly assessed.

“Every project goes through a rigorous assessment process and will be considered on its merits,” a state government spokesperson said.

“Submissions from the community can be provided up until a decision is made.”



Huda Issa is starting community organisation Female Formula aimed at connecting and spreading awareness about women’s health.
(Damjan Janevski) 572480_04

New community group champions women’s health

Female Formula Inc. is a newly established women-focused community organisation based in Melbourne’s western suburbs.

Founded by Hudda Issa, the organisation looks to promote greater awareness around women’s mental health, wellbeing and health literacy.

The community group is aimed at creating practical and accessible opportunities for women to learn, connect and feel supported through workshops, community conversations and wellbeing activities.

Female Formula is collaborating with health and research organisations to connect women in the community with

information resources.

The aim is to make health knowledge more accessible, understandable, practical and culturally relevant for women, particularly those living in Melbourne’s western suburbs.

Female Formula is open to all women, regardless of background.

“The vision is to create an inclusive women-only space where women from different backgrounds can connect, increase their knowledge, build confidence and support one another,” Hudda said.

“I wish for women to connect and inspire each other.”

Hudda draws on her experience as a

nurse, creating opportunities for women to connect and consider important issues in relation to their physical and mental health.

“With my background in health and nursing, I also strongly believe in the connection between physical and mental well-being. What happens in the body can influence how we feel, think and function.

“This is very much part of the philosophy behind Female Formula. We want to look at women as whole people — body, mind, identity, well-being and connection to community.”

In partnership with Liptember, Female Formula are planning a women’s mental health event for mid-September.

Community invited to have say on Albion Quarter

Brimbank council is encouraging the community to provide feedback on the state government’s draft Albion Quarter Structure Plan.

The draft plan outlines a long-term vision for the under-used industrial land surrounding Albion Station, identifying opportunities to support jobs, innovation and services, alongside new homes better connected to public and active transport.

The council said the plan will transform land use from an industrial precinct to a more contemporary community focused precinct.

The plan promises to “provide the community with highly accessible public transport infrastructure needed to support the area’s potential residential and commercial growth.”

“The Albion Quarter Structure Plan presents a unique opportunity to help shape the future of our city — creating more jobs, more homes and better connections,” said mayor Virginia Tachos.

“We strongly encourage our residents, workers, visitors and businesses to have their say during the consultation period.”

This work is part of the broader Sunshine

Station Masterplan, which has been supported through \$143 million of state government funding.

Council will also be making a submission on the Plan outlining the importance of improving the amenity and accessibility of the area.

Submissions can be made until Monday September 21 by visiting the Engage Victoria website engage.vic.gov.au/AlbionQuarter.

“Your feedback is vital to ensuring this plan reflects local priorities and delivers the best possible outcomes for our community.”

Police briefs

Alleged carjacking

Police have charged a man following an alleged carjacking in Diggers Rest on 15 August. It is alleged a 42-year-old man attempted to pull multiple vehicles over using a roadworks sign in the middle of the Calder Freeway just before 5am. When a 2023 black Ford F150 utility slowed to offer him assistance, police allege the Melton man grabbed the driver out of his vehicle and drove away. The driver of the Ford, a 63-year-old Horsham man, was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The stolen vehicle was later located in Melton. Police further allege the 42-year-old was involved in prior incidents including an aggravated burglary in Melton on 3 August, aggravated burglaries in Harkness and Melton on 4 August, as well as criminal damage in Kurunjang on 4 August, a hit-run collision in Melton on 14 August, and a firearms incident in Diggers Rest on 14 August. Police arrested the man at a Melton West address on 18 August and charged him with over 50 offences, including aggravated burglary, aggravated carjacking, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, criminal damages, and driving offences.

Keilor Downs home invasion

Police are searching for two men following an aggravated home invasion in Keilor Downs earlier this year. It is understood four balaclava-clad offenders forced entry to a Denbigh Court home on Monday 20 April about 2am. The offenders, believed to be armed with firearms and a sledgehammer, forced three occupants into one of the rooms. The victims were covered with blankets while the offenders stole a number of items and made threats with a firearm that they would return if a large sum of cash was not paid before a deadline. After spending two hours inside the property, the offenders fled the scene about 4.05am. The occupants, a 62-year-old man, a 54-year-old woman and a 17-year-old girl, were not physically injured during the incident. At this stage, it is believed the incident was targeted and the offenders have not returned to the property. The investigation remains ongoing.

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Long-term solutions needed

As part of an ongoing series on the causes and solutions to crime in the west, Sebastian Conidi spoke to community organisation Westjustice about the drivers of youth crime.

Westjustice is a community organisation at the forefront of providing fairness, safety and justice in the west.

Director of policy, impact and engagement Owen Virtue said approaching the issue of youth crime from a holistic viewpoint was the best means of tackling root causes.

"Government investments in new PSOs and police is a good thing if it makes people feel safe, but it's only one side of the effort. We need to spend time addressing the root causes," Mr Virtue said.

"We might be able to catch it when it happens, but that won't necessarily stop it from happening in the future."

When examining causes, Mr Virtue spoke of the trauma of the pandemic lockdowns.

"Young people are finding it as hard to manage life after a two year lockdown as adults are."

He said other causes of youth crime include financial security, housing insecurity, family violence and mental health challenges.

Combined these factors have lead to "social challenges across the board".

"People are really struggling. Those are the things we need to start tackling to address the issue long term."

Mr Virtue said there needed to be more emphasis on community infrastructure as opposed to simply imposing harsher legislation.



"Heading towards November, there is a race to introduce new sentencing things that might lock people up for longer or punish them more. That makes sense in the context of a political environment, but we've known for a long time that tougher sentencing does not stop crime."

Mr Virtue called for broader investment in social issues that extended beyond political debate and election campaigns.

"It's common in a political context for

people to suggest all these legislative changes to fix things, but it won't work in isolation. As soon as the political context changes, we see closures of schools, hospitals and health services. All things that actually support the root causes of these issues."

Mr Virtue said a good starting point would be an assessment of services that are lacking in the west. "If we know the root causes of offending, which are also the root causes of homelessness and economic chal-

lenge, then we know the services we need to deliver. That will address concerns about crime as much as any investment in police. We need to do both."

Mr Virtue stressed the best response was one shared between the community, social organisations and the government.

"If we are going to do this properly, it needs to be in partnership with the local community. We all need to work together. It can't be done alone."

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The 2025 Grand Parade. (KDAF)



Committee secretary Bill Meeker.
(Damjan Janevski) 571340_05



Daffodils. (KDAF)



The scarecrow trail will return this year. (KDAF)

Kyneton blooms

The weather’s warming and the daffodils are blooming, which can only mean one thing – it’s almost time for the Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival. The 10-day event will transform the streets of Kyneton into a springtime celebration, culminating in a grand parade held on Sunday 13 September. Georgia Tacey caught up with some of the community members involved in the festival, who are helping breathe new life into one of the town’s oldest traditions.

For more than 50 years, Kyneton has found new ways to keep the daffodils blooming.

The Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival is getting ready to spring into action this September, for a community celebration hosted by a dedicated group of volunteers.

The 10-day event will welcome the start of the new season to the town, with a diverse schedule of arts, culture, gardens, entertainment and more full of country spirit.

The festival continues to bring new and old events to Kyneton each year, with much-loved traditions returning alongside a host of new additions.

Past committee secretary Marg Dearthcott, who helped run the festival for close to 20 years, said it dates back well into the ’70s.

“It hasn’t really had any ups and downs, every year people have continued it with great faith in the daffodils,” Marg said.

“Right back in the 1970s and ’80s, it was pretty lively and over the years, the only hiccups have been the Covid years, those two years where we couldn’t do very much.”

While the festival’s events may have changed over the years, some traditions are still held tightly, like the crowning of the Daffodil Royal Family.

Each year at the opening night, a King, Queen, and four junior royals are crowned, with the community able to nominate those that embody the spirit of the festival and the community.

A former queen herself, Marg said the royal honour is very special for the Kyneton community.

“I’ve got a list of all the kings and queens for 40 years, and the children that were involved,” Marg said.

“It gives people, the kids particularly, a great boost to be involved in it.”

Other events have come and gone, she said, but not without something new finding its place.

“We used to have a Daffodil Ball, but the people that were involved, some of them have passed on and it stopped, but



Kyneton’s emergency services are joining the Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival. (Damjan Janevski) 571342_01

“It’s always been a vibrant festival, and a great drawcard for Kyneton”

- Marg Dearthcott

a new event took its place,” she said. “It’s always been a vibrant festival, and a great drawcard for Kyneton.”

Current secretary Bill Meeker said this year’s festival will keep its country festival roots while debuting new events as well, all under this year’s theme of “The Bulb and the Beautiful”.

“It has a pretty eclectic range of events, from people showing their open gardens to ferret racing, the bull boar sausage eating competition, an art prize,” he said.

Fan favourite events, like the Dog Dash,

Festival of One Act Plays, the Scarecrow Trail will return once again, as will the annual Grand Parade through Mollison Street, before the celebrations continue with a fair at the Old Kyneton Primary School

“What’s pretty exciting is that there’s about 10 brand new events, which take heaps of work to get off the ground,” Bill said. “There’s roller skating, and the BloomBox Open Mic and Flower Power, which are both live music events.

“And one I’m really proud of is I’ve organised a fun run within the festival.”

The Daffodil Dash, where walkers or runners can take part in a 5km or 11km fun run throughout Kyneton, is a new event to the line up, inspired by Bill’s own love of running.

All events are also put together by the small team of volunteers, but also part

of the festival are ones hosted by other community groups, businesses and organisations across Kyneton.

One event included for the very first time will be the Emergency Services Open Day, where Kyneton Police, CFA, Ambulance and Woodend SES are joining forces together for a special community day for the festival.

Taking place on the first weekend of the festival on Saturday 5 September, Kyneton Police will open up their station for the very first time for tours, inviting the community into parts of Kyneton’s history they haven’t had the chance to see.

“We’ve got a bit of history at the Kyneton Police Station with the Ned Kelly cells, where he was housed for three weeks in 1870,” First constable Josh Craik said.

“Because that’s in the confines of the station, the public generally doesn’t get to see the Ned Kelly cells, so we thought we’ll open it up in conjunction with the Daffodil Festival, invite people through the station to have a look at the cells, have a look through our custody areas, and see some specialist policing.”

Kyneton CFA will also have the station open, conducting tours and activities.

Community safety officer Angelica Fox said there will be operational equipment on display, live demonstrations, hands-on activities with water, hoses and radios, as well as a recruitment drive.

Kyneton Ambulance and Woodend SES will also have displays in the area as well.

The Kyneton Daffodil Festival will officially begin with the Opening Night on Friday 4 September, where the Daffodil Royal Family will be crowned, the Art Prize winners will be announced alongside plenty of local live music at the Old Action House.

The festival will conclude with the Grand Parade on Mollison Street and the Fair at the Old Kyneton Primary School.

A full list of all events, ticket details and registrations are available on the website.

Details: kynetondaffodilandartsfestival.com.au

We bet dad doesn’t want socks for Father’s Day!

Forget the socks, another pair of barbecue tongs or a novelty mug. This Father’s Day, give dad something he’ll actually enjoy — a great night out, a delicious dinner and a full night of world-class greyhound racing action at The Melbourne Greyhounds racetrack, The Meadows.

On Saturday 5 September, the City View Bistro is pulling out all the stops for dad and the whole family, with a special Father’s Day Eve dining experience designed to make celebrating Dad easy, affordable and, most importantly, fun.

With free Race Box Bingo, free kids meals and a free beverage for dad on arrival, there’s plenty happening to make this a Father’s Day celebration he’ll love.

If you’ve never experienced dining in the City View Bistro at The Meadows, this is the perfect opportunity to give it a try.

The elevated bistro dining room offers sensational views across the racetrack and towards the Melbourne skyline, making it a great setting for a family celebration. And is super friendly on the hip pocket.

Your table remains yours for the entire evening, giving you the freedom to enjoy dinner at your own pace while taking in all the excitement of the greyhound racing action.

Complimentary track entry and parking are included with your dinner reservation, while the bistro bar of-



fers a range of affordable beverages to enjoy throughout the evening, starting with an extended happy hour serving \$5 schooners from 5.30pm to 7pm.

There’s also a sweet September deal — two desserts for just \$20, perfect for finishing the night on a sweet note.

So, if you’re struggling to come up with something different for dad this Father’s Day, treat him to a night of great food, family, racing and entertainment at the City View Bistro.

Bookings can be made by calling the Melbourne Greyhounds on (03) 9355 5222 or on their website: melbournegreyhounds.org.au

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Tuesday, 25 August, 2026 BRIMBANK & NORTHWEST STAR WEEKLY 7

Teacher pay deal struck

By Jack O'Shea-Ayres

Victoria's school teachers will become the highest paid in the country following an acceptance of the state government's latest pay conditions by members of the Australian Education Union (AEU).

AEU members voted 79 per cent in favour of the latest offer on Monday 17 August, after a year-long bargaining process.

The new pay deal will deliver total pay rises between 28.3 per cent and 32.4 per cent over four years for teachers, assistant principals, and principals, plus a \$2000 bonus at the start of the agreement.

Under the new deal, an early career teacher's salary will rise by \$12,343 by Oc-

tober this year, bringing their pay in line with their New South Wales counterparts.

An experienced teacher's salary will rise from \$118,063 to \$151,419 by 2029, including a \$15,393 increase this year, which puts them ahead of New South Wales teachers.

The offer also includes improvements to working conditions, including reduced meetings and four professional practice days each year.

AEU sub-branch president and Melton Secondary College teacher Abanob Saad called the state government's latest offer a step in the right direction.

"This deal puts fuel back in the tank – fairer pay, better conditions and the re-

spect educators deserve," he said.

The agreement brings an end to months of prolonged disputes between members of the AEU and the state government after teachers, principals, and education support staff rejected a pay offer of a 17 per cent increase over three years proposed in March, a revised 28.3 per cent increase over four years made in April, an improved offer in May, and another just last month.

The acceptance also came just days before a third planned 24-hour strike was due to be held on Wednesday 18 August, which the AEU cancelled.

Mr Saad said the deal reflected members' refusal of current poor working con-

ditions.

"This deal is the result of thousands of educators refusing to accept poor quality work...[it] is the first that shows genuine improvement," he said.

AEU Victorian branch president Justin Mullaly said the outcome was thanks to the powerful campaign of tens of thousands of public school staff, rather than the state government.

Mr Saad said AEU members would continue fighting for commitment from the state government to bring funding for schools in line with other states.

The agreement will now proceed to a vote of all employees as required under the Fair Work Act.



Poppy King, Proactive Overdose Response Initiative Worker, with cohealth Health Works. (Supplied).

West safety push builds momentum

From page 1

"Local police continue to engage with council, traders and local stakeholders about community safety issues. Police continue to have a highly visible presence in the Sunshine area."

Councillor Daniel Kruk said this is not a new topic.

"Crime has increased in the west year on year," he said.

Cr Joh Bauch referred to recent increased police presence in Brimbank as a "PR stunt".

"I haven't seen police patrolling except now," he said.

Cr Maria Kerr said policing alone will not solve the issue.

"We need a long term approach to anti-social behaviour, including meaningful support for disengaged youth, early intervention services and mental health support," she said.

Mayor Virginia Tachos said the council had two main priorities – more police visibility and more prevention programs.

"We will keep listening to our businesses and community," she said. "We will continue to work together to create a safe and welcoming environment for all."

"While these announcements are welcome, what really matters most is the outcome on the ground. We want people to feel safe and supported and we want local businesses to have the confidence to return."

A state government spokesperson stated the government has committed to supporting the west as demonstrated by its recent initiatives.

Raising overdose awareness in St Albans

Non-for-profit organisation cohealth Health Works is partnering with St Alban's Tin Shed community centre to mark International Overdose Awareness Day.

The event will take place Friday 28 August, from 11am-2pm, and is for anyone who wants to learn more about overdose awareness, access life-saving information and resources, connect with support services and be part of a welcoming community conversation.

There will be a memorial, lessons on using lifesaving medication for overdose, discussion with harm reduction workers and nurses and a barbecue.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of International Overdose Awareness Day. The day is run to remember those who have died, acknowledge the grief of families and communities, and take action to prevent future overdose deaths.

A preview of the Penington Institute's annual overdose report found there were almost 2,600 overdose deaths across Australia in 2024. The nation recently recorded its deadliest year on record for drug overdose deaths, with an average of seven people dying every day according to cohealth.

Government statistics show Brimbank recording the second-highest total of any local Victorian government area in heroin-involved overdose deaths between 2015 and 2024.

"The message has never been more important," a cohealth spokesperson said.

"While the statistics are confronting, stigma continues to be one of the biggest barriers preventing people from seeking support. Overdose can affect anyone, and reducing stigma is essential to saving lives."

Details: <https://www.socialplanet.com.au/request/guest/activity?id=53105>

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Tragedies at Chirnside



When brothers Thomas and Andrew Chirnside escaped the dreary climate of Scotland to try their luck in Australia, they brought with them a love of horses, drinking, observing the Sabbath and hunting foxes.

As pioneer pastoralists, their labours brought them wealth and the building of a fine mansion in Werribee, completed in 1877.

The substantial estate provided employment for a large labour force of cooks, maids, butlers, gardeners, carpenters and grooms.

There they hosted grand dinners, picnics and balls, gave generously to charities, and, to complete their happiness – though not that of the native wildlife or future generations -- imported foxes to enable them to ride to hounds.

Thomas, a former director of the National Bank of Australasia, never married. The one love of his life was Mary Begbie, whom brother Andrew had treacherously wooed and married without informing Thomas until it was fait accompli.

In the hope of at least being able to see and speak to Mary, Thomas allowed her, Andrew and their three children to move into Chirnside.

As the property contained 60 rooms, family members were able to maintain some privacy if they wished.

In 1887, family and staff noticed that Thomas was becoming gloomy and drinking heavily. At first this was attributed to age – he was 72 years old – but when he began hinting about ending his life, medical expertise was summoned.

Depression was little understood in those days; Dr Fitzgerald did what he could, but Thomas sank deeper into melancholy and self-medicating with the whiskey bottle.

On Saturday, 25 June, 1887, following a sombre lunch with his family, he demanded a glass of whiskey. Fearing that this would only worsen his mood, his relations refused to pour so much as a drop.

Whatever demons were clawing away at Thomas’s mind, probably stemming from the shock of his brother’s marriage, this refusal seems to have provided the tipping point.

Without further ado, he went outside and shot himself in the head.

Did the sad ghost of Thomas drift around, affecting and influencing those who lived there? Andrew died three years later, and Mary, the woman who was the most likely cause of Thomas’ overwhelming sadness, was burned to death in 1908.

Or did the shock, grief and guilt which invariably follows a suicide create a long-lasting atmosphere at Chirnside?

In the years that followed, Henry Fitzsimmons, rabbit trapper, lived with his wife Mary and his father-in-law, Frederick Jenkins, in a two-roomed hut on the Chirnside estate.

As married people often do, the couple quarrelled at times, their bickering happily egged on by old Fred, a former wharfie who, crippled by rheumatic fever, found that domestic fights – as long as he was not physically involved – provided some much-needed entertainment in his otherwise dull and restricted life.

That plus the arrival of Mary’s brother John, who had unexpectedly bobbed in from New South Wales and showed a strong disinclination to ever leave, only exacerbated the family tensions.

Henry was becoming extremely fed up with having to support a crippled family



Barb McNeill. (Damjan Janevski) 432421_03

member, which had been the condition set by the old man before giving permission to wed his 19-year-old daughter in 1890.

Henry was 27, a former industrial school boy when he married. Since then he had been a labourer and rabbit trapper at the Werribee estate.

He was a good worker, mostly sober, and things went along fairly smoothly until the birth of two boys, not twins, but so close in age that they were considered such, placed more pressures on the crowded occupants.

This put Henry into a permanently foul mood from sleep deprivation. Sometimes Mary went away to stay with friends in Melbourne rather than put up with her husband’s grumbling, her brother’s teasing, and her dad’s moaning. Two screaming babies were more than enough for any woman to endure without the men’s aggravating ways.

A huge marital fight erupted on the night of Wednesday 13 December, 1893. The following night’s fisticuffs were even

worse, and old man Jenkins, deciding that what had once been an invigorating and amusing spectacle was now looking extremely dangerous, planned to flee on Friday with Mary and his grandchildren.

The following day, before Fred could put his plan into effect, Henry asked John to get the horses harnessed in the cart. John had to search over the plains to find them and when he returned, it was to find his sister and father lying together on the kitchen floor, battered almost beyond recognition. Mary managed to tell her brother that Henry had walked into the kitchen with a melodramatic, albeit polite, “Prepare for death. I’m going to cut your throat”.

Henry then smashed her head with a pick handle, fracturing her skull. Alerted by his daughter’s screams, Fred crawled painfully into the kitchen to her aid, only to be felled by his son-in-law who dealt the old man a severe bashing. Believing them both dead, Henry walked to an empty hut, drew out a razor and slashed his own

throat. Horrified, John raced to inform the Werribee police.

Mary, Fred and Henry were taken to Melbourne hospital. Doctor Lyons knew that operating on Fred was futile, but thought that Henry and Mary would survive.

Police constables were placed on guard at Henry’s bedside lest he escape or attempt further self-harm.

What had triggered this outburst of violence? Due to his throat injuries, he could not speak, but communicated by writing on a slate. Now calm, he expressed concern for his wife’s welfare and claimed that Fred and John had both attacked him, and his actions were self-defence.

Dr Lyons’s judgment was proved correct when Fred died on 17 December but his hopes for the killer’s survival were dashed when Henry died two days later. An inquest held on the same day found that he was guilty of the murder of his father-in-law and the attempted murder of his wife.

Quality services and positive social impact go hand in hand

Across Melbourne’s west, Mambourin Business Solutions is showing how professional services, and positive social impact can go hand in hand.

Known as MBS, the social enterprise provides gardening, warehousing and School Leaver Employment Supports (SLES). These services give people with disability opportunities to gain practical experience, develop skills and pursue meaningful employment, while businesses, organisations and residents receive reliable, professional support.

For Mambourin, employment also means earning an income, building confidence, developing independence and connecting with the community.

The Gardening Services team assists commercial and residential properties with lawn mowing, edging, weed control, pruning, mulching, planting, garden clean-ups and green waste removal. During 2025–26, the team expanded its work across schools, aged care facilities and hospitals.

MBS Warehousing Services provides flexible support including picking and packing, order fulfilment, product assembly and kitting, packaging, labelling, quality checking, stock handling and sorting. Recycling remains a major focus, while people from Mambourin’s Deer Park and Werribee community hubs have also attended the warehouse for work experience.

During the past year, the Supported Employment program welcomed new business partners including Mercy Hospital Heidelberg, Burbank Homes, The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital and Independent Rehabilitation Services.

SLES provides another important pathway for young people preparing for life after school. Through practical learning and workplace experience, participants can



build confidence, independence and job-ready skills.

In 2025–26, Mambourin’s Supported Employment program provided meaningful employment for 60 people with dis-

ability. By choosing Mambourin Business Solutions, local businesses and community members can access quality services while helping create employment opportunities for people with disability.

To learn more about Mambourin or discuss how its gardening, warehousing or employment supports may meet your needs, visit www.mambourin.org or contact 03 9731 9200.

Business services that make a difference.



Mambourin Business Services (MBS) provides practical, professional services while creating meaningful employment opportunities for people with disability.



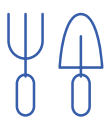
Assembly



Picking & Packing



Recycling



Garden Maintenance

Based in Derrimut, MBS are proud to work with organisations across Melbourne, including hospitals, schools, aged care facilities and businesses such as Mercy Hospital Heidelberg, Burbank Homes and The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital.

When you choose MBS, you’re getting the job done while supporting skills development, confidence and pathways to employment.

Get in touch to discuss how we can support your business
mbs@mambourin.org



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Star Weekly looks back through the pages of our predecessors



40 years ago
27 August, 1986

A few pertinent questions asked by Sunshine councillor Don McKay have saved the ratepayers \$311.80.



30 years ago
28 August, 1996

Pensioners and the unemployed in the western suburbs will be forced to wait up to six years for dental treatment - including dentures - as a result of proposals in last week's federal budget.



20 years ago
22 August, 2006

A newly formed mothers' group has joined the Sunshine alliance of community groups advocating for a more ambitious redevelopment of the Sunshine Swim and Leisure Centre than the \$9.5 million project just begun by Brimbank Council.



10 years ago
23 August, 2016

Shweta Krishnamurthy is an accountant by day and a musician, who goes by the stage name of Xylo Aria, by night.



Abi Bradbury was awarded silver with distinction at the International Pet Photography Awards. She is pictured with her dog Abraham. (Damjan Janevski) 571044_01



Seddon Deadly Sins owner Chris Gooden promoting the Snapshots of Seddeon competition. (Damjan Janevski) 570693_03

Faces of the west

Each week Star Weekly photographers are out and about capturing events and people across the western suburbs.



Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group volunteers Lisa Hutchison, Fiona Lawford and Nadine Hartnett. (Damjan Janevski) 570427_03



Maribyrnong local Simon Banks is swimming in some of Australia's coldest waterways to help children living in poverty. (Damjan Janevski) 571440_03



Melton Librarian Camie Wu. (Damjan Janevski) 571635_05



St Albans children's librarian Sarah Gardiner with her favourite children's book. (Damjan Janevski) 571438_03



Jeannie Murray, Vicki Maquignaz and Victoria Whitelock making handmade cards for aged care residents at Woodend Neighbourhood House. (Damjan Janevski) 570976_04

PUZZLES

SUDOKU No. 304

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

easy

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

medium

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

hard

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

easy medium hard

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

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

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

Puzzles and pagination © Pagemasters | pagemasters.com

5x5

H		R		S
	S		A	
M		N		A
	G		N	
N		S		S

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

NOTE: more than one solution may be possible

S	T	S	E	N
T	N	E	G	A
V	I	N	A	M
L	A	U	S	U
S	R	T	H	

QUICK CROSSWORD No. 304

ACROSS

1 Acute viral disease, now largely eradicated (8)

5 Region of Southern Italy (6)

10 Internet connection device (5)

11 One who believes in sharing evenly amongst the community (9)

12 Nut (6)

13 I don't know (coll) (5,2)

14 Removal (8)

15 Free from an obligation (6)

18 Bleachers (6)

20 Government by the populace (8)

21 In respect (of) (7)

24 Obstruct (6)

27 Ursine bed companion (5,4)

28 Custom, practice (5)

29 Stew (6)

30 Organ or laptop component (8)

DOWN

1 Life simulation series developed by Maxis, The – (4)

2 Southern Spanish region (9)

3 Between heaven and hell (5)

4 Black stone (8)

6 Body of troops (7)

7 Certain cuts of meat (5)

8 Genuine (9)

9 Strikebreaker (4)

14 Philosopher, René – (9)

16 Exaggerated theatre (9)

17 Line of descent (8)

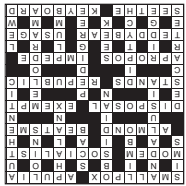
19 A hinged altarpiece (7)

22 Spine (5)

23 Pursue (4)

25 Perpendicular (5)

26 Smutty (4)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30

DECODER No. 336 WORDFIT No. 304

20 16 12 13 13 22 26 C 21 25 22 7 12

2 25 U 9 16 4 11 1

15 10 20 16 12 4 12 3 12 11 26 C 15 1

22 21 3 23 21 22

16 25 U 14 1 17 15 9 9 22 11 3 1

22 20 6 12 3 20

3 9 21 14 12 9 8 25 U 12 16 20 1

12 3 13 12 11 25 U

25 U 11 16 25 U 13 13 9 15 6 22 16 19

6 12 9 16 20 15

22 5 18 21 1 1 22 14 22 9 22 20 24

15 2 21 15 15 15

16 21 24 12 9 6 22 1 25 U 1 15 6

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

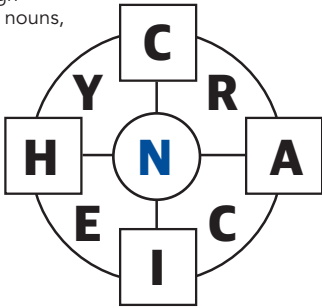
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 U C 26

9-LETTER WORD

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 nouns ending in 's'.

Today's Aim: 18 words: Good 28 words: Very good 38 words: Excellent



rain, rainy, ranch, ranl, réin, yarm, yean, yearn

enrich, henry, hernia, hyena, inch, nacre, nary, nice, nicer, niche, CHICANERY, chin, china, chine, crine, crane, cyan, cyanic, cynic, earn, acne, calm, cancer, cane, chain, chance, chancery, chance, chicane, CHICANERY, chin, china, chine, crine, crane, cyan, cyanic, cynic, earn

3 LETTERS

ACT
ADO
AIL
AND
CHI
EGO
GYM
HAD
IRE
ITS
LAD
NEE
NET
OLD
ORE
OUR
PEP
PRO
SAP
SEC
SEE
TEN
TWO
WHO

4 LETTERS

COAT
EDIT
ERRS
HISS
MAPS
NEST
POSY
POTS
SEEP
SNIP
SNOB
SOPS
TOAD
TOIL

5 LETTERS

ALGAE
ALIGN

6 LETTERS

ALTER
AMPLE
APING
AROSE
ARSON
AURAL
BOXER
BROKE
DEALT
FAILS
FAKES
FATES
ICIER
IGLOO
IRATE
LACES
LATHS
LEAPT
LOAFS
LOSES
LURES
LYRIC

7 LETTERS

METRE
NEARS
ONION
OPTIC
OTTER
PALER
PEEVE
PENCE
PLANE
PLIES
PROXY
RISER
SALTY
SCOUR
SHOVE
SINEW
SLEET
SMASH
SPEED
STORE
STREW
TIARA

8 LETTERS

TILDE
TREAT
URGED
YARDS

9 LETTERS

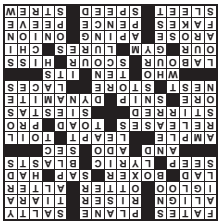
SENSORY
SIESTAS
STIRRED

10 LETTERS

DENOUNCE
DYNAMITE
LITERALS
RELEASES

11 LETTERS

ABSTAIN
ASTRIDE
RECLINE



1 In the Ice Age movies, what is the name of the woolly mammoth?

2 Which character did Maggie Smith play in the Harry Potter movie franchise?

3 The 2016 film *Anthropoid*, starring Cillian Murphy (pictured) concerns the assassination of which member of the German high command?

4 Which English king commissioned the 11th-century record known as the Domesday Book?

5 What is the name of the gang's van in Scooby-Doo?

6 What burrowing animal is also known as the sand puppy?

7 In which decade did Australia introduce decimal notes and coins?

8 In which city were the 2012 Summer Olympics held?

9 True or false: a slug's blood is green?

10 The germ, endosperm and bran are parts of a what?



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WANT YOUR EVENT LISTED?
Community Calendar is made available free of charge to not-for-profit organisations to keep the public informed of special events and activities. Send item details to Star Weekly Community Calendar, Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042, or email to westeditorial@starweekly.com.au by 9am Wednesday the week prior to publication.

CLOSER by Patrick Marber
Set in contemporary London, a quartet of strangers meet, fall in love, and become caught up in a web of desire and betrayal. Both romantic comedy and brutal analysis of modern love, it is a play about the kindness of strangers and the cruelty of desire. Directed by Del Jordan The show opens on 4 September and runs for three weekends at St Albans Senior Citizens Centre. Tickets are available online www.powderkegplayers.com/shows or at the door.
■ 0406 840 481

Garden club
The Sunshine Golden Age Garden Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Glengala Community Centre, corner Simmie Street and Glengala Road, Sunshine West at 7pm. New members welcome.
■ Helen Reid, 9746 3933 or reidhm@hotmail.com

Master of the Mic
Build confidence in public speaking, communication and leadership in this fun, supportive club for young people aged 15–25. Enjoy interactive speaking activities, challenges, feedback and opportunities to meet new people. No experience required. Meets on the last Wednesday of each month.
■ blfvisycareshub@brimbank.vic.gov.au

INFuse Lab
Looking for a relaxed space to create alongside other local artists? Join weekly for an open studio style session where you can work on your own projects, meet new creatives and enjoy genuine conversation in a supportive environment. Takes place Wednesdays during the school term, 3.30pm to 6pm at St Albans Community Centre.
■ 9249 4600, creative@brimbank.vic.gov.au

Albion Primary School anniversary
Albion Primary School is pleased to be celebrating 100 years of education on Saturday 17 October, from 9am-3.30pm. The day will include music, house competitions, a photo gallery, the opening of a time capsule from 1976, the planting of a 2026 time capsule, a community art project and a scavenger hunt. The school hopes to have as many past students, staff, and families as possible attend on the day.
■ 9311 1325

St Theresa’s Catholic Church
St Theresa’s Catholic Church in Albion will be celebrating 75 years Sunday 4 October. There will be a mass followed by refreshment where past and present parishioners, past nun’s and priests from St Theresa’s and Mother of God will be represented. There will be history boards, memorabilia and a slideshow of parish memories.

Flourish – A Women’s Wellbeing Day
Flourish is a free community wellbeing event being delivered during Women’s Health Week. It brings together local health, wellbeing and community organisations to provide health education, free screenings, movement



Through the lens

This week’s photographer’s choice picture is of Cassandra Connolly with her dog Frank.
(Damjan Janevski) 572149_01

activities like yoga, Zumba and Pilates, nutrition session on women’s health, free chair massages for women in Brimbank, with the aim of improving preventative health, increasing service awareness and strengthening community connections. Join the team Wednesday 11 September upstairs at Brimbank Aquatic and Wellness Centre.
■ EHartley@comm-unityplus.org.au

BELONG – A Cultural Festival
BELONG is a free multicultural community festival celebrating the diversity of Melbourne’s west. Held at commUnity+ Neighbourhood House and aligned with the Mid-Autumn Festival, it will bring together culturally diverse communities through interactive cultural experiences including lion dance, Bollywood dance, African drumming, lantern making, mooncake activities and multicultural food. Join the team on Thursday 17 September at 822 Ballarat Road, Deer Park.
■ EHartley@comm-unityplus.org.au

Maltese Folklore Association
All seniors are warmly invited to join Klabb Ghannejja Maltin (Maltese Folklore Association) and enjoy the friendly atmosphere the club provides. The club is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with traditional Maltese folk music held every Friday night and social nights hosted once a month on Saturday nights. Come to 4/6 Gooding Street, St Albans, meet new friends, and enjoy the wonderful Maltese culture and entertainment.
■ 9356 4638

Free Bingo
Locals, especially seniors, can enjoy bingo but with a twist. binGO move encourages participants to get active, make friends and improve physical and mental wellbeing all while enjoying a classic game. Sessions run fortnightly on Thursdays from 1.30-2.30pm at St Albans Tin Shed, 309a Main Road East, St Albans.
■ 9366 4302

St Albans Bowls Club
Everyone is welcome at St Albans Bowls - no matter age, gender or ability. Whether you’re an experienced bowler or just curious to give it a try, the club would love to see more locals on the green. The club hosts social bowls every Thursday and Saturday at noon at Kings Park Reserve, off Magnolia Avenue, Kings Park. Come along for a friendly game, meet new people and spend time in great company.
■ stalbans.bowls.com.au, stalbansbowls-club@bigpond.com, 9366 0290

Women’s only conversation English
Duke Street Community House is inviting locals to make friends, learn new skills and practice English in this fun and free women’s social group. Tuesdays during school terms, 9.30am-noon, at Duke Street Community House, 27 Duke Street, Sunshine.
■ 9311 9973, or dukest@dsch.org.au

Queers Out West
Queers Out West is social programming for LGBTQIA+ adults to build community, hosted by commUnity+ Neighbourhood House. The program features creative arts sessions and relaxed fireside-style

conversations with queer icons across diverse fields. Sessions run from 4.30-5.30pm on Tuesdays at 822 Ballarat Road, Deer Park.

Sunshine Community Brass
Sunshine Community Brass is looking for trumpet and percussion players to join its vibrant band of musicians. With more than 90 years of history, the band rehearses at 45 Furlong Road, North Snshine, on Tuesdays, from 7.30pm.
■ Andrew, 0419 444 620

Deer Park Probus Club
The Deer Park Probus Club meets at the Deer Park Club, 780 Ballarat Road, Deer Park on the second Wednesday of the month from February to December. Meet at 10am followed by lunch available from 12pm. The club offers bus trips, lunches, morning melodies etc. New members welcome.
■ 0427 495 584

Avondale Heights Probus Club
The club meets at Doyle Street Community Centre, Avondale Heights on the third Wednesday of the month at 9.30am. For retired or semi-retired people. The club offers lunches, bus trips, card and games days, walking groups.
■ Vee, 0400 886 758

Keilor Park Tennis Club social night
Join the club on Monday nights for a free social hit and get to know other club members. All levels are welcome. Female players are also required for Thursday competition from 10am-2pm and also for the B-grade mixed team on Wednesday, 7-9pm
■ keilorparktennis@gmail.com

Closer brings tangled relationships to St Albans stage

St Albans community theatre company Powderkeg Players will bring Patrick Marber’s acclaimed play *Closer* to the stage in September, offering audiences a sharp and emotionally charged exploration of love, loyalty and betrayal.

Set in late-1990s London, the Olivier Award-winning play follows four strangers whose lives become intertwined through chance encounters and shifting relationships. Out-of-towner Alice, photographer Anna, obituary writer Dan and dermatologist Larry meet, separate and reconnect over several years, with each encounter changing the balance between them.

Directed by Del Jordan and assistant directed by Jarrod Hawn, the production stars Jordyn Grubisic as Alice, Wayne Gleeson as Larry, Tully Jones as Anna and James Hammond as Dan.

Powderkeg Players, whose motto is ‘theatre that lights a fuse’, promises a fast-paced production spanning 12 interlocking scenes and several years. Bright projections will help transport audiences between locations, while a 1990s trip-hop soundtrack featuring artists such as Portishead and Massive Attack will complement original jazz-inspired music created specifically for the production.

The play premiered at London’s Royal

National Theatre in 1997 and was later adapted into the 2004 Oscar-nominated film starring Julia Roberts, Natalie Portman, Jude Law and Clive Owen.

Closer will run from Friday 4 September to Saturday 19 September, with Friday and Saturday evening performances at 8pm and matinees on Sunday 13 September and Saturday 19 September at 2pm.

A special VIP performance featuring a cast and crew Q&A will be held on Friday 11 September.

Performances will be held at St Albans Senior Citizens Centre, 171 William Street, St Albans. Bookings are available through Powderkeg Players’ website.



Actors in rehearsal for *Closer*. (Supplied)

A full-body photograph of comedian Jimeoin. He is wearing a light blue denim shirt and jeans, with one leg raised and arms outstretched in a dynamic pose. He is wearing brown leather shoes.

Jimeoin’s Altona show

Jimeoin is the latest comedy luminary coming to Hobsons Bay, with the celebrated Irish-Australian stand-up headlining the Altona Sports Club on 2 September.

Born James Eoin Stephen Paul McKeown in Northern Ireland in 1966, Jimeoin moved to Australia in the late 1980s and began performing on the local comedy circuit, quickly building a reputation for his sharp timing and everyman perspective.

His breakthrough came in 1992 when he won the Best Newcomer Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, launching him into national prominence. During the 1990s, he became a familiar face on Australian television, appearing on sketch comedy program *Full Frontal* and later starring in his own series, *The Jimeoin Show*. His television work, combined

with relentless touring, cemented his status as one of Australia’s leading comedians.

His comedy focuses on the humour found in everyday life, relationships, social awkwardness, and the absurdity of ordinary situations, often delivered with expressive facial reactions and subtle physical comedy.

Jimeoin will be joined on the night by comedians Tilahun Hailu, Rachael Hornbuckle, Nadun Hetti, as well as a mystery special guest.

Presented Comedy House Au, the show is an adults only event, with photo ID required for entry.

Doors are at 8pm, with pre-show early dinner available at the Altona Sports Club Bistro.

Tickets are expected to sell out, so early bookings are recommended.

Details: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1628295>

Jimeoin. (Supplied)

Line dancing with Marcia

Get ready to pull on your boots for a full day of fun as the Countryholic Dance Crew welcomes special guest instructor Marcia of Marcia’s Linedancers to Bacchus Marsh for a day of line dancing workshops and social dancing.

On Saturday 26 September at the Bacchus Marsh Public Hall, dancers from across the region will be given the opportunity to learn new moves, sharpen their skills, and spend the day surrounded by fellow country music and line dancing enthusiasts.

The morning workshops, running from 10am to 12.30pm, will introduce a range of new dances under the guidance of Marcia, one of Victoria’s most respected line dance instructors.

After the workshop, the fun will continue with an afternoon social dance from 1pm to 5pm, giving participants the chance to put their new moves into practice while enjoying hours of classic country music.

Whether you’re a seasoned dancer looking to expand your repertoire or a newcomer keen to give line dancing a go, organisers promise a welcoming atmosphere, plenty of laughs, and a dance floor filled with friendly faces.

With flexible ticket options available, you can attend the workshop, the social dance, or make a day of it and enjoy both.

Workshop and social tickets cost \$45, while the workshop alone is \$30 and the social dance is \$18, while non-dancers are welcome to attend the event for free.

Countryholic Dance Crew is encouraging attendees to round up their dance partners, shine their boots, and make the trip to Bacchus Marsh for a day centered on learning, dancing, and having fun.

So get ready to scoot on down to the Bacchus Marsh Public Hall on Saturday 26 September from 10am.

Details and tickets: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1612318>.



Dane Simpson heads to Kyneton for night of laughs

Dane Simpson is set to take over Kyneton Town Hall for a night of laughs.

The comedian, as seen at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala and on *Have You Been Paying Attention?*, *Guy Mont-Spelling Bee* and more, is set to bring his show ‘Always Was, Always Will Be... Funny’ to Kyneton in September.

Simpson comes from a long line of comedians, with a wisecracking dad, cleverly cutting mum, hilarious grandparents and generations of jokers,

pranksters and yarnspinners.

With a string of sold-out live comedy shows across Australia and in the UK, he’s heading to Kyneton on his latest tour with a whole lot of gutbusting jokes and hilarious stories for a show that can’t be missed.

In a video shared to the Macedon Ranges Arts and Culture Facebook page, Simpson gave Kyneton a shoutout to encourage the community to book tickets to his show.

“Grab some tickets, it’s really silly and

really fun. You’re going to have a great time,” he said.

Dane Simpson will be at Kyneton Town Hall on Thursday 3 September at 7.30pm. Tickets are \$35 for adult and \$32 for concession, and are on sale now online, and will also be available for purchase at the box office.

The show is rated 15 plus, with some course language and adult themes. Details: mrarts.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/161522



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1. Teams including the Snags, Prawns and Fizzies feature in which arcade-style Australian rules football video game?

2. Manchester City recently agreed to sell Rodri for €76.5M to what club?
3. Which new Victoria-based field hockey club is set to debut in the 2026 Hockey One season?

4. Cooperstown, New York, is home to which sport's National Hall of Fame and Museum?

5. Which Panthers NRL player is featured on the Australian cover of the Rugby League 26 video game?

6. And which Sharks NRLW player is featured on the same cover?

7. Record-breaking teenage swimmer Johannes Liebmann represents which country?

8. Is Australian prop Massimo de Lutiis the 800th, 900th or 1,000th player to play for the Wallabies?

9. Who captained Bangladesh in their recent two-Test series versus Australia?
10. The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame is located in which Massachusetts city?

11. What is the name of Kelly Slater's apparel brand, which sponsors the Tahiti Pro surfing competition?

12. Tottenham spent a club record-high 100 million pounds to secure which player from Newcastle United?

13. Which former Adelaide Crows captain will retire this year after 19 years with the club?

14. Sports Illustrated was first published in which decade?

15. Name the two major tennis stars that withdrew from the Cincinnati Masters due to injury.

16. US basketballer Ish Smith holds the record for playing for the most NBA franchises, with how many?

17. Named after an MLB legend, ulnar collateral ligament (UCL) reconstruction is more commonly known as what?

18. How many wickets did Bangladesh beat Australia by in the recent Darwin Test?



Rodri



The Bella Twins

19. Which entertainment-focused exhibition team is known as the baseball equivalent of the Harlem Globetrotters?

20. The Callaway company manufactures equipment for what sport?

21. The Razorbacks are the sports teams from which popular TV show?

22. How many points is the green ball worth in a game of snooker?

23. Who is the team principal of Triple Eight Race Engineering?

24. Sports and Holy Ghost are albums by which band with a sports-related name?
25. In which year did Carlton last win an AFL premiership?

26. From which sport is the ball that Tom Hanks' character in Cast Away befriends?

27. Which sport would you be playing if you 'dropped the gloves'?

28. And what would you be doing?

29. Who are the captains of Geelong's AFLW team?

30. What are the wrestling first names of WWE tag team the Bella Twins?

1. Pro Jank Footy 2. Barcelona 3. Melbourne Cobras 4. Baseball 5. Nathan Cleary 6. Tiana Pentanti 7. Germany 8. 1,000th 9. Najmul Hossain Shanto 10. Springfield 11. Outerknown 12. Sandro Tonali 13. Taylor 'Tex' Walker 14. 1950s 15. Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz 16. 13 17. Tommy John surgery 18. Nine 19. Savannah Bananas 20. Golf 21. Buffy the Vampire Slayer 22. Three 23. Jamie Whincup 24. Modern Baseball 25. 1995 26. Volleyball 27. Ice hockey 28. Engaging in a fight 29. Becky Webster and Nina Morrison 30. Brie and Nikki

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Hyundai sedan hot to trot

By Chris Riley, Marque Motoring

Talk about icing on the cake. First it was the Hyundai i20 N, next we slip behind the wheel of its big brother the i30 Sedan N. Think the same idea, just larger and more luxurious, with an auto for those who would rather not change gears manually. Like the i20 N it’s probably on a short leash as the company continues its shift to fully electric vehicles, with cars like the Ioniq 5 and Ioniq 6 N variants.

Styling
i30 N comes as a hatch or sedan, with the same 2.0-litre turbocharged power plant. The third-generation lineup included a ‘fastback’ but this disappeared with the arrival of the 2020 facelift. The five-door hatch is priced from \$52,000, the Premium version from \$55,500 before on-roads. The sedan is available in Premium form only, priced from \$53,000.

An eight-speed dual-clutch transmission is standard, a six-speed manual is a no cost option. It’s an all-inclusive package, with premium paint (\$595) and a sunroof (\$2000) the only options. Can’t say we even looked to see whether our test vehicle had a sunroof fitted – it wasn’t a primary concern.

The i30 Sedan N was last updated in early 2024, with an aggressive exterior restyle and new 19-inch forged alloys, revised suspension and steering tuning, plus additional tech features, including Bluelink connected services.

The edgy styling may not be to everyone’s liking, but it’s certainly eye-catching. Sitting low and poised with an equally low roofline, the i30 Sedan N (note it is written in this order), it’s designed to slice through the air and hug the road in equal measures.

At the front, there’s a lower and wider split grille, which also serves to improve engine cooling, and channels cool air to the front brakes through racecar-style guides. New 19-inch black forged alloy wheels are lighter than those fitted previously, and bring better handling and a more aggressive look. A deeper and more pronounced rear bumper design features a wrap-around lower red strip, or grey strip when teamed with Ultimate Red.

Aluminium badges are now flat and black. It’s available in seven, including N-signature Performance Blue which along with white are no cost options – the rest as mentioned add \$595.

Inside, the updated sedan gets an N-specific steering wheel and shift knob, instrument cluster and infotainment systems as well as N light sport bucket seats with illuminated logo. With two-zone climate air, the part leather sports seats are both heated and cooled, plus a heated steering wheel and three personalised user profiles. Other new kit includes Intelligent Speed Limit Assist (ISLA) which uses navigation data and road sign recognition to inform the driver of the speed limit.

There’s also a revised wireless charger designed to accommodate larger mobile phones, additional USB-C outlets (one front and two rear) and Bluelink connected car services. Cruise control is old tech and not adaptive. i30 Sedan N is covered by a seven-year/



Like the i20 N, the Hyundai i30 Sedan N represents excellent value for a performance machine. (Supplied)



brakes, steering and handling – even ride comfort is streets ahead. Depending on what drive mode is selected, there’s a real bark from the exhaust on throttle overrun. Reading the fine print though, it’s artificially enhanced. Launch control is part of the deal, but only really used when it comes to impressing your mates.

The bad news is that you have to wait three minutes between launches for the powertrain to cool off. Geeks will love the race computer that allows you to customise just about every aspect of the drive experience. But all you really need to do is select N mode, hold on tight and enjoy the best bang for your buck money can buy at the moment.

Don’t get caught up in pointless discussions about whether the brakes are up to it or not – just enjoy the hell out of the car. There’s no turbo lag, power delivery is extremely smooth and linear, gear changes are a snap, the steering is pin-sharp, there’s plenty of bite from the brakes and plenty of mid-corner grip from the Pirellis. Rev matching blips the throttle automatically on gear changes and also sounds great.

After a few corners, you’ll love it – this car is that good. We were however disappointed to find it misses out on some of the advances in car safety.

A form of auto emergency braking (AEB) is fitted, but it’s not as sophisticated as the system in the standard i30 and it doesn’t get adaptive cruise control. The system lacks pedestrian detection and cyclist detection. There’s also no blind spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, and the auto braking doesn’t work in reverse.

The one notable inclusion is Lane Keep Assist, but it is so annoying that like us you’ll probably end up turning it off.

With a 47-litre tank, the car takes premium 95 RON unleaded, with fuel consumption rated at 8.3L/100km.

We were getting 7.7L/100km after close to 400km with a bit of hard driving thrown in. The long-term average however for more than 6000km was 11.1L/100km. Looks like someone has been tracking it.

And, on that note, it’s interesting to note the seven-year, unlimited kilometre warranty extends to track use, including the fitting of semi-slick tyres – but you’re only covered for untimed, non-competitive events.

Summing up

Like the i20 N, the i30 Sedan N represents excellent value for a performance machine. It’s not as good looking as the Fastback, but you get over it soon enough. After all, it’s the performance that you’re buying it for.

One note of caution. The car sits very low with a low roofline and this can make getting in and out problematic – more so the older you are. And watch out for that boot lid. Unless you push it all the way up, it’s going to come crashing down on the back of your head. Ouch!

unlimited kilometre warranty provided the car is serviced with Hyundai, otherwise it reverts to five years/unlimited kilometres.

Infotainment
Infotainment comes in the form of a 10.25-inch touchscreen, with a second 10.25-inch screen for the instrument cluster. It all looks very much like the setup in the smaller i20 N.

There’s Bluetooth with multi-connection, natural voice recognition, built-in navigation, AM/FM and DAB+ digital radio and Bose premium eight-speaker sound. It also supports Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, but neither are wireless – you need a cable. There’s also wireless phone charging, with USB-A and -C ports and a 12-volt socket in front, plus two USB-C ports in the rear.

The system also displays track maps with lap times, personalised throttle response settings, exhaust note and stability controls. Hyundai Bluelink connected car services provides access to a variety of services along with over the air updates.

There’s automatic collision notification, emergency call (SOS) function, connected routing with live traffic updates, alert services including geo-fencing, valet, speed and time alerts, remote control of climate and vehicle functions, navigation send to car, voice recognition for POI lookup, vehicle controls and vehicle settings management.

Safety

In terms of safety, the i30 looks even worse on paper than the i20 which gets a four-star safety rating.

The i30 Sedan N remains unrated for safety, while other variants of the sedan receive just three stars. Someone’s dropped the ball.

There are six airbags, a reversing camera with guidelines and the Hyundai Smartsense system that comprises auto emergency braking (car, motorcycle, pedestrian, cyclist), along with auto high beam, blind-spot collision avoidance, lane following and lane keep assist (line/road-edge), rear cross-traffic collision warning, driver attention warning, and rear occupant alert.

Engines/transmissions

The four-cylinder engine produces 206kW of power from 5500-6000 rpm, and 392Nm of torque from 2100-4700 rpm, with 213kW and 378Nm of torque available on over-boost for 20 seconds.

The eight-speed wet clutch style auto with paddle shifters is standard, while

a short-throw, six-speed manual is available at no extra cost.

Driving

The i30 Sedan N is powered by a 2.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine, with drive to the front wheels via a six-speed manual tranny or eight-speed dual clutch auto, together with an electro-mechanical limited-slip diff with two modes – Normal and Sport.

It adds up to a 0 to 100km/h time of 5.8 seconds for the manual and 5.3 seconds for the auto, with top speed electronically limited to 250km/h.

Our test vehicle was the slick, fast-changing auto, which is right on the money and perhaps a better proposition as a daily driver, especially in traffic.

We can still remember cramping, stuck in a traffic jam on the motorway manual HSV Holden with a heavy clutch action.

Chassis upgrades include a reinforced engine mount membrane, for reduced vibration and improved agility, G-bushing reinforcement for improved yaw response and steering precision, and a new rear suspension S/ABS insulator on the rear support – now made from urethane rather than rubber for improved damping and yaw response.

The Electronic Controlled Suspension (ECS) hardware and software have been further optimised to deliver enhanced body control.

The motor-driven steering system benefits from a gear box yoke revised to enhance feedback and directness, a low-friction universal joint that increases steering precision, and software optimised to make the most of the chassis and steering upgrades.

In addition, braking performance and fade resistance has been enhanced with upgraded Electronic Stability Control (ESC) software and a new thermal protector on the front brake hoses.

Needless to say, the i30 Sedan N is a thrilling car to drive, as quick as it is nimble, whether it’s shopping or fanging from corner to corner.

It’s right up there with the GTI, WRX, Type-R and Renault Megane RS, and it is worth pointing out the WRX is the only one that’s all-wheel drive. Surprisingly, the i30 is the easiest and most comfortable to drive and this fact should not be overlooked in the decision-making process.

The car delivers extremely high levels of performance when it comes to power,

RATINGS
Looks: 7.5
Performance: 8
Safety: 5
Thirst: 7.5
Practicality: 7
Comfort: 7.5
Tech: 7.5
Value: 8
Overall: 7.3



Yarraville Seddons' Rachel Culvenor. 573281_01



Point Cook Centrals' Nya Chuol. 573281_06



Williamstown's Braydon Preuss. 573282_02



Westmeadows' Jacinta Scott. 568731_14

Finals joy and heartbreak

There were plenty of scenes of celebration and there was also plenty of heartbreak as finals action continued on the weekend. Star

Weekly photographer Ljubica Vrankovic was out shooting the action.



Westmeadows celebrates. 568731_47



Williamstown's Josh D'Intinosante. 573282_07



Fans watch the EDFL division 1 grand final. 568731_17



Westmeadows' Gemma Wright. 568731_61



Caroline Springs George Cross' Otman Benhaddou. 573285_03



Hume City's Godfrey Debele. 573285_14

Younan steps up at Lions

By Tara Murray

New Taylors Lakes coach Danny Younan always wanted to step into coaching, doing it at the club where it all started makes it more special.

Younan was recently named the Lions new coach for next year's Essendon District Football League division 1 season.

He had spent the past two seasons as a playing assistant coach having returned to the club.

"I'm pumped and being the first week on the job, I don't know where to start," he said.

"Senior coach was something that I wanted to have a crack at and now I get the chance.

"It's come a year or two earlier than I was

expecting, but it's about timing."

Younan said when the chance came to coach at a club that had given him so much, he wanted to put his hand up.

He will be a playing coach.

"That was the biggest thing," he said. "I have more passion for the club as I grew up in the area, I went to high school there and started football there.

"I went through the whole junior program and that was the biggest thing when I came back. Whether it was a playing role or coaching role, it was special."

Younan replaces Steve Burns as coach after the two-time premierships coach decided to stand down.

Younan said Burns had been one of his biggest supporters in him going for the role.

"Steve Burns was my first ever senior coach," he said.

"The most pleasing part is that we had a good working relationship and I learned a lot from him.

"He doesn't miss a beat and has been in the hot seat for 20 years.

"He has set me up perfectly well and he was chuffed. He was a big endorsement for me.

Younan brings plenty of experience to the role, having played in the Victorian Football League.

He's hoping to use that experience to help progress the group, while is keen to develop some more young talent across the board at the club.

"I'll have a strong focus on developing

the basic fundamentals," he said.

"The game plan will be around that, which is the most important thing

"We want everyone on the same page from the ground up."

Younan said he was now looking to put a team around him to help him develop the playing group.

"We're going to try and retain as much as we can," he said.

"I've got a feeling that the majority will be staying around.

"We'll start targeting recruits as well."

The Lions finished their season with a win against Avondale Heights.

Younan said the results didn't reflect the group that they have, with injuries having a big impact.



Melbourne Knights are going up. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 534350_01

Premier promotion: Knights are going up

By Tara Murray

The Melbourne Knights are heading back to the National Premier League next season.

After being relegated at the end of last season to the Victorian Premier League 1 competition, the goal was simple for the Knights.

Get back to the NPL, where they believe they belong, as soon as they can.

A draw in the third last round, sealed a top two spot and promotion for the Knights.

"It's fantastic and I'm really happy for the club, the board and ourselves," coach Michael Calandrella said.

"I'm especially happy for our supporters.

"I think there was more of a relief than anything else and the pressure valve has now been released a little bit.

"We've worked hard."

Calandrella joined the club at the end of last season, wanting to be part of the history of the Knights.

The history of the Knights was important to him and he was keen to get the club back to where they belong.

"It's massive for the club," he said.

"Melbourne Knights need to be in the NPL, not playing in the VPL1.

"We wanted to get back into the NPL as quickly as possible and I think it is what the competition needs.

"The Melbourne Knights in the NPL is a no-brainer. We are one of the biggest clubs in Victoria, in Australia.

"Playing in the second division didn't sit right."

Calandrella is full of praise for the playing group for what they achieved this year.

They put together a new squad which won 15 of its first 22 games to sit on top.

"We got relegated and we're now going back to the NPL in a season, it's a huge achievement for the club," Calandrella said.

"I'm extremely proud of the playing group to come down and to play a good season."

While promotion is secured the job is not done for the Knights.

They needed one point from their last two games to secure the championship as well.

With Brunswick Juventus losing on Fri-

day night, it meant that the Knights had won the championship no matter the results in the final two rounds.

Calandrella said before the weekend that they wanted to complete the job.

He said he knows it will be tough for the playing group having already achieved the first aim, but backed the boys in.

"We want to win the championship," he said.

"We have to get up and make sure we secure a point in the last two games for the championship, that is the one that we want."

The Knights faced Langwarrin on Sunday, in the club's final home game of the season.

They lost 2-0.

Calandrella said they were expecting quite a few supporters to attend and they would have a party after the match to celebrate claiming promotion.

Elsewhere, North Sunshine had a 2-0 win against Brunswick City.

They sit in second bottom, three points and three goals behind in goal difference on third bottom.

Moseley joins Storm

Sydenham-Hillside has received a massive boost for the Victorian Turf Cricket Association senior division, signing a former West Indian test player.

The Storm announced on Wednesday that Shayne Moseley had signed for the 2026-27 season.

Moseley played two tests for the West Indies in 2021 and has also played 52 first class matches across his career.

He most recently played for Barbados in the West Indies Championship, which finished in May.

Moseley, who is 32, averages 30 with the bat across his first class career with four 100s and 11 50s.

He has a highest score of 155 not out.

"The 32-year-old left-haned opening batsman brings an outstanding level of experience to the Storm, having represented the West Indies at test level, as well as West Indies A and Barbados Pride," the Storm said.

"Shayne joins his good friend and our senior coach Anthony Alleyne, along with fellow recruits Dan Lincoln and Isaac Bird in our top order.

"Adding that experience and quality to our talented existing crop gives the Storm what we believe will be a formidable batting lineup heading into the new season.

"More importantly, having a former international cricketer around our club will be invaluable for our senior players and the next generation coming through our junior program."

As announced in April, Bird joins from New Zealand and is a genuine allrounder.

Jurgen Andersen also joins the Storm having come across from New Zealand but lives locally.

Lincoln brings experience to the Storm, having played county cricket with Middlesex and Kent, while also captaining England in the European Championship."

The Storm is aiming to return to finals after finishing fifth last season, three points outside the top four.

It had played finals every season in the top grade before last season.

The VTCA season will get underway in October.

Cats fine-tune for finals

By Tara Murray

Albion fine-tuned for the Western Football League division 1 finals series in the perfect manner on Saturday.

Having secured their first division 1 finals spot in 11 years the previous week, the pressure was off the Cats on Saturday against Point Cook Centrals.

Facing a Sharks side that was full of confidence after their first win of the season, the Cats were able to put out a four quarter performance.

The Cats came away with a 20.12 (132)-6.6 (42) win.

“We’re pretty rapt,” Cats’ coach Blake Richards said.

“We rested a few blokes who have some slight injuries and have been playing with them.

“To win the way we did, it was surprising.

“It was good to see the way we went about it.”

The margin was 11 points at quarter time and 31 points at half time.

An eight goal to two third quarter blew the match open before they finished off strongly.

Daniel Rosenzweig kicked five goals for the Cats, while Aaron Law and Cooper Muir kicked four goals each.

Josh Bench, William Naismith and Caleb McPherson were named the Cats best in the win.

Richards said they will have five or six changes to their side for the first week of finals.

“Every side wants to go into finals fully fit,” he said.

“We wanted to make sure with playing on a big ground next week that we can cover that well.”

Having finished fifth, the Cats will play division 1 finals for the first time in 11 years.

It shows how far the club has come after struggling for a number of years.

“We want to keep going up and that’s important,” Richards said.

“You don’t want to stagnate and go back down.

“It’s been about retaining players and people and growing in a sustainable way.

“You don’t want to over spend and you find yourself in a position where you can’t continue the momentum.”

The Cats will face Parkside in an elimination final on Sunday in the opening week of finals.

Richards said the two teams know each other really well.

“The finals race has been knocked on its head the last couple of weeks,” he said.

“There’s been some massive results.

“It seemed like Werribee Districts would be playing Parkside and we would be playing Caroline Springs.

“Werribee now has a week off and we face Parkside. We have a good relationship with them and I think it will be a good contest.”

In other results, Caroline Springs finished the regular season with a 15.11 (101)-9.11 (65) win against Altona.

With the win and Parkside losing, it moved to third spot and set up a qualifying final with Yarraville Seddon.

Sunshine finished its season with a 14.13 (97)-12.10 (82) loss to Newport.



Corey Field. (Ties Urie) 568974_04

Cobras determined to have an impact

By Luke D’Anello

Albanvale is eyeing a deep finals run after scoring a convincing win over Sunshine Heights in Sunday’s Western Football League division 2 elimination final.

The Cobras advanced to the last four with a 35-point victory, 16.8 (104)-9.15 (69), at Yarraville Oval.

While first-year coach Scott Oldfield acknowledged Albanvale’s progress this season after a sixth-placed finish in 2025, he made it clear the club was not yet satisfied.

“It’s definitely a success from last year from the position we finished,” Oldfield said.

“To make finals, that was our objective. We’ve ticked that one box and we ticked another box (on Sunday).

“But there’s another three boxes to tick, I’d say.

“That’s what every footballer and every coach dreams of, to go out there and play the game you love, coach the game you love, and be there in the last game of the season.”

The Cobras lost twice to the Dragons during the home-and-away rounds but broke the game open with a six-goal-to-two second quarter to establish a 27-point lead

at the main break.

Sunshine Heights reduced the deficit to 16 points at the final change before Albanvale booted five goals to two in the final term to set up a semi-final clash with last year’s premier Wyndhamvale.

“We’d paid a bit of attention to Sunshine Heights since the last time we played them. They got a hold of us early and controlled a lot of areas of the game, so we put a bit of attention into that,” Oldfield said.

“In the second quarter we took the game on. Full credit to Sunshine Heights, who came back and challenged us in the third quarter.

“But we stood up to the challenge and played the way we wanted to, so credit to the lads.

“The buy-in from the playing group has been absolutely sensational.

“There were a lot of people in the rooms, the song was sung loud. It was an awesome win.”

Oldfield, who has been reappointed as coach for next year, described the efforts of his backline as “phenomenal”.

Liam McGarity led the way in his match-up with Sunshine Heights star Jackson Vio-

la, who finished with four majors.

Nathan Ranno, Jackson Williams, Zachary Papamihail, Macauley Lonergan were also named in the best, while Kyall Parker kicked five goals and Jack Burgess three.

James Vella, Nathan Goncalves, Alex Mokdsi and Harley Armstrong-Weston worked hard for the losing side.

“We just had to match their physicality. Sunshine Heights are a very tough side and a bigger-bodied side, and they bring the heat,” Oldfield said.

“We just had to withstand that and, to the credit of the lads, we matched them all over the field.

“I couldn’t be any more proud of the 22.”

Albanvale will face a hungry Wyndhamvale side this weekend after the Falcons suffered a seven-point loss to West Footscray in the qualifying final.

“They play a great brand of footy, they’re well connected,” Oldfield said.

“There’s areas of their game we just have to nullify and we’re definitely up for the challenge.”

North Footscray and the Roosters will lock horns in the major semi-final, with the winner to advance to the decider.

Sports shorts

FV

Keilor Wolves have parted ways with coach Clive Pace with three rounds left in the FV state league 5 north-west season. Despite being in promotion contention, the Wolves have made a coaching change. “Following discussions, Keilor Wolves Soccer Club and our senior head coach have mutually agreed to part ways,” the Wolves said on social media. “We would like to sincerely thank him for his commitment, dedication and contribution to the Wolves throughout his time with the club.” Slavče Sokolovski will coach the side for the rest of the season.

EDFL

St Albans has announced the re-signing of coach Shaun Thompson for the Essendon District Football League division 1 season. Thompson stepped up from reserves coach to senior coach this season, leading a new look Saints outfit. The Saints finished the season with four wins. The Saints also announced that captain Zach McCasker had recommitted for next year. This year was McCasker’s first season as captain of the Saints.

Basketball

Keilor Thunder women’s coach Kristi Harrower will guide the Australian Gems for the FIBA under-18 women’s Asian coach in October. Harrower will lead the Gems will regular coach Renae Garlepp unavailable due to WNBL commitments. Harrower is no stranger to Australian Basketball system as a former player and assistant coach with the Australian Opals more recently.

Talent League

The Western Jets finished the regular Talent League boys and girls seasons with wins on Saturday. Both sides beat the Greater Western Victoria Rebels. The girls finished with eight wins, the third most of the Victoria sides, after a 45 point win on Saturday. Jacinta Chalista Eteuati and Aluk Kuol were named their best. Meanwhile the boys finished with a 69 point win against the Rebels. They finished the season second of the Victorian sides having won 11 games in a row.

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Blues are ready for finals

By Tara Murray

Keilor enters the Essendon District Football League premier division finals primed for another tilt at the premiership.

The Blues secured the minor premiership on Saturday as they accounted for Deer Park in the final round of the season.

Having started the season uncharacteristically 1-3, the Blues have since gone through undefeated.

Against Deer Park, the Blues won 23.8 (146)-6.7 (43).

“It was a pretty good result in the context of what was up for grabs,” Blues’ coach Mick McGuane said.

“We started really powerfully, knowing full well their record in the run home was quite significant at their home ground

beating Strathmore, Abers [Aberfeldie], Douttas [Essendon Dousta Stars] all in the top five at that stage of the year.

“Our boys were really strong.”

The Blues led 45-1 at quarter time and the margin had blown out for 75 points at half time.

With the game in their control, the Blues were able to finish off strongly with 10 goals to five in the second half.

Christos Kosmas kicked five goals for the Blues, while Matthew Bartlett and Cody Brand kicked three goals each.

Nick O’Kearney and Stefan Radovanovic were named their best.

McGuane said they had put together a really pleasing back half of the season.

“It was sort of an evolution of the way that we wanted to play and also on the

back of being a little bit disrupted with personnel in the early stages of the year.

“But the last 14 rounds have been pretty significant. But as you know, all we do is qualify and the new season’s about to start next week.

“Sit back and cherish the joy of the minor premiership, get a week off. Train well and prepare well and see what happens in the first final between Strathmore and Pascoe Vale.”

Having been in this position last season before injuries hit come finals, McGuane knows they can’t take anything for granted.

He said the list is currently healthy with the likes of Mason Thomas, Riley Ham, Jay White and Josh Honey some players that could come into the side in the coming weeks.

For the Blues from a club perspective, they’ve again had all five of their senior sides make finals.

“There’s a lot to sit back and celebrate in the short term, knowing full well we’ve got to where we want to be in all our grades to play finals footy,” McGuane said.

“To have Ben Howell in the under-18s, Nathan Ellis in the reserves and Chris Kosmas to be the leading goalkickers, I don’t know whether that has happened before at the Keilor Football Club to have leading goalkickers in all three grades is more than satisfying as well.

“As we all know finals footy is about premierships, we’ve managed to give ourselves a chance to qualify, we’ll see what the next month delivers.”



Yanah Cini. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 568731_20

Heartbreak for the Bears as flag slips away

By Tara Murray

It was a case of so close but so far for Burnside Heights in the Essendon District Football League women’s division 1 grand final.

Playing off in a third straight grand final, the Bears were hoping to make it third time lucky.

Facing Westmeadows, both sides were going for their first senior women’s premiership.

The Tigers were favourites, but the Bears had pushed them in the qualifying final two weeks earlier.

For the first half, it was all the Tigers but they failed to make the most of it on the scoreboard.

They led by 10 points with the Bears not having a scoring shot.

The Bears finally got on the board in the third quarter and reduced the margin to two points heading into the final quarter, with the side full of confidence.

The Tigers got the all important first goal of the last quarter before kicking a sealer late to win, 3.4 (22)-1.2 (8).

Bears’ coach Michael Davis said it hurt to come so close again.

“They were just the better side for the day,” he said. “They controlled the first 40 minutes when it needed to be more controlled then slowed it down.



Burnside Heights players share a moment after the game. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 568731_54

“They did an outstanding job.”

Davis said their workrate and the belief within the group was what kept them in the game.

He said the belief in each other was evident when they kicked the goal, through Tayla Iglesias, in the third quarter.

“We’re like all young groups, when excitement and adrenaline kicks in the run comes back and the heads get lifted,” he said.

“And we work together.”

The Bears’ cause wasn’t helped with several injuries throughout the game.

Co-captain Kiara Asani-Davis hurt her ankle in the first quarter and it had swelled up post game.

Her leadership was missed.

Anj Singh and Aarzu Mavi also came off at times before coming back on.

Davis said injuries weren’t an excuse and they were close enough to get the job done.

He said the Tigers’ experience was the difference.

“You have to develop a squad to win and we’re not quite there yet,” he said.

“They had tall targets and Gemma Wright, she’s a gun, that’s the difference, Gemma.”

Sarah Poni, Jorgia Redmond and Iglesias were named the Bears best in the loss.

While the loss hurts, the Bears know they are in a good spot for the future.

“We’ve got an outstanding bunch of girls,” he said. “We’ve got a 15-year-old who played her second game.

“Up to a 34-year-old, we’ve got a massive upside. They’re just an exciting bunch of girls, they really are.

“The squad will go from being 20 in round one this year, this year probably have 30 available for round one for next year.

“We have so many under-19s coming up. Seven under-19s are coming up and seven under-16s are coming up into under-19s.

“Our future is bright and we just have to get one and build the framework around it to play premier league footy.”

The Bears announced during the week that Davis had re-signed for 2027.

“I’ve got to get one,” Davis said.

“They give you the pleasure. Why would you not come back, they’re enjoying it.

“My two girls enjoy it and the club loves the girls, so why not?”



Mick Gerada. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 560549_06

Gerada’s new role

Caroline Springs women’s coach Mick Gerada is stepping down after one year in the role, but isn’t going anywhere.

Gerada stepped up to coach the Lakers as they made the move into the Essendon District Football League.

He was set to be assistant coach this year before Alex O’Shea stood down having been part of the under-18 coaching step up for a number of years.

The Lakers announced that Gerada next season would hold the role of general manager of football (women) next year.

“This new role will strengthen the football department by working alongside the senior coach in overseeing all on-field facets of the women’s football program, including coaching, operations, high performance and player development,” the Lakers said on social media.

“After leading our senior women through their inaugural season in the EDFL premier division, Mick has decided to step down from his role as head coach and move into this new position.

“Mick brings a wealth of experience from across the local football scene and has played an integral role in our female program for a number of years.

“We look forward to the impact he will make in this new role.”

The Lakers senior women’s side finished fifth in its first season in EDFL premier division, missing out on finals on percentage.

Jase Degabriele will take on the general manager of football (men’s) role at the Lakers.

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