

MARIBYRNONG & HOBSONS BAY

Star Weekly

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No rescue for sinking house

By Cade Lucas

A Newport woman has to shower in a dog bath, put up with mouldy walls and fears that her bedroom ceiling will fall on top of her, all because of drainage problems she claims are caused by repeated road resurfacing.

Vanessa Moyser bought her home on Melbourne Road, between Wilkins and Paine streets, in 2009.

However, it wasn't until 2015 that Ms Moyser began to notice water pooling out the front of her property whenever it rained.

It was around this time that she also began to notice the possible cause.

"It kept getting worse every time they did resurfacing [on Melbourne Road]," Ms Moyser recalled.

As the inner-west's major north-south arterial, Melbourne Road is managed by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and is regularly resurfaced and repaired.

According to Ms Moyser, this has resulted in the surface of Melbourne Road now being higher than her property.

"The side of the road is huge as in the elevation of the road from the re-asphalting over the years that I've been there."

Combined with the lack of storm water drains along that section of Melbourne Road and any water run-off has nowhere else to go, she said.

"When it rains I'm in a swimming pool. Out the front, it's a pond," she said.

"It blocks my stormwater pipe which is on the curb and fills it up so that when it rains it backs up the gutters on my roof and I'm in a waterfall."

Ms Moyser said the excess water has sunk the concrete stumps the house sits on, with its south-eastern corner subsiding below the rest of the property.

"My house is tearing itself apart," was how Ms Moyser described it, saying that some of the walls and ceilings, along with being covered in mould, were unstable.

"I was told a few years ago to get out of that bedroom and sleep in a spare room because if that falls on you, you're gonna be dead."

The room most impacted though is the bathroom, which hasn't been functional for a number of years, forcing Ms Moyser to resort to an unconventional alternative for her daily shower.

"I use a dog bath," she said.

"It's a collapsible bath with a temporary hose that goes into my shower pipe and that's the way I've been living for the last few years."

Unable to sell and knocked backed by her insurers, Ms Moyser said she'd been left with no choice but to remain in her home and again appeal to local and state authorities for assistance.

Among them is Williamstown MP and former Roads Minister Melissa Horne, who has visited the property.

"I understand and sympathise with the concerns Vanessa Moyser has raised regarding water issues affecting her property," Ms Horne said in response to inquiries from Star Weekly.

However, after seeking advice from DTP, who then conducted extensive surveying and assessments on the section of Melbourne Road near Ms Moyser's property, Ms Horne said she was satisfied that resurfacing was not the cause.

"These works did not identify works or drainage infrastructure as the cause of the property issues," she said of the advice the department provided her.

A spokesperson for Hobsons Bay council said multiple reviews of the issue has been conducted, but with Melbourne Road managed by the DTP, council was limited in what it could do.

"Council is currently advocating to DTP on behalf of the resident for a review of the matter," the spokesperson said.

DTP was contacted for comment.



Vanessa Moyser claims her Newport house is sinking due to water run-off from Melbourne Road. (Damjan Janevski) 551579_02



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Calls for air-quality action

By Cade Lucas

One of the authors of a study that found inner-west children were far more likely to be hospitalised for asthma than those living elsewhere, said major mitigation efforts were needed to fix the problem.

A study of Victorian hospital data led by Deakin University researchers found children in Maribyrnong, Hobsons Bay and Brimbank council areas attended hospital for asthma at rates well above the state average.

Over a 12 year period from 2007-2019, the rate that children attended hospital

for asthma in Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong was 53 per cent above the state-wide average, while Brimbank was 26 per cent above.

In 2018-2019, the hospital presentation rate for asthma in Victoria was 92 per 10,000 children, compared to 144 in Maribyrnong, 137 in Hobsons Bay and 125 per 10,000 children in Brimbank.

The inner-west has long suffered from poor air quality due to the amount of truck traffic in the area.

Study co-author Dr Kate Lycett said while it was impossible to say if they were the sole cause, heavy-vehicle emissions

were definitely a factor in the higher rates of childhood asthma in the inner west and current measures like truck bans and curfews were not enough to fix it.

"If we're going to improve air quality we're going to have to have major mitigation initiatives," Dr Lycett said, nominating dedicated freight routes and more incentives for electric trucks as options, along with so-called "green walls".

"Other countries have green walls, lines of trees near schools to filter the air."

Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong responded to the study by calling for stronger action while Brimbank said it was

already implementing measures such as increasing tree coverage.

Premier Jacinta Allan pointed to the new West Gate Tunnel as evidence the government was already addressing the problem, saying it had taken thousands of trucks off inner-west roads since opening late last year. "That doesn't just give those local roads back to the local community, it takes those truck emissions out of those communities as well," she said.

Maribyrnong Truck Action Group president Martin Wurt said the study was further proof that air filters needed to be installed in the tunnel's ventilation stacks



Braybrook's Sammy Muscat is cycling around Albert Park Lake for up to 48 hours to raise money for the Heart Foundation. (Damjan Janevski) 548766_03

Sammy cycles for matter close to his heart

Braybrook based ultra endurance cyclist, Sammy Muscat, will be getting on his bike on 23 May for a cause that is - quite literally - close to his heart.

"After surviving severe heart failure myself in 2015, it's something that's become very personal to me," Mr Muscat said of his motivation for doing a 24 to 48 hours fundraising ride for the Heart Foundation.

For at least 24 hours, Mr Muscat will cycle around Albert Park Lake, with every \$50 donation resulting in an extra lap.

He's hoping to attract enough dona-

tions to keep him going for the full 48 hours and to reach his \$25,000 target, with all funds going towards heart research, prevention and support programs.

While a noble cause, cycling for two days straight might seem a little extreme, especially for some with a history of heart problems.

However, Mr Muscat said long-distance cycling has actually been a big part of his recover over the past 11 years.

"Over the last few years I've gone from recovering from heart failure to compet-

ing in some of the hardest ultra endurance cycling events in the world, including unsupported races across Australia and Europe.

"This won't be my first big endurance challenge, but it'll definitely be one of the hardest and most public," he said.

Members of the public are invited down to Albert Park Lake from 5am on Saturday 23 May to cheer Mr Muscat on as well as to donate funds to keep him peddling.

Donate at: <https://tinyurl.com/4y8sp7h6>

Stronger action needed against digital assault

The Western Region Centre Against Sexual Assault (WestCASA) is calling for stronger national laws and regulations to combat digital sexual violence.

The group is stating it has become alarmed by a global surge in technology-facilitated abuse, especially against women and children.

Chief executive Annette Vickery said frontline services are increasingly seeing the trend play out in Australia.

"Tech-based sexual violence is not fringe behaviour," Ms Vickery said.

"This is organised, deliberate abuse being facilitated and amplified through digital platforms.

"Technology is not neutral when it is designed, moderated, and monetised in ways that allow violence against women to flourish unchecked."

Ms Vickery warned that technology-based abuse including image-based abuse, coercion, tracking, and online communities that promote sexual violence is rapidly evolving faster than policy and law enforcement responses.

She said she wanted to emphasise that survivors are too often left to navigate systems that are not equipped to respond to the scale or complexity of tech-based abuse.

The group is calling for more federal investment in specialist responses to technology-facilitated abuse, nationally consistent laws on combatting digital sexual violence, as well as stronger mechanisms for punishing platforms that fail to remove harmful content.

A spokesperson for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts said the federal government had committed to take legislative action.

"The government has committed to legislate a digital duty of care which will place an obligation on services to put in place systems and processes to prevent the risk of reasonably foreseeable serious harms from the use of their service, with hefty fines for platforms that do not meet their obligations," the spokesperson said.

"The government has also committed to providing the eSafety Commissioner with a new bespoke power to issue notices to remove nudity apps and websites, recognising that these have no place in our society.

Legislation to progress these reforms is expected to be introduced into Parliament later this year.

To learn more about WestCASA or to find ways to get support, call 9216 0444 or visit: westcasa.org.au

Free meningococcal B vaccines to be made available for teens

Victorian teenagers, including those in Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay, will soon be able to receive free meningococcal B vaccines.

Health Minister Harriet Shing announced the free vaccines for the life-threatening disease will be made available to year 10 students from 1 January, 2027.

The state government said that while the vaccine is already available privately through GPs, it comes at a cost of more than \$250 out of pocket.

The rollout of the free vaccine will cost \$9 million.

"This free vaccination program will save lives and give parents the peace of mind that their teenager is protected from this awful disease," Ms Shing said.

It will be available through existing school immunisation programs via GPs, pharmacies, local council immunisation services, and Aboriginal health services.

Year 10 students (or age equivalent) have been found to be one of the highest risk

groups of contracting the disease, the state government said.

It also aligns with the timing of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine given to Year 10s under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) schedule.

The state-funded meningococcal B vaccination program will help lift immunisation coverage.

The state government said it will continue to advocate to the federal government to add a full listing of the vaccine on the NIP.

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Briefs

IDAHOBIT

The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) will be celebrated in both Hobsons Bay and Maribyrnong. In Hobsons Bay, a flag-raising ceremony with morning tea will be held on 15 May from 10.45am-11.45am at the Hobsons Bay Civic Centre. On 20 May, an LGBTQIA+ community wellbeing panel will be held at Newport Community Hub from 6.30pm-8pm. In Maribyrnong, a Rainbow Walkway will be unveiled followed by a morning tea from 10 am-11 am on 18 May at the Maribyrnong Civic Precinct and Community Hub, Community Green Walkway.

Errors amendment

Every few years, Hobsons Bay council undertakes an amendment to correct any errors or anomalies that may have become evident while administering the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme. These amendments ensure accuracy and consistency without introducing new strategic changes. The last amendment of this kind was completed in 2022. Public feedback is being sought on Errors and Anomalies Amendment C145hbay and can be provided up until 5pm on Wednesday 17 June. To view the amendments and offer feedback, go to: <https://participate.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/amendment-c145hbay>

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West Welcome Wagon chief executive Colette McInerney and volunteer Megan Clancy. (Damjan Janevski) 549671_02

Winter clothing needed

Locals in the west are being encouraged to donate warm clothes to West Welcome Wagon (WWW) as its supply runs low ahead of winter.

The nonprofit organisation, which welcomes and supports refugees and asylum seekers to Australia, is asking for winter clothing donations such as jackets, jeans, jumpers and long sleeved tops that are high quality and in a wearable condition.

Winter clothing is especially needed for kids, teenagers and men.

WWW chief executive Colette McInerney said the clothing storage bins are currently empty after a recent reach out day.

“We’re struggling to fulfil requests from our clients at the moment,” she said.

About 140 adults and children attended the most recent reach out day.

“At our reach out days we probably

distribute about two and a half tons of clothing and small household items,” Ms McInerney said.

“We distributed just about everything that we took with us which isn’t unusual. The bins are very, very empty.

“We’d really really appreciate people doing a little autumn/winter clear-out of their wardrobes, particularly for clothes for children up to age of 16, any gender. And we’re always short of men’s clothing.”

Locals looking to donate can email donate@westwelcomewagon.org.au with details of their donation items. The WWW team will then provide guidance on drop-off points and collection to ensure items reach those who need them the most.

“People are really starting to feel the cold so we are looking for [donations] so that we can meet the needs of our clients,” Ms McInerney said.



Alan Young and Bronwen Gray are doing an exhibition of local history. (Damjan Janevski) 549168_01

Learn more about Laverton’s history

Letters from Laverton is promising Hobsons Bay and Wyndham locals an immersive look at local history.

The community project uses oral histories, images and artefacts to trace the history of Laverton and surrounds and is being developed by two western suburbs residents Bronwen Gray and Alan Young.

From filming sites of Australian cult classic Max Max, to lore from the Tarmac pub - now Westside Hotel - in Laverton North, there will be plenty to uncover and rediscover.

Mr Young said there are “so many stories to tell”.

“The Tarmac was renowned for hosting virtually every significant Australian and international act in the 70’s and 80’s and was one of the biggest beer barns in the western suburbs,” he said.

Ms Grey said, “I suppose the thing that I

have found most enjoyable about working on this project has been getting to know the people who have called Laverton home - their warmth, vitality and absolute willingness to get in there and make things happen is what stands out for me”.

The exhibition was put together with the help of Hobsons Bay council and using old records from Werribee Shire (now Wyndham council), and excerpts from The Werribee Banner.

Ms Grey and Mr Young work as part of a small western suburbs-based arts collective called New World Arts, who have been working on community- based arts initiatives for more 25 years.

The exhibit is free and will be open to the public at 44 Woods Street, Laverton, noon-3pm on, Thursday 14 May, Saturday 16 May and Thursday 21 May.



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Surgery a chance to survive

Kirsty Wesner was staring death in the face when friends, strangers and a US-Filipino surgeon stepped in to give her a chance at survival. She's determined to make the most of it, Cade Lucas reports.

There's desperate and then there's the plight Footscray's Kirsty Wesner found herself in at the beginning of this year.

Back in January, *Star Weekly* reported on the 41-year-old mother of three's frantic efforts to raise enough money to travel overseas for life-saving surgery.

Stricken with Superior Mesenteric Artery Compression Syndrome (SMACS), a rare digestive disorder that was slowly killing her, Ms Wesner needed to raise more than \$40,000 so she could pay for a trip to the Philippines to undergo the Alvear procedure, a specialised surgical technique that is one of the few known treatments for SMACS and which is not available in Australia.

In fact, the Alvear procedure is mostly performed by the man it's named after: Filipino-American surgeon Dr Domingo Alvear, who returns back to his homeland a couple of times a year to perform it and other life-changing operations.

By the time Ms Wesner spoke to *Star Weekly* in late January, she had less than three weeks to come up with the money in time for Dr Alvear's February visit, yet the GoFundMe page she'd set up had attracted little more than \$6000.

“It's Kirsty 2.0. I feel like I have an opportunity to survive now”

- Kirsty Wesner

Raising over \$30,000 in three weeks would be difficult for the most physically able, but for someone dangerously malnourished and underweight due to not having been able to eat properly for two years, it bordered on fantasy. And a death sentence.

“I will die without this surgery,” Ms Wesner said bluntly in the story published on 22 January.

While news of Ms Wesner's plight was splashed across the front page in the inner-west, out in Melton, where she lived before moving to Footscray to be closer to medical care, a rescue attempt was quietly getting underway.

Lori Keele became friends with Ms Wesner after their daughters did the same. Despite the Wesners no longer living in Melton, the families remained close and Ms Keele was well aware of her friend's worsening health.

“It was very hard to watch,” Ms Keele said of witnessing her friend's decline while feeling helpless to stop it.

With time running out, she reached for the break-glass option many locals go to in times of crisis: she contacted Keith Stephen.

Keith and Sallyann Stephen are what passes for moves and shakers in Melton. Keith runs an IT business and is a well known local trader, while both are members of Rotary Melton Valley, where Sallyann serves as the secretary.

“It just really hit a chord with us” Mrs Stephen said of their reaction to learning about Ms Wesner's situation.

Then they swung into action.

“I discussed this with the members of my Rotary club to see if we could help and then reached out to most of my customers via email seeking donations to help fund Kirsty getting to Manila for this life-changing operation and many generous donations were received,” Mr Stephen said.

“All donations were made via Rotary Melton Valley, who also donated \$1000 and coordinated payment to the medical team in Manila.”

Donations from Mr Stephen's customers came in from all over the country and



Left: Footscray's Kirsty Wesner with her daughter Isla, 11, has returned from the Philippines where she had life-saving surgery. (Damjan Janevski) 546594_03
 Top right: Kirsty with Dr Domingo Alvear and daughter Isla. (Supplied) Right: Kirsty and Isla with Rotary Melton Valley president Michael Dowling (left) and club member Keith Stephen. (Damjan Janevski) 546594_06 Inset: Kirsty recovering post-surgery in a Manila hospital in February. (Supplied)



while the exact total is unknown, it's believed to have far exceeded the amount donated by the Rotary club or the \$2000 provided by the Footscray Lions Club who Ms Wesner approached herself.

“I received email correspondence from Kirsty and I said “right this seems like a desperate case where nobody else is going to help,” Footscray Lions Club member Bert Jessup recalled, pointing out that once the club had verified Ms Wesner's story, the decision to contribute was an easy one.

“We had some funds available and we decided to donate them,” Mr Jessup said.

While this was going on, Ms Wesner's GoFundMe had crept up to over \$9000 and with Ms Keele and her husband providing a substantial donation as well, the fundraising target was suddenly within reach.

“It was so touch and go,” Ms Wesner said of the last-minute dash for cash which was then followed by the not insignificant task of getting \$41,000 to the Philippines.

“The banks were complicating things and shutting people's bank accounts because they didn't think it was legitimate.”

The transfer was belatedly approved and finally, the night before Ms Wesner and her youngest daughter were due to fly out to Manila on 13 February, reality set in.

“It was kinda like, ‘okay it's actually happening now,’” she said.

Being wheeled into surgery five days later on 18 February was even more profound.

“I became emotional and realised that it was actually gonna happen.”

The operation at a hospital on the outskirts of Manila and lasted for roughly four hours.

While there were no complications, Ms Wesner awoke from the “very invasive” surgery to excruciating pain and stitches from sternum to naval.



“They took all of my intestines out and operated on all of it,” was her rough explanation of what Dr Alvear did in the procedure.

Given the nature of the condition, it's hard to think of any other option.

SMACS involves the duodenum – the first part of the small intestine – being squeezed by two arteries, the SMA and the aorta, restricting the amount of food that can be digested.

In Ms Wesner's case, the SMACS was further complicated by her also having Ehlers Danlos, a genetic condition that causes organs, ligaments and connective tissue to stretch, prolapse and drop.

Having a combination of rare disorders made accessing viable treatment in Australia even rarer, with Ms Wesner claiming local doctors lacked knowledge about her ailments and often misdiagnosed her with anorexia or other eating disorders.

A rapid decline in her condition over the past two years forced her to look overseas and to Dr Alvear.

Once he began operating on her, the US-based surgeon found that not only did Ms Wesner have SMACS, but an especially bad case of it.

“What they found was that the artery was compressing the duadenum, but there were also ligaments that were across the whole length of my intestines,” Ms Wesner said.

The effect was such that not only were Ms Wesner's intestines being squeezed, but twisted as well, making it almost impossible for food to get through. Dr Alvear and his staff were amazed that she had survived so long.

Ironically, the sagging effect from her Ehlers Danlos probably helped keep Ms Wesner alive.

“It kinda helped keep me alive for longer with that not compressing so severely,”

she said.

Unfortunately, the Ehlers Danlos also meant Ms Wesner couldn't take many common painkillers and with opiates such as morphine also restricted in the Philippines, her first week post surgery was rough

“The recovery was very brutal,” she said.

“It was still less pain than what I was experiencing beforehand.”

Whatever pain there was disappeared once Ms Wesner ate her first meal with solid food since 2024.

“I cried,” she said. “When I had a burger I cried my eyes out. I hadn't had a burger for two years.”

“I felt like I had my life back.”

Discharged from hospital after 10 days and returning to Australia at the end of March, Ms Wesner has since been out for a meal with Ms Keele, the first time they'd eaten together in years.

“Oh my God, she's so much better. She's unrecognisable,” Ms Keele said of her friend's improvement.

The recovery has been uneven though. While Ms Wesner is able to eat and digest food and her weight has increased by 10 kilograms, her mobility hasn't improved.

“We're still trying to figure that out,” she said of why she was still wheelchair-bound.

Not that this has dimmed her newfound lease on life.

“It's Kirsty 2.0. I feel like I have an opportunity to survive now,” Ms Wesner said, adding that she was preparing a presentation on SMACS that she hopes to show at Rotary clubs, while a foundation aimed at educating Australians, particularly clinicians, on the condition was also a possibility.

“I want my suffering to have been worth something,” she said of her future goals.

As for all those who donated to make her new life possible, Ms Wesner is much less definitive.

“I don't even know how to express how grateful I am to them.”



Hobsons Bay Community Recognition Awards 2026

YOUR NOMINEES

Congratulations to all those who were nominated for the Hobsons Bay Community Recognition Awards! These awards recognise the achievements of community organisations, leaders and volunteers in our community who are striving to make a difference and drive positive change.

GROUP

- 1st Altona Scout Group
- 3rd Williamstown Scout Group
- Altona City Theatre
- Altona Hockey Club
- Altona Life Saving Club
- Andrea Skillen and Jane Palmer
- Brooklyn Community Hall Committee of Management
- Dr Liz Cyarto and Louise Karch (Hobsons Bay Trailblazers)
- Hobsons Bay Community Fund
- Hobsons Bay Men's Shed
- Hobsons Bay Wetlands Centre
- Hobsons Bay Young Leaders 2024–2025
- Laverton Community Cafe
- Laverton Community Integrated Services Inc
- Lion and Mouse Australia
- Lions Club of Altona
- Mighty West Walkers
- Newport Calisthenics Club
- Newport Fiddle and Folk
- ParKanDo
- Raphael Zachary and Reuben Soliman
- Seabreeze Quilters Inc.
- Triskelion International of Victoria Australia Inc. (TIVAI)
- Victoria State Emergency Service Hobsons Bay Unit
- Victorian Kulawai
- Williamstown Community and Education Centre Inc.
- Williamstown Women's Lacrosse Club
- Willin Women
- Zonta Club of Melbourne's West Inc.

INDIVIDUAL

- Adeline Barham
- Benjamin Gronow
- Brendan Dowling
- Charlotte Sleeman
- Colin Dyall
- David Berner
- Ella Bibby
- Emerson Domingo
- Ethan Bader-Smith
- Gill Gannon
- Glenn Evans
- Hteepoe Ri
- Ian Barclay
- Ian Watson
- Ingrid Magtengaard
- Irena Kaluski
- Jacob Burfoot
- Jennifer Menon
- Jenny Baker
- Jo Ferguson
- Judy Kopans
- Lawrence Foley
- Leticia Caramatii
- Lola Nicolouneas
- Maryanne Kovach
- Mel Smith
- Michael Pernar
- Michelle Galea
- Myly Nguyen
- Paul Lindemann
- Peter Shepheard
- Peter Wall
- QiQi Lu
- Rhonda Collins
- Stuart O'Neil
- Tara Mathews
- Tony Cutroni
- Wynette McCaskill

A big thank-you to all those who took the time to nominate and recognise the amazing contribution these nominees make to our city.

Hobsons Bay City Council would like to recognise the contributions made by all of our volunteers across the municipality. This year's Volunteer Week theme 'Your Year to Volunteer' honours those contributions and invites people across Australia to make 2026 a year of meaningful involvement.

National
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Hobsons Bay
**Community
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Enjoy autumn, avoid the flu

By Christopher Carter,
Chief executive of North Western
Melbourne Primary Health Network

It's that time of year again. Summer is in the rearview mirror, and autumn is slowly starting to fade into winter.

It's a time of bright and chilly days, trees turning orange ... and respiratory viruses spreading through our communities.

Yes, it's the start of influenza season, which means it's a very, very good idea to get your annual flu vaccination as soon as you can.

Sometimes you hear people describing influenza as "a bad cold". When you hear that, it's a sure sign that you're talking to someone who has never had a bad case of it.

As people who have really experienced it will agree, flu is a very unpleasant combination of phlegm, coughs, muscle pains, tiredness and headaches which can confine even very healthy people to bed for a couple of weeks.

And for people who are less than healthy - or very young, or quite old - influenza can result in hospital stays and even, sometimes, death.

It is not something to take lightly - so it's very good that getting an annual vaccination is easy, painless, and for many people free.

Experts recommend a flu vaccination for all people aged over six months. Under the Australian Government's National Immunisation Program, some groups can have one at no cost. These include children under five, First Nations people, all people over 65, people with certain chronic illnesses, and pregnant women.



And for all people who don't fit into these categories, you can still get your vaccination at no or low cost if your regular general practice is one of the increasing number which bulk-bills appointments.

This year there are a few different types of vaccine available. There's one, for instance, especially formulated for older people, and another which is a nasal spray - just right for children who are nervous about needles.

There are also formulations safe for

people with allergies.

Your doctor or other immunisation provider will ask you some questions to make sure you receive a vaccine which is effective and safe for you.

Of course, doctors aren't the only people who can administer a vaccine and keep you safe from the flu. A lot of nurses in general practice can do so - and so can lots of pharmacists.

If you're not sure where to go, a website called Healthdirect has a service finder

which can identify all the vaccination providers near your home.

And finally, if you're going to get your flu vaccination done, think about some others you can have at the same time. Talk to your GP or other provider about perhaps also getting protected against COVID-19, or RSV, or measles or shingles. All of these are perfectly safe to get at the same appointment.

This is a lovely time of year. Let's all do our best to make it a safe one, too.



with Evan Turok

From feel-good to boring

Movie buff Evan Turok is Star Weekly's film reviewer. This month he is critiquing a movie for film lovers by film lovers and a 1984 film that left him questioning his decisions.



★★★★☆

Project Hail Mary (M)

When the sun begins to cool off, you send Ryan Gosling into space; when the cinema scene begins to cool off, you send for directing duo Chris Miller and Chris Lord.

Project Hail Mary has everything a film needs and takes it all to new intergalactic heights.

When mysterious cells are found to be eating away at the sun, the world's governments are forced to unite their best scientists and astronauts in a race against time; their goal: to stop the sun from cooling beyond the point necessary for human survival.

Against the odds, school teacher and former scientist Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) wakes up alone aboard the spaceship named the 'Hail Mary' and, with the help of a charming alien friend, must find a way to save the world and return home safely.

No matter if you are a casual fan or a movie fanatic, it's impossible to watch this movie and not have a good time.

Breath-taking visuals were abundant

in this film, from distant planets to the endless void of stars; there is no doubt this was created for film lovers by film lovers.

The mix of dramatic symphonies and uplifting comfort songs created a balance of comedic fun and devastating stakes that feel feasible instead of forced. There is something for everyone to enjoy in Project Hail Mary.

I had reservations about the alien at first. I wasn't sure I would be able to find myself caring about something so inhuman, but as the faceless rock alien was given more time to settle in, the more I felt myself, and the people around me, treating this creature as if he was one of us. All the credit for this feat goes to the incredible acting of Gosling himself.

Go to your local cinema, sit close to the screen, and let the music vibrate your chair; let the comedy take the edge off; let the heart fill you with emotion; and let the beauty of the visuals remind you why a good film is sometimes all you need.

Project Hail Mary receives 4/5 stars.

★★★☆☆

Paris, Texas (M)

Wim Wenders' Paris, Texas is one of the highest-rated films of all time, and for the life of me I can't work out why.

Made with a modest budget of \$1.7 million, the 1984 independent film follows Travis Henderson (Harry Dean Stanton), who is found stumbling around in the Texas desert unable to speak.

The film quickly takes a jarring left turn, becoming the story of a shy, but completely capable, Travis reuniting his estranged son with the boy's long-lost mother.

With such high praise thrown at this film, I expected to be invested; you'd have more of a chance of making a pyramid out of marbles than getting the average viewer engaged in all two and a half methodical hours. It's never a good sign when you know exactly what part of a long film you would leave on the cutting room floor had you been in charge.

Paris, Texas started off strong and brought me back at the very end, but

don't be fooled by the bittersweet ending; the hour and a half of plateaued plot isn't worth the reward.

At its very core, film is meant to be entertainment; Paris, Texas committed the ultimate sin: it was boring. I can look past bad acting in other films, and I can excuse shaky writing, but at the end of the day, what was the point of watching a movie if all you want by the end of it is a haircut and what felt like the last three months of your life back?

I'll be the first to tell you this is a pretty-looking film; the neon lights, complemented with the beauty of the Texas landscape, are given a spotlight, especially since the film is so thin with dialogue. Unfortunately, my neck is still sore from the whiplash of such an aggressive change of pace, and the slow, contemplative shot wears thin very quickly.

There is no doubt there was a vision here; it's just not a vision I can get behind.

I give Paris, Texas 2/5.

Students thrive academically and personally at St Aloysius College

St Aloysius College proudly continues its transition from an all-girls institution to co-education this year, a journey that began from the year 7 intake in 2023.

With over 135 years of rich history, the college has embraced this evolution, responding to the strong desire of families in Melbourne's inner north-west for a Catholic education that serves both sons and daughters.

Parents, students and staff have embraced the transition, helping shape a college culture where students thrive academically, personally, and socially.

Rooted in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy, St Aloysius College goes beyond academics, exemplifying the profound benefits of a values-based education.

Guided by the Mercy Education values, students are not only prepared for academic success, but also empowered to navigate modern complexities with a holistic approach to mind, body, and spirit.

St Aloysius College's comprehensive curriculum integrates academics with the Universal Learning Program (ULP) and a diverse range of co-curricular activities spanning STEAM, sport, languages and the arts.

This approach provides students with opportunities to explore their interests and develop essential skills, nurturing critical thinking and intellectual curiosity.

The college's commitment to an individualised approach recognises the needs of the whole person, equipping students with the interpersonal skills, adaptability, and resilience needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

Central to the college's education-



St Aloysius College's senior years campus opens semester 2, 2026.

cultivates confident, empathetic leaders who know how to listen, collaborate and lead with purpose.

Students learn to engage meaningfully, challenge ideas with respect, and contribute to their communities with integrity and courage.

Graduates of St Aloysius College emerge with compassion, a strong sense of self, and the courage to make a meaningful impact on the world around them.

Enrolments for year 7 in 2028 are now open, with applications closing on Friday, 14 August, 2026.

Families are invited to join a campus tour and see first-hand how a values-driven environment shapes curiosity, preparing students for a brilliant future.

- **Enrolment:** 800 students
- **Fees:** \$9,200 (year 7 to year 12) including all levies.
- **Principal:** Ms Mary Farah
- **Years 7-10 Campus:** 31 Curran Street, North Melbourne, 3051
- **Senior (opens 2026):**

Years	Campus
semester 1, 2026)	75 Boundary Road, North Melbourne, 3051

Details: 03 9325 9200.
registrar@aloysius.vic.edu.au, or
aloysius.vic.edu.au

al vision is a dedication to individual wellbeing.

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The co-educational curriculum



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Wild goats ravage creek

By Sam Porter

A population of approximately 70 wild goats in Brooklyn is wreaking havoc on the local environment and vegetation along Kororoit Creek with local landcarers and businesses unable to find an easy solve to the problem.

Star Weekly understands the feral goat herd, which has been present in the area since the 2000s, is primarily located along the lower Kororoit Creek corridor with sightings reported from the Somerville Road Bridge.

Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek president Jason Hocking said the community group has been concerned about the herd for years.

"The goats, which we believe have been

deliberately introduced into the area, have destroyed thousands of planted native trees and bushes on Kororoit Creek and have set back our efforts to restore the natural environment along the creek and improve the views from the shared path across to the old Brooklyn tip," Mr Hocking said.

"We welcome any corporate efforts to control the goats, as it's way too hard for us volunteers."

Brooklyn Recycling Group (BRG) community liaison officer Lisa Field said the herd moves between a number of industrial properties in the area, including sites such as City Circle Group.

In response to the ongoing issue, BRG established a 'goat management' group on WhatsApp with the intention to increase

visibility of the roaming population and help inform an appropriate management approach.

"We have heard from community members who are interested in rehoming the goats, and we have taken the time to consider these suggestions," Ms Field said.

"While rehoming is a humane option in principle, it is also highly resource-intensive and requires specialised skills, equipment, and coordination. Unfortunately, we do not have the capacity or expertise to safely capture, transport, and rehome a population of this size."

While professional contractors have previously been engaged to manage the population and protect the local environment, the herd's numbers have continued to rise,

outpacing past efforts.

"From my knowledge and discussions, feral goats are having a significant impact on the lower Kororoit Creek in Brooklyn. Plantings by the local Landcare group and Melbourne Water have been impacted, as has the planting works undertaken by the local businesses," Ms Field said.

She added the feral goats contribute to soil degradation and erosion, reduce native vegetation, undermine biodiversity, and also create conditions that allow invasive weeds to spread more easily.

"Under our Better Environment Plan the BRG has quite extensive planting works planned over the coming two years, and this will be completely undermined if the goat population is not addressed," Ms Field said.



Volunteers at Footscray Vinnies get ready to strut their stuff at the annual fashion parade fundraiser on 1 June. (Damjan Janevski) 550494_03

Parading fashion to raise funds for Vinnies

For the third year in a row, Footscray Vinnies will be holding a fashion parade fundraiser, with shop volunteers, family and friends and even some particularly stylish customers getting the chance to strut down the catwalk for a good cause.

And for this year's parade on Monday 1 June, the catwalk will be located in much grander surrounds, with the event moving from the Footscray Vinnies shop on Barkly Street, to the bluestone hall behind St John's Anglican Church on Paisley Street.

But apart from the change of the venue,

the fundraiser will remain largely the same, with models parading sustainable fashion items from within the Footscray store and which will then be put up for sale afterwards.

There will also be an array of fun items that patrons can bid for in a silent auction, while a sausage sizzle and some sweet treats will also be on sale for those who want some food with their fashion.

All proceeds will go towards the 2026 Vinnies CEO Sleepout which this year takes place at the Skyline Car Park at Federation

Square on Thursday 18 June.

The annual event has a fundraising goal of \$1.75 million for 2026, with the money to go towards building accommodation for women and LGBTQIA+ people escaping violence.

To register or donate to the Vinnies CEO Sleepout, visit: <https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/event/victoria>

For more information about the Footscray Vinnies fashion parade, call 8199 4240, visit the shop at 160 Barkly Street or go to: <https://www.vinnies.org.au/>

Laverton basketball academy launched

A new schools-based basketball academy is up and running at Laverton College, creating new opportunities for students to take up the sport in a school setting.

Launched late last month, The Academy Movement Laverton Basketball Academy, is the first schools-based basketball program introduced by Academy Movement Education and the first schools-based initiative of its kind for Basketball Victoria.

Academy Movement has an established track record running school-based sporting programs across Victoria, primarily in rugby, and is one of 12 preferred providers endorsed to deliver schools-based programs across the state.

Basketball Victoria chief executive Nick Honey said the program represents an important evolution in how basketball engages with students in education environments.

"While school-based basketball programs do exist, this is a first for both Academy Movement and Basketball Victoria," Mr Honey said.

"It allows us to build on a proven model and extend it into basketball, connecting with students in a way that feels relevant, engaging and accessible."

The program uses basketball as a vehicle to improve student engagement, while also introducing participants to career pathways within sport and recreation.

"We're not just introducing students to basketball, we're opening up future opportunities," Mr Honey said.

SOMETHING EXCITING IS COMING!



WIN a \$200

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AUSSIE

TOYS

ONLINE

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

No. 289

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

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

medium

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

hard

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

easy

medium

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

hard

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

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QUICK CROSSWORD

No. 289

ACROSS

- Graceful bird (4)
- South Asian republic (10)
- High-protein food pulses (7)
- Largest of the Ryukyu islands, south of Japan (7)
- Rump (8)
- Of the nose (5)
- Summit (4)
- An automatic weapon (7,3)
- Actually, truthfully (10)
- Devoted followers (4)
- Step-by-step guide (3,2)
- Relating to cultivated land (8)
- Of that (7)
- Continuing (7)
- Black and white (10)
- Just (4)

DOWN

- Senior barrister (coll) (4)
- Said or done so often as to become tiresome (2,7)
- Partner; colleague (9)
- Shine (5)
- City in southern France (7)
- Tests (5)
- Front-page stories (9)
- Perfect condition (4)
- Indifferent (9)
- Mirthful (9)
- Subtle change by degrees (9)
- US writer (1817-62), Henry David - (7)
- Revolver (5)
- Horrible (5)
- Carpets (4)
- Unightly (4)

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	26	27	28	29	30

DECODER

No. 321

18	2	8	14	1	5				
5	22	X	13	2	3	16	5	14	12
1		7		22		4		20	22
5	14	X	12		16	13	13	2	12
		20		5		2		15	5
1	14	9	23	22	13	13		18	13
1		22		2		24		16	20
8	12	B	13	16		11	3	16	5
6		20		3		3		14	
17	14	5	6	11	15	22	7	5	14
	B	12	15	3		12		22	
16	7	13	13	21	13	10	7	3	21
	19	16		2		19		20	16

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	26
										B	X	

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	26	
X	B	Z	Q	U	V	N	Y	P	W	S	F	A	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

9-LETTER WORD

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

- Today's Aim:**
20 words: Good
30 words: Very good
40 words: Excellent

		F						
	I		P					
E		I		T				
			R					
		D		E				

diet, dieter, dire, dirt, drift, drip, edit, elder, fetid, fire, fired, freed, idee, petried, pied, pier, pried, pride, prired, reedit, reit, refired, reit, retied, ride, rife, rift, rited, ripe, rite, rited, rpe, rre, rted, rted, rted, tier, tiered, tired, tired, trip, tripe

5x5

M		S		S
	T		I	
K		A		A
	N		E	
R		E		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

R	E	D	S
E	N	T	E
K	O	A	L
A	T	I	C
M	A	S	T

No. 396

QUICK QUIZ



- Shandong is a coastal province in which country?
- The SVNS is a series of tournaments in what sport?
- Brutalist architecture first emerged in what decade?
- Which Australian author wrote *Tenderfoot*, *Nine Days* and *Addition*?
- What is the only five-star rank in the Australian Army?
- The High Altitude Medal is given to armed forces members of which country?
- Name the highest-selling song released by Roy Orbison.
- The Rebecca Yarros books *Fourth Wing*, *Iron Flame* and *Onyx Storm* are part of which fantasy series?
- In golf, what is an albatross?
- What nationality is Hamnet star Jessie Buckley (pictured)?

ANSWERS: 1. China 2. Rugby sevens 3. 1950s 4. Tom Jordan 5. Field marshal 6. India 7. Oh, Pretty Woman 8. The Empyrean Series 9. A score of three under par 10. Irish



St Albans Primary School teacher Martin Rice, with students Ricky, Michael, Katy, Mia, Dani, Nate and Jacob. (Damjan Janevski) 549520_05



Werribee CFA volunteer John Aidone. (Damjan Janevski) 548929_01



Above: Tin Shed manager Tamara Carr. (Damjan Janevski) 549973_03 Left: Trevor Ryan has a YouTube channel where he does daily vlogs about Wyndham. (Damjan Janevski) 548833_01



Josef Schulz who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. (Damjan Janevski) 549705_07

Faces of the west

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



Trev Phillips at the Altona Rotary Charity Golf Day. (Damjan Janevski) 546677_01

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Star Weekly looks back through the pages of our predecessors

40 years ago
14 May, 1986

Unionists from the Williamstown Naval Dockyards were meeting yesterday to decide action over the proposed sacking of 350 people.

30 years ago
15 May, 1996

A \$15 million oceanarium that will let visitors come face to face with sharks and stingrays could be built on the Newport foreshore by December 1997.

20 years ago
10 May, 2006

The home of murdered Altona North sisters Laura and Colleen Irwin is up for sale.

10 years ago
11 May, 2016

A fundraising page has been created for a Werribee father of three who was killed on the Western Ring Road on Saturday morning.

Westbourne does Grease

You're the one that I want to come down to Wyndham Cultural Centre for Westbourne Grammar School's rendition of Grease.

School dance, theatre and drama director Cassie Gray said audiences can expect a contemporary twist on classic themes.

"What makes Grease enduring is not just its music, but its reflection of teenage life. These experiences continue to resonate," she said. "At the same time, the world it presents does not fully align with the values we hold today.

"Rather than ignoring this, we have embraced it as an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come, and to recognise how young people are.

"This is what makes the performance so special. It is a story about teenagers, told by teenagers.

"Our students have approached this work with insight and care, honouring the original context of the piece while thoughtfully interpreting it through their own lens.

"In doing so, they offer a version of Grease that is both respectful of its time and reflective of their own."

The cast will be supported by a live orchestra, to give the audience a full theatrical experience.

The show will run 14, 15 and 16 May, with each show starting at 7pm.

So, you better shape and get your tickets: <https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/whats-on/grease-westbourne-grammar-school>



Emily is playing Sandy in Westbourne's rendition of Grease. (Supplied)

Sleepless Festival returns

Footscray's Trugo Lane will be transformed into a three-day cultural and arts street party when Sleepless Festival returns from 15-17 May.

Born from a desire to create space for emerging and independent artists in Melbourne's west, Sleepless Festival is a volunteer led, non-profit arts charity that reimagines the laneway between Paisley and Irving streets as a multi stage precinct, blending live music, installations, visual and street art, performance, and community workshops and more.

The 2026 festival will feature more than 60 different artists across the weekend, including Gusto Gusto, Ag Angenth Ayom, Vanessa Estrada, Asinine and Naive Atom.

The festival's main stage will play host to a diverse mix of alt-rock, rap, jazz, afrobeats, R'n'B, punk, and pop, while electronic and boundary pushing experimental performances will take place

at the Irving Hub.

There will also be a creative program featuring live painting, a DNB musical, a fashion showcase and interactive installations and performances from Nxngtn, Gusteenee, Sausage Woman, Anna Luna, Rubyanna Edwards, Nat Thomas Steer and Mammet.

"We are so excited to be back taking over the streets of Footscray and showcasing the local arts scene," Sleepless Festival head of programming Miles Brennan said of this year's event.

"So many artists have joined us in this massive collaboration this year, there really is something for everyone."

Sleepless Festival begins at 6pm on Friday 15 May and then runs from noon until late on Saturday 16 May and 10am-8.30pm on Sunday 17 May.

Tickets and information: <https://sleeplessfestival.com/>



Sleepless Festival organisers Victoria Marinho and Stewart Bruce in Footscray's Trugo Lane where the community arts event will take place on 15-17 May. (Damjan Janevski) 550998_01

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

Free lectures

The Footscray Mechanics Institute will be running a free lecture on the last Friday of each month until the end of October. The program includes: book launches, discussion of books and authors, and community guest speakers. The lectures will take place at the Footscray Mechanics Institute, 209 Nicholson Street, Footscray. ■ 9687 1935 or info@fmi.org.au

LGBTQIA+ community wellbeing panel

A community-led panel, where local LGBTQIA+ community members and experts will share and discuss practical ideas for strengthening wellbeing and social connection in Hobsons Bay will be held at Newport Community Hub on Wednesday 20 May. The discussion will focus on sharing experiences, perspectives, and approaches that individuals may find useful in fostering social inclusion and community support. Patrons should arrive 6.30pm for light refreshments before the panel commences at 7pm. ■ 9932 1290, or <https://www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Libraries/Whats-on-at-the-library>

Cards and conversation

Do you like cards and games? Whether its Canasta, 500 or board games, come and join us weekly at Altona North Library. All levels welcome. Tuesdays from 10am-12pm. Free of charge, morning tea provided and no bookings required. Altona North Library Corner of Millers and McArthurs Road, Altona North. ■ 1300 179 944

Sing with Willin Wimmin choir

Discover the joy of group singing with the friendly women at Willin Wimmin choir in Williamstown. New members are always



This week's photographer's choice picture is of autumn leaves in the Macedon Ranges. (Damjan Janevski) 550878_01

welcome, no audition. The choir sings contemporary, folk, choral and world repertoire in acapella style. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings during school terms, 7.30 - 9.30pm at the Dennis Reserve Centre, 109 Ferguson Street, Williamstown. ■ willinwimmin.org.au, or willin.wimmin@gmail.com

Mainly music

A music-playgroup program for kids and their carers from birth to school age. Held every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am during school terms at Westgate Baptist Community, 16 High Street, Yarraville. The cost is \$7 per family, per week. ■ Jenny, 0401 651 012, Ruth, 0409 635 468 or westgatebaptist.org.au/mainlymusic/

Social square dancing

Come along to the Maribyrnong Community Centre on Thursday nights from 7.30-10.30pm to learn social square dancing for beginners in a safe and friendly environment. The teaching is in a group but is self paced so there is no pressure to maintain a rate of learning. ■ Janine, 0421 371 883, or contact@essendonsquares.com

Free English conversation classes

If English is your second language and you want to improve your English language skills, practice speaking with friendly volunteer tutors in informal and interactive group sessions held every Monday at 1-3pm in the meeting room at Altona Library, 123 Queen Street, Altona. Light refreshments provided.

■ Jill MacKenzie, 0439 994 705 or jill.mackenzie111@gmail.com

AeroSpeakers Toastmasters Club

The AeroSpeakers Toastmasters Club welcomes all who want to improve their communication, leadership and public speaking skills. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of every month from 7-9pm at Laverton Community Hub, 95-105 Railway Avenue, Laverton. ■ Helen, 0474 498 052, or aerospeakerstm@gmail.com

Williamstown Seniors

The group meets every Tuesday at 1-3pm at Denis Reserve. It is a small group looking for more seniors both male and female. Members enjoy two hours of singing as well as afternoon tea. Cost is \$5 for the afternoon. ■ Marlene, 0402 769 204

Altona North Combined Probus

The Altona North Combined Probus Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Altona Sports Club. Includes a speaker, organised trips and outings, and a friendly atmosphere. ■ Lesley, 0414 481 442

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) offers support to anyone who wants to stop drinking. The Western Unity AA Group holds weekly in-person meetings in Williamstown. If you think you may have a drinking problem, you are welcome to attend. Friends and family members supporting a loved one are also encouraged to come along. ■ <https://williamstown.aagroup.org.au/>, aawilliamstown@gmail.com or 1300 222 222



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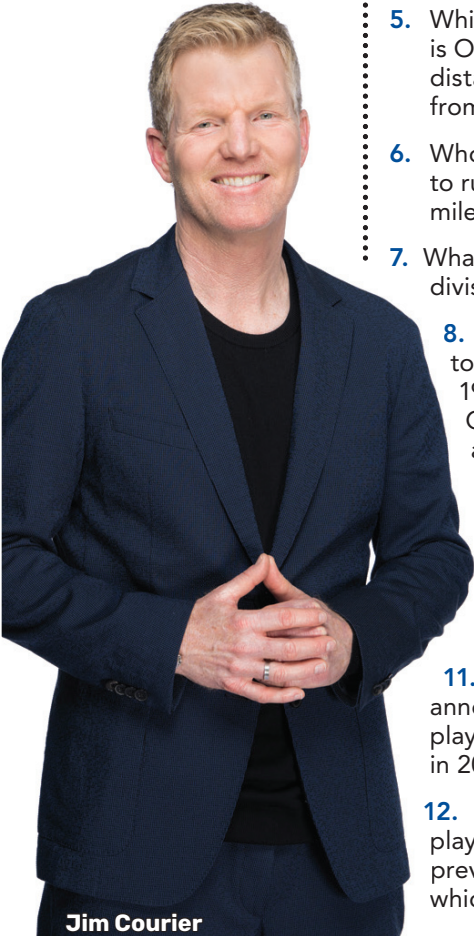
SPORTS QUIZ

- How many players are on a soccer field during a match?
- Former athlete Jim Courier is best known today for commentating which sport?
- What is the term for a sporting contest between two teams from the same city, town or region?
- Owen Wilson stars in which 2025 comedy series about golf?
- Which Australian state is Olympian middle-distance runner Jess Hull from?
- Who was the first person to run a sub-four-minute mile?
- What are the two main divisions in WWE?
- The All Blacks' loss to South Africa in the 1995 Rugby World Cup final is commonly attributed to what?
- In squash, what is a boast?
- What sport is Fenway Park associated with?
- Jarome Luai recently announced a move to play for which NRL team in 2028?
- Brisbane Lions player Oscar Allen was previously captain of which team?
- Which golfing league has postponed a June tournament in New Orleans?
- In May, Aussie Travis Bazzana made his debut in which sporting league?
- Swimmer Andy Donaldson recently swam 55km in waters that are home to which deadly animal?
- Which Australian NBA star has released a signature shoe manufactured by Puma?
- Which nation has won the most FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments?
- In what winter sport can a competitor perform a mule kick?
- Cricketers Steve Smith, David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne all played in which recent T20 tournament?
- Which 1989 comedy about a hapless baseball team stars Charlie Sheen and Tom Berenger?
- Which AFL club sacked CEO Paul Guerra after just seven months in the job?



Tadej Pogacar

- Who won game one of the NRL Women's State of Origin clash at McDonald Jones Stadium?
- Which sport is historically celebrated as 'America's pastime' having taken root in the 19th century?
- What colour is the 3 ball in a game of pool?
- Slovenian cyclist Tadej Pogacar has finished either first or second in which major race for the last six years?
- What discipline focuses on efficient movement to overcome physical obstacles in urban or natural environments?
- In which decade of the 20th century was the sport of pickleball invented?
- Which current legendary NRL coach has been diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disorder?
- Which two AFL teams fought out a draw in round eight of the season?
- Formula One's two American teams, Cadillac and Haas, both use which famous car company's engine?



Jim Courier

1. 22 (11 per side) 2. Tennis 3. Derby 4. Stick 5. New South Wales 6. Sir Roger Bannister 7. SmackDown and Raw 8. Food poisoning 9. Deliberately hitting the side wall before the front wall 10. Baseball 11. Papua New Guinea Chiefs 12. West Coast 13. LIV Golf 14. Major League Baseball 15. Coccolle 16. Josh Giddy 17. United States 18. Snowboarding 19. Pakistan Super League 20. Major League 21. Melbourne 22. New South Wales 23. Baseball 24. Red 25. Tour de France 26. Parkour 27. 1960s 28. Crocodile 29. Craig Bellamy 30. Ferrari

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Tiggo 4 is cheap, but beware

By Chris Riley, Marque Motoring

It's cheap and it's a hybrid – that's what it is.

In fact, Chery reckons the Tiggo 4 is Australia's cheapest hybrid SUV as well as its best-selling SUV.

It's powered by a 1.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine together with the help of an electric motor, that combine to offer budget-friendly fuel consumption of 5.4L/100km.

The Tiggo feels cheap, but let's find out.

Styling

Tiggo 4 Hybrid is available in two grades: Urban and top-of-the-range Ultimate.

Urban is priced from \$29,990 driveaway, the Ultimate from \$34,990 – both prices are driveaway. Metallic paint adds \$500 to the price.

Be aware there's a big \$6000 difference between the regular Tiggo 4 Ultimate and the Tiggo 4 Hybrid Ultimate.

Competitors include the Honda HR-V, Haval Jolion and MG ZS.

Although billed as Australia's cheapest hybrid SUV, Urban offers quite a few standard features, that range from dual 10.25-inch LCD instrument cluster and multimedia touchscreen, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, plus innovative 'Hello Chery' voice control system.

Standard equipment includes cloth trim and dual zone climate air-conditioning, with rear air vents, height adjustable driver's seat, remote start and walk-away locking.

There are also 17-inch alloys, adaptive cruise control, speed limit information, LED lights all-round, auto high beam, auto lights and wipers, and front and rear parking sensors.

Ultimate ups the ante with artificial leather seats, heated front pews, power adjustment for the driver's seat, electric sunroof, colour-select ambient interior lighting and a 360-degree surround view camera.

Tiggo 4 is covered by a seven-year unlimited kilometre warranty, seven-year capped price servicing and up to seven years of roadside assistance.

Infotainment

Infotainment consists of a 12.5-inch touchscreen, Bluetooth, steering wheel mounted controls, Hello Chery voice control, AM/FM and DAB+ digital radio, wired and wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, plus four-speaker sound.

Another 12.5-inch screen supplies the instrument cluster, both incorporated into the same sweeping display panel.

There's no built-in satellite navigation in either variant, so for that you will have to use your phone.

USB-A and -C ports are located in the front with another USB-A port in the back, as well as a 12-volt outlet up front.

Ultimate adds six-speaker sound and a 15W wireless phone charger.

Safety

The Tiggo 4 scores a full five stars for crash safety from ANCAP.

A reversing camera, stability control and seven airbags are fitted including a centre airbag which provides added protection to front seat occupants in side impact crashes is also standard.

Autonomous emergency braking (Car-to-Car, Vulnerable Road User, Junction & Crossing, Backover and Head-On) as well as a lane support system with lane keep assist (LKA), lane departure warning (LDW) and emergency lane keeping (ELK), and an advanced speed assistance system (SAS) are standard.

RATINGS	
Looks:	7
Performance:	6
Safety:	7.5
Thirst:	5
Practicality:	7.5
Comfort:	7
Tech:	7.5
Value:	7.5
Overall:	6.9



The Tiggo 4 might be cheap, but it needs some refinement. (Pictures: Supplied)

Two ISOFix and three top-tether child seats anchor points are offered.

Engines/transmissions

Under the bonnet is Chery's new hybrid system, that operates in series and parallel mode as required, combining a naturally aspirated 1.5-litre petrol engine with an electric motor, together with a 1.83 kWh battery.

The petrol engine produces 71kW of power and 120Nm of torque, while the electric motor provides 150kW/310Nm.

Combined power and torque outputs are not supplied, but the petrol engine should add something to the equation when both are operating together in parallel mode.

The graphic displayed in the driver information panel suggests this to be the case.

There are no gears or gear changed paddles, with drive to the front wheels through a one-speed dedicated hybrid transmission (DHT).

Driving

At 4330mm long, with a 2604mm wheelbase, the Tiggo 4 Hybrid seats five occupants.

Front legroom is adequate, but there's limited room to stretch your legs if you're in the back.

There is however a rear air outlet for rear seat passengers, but only one.

The touchscreen is relatively easy to operate, with plenty of options to play around with and three different themes for the instrument cluster.

But try finding out how much fuel it averages for anything more than the last 50km – no can do amigo.

A row of buttons provides easy access to oft-used features such as volume, driving modes and the around-view camera which gets in the way sometimes.

The two centre cupholders will not accommodate sports drink bottles, nor will the cupholders in the front doors.

A small centre console box is provided as well as a storage tray below the console.

Rather inconveniently the phone charger is to be found somewhere down there too.

But, and it's a big but, a lot of space has been seconded to flashy Range Rover-esque glass climate control panel and the gloss black trim that runs the length of the centre – way too much.



With a largish 51-litre tank, fuel consumption, using standard 91 unleaded, is a claimed 5.4L/100km.

That's 27 per cent less than the equivalent non-hybrid model.

There are two drive modes, Eco and Sport. In Eco mode the petrol engine remains dormant most of the time.

In terms of the overall drive experience, the Tiggo presents two different personalities, just like the proverbial Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. It goes okay, or so we thought, until we encountered our first hill.

Even the ride quality is pretty good for an import, with adjustment for steering weight and some tyre squeal and tendency to oversteer when pushed hard through corners.

But point it at a long, steep hill such as the big one heading up the M1 north out of Sydney and it soon becomes apparent that things aren't quite right.

As the petrol engine cuts in, things become very noisy, very quickly – and you'd be forgiven for thinking the thing is going to blow up. My wife thought so.

Although CVT and one-speed dedicated hybrid transmissions are mechanically and fundamentally different, the seamless drive ratio transition is much the same – as the engine revs rise to keep pace with demands from the throttle.

This is what produces the escalating

cabin noise and zoom-like acceleration (or lack thereof).

The majority of time, however, the Tiggo is a pussycat, operating on electric power alone, and as such surprisingly quick and responsive off the line – thanks to the instant torque from the electric motor.

It stays this way up to 80km/h or so, depending on system load, delivering a very EV-like driving experience around town.

Hills however remain its weak point.

Then there's the incessant warnings and interventions from the driver assistance systems, especially the lane-centring function.

Even with everything we could find turned off, the steering wheel continued to tug this way and that soon became tiring.

And what about the requirement to clip your driver seatbelt before the car will move?

It's a good idea from a safety point of view, but damned annoying in practical terms, when you simply need to move the car aside to let someone out.

Or move to another bowser at the petrol station because the one you have pulled up at is out of order – the scenarios continue to crop up.

The boot offers a reasonable amount of space, but an odd bump in the floor hides the standard 12-volt battery.

Of note Urban gets a puncture repair kit while the higher priced Ultimate scores a space saver spare.

We clocked up 450km in our week with the Tiggo 4 Hybrid. We can tell you our average speed over this period was 50.2km/h which included motorways, suburban routes and country roads.

Alas the Tiggo would not disclose the average fuel used over this same distance, producing only a figure for the last 50km (not worth mentioning).

We did however have 390km of range remaining.

What about some transparency?

Summing up

Yeah, nah – it might be cheap, but it needs some refinement. The raucous powertrain and intrusive driver assistance systems spring to mind.

The non-hybrid Tiggo 4 is an award winner, but we can't see this one receiving any gongs until these problems are sorted out.



Diggers Rest's Dylan Stone. 550551_01



Gisborne Giants' Mitchell Bongiovanni. 550551_15



Diggers Rest's Joshua Wallace. 550551_26



Macedon's Nathan Bridgland and Woodend-Hesket's Austin Corbell. 550550_21

A wintry day for sport

There was a winter blast on Saturday making the sports ball wet and the kicking more difficult.

Star Weekly photographer Ljubica Vrankovic was out shooting some of the action.



The view from Tony Clarke Reserve. 550550_23



Darley listens on. 548526_15



Darley's Charlotte Hill. 548526_11



Woodend-Hesket's Alistair Rae goes up with Macedon's Jacob Gough and Jack Kernan. 550550_19



Bacchus Marsh's Amy Garafalo. 550547_02

Two scenarios on the cards

By Tara Murray

As relegation and promotion returns to the Western Football Netball League for next season, the league has two scenarios on the board, including two teams being relegated from the top flight.

After promoting three teams to the men's division 1 competition at the end of 2024, the league didn't have relegation or promotion last season as it settled the competition after a number of changes, including going from three divisions to two divisions.

The league in its 2027 senior competition structure (April) said there were two scenarios on the board for next season following its league board meeting in March.

The first scenario is if all current men's teams were to remain, the division 2 pre-

mier would be promoted next season while the bottom side of division 1 would be relegated.

"This approach ensures stability while continuing to reward on-field performance through promotion and relegation in the absence of external club movements," the league said.

It would mean that division 1 would remain a 12-team competition and division 2 a 10-team competition.

The league also has a scenario for if a club was to leave the league.

Star Weekly understands multiple clubs have previously considered leaving the league in recent history.

If one team was to leave, the division 2 premiership team would be promoted into division 1, while the bottom two teams of division 1 would be relegated to division

2, excluding any club that exits the league.

It would mean a 10-team division 1 competition and an 11-team division 2 competition.

"Various structural scenarios were presented to clubs and the board, considering the potential for club movement and the league's broader objective of returning to a ten-team division 1 competition as soon as practical," the league said in its competition structure update.

"At the club meeting, it was agreed that a ten-team division 1 would be the preferred model, as it provides the most balanced competition for all teams, with nine home and nine away matches, ensuring every team plays each other twice.

"The discussion then turned to steps to return to this model, while acknowledging potential club movements and the impli-

cations for the promotion and relegation system."

The league said it considered a number of factors to balance competitiveness, sustainability, and fairness across all divisions.

"These considerations ensure that any changes support the long-term stability of the League, provide equitable opportunities for clubs, and maintain the integrity of the competitions."

Western FNL chief executive David Jennings said longer term it would be ideal to have a competitive divisional structure that caters to every level of football in the west.

Final confirmation of the 2027 structure will be made once any potential external club movement is known, with the AFL Victoria transfer window closing 30 June..



Baak Pabek. (Ljubica Vrankovic_490086_23)

Gators need time to rebuild men's side

By Tara Murray

Altona Gators know that it will take some time in the Big V men's division 1 season.

The Gators have a new side under Andrea Berni, the Gators have one win out of their seven games.

Berni said while the results look tough, they were starting to get there.

"We're rebuilding from zero," he said. "We need time to rebuild."

"We've got a good program and coming through are junior players in the program.

"They are involved and seeing what is Big V division 1 and the type of league.

"They are seeing how they develop ideas and my philosophy on basketball in my senior program."

Berni said with having under-12, 14, 16 and 18 teams playing in high level competitions, they needed to ensure they had a strong program that they could move into down the track.

He said there is light at the end of the tunnel and they needed to harness that between then and now.

A key to that has been bringing junior players back to the club.

Tyson Burton and Jacob Formosa are two of those players that have returned this season.

"In previous years I had coached Tyson as a junior," he said. "When he came back, I was so happy."

"I was excited that he wanted to be back on court playing for me. Jacob had been in NBL1 and played across Australia and the world.

"I coached him in juniors as well."

Berni said their win against Shepparton on the road was the blueprint for how they wanted to play this season.

It's something that has been reinforced at training a number of times.

"We are trying to fight harder every game," he said.

"It was important for this group to get that win and at the moment the group has a positive mindset.

"It's a good environment that we have created and we will keep getting better."

The Gators faced the Bulleen Boomers

on Sundays

Berni said this was important game with the Boomers around them on the ladder and they need to win these matches if they are to stay up.

"Hopefully we play how we played against Shepparton.

It was a high first quarter with the Boomers leading 36-32 at quarter time.

The Boomers were able to break the game open with a 35-20 third quarter on the way to a 110-90 win.

Jacob Formosa again led from the front with a superb all-round performance, recording a double-double with 22 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and five steals.

Lyzel Mataika contributed 21 points, while Baak Pabek added 12 points.

In the women's division 1 competition, the Gators continued their good run with a 65-27 win against the Camberwell Dragons.

The Gators kept the Dragons to just 14 points combined for the first three quarters. Alicia Sciberras top scored with 16 points.

The Gators remain undefeated.

VAF A women's squad named

Two Williamstown CYMS and Westbourne Grammarians players have been named in the initial Victorian Amateur Football Association squad to face the Adelaide Football League on 6 June.

An initial squad of 48 players has been named.

Triple St Kevin's premier women's premiership coach Tom Purcell has taken the reins as senior Big V Women's coach this season.

Kath Dunne, Dan Hannebery, Marnee Silver, Eliza Straford and Jade Bennett round out the coaching team," Purcell said.

"With only a three-week turnaround from the commencement of the season, selection was a very challenging task," Purcell said.

"The club coaches have been massive with their regular feedback on their players to help us finalise the squad.

"We've selected a diverse squad with a mix of experience and new emerging talent. With the VFLW-VAF A aligned players' season yet to commence, this is a wonderful opportunity for players to wear the BIG V for the first time.

"The size of the squad is an indication of the enormous depth and talent there is in our women's competition. It's also exciting to see strong representation from the very competitive new premier A grade clubs, Old Brighton and Westbourne.

"You earn the right to wear the jumper, and you understand the jumper is made up of everyone who has played before you. I believe a jumper has a soul, and it is passed on to every player who puts it on. When you wear the Big V, you give your heart and soul. You can't give more than that.

"At the end of the experience, I want every member of this squad to have had fun, and in some small or big way become a better footballer and person from being a member of our 2026 Big V program."

Old Scotch, St Kevin's and Caulfield Grammarians lead the way with seven players in the squad.

For the CYs, Alexandra Woodhead and Krystal Russell have been named in the squad, while Grammarians' trio Grace Lamers, Kayla Koropecykj and Sarah Dickie have also been named.

Bright future for Roosters

By Tara Murray

West Footscray is still finding its feet in the Western Football League women's competition.

The Roosters have three wins after the first five rounds, with some strong performances among the wins.

Coach Shane Windridge said this season was different from past years.

"It's going good but it's still a little bit of an unknown with this competition this year," he said.

"A lot of teams have recruited strongly and are trying to find our feet and where we sit in the competition.

"It's hard to pick where we stand in the competition."

Windridge said they had a younger squad this season, so it was going to take some time for everyone to find their feet.

"The second time round we will be a bit more ready for the physical side of things," he said.

"We had a few injuries in our leadership group, a couple of knees.

"We've got a new leadership team and a bit of a different team.

"Most of our new players start from scratch."

Windridge said they had been able to get some former junior players back to the club after having to go elsewhere to finish their junior careers.

He said they had also picked up a few basketballers in recent weeks and with the big home ground of Skinner Reserve, the extra run was helpful.

Windridge said they had a lot of scope for improvement.

"Half the team has played less than four games and they don't know what they are



Kaila Ducret. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 550526_23

capable of," he said.

"They need to get to training and do the work and get some games under their belts.

"We're only scratching the surface of what they are capable of.

"The second half of the year I'm really excited for what they can do."

The Roosters faced Caroline Springs on

Saturday,

Windridge said they didn't know what to expect with the Lakers having a different team on the park each week.

It proved to be a big win for the Roosters, winning 21.15 (141)-1.2 (8).

Captain Emily Gillespie kicked five goals in the win, while Juri Graco-Ilves kicked four goals.

Graco-Ilves was named the best for the Roosters with Gillespie and Layla Dawkins.

The Roosters sit fourth on the ladder ahead a clash with third placed Wyndhamvale this Saturday.

In other matches, Laverton beat the Suns, 6.10 (46)03.2 (20).

North Footscray produced its highest score of the season in its loss to Parkside Spurs, losing 1.12 (84)-4.2 (26).

Elsewhere, Yarraville Seddon lost to Wyndhamvale, 12.7 (79)-3.8 (26).



Dean Simmons. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 410694_15

Magpies break their drought at Spotswood

By Tara Murray

It had been a long time between drinks for Parkside at Spotswood, but the Magpies were able to break the drought on Saturday.

After a disappointing performance the previous week in the Western Football League division 1 competition, it was more of the Magpies that we had come to see this year against Spotswood.

The Magpies had a good start and led by 20 points at quarter time before the margin was reduced to 10 points at half time.

The Magpies kicked five goals in each of the last two quarters to come away with an 18.13 (121)-12.4 (76) win.

Magpies co-coach Chris Muratore said that was the response they were after.

"The Sunshine game we weren't happy with that one," he said. "We had a good review of it.

"I don't think we'd beaten Spotswood at Spotswood for 20 years. It was nice to do that.

"They torched us there last year."

Muratore said they mentioned to the group that they didn't have a good record at Spotswood and with the club holding

some premiership reunions it was an even bigger day for the Woodsmen.

"It's a hard ground to play on if you don't play there often," he said. "There's a lot of history between the clubs and we've played against each other in a lot of A-grade grand finals.

"It was nice to get that one after the weekend that we've had."

Muratore said they started the game with good intent and the areas that weren't great in the week before they started strongly in.

It saw the Magpies have a 20 point lead at quarter time before the Woodsmen had a solid second quarter.

A late goal to the Magpies put the margin back to 10 points.

Muratore said they looked to make some changes in the middle of the ground at half time and that got them going.

"Number two [Jackson Williams] was their best mid," he said. "Bruno [Laguda] had a bit of an injury so we put Sam Dukic to negate him [Williams]," he said. "He was huge.

"Tiernan McCormack did the job on Harley Walshe. He didn't play against Sunshine, he went back to the reserves and

come back and played well on Walshe.

"Julian [Janev] role head-to-head with James Cleaver took him out of the game and got a lot of ball himself."

Muratore said Laguda had a sore hamstring so they didn't want to risk him around the ball.

He played out the game as the deepest forward, which opened up things for other players.

"He gets a good match up wherever he goes," he said.

"The best defender went to him and released TOM Condon and he kicked four goals in the second half, and kicked one himself."

The win has the Magpies sitting 3-2. Muratore said they could easily be 5-0.

"The start has been good, we've been more consistent," he said.

"We're in so many games but haven't always been able to take the big moments and get the job done.

"Sunshine we weren't great in the moments when it mattered most. It's an even competition and if you're five per cent off you lose."

The Magpies will face Altona this Saturday.

Sports shorts

Cricket

Footscray's Dylan Brasher has decided to stay in Victoria having signed another state contract. Despite interest from interstate, Brasher was named in the Victorian contracted players for next season. Brasher made his first-class and list-A debuts last season, having made nearly 1500 runs across the season.

Western FL

Altons coach Rodney Van Riet has committed to the club for a further two Western Football League seasons, extending through to the end of 2028. Van Riet joined the Vikings as coach this season. "Since arriving at the Vikings, Rodney has brought outstanding leadership, professionalism, and a strong football culture across the entire club," the Vikings said on social media. "As part of his commitment to the senior side, he has played a major role in creating pathways for our young talent, helping provide valuable senior opportunities for our under-18 players. We're excited to continue building together under Rocket's leadership."

NPL

It was a tough night out for Altona Magic in the National Premier League on Saturday. The Magic was away against Avondale and was quickly two goals down. John Mabok got one back for the Magic in the 35th minute before coach Goran Lozanovski was sent from the ground with a red card. Avondale scored three late goals to seal a 5-1 win. The Magic sit 12th on the ladder. In the Victorian Premier League 2 competition, Altona City beat the Eastern Lions, 2-0. Altona City sits 12th on the ladder with 12 points.

VAFA

Williamstown CYMS won a thriller against Beaumaris in the Victorian Amateur Football Association premier B competition on Saturday. The CYs trailed by 10 points heading into the final quarter before kicking four goals to one to seal a 12.10 (82)-11.9 (75) win. Ayden McCarroll kicked four goals for the CYs, while William Chan and William Bokma were named their best. After four rounds, the CYs sit second on the ladder with a 3-1 record.

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Falcons win western derby

By Tara Murray

It was an improved performance from the City West Falcons as they accounted for the Western Warriors in the Victorian Netball League on Wednesday.

The two western suburbs teams entered the match on the back of disappointing losses and keen to get their seasons back on track.

The Falcons led at every break and were able to extend the lead in every quarter on the way to a 77-61 win.

Falcons' coach Marg Lind was much happier than the previous week.

"I thought it was good," she said.

"Lara [Turner] injected a bit of defensive pressure into the group and slipping Achel [Yout] back on to Kim [Borger] and Sussu [Liai] out the front worked quite well.

"I thought we valued the ball way more in attack. Jane Cook's position was a lot stronger tonight and it gave us a good target.

"We certainly didn't make the errors that we had made the last couple of weeks.

"I thought it was a good team effort."

Cook shot 58 goals with just one miss for the night.

Lind said that Lani Fauonuku stepped up again in attack when she came on to the court.

She said their three youngsters, while still young, were showing some really good signs.

"She was feeding well and didn't really make errors, presented well on centre pass," Lind said of Fauonuku.

Lind said Turner should be playing in their 23 and under side, but had made it impossible not to pick her in the championship side.

"She is only 20," she said. "She has no experience but she gets better and better every week

"Once she gets her voice up a little bit she'll get even better.

"She turned the ball over heaps and was really valuable for us tonight [Wednesday]."

Georgia Berry got another chance in defence on Wednesday night with Lind said



Lara Turner had another strong game on Wednesday. (Tania Hardin)

they would look to give her more opportunities in the coming weeks as they look to have a bit more variety.

Kim Borger shot 30 goals for the Warriors,

with Ruby Shannon and Poppy Douglass having good games.

The Warriors now sit sixth on the ladder with a 4-4 record.

"Last week was a bad drop, at least this week was a win," Lind said.

"We have to keep going week by week and see if we can chip a few each together.

"We'll try and get our defensive efforts up, get a bit more turnovers which we did tonight [Wednesday]."

"We've been working hard at it, not happen in one week."

The Falcons 23 and under side is up to fourth on the ladder with it fourth straight win.

The Falcons beat the Warriors, 65-63.

Holly Adams-Alcock shot 40 goals for the Falcons.

"They were good," Lind said. "It took them awhile to get away. Credit to Warriors, they kept throwing things at us."

The Falcons face the Peninsula Waves this week in what Lind said would be another big test.



Mustafa Mesto. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 353178_04

Panthers are finally on the board in WFL

By Tara Murray

There's some relief for Newport as it's finally on the board in the Western Football League division 1 season.

The Panthers have been close but not close enough in the first four rounds, but on Saturday it was a different story against Point Cook Centrals.

Coach Ali Hamad said it was nice to finally get that four points.

"It was a relief to get that first win," he said. "We'd been in three of our four games before that and we were within 20 points in three games.

"It's a huge confidence booster for the rest of the season."

Hamad said during the week they had done their homework on the Sharks and what they had done well.

Like the Panthers, the Sharks were searching for their first win of the season.

"We did a bit more homework and in a lot of their games their first quarter is their best quarter.

"We set up the win with four first quarter goals and then eight goals in the sec-

ond quarter."

The Panthers led by 34 points at half time, leaving them in a different position from what they had been in this season.

After half time it was four goals each, with the Panthers winning, 16.8 (104)-9.3 (57).

Ali said they took a lot out of the game.

"There were things that we were able to learn about the players that we can take into other games in the future," he said.

"We're not that far away and we know we've been in games so far.

"We need to be a bit more polished with the footy and the fundamental things. We're able to narrow things down."

Hussein Kadour kicked nine goals in a best on ground performance for the Panthers.

Malek El-Hassan, Khaled Jawad and Harrison Minett were other standouts for the Panthers in the win.

Hamad said with a young side, with an average age of 21, that some inconsistency was to be expected.

He said it's about making every mo-

ment, in every match count.

Hamad said they wanted to make sure they get a few more wins on the board to ensure that they survive in division 1 beyond this season.

The tests continue this week, with the Panthers to face ladder leaders Werribee Districts this Saturday.

Hamad said that Werribee Districts was a club that they wanted to be like.

"We played them last year over there and we were underdone with injuries and suspensions," he said.

"We'll hopefully have a stronger team and we're playing at home."

In other matches, Parkside Spurs defeated Spotswood, 18.13 (121)-12.4 (76).

Deagan Madden and Tiernan McCormack were named the Magpies best in the win.

Yarraville Seddon also continued its good form as it accounted for Altona, 10.13 (73)-6.7 (43).

Leo Attersall and Isaac Kaddour were named the best for the Eagles, while Mitchell Van Den Berg was named the Vikings best.

WNL announces coaches

The Western Netball League will have co-coaches for the 2026 Netball Victoria Association Championships, to be held on June 14.

The new coaching group will lead some of the best netballers in the competition as they take on the state's top association talent.

Following their involvement in a triumphant Interleague victory in 2025, Sunshine coach Mon Poliko and Albanvale's Rhiannon Reti return to the program, but this time will join forces as co-head coaches.

Both were involved with helping coach Bec Hicks lead the side.

"Their proven leadership, experience, and success at representative level make them an outstanding pairing to guide the team in 2026," the league said.

Rounding out the leadership group is an exciting new addition, Hoppers Crossing coach Ephraim Ormsby who has joined the league in 2026 as the Warriors coach and will step into the role of specialist shooting coach, bringing fresh energy and valuable support to the program.

Complimenting these coaches long-time WNL figure, Altona's Samantha Pruscino, who returns for another year as team manager and all-round support.

"With a blend of championship experience, fresh faces, and trusted leadership these key pillars will oversee a highly competitive and driven group ready to represent the WFL with pride," the league said.

The league finished third in their pool last year with three wins, a draw and a loss across the two days, narrowly missing out on the finals, with the top two teams from each pool progressing through to finals.

This year will be the fifth time that the league has competed in the association championships.

The team will be announced in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, the WNL competition kicked off proper on Friday night with grading completed.

Eleven teams will play in the combined division 1 and 2 competition.

Caroline Springs and Glen Orden have two teams in the division, with Altona, Werribee Districts, Braybrook, Albanvale, Point Cook, Sunshine and Yarraville Seddon rounding out the division.

FOTTY TIPPING 2026

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YC yarravilleclub

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Rod Gaut	57
Chris Byrne	57
Gayle Williams	57
Leo Dardha	52

LW 9




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ROUND 10

THURSDAY, MAY 14
Brisbane **V** Geelong (G)

FRIDAY, MAY 15
Sydney **V** Collingwood (SCG)
Gold Coast **V** Port Adelaide (TIO)

SATURDAY, MAY 16
Adelaide **V** North Melbourne (AO)
Melbourne **V** Hawthorn (MCG)
Carlton **V** Western Bulldogs (MRVL)

SUNDAY, MAY 17
Essendon **V** Fremantle (MCG)
St Kilda **V** Richmond (MRVL)
West Coast **V** GWS (OS)

*Correct at time of publishing

GROUNDS KEY: (AO) Adelaide Oval, (AS) Accor Stadium, (BA) Blundstone Arena, (G) Gabba, (GS) Giants Stadium, (M) Mars Stadium, (MRVL) Marvel Stadium, (MCG) Melbourne Cricket Ground, (MS) Metricon Stadium, (SCG) Sydney Cricket Ground, (OS) Optus Oval, (T) TIO Stadium, (UTS) University Of Tasmania Stadium.

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