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Karen Spaull and Gisborne Golf Club general manager Brett Campbell.
(Damjan Janevski)
584822 03

Long day for a worthy cause

Gisborne's Karen Spaull is joining the Cancer Council's Longest Day challenge.

With the cause close to her heart, Ms Spaull will take on the golfing challenge of 36 holes in a single day alongside her fellow golfers at Gisborne Golf Club on 9 November.

"I was diagnosed in 2022 with non-smoking lung cancer, and it was very aggressive," she said.

Ms Spaull started chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy to treat the cancer.

Six months in, she said, she was responding really well to the treatment, and she hasn't looked back.

"I'm on an ongoing treatment plan for the rest of my life, which keeps me alive," she said.

The other thing that kept her going was playing golf.

"I didn't think I would be able to play golf and I'd only just started when I was diagnosed," she said.

"I play nine holes every couple of weeks with the ladies on a Monday morning ... so the 36 holes is going to be a huge challenge for me because although I do look amazing for someone who has cancer, I do get very tired."

She said her team and others will fundraise on the day.

Bulla burial dispute

By Georgia Tacey

A proposed Bulla cemetery featuring 11,594 burial plots will be decided by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT), after the applicant appealed Hume council's failure to determine the application.

Council was due to vote on the proposal for 120 Sunbury Road at its 26 October meeting, but the applicant lodged a failure to determine appeal before councillors could vote.

The cemetery would be Bulla's second, located near the existing Bulla Cemetery on Cemetery Lane, with access via Uniting Lane. Plans include two memorial gazebos and 32 car parking spaces.

The applicant, Ambit Capital Partners, expects three to four funeral services each week, with between 10 and 100 attendees per service. The site is also expected to attract between five and 20 general visitors daily.

Sixteen objectors raised concerns about traffic and parking, cemetery capacity, the site's suitability within the green wedge zone, drainage and flooding, visual impacts, cemetery governance and impact on adjoining venues.

While council officers recommended approving the permit, Cr Kate Hamley moved a motion stating that, if council remained the responsible authority, it would have refused the application noting the concerns of objectors.

"In this case, there's been quite a number of concerns and I sincerely thank our community members for coming in and putting their comments and submissions because I also share a lot of similar concerns," Cr Hamley told the chamber.

"These are of course about the fencing and setbacks from Sunbury Road. There's concerns about the intersection of Uniting Lane onto Sunbury Road and the potential that big services and activities could have.

"At a later point in time, there would have to be upgrades to that intersection to keep it safe and then who is responsible for that and when would it happen and are we putting people at risk in the meantime?"

Cr Karen Sherry acknowledged the need for more cemetery space but questioned the proposed location.

"I believe the conflicting land uses are going to create congestion at this site in the green wedge," she said.

Cr Sherry also pointed to aircraft noise, a nearby dog boarding facility, a busy events and reception business, and what she described as an inadequate road and intersection.

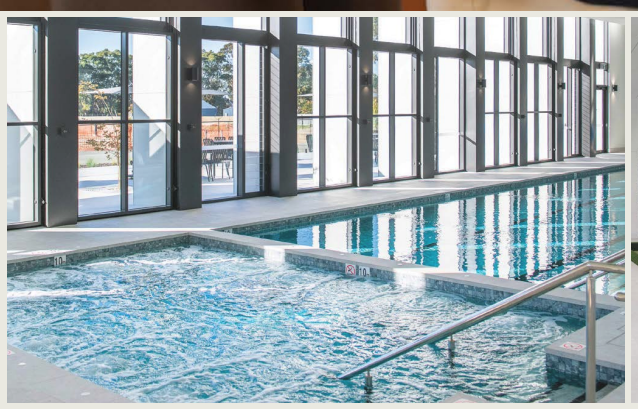
While council is no longer the authority, it will present its position to VCAT.

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Battery concerns backed

By Georgia Tacey

Macedon Ranges council has backed residents' concerns over a proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Macedon.

During the 28 October council meeting, councillor Alison Joseph successfully moved a notice of motion to note council's advocacy on the proposed BESS, as well as write to the planning minister to harden their stance.

The proposal, which the planning minister is currently assessing and accepting submissions on, is for a 100 MW four-hour battery energy storage system that developer South Energy said would enhance the grid stability by providing a bi-directional energy function, helping to smooth out fluctuations and allowing an increased supply of cost-effective clean renewable energy.

The proposal has resulted in backlash from the Macedon community, with residents and the Mount Macedon and Macedon Business and Tourism Association voicing bushfire risk concerns.

In Cr Joseph's motion, she confirmed council has previously lodged a submission to the proposed BESS, raising concerns and seeking further information.

Now, she wants council to write to the planning minister to advise that further clarification and assessment be undertaken on the proposal, based on council's concerns.

These concerns included particular consideration be given to the bushfire risk and emergency management matters associated with the proposed development, including the potential for battery failures, thermal runaway events, electrical faults, or associated infrastructure failures to ignite a bushfire, the risks associated with a bushfire impacting the facility and the effect this may have on public safety, and the adequacy of the proposed emergency response procedures.

Cr Joseph said there was obvious concern about the proposal in the Macedon community.

"I recently attended a community meeting where concerns about this development were raised," she said.

"Macedon was heavily impacted by the Ash Wednesday fires and anything that could increase the fire risk is of obvious concern to the community.

"There have been a number of fires associated with BESS facilities both here and overseas, and these facilities can also be impacted by fire which can lead to thermal runaway."

All present councillors unanimously supported the motion, with two on leave and two apologies for the evening.



Northern Victoria MP Georgie Purcell.

Local MP shortlisted for rising star award

Northern Victoria MP Georgie Purcell has been shortlisted for the Rising Star award at the 2026 marie claire Women of the Year Awards.

The Kyneton-based MP has been recognised for her conviction in public life, commitment to challenging conventions and advocacy for a more inclusive future.

Now in their fifth year, these awards recognise extraordinary Australian women whose achievements, leadership, creativity and courage shape culture and change lives.

This year's awards recognise women across nine categories and include nominations for superstars such as Nicole Kidman, Kylie Minogue, Ash Barty and Magda Szubanski. Other nominees include Selina Miles, Teresa Palmer, Sherele Moody and Nagi Maehashi.

Federal politicians Allegra Spender and Zali Steggall and Anika Wells were also nominated.

Ms Purcell said she was incredibly honoured to be considered alongside an impressive shortlist of Australian women.

"As this week has tragically shown us, public life can be really challenging, but I believe it's so important to speak up, challenge the status quo and stand up for the people and issues that matter," she said.

"I hope that by vowing to do politics differently while also being unapologetically myself that I can help show young women that there is a place for them in politics and that they don't have to fit a particular mould to make a difference.

"I thank marie claire for this unexpected recognition. It's a privilege to be recognised alongside some of the most inspiring women across the nation who are making their mark in their respective fields."

The winners will be announced in Sydney on 19 November.

Support for veterans

Veteran groups across the Macedon electorate have benefited from the latest round of state government funding.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas and Veterans Minister Natalie Suleyman announced this year's recipients of the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund and the Victoria Remembers grants program, with both programs helping to provide vital support to veterans and their families.

The Anzac Day Proceeds Fund will provide grants of up to $150,000 to 15 ex-service organisations across the state to help veterans stay connected and healthy.

This funding round, Gisborne RSL Subbranch has received $15,000 to go towards Gisborne RSL Members Welfare functions.

Macedon Ranges Group of Bendigo Legacy has received $6946 for wellbeing events for aging Legacy Widows.

Path of the Horse in Trentham has also received $149,828 for equine therapy to help veterans affected by mental health and isolation.

Through Victoria Remembers, 24 organisations will receive up to $30,000 to support commemorative events, new memorials and education projects.

One organisation from the Macedon electorate received funding through this stream.

The Mount Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service has received $29,770 for its Anzac Day Dawn Service in 2027.

Ms Suleyman recognised the services awarded.

"We've backed these programs for more than a decade, and a Labor government will always support veterans and their families into the future," she said.

"Every grant creates opportunities for veterans and their families to come together, build connections and access the support they need close to home."

Watch out for floods this summer warns State Emergency Service

The State Emergency Service (VICSES) is urging Macedon Ranges communities to be more cautious throughout the spring and summer months, following an increase of flood-related incidents.

Going into Victoria's higher risk weather season, VICSES is asking residents to stay safe as the likelihood of damaging storms and flash flood conditions increases across the state.

This warning follows a spike in flood-related rescues across the area throughout 2025-26.

Across Victoria VICSES volunteers were called to 167 flood rescues and more than 70 were responded to by the Gisborne unit.

This marked the unit's third-busiest year of flood-related incidents, with many involving inland water rescues to retrieve motorists trapped in rapidly deepening flash or riverine floodwater in adverse weather conditions.

"VICSES Gisborne unit volunteers do an incredible job in the community 365 days a year responding to all kinds of emergencies, but we rely on the community to make our lives easier by making good decisions when conditions aren't their best," Gisborne unit controller Ross Evans said.

Volunteers needed to rely heavily on their specialist boat and land-based water rescue skills while working alongside partner agencies such as Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria to save lives in the community. Already in 2026-27, volunteers already responded to almost 100 flood rescues statewide.

The VICSES Gisborne unit volunteers are now calling on community members to drive to the conditions, find alternative routes and heed warnings this storm season to limit their chances of requiring a high-risk emergency response.

"It only takes 15cm of flowing water to potentially float a small car and create a dangerous situation for both the motorists and the volunteers charged with rescuing them," Mr Evans said.

Severe storms can often bring strong winds and heavy rainfall as the weather heats up which can result in fallen trees, damaged powerlines and other hazards. Residents are urged to avoid driving in heavily treed areas during a storm and pull over on high ground if conditions are dangerous to avoid flood impacts, which are more likely in low-lying areas.

"By never entering floodwater, community members can go a long way to keeping themselves, their families and their local volunteers safe [during] this higher risk weather season," he said.

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Call for dumping crackdown

Hume council has welcomed the increased focus on illegal dumping across Victoria, but says enforcement must be backed by stronger deterrents, greater investment and clearer accountability.

The state government recently announced the Illegal Waste Dumping Taskforce will now target Hume alongside three other councils, including the use of drones, long-range cameras and additional officers to target illegal dumping hotspots.

One Nation also proposed increased fines for illegal dumping and harsher penalties for repeat offenders as part of its state election bid.

Council said it welcomes these developments but says they must lead to sustained action that reflects the scale of the problem in communities such as Hume.

Council has made tackling illegal dumping a key advocacy priority and is calling for stronger penalties that provide a genuine deterrent to offenders; greater enforcement powers and resources to identify and prosecute those responsible; increased state government investment to help councils meet the substantial cost of cleaning up illegally dumped waste; clearer accountability and better coordination between councils, government agencies and other land managers; and faster removal of dumped waste from state-managed land.

"Hume ratepayers are footing an almost $5 million bill every year because people choose to dump their waste illegally. That is money our community should not have to spend cleaning up after offenders.

"We need tougher consequences, more support to catch and prosecute offenders, and greater investment to deal with the enormous clean-up burden," mayor Carly Moore said.

Council believes the current approach leaves councils and ratepayers carrying too much of the financial and operational burden, with stronger enforcement needing to be matched by investment in prevention, investigation, prosecution and clean-up.

Greater accountability is also needed when dumping occurs on land managed by the state government or its agencies, council said, and that residents should not be left living alongside dumped rubbish while responsibility for removing it is determined.

"Regardless of who manages the land, our residents deserve to have dumped rubbish removed quickly. They should not be caught in the middle while responsibility is worked out," Cr Moore said.

"This is a welcome step, but enforcement alone will not solve the problem. Hume will keep pushing for the sustained action and investment needed to deliver a real difference on the ground."

The race that stops the Macedon Ranges

Grab your fanciest hats and nicest shoes as the Kyneton Cup is back on Wednesday 4 November.

Come on down to the racecourse from 11am and experience one of the most anticipated days on the racing calendar.

Make sure to be there when gates open so you don't miss a minute of the action, with the first races starting at 12.45pm.

Fashion lovers can't miss the Fashion on the Fields judging, which will be held at 1.30pm.

Outside of the fashion and races, there will be plenty to see and do throughout the day, including DJ Retro who will be bringing the tunes on the public lawn starting from 1pm and for the kids, there will be fun activities including a LEGO activation.

Tickets are available now online, with general admission starting from $25 per person. Marquees start from $155 per person.

Community members are also able to walk up on the day and purchase a ticket at the gates.

Don't want to drive? There will also be a bus shuttle for racegoers to get to and from the cup.

The bus shuttle will pick you up from the Kyneton Station, via the Kyneton Post Office on Mollison Street from 10.45am, 11.30am, noon, 12.30pm, 1pm and 1.30pm.

The end of day shuttle will then pick up from the racecourse 5pm, 5.30pm and 6pm.

Details: https://country.racing.com/kyneton-hanging-rock/calendar/kyneton-cup#event-info



Kyneton Cup Local Lady Of The Day winner in 2025 Natalie Waters. (Damjan Janevski).

Sunbury Liberal candidate caught endorsing One Nation

Opposition leader Jess Wilson has confirmed her support for Sunbury Liberal candidate Simmone Cottom following reports of the candidate telling people to vote for One Nation.

Ms Cottom was caught on tape encouraging voters in Sunbury to preference One Nation in the upper house at the upcoming state election, with a recording shared online by Labor.

"I am encouraging people to change the government. In the lower house, vote Liberals, in the upper house, vote One Nation," Ms Cottom said in the recording.

In the recording, a resident then asked Ms Cottom to confirm if she was advocating for One Nation, which she reaffirmed to vote for Liberals in the lower house.

"... and if you really want One Nation, give them a go in the upper house," Ms Cottom said.

Following the audio coming to light, Ms Wilson addressed the situation while at a press conference on Sunday 25 October, where reporters asked her if she still supported the Sunbury candidate.

"Well, Simmone said that she made a mistake. Mistakes happen in campaigns. She's apologised," she said.

Ms Wilson said she had not spoken to Ms Cottom directly about the comments, but the campaign has.

In a statement, Ms Cottom said she regretted her comments.

"I shouldn't have said it. It's not our position," Ms Cottom said.

"We want Victorians voting Liberal and Nationals in both houses."

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Bush kinder coming to Ranges' kindergartens

Kindergartens across the Macedon Ranges have benefited from the latest round of bush kinder grants.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas has announced the local kindergartens who are among the 150 kindergartens across Victoria to receive a bush kinder grant, supported by $900,000 in government funding.

Goodstart Early Learning Riddells Creek and Woodend, as well as Romsey Early Learning are among 88 kindergartens starting a new bush kinder program with a one-off $6000 grant.

Ms Thomas welcomed the local funding.

"We're supporting local kindergartens in Macedon each year to start bush kinder programs, providing more children with opportunities to get outdoors and learn in a natural environment," she said.

"Bush kinder programs are not just fun and educational, they also help to keep kids active and connect them with nature – boosting their health, wellbeing and development."

The remaining 62 kindergartens will use their funding to enhance existing nature-based programs, including Daylesford Community Child Care.

Bush kinder takes learning beyond the classroom and into parks, bushland and beaches. Children climb, explore and discover the natural world – building confidence, curiosity and a love of the outdoors.

The grants help kindergartens buy the equipment they need to run guided activities and nature play.

Planning scheme review delay

Macedon Ranges council will not have its planning scheme review ready until 2027.

Councillors at the 28 October council meeting endorsed the request to the planning minister for a time extension to complete its Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme review until 31 March, 2027.

During the meeting, Planning and environment director Rebecca Stockfield said staff had nearly completed the review, but had received late community submissions that required further analysis and discussion before the planning scheme could be finalised.

Under the Planning and Environment Act 1987, council must undertake a planning scheme review within 12 months from the adoption of a council plan.

Council undertook community consultation in August and September to identify the community's sentiment with the current planning scheme.

Council said from the consultation, it had received a total of 93 survey responses and 23 written submissions.

Several written submissions were recently received, and some were highly detailed, officers said, and to adequately consider these submissions has required more time than expected.

Cr Jennifer Anderson said due to the complex nature of the planning scheme, a time extension was needed.

"There's been a lot of changes in the last 12 months, but also in the last four years and in the time since we did our last planning scheme review," she said.

"It is quite difficult to analyse where we're at, how does it fit with what the state has changed, how does it align with our new council plan and what our community has said is important to them in the shire.

"When we get submissions, we take all submissions seriously and we've taken them on board and so I think for staff to say it's important that these late submissions need to be thoroughly considered and that councils need to be aware of it is really important."

Cr Anderson said it was also important to have the extra time to reflect the community's sentiment and the state government's changes.

"So I think it's really important that we get this planning scheme review right and it does reflect what the needs are for the Macedon Ranges whilst ensuring it does comply with the state government planning framework," she said.

The last planning scheme review was undertaken in 2019.



Artist Yvonne O'Connell. (Damjan Janevski). 586587 02

Artists open their doors to the public

Artists across Macedon and Mount Macedon are opening their studio doors for one weekend only.

Open Studios Macedon will invite the public into the studios of some of the Macedon Ranges talented artists, with Marian Alexopulos, Yvonne O'Connell, Craig Lidgerwood, Madeleine Bethel, Colleen Weste, Sue Anson, Pen Pender, Wendy Straw all taking part.

These studios are all set within a short drive of each other in either leafy Macedon or Mount Macedon, and will feature artists at work who will demonstrate and discuss how they approach their art in their home studio setting.

Each will have original works on display and for sale.

O'Connell, who is one of the exhibiting artists, said this event will give the community a chance to see their process.

"I'm one of eight artists who work regularly in our studios," she said.

"We've got painters, botanical illustrators, a textiles artist who works on silk, a print maker, a botanical dyer, and a children's book illustrator.

"It's a lovely opportunity for people to come and see what we do, purchase small gifts if they want to, and ask questions and find out how we go about making our artwork because we're all very different."

O'Connell said people can wander through each studio, and it will make for a nice weekend out, giving people an opportunity to explore more about what the Macedon Ranges has to offer.

Open Studios will take place on the weekend of 7 and 8 November, with the event free to attend.

Details: instagram.com/openstudios-macedon/

Boost for Ranges' first responders

Emergency services across the Macedon Ranges have benefitted from the latest funding boost.

The state government has announced more than $31 million will be shared across 350 projects for the CFA, VICSES, Life Saving Victoria and Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue, including in the Macedon Ranges.

The latest funding round delivers almost $20 million for vehicles, more than $5 million for facility upgrades and more than $1 million for other operational equipment, and includes delivering new trucks, boats and facility upgrades for volunteers.

Three bridges in the Macedon Ranges have benefitted from a Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program grant.

Bolinda and Monegeetta Brigade and Carlsruhe Brigade were both awarded $338,667 for light tankers, and the Macedon Brigade was awarded $166,667 for a station extension as well as a breathing apparatus compressor.

SES Woodend was also a recipient of the VICSES Grants, and was awarded $115,446 for a replacement Ford Ranger XLT 4x4 crew cab.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas congratulated the emergency services for the funding boost.

"I'm proud to back our amazing local volunteers with VESEP and VICSES grants to keep doing their vital work to keep our community safe," she said.

Have your say on Hume's civic emblem

Hume council is exploring the creation of an official civic emblem, with the community invited to help shape its design.

The emblem will reflect the history and identity of the city of Hume and its first peoples, with council inviting feedback from the community about what they would like to see included in the design.

Council said the project follows a council resolution made last year as part of Hume's 30th anniversary celebrations.

Councillor Naim Kurt, who originally submitted the notice of motion last year, told the chamber at the time that the creation of a crest, coat of arms or civic emblem would be a great opportunity to reflect on the past, and potentially tie in the original City of Broadmeadows Crest and the Shire of Bulla Crest.

In June this year, councillors resolved to set up a civic emblem subcommittee, with six councillors and nine community members selected through an expression of interest process.

The subcommittee's role is to explore what a civic emblem for Hume City could represent, and to provide council with recommendations on how it might be designed and used.

Council said it is an opportunity for people across Hume to contribute to an emblem that celebrates our history, culture, diversity and strong sense of community.

The civic emblem will not replace Hume's logo, and instead the civic emblem may be used for ceremonial purposes, and represent community pride.

Feedback will close on 15 November. Details: participate.hume.vic.gov.au/civic-emblem



Sporting grants help clubs

Sporting clubs across the Macedon Ranges have benefitted from the latest rounds of state government funding.

Fifteen clubs from across the Macedon Ranges have received grants from the Sporting Club Grants Program or the TAC Club Rewards Program.

Nine groups across the Macedon Ranges benefitted from the sporting club grants, which supports clubs to create more opportunities for players, coaches, volunteers and officials to get

involved in the activities they love.

Macedon Pony Club received $1000 for uniforms for its current members and $2500 for their show jumping event; Macedon Woodend Scout Group received $1000 for its Scouts in motion project; Riddells Creek Volleyball Association received $1000 for volleyball equipment; 1st Riddells Creek Scout Group received $1000 for group polo shirt uniforms; Central Highlands Orienteering Club received $1000 for a new defibrillator; Romsey Bowling Club received $1000 for new uniform shirts; Romsey Lancefield Basketball Club received $945 for uniforms for its volunteers; South Gisborne Tennis Club received $2500 to support its fitness-physical activity initiatives; and Gisborne Cricket Club received $1500 to support its governance and engagement initiatives.

Meanwhile, six clubs in the Macedon Ranges were awarded the TAC Club Rewards Program, which recognises efforts to encourage safer driving among players, volunteers, members and supporters.

Romsey Junior Football Netball Club received $5500; Kyneton Football Netball Club received $4750; Woodend Hesket Football Netball Club received $2500; Gisborne Football Netball Club received $750; Lancefield Junior Football Netball Club received $750; and Riddells Creek Junior Football Netball Club received $750.

The money awarded will go back into the club to fund equipment, facilities and community programs.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas said she looked forward to seeing a new generation of local champions get their chance to play, volunteer, even coach, and take their performance to a whole new level.

"These grants recognise the great work our sporting clubs are doing to promote road safety, with funds supporting key club upgrades and programs," she said of the TAC grants.



National Survivors' Day organiser Tracie M Oldham. (Damjan Janevski) 584833 03

Sunbury pauses to remember survivors

The Sunbury community turned out to support National Survivors' Day.

Tracie M. Oldham from Just4Causes hosted the second annual National Survivors' Day event on Wednesday 28 October at the Sunbury Library, and she said the turnout and support had grown.

On the day, attendees heard from Ms Oldham as well as National Survivors' Foundation chief executive and co-founder of National Survivors' Day Clare Leaney, National Survivors' Day ambassador and recent Victorian Honour Roll inductee Nicole Meyer, Sunbury local Paul Levey who shared his personal experiences of surviving abuse by a paedophile priest, former Catholic priest and whistleblower Phil O'Donnell, and founder of #JustBeingMeStopAbuse Denise Galea.

"It was overwhelming the amount of praise I've had. I had double the amount of people [show up] and some pretty notable people there," Ms Oldham said.

"Moira Deeming showed up, the deputy mayor from Melton, Phillip Zada, Josh Bull, Natalie Harrison, Simmone Cottom, Carly Moore, so it was nice to have that representation."

Ms Oldham said members from the Sunbury Men's Survivor Group also turned out, and said they enjoyed the event.

"Phil O'Donnell went over brilliant, the whistleblower ex-priest, he was a wealth of information because obviously he was the pioneer of all the royal commissions," Ms Oldham said. "He got the ball rolling, and he did a questionnaire with the people, so they were really interacting with him, which was great."

Ms Oldham plans to bring the event back to Sunbury next year.

New management for Sunbury Cemetery

Sunbury Cemetery has new management.

Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV) has officially been appointed to manage the cemetery following authorisation by Health Minister Ingrid Stitt and approval by the Governor on 22 October.

The decision formalises a trusted partnership spanning more than six years. RPCV has managed the cemetery's operations and administration under a service agreement with the Sunbury Cemetery Trust, which unanimously supported the transfer of management to RPCV in April 2026.

RPCV chief executive Lauretta Stace said the appointment would provide continuity for families while creating new opportunities for the cemetery's future.

"Sunbury Cemetery holds deep meaning for local families, and it is a privilege to be entrusted with its care," Ms Stace said.

"We will honour the cemetery's history while building on the strong foundations already in place—providing high-quality burial and memorialisation services with care, dignity and respect, and ensuring the cemetery continues to serve the community for generations to come."

RPCV will mark the new chapter with a community open day at Sunbury Cemetery on Thursday 5 November.

On the day, residents are invited to meet the RPCV team, hear about future plans for the cemetery and learn more about the burial and memorialisation services available.



Read Together, Grow Together sessions

Families with young children are invited to attend a series of free sessions designed to support early language, communication and literacy development.

Organised by Omnia Community Health's speech therapy team, Read Together, Grow Together will provide parents and carers with practical tips to help children develop the foundations for literacy, learning and school success.

The fun sessions will focus on the important role shared reading plays in building vocabulary, communication skills and early literacy.

Families will learn how to engage children in story time at home, turning these interactions into learning opportunities, building a positive relationship with books from an early age.

Parents will gain insight into how children develop language in their early years and discover simple, evidence-based approaches they can use at home to support their child's growth and confidence.

Read Together, Grow Together will be held at the Sunbury Library on Tuesday 10 November from 11am to 12pm; the Kyneton Library on Tuesday 17 November from 11am to 12pm; the Woodend Library on Tuesday 17 November from 11.30am to 12.30pm; and the Gisborne Library on Wednesday 18 November from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Sessions are free to attend, and children are welcome to come along with their parent or carer.

Registrations are needed for the Sunbury Library session, with no bookings required for Kyneton, Woodend and Gisborne.

Details: omniacommunityhealth.org.au/read-together-grow-together

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1290317-CV45-26

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MMP Star

Published by MMP Star Pty Ltd ACN 168 220 399
Head Office Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042
Publisher/Managing Director, Paul Thomas
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Volunteers with Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre helped clean up Gisborne. (Georgia Tacey).

Helping keep Gisborne clean

Gisborne residents have done their part to keep their town in tip top shape.

Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre organised a Clean Up Gisborne event in conjunction with the Clean Up Australia's Spring Clean initiative on Wednesday 28 October.

Manager Pauline Fyffe said they had nine volunteers and three team members participating to clean up along a section of Jacksons creek and around the recreation reserve and local streets of Gisborne.

"A number of participants had noticed that the area around Gisborne was kind of quite dirty and messy, so we engaged with Clean Up Australia with the Spring Clean program and then just put it out to the community to see who would be interested in helping us do a clean up of Gisborne," Ms Fyffe said.

"We had nine volunteers come along for the day, which was amazing.

"We managed to clean up a lot of rubbish around the reserve, the football ground, the skate park, and around the main streets.

"We collected 15 bags of rubbish and six bags of recyclables, and then had a little lunch afterwards to give ourselves some sustenance after a big day out."

Ms Fyffe said she was thrilled by the support they had received.

"[We had] people who don't normally attend the house as well, who'd seen our flyers, that really wanted to get involved just to beautify the area," she said.

"It's all about trying to be sustainable and keep our area clean.

"When people see rubbish, they're happier to leave their rubbish but when everything's clean and tidy, people are happier to take their rubbish with them."

Briefs

Copper theft

Police are investigating a theft from a cemetery in Bulla, believed to have occurred between 15 August and 11 September. Investigators have been told the offenders forcibly removed a large copper angel statue before leaving the scene. There is no CCTV available to assist with inquiries. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers.

Snake safety

Hume council is encouraging snake safety this spring. As temperatures rise in spring, snakes become more active, often spotted in parks, reserves, creeks, and wetlands, hunting for prey like small mammals, birds, frogs, and lizards. Snakes play a crucial role in our ecosystem — they are a natural pest controller of rodents and also serve as a food source for birds of prey like kookaburras. If you spot a snake, stay calm and stand still, do not approach or attempt to catch the snake, move away slowly, and keep children and pets away. Leave the snake alone and don't block any escape routes to allow the snake to move to a safe hiding place. Protected under Victoria's Wildlife Act, it is illegal to interfere with, harm, or kill snakes. If you spot a snake on council maintained land, contact council on 9205 2200.

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Regional migration reaches equal-record June quarter high as Northern Queensland emerges as a growth hotspot

Regional migration reaches equal-record June quarter high as Northern Queensland emerges as a growth hotspot.

The latest Regional Movers Index reveals a northerly trend as Queensland's Burdekin, Tablelands and Douglas regions attract some of nation's strongest growth in net internal Migration.

Australians are continuing to embrace regional living, with the latest Regional Movers Index (RMI) showing capital-to-regional migration reached its equal-highest June quarter on record, matching levels last seen in 2021.

The RMI is a partnership between the Commonwealth Bank (CBA) and Regional Australia Institute (RAI), and tracks population movements between Australia's capital cities to regions, and region-to-region migration. The latest results show capital city residents moving to regional.

Australia continued to outnumber those moving in the opposite direction by 30%.

While established destinations continued to attract the largest share of movers, this quarter also points to a broader spread of migration into more regional communities as the benefits of regional living draw people further afield. Northern Queensland was particularly prominent, with the LGAs of Burdekin, Tablelands and Douglas among the nation's fastest growing destinations.

RAI CEO Liz Ritchie says movement typically eases during the June quarter as fewer Australians tend to relocate in the cooler months, which makes this result particularly noteworthy.

"The Regional Movers Index recorded its equal highest June quarter on record, matching the height of migration reached during the pandemic in 2021. This tells us the appeal of country living remains incredibly strong all year round, even outside the traditional peak moving periods," Ritchie said.

CBA Regional and Agribusiness Banking Executive General Manager Kylie Allen says Northern Queensland's growth comes alongside broad industry investment helping generate diverse local economies. Burdekin is supported by agriculture, manufacturing and renewable energy, while the Tablelands is strong in both agribusiness and tourism benefiting from its proximity to Cairns. Douglas is backed by a vibrant tourism economy and continued investment in local Infrastructure.

"Across Northern Queensland, local investment is helping regions capitalise on their distinct strengths and drive broader economic growth. When local businesses invest and expand, the benefits flow through the wider economy, creating jobs, attracting skilled workers and strengthening the services and supply chains that help regional communities thrive," Allen said.

Not to be outdone by the Sunshine State, Central Goldfields in Victoria took out the number one spot for the fastest growing destination in the country.

"As more Australians embrace regional living, sustained migration is







strengthening local economies while underscoring the need for services and infrastructure that keeps pace with growing communities," Allen said.

Find out more at CommBank Newsroom

12909190-J045-26

A boy's best friend

By Nykita Van Den Berg

Sunbury mum Jessica Gusew and her son, Malachi are fundraising through Smart Pups Assistance Dogs after the loss of "his best friend" and assistance dog Millie.

The family got Millie in 2022 after fundraising $20,000 to help support Malachi, 16, with his brittle asthma and autism. However, she died after battling with aggressive bone cancer on 21 October.

"She's just been an amazing support for Malachi," Ms Gusew said.

Along with Malachi's brittle asthma and autism he struggles with ADHD and a rare genetic condition, 2q13 chromosome deletion. He also has a severe language disorder and learning difficulties that make it hard for him to communicate his needs, navigate unfamiliar situations, manage anxiety and develop independence.

Millie would assist him, accompanying him to the hospital and appointments and becoming his companion throughout life while also giving him more confidence.

"He was terrified to go to the hospital without her," Ms Gusew said.

"She was just a very calm presence. Just very loving [and] very affectionate. Even going out in public everyone would just give her a smile. We would see other little kids struggling and she would give them high fives."

Since losing Millie the family has been left with "an enormous hole" as Malachi didn't only lose his best friend but his assistance dog that "he relied upon for everyday support".



Malachi, 16, and his best friend and assistance dog, Millie. (Supplied)

"He has been struggling to sleep as she would lie with him at bedtime, across his bed," Ms Gusew said.

They had a routine where the duo would "have a carrot together" before bed as Malachi knew that was a treat Millie loved which "made the bedtime routine easier".

The need for an assistance dog became apparent to the family as Malachi would have asthma attacks during the night and they needed some way of being alerted. Millie was trained to not only alert when he was having an attack but she was also trained to retrieve his medication.

The family is now fundraising $25,000 through the charity organisation Smart Pups Assistance Dogs to help train and place a new assistance dog.

Ms Gusew said this was the "obvious next step" as she saw the impact and difference Millie made and since losing her Malachi says "he doesn't want to go places".



Malachi's assistance dog Millie (supplied)

"[She] gave him a way to interact with people [and was] a starting point for conversation," she said.

"She was amazing."

An assistance dog costs the organisation up to $50,000 to train and place with a child in need and the funds raised through the family's campaign will assist the Smart Pups training program.

Details: https://smartpups-fundraise.raiselysite.com/malachi-102026

Funding flows to artists, creatives

Macedon artists and creative workers are now receiving new grants, with more than $2.9 million provided by the state government.

Through the Creative Projects Fund, 117 projects across music, design, arts and performances are receiving backing.

The fund's aim is to help creatives and small organisations develop new works, reach new audiences and bring innovative projects to life.

"Artists and creatives are the heart of our creative industries and with a record number of regional and outer metropolitan recipients, we're backing them right across our creative state," Creative Industries Minister Vicki Ward said.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas said the funding will support "local jobs and businesses, creating benefits that flow through the regional economy", with the latest round of funding supporting more than 2000 jobs for Victorian artists and creative workers.

With a record 43 per cent of recipients being based in regional and outer metropolitan Victoria funded projects across Macedon include PoPo's Bao for Chinese New Year, Mountain Writers Festival 2026, GANBINAN! (Rising in Yorta Yorta), Sound & Water, Writing for Recovery and Hysterical Legacies.

"This funding turns great ideas into live performances, festivals and exhibitions for Victorian audiences," Ms Thomas said.

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A family legacy

Fred Ackerman and Susan Jennison from Keilor Historical Society. (Damjan Janevski) 584169 01

It is easy to overlook the rich history that lies around the corner of our suburbs. Sebastian Conidi spoke to Fred Ackermann and Susan Jennison from the Keilor Historical Society about the immense family legacy behind the Keilor Hotel.

The Keilor Hotel has long been a landmark of the Keilor community, with a history stretching back to 1849. Promoted as Australia's oldest family-owned hotel, the pub has been owned and operated by the Dodd family and their ancestors since 1862, making it one of the country's longest continuously family-run pubs.

Much of the hotel's history has been compiled by Susan Jennison, vice-president of the Keilor Historical Society.

With a background spanning librarianship, history, research and writing, Ms Jennison has dedicated decades to documenting the people, places and stories that have shaped the local area.

The hotel was first established as the Galway Arms Tavern in 1849 by James Mitchell.

Following several changes of name, it became known as the Keilor Hotel in the 1860s.

The venue rose to prominence during the gold rush era, when travellers from across the world passed through the area in search of gold, particularly in Bendigo and Castlemaine.

As a key stopping point for those leaving Melbourne, the hotel witnessed a period of significant activity and growth.

In the 1860s, the hotel was purchased by Matthew Goudie for £1000, and he renamed it the Keilor Hotel. Its connection to the Dodd family began when John Dodd, son of George Dodd, married Goudie's daughter, bringing the hotel into the family.

George arrived in Australia in 1840 and eventually settled in Keilor, where he played an important role in the development of the community.

He oversaw the construction of St Augustine's Church and established the area's first school.

The name Brimbank is also linked to George, who named his farm after its location on the brim of the riverbank.

The hotel's history is closely intertwined with that of the Dodd family, most notably Ray Dodd, who ran the pub from 1974 until 2025. The hotel recently commemorated the first anniversary of his death, recognising his longstanding stewardship and commitment to preserving its legacy.

For Ms Jennison, documenting the Keilor Hotel's history was a natural extension of a lifelong passion for the past and decades of research into the local area.



A young Ray Dodd. (Supplied)

"I had been writing about the history of the area for decades in other books," she said, explaining how her previous work provided a foundation for the project.

With a bachelor of arts and a master's degree, Ms Jennison said her interest in history stemmed from the opportunity to uncover forgotten stories and understand the people behind them.

"I have always been interested in history," she said.

"It's the fascination of uncovering things and learning about the people who might be affected."

A key focus of her research was the hotel's relationship with the gold rush and the development of Keilor as a village.

She reflected on the people who lived and worked in the area during the gold rush, including the many blacksmiths who supported the influx of travellers and prospectors.

Her approach to research is driven by a strong sense of commitment and a desire to ensure local stories are recorded for future generations.

"Once I'm committed to something, I just do it," she said. "If I decide I've got something I want to write down, I just do it."

Beyond documenting the hotel's past, Ms Jennison emphasised the importance of preserving historical records and ensuring that community knowledge is not lost.

"We must realise the importance of the physical record," she said, warning that people often underestimate the value of documenting their own experiences and information.

While digital documents and photographs captured on mobile phones have become commonplace, she said it was essential to record details such as dates to ensure the material remained useful to future researchers.

"The importance is to get the date and record it," she said.

Ms Jennison also stressed the need for ongoing financial support and greater awareness of the administrative processes involved in preserving historical documents.

"It always needs financial support," she said. "We need to be conscious of the bureaucracy and the importance of keeping documents."

Her comments highlight the broader challenges faced by historical societies and community organisations working to protect local heritage, often relying on dedicated volunteers, funding and the careful preservation of records.

Fred Ackerman, general member of the Keilor Historical Society, said the hotel remained an important part of the community's identity and heritage.

"As a Keilor community, we recognise and appreciate the Keilor Hotel for its history and contribution to the community over hundreds of years," he said.

He pointed to other surviving heritage landmarks in the area, including Overnewton Castle, Christ Church and Arundel Estate Farm, which together help tell the story of Keilor's development.

Reflecting on Ray's contribution, Mr Ackerman said he had a deep appreciation for the hotel's history and took great pride in continuing its traditions.

"Ray Dodd personally understood, appreciated, respected and carried that mantle forward in terms of the history that he so proudly nurtured around the hotel," he said.

For Mr Ackerman, the Keilor Hotel represents more than a historic building. It remains a vital gathering place and a symbol of the community's enduring character.

"Every community should have a hotel," he said. "Keilor is so fortunate to have an iconic and wonderful hotel, standing today as an icon."

With its origins in the early days of colonial Victoria, its links to the gold rush and its longstanding association with the Dodd family, the Keilor Hotel continues to embody the history and identity of the community it has served for generations.



Fred Ackerman and Susan Jennison from Keilor Historical Society and Dhenai Veale manager Keilor Hotel. (Damjan Janevski) 584169 03

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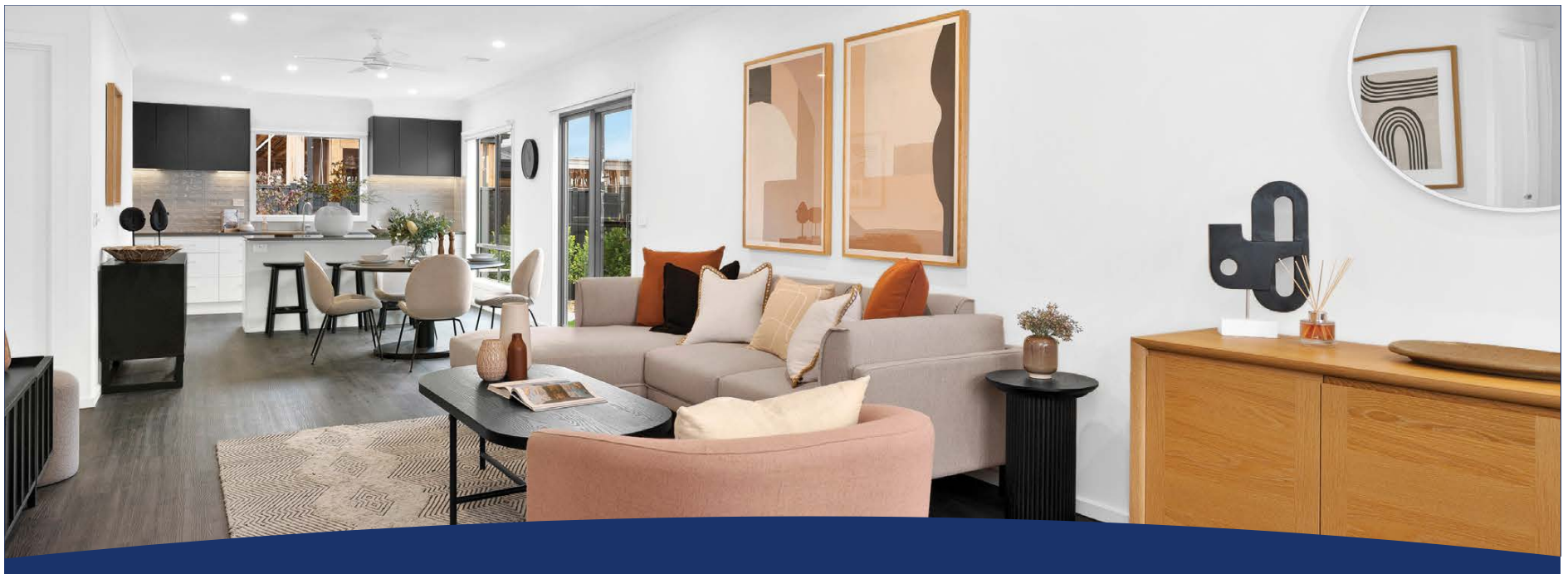
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MELBOURNE CUP 2026

Questions:

1. Which horse won the 2025 Melbourne Cup?
2. In which year was the Melbourne Cup first run on a Tuesday?
3. Which jockey became the second woman to ride a Melbourne Cup winner in 2025?
4. Which 1987 Melbourne Cup winner became the first commercially syndicated horse to win the race?
5. Which horse caused a major upset by winning the 2024 Melbourne Cup at starting odds of $91?
6. What is the official distance of the Melbourne Cup in metres?
7. Which father-and-son training partnership prepared the 2025 Melbourne Cup winner?
8. Which horse became the first Japanese-trained winner of the Melbourne Cup in 2006?
9. Which horse won the 1982 Melbourne Cup after a famous battle with champion Kingston Town?
10. Which horse gave Michelle Payne her historic Melbourne Cup victory at odds of 100-1 in 2015?
11. Which river runs alongside Flemington Racecourse?
12. The 1888 Melbourne Cup was known as the Centennial Cup. Which horse won it?
13. Which horse gave international racing powerhouse Godolphin its first Melbourne Cup victory in 2018?
14. In which year was the Melbourne Cup run without spectators because of COVID-19 restrictions?
15. Which jockey won consecutive Melbourne Cups aboard Gold Trip in 2022 and Without A Fight in 2023?
16. Who became the first Indigenous Australian jockey to win the Melbourne Cup, in 1973?
17. Which Australian-bred horse defeated a strong international field to win the 2019 Melbourne Cup?
18. Which champion carried the heaviest winning weight in Melbourne Cup history, in 1890?
19. Which Irish-trained horse became the first European-trained winner of the Melbourne Cup in 1993?
20. Which famous Italian opera singer made his final Australian performance at Flemington in 2005?
21. Which Melbourne Cup winner was named after a laneway behind Melbourne's Australian Club?
22. Who became the first female jockey to ride in the Melbourne Cup, in 1987?
23. Which horse became the first German-trained winner of the Melbourne Cup in 2014?
24. At just 24 years of age, which Irish trainer prepared Rekindling to win the 2017 Melbourne Cup?
25. Which horse won the Melbourne Cup in both 1932 and 1934, but missed the 1933 race?
26. Which horse completed the famous Caulfield Cup–Melbourne Cup double in 2023?
27. How much was the 2025 Melbourne Cup winner purchased for at an online auction?
28. In which year was the first Fashions on the Field competition held at Flemington?
29. Which celebrated Australian trainer claimed her first Melbourne Cup victory with Fiorente in 2013?
30. Which horse finished runner-up in the 2025 Melbourne Cup?



How did you score?

0–9: Back to the mounting yard!
10–19: Making up ground
20–29: You're a serious contender!
30: Melbourne Cup champion!

Answers

1. Half Yours
2. 1875
3. Jamie Melham
4. Kensei
5. Knight's Choice
6. 3200 metres
7. Tony and Calvin McEvoy
8. Delta Blues
9. Gurner's Lane
10. Prince Of Penzance
11. Maribyrnong River
12. Mentor
13. Cross Counter
14. 2020
15. Mark Zahra
16. Frank Reys
17. Vow And Declare
18. Carbine
19. Vintage Crop
20. Luciano Pavarotti
21. Gurner's Lane
22. Marree (later Marree Davey)
23. Protectionist
24. Joseph O'Brien
25. Peter Pan
26. Without A Fight
27. $305,000
28. 1962
29. Gai Waterhouse
30. Goodie Two Shoes

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PUZZLES

SUDOKU

No. 314

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

medium

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

hard

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

easy

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

medium

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

hard

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

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QUICK CROSSWORD

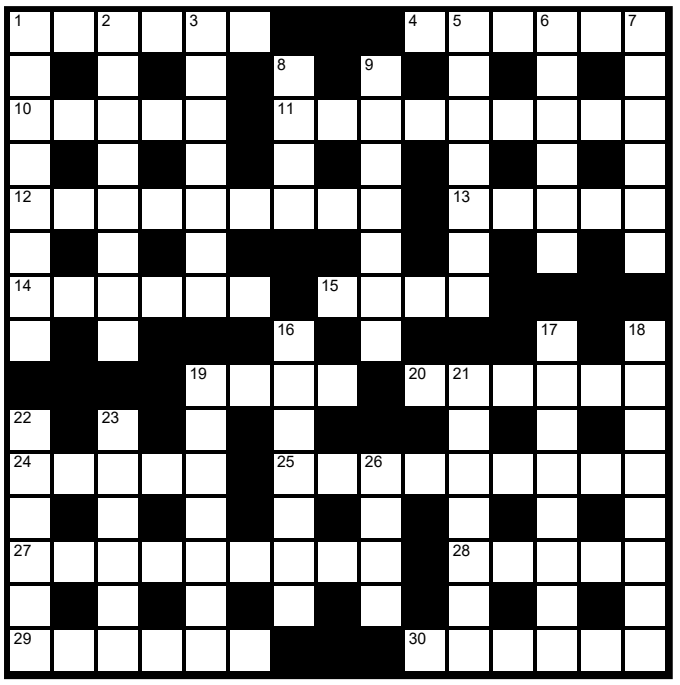
No. 314

ACROSS

1 Jostle (6)
4 Enclosed recess (6)
10 Cantaloupe or honeydew, to name two (5)
11 Worship (9)
12 Brazen (9)
13 Raised platform (5)
14 Settlement (6)
15 Runs (4)
19 Condescending person (4)
20 Very small and elegant (6)
24 Over (5)
25 Proprietor of a general store (9)
27 Invertebrate (9)
28 Soft, musically (5)
29 Divided (6)
30 Reveals, – up (coll) (6)

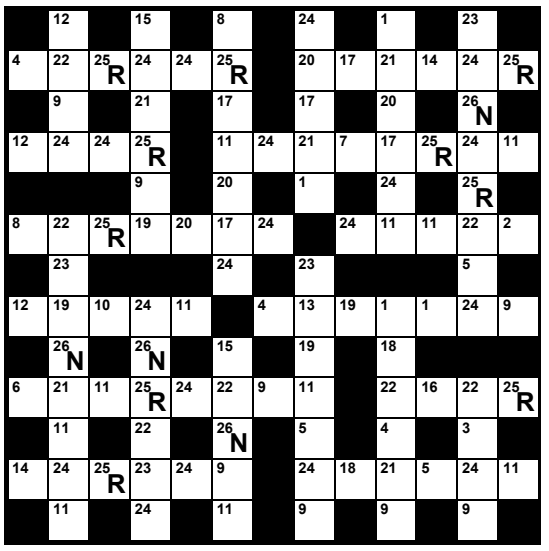
DOWN

1 Distress caused by being away from residence (8)
2 Word division (8)
3 Source of light (7)
5 Cooperates (7)
6 Coil (6)
7 Cycle for two (6)
8 Speed contest (4)
9 Russian author, Leo – (7)
16 Junior (7)
17 At an angle (8)
18 Annihilates (8)
19 Straight (7)
21 Instance (7)
22 Stops temporarily (6)
23 Spit (6)
26 Coward (coll) (4)



DECODER

No. 346



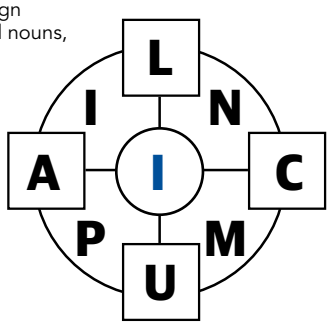
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25 R	26 N



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:
14 words: Good
21 words: Very good
28 words: Excellent

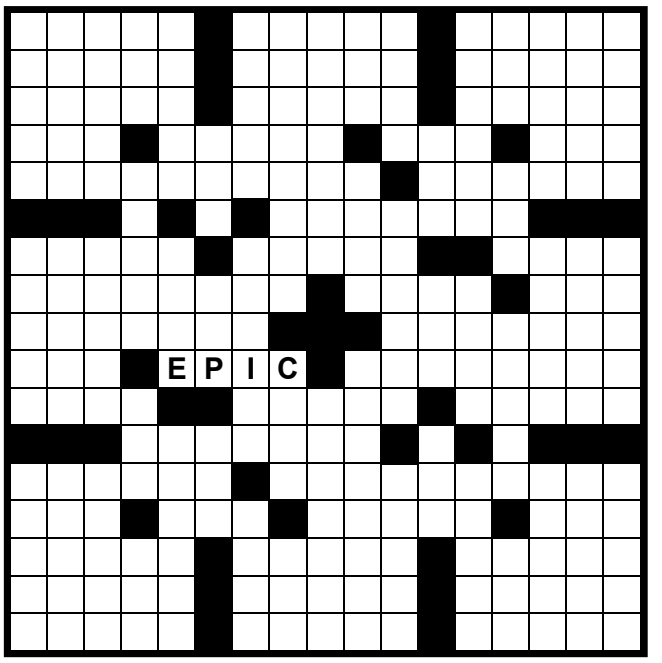


alumni, cilia, cilium, claim, clip, cumin, ilia, laic, lain, lima, limp, lumina, lupin, mail, main, manic, mica, mini, MUNICIPAL, nail, pail, pain, panic, pica, pilau, plain, uncial, unclip

WORDFIT

No. 314

3 LETTERS
ACT
AIR
BOW
DAY
DIM
EAT
IDS
INK
LIE
LOG
LUG
MEN
NEE
OAR
ONE
PAR
PEP
PRO
RED
THE
VIE
WAD



4 LETTERS
CLAP
DUBS
DUCT
ELSE
~~EPIC~~
POUT
RITE
SLED
TRIP
WETS

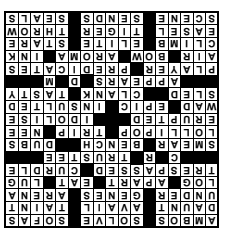
5 LETTERS
ADULT
AMBOS
ANNUL
APART
ARENA
ARISE
AROMA
AVAIL
BENCH
BESET
BUDGE
CASTS
CLANK
CLIMB
DAUNT
DOERS
EASEL
ELITE
ELUDE
ENROL
FIELD
GENES
LILAC
LLAMA
MANOR
MORAL
PACES
SAGAS
SCALP
SCENE
SEALS
SEEDY
SENDS
SKEWS
SLEWS
SMEAR
SOFAS
SOLVE
STAGE
STARE
STRAP
TAINT
TASTY
THROW
TIARA
TIGER
UNDER
UNITS

6 LETTERS
BODICE
CURDLE
PEBBLE
PLAYER
SHRINK
STATUE

7 LETTERS
APPEARS
ARRAIGN
ERUPTED
IDOLISE
LANTERN
TRUSTEE

8 LETTERS
INSERTED
INSULTED
LOLLIPOP
OVERSTEP

10 LETTERS
PREDICATES
TRESPASSED



06-11-26

5x5

No. 421

S		L		T
	R		S	
L		O		S
	N		E	
N		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

S	P	L	A	T
A	R	O	S	E
L	O	O	K	S
O	N	S	E	T
N	O	E	E	D

QUICK QUIZ



1 The poem *The Waste Land* by T. S. Eliot was published in which decade?
2 Parris Island is located in which US state?
3 Who hosted the long-running Australian TV show *Hey Hey It's Saturday*?
4 What is the name of the van driven by the Scooby-Doo gang?
5 According to the proverb, what is mightier than the sword?
6 Which artist painted *Woman Seated on a Sofa Reading*?
7 What is the length, in kilometres, of the Great Ocean Road?
8 Karen Gillan (pictured) stars in the 2017 reboot of which 1995 film?
9 Males and females of which domesticated animals are known as hobs and jills respectively?
10 Who was the first person to win the Nobel Prize twice?

ANSWERS: 1. 1920s **2.** South Carolina **3.** Daryl Somers **4.** The Mystery Machine **5.** Pen **6.** Mark Rothko **7.** 243km **8.** *Jumanji* **9.** Ferrets **10.** Marie Curie

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.



This week's photographer's choice picture is of West Footscray's Lindy O'Brien with her 'House of Abandoned & Dismembered Dolls' for Halloween. (Damjan Janevski). 586623 01

Ambulance Auxiliary Christmas Raffle
The Romsey/Lancefield Ambulance Auxiliary is running a Christmas Raffle, with tickets on sale now. Raffle tickets can be purchased on 6 November and 7 November on High Street, Lancefield; 13, 14, 20, 21 and 27 November outside IGA Romsey; and 28 November at the Lancefield Farmers Market, with December dates TBA. The raffle will be drawn on 12 December at the Romsey Carols Night, with fundraising going towards the local ambulance station.

Sunbury Remembrance Day
The Sunbury RSL Sub-Branch is holding a service on Wednesday 11th November at 10:45am at the Cenotaph in Stawell Street Sunbury (Outside the Memorial Hall). The service will include several short speeches, a wreath laying opportunity and a minute of silence at 11am
▪ https://sunburyrsl.com.au/

Kyneton Badminton Club
Kyneton Badminton Club is a welcoming, fun and social group that plays on Mondays, at 7pm at the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre, Victoria Street. All skill levels are welcome.
▪ kynetonbc@gmail.com

Sunbury Macedon Ranges Masonic Lodge
The group meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm, 73 Main Street, Romsey. New members welcome.
▪ Karl Saunders, 0400 862 315

Rotary club
The Sunbury Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at the Ball Court Hotel, 60 Macedon Street, Sunbury, from 7pm.
▪ sunburyrotary@gmail.com

Sunbury Ladies Probus Club
The Sunbury Ladies Probus Club meets at 9.45am on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Sunbury Football Social Club rooms.
▪ Pat, 0433 789 754, Sylvia, 0417 170 142

Sunbury Combined Probus Club
The Sunbury Combined Probus Club meets every fourth Thursday of the month at the Sunbury Bowling Club at 10.30am.
▪ Jo, 0410 834 272

Sunbury Men's Probus Club
Join the Probus Club of Sunbury on the first Wednesday of the month at the Sunbury Bowling club at 10.15am. It's a friendly men's group open to visitors and new members, with a number of events held each month.
▪ Lindsay Brown, 0405 177 478

Breast Cancer Support Group
On the first and third Tuesday of the month breast cancer survivors are invited to head along to the Gisborne Golf Club at 10.30am to take part in a breast cancer support group.
▪ Lesley, 0484 691 226

Village Connect
Enjoy free coffee and cake while connecting with fellow Macedon Ranges residents 55 years old and older. Happening on Tuesdays and Thursdays at cafes across the municipality.
▪ mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Older-People/Village-Connect

Games Zone Sunbury
Get creative at the Sunbury Youth Centre each Wednesday, from 3.30-5.30pm. The free program is for people aged 12 to 18 years old, at 51-53 Evans Street, Sunbury.
▪ youth@hume.vic.gov.au

HarmoniX Vocal Company
The all-male singing group rehearses on Thursdays from 7-9.30pm, while the mixed choir meets on Tuesdays from 7-9.30pm. Both choirs rehearse at Dulap Wilim Hub, Leichardt Street, Sunbury. No auditions required.
▪ harmonixvcinc@gmail.com

VIEW Club
Sunbury-Macedon Ranges VIEW Club is a friendly women's organisation and a valued part of The Smith Family. It meets on the third Friday of each month at 11am at Club Sunbury, Riddell Road, Sunbury. New members warmly welcome.
▪ Helen, 01411 226 275

Sunbury Woodworkers Club
Join the Sunbury Woodworkers Club to learn woodturning. No experience or tools required. The club is a welcoming environment open to men and women who wish to learn. Meetings for new guests are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at its workshop on Circular Drive, Jackson's Hill, Sunbury.
▪ Anita, 0417 402 795

Come have a chat
Delve into deeper topics and enjoy intriguing conversations by joining the Table 8 Discussion Group. Chats every Tuesday, from 10.30-11.30am, at Macedon Lounge, 40 Victoria Street, Macedon.
▪ Carol, 0431 186 575

Sunbury Art Society
Join the SAS group for all things arty. The group meets on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at its new location at Artrise in Jacksons Hill from 10am-3pm. New members and beginners are welcome.
▪ sunburyartsociety.com

Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group
MRSPAG hosts two Safe Spaces in the Macedon Ranges, in Woodend and Romsey. The Woodend Safe Space is open every Wednesday from 5.30-8.30pm at the Woodend Neighbourhood House. The Romsey Safe Space is open fortnightly on Saturdays from 1-4pm. MRSPAG are also looking for volunteers with lived experience to be peer support workers.
▪ mrspag.com.au

Riddell and District Seniors Club
Join the club for a chef-prepared three-course meal every Thursday at the Riddells Creek Community Centre. Lunch is held at 11.45am for a noon start every Thursday. Pricing ranges between $15-$20 for members and visitors, with a yearly membership fee of $10.
▪ Margaret, 0498 101 008, riddellscrksen@gmail.com

Probus Club
The Jackson's Creek Combined Probus Club meets the second Monday of the month at Sunbury Bowling Club. Doors open 10 am and meeting starts at 10:30 am. New members welcome. We have monthly outings, lunches, speakers and much more.
▪ Marilyn 0412 235 774

Sunbury Blue Light Disco
Sunbury Blue Light Discos run throughout the year at the Sunbury Memorial Hall for primary school-aged children. Established in 1987, the initiative is led by dedicated Victoria Police members and community volunteers, and are always looking for more volunteers to add to the team.
▪ facebook.com/sunburybluelightdisco, sunburybluelight@gmail.com

Sunbury Repair Cafe
Happening every third Saturday of the month at Sunbury Neighbourhood House from 10am-12.30pm. Join the team for a cuppa and a skill share repairing broken items to help prevent it from going to landfill.
▪ sunburyhouse.com.au

Crop Swap
Swap your excess produce and get your hands dirty learning about the edible, indigenous and useful plants in Sunbury Neighbourhood House's garden. Happening every third Saturday of the month from 10am onwards at the Sunbury Neighbourhood House.
▪ sunburyhouse.com.au

Salon offers a poetic night

Better Off Said, a spoken-word art salon from members of the team behind Women of Letters, is coming to Bacchus Marsh Town Hall for an evening celebrating words, stories, and the things we sometimes wish we'd said.

Join Emilie Zoey Baker and Marieke Hardy from 7pm at the Bacchus Marsh Town Hall on Friday 20 November for an entertaining poetry salon featuring poetic duets, live music, and literary performances.

Four writers - Thuy On, Gurmeet Kaur, Clare Wright and Eloise Grills – will respond to the theme "The words I wish I'd said", sharing thoughts, reflections and stories that might otherwise have remained unspoken.

Cate Kennedy will deliver the evening's Living Eulogy, celebrating someone or something still here to hear it.

Hosted by Emilie Zoey Baker and curated by Marieke Hardy, the salon concludes with live music from The Darlings Family Trust, rounding out an evening of storytelling, reflection and celebration.

In this special event, presented as part of Moorabool council's Hide + Seek Festival, live music and thoughtful reflections are presented by exceptional writers and storytellers, with the salon serving as a celebration to usher in renewal as the seasons change.

Hide+Seek Presents is an all-ages series of high-quality music, literature and storytelling experiences presented across Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and Blackwood throughout November.

Featuring acclaimed touring artists alongside local creatives, the program encourages audiences of all ages to connect, participate and engage with the arts.

Better Off Said kicks off at the Bacchus Marsh Town Hall from 7pm on Friday 20 November.

Details: https://welcometomoorabool.com/events-bacchusmarsh-ballan-gordon-blackwood-greendale/better-off-said.



Salesian College Sunbury students Maison (front), Alex, Declan, Grace and Oliver are gearing up for Rupertswood Harvest Festival. (Damjan Janevski) 540998_03

Salesian prepares to host Harvest Festival

Salesian College Sunbury students are getting ready to celebrate the school's Harvest Festival.

The annual event brings together students, families, local businesses and community organisations, transforming the college grounds into a vibrant community atmosphere.

Principal Mark Brockhus said everyone's invited to come down and see what students have been working on.

"Harvest Festival is a wonderful opportunity to bring the college and wider Sunbury community together in a relaxed and welcoming environment," he said.

"It's not just about entertainment, it's about connection, and showcasing what makes our community so special.

"From our agriculture program through to curriculum showcases, visitors can see firsthand the opportunities our students experience every day and it's open to the whole local community, not just Salesian College students and families."

From 4.30pm to 7.30pm on Friday 6 November, expect to see a wide range of attractions, including food vendors, market stalls, live music performances and interactive activities for all ages.

The school said a key event will be the Agriculture Showcase, where visitors can view the award-winning Corriedale sheep and Hereford cattle, cared for by students as part of the school's hands-on agricultural program. Produce made on site will also be available for purchase.

Details: salesiansunbury.vic.edu.au/hidden-pages/harvest-festival

Nothing to worry about during Substation show

Sick of surprises? Craving a day, a week...a life where there is nothing to worry about, no problems, no dramas?

Is this even possible? Is that what we want?

No Dramas, a new stage work being performed at The Substation in Newport from 18-21, attempts to answer these and other existential questions about life.

Starring Mish Grigor and Brigid Gallacher, No Dramas follows two women through a series of games, tasks and social encounters as they attempt to keep things aggressively chill.

They smile with tears in their eyes and push their feelings down, down, down. Into the sock drawer. Never seen again.



No Dramas is on at The Substation in Newport from 18-21 November. (Lauren Dunn)

Along with starring in No Dramas, Melbourne based Grigor also wrote the play and will co-direct alongside Zoe Coombs-Marr.

Grigor is no stranger to The Substation, with her 2024 work Class Act premiering at the Newport venue, while her plays have also been presented at venues across Australia and overseas, including the Sydney Opera House, Malthouse Theatre, Adelaide Biennial,Hong Kong Rep Theatre, Battersea Arts Centre in the UK and La Mama in New York.

While the opening night performance of No Dramas on Thursday 19 November is now sold out, tickets are still available for the preview performance on Wednesday 18 November, as well as shows on Friday 20 November and Saturday 21 Novemer.

All shows are from 7.30-8.30pm.

For more information and to book: https://thesubstation.org.au/program/no-dramas

Historical drama comes to the west

A gripping new Australian play exploring the human cost of war, love and betrayal will make its world premiere in Melbourne's west this December.

Fall, written by award-winning Australian-Hmong playwright Michele Lee and directed by acclaimed theatre-maker Beng Oh, will open at The Bowery Theatre in St Albans on 5 December before moving to Bluestone Church Arts Space in Footscray for a four-day season from 9-12 December.

Set in Northern Laos in 1975, during the final days of the Secret War, the intimate three-hander follows Paul, an Australian teacher preparing to flee the country as the Communist takeover unfolds.

His plans are disrupted by the arrival of Mai, a young Hmong woman and former student who is escaping persecution and determined to say goodbye.

As the two confront their shared past over a single night, Fall examines the difficult choices, unspoken truths and uncertain futures shaped by conflict.

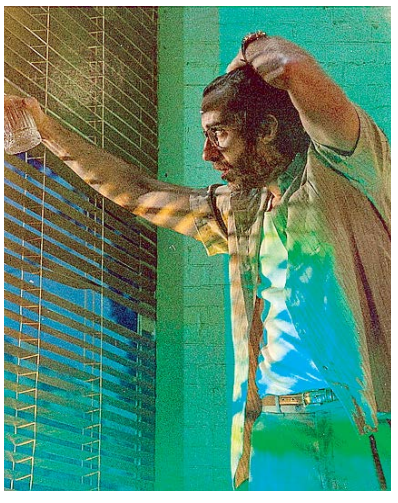
The St Albans performance on Saturday 5 December begins at 7pm at The Bowery Theatre, 33 Princess Street, and includes an opening-night question and answer session and reception.

The Footscray season features an opening-night question and answer session and drinks reception on 10 December, with shows running on 11 and 12 December.

Presented by Wit Incorporated Theatre Company, Fall continues the company's commitment to culturally diverse stories and theatre that connects with local audiences.

Tickets and bookings are available at witinc.com.au/shows/fall

The 75-minute production is recommended for audiences aged 15 and over.



(Supplied: Ben Andrews)

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General Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES AND EVENT

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

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Tel: (03) 5422 0333
Fax: (03) 5422 3623
Email: mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Web: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at:	**LOT 2 PS 348543T P/Gisborne, 10 Magnet Lane NEW GISBORNE VIC 3438**
The application is for a permit to:	**Removal of native and non-native vegetation**

A permit is required under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

Clause	Description
42.02-2	Remove, destroy and lop any vegetation as specified under VPO Schedule 2 (Roadside vegetation)
52.17	Remove, destroy and lop native vegetation

The applicant for the permit is:	**Greater Western Water**
The application reference number is:	**PLN/2025/385**

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application using one of these options:

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE	Online	
	In person	40 Robertson Street GISBORNE VIC 3437 Monday to Thursday. Refer to Council's website for opening times

You may also call **(03) 5422 0333** to arrange a time to look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the responsible authority, Macedon Ranges Shire Council. This can be done during office hours and is free of charge

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority.

An objection must be made to the responsible authority in writing, include the reasons for the objection and state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the period during which an application maybe made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before at least 14 days after the date of this notice. If you make an objection, the Responsible Authority will inform you of its decision.

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

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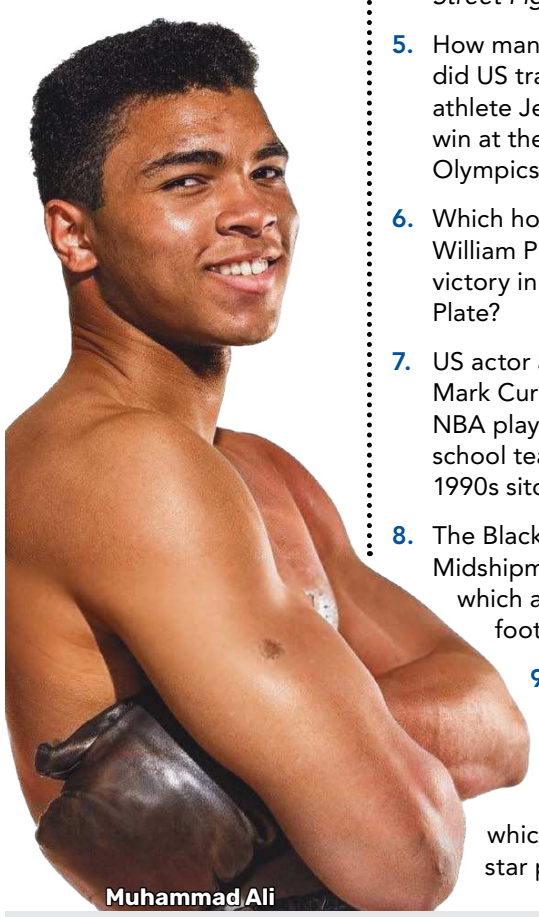
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SPORTS QUIZ

1. According to sports lore, what event led Muhammad Ali to start boxing?
2. Which two Major League Baseball teams played off in the 2026 World Series?


Muhammad Ali

3. The PNG Orchids are the Papua New Guinea women's national team in what sport?
4. Which US professional wrestler appears as Akuma in the 2026 film *Street Fighter*?
5. How many gold medals did US track and field athlete Jesse Owens win at the 1936 Summer Olympics?
6. Which horse did jockey William Pike ride to victory in the 2026 Cox Plate?
7. US actor and comedian Mark Curry played an NBA player-turned high school teacher in which 1990s sitcom?
8. The Black Knights and the Midshipmen compete in which annual US college football game?
9. Brisbane Bullets basketballer Max Mackinnon is the son of which former NBL star player?
10. US comedian, actor and podcaster Francis Ellis played lacrosse for which Ivy League college?
11. What is the length of an Olympic swimming pool?
12. How many players per side are there in beach volleyball?
13. How many different strokes are there in competitive swimming?
14. What does a yellow card mean in soccer?
15. A pentathlon consists of how many sporting events?
16. What is the highest score you can achieve in tenpin bowling?
17. In basketball, what is the rule violation where a player moves without dribbling the ball called?
18. To the nearest kilometre, how long is the Melbourne Cup race?
19. Which Australian featherweight defeated Russian mixed martial artist Movsar Evloev at UFC 333?


Jason Statham

20. In the original *Wii Sports* game, how many sports were featured?
21. The final Australian MotoGP held at Phillip Island was cancelled due to what?
22. And in which city will the Australian MotoGP be held next year?
23. Novo is a mascot for which NRL team?
24. How many Test cricket bowlers have taken over 700 Test wickets?
25. And how many Australian Test cricketers are in the top 10 for all-time Test wickets?
26. What event did actor Jason Statham compete in for England at the 1990 Commonwealth Games?
27. Which two AFL teams played each other in the 2002, 2003 and 2023 Grand Finals?
28. Which NBL team plays its home games at MyState Bank Arena?
29. Natalie Wood was recently sacked as head coach of which AFLW team?
30. In 1922, the Converse brand created shoes specifically for basketball in partnership with which player?

1. The theft of his bike **2.** Tampa Bay Rays and Milwaukee Brewers **3.** Rugby league **4.** Roman Reigns **5.** Four **6.** Cosmic Crusader **7.** *Hangin', with Mr. Cooper* **8.** The Army–Navy Game **9.** Sam Mackinnon **10.** Harvard University **11.** 50 metres **12.** Two **13.** Four **14.** Disciplinary warning **15.** Five **16.** 300 points **17.** Travelling **18.** 3km **19.** Alexander Volkanovski **20.** Five **21.** Rain **22.** Adelaide **23.** Newcastle Knights **24.** Three (Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne, James Anderson) **25.** Four (Shane Warne, Nathan Lyon, Glenn McGrath, Mitchell Starc) **26.** Diving **27.** Collingwood and Brisbane Lions **28.** Tasmania JackJumpers **29.** Essendon **30.** Chuck Taylor

0611



Quick, but you pay a price

By Chris Riley, Marque Motoring

It's the IM5 and if you're wondering who or what that is, so were we.

IM stands for Intelligence in Motion and it is the upmarket division of MG (like Lexus is to Toyota), with vehicles that have been developed jointly with the likes of SAIC Motor and the Alibaba Group.

In Australia, the brand is known officially as IM Presented by MG Motor. Most punters however refer to the car as the MG IM5. Good luck with that.

The all-electric IM5 sedan/coupe appears to be targeted primarily at the Tesla Model 3. The IM6 SUV at the Tesla Model Y.







Iron out the niggles and MG could be on to a good thing. (Pictures: Supplied)

Styling

There are three grades from which to choose: Premium, Platinum and Performance.

Premium is priced from $60,990, Platinum from $69,990 and Performance from $80,990 – all plus on-roads.

At a glance, the three appear to be almost identical. You need to dig a little deeper to work out the differences, most of which are confined to the drivetrain department – rather than the equipment list.

Premium is powered by a single electric motor that delivers 217kW of power and 450Nm of torque to the rear wheels, with a 75kWh battery and range of 490km.

Mid-range Platinum is also rear-wheel drive, but with a more powerful 300kW/500Nm electric motor, and a larger 100kWh battery and range of 655km.

Range-topping Performance adds all-wheel drive to the equation, with two electric motors that offer 200kW/320Nm at front and 372kW/500Nm at the rear, with a 100kWh battery and range of 575km (it takes more effort to drive four wheels).

Of note Premium is built on 400-watt architecture, while Platinum and Performance share the more advanced 800-watt format that in theory means faster charging, providing you can access a compatible charger.

Those range figures by the way are under the newer, more realistic WLTP testing procedure.

Our test vehicle was the Performance model, apparent from the 20-inch wheels and P-Zeros plus the fact it blazes out of the gates like a Space X rocket.

Creature comforts include synthetic leather, two-zone climate air with rear vents, an air quality system, heated seats front and back, plus cooling for the front, heated steering wheel, heated/cooled console box, a full-length glass roof and power operated tailgate.

There's also air suspension, LED lights front and back, push-button hands-free parking.

IM5 is covered by a seven-year unlimited kilometre warranty, plus eight years on the battery, with service due every 20,000km or 12 months.

Infotainment

Infotainment comes in the form of dual 12.3-inch screens, with a third 10.5-inch screen that sits in the console.

There's Bluetooth, Hello IM voice control, satnav, AM/FM and DAB+ digital radio, CarPlay and Android Auto.

Sound comes from a 20-speaker audio system that includes four small roof-mounted speakers.

It's described as a 7.4.1 setup based on the fact it has 7 x ear-level channels, 1 x subwoofer channel, and 4 x height/overhead channels.

There's also wireless phone charging, a card reader, three USB-C ports (2 x front and 1 x back) and a 12-volt outlet virtually hidden at the rear of the lower console.

Safety

IM5 scores a full five stars for safety, with dual frontal, side chest-protecting and side head-protecting airbags standard.

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 a speed sign recognition system, are standard equipment.

Engines/transmissions

Performance model boasts two electric motors, with a total 572kW of power and 820Nm of torque on tap, with drive to all four wheels via a reduction-style single-speed transmission.

Driving

The IM5 is quick, that's for sure. But it's not the most practical car we've ever driven.

With pop-out door handles and a key fob with a complete lack of labels, the first task is to work out how to get in and out of the thing.

Sitting low to the ground, with an equally low roofline, that can require some athleticism.

Rather than stick your foot in first, it's more a case of pivoting 90 degrees and planting your bum on the seat, then swivelling sideways and swinging your legs in – being careful to duck as you do.

Once in, there's no starter button, the system is live from get-go and so it is simply a matter of moving the column-mounted gear selector up or down to select drive or reverse.

And a word of caution here. Mistaking the gear selector for the indicator stalk can send the car shooting forward, scaring the pants off you – because this engages cruise control.

This oversight is not confined to the MG or IM and is really something that needs to be addressed.

IM5 is 4931mm in length, 1960mm wide and 1474mm high with a 2950mm wheelbase, and weighs in at 2300kg in top spec.

There's 457 litres of luggage space in the boot with another 18 litres under the front bonnet where you'll find the tyre repair kit secreted. Rear storage expands to 1290 litres with the second-row seats folded.

A 12V outlet for that fridge is provided in the back.

Depending on what grade you go for dictates the drivetrain supplied.

Premium sits on 400-watt architecture with a 75kWh battery, Platinum and Performance boasts an 800-watt figure, with a larger 100kWh battery to boot.

Premium and Platinum are rear-wheel drive, Performance is all-wheel drive. The easiest way to tell them apart is by the wheels. Entry Premium sits on 19s, while Platinum and Performance score 20s (the latter fitted with expensive Pirelli rubber).

IM5 is equipped with what the company describes as revolutionary bi-directional rear-wheel turning technology, offering up to 12 degrees of rear-wheel articulation.

First off, it's been around off and on for almost 40 years, since its introduction with the third-generation Honda Prelude 4WS in 1987. Mazda also offered it at one stage.

An industry-leading feature, MG says this advanced system dramatically reduces the turning circle and transforms the driving experience, making it comparable to that of a compact hatchback.

It helps, but let's not get carried away – if the effect was that dramatic it would be standard on just about every car.

The 10.5-inch touchscreen in the centre console is better described as the control screen, because just about everything is operated from here.

That wouldn't be so bad if the controls and their locations were more intuitive.

Two roller buttons are also provided on the steering wheel but are not labelled.

We were unable to find a control for something as simple as resetting the trip computer which says a lot.

Shaped like a car, the key fob has no attachment points, so can't be added to a key ring and runs the risk of ending up in the wash. At times, it simply refused to work.

Every time we got into the car, we were accosted by a privacy nag that required ticking a box and hitting another button before control screen access was granted.

Then there's the satnav. To get it working you have to pull over, put it in Park, tick another box, scan a QR code, then read and sign off on a privacy statement – we just couldn't work out how.

Most of the time we also had to manually reconnect our phone because the system simply ignored it. Talk about frustrating.

Rear and over-the-shoulder vision is a challenge, particularly through the tiny rear window, which is better described as a porthole.

Then there's the incessant bings and bongs from the various driver warning systems.

As a temporary fix, put a band aid over the camera that is mounted on the driver's side roof pillar. Buy the car and we'd recommend surgery.

The dash from 0-100km/h can be dispatched in a Ferrari-quick 3.2 seconds, with a top speed of 268km/h.

Energy consumption is a claimed 19.7 kWh/100km (we were getting 20.5 kWh after more than 350km of mixed driving).

While ride quality is impressive thanks to adaptive air suspension and continuous damping system fitted, the car feels more at home on the super smooth pavement offered by the motorway.

This despite the staggered, ultra-low profile 245/40 and 275/35 series Pirelli P-Zeros.

It's also incredibly quiet in the cabin thanks in large part to noise cancelling technology.

Like other high-performance EVs, the IM5 is almost unbeatable off the line, making short work of all comers.

On the rise and fall of country roads, however, it feels disconnected and unpredictable at times, lacking the connection between car and driver.

Cornering as such is not the problem, it's setting up the car for the corners that is the challenge.

Braking is a bit of a lottery, not so much in effect but more in application – sometimes they bite hard, sometimes they don't. It's problematic.

Sure, the IM5 goes fast, not so much around corners but in a straight line – but at the end of the day is that enough?

Summing up

The IM5 is a lot of cars, it's just not the car for us.

We'd also consider the Platinum variant, which is also pretty quick and has the advantage of greater range at 655km.

Iron out the niggles, make the info system more intuitive, get rid of the constant driver warnings and MG could be on to a good thing.

By the way, we're still waiting to hear why the doors on the Cyberster won't open when the car is parked on a slope.



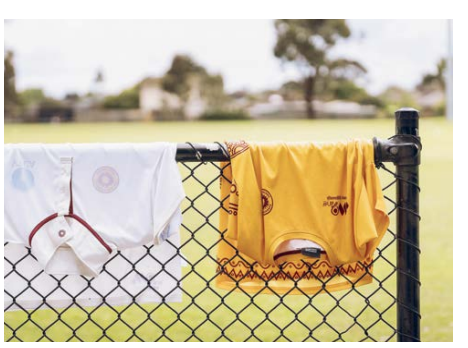
Footscray's Ben Roonsenboom. 587518 08



Newport Rams' Aaron Robson. 587538 04



Werribee Centrals' Luke Simpson. 587529 01



Sunshine Heights letting the clothes dry out following rain. 587527 05

Avoiding the spring rain

Wet weather again marred weekend sport, with several games not going ahead having disruptions. Star Weekly photographer Ties Urie was able to find some of the action that went ahead on Saturday.



Sunshine Heights' Chien Mayoum and Noah Ramsey. 587527 06



Gellibrand's Will Espley. 587526 02



Williamstown Imperials' Callum Herron. 587526 05



Dylan Brasher helps dry the pitch. 587518 12



Footscray Angliss' Hugo Wozniak. 587529 18



Seddon's Adrian Neill. 587523 01

Majstorovic's Jets role

By Tara Murray

New Sunbury Jets women's coach Bianca Majstorovic couldn't think of a better place to start her coaching career.

Majstorovic has been appointed the Jets new coach for next year's Victorian Basketball League championship season.

She replaces Deb Coulson, who stood down due to other basketball commitments.

Majstorovic isn't a stranger to the Jets.

"It's really exciting," she said.

"I played for Sunbury before I had my twins. I played for Sunbury the season I fell pregnant with them.

"It's nice to be back at Sunbury. I really loved the club when I was there.

"When the job came up ... I figured I had enough years of experience in basketball.

"If I was going to coach anywhere it was going to be Sunbury."

Majstorovic said being a primary school teacher, she felt that she had a lot of skills that translated into coaching.

She said with her extensive basketball experience as well, that it would help in the coaching role and the new challenge.

"It's a new role for me and a new season of basketball that I'm coming into which is nice," she said.

"Once I knew I was done playing, I always knew I wanted to get into women's coaching.

"When this sort of come up I thought maybe it's a sign I just have to go for it and see what happens.

"It's great that I have been given the opportunity to do it at a head coaching level as well, I'm really excited."

Majstorovic said she wanted the team to get back to being competitive and get the club back to where it was previously.

She has already been busy recruiting and they were hoping to have an import join the side sooner rather than later.

"The team is going to look a little bit different this year," she said.

"I feel like we're going to have a lot of young girls that have come up and played in previous years and then got some girls in their late 20s.

"We've got a bit of veteran experience and will have a nice group of girls."

Majstorovic said she wanted to have a real positive energy around the group.

She said they would look to have a bit more depth this season, after the Jets struggled with injuries and availability this year.

"We're trying to have a good core 10."

The Jets will look to get a five-week training block in before Christmas to get things underway.



Ella Jeffrey. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 582783 04

Kyneton Tigers enjoying return to the CBL

By Tara Murray

Kyneton Tigers' return to the Country Basketball League women's north-west competition has been more than they ever expected.

After not having a team last season, the Tigers have returned to the court this season with a whole new playing group.

Coached by Erin Pearce, the Tigers got their first win of the season against the Castlemaine Cannons in round four.

"I don't know even if it was on their radar initially when we put the team together," she said.

"Initially it was a handful of players that wanted to be part of it. We then started building and literally one by one getting another player and another player and giving them a system that I think they'll thrive in.

"They executed the game plan perfectly. Everyone was really excited postgame."

For Pearce, taking on the coaching role wasn't just about the players in the side, but the ones who will come through in the future.

"It's really important not only for the people of Kyneton but for girls in the Macedon Ranges area," she said.

"To have something to see and aspire to. To have such a great group of young women, they are great role models.

"They will be great role models for years to come that play basketball in the area, it's great."

Pearce said with a seven-year-old daughter that has just started basketball, she wanted her daughter to see what she can become.

Pearce, who played with the Sunbury Jets in the Big V, said watching the Jets growing up was aspiring to her.

She said when Christian Martinez approached her to take on the coaching role; it was a role that excited her.

"I did a little bit of Big V coaching but I've been doing VJBL [Victorian Junior Basketball League] coaching pretty much since then," she said.

"I was at a little bit of a crossroads when Christian approached me about coming across to Kyneton, and I thought I just want to inspire kids, little girls particularly on the court enjoying the game that I enjoyed and having the opportunities I had as I grew up."

Pearce said the playing group was willing to learn and they wanted to grow.

She said the group is full of energy.

"To be able to do that at such a young age in a senior competition is phenomenal," she said.

"They've sort of just taken the challenge and run with it.

"I think as individuals, it's really going to make them succeed. It's going to make them better individually to go into whatever they do next."

Pearce said they were keen to continue to build on their performances for the rest of the season.

She said the win established that they deserved to be in the competition and their best was not only good enough to compete but to also win.

The Tigers faced the Melton Thoroughbreds on Saturday night.

It was a tough night for the Tigers, who lost 121-46.

Rhylie Jones top scored with seven points for the Tigers.



Andrew Hall and Luke Davis. (Supplied)

Davis joins Giants

Gisborne Giants have added an Essendon District Football League premier division premiership captain to their list for next year's Riddell District Football League season.

The Giants announced that Luke Davis had signed with the club for next year.

"Luke arrives at Gisborne with an outstanding football resume, having enjoyed a highly successful career with EDFL powerhouse Aberfeldie," the Giants said.

"During his time there, Luke captained the club to three premierships, earned four EDFL team of the year selections and was recognised in the EDFL team of the decade.

"Luke spent the 2026 season with the Leitchville Gunbower Bombers, where he was named the club's most consistent player, continuing to showcase the experience, leadership and consistency that have defined his career.

"Luke brings a wealth of football knowledge and experience to our playing group, which will be invaluable as we continue to develop our young talent and build on the foundations of our club."

Davis also spent time on Essendon's AFL list after being taken at pick 64 in the 2010 draft.

The signing of Davis will see him reunite with his former Aberfeldie premiership teammate Ryan Allan.

Allan was the first new signing announced by the Giants.

The pair played in a key role in Aberfeldie's success during that period, with Allan also named in the EDFL team of the decade.

Former Richmond player Dean Putt is the other new signing that has been announced by the Giants, who have locked in most of their list from this year.

Roos' first women's team

By Tara Murray

Sunbury Kangaroos might be one of the smaller clubs in the Gisborne and District Cricket Association, but it hasn't stopped them getting a women's side up.

The Kangaroos are fielding a women's side for the first time this season, which has been a massive step for the club.

For Kate Burgess, who decided to set up the side, having a women's side is pretty special.

"It's been a long time in the making," she said.

"I have been at the Kangaroos since I was a little girl. I've been here since the beginning and I'm the only female to play in the senior men's teams.

"It's been a long journey to have the first senior women's team, it's massive for such a small club."

Burgess said when the idea came up about getting a women's side together, the club was fully on board and backed them in.

She said they had a real mix of players, including some who have connections to the wider Kangaroos sporting clubs.

"I had reservations to start with as you get in women's cricket that everyone wants to bat, but doesn't want to field.

"I put the feelers out to see how many people want to play. We've got player who have played at other clubs but haven't played the last few years.

"There's a couple who were at Gisborne for a season or two, a couple from East Sunbury and there's a couple who are brand new."

The Kangaroos range in age, with the youngest player just 13.

Burgess said the support from the club had been massive.

"It's a very family orientated club," she said.

"The girls will go out to bat and they have a cheer squad. The girls don't know who they are, but they know who the girls are.

"To have them cheering us on makes it even better."

The Kangaroos have won both their matches, before round three was washed out.

Burgess said results were a bonus for the group this season.

"It's about nine women getting out there and having fun and having a joke," she said.

"It doesn't matter if our bowling is atrocious.

"We want to go out and have fun and enjoy ourselves on a Sunday morning.

"Win or lose it doesn't change our attitude and the experience we have with each other."

The Kangaroos had a bye on the weekend, with no games due to the Melbourne Cup weekend.

The Kangaroos face Diggers Rest Bulla this Sunday.

Like the Kangaroos, the Burras are a new side that is also undefeated.



Sophie Kurzman. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 537375_03

Club Sunbury's tough day on the green

By Tara Murray

Club Sunbury got an early reality check in the Bowls Victoria weekend pennant premier reserve competition on Saturday.

After splitting its opening two matches, Sunbury, which has been promoted this season, faced Melbourne on the road.

Melbourne came down from the premier division this season and is one of the more experienced sides in the premier reserves competition.

On Saturday, Melbourne controlled the day as it came away with a 96 (16)-70 (2) win.

"It was a tough day at the office," Sunbury's David Glennon said.

"It's always tough at Melbourne and we were pretty fortunate to pick up two points.

"Both were from draws where they picked up three shots and two shots to get the draws.

"It could have been 18-0 and a whitewash."

Glennon said Marc Bullows' rink, which also included Carla Krizanic, Sophie Kurzman and Dean Elliott, were the best bowlers on the day for Sunbury.

He said that rink had been down by 10 shots early in the piece before fighting back to come away with one point in the 19-all rink.

"They were solid all day," Glennon said of that rink. "Speaking to all the skippers, it was the only positive rink for the day."

Desmond Cann Jnr's rink also came away with a draw, 23-all, while Mark Armstrong's rink lost 23-15 and Benjamin Winther's rink lost 32-13.

Glennon said the loss showed how challenging every game would be in this division.

"Melbourne are seasoned campaigners," he said.

"They are a strong side and every game is going to be difficult as we go up a level.

"There will be plenty of testing matches ahead and that is what we play for."

Sunbury is on the road again in round four, facing Heathmont, which also has one win for the season.

It was a tough day all round for Sunbury on Saturday, with not one side having a win.

Glennon said he didn't know the last time that occurred with usually at least one side coming away with a win.

"We had one side have a tie and one lost by one shot," he said.

"The others were convincingly beaten."

Meanwhile in the Ballarat Highlands Bowls Region Highlands competition, Gisborne and Romsey remain undefeated after five rounds in division 1.

On Saturday, Gisborne beat Kilmore, 68 (14)-63 (2) to maintain its strong start to the season.

All three rinks were close with 24-21 wins to Ethan Higgins and Tim Rogers getting the win for Gisborne.

Romsey was too strong for Woodend, 64 (14)-53 (2).

Cameron Austin and Aaron Young both had big wins for Romsey.

The top two sides have broken away from the other sides, with a more than 30-point gap on third placed Kyneton Golf.

In other results, Kyneton Golf beat Broadford, 85 (16)-36 (0), Diggers Rest beat Trentham, 56 (12)-53 (4) and Kyneton beat Lancefield, 62 (12)-56 (4).

Cats add trio

Macedon has locked in some key recruits for next year's Riddell District Football League season.

Will Cookson has joined the Cats, in a massive signing for the club.

Cookson played for Carlton's Victorian Football League team this year.

"The footy resume of Will speaks for itself as he enters his best years," the Cats said.

"Perhaps the best example of how highly he is regarded in the game is highlighted by the fact that he was included in the leadership group at Carlton before even playing a VFL game.

"The ultimate energy-giver with an infectious personality, Will's standards are next level and whilst the label of making those around them better can be thrown around at times, Will actually does this naturally on and off the field with real and serious impact."

Meanwhile Jayden Eales and Pat MacDonough, who were teammates at the Sunbury Lions many seasons ago, have both signed with the Cats adding some height to the side.

Eales, who can play forward and in the ruck, joins the Cats from the Sunbury Kangaroos, where he was co-coach in 2025.

He has also played in the Victorian Football League with Williamstown.

"Jayden is an experienced footballer across many different levels," the Cats said.

"He is also a person of high integrity and standards who will be a great fit for our playing list and our overall environment."

MacDonough joins the club having played in the Horsham Football League this year.

He has also played in the Wimmera Football League and the Victorian Amateur Football Association.

"Pat brings valuable experience and versatility to the Cats and is fresh off a 2026 senior premiership where he was a key anchor," the Cats said.

"A quality individual, Pat has a great presence and his pedigree will be a key driver across the entire football program and wider club community."

Star Weekly Sport
starweekly.com.au
3, NOVEMBER, 2026



Tigers enjoying return



Roos' first women's team



Damien Edwards. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 435783_05

Bees build

By Tara Murray

Sunbury United is hoping to make the most of getting action on day one of its Gisborne and District Cricket Association McIntyre Cup with Rupertswood.

Attention turned to two-day cricket for the first time this season, with the Bees and Rupo match the only game in the top flight to get underway, with heavy rain on Saturday limiting the action across the rest of the competition.

Bees' coach Fabian Fernando said there was only a slight delay which was good considering the other matches will now be one-dayers this Saturday.

He said they were hoping to get some bonus points out of the match to help close the gap on the top sides.

"We played 68 overs which was good," he said.

"We've had a mixed start to the season and it would be good to get some extra points."

The Bees finished day one at 5-216 off 68 overs.

Damien Edwards batted through the day, finishing 112 not out off 191 balls.

Fernando said Edwards and Steven Fogarty put a really strong partnership together to control the day.

"They took us to a good score," he said. "Damien has been a very consistent player for Sunbury United for the last few years.

"He brings the class to the side. He hit only five boundaries but he kept pushing the runs and penetrating the field.

"It suits Stephen's style of cricket as well."

Joey Boulton has three wickets for Rupo and was the pick of the bowlers.

The Bees can face another 12 overs on day two to further push the target up and put the pressure back on Rupertswood.

Fernando said with some strong batting power still to come they were hoping to push the total up towards 280.

"Hopefully we can continue next week," he said. "A run a ball is what we will be aiming for and Damien is still in to help support them."

Fernando said they'd had some good challenges early in the season, having had losses to both of last season's grand finalists.

He said they felt like they were building something with the group and were confident in what they can achieve.

Fernando said new captain Jay King was having a massive impact on the group.

"He's come across from Gisborne and from a championship team," he said.

"He brings that different experience to the group and we've worked really well together.

"He's passionate about the club as well.

"It's good to have the same expectations about playing as I do."

In the Johnstone Shield, two matches got underway despite the weather.

Merrifield Panthers are 1-104 in reply to Riddell's 190.

The Bombers were bowled out in the 60th over with Hayden Castle top scoring with 53.

Broadford is 0-36 in reply to Eynesbury's 133.

Rupo's squad strengthened

By Tara Murray

A former club captain, with Victorian Premier Cricket experience, headlines the four new signings for Rupertswood in the Gisborne and District Cricket Association McIntyre Cup.

Rupo announced the arrival of four new players for the rest of the McIntyre Cup season.

Former captain-coach Nathan Shoesmith returns to Rupo after a couple of seasons away from the game.

"Shoey has spent some time with his young family away from the game over the past few years and is now ready to come back and add to the first XI's squad in pursuit of the McIntyre Cup," Rupo said on social media.

"Shoey brings 100-plus games of premier cricket experience and is also a 2023-24 McIntyre team of the year player. Shoey bleeds yellow and blue, his commitment to the club from a young age sees him always return as one of Rupo's favourite sons."

Shoesmith made his return to the Rupo side on Saturday,

Jayden Harris made his debut for Rupertswood on Saturday, having moved across from Tasmania.

Rupo said Harris has built a very solid CV after a long career in Tassie, highlighted by representation at state level.

Rupo's two imports have also arrived, following delays in visas.

Jacob Carter returns for a second season at the club.

"We welcome back JC after his season in 2024-25, where he has shown an enormous amount of improvement after regular appearances in Minster's second XI," Rupo said. "His spin bowling and middle order batting will add great depth on the field.

"JC also brings unbelievable off-field value being one of the great men to pull on the yellow and blue."

Freddie Dolman is playing in Australia for the first time this summer. He and Carter have been teammates back in England.

"Fred's a wicket-keeper batsman with a gorgeous technique and solid gloves behind the stumps," Rupo said.

"Again like JC, Fred has regularly represented Minster at second XI level and will add good depth to our playing group. Fred's also a quality character off the field and we're sure he will keep you entertained for the 2026-27 season."

Dolman made his debut for the club in its second XI on Saturday.

Rupertswood's match with Sunbury United was the only McIntyre Cup match to get underway on Saturday.

The Bees finished the day at 5-216.