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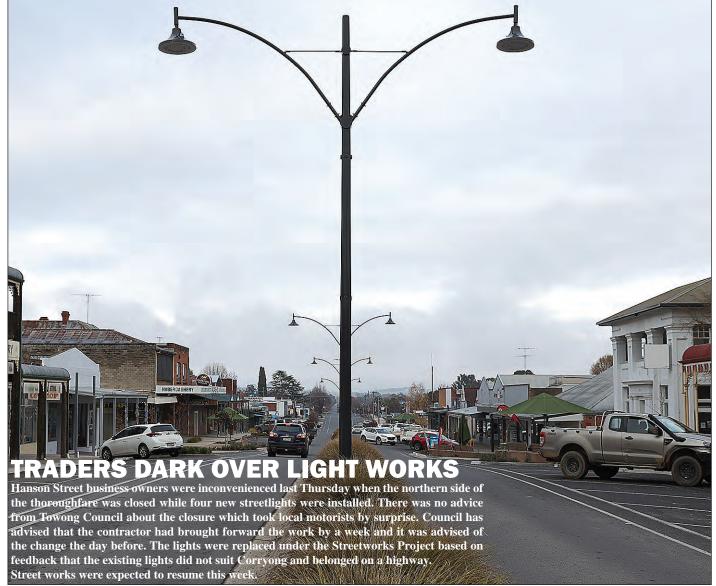
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Tatts





#### Home care delays endanger seniors

Independent members of Parliament including Indi representative Helen Haines are concerned about the impact the Albanese government's decision to postpone the commencement of 80,000 new Home Care packages will have on older Australians.

The 83,000 new packages were due to be rolled out from 1 July, 2025 but this has now been postponed until November.

"There are currently some 80,000 Australians on the waitlist for a Home Care package and it takes 12 to 15 months for someone to get a Level 4 package," Dr Haines said.

"In that context a six month delay is consequential. Research shows that the longer people without go appropriate home care supports, the higher their risk of injury, hospitalisation and earlier entry into residential aged care1.

"The delay will also imperil the Albanese government's commitment that by 2027 no one will wait more than 90 days for a package."

Ten independent parliamentarians have signed an open letter calling on the government to, at a minimum, fund 20,000 new packages to commence on 1 July, 2025 under the current Home Care Packages scheme, which can then be rolled over onto the new Support at Home program when it eventually commences.

ACT Independent Senator, David Pocock, said older Australians and their families couldn't afford to wait even longer for much-needed support in their homes.

"Last term the Albanese government made some good progress with multipartisan support but now they need to prioritise implementation," Senator Pocock said.

"I regularly have families contacting me about the excessively long wait times for Home Care packages. We can't afford to delay this further. The 1,400 Canberrans currently on the waitlist need help now and each day we delay is another day they are put at risk of injury or of going into permanent care well ahead of their time."

"While the sector acknowledges this delay as a frustrating but necessary step, we need more home care packages now to bridge the gap until November," Dr Haines added.

"In my electorate, people have approved packages but are waiting months for care because of a lack of providers. We also can't delay the rollout of a pricing framework that fairly reflects the travel costs to deliver care in rural areas."

Independent Member Kooyong, Monique Ryan, said older Australians were already waiting too long for support.

"It's clear that the industry is not yet ready to implement the new Aged Care Act and it makes home care packages

"However, Australians shouldn't suffer because of the aged care system's failures. They're already waiting far too long for the help they need.

"The government should urgently fund an extra 20,000 packages to support older Australians stay safe and healthy at home, while it helps stakeholders transition to the new framework."

Allegra Spender, independent Member for Wentworth, said action is needed now to help lower waiting times.

"I regularly

heartbreaking stories of parents and grandparents who are eligible for home care packages but end up in aged-care facilities unnecessarily, because the home care package takes too long," said Ms

Spender. "The rationing of sense to delay it," she said. fails families and older older Australians and simply places more burden and costs on our aged care system. The government needs to deliver on its promise to provide more home care packages.

"While the additional time for the sector to transition to the New Aged Care Act is warranted, the 83,000 people waiting for a package should not be made to wait any longer.

"The government can and must act on without delay,' said Dr Sophie Scamps, independent Member for Mackellar.

Cont. on page 3.

# Stories sought for new siege book

This year marks the 85th anniversary of one of the most famous sieges in military history and information is being sought for a new book commemorating the event.

The Rats of Tobruk were soldiers of the Australian-led Allied garrison, as well as the Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade, that held the Libyan port of Tobruk against the Afrika Corps, during the Siege of Tobruk in World War II.

The siege started on 11 April, 1941 and was relieved on 10 December that year. The port continued to be held by the Allies until its surrender on 21 June, 1942.

The Rats of Tobruk Association is asking descendants of soldiers that took part in the siege for stories about their ancestors' experience of war and at Tobruk.

The 85th anniversary will be held in April next year in Sydney.

Many local men served in the North Africa campaign and one who paid the ultimate sacrifice was John Leslie Johnson, one of four men from Walwa who were killed in action on 17 May, 1941 (\*).

'Jack' Johnson (pictured) was born at 'Rock View' near Walwa on 22 July, 1902. On 18 June, 1940 he volunteered for service with the AIF in Albury. Married to Josephine and father to seven children, Johnson was nearing the age of 38 at the time.

On 27 July, 1940

he formally enlisted in Caulfield, Melbourne and by 1 July was back in Albury training with B Company, 4 Infantry Training Battalion.

On 20 August, 2/23
Battalion - known as
'Albury's Own' - was
raised and Johnson
became an original
member. He continued
training with the battalion
and was promoted to
acting corporal in October.

On 16 November the battalion embarked for the Middle East aboard HMT Strathmore. By this time Johnson had learnt he was to be a father for the eighth time.

He served in North Africa, sending letters home from Dimra in Palestine, Mersa Matruh, Fort Capuzzo and Tobruk.

Family violence is the leading

cause of home lessness for

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In May 1941 the Afrika

Corps captured posts in the area of Post S9 around Tobruk. 2/23 Battalion counter-attacked and on 17 May, Johnson was wounded in action. He later died of his wounds and is buried in the Tobruk War Cemetery.

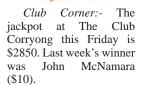
In 2003 Johnson's life in the army, as revealed by his letters home to his family, was the subject of an ABC television documentary and book.

The Rats of Tobruk Association is seeking stories of a maximum 850 words and photos if available by around mid-July. Email sueT@ ratsoftobruk.com.au.

(\* The other three Walwa men killed at Tobruk were Pat Joy, James Evans and Alan Kelly - see part two next week).

# Kelly - see part two next week). The Grapevine





Congratulations to Choc and Joyce Thompson who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with family in Wodonga on the weekend.



# Corryong gears up for milestone anniversary

Let the news be known there are local celebrations on the horizon!

The community may have heard some whispers on the street or seen some historic photos on their socials about Corryong's impending 'big birthday'.

With support from Towong Shire Council, Corryong Rotary, Bank WAW, Corryong Lions Club and some dedicated community volunteers, a format for Corryong's Sesquicentennial is being finalised.

This 150th milestone will be an opportunity for everyone to enjoy up and coming events for a week in mid-July.

Mark your calender as a parade of activities is coming your way.

The 150th celebrations will be held from Saturday 19th July until Saturday 26th. Look for more details in the *Corryong Courier*, on your socials and the Towong Shire website.

#### Get together for some fun

The Upper Murray community is being invited to a community barbecue at the Walwa Recovery Centre tomorrow for people to gather for some camaraderie and a few laughs.

The event is being run by the Border-Walwa Football Netball Club and kicks off at 6pm and goes 'until stumps'.

Roast meat and rolls will be available and participants are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share (byo drinks). Entertainment includes comedy, music by Mollie Waters and possibly a rain dance!

#### Kindergarten enrolments open

Towong Shire Council has advised that kindergarten enrolments for the 2026 school year are now open.

Families are invited to enrol their children in one of council's kindergarten programs located in Bellbridge, Corryong, Tallangatta and Walwa. Enrolments will remain open until 5.00pm on Tuesday 1 July, 2025.

Council's kindergartens offer quality programs for both three and four-year-old children, with up to 15 hours per week available at all sites. The programs provide a supportive and engaging early learning environment.

To enrol, families are encouraged to speak with staff at their local centre or visit towong.vic.gov.au/enrolments.

Keep your general recyling loose and unbagged.

While it might seem the right thing to do, avoid putting your recycling in plastic bags.

Keeping it loose in the bin helps make sure more of it gets sorted and turned into useful new things—like park benches and planter boxes. Let's make every item count!

#### Other tips:

More information is available on Council's website or sustainability.vic.gov.au/circular-economy-and-recycling/at-home







## Expanded services meet community need

Family Care (UMFC) announced the expansion of Therapy Services, a timely and strategic response the rising mental health and wellbeing needs of individuals, families, children, and young people across the region.

For decades, rural and regional Australians have faced significant barriers to accessing psychological services and UMFC is responding by expanding workforce and delivery models - leveraging the skills of counsellors, and therapists other practitioners aualified to ensure that consumer choice, therapeutic rapport and accessibility are at the heart of mental health care in the region.

"At a time when the unmet need for psychological and therapy services is a national and most importantly, local concern, UMFC is stepping up with a model of care that is crossborder, trusted, tailored, and trauma-informed," said Felicity Williams, UMFC CEO.

"We have experienced compassionate therapists who are there to walk alongside those seeking personal growth, navigating family dynamics, or pursuing professional development.

"Therapy Services is UMFC's communitycentred response to a national crisis."

Cont. from page 1.

Care Packages are putting

pressure on families who

are struggling to care

for their loved ones and

desperately need urgent

support right now," Dr

Tasmanians seniors can

stay home, the better off

they are and delaying

acceptable," said Senator

Jacqui Lambie, Senator

promised rollout

November isn't

longer

Scamps said.

for Tasmania.

"The

'These delays to Home

Recent research paints a clear picture of the need:-

- · Workforce shortages and long waitlists are leaving many without timely support (PACFA, 2025)
- Cost of living pressures and social challenges including domestic and family violence are increasing the mental health burden (APS, 2025)
- · Access is especially limited in regional and remote areas, where services are unavailable (Productivity Commission, 2025)
- Counsellors psychotherapists qualified professionals outside the Medicare system - are under utilised despite their ability to provide high-quality care (ACA, 2023).

"UMFC's expanded Therapy Services directly address these challenges by offering flexible and inclusive care," Williams said.

Services include:-

- Family Therapy to strengthen relationships and improve communication
- Relationship Therapy builds connection, intimacy and healthy dialogue
- Parent Therapy reflects on the parenting and journey meaningful goals
- Individual Therapy for adults helps navigate life's challenges and fosters healing

this issue over the last ten

years. What the Minister

calls 'a brief deferral' will

directly impact the lives of

The signatories to

the open letter are Dr

Haines MP, Senator David Pocock, Senator

Jacqui Lambie, Dr Sophie

Scamps MP, Dr Monique

Ryan MP, Allegra Spender

MP. Andrew Gee MP.

Andrew Wilkie MP, Zali

Steggall MP and Kate

Chaney MP.

older Australians."

• Spotlight Sessions are short-term, focused support with minimal wait times.

· Family Therapy for all family members

· Child and Adolescent Therapy supports emotional regulation and personal growth.

- Consultation Services provide one time targeted professional support for counsellors professionals
- Individual and Group Supervision provides collaborative spaces designed to promote professional growth and best practice
- Tailored Training and Reflective Practice training packages are tailored to meet the specific needs of organisations or professionals.

Additional services are available upon request. Session fees typically range from \$150 to \$220. The services are also available to self or plan managed NDIS participants, with further concession rates for Health Care Card holders.

"UMFC's approach is grounded in the belief that therapy should be as unique as the people it serves," Ms Williams said.

"We see the whole



The UMFC Therapy Services team (from left) Shari Webb (Clinical Lead), Janette Airey-Graham, Kate Gilson and Lora Chapman-Monte.

picture, not just the individual and offer officebased and telehealth sessions to suit every individual.

We have established our Therapy Services in response to the need for therapy and counselling assistance we have directly observed with the children, young people and families we support.

Daily, we see people

our communities languishing on waiting lists and unable to find the support they need close to where they live.

We know that mental health challenges are increasing, particularly for young people, but also for those impacted by family violence. The family violence rate in regional areas, such as ours, is twice the rate of metropolitan areas. Yet therapy and counselling services are in short supply in regional areas.

providers While within our health sector respond to people needing diagnosed mental health support, we know that our clinical and medical system response is not

We need more community-based support and services, particularly for those members of our community who would benefit from less formal and individualised therapy and counselling. UMFC is developing its Therapy Services for the whole family to complement other communitybased programs such as headspace and Head to Health provided by Gateway Health.

#### Mayors welcome report on fire fighting assets

The chairman of the NSW Country Mayors Association (CMA), Cr Rick Firman OAM, has welcomed the release Ball dropped on care packages of the Public Accounts Committee's inquiry into the Assets, Premises and "Both sides of politics Funding of the NSW Rural have dropped the ball on

Fire Service (RFS). The inquiry, undertaken to examine whether the current frameworks governing assets, premises and funding for the RFS remained appropriate, effective and sustainable released its muchanticipated report this week.

"Local Government has long complained that the way that fire fighting assets are managed in NSW no longer reflects on-ground reality," Cr Firman said.

"Most residents are not aware that virtually all RFS assets and equipment from fire trucks to sheds are actually owned by their local council and not the RFS. Further, they are not aware that even though councils own the assets, carry them on their books and are responsible for their maintenance, we have absolutely no control over them.

"In most cases councils do not even have a key to the RFS sheds they own and maintain.

"The matter has come to a head in recent years, when the depreciation of the RFS equipment has hit council finances hard.

The CMA, LGNSW, Organisations, regional organisations of councils and councils across the state have lobbied hard for what has become known as the 'Red Fleet' to be removed from council asset registers and transferred to where they belong, the RFS.

"The Public Accounts Committee found that the current arrangements where the RFS exercise operational control over the Red Fleet but ownership rests with councils has created substantial inefficiencies, administrative duplication, legal ambiguity and complications. The Committee's Report states that it received no evidence supporting the continuation of councils' ownership of the Red Fleet.

"The CMA Board and Members strongly supports the committee's assessment of the current arrangements and we warmly welcome recommendation the Rural Fires Act be amended to recognise that the RFS owns and operates the Red Fleet," Cr Firman said.

The recommendation is one of 14 made by the committee which will result in updating the 1997 Rural Fires Act to better reflect the way that the RFS operates and bushfires are managed in

"The CMA board and members extend our appreciation to the Inquiry Chairman, Mr Jason

Yat-Sen Li MP, Member for Strathfield and the committee members for their genuine commitment to engage with local government on this matter and find a sustainable pathway forward." Cr Firman said.

The CMA has written to the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Jihad Dib MP, to strongly encourage the government to adopt and implement the committee's recommendations ahead of the 25/26 Bushfire season. We

"The situation with the Red Fleet has festered for far too long," CR Firman

"The committee has put clear recommendations forward to resolve the situation.'

## Working for you

My office assists thousands of constituents with Centrelink, Medicare, NDIS, My Aged Care, telecommunications and immigration issues. If you need help with any Commonwealth service, please email, phone or visit my office.



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#### Local projects build drought resilience

Drought enduring, regular feature of the Australian landscape which inflicts major financial, social and environmental costs on farm businesses and communities.

The Ovens Murray Drought Resilience Plan (the Plan) is one of nine regional plans developed in Victoria which aims to build social, economic and landscape resilience to drought.

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) recently received funding from the RDRP Program to develop a 12-month implementation plan.

This involved a call for expressions of interest from local groups and organisations to deliver activities that contribute to the delivery of the Plan.

North East CMA chief executive officer, Katie Warner, said 20 applications worth over \$1 million were received, showing the strong interest from community, agricultural groups and support agencies in the

"With the current conditions, the impacts of drought on our mental health, natural environment, farming systems and local businesses is evident and underlines the importance of working together," Ms Warner said.

With \$300,000 available in funding, the following six projects were successful and will be implemented over the next 12-months:-

1. Drought Preparedness Community Leadership Program, Vallevs Alpine Community Leadership (\$60,000)

2. Soil Moisture Probe Proposal - Upper Murray, Kiewa Valley and Ovens-King Valley, Burgoigee Creek Landcare Group, Kiewa Catchment Landcare Groups and Upper Murray (\$47,505).

3. Beyond the dry - a know-how and network building initiative for women in agriculture, Catchment Kiewa Landcare Groups (\$59,430)

Drought-Ready 4. Mansfield: Connecting Land and Community, Up2Us Landcare Alliance (\$49,565)

Co-Designing Psychological Preparedness Program for drought in the Ovens Murray Region, The University of Melbourne, Department of Health (\$59,000)

Where 6. now? Revisiting they tree decline in North East Victoria, Australian National University

(\$24,500)

For further information visit the North East CMA website (necma.vic.gov.

This project the Regional Drought Planning Resilience program is supported by North East Catchment Management Authority. through funding from the Australian government's Future Drought Fund and the Victoria government.

#### Health awards have opened

Remote, rural and regional communities Australia are across being encouraged acknowledge contribution, innovation and dedication of their local health professionals and organisations by nominating them for the 2025 National Rural and Remote Health Awards which are now open.

Inaugurated by Rural Health Pro in 2023, the awards take place each November as part of Rural Health Month and nominations can be peer, organisation, patient or self-nominated.

Rural Health Manager, Jessica Rostas, is encouraging every individual. whether patient or peer, to rally and celebrate the extraordinary efforts their local health professionals, teams and organisations by nominating them for one of ten award categories.

"We have been delighted with support these awards have received in the past from the attendance of the Governor-General to nominations from Australia's most remote communities of some of Australia's

most outstanding health professionals organisations, making a difference where it matters most," Ms Rostas said.

"Whether you're a patient or peer, every nomination is opportunity to express gratitude and acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of your local health professionals and organisations or you can nominate yourself!

"Furthermore, it is my hope that our winners' stories will inspire future generations to consider pursuing careers in this vital field and raise awareness of the many rewarding benefits of working in rural health," she said.

Rural Health is a social enterprise of the Rural Doctors Network (RDN), and the awards form part of a commitment to celebrating and supporting the health care professionals who serve remote and rural communities throughout Australia

As well as hoping to inspire generations and future leaders in rural and remote health, the awards also offer a wonderful opportunity all to celebrate the work to bring together rural, remote and indigenous

community members and pay tribute to their commitment and resourcefulness in the face of unique challenges.

All rural, remote and

regional communities now have the opportunity to showcase this work by nominating in one or more of the ten categories listed below:-

- Outstanding Contribution to Rural/ Remote Health Access
- Rural/Remote Aged or Disability Carer of the

Excellence in

- Rural/Remote Health Administration Rural/Remote
- Multidi-sciplinary Collaboration of the Year Excellence
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healthcare • Rural/Remote Health
- Professional of the Year • Rising Star in Rural/ Remote Health
- Dedication to Health in a Remote Location • Rural/Remote Health
- Innovator of the Year • Rural/Remote Health Employer of the Year

Nominations close on August 11, 2025. The awards presentation will take place at the National Press Club in Canberra on Wednesday November 5,

#### Credit card items queried

Freedom of Information documents obtained by the Liberals and Nationals have uncovered more than \$1 million in credit card transactions made by Parks Victoria between January 2023 and December last year including spending at a bridal studio and various golf clubs.

"The Minister for Environment, Dimopoulos, must urgently explain the spending,' said Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath.

"Parks Victoria credit cards were used to make payments for a specialist practitioner totalling \$1320, various Country Club and various non-descript PayPal purchases including one totalling more than \$1900," claimed Ms Bath, Shadow Minister for Public Land Management.

"Among the charges was a bill from a bridal studio, raising serious concerns at the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) hearings about the minister's ability to explain how these purchases align with operational responsibilities or public interest.

"The documents show that during this period, the Parks Victoria Chief Executive Officer personally spent more than \$5000 in credit card purchases including a \$233 transaction on July 4 last year at Kisakallio Saati - a Finland-based business offering high quality facilities for ice hockey, football, cheer leading, basketball, orienteering, figure skating, dancing and taekwondo.

"Serious questions must now be answered. What was more than \$1 million of Victorian taxpayers money spent on, and was it justified?

Ms Bath said Victorians golf clubs including more deserve full transparency than \$1000 at the Rosebud on how their money is spent.

"The Minister has a lot of explaining to do and must compel Parks Victoria to fully account for all these expenses," she said.

The Minister, under questioning in PAEC, was asked specifically about the bridal studio purchase and responded "I'm sure there's a sound reason for

"All Victorians look forward to the Minister confirming what that sound reason is," Ms Bath said.

# hy do dam repairs often fail?

Clem Sturmfels, Land Management Extension Officer (DEECA)

As dry conditions continue across Victoria, many farmers may be considering repairing leaking or failed dams to increase on-farm water storage capacity once it rains.

Dam repairs are often high-risk, expensive, and should only be undertaken when the cause of failure and repair options are well understood.

Repairs should only be attempted on larger, wellconstructed dams.

Understanding dam's history - who built it, what equipment was used, and how it has performed - is essential before any work begins.

construction, unsuitable materials, inadequate compaction, and soil contamination are among the most common causes of dam failure.

While maintenance can contribute, it is rarely the primary factor.

Diagnosing the cause of dam failure can be complex. It is important

to determine whether the leak is through the wall or floor of the dam and whether it is isolated or widespread.

Thorough inspections should ideally be carried out across multiple seasons, including winter, spring, and summer.

Where possible, landholders should:\_

- · Inspect the dam bank for seepage, subsidence, cracks, or tunnels
- Check the waterline for whirlpools or surface turbulence
- Examine downstream areas for soft ground or lush vegetation, indicating seepage
- Use a steel probe or crowbar to test soil firmness in suspect areas
- Watch for unusual signs such as bright yellow or very clear water, which may indicate tunnelling or unsuitable soil
- Monitor photograph the regularly to track changes in water levels or visible issues
- Inspect the dam after heavy rain to identify potential problems
  - · Carefully examine

wall, looking for signs of unsuitable materials like sand, gravel or topsoil.

Soil testing is a crucial part of any repair effort. Testing should include samples from the failure site and surrounding areas as well as any potential borrow pits. Basic soil assessments, including texture, aggregate stability and shrinkage can be undertaken by landholders using simple guidelines available on the Agriculture Victoria website: Soil materials for farm dam construction.

Repair options depend on the location, cause and severity of the failure.

Solutions may include reworking existing materials, sourcing suitable material nearby or using additives like lime, gypsum, bentonite or specialised products such as sealants or membranes.

Expert advice should always be sought before manufactured products as locally sourced materials are often more effective.

Dam repair works usually involve:-



Diagnosing the cause of dam failure can be complex.

- · Excavating the site for safe machinery access
- Preparing foundations to optimise bonding
- Ensuring repair materials are moist and placed in layers not exceeding 100mm
- Compacting each layer with multiple passes of a padfoot roller
- Ensuring the total depth/width of repair materials exceed 300mm
- · Shaping final slopes to a maximum gradient of 3:1 (horizontal:vertical). Repairing dams also

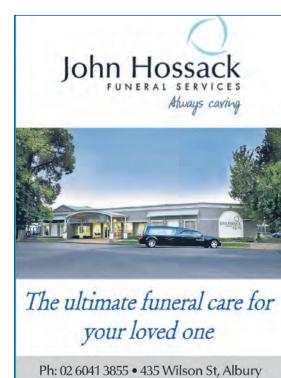
presents significant health and safety risks including unstable soil, steep slopes, machinery hazards and exposure to dust.

All works should be carried out by qualified and experienced personnel, and safety protocols must be in place, including reliable emergency communication.

Permits or licences may be required to undertake dam repairs. Landholders are encouraged to contact local council planning officer and water authority for guidance.

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#### access todder

Importers looking to bring fodder into Victoria from interstate can go Agriculture through Victoria to apply for a Plant Biosecurity Permit (PBP) to ensure biosecurity risks are properly managed.

Agriculture Victoria is providing a free service to suppliers, transporters and farmers to navigate permit requirements and expedite access to fodder.

Ongoing drought conditions have created serious challenges for Victoria's livestock industry, particularly a critical shortage of hay and fodder - so farmers are needing to look interstate for source supplies.

All imported fodder requires a PBP to manage biosecurity risks from entering Victoria from interstate including Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (found in all states but NT and Tasmania), Green Snail (found in WA), Red Imported Fire Ant (found in QLD), and Electric Ant (found in QLD).

Agriculture Chief Plant Health Officer, Dr Stephen Dibley, said all fodder imports will require a PBP, except for NT and Tasmania.

"Given the ongoing tough conditions across the state, Agriculture Victoria is prioritising permit applications for fodder to make sure essential transport can be fast tracked," Dr Dibley

Plant "Once a Biosecurity Permit is

submitted, our team will be in touch within two working days to discuss and assess the specifics of your import request," he

"Costs associated with the inspection of interstate fodder by Agriculture Victoria where it is required, will be waived."

For more information and to apply for a plant health permit visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/ biosecurity/movingplants-and-plant-products/ plant-biosecurity-permit email it directly market.access@ agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Agriculture Victoria actively monitoring seasonal, economic and social conditions information is used to continuously inform the government on current and emerging conditions and pressures in our farming community.

Farmers under financial stress as a result of drought or other pressures can access support and resources 365 days a year.

This includes:-

- Financial Rural Counselling Service (RFCS) free and confidential business planning support - https:// agriculture.vic.gov. au/farm-management/ business-management/ farm-debt-mediation/ rural-financial-counsellingservice
- Farm Household Allowance program - a fortnightly

Commonwealth Government payment www.servicesaustralia. gov.au/farm-household-

- Regional Investment Corporation low interest drought loans of up to \$2 million - to assist farmers to prepare for, manage and recover from drought www.ric.gov.au/loans
- Local governments also offer rate hardship policies.
- Ongoing supports are outlined in Agriculture Victoria Resource Directory, available at https://agriculture.vic. gov.au/farm-management/ emergency-management/ floods/recovery-resourcesand-events/resource-

# Cattle levy needs reviewing

The time is right for Australia's beef cattle levy to be reviewed to ensure the funding system is appropriate for the modern challenges facing the industry, according to Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

A levy of \$5 per head is collected at point of sale with these funds used for research, development and marketing initiatives by MLA.

The R&D component a matching attracts Commonwealth contribution. Components of the levy also go to support Animal Health Australia (AHA), and the National Residue Survey (NRS).

Cattle Australia (CA) Chief Executive, Dr Chris Parker, said they would work with other peak industry bodies in taking a holistic view of the red stays in front of the game meat production industry, its future needs and as a reliable source of safe, appropriate support from the levy system.

"There is a case to be made to improve levy arrangements including collection distribution of funds to secure the future of this vital industry," Dr Parker

"The first part of this review process is to get the work done on this case. There will be wide consultation on both the case for and against change and we must of course meet the levy principles set out by Federal government.

"This will not be a quick fix. We anticipate the full review process and consultation will take at least two years but we must start now if we are to ensure that our industry

and maintains its position

nutritious protein."

The red meat supply chain employs more than

430,000 people nationwide and has a turnover of more than \$81 billion per year.

#### **Corryong Neighbourhood Centre**

Opening Hours: Monday - Thursday 11am – 3pm CNC Reduced Hours! Please note our opening hours have changed due to an ongoing lack of funding

Upcoming Closures! - Due to external commitments, there will be no office support available during the following days/times: Wednesday, June 18th 11am - 1pm & Thursday, June 19th

UMCC - post & view local events! Search: 'Upper Murray Community Calendar' into your browser or scan the QR code below. To post events create an account, then send us a message.

Wodonga Eye Care - Visits CNC fortnightly. Book appointments on 02 6056 4000.

Youth Space - 12-25 y/o welcome. Open hours: Mon-Thurs 3:30 - 5pm. Located at 42 Hanson Street. Enjoy Consoles, pool table, kitchen & bathroom, tv with streaming services & much more!

Walwa Garage - Bookings available via appointment only.

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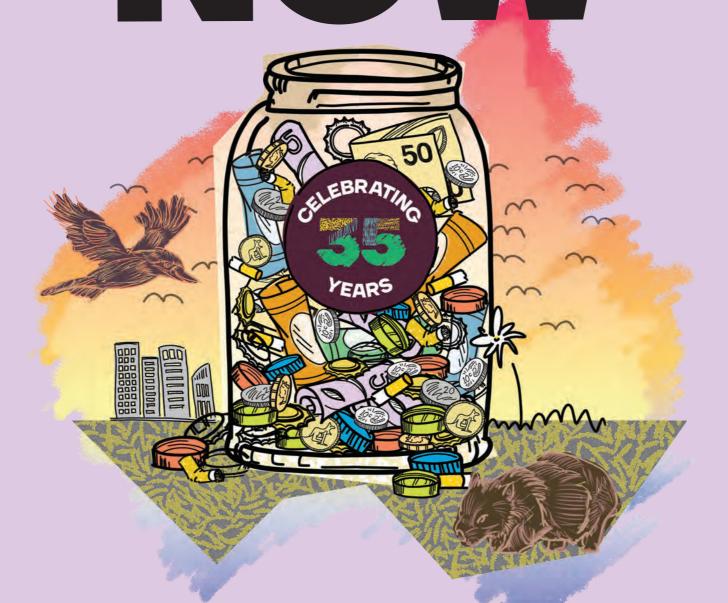


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2025

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#### Seasonal milk prices set

Saputo Dairy Australia (SDA) has announced to suppliers its opening weighted average milk price of \$8.80 to \$8.95 per kilogram of milk solids (kgMS) for the 2025-26 season.

Kate Ryan, Director of Milk Supply and Planning, said SDA's opening milk price reflected the stabilisation of global commodity prices, offset by sustained domestic market challenges as consumers remain cost sensitive due to cost-ofliving pressures.

"While optimistic there are long-term opportunities ahead, we are mindful of prevailing headwinds," she said.

"As the 2025/26 milk year is only just beginning, we will review our farm gate milk prices during the season and pass on stepups where it is supported by greater certainty across key markets and product categories.

"This year, SDA will continue to support farmers with flexible payment options and tailored programs to help achieve their business

"Farmers can choose a flat monthly payment structure for greater consistency in cash flow, as well as access to supplier investment rebates, the AG Warehouse Loyalty Program, and a growth payment on any net increase in a farm's milk solids.

"In addition, SDA has expanded access to supplier partnership programs to help drive farm business performance, profitability and on-farm sustainability opportunities," Ms Ryan

#### Courier **Advertising**

- IDs are required when placing birth, wedding and engagement notices.
- · All trade ads must have the licence name and no. appear in the ad.

Ph: 02 6076 1045

#### Low prices will send dairy farmers to the wall

announcement of new season prices by dairy processors, the Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) has forecast that the lower than expected rates combined with increasing production costs could force farmers to leave the industry.

"As they endure droughts and rebuild after severe flooding, many Australian dairy farmers face a new battle - prices that will not cover the cost of production," said ADF president, Ben Bennett.

"Last week, dairy processors revealed their new season prices which are lower than expected. Despite international dairy markets rising over the past 12 months, the newly announced prices are up by as little as five per cent in some instances.

"The increase in prices has not kept pace with inflation, let alone allowing for the costs of responding to droughts and floods including increased feed costs.

"Some dairy farmers just won't be able to endure this latest blow and they'll have to exit the industry," Mr Bennett affirmed.

"It's a dire situation that I fear will lead to structural change in our industry."

Mr Bennett added challenge that one was that dairy prices were constrained on supermarket shelves.

"When a cyclone wipes out Queensland's banana growers, the price of bananas rises rapidly in supermarkets," Mr Bennett said.

"Yet we have almost half of Australia's dairy farmers impacted by either a significant drought or a 1-in-500-year flood and the shelf price of fresh milk hasn't budged.

"Many dairy farmers recorded financial losses of more than \$1000 per head in the current milk supply season – a figure which is expected to be dwarfed in 2025-26.

"Farmers will try and bridge this gap by selling stock to reduce the feed burden and fund the

feed and water for their remaining cattle.

"This next season is going to be much worse again in terms of farmers' financial losses."

Mr Bennett explained that there had been a loss of liquidity in the cash flows not only of dairy farmers but also of service providers.

"Dairy farmers are reliant on a phenomenal industry service employing thousands of people and the lack of assistance leaves them vulnerable too," he said.

"Support measures such as the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) with its onerous application criteria fail to deliver what's needed for farmers in a crisis situation, leading to a ripple effect which will be felt throughout the industry."

ADF has issued a plea to governments to support food security by urgently helping dairy farmers.

"We need immediate crisis support including feed and water transport subsidies, cash grants and low interest loans and the activation of what's known as 'Category C and D' disaster support measures in conjunction with the Commonwealth," Mr Bennett said.

"Tackling the 'cash crunch' for farmers and communities will not only keep our farmers producing milk but also benefit the regional communities where they

"Fodder and hay reserves have run out and dairy farmers are looking at trucking hay from as far as Western Australia and Queensland. The NSW positive government's response to the floods, combined with flood recovery demand for hay in NSW, will mean there's even less fodder and hay available to supply drought affected farmers in other states."

However, Mr Bennett said there is a simple but pivotal role government can play in underwriting or subsidising stock feed imports from overseas,



Dairy prices may not cover production costs leading to stock sell-off or worse.

in order to give the commercial market the confidence to import more stock feed and increase supply to get farmers through the winter months.

"ADF is working closely with industry stakeholders including stock-feed importers, transporters, and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to

increase the availability of imported stock feed," he said.

"One viable option we're exploring is Palm Kernel Expeller (PKE). a high-protein, highfibre feed source used extensively in the New Zealand dairy industry."

Mr Bennett said that there were five things governments can do to help dairy farmers:-

- Immediate crisis relief - deliver feed and water transport subsidies to address shortages • Deliver cash grants
- and low-interest loans to address the cash crunch
- · Activate Category C and D disaster support in conjunction with the Commonwealth for floodand drought-affected areas
- · Targeted industry support - underwrite stock feed imports to give the commercial sector the confidence to increase stock feed supply through winter
- Long term resilience building - co-invest in water infrastructure. including a commitment to the South-West Victoria water pipeline project.

#### Funding helps lifeline for farmers

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) has welcomed \$900,000 in funding from the Victorian government but still needs additional support to maintain its programs.

significance of this funding can't be understated as it means we can continue supporting the health, wellbeing and safety of farmers across Australia for another year," said NCFH director, Alison Kennedy.

"This vital funding will underpin the day-to-day operations of the centre and ensure our dedicated team - many of whom are farmers themselves - can continue their important

"As this funding will only cover our operations over the next financial year, we continue to opportunities welcome to work with corporate, philanthropic and industry partners to develop and deliver informed and practical programs, tools and resources focusing on all aspects of farmer wellbeing - from farm safety to mental and physical health.

"There are various ways for organisations and individuals to support

financial through contributions and in-kind support.

"It's never too late to become one of our valued partners. supporters and donors and make a difference to farmers' lives," Ms Kennedy said.

visit https://farmerhealth.

Locally, the NCFH recently called for farming community members in three key dairy farming regions across Victoria to take part in a free trial of a peer-guided, model of mental health support.

The feasibility trial is

part of the Back on Track program - funded by the Gardiner Foundation which is aimed at farming community members who are experiencing low mood or depressive feelings.

The trial is recruiting For more information community members in the North East, South West and Gippsland regions of Victoria to explore the feasibility of a new support model that involves trained and mentored coaches providing accessible and culturally appropriate mental health services in agriculture-dependent communities.



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**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

#### **CHIROPRACTOR IN CORRYONG**

Dr Rowan Daniel

Visiting weekly on Fridays 9.30am-5.30pm **Next appointment:** June 20th. 2025 81B Hanson St., Corryong Ph: 6056 2185

#### **Ken Bailey Mechanical Repairs**

46 Donaldson St Corryong

**Phone** 6076 1119

**FOR SALE** 

# Upper Murray Sport (cont.)

# Sports women lead the way

Play Like a Girl Australia has announced a new round of scholarships for Empowered to Lead, its flagship leadership program for women and girls in sport.

The program is not just about learning to lead, it's about discovering who you are, building confidence that lasts and gaining the support to take your next step in sport, work or life.

A previous participant and advocate of the program is Jade Hunter whose story began in a small rural town where sport was more than just a weekend activity - it was a way of life.

Her parents owned the local sports store

and were both heavily involved in coaching and playing, which meant her connection to sport was forged early. From a young age, Jade was surrounded by strong community role models who showed

through sport. "I have vivid memories of watching my mum kneel down to coach her junior basketball girls, getting down on their level," Jade shared.

her what it meant to lead

with heart and give back

"It's something I've carried with me into every coaching role I've taken

By age 15, Jade was playing A Grade senior netball for her local club. Today, she has returned to that very club to coach both junior and senior teams.

a phyical Now activity advisor, coach, mentor and leader in the sporting community, Jade continues to embody that same passion and care that shaped her as a young girl.

Since becoming a mum in 2010, Jade has played netball every year between the ages of 30 and 45. During that time, she has collected multiple grand final wins, some as a player and others as a premiership playing coach

"The feeling of winning a grand final is the best," she said.

"The last couple I've coached, I've focused on getting players to believe in themselves.

The experiences we create together are about so much more than the sport itself."

Jade joined Empowered to Lead program last year after hearing glowing feedback from friends.

"I had just started a new job and was lucky enough to embed the program into my professional development," she said.

"I was excited to grow my knowledge in leadership but the course exceeded my expectations."

Jade particularly valued the focus on personal growth and selfunderstanding.

Thanks to the generous support of its partners, Play Like a Girl is offering 10 fully funded scholarships, each valued at \$1,500 per

The program includes:-· A six week online leadership program

- · Leadership themes that reflect the real world experience of women in sport
- Weekly mentoring and guest speakers
- Access to nationwide network of women in sport
- Tools to boost mindset, confidence and influence
- A 12-month Play Like a Girl membership network

scholarship program is open to women and girls aged 15 and above who are involved in sport in any capacity.



Jade Hunter has returned to her original

netball club to play and coach

Whether you're a player, coach, volunteer, administrator or just taking your first steps into the

For more information or to apply go to www. playlikeagirlaustralia. com/scholarship.

Cudgie Kings v Costellos

Cudgie Pub v Courthouse

Bacash's v Super UCG

St George v Surts & Co Lucyvale v Thougla

Hoppers v Culture Club

**High Country Darts** 

Winter Season

Results R6 10/6/25

Ladder R6

Tooma Ringers d 44s 6-1

P/Pointers d Nomads 4-3

Bottom Pub d Biggara 4-3

P/Pointers ......20 147.1

Bottom Pub ......16 100.0

Nomads ......12 121.1

Biggara.....4 82.6

Ringers ...... 4 75.0

Sharpshooters:- Men's

highest score - Brendon

McCallum 180 / Women's

highest score - Shelley

Henry 125 / Highest peg -

Les Purss 116.

..16 100.0

#### world of sports leadership, you are welcome to apply. Applications close on Friday 20 June, 2025.

#### **TEE TO GREEN**

#### Seller's comments:- Perfect for a tradesman or the

family rig! Purchased this car three years ago from my best mate (I am the second owner) and have had no issues whatsoever - been perfect for my needs. However, as I am doing more work from the home office these days and commuting into the city (Melbourne) more often, I am now looking to downsize. Car has been kept up to date with services and regularly kept in the garage. It has 12 months rego until April 2026 (NSW DKO-2LC) and I have just had it serviced (April 2026). This one is ready to drive away! Feel free to come and take it

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Ph: 0419 578 491.

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Welaregang

The term "Mad dogs and Englishmen" came to mind as four brave golfers teed off in antarctic conditions last Sunday for the June monthly medal competition.

The unusually muddy fairways and puddles on the greens were a welcome sight after the last few months but when the breeze started to pick up and the temperature cent reduced the field to a very dedicated (or crazy)

pair. Jono Lebner said "bring it on" as he carded an impressive 71 nett, with just 24 putts to win for the third time in four weeks. Tony Jarvis tried to keep up but in the end was 11 shots behind the winner.

Even with such a small field, the handicapper was still active, slicing one shot off the winner in an effort to rein in his winning run.

This Sunday is the annual Memorial plummeted even more, Foursomes competition an attrition rate of 50 per tee off at 12 noon for a fast game around the freshly greened up fairways.

#### **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

#### LAND LEASE

The Towong Racecourse & Recreation Reserve seek expressions of interest for leasing the 'internal paddock' at the reserve (approx.

Lease Term: 1/7/2025 - 30/6/2028.

For further information please contact the secretary Rohan Whitehead via email at recreservetowong@gmail.co or phone 0427 220 966.

#### Corryong

Women's The Championships conclude this Sunday June 15th. An 18-hole stableford competition will be held for those not playing in the championships.

#### Coming up

Wed 18/6: 1st Round Ladies Matchplay - entries to Ladies Captain by 14/6. (matches can be played on an alternate day by mutual agreement)

Sun 22/6: President v Captain's Day (Norma Paton Cup) - names in by 10am for 10.30 start. This is a mixed event, 18 holes stableford.

Sun 29/6:- Monthly Medal - 18 holes stroke (cash prizes).

#### **Competition Days:-**

- Mondays Social golf
- Wednesdays Women's/ Men's competitions (18
- Sundays Mens/Ladies/ Mixed competitions (18

Starting time during winter is 10am for 10.30am start.

#### **Indoor Bowls** Results R6 9/6/25

Cudgie Kings 23 d Culture Club 11; Cudgie Pub 20 d Young Guns 5; Courthouse 15 d Café 3707 7; Attackers 21 d Costello Rural 14; Lucyvale 16 d Bacash's 11; Hoppers 22 d St George 8; High Rollers 14 d Super UCG 8; CNC 30 d Surts & Co 7; Thougla 29 d Sassy Strikers 3.

#### Ladder R6

| Luuuci Ito        |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Thougla24         | 102  |
| Lucyvale22        | 34   |
| Courthouse20      | 84   |
| Bacash's20        | 76   |
| Attackers16       | 12   |
| Cafè 370716       | 0    |
| CNC12             | 30   |
| Cudgie Pub12      | 17   |
| Young Guns12      | 8    |
| Hoppers 12        | 7    |
| Cudgie Kings 12   | -7   |
| Costello Rural 10 | -4   |
| Sassy Strikers10  | -33  |
| St George8        | -41  |
| High Rollers8     | -45  |
| Super UCG2        | -37  |
| Culture Club0     | -79  |
| Surts and Co0     | -113 |
| R7 16/6/25        |      |

High Rollers v Young Guns

Sassy Strikers v Attackers

CNC v Cafè 3707

17/6/25 **DOUBLES** CHAMPIONSHIPS **Corryong Hotel Motel** Draw for partners

Ringers v Possum Pointers Bottom Pub v Nomads 44s v Biggara

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#### **Services & Business** Directory

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#### **Corryong Courier**

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Important numbers

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|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Police: Corryong | 02 607          | 76 1666      |
| Walwa            |                 | 02 6037 1394 |
| Khanco           | oban            | 02 6932 2840 |
| Tumba            | rumba           | 02 6932 2840 |
| Emerge           | ency            | 000          |
| Ambulance:       | Emergency       | 000          |
| Hospitals:       | Corryong 02 607 | 76 3200      |
| -                | Walwa           | 02.6037.1220 |

Fire Brigades: Emergency

000 02 6056 3022 Non-urgent Towong Shire:

02 6076 2160 Corryong Tallangatta 02 6071 5100 02 6948 9100 Snowy Valleys Council:

#### WHAT, WHEN & WHO

#### MUSEUM ROSTER

#### Winter Hours 1pm-4pm

19/6: R Waters

20/6: G Humphreys

21/6: G Bennetts

22/6: S Briskey

23/6: J Murphy 24/6: G Bennetts

25/6: B Lee

#### **OP SHOP**

June 6: am Mel Harrap & Bec Paton, pm Kayla Kurnof.

**June 7:** am Gillian Jessup; June 9: am Di Brennan, pm Ashleigh Dowton;

**June 10:** am & pm Barbara & Brown Brown; June 11: am & pm Hazra

June 12: am Helen Harris & Gwen McNair, pm Kay Hamilton.

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

#### **RED CROSS**

June 9: Public Holiday; June 10: C Allen &

Helper; June 11: Sharon & Greg Nankervis;

June 12: G Jessup & helper;

June 13: S Humphrey & helper.

#### **CORRYONG** HEALTH



#### **CORRYONG** неаг+н

Care (UCC):- Present to the UCC / Be assessed by a highly trained nurse / If required a doctor will be contacted

Other Services:-

Emergencies - 000 Corryong Medical Clinic

- 02 6076 3290 Reception - 02 6076 3200 Nurse on Call - 1300 606

024 (anytime) GP Helpline - 1800 022

222 Pathology - Mon. to Fri.

8am to 12pm.

Community programs:-• Blokes Night 18+ - Last

Thursday of the month. Meet at Upper Murray Pizza shop at 7pm (catered event).

 Mums4mums - 3rd Monday of the month at the Toy Library 10-12pm (morning tea provided).

#### COMMUNITY CAR

A service provided for those without transport to access appointments in Alb-Wodonga. Ph: 6076 3200.

#### **TOWONG SHIRE &** PUBLIC LIBRARY

76 Hanson St., Corryong Council customer service and library staff are available Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm. Council office and library are closed on weekends and public holidays. Ph: Shire: 6076 2160 / Library: 6076 1639

#### **UPPER HUME HEALTH SERVICE**

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs support - drug withdrawal nurses and counsellors from Wodonga will visit on an outreach basis as required. Ph: 1800 657 573.

#### WASTE **MANAGEMENT**

#### **Corryong Recovery** Centre Thursday: 3pm - 5pm

Sunday: 12 noon - 4pm Public holidays - Closed **Waste Collection Days:** Tuesday: Corryong -Thowgla side of Hanson St

(Towong Upper, Thowgla, Nariel Valley etc) Thursday: Corryong -Cudgewa side of Hanson Street (Granya, Bullioh, Murray River Road etc)

For more information visit www.towong.vic. gov.au or phone 1300 365

**Snowy Valleys Council** Khancoban, Jingellic & Tooma

Wednesday - Yellow or Red Lid Bin

Thursday - Green Lid Bin

#### LOCAL POLICE

#### For all emergencies call Triple Zero - 000

For non-urgent matters call the Police Assistance Line (24/7) 131 444

Corryong 02 6076 1666

#### CENTRELINK

Retirement: 132 300; Disability/Sickness & Carers: 13 2717; Multilingual Service: 13 1202; Customer Relations: 1800 050 004; Appointments: 13 10 21. Carelink: 1800 052 222.

#### **BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT**

National Breastfeeding helpline 1800 686 268. Info at www.breastfeeding. asn.au.

#### CORRYONG **FOODSHARE**

#### **Open Wednesday** 8.30am-2pm

Last Thursday of every month: CP Clinic - free health checks and free morning tea 9am-1pm

> For out of hours assistance call 0427 762 051

#### CATHOLIC PARISH

Mass Times:- 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

- Christ the King, Walwa -
- Saturday Vigil at 4pm · Sacred Heart, Corryong -Sunday at 8:30am
- St Joseph's, Khancoban -1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday of the month at 5.30pm.

#### ANGLICAN PARISH

Eucharist at All Saints Corryong 9:30am - every Sunday

Eucharist at Biggara 2pm -1st Sunday

Eucharist at Holy Trinity Cudgewa 11.30am - 3rd Sunday

Combined Service at Khancoban at 10.15am followed by lunch - 5th Sunday

Enquiries: Rev Dr Peter Pocock 0428 232 441 / E: anglicancorryong@gmail.

#### **BAPTIST CHURCH**

#### 89 Hanson Street

**Enquiries:** 

Van Graeme Brummelen - (02) 6076 1468 / 0488 269 393

Services: Sunday Morning Worship Service 10am

Evening Youth Service 4th Sunday monthly 5pm Sunday School fortnightly Youth Group 7pm Fridays (fortnightly during school term)

GO Girls: 3.30pm Mondays during school term & monthly 4pm Saturday afternoon

#### PENTECOSTAL

#### **Ambassadors of Jesus** 59 Donaldson Street

Sunday: 10.30am Worship & The Word followed by Fellowship Lunch.

Wednesday: 7.45pm: Alternate Fellowship - Ladies, Prayer, Men's, Family. **Enquiries:** Pastors Douglas & Carol Allen 6076 2050 /51. Fax 6076 2052.E-mail: (aoj@corryong.net). Catch The Fire Ministries & Rise Up Australia Praver Meeting: 7.45 pm Sunday: First of the month at Council Chambers, Corryong

Enquiries: B Cadle 6948

#### **UNITING CHURCH**

Services are held at 9.30am each Sunday in Corryong (Cnr Donaldson & Wheeler Sts.)

Church Council: Linda

Nankervis 0488 339950 **Pastoral Enquiries:** Sandy Hill 6076 8273, Catherine Ross 0408 648 467, Linda Nankervis 0488 339950

Hall Hire: Pamela Menere 0408 767 327

#### **SEVENTH DAY** ADVENTIST

Meets the 1st and 3rd week of the month. Enquiries: 0448 474 357

#### LOCAL JUSTICES **OF PEACE**

Carol Allen - NSW &

Vic. (6076 2051); Merv Ward (0439 773 922); Phil Coulston (6071 2746); Tom Newton - Vic (0438 382 140); Terry Forrest (0499 579 502).

#### **Upper Murray Sport Cont...**



**SEASON DRAW** 2025

Round 6 - Saturday June 14th

Cudgewa v Tumbarumba

Bullioh v Corryong

Round 7 - Saturday 21st June

Corryong v Cudgewa

Bullioh v Tumbarumba

Round 8 - Saturday 28th

Tumbarumba v Corryong

Cudgewa v Bullioh Round 9 - Saturday 5th July

Corryong v Bullioh Tumbarumba v Cudgewa

General Bye - Saturday 12th July

Round 10 - Saturday 19th Corryong v Tumbarumba

Bullioh v Cudgewa

Round 11 - Saturday 26th July

Cudgewa v Corryong

Round 12 - Saturday 2nd August

Corryong v Bullioh Tumbarumba v Cudgewa

Tumbarumba v Bullioh

**Finals** 

Saturday 9th August - 1st Semi Final

Saturday 16th August - 2nd Semi Final Saturday 23rd August - Prelim Final Saturday 30th August - Grand Final

FOOTBALL LADDERS

P % Seniors W L D В 426.23 Cudgewa 0 0 16 Bullioh 4 1 0 0 16 310.48 Tumbarumba 5 3 0 0 8 74.12 Corryong 0 5 0 0 0 9.64 P W L D В % Reserves Bullioh 4 0 0 273.02 0 0 Tumbarumba 5 4 225.96 1 Cudgewa 2 3 0 0 8 73.62 Corryong 5 0 5 0 0 0 19.29 Under 14s P  $\mathbf{W}$ L  $\mathbf{D}$ B P % Corryong 3 2 0 0 12 275.76 3 0 0 Cudgewa 8 61.78 Bullioh 5 0 24.22 P Under 12s P W L D В **%** Corryong 0 0 20 473.17 5 0 Cudgewa 2 0 0 0 12 219.05 0 0 Bullioh 5 2 3 8 99.06 0 0

#### Tumbarumba 5 NETBALL LADDERS

A Grade

Corryong

Cudgewa 5 5 0 0 196 117 167.52 Corryong 5 2 3 0 221 217 101.84 2 0 207 236 Tumbarumba 5 3 8 87.71 213 Bullioh 4 0 159 74.65 **B** Grade P W L D F A P % Cudgewa 5 0 0 265 165 20 160.61 207 231 12 Bullioh 5 3 2 0 89.61 Tumbarumba 5 1 4 0 177 198 4 89.39 4 221 Corryong 1 0 166 75.11 C Grade P W L D F P 5 4 1 0 144 101 16 142.57 Cudgewa Corryong 5 3 2 0 142 132 12 107.58 Tumbarumba 5 2 3 0 141 159 88.68 8 Bullioh 4 0 114 149 76.51 **D** Grade  $\mathbf{W} \mathbf{L} \mathbf{D}$  $\mathbf{F}$ % 162.96 Tumbarumba 5 0 0 176

P W L D

F

A

%

0 Bullioh 3 2 118 114 12 103.51 2 Cudgewa 3 0 107 117 8 91.45 Corryong 5 0 5 0 87 149 0 58.39 15 & Under P W L D F **%** Α Tumbarumba 5 5 0 0 0 164 101 20 162.38

0 132 100 12 132.00 Cudgewa 3 2 2 3 0 103 Bullioh 116 88.79 Corryong 0 5 0 64 146 0 43.84 12 & Under P W L D P %

Tumbarumba 5 4 1 0 54 26 16 207.69 4 1 0 52 38 Cudgewa 16 136.84 5 2 3 0 42 34 123.53 Bullioh 8

15

65

0

23.08

5 0 5 0



# Upper Murray Sport



# Top two kick away at midpoint

#### How's your club travelling?

Midway though the season, Cudgewa sits on top of the ladder by percentage over Bullioh with the record sitting at one win apiece this season. Both sides have had big wins against Tumbarumba and Corryong to date with the top ten goal kickers coming from either the Blues or Bulldogs, reinforcing that the premiership quest is a two-horse race.

Cudgewa recruit John Spencer was well on his way to a century of goals for the season after kicking 39 goals in four matches including 23 majors against a hapless Corryong; however, a one game suspension in the round five against Corryong has seen him slip to second on the tally board behind Bullioh sharpshooter Ash Murray.

The Blues' fell to Bullioh in last year's grand final in a surprise upset and lost some top line players in the off season including potent forwards Guy Telford, Adam Prior, Dane Carey and Nick Brockley who kicked 138 goals between them in 2024. However, those losses were offset to a degree by the additions of Spencer and Scott Bartel and the retention of wily veteran Ben Hall who kicked 10 goals in his last outing.

Defending premier Bullioh sits in second place on the ladder after losing to Cudgewa by two points in round two before turning the tables by the same margin in round four. The Dogs retained the nucleus of their 2024 flag-winning side and will be hell bent on going back-to-back against their arch rivals.

The mid-term report card:-





The Blues boast a dynamic midfield with the likes of inspirational captain Mitch Pynappels, Darcy McKimmie, Jake Vinge, Jake Hill, Dylan Haycraft and Craig Lieschke who can provide 'silver service' delivery to their formidable forward line which also inludes 'superboot' coach Josh Bartel.

Cudgewa missed out on premiership glory in 2019 in a surprise loss to Bullioh and was cruelled by the pandemic which caused the abandonment of seasons 2020 and 2021 (when they were undefeated after round 11) so the Blues will feel they are owed a flag or two.





Second-placed Bullioh has matched Cudgewa's endeavour in recent years and the upset premiership win in 2024 has fuelled the rivalry between the two clubs.

Only two points has separated the combatants in each of their encounters this season with a win each. The Dogs are a well drilled unit

across the board and have potential match winners in Joel Heiner, Luke Rafferty, Jake Curran and Kelvin Wallace but their fortunes usually rely on marksman Ash Murray who currently leads the goal kicking list. If he gets support from his fellow forwards the Dogs are a dangerous proposition in any game.





Tumbarumba has slipped off the pace since its 2022 premiership victory and sorely misses a key forward since the departure of Dan Hitchens. Stalwart captain Jim Waters leads by example every week but the Roos lack the necessary depth for support and are destined to finish in third spot and exit the finals race at the hands

of Cudgewa or Bullioh in the preliminary final.



Corryong has been in the doldrums since winning a flag in 2017 and if anything, has fallen further behind its competition after winning just two games in the last three seasons and remaining winless in 2025.

The Demons are relying on a mix of aging warriors and enthusiastic vouth to field a team and their sole aim this

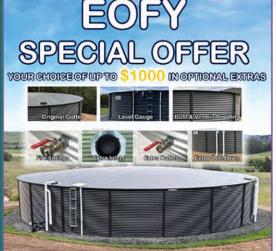
season will be to oust Tumbarumba in the 1st semi final.

#### This Week

Cudgewa and Bullioh will fill their boots against Tumbarumba and Corryong respectively this week and with big scores assured, interest will lie in the feats of the leading forwards in the race for the Corryong Courier goal kicking award.









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