

Australian first for regional health services

IN what is believed to be an Australian first, health services from across the region have united for the sustainability of locally governed home care for senior members of their communities.

To date, 18 health services from northern and central Victoria and southern New South Wales have joined the consortium, collectively branded Community Interlink.

The consortium was launched on Thursday, April 12 at an event in Kilmore attended by representatives of Murrindindi Shire Council and the various health services involved.

Approximately 300 home care clients are now supported by the consortium with care coordinated by staff employed at the various health services.

Following 2015 Commonwealth Home Care funding reforms, resulting in a new open marketplace for home care providers, many smaller health services would find it challenging to continue providing home care.

A consortium arrangement between the health services, would guarantee each member's ability to continue providing home care to their communities.

Yea and District Memorial Hospital Director of Nursing Lorina Gray said the consortium arrangement ensures that members of our community will always have access to locally governed home care and such a provision will foster optimal

health outcomes for seniors wanting to remain in their own home.

"Basically we wanted to ensure that senior members of our communities would always have access to Home Care services from a locally governed provider," Community Interlink Governance Group member, Gordon Ross said.

"Local providers are those that can offer the highest level of support having local staff, with local knowledge and networks."

Nexus Primary Health CEO and Community Interlink Governance Group Chair Suzanne Miller said the primary goal of the consortium is to build on a shared philosophy and commitment to supporting local communities via local health services.

"The consortium works toward building the capacity of member agencies to deliver direct care and coordinated care from their own employed staff, and to open up new contracting opportunities and consolidate existing revenue streams, promoting joint working and encouraging organizational learning and development."

Community Interlink members include: Yea and District Memorial Hospital, Alexandra District Hospital, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Gateway Health, Euroa Health, Nathalia District Hospital, Benalla Health, Seymour Health, Mansfield District Hospital, GV Health, Nexus Primary Health and Kilmore and District Hospital.



Looking forward: pictured at the launch are Chris McDonnell (Seymour Health), Sue Race (Kilmore and District Hospital), Gordon Ross (GV Health), Cr Sandice McAulay (Murrindindi Shire), Cr Charlotte Bisset (Murrindindi Shire), Suzanne Miller (Nexus) -S

Learn about fox control

AS part of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network's (UGLN) Focus on Fauna project, it is hosting a Focus on Foxes information day which will highlight the devastation foxes cause to native wildlife and how foxes can best be controlled.

Focus on Fauna investigates how local fauna had been recovering since the Black Saturday bushfires in 2009 within Flowerdale and Strath Creek.

Foxes on Foxes will be held on Sunday, April 22 from 10am to 2pm at Strath Creek Hall, Pioneer Reserve, Strath Creek.

Expert speakers include Kathy Himbeck, wildlife ecologist, who will talk about her

experience in monitoring and management of threatened species as well as feral animal control.

Andy Murray will report on the Southern Ark Project, a research effort to reduce the impact of foxes, especially on endangered species such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

While Richard Francis, zoologist, will give a summary of various fox control techniques.

The event is sponsored by the King Parrot Catchment Fox Control Project and Strath Creek Landcare.



Young farmer scholarships open

THE Young Farmers scholarship program provides young farmers with scholarships for education or professional development.

Applications are now invited from young people in agriculture aged 35 or under wanting to upskill and invest in a future in agriculture.

Up to \$10,000 is available per scholarship, which includes up to \$5000 towards study plus up to \$5000 to invest on-farm or in professional development activities.

Applications close on April 24. For more information go to vic.gov.au/youngfarmers



YEANGLING CLUB: First place went to Ken Webb and second place to Bridget Maran. The junior winner was Angus Antrobus. The weather was not on their side on the weekend being wet and windy but they still managed a few fish. There were 15 people who fished and great variety of fish were caught. -S

Has your Facebook data been shared?

NEWS broken by *The Guardian* and *The New York Times* in recent weeks has revealed that Cambridge Analytica had gained unauthorised access to the data of as many as 87 million users worldwide.

While most of the affected users are in the United States, up to 311,000 Australians may have also been affected.

If you or anyone in your friends list used the app 'This is Your Digital Life', which offered personality quizzes but harvested the personal data of users in the background, from 2014 until its removal in 2015, your personal data may have been shared with Cambridge Analytica.

The app was created by Aleksander Kogan

and collects the data of anyone who used it and their friends too. While Facebook allowed the data collection at the time, it has said Mr Kogan violated its terms of service by giving the information to Cambridge Analytica and recently banned both Mr Kogan and Cambridge Analytica.

On Wednesday morning, Facebook published a support page to inform users of whether or not their personal data was likely to have been shared with Cambridge Analytica. Visit [facebook.com/help/1873665312923476](https://www.facebook.com/help/1873665312923476) while logged into Facebook to see if you were affected.

The app was allowed to collect the data as it was granted permissions by the users upon

installation. Information that was likely shared includes public profiles, page likes, birthdays and current location or hometown.

To protect yourself from future data harvesting, think about what information you're really giving up when you agree to give apps or games permission to access your social media or mobile phone's information.

Facebook's APIs previously allowed apps to gather information about almost everything from people's religious preference and political affiliation to the guest lists of the events they RSVP'd to.

New restrictions will see Facebook individually approve any app that asks users to share their check-ins, likes, photos,

posts, videos, events and groups. It will also prevent apps from collecting other personal information such as relationship status or political views.

If there is information that is on your Facebook account that you're not comfortable sharing with anyone outside your friends list, make sure nobody can see it by going into your privacy settings.

To view the information that Facebook has collected from you, log into Facebook, then click on the arrow at the top right corner. Select Settings, then beneath the general account settings, there is a link provided where you can download a copy of your Facebook data.