

established 1895

Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 \$1.30

INSIDE



Band hall renos

See story page 4



Viking art for all

See story page 8



60 years for Josie

See story page 5



Old friends

NUMURKAH Preschool kinder kids love it when their friends from Numurkah Network come to visit. See story page 7.

Chainsaws and trees stolen

POLICE BEAT

THREE chainsaws were stolen from an address on Murray Valley Highway, Kotupna overnight on September 8.

The chainsaws, valued at \$1,720, were part of a haul thieves apparently intended to steal when they loaded the victim's trailer with an air compressor, a fourth chainsaw and other equipment. It appears as if the offenders were disturbed and made a premature getaway, as the trailer was left behind.

Some time in the past week, eight red gum trees were cut down and seemingly taken away for firewood from a Lawrence Road Tungamah farm.

Also overnight on September 8, a tow bar valued at \$50 was stolen from the rear of a car parked on the front lawn of a Collis St Numurkah residence.

At 11.30am on September 9, a vehicle had its driver's side window deliberately smashed by a female riding past on a bicycle.

The female was observed to pull something out from under her windcheater and strike the window, causing it to smash.

Anybody with any information regarding any of the above incidents are urged to contact Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Council calls for pause on MDBP

MOIRA Shire Council has resolved to request the Federal Government delays further implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

The resolution, which was introduced as urgent general business by Cr Ed Cox at council's August meeting, has three parts, and resolves that Moira Shire Council will:

1. Call upon the Australian Federal Government to delay further implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plans water recovery targets until research commissioned by the Federal Water Minister into the social and economic impacts on basin communities is available, the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission has completed its review on aspects of the basin plan and more rigorous scientific research is undertaken on the basin plans objective of maintaining the South Australian lower lakes as freshwater.
2. Encourage the Victorian and NSW State Governments to broaden their review of the sustainability of inter valley water transfers and its impact on river health and the Barmah National Park to include the proposition that Victorian and NSW water security arrangements be consolidated so that the southern connected basins water resources are managed as an integrated system.
3. Seek the Victorian State Government's acknowledgement that the current water trading arrangements in Victoria are exposing critical food and fibre sectors to industry collapse due to unsustainable water prices and urge the State Government to implement water trading zones and establish water trading rules that will limit manipulation of the water market by investors that are not directly involved in agriculture.

An impassioned, and at times emotional, Cr Cox called on governments at a state and federal level to show greater leadership on the issue of water availability, particularly with regards to the MDBP.

Cr Cox represents the Murray River Group of Councils, of which moira Shire Council is a member, on the Murray-Darling Basin Advisory Group which is a 33 member advisory group appointed by the Victorian Government to provide consultation to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

After much discussion, during which all councillors spoke to the desperate state of water availability and cost and the necessity of the resolution, the motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Fostering safety and connection for kids

KATUNGA’S Kellie McLinden said the question she is most often asked about caring for foster children is whether it breaks her heart when they leave.

“It’s not easy, but you go into it knowing that they will be with you for a period of time and then leave,” she said.

“Besides, a little bit of pain on my part is nothing when I know the positive difference it has made in their lives, so it’s well worth it,” she said.

Last week was foster care week in Victoria, but in Kellie’s house it was business as usual - running a household and getting herself off to work as a primary school teacher, and her 13 year-old foster child off to school, every day.

Kellie, who is about to turn 35, has fostered more than 20 children, ranging in age from two to 13, since she became a foster carer five years ago. Placement lengths have ranged from a single night’s emergency care to eight months.

Kellie said she first really considered the concept of fostering during her first year as a teacher when she was working at a ‘challenging’ school.

“Some of the kids had a lot of things going on at home and I would wish that I could take them home with me instead,” she said.

“Some of them have such tragic back-stories and they have absolutely no choice in the matter, it’s completely beyond their control.

“To be able to offer them safety and stability, if even only temporarily, is so rewarding.”

Kellie said that despite their sometimes troubled backgrounds, she was yet to experience behaviour from her foster children much beyond what you’d expect from any child.

“Kids are kids,” she said.

“You need to really like kids to do this because they will behave like kids.”

Whilst some parts of being a foster carer are naturally challenging, Kellie said some parts were also easier than she expected.

Still, she said, it’s been a learning curve.

“Being single with no kids of my own, it’s been a pretty big learning experience.

“Toilet training a two year-old boy was a bit of a conundrum. I’d never toilet trained a child before and I didn’t have a male in the house to model the behaviour for him, so I really had to think about that one.”

For all the challenges, Kellie said they are far outweighed by the rewards.

“The best part is seeing the change in them when they start to relax a bit and start feeling safe and comfortable and connected in your home. That’s really wonderful.”

Janene Ingram, team leader of Berry Street’s foster carer recruitment program in Shepparton, said the organisation’s foster carers are wonderfully diverse in terms of age, background, sexual orientation, relationship status and experience.

“We are always in need of more foster carers, so if you are over 21 and can offer a child or young person their own room in a safe and nurturing home environment, we will welcome your application,” she said.

“We welcome carers from all backgrounds, cultures and experiences - married, single, or same-sex couples, with or without children, divorced or de facto.”

What type of care is needed?

You can nominate the type of care you would like to provide and, as part of the application process, Berry Street will work with you to help you make a final decision on the option that best suits you.

Berry Street is seeking carers to provide:

- Respite care (one or two weekends a month).
- Emergency care (for children who require an immediate placement).
- Short-term care (less than six months).
- Long-term care (more than six months).

What will I receive?

As a foster carer, you will receive:

- 24 hour support and practical help from a dedicated team of experienced Berry Street professionals.
- Financial support in the form of a fortnightly, tax-free reimbursement.
- Ongoing training and access to support programs to help develop skills you will use as a foster carer.



Evolution in stroke treatment doesn’t reach regions

AN evaluation of 20 years of the Stroke Foundation’s National Stroke Audit Program has found more needs to be done to increase access to best practice stroke treatment and care for regional and rural Australians.

While more Australians are surviving stroke than ever before, not all treatment is equal.

Stroke Foundation Clinical Council Chair Professor Bruce Campbell said stroke is always a time-critical medical emergency, but it is highly treatable and a good recovery is possible.

“The challenge is to ensure all Australians can access life-saving treatment when they need it. At the moment, they are not,” Professor Campbell said.

“Ongoing inequalities in acute stroke care and services are costing lives and leaving thousands of patients with unnecessary disability. Stroke attacks the brain, the human control centre, and can change lives in an instant.

time critical stroke treatment no matter where they live,” Professor Campbell said.

The Stroke Foundation’s National Audit program delivers an annual snapshot of stroke treatment and care, highlighting areas where the system is working well and where changes are needed.

It empowers clinicians, health administrators and government to drive quality improvement.

Stroke Foundation Chief Executive Officer Sharon McGowan said the 20 year audit evaluation highlighted how much the state of stroke has changed in this time.

“The good news is, the number of hospitals providing the blood clot dissolving therapy of thrombolysis has increased, and breakthrough clot removing endovascular thrombectomy has become standard, as well as a significant increase in the number of patients receiving care in a specialised stroke unit,” Ms McGowan said. “How-

ever, there is still not enough emphasis on mood assessment for patients, psychology services and risk factor modification.

“We know mood or mental health issues are barriers to recovery from stroke, we also know four in 10 survivors will go onto experience another stroke within 10 years, even though many of these could be prevented.

“This report highlights we must do more in these areas.”

Ms McGowan said, with more Australians surviving stroke thanks to improved stroke treatments, we must now focus our energies on rehabilitation and secondary stroke prevention.

“Demand is growing for high quality rehabilitation services that will allow patients to recover and live their best life possible after stroke. We must ensure stroke survivors are not denied access to these vital supports,” she said.

Terms of reference for NAPLAN review set

THE Victorian, New South Wales and Queensland governments have released the terms of reference for their broad review of NAPLAN and standardised testing of school students.

The review will identify what a standardised testing regime in Australian schools should deliver, assess how well NAPLAN achieves this, and identify short and longer-term improvements that can be made.

The Victorian Government said in a statement that, while a form of standardised test

will always be needed, this review will include looking at whether NAPLAN should continue in its current form.

The review will consider whether NAPLAN is meeting the needs of governments, schools, parents and students – including how accurate and appropriate the test is, whether the right year levels are being tested, and how well the test assesses student and system performance over time.

The review will draw on evidence from international assessment programs and other recent

reviews of NAPLAN to identify best practice and inform the review’s recommendations.

A panel of education experts will lead the review including Emeritus Professor Barry McGaw, Professor Claire Wyatt-Smith and Emeritus Professor William Loudon.

Victorian Education Minister James Merlino said that, with NAPLAN having been in place for more than decade, it is common sense to review it and see what changes should be made to ensure it is meeting the needs of schools, parents and students.



Looking good ... Band members Marie Martin and Dorothy and Peter Heard celebrate the band's history, and future, outside the newly renovated band hall.

Band and building can't be kept down

WHEN you look at the histories of the Numurkah Town Band and the building it calls home, it's hard not to form the belief that their destinies are tied together.

Both came into existence in 1883 and have seen their fortunes ebb and flow in the 136 years since, and both are currently experiencing a resurgence - with the building now undergoing renovations that should see it standing proud well into the future, and the band seeing a recent resurgence in membership.

The band hall, as it has long been known, started life as a hotel dining room; part of the Railway Gate Hotel located close to the Quinn St railway crossing in a time when rail was the dominant form of long-distance transport.

The band started life in 1883 with, as far as it can be established, no name and no official bandmaster - though a Constable Clark was the accepted leader.

By 1904 it had been named Numurkah Town Band and was rehearsing regularly in stables owned by Mr T Richards.

A Numurkah Leader article from 1933 quotes an original band member - a euphonium player by the name of Mr Alex Webster - as saying that in its first 50 years the band went into recess several times.

According to Mr Webster, when it was operating, the band practiced in places as diverse as the cellar of a home, the old fire station and a hide and skin store. Though it did own its own rehearsal space in the early 1900s (location unknown), this had to be sold to pay off debts the band had incurred.

For many years, the band rehearsed in the Presbyterian hall whilst still seeking a permanent home. That chance finally arose in 1948 when the RSSILA (now the RSL) decided to sell its club rooms.

The building in question was in fact the former dining room of the Railway Gate Hotel, which had been relocated years earlier to land owned by the Numurkah Masonic Lodge at the corner of Quinn and McCaskill Streets.

For the princely sum of £200 the deal was done, and the band once again took possession of it's own band hall where it happily resided for many years.

When the Masonic Lodge decided to build a new lodge building at the site around 50 years ago, the weatherboard building was moved once again, to its current position at Stringer Walk, on Crown land by the Broken Creek.

Unfortunately, it hasn't all been smooth sailing, and over the years the building has been the

target of vandalism on a number of occasions.

In one incident, the windows were all broken, and in others, instruments were taken from the hall and thrown in the creek. Three separate attempts were made to burn the hall down.

However, a local institution of such long-standing enjoys much support from the community, and band president Peter Heard told the Leader that security measures have been put in place to prevent further damage.

"We raised enough money ourselves to build a security fence to keep vandals out, and Dyson's IGA also donated money for a security system," he said.

"The fence spoils the view of the building a bit, but it has stopped the damage."

The view of the building is especially fine at the moment, with recent renovation works making it look as good as it ever has.

Thanks to funds raised by the band itself, and contributions from Moira Shire and local service clubs, the exterior of the building has been repaired and repainted in heritage colours to make it both solid and beautiful.

A new kitchen is also on the way - one element of which band secretary Dorothy Heard is particularly excited about.

"We're going to have hot water for the first time ever and I can't wait," she said.

The new kitchen, and hot water, will make the preparation of supper much easier, which is just as well given the recent swell in band numbers, with four new members having joined since the start of the year.

"We were down to four members at the start of 2004 because five members left at the end of 2003 for various reasons," Peter said.

"We stopped doing play-outs because we didn't have the numbers, but we kept rehearsing and numbers gradually went back up and now we're up to 29."

The band suffered a bit of a blow with the loss of it's major sponsor Dyson's IGA, and is now seeking new sponsorship, but it has been through worse.

"We have to regular expenses such as power, insurance and instrument repairs, so sponsorship is really valuable to us, but we are managing through fundraising."

"We have a wonderful team in the band and everyone hops in and helps."

It's hard to keep a good band - or building - down.

Mental health commitment welcomed

MENTAL Health Victoria has welcomed the Federal Government's commitment to delivering the world's best mental health system for Australia in its Long Term National Health Plan announced by Health Minister Greg Hunt recently.

Mental Health Victoria CEO Angus Clelland said the Morrison Government's pledge to rate mental health equally alongside physical health has long been urged by consumers, carers and mental health services to transform a system that is fragmented, complex and incomplete.

Mr Clelland said the peak body was particularly pleased with the commitments in the plan to develop a children's mental health strategy and for the widespread roll-out of adult mental centres to tackle the 'missing middle' in mental health services.

"Almost four million Australians suffer from some form of mental illness each year and 50% of us will face a mental health challenge in our lives," he said.

"Yet, sadly, mental health has often been viewed as the poor cousin of the health system."

Ensuring mental health is afforded the same attention and resources as physical health, however, will require a major shift in attitudes, skills, training and resources, and cooperation between federal, state and territory Governments.

"We urge all parties to get on board with the Federal Government and work collaboratively towards a new national mental health partnership."

Mr Clelland said a bigger focus is needed on children and young people, given that 50% of mental health conditions present by the age of 14 years and 75% by the age of 24.

"Prevention, early identification and age appropriate interventions are needed to lessen the lifetime impact of mental illness and ensure that young Australians can have happy and fulfilling lives," he said.

Mental Health Victoria and its partner organisation, Australians for Mental Health, have long advocated for adult mental health centres as an important means of bridging the gap between GPs and the hospital system.

It is expected that these centres will provide accessible team-based services that address the social, medical and economic aspects of mental ill-health in the community.

"This important commitment will provide much needed support for thousands of Australians and help prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and re-admissions," Mr Clelland said. "They will save lives."

The Federal Government's commitment to conduct a new National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing is also welcome.

"It has been 12 years since the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted the last survey and we are starved for current data on changes in prevalence rates, service access, and whether services are assisting people with recovery," Mr Clelland said.

"After many years of neglect, we can now be optimistic about the future of mental health," Mr Clelland said.

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For all enquiries and bookings please contact:
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email: info@moira.vic.gov.au By Friday 20 September 2019



Girl guide Josie gets new badge

STRATHMERTON guide leader Josie Munro OAM received another badge to add to her uniform last Tuesday when she was presented with a 60 year service award at an event at the Strathmerton public hall.

The presentation was a little late coming, with the Strathmerton guide troupe, which Josie started, having celebrated 60 years last year.

The inaugural meeting of Strathmerton Girl Guides took place on August 13, 1958, and though membership has gone up and down in the 60 years since, it is still going strong with eight current members under Josie's guidance today.

With so many former Strathmerton guides having travelled from far and wide to attend last year's reunion, you could be excused for thinking attendance at last week's presentation might be a little thin, but not so.

Around 65 people attended the event, many past guides among them - including one of Josie's original troupe of six.

Josie had been a guide for several years as a teenager, and was a 19 year-old in her first year out of teacher's college when the town of Strathmerton decided she should start a guide troupe in the town.

Josie said that when she happened to mention to her landlady that she was a former guide and ranger, word quickly spread and she wasn't given all that much choice in the matter.

"The soldier settler scheme was in full swing and there were a lot of young families and lots of little girls who wanted to join, and I had started teaching at the primary school so the parents all approached me about it," she said.

Josie has no regrets though, and has enjoyed every minute of it.

"I've just done what I wanted to do with the girls and it's been a lot of fun," she said.

Under Josie's watch, Strathmerton has produced eight Queen's guides - the highest award a girl guide can achieve - as well as five guides who have achieved the Baden-Powell award.

Josie was presented with her 60 year service medal by Girl Guides Victoria State Commissioner Lynne Emblim, who observed that she didn't get to present many 60 years service awards.

"It is a long time I suppose, but it's gone very quickly," Josie said.

"I love working with children and I don't feel my age, so I've just kept going."



Rare honour ... Girl Guides Victoria State Commissioner Lynne Emblim presents Josie Munro with her 60 years service award badge.

Josie does have the occasional thought of retiring, but said just when she starts thinking about it, one of her guides declares they want to attempt to become a Queen's guide.

"I can't leave them if they're working towards becoming a Queen's guide. They need me to mentor them."

Perhaps when there is a break in Queen's guide training, Josie may hang up her uniform for good, knowing she can leave the troupe in the capable hands of fellow Strathmerton guide leader Lynda Dickson.

"Lynda is a good leader and perfectly capable of leading on her own. I'm very pleased to know that if I ever give it up it will be in good hands and won't fold."

For now though, Josie doesn't have time to discuss retirement, there are prospective Queen's guides to mentor.

"Ask me again in a few years," she said.

Letter to the Editor

One man's submission

I WRITE in support of Peter Gilmour's letter in last week's *Leader* calling for a royal commission into the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

The Kenneth Haynes Royal Commission into our financial system has exposed all the guilty organisations that have ruined many families' lives and businesses, and they have admitted guilt. (Positive changes are happening.)

The royal commission currently being conducted into Victoria's mental health system

affecting students, farmers and many others, advertised in the media calling for the public to send in submissions for the commission to study, on what has happened to you or your family and asking for your ideas on how to create positive change.

I personally felt it was my responsibility to send in my own submission, as four generations of my family have been affected by the greed of others, which has resulted in mental problems being created.

My submission included a copy of the second edition of my life story *One Man's Dream*, which details many of the wrongs inflicted against my family that I felt should be told to protect future generations.

Chapter 21 in the book includes an idea of a brilliant man who was prepared to put in millions of his own money to fix our water system. Had our government adopted his plan, our famers may not be suffering, and their stock could be still producing quality products.

I have since received an email to advise me that *One Man's Dream* will be considered by the royal commission to be reviewed.

So, I strongly support a royal commission into the Murray Darling Basin Plan to expose who has been corrupt and have the system reviewed, or we will have no farmers left.

Kel Sidebottom
Wunghnu

LET'S SAY THANK YOU.

Thank you.
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SEPTEMBER 2019



LESSONS FROM THE PAST, FOR THE FUTURE

Here at St Mary of the Angels Secondary College our Year 9 students are blessed and extremely privileged to be able to take part in a dedicated Immersion Program, which has been developed and strengthened over many years. The program begins with learning about the local Aboriginal history and culture of the Yorta Yorta and Bangerang people; sharing stories and gaining insight into the local history and culture of the people whose lands we live and work on. Students come together to share a number of local immersion experiences to better develop their cultural knowledge before sectioning off into small groups which explore Aboriginal traditions, comparative histories and

stories across Victoria and into NSW, Western, Central, Northern and North Eastern Australia. Immersion Program Leader, Gabby Cunningham explained that the Immersion program is designed to provide a hands on insight into our rich Aboriginal history and the difference between tribal cultures across the country. The program provides an opportunity for shared learning and understanding between our College community and the Aboriginal communities with whom the students and teachers engage. Gabby said, “We are very fortunate to have this continuing opportunity to gain the knowledge of Aboriginal culture, which the Elders and Aboriginal

representatives so generously share with us. “You can sit in a classroom and share a discussion about culture, but to actually walk the land and speak with Aboriginal Elders about their experiences, to share with them the stories of Dreaming and to connect with sacred places is something which cannot be replicated to its fullest extent in a classroom environment.” “To have the opportunity to immerse our Year 9 students in the rich traditions of all facets of Australian Aboriginal culture, to embrace it and to share understanding and acceptance is so very special. “Our dedicated Aboriginal Immersion program includes experiences with the

Yorta Yorta and Bangerang people in the Goulburn Valley, in Victoria at Camp Jungai, Geriwerd (the Grampians), Wurundjeri Taungurung as well as interstate in Lake Mungo NSW, One Arm Point WA, Yippirinya NT, Jabiru NT, Balgo and Billiluna WA. Gabby added, “It’s incredibly important to know our local history first and foremost, and to be proud of our local culture. “Through the program you really see the development of connection to country, the relationships, the cultural understanding, the respect for Aboriginal history and you also see how much these experiences bring the students together. It’s a very special, very privileged opportunity for all of us who participate in the Year 9 program.”



WINNER of the Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship Award, Abbey Conroy recently returned from her Aboriginal Immersion experience, where she had the opportunity to learn and grow as a student leader. Abbey said, “I was very fortunate to be awarded the Bishop Joseph Grech Scholarship which gave me the opportunity to attend the Year 9 Yipirinya

Abbey makes her mark

Immersion as a student leader. This award focuses on enhancing and strengthening leadership skills and I’m extremely grateful to have been part of such an enriching immersive experience. “Getting to know the 16 Year 9 students, the majority of whom I had never met before was a highlight for me. Watching their growth throughout the week, the way they grew closer and absorbed everything around them in the unique places we visited was inspiring. “We were welcomed so warmly into the Yipirinya school community and immediately felt like the kids just wanted to be around us. We had loads of fun joining them for sport at lunchtimes and in the afternoons. It was obvious the Year 9 students were excited about being there as they shared their

experiences at the end of the day with the group. “I am also extremely thankful for my personal growth, the knowledge I gained as well as the special connections I made could never have been learnt from reading or hearing about it second hand. The importance of respect, kindness and teamwork were highlighted during the trip. I learnt that by simply being kind and friendly and encouraging everyone to share their opinion that I could be a leader and I do not need a title or certain achievements. I just needed to be someone positive they could look up to or come to for help. “Visiting places of such spiritual and cultural significance allowed us to appreciate places sacred to the Aboriginal people. The conversations we shared at the end

of each day were a true indication of how valuable the trip was for everyone who attended and hearing such insightful and honest comments from every student was something incredibly special to be a part of. “I’m so grateful and humbled to have received such an enriching experience.” Abbey had this advice for students wanting to improve their leadership skills or pursue leadership roles in the future, “Just put yourself out there and have a go. I’ve never really been in a leadership position as such before and doing this put me in a position where I had to just do it and do it to the best of my ability and I’m so grateful. At school I’m not the loudest, I’m not in a leadership position, but on this camp I was there to be a leader and that’s what the kids looked up to me for. I loved it.”

The Numurkah Leader.
GOULBURN VALLEY FARMERS' AND FRUIT GROWERS GAZETTE

100 years ago

This week in 1917 ...

To celebrate the State Library of Victoria's digitising of the war years editions of the Numurkah Leader, each week we will include the news of the week, 100 years ago.

To view these editions online go to trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/591.

NUMURKAH SHIRE COUNCIL. TUESDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER

Present Crs G. Tuckett (President), Schier, McLean, Ross, J. Tuckett, Ball, Meiklejohn, Campbell, Dudley, Gordon, Moss.

Election of President.
Cr. Schier was elected President for the ensuing term, on the motion of Crs. McLean and Ross, the allowance being fixed at £63. The council discussed the filling of the chair in committee, and on the motion being put Cr. Thornton called for a division.

The voting was six to five in favor of Cr. Schier, those present voting as under:—

For Cr. Schier —Crs. J. H. and Geo. Tuckett, Ball, McLean, Ross, and Gordon.

Against—Crs. Thornton, Campbell, Moss, Dudley, Meiklejohn. Cr. Schier returned thanks and moved a cordial vote of thanks to the retiring President. Cr. Tuckett had had a hard year, but had carried out his duties well.

The motion was carried with acclamation, and Cr. Tuckett returned thanks, expressing his satisfaction at the assistance he had received from fellow councillors. the officers and the press.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Department of Public Works, stating that if it is found impossible to expend by September 30 the amount set aside by the Federal Government for the employment of returned soldiers, application may be made for an extension of time.—Received.

From J. W. Mackenzie, Yalca, asking permission to cross various roads with telephone wires. —Granted.

From T. Adkin, asking permission to erect a verandah in front of his shop, Melville-street, Numurkah.—Granted.

From Shire of Warragul, seeking co-operation in the following resolutions to be submitted to the municipal conference:

1. That as the Government is a large purchaser for soldier and other settlements it should carry the responsibility for this land to the councils the same as any other purchaser.

2. That the Government be asked to have an amendment made of the Act for settlement of soldiers on the land, relieving them of the payment of any rate for the first three years, and that these rates be paid by the Lands Purchase Board during that time.—Request supported.

Engineer's Report.

Mr Hay Ower reported:—
In connection with the repatriation grant, excellent work has been done by the returned soldiers, considering their inexperience, and if these men will stick to the work they will be a welcome addition to the list of shire contractors. He had been unable to do anything with regard to spending the amount allotted to Numurkah. Two soldiers expressed their willingness to gravel Quinn-street but a start had not been made, and he understood one of the men had started work in another line of business.—Received.

Regarding a request that Queen-street, Numurkah, be formed and travelled, this is a work that would entail an outlay of probably £250. The determination of the house drainage problem is necessary before the question of street construction can be dealt with, as each is dependent on the other. Held over.

The Miller Homes.—A commencement was made last week with the Miller Homes. The contractors are Messrs Symons and Sons, of Echuca.

An Injustice to the Printer.—We would respectfully point out the injustice done the printer by the shopkeepers in Mansfield when they allow travelling showmen to place their playbills in their windows. We earn our living by advertisements, and the mean travelling showman evades advertising by asking the shopkeeper to "kindly place this in your window." Only last week there was a case of this kind. If we gave one article away at no loss to ourselves that the shopkeeper sold, we should soon hear of it. We feel that the matter has only to be mentioned to our friends to have it rectified.—Mansfield "Courier."



Labour of love ... The Nathalia botanical walk working group (from left): Judy Ormond, Lyn Loger, Joan Harding and Marie O'Brien.

Wildflower walk now open for all

THOSE of us lucky enough to live in the vicinity of the Broken Creek are truly spoiled by the natural beauty available right on our doorstep.

That beauty is now more accessible than ever, thanks to a new brochure launched yesterday providing a guide to the natural wonders that can be found along the creek in the centre of Nathalia.

The Nathalia Botanical Walk is the result of a collaboration between a diverse range of groups including NADDCO, Nathalia Wildflower Group, Moira Shire, U3A, Western Moira Tourism, Bendigo Bank and Yorta Yorta Nation.

The new walk is an easy route along a bitumen pathway on the Broken Creek levee bank, stretching 410 metres along Church St from the main bridge, across Squeazy bridge and 410 metres back along Muntz Ave on the other side.

Though there are 28 species of flora listed in the brochure, which can be obtained from the Barmah Forest Heritage & Education Centre,

that outlines the route, nine are to be found photographed and explained in detail.

Judy Ormond, who along with fellow Nathalia Wildflower Group Lyn Loger has been a driving force behind the project and produced the photographs for the brochure, said it had taken a year of solid work to get it off the ground.

"We've studied the trees, native plants and vegetation, and documented and photographed them in every season," she said.

"It's a beautiful walk with so much to see if you know what to look for, and we really wanted to share that with the district and visitors."

Dead shrubbery and flood debris was cleaned away from the creek banks, mulched and returned to the site as part of the project.

Choosing a launch date for the walk and accompanying brochure proved to be perhaps the easiest part, as yesterday, September 17, marked 100 years since the Kurrajong trees and Port Jackson figs were planted along Bromley and

Weir Streets to honour locals who fell in World War 1.

Descendants of those Kurrajong trees can be found along the creek, and are highlighted in the brochure.

Lyn Loger said that the project could not have been completed without the guidance and hard work of Moira Shire Parks and Gardens team leader David Roberts from the Numurkah depot.

"David had so many wonderful ideas to enhance the experience of the walk and he has worked so hard and provided so much support to our working group," she said.

In fact, a lovely precursor to the botanical walk would be to enjoy the shade of those 100 year-old trees along Bromley St until you come to the end and see the beautiful plaque painted by Mel Freeman that signals the start of the walk.

It doesn't matter when you arrive - it's beautiful in any season.

Fun for young and old at kinder

MORNING tea time at Numurkah Preschool required a few more chairs and tables than usual last Wednesday, and some of those tucking into the healthy treats were a little older than you'd normally see at kinder.

The visitors were members of the Numurkah Network group, who were paying their third visit to the kinder this year, to enjoy a little cross-generational friendship.

Numurkah Network is a social program that offers regular events that allow older people who still live at home the opportunity to maintain their independence, improve social inclusion and confidence to be part of society.

Kindergarten teacher Rett Aitken said the preschoolers got a lot of benefit from the ongoing relationship.

"Some of the children don't have grandparents close by, so this gives them the opportunity to have that kind of relationship," she said.

"I can't praise the Numurkah Network enough for giving us this opportunity - it's brilliant."

Numurkah Network coordinator Haley Clardie said the benefits of the relationship worked both ways.

"Some of our participants don't have grandchildren, or don't get to spend much time with them, so visiting the little ones here is something they look forward to," she said.

Numurkah Network participant John Fleming, who has been on all three visits to the preschool, said that, as he has no grandchildren of his own, it is a treat for him.

"The little ones have so much energy and en-



Fun for young and old ... Jack Robertson, Aimee Rankin, Flo Goodwin, Audrey Martin and John Fleming enjoy the chance to spend time together.

thusiasm and that's nice to be around," he said.

Much anticipation also takes place on the part of the kinder kids.

"The kids give a lot of thought to what they'll do during the visits and how they can make the older folks feel welcome," Ms Aitken said.

"For morning tea today they've baked blueberry muffins, which was Audrey's idea because she thought the visitors would like them."

Ms Clardie said that it was important for Numurkah Network participants, who also make monthly visits to Wunghnu Primary School, to be involved in the community.

"It helps them stay connected to the community and to stay up to date with what is going on in the wider community."

Though the visits have so far been one-sided, plans are underway for the little ones to visit their older friends at the community room at NDHS.

Ms Aitken said the children have been asking when they can go and visit the old folks at 'their place'.

"Next term we will go and visit them and put on a bit of a concert for them. I think everyone will enjoy that."



Weapon makers ... From left: Nathan Page, Sean Watters, Callum Hulley and Bailey Plattfuss’ creations reflected the importance of weapons in Viking culture.

Viking exhibition now open

SOME eras of history never lose their fascination, and despite their access to all items technological, St Mary of the Angels year eight students found plenty to interest them when they studied the Vikings this term.

As part of a curriculum-prescribed humanities unit that focussed on the ancient Norse culture, each year eight student was required to create a Viking ‘artefact’ with the results being curated for an exhibition which has now opened at the Barmah Forest Heritage & Education Centre.

Fortunately, Viking culture offers plenty of areas of interest.

From long ships to long houses, from weapons and armour to myths and symbols and games and clothing, all students were able to find some aspect of Viking life to inspire them.

Humanities teacher Julie Riley told the *Leader* the students were given total control of the work they produced.

“We find the students engage with the topic a lot more if they get to choose which aspect of Viking culture most interests them, and they can take ownership of what they make,” she said.

Weapons proved a popular choice, particularly with the male students, and Sean Watters told the *Leader* he chose to make an axe (albeit from wood) because they were an essential tool in Viking life.

“They used axes for everything,” he said.

“They used them to cut wood and slaughter animals as well as for weapons. A good axe was important to a Viking’s survival.”

And what did he think of Viking culture on the whole?

“It was interesting to learn about it. They were quite organised socially, but pretty barbaric.”

Molly Jackson told the *Leader* that she found the Vikings’ use of runes fascinating, which prompted her decision to make a type of runic

compass known as a vegvisir, which is Icelandic for ‘way finder’.

“The vegvisir is only mentioned in one ancient manuscript, but it’s believed that they were painted on long ships before they set sail because the Vikings believed the runes would help guide the way in any weather even if the way was not known,” she said.

Meg Guppy’s said the Norse myths really appealed to her, especially the tale of Fenrir the wolf, son of Loki.

“The myths described him as a very large wolf who breathed fire, which I really liked,” she said.

“The gods were afraid of him so they chained him up, which I thought was pretty stupid. He eventually broke free and battled Odin, swallowing him whole.

“I painted him before the battle, with Odin in his shadow.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly, one of the most pop-

ular works among the students was a multimedia piece created by Osgar Quinane which used clips from the Marvel Thor movies to show how Thor would have appeared in the Vikings’ eyes, and how he would have fit in Viking culture.

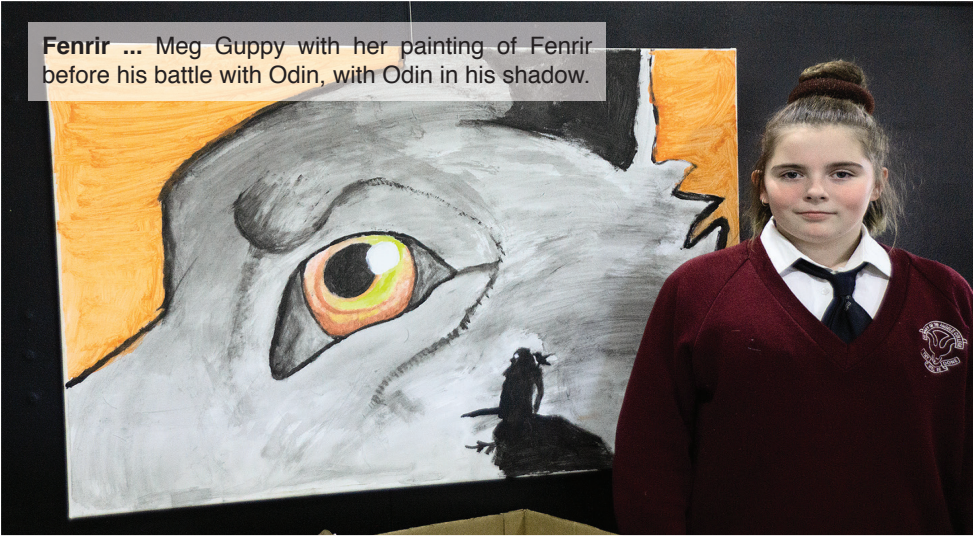
Moira Shire Arts, Culture and Events team leader Marilyn Gourley, who created the exhibition, said it provided a good opportunity for the community to see what the young people are doing in school, displayed in a community space.

“We ran a couple of workshops for the students on how to present their work so they had an understanding of taking it from a concept to being properly presented in an exhibition,” she said.

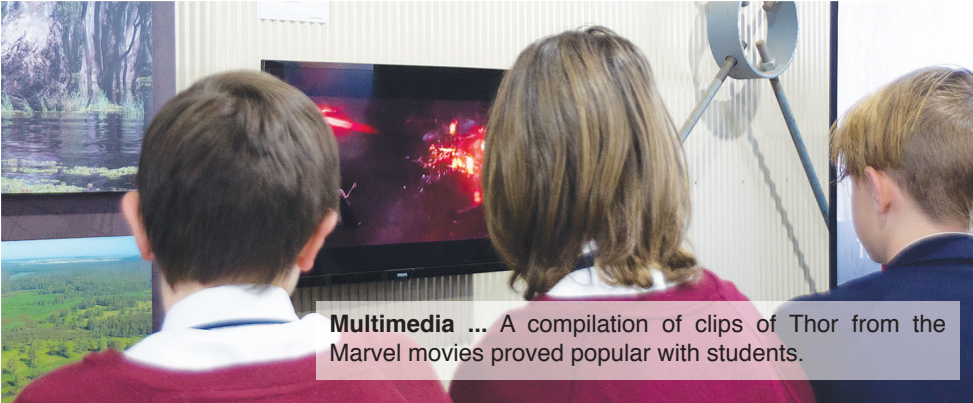
“As part of that, we taught them about writing the labels for their works, so there would be some consistency, and make the exhibition more cohesive.”



Way finder ... Molly Jackson liked the way the Vikings used runes, as demonstrated on this mystical compass.



Fenrir ... Meg Guppy with her painting of Fenrir before his battle with Odin, with Odin in his shadow.



Multimedia ... A compilation of clips of Thor from the Marvel movies proved popular with students.



Inside look ... Drew Scouller and Tristan McGraw observing Graincorp processing from the inside.

Industry tour enlightens and inspires

NUMURKAH Secondary College (NSC) senior students were given some more food for thought about their futures last week, as they took their second tour of local industries this year.

Students visited Graincorp Oilseeds, Yarroweyah Engineering, Booth Transport and Numurkah Home Timber and Hardware to find out about thriving industries in their own area, and what employment opportunities are available.

The industry visits were organised by Goulburn Murray Local Learning and Employment Network (GMLLEN) in partnership with Moira Shire Council's economic development team.

GMLLEN project consultant Kristen Elliott said that it was a chance for students to see what employment opportunities were available in their own communities.

"Students often don't realise how much indus-

try there is within just a few kilometres of where they live, and how many people those industries employ across a huge range of roles," she said.

"These tours are a chance to open their eyes to that, and to raise their aspirations a little as to what they can go on to in their own district when they finish school."

NSC careers advisor David Kelly, who accompanied students on the tours, alongside VCAL teacher Keith Ward, said the program exposes students to career opportunities in the local area they may not have thought of.

"Students don't necessarily realise what is available locally beyond traditional roles like nurse, lawyer, builder, teacher," he said.

"These tours plant a seed about other things they might want to consider. The tours allow them to get really direct feedback from the employers about what they need from employees

and we can come back to school and look at pathways, and work on employability skills."

Ms Elliott said the industry tours give students an opportunity to visit medium to large local and regional workplaces and see first-hand what it's like to work in different industry areas.

"Students are given an opportunity to speak with professionals about their job. The tours also provide a key opportunity to open students' eyes to new possibilities and showcases the great array of different job opportunities that are available in their local region," she said.

"It also gives students some insights into employer expectations and advice from potential employers about what could make them stand out in a job interview and criteria they are looking for in employees."

Ms Elliott said all of the industries involved had been extremely supportive of the program,

a sentiment echoed by Mr Kelly.

"We're very grateful to the local businesses who give up their time to support the school," he said.

"The tours are a great opportunity for the students and give them a lot to think about."

Ms Elliott said that the program is also a way to ensure that local school staff have current knowledge about the opportunities for students in their area, so they can show them the pathways to employment locally.

"We really want to maintain a strong connection between schools and industry, because that really works to everybody's advantage," she said.

"Local industry needs employees, and they are keen to encourage young people to stay in the local area and be part of local industry. Young people need jobs so they can build a strong future here and this is a way for local industries, and local schools, to show them how they can do that."

Trades & Services



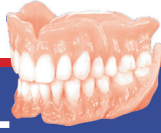
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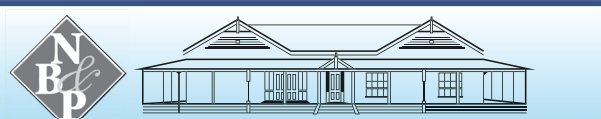
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McPHERSON —
Angus William.
20.2.1929 - 15.9.2019
Peacefully at Karinya. Loving husband of Aileen (dec.). Father and Father-In-Law of Rae (dec.), Neil and Marilyn, Cameron and Emma. Adored Pa of Brett and Kimberley, Tim and Jenny, Jack and Sylvia, and Sarah. Great Grandfather to Sophia, Charlotte, Dylan, and Toby.

*Rest Easy Dad
Reunited with Mum and Rae*

RIGBY — Eloise Noellene "Toot Toot" Late of Katunga. Passed away tragically at Wunghnu, as a result of an accident on September 6, 2019, in her 24th year. Dearly loved daughter of Charlie and Tracey. Gangsta sista (Little Niggs) to Jessica and Daryl; Ambz and Dan and their families. Cherished Aunt Toot Toot to Isabella (Izzy). Loving partner to Adam and Mum to their dog Bella (together forever).

She had a smile for everyone. She had a heart of Gold. She left the greatest memories. We will always hold. The face we loved is missing. The voice we loved is still. The hands that did so much for us. Are now resting at God's will. Life is not measured by the years lived. But by the love you gave and the things you did. Every day, our whole lives through. We will always love and remember you.

Eloise's Funeral took place in Shepparton on Monday, September 16, 2019, followed by interment in the Pine Lodge Cemetery.

Peter Cox & Sons
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Numurkah LEADER
In Memoriam

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UTIGER (Young) —
Judith Lyle
10.10.1940 – 11.09.2019
Late of Numurkah. Passed away suddenly on September 11, 2019 at home. Dearly loved wife of Arthur; Loved and loving Mum of Susan, Mickael and Jim; Much Loved Nana of Jahna, Corey and Brad (dec.); Arthur and Shahlee; Great Nan of Robbie, Jasmine, Kaleb, Taijah, Hayley and Cody.
Forever Loved

WATERS —
Andrew James (Jim)
12.7.1943 - 12.9.2019
At Box Hill hospital after a hard battle. Loved younger brother of Bob and brother-in-law of Dawn. Loved and respected uncle of Greg and Marg, Rod and Jo, Stephen and Nicole, Narelle and Rolf and their families. A full and accomplished life. Will be sadly missed. A private funeral will be held at Doncaster today.
At Peace.



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McPHERSON — A graveside service to celebrate the life of Mr. Angus McPherson will be held at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery, Corke Street, Numurkah tomorrow Thursday September 19, 2019, commencing at 1.30p.m. In lieu of flowers donations to Karinya Aged Care would be appreciated, envelopes available at the service.



HERITAGE PARK FUNERALS
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UTIGER (Young) —
A Service in Celebration of the life of Judith Utiger will be held at the Hamon Parish Centre, Melville Street, Numurkah on Thursday September 19, 2019, commencing at 3pm. Private Cremation.

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Numurkah & Dist.
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YOUNGER — A Graveside Service for the life of Mr. Bruce Younger, late of Numurkah, will be held this FRIDAY, (September 20, 2019), at 11.00 a.m., at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery, cnr Corke St. and Katamatite-Nathalia Road, Numurkah.

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17 and Under... Best and fairest Bella Sheehan



Under 17... Best and Fairest Ben Armstrong



15 and Under... Best and Fairest Mia Bell



Junior Clubperson of the Year... Emily Bell

Armstrong and Sheehan Nathalia's tops

BEN Armstrong and Bella Sheehan have headed the list of winners in the Nathalia Football Netball Club's junior best and fairest awards.

Armstrong won the thirds footy count in a very close contest with 129 votes, just one vote ahead of Will Sheehan, while Bella had things a little easier, finishing on 37 votes, 16 clear of Annie Dietrich in the under 17 netball count.

Charli Dorrity finished with a nine vote margin in the youth girls team count with 42 votes, ahead of Andriana Oliver on 33.

Kai Lundberg won the fourths award by 20 votes from Brandon Orton, and Sophie Creer-Pope easily won the 13 and under netball award with 46 votes, from runner-up Ella Dealy.

The 15 and under netball award was a very keenly contested count. Mia Bell finished with 22 votes, ahead of equal

runners-up Holly Boyd and Kaiya Cornell on 20.

AWARDS

Thirds

Best and fairest: Ben Armstrong 129
Runner-up: Will Sheehan 129
Most consistent/disciplined: Ryan Bell
Goal kicking: Shannon Young, 10
Coach's award: Taylor Moroney
Supporters' award: Woody Guthrie
Have-a-go award: Will Sheehan and Jake Brown

Fourths

Best and fairest: Kai Lundbert 134
Runner-up: Brandon Orton 114
Most consistent: Charlie Sheehan
Goal kicking: Brandon Orton, 49
Coach's award: Ryan Dealy
Most improved: Ewan Congues
Supporters' award: Darcy Conroy
Most disciplined: Oliver Sheehan

Youth girls

Best and fairest: Charli Dorrity 42
Runner-up: Andriana Oliver 33
Most consistent: Cody Power
Most Disciplined: Georgia Hansford
Most improved: Eleisha Lee
Coach's award: Amy Modlic
Supporters' award: Rani Guthrie
Goal Kicking: Andriana Oliver 10

17 under netball

Best and fairest: Bella Sheehan 37
Runner-up: Annie Dietrich 21

15 under netball

Best and fairest: Mia Bell 22
Runners-up: Holly Body and Kaiya Cornell 20

Most improved: Ebony James
Most determined: Jenna Mason

13 under netball

Best and fairest: Sophie Creer-Pope 46
Runner-up: Ella Dealy 25
Coach's award: Eliza Kopsidas



Junior Clubperson of the year... Elgin Stone



13 and Under... Best and Fairest Sophie Creer-Pope



Under 14... Best and Fairest Kai Lundberg

NATHALIA PURPLES

Congratulations Nathalia Football Netball Club.
Good luck in the Grand Final.
Ben, Catherine and staff
TJ's IGA Nathalia

Go the Purples!
Good luck in the Grand Final.
Management and staff at
Kyabram Veterinary Clinic
Nathalia Branch.

Good luck for a great Grand Final
Go Purples!
Mick Hogan Excavations
and
Polyirrigation Numurkah

Grand Final Congratulations,
Nathalia.
Another good year!
Best of luck from Meryl and Sue,
Riverbank Caravan Park

Well done and good luck
in the Grand Final.
Mawsons Concrete and
Quarry

Best of luck
Nathalia Football Netball Club
From Rod Fisher,
Nathalia Motel and Family
Holiday Park



Congratulations and best of luck in
Saturday's Grand Final
Nathalia Football Netball Club

Paula Ryan and all at
The Apprenticeship Factory



Well done Nathalia Football
Netball Club.
All the best for the Grand Final
Bendigo Community
Bank, Nathalia



35. Mal Barnes – Coach. Strong, competitive and courageous onballer. Mal loves contested situations and wins plenty of ball, setting up his team mates on the outside. 4-time premier-ship Player. 141 senior games.



1. Henry Congues - A very quick and tenacious young player in his second season of senior football. Can play in a number of positions and has a big future ahead of him. 26 senior games.



2. Bailey Bell – Winner of the 2017 MFL rising star award. Very creative and clever small forward. Uses the ball well and makes good decisions with ball in hand. Bailey brings enthusiasm and football smarts to the group. 3-time premiership player. League's senior 2019 B&F R/up. 73 senior games.



3. Adam Hickey – Courageous contested ball winner who gives his all for the Purples. A terrific team player who excels at stoppages with quick hands and ferocious tackling pressure. 136 senior games. 2016 and 2017 premiership player.



4. Adam Jorgensen – Dual Pre-miership player with Picola and joined Nathalia last season where he has made a real impression. 2018 MFL Rising Star winner and has booted 30 goals. His pace and tackling pressure are a huge asset. 42 senior games. 2018 premiership player.



5. Tom Byrnes – Premiership player with Picola, joined Nathalia in 2018 but unfortunately sustaining a knee injury, good lead up player with goal sense. 16 senior games.



6. Jarrod Maskell – A 3-time pre-miership captain who leads from the front with his passion and appetite for the contest. One of the league's premier ruckmen who brings others into the game with his unselfish team play. Jarrod has been a terrific player for the club over many years. 5-time premiership player. 131 senior games. 2009 B&F.



7. Brett Vallender – A tall forward with great hands and terrific work ethic. His athleticism makes him a difficult match up as he can play close to goal or push up the ground. "Bones" is a 7-time NFNC premiership player. 194 senior games. 2011 B&F.



8. Jason Limbrick – Asst Coach. Club legend. Former pre-miership coach, 8-time premier-ship player, 2-time VCFL medalist and club leading goal kicker on numerous occasions. Jason can play forward or back. A great reader of the game and decision maker. 261 senior games. 2010 B&F.



9. Rhys Shannon – Highly skilled midfielder or backman and is another purples junior. Great in traffic and a beautiful kick. Rhys can break the lines with his speed and his evasive skills. 88 senior games and 2016 and 2018 premiership player.



10. Scott Morris – Versatile player who gives his all. Is a player of the future who is very determined.18 senior games and premiership player.



12. Ricky Barnes – Four time Nathalia premiership player who returned to Purples in 2016 after a stint at Yarrawonga. Can play back or through the midfield where his strength and physical presence creates a path for his team mates. 132 senior games.



The team at Rex James
Stockfeed wish the
Purples success for
Saturday's Grand Final



Paul and Rosemary Dove
from Dove Motors
Wish Nathalia Football boys
Best of luck for the
Grand Final



Go the Purps!
....Management and Staff,
Brereton's Bakery and Coffee Lounge,
Nathalia
Celebrate with a
purple and gold doughnut.



NATHALIA PURPLES



13. Chris Brown – Skillful midfielder who has great ball finding ability and skills. Also knows how to hit the scoreboard. 22 senior games.



14. Ryan "Rizza" Butler – Extremely talented and athletic midfielder/defender who has real dash and can play tall or small. Returned to Nathalia from Shepparton Utd where he played in multiple premierships. Former Murray Bushranger and 5-time premiership player with Nathalia. Has had a very solid season again. 99 senior games.



16. Ash Quinn – Brilliant, long kicking wingman with precise skills. Ash is a 7-time premiership player who makes good decisions when in possession. Great club man with a long family history at Nathalia. 227 senior games.



17. Ned Nihill – Played senior football since aged 15. Tall, running defender who can play both a defensive or attacking role and has outstanding kicking skills. Former Murray Bushrangers and VCFL rep. 89 senior games. 2015, 2016 and 2018 premiership player.

Congratulations and good luck Purple boys!
From all the staff at
Limo's Home Hardware and Rural Supplies

Good luck Purps!
Nathalia Post Office and Newsagency

Best wishes Nathalia, bring home the trophy.
The staff at
Blake St. Butchery.
From paddock to plate

Best wishes for the Grand Final win.
Nathalia First and fourth teams.
Ryan Meat Co.

Go Nathalia Football Club!
Michael, Vicky and staff,
Al's Café
For the best purple and gold service.

Well done Nathalia boys!
Now all the way to the top.
The staff and patrons
The Bridge Hotel Nathalia

Congratulations to the Nathalia Football and Netball Club.
Leanne and Kevin
Go Purps!
Nathalia Hair and Beauty



REC 6641

Well done Nathalia Boys!
All the best for Premiership 5.

From the team at
Trevor Butler Electrics



19. Harrison Hawks – Tall young key position player who leads well and has been a valuable contributor this season. A player who will have a big future at Nathalia. 34 senior games.



20. Harley Cobbledick – Another local player who has come through the ranks. A utility who has found his niche in defence. Great speed and leap makes him an ideal match up for any forward. 136 senior games. 4-time premiership player.



21. Alex Hicks – Vice-Captain. Young mobile player who can play at either end of the ground with great effect. Has represented the Murray League over the last 3 seasons and was awarded best player in 2018. Has booted 55 goals this season. 4-time premiership player who was awarded player of the finals in 2017. 99 senior games.



23. Tom Nihill – Captain who leads by example. Another local boy who played Murray Bushrangers, Tom is a creative, yet very determined mid fielder with great endurance and work ethic. 115 senior games. 4-time premiership player.



25. Alistair Corry – Very quick, rebounding defender. Al possesses great closing speed and can set the game alight from half back. Very good overhead. 6-time premiership player. 138 senior games.



26. Drew Barnes – An extremely hard working and fearless player who has returned to Nathalia after several seasons as a premiership player and coach of Yarrawonga. Has had a decorated career, being a former Murray Bushranger player, Geelong VFL and Vic Country Rep. 5-time Premiership player with Nathalia. 2007 VCFL medalist. Also 2006 club B&F winner. 100 senior club games.



28. Ben Armstrong – A very determined a dedicated young player who gives his all every minute he is on the ground. A player with a bright future. 2019 U17 B&F. 14 senior games.



34. Clancy Congues – Winner of 2016 Club Under 17 B&F and 3rd in the MFL. A lively, super quick small who relishes a contest and is dangerous around goals. 63 senior games. 2016 premiership player.



37. Liam Evans – Evasive and mercurial forward/midfielder who can do the amazing. Terrific work ethic, strong mark and cool and calm in traffic. Has booted 61 goals this season. 4-time premiership player. 110 senior games.



43. Brodie Ross – Powerful CHF/ruckman who can really influence a game with his strong marking and work around the ground. A product of Nathalia juniors and 5-time premiership player who works hard for the club at a variety of levels. MFL leading goal kicker with 65 goals in 2018. 2013 B&F. 207 senior games.

Golf bowlers start season

THIRTY-TWO bowlers enjoyed perfect conditions on Sunday for Numurkah Golf’s opening day for season 2019-20. Joe Luci, Neil Macklin, Jenny Sutcliffe and Butch Browning formed the only team to win both of the eight-end games played. Jack Dell, Alan Rogers, Lorna Morris and Katrina Glover took second place after multiple countbacks between those who won one game. The club has entered an extra team for Saturday pennant in division four, so is on the hunt for new players.

Practice sessions are being held on Wednesday afternoons from 4pm onwards, with coaching available. The club also has sets of bowls available for those who want to have a go without the expense of buying a set. Practice matches have been arranged against Tallygaroopna on Sunday, September 29, and against Wunghnu on Saturday, October 6. Intending players are asked to enter names on the sheet on the noticeboard. Nominations for the pennant selection committee are also invited.

Jack and Pierre triumph

WHILE some may consider them an odd couple, Jack “Little Ray” Thomas and “Lucky” Pierre Klaessen teamed together nicely to take out Saturday’s two man ambrose at Numurkah Golf Club with 64 nett. A reasonable field of 38 players contested the event, with Captain Ron Smith struggling to find a sensible person among those in a podium finish. Jack and Pierre’s playing partners, Bob IAnson and Ian Clark, finished a shot behind on 65, while the long-time pairing of David Ludington and Ray “Darky” Falla finished third by the smallest possible margin with 65.25. Balls were earnt by Denis and Troy Prosser, 66, Chris O’Dwyer and Sam McPherson, 66.5, and Roy

Peterson and Bill Green, 66.75. Alan Dalton played a lovely shot to the fourth green to take the nearest the pin prize, as did Darryl Sheridan on the seventh, Peter “Bullant” Cowan on the 15th and Jack Dell on the 18th. Jack Hepworth was awarded the prestigious Mickey Mouse ears for failing to turn in his scorecard for an extended period and then claiming it wouldn’t go through the machine, which wasn’t surprising since it was a manual card! Next Saturday’s will be the rescheduled President v Captain’s day. Players with odd handicaps will wear blue and represent captain Ron, with the even handicappers representing president Bev in red attire.

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD 2019

MFL

PRELIMINARY FINALS
Saturday at Katandra
SENIORS
Nathalia **2.4, 12.8, 18.13, 23.16 (154)**
Congupna **3.2, 5.5, 8.5, 12.8 (80)**
GOALS, Nathalia: Liam Evans 5, Adam Jorgensen 5, Alex Hicks 3, Brodie Ross 2, Clancy Congues 2, Jason Limbrick 2, Bailey Bell 1, Drew Barnes 1, Brett Valender 1, Tom Nihill 1. Congupna: Daniel Campbell 4, James Boyer 3, Daniel Schaper 2, Jak Trewin 1, Tate Mifka 1, Brodie Poole 1.
BEST, Nathalia: Bailey Bell, Drew Barnes, Liam Evans, Adam Jorgensen, Jason Limbrick, Ricky Barnes. Congupna: Curtley Allen, Joseph Dwyer, Tate Mifka, Bryden Squire, Lachlan Baldwin, Daniel Schaper.
RESERVES
Rumbalara **0.1, 2.1, 5.6, 8.9 (57)**
Echuca United **2.2, 5.4, 5.6, 6.6 (42)**
GOALS, Rumbalara: Travis Morgan 3, Marlon Johnstone 2, Tyrone Walker 1, Lachlan Armstrong 1, Graham Weston 1. Echuca United: Rhys Morgan 2, Anthony McMahon 1, Kyle Armstrong 1, Sam Simpson 1, Mitchell Lourey 1.
BEST, Rumbalara: Kane Atkinson, Simon Hunter, Michael Clarke, Jamie Atkinson, Lachlan Armstrong, Marlon Johnstone. Echuca United: Ashley Carmody, Dean Haydon, Daniel Cavallaro, Matthew Nettlefold, Anthony McMahon, Sam Simpson.
UNDER 17
Cobram **1.1, 4.4, 8.4, 11.6 (72)**
Echuca United **3.3, 4.5, 5.8, 6.8 (44)**

GOALS, Cobram: James Curtin 5, Will Slatterie 4, Luca Allen 1, Lewis McShane 1. Echuca United: Jack Jansen 2, Kynan Sharpe-Long 2, Billy Barnes 1, Jacob Russell 1.
BEST, Cobram: Lewis Kennedy, Matteo Allen, Liam Hayes, Luca Allen, Tarrynt Neville, Lachlan Adams. Echuca United: Jordan Lloyd, Brady Simpson, Darcy Ramage, Jye Smith, Tom Holmes, Kynan Sharpe-Long
UNDER 14
Deniliquin Rams **2.1, 5.2, 7.2, 7.3 (45)**
Echuca United **0.0, 0.0, 1.1, 3.5 (23)**
GOALS, Deniliquin Rams: Charlie Hillier 2, Ben Dunmore 2, Riley Ives 1, William McCartney 1, Noah Bradley 1. Echuca United: Fayte Belmont-Wickliffe 1, Riley Godfrey 1, Dylan Purbrick 1.
BEST, Deniliquin Rams: Charlie Hillier, Harley Hicks, William McCartney, Angus Wright, Tyson Willis, Ben Dunmore. Echuca United: Jake Clancy, Fayte Belmont-Wickliffe, Tobias O’Brien, Jayden Johnson, Hunter Dixon, Riley Godfrey.
Sunday at Barooga
SENIORS
Tongala 1.0, 2.6, 7.9, 12.14 (86)
Numurkah 4.3, 4.4, 8.5, 13.7 (85)
GOALS, Tongala: Makenzie Ryan 3, Jordan Souter 3, Anthony Dennis 2, Cameron Ilett 1, Michael Pryde 1, Dylan Joyce 1, Coby McCarthy 1. Numurkah: Michael Herlihy 5, Joshua Hoffmann 3, Ben Gunning 2, Tim Arnel 1, Joshua O’Dwyer 1, Beau McKeown 1.
BEST, Tongala: Riley Bacon, Alex Williams, Jayden Tucker, Brayden Nevett, Michael Pryde, Bailey Cox. Numurkah: Mitchell Price, Grant Gallus, Michael Herlihv. Beau McKeown. Ben Gunnina. Luke McKeown.

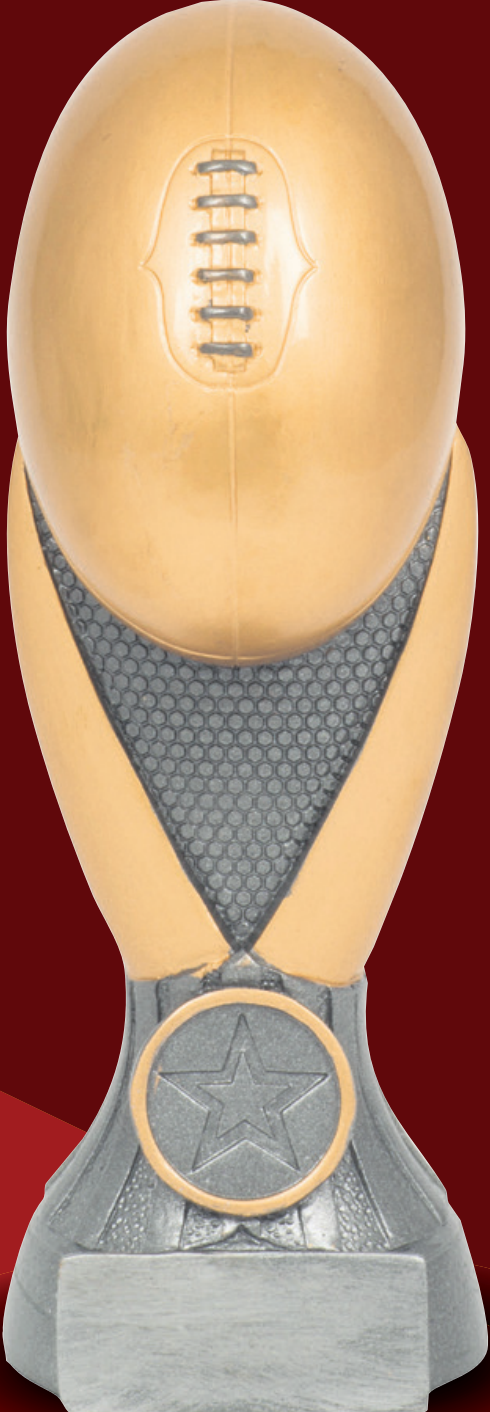
RESERVES
Tongala **4.3, 7.6, 10.8, 13.15 (93)**
Nathalia **1.2, 2.2, 3.3, 3.5 (23)**
GOALS, Tongala: Bradley Power 3, Jesse Moran 3, Matthew Wild 2, Steven Phillips 2, Tyler Vick 1, Dominic Watt 1, Bryce Denham 1. Nathalia: Lachlan Wigmore 1, Dean Limbrick 1, Jack Bell 1.
BEST, Tongala: Matthew Ohlsen, Zane Johnstone, Tyler Vick, Bryce Denham, Lachy Hipwell , Daniel Maher. Nathalia: Brayden Summerville, Woody Guthrie, Jarrod Maskell, Matt Davies, Tyson Richards, Christopher Brown.
UNDER 17
Rumbalara **1.2, 4.7, 6.8, 10.10 (70)**
Numurkah **2.0, 2.1, 2.3, 4.4 (28)**
GOALS, Rumbalara: Lenard Weston 2, Anthony Miller 2, Jarell Morgan 1, Jayden Armstrong 1, Gavin Handy 1, Djaidha Miller 1, Andre Briggs 1, Joven Sorgel 1. Numurkah: Dustan Ebborn 2, Hunter Verhoeven 1, Jayden Holmes 1.
BEST, Rumbalara: Anthony Miller, Malachi Atkinson, Jayden Armstrong, Lenard Weston, Gavin Handy, Jeremiah Stewart. Numurkah: Jack Millen, Rhys Cason, Bailey Roberts, Patrick Masters, Kade O’Dwyer, Matthew Mansfield.
UNDER 14
Nathalia **2.4, 5.7, 8.9, 11.10 (76)**
Tongala **0.1, 2.3, 2.5, 4.9 (33)**
GOALS, Nathalia: Jack Hutchins 4, Brandon Orton 3, Connor Peachey 1, Kai Lundberg 1, Gus Bramwell 1, Darcy Conroy 1. Tongala: Hudson Kellett 1, Harley Reid 1, Riley Cronin 1, Tristan Watson 1.
BEST, Nathalia: Ewan Congues, Gus Bramwell, Brandon Orton. Darcy Conrov. Jack Hutchins. Kai Lund-

berg. Tongala: Tristan Watson, Dylan Scoble, Jessie Johnstone, Dylan Moore, Matthew Di Petta, Kade Northausen.
NEXT WEEK
GRAND FINAL AT FINLEY
Seniors: Nathalia v Tongala
Reserves: Rumbalara v Tongala
Under 17s: Cobram v Rumbalara
Under 14s: Deniliquin v Nathalia

PFL

GRAND FINALS
Saturday at Berrigan
SENIORS
Strathmerton..... **3.3, 5.7, 8.10, 12.15 (87)**
Waaia..... **1.1, 3.3, 6.6, 7.7 (49)**
GOALS, Strathmerton: Lance Oswald 3, Connor Hargreaves 2, Tyrone Hill 1, Matthew O’Kane 1, Zack-Harie Betson 1, Samuel Lewis 1, Shankus Ryan 1, Theo Thomas 1, Simon Russell 1. Waaia: Charlie Burrows 1, Aaron Shelton 1, Matthew Brown 1, Jordan Cleeland 1, Samuel Richardson 1, Daniel Clarke 1, Connor Brown 1
BEST, Strathmerton: Lance Oswald, Shannon Emmett, Simon Russell, Matt Shannon, Tyrone Hill, Zeke Bunge. Waaia: Ashley Thompson, Miles Rowlands, Charlie Burrows, Mitchell Cleeland, Samuel Richardson, Aaron Shelton.
RESERVES
Blighty **5.2, 10.4, 13.7, 16.10 (106)**
Waaia..... **1.1, 2.1, 5.4, 6.5 (41)**
GOALS, Blighty: Beau Close 7. Daniel Kirchen 3.

Joshua Peers 2, Ashley Bain 1, Tyler Amor-Beale 1, Benjamin Littmann 1, Luke Hay 1. Waaia: Brayden Carey 3, Hayden Hixon 2, Nathan Cornick 1.
BEST, Blighty: Joshua Peers, Tyler Amor-Beale, Beau Close, Leigh Culton, Aaron Litchfield, Tom Druitt. Waaia: Hayden Hixon, Mark Bergamin, Drew Mackey, Ryan Sprunt, Brayden Carey, Brendan Harris.
UNDER 17
Katunga..... **2.2, 5.3, 7.4, 7.5 (47)**
Strathmerton..... **1.2, 1.7, 3.10, 4.15 (39)**
GOALS, Katunga: Samuel Arho 3, Lachlan Daniel 1, Callum Howden 1, Max Hendy 1, Bailey Smith 1. Strathmerton: Riley O’Kane 2, Dylan Craven 1, Joshua Payne 1.
BEST, Katunga: Max Hendy, Lachlan Daniel, William Sefton, Jackson Harris, Lachlan O’Hara. Strathmerton: Aaron Macfadyen, Haydn Wyatt, Dylan Craven, Riley O’Kane, Zack Cunningham, Matthew Price.
UNDER 14
Rennie **4.4, 4.8, 6.10, 9.18 (72)**
Strathmerton..... **0.0, 0.0, 1.0, 2.0 (12)**
GOALS, Rennie: Axel Doherty 3, Callum Deoleveira 2, Fraser Bennett 1, Lochie Forge 1, Samuel Bigger 1, Cooper Lonergan 1. Strathmerton: Benjamin Lee-Madgwick 1, Joshua Payne 1.
BEST, Rennie: Ben Kennedy, Callum Deoleveira, Dominic McInness, Fraser Bennett, Marcus VanMaanen, Samuel Bigger. Strathmerton: Benjamin Lee-Madgwick , Joshua Payne, Ethan Coghill-Lynam, Adam Brown, Mitchell Easden. Caleb Wilson.



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Bomber netballers empty handed

BOTH Waaia netball teams competing in the Picola League grand finals on Saturday failed to take home a premiership cup, although the B graders went heart-breakingly close. It was a fantastic day at Berrigan, the sun was shining and PDFNL members were out in force to support their teams. Katunga was the undefeated side in B grade all season and had a tough line up. The Bomber girls began strongly, playing a tight defensive game to shut down the Swans' key shooter. The ball was moving well around the court and Waaia went into the half time break with a five goal lead. They were able to maintain that margin throughout the third quarter and across the court the defence was strong, the attackers were agile and the goalers were accurate. Unfortunately, a few costly errors in the final quarter resulted in the two sides breaking even. With a minute to go the Swans had a two goal lead and the pressure was on. Maddison Cleeland sank a long bomb and the Bombers raced back to the centre to take one final stab at it. Sadly, it was not to be. The siren sounded and the black and red went down by a goal to their Katunga rivals. A disappointing outcome but a fantastic team effort on the day by all the girls. They had a stellar season and are a tight knit and committed group. A special congratulations must go to the pocket rocket in the midcourt, Hayley Thorne, who was awarded Best on Court player for the game. She slogged it out all day in the centre, never giving up and chasing every ball. Waaia already look forward to taking on the Swans in 2020 and bringing the cup back home. C Grade After a long year of netball, Waaia made it to the final game of the season, in perfect conditions at Berrigan. Rachel Thorne was a standout in the midcourt, continuously working hard and pumping the team with her positive attitude. Defence worked tirelessly and did all they could to try and stop the quick shooting opposition. Unfortunately, it wasn't the Bombers' day and Berrigan ran away with a 22 goal win.



BOC ... Hayley Thorne was awarded best on court honours in Saturday's Picola League B grade netball grand final.

Good day for croquet



Nearest the pin ... Graham Tyack (left) receives his 'nearest the pin' prize from Numurkah Croquet Club president, David Geddes.

LAST Tuesday's golf croquet social tournament was played in fine conditions, a welcome change from the freezing winds of the previous day. A smaller than usual field of players gave entrants the opportunity to play on "A" courts, (all in excellent condition thanks to greenkeeper Geoff Sutcliffe), which was very much appreciated by all the competitors. Players from Albury, Echuca/Moama, Kyabram, Rich River and Shepparton along with a number of Numurkah members all enjoyed a very "social" day played in friendly spirit. On the courts the winner of the day was Ian Grant (Rich River) with 4 wins/30 hoops/22 against, beating an unlucky Theresa Hunt (Shepparton) who just lost the last game 6/7 to finish the day with 3 wins/32 hoops/20 against. Four players had a hoop-in-

one, Graham Tyack, James Gunn, Anne Dodd & Ian Grant with James Gunn being drawn from the hat to take home the prize. As well as competing on the courts, players had the opportunity to test their skill at the Jumps Board which had a constant line of competitors throughout the day. Although having complained early on that the hole was too small, Marg Gleeson from Shepparton was the winner with 3 successful hoops from her set of 4 shots. Nearest-the-peg was another off-court challenge, with Numurkah's Graham Tyack getting a wick off the ball marker to finish about 8cm behind the peg in an almost unbeatable position. It was obviously Graham's lucky day as he was also winner of the money tree raffle. All winners received cash prizes courtesy of Grain-

Corp's generous sponsorship. Numurkah Association Pennant Team had a great third round win against Shepparton last Wednesday, winning four of their six games. A win to both doubles pairs in the morning gave Numurkah a good start to the match and with Louise Vale and Lea Grant having convincing wins in their respective singles in the afternoon the victory was assured. Louise defeated Noel Dealy 22 hoops to 9 and Lea defeated Gwen Denison 16 hoops to 9, with the other two singles matches being very close. Final scores were, Numurkah 4 games/71 Hoops, Shepparton, 2 games/49 hoops. The golf croquet pennant season starts tomorrow (Thursday). Numurkah White play at Deniliquin and Numurkah Blue will be at home to Rich River Emus.

John's hot Thursday

by "Rufus T. Firefly"
IN idyllic Spring weather, John Trimble made the most of favourable course conditions to score a winning, six under handicap, score of 42 Stableford points in last Thursday's mid-week competition at Numurkah golf club. Second and third placegetters, Leigh Robertson and Alf Patman, also had handicap busting totals of 41 and 40 respectively. Other players whose score earned them a pro ball were Steve Mackay, Steve Thornton, Bill Padgett, Ian Hannaford, John Mackay and Al-

lan Newby, all 38 points, Sid Roughsedge 37, Matt Ebborn and Dick Maloney 36, Hugh Gunn 35, John McHale, Ron Smith and Kerry Collins 34 points. Martin Daniel won the tin of boiled lollies with a not surprisingly high, lowest score of 26 points. Neville 'Nifty' Smith earned the Mickey Mouse ears this week by being, in part, too friendly. On the 16th tee Jack Hepworth, Nev's playing partner, sliced his tee shot out over the fence. Being the kind-hearted soul that he is,

Neville threw him a used ball from his golf cart and Jack immediately slammed that 185 metres down the fairway. Moving on, Neville proceeded to put his own second shot out onto Tunnock Road only to discover he had, in fact, played the old ball that he had given Jack! Same make ball, same number, same identifying texta marks. Good one 'Nifty'. Steve Thornton won a GMCU sponsored ball by being closest to the pin on the fourth hole, while Allan Newby took the players' sweep money by doing the same on the seventh.

Steven Wilson placed his second shot very accurately on Dennis and Roy's sponsored 14th hole, and Peter 'Bullant' Cowan won the Pruden Carpentry sponsored ball on the 18th hole. Once again, the 15th hole defied its men's ranking of being only the course's 6th most difficult hole with no player able to land on it and take Graeme Sprunt's sponsored ball. If you would like to join us, assemble at the clubhouse this Thursday at 9.30 am for a 10 o'clock shotgun start. Visitors and guests are most welcome.

Two netball flags for Bulldogs

STRATHMERTON pulled off a stunning grand final performance to secure the Picola District Football Netball League A grade netball premiership at Berrigan on Saturday. Having finished the home and away season in fifth position, few would have foreseen the Bulldogs eventual triumph, much less the prospect of facing the side which finished sixth, Picola, in the decider. Strathy had outstanding performers at both ends of the court, with goalkeeper Tegan Sutton taking home the best on court medallion and goal shooter Kelley Laidlaw landing some excellent goals. Picola's shooter, Emilyy Atkinson, had trouble overcoming Sutton's pressure early in the game, missing frequently as Strathy built a six goals lead at the first break. Atkinson found her range in the second quarter, reducing the margin to five at the long break. The Bulldogs remained in control throughout the second half, maintaining a handy lead on the way to a famous seven goal victory. Under 17 Strathmerton under 17s also brought home the bacon, with a stirring 11 goals win, also over Picola. Leading by a single goal at quarter time, Strathy pulled away in the second quarter, due to some excellent work by shooters Jordyn-Lee Madgwick and Kiara Deverill. Picola shooter Jessica Legge found her range, but the Blues were unable to make any impression on the gap in the scores. While the Bulldogs' shooters were highly influential, the win was achieved by a strong team performance.



Premier Bulldogs ... A grade champions Strathmerton, back row (from left): Jordyn Lee-Madgwick, Molly Coburn, Alyssa Crestani, Brittany Brunskill, Amy Carter, Vanessa Ward, Tegan Sutton, Nicole Hughes, Claire Walker. Front: Caitlyn Price, Hope Lindhe, Grace Thomson, Kelley Laidlaw, Kasey Baker, Caitlin Hill.

NETBALL SCOREBOARD

MNL

PRELIMINARY FINALS A GRADE

Rumbalara 53 lt Echuca United 54
Moama 56 d Deniliquin 27

B GRADE

Moama 43 d Echuca United 39
Deniliquin 38 d Mulwala 37

C GRADE

Echuca United 49 d Nathalia 37
Mulwala 45 d Cobram 27

C RESERVE

Echuca United 41 d Nathalia 34
Mulwala 42 d Moama 30

17 & UNDER

Echuca United 53 d Rumbalara 34
Tongala 27 lt Moama 31

15 & UNDER

Deniliquin 41 d Echuca United 27
Tongala 46 d Nathalia 20

13 & UNDER

Tongala 41 d Deniliquin 40
Finley 42 d Echuca United 28

**NEXT WEEK
GRAND FINALS
SATURDAY AT FINLEY**
A grade: Echuca United v Moama
B grade: Moama v Deniliquin
C grade: Echuca United v Mulwala
C Reserve: Echuca United v Mulwala
17 under: Echuca United v Moama
15 under: Deniliquin v Tongala
13 under: Tongala v Finley

PNL

GRAND FINALS A GRADE

Picola United 35 lt Strathmerton 42

B GRADE

Katunga 35 d Waaia 34

C GRADE

Berrigan 59 d Waaia 37

C RESERVE

Deni Rovers 23 lt Katunga 26

17 & UNDER

Picola United 41 lt Strathmerton 52

15 & UNDER

Rennie 34 d Blighty 245

13 & UNDER

Blighty 6 lt Tocumwal 21



Team Cheer... Team celebrates victory



Pass away ... Best on court, Strathmerton goalkeeper Tegan Sutton gets the ball away from goal, under pressure from Picola's Demi Morrison.



Number one ... Strathmerton's victorious under 17 netballers are all smiles. *Photo by Bruce McKean*

Three cups for Swans



B grade champions ... Katunga, back row (from left): Jordyn Sutton, Stacey Weeks, Sophie McCracken, Chany Phillips, Katie Morris, Sheralee Newman, Kellie Salter. Front: Carly Berll, Tracey Salter, Dani Henderson, Kirsty Hodgkin.



C Reserve champions ... Katunga, back row (from left): Kylea Sidebottom, Kirsten Rogers, Lisa Hendy, Andrea Kelly, Carol Storer, Sandra Kennedy. Front: Millie Nye, Madison Donehue, Bree Patullo. Absent: Ash Lee.

AFTER a highly successful season both on and off the field, Katunga Football Netball Club was buoyed to arrive home from the Grand Final at Berrigan last weekend with three premiership cups, following exciting wins by their B Grade and C Reserve netballers, and Under 17 footballers (see separate story).

For the Under 17s and B graders it was in some ways redemption after losses for both teams in the 2018 grand finals.

B Grade

In an unbelievable game of high pressure netball, the undefeated Katunga B Grade side was able to prevail by a solitary goal in last Saturday's Grand Final, though how they were able to claw their way back into the match after being six goals down early in the final term will be discussed for quite some time.

Whilst Waaia entered the match as underdogs, after a relatively even first term the Bombers made all the running in the second and third quarters via impressive pressure, all court defence, fast precise ball movement and some excellent goal shooting.

To its credit Katunga, which was clearly the season's top team, was able to soak up the pressure and had enough belief to stay within striking distance, though supporters of both sides probably felt at three quarter time it was going to be the Bombers' day.

Early in the final term the sides were going goal for goal, when suddenly you could sense the momentum had changed.

The Swans were playing as they had all season and the pressure was on Waaia to maintain its advantage.

With some hugely important intercepts and positive ball movement into their goalers, Katunga was able to storm home and secure a one goal victory.

While all players contributed at stages, Sophie McCracken and Kate Towe in defence had strong games and kept the Swans within striking distance. Though Jordyn Sutton in goals was doubled teamed all game, she was able to break the shackles in the final term and was instrumental in the win.

Although the Swans were perhaps below their best due in part to Waaia's work rate and pressure, the Katunga team is to be congratulated on achieving an undefeated season.

C Reserve

Katunga C Reserve netballers have secured their first flag at this level since the late 1990's with a hard fought three goal win over reigning premier Deniliquin Rovers at Berrigan last Saturday.

These two sides both finished the season on thirteen wins, behind clear flag favourite Rennie, but after Deni Rovers surprise victory over Rennie in the preliminary final the path was clear for Katunga to enter the grand final with some real belief they could prevail.

In a great game of netball both teams had the ascendancy at stages though Katunga coach and experienced goaler Sandra Kennedy was instrumental in the Swans gaining a halftime lead and they were able to maintain a slight advantage for the remainder of the game.

With midcourt player Kylea Sidebottom playing well and strong defensive work from Andrea Kelly, Katunga was finally able to emerge with a close hard-fought victory.

While Kennedy was awarded best on court honors, the whole Katunga side were on the court at some stage through the match, and all contributed to the wonderful 26-23 victory.

Purples Netballers bow out

ALL three teams representing Nathalia in last weekend's netball preliminary finals had their seasons ended in defeat.

C Grade

The Purples threw everything at Echuca United, getting within two goals in the third quarter, but could not maintain the momentum, losing by 12 goals.

The defence changed tactics in the second half, applying pressure to their goal end but to Echuca's credit they again stepped up. Although Nathalia won the second and third quarters, it wasn't enough to get it over the line.

The Purples left nothing on the court and the coach was very proud

of each and everyone in the team.

C Reserve

Nathalia pressured top team Echuca United throughout the whole game, causing Echuca to make changes to their goaling line up and defence. Although Nathalia won the third quarter, they couldn't carry the momentum into the last quarter and

went down by seven goals.

15 & Under

It was a gallant effort by the under 15s in the preliminary final at Barrooga. They fought hard to stay in touch, but a strong contest by Tongala forced them to make errors going into attack.

Tongala was the first team this season to zone the Purples out in the mid court and attack third, leaving them battling to reach the goals.

All girls played well and can be very proud they finished in the top four this year. The experience of playing finals will better place these bottom age girls for 2020.



The Cup... Players rejoice in winning the finals.



Playing hard... Zeke Bunge drives the ball down field



Winner winner ... Strathmerton's premiership players, coaches and officials celebrate their 2019 win

Bulldogs reign supreme

STRATHMERTON players are the kings and queens of the Picola District Football Netball League after winning both the senior football and A grade netball premierships at Berrigan on Saturday. The Bulldogs were playing in the season decider for the sixth time in seven

seasons, with only one flag to show for their efforts and were determined to double that record against Waaia. After the Bombers scored the first goal of the game through Charlie Burrows, Strathmerton reeled of the next five majors and was never headed again on the way to a 38 point victory.

Strathy led by 14 points at the first break, and 16 at both half and three quarter times before sealing the game with a four goals to one final stanza. Veteran Bulldog Lance Oswald, who had played all his junior football at the club, was named the winner of

both the AFL Victorian Country and PDFNL best on ground medallions, but was not the only one of his team to shine. Matt O'Kane, Shannon Emmett, Matt Shannon, Adrian Crestani and Simon Russell all provided valuable support, while for Waaia Ash Thompson, Aar-

on Shelton, Charlie Burrows and the Cleelands, Mitch and Jordy, were better players. Waaia will be ruing the loss, as it has been clearly the best team in the competition over the previous two season, having lost only three matches in that period.



Family affair ... Michael and Kelley Laidlaw share their dual premiership glory with son Ernie.



Best Bulldog ... Lance Oswald was clearly the best player on the ground in Saturday's PDFNL grand final.



Winners are grinners... Team celebrates victory.
Photo by Rhonda Doyle



Hot on your tail... Bailey Smith about to go down
Photo by Bruce McKean



Leading from the front ... Katunga under 17 captain and BOG medallist Max Hendy drives the ball forward.
Photo by Bruce McKean



Running hard... Lochie Daniels moving the ball forward
Photo by Bruce McKean

Blues thirds go down

NUMURKAH under 17s had their season ended by a strong Rumbalara side in Sunday's Murray Football League preliminary final. The Blues met Rumbalara at Barooga with a chance to win through to the grand final. Numurkah started the better of the two sides, kicking two goals through Dusty Ebborn and Hunter Verhoeven to lead by four points at quarter time. Despite the efforts of the Blues, Rumbalara soon gained ascendancy and took control over the ground and kicked away to a 31-13 lead at half time. The Blues battled hard in the second half, but to no avail, as Rumbalara cruised to victory by 42 points. Jack Millen, Rhys Cason, Bailey Roberts, Matt Mansfield, Pat Masters and Kade O'Dwyer led the way for the Blues as a terrific year for the Numurkah thirds came to an end.

Swans get revenge on Dogs

FOR the second year running the Picola District Football Netball League Under 17 football grand finalists were Katunga and Strathmerton. While Katunga went into the 2018 match as favourites, after an undefeated season and fell short, it was the Bulldogs this season who carried the pressure of favourites into the last dance. Having split the results though the home and away season, the stage was set for a great contest and neither team disappointed on the day, with spectators entertained by a high-quality game of pressure football by two very committed teams. Katunga started the better via two early goals, though they were unable to really turn their field position advantage onto the scoreboard and a late first term goal by the Bulldogs had them right back in the contest. The second term was for a large part all Katunga, as they added the only three goals of the term,

to head into the halftime break with a 20-point lead. While Strathmerton's inaccuracy was proving costly, some quality run and carry ball movement, good forward line conversion and solid defensive pressure by the Swans found the Bulldogs wanting at times. While relatively even on the scoreboard, the third term saw Strathmerton start to influence the contest, though the Swans were able to continue putting enormous pressure on Strathmerton's prime movers which limited their advantage. An early final quarter goal by the Bulldogs had them within 11 points and suddenly it was anyone's game. Strathmerton attacked constantly throughout the term, but due to the strong committed defensive pressure applied by Katunga all over the

ground this was to be the only goal for the quarter, which enabled Katunga to emerge worthy 8 point victors. While co-captain Max Hendy was awarded the AFL Victoria Country Medal, his teammate Will Sefton was awarded the PDFNL best on ground award for a sustained four quarter defensive game and certainly without Sefton his team would not have tasted victory. Sam Arho (three goals) was the game's premier forward, on-baller Lachie Daniel worked himself to a standstill and was an instrumental four quarter player, while fourths listed player Jackson Harris, key defender Clayton Beer, and flanker Lachie O'Hare played four quarter games. Strathmerton was best served by Aaron Macfadyen, Haydn Wyatt and Riley O'Kane (two goals).

Reserves out, under 14s in for Purples

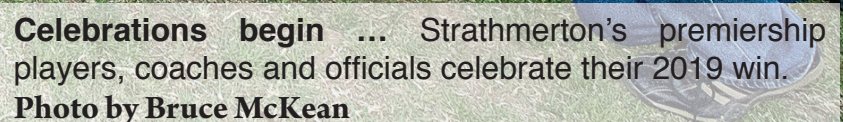
For the second year running Nathalia reserves found themselves in a preliminary final. Tongala is always a strong side at this level and Nathalia knew it would be tough to beat. Unfortunately, from the outset Tongala were the better side and simply had too many winners. The Nathalia boys never stopped trying with Brayden Summerville a stand-out in defence, where he looks very comfortable, repelling many Tongala forward entries. Woody Guthrie stepped up from the thirds and provided dash and intent and looks to be a player with a bright future if willing to do the hard yards.

Experienced players in Jarrod Maskell and Matty Davies tried continually to get the side going from the middle and left nothing out there. Tongala were bigger and stronger in general and used the ball more effectively with many avenues to goal, extending the margin to 70 points at the end. This was a great experience for a host of Purple boys and is a good example of what it takes to make a grand final. In a solid season, Nathalia saw many younger players grow and the team is already looking forward to next year. Well done to Scott Evans again for leading the side well. Best Players: Brayden Summerville, Woody

Guthrie, Jarrod Maskell, Matt Davies, Tyson Richards, Chris Brown

Under 14s
Preliminary final day finally arrived and the Nathalia boys were looking forward to the challenge of quelling the Tongala quest. In perfect conditions the young Purps were ready to embrace the occasion and were quickly on the scoreboard with great team play via Brandon Orton and Kai Lundberg. Jerry Amery and Connor Peachey relished the good conditions and the backline was resolute with Oliver Sheehan, Max Frostick, Charlie

Dietrich, Ben Nave, Ned Bramwell and Bob Walpole making life difficult for Tongala. Jack Hutchins was a focal point in front of the goals, as was Gus Bramwell. Darcy Conroy, Charlie Sheehan and Ewan Congues were strong contributors over four quarters. Mason Cobbledick was terrific and Billy Liddell, Ryan Dealy and Kian Brereton played their part in a strong team performance, which saw Nathalia home by 43 points. All the Nathalia faithful supporters will be right behind the boys in the grand final. Best Players: Ewan Congues, Gus Bramwell, Brandon Orton, Darcy Conroy, Jack Hutchins, Kai Lundberg



STRATHMERTON players are the kings and queens of the Picola District Football Netball League after winning both the senior football and A grade netball premierships at Berrigan on Saturday... *Story page 18*

In a very team-oriented performance there were many contributors across all lines. The defenders, led by the experienced Al Corry and Ryan Butler were generally impassable and the dynamic forward line including Alex Hicks, Jorgensen and Evans looked dangerous throughout the match.

Best Players: Bailey Bell, Drew Barnes, Liam Evans, Adam Jorgensen, Jason Limbrick, Ricky Barnes

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