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Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

\$1.30

INSIDE



Celebrating Holmes' return

See story page 7



New staff at NSC

See story page 8



See story page 5



Preps' big day

Local primary school foundation students started their education journey last week.

See story page 5.

New beginnings ... Talia McLean gets a helping hand on her first day of prep from her sister Poppy McLean, who is also experiencing her first day at Numurkah Primary School as she starts grade two.

Six arrested after investigation

SIX men have been arrested in relation to a spate of burglaries committed in the local area in the past six months.

Detectives from Victoria Police's Eastern and Western regions executed six warrants at six Echuca addresses at around 6am yesterday, arresting six men aged between 25 and 33 years of age, all from Echuca. They are currently being interviewed by police.

The arrests follow an investigation into residential burglaries, aggravated burglaries and commercial burglaries in the region.

It is not yet known how many of the burglaries the men are being interviewed about relate to the Numurkah district.

Police seized a yellow Holden Monaro, firearms, stolen tools, a stolen motorbike, firearms scope, a safe, a conducted energy device, a fire starter, rifle stock and an ammunition belt.

Wangaratta Inspector Kerrie Hicks said the arrests highlight the importance of collaborative investigation work by police from Moira, Campaspe and Shepparton Police service areas, the Eastern Region Crime Squad and the Central Victoria Response

Unit in identifying and arresting repeat offenders.

"Our cross regional law enforcement model continues to evolve with excellent information sharing and joint investigations. We know that offenders don't stop at the borders, and neither do we."

"This is a timely reminder to everyone to lock up their valuables and if they have any information regarding any offending to please call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000."

"I'd like to thank the community for their ongoing support. It is our focus to ensure not only that people are safe, but that they feel safe."

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Hard to reach ... CFA crews were unable to reach the source of the fire inside the hollow tree.

Lightning destroys 200 year-old tree

LAST Wednesday morning's thunder storm claimed an unexpected casualty, as lightning struck a 200 year-old tree on the original site of the old Invergordon primary school, on Union Rd.

Though the strike is believed to have occurred quite early in the morning, fire crews became aware of the situation at around mid-day, when they received a call about smoke coming from inside the tree.

The lightning had ignited the inside of the hollow tree, and CFA crews from Naring, Numurkah and Drumanure attempted to extinguish the blaze, but were unable to reach the source of the fire inside the tree.

Officers from DELWP attended from Nathalia and felled the tree, which was on Crown land, before extinguishing it.

Regional Manager Forest and Fire Operations, Shaun Lawlor told the

Leader that in order to protect environmental values, such as habitat trees, firefighters will attempt to extinguish burning trees or undertake works to prevent them from catching fire.

"However, if a tree poses a risk to firefighters, the public or threatens to breach control lines it will be felled," Mr Lawlor said.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is responsible for the safe and effective control of bushfires on public land in Victoria.

The State Strategic Control Priorities list the protection of human life as the paramount consideration in all decision making, this includes the safety of firefighters and the community.

The incident was one of five attended by local crews throughout the past week.

Police were forced to close Numurkah Rd, just north of Allerts

Rd, at Katunga last Thursday due to smoke from a grass and scrub fire obscuring the road at around 6pm.

The fire started in a stand of trees on the west side of the road, and had jumped the road and was burning on both sides when crews from Numurkah, Katunga and Strathmerton arrived.

The fire burnt about an acre of land, and took crews a long time to black out due to a heavy load of grass and ground litter.

A crew from DELWP attended and felled a number of trees that were in danger of falling on the road and railway line.

The cause of the fire is unknown, and is being investigated.

At around 1.25am on Saturday a group of people were 'paddock-bashing' in a paddock at Labuan Rd Marungi when the exhaust of one of the cars set fire to dry grass, also igniting the car.

Around 20 square metres of grass was burned, along with the car.

Crews from Drumanure, Wunghnu and Tallygaroopna attended, along with police. Numurkah was stopped before it left the station.

Eight crew members from Numurkah, Strathmerton and Cobram left Numurkah at around 5.25am on Friday to assist with blacking out the Ruffy fire which started on Thursday.

The crews were assigned the task of blacking out fallen and felled trees along Hughes Creek, and arrived back in Numurkah at around 8.20pm.

Tallygaroopna and Wunghnu brigades were called to investigate a smoke sighting in the vicinity of the GV Highway and Victoria St Tallygaroopna just before 8am last Wednesday. No evidence of fire was found, and Wunghnu was not required.

Watch out for road works

LOCALS are being urged to plan their trips, and allow extra time, as a number of major roadworks projects have commenced in the region.

The Benalla-Yarrawonga Road will be closed all this week, Monday, February 4 to Saturday February 9, to allow for asphalt rehabilitation works to be conducted 24/7, weather permitting.

Originally scheduled to start Saturday, February 2, works were delayed to enable essential works on one of the major planned detour routes.

VicRoads are advising drivers to allow at least an extra 10 minutes travel time to cater for the detours.

Works have also commenced on the Katamatite-Yarrawonga Road, Katamatite, between Benalla-Tocumwal Road and Barnes Road.

Pavement stabilisation and sealing works will be conducted from 7am to 5pm until Monday March 4, weather permitting.

Traffic management will be in place, with speed set at 40km/h.

For the latest traffic information around the state visit traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au or download the VicTraffic app.

Numurkah district records hottest January day ever

LAST month has officially been declared Victoria's warmest January ever, with Friday, January 25, standing out as the hottest day in the state.

The Bureau of Meteorology's Dr Andrew Watkins said that, in addition to many areas of the state setting new records for their location, temperatures of 47.5° and 47.6° - recorded at Swan Hill and Kerang respectively on January 25 - broke the previous January record for Victoria, which was 47.2°C recorded at Mildura on January 10, 1939.

As for Numurkah, the closest weather station currently reporting is at Shepparton Airport, which recorded 46.2°C on January 25, 2019, almost two degrees higher than its previous January record of 44.3°C recorded on 31 January, 2009, and more than 14 degrees higher than its January average of 31.9°C.

With weather stations at Tocumwal, Tatura

and Kyabram also recording record highs on January 25 this year - 46.5°C, 44.8°C and 47.1°C respectively - it seems reasonable to speculate that January 25 may well have seen Numurkah exceed its previous highest January temperature of 45.0°C, recorded at Numurkah post office on January 31, 1968.

January was also an exceptionally dry month for Victoria, with most of the state receiving less than 20% of its normal January rainfall.

Dr Watkins said that we can expect it to continue to be very hot and very dry over the next three months.

"Victoria will likely continue to experience warm temperatures throughout February, and into March and April," he said.

"There is an 80% chance of us seeing warmer than average days, and just a slightly lower chance of warmer than average nights."



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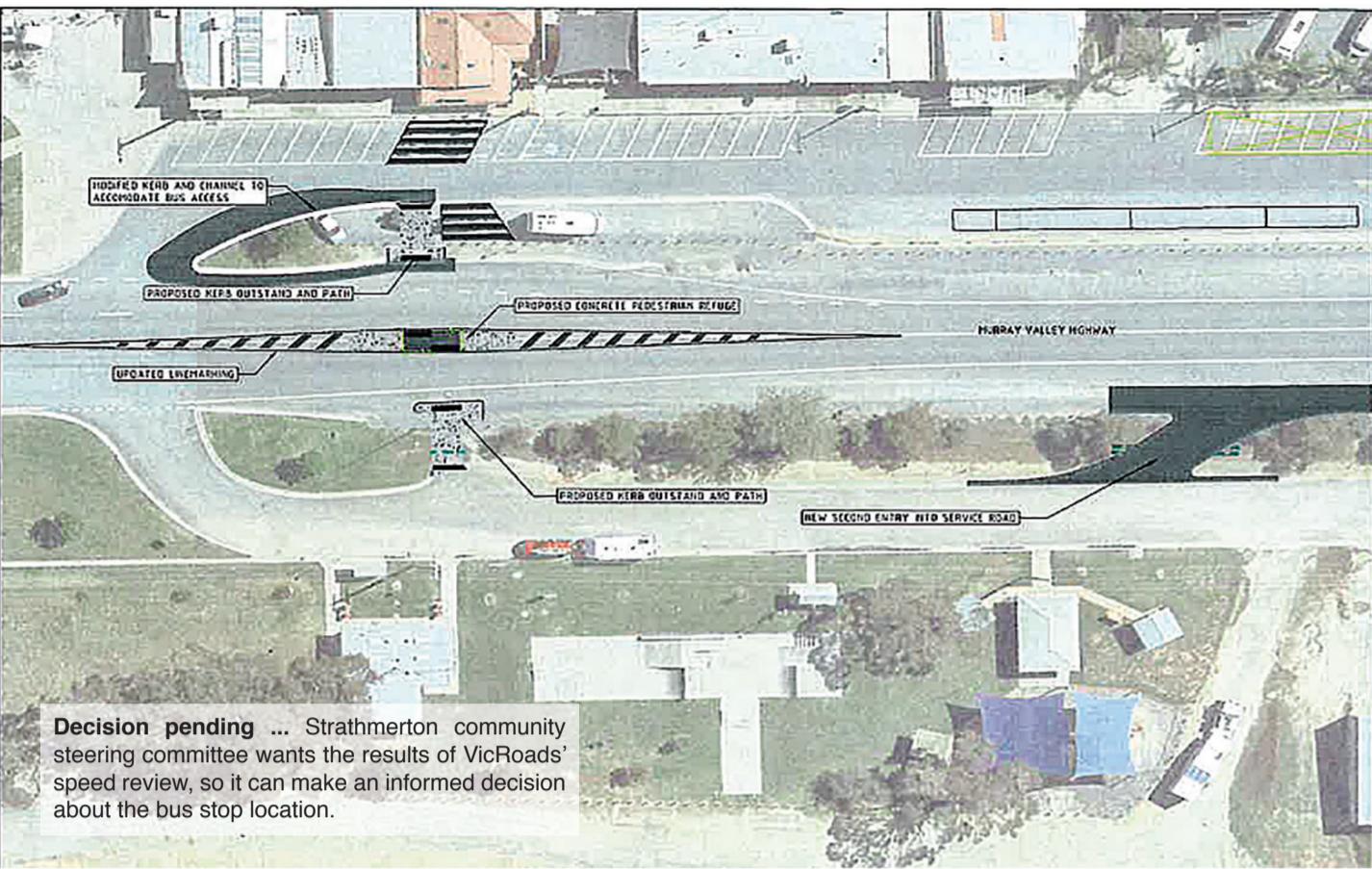
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Decision pending ... Strathmerton community steering committee wants the results of VicRoads' speed review, so it can make an informed decision about the bus stop location.

Still waiting for results of speed review

MORE than six months after a community consultation session was held in the town, Strathmerton residents are still waiting to hear the outcome of a VicRoads review into the town's speed limit.

After 18 months of lobbying on the part of the local community to have the speed limit reduced, after it was increased from 70kph to 80kph in 2014 despite the objections of local residents, reduced, VicRoads announced the review in July last year.

On July 16, 2018, VicRoads Regional Director Nicki Kyriakou said that VicRoads was mindful of the safety concerns raised by locals who feel an 80kph limit is too high.

"We take speed limit changes seriously and it's important that these reviews are considered in line with expert advice and community sentiment," Ms Kyriakou said.

Over the coming months, we will be gathering data such as traffic volumes and pedestrian movements, and we'll use this evidence, alongside community feedback, to make an informed decision on the safest speed for the Murray Valley Highway through Strathmerton."

Over 100 people attended a community consultation session held by VicRoads on July 26 last year, and around 200 people completed a survey on the issue, which was open until August 24 last year.

Ms Kyriakou said at the time that, once the survey closed, VicRoads would analyse the feedback, along with the traffic data, and expected the review process to be completed, and an update provided to the community, by the end of the year.

In response to questions from the *Leader* last week, Acting Regional Director North Eastern Regional Roads Victoria, Nathan Matthews, said that speed review changes can take time, with community consultation and technical assessment.

"We've heard the Strathmerton community's feedback about the speed limit through the town and their suggestions to improve safety," Mr Matthews said.

"Speed review changes are considered on a case-by-case basis, and it's important to ensure the right decision is made."

VicRoads told the *Leader* that a final decision was expected early this year, but declined the opportunity to narrow that time frame down.

Moira Shire Council announced in April 2018 that it had been allocated \$50,000 by VicRoads to construct a pedestrian refuge in the centre of the Murray Valley Highway in the town.

Many Strathmerton locals expressed doubt as to whether heavy vehicles turning on and off the highway from Numurkah Rd would be able to do so without impacting the refuge, which will be situated just to the east of the intersection.

Although the original plans for the refuge merely showed a concrete island without safety barriers, the design has since been changed to include safety barriers, and the location moved slightly eastward to assuage community concerns.

The *Leader* understands that the new plans have been submitted to the Strathmerton community steering committee, and that con-

struction will not commence until their feedback has been received by council.

Strathmerton community steering committee chairperson Bernard Murray told the *Leader* that the committee is disappointed that the results of the VicRoads review have not yet been made available to them.

"We would like to have that information to help us make an informed decision," he said.

"Once the crossing goes in and the bus stop location is set they will be permanent fixtures, so we want to know the exact circumstances they'll be operating in when we make a decision on that, but that could still be some time."

Mr Murray said that though the committee is aware that any decision it makes won't be the one preferred by everybody, they need to make a decision that benefits as many people as possible.

"We know not everybody is in favour of the crossing, but we have done our own community surveys, and we know that most people are in favour of both a crossing and a speed reduction."

At the moment, the major sticking point for the committee is the location of the bus stop, which serves as the drop-off and pick up point for both school and V/Line buses.

To date, the buses have stopped on the side of the highway, which has not been considered ideal, given the speed limit of 80kph, and the fact that many of the buses stop outside of the 40kph school zone times.

A proposal has been made to re-

locate the bus stop to the northern service road, but there are concerns about the loss of business parking this would result in.

Another possible option is a slight widening of the highway verge, to allow more room for the stationary buses.

"This is why we need the results of the speed review, because knowing whether the speed limit will be 60 or 80 makes a difference to these things," Mr Murray said.

Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell told the *Leader* that she is disappointed for the Strathmerton community that the issue is taking so long to resolve.

Ms Lovell has raised the issue in parliament on a number of occasions since March 2017, and said that she intends to raise it again when parliament resumes this week.

"The community wants to see safety improved and the first step in achieving that is to reduce the speed limit," Ms Lovell said.

"I will raise the issue again in the first sitting week of the new parliament, and I will also be raising it with the Minister personally."

Ms Lovell visited Strathmerton last year with then Shadow Minister for Roads and Infrastructure David Hodgett.

Mr Hodgett, who is now Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and Shadow Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, announced during that visit that if the Victorian Liberal Party gained power in the November election, they would lower the speed limit through the town to 60kph.

EPA warns against farm waste burn-offs

ENVIRONMENT Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) says the hefty fine issued over a burning pile of farm waste at Woolsthorpe in southwest Victoria, should be a warning for rural landholders in the state's north east.

EPA north east region manager Emma Knights said the fire cost a dairy company more than \$8,000, after EPA officers found the pile, containing plastic, wire, soil and hay, still burning when they arrived.

"The pile also included a 20-litre plastic chemical drum, fence posts, ash and bailing twine. It was industrial waste and should have been taken for proper disposal," Ms Knights said.

EPA issued the company with a fine of \$8,060 for permitting the discard of industrial waste through burning, a breach of Section 27 of the Environment Protection Act.

The burning pile was approximately four metres square and 1.8 metres high, with grey smoke and flames visible when EPA's officers arrived. They were told the fire had started through spontaneous combustion several days before.

A company representative told EPA the local CFA brigade had been called to fight a similar spontaneous fire in a pile of waste at the farm 12 months earlier.

"Getting rid of mixed piles of farm waste by burning them may have been the practice of previous generations, but it is now recognised that it creates a significant risk to the environment and can impact people's health," Ms Knights said.

"Materials like these should go to recycling or an appropriate landfill. The company has now introduced a waste management process to ensure that such incidents do not happen in the future," she said.

"Discarding industrial waste in such a way can cause land pollution and groundwater contamination that affect future generations."

EPA issued a legally enforceable clean up notice requiring the company to remove the remaining waste for proper disposal.

"This is another case where a report from a member of the public made all the difference. EPA officers were able to respond while the fire was still burning and ensure it was extinguished promptly, helping to reduce the amount of damage done to the environment," Ms Knights said.

Under the Environment Protection Act 1970 and the Infringements Act 2008, the company had the right to have the decision to issue the infringement notice reviewed or alternatively to have the matter heard and determined by a court.

Members of the public can report all types of pollution to the EPA 24-hour hotline on 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842) or at the EPA website www.epa.vic.gov.au.

Vic jobless rate lowest in a decade

VICTORIA is leading the nation with our unemployment rate the lowest in more than 10 years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) confirmed last week.

The latest ABS data shows Victoria's unemployment rate in December 2018 was the lowest since August 2008 at just 4.2% – the equal lowest rate on record for Victoria – and the lowest of all the states, and well below the national average of 5%.

Over the year to December 2018, more than 120,000 people found work in Victoria – with nearly 90,000 full time jobs – making Victoria's employment growth rate the highest in the nation.

In December alone, more than 10,000 jobs were created in Victoria – that's nearly half of all jobs created across Australia (21,600) during that period.

Since the Labor Government was elected in November 2014, 438,000 people have found work in Victoria – more than anywhere else in the nation – with Victoria contributing more than a third of all jobs created across Australia.

The new data also shows Victoria's unemployment rate has dropped 2.5% since the Labor Government came to office.

Funding boost for some basin communities

THE Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program was launched last week, providing up to \$20 million over four years to support Murray-Darling Basin communities most impacted by water recovery.

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources David Littleproud said the funding would help diversify basin economies, and create sustainable long-term jobs in communities where water recovery has hit hard.

"We've got to be honest about this—water recovery has hurt communities. The drought has made it far worse," Minister Littleproud said.

"This isn't a silver bullet. It's something we're doing to try to help. Everybody has had to compromise to get the plan through and the thing all communities needed at the end was certain-

ty.

The investment will be available to 15 communities – just four of them in Victoria – that have been especially adversely affected by water recovery.

"These projects will be put forward by local communities. This lets them choose what's best for them to create jobs, diversify their economies and build resilience."

Eligible communities across the northern and southern Basin include: Dirranbandi (QLD), St George (QLD), Cunnamulla (QLD), Collarenebri (NSW), Warren (NSW), Wakool (NSW), Rochester (VIC), Colignan (NSW/VIC), Merbein (VIC), Red Cliffs (VIC), Berri (SA), Cobdogla-Barmera (SA), Loxton (SA), Swan Reach (SA), Lower Lakes (SA).

The grant funding will be available to not-for-profit organisations, including local governments, cooperatives, incorporated associations and indigenous corporations.

Organisations that do not fall into one of these categories will be able to partner with eligible organisations to put forward project proposals.

The Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program is part of the Basin Plan Commitments Package, a \$3.3 billion package of initiatives as part of its investment of more than \$13 billion to implement the Murray Darling Basin Plan.

For more information on the Murray Darling Basin Economic Development Program, visit agriculture.gov.au/edpgov



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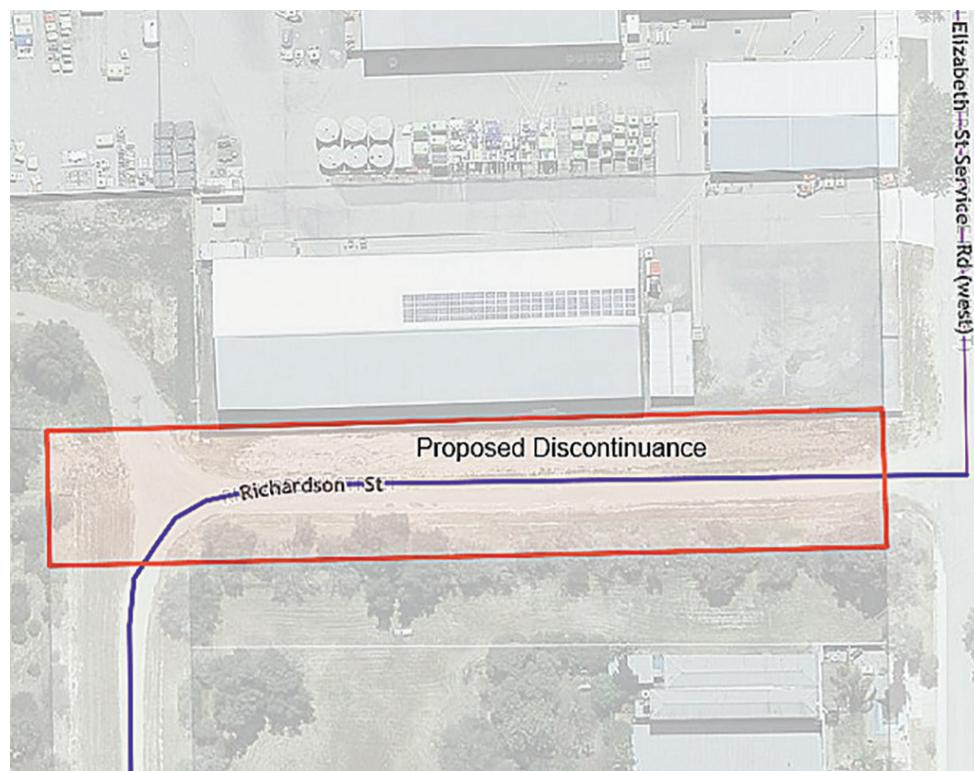
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Access residential ... The section of Richardson St proposed for sale.

Council proposes Richardson St sale

MOIRA Shire Council has passed a resolution to sell a section of Richardson St Nathalia, which would result in its closure, following a request from an adjoining land owner to purchase the land.

The 119 metre long section of road runs east-west in a section classed as 'access residential' in council's road hierarchy, and has a width of 26.12 metres, including a six metre wide pavement.

Current use of the road is understood to be primarily by the adjoining landowner, for the operation of their business.

The resolution, passed at a special meeting of council last Wednesday, authorises Moira Shire's CEO to give public notice of council's intention to discontinue and sell the land.

The resolution also authorises the CEO to make the proposal available for public inspection, and invite submissions on the proposal from members of the public, which is a requirement of the processes for discontinuing a road, and for selling publicly owned land.

Council's planning department has advised that there is a current three lot subdivision proposal to the north of the section of the road to be discontinued.

This could potentially leave lot two without road access.

To overcome the potential of creating a land-locked parcel of land, a condition of sale could

be to require these parcels of land to be consolidated.

Other possible conditions to avoid land-locking lot two are the creation of a carriageway easement created in favour of lot two over the discontinued road, or the shortening of the section of road to be discontinued, by 20 metres at the western end to provide road access to lot two.

Following on from the public feedback received on this proposal a subsequent sale of land may occur.

If council decides to sell the land, a separate and subsequent process may involve public auction, tender, private treaty or any other method as determined by the CEO in accordance with section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Council's Operations and Assets and Construction departments were consulted regarding the proposal, and concluded that there is minimal maintenance undertaken by council on the proposed section of road and there are no Moira assets within the road reserve that require protection.

There are however, Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) sewer assets. If council resolves to discontinue the road, council will liaise with GVW to create an easement.

Public submissions will be accepted until 5pm on Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

Droughts and fires predicted from space

SCIENTISTS from The Australian National University (ANU) have used new space technology to predict droughts, and increased bushfire risk, up to five months in advance.

The team from the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences used data from multiple satellites to measure water below the Earth's surface with unprecedented precision, and were able to relate this to drought impacts on the vegetation several months later.

ANU researcher Siyuan Tian said the team knew they needed to move into space to get closer to understanding the complex nature of drought.

"The way these satellites measure the presence of water on Earth is mind boggling," said Ms Tian.

"We've been able to use them to detect variations in water availability that affect the growth and condition of grazing land, dry-land crops and forests, and that can lead to increased fire risk and farming problems several months down the track."

Co-researcher Professor Albert van Dijk said combining this data with a computer model simulating the water cycle and plant growth, enabled the team to build a detailed picture of the water's distribution below the surface and likely impacts on the vegetation months later.

"We have always looked up at the sky to predict droughts – but not with too much success," said Professor van Dijk from the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society.

"This new approach – by looking down from space and underground – opens up possibilities to prepare for drought with greater certainty."

It will increase the amount of time available to manage the dire impacts of drought, such as bushfires and livestock losses."

The drought forecasts will be combined with the latest satellite maps of vegetation flammability from the Australian Flammability Monitoring System at ANU to predict how the risk of uncontrollable bushfires will change over the coming months.

The team used data from the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellites, which were recently decommissioned.

In future, researchers will be able to use data from the GRACE follow-on satellites, which were launched into space last year. The new satellites were developed by American, German and Australian scientists, and ANU Professor Daniel Shaddock led the Australian team.

Dr Paul Tregoning from the ANU Research School of Earth Sciences said the GRACE space gravity mission provided a measurement of changes in total water storage anywhere on Earth for the first time.

"Combined with measurements of surface water and top soil moisture from other satellites, this provides the ability to know how much water is available at different depths below the soil," he said.

"What is innovative and exciting about our work is that we have been able to quantify the available water more accurately than ever before. This leads to more accurate forecasts of vegetation state, as much as five months in advance."

The research is published in *Nature Communications*: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-08403-x>.

Tyre clearance reaches halfway mark

NUMURKAH locals have long had cause to shake their heads as they drove past the town's notorious tyre stockpile, but now they find themselves doing it for a completely different reason.

The pile is now officially, and conspicuously, less than half the size that it was before the EPA commenced clearance works in mid-December.

Over 2,500 tonnes of tyres, approximately half of the stockpile, have now been removed from the site.

EPA North East Region Manager Emma Knights said that, despite the recent severe heat and total fire ban days limiting the clean-up efforts, work remains on track to be finished by the end of this month.

"Once the final truckload of tyres leaves the site, some minor works may still need to be undertaken to restore fencing and remove temporary roads and other remnants of the clean-up effort," Ms Knights said.

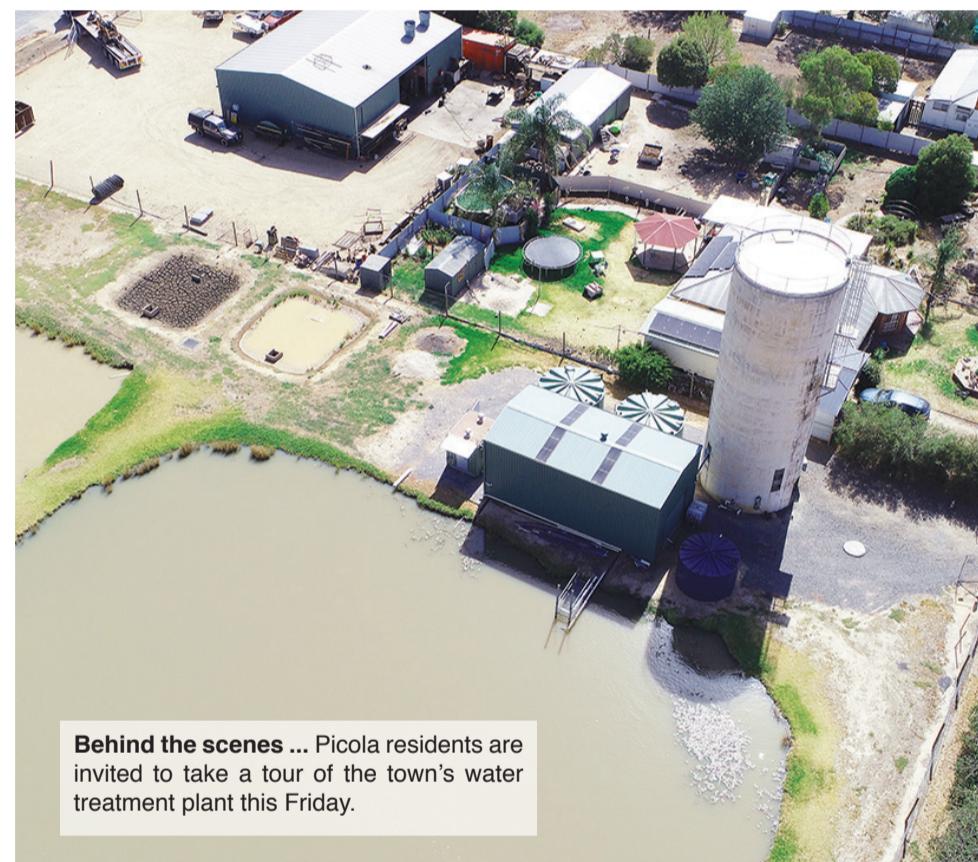
As to the EPA's intention to recoup the costs of the operation from Sidebottom Group Pty Ltd, that remains a matter for the future.

"Right now, EPA is focused on the ongoing clean-up work to ensure the safety of the Numurkah community," Ms Knights said.

Updates on the progress of the clean-up are available on the Moira Shire Council website.



Halfway there ... An aerial photo taken at the end of last week shows the notorious site looking much clearer.



Behind the scenes ... Picola residents are invited to take a tour of the town's water treatment plant this Friday.

Community invited to tour Picola's water treatment plant

PICOLA residents are being encouraged to 'follow their water' and learn about the treatment process at a tour and information day later this week.

Goulburn Valley Water will host a Water Café at the Picola Water Treatment Plant this Friday, February 8, to give people an opportunity to talk to staff and take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Picola plant.

Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) Operations Manager Steven Nash thanked Picola residents for their patience while upgrades have been under way to improve water quality.

"We understand there is some frustration with the quality of water some residents have been experiencing," he said.

"We encourage Picola residents to come along and have a chat to our staff – we've been working hard to improve the plant and we're happy to talk about the upgrades that have been carried out and what our next steps are to continue improving the water quality in Picola."

"This is a great opportunity to see first hand the improvements that have been completed and understand how we transform raw water from a river into clean, drinking water."

Upgrades worth more than \$330,000 have recently been completed at the plant, designed to improve water quality and supply.

An improved water treatment process is now used to reduce turbidity (colour) in the water, while new buffer tanks, a carbon dosing system and new filters are also helping to improve water clarity consistency.

In winter, works will begin to remove water delivery network 'dead ends' to stop mineral deposits forming, as well as desludging works in storage tanks.

Anyone wishing to take a tour of the plant will need to wear sturdy, enclosed shoes.

Anybody noticing a change in their water supply is encouraged to call GVW's 24-hour customer service centre on 1800 454 500.

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More Australian workers turning to homelessness services

MORE and more working Victorians are turning to homelessness services as the cost of housing catapults and wages stagnate, new data analysis has shown.

Council to Homeless Persons' (CHP) analysis of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data shows a 23% increase in the number of Victorian workers needing homelessness assistance over the last four years.

NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia had the greatest increases in numbers of workers needing homelessness assistance.

Council to Homeless Persons CEO Jenny Smith said that it is a

misconception that having a job is a safeguard against homelessness.

"Rents are rising fast, but wages aren't keeping up with housing costs, and as a result our homelessness services are seeing more people who simply can't afford the rent," Ms Smith said.

"When rent swallows up most of the budget, even people who have a job are unable to put aside savings.

"A life crisis, such as a car breaking down or an unexpected medical cost is enough to tip them into homelessness, and at the moment our services simply can't house those people."

Victoria's number one priority, CHP says, should be to significantly boost public and community

housing stock so that low-income earners, including working households, have a safety net.

A recent Productivity Commission report reveals that the number of social housing properties in Victoria has declined over the past four years.

According to Department of Health and Human Services data, Victoria's social housing wait list has blown out to 38,700 applications as population increases, and the impact of the housing crisis takes hold.

"In the May state budget, we want to see funding for 3,000 public and community housing units per year for the next 10 years so people aren't forced to live in poverty in

the private rental market or, worse still, in rooming houses and refuges," Ms Smith said.

"By building and buying 3,000 social housing units per year, the Victorian Government would rescue thousands of families, women and children from poverty, overcrowded living and dangerous rooming houses."

CHP has warned that the state and federal governments must pull together to turn the tide on the housing and homelessness crisis, and that the Commonwealth held many of the major levers, including housing taxation mechanisms, and setting the funding levels under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement.



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Matthew Flinders mystery solved

THE final resting place of explorer Captain Matthew Flinders, the first person to sail around Australia, has long been the topic of urban myth.

Was he buried under Platform 15 of London's Euston Station, which was once part of an historic burial ground?

Or, after his headstone was lost and his coffin moved – were his remains gone forever?

Now the mystery has finally been solved, with archaeologists at the UK's largest dig site confirming they have discovered the remains of the British navigator, who was one of the first founders of Australia.

Captain Flinders' voyage proved to the Europeans that Australia was a single continent.

He died in London on July 23, 1814, and was laid to rest at St James' burial ground, along with 60,000 other people.

But his headstone was lost during the expansion of Euston Station in the 1840s, and it was thought his remains had been lost.

Captain Flinders' remains were unearthed during excavation works for HS2, a new high speed rail line which will connect London to Birmingham, and the East and West Midlands, and further north.

More than 1,000 archaeologists are working on the project, which spans more than 60 separate sites along the new rail route.

The team has been busy digging up centuries of British history, with artefacts such as tools, personal belongings, and Victorian time capsules giving some fascinating insights into the changing society over the centuries.

The discovery of Captain Flinders' grave is one of their most significant finds to date. And luck played a part, as the captain was buried with a metal breast plate, or plaque, on his coffin, clearly stating his details.

Head of Heritage at HS2, Helen Wass, who is the chief archaeologist and historian on the dig, said that it was an exciting find, as Captain Flinders is a renowned figure.

"There we had his name, Captain Matthew Flinders, we had his date of death, it was just really amazing," she says.

"The fact that he was buried with a lead plate means it hasn't decayed which is really fortunate for us, so we have it beautifully preserved."

Australian High Commissioner to the UK, George Brandis, said that it is a very exciting moment for Australia.

"Matthew Flinders, like Arthur Philip and James Cook, is one of the great founders of our nation," Mr Brandis said.

Captain Matthew Flinders' story can now have a proper ending.

He'll be re-interred, along with tens of thousands of other people found at the site, at a resting place to be agreed upon with the Church of England.

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www.numurkahleader.net.au

Family celebrates centenary of return



A century on ... Edwards Holmes' descendants, front (from left): Glenice, Rae and Noel Holmes. Back: Leonie, Graeme, Henry and Iris Holmes.



So young ... A young Edward Holmes went on to build a family that remains strong in Numurkah.



Celebration ... Edward Holmes (centre) in a Melbourne street parade of returned soldiers in 1919.

AUSTRALIA Day is an occasion of great significance for all Australians, but for one Numurkah family, January 26, 2019, held extra cause for celebration.

Australia Day 2019 marked the centenary of the return to Australia of Edward Peatling Holmes, patriarch of Numurkah's Holmes family, who had been serving as part of the 7/38th battalion in the great war in Europe.

Edward moved to Numurkah with his parents John and Mary in 1902, when he was six years-old.

On January 10, 1917, at the age of 21, he enlisted in the Australian army, and embarked for overseas duty on the 'Ballarat' on February 19.

On April 25, 1917, the Ballarat was torpedoed and sank, and the crew was rescued and taken safely to land at Devonport England.

Over the next 18 months, Edward saw front line action on the famous battlefields of the Somme, Villiers Bretonneux and Ypres.

Suffering from gunshot wounds, Edward was invalided back to Australia on the 'Nestor', which sailed into Point Nepean on January 26, 1919.

Though back in Aus-

tralian waters, Edward was not quite home yet, as the ship's passengers remained quarantined on the vessel for several days.

Edward finally arrived home to Numurkah on February 3, 1919.

On May 28 of that year, Edward, along with fellow returned soldiers C.R. Patchell, W.H. Trengrove, C. Brown, A. Norman, C. Gough, G.C. Segrave, W.J. Segrave and G.

Brittain, were officially welcomed back at a celebration dance held by the town in their honour.

On that occasion, Edward received a medal engraved 'To Pte E.P. Holmes from the Citizens of Numurkah on his return from the Front 26.1.1919'.

After recuperating from his war wounds, Edward returned to farming alongside his father and brother.

In 1922 Edward married Mayna Gillam, and purchased his own property at the southern end of Melville St, where members of the family still reside today, and where they gathered on Australia Day to commemorate his safe return from war.

Those descendants include some of Edward and Mayna's seven children - Noel,

Kenneth, Stella, Douglas, John, Henry and Marion - and their spouses, children and grandchildren.

Edward's son Henry told the *Leader* that Edward and Mayna had always made sure the family got together to celebrate special occasions and that was a tradition that continued.

"It was definitely a special one this year, with it being 100 years since dad came home," Henry said.

"Dad never spoke about the war to me at all. He never spoke about being wounded, but I think that had a greater effect on him physically later in life, and I think the gas attacks he'd been through in the war did too."

Henry said that his father taught his children the importance of hard work, something he modelled by example, which is evident from the list of Edward's business and community activities.

In addition to farming, Edward ran a trucking and bus business, EP Holmes and Sons, and was an active member of the town band, agricultural society, RSL and Numurkah Town Bowls Club, as well as serving as a Numurkah Shire councillor.

Stand up, be heard in the Victorian Youth Parliament

YOUNG people aged 16 to 25 are encouraged to apply for the 2019 YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament, to experience what it's like to be a parliamentarian and debate issues that matter.

Minister for Youth Gabrielle Williams said YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament provides an opportunity for young people to engage with the Victorian parliamentary process and passionately debate their ideas.

"I am proud to continue to support

the successful program and look forward to hearing about what issues young people from across the state are passionate about," she said.

Over the program's past 33 years, more than 25 bills which originated in Youth Parliament have gone on to become state legislation.

This includes mandatory wearing of bike helmets, banning of plastic bags and the over the counter availability of the morning after pill.

During May, participants attend

a YMCA intensive training camp where they will have the opportunity to develop significant life skills in teamwork, leadership, public speaking and more.

Teams of young parliamentarians will draft, debate and vote on bills during the three-day sitting in Victorian Parliament's chambers in July.

Youth Parliament Bills that pass during the week will then be presented to relevant government ministers for their consideration.

YMCA Youth Governor Olivia Beasley said it was an exciting time for young people to be involved, especially during an election year.

"Youth Parliament is about young people challenging each other and voicing their own opinions but with great respect," she said.

"The program gives you a new perspective and many opportunities to speak up without judgement. You will make new friends, or even a new family, as I did."

YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament is supported by the State Government which is investing \$640,000 over the next four years.

This includes support for young people with a disability and the continuation of the Youth Press Gallery, focused on developing budding journalists.

Applications are now open and close on Thursday, March 7.

For more information or to apply, visit www.vicyouth.ymca.org.au/programs/youth-parliament.html.



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The Numurkah Leader.

GOULBURN VALLEY FARMERS AND FRUIT GROWERS' GAZETTE

100 years ago

This week in 1919 ...

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.

THE MOIRA RIDING ELECTION. ORDER ABSOLUTE MADE.

The Moira Riding election dispute was finally settled on Monday by Mr Justice Hood. Details have been given fully in these columns from time to time, and recapitulation is unnecessary.

Mr Justice Hood said that the election had been conducted in a manner admittedly grossly irregular.

Postal votes were intended to be applied for by people who could satisfy the returning officer that they would not be able to be present to vote. Instead, the returning officer appeared to have scattered these papers between the candidates to do as they liked with them. He thought that the electors should be allowed an opportunity of deciding the matter again. He made the order absolute, with costs.

INFLUENZA OUTBREAK. SHIRE COUNCIL PRECAUTIONS

In order to have everything ready in the event of pneumonic influenza breaking out in this district, the shire council has taken over the State-school and has made provision for the accommodation of patients therein.

Nurse Tyres (daughter of Mr and Mrs Jas. Tyres, Drumanure) has been engaged, and she will be in readiness to attend whenever her services are needed.

SUSPICIOUS CASES.

Last week influenza appeared in a residence at Marung; but with one exception—and that in a mild form—the cases were fortunately unaccompanied by pneumonic symptoms.

A visitor from Melbourne on Saturday evening was taken ill at a residence in Saxton-street, and on Dr Harbison being called in he took the necessary precautions. Inquiry yesterday went to show that the complaint had happily not developed pneumonic tendencies.

THE CHURCHES.

On Sunday evening services were abandoned by the Anglican and Presbyterian communities.

Devotions were held in the Catholic Church as usual, whilst the Methodists conducted service in the open air. Presbyterian and Methodist services will be held in the open air next Sunday.

NATHALIA.

Dr. Keyes opened an inoculation office at Messrs Muntz's buildings, and many were treated till the serum gave out. The State-school has been commandeered, and wards are being fitted up. On Saturday there was one admission, that of Mr G. Grant, Jun., who had just returned from Melbourne with his Anzac brother. At the time of writing he is progressing well towards recovery, and the case has not been diagnosed as pneumonic influenza. Two other cases were reported, and these were isolated for a few days, but nothing serious developed.

WHEN THE ARMISTICE WAS DECLARED. WILL JAFFRAY WRITES TO HIS PARENTS

Mr and Mrs A. B. Jaffray have received a letter from their son Will, written a few days after the armistice was declared:-

"Isn't the news simply glorious? The night before last we were sitting in our billet when in rushed a chap to say the armistice was signed. Imagine our great joy; our feelings almost choked us. We got hold of various instruments — drums, cornets, tin whistles, etc. — and formed a great band. Though not musical, I felt I must blow some steam off, and stuck to the whistle for about an hour. You would have been delighted to have seen the fireworks display. Flares lighted the country for miles round, rockets of all kinds and colors were sent up, searchlights were turned on, and guns boomed. Everybody wanted to do something."

Thirsty Souls—The N.S.W. Government statistician says that during the year ended June 30th. 1918, the drink bill of the State amounted to £7,218,000, or £3/16/3 per head of the population. There was an increase of £551,000 over the liquor expenditure of the previous year.



Ready to educate ... New NSC staff members Anna Price, Scott Dealy, Micah Collie, Chris Deitch, Belinda Dow and Craig Burdon.

New year, new staff at NSC

NUMURKAH Secondary College has started the 2019 school year strong, with six new staff members coming on board to help mould young minds.

The new faces range from an education support worker enjoying her first school position, to a new assistant principal with two decades of experience.

Also in the mix are a former NSC student in his sixth year of teaching, and a first year teacher who formerly worked as a data analyst for start-ups in Shanghai, and comes to the profession via the Teach for Australia program.

Rounding out the new crew are a year seven to 10 English and Hu-

manities teacher who used to teach at Shepparton High School, and a maths and science teacher who is coming to Numurkah from Mount Scopus Memorial College.

Diverse though their backgrounds may be, the six new staff all have in one thing in common - they were attracted to NSC by its reputation.

New assistant principal Craig Burdon said that NSC had an incredible reputation for staff being collegial.

"I felt that was a team I really wanted to be a part of and so far it's been fantastic," he said.

"The staff and students have all been very welcoming."

Micah Collie, who formerly

taught in Shepparton, echoed those sentiments.

"The kids have been very welcoming and all seem really happy to be here, and have the type of energy where you are able to have a bit of fun with them, so it's been great so far."

Scott Dealy graduated from NSC in 2010, and told the *Leader* that, despite what some may think, returning to the school as a teacher hasn't been weird at all.

"I've been away long enough that coming back in a different capacity isn't strange," he said.

"Although I'm now sharing the staff room as a colleague with people who used to teach me, it hasn't

been weird. Those teachers were lovely back when I was a student and they are still lovely now."

Chris Deitch, who is now teaching English and legal studies to year eight to 10s in his first ever teaching position, admits to being nervous to begin with, but said that didn't last long.

"Already I've started to build relationships with the students and it feels pretty natural," he said.

"I decided to become a teacher because I think every kid deserves an excellent education and I want to be part of providing that. So far it has been everything I hoped for and more."



Full of enthusiasm ... Back row (from left): Caitrin Harrison, Hannah Grigg, Abbey Wright, Indi Ashcroft, Ammy Brown, Brock Rumsey, Benjamin Norman, Jaxon Harvey, Maddie McGraw, Amarlie Gilmour, Lori Devine, Cobie McGraw. Middle row: Savannah Payne, Ryan Russo, Viv Russo, Ryan Said, Blake Newbery, Angel Pollard, Georgia Sessions, Oliver Clancy, Lachie O'Brien, Aaron Butcher, Jesse Powesland, Zavier Morris. Front: Jess Foote, Devlin Duncan, Matthew Millen, Conner Waites, Judah Moody, Jacob Lindberg, Charlee Dailey, Indiana Ashcroft.

New crop of high-schoolers off to a flying start

EACH new school year brings a brand new group of high school students, and last week saw 38 former grade sixes starting their high school career at Numurkah Secondary College.

The new high-schoolers started last Wednesday, on the same day as the year 11 and 12s, giving them a day to settle into their new environment before the year eight, nine and 10 students joined the fray on Thursday.

Though the start of a new era in a new environment will never be completely without nerves, leading teacher of wellbeing and learning enrichment Cassandra Willis said that the transition program the stu-

dents undertook at the end of last year is designed to make it easier for them.

"They have a chance to familiarise themselves with the school a little bit and see how things work, so it's a little less daunting for them on their first day of year seven," she said.

Another program that aims to make the new students a little more comfortable is the buddy program, which the school introduced a few years ago.

The buddy program pairs each year seven with a senior student, to provide them with someone they can turn to for advice and help if needed.

"We try and pair the year sevens

with someone that will be a good match for them," Ms Willis said.

"If we know a new student is likely to need a bit more support, we will pair them with a senior student who we know can be relied upon to provide that."

"We often pair year sevens with someone who came from the same primary school, so they are a somewhat familiar face and they feel they have something in common."

So far, Ms Willis said, the new students are off to a great start.

"They're very keen and full of enthusiasm, which is always wonderful to see."

This week, the year sevens are enjoying their first high school camp

at Billabong Ranch Echuca, and are expected to arrive back at school freshly bonded and full of stories and new-found friendships.

NSC principal Paul Tozer said that the new students were a good group who were fitting in well to the school.

"We usually find in second term, when they're more used to the school, that they don't necessarily see the need to be on their best behaviour 100% of the time and start to push the boundaries a bit," he said.

"But for now we're all enjoying the honeymoon period."

Letters to the Editor

Sharing our roads

THE unfortunate incident at Murchison last week where it is alleged an itinerant worker was struck and killed whilst walking on a busy local road, highlights the increasing issue of the presence of more foreign workers walking on the edges and driving on our local roads, particularly in the Katunga area.

Please don't get me wrong, the presence of these people in our community is, in my opinion, a good thing and should be encouraged.

We have a problem though, that could ruin the life of a local and seriously injure, if not kill, a visitor to our community.

That is, our local country road network is not built for pedestrian traffic and, from first hand experience just north of the Katunga bends, some of the visitors don't understand our road rules and/or have not the experience driving at the speeds that are available on our road network.

What is the answer? I don't know.

I am sure local people that employ the visitors would have their safety in mind, but is there more that can be done?

Please be careful out there.

Colin Bau
Numurkah

The cost of back to school

THOUSANDS of kids started a new school year across Australia last week.

While it's a big week for students, many parents are also under the pump as they are faced with the ever-increasing cost of getting their children ready for school.

New shoes, uniforms, backpacks, stationery – the list of things needed to ensure our children are able to be successful is a long and expensive one.

In some cases it includes things that the schools used to provide themselves – like whiteboard markers.

While the cost of everything seems to go up, wages have not.

It's why parents want their school to have enough money to educate their kids properly.

It matters everywhere, but particularly in regional Australia where the latest research shows there is an increasing gap between city schools and those in regional areas.

All Australian kids deserve a fair go, regardless of where they live.

That's why a Shorten Labor Government will provide an extra \$14 billion for public schools to deliver the biggest school investment in Australian history.

The National Party, in fact all regional MPs and senators, should back this commitment. Maybe they could even match it.

If our kids are going to have a chance to have a good life with a decent job they need a good education, and the money we spend on this is an investment in their future.

At the moment there is a real choice between the Labor plan and the Coalition – but it is not too late for them to come out and match it.

Stephen Jones
Shadow Minister for Regional Services

Developing future leaders

A COMMUNITY-BASED youth development program is shaping the future leaders of Australian society in almost 500 locations throughout our nation.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) Cadets Program has more than 25,000 young participants, who are mentored and supervised by 4,000 adult 'officers and instructors of cadets.'

The ADF's three services (Navy, Army and Air Force) each support a cadet organisation, where young Australians build their personal leadership skills, self-discipline and resilience whilst undertaking a range of activities in a military-like environment.

The teenage participants are also introduced to the ADF's customs, values and traditions in the three cadet organisations, and their exposure to military personnel and assets often whets the youngsters' appetites for a career in the ADF.

The ADF Cadets Program offers an extensive range of contemporary activities, often in a group setting, designed to encourage leader-

ship and teamwork amongst the participants. In addition to traditional training in field craft, navigation, power boating, sailing and even gliding, the three cadet organisations now provide opportunities for youngsters to experience STEM activities such as robotics and operation of drone aircraft.

In mid-2018 I met a contingent of ADF cadets at the commemorative events for the centenary of the final major battles of World War I, in the French city of Amiens. A contingent of 16 ADF Cadets, from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, also travelled to France for these special events.

I was immediately impressed by these young men and women, who were outstanding ambassadors for our nation. I have no doubt that the qualities they displayed in this high-profile international setting were generated, at least in part, by their participation in the ADF Cadets.

The ADF Cadets program is open to young people aged 13 to 17.

The program puts young people on the path to success in their future lives – as good citizens and, in many cases, leaders of Australian communities.

Darren Chester
Minister for Defence Personnel

Tarred with the Animals Australia brush

EVERY year, from January 1, Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting (RVODS) rises from its slumber and takes to the media to put the annual duck hunting season in a bad light.

All Victorian towns, especially the very small country towns, should be welcoming the announcement of the 2019 duck hunting season.

The small business owners in these towns will benefit from the pre-season scouting done by duck hunters, followed up by many visits by hunters during the season. In today's economic environment we're sure that duck hunting tourist dollars will be most welcome.

The hunting community contributes \$439 million to the Victorian economy.

After recent investigations and publication of alleged payments for contrived animal cruelty footage on live export ships, your readers should begin to think "Where does this begin and/or end?"

For many years the duck hunting and outdoors community have been the targets of unwarranted claims and skulduggery by many groups trying to shut down legitimate and legislated outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.

Journalists of today need to change their tactics of just reporting the news from media releases issued by these organisations. Journalists need to investigate the claims and seek to provide a balanced view to the article they wish to print.

Too often we see a media story reflecting only one side of the argument.

Journalists and the public should be asking, "How far do the tentacles of Animals Australia reach?"

It is the considered belief of Waterfowlers Against State Persecution (WASP), that Animals Australia provides strategy and funding to the likes of that VRODS and the Coalition Against Duck Hunting (CADS) to ensure their desired outcome.

It's not about compromise. They want total shut down of duck seasons in Victoria and elsewhere.

Today, in the Upper House of the Victorian Parliament, we have Andrew Meddick. Was he elected on the back of Animals Australia money?

Our Andrew was a major player in the Bellarine Peninsula-centric, Barwon against Duck Shooting (BADS). There have been many police reports made against members of BADS, a group that harassed, vilified, bullied and intimidated hunters and their young families whilst out camping in Australia's great outdoors. A so-called protest group that hides behind their balaclavas to avoid identification.

All these groups have undeniable links to Animals Australia's toxic culture of providing false and contrived evidence of animal cruelty and wrong doing by those whose traditions they oppose.

All these groups are given special status by various government agencies!

Brendan Sullivan
Waterfowlers Against State Persecution

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Excited ... Casey Lawson was happy to discover his prep classroom had a plentiful supply of Lego.



Fun in the sun ... Nathanael Hubbard was full of enthusiasm for student life as he started the day at 'big school'.

Big day for little learners

THERE are few bigger days in the life of a child, or parent, than the first ever day of school.

Families across the region faced that day last Thursday, with emotions ranging from pride, fear, excitement, joy, nervousness, anticipation and everything in between.

Wearing backpacks almost as big as themselves, and shiny new uniforms, new grade prep students filed in to Numurkah Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School to get started on the, hopefully not too, serious business of education.

Meanwhile, their parents and carers looked on wistfully, seeming disbelieving that this major milestone in their child's life was upon them already.

Whilst the students the *Leader* spoke to were all fairly quiet, they all responded with an enthusiastic nod when asked if they were excited about starting school at last.

In next week's *Leader* we will feature photos of all of the grade prep classes from across the district.

In the meantime, here are some of the bright, hopeful faces we encountered on the first day of school.



Ready ... Blake Sunderland tackled a jigsaw puzzle as he waited for the learning to begin.



New friends ... Annie Dudley and India Phillips-Morrison discover a shared love of colouring as they both start their careers as students.



Big day for everybody ... Lily-Rose Sklifas gets seen off for her first day of school by mum Amy Sklifas and dad Andrew Sklifas, and little sisters Connie and Charli.



Sticking together ... Mia Power and Jessica Green had each found a friend on their first morning at St Joe's.



All smiles ... Sophia McPherson starts her first day of school with mum and dad Kim and Brett McPherson, and little sister Charlotte to see her off.

Miller leaves it all on the track at country championships

NUMURKAH'S James Miller continues to go from strength to strength, having secured a haul of four medals at Athletics Victoria's Victorian Country Championships in Bendigo recently.

James continued his domination of high jump events, taking home the gold with a jump of 1.86 metres, four centimetres lower than his personal best height of 1.90 metres.

Whilst he narrowly missed out on the gold in the long jump event, a relatively new event for him, he did secure a personal best distance of 110 centimetres.

James rounded out the day by winning silver medals as part of both the men's under 18 and open relay teams, both of which he brought home strong by making up ground as the final runner.

Considering that James is not yet 17 (he celebrates his birthday in a few weeks), and was running against 20 year-olds in the open event, it's an undeniably impressive effort.

It was a day on which the young athlete's dedication to his craft was on full display, as he struggled to take to the winner's podium, having run both relay events literally back-to-back after pushing himself hard to achieve the PB in long jump.

James said that whilst he was completely wiped out, he considers that a good thing.

"As terrible as I felt at the time, I like to know that I've pushed myself to the max, because that is a good feeling," he said.

"The first relay run was intense, and the video of it is awesome because I nearly caught the other guy. But I had to go straight from the finish line back to the start to run the next relay, so I was just lucky it was right at the end of the day and I didn't have to compete in anything after that."

James' next major competition is the state championships, which will be held at Albert Park over two weekends in March, and is one of two opportunities still open to him to qualify for the national championships.

James will be studying the event schedule closely once it is released, to ensure he gives himself the best chance to excel in the high jump.

"I'm going to register for the high jump, long jump, 100 metres and javelin, but the high jump and 100 metres are my focus, so if I think any of

Personal best ... James Miller gives the long jump his all at the country championships.



the other events will get in the way of me doing my best in those, then I will pull out of them," he said.

"I really enjoy the long jump, and it was great to get a PB in it at the country championships, but it is very hard on your legs."

"I get chronic shin-splints and it's really grueling, so if it gets to the stage where I think the

long jump just isn't worth it, I will drop it."

For now, James is focussing on improving his high jump run-up.

"I've been having a bit of trouble with it and I'm really trying to perfect it because it can make a big difference to how I progress with that event," he said.

All of these efforts are against the backdrop of

a life in which James has just started year 12, and works a part-time job in Cobram every other weekend.

"There is a lot going on, and I can't get over to Bendigo to train as much as I'd like to, but I'll just keep going and doing my best and we'll see what happens."

Increased hope for a cure for Parkinson's

AUSTRALIAN Parkinson's disease sufferers have new hope following an announcement by the Federal Government that it will fund clinical trials of drugs that have shown promise in slowing or stopping the progression of Parkinson's.

Minister for Health, Greg Hunt, made the announcement last week, saying the government will provide \$30m over five years, through the Medical Research Futures Fund.

"The funding by the government of the Australian Parkinson's Mission, and the ground-breaking work that Australian researchers are undertaking in Parkinson's research, will give real hope to the Parkinson's community that treatments will be discovered to slow or stop the progression of this condition," Minister Hunt said.

The Australian Parkinson's Mission is a world-first model that simultaneously aligns clinical

trials of multiple repurposed drugs, biomarker (test) development and genomic analysis to develop new personalised treatments for Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's Australia CEO, Steve Sant, said the funding will provide an opportunity to undertake world-leading research into treatments that have the potential to arrest Parkinson's.

"This research is innovative as it combines genomic sequencing with the trialling of a number of drugs that have shown some potential to slow, stop or reverse Parkinson's to provide a transformative understanding of the underlying causes of Parkinson's," he said.

"The identification of biomarkers will enhance our ability to measure effective treatments and monitor the progression of Parkinson's and facilitate early diagnosis and early intervention.

"Identifying treatments that slow or stop the progression of Parkinson's is a big step towards our ultimate aim of funding a cure for, and preventing, Parkinson's."

Parkinson's is a common progressive degenerative neurological condition that has no cure and affects more than 100,000 Australians. It is more prevalent than many cancers including breast cancer, lung cancer and leukaemia.

Over 13,000 new Parkinson's cases are diagnosed every year. In 2019 it is estimated that one in every 300 people will be living with Parkinson's.

Parkinson's symptoms may include muscle rigidity, tremor, postural instability and bradykinesia (slowness of movement). Parkinson's doesn't just affect movement, other symptoms can include pain, sensory changes, changes in

the gastrointestinal system, anxiety/depression, problems with memory and thinking, dementia and sleep disorders.

Parkinson's Australia is the national peak body and charity representing Australians living with Parkinson's disease.

The funding fulfils a call made by Parkinson's Australia in its The Australian Cure Parkinson's Roadmap, which it developed to provide guidance to the government, community, clinicians and the research community to help answer critical questions about the causes of Parkinson's, the best treatments and management approaches, and ways to slow, stop and reverse the progression of Parkinson's and the development of a cure.

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TENDERS



C018/19

Construction of Drainage Upgrades, Yarrawonga

Tender closing date - 4pm Wednesday 27 February 2019

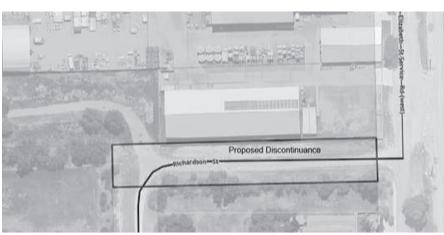
Specification documents can be obtained by visiting www.moira.vic.gov.au/our-council/tenders

All submissions are to be lodged electronically. Late, hard copy, e-mailed or facsimile submissions will not be accepted. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Richardson Street, Nathalia Proposed Road Discontinuance and Sale

Council is seeking feedback on a proposal to discontinue and sell a portion of Richardson Street, Nathalia defined in Plan of Subdivision 1315 Parish of Barwon County of Moira (area shaded red on the below map).

Subsequent to the discontinuance, the land may be sold in accordance with Section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989.



Have Your Say

We are seeking your feedback on this proposal in accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

- You can provide your feedback to Council by lodging a submission online, by mail or at our service centres in Cobram and Yarrawonga.
- Your submission must be received by **5pm Wednesday 6 March 2019** and be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer.
- When you lodge your submission please indicate if you, or your representative, would like to speak to your submission.
- If required, a Committee of Council will be held at **6pm Wednesday 7 March 2019** at the Dancock's Room, Robertson Street, Nathalia to hear any person who indicated they wished to be heard in support of their written submission.
- All submissions, including submitter's name and address, will be available at the meeting and on public display for 12 months.
- All submissions received by the deadline will be considered by Council prior to deciding whether to proceed with the proposal, with or without amendment, at the March Ordinary Council Meeting.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Numurkah & District Netball Association

AGM & Registration Information Night

Wednesday February 13th 2019 at 7pm

To be held at the Association clubrooms. Expression of interest will also be taken with registration night to be held on Wednesday 6th March 2019, 3:30pm to 6pm at the Association Clubrooms.

For inquiries please contact Sarah Hansen 0429 623 328

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THANKS

Van Luenen — The family of the Late Chris "Dutchy" Van Luenen sincerely thank all family and friends for their support, flowers, sympathy, cards and phone calls after his recent passing. Thank you also to the C.E.R.T. and Ambulance teams for your care. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

DEATHS

BUGG (Johnston) — Joanne Leigh. Aged 46 at Lima East, Formerly of Katunga and Cobram East. Much loved granddaughter of Edgar and Betty Daniel (both dec.), Eldest niece of Owen (dec.), Phillip, Bodgie and Maree Daniel. Cousin of Jeremy and Cindy, Marcus and Sam. We grieve for her family, Judy, Frank and Michelle Johnston and for her husband Rob. She will be dearly missed by all that knew and loved her.

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DEATHS

SHADBOLT — Felicity

Dear Drew, Macie and Harper
My heart goes out to you all.
Flik was an amazing wife and wonderful mother.
A beautiful lady
Will be sadly missed
Forever in our memories
Big Hug

Love from Flik's step mum Lyn

Felicity, my golden haired girl
Always in my heart.
Keep on running my darling

Dad xxx

Rest easy beautiful syster
Forever in my heart

Love your little brother Steve xxx

Our beautiful sister Fizz.

You'll always be perfect,
You'll always be beautiful.
Our hearts will never forget you
We now know you're our angel above.
With all our love,
Rest easy beautiful

Love your sister Ash, Kris and Billie

Fizz, love you so much, and I will make sure
your niece Billie will grow up knowing the
beautiful person you were.
Always in my thoughts

Ash

Flik,
As you have walked through heaven's gate
We're never far apart
For every time I think of you
You're right here
Deep, deep within my heart.

Big Hug

Love your step mum Lyn xxx

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SITUATIONS VACANT



KINDERGARTEN TEACHER 2019

Applications are invited for Part-Time Teachers for 2019 at Numurkah Pre-School Association Inc. Numurkah

We are looking for passionate, creative, teachers to deliver a positive learning environment and facilitate play based learning in line with NQS and VEYLDF.

Approved Early Childhood Teaching Qualification, VIT Registration, first aid qualifications and Anaphylaxis management training essential.

Employed under the VECTEA 2016

Applications to: P.O. Box 22, Numurkah. 3636 or numurkah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au by Friday, 22nd February, 2019. Addressed to the President, Marked 'Confidential'.

For further information and a copy of the position description please contact Jayne Kam Service Coordinator - phone: 03 5862 1569 or email numurkah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

SITUATIONS VACANT



Numurkah Pre-School are looking for a

CLEANER

to perform the daily cleaning of the Numurkah Pre-School Building located at 18-20 McCaskill Street Numurkah.

Commencing March 2019

A Position Description can be obtained by emailing the kindergarten on numurkah.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Or telephone: 03 5862 1569

All applications to be sent to:
Numurkah Pre-School Association Inc.
PO Box 22 Numurkah Vic 3636

Applications close on
Friday, 22nd February, 2019

Summer SPORT scoreboard

Cricket

CRICKET SHEPPARTON

Two day game - Day one

A GRADE

NUMURKAH v OLD STUDENTS

Toss won by Old Students, batted first
1ST INNINGS - OLD STUDENTS

N Breslin c J Smith b T Arnel.....	0
F Odell c J Smith b T Arnel.....	7
JA Bunce c L Gledhill b T Arnel.....	6
H Singh lbw b T Arnel.....	5
T McKenzie c M Grandell b M Cline.....	9
G Saracino c D Grandell b SE Downie.....	24
L McPhillyam c L Gledhill b M Eckard.....	2
T Looby c D Grandell b M Eckard.....	3
B Crouch b T Arnel.....	7
J Robertson not out.....	6
G Sabri c SE Downie b M Grandell.....	1
Extras (nb 2, w 0, b 0, lb 1).....	3
Total.....	73

Overs 37.2
FOW: 0 (N Breslin) 8 (JA Bunce) 17 (F Odell) 27 (T McKenzie) 29 (H Singh) 53 (L McPhillyam) 57 (G Saracino) 57 (T Looby) 67 (B Crouch) 73 (G Sabri)
Bowling: T Arnel 14.0 4 5 25; M Cline 7.0 2 1 14; T Braybon 3.0 0 0 20; M Eckard 9.0 2 2 11; SE Downie 4.0 3 1 2; M Grandell 0.2 0 1 0.

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Grandell b T McKenzie.....	10
J Smith c & b N Breslin.....	22
W Arnel c G Saracino b Crouch.....	26
SE Downie run out.....	41
M Eckard c & b T Looby.....	31
L Gledhill not out.....	14
K Jackson not out.....	4
Extras (nb 0, w 0, b 1, lb 0).....	1
Total.....	5/149

Overs 42.0
FOW: 16 (D Grandell) 51 (W Arnel) 79 (J Smith) 120 (SE Downie) 132 (M Eckard)
Bowling: T McKenzie 6.0 0 1 21; T Looby 8.0 2 1 29; G Sabri 7.0 0 0 19; L McPhillyam 2.0 0 0 9; N Breslin 13.0 4 1 36; B Crouch 6.0 1 1 34.

KATANDRA v EUROA

Toss won by Euroa, batted first

1ST INNINGS - EUROA

A Smithers lbw b H Sirett.....	4
D Redfern c JM Wright b H Sirett.....	2
B Harrison c LD Nolan b RW Shannon.....	6
S Hemeter c LD Nolan b C Hickford.....	28
L Hill b RW Shannon.....	1
C Dyer c B Black b NJ Hickey.....	14
L Paul not out.....	47
R Jones c H Sirett b JM Wright.....	0
KJ Robertson c & b A Riordan.....	0
AI Crosbie c B Hickford b H Sirett.....	4
J Smith c LD Nolan b S Richardson.....	0
Extras (nb 0, w 1, b 5, lb 0).....	10
Total.....	116

Overs 54.0
FOW: 7 (A Smithers) 10 (D Redfern) 31 (B Harrison) 37 (L Hill) 51 (S Hemeter) 87 (C Dyer) 90 (R Jones) 93 (KJ Robertson) 113 (AI Crosbie)
Bowling: C Hickford 12.0 5 1 20; H Sirett 6.0 2 3 9; RW Shannon 6.0 2 2 15; S Richardson 6.0 1 1 13; JM Wright 16.0 2 1 39; NJ Hickey 3.0 1 1 9; A Riordan 5.0 1 1 6.

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

B Clurey lbw b S Hemeter.....	33
B Black c L Paul b J Smith.....	32
A Riordan not out.....	29
JM Wright not out.....	6
Extras (nb 0, w 1, b 0, lb 1).....	2
Total.....	2/102

Overs 23.0
FOW: 44 (B Clurey) 91 (B Black)
Bowling: C Dyer 4.0 0 0 23; AI Crosbie 4.0 1 0 16; J Smith 5.0 0 1 18; S Hemeter 5.0 0 1 17; L Paul 5.0 0 27.

WAAIA v NORTHERNERS

Toss won by Northerners, batted first

1ST INNINGS - WAAIA BOMBERS

J Cleeland c & b J Sidebottom.....	7
SC Carey c Z Newbound b G Hutchins.....	11
G Meyland lbw b RN Sidebottom.....	1
MJ Cleeland c RN Sidebottom b T Sidebottom.....	21
BG Carey c Z Newbound b J Brett.....	20
C Brown b Z Newbound.....	14
J Trower c T Sidebottom b RN Sidebottom.....	2
R Bradbury b RN Sidebottom.....	0
S Trower lbw b RN Sidebottom.....	0
L Henderson not out.....	3
C Walpole b J Brett.....	4
Extras (nb 0, w 0, b 0, lb 2).....	2
Total.....	85

Overs 35.3
FOW: 7 (J Cleeland) 8 (G Meyland) 36 (MJ Cleeland) 55 (SC Carey) 74 (C Brown) 77 (BG Carey) 77 (J Trower) 77 (R Bradbury) 80 (S Trower) 85 (C Walpole)
Bowling: RN Sidebottom 8.0 3 4 12; J Sidebottom 8.0 3 1 14; T Sidebottom 5.0 1 1 22; Z Newbound 8.0 2 1 21; G Hutchins 5.0 3 1 10; J Brett 1.3 1 2 4.

1ST INNINGS - NORTHERNERS

RN Sidebottom c & b G Meyland.....	54
T Sidebottom c SC Carey b C Brown.....	15
J Brett c MJ Cleeland b J Cleeland.....	86
M Brett c J Cleeland b J Trower.....	16
T Sidebottom not out.....	7
T Brett c MJ Cleeland b J Cleeland.....	0
Z Newbound not out.....	5
Extras (nb 0, w 0, b 4, lb 4).....	8
Total.....	5/191

Overs 41.0
FOW: 37 (T Sidebottom) 138 (RN Sidebottom) 164 (J Brett) 178 (T Brett) 178 (M Brett)
Bowling: MJ Cleeland 7.0 1 0 13; J Trower 13.0 4 1 40; C Brown 5.0 2 1 24; L Henderson 8.0 0 0 63; G Meyland 6.0 1 35; J Cleeland 2.0 0 2 8.

A GRADE T20 NORTHERN DIVISION

KATANDRA def NUMURKAH

Toss won by Katandra, batted first

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

B Clurey lbw b M Cline.....	4
LD Nolan c & b T Braybon.....	1
JM Wright c T Braybon b A Decicco.....	1
S Richardson c M Eckard b T Braybon.....	3
A Riordan c M Cline b M Eckard.....	11
RJ Ireland c L Gledhill b M Cline.....	0
H Sirett not out.....	37
M Black lbw b A Decicco.....	1
B Black c M Eckard b SE Downie.....	2
C Hickford b L Gledhill.....	19
Extras (nb 4, w 5, b 0, lb 4).....	13
Total.....	9/92 (cc)

Overs 20.0
FOW: 5 (B Clurey) 6 (JM Wright) 10 (S Richardson) 14 (LD Nolan) 19 (RJ Ireland) 34 (A Riordan) 38 (M Black) 56 (B Black) 92 (C Hickford)
Bowling: M Cline 3.0 0 2 15; A Decicco 3.0 1 2 11; T Braybon 2.0 0 2 7; M Eckard 4.0 0 1 14; SE Downie 4.0 0 1 21; L Gledhill 4.0 0 1 20.

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

J Smith run out (B Black).....	19
W Van Zyl c RJ Ireland b H Sirett.....	5
M Eckard c LD Nolan b S Richardson.....	0
SE Downie b RW Shannon.....	3
L Gledhill c A Riordan b RW Shannon.....	4
A Decicco c M Black b RW Shannon.....	14
K Jackson lbw b JM Wright.....	2
D Cox b JM Wright.....	0
D Ebborn b S Richardson.....	7
T Braybon not out.....	0
M Cline b S Richardson.....	0
Extras (nb 1, w 2, b 0, lb 1).....	4
Total.....	58

Overs 16.4
FOW: 6 (W Van Zyl) 8 (M Ebborn) 24 (SE Downie) 33 (L Gledhill) 42 (J Smith) 46 (K Jackson) 46 (D Cox) 58 (A Decicco) 58 (D Ebborn) 58 (M Cline)
Bowling: C Hickford 4.0 0 0 11; H Sirett 2.0 0 1 7; S Richardson 2.4 0 3 9; RW Shannon 3.0 0 3 11; A Riordan 2.0 0 0 8; JM Wright 3.0 0 2 11.

LADDER P W L D PTS %

Katandra	2	1	0	3	1.70
Numurkah	2	1	0	1	-0.48
Waaia	2	0	1	1	-1.01

B GRADE

NUMURKAH v OLD STUDENTS

Toss won by Old Students, batted first

1ST INNINGS - OLD STUDENTS

CT Walton c D Cox b A Cline.....	14
DT Johnson run out.....	8
J Carr c A Cline b RL Lacuin.....	25
CM Hangen b L Lambert.....	6
N Gill st M Price b RL Lacuin.....	1
T MacLaughlin st M Price b RL Lacuin.....	0
J Busiello run out.....	23
D Fichera lbw.....	0
D Delia c.....	0
R Thirachchelvan not out.....	39
T Janke b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 2, w 0, b 3, lb 0).....	5
Total.....	58

Overs 55.3
FOW: 14 (CT Walton) 26 (CT Walton) 36 (CM Hangen) 43 (N Gill) 43 (T MacLaughlin) 62 (J Carr) 63 (D Delia) 63 (D Fichera) 105 (J Busiello) 105 (T Janke)
Bowling: C Hickford 10.0 1 0 41; J Harman 11.0 1 0 43; S Broadbent 10.0 1 0 38; L Leahy 8.0 0 1 30; M Leahy 12.0 1 0 41; A Coonerty 3.0 0 1 28; B Collins 5.0 0 1 25.

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

T Woods not out.....	58
M Price not out.....	22
Extras (nb 1, w 0,	



Beginner's luck ... Kerry Collins enjoyed a break from golf, coming back to win a monthly medal on Saturday.

It's Kerry's medal

by "Archie Bunker"

KERRY Collins has had a long break from golf recently, and it might have been just what he needed.

Kerry took out the Mawsons Concrete monthly medal at Numurkah Golf Club on Saturday, coming in with a great score of 68 nett.

Kerry said that everything just worked well, and he was looking forward to getting back to playing golf regularly.

Andrew Storer put in another terrific, sub-par round to win A grade with 68, nett 70. And that's not a misprint, off his +2 handicap. He was very unlucky not to score the medal win.

Strazz has been in amazing form since Christmas, with five rounds of below 70 shots in that time.

Neville "Nifty" Smith was run-

ner-up behind Storer, with 71 nett, and Pierre Klaassen finished one shot behind Collins in B grade with 69 nett. Pierre would be ruined a missed opportunity, after he four putted the sixth hole.

John Smith lost a countback from his 'brother' Neville to take the first of the down the line balls, but finished ahead of Mark Hegarty in the decider.

Balls only went down to 72 nett, which was very good scoring. Roy Peterson, Shane Miller, Alf Patman and Garry Hosie all finished on that score. This was a terrific score from Miller, who could easily have won the medal, if only he hadn't had a 13 on the sixth hole.

Mike Herlihy also made the news for a similar feat, a 12 on the 11th hole, with a couple of shots heading

out of bounds.

New to the golf competitions, Chris O'Dwyer is managing to get his name amongst the winners every week, this week winning nearest the pin on the fourth hole. Garry Hosie was closest on the seventh, and Neville Smith had the best shot to the 18th green.

No-one managed to get onto the 15th hole, which was the day's money hole, so this will jackpot to the next monthly medal round.

There were many nominations for the Mickey Mouse ears, including Miller's 13, a few people having shanks, and one group of players who had eight tee shots on the eighth hole, hitting four provisional shots between them, in case their first (and second) drives were out of bounds.

But the ears were awarded to Mar-

tin Harper, whose wife Karen beat him off the stick, by a whopping five shots.

The pennant side travelled to Hill Top on Sunday, defending its top position on the ladder against the home side on its one track. Hill Top managed a 3-2 win.

Pierre Klaassen and Charlie Walsh finished one up, and Garry Hosie and Martin Harper won 2/1.

Peter Stonehouse and Jack Thomas went down by two, John Smith and Neil Hutchins lost 3/2, as did Brandon Hosie and Bob I'Anson.

The last round will be played this Sunday, and the local side needs to win to make the finals. They will meet Shepparton at Mooroopna.

This Saturday's golf will be another stableford round.

Murray bowlers set for CGMR state finals

The Central Bowls Division will host the Central Goulburn Murray Region state finals over the coming weeks, with the winners of the Murray Bowls Division state events looking to take the next step towards the Bowls Victoria State Championship week, to be held at East Bendigo in April.

The region finals kick off this Sunday with the men's pairs, men's triples, women's pairs and women's triples being played at Alexandra Bowls Club.

The Kilmore Bowls Club will host the men's singles, the men's fours and the women's fours on Sunday February 17, whilst the Seymour Bowls Club will host the men's Champion of Champions and the mixed pairs on Sunday, February 24.

The Yea Bowls Club will host the women's singles and women's Champion of Champions on Sunday, March 3.

Murray Bowls Division state event winners participating in region finals:

Men's Singles: Chris Philpot (Tocumwal Golf).

Men's Champion of Champions: Barry Cosgrove (Wunghnu).

Men's Pairs: Barry Cosgrove (Wunghnu), Joe Lucci (Numurkah Golf).

Men's Triples: Andrew Henderson (s), Nick Davies, John McKenzie, (Wunghnu).

Men's Fours: Barry Cosgrove (s), Nick Davies, John McKenzie, Lynton Stephens (Wunghnu).

Mixed Pairs: Nick Davies (Wunghnu), Kerry Baldacchino (Cobram).

Women's Singles: Kerry Baldacchino (Cobram).

Women's Champion of Champions: Nanette Smith (Finley).

Women's Pairs: Marjorie McDonald (s), Eve Saunders (Cobram).

Women's Triples: Kerry Ralph (s), Shirley Dean, Karen Bruce (Barooga Sports).

Women's Fours: Marjorie McDonald (s), Kerry Baldacchino, Carol Matters, Christine Dunne (Cobram).

Julie scoops the pool

by "The Shankster"

JULIE Daniel not only had the best score on the Numurkah golf course on Saturday, but also shot the best scratch score of the day of 82 shots.

A terrific 69 nett was enough to see Julie take home the Numurkah Leader/R. & K. Smith monthly medal shirt, with three shots to clear from her nearest rivals.

Bev Hutchins and Bev McIntosh both finished with 72 nett, but Bev Hutchins won the countback to finish second, for the third time from three outings for the week.

Pauline Davies was next with 73 nett, followed by the trio of Marion Tobin, Karen Harper and Jenny Ludington on 75 nett, and Merren Carr rounded out the ball winners with 76 nett.

When Karen Harper's group approached the seventh tee, no-one had managed to hit onto the green to win the ball for nearest the pin. Karen has the last person for the day to hit to the green, and the only one to get on, or

at least stay on.

Tracey Clouston won nearest the pin on the 18th hole.

A very welcome downpour had the potential to put the kibosh on last Wednesday's competition, and just when the weather had cooled a tad and everyone was looking forward to their 18 holes.

But, fortunately, the first groups were due to hit off just as the rain started, so after a short delay, all players got out on the course.

For the first time in a long while, there were puddles on the course, and everyone got to practise dropping their balls from knee height, in accordance with the new rule that came into force at the start of the year.

As was to be expected, the scores weren't overly great, but the two Bevs carded nice rounds, Bev McIntosh winning with 35 points, and Bev Hutchins running close behind with 34 points.

Tracey Clouston and Pauline Davies

shared the same score of 32 points to fill the next two places, Tracey narrowly winning the countback, after both players recorded the same scores on each nine.

A good field enjoyed the cool weather for Thursday's chick run, enabling two divisions.

Helen Pickersgill continued her great run in the nine hole competition, winning another division two voucher, with 18 stableford points.

Marion Tobin and Loris Houlihan shared the runner-up honours with 16 points.

Robyn Hodgkin played to her handicap to win division one, also with 18 points, while Nola Dalton and Bev Hutchins both came in with 17 points to share second place.

Julie Hannaford rounded out the day's winners with a good shot to the 18th green, to win nearest the pin.

Today's golf will be a monthly medal round, while both Saturday and next Monday will be stableford rounds.

Steady Steve secures the Srixons

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

STEVE Piggott regularly proves that you do not have to be able to hit drives and fairway shots 200 metres plus to be successful at golf, especially around Numurkah golf course.

Steve's forte are his shots to the green and his putting. Rarely does he miss hitting the green and leaving his ball within a relatively easy putting distance.

This was again the case last Thursday when Steve scored 40 stableford points in the mid week golf competition to win a dozen Srixon Ultra-Soft golf balls and other golfing paraphernalia.

Runner-up to Steve was Neil Hutchins, who scored a very respectable two under handicap 38 points and held off Bill Padgett in a countback.

Others in the 36 strong field whose scores earned them a club ball were: John Smith, Darryl Sheridan, Roy Peterson, all 37, Peter Cowan, Geoff Partington and Gary Blackburn 36, John Trimble 35, Ray Falla, Ian Gray and Dennis Prosser 34, John

McHale and Hugh Gunn 33.

Frank Houlihan had a surprising 'win' of sorts by taking home the tin of boiled lollies for the lowest point score of the day, a very modest 19.

Martin Daniel won a golf ball from the GMCU for being nearest the pin on the fourth hole. Ray Falla won the accolades of the field by taking every-one's money on the tricky seventh. Delicate Darryl Sheridan hit two fine shots to be closest on the 14th and claim Roy's sponsorship, while Alan Dalton shot a delicate draw to take 'Doggy' Sprunt's sponsored ball on the 15th. Les Summerville from Nathalia topped off his round by winning the Pruden Carpentry sponsored ball on the 18th hole.

Alan Dalton won the Mickey Mouse ears for throwing his golf club at a flock of wood ducks, but missing them because he threw a severe hook!

You too could join this merry bunch of pranksters, simply by assembling at 8.30am this Thursday for a 9am shotgun start. Visitors and guests are most welcome.

Golf bowls results as per usual

LIKE a stuck record, Numurkah Golf bowlers again produced a win and a loss in Saturday's pennant.

This time it was the Ones' turn to be victorious, with a 16 shot win over Katandra West, coming back from what would have been a season-ending deficit midway through the game.

Mark Jones, Steve Piggott, Butch Browning and Steve Patching held sway for most of the day against Merv Hannaford's rink after a purple patch from ends six to 10 which turned a two shot deficit into a 10 shot lead. They eventually went on to a 32-20 win.

Joe Luci, Des Staggard, Brian Gentle and Neil Macklin, giants of the game, trailed by seven shots at one stage against Jack Stephens' rink, but stormed home, winning eight of the last 10 ends for a 29-17 win.

Brian Stanger, Jack Dell, Frank Houlihan and Lidija Patching also came back from 11 down against Rick Anderson's rink to hit the front with four ends to play, but faltered to a 22-25 deficit, while Gary Downie, Geoff Sutcliffe, Ian Hocking and debutant Gavin Parkinson lowered their colours 19-24 to a rampant Kevin Minogue's rink, 19-24.

The overall 14/102 to 4/86 win was enough to move the Golfers back into the top four, with games against their closest rivals on the ladder, Strathmerton and Cobram, to finish the season. This will start with Strathy, fresh from a stunning win over top side Wunghnu, at home this week.

The Threes lowered their colours to second placed Tocumwal Golf, 0/54 to 16/70, but not without a tough battle.

Allan Newby, John Pickersgill, Alf Harrison and Tony Morris got closest to a win, going down 20-23 to John Jones' rink.

Loris Houlihan, Pete Madill, Bayden Parkinson and Adam Bugeya were right in the game against Kevin Tyrrell's rink, trailing by just one with four ends to play, but unfortunately didn't win another end, to go down 14-20.

David "Wiggy" Miller, John Carr, Col Hicks and Mike Fayers were in the box seat, leading by seven shots with five ends to play, but also faded to lose all five, including a seven on one end, going down 20-27.

The loss didn't affect Golf's ladder position, still hanging on to a 22 point margin from relegation.

Teams for round 13, this Saturday:

Division one - at home to Strathmerton: J. Luci (s), D. Staggard, B. Gentle, N. Macklin; G. Sutcliffe (s), J. Dell, I. Hocking, D. Hester; B. Stanger (s - duty), G. Downie, S. Roughsedge, L. Patching; M. Jones (s), S. Piggott, F. Houlihan, B. Browning.

Division three - away to Barooga Sports, bus departs 12:10pm: A. Newby (s), J. Pickersgill, A. Harrison, T. Morris; D. Miller (s), G. Parkinson, C. Hicks, M. Fayers; R. Hodgkin (s), B. Parkinson, A. Bugeya. Emergencies: J. Niven, L. Houlihan, L. Browning.

Big win for Golfers

JAN Niven's rink spear-headed a runaway win over Finley for the Numurkah Golf Club's Friday division one side last week, winning by a massive 30 shots.

The Golfers won on all rinks, and scored 97 shots to its oppositions' 52 to maintain their spot in second place on the ladder.

Niven's rink won 46-16, Robyn Hodgkin's team staged a strong comeback to win 27-21, and Loris Houlihan's rink pulled together to do its bit, 24-15, after a close tussle all day.

The club's division two side went down to the second placed side at Cobram, 60-73.

Marie Ryan remains undefeated as a skipper, winning 28-19, Joan Harrison's rink went down 14-31, and Helen Eddy's team just went down, 18-23.

The division two side remains in fifth position on the ladder, with just one more game and the bye remaining to claw its way back into the top four.

A few more 100 up games were completed last week. Barb Fayers won over Maree Luci, Robyn Hodgkin defeated Merren Carr, Helen Pickersgill defeated Yvonne Clark, and Helen Eddy defeated Lorraine Milner.

Social bowls winners last Tuesday were Gayle Smith, Katrina Glover and Joan Harrison.

PENNANT TEAMS

Division one - at home to Numurkah.

J. Niven (s), J. Luci, Y. Clark, B. Browning; R. Hodgkin (s), D. Staggard, J. Sutcliffe, M. Carr (duty rink); L. Houlihan (s), F. Houlihan, L. Browning, K. Glover.

Emergencies: M. Ryan, B. Fayers.

Division two has the bye.



Great fightback ... Wayne Barnes and his rink members fought back valiantly from a deficit to take a one shot win.

One win but many highlights

ALTHOUGH it was lean pickings for the Numurkah Bowls Club in round 12 of Murray Bowls Division pennant, with only one win out of five teams, there were several positives for the club to come out of last week's games.

The highlight was in Saturday division one pennant, as the club team continued its good form with a comprehensive 43 shot margin over Finley RS, winning on all rinks.

Terry Brennan (s), John Wright, Phil Perkins and Geoff Jorgensen were again on the positive side, winning by a narrow, one shot margin, as did Paul Rees (s), Steve Wyatt, Wayne Barnes and Don Woolley who fought back from a 10-shot deficit early in the game.

Alan Rogers (s), Sieg Seiter, Alan Clark and Noel Newham started well again and were never

headed, to win 32-12, while Don Staggard (s), Peter Dealy, Geoff Shaw and Gary Roulston won 43-12 in a very good team effort.

It was a tough day at Tocumwal for the division two side, with the ladder leader proving to be a handful on its home green, winning by 56 shots.

No rinks got even close for Numurkah, which makes the last two rounds even more important in Numurkah's aspirations to stay in division two.

Numurkah's division three side travelled to Finley RS and, despite winning on two of the three rinks, went down by 10 shots in a good effort.

Pam Smith (s), Noel Murdoch, Joel Howman and Lindsay Mitchell won comfortably, 30-18, and Arthur Crawford (s), Howard Lowe, Ken Moffatt and Wayne Mulquiney scraped home by two shots.

Friday pennant returned to the greens in very good bowling conditions, after a disjointed start to the year.

Division one travelled to the synthetic at Barooga needing big points, but it was a case of "so near, but yet so far", going down by three shots.

Ann Dealy (s), Peter Dealy, Geoff Shaw and Pam Carey won 29-19 to give them the Telegraph Hotel best winning rink award, while Lorraine Kennedy (s), Paul Rees, Jenny Stuart and Robyn Aumann got within four shots of their opponents.

The Pam Smith rink battled well against a very consistent skipper in Barooga's Kerry Ralph.

The divvy two side went out to the home of the ladder leader Piccola, who showed its class, winning by 22 shots.

However, this was the first time for quite a while that Numurk-

ah has been able to field a team consisting of 12 women players, many of whom are still developing.

It was encouraging for the team to see Sue Shaw (s), Robyn Gilmour, Kerry Wellman and Sue Edis come through on the last end, with the skipper trailing the jack for three shots and giving them a win on their rink by one shot.

A very successful Rex Wellington Numurkah Lions Club charity day was held at Numurkah on Sunday, with 24 triples teams coming from many areas to support the cause.

A Numurkah Bowls Club team consisting of Lions Club member Neil Stuart, Hans Bruizman and Jenny Stuart were the very delighted winners.

Rex was in attendance to present the trophies.

Five fighting for final four in Murray bowls

by "Davo"

AFTER 12 rounds of the Murray Bowls division one pennant season, five clubs remain in the hunt for finals action.

Whilst Wunghnu and Barooga Sports, who sit first and second on the ladder, are guaranteed finals action, Strathmerton, Numurkah Golf and Cobram are still in a close battle to finish third and fourth. Strathmerton currently sits third, 10 points clear of Numurkah Golf in fourth, with Cobram just eight points outside the four.

Saturday's action saw Strathmerton defeat Wunghnu by 10 shots, Numurkah Golf defeat Katandra West by 16 shots, Barooga pip Cobram by four shots and Numurkah Town crush Finley RSC by 53 shots.

The Bulldogs have been a revelation after being promoted

to division one this season and have proven to be a threat to any opposition when they have their best 16 on the green. With games against Numurkah Golf and Katandra West in the closing rounds, one more win should see Strathy play finals.

Wunghnu on the other hand has lost its last two matches after going undefeated prior to the Christmas break. The Magpies have lacked some spark in recent games and will be keen to get back on the winners' list heading into finals.

After its narrow loss to Barooga, Cobram slipped out of the top four and are in danger of missing the finals action for the first time in a number of years.

Like Golf and Strathmerton, the Tigers' hopes rest in their own hands. While Cobram should defeat Katandra this

two wins and Golf makes the cut.

Numurkah extinguished Finley RSC's slim finals hopes with a huge win on Saturday. Despite struggling for much of the season, Numurkah's recent good form has seen it not only avoid any chance of relegation, but move up to sixth place, just 16 points outside the four. With games against Barooga and Wunghnu in the closing rounds, the Towners' chances of seeing finals action are slim but not completely out of the question.

Despite losing his last two games, Wunghnu's Barry Cosgrove remains at the top of the skippers' table with nine wins, closely followed by Barooga's Ray Emerson and Brett Wright with nine wins also. Other notables in the top 10 are Strathmerton's Trevor Loe (fourth), Numurkah Golf's Joe Luci (eighth), Wunghnu's Trevor Hosie (ninth) and Wunghnu's Andrew Henderson (10th).

Saturday, the round 14 match against Numurkah Golf could decide their fate.

Reigning premier Barooga looks to have secured the double chance with its win over Cobram. With games against Numurkah and Finley RSC in the closing rounds, the Sporties will be looking to take out the minor premiership ahead of Wunghnu.

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PENNANT TEAMS

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Emergencies: M. Ryan, B. Fayers.

Division two has the bye.

Dual celebration for Strathy



Steady as she goes ... Steve Koopman sends down a bowl in a hotly contested battle on his rink.

IN just its first season since winning promotion from division two, Strathmerton caused the upset of the Murray Bowls season when it defeated ladder leader Wunghnu on Saturday.

With just three rounds of the Murray Bowls Division season remaining before finals, and only eight points separating Strathmerton in third from Numurkah Golf in fifth, last Saturday's round 12 game against the Wunghnu Magpies was possibly always destined to be a season defining match for Strathmerton.

The visitors are looking to play division one finals for the first time in the club's history.

With Wunghnu having lost its first game of the season the previous round, Strathmerton was expecting a fired-up home team, and so it proved to be early. While only 12 shots separated the teams at the break, Wunghnu was up on three rinks and playing the more consistent bowls.

Momentum shifted a little after the tea break with Strathmerton slowly working its way back to level terms and going on to record a 10-shot victory at games end.

It would not be a Saturday without fluctuating winds

and, coupled with the warm and humid conditions which slowed the greens a little more than both teams prefer, it was not the easiest day on the greens.

Trevor Loe, Peter Young, Gary Murnane, and Wayne Lowson led from start to finish and set the tone for the visitors. Loe's foursome started exceptionally well, leading by 11 shots early and held on for a 25-19 victory over Andrew Henderson's rink.

Gordon Ryan, Len Vann, Ross Kirkham and Ken Moore battled hard all day against Peter Revell's quartet in an entertaining contest, eventually going down by four shots, 23-27.

Kevin Dunn, Wayne McGregor, Warren Ryan and Greg Sutton found themselves pitted against the strong rink of Barry Cosgrove. In a game of two halves, the Wunghnu boys were too consistent early, but Dunn was able to lead his team back and secure an important 27-24 win for the visitors.

Mick Ryan, Steve Koopman, Matt Graham and Richard Palczak drew the ever-consistent Trevor Hosie foursome and found themselves in a great battle. After being down early they eventually came through for

an important five shot, 21-16 win.

Strathmerton will meet Numurkah Golf, on the Golf greens, this Saturday in what will surely be a hotly contested game, with both sides fighting to keep their places in the four.

The Strathmerton division four side played a very experienced Finley outfit which had defeated it convincingly when the two teams last met. In a major turn round, it was the Bulldogs who did the damage this time, recording a 41-shot victory.

This win sees them draw level with Tocumwal at the top of the division four ladder.

In an impressive display of consistent bowling, Michael Day, Peter Philippe, Shawn Padman and Lyn Brook recorded a strong win 28-8 victory over Karl Bergman's rink.

John Jasper, Richard Buck, Peter Truman and Liz Tuason, in similar fashion, proved far too strong for Robert Wike and team, recording a 34-13 win.

Strathmerton will tackle Tocumwal next Saturday in a top of the table clash. The winner will no doubt move into the forthcoming finals series with a slight psychological advantage.

Purples push for finals spot

NATHALIA greatly increased its GM2 Mixed finals chances by defeating top team, rival Numurkah by eight games at home on Saturday.

After an incredible amount of work from NLTC greenskeeper David Scadden over the Christmas break, play resumed on the front courts which showed the most dramatic improvements recalled in recent memory.

Nathalia's Alex Bakogianis won three sets playing the number three doubles and mixed to be the home team's best performer on the day, while Jack Wilson and Kristy Scadden were admirable in falling just short in their mixed doubles contest.

Despite the win, Nathalia remains in fifth, some six points outside a finals position.

The Purples' finals hopes remain strong though, with the next three matches against the bottom three sides.

Nathalia will travel to take on Yarrawonga Blue this weekend in the fourth last contest of the season.



Tough break ... Jack Wilson battled hard alongside partner Kristy Scadden for Nathalia in their mixed doubles loss on Saturday.

Jaimee posts great scores

SEVERAL Numurkah Small Bore club members were awarded prizes at last Thursday night's club night, for scores they recorded in the Lancefield postal competition shot in 2018.

Jaimee Cook finished first in A grade in the 20 metre prone competition, as well as taking second place in the junior field.

Angela Gibbon came second in D grade, Glenn Braybon finished third in B grade, and Lindsay Braybon came fifth in the top 10 in the event.

Newcomer Hannah O'Brien top scores in the 20 metre prone event at Numurkah on Thursday night, with

163.2, and Lindsay Braybon's 191.6 was the high score for the 50 metre prone.

Scores for the 20m prone match were:

H. O'Brien 86.2 77.0 163.2; B. Lee 71.0 65.0 136.0.

Scores for the 50m prone match were:

L. Braybon 97.4 94.2 191.6, G. Braybon 95.2 96.3 191.5, A. Lee 93.1 94.3 187.4, A. Gibbon 85.1 98.2 183.3, S. Rosemeier 87.1 94.4 181.5; D. Cook 91.3 88.3 79.6, J. Cook 93.2 85.1 187.3, G. Miles 86.1 83.1 169.2, T. Lee 79.0 88.1 167.1, E. Lee 70.0 72.0 142.0.

There will be shooting as usual on Thursday night at Numurkah.

Back in the swing

Club days finally got back to normal after the Christmas break for Numurkah Croquet Club members.

A few keen players did turn up on the very hot days, but soon gave it away because of the heat.

Although hot and humid last Tuesday, 18 players put together a full competition.

Winners were Lois Lowe and

Graeme Tyack with three wins, 24 hoops

There was a tie for the runner-up position, Barb McKeown and David Geddes scoring the same 2/22 as Glenys Lonley and Kirsten Strike.

Barb McKeown and Heather Brown both ran a hoop-in-one each, and new player Graeme Tyack did well to play three jump shots.

Numurkah Warriors just miss out

by "Penny R. Cade"

THE GM1 Warriors played their first tennis match since early December, due to an extended Christmas break and some heat outs, and went very close to causing a big upset when they lost to top team, the Tatura Cockroaches, by just two games on Saturday.

Playing at Tatura, the Warriors went down 4/45 to 4/47 in a match that was hotly contested all afternoon.

Tatura put the pressure on early when it won

both men's singles matches 8-3 and 8-2 respectively, and the men's doubles 8-3.

Helene Steward was doing her level best to drag the Warriors back into the contest, defeating her Tatura opponent 8-1 and then teaming up with Emily Ryan for an 8-4 victory which left the visitors eight games down with the two mixed sets to play.

Skipper Mark Mills and Emily Ryan dug really deep to defeat Bruce Ferguson and Leanne Moore 8-4 to reduce the deficit to just four

games and, try as they might, Nick Fenaughty and Helene Steward, although winning 8-6, could not quite get the desired 8-4 result, which would have given the Warriors a tie.

Helene Steward won three sets in another sublime display and Emily Ryan put in a top effort to win two of her three sets.

This loss leaves the Warriors just outside the four with only three matches left.

If they can win two of these and sneak into the finals they will cause a bit of mayhem once there.



Good support

... Col Mackay and Matt Cason battled hard on the doubles court, but went down to Alex Bakogianis and Joe Nihill, in just the Raiders' second loss for the season.

Numurkah Raiders slip up

by "Penny R. Cade"

NUMURKAH'S GM2 Raiders suffered only their second loss for the tennis season, and their first since round one, when they went down to Nathalia at Nathalia last Saturday, losing 6/66 to 5/62.

The Raiders were on the back foot right from the start when they lost all four doubles matches, but hit back in the singles, winning three from four.

Matt Cason produced another scintillating performance to win 6-1, while Imogen Cameron and Caitlyn Price both won their encounters 6-3.

This left the visitors around half a dozen games shy heading into the mixed and with the job ahead of them.

Matt Cason and Imogen Cameron got home 8-6 in their match while Jai Harrington and Caitlyn Price won a nailbiter 8-7. Unfortunately for the Raiders, the issue was put to bed when Nathalia captured the last mixed set to see them home by four games.

While this loss to their arch rival will sting, the Raiders still hold top spot on the ladder and will be hoping to bounce back this

Saturday at the Numurkah courts when they take on the second placed Shepp Lions.

PENGUINS GET SNAKY WITH COBRAS

The GM3 Penguins have taken over top spot from the Cobram Cobras after the Waddlers outlasted their adversaries by five games, winning 7/80 to 6/75 in a very close and entertaining fixture.

Playing at Cobram in warm, energy sapping conditions on excellent playing surfaces, the Penguins were on a mission and were not to be denied.

Craig Brown and skipper Dave Ludington got the visitors off to a flying start when they won their opening doubles match 8-4, while Elliott Small and Rhys Cason had to work a lot harder for their 8-7 victory.

Brown and Cason had another tough set in the third men's doubles but got over the line 8-6.

Elliott Small has really added some class to the Penguins' line up and he needed all that to overcome Cobram's Jack Cassidy 6-3, in a match punctuated by long rallies and plenty of court cover-

age from both players.

Dave Ludington took on Cobram's Mario Bruni and they endured a marathon encounter which ebbed and flowed before Bruni got home 6-5 in a tiebreaker.

The Penguinettes didn't make the best of starts, as Cobram won the first three ladies sets 8-3, 8-4 and 8-5, but Kris Walker and Emma Schmedje dug really deep to post a crucial 8-4 victory which left the Penguins one game up with just the mixed to play.

Ludington plotted his mixed combination with great deliberation, which immediately bore fruit as Craig Brown and Emma Schmedje cruised home 8-1, while Elliott Small and Kris Walker won their match in fine style 8-4.

These two wins effectively sealed the deal for the Waddlers and, even though Cobram hit back and won the last two mixed 8-6 and 8-3, it was too little too late as the Numurkah team had done enough.

Elliott Small and Craig Brown were in fine form all day, each winning three sets, while Kris Walker, Emma Schmedje and Rhys Cason won two each.

It was another solid all round team performance from the Penguins who will now be eyeing off a top two finish.

This Saturday they are at home and will host the Tatura Mosquitoes in another must win fixture.

RAVENS BOMB OUT

The GM3 Open grade Ravens travelled to Kyabram to do battle with the strong Kyabram Bombers and unfortunately came away with not a lot to crow about, as they went down 1/30 to 8/69.

The Ravens went into the match with four juniors, James Kam, Nathan Page, Hudson Storer and Hannah O'Brien, and the kids gave it their all.

Young Nathan Page and Cathy Brown supplied the only set win for the Ravens when they got up 8-5, and Cathy was a bit unlucky in her mixed, going down 7-8 with James Kam.

To say Nathan was excited about his win would be a big understatement. The whole team tried hard but were just not quite up to the task.

Next week The Ravens are at home and take on the Kyabram Redbacks.

Rough weekend for young Blues

NUMURKAH was only able to last 31 overs before being all out for 72 in the Blues' under 16s game against Karramomus on Saturday, but will go into the final day with a bit of optimism, with Karramomus 4/23 overnight.

Winning the toss and batting first, Numurkah lost Hunter Verhoeven, Bailey Roberts, Dusty Ebborn and Bailey Smith, with none of them being able to reach double-digits.

This saw Numurkah slump to 4/29, with the only player up until that point to get past 10, Kade O'Dwyer, falling for 12 to see the Blues 5/37.

Things kept deteriorating for the young Numurkah batsmen, with Jack Bergamin Kody Jackson and Callum Morris all trying their best to build a partnership of substance, and seemed to be doing well until, at 6/61, Jackson was run out for 16.

The wicket triggered one last collapse, with the last three wickets falling for just 11 runs.

In reply Karramomus would have desired a better start to its innings but lost four wickets with not one of the six batsmen featured able to reach double-digits before the close of play.

UNDER 14s

Numurkah-Waiaia has a lot of work to do after Katandra's batsmen handed the Blue Bombers a stiff run chase of 162 after the Eagles finished their allotted 45 overs 3/161 at Katandra Recreation Reserve.

The home side took to the Blues bowlers from the off, with opener Talon Wilson smashing 40 before retiring not out.

Two more Eagles players soared beyond 25 and retired, with only Lucas Roberts, 2/18 off seven overs, and Baz McDonald, 1/11 off four, able to pick up wickets throughout the innings.

Swans get clawed

KATUNGA'S division two cricket side faced the full wrath of Katamatite's batting lineup at Katunga Recreation Reserve on Saturday, going down to the ferocious Tigers by 127 runs.

Katunga got off to a strong start when it claimed the first wicket for the day with just three runs on the board, but from that point Katamatite was firmly in control.

Tony Harris worked hard for his Swans through his seven over spell, claiming figures of 3/46, but his return was indicative of the disdain with which Katamatite treated the opposition.

At the fore of the Tigers' batting onslaught was opener Matt Wright's big return of 96 runs, which included 13 boundaries.

Wright's big score helped his side set Katunga a big chase, scoring 6/209 from the 35 overs allocated. The reply paled in comparison.

Trent Baker was caught out for a duck and it got worse for Katunga.

The Swans lost both MacFadyens, Angus and Aaron, for 29 and four respectively, while only three other batsmen were able to reach double figures. From 2/46, the home side lost 8/36 to be all out for just 82.

The loss sees Katunga fall to fourth on the division two ladder, three points behind Deniliquin Rhinos.

The Swans will need to bounce back strongly this week against league-leader Barooga if they are to make sure they keep the top four position currently held.

Purples find chink in Katunga armour

NATHALIA'S division one side took out a low-scoring win on Saturday, overcoming Katunga by three wickets at home, thanks to a five-wicket haul by Angus Hawks. The Purples held onto fourth spot on the ladder, while Katunga slipped down to second in the process.

Katunga claimed the toss, electing to bat, but got off to a horror start as Hawks tore through the visiting side's top-order.

The Swans lost Matt Healey without a run on the board, and quickly saw Jarrod Rankin follow suit with just eight posted. Daniel Henderson came and went without a run being scored, while Brad Tweed and Toby Miles were also felled by Hawks without making much of an impact.

At 5/13, Mitch Doyle and Adam

Cook went about bringing respectability to Katunga's score, but their partnership garnered only 20 runs before Doyle was run out for 19. Cook was joined in the middle by Will Newman, and the duo's partnership was the most profitable for Katunga throughout the day.

Cook made it to 42 before he was bowled by Gerard Warren to see Katunga sit at 7/83 as the close of innings drew closer and closer.

Newman finished on 19 not out to see his side finish the 40 overs allocated at 7/93. The key cog of the first innings was by far Nathalia spearhead Angus Hawks' 5/8 contribution that came from just eight overs, but Nathalia almost coughed up the great start it had when it took to the middle for the chase.

Nathalia tallied five runs before losing

opener Archie Congues for a duck, but the falling of early wickets didn't stop there.

Jamie Hardy was out for a duck and Adam Zammit made 11 before he was bowled. At 3/12, a feeling of uneasiness surrounded Nathalia's pursuit. Gerard Warren and Sean Zammit got their side to 3/36, but when Warren was caught out for 12, it triggered a mini-collapse that threatened to give Katunga a fightback win.

The Purples lost 2/3 from that point, and at 6/39, alarm bells were sounding louder and louder.

Fortunately for the home side, Ned Nihill composed himself and set about reconstructing the chase.

Nihill and Nathalia captain Phil Carroll scored 25 and 26 runs respectively to steer the Purples home. The two re-

mained not out as Nathalia finished the game 7/96 from 35.5 overs gone. Nathalia got out of jail this game but will hope to keep its winning ways this week against Cobram-Yarroweyah United at the Nathalia Showgrounds.

Katunga though, will hope that an uncharacteristic batting falter will be just a blip on the radar as it gears up to take on fifth placed Berrigan this week.

DIVISION TWO

Nathalia's division two side was forced to bat after Tocumwal won the toss before their clash at Tocumwal Recreation Reserve, but the Purples weren't able to post a score they could defend, going down by two wickets on Saturday.

The visitors lost opener Ben Horrocks without a run on the board but seemed to be consolidating fairly well through Sam Boyd and new batsman

Eugene Atkins. Atkins was out for 10 though, and shortly after Nathalia lost Boyd for 16 to see its score sit at 3/47. Ewen Congues and Byron Smith pushed Nathalia toward 100, but lost Smith for 27, triggering a lean patch for the visitors.

The Purples lost 4/33 before the close of play after the 35th over to finish 8/124. In reply, Tocumwal batsmen were hounded by Eugene Atkins, whose 5/14 from seven overs gave his side a big sniff at being able to pick up the points on offer.

Tocumwal regrouped, though, and was able to close out the game with just over two overs to spare.

Nathalia travels to Finley this week, hoping to leap frog the home side into seventh spot with a win.

Waaia finds success in lower grades

WAAIA'S B grade side is well on its way to an impressive win over Northerners after Matt Stuart claimed six wickets, and the Bombers bowled the home side out for 131, before making a massive dent in the run chase before the close of play at Tallygaroopna Recreation Reserve.

It wasn't all smooth sailing for Waaia as Northerners' opening partnership got the side on the right track, posting 59 runs for no loss.

The breakthrough eventually came for Waaia and it triggered a Northerners freefall.

The home side lost 6/31 to languish at 7/90.

Waaia pushed further and, thanks to brilliant bowling from Stuart and company, managed to close the innings out, leaving Northerners all out for 131. In reply, Waaia struggled to build a partnership early before eventually find some stability to close out the day's play 3/94.

Waaia captain Matt Brown was run out for just three, with 19 runs on the board, and it was made 2/32 when Aaron Shelton was caught for 28.

Jacob Johnson was out for 27, leading Tom Williams and Ryan Sprunt to finish the day's play not out on 22 and 10 respectively.

E GRADE
Waaia struck early but was made to work late in its E grade clash against Old Students on Saturday, seeing the home side all out 110 before the Bombers went onto grab a two wicket win at Kialla Park Reserve on Saturday.

With only eight runs on the board, Danny Glover made the first impact for the Bombers after Old Students won the toss and elected to bat, finding his way through the defences of Old Students' opener to rattle the stumps.

Waaia pushed harder and kept up the pressure in the field, leading to a run out for the second wicket with just 15 runs on the board.

Proceedings kept on the up for Waaia when Dylan Cornick claimed the third wicket of the game to really have Old Students on the ropes at 3/20.

The home side rallied, though, adding a further 44 run partnership to the tally before Cornick claimed his second wicket.

Not long after, Kane Tatt picked up his first wicket of the game, and with it, came a big fall for Old Students.

The Students went from 5/77, to lose 5/33 and being all out for just 110.

Waaia's run chase started off on shaky ground, though, after it lost two wickets with just 14 on the board.

Kevin Vandengoor and Kane Tatt worked together to get the Bombers back on track, and that's exactly what the pair did.

The duo got Waaia to 2/89 but disaster struck when they were both out in very quick succession.

Vandengoor made 25 while Tatt scored 39, but one of their replacements, Danny Glover, didn't fare as well.

Glover was out for two to see Waaia teetering at 5/81.

Wickets continued to fall with Lachlan Newman run out for one, while Paul Stammers was ousted from the crease with just four attributed to his name.

Finishing the day's play off for Waaia was Ben Daniel, 10, and captain Ryan Trimby, 12. The pair was able to get the Bombers over the line for a tight, almost jittery, triumph.

With the victory, Waaia sits fifth on the Whitelock Shield ladder, equal on points with fourth placed Old Students.

This week, Waaia will travel to play seventh placed Shepparton United.

Katandra refuses to lose to Blues

NUMURKAH has fallen to Katandra by 34 runs in the two sides' second Love The Game T20 match at Katandra Recreation Reserve last Thursday.

The win sees Katandra book a semi final clash against Old Students, which will be held tonight at Katandra Recreation Reserve.

The prospect of Katandra featuring beyond the round-robin stages of the competition became dimmer and dimmer when, after winning the toss and electing to bat, the Eagles lost several early wickets and failed to fully recover until the ninth wicket stand featuring Hadleigh Sirett and Corey Hickford.

Matt Cline broke through early to see Katandra one down with just five runs on the board, before Jedd Wright was caught out for one off Adam Decicco's bowling.

Katandra went 3/10 when Scott Richardson's errant shot saw him out for three.

Luke Nolan and Ray Ireland both fell for one and zero respectively, unable to deal with the strong bowling from Cline and Tim Braybon. At 5/19, Katandra struggled to persevere through the tough period of play it found itself in.

Michael Eckard, Adam Decicco and Shaun Downie all claimed wickets in quick succession to force Katandra to a score of 8/56. Alarm bells were ringing for the Eagles. Thankfully for Katandra, Hadleigh Sirett's not out 37 was complemented



Eagles soar ... Hadleigh Sirett (Left) and Shaun Downie (Right) during Numurkah's lost to Katandra on Thursday night.

ed brilliantly by Corey Hickford's 19.

The two got the Eagles to 8/92 before Hickford was bowled by Numurkah captain Liam Gledhill with the final delivery of the innings.

Many would have expected Numurkah to be able to take out the contest with relative ease, despite Katandra's strong bowling attack, but the Eagles heaped pressure on the Blues from the off.

It all started with Wian Van Zyl being caught out for just five, and the misery continued to race through

Numurkah's batting lineup.

Michael Eckard, Shaun Downie and Liam Gledhill were all out for less than five to see the score sit at 4/33.

Following the run out of Josh Smith for 19, Jedd Wright made his presence known.

Wright had Kody Jackson out LBW for two and then bowled Dylan Cox for a duck to finish with figures of 2/11, damning Numurkah to a score of 7/46.

Ryleigh Shannon picked up his

third wicket when Adam Decicco was caught out for 14.

Shannon went on to finish with figures of 3/11 from three overs, but it was Scott Richardson who cleaned up the tail to give the Eagles the win. Richardson dismissed Dusty Ebborn for seven and Matt Cline for zero to finish with 3/9 from 2.4 overs.

The loss means Numurkah has narrowly missed out on another spot in a limited overs final, having missed out on the one day finals spot by just one point earlier in the season.

Eagles soar to make light work of Magpies

THE top against bottom A grade clash between Katandra and Euroa at Katandra Recreation Reserve seems to be playing out as most would have expected, with the Eagles firmly in control after the first day's play.

Euroa won the toss and elected to bat, but that decision simply brought about an opportunity for Katandra to quickly and surely stamp its authority on the game.

Hadleigh Sirett was the Eagle to inflict the early blows, claiming two quick wickets to give his side a huge boost with the score at 2/11.

Sirett would eventually finish the innings 3/9 from just six overs.

Ryleigh Shannon was the next to join in. His smart bowling grabbed the next wicket, before he too claimed a second to keep Katandra in the driver's seat at 4/37.

Wickets continued to tumble for Euroa, there was no chance or opportunity to really get a foot in the

door against such stringent and tight bowling.

Only Magpie Lucas Paul was able to make a considerable dent in reply, scoring a not out 47 as his side limped to 116 all out.

With 23 overs remaining on the day, Katandra knew it could give itself a big chance to throw its weight behind an outright victory push, and the Eagles got off to a near perfect start.

Ben Clurey and Brady Black got Katandra to 0/44 before Clurey was out leg-before for 33.

Black was joined at the crease by Andrew Riordan and that combination pushed the Eagles to 1/91

before Black eventually fell for 32. Riordan was joined in the middle by Captain Jedd Wright and the pair remain not out overnight with Katandra 2/102.

The league leader will hope to wrap up the points when play resumes this Saturday at 1pm.

B GRADE

Katandra has staked claim to first innings points in its B grade tie against Euroa at Euroa Memorial Oval on Saturday.

Euroa won the toss and elected to bat, but wasn't able to start off well, losing three quick wickets to languish at 3/5.

Those scalps were claimed by Nick Minogue, who was the main man with the ball for the Eagles, claiming 3/12 from 11 overs, while he was backed up brilliantly by Clay Simpson and Andrew Nicholls, who both took two scalps for innings.

Katandra went from strength to strength, claiming wickets with consistent regularity, and just as importantly, didn't allow Euroa a flurry of runs at any stage of the innings.

Euroa was simply unable to curtail the onslaught it faced from a Katandra side that looks determined

to shoot up the Clyde Young shield ladder.

The Magpies went from 3/28 to 8/57 before eventually being skittled all out for just 78.

Katandra took to the field, eyeing first innings points and the possibility of an outright triumph, but the early run out of Paul Harry kept Katandra feet planted firmly on the ground.

Captain Andrew Nicholls made 14 before he was caught out and all of the sudden the Eagles were 2/22. Mitch Black and Hope Irvine rallied to get the chase back on track, but Irvine was felled for 19.

At 3/58, the game was in an interesting predicament, but Katandra powered ahead before losing Black for 28.

Clay Simpson joined Ross Hopkins in the middle at 4/69, and the pair managed to get the chase back on track before powering to finish the day's play at 4/91.

Big chance for a Blue day

NUMURKAH'S lower grade sides have given themselves a huge opportunity to make it a Blue day after the B and D grade sides find themselves in truly commanding positions of their respective cricket games.

The Clyde Young Shield match up saw Numurkah's B graders take on Old Students at the Numurkah Showgrounds, and the Numurkah bowling performance never let the visitors into the innings.

A run out gave Numurkah an early breakthrough followed by an Andrew Cline wicket that opened the door for Hamish Lambert to make it 3/36, but the game truly shifted in the Blues' favour when Reydan Lacuin decided to stamp his authority on the contest.

Lacuin snared three quick wickets to completely derail the Students' innings and give Numurkah full

momentum out of the opening period of play.

At 6/62, Old Students proceeded to lose 2/3 before a 42-run partnership got the side through to triple-figures.

The renaissance didn't last long before the partnership was broken via the second run out of the innings. It was here that Lacuin inflicted one final blow, taking the last wicket to close out the innings and finish with figures of 4/13 from 14.3 overs.

With 21 overs remaining in the day's play, Numurkah openers Tyson Woods and Matt Price showed composure and patience to close out the day's play 0/83, with Woods bringing up his half-century and Price staying not out on 22.

D GRADE

An unbeaten Jacob Morris century has given Numurkah a massive leg-up over Murchison in its SJ Perry

Shield D grade contest at Murchison Recreation Reserve on Saturday, with the Blues declaring 4/261 and leaving the home side 1/17 in reply.

Numurkah was sent into bat after Murchison won the toss, and it gave Morris every opportunity to get his drive for triple-figures going.

He and captain Jason Verhoeven compiled a well-built 51-run opening stand, with Verhoeven scoring 42 before being caught out.

Morris was met in the middle by James Pruden and the duo built another 50-run partnership, with the majority of the run-scoring being done by Morris.

Pruden played his role well but was undone for 14 just after the Blues passed the 100 mark.

Daemon Potts came in to replace the outgoing Pruden, unfortunately that partnership wasn't able to bring about the same success and

Potts was out 15 with the score at 3/127.

The game-changing partnership came next, Bailey Smith joined Morris at the crease and the pair decimated Murchison's bowling attack.

The pair's 127-run partnership saw Smith pass 50 and gave Morris the chance to register a well-earned hundred, the first of his career.

Morris was eventually run out for 54 and the innings was declared with 61 overs used.

With 10 overs to face, Murchison had its worst fears realised when, with the score 0/14, Jason Verhoeven snared a wicket to give the Blues a bigger boost as the close of play drew nearer and nearer.

Murchison would consolidate and finish the day 1/27, but there's still a lot of cricket left when play resumes this Saturday.

Bombers' rut continues to plague debut season

WAAIA has once again found itself on the wrong end of the stick, as its debut season as a Cricket Shepparton side winds down, this time facing the wrath of Northerners in the first week of its clash at Waaia Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Perhaps sensing that Waaia's batting line up could falter once again, Northerners sent the Bombers into bat after winning the toss, and that decision paid off massively.

Jordan Cleeland and Greg Meyland were out with just eight runs on the board, and it got worse as the innings carried on.

Mitch Cleeland and Sean Carey got their side to 2/36 before Cleeland was caught out for 21 and Waaia could only get to 3/55 before another wicket fell. Carey was out, caught for 11, but the most painful passage of play for the Bombers awaited them.

Captain Brayden Carey and Connor Brown got Waaia to 4/74 but when Brown was bowled for 14, it triggered a massive collapse.

Waaia lost 6/11 to be all out for a paltry 85.

All six of Northerners bowlers picked up a wicket, with the chief destroyer being Ryan Sidebottom who finished on 4/12 from eight overs.

Northerners prepared itself to bat, knowing that 41 overs remained in the day's play, it was a chance to set up a big lead heading into the second day.

Connor Brown kept his head up and found an early breakthrough, but the celebrations would prove to be few and far between.

A huge 101-run partnership berated Waaia into submission, the first innings points were won, but Northerners knew there was more work to be done.

At 1/138, Waaia needed to do something to halt the momentum piled against it, and that came via Greg Meyland's bowling.

The wicket gave the Bombers a chance to showcase their resiliency in the field. Jordan Cleeland picked up two quick wickets to see the score sit at 4/178, while Jesse Trower chimed in to make Northerners 5/191 over night.



Struggles continue ... Mitch Cleeland may have top scored for Waaia, but his side was outplayed on Saturday.

Another outright on the cards

NUMURKAH is 76 runs in front after paceman Tim Arnel backed up his historic 10-wicket performance last week with a five-wicket haul, helping to leave Old Students all out for 73. The visitors lasted just 37.2 overs, but the short amount of time it was in the middle saw its top-order dominated by a rampant Arnel.

Arnel took four of the first five wickets, with Matt Cline taking the other, to leave Old Students languishing at 5/29.

The Students didn't have any answers for the Blues' bowling lineup, which saw the likes of Arnel, Cline, Michael Eckard and Shaun Downie completely decimate their batsmen.

Only one batsman, Gino Saracino with 24, managed to reach double-digits as the side was bundled all out, losing 5/20 to close out the innings.

The pick of the bowlers was definitely Arnel, whose 5/25 from 14 overs was brilliantly backed up by Eckard's 2/11 from nine and Cline's 1/14 off seven. With the work with the ball done for the day, Numurkah openers Dylan Grandell and Josh Smith took guard, but Grandell went cheaply for 10 with just 16 runs on the board.

Smith was joined in the middle by Will Arnel and the pair got the Blues through to 1/51 before Arnel was ousted from the crease for 26.

Though wickets continued to fall fairly regularly, Numurkah kept the run rate at a healthy level and charged

towards an important lead. Smith scored 22 before he was forced to leave new partner Shaun Downie behind, but he and new batsman Michael Eckard managed to produce a profitable partnership of 41 runs before a run out saw Downie leave the middle for 41.

At 4/120, captain Liam Gledhill set about pushing towards the end of the day's play, and even upon losing Eckard for 31, the scoreboard read 5/132 and gave comfort for the Blues.

Gledhill and new batsman Kody Jackson held out until the end of the 42nd over where play came to a close, Numurkah 79 runs ahead on 5/149.

The day couldn't have gone much better for either Numurkah or captain Liam Gledhill, whose bowling attack did all it could to give the Blues a massive advantage halfway through the day.

"We're very pleased," said Gledhill, "We're in a position to push for maximum points and we're going to push for an outright win. We're not entirely sure how we'll go about that, but we'll push hard for the 10 points."

Of the bowling attack that did so well, Tim Arnel has been the standout, with record breaking, headline grabbing performances that have seen him pick up 16 wickets in less than two games, and though Gledhill was glowing in his review of the paceman, the importance of the bowling attack as a team couldn't be understated.



Bowling right along ...

Matt Cline was one of Numurkah's bowlers to work hard on Saturday and keep their opposition to a low score.

"The wicket on Saturday wasn't really conducive to fast bowling, he had to really bend his back to take those five wickets and I'm really pleased with him, he's bowling well."

"Matty Cline bowled really well after coming back from injury. He took one, and obviously Eckard and Down-

ie bowled really economically to support Timmy from the other end.

"It wasn't just the Timmy show, it was definitely a team effort and we caught and fielded really well."

Looking ahead to this week, it will be interesting to see how Numurkah will formulate a plan to grab the outright

win, but one thing that is almost certain, is that Old Students will need to field for a little while longer.

"We'll see how many runs we want to be in front, we haven't really decided just yet, but I dare say we will bat again and have a crack at it."

Play resumes this Saturday at 1pm.

NumurkahLEADER

Sports

A LOCALLY owned pacer has brought the local harness racing scene into the national spotlight, becoming officially ranked as the number one two-year-old in Australia.

The Tiger Army, owned by a group headed by Katunga identities Shaun Kelly and Peter Lawlor, won the prestigious Leeton Breeders Plate to move into the number one spot last Tuesday night.

The win was lauded by trackside aficionados as the most phenomenal win in the 65 year history of Leeton's major classic on their racing calendar, after losing 70 metres in an altercation at the first bend.

The Tiger Army has an unblemished record of four wins from as many starts and is destined to take on Australia's lucrative two-year-old classics in coming months.

The family-owned group of horses have emerged as a major force in harness racing, with a promising stable of two and three-year-olds.

A generation ago harness racing in Numurkah revolved around the Baker family and the staged events at the annual Numurkah Show.

Trained by Laura Crossland and David Moran, the ownership group are rekindling the spirit that once existed on the trotting track that encircled Numurkah's premium sporting arena many decades ago.



Tiger Army's army ... The Tiger Army surrounded by connections at Leeton last Tuesday night

THE TIGER ARMY'S SPOTLIGHT ON NUMURKAH

Purples' busy weekend all for naught

NATHALIA'S first weekend of February was one to forget after premier division rival Barooga claimed the points by a comfortable 141-run margin at Barooga Recreation Reserve.

The two-day game, played over both Saturday and Sunday, started with the home side winning the toss and electing to bat, but Nathalia was the first to make an early impact.

Brayden Summerville struck with just four runs on the board to give the Purples a bit of bounce in the field in the opening stage of proceedings, but Barooga forced play back onto its own terms with a couple of steady partnerships.

Barooga's Trent Batchelor took the

reins in the middle and, alongside Kale Watkins, got the Hawks to 1/40 before Watkins was caught off Brodie Ross' bowling for four.

Nathalia kept itself in the game and refused to allow Barooga avenues to running away with the tie. Adam Jorgensen bowled six well delivered overs, and garnered respectable figures of 1/14 when he saw Riley Gow caught out for just 10.

As the day progressed, Nathalia's bowling stocks kept Barooga in control, refusing to let the score quickly balloon, and that pressure saw a flurry of wickets fall with the score at 3/121.

Brodie Ross struck twice in quick succession to open the door for

Scott Morris to claim his only wicket for the game to see the Hawks sit at 6/137.

Shortly after, Ross claimed a third wicket to give his side a lot of momentum with the score at 7/157. When Nathalia's Luke Quinn made it 8/160, the game was teetering between either side, waiting for a decisive impact to be made and, unfortunately for the Purples, it was Barooga that delivered a telling blow.

Justin Maley and Matt Dimble combined for an important 56-run ninth-wicket partnership passing the 200-mark in the process.

Brodie Ross claimed a fourth wicket to end the partnership and cap off a tremendous personal day with the

ball that saw him walk away with figures of 4/47 from 25 overs.

Despite Ross's performance, it wasn't enough to stop Barooga from posting an imposing score of 9/225 by the end of the day's play.

Nathalia's turn in the middle the following day, though, was far from ideal. Harrison Hawks fell for just nine, and the wickets continued to fall with worrying regularity.

The visitors went from 1/19 to 6/51, seeing off the first six batsmen, only opener Scott Morris reaching double-figures.

Clay Stevens and Adam Jorgensen bucked the trend and made 18 and 10 respectively before falling, and at 8/84, the writing on the wall was

clear and underlined. The Purples lost their final two wickets without being able to add to the tally, all out for 84 from just 52 overs. Barooga returned to the crease to bat the remaining overs out, finishing the 28th over of its second innings 2/70, both wickets attributed to Luke Quinn.

The disappointing loss sees Nathalia remain outside of the top four on 51.73 points, 9.93 points behind the side that damned it to its fifth loss of the season, Barooga.

The Purples will hope to make amends against bottom placed Tocumwal, with the first day's play being this Saturday at Tocumwal Recreation Reserve.

NumurkahLEADER

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Nathalia wins local derby



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Kats into T20 final