

established 1895

Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

\$1.30

INSIDE



Generous donation

See story page 12



Missing Mrs P.

See story page 7



Crosses for Palm Sunday

See story page 14



Susan captivates

ROTARY Club of Numurkah's 2019 Business Breakfast was a huge success last Friday, as guest speaker Susan Alberti kept the 210 guests captivated with her inspirational life story.

Susan, who is the only Victorian woman to be a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), and a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC), shared her story

from the humble beginnings of her childhood in Bairnsdale, to owner of a major construction company and respected philanthropist.

Along the way, Susan has had to overcome personal tragedy, losing her first husband in an accident, and her daughter to complications from type one diabetes, as well as suffering her own health battles.

At each turn, Susan forged ahead, using tragedy to fuel her determination to make a difference.

A major focus of Susan's speech was her lifelong passion for Australian Rules Football, which she loved playing as a child, but had to stop aged 15 as there were no dedicated girls teams and she was not allowed to play alongside the boys past that point.

Continued page 3

CELEBRITY CHEF SERIES

Channel 10 chef Andre de Laine will headline the 3rd instalment of the **shamrockhotel's** celebrity chef series. A regular on 10's The Circle, Andre is promising to prepare a delicious 5-course fine dining feast for the hugely popular event.

EVENT:
WHERE:
WHEN:
START:
COST:
INFO:

Celeb chef series
Shamrock Hotel
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6pm
\$100
For more information
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T 16/4	V. Bunny	M. Mandersloot G. Russell	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
W 17/4	P. & D. Heard	F. Booth	R. & G. Chessells
T 18/4	M. Caccianiga	Church of Christ	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
F 19/4	J. Brandreth	C. Boldt	J. Hansen K. Hepworth

Coordinator - MHA Care Phone 5742 1111

**GRAINCORP COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT EVENT**



Your questions and feedback matter to us, and it is with this intent we would welcome your attendance to our event.

VENUE

Numurkah Senior Citizens Club

DATE

Wednesday 10th April

TIME

5.30pm to 7pm

Refreshments will be provided.
We look forward to seeing you there!



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Well equipped ... Lighting equipment and plant cuttings taken from the house

Major cannabis operation found at Katunga

POLICE have discovered a sophisticated hydroponic cannabis operation on a disused dairy farm at Katunga.

Police officers attended the property at Gunns Lane, off Spences Road, on Sunday, following a tip-off from a member of the public.

A search of the property revealed up to 500 cannabis plants being grown under lights, with electrical bypass, with large scale electrical supply to all the rooms in the shed and house at the property.

Another shed, although empty, appeared to be being prepared to grow further plants.

When police arrived at the address, a male of Asian appearance fled the scene.

Police believe that the man was a 'minder' at the site, and the operation was being run from Melbourne.

Small quantities of Australian, US and Vietnamese currency, along with food packaging with labelling in Vietnamese, were found in the house.

Chickens, geese, goats and horses were present on the property close to the house, which presented something of a challenge as the crop was removed and laid out for counting, as police were required to keep curious geese away from the plants.

Uniformed police from Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram, along with crime scene officers from Wangaratta and police botanists from Melbourne, were at the property on Monday to commence clearing of the plants and equipment.

Sergeant Bruce Rigoni from Nathalia told the *Leader* that it was a large scale operation.

"It is a sophisticated and well maintained set-up," he said.

Although the plants, which ranged from seedlings to mature plants, would likely have a street value of up to \$1 million, police botanists said that it would be impossible to provide a clearer estimate until further analysis has been conducted.

Police enquiries are ongoing.

POLICE BEAT



Passport stolen

A PASSPORT and purse were stolen from an unlocked vehicle on Murray Ave, Numurkah on Tuesday, April 2.

With six fatalities on northern Victorian roads in the past week, police are planning a highly visible presence on local roads over the coming Easter holidays, through Operation Nexus.

The major focus of the operation will be on speed, fatigue, impaired driving, distraction offences and seatbelt compliance.

The aim, in addition to detecting offences, is to provide a highly visible and mobile police presence to reinforce positive driving behaviours and lessen the incidence of road trauma.

Noise campaign against corellas to start this week

LOCAL efforts to control Numurkah's destructive corella flock are due to start this week.

Andrew Henderson, President of the Numurkah showgrounds committee of management, told the *Leader* that, on behalf of the committee, he had been issued with a permit to control the birds at the site by means of a scare gun.

Scare guns work to deter corellas from frequenting an area by creating a loud noise that scares them away, and Mr Henderson said the committee wanted to let residents near the showgrounds know that they would begin using the gun late this week.

"We will be using the gun in the mornings

just after sunrise, and in the evenings around sunset, because that is when the birds congregate there and do all the damage," he said.

"We want to let residents know in advance, so they don't get too much of a fright when we start."

"Hopefully, we won't need to do it for too long and the birds will get the message and start staying away, and then locals won't have to put up with the noise and mess of the birds either."

The community committee formed to create a strategy to confront the corella problem following the recent public meeting is due to hold its first meeting tomorrow night.

Fish stocks thriving in Broken system

NATIVE fish, including threatened silver perch, are thriving in the Broken River despite the lower flows.

Goulburn Broken CMA's Simon Casanelia said Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) ecologists recently monitored the Broken River and parts of the Broken Creek and reported that fish appeared to be in good condition, even though flows were low due to the ongoing hot dry conditions.

"Local anglers tell us that the Broken River is great for Murray cod,

and ARI staff confirmed that, with good numbers of Murray cod of all sizes - from 40mm to 970mm - recorded," Mr Casanelia said.

"Having this size range is good news for future breeding. An increased number of juvenile golden perch and Murray River rainbow fish were also recorded."

Silver perch were captured, tagged and released downstream of Gowangardie Weir.

"These silver perch moved into the Broken system as a result of co-ordinated deliveries of water for the environment along the Murray,

Goulburn and Campaspe rivers in 2017," Mr Casanelia said.

"It's great to see they've stayed in our local rivers and creeks and are now building up numbers."

Water quality has also improved since Lake Mokoan was decommissioned, as there has been significant reduction in turbidity (murky, cloudy water) and nutrients entering the river.

The monitoring is being done as part of Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP), which aims to assess the response of native

fish and vegetation to water for the environment. This information is then used to improve management of future environmental flows.

Last April, for the first time, water for the environment was delivered along the Broken River with the aim of improving habitat for native fish, aquatic plants and water bugs. Subject to water availability another environmental flow could go ahead this autumn.

For more information about the VEFMAP, visit www.ari.vic.gov.au.



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Happy hosts and guest ... Kate Hodge, Susan Alberti, Stephen Mills and Lou Hamon all felt this year's business breakfast was a great success.

Susan keeps them captivated at business breakfast

Continued from front page

Again, Susan used her own disappointment as fuel to champion the formation of a women's football league and is now patron of the AFLW.

Susan urged the audience to be passionate about what they believe in.

"Passionate people get things done," she said.

Susan spoke about the importance of volunteerism, and reflected on the fact that the spirit of volunteerism runs through the heart of most football clubs.

"Ask yourself what you can do to help others, and volunteer to make their lives better."

Susan told the *Leader* that she is always pleased to be able to speak in regional areas.

"I'm a country girl myself, so I love to visit country towns and meet people. Country towns and country people have so much to offer."

"This is a beautiful part of Victoria and I have

been happy to be able to come and spend some time here."

All proceeds from the event were donated to the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Numurkah was thrilled with Susan's presentation, which was very much in the vein of previous inspirational business breakfast speakers.

Past president Kate Hodge, who was instrumental in arranging for Susan to speak at the breakfast, said that Susan's visit was everything the club had hoped for and more.

"Her story is so inspirational, and she tells it so well. She is also just a really lovely, down-to-earth person and so generous with her time and energy," Ms Hodge said.

"It is great that we can get such impressive speakers to little old Numurkah."



Inspirational ... Susan's story of overcoming hardship proved popular with the audience.

New fact check service for election campaign claims

WITH a federal election on the horizon, Australians now have access to a new free service that allows them to check claims made by politicians.

From today, Australian Associated Press is ramping up its free verification service, AAP FactCheck, to subject political parties of all persuasions to a higher degree of scrutiny.

AAP FactCheck, previously known as AAP CrossCheck, scrutinises statements made by public and political figures to determine the accuracy of their claims and quickly combat misinformation.

After a successful pilot program during the

NSW election campaign, AAP FactCheck will expand its operations in an effort to give all Australian voters greater confidence in the claims being made on the hustings.

The thorough, rigorous and independent methodology employed during the NSW trial resulted in AAP FactCheck being recommended for certification with the Poynter Institute's International Fact Checking Network (IFCN).

The IFCN sets the benchmark for all organisations undertaking verification work, and monitors their ongoing compliance to ensure a reliably high standard of work.

AAP FactCheck's mission is to verify content

within the same news cycle, making it as relevant as possible to both media and the public.

Headlines on the site at the moment that have been subjected to fact checking include: Is there more funding in the federal budget for a Queensland ring road than for climate change?; and Does the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party (SFF) want to give guns to 10-year-olds and relax the national firearms agreement?

Long-time media executive and journalist Louise Evans heads AAP FactCheck's team of experienced journalists based in both Sydney and Brisbane.

The operation is supported by Google News

Initiative but retains full editorial independence. AAP Editor-in-Chief Tony Gillies said that, AAP believes this work has never been more important.

"The work we have been doing, independently testing and verifying public statements, has already received significant traction with Australian media," Mr Gillies said.

"As we move towards the federal election cycle, we have decided to adopt a new name for the service which better reflects and serves our endeavour."

For more information, visit factcheck.aap.com.au or email factcheck@aap.com.au.

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Register online or pick up a booklet at our offices to find out how you can be a part of the Premier's Active April. There are loads of great events across the shire that are free or low cost.

Registration is free, quick and easy – there are some great incentives to register with Active April including receiving a 10 visit pass to the Numurkah Aquatic Centre.

CHAPEL ROAD, KATAMATITE CLOSE TO THROUGH TRAFFIC – HAVE YOUR SAY

We are seeking your feedback on a proposal to close the unsealed section of Chapel Road Katamatite to through traffic by installing bollards at a central point along the unsealed section.

NO THROUGH ROAD

The proposal will only close the road to traffic seeking to travel the entire length of the road.

Vehicle traffic will still be able to access the road from either end and pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders will be able to travel the full length of the road.

To see the full details on this proposal and provide your feedback please visit our website or call council.

All feedback must be received by Tuesday 30 April 2019.

EASTER OFFICE CLOSURE AND ANZAC DAY



Council operations will close over the Easter break on the public holidays of Good Friday 19 April and Easter Monday 22 April, and again on Anzac Day Thursday 25 April.

Please call our after-hours phone line on 5871 9222 if you have any issues during this time.

In an emergency always dial 000.

It will be business as usual all other days.

PET REGISTRATIONS DUE TODAY



Your pet registration is due TODAY - Wednesday April 10.

If you have misplaced your renewal notice, please call council.

If your pet is deceased or no longer lives with you, please use the form to confirm this information to us in writing.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 APRIL



The next ordinary meeting of council will be held Wednesday 17 April beginning at 5pm at the Cobram Civic Centre.

All meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



Our Facebook page provides updates and information about Council and the many services and activities we provide across the Moira Shire. **Join us today.**

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Coming along nicely ...

Jenna Simpson and Nicole Wells are thrilled with the garden's progress.

Community turning nightmare back yard into a green dream

by Freyja Mutimer and Dominique Cosgriff

THE Numurkah community centre is working together with locals to create their very own community garden.

Nicole Wells and Jenna Simpson are two of the many working with this project.

They say that their aim is to make a space where people can come and go, feel safe, and learn how to grow, and use, plants in the kitchen.

"We really want this to be a space that benefits everybody," Ms Simpson said.

The garden will be working in a biodynamic system, meaning that the garden will generate fertility through composting, cover cropping, and crop rotation.

Seeka Orchards at Bunbartha donated wooden crates for garden beds, and the community centre has purchased truck tyre rims from Nathalia men's shed as additional garden beds.

They have so far planted sunflowers, beans, and kale.

Ms Simpson said the kale, though edible, was actually planted for its natural pesticide properties, so they don't have to use chemicals.

"We want the garden to be as natural as it can be," she said.

However, although the back yard of the Murray Ave community house is now clearly distinguishable as a fledgling vegetable garden, Ms Wells said a lot of work has gone into getting to this point.

"The space we had to work with was a nightmare," she said.

The yard had a blanket of bindiis covering most of the ground, leaving the dirt impossible to work with, and there was also a lot of rubbish that had been dumped, making the clean up process a struggle.

A community working bee held in March, combined with the assistance of certificate of general education for adults students from Numurkah Community Learning Centre, turned the tide however, and the space is well on its way to being a thriving vegetable garden.

Though the community house's current horticulture students are responsible for the planting and growing for now, it is intended that the space become a true community garden for Numurkah residents.

"We really want it to be a shared space where people can come and grow fruits and vegetables for their own families and to share with others," Ms Simpson said.

"We know a lot of people struggle to eat healthily because of the cost, but the effort and expense of starting up their own vege garden is too much."

"Once the community garden is fully established, they will be able to use it, and hopefully it will benefit a lot of people."

They are planning to have the garden finished by early May, and have a fruit swap stall out the front.

This project is partially funded by Moira Shire through the More for Moira initiative.

For more information see the Numurkah Community Learning Centre Facebook page.

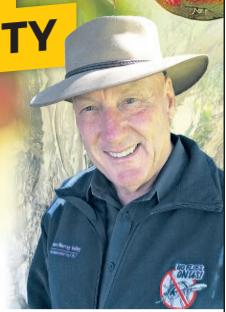


Before ... The garden space was full of bindiis and rubbish



Teamwork ... EPA's Jessica Bandiera, Mayor Libro Mustica and Tyrecycle CEO Jim Fairweather cut the celebration cake

QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY COMMUNITY UPDATE



The importance of post harvest hygiene

Queensland Fruit Fly (QFF) hygiene strategies focus on the collection and destruction of susceptible fruit. Fruit left on trees or vines after harvest and fruit on the ground should be harvested and picked up and destroyed before eggs and larvae that may be in them can mature to the pupa stage. QFF larvae leave these fruit and pupate in the ground as fruit rots away. If this is allowed to happen QFF will be almost impossible to manage as pesticides approved for ground application against pupae are difficult to apply and not always 100 per cent effective. There is no pesticide approved for ground application in home gardens.

Fruit left on trees or the ground after harvest is especially susceptible. Following harvest of most fruit, local QFF populations remain in orchards for a week or two before moving on to another site with ripe or ripening fruit. These QFF are desperate to lay eggs as most host fruit has been removed during harvest. Any fruit left will be a target for infestation.

If this fruit become infested and remains on site, or is not destroyed effectively, QFF that eventually emerge will find evergreen plants to take refuge in over the winter or until the next nearby crop ripens. In Victoria QFF overwinters as adult fly and become next season's QFF populations.

Explosion of populations

If for example, 10,000 fruit were produced from a row of small feijoa trees and active QFF control measures were not undertaken, it is quite possible for over 120,000 mature adult QFF to emerge from this fruit over a month. As feijoas are one of the last fruiting plants before the onset of winter, adult QFF may find refuge in surrounding evergreen foliage and survive winter. With 50 per cent of the QFF population female (60,000 in this example) and given each female may lay up to 2,000 eggs in its lifetime these feijoa-bred flies would cause massive problems in the coming season. The following spring, the number of adult flies on the landscape ready to mate would cause a population explosion.

Destroying infested fruit

It is essential to pick up or remove all fruit that is not wanted and destroy it before larvae can leave the fruit and pupate in the ground. Infested fruit containing eggs and larvae can be destroyed by:

- Maceration of fruit (e.g. garden mulcher)
- Solarise fruit by placing in black plastic bags, seal and leave in sun for a week
- Freeze fruit until solid (about 2 days)
- Microwave fruit for 3 to 5 minutes (depending on quantity)
- Run fruit eating animals to clean up fallen fruit – chickens, ducks and guinea fowl eat fallen fruit and scratch out QFF larvae and pupae from the soil.

For more information on QFF control, collect an information pack from your Council's Customer Service Centre.

Funded by the Victorian Government's Managing Fruit Fly Regional Grants Program



Numurkah celebrates tyre clearance

THE Numurkah community gathered in Newman Square last Thursday evening to celebrate a momentous event - the completion of the clearance of the notorious tyre stockpile.

The event was hosted by Moira Shire Council, and provided free treats for everybody, including a tyre themed bouncy castle, face painting, snow cones, fairy floss and a barbecue.

One of the most talked about attractions was a cake in the shape of a stack of tyres, made by Numurkah Bakery & Café's Les Bannon, which, despite many jokes that it was a bit rubbery, was as delicious as it was visually stunning.

Representatives from all of the agencies involved in the clearance operation were on hand, and speeches commemorating the clearance

were made by Mayor Libro Mustica, Tyrecycle CEO Jim Fairweather, and acting north east region manager for the EPA, Jessica Bandiera.

Whilst each speaker acknowledged the efforts of all of the agencies involved, and hailed the clearance as the result of great teamwork between them, Cr Mustica made special mention of O'Loughlins Excavations, Johnno Kerrins and Ken Bickham in particular, for their work loading the tyres on site.

Mr Fairweather noted that it took 44 days and 330 truckloads to remove the 5,500 tonnes of tyres, and that the workload had temporarily converted Tyrecycle's Somerton recycling plant from a 10 hour a day operation to 24 hours a day.

"Throughout the process, the Somerton plant

received weekly inspections by the EPA to ensure that the tyres were being recycled and not just sitting there and creating a hazard at another site," he said.

"I want to ensure everybody that every single tyre from the Numurkah stockpile has now been shredded and re-purposed."

Whilst all of the tyres from the site may have been re-purposed, two of them haven't actually been shredded.

The EPA's Jessica Bandiera presented Cr Mustica with a tyre from the site, mounted with a plaque expressing the EPA's appreciation for the shire's assistance with the clean-up project. A twin of that memento hangs in the EPA's Melbourne offices.



Fun for all the family ... Alex and Wyatt Hendy-Smith enjoy the free fairy floss with sister Chloe Hendy

Memento ... Mayor Libro Mustica and EPA acting north east region manager Jessica Bandiera with a souvenir of the tyre stockpile



After ... The site now.



Before ... A drone photo of the Saxton St West tyre stockpile before clearance began.



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building our future



Many fans ... Back (from left): Bud Stammers, Baz McDonald, Hannah O'Brien, Aiden Hibma, Natalie Hopcroft. Front: Chris McCallum, Mrs P, Scott McKenzie.

Katunga Primary School says goodbye to Mrs P

WHEN school resumes at Katunga Primary School next term, there will be one face missing. For the first time in 31 years, prep teacher Lidija Patching - universally known as Mrs P - will not be there to add her special brand of magic, having retired last Friday.

It was an emotional day for Mrs P, as past students, principals, parents and grandparents arrived at the school to bid her farewell.

Bill Stammers, whose children and grandchildren had been taught by Mrs P, told the *Leader* that the whole school community was sad to see her go.

"The whole community loves her - not just the school community but the whole Katunga community," he said.

"My kids were here when she first started and

you couldn't get a better teacher for kids. She's just a joy to be around. It won't be the same without her."

One of those kids is Mr Stammers' son Bud, who is now school council president, and whose children now attend the school, which he agreed won't be the same without her.

"She is this great, warm, funny, matter-of-fact personality and was always such a solid presence here. Katunga's really going to miss her," he said.

Former Katunga PS principals Scott McKenzie and Chris McCallum attended the celebration for the teacher they said had always been a great selling point for the school.

"Her professionalism and nature with the kids has always been excellent, and she was the perfect entry point to school for prep students," Mr

Mckenzie said.

Mr McCallum agreed, saying that Mrs P had always been someone who could be relied upon as an excellent teacher across all grade levels.

Current principal Natalie Hopcroft, said that it had made her entry to the school easier, knowing that such an experienced teacher was at the helm in the prep area.

"She is an exceptional operator who has a great rapport with the little ones and is very focussed on the three Rs, and we are definitely going to miss her," she said.

For her part, an emotional Mrs P told the *Leader* that she has enjoyed her years at Katunga immensely.

"In a small school, you really get to know the parents and kids, and I've loved that," she said.

"Being here so long, I've been with some families for generations, teaching kids and then teaching their kids years later. It's been wonderful."

However, despite the accolades and great outpouring of love and admiration from the community, Mrs P was reluctant to take too much credit.

"I've had wonderful colleagues here, and been blessed with great bosses. It would be a hard job if you didn't have the support of good colleagues and families, but the whole community here has made it easy," she said.

"I've enjoyed being the starting point for the kids and seeing their progress. It's always given me a buzz, and I'm going to miss it."

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Artists in residence, Liz Walker and Avis Gardner will work with participants to create a collaborative community artwork using clay and foraged natural materials. The work will take the

form of a 'three-dimensional map'. All work created in the workshops will contribute to an evolving exhibition in the front gallery and participants will be invited to celebrate at the opening and can collect their individual contributions after the exhibition finishes. In this workshop, the artists will also give some insight into their careers and arts practices.

Saturday 13th April, 10am – 4pm
Adults \$60 // Students \$40

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Value Life in Nursing Homes

Screening of an internationally acclaimed short film in Numurkah

The message from Monash Professor Dr Joseph Ibrahim is simple and clear. Nursing homes should be places we go to 'live a good life', not places we go to 'die a good death'. Like the rest of us, residents of nursing homes should be able to enjoy the 'stuff of life' pursuing joyful, exciting activities which sometimes involve risk.

Professor Ibrahim is visiting Numurkah for a screening of his short film 'Dignity of Risk'. "Dignity of Risk" has screened at six international film festivals, including the United Nations Association, alongside other strong social justice themed movies. Professor Ibrahim has seen the film make an impact on audiences both young and old.

Join us in the Shamrock Hotel Function Room, this Thursday 11th April at 5:30pm. Canapés from 5pm. A short Question and Answer session with Professor Ibrahim will follow the screening.

REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT

on the Numurkah District Health Service
 Website www.ndhs.org.au or ring: 5862 0555



Dry seasonal conditions support now available

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available through the On-Farm Drought Infrastructure Support Grants Program to eligible farm businesses.

Agriculture Victoria conducts workshops and has advice and information on stock containment areas, pasture management, animal health and welfare and more. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186

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AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Numurkah Leader

NEWSPAPER & COMMERCIAL PRINTERS



Me at work experience ... It was a pleasure to be able to work at the Numurkah Leader for a week.

MY EXPERIENCE

by Freyja Mutimer on work experience

WORK experience is an experience when only having a week of it at your place of choice.

I've had the privilege to do a week of work experience at the Numurkah Leader, which I found extremely beneficial.

I have a massive interest in art, reading and writing, which made me think that journalism is a career that would give me a taste of what it's like to put my creative mind to work.

At school I've chosen art subjects, but I have a massive interest in my English class. Doing reviews and projects on books is my favourite thing to do in general, to me it extends my knowledge on a situation which can become an important skill.

While working here at the Leader, I've discovered how much I enjoy journalism.

It's extremely cool going out and interviewing people about situations or achievements, because you can see how they feel about the subject face to face.

I don't think I can say anything bad about it, the job is pretty fun.

You get to write articles all day and go out and

do interviews/take photos. I reckon the only hard thing about this job is when you are struggling to think of ideas.

I chose to do work experience at the Numurkah Leader with a journalist because of my interest in writing.

I'd usually stick to doing creative writing such as sci-fi fantasy, but from doing work experience at the Leader I've discovered that writing on real situations is really interesting and it has made me more aware of what's happening in the community.

I'm really not entirely sure where or what I want to be when I finish school, but I have an idea it'll be either something to do with art or writing.

I'd say for sure, journalism will be an option for a future career.

I really wish I had more time here for work experience, it was amazing for my benefit. I got taught how to do new things and that will be something I'll carry out with me.

The staff are so nice and helpful, and the amount of work they do to get the paper done every week is truly incredible. I'd like to say thank you to them for letting me tag along for a week to see how they do stuff at the Numurkah Leader.



Welcome surprise ... Felicity Timmis receives her scholarship from Kaye Morgan of Cobram Barooga Soroptimists.

Helping hand for local learner and teacher

A RECENTLY qualified Numurkah early learning worker received a nice surprise recently, when she was awarded a \$250 scholarship by Cobram Barooga Soroptimists.

Felicity Timmis was awarded the scholarship in recognition of her efforts in her studies for a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care at Cobram Community House (CCH), which she completed earlier this year.

Felicity said that she applied for the scholarship at the end of last year, at the suggestion of CCH staff, and then promptly forgot about it.

"I was quite shocked because I never expected to win, so as soon as I applied I forgot all about it," she said.

"So when I get the news it was a very welcome surprise."

CCH manager Sally Bate said the Soroptimists scholarship was a great way of encouraging and supporting women to undertake further educa-

tion and skill development.

"We were delighted that Felicity received the scholarship," Ms Bate said.

"She showed great determination and focus to complete her diploma, and we are incredibly proud of her achievements, as she also should be."

Felicity is now putting her diploma to good use as an employee of Bridie Knight Childcare, and is loving every minute of it.

"I just love being around kids, and I've always been a 'kid magnet', so I think they like being around me to," she said.

"When you work with children you get to see them grow and learn new things, and you get to be part of that as you form a relationship with them, and I find that really rewarding."

As for what Felicity plans to do with the money, that remains to be seen, as she has stashed it safely in the bank for saving."

Illegal dumping costs council heaps

by Freyja Mutimer and Dominique Cosgriff

ILLEGAL rubbish dumping across the Moira Shire is costing the council up to \$76,000 every year.

That is the type of money that could be going towards new roads or footpaths, but the money isn't going towards anything if people keep illegally dumping their rubbish.

The *Leader* received a report last Tuesday of a pile of domestic rubbish dumped by the roadside at Saxon St West.

The farmer who made the report told the *Leader* that it was a sight he saw often on the district's roadsides, and he was sick of it.

"Why can't they just use the tip like everyone else?" he said.

"For the sake of saving a few dollars, they think they can just dump their crap wherever they want. It's selfish and feral."

The farmer told the *Leader* he planned on notifying the council as well, but he hoped that if a photo of the dumped waste was published, it may lead to the waste being recognised and the perpetrators being reported and facing consequences.

Dumping rubbish doesn't only make the community look bad, it brings harm to the wildlife in the area, and can destroy the land it has been dumped on.

General Manager Community Sally Rice said, "This rubbish can threaten wildlife and lead to long term contamination of land, waterways and groundwater, particularly when the rubbish is from an industrial source."

We as a community, need to be aware of this issue and fix it as soon as we can.

"Illegal dumping can range in scale from a single bag of household rubbish to large household items such as televisions, electrical appliances, furniture, mattresses, industrial waste, construction and demolition materials, garden waste, packaging, tyres and even old cars," Ms Rice said.

Illegal dumping isn't taken lightly in the Magistrate's Court, getting caught can cost you up to \$16,000.

The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) Illegal Dumping Strike Force program has shown that around 33,000 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish is cleaned up every year in the Moira Shire.

"The dumping of litter in Moira Shire is an offence and, from time to time, our officers have had to clean rubbish from the side of the road, a public reserve or even on a nature strip," Ms Rice said.

EPA clean up notices are legally enforceable orders to remove dumped waste for proper disposal, and EPA fines start in the thousands of dollars and can go as high as hundreds of thousands if the case goes to court.

The EPA encourages residents to call 5871 9222 if you witness any illegal dumping.



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Letter to the Editor

Irrigators need relief

FIXED water costs must be covered so irrigators in northern Victoria can get back to producing food and fibre, not worrying about how to pay the bills.

Irrigators within the Goulburn Murray irrigation district (GMID) are desperate for bill relief as drought, high water prices and sky-rocketing energy costs put farmers under huge pressure.

Questions I put to the Andrews Government have confirmed concerns that more and more of our irrigators have lost access, or risk losing access, to their water, because they can't afford to pay their bills.

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) has now placed stop supply orders on 587 customers, with 803 moving to monthly instalment plans already this season – up from 301 in 2016-17, and 539 in 2017-18.

Not only is this bad for irrigators, but it also adds to growing concerns about how viable GMW is.

The Nationals have been calling for shire rate relief for farmers under pressure from drought.

In northern Victoria, the State Government must also step in on behalf of irrigators to cover fixed water costs. We believe this is a practical and immediate step the Andrews Government could take to help farmers who are already struggling with the huge cost of water.

Without urgent support, more of our farms are going to disappear.

Steph Ryan
Deputy Leader of The Nationals
Shadow Minister for Water
Member for Euroa

Women inspired to get moving

RECORDS were smashed as over 53,000 fans filled the Adelaide Oval stands to watch the third AFLW Grand Final, proving that women's sport can no longer be sidelined.

It's fantastic to see growing momentum and desire for women's sport and, critically, the demand for female athletes to be respected in the public eye.

The reaction to the now iconic photo of AFLW superstar Tayla Harris is evidence of how the public is sick and tired of the backlash, negativity and vile sexism women face when they are physically active.

VicHealth understands that women shouldn't have to face abuse, shaming, cat-calling and heckling when they choose to get active – whether that's playing AFLW or going

for a walk around the block.

It's why we hosted our first ever This Girl Can Week across Victoria from 18-24 March, a week where women across the state could say 'this week I can', free from judgement and degrading comments.

Over 370 events took place across the state, ranging from canoeing, squash, pickleball, dragon boating, hiking, netball, bowls or group fitness, showing that Victorian women well and truly 'can' do it.

Importantly, the events were inclusive, beginner-friendly and non-judgemental, allowing women to give something new a go or return to an activity in a fun and supportive environment.

We also saw a surge in women sharing their experiences to the #ThisGirlCanVIC community of women, encouraging others to get on board and supporting each other.

If you're feeling inspired and want to get involved with the campaign, head to thisgirlcan.com.au or become part of our This Girl Can – Victoria community by finding us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and follow the #ThisGirlCanVIC.

Lyn Roberts AO
VicHealth Acting CEO
Carlton

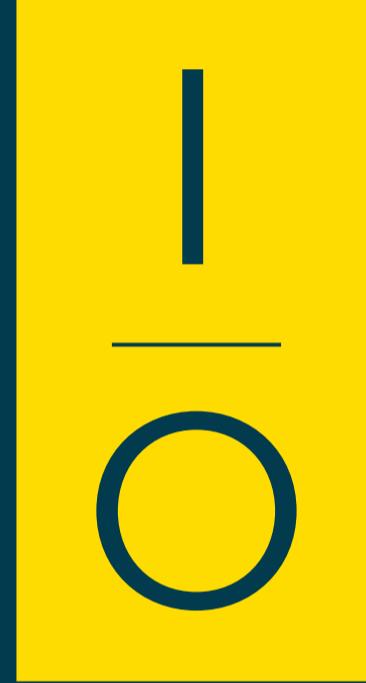
Politicising the GG

MR Shorten recently announced that on becoming prime minister he will appoint a woman as Governor-General when the present incumbent's term expires.

I believe his intentions are obvious:

- (a) to muster the women's vote at the forthcoming election, and,
- (b) after gradually undermining and politicising the position of the appointed Governor-General in the next four years, hold a referendum to create a republic and president on the grounds the constitution is not working properly.

Dick Ashby
Numurkah



MAKE THE CALL ASK YOUR ENERGY COMPANY FOR A BETTER DEAL

As of January 1st, providers have dropped prices on their most expensively priced plans due to pressure from the Government.

But if you really want to save, simply call your energy company and ask them for a better deal.

You could lower your bill by \$600 a year.

Visit our website for tips on calling your energy company.

Food wasted

by Freyja Mutimer on work experience

NEW research from Sustainability Victoria has revealed that a significant number of foods are being wasted in the state's hospitality sector, while also highlighting an appetite from local food service businesses to minimise wastage across the industry.

To help businesses reduce costs and overcome common barriers to minimising waste, Sustainability Victoria has today announced the launch of Love Food Hate Waste business pilot program, a free Victorian Government program designed to provide practical support to Victorian food service businesses to reduce food wastage.

Minister of energy, environment and climate change, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio said the program was an important step towards reducing waste in one of Victoria's most iconic industries.

"We know that our state's hospitality businesses want to minimise food waste to reduce both its financial and environmental impacts.

This accessible, practical program will help them send less waste to landfill and reduce their operating costs," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

As part of the \$500,000 program, businesses will receive simple tools and guidance to identify new ways to prevent food waste.

The program aims to help venues understand where food waste is happening, and offers practical resources, like food waste tracking tools, action plans and online support, to help businesses cut back on food waste.

A separate study, commissioned by Sustainability Victoria, found the state's hospitality community are conscious of the scale of the problem, with more than four in five (85%) businesses surveyed considering food waste to be a significant issue in the Victorian hospitality industry.

In an audit of 195 Victorian hospitality businesses, venues produced an average of 5.6 tonnes of food waste every year.

Of this 5.6 tonnes, approximately 54% of the food waste could have been prevented, amounting in three tonnes per business per year.



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PoweringForward.energy.gov.au

Plans to refresh the Lodge well underway

by Freyja Mutimer

THE first stage of planning for redeveloping the Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge is currently under way.

Numurkah District Health Service CEO, Jacque Phillips, said NDHS was delighted to release the tenders for the Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge master planning and feasibility study.

The next step involves selecting the most appropriate site and structure for the redevelopment.

The site investigation will consider the existing site or another part of land within the Numurkah District Health Service premises.

Once this is completed, the detailed design phase will take place, followed by the tendering of works and construction.

"Numurkah District Health Service has made a commitment to fund the feasibility study and will use reserves to fund the capital project.

"This commitment will remain in place, regardless of whether Numurkah District Health Service remains a separate organisation, or becomes an amalgamated entity with Nathalia and Cobram," Ms Phillips said.

"We are proud to be funding this major project that will benefit many in our community for years to come," she said.



Looking forward to a singalong ... John Sinclair, Caitrin Harrison, Ron Martin, Tony Valasinaivicius, Duncan McPherson, Rose Moss, Carol Lugg, Barb Sinclair, Eachan Harrison and Peter Moss are ready to karaoke

Karaoke fun with a twist in town this weekend

THE committees of two of Numurkah's most prominent event groups have joined forces for a unique fundraiser that promises to be a hoot and a half.

This Saturday night, Movies at Numurkah and Numurkah Food-bowl Festival committees are taking over the town hall to host an event like no other ever seen in town - karaoke choir.

The unique idea is exactly what it sounds like - an impromptu, one-night-only choir singing a well-known, iconic rock song in three part harmony, karaoke style.

Movies at Numurkah's Barb Sinclair said that joining the two committees for a fundraiser meant that

they could do something fun and interesting on a larger scale.

"Everybody loves music and sometimes finds themselves singing along to a catchy song, so we thought we'd get people together and do that in a group in a light-hearted way," she said.

"It's not about being a great, or even good, singer, it's just about having fun with other people who love music and want to have fun."

The evening will start at 7pm for a 7.30 start, kicking off with a bit of music trivia to get people's musical juices flowing. Following that will be a few games, with prizes including money and movie memberships.

Then, to warm up the vocal chords and shake off the stage-fright, there will be a karaoke style singalong before the main event.

Choir master Michelle Davis will reveal the song of the evening - which will remain a mystery until then, but is one everybody is bound to know - and teach the choir to sing it in three part harmony.

Once everybody is in fine voice and sounding awesome together, it's time to pump up the volume, and put the town hall's new sound system to the test.

Movies at Numurkah's president Eachan Harrison said that the new sound system has already proved itself a huge asset for movie screen-

ings, and the committee is keen to see what it can do with a choir.

"Who knows, we might even get a noise complaint - but not because the singing is bad, just because it's so loud and clear," he said.

The final note is expected to be sung at around 10.30, but any musicians who are planning to attend are welcome to bring their instruments and hang around for a jam session.

Tea and coffee will be provided, but attendees are welcome to BYO everything else.

Tickets are \$10 each and available from McPhersons Menswear, or at the door.



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Taste of Numurkah

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64 Meiklejohn St. 10am to 4pm
David & staff suggest you try his delicious house made gourmet doughnuts.

Name..... Ph.....



74 Melville St. 10am to 5pm
A tempting mini sweet tasting plate is on offer.
Kate & her staff will make you welcome.

Name..... Ph.....

FOODWORKS Supermarket

87 Melville St. 10am to 4pm
Discover the taste of delicious, delicatessen made mini zucchini quiche.

Name..... Ph.....

the Bottle-O

91 Melville St. Numurkah
Brad & Don invite you to a quick snack of cheese & biscuits, and sample savoury snacks sold in store.

Name..... Ph.....



It's fun country

77-79 Melville St.

Tracey & baker Les offer free yummy mini hot cross buns
Lucky coupon prize One dozen large hot cross buns

Name..... Ph.....



Bakery Cafe

77-79 Melville St.

77-79 Melville St.

Name..... Ph.....

NUMURKAH CAFE BAR & RESTAURANT

122-124 Melville St. 10am to 6pm
Try a sample of Janeeth & Uma's Asian food.
Also delicious samples of their pizzas & kebabs.

Name..... Ph.....



Numurkah Hotel

58 Melville St.

Try the taste of Chef Denny's treats.
From 11am to 8 pm in the lounge.

Name..... Ph.....



126 Melville St.

Discover Nutella Pizza, great with fruit
for a snack or sweet.
Taste 11 am - 5:30pm - 8pm

Name..... Ph.....

shamrock hotel & FUNCTION CENTRE

5-13 Melville St. 11am to 2pm
Decadent house made mini cheese cakes
produced by the kitchen.

Name..... Ph.....



52A Melville St. 10am to 3pm

Adam & staff invite you to try taste sensations
Mango Lassi shots, Golgappa - fried pastry in sweet & sour liquid.

Paneer pakora - Indian cheese in chick pea batter.

Name..... Ph.....

RED CHERRY CAFE

38 Melville St
Sample Sam's yummy potato wedges,
Served with chilly sauce & sour cream.
11 am to 12.30pm

Name..... Ph.....



16 Melville St. Numurkah
Discover our prize winning kabana & hams.
Made on the premises with unique flavours
developed by our team of butchers.

Name..... Ph.....



81-83 Melville St 12noon to 2pm
Chef's surprise...
Call in & see what's on offer

Name..... Ph.....

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 issue of April 9, 1919 is missing from the Trove website, so I have included here an article taken from the previous week's issue, April 2.

NUMURKAH GIRL IN INDIA. SISTER DEVINE WRITES HOME.

Sister Agnes Devine, of the Military Hospital Devlali, India, in a letter to her father, (Mr. James Devine, Numurkah) describes a trip which she and another sister had just taken to the Himalaya Mountains, Delhi, Agra and Simla:—"Another sister and I had a month's leave and we decided to visit Delhi, Agra and Simla. We commenced our train journey on 9th December, and spent two days in the train, travelling day and night. The train accommodation in India is rather good; of course, we always travel first-class on concession rates, which means just about half the amount of a first class ticket. Sleeping berths are provided, electric light and fan, and, of course, a dining car. The last 60 miles of our journey was really a wonderful railway. We went to Simla first; went through over a hundred tunnels. They were numbered, and as our train kept climbing higher and higher up, the wind got freezing cold. Simla is over 7000 feet above sea level. Here you see nature in all its rugged grandeur. The beautiful snow-capped Himalayas—some of the finest scenery I have ever seen. We stayed at the Cecil Hotel (considered the best in India), and it is really a fine place. Of course, we had huge fires, as it was freezing cold, but I enjoyed it. Sir and Lady Brett were there.

One day we went for a drive up Jacka Hill, the highest point in Simla. We rode for a good while, and then when the climb got too steep for the natives to pull us, we walked. The snow was lying feet deep, and at the top of Jacka Hill was the home of the monkeys. They look so much nicer in their wild state, and it was rather comical to see them swinging from branch to branch in the trees. One day we were caught in a snowstorm, which was rather a novelty to me, as you can imagine. I never got tired of looking at the snow-capped Himalayas.

Well, we spent eight days at Simla, and then travelled on to Delhi. It was much warmer there, of course, and the country is flat, but still it is rather a fine place. About five miles away they are building a new Delhi. All the buildings are of pure white, and when it is finished it will be a fine city. Delhi is full of tombs, temples and mosques, and we saw the place where all the women and children were killed at the time of the Indian Mutiny. The fort which we visited contains marble palace where the last kings and queens of Delhi lived. We saw the robes and jewels of the last queen, and also many wonderful and interesting things. We visited the ivory palace, and saw the natives at work carving the ivory. I bought one little piece: it cost me 10 rupees. The gardens were very nice. There is a monument there to John Nicholson, who was killed at the time of the mutiny. We met several sisters at Delhi, who came out with us on the Canberra.

After spending a very enjoyable time at Delhi we travelled on to Agra. It, too, is very historical and the fort there is even better than at Delhi. We went through it. On New Year's Day a party of us motored to Fatepur Sikra, a distance of 25 miles. It was well worth seeing. But, of course, the chief sight in Agra is the Taj Mahal. It is one of the seven wonders of the world; built 400 years ago by Emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his wife. Their tombs are both inside. It is built of solid white marble, and is in parts inlaid with precious stones. Inside the tomb there is a beautiful lamp, presented by Lord Curzon. The Taj Mahal cost three million pounds without the labor, and took seventeen years to build. There it stands in all its snowy whiteness, surrounded by beautiful gardens with fountains playing in front and a river at the back, the most beautiful thing I have ever seen. To see it in the evening it really looks like a dream building, and one is afraid it might vanish away. It had a fascination for me, and I went to see it about seven times, and was not tired of it then.

Well we are back at work again now in the hospital, where I suppose we will be for a few months, and then to dear old Australia and home.



Heart of the community ... Rijin Thomas, Abbyson, Caitlin Elder, Robyn Fennell, Sarah Looby, Arthur Fennell, Betty Heard, Brian Heard and Margaret McLelland admire NDHS' new ECG machine.

Donation full of heart for NDHS

A RECENT donation to Numurkah District Health Service (NDHS) has proved, once again, that volunteer groups are the heart of our community.

NDHS has recently purchased a brand new electrocardiogram (ECG) machine, thanks to a generous donation of \$6,000 - which covered half of the machine's cost - from Heartbeat Victoria Inc's Goulburn Valley branch.

Heartbeat is a peer to peer support group for people with heart conditions, and their family and friends.

Since it formed in 1986, the GV branch has donated over \$200,000 towards cardiac and emergency equipment and services for the benefit of people in the Goulburn Valley.

One of the group's founding members, Ian Waser, was from Numurkah, and there have been many members from Numurkah district over the years.

GV Heartbeat secretary Robyn Fennell said that, when the group heard that Numurkah needed a new ECG machine, it made perfect sense for them to chip in.

"We try and direct our donations to where we see a need, and it's important that Numurkah has a functioning ECG machine so that local people don't have to travel to access that service," she said.

ECG machines measure heart rhythm, and look at the heart in various ways to help diagnose a range of heart conditions.

NDHS director of clinical services Wendy Ross said that Heartbeat's donation towards the new machine was a huge help.

"Our old machine was in need of repair and was getting unreliable due to age," she said.

"Obviously, replacing it was a priority for us, but medical equipment is extremely expensive. To have a group come forward and say 'here, we will cover half of the cost' is just wonderful.

"This new machine will be hugely beneficial to our patients and staff."

GV Heartbeat raises funds through various means throughout the year, including Bunnings barbecues, can collection drives, and participation in the organisation's annual statewide raffle. Direct donations are always welcome.

Locals to shine like superstars

THE original rock opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, is being bought back to the stage by Shepparton Theatre Arts Group (STAG), and two Numurkah locals will be on hand to help give the classic a modern twist.

It will be the third time STAG has presented Jesus Christ Superstar over the years, but this production promises to be very different from its previous interpretations.

The show's director Trish Deacon told the *Leader* that, whilst the company's previous productions of the show were fairly faithful to the original's biblical setting, the setting for this production is much more of our times.

"It's very industrial and grungy looking, which is about bringing the show to audiences in a contemporary setting that they can relate to," she said.

"The show is so well known to audiences, which is what keeps them coming back to see it, but by changing the setting we can perhaps get them to think about the plot slightly differently."

The script, and world famous songs created by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, are timeless and remain unchanged, but with the original production debuting on Broadway in 1971 - almost 50 years ago - there is a solid argument for giving it an updated look.

Cassandra Willis and Samantha Gierveld, who are both teachers at Numurkah Secondary College, are appearing in the production, and agree that audiences will be impressed by the set and staging.

"It's a really interesting and interactive set, and we are really looking forward to acting in it and seeing audiences reactions," Ms Willis said.

Although this is the first STAG production for both of them, Ms Willis and Ms Gierveld are both long-time fans of, and participants in, musical theatre, and are also both huge Jesus Christ Superstar fans.

"I was really excited when I heard they were do-



Superstars ... Samantha Gierveld and Cassandra Willis are having a ball working on a production they both love.

ing Jesus Christ Superstar, because it is one of my favourites and I love the music, so I knew I had to audition," Ms Gierveld said.

Both women are also excited by the chance to play multiple roles in the production, and agree that, whilst it is a challenge to play completely different characters within one play, it is a fun one.

"I play six different roles ranging from an angel to a prostitute, so you have to think about how to inhabit each character, and remind yourself of that," Ms Willis said.

"So I'll think 'I need to be angelic now, or I need to be sleazy now' and perform accordingly."

Ms Gierveld portrays a slightly less hectic three characters, but hers also have vastly different motivations.

"I play an apostle for most of my time on stage, so in that character I'm very supportive of Jesus and quite in thrall of him," she said.

"But I also play a member of a mob calling for Jesus' crucifixion, so I need to be able to demon-

strate that mindset too."

Cast and crew have been rehearsing since February, and Ms Deacon said it is progressing very well.

"The songs and choreography have all been learned, so it's just a matter of perfecting them now and of all the performers really developing the nuances of each character."

It might sound like a big ask, but Ms Willis is adamant that it is fun, and that the performers are well supported in their endeavours.

"There is a huge team working on it together - the cast are just the ones that audiences see on the night," she said.

"There is a huge ensemble of talented people, with so many different jobs, working together to create something that's going to be really wonderful, and I can't wait for people to see it."

STAG will be performing Jesus Christ Superstar from Thursday, May 2 to Sunday, May 5. Tickets are available from Riverlinks.

U can do something new



Teamwork ... Adam and Les Addison keeping the beat of community connection alive.



Happy reading ... Freyja Mutimer, Helena Cornelia and Sam Spinks are ready to share their love of reading.

NUMURKAH locals looking to get out of the house and do something new now have the chance to do just that with three new activity programs kicking off in town.

A new program called UCAN - which stands for Unlimited Choice of Activities Now - aims to tackle social isolation by offering diverse activities to cater for a range of different tastes.

In the past week, Numurkah senior citizens centre has hosted the first sessions of a new monthly book club, and drumbeats - a djembe drumming program which will run for eight weeks.

A weekly dancing program will begin in May.

Sam Spinks, Primary Care Connect (PCC) health promotion officer who is responsible for UCAN, said that anybody who missed the first session of either program, but would still like to join, is more than welcome.

"We're just getting started, so new participants can definitely still join in without fear of being behind," she said.

UCAN is funded through PCC's gambler's help program, in recognition of the fact that research has shown that social disconnection makes people more susceptible to vulnerable behaviours such as gambling.

Ms Spinks said that reaching people suffering social isolation is challenging, so the program aims to draw them out and engage them with things that interest them.

"It can be hard to reach into the community and find those people. We are hoping that by providing them with interesting options that may appeal to them, and removing barriers such as cost and accessibility, they might come out and join in and make some valuable social connections in their communities.

"It's a preventative program, so we won't be bombarding people with information, but we'll be letting them know information is there if they want it. We are really hoping just to help people build connections and interests, and, through those, skills.

Activities are being run across Moira, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie Shires and the City of Greater Shepparton, with activities for each location being chosen through community surveys.

"We created shortlists according to the survey results, and tailored activities to the communities, bearing in mind what was already being provided."

The first drumbeats session was held on Monday, with a diverse range of participants.

Facilitator Julie Trotter took participants through some basic techniques, encouraging them to put beats together as they saw fit.

Ms Trotter said the program was designed so that anyone can enjoy it.

"Drumming is something quite different for most people, so it might take you out of your comfort zone, but it is actually an easy way to create something and it's very satisfying because of that," she said.

"Music creates moods and atmospheres, and talking about rhythm gives you a chance to reflect on the rhythms of life, and we talk about that a little bit."

"In a group setting like this, you employ teamwork to create a sound and a mood, and everyone gets something out of it individually as well."

Participant Les Addison, aged 79, attended with his son Adam, and said he saw it as a chance to try something different.

"Sometimes it's not until you retire that you realise how much you are missing out on, so now that I have the time, I'm interested in trying new things," he said.

"You might as well try everything you can because you never know what you might really enjoy, and this has been different and fun."

Hamilton snares win in first race of season

BEN Hamilton can clearly remember the moment he fell hook, line and sinker for motor racing. His dad had taken him to Winton to see the V8 Supercars when he was 12, his first experience of live motor racing, and he was a goner.

"Dad and his family were always into cars, and I had watched a lot of it on TV, but being there was next level," he said.

"The smell of the fumes and the rubber, and the sheer pace of it. I knew straight away that's what I wanted out of life."

Fast-forward 11 years, and Ben has just taken first place in the first round of the Victorian Pulsar Racing Series, part of the Australian Pulsar Racing Association circuit, for 2019.

Having finished third overall in last year's championship, Ben went into the latest event, held at Sandown on the first weekend in March, hoping to continue his good form, and maybe score a place - any place - on the podium.

"Over the course of the weekend I scored a first and two thirds across the three races, and that was

enough to take out first place. It was really exciting."

The races are sprints, lasting approximately 30 minutes. Most races are a distance between 30-40 kilometres.

Not bad for a bloke going into just his fourth season, who started late in his first as a complete novice against drivers who had been in the game for a decade.

"It was an uphill battle at the start, with no experience, but I'm really into it now and feeling pretty good about my skill," he said.

"I feel like I can really compete for podium position every round and take top spot at the end of the season if I can get to the races."

It's getting to the races that's the issue.

Motor racing is an expensive hobby, and no matter how skilled you are, if you can't pay the entry fees - which are the major expense - you can't race. As a retail worker, Ben isn't exactly rolling in cash.

Ben, who lives in Numurkah and works in Cobram, is lucky enough to have a few Cobram businesses as loyal sponsors, but unfortunately

it's not enough.

"I've been really lucky with my sponsors, and I'm so grateful to them because I wouldn't have gotten this far without them."

"My employers, Artavilla's Emporium, are a sponsor, along with In Tune Auto, Vurgel Precision Auto, Cobram Hire and Better Home Living. They've been really good to me but it's not quite enough."

"I can't win the season if I don't make it onto the grid for all of the other four races, and I'm not sure I can make that happen unless someone else backs me."

With such a strong start to the season, that would be a shame.

However, Ben won't be saying die any time soon.

"I know I've got the right car underneath me to win if I can get there, and if I can get a little bit more help then I know it's possible.

"I'm definitely not giving up now."

Anyone wishing to follow Ben's progress, or talk to him about sponsorship, can check out his Facebook page benhamiltonracing.



Need for speed ... Ben after winning the first race of the 2019 season.

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ABS releases population stats

THIS year represented the 20th anniversary of Harmony Day, which embraces inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background.

To celebrate this milestone, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has gone through its 2016 census data to put together a statistical snapshot of who we are as a nation.

This is what they found:

Australia's First Peoples

In 2016, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represented 2.8% of the population - up from 2.5% in 2011, and 2.3% in 2006.

Of the 649,200 people who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin in 2016, 91% were of Aboriginal origin, 5.0% were of Torres Strait Islander origin and 4.1% identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

The median age for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is rising. In 1996, the median age was 20. By 2011 this had increased to 21 years, and increased again to 23 years in the five years to 2016. This compares with a median age of 38 for non-indigenous people.

One in 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people reported speaking an Australian indigenous language at home in the 2016 census. Of the 63,800 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who spoke an indigenous language at home, 85% reported speaking English well or very well.

Country of birth

The 2016 census shows that two thirds (67%) of the Australian population were born in Australia. Of the 6,163,667 people born overseas, nearly one in five (18%) had arrived since the start of 2012.

While England (14.7%) and New Zealand (8.4%) were still the next most common countries of birth after Australia, the proportion of those born overseas who were born in China and India has increased since 2011 (from 6.0% to 8.3% and 5.6% to 7.4% respectively).

The next most common countries of birth after England, New Zealand, China and India were the Philippines (3.8%); Vietnam (3.6%); Italy (2.8%); South Africa (2.6%); Malaysia (2.2%) and Scotland (1.9%).

As of 2015, Australia had the ninth largest number of overseas-born people, higher than both Spain (10th) and Italy (11th). While the United States of America had the highest total number of people born overseas (47 million or 14% of their population), Australia had a higher proportion of overseas-born people, at 26%. Australia also had a higher proportion of people born overseas than New Zealand (23%) and Canada (22%).

Our ancestries

Over 300 ancestries - the cultural group that a person most closely identifies with - were identified in the 2016 census. The most commonly reported ancestries were English (36%) and Australian (34%).

These were followed by Irish (11.0%); Scottish (9.3%); Chinese (5.6%); Italian (4.6%); German (4.5%); Indian (2.8%); Greek (1.8%) and Dutch (1.6%).

Languages

In 2016, there were over 300 separately identified languages spoken in Australian homes. More than one-fifth (21%) of Australians spoke a language other than English at home.

After English, Mandarin remained the next most commonly spoken language (2.5% of the total population) followed by Arabic (1.4%) and Vietnamese and Cantonese (both 1.2%).

Religion

In 2016, Christianity was the main religion reported in Australia (52%).

After Christianity, the second largest religion was Islam (2.6%), closely followed by Buddhism (2.4%).

The count of people who reported 'no religion' increased to almost a third of the Australian population between 2011 and 2016 (22% to 30%).



Cottage industry ... Bev and Ian Patrick diligently producing palm crosses at their kitchen table.

Cottage cross industry fills parish coffers

IT'S almost Palm Sunday, and that means one thing for Numurkah and Nathalia Anglican parishioners - it's time to make crosses from palm leaves for the benefit of the parish's bank account.

For the past month, around a dozen dedicated parishioners have been busily creating crosses out of palm leaves, which the parish uses to fill orders from around Australia, as happens every year.

Parish secretary Lou Hamon, who is responsible for the administration and posting, said that this fund raising activity has been happening for around five years, since it was suggested by former rector Kim Benton.

"It's an excellent fundraiser for the parish as there is no outlay for us except our time," he said.

"Generous locals with palm trees donate the fronds, and the parishioners use them to make the crosses."

Lou sends out emails with order forms to the previous year's customers each January, and other customers contact the parish through its website.

"We have a record number of orders this year, with quite a few new groups getting in touch with us, for a total of 9,283 crosses ordered," Lou said.

Orders range in size, with one order for just 38 crosses this year, and two orders for 1,000 crosses, whilst most orders are in the hundreds.

With crosses retailing for 66 cents each, and purchasers paying postage, the parish stands to make over \$6,000 from the enterprise.

Lou confirms that it's a nice little earner for the parish.

"It's a busy few weeks for us, but it is a wonderful fund raiser and does make a big difference to our finances each year."

While Lou is busy counting, packing and

posting the crosses, other parishioners, including Ian and Bev Patrick, are busy making them.

When the *Leader* caught up with the Patricks last Friday, they had already made well over a thousand crosses between them, and were busy producing more.

Ian said that before they start making the crosses, they cut leaves off the fronds and wipe them down to make sure they are clean.

"Then it's fold, fold cut," he said.

Whilst Ian and Bev have slightly different folding methods, and there is slight speculation as to whose method is best - Bev's is quicker, but Ian's produces a tighter cross - they both agree that they are happy when the job is finished for another year.

"You do get a bit sick of it after a while, but it is only a few weeks a year, and it is well worth it for the parish," she said.

Hot chips addictive as drugs?

by Freyja Mutimer

IT'S official, Australia is a nation of hot chip lovers.

Statistic show that 2,316 chips are consumed every second here in Australia, and an average of 3,756 are consumed per person annually, making 73,041,115,000 chips consumed each year in Australia.

That's 10, chips a day or 520 hot chips eaten every week.

With figures like these, it's no surprise that 50% of Aussies admit to snacking on hot chips at least once a week.

The research, commissioned by Birds Eye for the launch of their golden crunch microwave chips, also reveals that we are a picky bunch when it comes to how we enjoy our chips.

It is believed that 52% of people think the perfect chip comes with sauce, 45% of peo-

ple think the ideal chip comes with chicken salt, 34% have eaten chips in a burger, 21% of Aussies crave hot chips while drinking beer, and 15% of Aussies have been guilty of dipping their chips in ice-cream.

Despite the differences, what almost all Australians can agree on is that the crunch factor makes the perfect hot chip, with 91% preferring crunchy over soggy.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE TO CONSTRUCT WORKS (BORE) / TAKE AND USE LICENCE FOR A LICENSABLE PURPOSE

GMW Reference BGW0102-19

We, Rodney and Susan McCracken of 877 Lorenzs Road, Katunga Vic 3640 Refer to Vic Roads Map 33 A2 (ed. 8) intend to make application to Goulburn-Murray Water for a Licence to Construct Works (Bore), and if successful:

• This is our notice to amend our existing Licence to Take and Use Groundwater to include the bore.

• We intend to apply to transfer 500ML of licensed entitlement from an existing licensee/s on a temporary or permanent basis. The application is for one (1) bore to be constructed to a proposed depth of 100-150 metres.

The water will be used for the purpose of Irrigation.

To be constructed and used on lands described as:

Volume 8230 Folio 553 Lot No. 1 Plan No. 862417S Plan Type TP Parish Katunga; Volume 8230 Folio 553 Lot No. 2 Plan No. 862417S Plan Type TP Parish Katunga; Volume 10697 Folio 073 Lot No. 2 Plan No. 502043J Plan Type PS Parish Katunga; Volume 10234 Folio 722 Lot No. 1 Plan No. 336914B Plan Type PS Parish Katunga.

Any person able to demonstrate that their interests will be affected by the issuing of this Licence including any intended groundwater use, is invited to make a written submission (via post, email or fax) setting out the nature of the impact within 14 days of receipt of this written notification. Late submissions will not be considered.

To make a submission, please read the information available to download from www.g-mwater.com.au/customer-services/forms/groundwaterforms refer to No. 4 (or contact GMW to arrange for a copy to be posted to you). Submissions must be lodged in writing using the template available by either mail or email to Customer Support Coordinator, Licensing Administration, PO Box 165, TATURA VIC 3616 or email licensingadmin@gmwater.com.au.

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Community Services Officer - Youth Programming

Location: Cobram, Victoria

Salary: \$38.8675 per hour + 9.5% Superannuation

Maternal and Child Health Nurse

Location: Cobram, Victoria

Salary: \$48.1753 per hour + 9.5% Superannuation

For further information about the above positions, please visit the employment section of Council's website www.moira.vic.gov.au. Please note applicants who do not meet the key selection criteria will not be considered.

Moira Shire Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer offering flexible work arrangements for employees in a family-friendly work place.

Moira promotes a workplace that actively seeks to include, welcome and value the contributions of all people and encourages people with a disability, Aboriginal Australians, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds to apply.

Have your Local Phone Book details changed?



Please let us know before this year's edition so that we can ensure that all the information is correct

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IN MEMORIAM

HOFFMAN — Graeme Robert. 08.12.53 - 12.04.14
5 years have passed. Softly within the shadows

There came a gentle call.
With farewells left unspoken
You quietly left us all.
Where ever we go
What ever we do
We will always love and remember you.

Lyn, Joanne and Ben, Barry and Cheena. Dear Pa Hoff to his grandchildren

GIFFIN — Mark David 6.12.1974 - 7.4.2019 Loved son of Don and Athalie (both dec.). Brother of Pam and Wayne Limbrick, Peter, Sue (dec.) and Trevor Hawking. Much loved Uncle of Dean, Jodie, Jackie, Kristy, Michelle and families. *Forever in our Hearts*

STORER — Robert Albert "Bob". Formerly of Beari and Western Australia. Passed away at the Alfred Hospital on April 6, 2019, aged 77 years. Brother of Myrtle (dec.), Joe (dec.), Reta (dec.), Mary, Albert, Kevin (dec.) and Frank and their families.

STORER — Robert Albert "Bob". Loved brother of Frank, brother-in-law of Marg and uncle of Jamie, Connie and Leigh, and their families. *Always Remembered and Sadly Missed*

FUNERAL NOTICES

STORER — The Graveside Service to celebrate the life of Mr. Robert Albert "Bob" Storer will be held at the Yalca North Cemetery, 332 Mannions Road, Yalca on FRIDAY April 12, 2019 commencing at 11 a.m.

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EAGLE 1T-L IRRIGATION MURRAY FL SENIORS 2019

Tongala 3.2, 6.3, 8.8, 16.12 (108)
Moama 6.6, 11.6, 15.8, 15.10 (100)

GOALS, Tongala: J. Pearson 9, S. Cipriani 2, C. Nephew 2, M. Ryan 1, Z. Johnstone 1, C. Ilett 1. Moama: D. Pinney 3, L. Dunham 2, J. Harland 2, F. Buchanan 2, M. Lake 1, C. Farrell 1, J. Simpson 1, N. Milner 1, J. Kneebone 1, G. Ward 1.

BEST, Tongala: J. Pearson, K. Fitzgerald, C. Ilett, C. McCarthy, L. Woonan, R. Bacon. Moama: J. Russell, J. Kneebone, J. Harland, D. Lowry, D. Pinney, J. Simpson.

Echuca United 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 13.4 (82)

Deniliquin Rams 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 12.8 (80)

GOALS, Echuca United: B. Fulford 3, J. Mellington 2, F. Priest 2, P. Quanchi 2, P. Hubbard 1, C. McLay 1, J. Cantwell 1, R. Priest 1. Deniliquin Rams: T. Gallagher 3, A. Pappin 3, J. Pitts 2, J. Anstee 1, R. Brunner 1, A. Morris 1, R. MacDonald 1.

BEST, Echuca United: N. Denahy, P. Hubbard, B. Sawyer, R. Priest, K. Coates, F. Priest. Deniliquin Rams: T. Gallagher, A. Bull, R. Gittens, J. Whelan, D. East, J. Pitts.

Congupna 2.3, 9.5, 14.7, 16.13 (109)

Rumbalara 5.1, 8.4, 9.9, 10.11 (71)

GOALS, Congupna: J. Trewin 4, D. Campbell 2, D. Hammer 2, D. Schaper 1, B. Squire 1, J. Shannon 1, S. Ferguson 1, J. Chapman 1, J. Gee 1, M. Cornwall 1, P. Jacobson 1. Rumbalara: D. Miller 8, T. Hargave 2, B. Meloury 2, A. Miller 2, J. Armstrong 1. Congupna: B. Austin 1, B. Gee 1, L. Bartels 1.

BEST, Congupna: B. Squire, J. Trewin, D. Schaper, A. Egan, N. Cole, C. Boyer. Rumbalara: T. Lloyd, K. Wise, J. Papoulios. J. Terlich, C. McCartery, J. Trianiadis.

Barooga 4.4, 10.8, 16.11, 17.16 (118)

Katandra 1.1, 1.2, 2.6, 3.6 (24)

GOALS, Barooga: Z. Brain 3, L. Olson 3, M. Summer 3, T. McNeill 1, L. Wright 1, L. Brown 1, R. Thomson 1, E. Leighton-Daly 1, C. Patten 1, C. Leighton-Daly 1, S. Macheda 1. Katandra: R. Yze 2, P. Frappell 1.

BEST, Barooga: R. Thomson, D. Wilson, L. Olson, B. Oats, Z. Brain, C. Leighton-Daly. Katandra: T. Jeffery, A. Zinonos, R. Eden, J. Woods, L. Quibell, A. Jeffery.

Cobram 2.6, 6.9, 8.11, 11.11 (80)

Nathalia 1.2, 3.2, 6.4, 10.7 (67)

GOALS, Cobram: M. Dernia 3, D. McCormack 2, S. Stallion 2, S. Beasley 1, A. Decicco 1, T. Baden 1, I. Artavilla 1. Nathalia: L. Evans 3, B. Bell 3, H. Congues 1, B. Ross 1, J. Limbrick 1.

BEST, Cobram: S. Stallion, D. Ryan, B. Rudd, C. Williams, I. Artavilla, A. Decicco. Nathalia: B. Bell, R. Butler, L. Evans, R. Shannon, N. Nihill, M. Barnes.

Numurkah 6.2, 12.3, 17.9, 23.11 (149)

Finley 1.2, 2.6, 4.8, 7.10 (52)

GOALS, Numurkah: N. Hicks 6, M. Herlihy 4, m. price 4, J. Fulton 2, J. Holmes 2, B. McKeown 1, L. McKeown 1, K. Roberts 1, J. Hoffmann 1, J. Holmes 1. Finley: M. Jackson 2, M. Wilson 2, L. Moore 2, T. Robertson 1.

BEST, Numurkah: M. Herlihy, M. Price, B. McKeown, N. Hicks, J. Warren, G. Gallus. Finley: L. Moore, T. McCarney, M. Wilson, Z. Cuppens, C. Robertson, N. Burns.

Tungamah 4.0, 9.1, 15.3, 18.6 (114)

Mulwala 2.4, 5.8, 9.11, 12.13 (85)

GOALS, Tungamah: D. Haebich 5, A. Saunders 4, N. Lawless 3, T. Jones 2, B. Butts 2, K. Rowe 1, D. Scott 1. Mulwala: S. Johns 3, A. Rouel 2, S. Robinson 2, H. Crossley 2, J. Gash 1, L. Davis 1, B. Wilson 1.

BEST, Tungamah: J. Reilly, D. Haebich, K. Rowe, T. Irvine, B. Butts, J. Irvine. Mulwala: H. Hosking, G. Dominic 1, L. Davis, A. Sammut, L. Rouel, S. Johns.

RESERVES

Tongala 1.0, 5.1, 6.3, 7.5 (47)

Moama 4.1, 5.1, 6.4, 7.4 (46)

GOALS, Tongala: S. Tyler 2, T. Vick 1, T. Strapp 1, L. Church 1, T. Pyke 1, J. Tyler 1. Moama: J. Galpin 4, B. Steenbuck 1, J. Duggan 1, M. Veitch 1.

BEST, Tongala: T. Vick, B. Denham, K. Halliwell, S. Tyler, L. Hipwell 1, J. Tyler. Moama: Z. Stovell, M. Palmer, K. Phillips, D. Wright, J. Duggan, M. Lynch.

Echuca United 3.0, 8.3, 12.6, 15.9 (99)

Deniliquin Rams 1.2, 1.2, 2.2, 3.3 (21)

GOALS, Echuca United: A. McMahon 5, A. Pryde 4, R. Morgan 2, M. Lourey 2, J. Deighton 1, R. Blake 1, N. Lawless 3, T. Jones 2, B. Butts 2, K. Rowe 1, D. Scott 1. Mulwala: S. Johns 3, A. Rouel 2, S. Robinson 2, H. Crossley 2, J. Gash 1, L. Davis 1, B. Wilson 1.

BEST, Tungamah: J. Reilly, D. Haebich, K. Rowe, T. Irvine, B. Butts, J. Irvine. Mulwala: H. Hosking, G. Dominic 1, L. Davis, A. Sammut, L. Rouel, S. Johns.

RESERVES

Tongala 4.3, 5.7, 9.8, 12.9 (81)

Yarraweyah 4.0, 4.1, 4.3, 7.7 (49)

GOALS, Yarraweyah: S. Brain 5, A. Mason 1, N. Lunn 1, E. Haynes 1, C. Burke 1, N. Gray 1. Numurkah: D. Ebborn 3, J. Hollands 2, M. Mansfield 1, J. Shanahan 1.

BEST, Finley: P. Cormican 1, S. Amodio 1, N. Walters 1. Barooga: J. Poole 2, J. Brown 1, J. Andrew 1, C. Doyle 1, R. Perri 1.

BEST, Barooga: R. Cormican, L. Turcato, L. Moroney, N. Walters, J. Crees, C. Pati. Barooga: C. Doyle, C. Perri, R. Sampson, J. Brown, S. Watt Fotia, R. Perri.

Cobram 3.1, 7.6, 10.8, 14.8 (92)

Nathalia 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.2 (2)

GOALS, Cobram: L. McShane 5, L. Kennedy 3, L. Hayes 2, T. Neville 1, K. Lukies 1, D. Langshaw 1, R. Mele 1.

BEST, Cobram: L. McShane, J. Beasley, L. Kennedy, T. Neville, J. Hindson, W. Slatterie. Nathalia: W. Sheehan, A. Petric, B. Armstrong, J. Brown, K. Kopsidas, T. Moroney.

Finley 2.2, 4.3, 7.6, 10.6 (66)

Numurkah 2.0, 4.1, 4.3, 7.7 (49)

GOALS, Finley: S. Brain 5, A. Mason 1, N. Lunn 1, E. Haynes 1, C. Burke 1, N. Gray 1. Numurkah: D. Ebborn 3, J. Hollands 2, M. Mansfield 1, J. Shanahan 1.

BEST, Finley: P. Cormican 3, A. Amodio 1, N. Walters 1. Barooga: J. Poole 2, J. Brown 1, J. Andrew 1, C. Doyle 1, R. Perri 1.

BEST, Barooga: R. Cormican, L. Turcato, L. Moroney, N. Walters, J. Crees, C. Pati. Barooga: C. Doyle, C. Perri, R. Sampson, J. Brown, S. Watt Fotia, R. Perri.

Cobram 3.1, 7.6, 10.8, 14.8 (92)

Nathalia 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.2 (2)

GOALS, Cobram: L. McShane 5, L. Kennedy 3, L. Hayes 2, T. Neville 1, K. Lukies 1, D. Langshaw 1, R. Mele 1.

BEST, Cobram: L. McShane, J. Beasley, L. Kennedy, T. Neville, J. Hindson, W. Slatterie. Nathalia: W. Sheehan, A. Petric, B. Armstrong, J. Brown, K. Kopsidas, T. Moroney.

Finley 2.2, 4.3, 7.6, 10.6 (66)

Numurkah 2.0, 4.1, 4.3, 7.7 (49)

GOALS, Finley: S. Brain 5, A. Mason 1, N. Lunn 1, E. Haynes 1, C. Burke 1, N. Gray 1. Numurkah: D. Ebborn 3, J. Hollands 2, M. Mansfield 1, J. Shanahan 1.

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Cobram 3.1, 7.6, 10.8, 14.8 (92)

Nathalia 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.2 (2)

GOALS, Cobram: L. McShane 5, L. Kennedy 3, L. Hayes 2, T. Neville 1, K. Lukies 1, D. Langshaw 1, R. Mele 1.

BEST, Cobram: L. McShane, J. Beasley, L. Kennedy, T. Neville, J. Hindson, W. Slatterie. Nathalia: W. Sheehan, A. Petric, B. Armstrong, J. Brown, K. Kopsidas, T. Moroney.

Finley 2.2, 4.3, 7.6, 10.6 (66)

Numurkah 2.0, 4.1, 4.3, 7.7 (49)

GOALS, Finley: S. Brain 5, A. Mason 1, N. Lunn 1, E. Haynes 1, C. Burke 1, N. Gray 1. Numurkah: D. Ebborn 3, J. Hollands 2, M. Mansfield 1, J. Shanahan 1.

BEST, Finley: P. Cormican 3, A. Amodio 1, N. Walters 1. Barooga: J. Poole 2, J. Brown 1, J. Andrew 1, C. Doyle 1, R. Perri 1.

BEST, Barooga: R. Cormican, L. Turcato, L. Moroney, N. Walters, J. Crees, C. Pati. Barooga: C. Doyle, C. Perri, R. Sampson, J. Brown, S. Watt Fotia, R. Perri.

Cobram 3.1, 7.6, 10.8, 14.8 (92)

Nathalia 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.2 (2)

GOALS, Cobram: L. McShane 5, L. Kennedy 3, L. Hayes 2, T. Neville 1, K. Lukies 1, D. Langshaw 1, R. Mele 1.

BEST, Cobram: L. McShane, J. Beasley, L. Kennedy, T. Neville, J. Hindson, W. Slatterie. Nathalia: W. Sheehan, A. Petric, B. Armstrong, J. Brown, K. Kopsidas, T. Moroney.

Finley 2.2, 4.3, 7.6, 10.6 (66)

Numurkah 2.0, 4.1, 4.3, 7.7 (49)

GOALS, Finley: S. Brain 5, A. Mason 1, N. Lunn 1, E. Haynes 1, C. Burke 1, N. Gray 1. Numurkah: D. Ebborn 3, J. Hollands 2, M. Mansfield 1, J. Shanahan 1.

BEST, Finley: P. Cormican 3, A. Amodio 1, N. Walters 1. Barooga: J. Poole 2, J. Brown 1, J. Andrew 1, C. Doyle 1, R. Perri 1.

BEST, Barooga: R. Cormican, L. Turcato, L. Moroney, N. Walters, J. Crees, C. Pati. Barooga: C. Doyle, C. Perri, R. Sampson, J. Brown, S. Watt Fotia, R. Perri.

Cobram 3.1, 7.6, 10.8, 14.8 (92)

Nathalia 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.2 (2)

GOALS, Cobram: L. McShane 5, L. Kennedy 3, L. Hayes 2, T. Neville 1, K. Lukies 1, D. Langshaw 1, R. Mele 1.

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Croquet players playing safe

SOUTH Numurkah now has a publicly accessible defibrillator, with the Numurkah Croquet Club moving a motion at its annual meeting to have one installed outside its clubrooms.

The defibrillator is located under the verandah outside the croquet and tennis clubrooms, where it can be immediately accessed, if required.

Kevin Hansen had another great win in last Tuesday's social play, playing two balls himself to come away with three wins 26 hoops, and an excellent score of four jump shots.

Lyn Hughes and Laurus Hinchcliffe finished runners-up with 3/23. Laurus played two incredible long shots in her third game.

The first was from about 16 metres at hoop 11, when she, at a very big angle, gently snuck her partner's ball through the hoop to bring the score to 5-6.

At hoop 13, with the score now 6-6, she played her green ball from the boundary, deflected it off

the pink, into the brown, then through the hoop to win the game 7-6. A truly spectacular shot.

Gordon Brown scored two jump shots on the day, and both Faye Shannon and Kevin Hansen played a hoop-in-one.

Readers of the Leader who like to catch up on what the local croquet players are doing, have been asking club members about jump shots, with some unique descriptions of what people think they are, and it was felt than a description of a jump shot should be given.

No, players do not jump up and down or over the hoop. They jump the ball through the hoop, without moving a ball that is already in front of, or in, the hoop, thus scoring the hoop themselves, often leaving the opponent at a distinct disadvantage.

There were no winners from the four Numurkah club champions when they competed in the GVCA championships.



In times of need ... NCC life member Lois Lowe supervises president David Geddes as he installs a publicly accessible defibrillator outside the croquet/tennis clubrooms.



Winners ... Gary Downie, Trevor Hosie and John McKenzie teamed well to win the Numurkah Bowls Club's tournament last weekend.

Two days, two bowls

NUMURKAH Bowls Club held a two day two-bowl triples tournament at the club greens on the weekend.

Bowlers from many clubs competed for excellent prize money, with the major sponsors being GrainCorp and Country Care.

Excellent greens, great hospitality and a great social atmosphere ensured all bowlers enjoyed the weekend.

Seven games of 10 ends were played over the two days, with local bowlers featuring amongst the winners.

Gary Downie (Numurkah

Golf), Trevor Hosie and John McKenzie (both Wunghnu) finished with six wins and a draw to take the top prize, a draw ahead of runners-up, Ken Sutcliffe (Euroa), Andrew Henderson (Wunghnu) and Frank Houlihan (Numurkah Golf).

NETBALL SCOREBOARD 2019

MNL

A GRADE

Cobram 44 def Nathalia 39
Deniliquin 48 def Echuca United 49
Moama 68 def Tongala 24
Numurkah 32 def by Finley 40
Rumbalaria 51 def Congupna 21
Katandra 32 def by Barooga 34
Tungamah 25 def by Mulwala 48

LADDER	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	%
Rumbalaria	2	2	0	0	112	51	8	219.61
Moama	1	1	0	0	68	24	4	283.33
Mulwala	1	1	0	0	48	25	4	192
Cobram	1	1	0	0	44	39	4	112.82
Barooga	1	1	0	0	34	32	4	106.25
Echuca United	1	1	0	0	49	48	4	102.08
Finley	2	1	1	0	70	93	4	75.27
Deniliquin	1	0	1	0	48	49	0	97.96
Katandra	1	0	1	0	32	34	0	94.12
Nathalia	1	0	1	0	39	44	0	88.64
Numurkah	1	0	1	0	32	40	0	80
Tungamah	1	0	1	0	25	48	0	52.08
Congupna	1	0	1	0	21	51	0	41.18
Tongala	1	0	1	0	24	68	0	35.29

B GRADE

Cobram 40 def Nathalia 30
Deniliquin 34 def Echuca United 30
Moama 42 def Tongala 37
Numurkah 33 def by Finley 35
Rumbalaria 21 def by Congupna 47
Katandra 38 def by Barooga 42
Tungamah 23 def by Mulwala 53

LADDER	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	%
Finley	2	2	0	0	66	57	8	115.79
Mulwala	1	1	0	0	53	23	4	230.43
Congupna	1	1	0	0	47	21	4	223.81
Cobram	1	1	0	0	40	30	4	133.33
Moama	1	1	0	0	42	37	4	113.51
Deniliquin	1	1	0	0	34	30	4	113.33
Barooga	1	1	0	0	42	38	4	110.53
Numurkah	1	0	1	0	33	35	0	94.29
Katandra	1	0	1	0	38	42	0	90.48
Echuca United	1	0	1	0	30	34	0	88.24
Tongala	1	0	1	0	37	42	0	88.1
Nathalia	1	0	1	0	30	40	0	75
Rumbalaria	2	0	2	0	45	78	0	57.69
Tungamah	1	0	1	0	23	53	0	43.4

C GRADE

Cobram 42 def Nathalia 21
Deniliquin 36 def by Echuca United 60
Moama 23 def by Tongala 40
Numurkah 26 def Finley 24
Rumbalaria 38 def by Congupna 40
Katandra 48 def Barooga 19
Tungamah 13 def by Mulwala 56

LADDER	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	%	PR
Mulwala	1	1	0	0	56	13	4	430.77	
Katandra	1	1	0	0	48	19	4	252.63	
Cobram	1	1	0	0	42	21	4	200	
Tongala	1	1	0	0	40	23	4	173.91	
Echuca United	1	1	0	0	60	36	4	166.67	
Finley	2	1	1	0	57	51	4	111.76	
Numurkah	1	1	0	0	26	24	4	108.33	
Congupna	1	1	0	0	40	38	4	105.26	
Rumbalaria	2	0	2	0	63	73	0	86.3	
Deniliquin	1	0	1	0	36	60	0	60	
Moama	1	0	1	0	23	40	0	57.5	
Nathalia	1	0	1	0	21	42	0	50	
Barooga	1	0	1	0	19	48	0	39.58	
Tungamah	1	0	1	0	13	56	0	23.21	

C RESERVE

Cobram 39 def by Nathalia 42
Deniliquin 30 def by Echuca United 34
Moama 58 def Tongala 24
Rumbalaria 25 def by Congupna 45
Katandra 46 def Barooga 27
Tungamah 10 def by Mulwala 60

LADDER	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	%
Mulwala	1	1	0	0	60	10	4	600
Moama	1	1	0	0	58	24	4	241.67
Congupna	1	1	0	0	45	25	4	180

11 & UNDER
Cobram 7 def Nathalia 1
Deniliquin 14 def Echuca United 1

13 & UNDER
Cobram 37 def Nathalia 7
Deniliquin 17 def by Echuca United 23
Moama 7 def by Tongala 37
Numurkah 12 def by Finley 32
Rumbalaria 31 def Congupna 13
Katandra 0 def by Barooga 30
Tungamah 13 def by Mulwala 11

15 & UNDER
Cobram 6 def Nathalia 41
Deniliquin 40 def Echuca United 25
Moama 29 def by Tongala 47
Numurkah 28 def Finley 15
Rumbalaria 34 def Congupna 8
Katandra 22 def by Barooga 33
Tungamah 9 def by Mulwala 41

17 & UNDER
Cobram 25 def Nathalia 27
Deniliquin 28 def by Echuca United 33
Moama 17 def by Tongala 22
Numurkah 36 def Finley 27
Rumbalaria 52 def Congupna 17
Katandra 17 def by Barooga 41
Tungamah 44 def by Mulwala 22

19 & OVER
Cobram 20 def Tongala 8
Deniliquin 19 def by Echuca United 16
Moama 18 def by Barooga 16
Numurkah 22 def by Mulwala 22

21 & OVER
Cobram 21 def Tongala 9
Deniliquin 20 def by Echuca United 16
Moama 19 def by Barooga 19
Numurkah 23 def by Tongala 11
Rumbalaria 24 def by Congupna 11
Katandra 25 def by Barooga 11
Tungamah 26 def by Congupna 11

23 & OVER
Cobram 22 def Tongala 10
Deniliquin 21 def by Echuca United 17
Moama 20 def by Barooga 20
Numurkah 24 def by Congupna 14
Rumbalaria 25 def by Tongala 14
Katandra 26 def by Barooga 14
Tungamah 27 def by Congupna 14

25 & OVER
Cobram 23 def Tongala 11
Deniliquin 22 def by Echuca United 18
Moama 21 def by Barooga 21
Numurkah 25 def by Congupna 15
Rumbalaria 26 def by Tongala 15
Katandra 27 def by Barooga 15
Tungamah 28 def by Congupna 15

27 & OVER
Cobram 24 def Tongala 12
Deniliquin 23 def by Echuca United 19
Moama 22 def by Barooga 22
Numurkah 26 def by Congupna 16
Rumbalaria 27 def by Tongala 16
Katandra 28 def by Barooga 16
Tungamah 29 def by Congupna 16

29 & OVER
Cobram 25 def Tongala 13
Deniliquin 24 def by Echuca United 20
Moama 23 def by Barooga 23
Numurkah 27 def by Congupna 17
Rumbalaria 28 def by Tongala 17
Katandra 29 def by Barooga 17
Tungamah 30 def by Congupna 17

31 & OVER
Cobram 26 def Tongala 14
Deniliquin 25 def by Echuca United 21
Moama 24 def by Barooga 24
Numurkah 28 def by Congupna 18
Rumbalaria 29 def by Tongala 18
Katandra 30 def by Barooga 18
Tungamah 31 def by Congupna 18

33 & OVER
Cobram 27 def Tongala 15
Deniliquin 26 def by Echuca United 22
Moama 25 def by Barooga 25
Numurkah 29 def by Congupna 19
Rumbalaria 30 def by Tongala 19
Katandra 31 def by Barooga 19
Tungamah 32 def by Congupna 1



Gracious winner ... Wendy Fulton accepts the gong from Numurkah vice captain Pauline Davies last Wednesday.

Small but mighty

by "The Shankster"

DESPITE outnumbering the Nathalia women golfers more than two to one, the Numurkah women were unable, for a third consecutive year, to bring home the gong from the annual challenge between the two clubs.

Twelve Numurkah women headed to Nathalia, knowing it would be a challenge to defeat their western neighbours on their home course, but probably weren't prepared for the two and half point drubbing they were given on an average of the two teams' scores.

Nathalia's five scores averaged 30.16, compared to Numurkah's 27.67.

Pauline Davies did her best for the visitors, recording the best score of the day, 34 points, to win A grade.

Nathalia's Wendy Fulton was runner-up with 32 points, winning a countback from former Nathalia stalwart Helen Schmedje.

Nathalia dominated B grade, Sue Lowe winning a countback from Heather Frostick to take the prizes, with 33 points.

Merren Carr won nearest the pin with a great shot from the 18th tee.

Nola Dalton and Kath Hepworth headed the field at Numurkah on Saturday, but it was Nola who won the countback on 35 points, to take home the club voucher.

Helen Schmedje won a countback from Lorraine Craig to take third place on 33 points, while Merren Carr won the last ball with 32 points.

Kath won nearest the pin with a great shot on the seventh hole, Lauris Ashton was the only player to get onto the green on the long 15th hole, and Liz Dell had a lovely shot to the 18th green, to win the ball.

Now that daylight saving has come to an end, the nine hole chick runs concluded last Thursday with one final round, and a presentation dinner in the club bistro.

Julie Hannaford won the final round, with 35 nett, ahead of Yvonne Cleary with 36 nett. Yvonne also won nearest the pin on the 18th hole.

Bev Hutchins scraped home by the skin of her teeth to win the season points trophy, thanking Helen Pickersgill for going on holidays and not making the last round.

Helen had led for most of the season, with a terrific start to the summer, but Bev had edged her way to a small lead when the last results were published.

A win to Helen last week, had the two level at the top of the ladder, but all Bev needed to do (and all she did) was show up and play on Thursday to get one last point.

Bev finished with 50 points, and Helen 49. Nola Dalton

finished third with 44 points, ahead of Julie Hannaford, who leapfrogged Jeanette Adams with Thursday's win, with 35 points.

Behind Jeanette were Lauris Ashton, Merren Carr and Marion Tobin.

Kath Hepworth played the most rounds, 22 for the summer, three more than Bev and Merren Carr.

The first of the Wednesday fourball knockout rounds was played on Sunday, with Bev McIntosh and Jeanette Adams advancing to the next round.

The pair took on Nola Dalton and Bev Hutchins on Sunday, in what turned out to be a terrific match that went all the way to the 19th hole.

Bev and Jeanette won the first hole, but Nola and Bev got that back on the second, going on to be two up at the turn.

But it was here that Jeanette commenced to put on an awesome display of golf, to square the match on the 16th hole. Two more squares and they were off to the first again. A par to Jeanette and the game was all over.

Bev and Jeanette will now meet Jan Stevens and Sandy Trimble in the second round.

Today's golf will be a stableford round, followed by the Neville Smith sponsored third round of the stableford trophy on Saturday, and the April monthly medal next Wednesday.

Bev finished with 50 points, and Helen 49. Nola Dalton

Steve shades Sam

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

STEVE Piggott was the winner of last Thursday's golf competition at Numurkah Golf Club when he edged out Sam Robertson in a countback.

Both players scored 40 stableford points overall, but Steve scored 23 points on the back nine compared to Sam's 22. The score on the back nine determines the winner in a countback situation.

The point score totals of the whole field were high, even down to last place, and reflect the slick course conditions caused by the dry summer and autumn.

The following players' scores earned them a club ball: John Ashton 39, John Smith, Bill Green, Les Summerville, Pete Cowan, Bruce Collins and Steve Jones, all 38 points, Alf Patman, Darryl Sheridan, Dan Prosser and Leigh Robertson, 36, Bill Padgett 35, Mark Hegarty 34.

Geoff Partington picked up the tin of boiled lollies for coming last with a far from disgraceful total of 27 points.

For the third week in a row Ray "Darky" Falla picked up a nearest the pin prize for his accuracy, this time on the fourth hole, courtesy of GMCU.

Bill Green was back to his

old tricks, taking the players' sweep money by being closest to the pin on the seventh.

Steve Jones strung two accurate shots together on the 14th hole to take the ball on offer from Roy and Dennis. No player could hit the 15th green with their pin shot, thus saving Graeme Sprout a sponsorship ball, while Steve Piggott topped off his round by taking the Pruden carpentry sponsored ball on the 18th hole.

Why not join us for a hit this Thursday? Assemble at 9.30am for a 10 o'clock hit off. Visitors and guests are most welcome.



Good back nine ... Steve Piggott won a countback to take out last Thursday's Numurkah golf competition.

Costly mistake

by "She Wolf"

AN unfortunate slip up proved costly for one Numurkah golfer on Saturday when he failed to sign his scorecard, causing him to be disqualified from the day's competition.

Nathan Hicks is a newbie to golf competition, having only played a few rounds since getting his handicap after the end of the footy season, but won't make this same mistake again for a long time.

Hicks had a day out, and finished his round with a massive score of 46 stableford points, only to be ruled ineligible for the win.

Such mishaps leave everyone in the clubhouse with a bad taste in their mouths, but it proved lucky for Ian Clark, who had finished with the next best score of 42 points, and thus took the day's competition.

Matt Ebborn continued his recent fine form, finishing third with 40 points.

Sam Robertson has made good use of a few RDOs recently to hit himself into form, and he showed some fine form on Saturday to finish with 39 points.

Nearest the pins went to Matt Ebborn on the fourth, John Smith on seven, Nathan Hicks on the 15th, and Darryl Sheridan on 18.

Even though captain Ronnie and a large cohort were away playing golf on the Sunshine Coast, there was still no relief from the embarrassing stories that see the wearing of the Mickey Mouse ears.

It was Mark Hegarty who was wearing the ears at presentations on Saturday, after his club was seen flying through the air. It apparently went 50 metres high and only 30 metres long. Heggs said it slipped out of his hand.

This Saturday's golf will be the Neville Smith sponsored third round of the stableford trophy competition.



Lucky for some ... Even though he had a good score on Saturday, Ian Clark was lucky to come away with a win.

Crawford Shield win

NUMURKAH Small Bore Club hosted the Crawford Shield round last Wednesday and finished first in the 20 metre prone competition.

Numurkah finished with a score of 1150.37, to Kyabram's 1144.28.

Individual scores for 20 metre benchrest were:

D. Bradshaw 97.2 99.3
196.5, L. Cook 97.2 98.2
195.4, C. Saxton 97.2 98.2
195.4, D. Bradshaw 98.1
96.1 194.2, G. Miles 96.1
96.3 192.4, B. Braybon 94.0

Scores for the 50 metre prone match were:

96.1 190.1, E. Ryan 87.0
89.1 176.1.

Shooters again turned up at the Numurkah club for the usual Thursday night club competition.

Scores for 20 metre prone were:

D. Cook 96.4 92.4 188.8,
H. O'Brien 92.2 87.2
179.2, J. Matys 84.0 85.1
169.1, M. Brown 69.0 92.2
161.2, J. Matys 74.0 72.0
146.0.

Scores for the 50 metre prone match were:

Soul-searching win for Katunga

DESPITE starting well and leading for most of the game, Picola United's A grade netballers suffered a disappointing loss to Katunga in the first game of the Picola Netball League 2019 season on Saturday.

The Blues got off to a great start, moving the ball down the court well, but trailed by seven goals at the final whistle, 38-45.

Katunga's defence worked hard all game, but the Swans found themselves down by five goals at half time, which made them more determined going into the second half.

They picked up their game and eventually snared a first game victory.

For Picola, there were still plenty of positives to take away from the game, which they will work on over the next few weeks.

Picola awards: Nathalia Post Office, Alannah Fry-Smith; Brereton's Bakery, Kim McPherson.

Katunga awards: BOC-An-BioEn, Mel Malloy; ND Services, Sarah Weidemann; Clydesdale, Grace Kennedy.

C GRADE
Picola in a hard fought game, 41-28.

All girls battled hard in the heat and, while it wasn't the end result the Blues' were looking for, it was a good first hit out and they will have some things to work on.

Amber Watson kept moving through defence for Picola, while Ten Dove tried her hardest to help down the court.

For Katunga, Sheralee Newman and Kate Mansfield were the standouts.

Katunga awards: Telegraph, Sheralee Newman; Fitness 3636, Kate Mansfield.

C RESERVE

Katunga completed a clean sweep of senior netball wins, with a 44-12 victory in the C reserve game.

With basically a whole new team on the court, the team gelled extremely well, all players putting in 100%.

Picola awards: Casual Step, Cheryl Thorn; Club dinner, Bree Talty.

Katunga awards: BOC Telegraph, Maddi Donahue; Fitness 3636, Ash Lee.

17 UNDER

The Katunga under 17 girls got their season off to a great start, defeating Picola 29-21.

The Picola girls took a few minutes to find their feet and get used to each other in a new team, but applied great defensive pressure throughout the game, and backed each other up, chasing loose balls.

The attackers put together some great players down the court, feeding it nicely into the goalers, showing good potential as a team.

The Swans need to focus on being in front, rather than starting behind, but overall it was a good game from both sides.

Picola awards: Power Livestock, Tess Walton; Barmah Social Club, Jakarta Wise.

Katunga awards: BOC Cobram Farm equipment, Lily Cox; Mikayla Littlejohn, Paige Gilmour.

15 UNDER
Picola's under 15s were one of just two Picola sides to re-

cord victories, winning over Katunga by 11 goals.

The Blues displayed great teamwork all over the court, particularly in the first quarter. There will be a few things to work on at training, but their coach was happy with their overall game.

Katunga had anticipated this to be a tough game, but the girls all stood up and played their part. They may have taken a little time to settle together, and finished off with a terrific last quarter.

Picola awards: Birch Earthmoving, Shantay; Barmah social club, Mikayla.

Katunga awards: Cold Rock, Eloise Kelly; Tenpin bowling, Sophie Kelly; Canteen, Alanah Whitford.

13 UNDER

The under 13s' game went to an exciting finish, with Picola managing to hold on for a one goal victory, 9-8.

Picola got off to a good start, but the Swans shot four goals in the last quarter to almost steal the win.

The Picola girls listened well to instruction, while the Katunga girls' footwork was fantastic.

Picola awards: Baxter Family medallion, Bethany Hildebrand; Barmah social club, Kiana Guligo.

Katunga awards: Tenpin bowling, Aleece Bethell; Canteen, Lori Devine; Cold Rock, Renae Russo.

11 UNDER

Both under 11 teams put in terrific efforts in their first games.

The Blues all put in 100% effort and showed great sportsmanship.

The Swans made lots of great leads forward, played fantastic teamwork, and were all encouraging.

Most importantly, there were lots of smiles on the court.

Picola awards: Intersport Bennetts, Taneesha Atkinson; PUFNC, Chloe Hildebrand.

Katunga awards: KFNC canteen, Ruby Hicks; Cold Rock, Gemma Rogers, Bowling, Jorgia Sprout.

C GRADE

The B graders took a while to settle, but eventually came away with a three goal win in a tight clash with Rennie on Saturday.

Too many unforced errors from the Bombers meant lots of turnovers early in the game, but once the girls settled down to their new combinations, there were some great passages of play.

There were a lot of positives to come out of the first game of the season, and also some areas that need to be addressed.

Awards: WFNC cash, Angela Thorne; Laino's Pizza and Pasta, Andrea Bergamin; Terminus Hotel, Maddi Cleeland.

C RESERVE

After a pretty solid pre-season, the reigning premiers were eager to get onto the court for their first game of the season, and took a comfortable win over Rennie, 50-32.

The goalers continually presented themselves, and converted well, with great feeding from the mid court players, while the girls in defence worked hard and pinched turnovers when they could.

Awards: WFNC cash, Holly Scott; Telegraph Hotel, Vanessa Scadden; Laino's Pizza and Pasta, Rachel Thorne.

C RESERVE

Neither Waaia nor Rennie C reserve teams managed to put a win on the board for the first game of the season, playing out a 29-29 draw.

After a slow start, the girls worked tirelessly in the heat to work their way back into the game, grinding out a handy draw, rather than a loss.

Loss but promise

THE new look Numurkah A grade netball side, may not have come away with a win on the board in its first Murray Netball League for the season, but played a great team game, regardless.

The Blues went lost their home game to Finley 32-40 in the season opener on Sunday.

With an aim to develop up-and-coming juniors, Jess Tymensen, Sarah Trease and Sophie Morris all made their senior debut.

The Blues are still looking forward to a solid season, with this promising talent, mixed with the experience of senior players Eilish Judd, Fiona Elliott, and Melissa O'Dwyer.

Glenys Zucco has also come into the side to fill a crucial gap, and Krystal Sheridan has stepped up from B grade.

The players all worked hard all game, giving 100%, with some great passages of play showing that the team has plenty of depth and the ability to develop.

First round nerves meant mistakes were made, but support and encouragement from team mates inspired the girls to keep pushing.

Melissa O'Dwyer led by example, with her high skill level and enthusiastic encouragement to team mates.

With a few more games together, a win surely won't be far away.

Award: Numurkah Hotel, Melissa O'Dwyer.

B GRADE

The B grade Blues lost a fast moving game, that turned into a very tight encounter, going down 33-35.

Numurkah started well, and led at the first change, but the Cats matched them well, playing a similar style of netball.

It was a battle in the heat and the Finley girls kept fighting back. The match could have gone either way, but with a major injury with two minutes to go, Numurkah went down by two goals.

Award: Shamrock Hotel, Rachel Robertson.

C GRADE

The C graders had a tight battle against Finley in their first match of the season, winning by two goals, 26-24.

The momentum swung between the two sides

throughout the game, but an opening quarter injury left the Blues without a rotation, and fatigue became a factor midway through the contest.

The girls managed to dig in and lift their intensity in the last quarter, to come away with a two goal win.

Shelby Gallus worked tirelessly all game, applying defensive pressure and rebounding in attack.

Award: Telegraph Hotel, Shelby Gallus.

17 UNDER

A well played game by all the under 17 girls, saw them come away with a nine goal victory, 36-27, coming together and playing fabulously as team.

Chloe Taylor played an outstanding game, both in defence and attack. Newcomer Tiara Kelly played an amazing first game for Numurkah.

Continuing the hard work on and off the court, looks like it will pay off for the girls.

Awards: Chloe Taylor and Tiara Kelly.

15 UNDER

The under 15 girls played really well, everything they have worked on in the past couple of weeks coming to play and helping them to work well as a team.

Molly Arho played a fantastic game, switching from goals to defence and still managing to stay focused on her task.

Tea Brattle also had a great game in goals, helping to direct play and using her accuracy to steer the Blues to a great win over Finley, 28-15.

Awards: Molly Arho and Tea Brattle.

13 UNDER

The under 13s fronted up for their first game short on numbers, and having some under 11 players stepping up to help out.

They proved no match for a strong Finley side, going down 12-32.

Up from the under 11s, Ellie Carkeek played two games for the day, and worked really hard in both, to earn the award.

11 UNDER

The 11s played a determined and enthusiastic first game, coming away with the win, 8-2.

Heading in the right direction

WAAIA got its A grade netball season off to a good start, with a 12 goal win over Rennie, at Rennie, on Saturday.

With only seven players available, a mixture of new and returning players, the girls did a great job running out the four quarters in the heat.

Tidying up the unforced errors all over the court will give the Bombers more scoring opportunities in coming games.

Awards: WFNC cash, Chloe Thorne; Telegraph Hotel, Milly Foster; Casual Step, Chelsey Thorne.

B GRADE

The B graders took a while to settle, but eventually came away with a three goal win in a tight clash with Rennie on Saturday.

Too many unforced errors from the Bombers meant lots of turnovers early in the game, but once the girls settled down to their new combinations, there were some great passages of play.

There were a lot of positives to come out of the first game of the season, and also some areas that need to be addressed.

Awards: WFNC cash, Angela Thorne; Laino's Pizza and Pasta, Andrea Bergamin; Terminus Hotel, Maddi Cleeland.

C GRADE

After a pretty solid pre-season, the reigning premiers were eager to get onto the court for their first game of the season, and took a comfortable win over Rennie, 50-32.

The goalers continually presented themselves, and converted well, with great feeding from the mid court players, while the girls in defence worked hard and pinched turnovers when they could.

Awards: WFNC cash, Holly Scott; Telegraph Hotel, Vanessa Scadden; Laino's Pizza and Pasta, Rachel Thorne.

C RESERVE

Neither Waaia nor Rennie C reserve teams managed to put a win on the board for the first game of the season, playing out a 29-29 draw.

After a slow start, the girls worked tirelessly in the heat to work their way back into the game, grinding out a handy draw, rather than a loss.

The team played well together, with the defenders keeping up good pressure, the mid court players working well with many rotations, and the goalers were consistent.

Awards: WFNC cash, Abbie Harris; Casual Step, Tamara Richards; Terminus Hotel, Tarni Williams.

17 UNDER

The under 17 Bombers played a great team game, adapting quickly to team changes, and came away with a 38-23 win.

There are a few things to refine, which the 2018 runners-up will work on over the next few weeks.

Awards: Sportfirst Numurkah, Rachel Williams; Casual Step, Annie Holt; WFNC socks, Emily Seiter.

15 UNDER

The under 15s got off to a good start, with a solid first half, but went off their game in the heat, going down 12-28 to Rennie.

The young Bombers put together some great passages of play, but also saw what they need to improve on, before they take on Berigan this weekend.

Awards: D. & M. Plattfuss, Jordan Hopkins; WFNC canteen, Ella Bryant.

13 UNDER

After an intense training on Thursday night, learning the ins and outs of the channels system, the Bomber under 13s proved all the work had paid off, with some great play on the court.

While it wasn't enough to get them over the line against a strong Rennie side, the girls were able to take some great rebounds in defence, and put together some great plays into the goal ring.

Waia went down to Rennie 11-18.

Awards: WFNC scrunchie, Sasha Daniel; WFNC canteen, Bridie Wilson; Terminus Hotel, Sophie Halden.

11 UNDER

The under 11 girls lined up for their first game of the season, playing well as a team, working together and trying different positions.

All enjoyed their court time.

Awards: Waaia scrunchie, Laura; Northstar, Tayla.



Purples women fly the flag in big win

NATHALIA'S women's football team kicked off the 2019 Northern Country Women's League season with a bang, taking Rumbalara to task in a big 11.13.79 to 10.6 win at Rumbalara on Sunday.

Abby Favaro's four goals was a big standout in the tie, while the Purples also got a huge boost from the likes

of Taylor Sheehan and Steph Gorrie. Northern Angels product Michelle Cobblewick also impressed in her first game for the club.

Nathalia never looked back from its three goal to none opening quarter and managed to keep Rumbalara scoreless for the whole of the first half.

The damage didn't stop there and Nathalia took a six-goal lead into the main break at half time.

Rumbalara may have been able to score its first and only goal in the third quarter, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the in-control Purples, and they hammered a further four goals to see the game all but over at

three quarter time.

A three-goal final term capped off a brilliant day for the side as it finished on top of the ladder in the very early stages.

A big test is coming for the Purples this weekend, though, with the reigning premier Shepparton Bears hosting Nathalia at Deakin Reserve

at 2pm Sunday.

Awards: BOG: Taylah Shanahan, Brereton's Bakery: Abby Favaro, Cheeky Cider: Vanessa Ward, Bridge Hotel: Steph Gorrie, Casual Step: Michelle Cobblewick, NWR Communications: Marni Hicks.

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- 3 Geelong
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- 5 Richmond
- 6 North Melb
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Carlton
- 9 Hawthorn

Beware: Place your tips or you'll get Bev's!

Last week 5 Total 14



ROUND FOUR

Sydney Swans vs. Melbourne (SCG) (N)
Collingwood vs. Western Bulldogs (MCG) (N)
Geelong Cats vs. GWS GIANTS (GMHBA)
Essendon vs. Brisbane Lions (MCG)

Port Adelaide vs. Richmond (AO) (T)
North Melbourne vs. Adelaide Crows (MRVL) (N)
West Coast Eagles vs. Fremantle (OS) (N)
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Carlton (MS)
St Kilda vs. Hawthorn (MRVL)

Last week 5 Total 14

Dave Jenkins

- 1 Sydney
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Essendon
- 5 Port Adelaide
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Gold Coast
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 6 Total 15



Danni Woolley

- 1 Sydney
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Brisbane
- 5 Richmond
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 Fremantle
- 8 Gold Coast
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 4 Total 12



Kevin Morland

- 1 Sydney
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Essendon
- 5 Port Adelaide
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Gold Coast
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 3 Total 11



John Schaaf

- 1 Sydney
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Essendon
- 5 Port Adelaide
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Gold Coast
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 5 Total 16



David Ludington

- 1 Melbourne
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Brisbane
- 5 Port Adelaide
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Carlton
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 5 Total 13



Nathan Morris

- 1 Melbourne
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Essendon
- 5 Port Adelaide
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Gold Coast
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 6 Total 14



Troy Knox

- 1 Sydney
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 GWS
- 4 Brisbane
- 5 Richmond
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Gold Coast
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 4 Total 12



Denis Brooks

- 1 Melbourne
- 2 Bulldogs
- 3 GWS
- 4 Brisbane
- 5 Richmond
- 6 North Melb
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Carlton
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 4 Total 13



Liam Gledhill

- 1 Sydney
- 2 Collingwood
- 3 Geelong
- 4 Essendon
- 5 Port Adelaide
- 6 Adelaide
- 7 West Coast
- 8 Carlton
- 9 Hawthorn

Last week 4 Total 11



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Moving right along ... Nathalia coach Emma McDonald passes off to Breanne Walpole during their game against Cobram on Saturday.

Down by five goals

NATHALIA put together three strong quarters of netball, but couldn't finish it off in the last quarter, going down to Cobram 39-44 in their Murray league A grade clash on Saturday.

Unforced errors from the Purples were high, and they did not capitalise on turnovers, but it was a great first game for the season, and there is plenty to work on over the coming weeks.

Consistency over four quarters will play a role in the team's fortunes.

Lisa Kellow and Georgia Saunders worked well in defence, together with all players providing back-up to the attack.

Awards: Coprice BOC: Lisa Kellow, Brereton's Bakery: Breanne Walpole, Casual Step: Georgia Saunders.

B GRADE

A 10 goal loss wasn't the way the Nathalia B grade side would have wanted to start the year, when it went down to Cobram 30-40.

There were passages of good play at times, but the Purples lacked consistency, and need to improve their movement and drive to the ball.

Awards: Coprice BOC: Millie Maskell, Hinchcliffe & Greed Real Estate: Olivia Hanlon, Nathalia Post Office/Newsagency: Laura Harvey-Hawkins.

C GRADE

The C graders have come away from Saturday's 21-42 defeat knowing what they need to work on.

The Purples' defenders worked really hard and got some great use of the ball, but they need to keep working on their links in attack, and keep challenging themselves.

Awards: Barmah Hotel: Jen Butler, Three Bells: Alysha Cornell, Sportfirst Numurkah: Kristy Hudson.

C RESERVE

Nathalia's C reserve team was club's only senior netball side to record a win, defeating Cobram in a close encounter, 42-39.

The girls played extremely well together and picked up many loose balls to take the lead in the second quarter.

Changes in the defence end resulted in them being down five goals at three-quarter time, but the girls regrouped and played hard to turn the game around.

Late inclusion Paige Hickey combined well in the ring with Brooke Parker.

Awards: Limos Home Hardware BOC: Jodie Coutts, Laino's Pizza: Shelly Patone, Sportfirst Numurkah: Brooke Parker.

17 UNDER

The under 17s also came home with a first up win, in another very tight contest, defeating Cobram 27-25.

Awards: Bendigo Bank

Nathalia BOC: Bella Sheehan, Market Place Subway: Abbey Conroy, Bell's Water Cartage: Maddy Lindsay.

15 UNDER

The under 15 girls put in an excellent team effort to record their first win in convincing fashion, 41-6.

There were many position changes over the four quarters, but the girls all adapted well.

Holly Boyd and Ebony James directed and encouraged their team mates, causing both turnovers and great drive in the attack end.

Awards: Kylie Richards BOC: Holly Boyd, Bendigo Bank Nathalia: Erin Brooks, Market Place Subway: Mia Bell, TJ's IGA: Ebony James.

13 UNDER

Everyone worked really hard and tried their best in the under 13 game, but the young Purples were no match for Cobram, going down 7-37.

Awards: Bendigo Bank Nathalia BOC: Eliza Kopsidas, Nathalia Dairy: Jasmine Johns, TJ's IGA: Ally Bloodworth.

11 UNDER

The under 11s all tried their hardest, right through the game, and are all showing improvement in their skills, but went down to Cobram 1-7.

Awards: Past Players BOC: Sarah Stone, Bendigo Bank Nathalia: Jayda Liddell, TJ's IGA: Tayah Lundberg.

Angels outclassed in opening round

THE first round of Northern Angels' 2019 season turned into a fizzle rather than a flare when the young side went down to Shepparton United 2.0.12 to 15.15.105.

Deakin Reserve hosted the two sides for the first game of the year, but a five goal to one opening term gave Shepparton United a lead it never looked back on.

Undermanned and outplayed, Northern Angels refused to

give up, despite having a distinct lack of experience compared to its opponents.

Despite being behind by 54-points at the half, Northern Angels locked Shepparton United up in the third quarter, conceding just five-points for the term.

By the end of the tie though, Andriana Oliver and Charli Dorrity had both booted majors, and show some upside in a team still looking to sign play-

ers this season. Northern Angels this week take on Shepparton-Notre Dame at Emmaus main oval this Sunday at 12.30pm.

Awards: Brereton's Bakery: Charli Dorrity, Nathalia Fuel and Gas: Andriana Oliver, Bendigo Bank Nathalia: Rani Guthrie, Market Place Subway: Katie Miller, Nathalia Fertilizer and Grain: Brooke Monk.

Great start for Strathy girls

STRATHMERTON got off to a great start on Saturday, both to its 2019 season, and its first round game against Blighty.

Playing at home, the Bulldogs came out firing, taking a 17-4 lead at quarter time.

This set the standard for the day, and from there, they just kept increasing their lead, resulting in a fantastic team win, 59-22.

Even with a few new team members on the court, the Bulldogs gelled like they had been playing together for a long time, everyone playing the role required of them on the day.

Awards: Strathy Pub, Vanessa Ward, Brittany Brunskill; Strathy Cafe Pizza, Caitlyn Price.

B GRADE

Unlike their A grade counterparts, last year's B grade preliminary finalist didn't get off to the start they were hoping for, going down to Blighty 18-49.

The defenders combined well and played some impressive netball, providing some of the many positives to come

from the game.

Awards: Tahlia Jacobs, Rachael Olsen, Jess Bailey.

C GRADE

The C graders went down to Blighty by nine goals, battling hard in the heat for the full four quarters.

The final score saw Strathmerton go down 15-26.

Awards: Strathy Pub, Aimee Fletcher; Ambience Bakery Cafe, Caitlin Bailey; Strathy Cafe, Annie Fotia.

17 UNDER

The under 17s got off to a great start to their season, defeating Blighty 40-27.

It took the team the first half to settle, but then they just took off and played terrific netball. The new players slotted into the team structure like they had been playing together for years.

Awards: Money, Jordyn Lee-Madgwick; iTunes voucher, Tea Slatterie; Strathy Cafe, Maddison Wilson.

15 UNDER

After going goal-for-goal for the first quarter, the Bulldog under 15s trailed by just four goals at quarter time, but couldn't maintain their form,

eventually going down 15-45.

Blighty continued to build its lead throughout the game, the Strathy girls unable to stay with their opposition.

There were some really good passages of play, with some of the training drills paying off on court.

Award: Strathy Cafe, Kiera Henderson.

13 UNDER

With a new look team for 2019, the Bulldogs had a tough start against Blighty's awesome shooting, going down 9-29.

The Bulldogs kept fighting and gave it their all. They had set goals at training on Thursday, and followed through with them.

Awards: Terminus Hotel, Dakota; Strathy Cafe, Akina.

11 UNDER

The Minis were brilliant in their opening game of 2019. They used the skills they've been learning at training, listened well to instruction, and supported each other.

Awards: Terminus Hotel, Abigail Smith; Hands On Nutrition, Maddi Shannon.

Lower grades struggle to find early form

NUMURKAH introduced a number of young Blues to full-time senior football on Sunday, against Finley, but the Blues were out run and out muscled in their 113-point round one loss.

Despite a great deal of effort being put forth by the side, Numurkah was unable to register a score in the opening term and, with Finley using its superior experience to the fullest, managed to boot three goals, opening a 23-point advantage.

Kaleb Rees provided the Blues grit in the middle, with Matt Mansfield racking up a number of touches himself.

While Morgan Powlesland managed to boot Numurkah's first goal for the season, Finley shared the goal kicking opportunities around, and stretched its lead out to 58-points by the end of the half.

The third term was where Finley really took advantage of Numurkah's tiring legs, booting a huge seven unanswered goals, completely tormenting a youthful Blues side in the process.

Tired and beaten, Dusty Ebborn and Alistair Holmes got the reward of keeping in the game, kicking a goal each in the final term. Finley kept trucking and booted another four goals before the final siren brought an end to the 3.4.22 to 20.15.135 rout.

Numurkah's ability to respond to the defeat will be a great indicator of how well the team will develop throughout the year, with its next step coming in the form of an away trip to Tongala, to take on a side that pipped Moama by a point on Saturday.

Awards: Millen Concreting: Matthew Mansfield, Kaleb Rees: Middle Pub, Shamrock Hotel: Brad Millen, Telegraph: Morgan Powlesland, NFNC: Jacob Morris, Merlin: Dakota Pellegrino.

UNDER 17s

A first half slugfest culminated in Finley pulling away in the third and fourth quarters, damning Numurkah to a 7.7.49 to 10.6.66 loss on Sunday.

Both teams opened the contest by trading goals in a frenetic opening, with Jayden Holland controlling play across the ground, with Ben Millen and Matt Mansfield backing him up all day.

Only two points separated Numurkah from Finley by the end of the opening term, and the margin remained the same as the first half came to a close.

Dusty Ebborn was dangerous throughout the game, finishing with three goals to prove he remains a major target in the Blues' forward 50.

Kane Newby also displayed the skills and tricks he possesses, with his athleticism coming to the fore on many

occasions within the tie. Finley through, proved to be more potent in front of goal, kicking out to a 21-point advantage heading into the final break.

The Blues managed to fight back in the final term, but leaked just a few too many when it mattered, in the end going down by 17-points in front of the home crowd.

The side, though, showed good signs and will hope to produce a more complete performance this week against Tongala.

UNDER 14s

The youngest Blues were put to the sword by a completely rampant Finley side, which returned home with a big 121-point win.

The Blues' side of the scoreboard remained untouched and the game started off on a very sour note.

Finley booted six goals to open proceedings and it didn't improve for Numurkah thereafter.

The Cats were ruthless in their execution and took a 10-goal lead into the half time break.

Numurkah managed to alleviate some of the scoring prowess in the third, but Finley still stretched the advantage out to 83 points by the end of the third term.

Finley capped the day off with a six-goal final term, capping off a commanding performance.

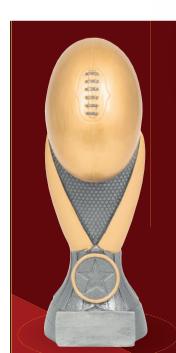
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Second half blitz... Katunga's Dale Boswell tries to reign in Picola's Luke Jackson's bomb during the first round of the PDFL season.

Cunningham blows Swans away

DYLAN Cunningham's seven goal onslaught has led Picola United to its first seniors win of the 2019 Picola and district season after the Blues outlasted Katunga by 18 points at Picola.

The game was hotly contested throughout the opening half. It was Katunga that found itself five points in front at the first break, but the contest only got tighter by the end of the second.

Despite solid work from Katunga ruckmen Dale Boswell and Mitch Sidebottom, Katunga's delivery into the forward 50 began to falter, leaving Picola to take advantage on the rebound.

Picola's Marcus Walsh was a big contributor through the middle of the ground and his hard work did not go unnoticed, while new recruit Reagan Hamilton made assured progress from the half-backline.

Picola booted three goals to two and managed to hold a slender one-point advantage as the curtain closed on the first half.

The third term saw Picola stretch its advantage out to 14 points, having booted three quick goals to close out the term.

The warm weather pushed both sides to their limits in the final term of a typically physical contest between the two sides, and despite there being some work to be done on both sides, seem to be proving as definite finals contenders.

On the day, though, Picola used its experience to hammer out five final quarter goals to run away with the 12.8.80 to 9.8.62 triumph.

If Dylan Cunningham can keep up the form that he showed in the opening round, or if Picola can provide more scoring threats, then it'll be a big chance of handling Jerilderie this week at Jerilderie Recreation Reserve.

Katunga will need to find a way to stay in the game past the third quarter if it's any chance of grabbing a win against a snarling Strathmerton side at Katunga Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Katunga's awards: Katunga Fresh: Scott Sutton, Clydesdale: Xavier Thorp, Lenny's Ag: Jared Hicks, GrainCorp Oilseeds: Kevin Van der Goor, Telegraph: Kevin Boswell.

Picola United's awards: DMH and Barmah Hotel: Dylan Cunningham, Blake Street Butcher: Marcus Walsh, Brereton's Bakery: Reagan Hamilton, Limo's Hardware: Tim Scadden.

RESERVES

Despite running neck and

neck throughout the first half, a third quarter blitz gave Picola the advantage it needed to run away with what ended up being a win with a comfortable margin, taking the points against Katunga by 37-points. Shane Cooper was the major goal-kicker for the hometown Blues, booting three, while Jayson Byrne's two goal shift helped Picola to its first reserves win of the season.

Both sides struggled to make an impactful scoring run in the opening term, managing 1.3 apiece.

The second quarter opened up just a bit and Katunga managed to snatch the lead, while Picola struggled to capitalise on its scoring opportunities.

The Swans held a three-point advantage heading into the half time break, but Picola came out firing to flip the game on its head and run Katunga off its feet with superior fitness.

In fact, Katunga was held scoreless for the remainder of the contest, unable to handle what Picola was dishing out.

Picola booted three goals in both the third and fourth quarters, running away with a 9.10.64 to 4.3.27 victory.

For Picola, seeing the likes of Jayden Gartrell slot into the senior ranks of the club with such ease, is definitely a good sign, especially with so much of the season left to develop him and other young talent around the club.

Katunga on the other hand, knows that fitness will come throughout the season, and when a few remaining cobwebs are properly addressed, could pose as a threat deeper into the season.

Katunga's awards: Dan Hendy Landforming: Josh Tetley, John King Grain: Steve Few, Clydesdale: Jordan Baker, Telegraph: Toby Miles, KNFC Meal: Brett Kymberly. Picola United's awards: Nathalia Fertiliser and Grain: Jayson Byrne, Brereton's Bakery: Shane Cooper, Minchin Mechanics: Jayden Gartrell, Numans: Ryan Hiller.

UNDER 17s

Sam Arho booted six goals to lead his Katunga side to a huge win over Picola United, 15.14.104 to 2.2.14 at the weekend.

Katunga was never really truly threatened on the scoreboard and, while Picola managed to keep its tackling pressure up throughout the game, the Swans had all the answers moving forward and turned a two-goal quarter-time lead into a six-goal half-time advantage.

Jordan Simpson and Jason Beckett managed to kick a goal each for Picola, but that

would be the only majors slotted amid a dry Blues forward line.

Meanwhile, Katunga's forward movement accounted for brilliant returns, with Arho's six-goal haul being complemented beautifully by three from Dylan Baker and two from Harry McDonald. Katunga kept the forward pressure up, with the lead at 56-points at three-quarter time, managing to equal its best quarterly output in the last term.

A five-goal quarter capped off a great day for the Swans, finishing the tie off with a big 90-point advantage.

Katunga's awards: Thorp Fencing: Bailey Smith, Ultimate Auto Repairs: Sam Arho, Dairy Livestock Services: Cal Howden, Sportfirst: Dylan Baker, Canteen: Harry McDonald.

Picola United's awards: Dove Motors and Lubke Engineering: Jordan Simpson, Peter Limbrick Accounting: Will Dargan, Barmah Social Club: Clay Stevens, TJ's: Tommi Dargan, Nathalia Hair and Beauty: Jason Beckett.

UNDER 14s

Picola's ability to drown Katunga out of the first quarter of its under 14s clash on Saturday gave it the advantage it needed to walk away with a 8.5.53 to 4.5.29 win.

Katunga was shut out in the opening term, while Picola slotted three goals, an advantage that Picola rode until the game's completion.

Katunga bounced back from the scoreless first quarter but was always kept at arm's reach by a determined Picola side that kept the scoring pressure up.

Jason Beckett was integral in Picola's scoring performance throughout the contest, with the young Blue booting four goals during the game.

Two goals each to close out the half saw Picola hold a 12-point lead, which stretched out to three goals at three quarter time.

Picola kept plugging away in the last, ensuring that the 24-point win was never in danger.

Katunga's awards: Advanced Dairy Systems: Lachie O'Brien, A&L Cook: Nathan Simpson, Supporters award: Ryan Russo, Red Cherry: Xavier Morris, Canteen Award: Zac Bosse.

Picola United's awards: Power Livestock and Barnett Family: Jason Beckett, Better-Bite Barmah: Matthew Jorgensen, Barmah Social Club: Kayden Atkinson, Als Café: Brad Atkinson, Nathalia Hair and Beauty: Clancy Baker.

Bombers get one back over Hoppers

WITH a heartbreaking preliminary final loss well in the past, Waaia has started 2019 off with a bang, racing away from Rennie in the final term to head back home with a 31-point win over the 2018 Picola and District Football League premier.

Connor Brown booted five goals for the Bombers, while a number of stand outs showed that Waaia could once again make a deep run into the finals. While Brown was working well in the forward line, Mitch Cleeland found possession around the ground frequently, while new pick up Jesse Webster showed grit as well as finesse in the ruck. Waaia went into the first break up by seven points and kept the same margin at the half.

Daniel Clarke was big for Waaia throughout the game, finishing with three goals in a performance that had the Rennie backline on its toes permanently.

The third term proved to be Rennie's best, booting four goals and levelling things by the end of the quarter.

Waaia refused to let the game slip, and with the help of the likes of Jordan Cleeland, whose tackling was immense in strangling Rennie out of the tie, and Jesse Trower, who had been delivering into the forward 50 potently for the game's entirety, sped away out of Rennie's sight.

The seven to two goal final term gave Waaia a 14.12.96 to 9.11.65 win, and a measure of revenge for how its 2018 finished.

Waaia's difficult start to the season continues this week, away against Berrigan, which is coming off an impressive win over Deniliquin Rovers.

Awards: Onley Consulting: Mitchell Cleeland, Gagliardi Scott Real Estate: Connor Brown, Telegraph Hotel: Jordan Cleeland, Mick Hogan Excavations: Jesse Trower, Sportfirst Numurkah: Ryan Sprunt.

RESERVES

A five-goal to none opening term set Waaia's reserves up for a comfortable 42-point win over Rennie, kicking off the season in style.

Mark Meyland was the main man for the Bombers, with his eight goals seeing him finish as best on ground.

Waaia never looked back after the opening quarter. Brendan Harris flew the flag and won the ball all day for the Bombers, while the Bergamins, Anthony and Mark, played brilliantly throughout.

Heading into the main break down by 32-points, Rennie managed to outscore Waaia but was still not within arm's reach, as it went into the final term down by 28-points.

The final term, though, completely belonged to Waaia.

While it only kicked two goals, the Bombers ensured Rennie was unable to add to its score, a defensive effort characterised by finding outlets as coolly and efficiently as possible.

The 11.8.74 to 5.2.32 win was exactly what Waaia would have been hoping for but it will need to front up strongly if it's to handle Berrigan this week.

Awards: Onley Consulting and Telegraph Hotel: Mark Meyland, Gagliardi Scott Real Estate and Terminus Hotel: Brendon Harris, Mick Hogan Excavations: Anthony Bergamin, Murray Valley Rural and Plumbing: Glenn Caccianiga, Ahoy Water Cartage: Sean Carey.

UNDER 17s

The junior Bombers had a much tougher time on the ground on Saturday, coming up against a strong junior club in Rennie.

The under 17s went down 4.4.28 to 11.9.75, with no Bomber able to register multiple goals.

Jackson Collins was best on ground for Waaia, but considering his side could only muster a single goal by half time, the odds weren't in Waaia's favour.

Rennie kicked six unanswered goals to open proceedings, before adding a further two in the second term to head into the main break up by 45-points.

To its credit, and thanks to players like Harvey Walker and Josh Platfuss, Waaia never gave in.

The margin stretched out slightly to 54-points at the final change of ends, before Waaia doubled its score in the last to finish off on a slightly better note than it had been afforded throughout the game.

In the end, Waaia was outclassed by Rennie, and will need to lift this week against Berrigan.

Awards: Sprunt Livestock and Terminus Hotel: Jackson Collins, Pendlebury Sand and Gravel: Harvey Walker, Doug Larkin Refrigeration: Sam Trower, D&M. Platfuss: Josh Platfuss, Waaia Canteen: Jarvis Rowlands.

UNDER 14s

The harshest game for Waaia came early in the day as the youngest Bombers were outgunned 18.12.120 to 0.0.0 by Rennie.

AJ Brooks, Bailey Platfuss and Regna Collins all tried their hardest for Waaia, but following a nine goal to none opening quarter, it was clear what was in store for the Bombers in what remained of the tie. Tom Daniel and Aiden Bryant continued to give it their all, but it wasn't to be on the day, as Rennie, and Cooper Lonergan who booted six goals, ran rampant on its way to a 120-point win.

Awards: C&C. Wilson and Terminus Hotel: AJ Brooks, Numurkah Electrical and Pump Services: Bailey Platfuss, Rex James Stock Feed: Regan Collins, D&M. Platfuss: Tom Daniel, Waaia Canteen: Aiden Bryant.



Bombers away... Tim Belford benefits from a Todd Davies Shepherd during Waaia's round one win over reigning PDFL premier Rennie on Saturday.

Strathy mauls its way to a big win

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UNDER 17s

With the 2018 premiership hanging high, Strathmerton's under 17s, led by a 12-haul from Haydn Wyatt, initiated their title defence with a massive 145-point shellacking of Blighty on Saturday.

The Bulldogs booted seven goals to kick proceedings off, keeping Blighty scoreless, where it stayed for the game's entirety.

The Bulldogs never let up and detailed exactly why they are a big contender to go back-to-back this season.

A further six goals in the second half showed the complete control the Bulldogs had on the game, with an 84-point lead proving a true indication of the power within this Strathmerton line up.

With a massive amount of damage already inflicted, Strathmerton continued to slam the visitors into submission.

Another four goals in the third term stretched the lead out beyond 100 points, before a final four-goal assault in the fourth capped off a tremendous day for the Dogs, and a dark one for Blighty.

The 21.19.145 to 0.0.0 rout gives the Bulldogs top spot on the embryonic ladder and they will hope to keep the good times rolling this week against another side that made easy work of its first-round opposition, Katunga.

UNDER 14s

The youngest Bulldogs kicked off a perfect day with a comfortable 21-point win in their clash against Blighty.

Strathmerton hit the ground running in the opening half, even though it wasn't able to properly reflect that on the scoreboard.

The Bulldogs registered five behinds in the opening term, while its midfield and defen-

sive work ensured the opposition went into the first break scoreless.

Strathmerton began to make an impact on the scoreboard, booting three unanswered goals, to roar into half time up by 23-points.

The third quarter saw an even contest as both sides managed a single goal to keep the same margin leading into the final term.

Strathmerton and Blighty both slotted a goal apiece, and the game ended with the same margin, the Bulldogs winning 5.9.39 to 2.6.18.

The Bulldogs' firepower was mainly attributed to Jai Stephens, who finished the game with three goals in a really solid performance.

Awards: Strathy Café: Will Almond, Subway: Ethan Coghill-Lynam, Terminus Hotel: Harry Barnes, Ladies Committee: Cody Edgar and McDonalds: Harry Spicer.

Strathy mauls its way to a big win

STRATHMERTON has made its intentions clear a huge 59-point triumph over a shell-shocked Blighty side at Strathmerton Recreation Reserve on Saturday afternoon. Greeted with warm weather, the Bulldogs turned up the heat even further with a blistering display of run and carry football that left Blighty eyes fixated on clean Strathmerton heels, but were able to answer with three goals to Strathmerton's four by the end of the first quarter.

As play resumed, though, the Bulldogs really began to turn the screws, manufacturing an ever-growing lead that kept Blighty well in the rear-view mirror.

The only major blemish on Strathmerton's first half display was the errant kicking for goal which saw the Bulldogs boot 3.8 in the second term. The Bulldogs, though, did enough in spite of inaccuracy towards goal, to stretch their lead out to 25-points by the end of the first half.

Lance Oswald's return to the Strathmerton outfit was highlighted by a brilliant display in the midfield, meshing well with Simon Russell and Tyron Hill, giving the Blighty charges headaches all day.

Strathmerton stretched its lead in the third term, booting four goals to two, but the defensive efforts the Bulldogs were putting in began to really turn the screws on the away side.

Shannon Emmett and Lewis O'Sullivan led a backline towards frequent rebounds, while ensuring Blighty wasn't able to make anything from its restricted opportunities.

Heading into the final term down by 38-points, Blighty couldn't add to its score for the rest of the game, while Strathmerton kept pressing to an impressive first round result.

Strathmerton's goal kicking display saw majors shared around eight different Bulldogs, with Zack-Harie Betson and Travis Down leading the line with three goals apiece, with Hill slotting two and ruckman Zeke Bunge slotting a long goal for good measure. The 14.18.102 to 6.7.43 win was exactly what Strathmerton craved to kick off the season and, with many seeing this side a contender, could be the perfect launching pad for the rest of 2019.

The Bulldogs' next challenge comes in the form of an away trip to Katunga to take on a Swans side that challenged Picola United before succumbing to an 18-point loss at the weekend.

RESERVES

In a low-scoring affair, Strathmerton's stringent backline led the club's reserve side to a solid three goal win over Blighty.

The Bulldogs kept Blighty goalless for the first three quarters, but a final term push from the visitors gave Strathmerton a big scare. It was in stark contrast to how the opening term transpired, as Strathmerton kicked away while suffocating Blighty to just a three-point return, heading into the first change up by 16-points.

The Bulldogs, meanwhile, booted three goals and rode that momentum into the sec-

ond term, where its offensive output and defensive performance weren't dissimilar, finishing the half with a 34-point lead.

Mick Keane and John Russo headed a midfield that gave Strathmerton the bulk of the control in the opening half, while John Beer showed determination and grit to give his side the leg-up throughout. While that trio did some hard work on the inside, youngsters Trent Collyer, Max Shannon and Logan King all provided sprightly runs towards the forward 50.

Strathmerton's goal-kicking production ran dry after its sole goal of the third term, and second half, but with Blighty still struggling to make an impact on the scoreboard, the Bulldogs remained in control, heading into the final term with a 38-point lead.

Having missed out on senior selection, Tristan Lee-Madgwick made the most of his time on the park in the semi-main event, booting two goals for the contest, while Jordan Crestani came away with two of his own, accounting for four goals in a match that produced just 11 between the two sides.

The final quarter saw Blighty finally boot a major and added two more, while keeping Strathmerton scoreless in a true script reversal of everything that had taken place at the ground thus far.

The damage had already been done, though, and the Bulldogs held onto the lead and snatched the first points of their season.

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Nathalia runs at 50% on opening day

NATHALIA'S reserves side proved too much for a very rusty Cobram side on Saturday, with the Purples routing the Tigers to the tune of 110-points in their round one clash.

Cobram was never afforded a foot in the door, while the Purples charged ahead with a five-goal opening term, stamping their authority on the tie early.

Brett Vallender, who would finish with six goals, led the line for Nathalia and imposed himself on the contest throughout the game.

A lead of 34 ballooned to 62-points by the end of the first half, with Cobram managing just a single major by the time of the long break.

Nathalia, meanwhile, never stopped mounting pressure on the home side, with Nathan McKenna and Scott Morris finding the ball regularly, while Sean Zammit worked hard in the ruck. While the forward line remained potent throughout the match, Nathalia's defensive work cannot go understated.

Harley Cobbley was listed among the best for his performance in both the backline and the ruck, leading a back six that gave up just nine points for the game.

The writing was on the wall as Nathalia leapt into the final term with a 79-point advantage, but with five final quarter goals capping off the day, the margin blew out to 110 points.

The 17.17.119 to 1.3.9 smashing ensures that Nathalia will go into this week's game against last season's grand final runner-up Moama with a full head of steam.

The Magpies started the 2019 season with a one-point loss to Tongala, but pose as a huge challenge for the Purples.

Awards: Ryan Meat Co: Brett Vallender, Mick Hogan Excavations: Craig Kellow, Nathalia Fuel & Gas: Nathan McKenna, Blake St Butchery: Scott Morris, Numurkah Nu-Genes: Sean Zammit, Brereton's Bakery: Harley Cobbley.

UNDER 17s

Taking on the reigning under 17s premier on

their home ground was always going to be a tough task for the Purples, but the 90-point loss to the Tigers is a tough pill to swallow, regardless.

Cobram kept Nathalia scoreless for the first three quarters as the likes of Lewis McShane, five goals, and Lewis Kennedy, three goals, wreaked havoc at the other end and proved too much to handle on the day.

Ben Armstrong and Tom Favaro did all they could in terms of leading their side against the avalanche, but the side was outmatched going forward and was never able to truly raise a threat.

Unable to score a goal, Nathalia mustered two behinds in the final term, but that was the extent of the scoring in its favour, eventually succumbing to a 0.2.2 to 14.8.92 scoreline.

This week, Nathalia faces Moama at home at 10.45am.

UNDER 14s

A slew of young Purples made their debut during Nathalia's opening round nine-point victory over Cobram, with three-time senior premiership coach Craig Kellow presenting playing jumpers to the debutants.

Brandon Orton was the standout, with a return of five goals for the game, while Kai Lundberg chipped in with three of his own.

Only a single point separated the two sides after the first quarter, but Nathalia did well to double its score in the second term to head into the main break up by nine points.

Ned Bramwell, Oliver Sheehan and Brady Walpole all played strongly in the defensive area, ensuring that Cobram wasn't able to take control of the game.

Nathalia went into the final change up by eight points and managed to hold off Cobram to finish with an 8.5.53 to 7.2.44 win.

Awards: Past Players: Jerry Amery, Bendigo Bank: Brandon Orton, Al's Café: Oliver Sheehan, Frostick Contracting: Brady Walpole, Nathalia Printers: Ned Bramwell.

Work to be done

Continued from back page

Bailey Bell, in his first game back after a season at Kyabram, carried a huge load in the midfield and translated that influence onto the scoreboard with three important goals, to be named the player of the game for Nathalia.

Ryan Butler was brilliant in defence, as his intriguing battle with Cobram star Cadeyn Williams led to Williams finishing the game goalless, while Liam Evans was typically creative and unpredictable, threatening at times to tear the game apart, to finish with three goals as the Purples' third best player.

Rhys Shannon and Ned Nihill's wing play was impressive and were essentially error-free in a clean performance.

Lachy Gemmill was outstanding in his first full game for the Purples, showing flashes of brilliance with his reading of the play, clean hands and awareness at half forward, and Malcolm Barnes was his usual industrious self as he willed his side on from the midfield.

New coach Phil Carroll was faced with a determined Cobram side that looked to blow the Purples out of the water from the opening bounce, but Nathalia's play in the second half showed promise.

"Cobram played very well early on, they got off to a good start and put us under a lot of pressure," Carroll said.

"We just looked a bit rusty early on, but we looked better once the game wore on and we got a bit of an appetite for the contest.

"We got pretty close in the end and almost managed to pinch the win."

Early on, though, Nathalia's play wasn't becoming of what the Purple faithful are used to, and

were faced with a well-drilled Tigers side looking to stretch the game.

"Cobram played to its strengths, they're very good at taking the opportunity to run when given that space and when they were able to win the ball and hand it off to their runners."

In the first test Carroll faced with premiership points on the line, the rookie coach shifted the magnets and had his side looking at the contest in a different light.

"We changed a few things, played a few players in different positions and took it on with a different mentality in the third term."

The Purples managed to outscore Cobram in that quarter, with Bailey Bell and Liam Evans beginning to create more inroads towards goals. "Bailey showed he's going to be a top-line midfielder for the year, and Liam was playing as an on-baller for the first time in a while and showed that he's able to move forward and kick a few goals, he booted three in the second half."

Nathalia will seek to rebound from the loss with a home game against Moama this weekend, which will also be seeking a first win after suffering an eight-point home loss to Tongala on Saturday. Carroll is hopeful his side can bounce back quickly.

"We'll sit down and go through it together, look at where we went well and where we can improve."

"They've got some real top-line players in the lineup, and it'll be interesting to test them out on the bigger ground."

Awards: BOG Mug: Bailey Bell, Bourke Group: Rhys Shannon, Liddell Group-Dellcorp: Liam Evans, Numurkah Tyre Power: Ned Nihill, Nathalia IGA: Ryan Butler, Brereton's Bakery: Lachlan Gemmill.



Opening day bags ... Nathan Hicks booted six goals as his Numurkah Blues took Finley apart on Sunday

Numurkah paints the town Blue

Continued from back page

"That was definitely one of our real highlights, the team's use by foot and hand, to spread away from the contest."

"It's how we want to play the game, that's how we use our ground to our advantage, by spreading the ball outwards. It was a big positive."

While the downpour of Blues goals took the limelight on the day, Numurkah's defensive efforts ensured that the Cats were not able to mount any sort of continuous momentum and were far away from manufacturing a comeback.

"Finley got the ball into its forward line quite a bit, but I think the pressure we put on them was what forced them to miss a few goals."

"We made sure we had the right match ups, and our pressure was big in terms of making them miss those shots."

With the ability to break the lines, Numurkah's rebounding ability came to the fore and was assisted with a rule change that has just been implemented this season.

"We made sure we used the footy well. There were a couple of times we went coast to coast

out of the backline, and at times went out really quickly, with the new rule that allows the player kicking in from a behind to run out of the square."

"A couple of times, our player got an extra 30 metres kicking towards the wing, it was a big boost and it'll be a valuable asset to a few clubs."

With a win on the books, Warren and Numurkah's attention turns to a clash against Tongala at Tongala Recreation Reserve, but may be facing that side without Matt Smyth, who will be heading to the tribunal after being reported. Warren is more focused on a side that is coming off a solid win against Moama.

"We're going to head in and try to play our game this week, they've got Cam Ilett from the Northern Territory who is an amazing footballer, so we'll look at him and make sure he's matched up properly."

"We're going to head in and play risky football, it's our game style, it's how we do it and though it's not going to be an easy game, we'll do what we can to prepare for it ahead of Saturday."

NumurkahLEADER Sports

Numurkah paints the town Blue

NUMURKAH made a statement during its round one Murray Football League clash against Finley on Sunday, accounting for the Cats by 97 points in a blistering display of run and carry football at Numurkah Showgrounds.

Nathan Hicks booted six majors, while Mitch Price and Michael Herlihy slotted four each in a comprehensive display of attacking footy.

The writing was on the wall for Finley early. Numurkah kicked six goals to two in the opening term, but there was going to be a lot more pain before the day was out for the visitors.

With a blistering first half to build upon, Numurkah refused to go easy on Finley, and hammered another five goals to stretch the lead out to 79-point heading into the last quarter.

With players like Jarrod Holmes and Jamie Fulton booting multiple goals, alongside five others who etched their name onto the goal kickers list, Numurkah closed out the day with a five-goal final term, cementing the 23.11.149 to 7.10.52 win.

Coach Jye Warren knows that it's early days, but to be able to start the season off in such a dominating way, was definitely happy with how he and his team's Sunday afternoon played out.

"It was almost unbelievable, the way the boys played was such a great start to the year."

While Nathan Hicks' six-goal performance was outstanding, the team's ability as a whole to host an assault on goal was a major talking point for those around the ground.

"We had some really good contributors all around the ground," Warren said.

"Not only did our forwards step up, but so did our midfielders to hit the scoreboard well."

A key characteristic of Numurkah's senior side is its ability and willingness to take the game on with a run and carry philosophy, and that component was in full flight on Sunday for the Blues.

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One of two ... Jamie Fulton quickly kicks for goal in his two goal performance on Sunday against Finley.

Nathalia has work to do

THE Phil Carroll era of Nathalia football has kicked off on a sour note, after his side was unable to find its way past a statement-making Cobram team during the Purples' 13-point round one loss at Scott Oval on Saturday.

A game sullied by repeated stoppages and free kicks, Nathalia trailed at every break, but managed to come within striking distance of the lead late in the final term, before the Tigers sealed the game following a free kick and goal in Cobram's goal square.

While forced to face the wind in the opening term, Cobram made the

better start of the two teams, with Nathalia fumbling possession and conceding a number of frees, despite getting to the ball first as it took charge of the contested ball contest. Cobram managed to release the ball quickly as it capitalised on the opportunities afforded to it and moved the ball around the field dangerously, thanks to quick release and efficient use moving forward.

Nathalia went into the first break 10-points down but would have been further in the red if Cobram had managed to be more accurate in front of goal, as it kicked just two goals from eight scoring shots.

The second term showcased a Nathalia side willing to force its way back into the contest and gained the ascendency as it lifted its energy and found itself within a goal of the lead before Cobram found another gear to respond with vigor.

The Tigers closed out the half with three unanswered goals, taking a wave of momentum into the rooms. Upon resumption, the tie seemed to evolve into a contest more befitting a clash between two premiership contenders, but while the intensity lifted, more free kicks and frequent stoppages ensured the shine of the qualifying final rematch was dim.

Despite being assisted with a decreasing wind, Nathalia only managed three goals to two and wasn't able to benefit from its increased efficiency around the ground, leaving Cobram with a 19-point break at the final change.

It looked as if Cobram had finally raced away from Nathalia after it kicked the first three goals of the last quarter, but the Purples weren't about to lie down and be completely overrun.

Nathalia's ball movement became more aggressive, and it stood up to the challenge by kicking the next four goals, bringing itself within five

points with less than five minutes remaining.

For all of the Purple's good work came undone, though, as Nathalia attempted to find an outlet out of defence, its releasing kick was smoothed in Cobram's goal square.

An infraction against the Purples gave Cobram a free kick, a simple goal, and in the end, the game. Though the 10.7.67 to 11.14.80 loss wasn't how Nathalia would have liked to see the footballing year start off, it wasn't all doom and gloom as a number of Nathalia players stood up and put in impressive shifts.

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Swans win over Picola



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Butes outlast Swans