

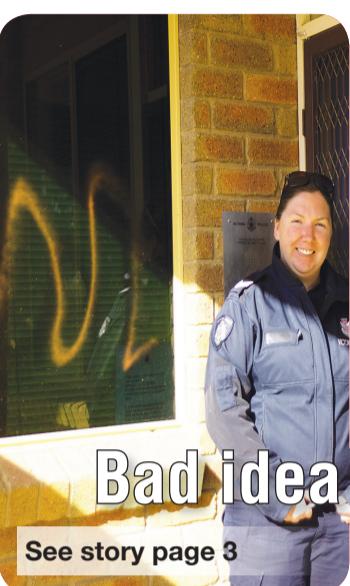
established 1895

Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019

\$1.30

INSIDE



Engineering a bright future ... Mitchell Purdon scoops another prize, this time at the GrainCorp Moira Shire Business Excellence awards on Friday evening. See story page 6.

Bright future

CELEBRITY CHEF SERIES

Channel 10 chef Andre De Laine will headline the 3rd instalment of the **shamrock** hotel'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.

Meeting prompts action

Meeting prompts action on corellas

A PUBLIC meeting to find out what can be done about Numurkah's destructive corella flock has been hailed a success, with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) prepared to take action.

Nathan Stamkos from DELWP, who attended the meeting with another DELWP representative, told the *Leader* that having taken the opportunity to view the situation in town just prior to the meeting, and hearing about the impact of the birds at the meeting, DELWP has prioritised the matter.

Mr Stamkos said that Numurkah's situation is somewhat unique given the number of birds, and their presence in such a built up area.

"Little corellas, which these appear to be, are a protected species, but in large numbers their impact becomes unsustainable for people's wellbeing," he said.

Numurkah Caravan Park owner Russell Harbor was one of a number of people to address the meeting about the impact the birds had on his business.

"Visitors comment that the park is lovely, but they won't stay because of the noise from the corellas," he said.

Mr Stamkos told the *Leader* that this was the type of issue that indicated that corella numbers needed to be controlled.

"When they are causing widespread economic damage and affecting infrastructure and people's livelihoods, that becomes a concern," he said.

This comment echoes DELWP's Living With Wildlife Action Plan, which states that human safety is paramount and that while looking after the welfare of animals and conserving species are important, the impact on human health and safety must always be the first consideration.

Mr Stamkos said that recent weather conditions, and Numurkah's natural environment were contributing to the current issue.

"Prolonged dry periods caused them to concentrate in areas where they have access to food and water, and with the Broken Creek running through Numurkah, it is very attractive to them."

This seemed to offer confirmation of the theory for why corellas present an issue for GrainCorp's Numurkah plant, but have never been seen near the grain storage site on Katamatite-Nathalia Rd.

Continued page 6

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

Celeb chef series
shamrock hotel

Wed, April 17

6pm

\$100

For more information
phone 58621006 or see
Shamrock staff



PETER COX & SONS
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Professional service tailored to your needs

Locally owned & operated 24 hours - 7 days a week

Funeral calls and information

5862 3047

Cnr Meiklejohn & Quinn Streets

ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

Meals on Wheels Roster

	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
M 8/4	M. Luci J. Luci	M. Gundrill L. Decker V. Dickinson	Lions Club of Numurkah L. Adams L. Murdoch
T 9/4	J. Nolan		V. Bunny
W 10/4	R. Kennett	C. Boldi C. North	
T 11/4	W. Knight	J. Stanyer	J. & S. Beer
F 12/4	G. Watson R. Wright	Rotary Club of Numurkah	C. & K. Cole

Coordinator — MHA Care

Phone 5742 1111

Green with envy!



Catalogue out now!



Shepparton

Homemaker Centre

Ph: 5822 0600

fantasticfurniture.com.au

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!



Numurkah Leader is bound by the Standards of Practice of the Australian Press Council. If you believe the Standards may have been breached, you may approach the newspaper itself or contact the Council by email (info@presscouncil.org.au) or by phone ([02] 9261 1930). For further information see www.presscouncil.org.au.

APC The Standards may have been breached, you may approach the newspaper itself or contact the Council by email (info@presscouncil.org.au) or by phone ([02] 9261 1930). For further information see www.presscouncil.org.au.

NumurkahLEADER

88 Melville Street, Numurkah VIC 3636
Phone: 03 5862 1034 Fax: 03 5862 2668

www.numurkahleader.net.au

Published by Jinki Sixteen Pty. Ltd.

and printed by Newsprinters Pty Ltd

Registered by Australia Post - Print Post publication no. 100002644

FIRE WATCH

Busy week for firies as weather cools down

AFTER a relatively quiet summer, local CFA brigades have had a busy start to autumn with a variety of fire, and other incidents, providing eight call-outs as temperatures cooled in the past week.

Just after midday last Tuesday, March 26, Wunghnu, Kaarimba and Waaia brigades were turned out to support Tallygaroopna and Shepparton at a grass fire at Tallygaroopna that had been started by a slasher.

All three brigades were stopped before they reached the scene.

At 1.20pm the same day, Numurkah and Nathalia brigades were called to a house fire at the corner of

Kostadt and Nicholson Streets, Nathalia.

A woman was using acetone to strip some paint, and had a candle burning a couple of metres away. She left the room for a while and returned to find the candle had ignited the acetone, setting fire to the house.

The fire burnt up the wall, and was going into the ceiling space when Nathalia brigade arrived. The fire was quickly brought under control, and some roofing iron was removed to make sure there was no fire in the ceiling.

Last Wednesday, at 1.10am, five local brigades, along with Shepparton's

hazardous materials van and aerial pumper, took an hour to bring a fire at a Strathmerton residence under control.

Firefighters remained on scene for around four hours, police were also on scene, and police forensic scientists and CFA fire investigators arrived on Wednesday to investigate the cause.

Just after 8pm on Thursday, Katunga and both Strathmerton brigades, along with Cobram SES, police and ambulance were called to a fatal motor vehicle accident at Sharps Lane Bearii. It was a single vehicle accident, in which the driver had struck a tree.

At 5.10pm the following day, Yarroweyah brigade and both Strathmerton brigades were turned out to a camp-fire burning at Ulupna Island on a day of total fire ban. The camp-fire was in the open and the campers put the fire out when instructed to by the CFA. Yarroweyah was stopped before it left the fire station.

Then at 7.10pm, Strathmerton brigade was turned out to another camp fire on a day of total fire ban, this time on Pump Bend Track, Koonoomoo.

This camp-fire, which was also in the open, was extinguished by the fire brigade.

In both cases, the camp-

ers said they did not know it was a day of total fire ban. Nathalia Police attended both incidents.

On Saturday, at 7.40pm, Wunghnu brigade was turned out to a reported large bonfire burning in the fire danger period, at the Wunghnu recreation reserve. The fire, which was a small fire in the open in front of the shed, was extinguished by the fire brigade.

At 1.30pm on Monday, Wunghnu brigade was called out again, this time to assist Tallygaroopna and Shepparton to investigate a smoke sighting at the corner of Barmah/Shepparton Road and McClelland Road, Zeerust. Wunghnu was not required.

Best in business celebrated at business excellence awards

Continued from page 1

"We'd like to thank all the sponsors and our nominator. It has been a great honour to be nominated and it is a greater honour to have taken out the title for customer service," owner Peter Cox said.

It was Cobram's time to shine in the Excellence in Retail category, with Noonan's Showcase Jewellers coming in first for their level of customer awareness and service, innovation, business ethics and community support.

"This is amazing, thank you so much. I'd like to thank the beautiful girls that work with us, we've

had Colleen for 10 years and Theresa has just done 25," Cath Noonan said.

The Best New Business is Yarrawonga's KOBL Studio for their passion in the industry and their ability to grow the business.

"I have the most amazing staff and a great team behind me. To Shari (Mills), my absolute rock, you've managed the salon and treated it like your own while I was away having my third baby. I'm forever grateful for your hard work, determination and our friendship," she said.

Yarrawonga had another

winner in Ross Tomatoes for the Excellence in Agriculture and Primary Production category.

"We've been flying under the radar for quite some time but thank you very much for this. I have to thank (my wife) Annie, you stood by me for 22 years through the ups and downs," owner Peter Ross said.

Rich Glen Olive Oil in Yarrawonga took out the Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality with owner Ros Vodusek thanking Moira Shire for the recognition.

"We want to thank the shire and our beautiful, thanks to everyone in the

room and congratulations to everyone in the room," Mrs Vodusek said.

It was Cobram's turn again for the top spot, this time in the Excellence in Industry and Manufacturing with MS Constructions taking the prize.

"I'd like to thank my staff mainly as without them we wouldn't get to where we do, Moira Shire as we do a lot of work in Cobram-Ba-rooga and thanks to everyone who helped put on a great evening," owner Matt Sim said.

In the Young Business Person of the Year category apprentice fitter and turner at Katunga's Stanyer Engi-

neering Mitchell Purdon took out the top spot over Natalie Wood, Andrew James and Shari Mills.

"I'd just like to say thankyou to work and my parents for putting up with me for this long," he said.

And the overall 2019 GrainCorp Moira Business Champion went to KOBL Studio and owner Kayla Oughton said the experience was surreal.

"I have no words. I just feel so honoured and humble to be up here. Everyone here tonight does so well in what they do and I am completely blown away," she said.

Letter to the Editor

Medicare freeze

REGIONAL MPs should all back Labor's policy to end the freeze on Medicare rebates.

The freeze, established in 2014 by Tony Abbott and continued by Turnbull and Morrison, means patients are paying more to see a GP.

When Mr Morrison was Treasurer, he had the choice to stop the Coalition's cut to Medicare by lifting the rebate freeze, instead he chose to give big business a tax cut and extended the freeze by another two years.

Prior to Mr Morrison's extension of the Medicare freeze, over 120,000 people in regional areas across the country had experienced a barrier in accessing necessary health care, with the main reason being cost of service.

It is expected that, with Mr Morrison's

decision, this number will only grow.

Our regional areas are being punished most.

54% of people living in rural and remote areas have one or more chronic diseases, and mortality rates are 1.3 times higher in remote areas as in major cities.

They are more likely to have long-term health conditions, which require medical attention and management; but earn significantly less than their city counterparts and cannot afford to pay the growing gap between the Medicare rebate and doctor charges, despite the obvious need for medical attention.

People in regional Australia are delaying a visit to their GP before their health problems escalate.

As health issues worsen, people are pushed into emergency departments which are already struggling to handle patients.

Stephen Jones
Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government.

Footy and netball clubs grants open

GRANTS are now open for country football and netball clubs looking to upgrade grounds, courts and pavilions.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to football and netball clubs across rural, regional and outer metropolitan Victoria for projects such as ground resurfacing, installation of lighting, building modern and safer netball courts, and new pavilions with accessible and female-friendly change rooms.

Since the Country Football Netball Program commenced in 2005, it has provided more than \$26.6 million to over 480 projects across the state to help clubs meet growing demand and welcome even more members.

Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp encouraged local clubs to consider applying to the program, saying that everybody deserves equal facilities, no matter where they live.

"Regional clubs including those in Northern Victoria region are a breeding ground for our next generation of sporting champions," he said.

"They deserve modern and safe facilities they can be proud of."

Clubs in regional Victoria and outer metropolitan areas of Melbourne are eligible to apply. Applications are now open and close on June 3, 2019. For more information or to apply online, visit www.sport.vic.gov.au.



Beverley Hutchins
Editor



James Sutton
Graphic Designer



Dominique Cosgriff
Journalist



Heather Kelly
Sales



Michael Burton
Sports Journalist



Melinda Scott
Admin



Svenja Proescher
Sports Photographer



Bad idea ... Sen Const Anne Connor said police had no trouble identifying the person behind the graffiti attack.

Cop shop graffitied

A NUMURKAH woman has been interviewed with regards to a graffiti offence at the Numurkah police station overnight on Saturday.

The woman became frustrated when she attended the station to report the theft of a motor vehicle, and found the station unattended.

The woman is then alleged to have spray painted the front door and windows of the station in a random pattern with orange paint.

A fatal collision occurred on Sharps Lane, Beari just after 8pm on Thursday. A 33 year-old male was the sole occupant of the vehicle, which hit a tree. Police are investigating the causes of the collision.

A number of thefts were reported in the district overnight on Thursday.

A 1998 Toyota Hilux has been stolen from an address at Mywee Rd Strathmerton. The vehicle

is's registration is 1HW 8MU, and it has a flat tray and black bull bar.

Tools and copper have been stolen from a rural property on Murray Valley Highway on the same night, and registration plates - ZMK 160 - have been stolen from a vehicle in Sturt St, Yarrawonga.

School children were lucky to escape injury, when the school bus they were travelling on collided with a white Ford Focus, when the Ford's driver failed to give way when performing a U-turn in front of the bus on the GV Highway at Koonoomoo last Friday.

The driver of the bus was praised by police for his efforts in preventing a potentially more serious collision.

A 70 year-old Tocumwal man has been issued with a penalty notice in regard to the incident.

Forest Fire Management plans burns

FOREST Fire Management Victoria (FFM Vic), has shared its plans to reduce the risks of major bushfires in the Victorian community.

The way they plan to do this is by preparing planned burns and other activities such as slashing, and mowing throughout the Hume region, to reduce the amount of fuel loads that fuel the bushfires.

"It is about doing more to reduce this risk and being more effective in how we do it." Aaron Kennedy said.

It is planned to start the planned burns in August this year, although burns could possibly commence in early April.

Burns near communities, in the high country, and timber harvesting regeneration will

initially be given priority.

These activities will be carried out when the weather conditions are suitable, to eliminate risks.

Every planned burn undertaken by FFM Vic will have adequate resources, including ground crews, fire fighting vehicles, plant and aircraft.

This year FFM Vic Hume Region will be issuing two notifications weekly and daily during the autumn planned burning program.

These notifications will detail the burns that will be ignited the following day within each district.

The notifications will be issued daily at approximately 5pm.



Salvage operation ...
Baker Ray Kelly and owner Andrew Brentnall survey the damage.

Home lost in Strathy fire

A TWO bedroom unit behind the former butcher shop in Strathmerton was completely razed, after fire took hold overnight last Wednesday.

Baker Ray Kelly was in the kitchen of Strathy Hot Bread, directly adjacent to the unit, when he heard an explosion at around 1.10am.

Mr Kelly said he ran to the front of the bakery to look out the windows, but saw nothing.

"I came back into the kitchen and there was a bright red glow through the skylights, so I immediately knew there was a fire," he said.

Fire brigades were quickly on site, with both Strathmerton brigades, as well as Cobram, Numurkah, Yarroweyah and Katunga attending.

Shepparton's aerial pumper was required due to difficulties with access to the structure, and the hazardous materials van also attended.

Firefighters wore breathing apparatus due to the likelihood of asbestos cement material.

Given the severity of the fire, and the materials present, the district 22 Rehab unit also attended, with personnel monitoring firefighters as they came off the fire front.

It took around an hour for fire crews to bring the fire under control, with firefighters remaining on scene for around four hours.

The residence's owner, and sole occupant, Andrew Brentnall was not at home at the time of the fire, having taken advantage of the warm weather to go camping along the Murray, but arrived

home in the early hours after being notified of the fire.

Mr Brentnall told the *Leader* that by the time he arrived home, the property, and two cars parked next to it, were completely destroyed.

"There was nothing left, I'm just going through now to see if there is anything I can salvage," he said.

Mr Brentnall said that he had managed to find some jewellery that was most likely irreparable, and that his great grandfather's coin collection, and all of his family photos, were completely destroyed.

"I'm insured, but it's those little bits and pieces that have sentimental value that you can't replace," he said.

The force of the initial blast knocked the hot water service off the roof of the bakery, whilst the heat from the fire melted the fans in the cool rooms.

Mr Kelly said that they were able to get workmen in to get the cool rooms running on Wednesday morning, and had lost little business time, although the business' air conditioning was still out of action on Thursday.

Police forensic scientists and CFA fire investigators arrived on Wednesday to investigate the cause of the blaze. The investigation is ongoing, but initial investigations suggest that the seat of the fire was in the unit's living room, with a potential second seat elsewhere.

Amalgamation raised in parliament

THE NCN health service amalgamation proposal has made its way to state parliament, with Shadow Minister for Health Georgie Crozier questioning Health Minister Jenny Mikakos about the issue last week.

Ms Crozier noted that, although it was reported last June that there would be no amalgamation, community consultations for the proposal had recently been held.

She then asked the Minister why she was personally forcing the amalgamation against the community's wishes.

The Minister responded by calling the question 'total nonsense', and

said that she was aware that the three health services are exploring a merger, and consultations on the proposal are ongoing.

The Hansard record of the exchange quotes the Minister as saying that the conversations are being driven by the health services themselves, rather than by her or her department.

She further said that, whilst she will not prohibit health services from entering into these discussions, she would not consider, or even entertain, any merger proposal that involves either a reduction in service offering, a reduction in service locations, or a

loss of jobs.

She went on to say any proposed voluntary amalgamation of health services must be approved by her, and must show that there will be benefit to the community.

The Minister said that, while she was aware that there have been some locals who are concerned about the proposed merger, she had been inundated in recent days with correspondence from locals who are indicating their strong support for it.

Hansard shows that the Minister said she would encourage local com-

munity members to become involved in the consultations.

In response to a question from the *Leader* as to whether her comments were an indication that she was expecting the health service boards to hold further community consultation before an application for amalgamation was made, Minister Mikakos said:

"While community consultation is a matter for the health service boards, we would encourage them to ensure any plans they are putting together are prepared with the community's voice."

"Patients in Numurkah and surrounds deserve the very best health care, and we will not entertain any proposal that involves a reduction in services, jobs or the closure of existing facilities."

"Anyone who has queries or concerns regarding the future of the health services can contact the CEO and her staff directly."

Ms Crozier told the *Leader* that she has made an appointment with NDHS CEO Jacque Phillips later this month to discuss the amalgamation proposal.

fienza® Fall Sale

Koko Range



Basin Mixer
RRP \$190 Now \$130



Tall Basin Mixer
RRP \$360 Now \$240



Wall Mixer
RRP \$140 Now \$95



Swivel Sink Mixer
RRP \$199 Now \$135



Wall Spout and Mixer
RRP \$299 Now \$199



Fixed Bath Spout
RRP \$99 Now \$75



Multifunction Half Rail Shower
RRP \$520 Now \$350



Handheld Shower
RRP \$120 Now \$85



Multifunction Rail Shower
RRP \$599 Now \$399



Handheld Rail Shower
RRP \$199 Now \$135

Also Available in Matt Black Finish



Gooseneck Swivel Basin Mixer
RRP \$299 Now \$198



Wall Mixer
RRP \$199 Now \$135



Shepherds Crook Basin Mixer
RRP \$299 Now \$198



Shepherds Crook Sink Mixer
RRP \$399 Now \$265



Floor Bath Mixer
RRP \$939 Now \$680

Also Available with Ceramic White Handle - Champagne/Brushed Nickel/Matt Black Finish available on some models (Prices Vary)



EMPIRE BACK-TO-WALL TOILET SUITE

Hygienic NANO-GLAZE protection
Concealed pan for easy cleaning
UF quick release, soft close seat
Stainless steel hinges
Available as P-Trap or S-Trap

P-Trap RRP \$475 Now \$399
S-Trap RRP \$510 Now \$420



STELLA CLOSED COUPLE TOILET SUITE

EXTRA HEIGHT PAN
RIMLESS PAN hygienic flush
Concealed pan for easy cleaning
PP soft close seat
Available as S-Trap Only

RRP \$349 Now \$235



DOLCE 900 + UniCab on Kickboard

Width: 900mm x Depth: 460mm x
Total Height: 900mm
Model TCL90NK

White RRP \$659 Now \$550



DOLCE 900 + Edge Scandi Oak wall-hung

Width: 900mm x Depth: 460mm x
Total Height: 670mm
Model TCL9OS

Oak RRP \$659 Now \$550



DOLCE 900 + EDGE Industrial Wall-hung

RRP \$659 Now \$550
Model TCL90XR

Industrial RRP \$659 Now \$550

Available in various finishes and sizes. Wall Hung or on kicks.
600, 750, 900 and 1200 wide models available
See in store for further details

Toilet suites

Eleanor

Vanities

Available at

AGNEW'S

Plumbtec

BATHROOM KITCHEN & PLUMBING SUPPLIES



5 Great Locations

101 Melville St, Numurkah
110 Annesley St, Echuca
43-45 Archer St, Shepparton
8 Kuhle Court, Kyabram
131 Karook St, Cobram

Ph. 03 5862 1849
Ph. 03 5480 2222
Ph. 03 5022 0006
Ph. 03 5852 3350
Ph. 03 5872 2300



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.

Red Cross Society. — Mrs Cohen, secretary of the Red Cross Society, acknowledges the receipt of £1/2/3 from afternoon teas during March. At the last meeting the society decided to discontinue collecting the monthly subscriptions from members, as it is considered that there is sufficient money in hand to meet all likely contingencies. The sewing meetings will be continued as heretofore. Another decision arrived at was that returned soldiers whose "issue" did not comprise pyjamas should be given two pairs on their return home.

Miller Homes. — The complete plans and specifications for these will probably be to hand by the end of this week. An advertisement re tenders for their erection will appear in the columns of this paper.

Peace Thanksgiving Services. — On Saturday morning the Protestant ministers met and discussed the question of holding thanksgiving services on the Sunday to be set apart therefor. It was agreed that, seeing that the interests of district congregations had to be studied, the churches should conduct services individually, no action being taken as to the suggestion to hold a combined service of thanksgiving in the afternoon. A suggestion has been made that this matter be taken up independently by the ministers. A combined choir could be organised, the band could render a programme of selections, and a speaker "imported" to address the meeting. The occasion, to our mind, warrants something of the sort being done, and we hope the suggestion will be taken up.

Proposed Fathers' Association. — A meeting of Numurkah and district fathers of soldiers will be held in the Shire Hall on Friday afternoon next, at 4.30 o'clock. The chief object of the meeting is to arrange for the formation of an association to "stand behind" the Returned Soldiers' Association. It has been found elsewhere, and the need has been indicated here, too, that the R.S.A. needs an organisation behind it composed of men of maturer years than the members of the R.S.A. The latter body consists, for the most part, of young men, men who know well what they are entitled to by reason of their services to their country, but lacking, some of them, the worldly experience of their elders, and where there are wrongs to be righted and grievances to be redressed it is desirable that the added influence of such a body as the Fathers' Association should be available. There is no danger of the interests of the two organisations conflicting, and, conducted along right lines, the amalgamation of the two bodies will make a force that will have to be reckoned with. This, roughly, is the reason for the meeting, and as every father of soldiers is interested in the welfare of his son it can be anticipated that there will be a large attendance.

A suggestion has been made that a Mothers' Association be formed. Such a body might not be able to wield a great influence in the world of politics, but a social club would be a delight to most mothers, a place to which they could go and exchange confidences over the doings of their boys. We hope to see such an organisation formed.

At the Fathers' meeting discussion will take place as to the members' participation in the peace celebrations. The fathers will want the display to be as nearly as possible worthy of the gallant exploits of their boys, and from the meeting should come suggestions that will materially add to the display to be made when the peace treaty is signed.

Water Works Inspection. — Recently the members of the Shires of Tungamah and Numurkah Water Works Trusts paid a visit of inspection to Casey's weir and other works in the Benalla Shire. All the members of the Numurkah Trust, except Coms. Meiklejohn and Schier, accompanied by the trust engineer and secretary, arrived at Tungamah Shire Hall about 10 a.m., and were welcomed by Com. Cummins (chairman) and members of the Tungamah Waterworks Trust and officers. After a brief delay a move was made via St. James for an inspection of Bailey's, Hall's, and Casey's weirs and offtakes.

Mitch wins again

APPRENTICE fitter and turner Mitchell Purdon has once again reaped the benefits of going the extra mile, scooping the Young Business Person of the Year award at last week's Grain-Corp Moira Shire Business Excellence Awards.

Mitchell will add the award to the two GOTAFE outstanding apprentice awards he holds - one for each year of his apprenticeship that he has so far completed.

The Young Business Person of the Year award was an especially hard one to pick this year, as each of the nominees came from a completely different discipline, making their efforts hard to compare.

Mitchell said he was especially surprised to win, as nobody outside the field seems to know what it is that fitters and turners actually do.

"It's a very broad field

with lots of different types of work, so it can be quite hard to explain to people," he said.

"I really didn't expect to win, so I was pretty shocked, but very excited when they called my name."

One of the reasons for Mitchell's win was the initiative he has shown in getting different licences to expand his knowledge and skill base.

Mitchell has achieved his

dogman's licence, which allows him to hook up chains to cranes, his elevated working platform, 13 metres plus, licence, and his forklift licence.

On top of that, Mitchell is currently undertaking night classes to gain his welding licence.

"I want to give myself as broad a skill base as possible, so that I can work on different types of worksites, and give myself more op-

tions of where I can go and what I can do in the future," he said.

Always humble, Mitchell used his acceptance speech to tell the audience that he had been taught by the best, acknowledging Bradley Knight, his supervisor at Stanyer Engineering, his trade school teacher John, and his metalwork teacher Mr Tilley, who steered him in the direction of fitting and turning.

Letter to the Editor

Communication the key

AT the risk of being labelled a "zealot", I would like to respond to the Letter to the Editor (*Numurkah Leader*, March 27, 2019) from Mr N.J. McPherson, who has written of his experience and interpretation of the community led meeting held on March 20, 2019.

The communications and advertising inclusive of the "Hospital Emergency" invitation distributed by concerned members of the community over the last two months (\$300 spent in total) managed to entice a crowd of 74 persons (including Mr McPherson) to the recent community led meeting, where attendees were presented with basic facts and were able to provide feedback regarding the process, and their concerns with the proposed amalgamation of the Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram health services.

In contrast, the Numurkah District Health Service, in its 2017/2018 Annual Report, has already spent over \$79,000 on Voluntary Partnership Proposal and Voluntary Partnership Proposal Due Diligence activities, with a further \$157,000 earmarked for future expenditure.

Nathalia District Hospital has already spent \$20,000 on the business case for Numurkah, Cobram, Nathalia merger, and Cobram District Health has spent \$20,000 with Cube Consulting, the same company engaged for Numurkah and Nathalia's voluntary partnership activities.

All this money spent on engaging communities and information gathering and still the amalgamation proposal community consultation required an additional meeting to be provided following pressure from a largely uninformed community. This meeting finally attracted 70-80 persons from across the three communities (>15,000 catchment).

Contrary to Mr McPherson's claims that "the actual and honest record shows almost two years of steady, thoughtful information flow as three concepts were investigated", the CEO of Numurkah District Health Service was reported in the *Numurkah Leader*, March 20, 2019 as having stated at that meeting "the boards had realised they could have done a

better job of communicating with the public about the process and benefits of amalgamation".

Mr McPherson also states he "gained an impression that the three hospital boards were being accused of a conspiracy to hide the idea and process from us".

We were told from the outset that the DHHS did not force amalgamation onto our health services, but what the community was not told was, at a point in time (2017), local health service representatives sat down with the DHHS and discussed options for taking our health care into the future.

The three options were a) do nothing, b) form partnerships, c) voluntary amalgamation. When were our communities going to be informed of these options?

We were finally informed at the additional NCN community meeting on March 14, 2019. The NDHS Board Chair was asked (at the NCN additional meeting March 14, 2019) if the three boards were unanimous in their decision to amalgamate. He responded by saying, "mine were, I don't know about the others".

The ongoing lack of transparency has plagued the community consultation process.

In May 2018, I was assured by a Department of Health and Human Services Acting Director that the amalgamation process was NOT going ahead. The *Numurkah Leader* reported the same information in June 2018. I personally met with DHHS representatives in June 2018, who did not deny the amalgamation proposal was off the table when I showed them the clipping from the *Numurkah Leader* (June 6, 2018).

As it was stated by a member of the community at the community led meeting on March 20, everyone sighed a sigh of relief, and this same person then asked "so what were they doing in the months between June and February (2019)?", as the (stage two) consultation came and went.

At the NCN meeting on the March 14, we finally were advised of the truth that the amalgamation proposal was put on hold in 2018, due to the impending election, and they had been advised to stop - I ask why the deception?

While the community believed the amalgamation proposal was "off the table", NCN was quietly setting up their new governance

structure with the appointment of the directorate level of executive management across the three health services, as well as other strategic appointments.

Already, functions that were previously performed in house are now contracted out to manage the finances of all three organisations.

As reported recently in the *Numurkah Leader*, March 20, 2019, Ms Phillips said "On reflection, we could have provided some more communication in the later half of 2018, while we continued to progress steps towards a voluntary amalgamation proposal".

Early information provided on the NCN website originally stated there will only be one budget across the three health services. This information is no longer available on the current website.

When pressured at the NCN community meeting on March 14, the NDHS Board Chair stated the amalgamation process will cost \$1million.

As a community, we were told, via the NCN website, in February 2018, that the due diligence was being undertaken alongside the community consultation process.

I have to ask, how did our boards of management arrive at the decision to progress the amalgamation proposal without having the results of the due diligence to hand prior and why was the community consulted prior to this information being made available?

The results of the due diligence were only finalised in December 2018 and provided to our community in the form of a Due Diligence Report - Key Findings Summary (a very lacking summary document), on March 14, 2019.

Could the community be forgiven for thinking the DHHS and the NCN have deliberately withheld information from our community?

As a community, we have not been guaranteed any specific outcomes from superimposing amalgamation on top of the partnerships model of management. We were told we may receive additional funding through amalgamation and streamline some administration processes.

"Partnerships", which are current government policy (statewide design, service and infrastructure plan for Victoria 2017-2037) cater for the growing funding and service needs of Victorians into the future. Managing the health

services this way, as opposed to amalgamating, costs very little, uses memorandum of understanding between agencies, and allows each health service to retain its independence and identity.

All three hospitals have been "partnering" successfully since 2018, with noticeable gains in service provision and funding opportunities. The recently implemented model, which most health services have adopted across Victoria, is proving itself through the outcomes NDHS has already achieved.

The Director of Clinical Services at the community led meeting stated that "partnering" was "too much work".

Mr McPherson mentions compliance, funding and credentialing as being duplicated and adding to the workload when partnering. Why are Yarrawonga Health and many other independent health services across Victoria confident they will remain sustainable when using this model?

There are many electronic applications and IT solutions which have been in use across health services in Victoria for many years which streamline these functions, i.e. credentialing, Health Legal, elearning, VHIMS, econtracts, PROMPT, joint funding applications (some), etc.

Mr McPherson writes "it is absolutely certain that, in the future, the health departments, both federal and state, will prefer to deal with fewer, bigger health providers when allocating funding and monitoring compliance", but goes on to contradict himself by saying "the only certainties that any intelligent and responsible body or person can guarantee in life are death and taxes." So which is it to be?

Commentary from the community criticising the amalgamation proposal has never been about individuals. No one doubts the work and effort put in by anyone in our community who undertakes voluntary work - and there are many among us.

The criticism has been directed at the amalgamation proposal process, poor consultation, lack of transparency and failure to provide the community with a balance of information.

The responsibility for this falls squarely on the three boards of management collectively.

Kerry Cursons
Numurkah

COME AND SEE US FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING

CALENDARS
POSTERS UP TO A1
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

MAGAZINES
FLYERS, MENUS
BUSINESS CARDS

Numurkah LEADER
Ph. 5862 1034
88 Melville St, Numurkah

Meeting prompts action on corellas

Mr Stamkos said that there were a number of different ways to try and control corella numbers, but the presence of Numurkah's flying fox colony complicated matters slightly in the town.

"Grey-headed flying foxes are a highly protected species, so some noise based methods that we may otherwise use may not be suitable in Numurkah as they could be harmful to the colony," he said.

"So there are quite a few things we need to consider."

One new method that DELWP is considering for use in Numurkah is a technology called Eagle Eye which, very simply put, uses strategically

placed mirrors to confuse and discombobulate the birds and drive them away from the area.

Mr Stamkos stressed that any solution needed to be community based, and that DELWP would not take any action until a formal application for control permits had been made by community members.

He said that any action would need to have the support of the whole community, given that the birds' presence right throughout the town, and the fact that a large scale eradication program would potentially attract media attention.

"We will work with the community with regards to what actions can be taken."

At the end of last week's meeting, which was attended by around 45 people, a committee was formed to work on action being taken going forward.

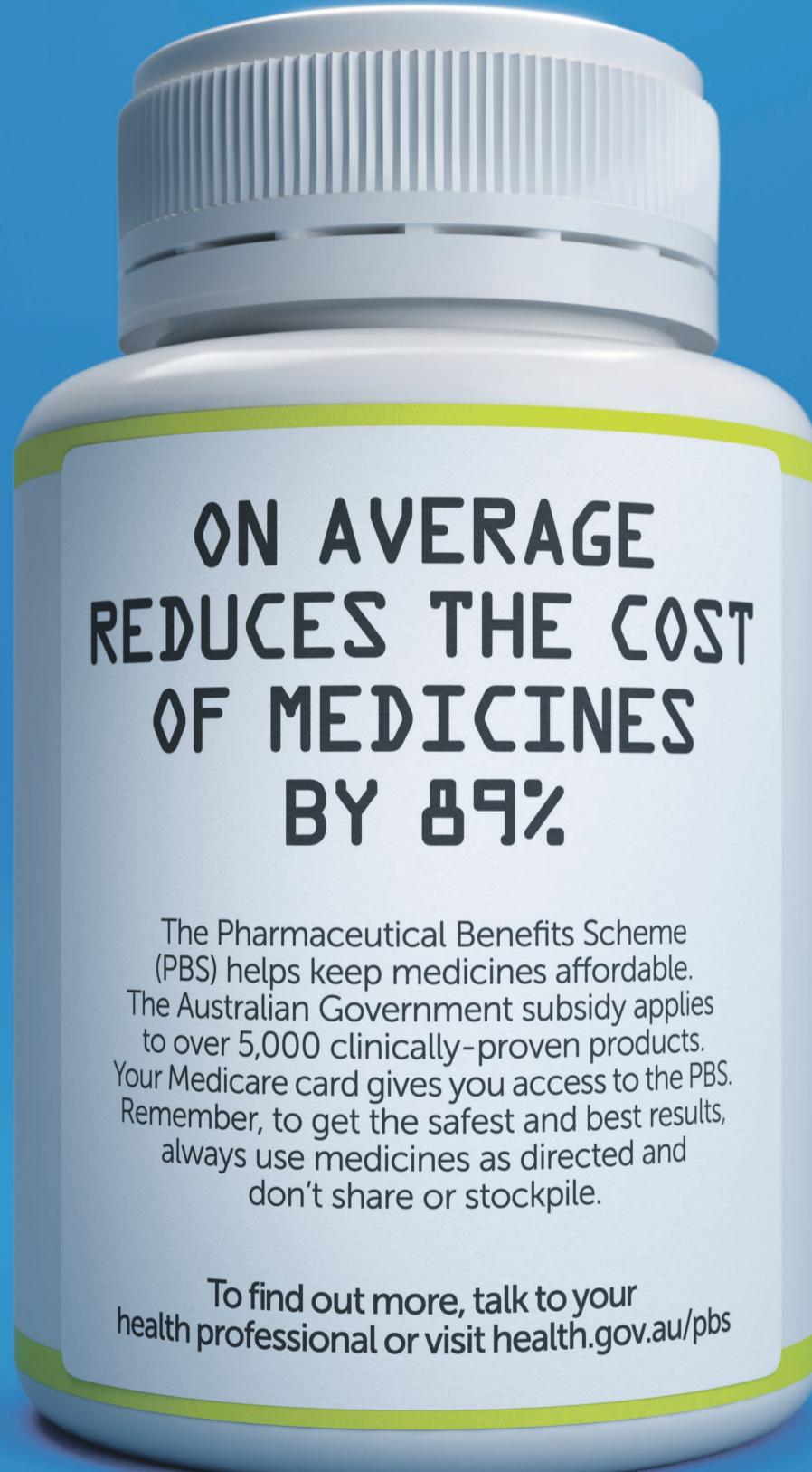
Once applications for control permits have been made to DELWP, the department will conduct an inspection to try and establish the numbers, and exact type, of the corellas.

Numurkah Bowls Club groundsman Don Staggard, who organised the meeting, said he was thrilled with the outcome.

"It's wonderful to finally see some action, and to know that we can work together and get a result for the whole community."



Councillors and committee members ... Cr John Beitzel and Andrew Henderson chat together, while Cr Marie Martin, Don Staggard and Neil Hutchins talk birds.



Australian Government



We're all the better for it.

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Putting the boot into show

by Freyja Mutimer on work experience

BEV Patrick has been elected for her second year in a row, as the Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society Inc. president for 2019.

People describe Bev as enthusiastic and hard working, making her the perfect candidate for the position. Bev's guidance helped with a plethora of work that was carried out in 2018, such as the beef and dairy cattle sections being upgraded and extended.

This year she will be aiming to have more parking space prepared around the sheep and cattle sections.

Mrs Patrick isn't the only familiar face back on the committee.

Kelsey Dealy, one of the younger members of society has been elected as senior vice president and is looking forward to another good year in her needlework section.

Sue Aldridge will take on the role as secretary for the 11th time, after last year celebrating her 40th year with the society.

Glennys Walker is again the treasurer, a job that Glennys has carried out very efficiently and successfully for over seven years.

Other members have accepted places on the committee as Safety Officer, Site Manager, Marketing and Sponsorship, schedule, and delegates to regional and state committees and chief stewards to all sections.

So far, 2019 is showing signs of being another very successful show, with the theme of "Boots and Shoes" creating much interest already, making everyone think hard about how they are going to display, perhaps their favourite pair of boots as an entry.

There will also be, of course, all the usual attractions, horses, cattle, sheep, poultry, animal nursery and pavilions filled with flowers, cooking, art, craft, preserves, photos and school displays.

Moira Shire has declared the day a public holiday in the Numurkah district, so be sure to put Wednesday, October 23 on your calendar.

Digital subscriptions now available

www.numurkahleader.net.au

3 months \$14.95

12 months \$49.95

Numurkah LEADER

Ph. 5862 1034
88 Melville St, Numurkah



Inspirational ... Susan Alberti is the guest speaker at the 2019 business breakfast.

Special guest booked for breakfast

THE Rotary Club of Numurkah has scored a real coup for its fifth business breakfast - guest speaker Dr Susan Alberti AC.

Susan is a successful business woman, philanthropist and passionate Western Bulldogs supporter. Given her track record, if you were betting on someone to get a seemingly impossible job done, Susan Alberti would be a safe place to put your money.

For years, Susan has had three main dreams she has been instrumental in facilitating. Two are now reality; to see her beloved Bulldogs win a premiership, and for women to play AFL. Only one remains, the biggest of them all - to find a cure for type one diabetes.

Susan is a lady who is never wearied. Among multiple roles, she is the chairperson of the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation, and the co-founder and managing director of the DANSU Group.

Susan, and her late husband Angelo, established the DANSU Group as an industrial and commercial builder and developer of industrial estates and business parks approximately 45 years ago. The success of that business allowed her to devote more time to her private passion of philanthropy.

After losing both her husband and daughter in tragic circumstances, and in a short period of time, Susan began looking to make sure that no other family had to experience the loss that she had.

Following advice from her late daughter Danielle, a type one diabetes sufferer, she established the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation with the aim of curing type one diabetes. In 30 years, she has been responsible for raising in excess of \$100 million toward medical research, and established multiple research wings and units.

Outside of this work, she joined the board of the Western Bulldogs Football Club in 2004, retiring in 2016 after serving three years as vice president.

Her passion for AFL extended to the forma-

tion of the AFLW league, and her involvement helped to clear a path for women to be involved in the game. She is currently the national ambassador for the AFLW league.

Susan's work has not gone unnoticed; she has been a finalist in the Australian of the Year award on two occasions, and has received numerous other honours including being inducted as 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).

To add to her accolades, Susan was announced as the 2017 Melburnian of the Year, the city's highest honour, and the 2018 Victorian of the Year.

Susan was appointed to the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission advisory board in August 2017.

Susan Alberti continues the tradition of inspirational Australians to appear as speakers at the Rotary Club of Numurkah business breakfast, following previous speakers Turia Pitt, Sam Bailey, Sadhana Smiles and Carolyn Creswell.

Club member Lou Hamon said the club is thrilled to have secured Susan Alberti as this year's speaker.

"She is an outstanding woman who has achieved so much and overcome personal tragedy to give so much to the Australian community," he said.

"Once again we are very pleased to be able to bring an outstanding speaker to Numurkah so local people can hear her speak and benefit from her knowledge and experience."

The Rotary Club of Numurkah business breakfast will be held in the Numurkah town hall on Friday, April 5 from 7am to 8.30am. The cost is \$35 and includes continental breakfast.

Tickets must be pre-purchased from Numurkah Community Learning Centre on Melville St, phone 5862 2249. (Cash or cheque, bank details upon request for direct debit).

All proceeds from the event will go to the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation.

Grants for game changing women

THE second round of the 2018-19 Change Our Game Scholarship Program, which creates opportunities for women to pursue leadership and development opportunities throughout the sporting and active recreation sector, is now open.

Through the program, local clubs and sporting bodies are encouraged to identify emerging female leaders within their sporting community to receive scholarships of between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Applications are submitted on behalf of individuals by state sport and recreation bodies, regional sports assemblies and local government authorities.

The program highlights the State Government's commitment to increase the number of women and girls in off field decision making roles across all levels of the Victorian sport and active recreation sector.

The program has so far enabled 75 women from across Victoria to access professional learning and development opportunities.

The grants are part of the broader \$7.2 million Change Our Game initiative aimed at levelling the playing field for women and girls in sport and recreation.

For more information about the Change Our Game Scholarship Program visit www.sport.vic.gov.au.

Americana

Folk music from the Civil War to 1970

A selection of music from the USA including Spirituals/gospel, 'Roots' and Folk revival.

This is a collaboration between the Nathalia Community Choir and Melbourne folk band, 'Rare Child'.

Saturday 13th April, 7.30pm
Sunday 14th April, 2pm
 St. Clare Auditorium,
 Chapel Street Nathalia

Adults \$20
Children/pensioners \$15

Tickets available online
<https://www.trybooking.com/BBKZD>
 instore at The G.R.A.I.N. Store or
 at the Nathalia Post Office.
 Bookings are essential

24 Blake Street, Nathalia
www.thegrainstore.org | 0403 756 571
 open Thursday, Friday & Saturday 11am-4pm

 THE
 G.R.A.I.N. STORE
 * NATHALIA *

 **Feedback needed on closure of Chapel Road, Katamatite**

Council is considering a request to close the unsealed section of Chapel Road between Tocumwal/Benalla Road and Moore Street, Katamatite to through traffic.

It is proposed to install bollards with signage placed at both ends of the road to advise road users.

The proposal will only close the road to traffic seeking to travel the entire length of the road but will still enable continuous use by cyclists, horse-riders and pedestrians.

Have your say – forms are available on our website or email your thoughts by **Tuesday 30 April**.

 PO Box 578, Cobram Vic 3643  (03) 5871 9222  133 677  info@moira.vic.gov.au

www.moira.vic.gov.au

Mayor Libro Mustica
 cordially invites you to attend the

NUMURKAH TYRE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Thursday, 4 April 2019
5pm – 6.30pm

(formalities to begin at 5.30pm)

Newman Square Numurkah
 Cnr Quinn & Melville Streets, Numurkah

**With a jumping castle, face painting, fairy floss and a
 celebration cake, this is a party for the whole community.**

BBQ and refreshments on arrival.

For more information please phone our friendly
 Customer Service team on (03) 5871 9222.

Moira Shire Council Electoral Representation Review

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is reviewing the electoral structure of Moira Shire Council to ensure fair and equitable representation for all voters.

A preliminary report has now been released with two options for public comment.

The options

Moira Shire Council is currently an unsubdivided local council with nine councillors.

The preliminary report includes two options:

- **Option A (preferred option)***
Nine councillors elected from an unsubdivided electoral structure.
- **Option B (alternative option)**
Nine councillors elected from three wards (three three-councillor wards).

These options are shown in the maps below.

The report

The report is available:

- online at vec.vic.gov.au
- by calling 131 832 or
- for inspection at council offices during business hours.

Making a submission

You can have your say on the options in the report by making a submission to the VEC.

Submissions can be made:

- online at vec.vic.gov.au
- by email: moira.review@vec.vic.gov.au
- by post: VEC, Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

You can get a submission guide from the VEC to help write your submission.

Submissions must reach the VEC by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 1 May.

Public hearing

6.00 pm, Wednesday 8 May
Cobram Civic Centre
Punt Road, Cobram

You can speak in support of your submission at this hearing. You must indicate in your submission if you wish to speak at the hearing.

The hearing will not take place if there are no requests to speak.

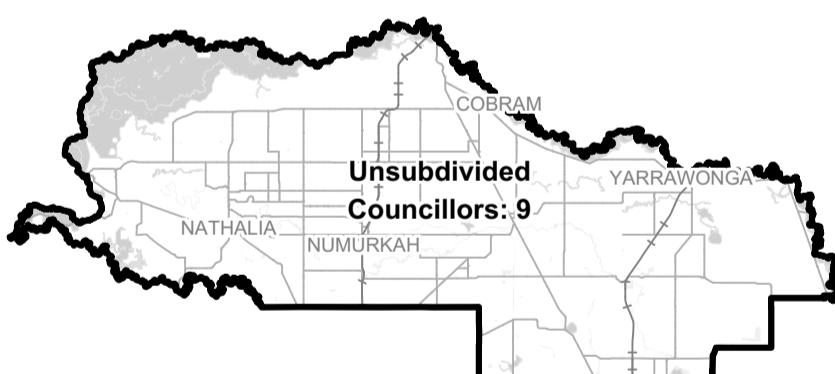
Final report

The VEC will release a final report with a recommended structure to the Minister for Local Government on Wednesday 29 May.

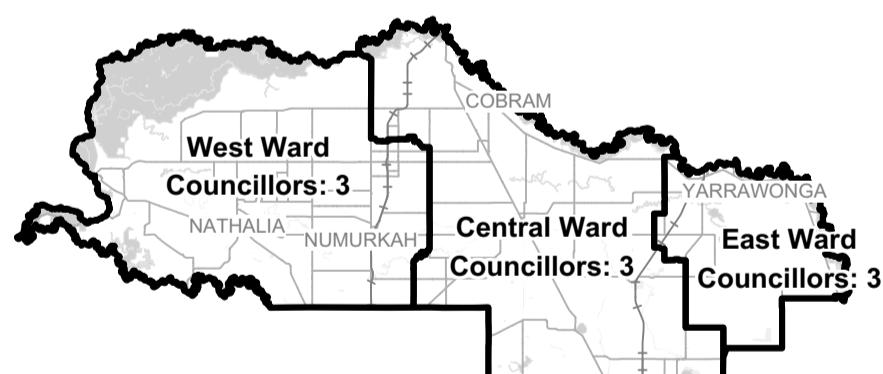
Any changes to the structure will apply at the next council election in October 2020.

**Submissions close
5.00 pm on
Wednesday 1 May**

Option A



Option B



*The VEC considers that all options provided offer fair and equitable representation for voters in the local council.

131 832 vec.vic.gov.au

Victorian Electoral Commission VEC

Authorised by W Gately, AM, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.

COME AND SEE US FOR ALL YOUR PRINTING

CALENDARS
POSTERS UP TO A1
PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS

MAGAZINES
FLYERS, MENUS
BUSINESS CARDS

Numurkah LEADER

Ph. 5862 1034
88 Melville St, Numurkah

Real world experience is gold

IT'S that time of year again when a fresh crop of year 10s get to experience life on the job, as they undertake work experience with business across the region.

Last week, 90 year 10s from St Mary of the Angels got a taste of what life is like when you have a boss waiting for you every morning, and got to decide whether the job they were heading to each day was something they could look forward to getting out of bed for.

St Mary's career advisor Sherry Atkins said that work experience was a great chance for students to look at what pathways they may like to pursue.

"It's good for them to be able to really see the good, bad and ugly sides of a job so they can weigh up whether it is a good fit for them," she said.

One young person who decided that the answer was probably yes, was Bai-

ley Roberts, who spent the week with Numurkah Nu-Genes.

Patrick said he thought it would be a good fit for him, as he likes farms and animals and wanted something hands on.

"I really want to do something with a bit of variety, and where you're not stuck in one place and indoors all the time, and I think I'd like to do something involving agriculture, so this seemed like it might be good," he said.

"I've really enjoyed myself so far, and it's been really interesting. I think I could definitely see myself doing something like this in the future."

Nu-Genes owner Gerard Daniel said that Bailey was someone he could see finding a place in the agricultural industry.

"He's got a genuine interest, and that's what makes the real difference," he said.

"This type of work isn't for everyone, and we've had work experience kids in the past that left it to the last minute and just had to go somewhere and they hated it.

"We've had other kids who were interested before hand, but it didn't turn out to be what they expected, but at least they got to find that out."

Ms Atkins said that, even if students found they didn't want to pursue the profession they were trialling, work experience gave them an opportunity to become work ready.

"They get to interact with adults in a professional setting and build the basic skills you need in any work place," she said.

As for Bailey, what's his final verdict on the herd improvement industry?

"It's all been pretty good. The de-horning smelt a bit, but apart from that it's all been good."



Good experience ... Sherry Atkins, Bailey Roberts and Gerard Daniel can all see the benefits of work experience.

Blaze a tasty trail through town



Ready to delight you ... Brad Kerry, Edward Collyer, Trish Robinson, Laura Holmes, Tracey Bannon, David Brereton, Adam Ricardo and Les Bannon are ready to tantalise your tastebuds.

FOR a small regional town, Numurkah plays a big game when it comes to food, with so many of the town's eateries boasting specialties that are truly worthy of the name, that we are literally spoiled for choice.

Fortunately, with the Taste of Numurkah event being run again this month, choosing is not something you will be asked to do.

As part of the Sun Country Food and Wine Festival, and with the support of Numurkah Love our Lifestyle and Moira Shire, 13 Numurkah businesses have teamed up to leave no doubt about what the town has to offer.

Next Wednesday, April 10, lovers of fine local food can blaze a trail of deliciousness through town, tasting the specialties available at the delicious (bakers) dozen - without spending a single cent.

If you've ever wondered how your taste buds would feel about Nutella dessert pizza, or you just can't get

enough of delicious locally made dips or smallgoods then this is the event for you. If cheese and biscuits make your mouth water, freshly baked hot cross buns make your heart sing or the flavours of Asia bring a smile to your face, then this is one walk you won't want to miss.

Taking advantage of this opportunity to sample some of our town's best is as simple as clipping out the coupons in next week's Leader, and presenting them at participating businesses to receive a sample of their best.

Participating businesses are Cafe Mierlo, Laino's Pizza, Foodworks, Rush Food and Travel, Numurkah Bakery and Cafe, Meat on Melville, Shamrock Hotel, Brereton's Bakery and Coffee Lounge, Numurkah Cafe Bar and Restaurant, Numurkah Hotel, Red Cherry Cafe, Numurkah Bottle-O and Telegraph Hotel.

The event runs from 10am to 8pm, next Wednesday April 10.

Trades & Services

KRIS LEE EARTHWORKS
Numurkah Sand and Gravel
Ph: Kris - 0437 073 244 Ash - 0418 879 636

Truck and dogs • Water truck hire • Loader hire • Road graders 12h at 140m 1xgps • Excavator 2x20t 1x30t gps • White rock • Cream and red granite • Hill rock • 20mm - 40mm brown rock • Blue rock (various sizes) • Stone dust • Washed pebbles (various sizes) • Agg rock and Septic rock • Garden topsoil • Packing sand • Lawn sand • Washed river sand • Commix • Compost • Mulch and barks

GEOFF EDDY BUILDER
Buildings & Alterations
of Quality Homes
Bathroom & Kitchen Renovations
MOBILE 0418 326 478
Numurkah

Numurkah Building & Plumbing P/L
Reg No DBU24094
Specialising in:
• New Homes • Pergolas • Reroofing
Specialising in septic systems
ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
Matt: 0407 046 331 Phil: 0419 360 905
Mark: 0427 646 231

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds

Find us on:
facebook

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALONE NO MORE!!!
There is no need to look to the ends of the earth to find someone we already know. Love is closer than you think! Your personal matchmakers have great people in your area and can put you in touch with someone genuine as soon as today.
*Real people not computers *Privacy assured
Ph 1300 856 640
Or txt 'meetup' 0450 345 300
www.lovesuccess.com.au
*Seniors Welcome
*Matchmaker since 1989
*Aust owned & operated

PUBLIC NOTICES

Strathmerton Badminton Club
commences practice
Wed 3rd April,
7.30pm.
Anyone wishing to play comp., please contact Heather 0427 745 307.

MEETINGS

WAAIA CRICKET CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 30
8pm at Waaia Rec. Reserve

FOR SALE

STACER 370, Mercury 15 (as new), storm cover, trailer, Hummingbird sounder, nav. lights, swivel seats, fishing extras. Price \$3,750.00. Phone 0428 387 259.

FOR SALE

ELECRIC bed, king single, including sheets. \$1500. Ph: 5862 1153.

6 DINING room chairs, good condition, \$150. Ph: 0459 450 620.

FOUND

TARGET voucher card found near Bendigo bank ATM. Call 0429 622 100.

IN MEMORIAM

CHANDLER — Fiona Louise. 22.5.73 ~ 5.4.92 Aged 18 years 27 years have passed since you were tragically taken with Susan. We all miss you so much, our beautiful Fiona.

Loved forever.
Mum, Scott, Ross and Ainsley.

NUMURKAH DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE PRESENTS

VALUE LIFE IN NURSING HOMES

Come along to this event to hear about how we should be supporting nursing home staff to enable residents and their families to enjoy their final home.

THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2019

Presented by: Joseph Ibrahim

Professor, Health Law and Ageing Research Unit,
Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University

Join us for canapés from 5:00pm
Presentation to commence at 5:30pm

Numurkah Shamrock Hotel Function Room

This event will commence with an award winning short film called 'Dignity of Risk'.

After the screening, 'Prof Joe' will deliver an informal talk that will cover living with dementia and 'Dignity of Risk' with opportunity for questions.



FREE EVENT 

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL, TICKETS AVAILABLE:
www.ndhs.org.au OR by phone: (03) 58620555

NumurkahLEADER

Ph. 5862 1034
88 Melville St, Numurkah

PRINTING

FLYERS

BUSINESS CARDS

LOYALTY CARDS

MENUS

MAGAZINES

LABLES

POSTERS UP TO A1

PROMOTIONAL

PRODUCTS

BOOKLETS

PULL UP BANNERS NOW AVAILABLE
1600MM X 600MM

Cobram District Health Employment Opportunities

Cobram District Health is a fully accredited modern 12 bed acute hospital with a 30 bed aged care facility and established primary care services, including community nursing, allied health and medical / dental services.

We are currently looking for dynamic and enthusiastic persons to join our team in the following positions:

• Maintenance / Gardener – Perm Fulltime

For further information and/or a copy of position descriptions please visit our website at: www.cobramdistricthealth.org.au

Applications should be forwarded to:

Fiona Luke
Human Resources Department
PO Box 252
COBRAM VIC 3644
Email: cobramrecruitment@cobramdistricthealth.org.au

Peter Cox & Sons
Funeral Directors P/L

Cnr Meiklejohn and Quinn Sts., Numurkah
CARING, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE,
TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

Phone 5862 3047
24 hours – 7 days a week

TUTTLES

— FUNERAL SERVICES —
Phone 1300 858 333
Caring 24 hour service

Inc. Binger & Tuttle, Limbrick & Tuttle,
Numurkah Funeral Services

Chomping at the bit and ready to play



New club ... Shannon Emmett has made the move to Strathmerton this season, and will be looking forward to a successful season with the Bulldogs.

AFTER a 11-7 finish secured Strathmerton of fifth place on the Picola & District Football League ladder, the Bulldogs' 2018 season came to an end in heartbreaking fashion, a one-point semi final loss to Blighty.

Now, with the new season here, the club is looking forward amid hopes that the team can learn from that devastating 2018 climax and turn it into progression through 2019 and beyond.

Club president Craig Caughey is aware that his side will be a fairly new look outfit compared to that of 2018, and hopes that, with a change of fortune, the Bulldogs can really challenge for a spot in the top four.

"We've had to improve, we didn't have a lot of luck with injuries," Caughey said.

"Dan Ellis, who has now left, didn't play a game last year after he did his knee, and there were a few other injuries that caused us a few headaches last season."

Ellis is one of two departures that Caughey mentioned, but the club has been quick to cover any losses that occurred throughout the off-season.

"We've lost Dan Ellis and Max Canfield, but we've been able to bring in a few players like Simon Russell, Lance Oswald, Connor Hargreaves, Shannon Emmett."

"With a bit of luck, we hope to be up there come finals time."

"Shannon Edgar is joining Tim (Bramich) with the coaching side of things, so we hope we can move forward as a club."

That improvement just may be typified by the younger talent coming through the ranks within the club, as a slew of under 17s talent looms to make an impact following the side's 2018 under 17s flag triumph.

"Sam Lewis played in our seniors last year and he's finished with juniors so he'll be a handy, full-time inclusion into the seniors this season."

"Trent Craven is another to look out for, and Trent Collyer is also coming out of the premiership winning under 17s side from last year."

The experience that Lewis, in particular, has had with several senior appearances last season will be huge in terms of his footballing development, while Caughey thinks the other two aren't that far behind from enjoying those same opportunities.

"Sam is already playing senior football and I'm confident the other two will also get their chance at some point this season."

Strathmerton's first test comes this Saturday at home against the side that kept the Bulldogs out of the top four and also ended their season by the most slender of margins, Blighty.

New coach, new season, new challenges

HAVING seen coaches Eamon Reeves and Daniel Burness leave the club for new pastures, Katunga has enlisted a more than capable, and proven, leader in Damien Kennedy. Having coached Katamatite, the club he played over 200 games with, to premiership glory at the turn of the millennium, Kennedy knows the Picola & District Football League well, and knows what it takes to take a side to the ultimate success.

Following a 2018 season that saw Katunga beat Kennedy's old side to the

last finals spot, the Swans fell victim to a determined Strathmerton side, losing the elimination final by 71 points. The side that played that day will look quite different to the one priming itself for the 2019 season, though, and according to Kennedy, will see an injection of youth into the team.

"There have been a fair few to come out of the side, the Melbourne contingent I suppose you might say, won't be a part of the side this season," Kennedy said.

Callum Wilson won't be returning, previous coaches Eamon Reeves and Daniel Burness have left, so there's been a bit of a turnover."

With the departures come opportunities for new arrivals, and Katunga has remained diligent in terms of recruiting the best fit for a side looking to drive itself up the ladder.

"We've picked up two Jones boys, Mitch from Numurkah, and Austin who also formerly used to play for Numurkah.

"We've also got guys like Mitch

and Dylan Sidebottom from Talylguroopna coming into the club, so there's definitely a bit to look forward to."

Kennedy and the club hasn't just been looking outward for players to bolster the lineup, as the juniors sides are beginning to offer quality local talent a platform on which to play their best football and assist in Kennedy's goals for the season.

"We have a good young group, a bit of a spread with the older blokes as well.

"We'd like to play and win a final,

with such a young list. We had a few juniors players step into seniors football before they were completely ready for it last year."

"With a season of that type of football under their belt, though, and the fact they've matured a bit from that experience, it probably won't do them much harm."

Katunga will need to be at its best this Saturday though, when it travels to Picola in a round one collision course with 2018 grand final runner-up Picola United.

Blues looking for one better

PICOLA United's 2018 season was fraught with runner-up tags. The Blues finished second behind Waaia on the final ladder, and came out second best to upset-machine Rennie by 38-points in the Picola and district grand final, but the talent Picola possesses is unquestioned, and it's every chance to remain a major player heading into the 2019 season.

The Blues lost just three games last season and any other season, more than likely, would have clinched the minor premiership, but with Waaia running through the home and away season undefeated, it was forced into a match against third-placed Deniliquin Rovers.

The Blues outclassed and outplayed the Rovers on the way to a preliminary final spot against Blighty, where they once again pulled out a comprehensive, 46-point win.

The grand final was another story altogether, with Rennie running over the top of Picola to the tune of 38 points.

With the 2019 season just days away, club president Scott McKenzie understands that looking past disappointments is the key to improving as a club and fortifying its resilience.

"We're certainly going there to play at our best, and regaining that top spot is certainly our intention," McKenzie said.

"Expectation is too strong of a word, probably. You don't know what other clubs have done other than what you read, so those first few rounds will sort that out to see where we're at."

Picola United has gone through the usual year-to-year transition that every club goes through, with players leaving for other teams and leagues, but McKenzie is confident that his side has done enough to cover those losses.

"You always have a turnover of players at the end of the season, we've had a couple of guys leave for senior coaching roles and another couple go onto play GV footy."

"You're always going to have that, with players going onto other roles and playing higher standards of footy and we've certainly had that over the offseason."

One thing that hasn't changed is the club's senior coach. Jon Varcoe is staying on and hoping he can replicate the premiership success of 2016.

"Jon is going around again; his core coaching group is relatively similar, with Jai Morrison and

Mark Ryan staying on as assistants. Craig Loomes is returning to the club as reserves coach as well."

A philosophy that Picola United is intent on sticking with is the promotion of junior talent into the senior sides and 2019 will be no different.

"Kyle Saunders is stepping out of junior football into senior football, as has Woody Guthrie, so there are two that have stepped up and we're hoping to see what they can offer in seniors."

McKenzie is looking forward to see what some of the thirds of last season have to offer as they step up to full time seniors football.

"They're exciting kids that have been dominant in the under 17s competition and they'll be given every opportunity," McKenzie said.

"They've been training well, and we'd like to have juniors coming through the ranks, junior development is certainly important to our club."

"You can never have too much youth."

Picola United will kick off the new campaign this Saturday at home against Katunga, in what will be an interesting match up to begin the footballing year



This year hopefully ... Jon Varcoe is staying on with Picola and looking to repeat the club's 2016 success.

Can the Blues get on the move?

NUMURKAH Football Club's 2018 season was a roller-coaster, and with its first game of the year just around the corner, the Blues poise themselves for an assault on the Murray Football League.

Jye Warren heads a new-look coaching group, following the departure of Chris O'Dwyer, and the additions of Brad Dobson and club captain Beau McKeown to the senior coaching groups gives the club more reach around the playing group itself.

The Blues finished 2018 12-6, a solid result for a side that was hampered by injuries for the majority of the season but, with those losses, gave the side a chance to give opportunities to younger talent that it may not have gotten if not for those unavoidable personnel losses.

The Blues managed to get past Echuca United and Cobram in the finals series, before falling to Barooga in the preliminary final by 23-points.

Heading into 2019, Numurkah fine-tuned its lineup and game plan in a practice match win over Belgrave, and Jye Warren was overjoyed with what is brewing within his side.

"It was really promising, we came away as pretty convincing winners and it was great to have some of the younger blokes come up against some bigger bodies," Warren said.

"Belgrave's game style is pretty similar to ours and, with some guys just out of the VFL system, it was good to see we were able to stretch them on the bigger ground."

That game style is something that Warren, McKeown and Dobson have been making slight adjustments to, ensuring that the manner in which Numurkah wants to express itself on the ground is easily digestible for all players, young and old.

"We've been playing with a similar game plan for the last few years, so again, we've tweaked it so that the younger guys can easily understand what style of play we're trying to achieve.

"It's still going to be the same footy we've

been playing, it's still going to be quick, and we're definitely going to take the game on this year."

"It's going to be a similar structure to what we had last year, we've tweaked it to suit our players. We've lost some quality players that have gone to play GV football, which is understandable."

Those players leaving the club have left holes, but they're holes looking to be filled by the Blues' very own throughout the year.

"Those guys are great players and have gone onto bigger and better things, but our local players have come to fill in those holes and, the way they've been playing the last couple of weeks, it's like we're a new side."

The talent coming through the ranks for the club is one of the most exciting things about a club that prides itself on exciting play, and Warren is proud of how his club remains an attractive place to be a part of for the younger Blues.

"Hats off to the junior committee, we have a system that keeps all these kids with the club, which you tend to find can be difficult in this area."

With players like Kye Roberts, Jarrod Holmes and Clancy Lester coming through the system, Warren is confident that they'll play an important role for the club this year.

"Kye, Jarrod and Lester, are personally for me, round one starters. They're so exciting, they're very coachable and they're not afraid to get their hands dirty, they're not afraid of the hard-ball get. Flynn Beitzel is another one that really impressed me, he's a hard-nosed, gutsy footballer who puts his head over the footy."

"Those four guys have come up and will be trialled from week to week, they might not play every game in the seniors, but we'll look after them and make sure their bodies can hold up throughout the year. I see them playing regular roles for us in the future."

The coachability that Warren praises the young group about will benefit from the in-

clusion of McKeown and Dobson into the coaching department, and Warren is confident of how the playing group has responded to the changes.

"It's great for our young group, we have so many kids coming through the ranks and it's so hard for just one coach to control the whole group. As you'll see throughout a lot of leagues and clubs, there's more than one coach, there's either two or three."

"The preseason response has been positive and we're moving at a great pace, it's going to come down to round one and we hope to see all the hard work we've put in the preseason will work for us."

There have been a few important changes at Numurkah, but one of the biggest changes is how the club looks at the season ahead.

"There's no pressure on our group. We'll play it week by week. In the past, we may have sat down and circled this game or that game, but the pressure isn't on the Numurkah Football Club any more."

"Every game is going to be hard for us, Finley had a big comeback against Rumbalara last weekend and that shows they're ready to play, having recruited well again this season." The round one clash against Finley could prove to be the launching pad the Blues need to kick off another push towards a deep finals run, and Warren believes a few people will be taken back by what the Blues have to offer.

"We have a young group and I have faith that every single player I and the other coaches put on the park every week will give their best for the club."

"We're looking to put a stamp on the competition in round one. You hear things here and there that we've lost this and that player, but we'll surprise a few people with the way we play, whether it's against old rivals like Nathalia, or down to new clubs like Katandra and Tungamah."

Numurkah's season kicks off at 2pm this Sunday against Finley at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

Bombers targeting redemption

HEADING into the finals, Waaia was on top of the Picola and district football ladder, on top of the flag favourite list, Ashley Thompson would go onto share league best and fairest honours, Charlie Burrows had more goals than anyone in the league and, with a percentage of 366.05, it had bullied the majority of the competition throughout the year.

Following an undefeated home and away season, the Bombers easily beat Blighty in the qualifying final by 54-points and the side took a week off to look on in eager anticipation towards the Rennie-Deni Rovers semi final.

Rennie, coming off a cut-throat, 52-point smashing of elimination final opponent Berrigan, came away from the tie as 15-point victors.

There wasn't to be the Bombers-Rovers preliminary final most had expected to see.

The Rovers were out in straight sets, and Waaia knew that this was a different Rennie side it had defeated by 90 points in round two.

The two sides clashed one more time in the regular season, in round 17, where the Bombers rode Charlie Burrows' four goal performance and came out on top by 24 points.

Over a month later, the two sides fronted up at Strathmerton Recreation Reserve for a spot in the 2018 grand final.

The unbeaten Bomber machine lined up against a side that was beginning to make a habit of upsetting the clubs above its sixth spot on the ladder.

Most still expected Waaia to get through the match, and onto a grand final date against Picola United, most still expected the top two sides on the ladder to battle it out once and for all, and most were shocked when Rennie came away with a one-point win.

The Bombers had led at every break, and although the side wasn't as potent in front of goal as it was typically throughout the season, Waaia just needed half a quarter of magic to break the shackles; that half quarter never came, and neither did a grand final spot.

Rennie went onto win the flag, but from the final siren of the preliminary final, and Waaia's season, its journey to 2019 had begun.

Senior coach Matt Brown remains, as does the vast majority of the side that caused so much damage last season, but with that comes a collective memory of how 2018 finished.

"It sits in the back of your mind every so often, but that was last year, it's done now, it's a new season and we're hoping to go further than we did last year."

That goal, to improve and go a couple better than last season, is buoyed with a number of imports looking to help the Bomber machine lift off from the get-go.

"We've picked up Jesse Webster who played at Mooroopna previously. He's come in as a ruckman. Daniel Clarke is also in, he played at Berrigan last season, Tim Belford played in the grand final at Tallygaroopna last year and then we've got a few thirds players coming up, with a few come backs from injuries, as well."

This is a group of handy pick ups to complement a side that is already capable of going all the way, but that won't stop Waaia from trying to blood some under 17s graduates into the seniors side, with one big Bomber, in particular, looming as a can't-miss prospect.

"Mark Bergamin is going to be a developing ruckman, he won the thirds best and fairest last year. It'll take a couple of years to put on a bit of bulk, but we're really looking forward to seeing what he can produce in the years to come."

In a poetic footballing twist, the same fixture that came to be the demise of Waaia's 2018 season stands as the fixture to christen 2019.

Waaia will travel to defending premier Rennie in a round one blockbuster, a prospect Brown and his charges are looking forward to, but Brown is also aware that it's a long season and starting on the right foot is crucial.

"We'll look to make a statement and take out a bit of revenge for what happened in the prelim, especially in round one to start the season."

"We'll look to make a statement and take out a bit of revenge for what happened in the prelim, especially in round one to start the season."

The round one clash bounces at 2.05pm at Rennie.

New role, same Blue ... Beau McKeown, Numurkah club captain, will take on a coaching role alongside Jye Warren and Brad Dobson for the 2019 season.



Chris' reward

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

NEW Member Chris Hicks has been enthusiastically practising his golf game every spare moment he has had over the past six weeks, his diligence even extending to creating a practice green at his home.

All this effort paid off last Thursday when Chris won the day's event at Numurkah Golf Club, beating an in-form Sam Robertson in a countback on 41 stableford points.

Chris happily accepted the dozen Titleist Pro V golf ball prize on offer to the day's winner, plus the addition of a new, inscribed 'Bear Challenge' trophy ball.

The list of players who received club balls for their

scores was headed by Don Read on 39 points. Don was one of a small group of visitors from Maffra Golf Club. Other players and their scores were: Hugh Gunn and Bruce Collins 38, Les Summerville 37, John Trimble 36, Bill Green, Matt Ebborn and Sid Roughsedge 35, Steve Piggott, Bill Padgett, Gary Blackburn, Alf Patman and Geoff Partington, all 34.

At the tail of the field, and winning the tin of boiled lollies, was John 'Pooch' McHale with a miserable 20 points. John's errors and misdemeanours were so numerous that the assembled audience at presentations decided 'Pooch' also deserved the Mickey Mouse ears for the day. See the club

Facebook page for the latest photo of 'Pooch' wearing the ears.

Sam Robertson took the GMCU ball for being nearest the pin on the fourth hole. Visitor Owen Scott scored the players' sweep money by being closest on the seventh, and Cailey Thomas scored a double by taking both Roy Peterson and Graeme Sprunt's sponsored balls on the 14th and 15th holes. Neil Hutchins rounded off his day by receiving Barry Pruden's offering on the 18th.

If you would like to join our circus this tomorrow, assemble at the club house at 9.30am for a 10 o'clock hit off. Visitors and guests are most welcome.



Sign of things to come ... Helen Schmedje and Norma Cullum were all smiles before their winning round last Wednesday.

Wow score to top qualify

by "The Shankster"

NUMURKAH women golfers played a fourball par round last Wednesday, which doubled as the qualifying round for the fourball knockout event.

Two pairs came in with not just great rounds, but amazing rounds, and one would have been very disappointed to be relegated to the runner-up position with a +8.

Norma Cullum and Helen Schmedje won the day with +9, relegating Sandy Trimble and Jan Stevens to second place.

Bev Hutchins was a one-hit-wonder, winning a Telegraph Hotel voucher on the cake hole 18th.

In third place, some way behind, were Lorraine Craig and Marion Tobin, with a score of +4.

With only six pairs wishing to go onto the knockout rounds, the top two qualifiers will have

a bye in the first round, leaving just two matches to be played.

Nola Dalton and Bev Hutchins qualified third and will meet Bev McIntosh and Jeanette Adams, while Lorraine Milner and Mavis Birrell will play Lauris Ashton and Kath Hepworth.

These matches are to be played by Friday, April 12.

Lorraine Milner had a terrific score in Thursday's nine hole chick run, finishing the front nine with 20 points. Runner-up to Lorraine in division one was Nola Dalton with 17 points.

While the division one scores were pretty good, the same cannot be said for those returned in division two.

Marion Tobin won the round with 14 points, ahead of Helen Pickersgill and Val Powles with a measly 12 points.

Lorraine Milner won nearest the pin on the seventh hole.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will be stableford rounds.

The chick run break-up will

be held tomorrow evening from 7pm, when the winner of the season points trophy will be revealed.

Due to a large contingent of the women being away 'doing it in Deni on the weekend, no women contested Saturday's fourball event.

The weekend trip was once again very successful, this year run by Julie Daniel, Margot McGrath and Jeanette Adams.

Felicity Booth won the coveted plaid jacket, in one of her very few runnings in this event, but wouldn't been seen dead wearing it out of the club on Sunday afternoon.

Today we will be heading to Nathalia for the annual gong day challenge, hoping to bring home the coveted gong, back to what we believe is its rightful home.

Both Saturday and next Wednesday will

Blues' historic season



Batsmen and bowlers ... Reydan Lacuin, Shaun Downie, Tyson Woods, Jacob Morris and Brett O'Dwyer.



Finals star ... D grade captain Jason Verhoeven.

Best clubman ... Ross Gledhill with club president Brad Naughton.

Cleeland cleared for top gig

WAAIA Cricket club has announced that Mick Cleeland will lead the side into the 2019/20 Cricket Shepparton season as A grade coach.

Cleeland comes into the role with a wealth of experience and is one of only four players to have been awarded the Murray Valley Cricket Association Baggy Gold, given only to players with 100 MVCA representative games to their name.

While the personal accolades came to Cleeland quick and fast throughout his distinguished playing career, his ability to lead is an undoubted attribute he will bring to a side that struggled in its first season under the Cricket Shepparton umbrella.

Having captained Waaia to four MVCA premier titles, and eight grand finals in total, his ability to stand up in the big moments is something the Bombers will hope rubs off on the side he leads heading into the season, and Cleeland is happy to be in a position to once again help Waaia into a new era under the Cricket Shepparton banner.

"I had been asked tentatively, but am just really happy to be able to help the side out," Cleeland said.

"The side is in need of three or four batsmen that can push towards 500 runs for the season, while the bowling attack is top-notch."

"It was a tough season that just finished, but there's a lot of upside within the club if we can fill some of those holes."



Top-class Bomber ... Waaia's Jesse Trower posing with his A grade best and fairest and bowling average awards.



Club champion ... Mitch Cleeland claimed the A grade batting award as well as the club champion title at Waaia's presentation night.

Best Bombers named and famed

THROUGHOUT Waaia's difficult maiden season as a Cricket Shepparton member, Jesse Trower's brilliant bowling performances were a constant highlight, and has seen him named A grade best and fairest for the 2018/19 season.

Trower claimed 30 victims at an average of 15.57 for the year, including a five-wicket haul against defending premier Katandra in round 13, and also led to the young Bomber being awarded with the bowling average award as well. Mitch Cleeland was awarded the batting average award, with the top-order Bomber leading the line for his side with 303 runs at an av-

erage of 23.31.

Cleeland's honours didn't stop there though, as he was also lauded the Champion Player award, with his ability to stand up and be accountable throughout a tough year of cricket, coming to the fore. Waaia's B grade side may too have also struggled this season, but could have been bolstered if batting average winner Tom Williams managed more games for the season.

Williams only played in four games, but scored 242 runs at 80.67, including an 83-run knock against Undera in round seven.

After starting the season in the A grade side, Matt Stuart played his fi-

nal four games of the year in B grade, managing to claim the bowling average award with 15 wickets at 12.87, including a 6/42 haul in the round 11 clash against Northerners.

Capping off the awards for the club's B graders was David Booth's best and fairest win. The side's captain scored 363 runs at 30.25, which included a century against Karramomus in round 10, and also managed five wickets with the ball.

The only Bombers to make the finals were the E graders, who finished third before falling in the preliminary final against Old Students. The side was majorly buoyed by

best and fairest, and bowling average, winner Aaron Hatch.

Hatch took 14 wickets at 22.29. Winning the batting award, with a 222-run at 20.18 return, was Mark Bryant, whose top score of 50 not out against Shepparton United the big highlight for the middle-order batsman.

For the only junior Bombers side, Will Trower came away with a best and fairest-bowling average double, taking the latter out with an eight wicket return at 15 runs per scalp. Logan Daniel's 141 runs at 35.25 was enough for him to take out the batting average, while Kaleb Gilmour took out the fielding award.

NumurkahLEADER

Sports

The final curtain on an historic season

MICHAEL Eckard has been named Numurkah's cricketer of the year for the 2018/19 premiership-winning season, at the Numurkah Youth Cricket Club's awards night held on Sunday.

In what was an historic year for the club, Eckard was a standout throughout, pipping captain Liam Gledhill to the award with 663 points to Gledhill's 639.

In addition, Eckard also tied for the A grade best and fairest award, finishing with 14 votes, equal with Dylan Grandell.

Eckard was a consistent performer in the Blues' side, which ended a 45-year premiership drought, scoring 281 runs at an average of 23.41 throughout the regular season.

That reliability also translated to his bowling performances, which saw the spinner snag 27 wickets at an average of 11.96, including a 6/59 haul in round seven against defending premier Katandra.

Though Eckard wasn't able to pick up any scalps in the first two finals games, he tormented the Eagles in the grand final, finishing with 4/48 from 21 overs to cap off a fantastic year.

Grandell's year was typified by reliable batting stints, leading to him recording 364 runs at an average of 28.00 throughout the home and away season.

The opening bat played his role perfectly, building his

side a good enough foundation for the rest of the batsmen to launch from, and was able to do so week in, week out, also leading to him being lauded with the captain's award.

Tim Arnel won the bowling average award, collecting 25 wickets at 7.24, including the truly historic 10-wicket performance in round 10 against Euroa.

Shaun Downie nabbed the batting average award, with a return of 310 runs at 31.00 per knock, while he also claimed the side's finals player of the year after a scintillating display of post-season dominance.

Downie scored 263 runs at an average of 87.66 throughout the finals series, including a brilliant 123 in the semi final against Northerners, and 98 against Katandra in the grand final.

The big winner from the B grade awards was Tyson Woods, who picked up the batting award, 374 runs at an average of 41.22, before claiming best and fairest plaudits with 11 votes, two ahead of Reydan Lacuin.

Lacuin, though, did not leave empty handed, with the bowling award, 34 wickets at 10.82, pairing with his best finals player award.

Though the B graders missed out on a flag, Lacuin did everything he could to get his side over the line, picking up eight wickets at 11.13 in his three finals

performances. Wicketkeeper Matt Price claimed the captain's award, scoring 305 runs for the season and responding brilliantly when dropped after a poor start to the season.

Price cemented his spot as opener in the side with a string of positive showings and is definitely a young Blue to watch as he matures and progresses as a cricketer.

Brett O'Dwyer had two further honours to add to his D grade premiership medallion, racing to the best and fairest award, as well as the bowling average. O'Dwyer's 30 scalps at 7.37 was more than enough to give him a five-vote lead over second placed Jason Verhoeven.

Verhoeven, though, did not leave empty-handed, with the best finals player award going his way, following a strong showing in the Blues' push to premiership glory.

With 12 wickets across the three games, the premiership captain's five wicket haul in the grand final was a definite highlight.

Verhoeven's final act of the season as D grade captain was awarding Callum Morris with the captain's award. Morris played 11 D grade games throughout the year, including finals, and was constant in the side that raised the SJ Perry Shield after the grand final triumph over Undera.



Best of the best ...
Michael Eckard poses with his Numurkah cricketer of the year trophy.
More photos page 15.

Will success follow the Purples into new era?

NATHALIA Football Club's 2018 culminated in a fourth successive Murray Football League premiership flag, a fantastic achievement that saw coach Craig Kellow named AFL Victoria senior coach of the year.

With just one loss throughout the regular season last year, Nathalia finished on top of the MFL ladder, and the Purples did not falter in the finals series that followed.

A comfortable win over Cobram and a tight four-point preliminary final win over Rumbalara set up a grand final date with the second-placed Ba-rooga Hawks.

The game was almost always the Purples', and with it, another flag was brought back to Nathalia in celebration.

With a 38-point grand final triumph

buoying Nathalia, the club has progressed through the loss of three-time premiership winning coach Craig Kellow stepping down from the head coaching role.

With Kellow's departure, Phil Carroll stepped up into the position, and hopes to see Nathalia play the brand of game that has become so synonymous with Purples football.

Carroll though, is calm and collected heading into his maiden season as head coach of the MFL powerhouse, and with the support system he has, there's good reason to be.

Kellow, Drew Barnes and Jason Limbrick will all be providing their expertise to the cause, as the Purples look to blood another generation of Nathalia talent, despite a couple of

those locals flying from the nest.

"We've had a few guys go down to Melbourne," Carroll said. "Bowen Smith is playing in the EFL, Tom Boyd went to the VFL, while there have been a few retirees as well."

"We've mostly covered the losses with the younger guys. We had one recruitment target that we got, with Bailey Bell coming back to the club from Kyabram."

Nathalia's ability to produce top-level talent has been well-documented across the current period of dominance, and Carroll wanted to make sure that the club has every opportunity to continue pushing that talent out onto the ground.

"We're going to give the younger players opportunities and see where

they're at and what they're up to. The late teens and early 20 year old players are the ones we're looking at, the types of guys that haven't had a consistent go in the seniors and have been in and out of the side.

"We had the opportunity to go after some really decent footballers, but we thought that if we get those guys, then the younger players aren't going to have that opportunity."

Those players mentioned include the likes of Harrison Hawks, as well as Clancy and Henry Congues, while a surprise addition to the club could turn some heads coming out of the thirds.

"Harrison, Clancy and we're hoping Henry Congues to put his hand up as well, are all ones we're looking for-

ward to seeing develop further.

"One kid out of the thirds that has really stood up is Lachie Gemmill. He's only played two or three years of footy and he used to play rugby up north, he's taken to footy really well."

With the proven talent and developing firepower coming through the system, one thing that Carroll doesn't feel is the pressure to keep the golden period going, with a typically Nathalia look to the future coming to the fore.

"It is what it is. If we win, if we lose, we just hope we move forward, giving the kids opportunities to move onto the next success."

Nathalia's first round sees the Purples line up against Cobram at Scott Oval this Saturday.

NumurkahLEADER

INSIDE SPORT

Winning pair



See story page 13

Waaia awards

See story page 15



New coaching role



See story page 12

established 1895

Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019 WRAP

\$1.30



GRAINCORP | MOIRA
BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS

2019 GRAINCORP MOIRA SHIRE
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Excellent service ... The staff of Peter Cox & Sons were all very proud to win the customer service award on Friday evening.

Best in business celebrated

The best in business were recognised at the 2019 GrainCorp Moira Shire Business Excellence Awards on Friday night at the Cobram Civic Centre.

Yarrawonga businesses scooped the pools winning five of the ten awards including the overall Business Champion which was won by KUBL Studio.

Organic greengrocers, real estate agents, clothing, fruit growers, hairdressers, builders, the list goes on of Moira Shire businesses who were nominated across the nine categories.

Cobram had two successes with Noonan's Showcase Jewellers and MS Constructions taking out the titles of Excellence in Retail and Ex-

cellence in Industry and Manufacturing respectively.

Apprentice fitter and turner at Stanyer Engineering Mitchell Purdon took out the Young Business Person of the year.

Moira Shire mayor Libro Mustica said the biennial event recognises the cream of the crop of businesses in the shire.

"It's not surprising to see we have nominees from across the shire," he said.

"We have more than 150 nominations and getting to this stage was not easy. Our independent judges reported a very high standard of nominees across every category.

"To everyone here, the leaders of our business

community, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution you make to our shire's economic prosperity by offering excellent services and creating employment for our region's sustainability."

Numurkah's Eden Farm Produce took the Excellence in Sustainability award from Dyson's IGA and Cobram's Paddock to Pantry Wholefoods.

"To be standing in front of all of you is an honour and we look forward to continuing our business and being as sustainable as we can and educating others to do the same," Eden Farm's Gary Baker said.

In her speech for O'Meara Kennedy First National, director Dannielle Kennedy said it was an

honour to receive the Excellence in Professional Services award.

"I see and hear what the other nominees are doing and so it is really humbling to receive this award knowing the work they're doing in our community," she said.

Excellence in Customer Service went to Numurkah's Peter Cox & Sons funeral directors, with the judges notes commending them on their passion on working for people and commitment to get things right.

Dealing with people in their most stressful and painful moments, the staff manage difficult situations and deliver a service going above and beyond.

Continued page 2.

**Councillors, management and staff of
Moira Shire Council**

**Congratulate all finalist
and award winners**
**In the 2019 GrainCorp Moira Shire
Business Excellence Awards**



2019 GRAINCORP MOIRA SHIRE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Business Excellence Awards Excellence in sustainability **WINNER**

“Make the change to healthy eating”
Demeter certified, Bio-Dynamic Organic Farm



EDEN FARM PRODUCE
1205 Walsh's Bridge Rd. Numurkah
edenfarmproduce.com.au
PH. 5864 1165 M. 0427 579 083

Call in for product
information & sales
Mon 10am to 3pm
Friday 10am to 3pm
Sat 10am to 3pm

WINNER
Excellence in
Sustainability
2019



Sustainable smiles ... Chris and Hollie Mongan, Gary and Suzanne Baker, and Cr Wendy Buck celebrate Eden Farm Produce's win.

Eden Farm sustains a win

WINNERS of the GrainCorp Moira Shire Business Excellence Awards Excellence in Sustainability award, Eden Farm Produce, couldn't be happier with the recognition.

The Numurkah based biodynamic agricultural operation has put a lot of thought and work into creating true sustainability in all aspects of its business, but the farm's Hollie Mongan said they were still surprised to have won.

“We felt very honoured that we were even considered,” she said.

The farm's sustainably built home and shop are fully solar powered, including all of the refrigeration, and as off-grid as it is possible for a modern farming business to be.

The water pumping for the irrigation system is also completely solar powered.

One of Eden Farm's guiding principles is that everything that is used on the farm is from the farm, an approach that produces very little waste.

“We do a lot of planning to ensure that we farm in a way that allows us to provide for the farm's needs from the farm itself,” Hollie said.

The cattle raised on the farm are purely grass pasture fed, supplemented with hay grown on the property. The pastures are not sprayed with

herbicides or pesticides, and no chemical and artificial fertilisers are used.

The sustainable approach extends to the range of products on offer in the farm shop, creating as few food miles as possible, both by sourcing as much product as possible from the local area, as well as offering as large a range of product to shoppers as possible.

“It is actually quite difficult to come by such a large range of biodynamic, and/or organic, products in one place as we stock here, so it allows our customers to really cut down the travel they have to do to get their groceries.”

The grocery items available include meat, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, eggs, and pantry items as diverse as chocolate, Worcestershire sauce and soap.

As dedicated as the Baker and Mongan family, who own and run Eden Farm Produce, are to sustainability, however, the driving force behind the farm and store is health.

At Eden Farm, a desire to nourish their own family with clean, nutritious food, has grown into a business that is sustainable in all senses - and the Eden Farm family couldn't be happier.

Business Excellence Awards Excellence customer service **WINNER**

Peter and Jenny Cox, Michelle Hender and Kate McGregor, together with the rest of our great team, are both humbled and honoured by the nomination, then consequential receipt of the above award.

We believe that Service is the core of our family tradition of Quality Care for our client families, which began 3 generations ago.

Our dedicated team can organise a celebration of a lifetime in all settings, such as gardens, bush, riverbank, church, hall or chapel and as planners can help you prearrange or prepay your funeral, giving you and your family, peace of mind.



Peter Cox & Sons

Accredited Member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association

Office corner Quinn & Meiklejohn Streets, Numurkah.
Phone All Hours: 5862 3047 Parlour 90 Tocumwal Rd Numurkah.
www.petercoxfunerals.com.au admin@coxfunerals.com.au

wants because it is an incredibly important occasion for them, and it can be a fore-runner for the grieving process and set the tone for how they deal with their loss,” Jenny said.

Their dedicated team organises each funeral with attention to the most minute detail, and goes the extra mile to undertake tasks that will lift some of a family's burden during their time of grief.

In addition to organising and performing the funeral service itself, Coxes will perform tasks such as preparing and filing paperwork to inform a range of organisations about the person's passing. They also provide a pro-forma that families can use to notify other organisations.

It may seem like a little thing, but it provides an example of the Cox family's commitment to

being there for families before, during and after the funeral, no matter how long.

“We have had families contact us years after a funeral to ask for our assistance with documentation, and we are more than happy to provide that,” Jenny said.

Coxes know that those things can make a big difference.

“This is much more than just a job to us, it's a passion,” company co-manager Michelle Hender said.

“Their family is our family.”

Peter confirms that sentiment.

“It's our passion to assist families in the lowest times of their lives, and if we can make things just a little easier for them at that time, we consider it an honour.”

Respect is key to service

NUMURKAH'S Peter Cox and Sons Funeral Directors' complete commitment to customer service has been recognised at the 2019 GrainCorp Moira Shire Business Excellence Awards, with the business winning the Excellence in Customer Service award.

Speaking to Peter and Jenny Cox and their staff, you quickly find that they are under no illusions about the importance of customer service in their business.

Jenny Cox said that service is, simply, everything.

“Being in the funeral industry is the epitome of customer service - you only have one chance to ensure it's right,” she said.

“It is a privilege that families ask us to assist them in their time of need, and that they trust

us to protect the dignity of their loved one, and to perform a service which is significant of their life.

“If a family has a request for a funeral, we will do everything in our power to make it happen, if possible.”

Peter said their entire team was humbled to receive the excellence in customer service award.

“We were humbled to receive the nomination, and so honoured to be a finalist and then the winner,” he said.

With over 30 years' experience, the Peter Cox and Sons team recognises that every funeral is as individual as the person whose life is being honoured, and every family is uniquely aware of how the service for that person should be.

“Everything is carried out the way the family

2019 GRAINCORP MOIRA SHIRE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS



A privilege to serve

OFFERING great customer service is more than a necessity for Excellence in Customer Service finalist Leanne Pell from Nathalia Hair and Beauty - it's a privilege; one that earned her an honourable mention at the awards presentation.

For a start, Leanne doesn't have customers or clients at her Blake St salon, she has guests.

Leanne feels that she differentiates herself from her competitors, by offering her guests the very best of what she has, in every aspect of the experience.

"Excellent skills and top of the range products are essential, but I feel that showing my personality, sincerity and a love of my industry and job also makes a big difference," she said.

"I also think that recommending haircare to use at home, so guests can maintain their look, is important.

"My belief is I'm only doing half my job if I don't recommend how to look after their hair at

home. This often entails giving lessons on blow drying and how to use a curler or straightener so they are not damaging their hair and can achieve beautiful hair at home."

Leanne said that, although people often think that when you work in your own business it is easier to excel at customer service, she believes it's the opposite.

"If you are part of a team, you are always measuring against each other and also encouraging each other, but working on my own I don't have that, so I am my biggest and hardest judge.

"To ensure that I give the ultimate customer service experience to my guests each time, I will often ask them if I could do anything better, and make a note of it so that I can offer them a better service next time."

Ongoing professional development is also an important part of offering her guests the best

Business Excellence Awards Excellence in customer service Highly commended



NATHALIA
HAIR & BEAUTY
5866 2442

ADVICE & KNOW-HOW AVAILABLE IN NATHALIA

Treatment advice on a cut & colour are all part of the service.

Book a time for your treatment

Call into the Nathalia salon & Leanne will explain what is on offer.

27 BLAKE ST NATHALIA

EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOMER SERVICE
FINALIST NOMINEE - JUDGES HIGHLY COMMENDED

service possible.

"You always need to be the best at your skills, so every year I do at least one hands-on cutting course and a colour course," she said.

"I don't care how experienced a hairdresser is, you can always learn - sometimes what you learn is that you are doing everything spot on."

For Leanne, however, customer service and professional development goes beyond knowing the latest techniques with scissors and blow dryer. Like a true hostess, it is about all the ways she can make her guests comfortable.

"It's important to understand what each guest expects and wants from the experience of having their hair done with me. Some clients like to chat, others like quiet. To help me recognise these traits, I have done several courses in body language, and understanding personality traits and types," she said.

If that weren't enough, Leanne has gone even deeper in order to help her guests, in ways you wouldn't necessarily expect from a hairdresser.

"A very interesting seminar I participated in last year was dealing with family and domestic violence, learning to recognise, and then knowing how to talk to guests and to know where to direct them. I found this both gut wrenching and uplifting, but if I can help just one person with it then it was well worth doing."

As well as the big things, there are a lot of little things that Leanne does to offer her guests the best service possible.

"Customer service for me also involves the latest magazines, excellent background music, clean premises, making sure I'm dressed well, and genuine smiles," she said.

"It's important to get everything right - the big things and the little things - so my guests feel important."

Business Excellence Awards Excellence in retail Finalist

A step towards excellence

A SENSE of style is universal, and the owners of Nathalia's Casual Step boutique - mother/daughter duo Julie Tyndall and Shelley Patone - see no reason that living in a small rural town should stop people having easy access to beautiful things.

Finalists in the 2019 GrainCorp Moira Shire Business Excellence Awards, Excellence in Retail category, Casual Step haven't let the highly competitive nature of retail stop them.

Shelley said that they have embraced the challenge, and adapted to suit the modern retail landscape.

"We identified early on that we needed to adapt how we did business if we intended to survive and also grow," Shelley said.

"The obvious answer to us was to start an online store and, through social media, try and captivate a broader audience."

Shelley said that utilising their Facebook and Instagram pages has allowed them to engage with their customers and

create a strong connection.

"To stand out from the crowd we need to do more than just sell clothes, we need to offer a complete service, and that is styling advice and outfit inspiration. We make daily outfit inspiration videos and post often on our pages to keep our customers inspired and excited.

"If our customers are unable to get to our store they can easily shop online at their own convenience."

Shelley said that using a range of platforms is good for the customers and good for the business, but also good for her and Julie as people.

"We both love retail because we love working with customers and helping them find what they need and want. We are motivated by customer satisfaction, so when we know someone has left the store having had a positive experience, we feel excited."

The pair find fashion retail exciting, because it is fast paced and continually changing from season to season.



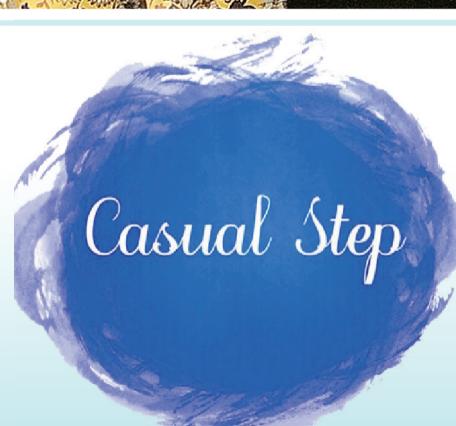
"We are forever changing and adapting our labels, to stay on trend. We stay on top of what's trending in fashion, and also in the gift department."

"We have a large variety of fashion, footwear and gifts, and we make sure our stock is current, prices are competitive and service second to none, so that people would rather come to us than browse the internet."

Of being finalists in this year's awards, Shelley said they were both excited and extremely grateful.

"We have a successful business and lots of loyal customers, but to be formally recognised was an absolute honour," she said.

"We were nominated alongside some amazing small businesses, so that in itself was a thrill."



Fashion
Footwear
Accessories
Gift wear

www.casualstep.com

Follow us on INSTAGRAM and FACEBOOK to keep up with what's new in fashion and footwear



DIGITAL MARKETING ESSENTIALS

**WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2019
5.30PM - 8.30PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
COBRAM CIVIC CENTRE
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**



Prioritise digital marketing. Marketing is one of the most important ways to drive new business and communicate your customer value proposition. Done right, it can prompt a burst of activity. Done wrong, it can waste your time and money.

Your digital marketing strategy must aim for impact. This means video content, influencer marketing, SEO, staying on top of social trends, and being optimised for mobile devices.

This accessible digital marketing workshop will give you the skills, tools and practical advice you need to create and execute an effective marketing strategy.

Here's a quick taste of some of the topics we'll discuss:

- The difference between various online marketing channels, including social media, Google AdWords, website banners and emails
- Building an effective strategy
- Developing realistic goals
- Optimising your campaign (or Business-As-Usual) activity to ensure you're spending your money efficiently and tapping into unexpected opportunities

This workshop is for small business owners who want to:

- Learn about the various—and most effective—ways to market online
- Develop their digital marketing skills
- Walk away with practical knowledge and the confidence to start marketing!

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING 101



**WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2019
5.30PM - 8.30PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
COBRAM CIVIC CENTRE
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Social media can help your small business maintain customer connections. Build significant networks by establishing a presence where your potential customers congregate social media. Creating an account is the first step, but this workshop will teach you the ins-and-outs of posting, connecting, and managing your social media accounts.

Learn which social media platforms are best for finding your target audience, the intricacies of each channel for business, and how to increase brand loyalty and boost web traffic.

Here's a quick taste of some of the topics we'll discuss:

- Why social media is important for small business
- Which platforms will drive the most customers to your small business
- Creating a content distribution strategy to maintain a consistent brand
- Utilising social media management tools to schedule posts and analyse performance

This workshop is for small business owners who want to:

- Learn about the various—and most effective—ways to market online
- Develop their digital marketing skills
- Walk away with practical knowledge and the confidence to start marketing!

Register and Book: asbas.melbourneinnovation.com.au

Booking enquiries contact: (03) 9490 1402

You must be registered for the ASBAS Digital Solutions Program and be eligible to attend this workshop.

**THIS PROGRAM IS
DELIVERED BY:**



**Australian
Small Business
Advisory Services**
DIGITAL SOLUTIONS
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

THIS PROGRAM IS SUPPORTED BY:



(03) 5871 9222



133 677



info@moira.vic.gov.au

www.moira.vic.gov.au