

established 1895

# Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

\$1.30

## INSIDE



### Winning art

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### International Women's Day

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### Town hall defib

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# Trail blazer

## VICTORIAN HONOUR ROLL OF WOMEN



**Lorna Morris was honoured and humbled to join 20 other women who were inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women last Friday.**

See story page 3.

# Speed limit win

STRATHMERTON residents are rejoicing this week, as their long battle to have the speed limit through the town reduced, has ended in victory.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety Jaala Pulford announced the reduction in the Victorian Parliament last Thursday.

Strathmerton resident Carolyn Ryan, who has been a passionate advocate for the change, said that she received a phone call from Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell right after the announcement had been made in parliament.

"I managed not to scream because the cafe was full of people, but I was just overjoyed. It's really wonderful news," Ms Ryan said.

Bernard Murray, chairperson of the Strathmerton community steering committee, which has been lobbying to have the speed limit through the town reduced from 80kph to 60kph for four years, told the Leader that it was a great decision.

"It's a terrific decision, and hopefully it will make our main street a lot safer," he said.

"That's what we have been fighting for all these years, and it's the right decision."

Up to 4,700 vehicles, 40% of which are heavy vehicles, travel through Strathmerton township each day, taking in traffic from the Goulburn Valley and Murray Valley Highways.

The 60kph speed zone will encompass a one and a

half kilometre stretch, from the service road on the town's east to just west of Fourth Street, with the 80kph speed zone remaining in place from the service road to just before Mywee Road.

Ms Lovell has raised the matter in parliament 10 times since March 2017, and raised it again in the form of a constituent question on Tuesday last week.

In her question, Ms Lovell detailed the recent incident where a vehicle travelled at a fast rate of speed through the school crossing that crosses the highway, narrowly missing the crossing attendant and a young child (Numurkah Leader, February 27, 2019).

*Continued page 2.*

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**Safer for everybody ...** Back (from left): John Hall and Bernard Murray. Middle: Carolyn Ryan, Emma Schmedje, Jacinta Ciccone, Rachael Scott, Wendy Lovell. Front: Sienna Newell, Addison Newell, Claudia Ciccone, Robert Patmore and Connor Ciccone.

## Speed limit win for Strathy

CCTV footage from a nearby business captured the frightening incident on video, and Ms Lovell used the opportunity of the sitting week to show the footage to the Minister directly.

Following the announcement, Ms Lovell said she was ecstatic that common sense had prevailed, and wanted to highlight the tireless advocacy of the Strathmerton community, in particular that of local businesswoman Carolyn Ryan.

"The Strathmerton community have constantly warned that a lack of action will mean lives will remain in danger and this frightening incident where a child and a crossing attendant were nearly killed proved this fear," Ms Lovell said.

"I am overjoyed that the people of Strathmerton have finally been listened to by the Minister and the speed limit will be reduced to 60 kilometres per hour, improving the

safety of the entire community."

Following public pressure, VicRoads commenced a review into the speed limit in Strathmerton in July last year.

VicRoads Regional Director Nicki Kyriakou said at the time, that the agency would gather data such as traffic volumes and pedestrian movements, and would use this evidence, alongside community feedback and information from stakeholders including Moira Shire Council and Victoria Police, to make an informed decision on the safest speed for the road.

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

More than 90% of survey respondents felt there was a need for safety improvements, with the most common suggestion to lower

the speed limit from 80 to 60 kilometres per hour.

Minister Pulford said that the new speed limit will make it safer and easier for pedestrians to get across



**Sweet victory ...** Community campaigners Bernard Murray and Carolyn Ryan are thrilled.

**POLICE BEAT**

POLICE are frustrated after pulling over a number of utes with people travelling in the rear trays in 100kph zones over the long weekend.

Infringement notices, carrying fines of \$322, were issued to both drivers and passengers. Police want to remind people that this is a serious safety risk, as there is no restraint to stop people being ejected if a collision occurs.

A mobile cool room valued at \$12,000, and alcohol valued at \$3,000, were stolen from the rear yard of Cafe 3641 at Strathmerton over the weekend. Investigations into the theft are continuing.

A white Holden Captiva was stolen from outside a Katunga property overnight on Monday.

On Monday, March 4, a female and male sustained injuries when they were assaulted

## Ute tray passengers fined

by a male at a Katunga address.

The male offender was arrested by police and investigations are continuing.

Highway patrol are warning local motorists that road construction zones at Katunga Picola Road, Katunga, and Goulburn Valley Highway, Koonoomoo, will be focus locations in the next week.

At Katunga, the road has been significantly narrowed, and Koonoomoo has workers on the road area during daylight hours. Both locations will have a 40kph limit in effect.

A young child is believed to be behind an apparent prank 000 call on Monday.

The call reported that a toddler had been run over by a car in Numurkah, but police and ambulance personnel who responded to the call were unable to locate a patient

## Local CFA crews busy at Tarcombe

THE past week has seen local CFA crews kept busy helping out at the Tarcombe bush fire.

Five crews from Numurkah, and a couple from Nathalia, have done 12 hour shifts at the fires in the Tarcombe area.

The crews have been bussed down each day to the fires, along with other crews from District 22.

Fortunately, with local crews busy helping elsewhere in the state, there has been only one call out in the local area.

At 5.40pm on Tuesday, March 5, Strathmerton, Yarroweyah and Katunga brigades were turned out to a tree fire in a paddock at the corner of O'Briens Road and Murray Valley Highway, Strathmerton.

There were three trees on fire about 50 metres apart, having been struck by lightning.

DEWLP was called to cut down one tree, the other two were able to be saved.



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## PET REGISTRATION RENEWAL NOTICES IN THE MAIL



Annual pet registration renewal notices will arrive with pet owners in coming weeks.

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

We cannot remove a pet from the register until we have received written notice from the pet owner.

## BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS – TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

The 2019 GrainCorp Moira Business Excellence Awards will be held on Friday 29 March at the Cobram Civic Centre from 5.30pm.

These awards celebrate the achievements of businesses and individuals who have excelled in their field.

Angela Frino from Edge FM is MC for the evening with special guest TEDx speaker Ashley Fell talking all things communication.

This is the business event of the year – tickets are available now at <https://2019busawards.eventbrite.com.au>

## FEEDBACK ON AQUATIC FACILITIES STRATEGY REVIEW CLOSES 29 MARCH

Time is running out to submit your feedback on the draft Aquatic Facilities Strategic Review – all feedback must be received by 5pm Friday 29 March.

This review is to capture our current service provision as well as consider asset condition, access and participation trends to determine future directions in the provision of aquatic facilities and services in the shire.

Go to our website for more details.

## MULTICULTURAL AND YOUTH FESTIVAL – 31 MARCH

Come celebrate with us on Sunday 31 March at the Multicultural and Youth Festival, to be held this year in Federation Park, Cobram.

Beginning at 11am, entry is free and there will be live music from special guest Bella Paige, star of The Voice.

There will also be a skate competition, African drumming, aboriginal basket weaving and an appearance by a Chinese Lion.

Give our friendly Customer Service Team a call for more information.

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We will process your application and send the permit straight to you.

## ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 27 MARCH

The next ordinary meeting of council will be held 27 March at 6pm at the Cobram Civic Centre.

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



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**Award winning historian ...** Ross McMullin's latest book won the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History and the National Cultural Award.

## Popular historian returns to library

AWARD winning Australian historian and author Dr Ross McMullin is returning to Numurkah for the fourth time, to present a talk on his new book *Farewell Dear People: Biographies of Australia's Lost Generation*.

The book was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Australian History and the National Cultural Award. Dr McMullin's previous books include *Pompey Elliott At War: In His Own Words*, and the award winning *Pompey Elliott*.

*Farewell Dear People* demonstrates the loss of potential to Australia resulting from the deaths of 60,000 soldiers in WW1, from a national population of just under five million, a loss he describes as catastrophic.

*Farewell Dear People* illustrates this loss by providing biographies of 10 Australians of outstanding potential who did not survive the war, and who exemplify their nation's gifted lost generation.

They include an internationally acclaimed medical researcher, an engineer who excelled on Mawson's Antarctica mission, a Rhodes Scholar, a rising Labor star, a visionary winemaker, and a Tasmanian footballer who dazzled at the highest level.

In his talk at the library, Dr McMullin will describe each of these men and what was special about them, what happened to them and why

their premature deaths were a substantial loss to their nation.

Numurkah library manager Louise Bourchier said that Dr McMullin's previous talks at the library have been very popular.

"He is extremely knowledgeable about the First World War, and anybody with an interest in Australia's involvement in the conflict is bound to enjoy, and get a lot out of, his talk," Ms Bourchier said.

Ms Bourchier said that Dr McMullin is always happy to share his knowledge of the war with attendees of his talks.

"He is always happy to answer questions, not only about the subjects of his books, but also other aspects of World War 1 as well," she said.

Dr McMullin's main research interests are Australian history, politics and sport, and he has researched and written extensively on Australia's involvement in World War 1, and its impact on Australia. Dr Ross McMullin will be speaking at Numurkah Library at 7pm on Wednesday, March 20, at Cobram Library at 2pm on the same day, and at Shepparton Library at 7pm on Tuesday, March 19.

For bookings, phone the library where you would like to attend the talk on 1300 374 765 by the day before the talk you wish to attend.

## Tough new laws to prosecute workplace deaths

WORK has started on the development of tough new laws to prosecute workplace deaths in Victoria.

Under the proposed new laws, employers will face fines of almost \$16 million, and individuals responsible for negligently causing death will be held to account and face up to 20 years in jail.

The new criminal offence of workplace manslaughter, which will be created in the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, will send a strong message to employers that putting people's lives at risk in the workplace will not be tolerated.

Up to 30 people are killed on the job in Victoria each year, and already this year there are eight families mourning a loved one who didn't come home from work.

The new implementation taskforce will be led by former Minister for Industrial Relations Natalie Hutchins, and comprises members from unions, business and victims' families.

It will be supported by a workplace fatalities and serious incidents reference group represent-

ing victims' families to ensure that those who have lost loved ones in workplace accidents can contribute to the reforms.

A legal advisory group comprising legal sector stakeholders will also be established to consult on the proposed model for the new offence.

The new offence will also apply when an employer's negligent conduct causes the death of an innocent member of the public – ensuring that all Victorians are safe in, and around, our workplaces.

WorkSafe Victoria will be given the powers and resources needed to ensure employers who do the wrong thing will be prosecuted. Premier Daniel Andrews said no-one should ever die at work.

"It's why it's our sincere hope that these new laws never be used – that instead they'll change our workplaces and change our culture," he said.

"We promised we'd make workplace manslaughter a criminal offence and we're not wasting a minute."

# Record sales at art show

RECORD sales at the 39th Rotary Club of Numurkah Art and Craft Exhibition have proved that even in this tough economic climate, people have an appetite for fine art, and Numurkah is a fine place to find it.

It was clear at the well-attended opening of the show on Friday night, that it was going to be an especially good show, a fact that was evident in the opening's speeches.

Numurkah Rotary president Stephen Mills said that the club is consistently amazed at the quality of work on display at the annual show, and this year the works were of exceptional standard.

In officially opening the exhibition, MP for Shepparton Suzanna Sheed said that art makes us have conversations we wouldn't normally have in day-to-day life.

"The value of art to the community cannot be understated," Ms Sheed said.

"It can entertain us, it can challenge us, it can move us, it can inspire us. It is a record of who we are at a point in time, and – often – it is a signal of who we want to be."

Geoff Buzzza, on behalf of the exhibition's major sponsor Numurkah Home Timber and Hardware, spoke of the importance of art for artist and viewer alike in regional towns.

"This show allows people not involved in mainstream activities like football, cricket and tennis to express themselves in the community, and that is so important," he said.

"I commend the Rotary club for putting on an event that encourages that, and where people can come and look at something other than dry paddocks and tough times."

Art judge Ross Paterson and craft judge Claire Reid both spoke of the high standard of entries, and congratulated the artists for entering works of such high standard.

Ultimately, though winners were decided, being able to award 'highly commended' awards must have been a blessing to the judges.

The coveted Best in Show award was won by Kasey Sealy from Berowra Heights for her oil painting 'Bridge Over the Namoi'.

Announcing the award, Ross Paterson said that Kasey has developed a skill in capably understanding the light, form and mood of the Australian landscape.

Runner-up was 'Spanish Onions' by Gregory Smith. Mr Paterson said that the painting was reminiscent of the work of the old masters.

"Greg has a great ability to interpret form and light. Beautifully painted and presented," he said.

Highly commended works were 'It's Dry in the Gramps' by Walter Magilton, 'Marysville Garden' by Do Noble, and 'All on a Summers Day' by Di King.

Best Watercolour was won by Ann Grogan from Pyramid Hill for 'Where to Now', which Mr Paterson described as a vitally fresh watercolour.

George Deeble was highly commended in this category for 'Afternoon Walk'.

Best Oil was awarded to Glen Hoyle from Langwarrin for 'A Bag of Fruit', which Mr Paterson said showed a great understanding of the subject.

High commended works in the oils category were 'The French Blue Jug' by Cheryl Manders, and 'Dried Proteas' by Heather McKean.

Best Pastel went to 'Kakadu Dreaming' by Nancy Thurlby from Glen Iris, which Mr Paterson described as notable for the beautiful gradation in the water reflections.

Christine Broersen from Shepparton won Best Regional Artist for her painting 'Nasturtiums', which Mr Paterson described as a classic example of a painting which doesn't require a story or narrative, just light.

Highly commended regional artists were Numurkah's Bev Williams for 'Torquata Gum



**Best in show ...** Stephen Mills, Suzanna Sheed and Ross Paterson with best in show winner Bridge Over the Namoi

Leaves', John Stevens from Echuca for 'Sand Shoes', and Glenda Cornell from Kyabram for 'Rugged Beauty'.

The Moira Arts & Culture Inc. Encouragement Award was won by Numurkah's Geoff Lugg for 'Real Estate Building Numurkah', a pastel rendition of a familiar Melville St building, the McNamara's First National office, which Mr Paterson described as a very descriptive version of an architectural study.

The photographic award was also taken out by a local, with Dennis Rickard winning for his work 'Stalking'. Highly commended in the photographic category was 'Dust Devil' by Les Addison.

Craft judge Claire Reid commented that the variety of entries made a great display.

Best craft entry was won by Valerie Pendlebury 'Ayrshire Embroidery', which also won the Fibres, Threads and Beads award.

Highly commended in that category were 'Jade

Scarf' by Fiona Carruthers, and 'Matinee Jacket and Bonnet' by Margaret Blackburn.

The Framed Needlework award was won by Joy Knight, who also received a high commendation for her footstool.

The Quilt award was won by Anna Newham for her 'Maple Star Quilt'. Highly commended in the quilt category were Helen Collins for 'Milly's Garden Quilt', and Linda Ball for 'Machine Crazy Quilt'.

The overall craft award was won by Dennis Hooker for 'Car Enthusiasts Lamp', and this year's novelty craft category award, which was Toys, was won by Jenny Barnes for her 'Crocketed Grey Koala'.

'The Rose' by Glenn Hoyle from Langwarrin won the coveted People's Choice Award.

Lou Hamon chairman of the Rotary club art and craft exhibition committee said the club was once again thrilled with the public support and congratulatory feedback.

## Celebrating business success

2019 GrainCorp Moira Business Excellence Awards



### A Gala night not to be missed

Join MC Angela Frino General Manager of 2QN / Edge FM and Ashley Fell social researcher and Head of Communications McCrindle Research for an evening of entertainment to highlight and celebrate the success of local business and their teams.



Ashley Fell is a social researcher, TEDx speaker and Head of Communications at the internationally recognised McCrindle. As a trends analyst and media commentator, she understands how to effectively communicate across diverse audiences. From her experience in managing media relations, social media platforms, content creation and event management, Ashley advises on how to achieve cut through in message-saturated times. She is an expert in how to communicate across generational barriers.

With judging currently underway and winners being selected make sure you have your tickets sorted for the 2019 GrainCorp Moira Business Excellence Awards.

With 10 categories including 2019 GrainCorp Business Champion it is set to be a great night of celebration and recognition.

This is the business event of the year you don't want to miss out!



**WHEN:** Friday, March 29 from 5:30pm – 10pm

**LOCATION:** Cobram Civic Centre, Punt Road, Cobram

**TICKETS:** <https://2019busawards.eventbrite.com.au>

Table of 10 - \$650, Single tickets - \$70.

Get a table together and **BOOK NOW**.



## QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Jobs to turn your attention to in March**

**Now is the time to undertake the following jobs:**

1. Place out, or if you already have them out recharge (with new lures) fruit fly traps in your yard or garden. Use both male-targeting and female-targeting traps. Your local Fruit Fly Co-ordinator, staff from produce stores and Agriculture Victoria can provide advice on what traps to use and where you can obtain them.
2. Check late ripening fruit for fruit fly infestation. If you find infestations, you should remove the fruit and destroy immediately.
3. If QFF have infested your fruit and/or QFF numbers in your traps build to around 5 QFF per fortnight you should undertake active QFF management such as netting, baiting and tree removal. You can receive further advice on this from your local Fruit Fly Co-ordinator, staff from produce stores and Agriculture Victoria.

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### Anti-fruit fly netting

Anti-fruit fly netting is effective in the control and prevention of QFF. Mesh should be less than 2mm, UV stabilised and not resting on the fruit.

### If applied, accessed and managed correctly, benefits include:

- No fruit fly damage
- Exclusion of birds and possums
- No pesticides need to be used
- If set up correctly, netting is recyclable and a once-only job each season

### Netting can be placed over:

- the whole tree
- all fruit on a branch
- a truss or bunch of fruit
- individual fruit

### Consider:

- Fruit fly exclusion netting
- Exclusion bags
- Mesh sleeves
- Cloth fruit bags
- Pest protection covers
- Fruit fly netting
- Paper bags
- Exclusion bags made from newspaper

### Fruit fly host plant removal

Goulburn Murray Valley Councils offer a free tree-removal service for unwanted or unmanaged fruit trees. Removal of unmanaged fruit trees has resulted in a reduction in QFF breeding grounds across the region. Contact your Council's Customer Service Centre for an application form.

### Trapping rates

Trapping rates measuring the numbers of flies trapped per week per trap site (rather than the total numbers of flies trapped over the region) for January and February 2019 in urban areas of the Goulburn Murray Valley were significantly lower than those for February 2018. This drop indicates the community awareness campaign and Area Wide Management of the pest has had a positive effect, however it is important to remain vigilant.

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

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



[www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au](http://www.gmv-qldfruitfly.com.au)

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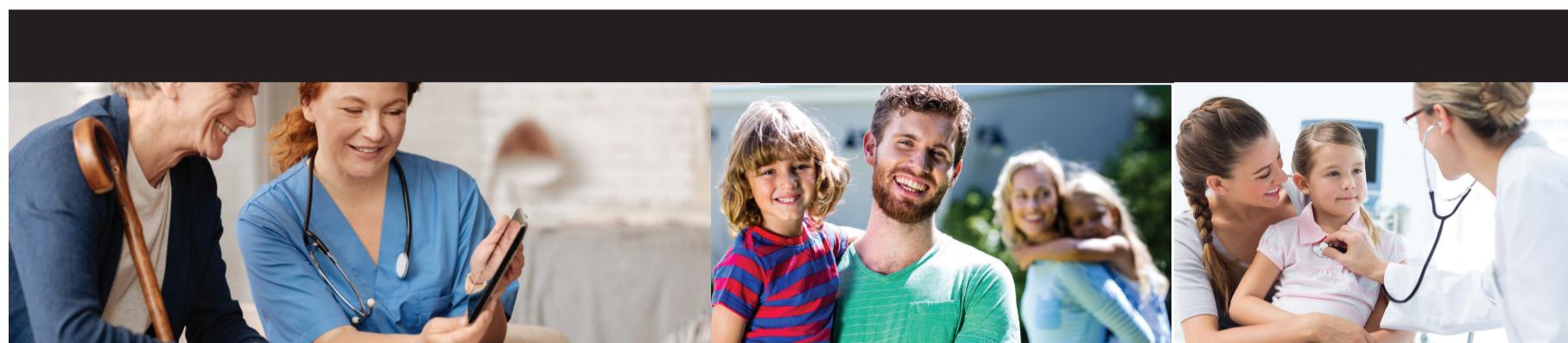
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# PROPOSAL TO JOIN HEALTH SERVICES

**Nathalia Cobram Numurkah** [www.ncnhealthservices.org.au](http://www.ncnhealthservices.org.au)



## INFORMATION & CONSULTATION SESSION

**The community is invited to attend an additional information and consultation session in relation to the proposal to join Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah Health Services.**

**WHEN:** Thursday 14 March at 6.30pm-8.00pm

**WHERE:** Numurkah District Health Service  
Multipurpose Room  
2 Katamatite Road, Numurkah

**A presentation will be given followed by a question and answer session with the Board Chairs from Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah, plus an opportunity to provide your views.**

**There will also be a display of information and handouts to take away.**

### THE AIMS OF THE SESSION:

- To provide further information about the proposal (process, options, health profile of our communities, due diligence, consultation outcomes to date, next steps).
- To outline the facts and address information that is being circulated in the community.
- To provide an additional opportunity for people to share their views/ask questions.

**Information is ongoing through meetings, newsletters, media and the NCN website ([www.ncnhealthservices.org.au](http://www.ncnhealthservices.org.au)).**

## FACTS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

- A proposal to join Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah health services (voluntary amalgamation) is being considered by the health services to improve access to care for local communities.
- The proposal will combine the management and governance of the three organisations under one entity, and will be put to the Minister seeking her approval.
- We have already heard from a wide range of the community, including 165 attendees at staff and community consultation sessions, 125 attendees at community tents, 72 survey responses, 28 meetings with staff, community groups and individuals (reaching hundreds), a total of 14,762 people reached via social media posts/advertising with 506 engagements, plus 20 letters/submissions received. We will incorporate this feedback into the proposal.
- It is important to note: the existing hospitals/facilities will remain in place, in their current locations. Current services will be maintained and enhanced. There will be no loss of services, staffing or funding.
- The proposal was launched to the public in November 2017 and communication and consultation has taken place since this time and is ongoing.
- The proposal has not ceased at any stage, the Minister has not made a decision. Partnerships have strengthened between the three services over the last 12 months.
- The Board of an amalgamated health service will still have local representation from each community and each community will have their own Community Advisory Group that will report to the Board.
- The proposal will address challenges faced by rural health services, such as meeting changing community needs and more complex care, attracting and retaining staff, attracting specialists and meeting legislative compliance.
- The proposal to join services presents opportunities to attract funding for new services, opportunities to create a stronger health system and to provide better health care, locally.
- Local funding will remain local. The Boards have confirmed the current financial reserves at each organisation will focus on local priorities for each health service. For example, The Numurkah District Health Service reserves to undertake planning for the redevelopment of Numurkah Memorial Pioneers Lodge will be held for this specific purpose. In addition, Donations and items would remain with each facility/location.

# HEALTH SERVICE AMALGAMATION

## Amalgamation or partnership

I HAVE recently spent several hours online reading the Deloitte (DHHS Oct 2016) Design Service and Infrastructure Plan for Victoria's Rural and Regional Health System and the State-wide Design, Service and Infrastructure Plan for Victoria's Health System 2017-2037, in an attempt to understand more clearly some of the reasons for the concerns expressed in the *Leader* in recent weeks.

I can't say I am now fully informed, but there are a few points I have picked up on and would like to make here.

If the Deloitte discussion paper was the catalyst for the 'idea' of joining the three health services as is being proposed, would it not be a good idea for that to be made public?

I don't know for sure it was, but, as what is being proposed now is very similar to what is stated in that plan, it seems fairly likely to me.

Wouldn't it help allay some concerns to know this proposal was not just a random thought bubble, but will be a requirement by the Department of Health for future health services planning and operation?

At the bottom of page six of the Deloitte plan, under the heading Proposed Rural and Regional Health Partnerships model, it states, "All rural and regional health services will be required to participate in the Rural and Regional Health Partnerships relevant to their geographical region".

On page 13 of the Deloitte discussion paper under Partnerships it states, "Public health services are part of a broad health and human services sector, and partnerships - both formal and informal - are essential to the way rural and regional services operate. Partnerships with other providers can provide the community with better health and social outcomes through efficient use of available resources.

Strong linkages across the system are particularly important as we face chronic disease, and more patients with complex, chronic co-morbidities that require multidisciplinary care. The need for partnerships acknowledges that health services are fundamentally part of a system and should not work in isolation."

On page 19 under Consultation summary, there are some very relevant points to note. Not all are included here.

1. Governance arrangements should be streamlined and governance capability improved.

2. Engage consumers and understand their needs early and continuously throughout the planning process.

3. One objective is: Person-centred-planning based around the consumer and their needs and co-design of the system plan.

4. System design needs to balance local autonomy and flexibility to meet community needs.

Nowhere in either document could I find mention of amalgamation.

The definition of amalgamation is to blend, unite, combine, to amalgamate two companies.

The definition of partnership is an association of two or more persons for the carrying on of a business in which they share the expenses, profits and loss.

It may be putting too fine a point on it, but in my mind, amalgamation infers original identity is lost, whereas partnership infers identity can be retained and the business still operate.

In my opinion, retaining identity is of the utmost importance, so partnership would have my vote!

In my opinion, also, it is premature to be calling for a vote, as per the flyer being circulated around town, or for people to sign a petition against the proposed amalgamation while there is still more discussion to be had. It's obvious many people in the community are still either confused by the discussions to date, or have not heard of the proposal at all, or for whatever reason would not make an informed vote if one were to take place.

One point of interest, last week I spoke with two Cobram acquaintances and, in conversation, asked had they heard much about the proposed health services' amalgamation.

One said there was plenty of information and discussion happening, the other person didn't know what I was talking about and said he hadn't heard anything about it.

Therefore, I'd like to suggest to the health services putting forward the proposal and to those already opposed to the proposal, it's important to hasten slowly.

More information/discussion is needed, and even a rethink on some points of the proposal could allay some of the anxiety in the community and be beneficial overall.

I agree with others I have spoken to, that one area of great concern is the fact that one board will be responsible for the whole entity should it go ahead.

Even with a board made up of members from all three health services, I fail to see how that can operate without parochialism affecting decision making.

The importance of each health service retaining all its own assets, infrastructure and finances must be paramount.

Perhaps that's one area where the suggested autonomy and flexibility could be implemented into the system design.

Rosemary Kennett  
Numurkah

## Working for best future

A LETTER to the Numurkah community.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thoughts on the proposal being put forward for the amalgamation of Nathalia District Hospital, Cobram District Health and Numurkah District Health Service.

I am the Primary Health Manager at Numurkah District Health Service.

This role requires me to coordinate and support the wide range of community based health services that are made available to our local community. These include but are not limited to our local district nursing services, allied health services (physiotherapy, podiatry, occupational therapy, dietetics, diabetes education), social Support, health and well-being group programs, psychology and counselling services, Moira Palliative Care Service, Moira Mental Health Services and the Moira Respiratory Program, along with a wide range of visiting specialist health services.

Funding for the services and programs we offer is complex. There are many levels of negotiation, reporting, financial acquittal and other requirements set by the various funding bodies that we must meet to sustain this funding.

This all takes time, effort and resources, and this is currently being undertaken individually by each of the three health services. Under an amalgamated model we will be able to streamline these requirements, reduce duplication and direct this valuable time towards service provision for our community.

I also play a key role in the submission of applications to seek and secure additional funding, in the attempt to improve and grow the services that we are able to offer our community.

In the past 12 months we have been successful in securing funding for additional community palliative care services, the Moira Mental Health Services, the Moira Respiratory Program and, in recent weeks, funding to support a rural community development worker and services in response to the drought.

These submissions are complex and require demonstration of strong partnerships and solid governance structures. These submissions take considerable time, effort and resources to prepare.

The proposed amalgamation offers us a stronger, unified governance structure and more influential partnerships to enable us to attract increased funding and services.

We are fortunate as a community to have access to such a wide range of quality community health care services. These services are provided by highly skilled and passionate people.

At NDHS we are fortunate that our good reputation enables us to attract these employees, however, given skill shortages across many professions, this is becoming increasingly difficult.

The proposed amalgamation offers us the ability to strengthen and pool our resources, offer more diverse and flexible employment opportunities, and will therefore assist us to attract the skilled people to deliver services to our community.

I am proud of Numurkah District Health Service and all that we strive to achieve for our community. I have high regard for our executive team, CEO and the NDHS board, as the visionary leadership that they provide is endless.

I have no doubt that they are working for our community to ensure the best future of our health service going forward.

Robyn Sprunt  
Primary Health Manager, Numurkah District Health Service

## More information needed

IN the *Numurkah Leader* (February 27, 2019) Numurkah District Health Service Chair Michael Buha is quoted as saying that, "boards are responding to community feedback that they need to keep services local, reduce travel, improve quality of care, provide new services, attract more doctors and specialists, and retain and attract more staff. By working together formally we can ensure we have strong hospitals that can sustain health services into the future."

Amalgamation is an extremely costly exercise. It is obvious that great work and great patient outcomes have already been achieved under the partnerships model.

Do we need, instead, a dedicated grants team working in partnership across the three hospitals? Their job would be dedicated to chasing funding according to the specific needs of their communities and each hospital could retain their own management and governance.

We are human beings with many varied needs and conditions changing constantly. We are not an engineering department, so we cannot therefore be compared to the running of a water and waste water facility.

The issue of "back filling", has not been mentioned. Staff entitlements include annual leave, in-service training/conferences, long service leave and sick leave.

It may look great on paper, but who does the "back filling" when relief is required due to legitimate staff absences?

Numurkah War Memorial Hospital has always been strongly and proudly supported by our community. It is a war memorial to which we have strong feelings of respect, ownership and loyalty.

We feel that a public meeting needs to be called and held in the Numurkah Town Hall to discuss this proposal further as a whole community. We would also like to see copies of the due diligence report that was carried out to support the current proposal, on hand at this meeting.

Ron and Marie Martin  
Numurkah

## Thank god for the sentinels

WE are a very lucky community to have some community sentinels that keep an eye out for community directional changes and what their impact could be on our community.

I am referring to Kerry Cursons and Dianne Hill, whose interview was published in last week's *Leader* and flagged their great concern with the process involved with the proposed Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia Hospital amalgamation (NCN), and it looks like they raised the flag just in time.

Their concerns were in relation to the community consultation, what the real outcomes could be with the NCN, and why is the NCN necessary at all.

To support Kerry and Diane's concerns in the last week, I have been out amongst the Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia communities distributing information in relation to the concerns raised by them and it is alarming how many people know nothing, or very little, about this proposed NCN. And this raises a flag for me.

The *Numurkah Leader* has repeatedly reported that the Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia hospital boards – via an engaged PR agency – say they have consulted with the communities on the NCN. If this is so, why are so many community members unaware of this NCN plan?

As called for by the official processes involved with this type of event of significant administra-

tive and management effect, why hasn't the community consultation been more engaging and more thorough?

Possibly more alarmingly, there are some community members I have spoken with who are either currently using the local hospital services, or have a family member using the services, and are most reluctant to express an opinion on the NCN. Is this because they are concerned about reprisal for speaking out?

For me this reiterates the sensitivity of this issue for the NCN and illustrates the true community sentiment is not being measured.

In the reported interview with Dianne and Kerry there was reference to the thorough process adopted in relation to the Numurkah Flood Mitigation. The community was called to vote on the flood mitigation options after a long research time-frame, which delivered real, thoroughly researched and verified flood mitigation options.

Preceding this flood mitigation vote, comprehensive media communications and consultation days were used to educate the community on the real options and outcomes that were available to them.

If an unpaid volunteer group of Numurkah Flood Mitigation committee members can manage this, why can't the board members involved with NCN duplicate a fair and balanced process.

Where an event like the 2012 flood makes a community vulnerable, community members go to a hospital typically when they are most vulnerable and in need of care. This is a huge responsibility to care for those in need of medical and emotional support.

It is because hospitals are a sanctuary for the vulnerable in the community that this decision needs to be made by the community, by means of fair, transparent and genuine community consultation.

It is important to note that, whilst the hospital board members are well credentialled community members and seem to have the community's best interest at heart, it must be made clear that they were not elected to these roles, so do not carry community endorsement.

Neither are the board members working in the Victorian Public Health system, as are the management teams of the current Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia hospitals.

Therefore, I can only surmise their derivations on the NCN are being fuelled by the acting CEO and management team of the three hospitals

- Numurkah Hospital CEO and management team - not the community nor other hospital CEOs and management teams.

This could be considered as a very concerning situation where effectively one CEO and team is driving a community decision that will affect the primary health care of Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia communities.

For this primary reason, it is vital that thorough measurable community consultation is given, allowing the community voice to be considered in this very serious decision, of the lasting effects of the NCN.

As per the Numurkah Flood Mitigation process, if it can be demonstrated that there are significant and measurable benefits for the NCN, I would anticipate the community would be strongly in favour of this amalgamation.

But as it stands, the community are generally uninformed of the intention, the outcomes, and how to have a fair say on the amalgamation.

To my mind, this is unfair to the very community that relies on and goes to these hospitals in times of need and vulnerability, after all these three hospitals are community hospitals not the boards nor the management teams' hospitals.

If you, like me and our community sentinels, are concerned about the process being applied to the NCN, please write to The Hon Jenny Mikakos MLC to voice your concern.

By mail: Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street Melbourne, Vic 3000.

By email: minister.health@health.vic.gov.au.

Or, seek out and sign the petition that calls for Victorian State Minister for Health to stop the NCN process until fair, transparent community consultation, and community endorsement is given.

A very concerned  
Janene Champion  
Numurkah

More letters page 8

## Letters to the Editor

### Staff showing support

THERE has been ongoing commentary in the community, including in the *Leader* about the proposed merger of Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah health services.

There is no doubt Numurkah District Health Service is in a strong position, with a good reputation, and this is due in no small part due to the extraordinary and visionary leadership provided by our board and CEO.

Our staff and community have seen our board and CEO rebuild our health service from ruin after the 2012 floods, to a stronger than ever position. They do not make decisions lightly and have put much effort and energy into ensuring the best future of the local health services for the community.

Much is being said about our health service not needing to merge because the same out-

comes can be achieved through "strong partnerships".

Those of us who have spent many hours building these functioning "partnerships" know this is not so. There is no replacement for unified leadership and values delivered by a combined governance structure. Amalgamation will mean we can achieve more as one organisation.

Whilst we cannot speak on behalf of every staff member (and don't wish to) it would be fair to say the vast majority of staff are comfortable with the process and consultation that has taken place, and are looking forward to being part of something that will make our three local health services stronger in the future; as we continue to expand and offer consistent, quality services to our local communities.

A merged health service will provide opportunities for staff to expand their skills at other sites if they wish. The proposed merger has already helped us to attract high quality staff.

Together we will be stronger, with pooled expertise.

We believe that strategically this is the best way forward to guarantee quality service into the future for our community. Together as community members and/or staff we support the proposal and the integrity of the people who have done so much for our health service and our community.

If people have questions they are encouraged to contact their local health service and ask to speak to someone who can answer their concerns.

Wendy Ross, Director Clinical Services; Anita Way, Manager Karinya; Catherine Church, DDON/Clinical Projects; Ali Beatson, Acute Manager; Nadene Donnelly, Executive Assistant; Justin Sullivan, Director Corporate Services; Nicole Cason, Director People & Culture; Julie Vella, OHS Officer; Robyn Sprunt, Manager Community Health; Sarah Finlayson,

Quality Manager; Penny Thomas, Radiographer; Kate Davies, A/g Manager Support Services; Deb Hitchcock, Manager Pioneers Lodge; Jacquie Hughes, Volunteer Coordinator/IT; Sheridan Davies, Project Coordinator; Karen Ford, Payroll Officer; Katrina Donaldson, Administration Coordinator; Mary Morrison, Payroll Officer; Leonie Hodge, Finance Administration Assistant; Christy Culton, Finance Clerk; Anne O'Riley, Finance Officer; Jan Butler, Counsellor; Karen Edwards, Case Manager Community Interlink Marilyn McPherson, Receptionist; Vanessa Ward, Administration Assistant; Donna Coulston, Chef; John Fothergill, Manager Maintenance; Michelle Beecher, Dietitian; Pam Klaassen, Food Services; Danielle Beekman, Receptionist; Lauren Hodge, Ward Clerk; Kelly Campbell, Payroll Officer; Chris Leskie, Environmental Services; Kerri-Anne Culton, Food Services; Gareth Adams, Food Services; Rachelle O'Dwyer, District Nursing; Carol Reid, Research Coordinator; Teruko Smith, Diver-sional Therapist; Bridgette Deane, Receptionist; Kathryn Watson, District Nursing; Heather Rice, Palliative Care.

### Protecting our environment

HOUSEHOLDERS' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE) Inc. urges Australians to give serious consideration to environmental issues when casting your vote at the upcoming federal election.

HOPE supports the call from the Places You Love (PYL) Alliance ([www.placesyoulove.org/](http://www.placesyoulove.org/)) for a new generation of national environmental laws to better protect our environment for future generations.

In 2014, Places You Love Alliance convened an Australian Panel of Experts in Environmental Law (APEEL) to review Australia's existing environmental legislation and to provide recommendations to better protect and enhance our environment. Some of the major issues of concern were:

- Climate change – emphasis should have been on early mitigation and not 'sorry, it's too late' adaptation policies;
- Deforestation and rampant land-clearing for agricultural purposes;
- Adverse/perverse impacts caused by mining (particularly coal, CSG, quarrying materials);
- Decreased funding of key environment related departments - impacting staffing levels and their ability to adequately monitor compliance and then prosecute breaches;
- Loss of protection for our marine environment.

APEEL's technical reports and set of recommendations may be found at <http://apeel.org.au/>.

"Over recent decades, the Federal Government's lack of 'fair dinkum' stewardship of Australia's environment has been appalling to say the least," said Mr Frank Ondrus, President of HOPE Inc.

"HOPE and many of its environment NGO colleagues have responded to a range of community consultation exercises held by the Federal Government. The various 'committees' undertaking these consultation exercises have prepared reports containing recommendations to reflect the community's environmental concerns.

Regrettably, the majority of these reports' recommendations have never been fully implemented. Hence, the angst and frustration that we feel," said Mr Ondrus.

Ultimately, actions rests with you! When you cast your vote in the 2019 federal election, place the environment first.

Frank Ondrus  
President – HOPE Inc.



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# Celebrating the contribution of women



**Balancing scones with advocacy ...** Back (from left): Marie Martin, Glennys Walker and Bev Patrick. Front: Olwin Graham, Bridget Goulding, Win Knight, Carmel Allert, Pam Brennan.

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated globally last Friday, and though the fight for gender equality is still very much on, women also took the opportunity to celebrate each other, their achievements and the strides society has made towards equality.

Locally, women gathered in Numurkah's Newman Square to enjoy invigorating tai chi, great conversation and a delicious morning tea supplied by the Baulkamaugh CWA.

The event was held with the assistance of Moira Shire, and a generous donation from Numurkah Milk Supply.

Whilst the mood was celebratory, there was also an air of determination to highlight the inequalities that still exist for women globally, and to promote the invaluable role that women play in society.

Given the appalling conditions and lack of basic human rights that women face in some parts of the world, Australian women are well aware that we

do fairly well compared to many others, and yet the statistics (provided by the Australian Human Rights Commission) tell the story of how far we still have to go.

In 2017 (the latest figures available), Australia was ranked 35th on a global index measuring gender equality - slipping from a high point of 15th in 2006.

While Australia scores very highly in the area of educational attainment, there is still a lot of progress to be made in the areas of economic participation and opportunity, and political empowerment.

The theme of IWD 2019 is 'Balance for Better', which highlights that gender balance is essential for economies and communities to thrive.

The theme maintains that balance is not a women's issue, it's a business issue, and challenges society to create gender-balanced boardrooms, gender-balanced governments, gender-balanced

media coverage, a gender-balance of employees, more gender-balance in wealth, gender-balanced sports coverage, and so on.

Moira Shire councillor, and president of the Central Murray CWA branch, Marie Martin, said that this year's theme goes to the heart of the gender equality issue.

"You can't have equality without equal representation in all areas, and we are all better off when that happens," she said.

"Achieving a balance of representation across all sectors - public, private, sport, government etc. - actually unlocks the potential of the whole community, and we all benefit."

"Having just one section of the community making decisions for all sections, often in areas they know little to nothing about, doesn't make sense and will never achieve the best outcomes. We need a proper balance to truly thrive."

## Sobering statistics:

- Women and girls make up just over half - 50.7% - of the Australian population and comprise roughly 47% of all employees in Australia, yet take home on average \$251.20 less than men each week (full-time adult ordinary earnings).
- On average, Australian women have to work an extra 56 days a year to earn the same pay as men, for doing the same work.
- More than half of women aged 18 or older have experienced sexual harassment in their lifetime, and more than one in three Australian women has experienced physical or sexual violence in her lifetime.
- It is estimated that violence against women and their children cost the Australian economy \$22 billion in 2015-16.
- In 2015-2016 the average Australian woman was reaching retirement with an average of \$113,660 less superannuation than the average male. As a result, women are more likely to experience poverty in their retirement years and be far more reliant on the age pension.
- The national gender pay-gap is 15.3% and it has remained stuck between 15% and 19%.
- Australian women account for 68% of primary, unpaid, carers for older people and people with disability.
- 95% of primary parental leave (outside of the public-sector) is taken by women, and women spend almost three times as much time taking care of children each day, compared to men.
- Australian women are over-represented as part-time workers in low-paid industries and in insecure work and continue to be under-represented in leadership roles in the private and public sectors.

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**Cobram Library** | Anytime during open hours | 1300 374 765

**20  
MAR**

### **CULTURAL LUNCHEON**

**Cobram Community House** | 12noon | 5872 2224

**20  
MAR**

### **CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

**Numurkah Community Learning Centre** | 11.30am | 5862 2249

**20  
MAR**

### **HARMONY DAY LUNCHEON**

**Yarrawonga Town Hall** | 11.00am | 5744 3911

**21  
MAR**

### **MULTICULTURAL STORY TELLING**

**Nathalia Library** | 10.00am | 1300 374 765

**21  
MAR**

### **CULTURAL DIVERSITY AFTERNOON TEA**

**Numurkah Library** | 2.00pm | 1300 374 765

**22  
MAR**

### **CHINESE RHYME AND STORY TIME**

**Yarrawonga Library** | 10.30am | 1300 374 765

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Ready to run ... Back (from left): Alice Trimble, Ashlee Dyson, Milla Dobson, Aleece Bethell, Keira Neyland. Front: Layla Sanders, Kate Dyson, Jarred Bethell, Tilly Schreenan, Poppy Dobson, Summa Neyland.

## Tenth anniversary of running for fun

WHEN the starter's gun sounds to signal the start of the Numurkah Fun Run this Sunday, it will be 10 years since that first occurred.

Since the inaugural event was held in 2009, the fun run has become not only a major fundraiser for St Joseph's Primary School, but a much anticipated feature of the town's sporting and social calendar.

St Joseph's principal Paul Arnel said that is exactly what the school always wanted for the event.

"It's a healthy school fundraiser, but also a great community event, and that's what we hoped for when it started, which is why we called it the Numurkah Fun Run," he said.

The event has evolved in a number of ways in the past decade, most noticeably with a change to the starting and finishing location.

For the first few years participants set out from, and returned to, the Numurkah showgrounds and headed straight through Kinnaird's Wetlands, however fires and floods made that unsustainable, so the venue was changed to St Joe's school itself.

Mr Arnel said that turned out to be an absolute blessing in disguise.

"We wonder now why we ever held it anywhere else, because here at the school we have everything you could possibly want or need in one location," he said.

The school oval provides an amphitheatre style gathering place for before and after the race, with ample facilities, and a comfortable location for those who simply want to be there to cheer the runners on their way, and then welcome them back again.

The school oval also provides the ideal gathering place for after the run, where participants and spectators alike can relax and enjoy a well-earned barbecue, and watch the races for the primary school aged children.

The fun run's course still takes in Kinnaird's Wetlands, with runners in the 10km event making a loop around it, and five km participants using it as their turn-back point.

The number of participants has steadily increased in the past decade, with 400 plus runners, and walkers, already entered for the anniversary event.

However, one person who won't be taking part this year, for the first time ever, is Leanne Lester, and to say she is disappointed by that fact is a huge understatement.

"I'm absolutely spewing," Leanne said.

Leanne is leaving the day following the event to walk the ancient emperor's pilgrimage Kumano Kodo, in Japan, and didn't realise until after the trip was booked that it clashed with the fun run.

"I was shattered when I realised," she said.

"I'm not a sporty person so I usually just walk the five kilometre course, though I have actually run it a couple of times, but I know I'm one of very few who have taken part every year and I'm really disappointed about missing a year."

"I really enjoy it because you always catch up with someone you haven't seen in ages and have a good chat."

Whilst Leanne is disappointed about losing her record of participating in each event that's been held, some participants are chasing a different kind of record.

The current record times stand at 19 minutes and 42 seconds for the five kilometres females, and 42 minutes 19 seconds for the 10 kilometres females, whilst the males are at 18 minutes and 13 seconds for the five kilometres, and 32 minutes and 18 seconds for the 10 kilometres.

Both the five and 10 kilometre events are expected to be hotly contested again this year, by a very serious few, but Paul Arnel insists that it really is about the community coming together to have some fun.

"That's what we like most about the event, and we have unbelievable support from the community to make sure it's safe as well as fun."

"Each year the CFA, SES, police, Lions and Rotary clubs all pitch in to man checkpoints to make it a safe event and we appreciate that so much," he said.

"We literally couldn't do it without them."



## Dry seasonal conditions support now available

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

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

[agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or call 136 186

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The beginning ... Runners start off on the inaugural Numurkah Fun Run in 2009.



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](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/591).

#### MOIRA RIDING ELECTION.

#### MR JAMES ROSS ELECTED.

The extraordinary election to fill the seat in the Moira Riding, vacated by Mr P. D. K. O'Hanlon in consequence of an order made by Mr Justice Hood on February 3, took place on Thursday last. Considerable interest was manifested in the contest, in consequence of all that had happened previously, and it was generally thought that the voting would be close. When the final figures were posted it was found that Mr Ross had obtained a majority of 37 votes. Polling details are given hereunder: \*

	O'Hanlon	Ross
Kotupna	63	58
Lower Moira	23	24
Barmah	28	68
Postal votes	22	23
Totals	136	173

Majority for Ross, 37.

At the annual election in August last, it will be remembered, Messrs O'Hanlon and Ross polled an equal number of votes (161), and the returning officer (Cr. McLean) gave his casting vote for Mr O'Hanlon, who was the retiring-councillor.

Allegations were made by Mr Ross regarding the use to which certain postal ballot papers had been put, and at a later date Mr C. J. Rogers, P.M., conducted a re-count of the votes. Owing, however, to the irregularities referred to Mr Rogers could not arrive at a decision, and the matter was left until February 3, when Mr John Collins, a ratepayer in the riding, made an application for the ousting of Mr O'Hanlon and an order nisi was made absolute by Mr Justice Hood, who stated that the electors should be given another opportunity of deciding between the candidates.

The news of the death of Miss Minnie Brenion was last week received with expressions of deep sympathy, though it was generally known for a few days previously that the end was near. A daughter of Mrs Brenion and the late Robert Brenion, Miss Minnie lived practically all her life in the district, beloved by all who knew her for her beautiful nature. For many years she acted as the trusted and valued book-keeper at Messrs Brown, Corke & Co's, and her wholehearted devotion to the interests of the firm was often remarked, upon. Though she had suffered severely for some years she did not make her affliction known until concealment was no longer possible, and her family were thus saved the anxiety they otherwise would have undergone.

About three weeks ago Miss Brenion consulted a specialist in Melbourne and the verdict was that her demise would only be a matter of a few weeks at the most. Unfortunately the judgment was only too correct, and the district has been made the poorer by the removal of a saintly character, for if of anyone it might truly be said of the deceased lady that she wore the white flower of a blameless life. To the aged mother, brother and sisters many expressions of deep sympathy have been tendered.

St Patrick's Races.—Those on the look-out for a day's sport are reminded of the St. Patrick's races, to be held on the Numurkah course on Saturday next. As will be seen from the list of entries (published in another column) the fields promise to be good, and as this will be the first district meeting held since the influenza restrictions were imposed there should be keen competition, for owners will be anxious to obtain compensation, by the winning of races, for their period of enforced idleness. Various booths will be provided on the ground for the refreshment of visitors. In the evening a concert will be given in the hall by a party of specially-selected artists, and altogether Saturday's outing should be a most pleasurable one. Special trains will be run from Cobram and Echuca. Since last meeting many improvements have been effected on the ground all tending to make for the comfort of patrons and owners. Stalls have been fitted up in the stables, the judge's and stewards' boxes have been re-erected, the track has been raised where it was formerly low-lying, and permanent seats have been placed on the ground. In addition the fence surrounding the jockeys' enclosure has been lowered and squared off, enabling the public to gain a good view of the horses and riders before they leave for

## Moira Shire households offset summer heat and emissions

AS Victoria swelters through summer, Moira Shire residents haven't only been focussed on staying cool, with hundreds of local households also helping the environment by taking up carbon neutral electricity.

Moira Shire households switched to carbon neutral electricity at the 19th highest rate in Victoria, according to recent analysis done by EnergyAustralia.

EnergyAustralia Chief Customer Officer Chris Ryan said that Moira Shire residents should be proud of the region's uptake of carbon-neutral energy.

"We launched Go Neutral in response to feedback that customers wanted to do their part to help the environment, but it had to be cost-effective. Moira Shire residents have taken to the program and exceeded all our expectations,"

Mr Ryan said.

Moira Shire residents' action goes a long way toward helping EnergyAustralia achieve its goal of one million Australian homes switching to the Go Neutral carbon-neutral electricity movement by 2020.

The greater the number of opt-ins, the more funds EnergyAustralia can put toward climate action projects such as bushfire management in Australia's outback, native forest regrowth and renewable projects in developing countries.

Mr Ryan added, the extremely hot weather shouldn't discourage customers from keeping cool.

"There are things households can do to take the heat out of summer while avoiding bill shock," he said.

EnergyAustralia's top five tips for cost-effective air conditioner use:

1. Newer models like inverter units have better refrigerants and improved technology. New air conditioners are more energy-efficient than older models; for example, an air conditioner that is 10-15 years old can be up to 40% more expensive to run.

2. Don't try to cool the entire house, focus on the few rooms you're occupying by closing doors.

3. If an older air conditioner has not had regular cleaning and servicing, that will also reduce its efficiency, further increasing running costs. Try for every three years on average. Also make sure the filters are clean to keep it operating at maximum efficiency.

4. Replacement of a very old unit with a new, high-efficiency model could pay for itself within four to

five years. Newer reverse cycle air conditioners also provide cost-effective heating in winter, so investing in a new model can reduce running costs year-round.

5. Know the type of tariff you are on; your retailer can tell you. Depending on your plan, certain times of the day may be less expensive to cool the home than others.

Moira Shire households that are yet to join the movement can opt-in to 100% carbon neutral electricity at no extra cost with just a few clicks of the mouse.

New customers can also opt-in when setting up their account and when six months rolls around EnergyAustralia will automatically put them on the program.

You can find out more by visiting [energyaustralia.com.au/go-neutral](http://energyaustralia.com.au/go-neutral).

# MAKE THE CALL ASK YOUR ENERGY COMPANY FOR A BETTER DEAL



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

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

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

Visit our website for tips on calling your energy company.



Australian Government

[PoweringForward.energy.gov.au](http://PoweringForward.energy.gov.au)



All mates ... Gerry Green still has photos of the original teams, as well as photos of the 40 year reunion.

## Historic final celebrated 60 years on

THE 1959 reserves football final, the first contested in the Murray league, may have seen Nathalia go down to Numurkah by a single goal, but there have never been any hard feelings between the players in the two teams.

In fact, Gerry Green, who played at half back flank for Numurkah on that historic day, says they have all remained good mates.

"They never held it against us, and most of them turned up when we held a reunion over here on grand final day in 1999 to celebrate 40 years," he said.

Vic Dohnt, who played full back for Nathalia on the day, confirms that both teams have always gotten along, but offered a slightly different view of why there were no sour grapes on the day itself.

"It was the coldest, wettest, windiest, most miserable day I ever had on a football field," he said.

"Even though they won, Numurkah didn't score a single goal in the final quarter, so the ball didn't come down my end once.

"I was that cold and wet that I was just happy to get out of it, and I couldn't have cared who won."

The weather is bound to be just one topic of animated conversation on April 28 when the two teams meet again.

"There's always plenty of tall stories, and a bit of dispute over facts, when we get together," Vic said.

There are 14 members of the Nathalia team still around, and at least five of the Numurkah team, though some are unaccounted for.

Gerry said that he is hoping that anybody who knows someone on either of the teams, or indeed anybody who was playing in the district at the time, will make sure they know about the reunion.

"It would be great to see as many of the old blokes there as we could," he said.

"Not just from our teams, but from the whole league, because we all played together and there are a lot of stories to share."

Though reunions tend to be held towards the end of the season, April 28 is the last scheduled home and away game between Nathalia and Numurkah for 2019, so the reunion is scheduled for that date.

The reunion will be held at Nathalia Recreation Reserve.

## Less affluent Australians lead the charge on solar

NEW research released last week today shows that solar uptake is more common in middle-lower socio-economic Australian households than higher socio-economic households.

The study also found, with the excess energy generated by solar households, they were effectively subsidising the energy bills of those without solar.

Solar Citizens National Director Joseph Scales said, while it sounded counter-intuitive that people in lower socio-economic groups would be investing the most in solar, it made sense, given rising bills over the past decade.

"People are reaching for ways to get control over their energy costs and for millions of low and middle income households, solar is the best way to do that," Mr Scales said.

"In fact, this research found that uptake was lowest among the highest socio-economic group and highest among the lowest socio-economic group."

"We also cross referenced this ABS data with Domain data on the value of individuals' actual homes, and found people with lower average property values were much more likely to have solar (30%) than those with the highest property values (13%)."

The research also found that people in lower socio-economic groups who are investing more in solar are helping to bring down electricity prices for everyone.

"By exporting excess electricity back into the grid, people from lower socio-economic groups are providing a low-cost source of power for everyone else."

"Around a third of all households sell electricity back to their retailers at a rate that is lower than the spot market price. This research totally debunks the myth perpetuated by the coal lobby that household solar drives up power prices – it does the opposite."

"The two million solar houses across Australia act like one huge power station, generating around 8900GWh of electricity in the past year alone - more than any coal fired power station and at much lower cost."

The research was done by the Victoria Energy Policy Centre, using a sample of more than 10,000 household bills, including more than 2,000 bills from those with solar panels; with data pulled from Choice, the ABS and Domain in the first study of its kind.

**firstnational**  
REAL ESTATE  
Maurice McNamara & Co

### AUCTION

22 William Street, Numurkah



**Saturday, 30th March, 11am On Site**

Perfect opportunity for a renovator or first home owner with this very genuine home that has been with one owner for in excess of the last 40 years. Located in a quiet part with side and rear laneway access, the home itself features 3 bedrooms, central kitchen/dining with large walk in pantry plus an L shaped lounge that, with some renovations, would compliment the kitchen area perfectly. At the rear of the home is an enclosed verandah area and a large laundry. External features include a large double garage with laneway access and plenty of room with a large block. This home has great potential and is located in a nice quiet street in north Numurkah.

Inspection by appointment.

**Please Note: CLEARING SALE of the house contents is to be conducted immediately after the house auction.**

David McNamara 0419 303225  
56 Melville Street, Numurkah  
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# NumurkahLEADER Classifieds



## PUBLIC NOTICES



Totally Holistic is a Counselling service now in Numurkah in the Old Court House.

Offering personalised counselling that aims to provide you with support and strategies around challenging times such as:

- Loss and Grief
- Stress reduction
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Behaviour change
- Mindfullness
- Trauma
- Chronic health management

Phone Alison on 0447 030 620 to arrange an appointment

## TROPHIES & ENGRAVING NUMURKAH LEADER



## Temporary Road Closures – Numurkah

The following roads will be closed on **Sunday 17 March 2019** between 9am and 11am for the St Joseph's Primary School Fun Run:

- Tocumwal Rd from Pine St to Saxton St
- Melville St from Saxton St to Katamatite-Nathalia Rd
- Powell Rd from Katamatite-Nathalia Rd to Tunnock Rd
- Tunnock Rd from Powell Rd to Melville St
- Kinnairds Rd from Creek Rd to Pine St
- Pine St from Kinnairds Rd to Tocumwal Rd

Council has approved these temporary road closure under Schedule 11, 10(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989. Please seek alternative routes during these times.

For more information contact Moira Shire Council on 5871 9222.

Asphalt overlay works are programmed for the roundabouts on Melville Street, Numurkah at the following intersections:

- Melville Street and Quinn Street roundabout
- Melville Street and Saxton Street roundabout

The works will be programmed for night works to minimise disruptions to residents and traffic. The works will go ahead on the nights of **18 and 19 March** with some disruptions to through traffic. Traffic management will be in place.

2016/19

## Forges Pump Lane Intersection Upgrade, Yarrawonga

Tenders closing - 4pm Wednesday  
3 April 2019

Specification documents can be obtained by visiting [www.moira.vic.gov.au/our-council/tenders](http://www.moira.vic.gov.au/our-council/tenders)

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

Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Mark Henderson  
Chief Executive Officer

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### Autumn at Monichino Winery

Friends & family, together in the grounds or tasting room, sharing wine & food.

BYO barbecue & use the facilities, or Ph Anna 5864 6452 the day before & book a Café 3641 hamper to share.

*Relax at the winery*

Berry's Road Katunga.  
Ring & reserve your space.  
Anna 0438 646 578

**MONICHINO**  
WINES OF VICTORIA

### Numurkah Library

invites you to an afternoon tea with a difference, to celebrate

### Cultural Diversity Week

**Thursday 21st March 2019  
from 2 pm**

Please bring a small plate of food and recipes to share that reflect your culture or ancestry  
Tea & coffee provided



Coming events at

### NUMURKAH LIBRARY

**March 12 - at 12.15pm - eLearning**

Intro to tablets for beginners.

**March 20 - at 7pm - Author Ross**

McMullin Talking on his book  
"Farewell, Dear People".

**March 21 - at 2pm - Afternoon Tea  
for Cultural Diversity Week.**

**March 27 - at 1.30pm - Craft & Coffee.**



### GRAHAM BYRON SEED SUPPLIES

### ANNUAL RYE GRASSES

Ore-Tet (Oregon USA Annual Tetraploid Rye)

- Just that bit better
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Tetrapolar Annual Rye Grass

- NEW - well priced for early orders

Graze and Bale (Late maturity Diploid & Tetraploid rye with shaftal mix)

NOTE - Good price for early sales of some rye grass lines

NOTE - Apologies to my customers, you may find the shed closed some mornings when I am seed grading. Please ring (Call will divert to my mobile phone)

G.V. Highway, Numurkah Ph. 03 5862 2144

**Numurkah  
LEADER**

### ADVERTISING DEADLINES

**Classified Line Ads:**

12 noon Tuesday

**Display Ads:**

Bookings by 12 noon Monday

**Ph: 5862 1034**

88 Melville St Numurkah

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Rotary Club of Numurkah Inc.

### 39th ANNUAL ART & CRAFT EXHIBITION

#### WINNER OF RAFFLE

Alan Plant  
Werribee.

#### PEOPLES CHOICE WINNER

"The Rose"  
Glenn Hoyle

The Rotary Club of Numurkah wish to thank the local sponsors for their support in assisting this to be a very successful exhibition.

### Numurkah LEADER

Passport Photos  
in minutes  
88MelvilleSt

## MEETINGS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Numurkah Primary School

### CREATING THE FUTURE TOGETHER NUMURKAH PRIMARY SCHOOL

### TWILIGHT FETE

**Friday 15th  
March, 2019**

**5pm – 7.30pm**  
All Welcome

## GARAGE SALES

### Nathalia Town Garage Sale

**Sunday March 31st  
8-2pm**

Collect your map from 6 Railway St Nathalia on the day for a gold coin donation

*All profits will be donated to the Nathalia Cert Team*

## TOWN MEETING

### About the Numurkah, Cobram & Nathalia hospital amalgamations

At the St Georges Hall, Numurkah  
Wednesday 20 March 2019

7.30pm Start

### BE THERE FOR YOUR HOSPITAL & COMMUNITY

 Numurkah Community Learning Centre

### Annual General Meeting



The Annual General Meeting of the Numurkah Community Learning Centre Inc will be held in the President's Room of the Visitor Information Centre on

**Thursday, 21st March at 7.00pm**

#### AGENDA

- Guest Speaker – Paul Sladdin – Networker from GNEACC (Goulburn North East Association of Community Centres)
- To confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- To receive reports
- To receive the audited financial reports
- To appoint auditor for the financial year ended 31st December 2019
- To elect Office Bearers and Committee Members
- Nominations for Committee Members will be taken until Thursday 21st March by 3pm

A Light supper will be provided.

#### NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

Acceptances / Apologies telephone 5862 2249

## GARAGE SALES

### 17 Tocumwal Road

**Saturday, 16th March  
9-12noon**

### 13 Madeline St Numurkah

**Saturday 16th March  
8.30am to 1pm**

Deceased estate  
Household Furniture  
and goods

## MEETINGS

## IN MEMORIAM

**BENNIE** — James Alexander.  
16.8.35 – 14.3.11

Always in our thoughts.

Forever in our hearts.

Love Debora, Helen, Ian, Jacqui and Families

## DEATHS

**CARROLL** — John Francis

Late of Invergordon, formerly of Bunbartha. Passed away peacefully on March 4, 2019 at Numurkah Health.

Loved, son of John (Jack) and Ellen (both dec.) and brother of Bill and Joy (both dec.) and Pat (dec.) and Glenys and Uncle to their families.

Loving Great Uncle to Paige, Catherine and Sarah and their partners and cherished great-great Uncle to Ruby and Grace.

You had a smile for everyone.

You had a heart of gold.

You left us wonderful memories.

For us to have and to hold.

John's Graveside Funeral Service took place at Numurkah Lawn Cemetery on Tuesday March 12, 2019.

**Peter Cox & Sons**  
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# Tracey backs up again

by "The Shankster"

IN very difficult conditions last Wednesday, Tracey Clouston continued her good recent form to take her second win in two outings.

Much cooler conditions prevailed on the morning, but strong, gusty winds meant no-one played to their handicap.

Tracey's 74 nett was the best score of the day, which saw her win the monthly medal.

Felicity Booth finished second with 75 nett, ahead of Bev McIntosh on 76, Bev Hutchins and Kath Hepworth on 78, and Pauline Davies won a countback on 79 nett to take home the last of the balls.

Kath won nearest the pin on the seventh hole, Nola was the only one to get onto the 18th green, and Tracey had the best scratch score of 79 shots.

Tracey continued her good form on Saturday, but it was Julie Daniel who put together two good rounds to win the weekend's two day doubles event.

Julie finished runner-up to Tracey's 72 nett on Saturday, with a handicap equaling 73 nett, and then went on to win Monday's event with 70 nett.

Liz Dell and Norma Cullum headed Saturday's ball winners, with 74 nett, ahead of Jeanette Adams and Helen Schmedje on 75, Margot McGrath on 76 and Nola Dalton bringing up the last of the ball winners with 77 nett.

One of the men brought in the nearest the pins on the front nine before the women had played it, so there ended up being two ball winners on the seventh, Lee Clements and Helen Schmedje. Smedge also won the 15th, while Pauline Davies had the best shot to the 18th green.

Julie Hannaford and Bev Hutchins put together some decent golf on Monday to finish second and third with 71 nets, ahead of Bev McIntosh on 72 and Pauline Davies with 74.

The birthday girl Jeanette Adams won nearest the pin on the seventh hole, while Bev McIntosh won the 18th.

Julie Hannaford had a terrific score on Thursday evening, to win division one in the nine hole chick run. Julie's 34.5 was two shots better than her nearest rival, Nola Dalton, who finished with 36.5.

Norma Crowe won division two with 39 nett, ahead of Lorraine Craig on 40, and Jeanette Adams was a self-confessed one-shot-wonder, winning nearest the pin on the seventh hole.

Today's golf will see the captain's team take on the president's women, in a stableford round to open the winter season. Players should assemble by 9am for a 9.15am hit off.

Saturday will be a Numurkah Leader/R. & K. Smith monthly medal round, and next Wednesday will be a stableford round.



**Tip-top ...** Tracey Clouston has been in terrific form on the golf course, and continued with two wins in the past week.

## Summer SPORT scoreboard

### Cricket

#### CRICKET SHEPPARTON

Semi finals - Two day game

#### A GRADE

#### NUMURKAH def NORTHERNERS

Toss won by Northerners, batted first

#### 1ST INNINGS - NORTHERNERS

T Sidebottom c W Arnel b L Gledhill.....	49
A Boyington run out (J Smith).....	40
J Brett c J Smith b T Arnel.....	21
M Brett c & b SE Downie.....	20
T Sidebottom c W Arnel b SE Downie.....	29
T Brett c W Arnel b SE Downie.....	3
G Davidson not out.....	20
T Herbert c & b L Gledhill.....	18
Z Newbound c D Grandell b L Gledhill.....	3
G Hutchins not out.....	1
Extras (nb 0, w 1, b 0, lb 5).....	6
Total	
8/210 (cc)	
Overs 80.0	
FOW: 83 (A Boyington) 112 (T Sidebottom) 112 (J Brett) 157 (M Brett) 167 (T Brett) 167 (T Sidebottom) 201 (T Herbert) 206 (Z Newbound)	
Bowling: T Arnel 11.0 3 1 34; M Cline 7.0 2 0 13; SE Downie 19.0 1 3 56; T Braybon 6.0 2 0 16; L Gledhill 13.0 3 3 22; M Eckard 8.0 1 0 23; M Grandell 16.0 3 0 41.	

#### 1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Grandell c T Sidebottom b J Sidebottom.....	2
J Smith c & b T Sidebottom.....	7
W Arnel lbw b J Brett.....	54
SE Downie c & b G Hutchins.....	123
M Eckard not out.....	20
L Gledhill not out.....	2
Extras (nb 1, w 0, b 0, lb 2).....	3
Total.....	4/211
Overs 66.5	
FOW: 2 (D Grandell) 29 (J Smith) 157 (W Arnel) 207 (SE Downie)	
Bowling: J Sidebottom 9.0 5 1 15; Z Newbound 10.0 3 0 24; J Brett 13.0 3 0 42; T Sidebottom 12.0 4 13; G Hutchins 13.0 1 1 54; M Brett 2.0 0 0 13; T Brett 4.0 0 0 17; A Boyington 3.5 0 0 11.	

#### KATANDRA def KYABRAM

Toss won by Kyabram, batted first	
1ST INNINGS - KYABRAM	
T Thomson c NJ Hickey b C Hickford.....	8
T Nelson c LD Nolan b C Hickford.....	2
B McLean lbw b H Sirett.....	3
K Mueller c LD Nolan b A Riordan.....	69
A Young lbw b S Richardson.....	1
PD Parsons b S Richardson.....	0
CR Mueller lbw b A Riordan.....	17
GA Hart c H Sirett b A Riordan.....	3
L Hanslow c H Sirett b C Hickford.....	4
C McLay c B Clurey b JM Wright.....	10
J Hipwell not out.....	4
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 1, lb 0).....	5
Total.....	126
Overs 57.3	
FOW: 6 (T Nelson) 9 (B McLay) 23 (T Thomson) 30 (A Young) 36 (PD Parsons) 99 (CR Mueller) 106 (K Mueller) 109 (GA Hart) 111 (L Hanslow) 126 (C McLay)	
Bowling: C Hickford 17.0 6 3 28; H Sirett 6.0 1 19; S Richardson 11.0 3 2 26; RW Shannon 6.0 2 0 16; JM Wright 6.3 2 1 20; A Riordan 11.0 3 16.	

#### B GRADE

#### NUMURKAH def CENTRAL PARK/ST BRENDANS

Toss won by CP/St Brendans, batted first

#### 1ST INNINGS - CENTRAL PARK/ST BRENDANS

A McMillan c K Jackson b B Roberts.....	8
TC Bradley c D Ebborn b S Lewis.....	14
M Trevaskis c S Lewis.....	0
KG Miller lbw b B Roberts.....	9
AG Butcher b RL Lacuin.....	31
S Reeves c B Roberts b A Cline.....	13
C McGregor lbw b RL Lacuin.....	15
CC Boyer c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
JE Wright c & b S Smith.....	0
N Younghusband not out.....	0
M Reeves b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 2, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	96

#### 1ST INNINGS - CENTRAL PARK/ST BRENDANS

Toss won by CP/St Brendans, batted first	
1ST INNINGS - CENTRAL PARK/ST BRENDANS	
A McMillan c K Jackson b B Roberts.....	8
TC Bradley c D Ebborn b S Lewis.....	14
M Trevaskis c S Lewis.....	0
KG Miller lbw b B Roberts.....	9
AG Butcher b RL Lacuin.....	31
S Reeves c B Roberts b A Cline.....	13
C McGregor lbw b RL Lacuin.....	15
CC Boyer c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
JE Wright c & b S Smith.....	0
N Younghusband not out.....	0
M Reeves b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 2, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	96

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KG Miller lbw b B Roberts.....	9
AG Butcher b RL Lacuin.....	31
S Reeves c B Roberts b A Cline.....	13
C McGregor lbw b RL Lacuin.....	15
CC Boyer c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
JE Wright c & b S Smith.....	0
N Younghusband not out.....	0
M Reeves b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 2, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	96

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M Trevaskis c S Lewis.....	0
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AG Butcher b RL Lacuin.....	31
S Reeves c B Roberts b A Cline.....	13
C McGregor lbw b RL Lacuin.....	15
CC Boyer c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
JE Wright c & b S Smith.....	0
N Younghusband not out.....	0
M Reeves b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 2, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	96

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KG Miller lbw b B Roberts.....	9
AG Butcher b RL Lacuin.....	31
S Reeves c B Roberts b A Cline.....	13
C McGregor lbw b RL Lacuin.....	15
CC Boyer c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
JE Wright c & b S Smith.....	0
N Younghusband not out.....	0
M Reeves b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 2, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	96

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Toss won by CP/St Brendans, batted first	
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AG Butcher b RL Lacuin.....	31
S Reeves c B Roberts b A Cline.....	13
C McGregor lbw b RL Lacuin.....	15
CC Boyer c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
JE Wright c & b S Smith.....	0
N Younghusband not out.....	0
M Reeves b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 3, w 1, b 2, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	96

#### 1ST INNINGS - CENTRAL PARK/ST BRENDANS

Toss won by CP/St Brendans, batted first	



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# Anthony Bears down to win hoax



**Top 10 +1** ... Anthony Sanders (centre) with the other top 10 finishers, and Colin McMinn (right). From left: Nick Ludington, Steve Piggott, John Smith, Scott Hutchins, Steve Wilson, Rod Campbell, Bob I'Anson, Jamie Ward and Jack Wilson.

w "Chip Schott"

THE 32nd edition of the Des Cockayne Memorial Hoax Triples was run and won last weekend with Numurkah's Anthony "Bear" Sanders recording his second victory in the time honoured event, having won previously in 2013.

By his own admission, Anthony had been in the golfing doldrums over the last couple of years but he bounced back in terrific fashion, posting a 54 hole total nett score of 205, which equated to level par off the stick for the three days of competition.

Anthony's win was a very popular one amongst all competitors and he accepted the trophy in his usual humble manner.

The event was conducted at the Tocumwal golf course on Saturday, for the first time in the tournament's history, the second and third days were held at Numurkah.

Both courses played on the weekend were presented in excellent condition and were a credit to their respective greens staff.

This year's event attracted a good field of 50 players from 11 different clubs, which included interstate and overseas competitors.

Our intrepid golfers commenced their quest for golfing glory in fine warm conditions on the president's course at Tocumwal and the winner and round one leader was one of the pre tournament favourites, Stephen Piggott, who continued his recent good form with a solid 68 nett, to just edge out Scott Hutchins on a countback.

This was a good effort from Scott, as he has not played a lot of golf of late and his round also included an eagle on the par five third hole.

In third place was Jack Thomas, whose 69 was just rewards for the practice he has put in of late.

Another of the fancied runners, Nick Ludington, was in fourth place, courtesy of his one under 71, nett 70.

This round also reduced Nick's handicap to scratch for the first time in his golfing career, and he was suitably chuffed with his performance.

John Smith, a debutante in this event, had his game on song, as he also compiled a nett 70, with another dozen or so players hot on his heels.

Defending champion Andrew Storer had a day to forget, as he shot a two over 74, nett 76, to be eight off the pace and with the job well and truly ahead of him.

The second round was played at the Numurkah golf course under slightly cloudy skies but conditions were perfect for good scoring.

There was no score better than Anthony Sanders' who shot a brilliant three under 69, which netted him down to 65 nett, to give him a four shot buffer over the day's runner-up, work colleague Kevin Morland, whose 69 was good enough for the big hitting Tiger supporter to snare second place on a countback.

In third place was Bob I'Anson, who had a solid 69 nett, to go with his 71 from the day before.

After 36 holes, Sanders on 139 held a slender, one stroke lead from I'Anson on 140, with dual Hoax champion Nick Ludington not that far behind, after a solid back nine.

gave him a 73 nett to be on 143 after two rounds.

Overnight leaders Steve Piggott and Scott Hutchins struggled a bit with scores of 76 and 77 respectively, which saw them slip off the pace a little, but they were both still right in the mix, with Piggott on 144 and Hutchins on 145.

Also six strokes from the lead, on 145, were John Smith and Kev Morland, while Andrew Storer also was in with a rough chance after his brilliant 68 gross, 70 nett, left him seven back.

The third and final round at Numurkah saw perfect conditions again greet the starters with just a slight breeze for the players to contend with.

Overnight leader Anthony Sanders was keeping the challengers at bay, as the players traversed the front nine and, he posted a three under 33 helped by a brilliant chip in birdie from over the back of the par five sixth hole.

Bob I'Anson and Steve Piggott were trying to stay with him, as they too posted good scores of 39 and 38 respectively, while Nick Ludington's challenge was over, after his outward half of 40 scuppered any chance he might have had.

Out of the other groups, the only player mounting a charge was 2017 winner Steve Wilson, only a couple over after 12 or so holes.

Sanders, however, had the answers when it counted, as he continued to play great golf around the back nine, and when Piggott and I'Anson both had double bogeys on the 12th, he was as good as home.

He birdied the 16th with another chip in, just to put the event to bed, and eventually went on to win by a comfortable six strokes.

The win came as just reward for the likeable 52 year-old, who is an integral part of the club in his role as the club professional, and it is great to see him playing good quality golf again.

Runner-up was Steve Wilson, whose brilliant closing nett 65 saw him win the daily event and also leapfrog some 10 places to claim another high triples finish on a score of 211.

Third place went to ex-pat Jamie Ward, who steadily got better each day, posting rounds of 74, 72 and 68 in a solid performance.

Bob I'Anson claimed fourth spot, also on 214, after a typically workmanlike performance from the self confessed golfing fanatic.

In fifth spot was Jack Thomas, who came home with a blistering 66 on the third day to finish on 216. But for a second round 81, Jack may have finished a lot closer to the eventual winner.

Sixth spot went to Hoax debutante John Smith, whose many hours of practice paid dividends, as he posted three steady rounds to finish on 219.

Also on 219 was Scott Hutchins, who grabbed seventh placing in a pretty good effort, considering he has not played a lot of golf recently.

Consistent triples performer Rod Campbell put in another commercially sound three days, finishing eighth on 220.

Steve Piggott finished ninth on 220 which,

ironically, was the same position he occupied when he last played in this event, way back in 1988.

Rounding out the top 10 was perennial Hoax high finisher Nick Ludington, who couldn't quite keep up the pace he set on day one but still had a good tournament.

The NAGA award was won by Adam "Happy Days" Farrell on 263, in a superb display of ineptitude on the golf course.

Adam probably did pretty well just to finish, as he did have a fair crack of the social side of things over the weekend.

The family challenges saw the Dells finally crack it for a win, recording an average score of 76.16 to narrowly defeat the Ludingtons on 76.66 and the Fleets on 82.33.

As usual with any Hoax Triples, there was a lot of banter between the players and it all kicked off on Friday night with a lot of players talking up their chances and placing some outrageous wagers between themselves.

There was lots of bad golf played, with quite a few players recording some big numbers, but everyone played the game in the right spirit and gave it their all.

Some scores worthy of mention were Billy Fleet's effort of recording a 10 on his scorecard every day of the tournament. While on the Fleets, as a family unit, they stuck together, with Wes, Daniel and Bill finishing in 44th, 45th and 46th place respectively.

Numurkah men's captain Ronnie Smith found trouble in one of Tocumwal's bunkers, taking six shots to extricate himself and recording a nine on the par three 11th, on his way to shooting 99-9-90.

Ron's efforts were so memorable that club member and muso Jack Thomas and his band mate Justin Boschetti penned a song about his exploits to the tune of Nena's "99 Luft Balloons".

I am sure with a bit of air play this song could go straight to the top of the charts.

Visitor Cliff Garner recorded a 14 on Numurkah's third hole on day two, while Jeff O'Brien, who hails from Jamberoo, had 132 off the stick on Saturday at Tocumwal, in a round which included a 12, 10 and five nines.

Regular visitor Hugo Avery from Tassie was not having a good day on Saturday, after he "lost" a second ball on the eighth hole, but was left a little red faced when, after moving his golf cart, discovered the ball had been underneath it all along.

Sam Robertson showed true grit and determination, after being struck on the noggin by an errant tee shot as he played the eighth hole at Numurkah on Sunday.

Sam continued his round, bloody but unbowed, and completed the 54 holes without further incident.

All in all, it was a successful tournament again and most of the players enjoyed themselves socially by catching up with old friends and indulging in some good natured stirring over the course of the weekend.

Next year will see the 33rd running of this time honoured event which will once again see 50 odd hopefuls try their luck at securing that elusive trophy, in what should prove to be a very interesting tournament once again with plenty of tom-foolery mixed in with some great golf once more.

# No hacking from Chris

by "Archie Bunker"

WITH most local golfers playing the Hoax Triples at Tocumwal on Saturday, a small field of merry men turned up to play the day's competition at Numurkah.

But the small field didn't affect the quality of the golf played, and new member Chris Hicks had to come in with a terrific 68 nett to win the day.

John Trimble has been playing some good golf of late and finished in second place with 69 nett.

Balls down the line went to Bill Green with 71, Brett Clements on 72, Kerry Collins and Robbie Sutton with 73, and the last of the balls went to Bill Padgett and Bruce Collins, with 74s.

Bill Green won nearest the pin on both the fourth and 15th holes, Robbie Sutton won the seventh, and Col Stone had the best shot to the 18th.

There was also a stroke event on Monday, and the scores just kept getting better.

Jack Hepworth won the day with a great score of 66 nett, saying that everything worked well on the day, both his driving and putting.

David Booth put in a rare appearance on the golf course, now that cricket has finished, but showed his class with a very nice round of 68 nett.

A trio of cricketers followed behind Booth: Jahlan Lau with 71, Dylan Grandell and Michael Eckard on 73, and Paul Arnel took the last of the balls with 74 nett.

Jack Hepworth won nearest the pin on the seventh hole, Ray Falla had the best shot to the 18th green, and no-one managed to get onto either the fourth or 15th holes.

This Saturday's golf will be a Pierre Klaassen sponsored monthly medal round. Dinner in the club bistro will follow, and everyone is welcome to join in.

# Sam survives tight count back

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

SAM Robertson prevailed in a four way countback on 39 stableford points to win last Thursday's mid week competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

An in-form Matt Ebborn was pipped at the post for the second week in a row, and the Johns, Trimble and Smith, rounded out the other two players in the countback.

For their exploits, Sam was awarded a club polo shirt, and Matt a club hat and yet more yellow Titleist golf balls. Other players whose score won them a club ball were: Bruce Collins and Ian Gray 37, Jack Hepworth 36, Roden Brady and Leigh Robertson 35, Les Summerville and Hugh Gunn 34, Rob Sutton, Bob I'Anson and Peter Cowan all 33.

Roy Peterson literally went from chocolates last week to boiled lollies this week and won the NAGA award for last place with a surprisingly high total of 26 points.

In a field of 37, five different players won nearest the pin awards. Bill Padgett was closest on the difficult 169 metre fourth hole and won a ball courtesy of the GMCU. Steve Piggott took the players' sweep money on the seventh hole. Bob I'Anson won a ball from Dennis and Roy with two delicate shots on the 298 metre 14th hole. Peter 'Bullant' Cowan speared in an accurate hybrid to take Graeme 'Doggy' Sprunt's sponsored ball on the 15th, while Matty Ebborn lobbed in a super smooth shot to the 18th that won a ball from Pruden's Carpentry.

In a default position, 'Blinkey Bill' Padgett once again won the Mickey Mouse ears, this time for arriving half an hour late for hit-off and pleading ignorance of the time frame. Log on to the club website to see a multitude of photos of Bill wearing the ears.

If you would like to join us, assemble Thursday at 8.30am for a 9 o'clock hit off. Visitors and guests are most welcome to join the field.

# Strathmerton down in season decider



Shining light ... Shawn Padman bowled well for his team in a very tight contest on Saturday.

STRATHMERTON got off to a great start, but eventually went down in its Murray Bowls division four grand final encounter against Tocumwal Golf last Saturday.

Whilst the side was unable to win the big one, the side members can be proud of their efforts through the season.

These two sides were the standout teams throughout the 2018-2019 season and showcased their skills in front of a strong contingent of supporters on the well prepared Numurkah Bowling Club greens.

Whilst Tocumwal had an edge in experience, the Strathmerton team showed the way early, though dropping a four right on the smoko bell not only cut the lead to one shot, but also appeared to stem their momentum when play commenced in the second half.

Unfortunately, neither Strathmerton rink was able to bowl with any rhythm after the break and Tocumwal played a steadier, more consistent brand of bowls, and skipped away to a convincing 11 shot victory after the 45 ends were

complete.

Michael Day, Peter Philippe, Shawn Padman and Lyn Brook had a battle all match against Bob Adams and his team, with both sides holding the advantage at stages.

With first year bowler Shawn Padman their leading light, this quartet found themselves two shots down at the end. The 22-24 score line was an indication of an even contest.

With the team's best and most experienced bowler, John Jasper, unavailable, Peter Mahoney stepped up to skip and found himself in a real battle with Toc's most experienced bowler, Alan Whiteside.

Mahoney, with Peter Truman, Liz Tuson and Bill Madgwick in tow, were right in the contest at the break but, led by Whiteside, Tocumwal was able to go on over the last few ends and record a nine shot win.

Both Mahoney and his second, Liz Tuson, handled the pressure of a grand final well and should be pleased with their effort.

Unfortunately for Strathmerton though Whiteside was a class above on the day.

## Wunghnu falls at final hurdle

by "Davo"

BAROOGA Sports made it two in a row with a seven shot victory over Wunghnu in the Murray Bowls division one pennant grand final on Sunday.

The Cobram Bowls Club played host for the grand final and had the green in tip top condition. Unfortunately, strong, gusty winds made it difficult for all players on the day, but those in attendance were still treated to some excellent lawn bowls.

Barooga got off to a solid start, leading by 15 shots after 24 ends of play. Much of the lead was due to Brett Wright's rink, which jumped out of the blocks to lead Barry Cosgrove's rink 10-1 after seven ends of play. By the time the bell rang for afternoon tea, Barooga held a handy 13 shot lead with 53 ends completed.

Wunghnu came out firing after the break, gradually reducing Barooga's lead to just four shots after 75 ends, then hitting the lead overall after 85 ends.

Just when it looked like the Magpies were going to overrun Barooga, the Sporties dug deep in the closing stages to take back the lead and go on to record back to back premierships.

Wright's rink led 20-8 at the tea break before a second half comeback saw Cosgrove's quartet level the scores at 24-24 with two ends to play. Despite holding two shots on the penultimate end, a brilliant drive from Wright took out both counters to give Barooga two shots. Another two on the last end saw Wright's rink win 28-24.

Trevor Hosie's Wunghnu rink led for much of the day in a terrific battle against Peter Russell's rink, but the Barooga boys finished strongly to win 25-24, whilst Peter Ware's Barooga rink proved too good for Russell Smith's foursome, winning 27-22.

Andrew Henderson's rink provided the highlight for Wunghnu, defeating Ray Emerson's rink 24-21.

The final score saw Barooga victorious 101-94.

The Numurkah Bowls Club played host for the division two, division three and division four grand finals on Saturday.

Cobram won the division two title with a five shot win over Tocumwal. Despite losing the final, Tocumwal will be promoted to division one next season as Cobram already has one side in the top grade.

Jerilderie defeated Tocumwal Golf by three shots in a tight encounter in division three, whilst Tocumwal defeated Strathmerton by 11 shots in division four.

With the pennant season now completed, attention now turns to Bowls Victoria's state champions week to be held at East Bendigo Bowls Club next month.

The Murray Bowls Division will be well represented, with Tocumwal's Chris Philpott in the state singles, Wunghnu's Barry Cosgrove (s) and Numurkah Golf's Joe Luci in the state pairs, Wunghnu's Nick Davies (s) and Cobram's Kerry Baldacchino in the mixed pairs, Cobram's Eve Saunders and Marj McDonald (s) in the women's state pairs, and Cobram's Christine Dunne, Carol Mathers, Kerry Baldacchino and Marj McDonald (s) in the women's state fours.



Oh, so close ... Lyn Browning sends down a bowl during her side's grand final match against Cobram on Friday.

## Oh so close for Golf bowlers

NUMURKAH Golf came close to defeating premiership favourite Cobram in the Murray Bowls division one midweek pennant grand final played at the Numurkah Bowls Club last Friday.

All memories of a heavy 31 shot loss to Cobram in the second semi-final were put aside as Numurkah Golf took it right up to the reigning premier. The overall lead changed a number of times before Cobram snuck home by four shots.

Loris Houlihan's rink had a good day on the green, upsetting Marj McDonald's quartet 26-22. Jan Niven's rink fought hard all day before going down 23-25 to Barbara Turner's foursome, whilst Robyn Hodgkin and her charges also had a tight contest with Brenda Smethurst's rink for much of the day, before going down 19-25.

Despite the disappointment of losing the grand final, Numurkah Golf should be happy with its performance during the 2018-19 season.

The side won 10 of 13 matches in the home and away season to finish second on the ladder, whilst Jan Niven was the competition's leading skip with 12 wins from 13 starts.

Capping off a terrific year for Cobram, the division two side also tasted premiership success with a narrow five shot victory over Picola.

Carol Doherty's rink was the best performed, defeating Margaret Morgan's quartet 29-15, whilst Glenda Mann's foursome defeated Julie Berger's rink 26-23. Maureen Dwyer and her charges provided the highlight for Picola, defeating Aileen Williams' rink 29-17.

## Ladies 21 up down to final

AFTER some very close semi final matches played, the Numurkah Golf Bowls ladies' 21 up final will be played next Tuesday.

Katrina Glover defeated Helen Pickersgill, and Barb Fayers won a very close match against Ma-

rie Ryan on Monday.

Katrina and Barb will now meet in what is assured to be a very intense game of bowls.

The club will hold its season presentation night next Thursday, March 21, and the bowls section

annual meeting will be held the following week, on Thursday, March 28.

Members are reminded that this is their chance to have a say on the running of the bowls section of the club.

## Numurkah small bore

KYABRAM hosted last Wednesday's round of the Crawford Shield competition, and scored a narrow win over Numurkah Small Bore Club, 1150.34 to 1141.32.

The club also held its weekly practice night on Thursday with a good number of shooters attending.

The following scores were returned:

20 metre prone: W. Willsher 87.1 88.1 175.2.

20 metre benchrest: C. Saxton 98.2 97.0 195.2, D. Bradshaw 96.1 94.0 190.1, J. Smith 93.0 93.1 186.1.

50 metre prone: A. Hill 98.6 96.4 194.10, T. Braybon 97.4 96.3 193.7, G. Braybon 96.5 96.3 192.8, L. Braybon 95.4 95.1 190.5, B. Sneddon 95.3 95.1 190.4, R. Hill 91.3 92.2 183.5, A. Lee 92.0 89.2 181.2, D. Cook 88.1 91.1 179.2, J. Cook 87.1 92.0 179.1, A. Gibbon 90.1 86.0 176.1, D. Gibbon 59.2 66.0 125.2.

50 metre benchrest: J. Matys 192.6.

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

## Croquet players warm up

DESPITE there seeming to be no end to the hot weather, and some Numurkah croquet players feeling the long, hot summer, 16 players turned up for the club's social day last Tuesday.

Kevin Hansen was the day's winner, with three wins and 27 hoops. Very close behind were runners up David Geddes and Gordon Brown with 3/25.

Faye Miller was the only player to run a hoop-in-one, while Kevin Hansen and Ian Londey each played two jump shots.

The club's annual social day will be held on Tuesday, April 23, immediately following Easter. This year there will be cash prizes and an Easter bonnet competition.

# Katunga falls at last hurdle

KATUNGA Recreation Reserve played host to the MVCA's division one grand final on Saturday, culminating with Finley being crowned premier after it won a hotly anticipated clash against Katunga by seven runs.

Just 0.03% separated the two sides on the final ladder, but after Finley won the toss and elected to bat, it seemed like the minor premier was going to struggle amid the pressure.

Toby Miles and Dylan Baker claimed a wicket each early to see Finley slump to 2/6, and successive loss of wickets trended throughout Finley's innings.

At 2/22, Josh MacFadyen was the next to celebrate a scalp, before taking another to see the visitors in trouble at 4/29.

Katunga's bowling attack was powered by strong showings from Miles and MacFadyen, both finishing with 2/15 from eight overs, while Baker's 3/13 led the line as Finley continued to spiral out of control with the bat.

Shaun McAllister got a well-deserved wicket to make the score 5/50, with his eight overs garnering 1/13.

Finley managed to double its score by the end of the 40th over, setting Katunga a target of 101 for victory.

Katunga's chase got off to a not too dissimilar start compared to Finley's innings, with the Swans losing two wickets before being able to post 10 runs. Trent Baker and Jarrod Rankin's demise saw Josh MacFadyen and wicketkeeper Mitch Doyle enter the fray, but the former's run out for 10 was a sign of things to come.

Doyle and new batsman Adam Cook managed to push the score to a seemingly strong position of 3/69, but as Cook fell for 16, it was the final straw for Katunga's premiership tilt.

Katunga went from 4/69 to 8/88 but had Toby Miles and captain Shaun McAllister in at the crease, meaning that there was still hope for the Swans.

In a cruel turn, McAllister was run out without being able to add a run to the score, leaving Finley one wicket away from victory.

That final wicket came as Toby Miles was caught out for 11, with his side eight runs short of a grand final win.



**In a spin ...** Katunga's Shaun McCallister finished with figures of 1/13, but it wasn't enough to grab the flag over Finley on Saturday.

## Bombers remain in premiership hunt



**Top gun ...** Waaia's Matt Daniel during his top-scoring innings of 33 in his side's semi final win over Mooroopna on Saturday.

WAAIA'S E grade season remains alive following a heart-pounding 33-run win over Mooroopna at Waaia Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

The Bombers were sent in to bat following a coin-toss loss, but struggled to retain the upper-hand following a decent display from the top-order.

The Daniels, Ben and Matt, scored 26 and 33 respectively, giving their side a bit of a leg-up, but those scores would be the two highest for the innings. Chris Revell and Danny Glover both scored 13, while the only other Waaia batsman to reach double-figures was Mark Bryant with 15.

Throughout the first half of the game, there were three ducks and six scores less than five, as Waaia limped to 115 all out from 35 overs.

Mooroopna seemed to be on its way to a finals victory at 0/37, but when Danny Glover took the first wicket, it gave Waaia enough to take full advantage.

Wickets fell rapidly thereafter, with Ryan Trimby claiming 3/17 from seven overs and Ben Daniel taking 3/4 from three.

Mooroopna lost its first six wickets for just 25 runs, and at 6/77, lost its final four for just five.

Waaia had completed a remarkable turnaround and ensured Mooroopna would finish its season all out for just 82.

The win means that the Bombers will host Old Students this Saturday for a spot in the Whitelock Shield grand final.



**Consistent and reliable ...** Andrew Cline did what he has done all year during Numurkah's semi final win over Central Park-St Brendans, and his solid bowling performance helped his side immeasurably.

## Dreams of a Blue triple stay alive

NUMURKAH'S B grade side came away from its semi final clash against Central Park-St Brendans as seven wicket winners, after a spirited bowling performance from the Blues left the visitors clasping for straws over the weekend.

The Numurkah Showgrounds hosted the final, which kicked off with Central Park-St Brendans winning the toss and electing to bat, leaving the door open for Numurkah to take control of the contest early.

Bailey Roberts got the Blue machine rolling with a wicket early, before Sam Lewis' two wickets were sandwiched between another Roberts wicket to see Central Park-St Brendans slump to 4/34.

Numurkah allowed the visitors to creep back into the contest with a 41-run partnership that gave Central Park-St Brendans a bit of life, but the feeling was short-lived, with Reydan Lacuin making his presence known.

Andrew Cline broke the part-

nership, and while Bailey Roberts picked up 2/10 from seven overs, it was Lacuin's persistence through his 17.2 over performance that garnered him a return of 4/8, amid 12 maidens.

Central Park-St Brendans lost 6/21 as it finished all out for 96 from 62.2 overs, and while it may have been confident of chasing down the required total, Numurkah's chase got off to a rocky start.

Dusty Ebborn was bowled for a duck to open the Blues' innings, but resilience throughout the side saw Matt Price and James Pruden get their side past the 50-mark.

In fact, the partnership accounted for 67-runs, and only came to end when Pruden was bowled for 31.

Price was joined in the middle by Kody Jackson, and the duo all but ensured Numurkah of the win, despite Price falling, with two runs still needed, for a well-made 34.

Price's replacement Dylan Cox

scored the final two runs, remaining not out alongside Jackson as the B graders celebrated their spot in the preliminary final.

That final will take place this Saturday and Sunday against Shepparton United at the Numurkah Showgrounds, with the first delivery of each day scheduled for 12.30pm.

### D GRADE

Numurkah's D graders shook off a less than desirable start to come away from the weekend's semi final tie against Undera as 95-run winners at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve.

Despite losing the toss, Numurkah was given the chance to bat first, but the top-order struggled to lay the foundations of a big score.

None of Numurkah's top five managed to get into the 20s, and the win was thanks to, in large part, Brett O'Dwyer's magnificent knock.

O'Dwyer came in with his side struggling at 4/44, and while he and Hunter Verhoeven man-

aged to get the Blues on the right track, continued to lose wickets at important times.

Despite this, the Blues were doing just enough to keep ahead of the curb, and while O'Dwyer kept trucking along to a not out 76, he found just enough support to see his side finish all out for 197, a very strong score in a final. In reply, Undera got off to a decent start, but that run was derailed as the Verhoevens, Jason and Hunter, and Brett O'Dwyer bowled well enough to get the Blues on top.

Jason finished with figures of 4/10 from 16 overs, including 12 maidens, while Lambert mustered 3/35 from 13 overs.

The bowling performance from the Blues was exemplary, and it restricted Undera to 102 all out as Numurkah cruised to victory. Numurkah will now take on Karramomus at the Numurkah Showgrounds this weekend, with play commencing on Saturday and Sunday at 12.30pm.

## One step closer

NUMURKAH has ensured itself of a spot in the Cricket Shepparton A grade preliminary finals after its six-wicket triumph over Northerners at Numurkah Showgrounds on the weekend.

Shaun Downie was undoubtedly the star of the match for the Blues, with his 3/56 and 123 with the bat, guiding Numurkah past Northerners' first innings total of 8/210.

Having lost the toss and being forced to field, Numurkah didn't get off to the start it would have desired, unable to get a wicket, until a run out with the score at 83 gave the Blues a bit of a sniff.

It wasn't long before Numurkah capitalised on the wicket, with captain Liam Gledhill and Tim Arnel both striking to see the scoreboard move to 3/112. In a game of momentum, Northerners pushed back to get to 3/157, but Numurkah managed to gain the upper hand thanks to Shaun Downie's three-wicket flurry damning the visitors to 6/167.

Northerners managed to consolidate and set its sights on the 200-mark, and managed to reach that score with just a few overs left.

Northerners finished its innings, and the day's play, 8/210 from 80 overs.

Numurkah captain Liam Gledhill was well-aware that the total could've ballooned much further if not for his side's composure.

"They were none for 100 and then we had them 3/112 at tea, which was okay, but they had the platform to make over 250," Gledhill said.

"Tim Arnel took a really crucial wicket the last over before tea, Joel Brett, who has more than 550 runs this season, and to get him caught behind two or three balls before tea was a major turning point in the game."

The prospect of chasing a 200+ score is always a daunting one, especially in a pressure-cooker situation like a semi final, and Numurkah's openers succumbed early.

Dylan Grandell and Josh Smith were both out cheaply, only able to register two and seven respectively.

Numurkah needed to ensure that it was able to rectify the situation and push the contest into its favour. Will Arnel and Shaun Downie's partnership made sure of that.

Arnel hit five fours on his way to 54, while the main man was Shaun Downie, whose 123 featured 14 boundaries and a heap of praise from his captain.

"Shaun Downie is a star, an absolute star. His knock on Sunday was chanceless and he showed great determination to get a win for the side."

"He is a very handy cricketer and he just wants to be a part of the action, whether that's with bat or ball." While Downie was able to raise his bat, Arnel's innings was crucial to get Numurkah to 2/157 before he was trapped in front.

"Will Arnel was also really good. He held the innings together at the top end when the new ball was there, and he deserved to get three figures as well," Gledhill said.

"He batted really, really well. The hard work is starting to pay off for him."

While Arnel fell, Downie continued on his way with Michael Eckard, getting the team past the 200-mark before Downie was out for a brilliantly made 123. Eckard and Gledhill closed out the game and, with 66.5 overs bowled, were six wicket victors.

The chase is a huge boost for Numurkah, which will hope to continue the batting form on display into this week's preliminary final against Central Park-St Brendans.

"It was a very pleasing win. To chase 200 in a final is always difficult and to do it so successfully was really pleasing," Gledhill said.

"I think that's the most we have had to chase this season, but to be able to consolidate in the top order, and for Shaun Downie and Will Arnel to be able to bat so positively through the middle overs was what set up the game for us."

In the last fixture against Central Park-St Brendans, Numurkah went down by five wickets in a round six one-day loss, but Gledhill believes that, despite a lot of change that has occurred between then and now, one thing that remains the same is the intensity of the battle that lies ahead.

"Central Park/St Brendans beat us in the one dayer early in the season, but we've got a totally different side now, so we're full of confidence."

"We understand that they're a good side, and they are going to have plenty of match-winners. They are going to have a fairly confident side playing this week, but we will be going pretty hard and it is sure to be a good battle."

Numurkah will lock horns with Central Park-St Brendans this Saturday and Sunday at Deakin Reserve in Shepparton. Both days' play will start at 12.30pm.

## Eagles live to fight another day

KATANDRA has booked itself a place in the Cricket Shepparton A grade preliminary finals thanks to a well-rounded bowling performance and strong-willed batting display, defeating Kyabram by two wickets at Katandra Recreation Reserve over the weekend. The two-day game started on Saturday with Kyabram winning the toss and electing to bat, but it was Katandra that took control of the tie in the early stages of the innings.

Corey Hickford and Hadleigh Sirett claimed a wicket each before Kyabram was even able to reach double-digits.

Hickford claimed another soon after, and when Scott Richardson chimed in to pick up two scalps of his own, Kyabram was in trouble at 5/36.

The visitors were buoyed by the first partnership of substance coming together between the Muellers, Kyle and Cade.

The two managed to fight back against the stringent bowling attack that had decimated much of

the side's top-order.

Despite the pair's 63-run partnership getting the Redbacks close to the 100-mark, everything came undone as Andrew Riordan tore the game apart in short order.

Riordan first had Cade Mueller out for 17, then Kyle out for 69, before claiming his third to walk away with a 3/16 return from 11 overs and ensuring Kyabram slumped to 8/109.

Eight became nine soon after when Corey Hickford made one last impact, picking up his third wicket and finishing with figures of 3/28 from 17 overs.

Jedd Wright took the final wicket of the innings and Kyabram was all out for 126 from 57.3 overs.

Katandra's chase was fraught with drama, though, and Ben Clurey's early demise for nine was an ominous sign that the pursuit of victory would take grit and determination.

The Eagles encountered more problems not long after captain Luke Nolan and Scott Richard-

son took control of the run-scoring.

Nolan was out for nine with the scores at 2/30, seeing Scott Richardson joined in the middle by Brady Black.

The two partnered for 34, with Richardson's 26 from 86 deliveries detailing how difficult runs were to come by in the cut-throat final.

The pair were both gone in quick succession, with Richardson falling first before Black's 16 left his side on 4/65.

Replacing the duo were Andrew Riordan and Jedd Wright, and the tandem seemed to be on the right track before Riordan's wicket for two signaled a tension-building partial collapse for the Eagles at 5/82.

Wright too, was gone, without a run being added to the tally, and new batsman Ray Ireland was caught out for two not long after. At 7/96, Katandra was in desperate need of a steady hand, and that was provided by the hero of the chase, Hadleigh Sirett.

Sirett showed fierce concentration throughout his 79-ball innings, amassing a game-saving 34 runs, all the while being soundly supported by a lower-order that more than held its own with the chips down and everything to play for.

Nathan Hickey may not have scored a run, but by being able to face 36 deliveries, showed Kyabram that no wicket would be easy to pick up at this stage of the match.

Hickey's exit saw the scoreboard tick over to 8/105, but he was replaced by yet another tail-ender that was willing and able to dig his heels in.

Corey Hickford supported Sirett beautifully through his 38-ball stand, and the pair held their nerve to make sure of the tie, finishing not out on eight and 34, respectively, ensuring Katandra a spot in the preliminary final.

The Eagles now look ahead to hosting Northerners this Saturday and Sunday for a spot in the grand final.

# Numurkah LEADER

# Sports



# ONE STEP CLOSER

**Crucial timing ...** Tim Arnel picked up an important wicket on the cusp of tea during Numurkah's win over Northerners over the weekend. NUMURKAH has ensured itself of a spot in the Cricket Shepparton A grade preliminary finals after its six-wicket triumph over Northerners at Numurkah Showgrounds on the weekend ... *Story page 19.*

## Local boys make Bushies squad

NUMURKAH footballer Rhys Cason and Katunga's Max Hendy have both been selected in the Murray Bushrangers under 16 squad.

The two lads join 24 other talented footballers from 15 clubs across the Goulburn Murray and North East regions.

Coach Justin McMahon highlighted the rigorous selection pro-

cess that began last season.

"Clubs nominated players from their under 16s back in June last year.

"We've followed the players closely with their club and V-Line Cup football and, since then, there have been 28 training sessions and three practice matches.

"The series of training sessions,

trial games and athletic tests have allowed coaching staff to select the players they think are best suited to perform well at the NAB League under 16 level," McMahon said.

"We really value the incredible support from junior and senior clubs across the whole region.

"These volunteers and coaches are so essential in providing a platform

for young players to develop as quality people and also to pursue an elite AFL pathway."

McMahon also explained the high quality number of players who missed selection.

"The selection process is very subjective and there are many examples of players, such as Steve Johnson, who missed stages of Murray

Bushrangers selection.

"We encourage those boys to continue their dedication and commitment to playing well for their home clubs."

The Murray Bushrangers will begin their 2019 under 16 and under 18 seasons at Punt Road on Saturday, March 23, when they will come against Gippsland Power.

### 10TH ANNIVERSARY NUMURKAH FUN RUN 2019

**GREAT PRIZES PLUS**

- First 200 Entries receive dry fit singlet
- Family BBQ

**SUNDAY 17TH MARCH EVERYONE WELCOME**  
Runners • Seniors • Walkers • Kids • Elite

**Events:** 10 & 5km Run, 5km Walk  
**Kids:** Grade 2 & Under - 1km, Grade 3-6 - 2km  
5km Run for Primaries  
**Venue:** St. Joseph's PS Numurkah  
**Cost:** \$35. U/16s & Primary 5km \$10  
\$35 with singlet.  
**Kids:** 1 & 2km events - no rego required, \$2 on the morning

**Start Time:**  
9am 5&10 Km events - 10.15am 1 & 2 Km events  
Pre-registration by Friday 15th March 4pm  
Entries accepted on the morning additional \$5  
**Registration:** [www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au)  
**Contact:** St Joseph's 03 5862 1804

