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Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

\$1.30

INSIDE

Planned upgrades



See story page 5



International Women's Day

See story page 9



See story page 8

39th ANNUAL ART&CRAFT EXHIBITION

OFFICIAL OPENING

Friday, 8th March 8.30pm
at Numurkah Town Hall
Wine and cheese tasting followed by supper.

Friday 8th March 7pm - 10pm
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Call for amalgamation vote

OPPONENTS of the proposed NCN health service amalgamation are issuing a challenge to the boards of the three services to put the proposal to a public vote - and they say that the process that was so effective in deciding the Numurkah Flood Mitigation Plan provides the perfect model.

Kerry Cursons and Dianne Hill say the consultation process has been not only inadequate and lacked transparency, but has also been deeply flawed. And they have official documentation that they believe supports their viewpoint.

Their argument for a public vote rests mainly on three key points:

1. At no stage have members of the three communities been provided with information about the possible outcomes of an amalgamation, by any body independent of the health services themselves, and then asked the question "are you for or against an amalgamation of the three health services?"

"People should have the right to make an in-

formed decision," said Dianne Hill.

"They just keep telling us that they think it's a good idea, and talking about 'possible' benefits and expect that to be enough, but it's not. Where is the due diligence? Where is the independent analysis and assessment on which we can make an informed decision? What about the possible disadvantages?

"Our community's health service is very, very important and they expect us to let them change it forever on nothing more than them thinking it's a good idea. We need concrete facts, not fluffy advertising."

2. The consultation process that has been undertaken has overlooked vital steps in the public participation spectrum that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) uses to inform its planning and processes for stakeholder engagement and public participation.

That spectrum, the IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) is considered world's

best practice, and is a vital plank of DHHS's public participation framework, released in February 2018.

Amongst other things, it calls on services to 'partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.'

Kerry Cursons argues that the health services boards have not done this.

"They've just completely ignored it really," she said.

"They haven't offered any alternatives, they've just said 'this is what we want', when clearly, best practice is to say 'these are all of the options, these are what they would mean according to an independent researcher, which one do you think is best?'

The DHHS framework also recommends a human-centred design approach for decision making.

Continued page 3

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Letter to the Editor

Open letter from the Numurkah District Health Service board

THE Numurkah District Health Service Board has been working together with Nathalia District Hospital and Cobram District Health boards to address the local health needs and challenges that our rural communities face.

We have worked hard as a team and, after carefully considering all options, the three boards have seen considerable merit in exploring a proposal to join services. We have been unanimous in this approach and have taken a number of steps to reach this point:

- We have undertaken a significant due diligence assessment of financial, clinical, governance, human resources and regulatory impacts. Through this process, there have been no major issues identified that would prevent the proposal succeeding.
- We have undertaken extensive communication and consultation with the community, staff and other stakeholders (over the last 12 months – in two stages) to determine the key priorities, issues and opportunities in relation to such a proposal.
- A number of new initiatives have been put in place through the three organisations working together (new mental health services, respiratory services, palliative care services, shared training and an urgent care project/community education 'choose well, feel better').

Initial community, staff and stakeholder feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the recent consultation has identified key health priorities for our community along with important

aspects to consider in joining the three health services.

There has recently been some misinformation about the proposal circulating and we wish to outline the facts:

- The proposal is about joining health services to improve access to health care for the community.
- There would be NO loss of services, staff or funding due to the amalgamation.
- Services would continue to operate in each location and facilities would remain in place. This means the hospitals/services at Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia would remain in place.
- This is about ensuring local services in local communities and we are committed to preserving the unique character and identity of each place.
- We are committed to improving and increasing services – to meet the health care needs and priorities of our community. (Not reducing services.)
- The joining of the three services would mean one combined board, as the organisation would comprise one management and governance entity (pending Ministerial approval). Board members would include local representatives from each of the three communities, ensuring a local voice. Board members are appointed by the Minister.
- The proposal aims to address challenges faced by rural health services, such as attracting and retaining staff, attracting specialists, meeting changing community needs and more complex care, and meeting legislative compliance.
- Local funding would remain local. The boards are considering the current financial reserves at each organisation and recommendations will focus on local priorities for each health service. For example, funding has been earmarked from the Numurkah District Health Ser-

vice reserves to undertake planning for the redevelopment of Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge. In addition, donations and items would remain with each facility/location.

- Management and governance would be strengthened, not diluted.
- Staff are valued and will continue their employment.

Board members are local community members with a vested interest in local health services. We care about the wellbeing of the community, which is why we have taken action to address current and future needs by considering options for future sustainability.

Doing nothing places our health services at risk and means people continue to travel for many health services, outside of the local area. Together we see opportunities to attract funding for new services, opportunities to create a stronger health system and to provide better health care, locally.

Your local Board Members (NDHS)

Michael Buha, Chair (AICD 2016) – a Small Business Owner who serves on the Clinical Governance Quality & Safety sub-committee. Michael is one of three chairs on the NCN Governance Working Group and has made an important leadership contribution in that role. He has strong community involvement and lives locally.

Nathan Morris, Vice Chair – a well regarded, successful, local business owner and manager with extensive community and stakeholder knowledge. He serves on the Clinical Governance Quality & Safety sub-committee and is part of the NCN Governance Working group. He lives locally.

Melissa Nicoll – a highly experienced physiotherapist with strong strategic leadership and clinical governance skills. She has extensive experience on the board, especially on the Clinical Governance Quality & Safety sub-com-

mittee as chair until four months ago. She has now taken on the role of mentoring the new chair in her role. Ms Nicoll is also on the NCN Governance Working Group and has made an important contribution in that role. She lives locally.

Kate Hodge – a veterinarian with strong clinical governance skills, and community service oriented. Ms Hodge has worked tirelessly on the board, serving as the board representative on the Community Liaison Committee and on the Clinical Governance Quality & Safety sub-committee, which she now chairs. She has broad community involvement and contacts and lives locally.

Michael Tymensen – an accountant who serves on the Finance and Audit Subcommittee and Credentialing subcommittee. He is also the board's financial specialist and has been a board member for nine years, including a term as vice chair. He brings a high level of accounting skills to the board and lives locally.

Andrew Lelliott – has business management qualifications and experience and strong local connections to the Numurkah community. He serves on the Finance and Audit Subcommittee and Credentialing subcommittee and lives in Shepparton.

Helen Nicholas – a registered nurse and local solicitor who serves on the Finance and Audit Subcommittee. She has strong understanding and experience of interpreting and applying legislation in particular that relates to the health system (Health Services Act 1988) and all other legislation affecting the governance of the organisation. She is involved in delivering services to groups in the community, including those marginalised or disadvantaged, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. She lives locally.

For more information please visit the website: www.ncnhealthservices.org.au.

Letter to the Editor

Have your say

AMALGAMATION is not always in the best interest of the community, the tyre dump in Saxton St, Numurkah is a good example.

In 2007 I spent months researching and giving our shire planning department evidence on the likely outcome (example, Stawell had a \$5m tyre dump on their doorstep for 10 years).

For months I fought, begged and pleaded to stop the planning permit, no one listened. It wasn't on Cobram's back door and the councillors throughout the shire were pushing for the new "recycling plant". Neither the EPA nor

the regional fire brigade would intervene.

If it had been a local council, with local councillors, it may have been a different outcome. Now 12 years and a couple of million dollars later we are finally rid of the tyres.

We as a community need to speak up and have a say in our local hospitals. The hospitals don't belong to the board, they belong to our communities. I am concerned that the board is making decisions without our consent, that will affect our healthcare and services for many years/generations to come.

I don't have much confidence in the transparency of the NCN boards. We were told in June 2018,

after stage one, that amalgamation wasn't going ahead, end of story, case closed.

The next thing we know, after a very short, poorly timed advertising campaign, and less than seven months later, the board announces that the amalgamation application was going ahead.

Stage two of consultations was not to put amalgamation back on the table to have a vote, the decision had already been made without our knowledge or consent.

What we have received from NCN are lots of promises, but we also need to remember it is an advertising campaign to sell the NCN amalgamation to the public.

In the *Numurkah Leader* Q&A on February 13, the Chair of the

Numurkah Board, Mr Buha's own words were, "The small costs associated with an amalgamation are outweighed by the POSSIBLE benefits we can achieve". Possible is no guarantee.

This is not only about the amalgamation of hospitals, it's about our right to have a say. There are petitions circulating throughout Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah. If you agree we should have a voice in our future healthcare, please sign it and send a letter or email to the Health Minister, The Hon Jenny Mikakos, MLC, email: minister.health@health.vic.gov.au; mail: Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Vic, 3000.

Diane Hill
Numurkah

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Call for a vote on health services amalgamation

From page 1

The framework defines a human-centred design approach as: an approach that places the people impacted by change at the centre of any decisions. This is done by building the understanding of the impacts of a service, or proposed changes to a service, with the people who interact with the service.

In response to the *Leader's* question on how a decision on whether or not to recommend an amalgamation to the Health Minister would be made (*Numurkah Leader*, February 13, 2019), Michael Buha, NDHS board chair said:

"The three boards will continue to look closely at the benefits and risks of the proposal to join services - community feedback forms part of the decision-making."

Mrs Cursons argues that this demonstrates that the health service boards have not taken a human-centred approach.

"Clearly the users of the service should be looking closely at the benefits and risks of an amalgamation as well as the boards, but all we've been given is vague information about 'possible' benefits, and absolutely nothing about any risks," she said.

"How many people in the three communities can say they've been assisted in building an understanding of the impacts of the amalgamation? Not very many I'd bet."

The third point that the amalgamation's opponents say warrants putting it to a public vote, is the nine month period last year when the proposal was apparently shelved all together.

The amalgamation proposal was first floated in November 2017, and then in June 2018 it was announced that an amalgamation was no longer being considered.

Jacque Phillips, CEO of the three health services, said at that time (*Numurkah Leader*, June 6, 2018) that a process to form an amalgamation is one that needs to be taken with a lot of care and consideration.

"A strengthening of partnerships approach is a valuable way for the three organisations to continue working together, and will take place progressively over the next 12 months," she said.

More recently, however, in response to a question from the *Leader*, NDHS board chair Michael Buha was much more circumspect.

"The proposal to join services has been in place since the launch of the initial staff and community consultations in November 2017," Mr Buha said.

"The boards have wanted a thorough process to ensure this is the right decision. A number of initiatives took place to strengthen partnerships in 2018 with the development of a memorandum of understanding, service agreements, CEO and executive appointments, as well as completion of a thorough and independent due diligence assessment, looking at the financial, human resources, infrastructure, information technology, clinical services and regulatory impacts.

"The second stage of community consultation is seeking further detail from the community on the proposal for joined health services."

Dianne Hill told the *Leader* that once the community had been told that an amalgamation had been taken off the table, behind the scenes discussions should have been halted, any results from the initial community consultation should have been voided, and the consultation process should have been started from scratch once the proposal was back on the table.

"Michael Buha's comments show that they were working on an amalgamation the whole time, without the community's knowledge," she said.

"What have they put in place towards an amalgamation during that nine month period that the community doesn't know about and didn't have any input into?"

Kerry Cursons points to the fact that NDHS' Statement of Priorities for 2018-2019, which was published in August 2018 and forms an agreement between the DHHS and NDHS, makes absolutely no mention of amalgamation.

"They have provided absolutely no transparency about what went on with the amalgamation proposal being called off and then reinstated, and I'd say that's a fairly significant thing for the community to know," she said.

"In June it was all off, and then in January they are advertising round two of consultations as if nothing ever happened."

Mrs Cursons is also concerned about the due diligence process.

"That's something I was concerned about from the very beginning," she said.

"I asked a question on the NCN Facebook page in January 2018, because I wanted to know where I could see the independent information about what the outcomes of an amalgamation would be, and they told me that they didn't have results yet because they were doing the due diligence alongside the consultation process.

"So they have put forward a proposal for amalgamation before they have even established what the outcomes would be, which means they are asking for the community's opinion when they themselves don't have concrete information about the outcomes, and that's not good enough."

Both Mrs Hill and Mrs Cursons say that the only fair way forward is to give the three affected communities solid information about the outcomes of an amalgamation, and alternatives to an amalgamation, and then allow them to - anonymously - vote.

"The waters around the whole thing are just too muddy now and people need to be able to voice an informed opinion on their options and have the opportunity to say yes or no anonymously," Mrs Cursons said.

Mrs Cursons believes that the opportunity for anonymity is especially important given how many people are reliant on, and connected to, the health services and therefore may not feel



Calling for a vote ... Dianne Hill and Kerry Cursons with documents they say demonstrate how flawed the consultation process has been.

comfortable voicing their opinions publicly.

"That worked well with the flood plan because people were able to see what the options were, what the outcomes of each option would be and had time to consider them and decide what they thought was best. They had concrete information to go on, time to think about it and the right to anonymity."

And what if the public vote came down in favour of an amalgamation?

"Then so be it," Mrs Hill said.

"I wasn't happy with the option chosen for the flood plan because my home is outside the levy, but I accepted it because that is what the majority of people voted for, and represents the greatest good as far as the community is concerned."

"An amalgamation of the health services could have huge consequences for these three communities, and people deserve to have access to real information, and the chance to say yes or no."



Love triangle leads to shenanigans outside the Shamrock

THREE young local men are likely to receive tickets for riotous behaviour in public, after an incident outside the Shamrock Hotel in Melville St about 8pm on Friday.

The incident apparently started when a young male encountered his former girlfriend with another man, who he believed she had become involved with whilst still in a relationship with him.

Although punches were attempted to be thrown, no allegations of assault have been made, with the incident amounting to mostly verbal abuse, threats and obscene language.

One of the involved parties also reported damage to their vehicle following the incident, with a side window smashed, and the bonnet apparently jumped on. Police investigations are continuing.

Police have expressed disappointment, after two local drivers recorded

blood alcohol levels above .05 on the weekend, with one of them blowing four times over the limit.

In the first case, a 27 year-old Katunga woman was intercepted on Numurkah Rd around midnight on Friday, and blew 0.085.

On Saturday night, a 44 year-old Numurkah man had his vehicle impounded, and lost his licence, after providing a reading of 0.208.

Detectives from Cobram Criminal Investigation Unit are investigating the theft of a mobile crane stolen from Kotupna on the weekend.

The 12 tonne Franna brand yellow crane, worth \$100,000, was stolen from a works site at the Yambuna Bridge Rd site at the Goulburn River crossing. The registration of the vehicle is ZFW065, and anybody who sees it, or has any information, is urged to contact Cobram CIU.

Bushfire planning input wanted from north east Victorians

LAND and fire management agencies are calling on the public to help inform strategic bushfire management planning for the Hume region.

Strategic bushfire management planning is a multi-agency process that addresses the risks posed by bushfires on both public and private land. It uses the latest science and technology and draws on community values that need protecting.

Planning teams consist of representatives from Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFM Vic), Country Fire Authority (CFA), Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) and local governments.

Chair of the Hume Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee, Jamie McCaffrey said that north east communities have told the agencies that the most im-

portant things to protect are human life, private property, the natural environment, human health and well-being, infrastructure, regional economies and cultural heritage.

"We now need community input into bushfire management strategies to help us strike the right balance. This feedback will inform our bushfire management strategies and guide future work such as fuel management, targeted community engagement, and prioritisation of government resources for the Hume region," Mr McCaffrey said.

"Strategic bushfire management planning uses technology, developed in partnership with the University of Melbourne, to identify those areas in Hume where bushfires pose the greatest risk."

"This modelling approach helps us to direct our bushfire management

efforts to areas of greatest risk, including the most effective places to target fuel reduction."

"Previously, this planning process focussed on bushfire risk across public land. This time, we've broadened our focus to help determine where to target fuel management on both public and private land."

"For the first time, priority fuel management categorisation is applied to private land. It is an opportunity to start a conversation with the community about how we can all work together to reduce bushfire risk," Mr McCaffrey said.

The new strategies will guide bushfire risk reduction on both public and private land across Hume into the future.

To have your say, go to: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/bushfire-planning>.



Fireys kept busy with warmer weather

LOCAL CFA brigades have had a busy week with the renewed hot weather, with two local call-outs, as well as missions to assist at major incidents outside the district.

At 11.15am on Wednesday, Waaia, Kaarimba and Nathalia brigades were turned out to a fire at the corner of Walshs Bridge Rd and Walshs Bridge South Rd.

A car had been driven into a tree on the creek frontage and the driver had disappeared. There were approximately two square metres of leaf

litter burnt, around 100 metres upstream from where the car was located.

Ambulance and police also attended, and the fire is being treated as suspicious.

At 2.55pm on Friday, Numurkah, Nathalia, Katunga, Strathmerton, Naring, Wunghnu, Drumanure, Katamatite, Waaia, Kaarimba, Yarroweyah and Cobram brigades were called to a 10 metre diameter heap of pine mulch on fire at the corner of Ferris and Furness Streets, Beari.

The large number of tankers were called because the area is so dry and there is a lack of water available for fire fighting. Only Strathmerton, Katunga, Waaia, Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram attended the fire, the others were stopped en-route, or before they left their stations.

The mulch had spontaneously combusted, setting fire to grass and timber and threatening a stack of pallets and a shed. The owner used a tractor and scoop, and the fire fighters used rake

hoes to pull the heap of mulch apart.

At 10.55am on Saturday, Wunghnu brigade's forward operations vehicle (FOV) was called to attend a fire at Wicket Hill Rd, Tarcombe, to do communication work. They were there for about an hour and a half.

Wunghnu brigade set out at 1pm on Sunday, alongside brigades from the Shepparton group, as part of a strike team to Howqua, arriving home at 4am Monday.



Pyjama party ... Back (from left): Heidi Ng, Catherine Church, Wendy Ross, Teruko Smith, Robyn Robertson, Bronwyn Vandergulik, Nicole Sutton, Nadene Donnelly, Zhi Qi Hoe, Kathryn Davies. Middle: Tab Burch, Makayla Millen, Ali Beatson, Smonda Kok, Kellie Chiu, Preeti. Front: Ash Noonan, Michelle Beecher and Michelle Eldridge.

Pyjama party with a serious message at NDHS

A LARGE number of NDHS staff attracted some curious looks last Thursday, as they went about their business wearing attire normally associated with hospital patients - pyjamas.

Ironically, staff were wearing their PJs to promote the launch of a program that encourages hospital patients to ditch their jim-jams in favour of normal clothes.

The message is part of #endPJparalysis, which is an international campaign to get hospital patients up, dressed and moving where possible.

After the initiative first started in the UK, clinicians noted significant reductions in patient falls, pressure ulcers and lengths of hospital stays.

Prolonged periods spent in bed are responsible for a range of adverse outcomes, including muscle de-conditioning, increased rate of

infections, and increased rate of falls when patients do get back on their feet. And the effects are worse as you get older.

For people over the age of 80, 10 days in bed ages muscles by 10 years and one week of bed rest results in 10% muscle loss.

NDHS clinical projects nurse Catherine Church said that, after a hospital admission, patients tended to adopt the role of a 'sick person' which could actually be very detrimental to their health.

"Getting out of bed and into your own clothes, and staying active, in hospital can have enormous benefits for your overall physical, mental and psychological health," Ms Church said.

"Keeping active helps people's ability to fight infections, and improves their appetite, sleep and

mood. It's all about getting back to a normal routine as soon as you can to get you home as soon as you can."

NDHS patient Kelvin 'Dingo' Gaspero was admitted to hospital last Wednesday following a motorbike accident, but was up and dressed and riding through the halls in a wheelchair when the *Leader* caught up with him last Thursday.

"I think every person needs a positive way of thought, and getting out of bed and getting around as best you can helps with that and is a good incentive to do it," Dingo said.

"The staff are wonderful here and what they are doing with this is spot on."

So, the message is clear - next time you pack for a hospital stay, pack extra clothes, not extra pyjamas, and you'll get home to your own bed sooner.



Up and dressed ... Nurses Kelly Lyons, Neethu Thomas and Rachael Mullane spread the word with patient Kelvin 'Dingo' Gaspero.

New tool to track infectious diseases in Australia

RESEARCHERS at CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, have developed a new tool to understand how human infectious diseases found overseas might spread in Australia.

Using data from dengue virus outbreaks in Queensland as a case study, the tool identifies and tracks new cases of infection to their original source in Australia, and links how the disease has transferred between people.

It provides new insight into the behaviour of human diseases brought into Australia, and is part of the broader Disease Networks and Mobility (DiNeMo) project aimed at developing a real-time alert and surveillance system for human infectious diseases.

The DiNeMo project combines CSIRO's domain expertise in health and biosecurity with

the digital know-how of its digital innovation arm, Data61.

CSIRO researcher Dr Dean Paini said the tool aims to help protect Australia against the increasing risk of infectious diseases like dengue and measles, which have already sparked numerous health alerts across the country this year.

"Although Australia is relatively disease-free compared to other regions of the world, diseases are brought in through infected people, who can be Australians returning home from holiday, tourists travelling to Australia, or fly-in fly-out workers travelling abroad," Dr Paini said.

"Understanding how these infections spread once they reach Australia means we can predict when and where an outbreak is likely to occur – this means hospitals and biosecurity agencies

can be as prepared as possible.

"When it comes to biosecurity, time is always the enemy, so being able to direct resources to the right place, at the right time can help diagnose and treat infected people as quickly as possible."

Dr Raja Jurdak, a researcher from CSIRO's Data61, said that traditional methods of tracking infection routes often depend on time-consuming site investigations or interviews relating to travel routes of infected patients.

"Our tool draws on multiple, incomplete datasets, including reported dengue cases, tourist surveys, geo-tagged social media posts, and airline travel, and combines them in a smart way to understand the trends that underpin the spread of diseases," Dr Jurdak said.

"This methodology allows us to look into the past and identify the sources of infection, and also predict the potential future spread of disease."

"As global population numbers increase, and we see a reflective increase in travel and urban sprawl, autonomous biosecurity tools like this will be critical to help protect Australia's human and environmental health," Dr Paini said.

Dengue is transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. Currently, only the *Aedes aegypti* is found in mainland Australia, mostly around Northern Queensland, while the *Aedes albopictus*, which prefers cooler climates, can be found as close as the Torres Strait.



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Work in progress ... Workers were making upgrades to Numurkah's mobile tower on Monday.



Point of impact ... The front of the Ford Focus bore the brunt of this collision.

Birds not to blame for NBN outages

A LARGE number of locals have had a frustrating few days internet-wise, as those with fixed wireless NBN connections have been experiencing prolonged connection outages.

Though some have been laying the blame squarely at the feet of the large flock of corellas currently making a noise around Numurkah, an NBN spokesperson said this is not the case.

"Like any telecommunications network, damage from birds occurs occasionally and is managed as a normal network assurance issue," the spokesperson said.

Rather, the spokesperson said that any network outages in the Numurkah area are more likely to be the result of planned capacity up-

grades on NBN's fixed wireless towers.

"NBNco is currently rolling out an \$800m capacity upgrade program in order to improve performance for residents and businesses," the spokesperson said.

"In the Numurkah area, we are upgrading several towers, which require intermittent outages to allow the works to be carried out safely."

"The upgrades are planned to be finished by the end of March."

The NBN spokesperson said that they give advance notice of the outages to retailers, and ask that they pass this information on to their customers.

Another collision at Naring Rd intersection

THE intersection of Numurkah and Naring Roads was the site of a second collision so far this year, with a Ford Focus running into the back of a stationary Mitsubishi Triton ute last Wednesday morning.

The Triton was stopped, facing south with its indicator on, as it waited to turn right into Naring Rd, when the Ford rear-ended it.

The female driver of the Triton, aged in her 40s, and her teenage male passenger were shaken but uninjured, whilst the female driver of the Ford, aged in her 20s, sustained minor injuries and was taken to NDHS for assessment.

Senior Constable Joe Tomasino from Numur-

kah police, who attended the scene, told the *Leader* that the incident was a reminder that you can't take your eyes off the road for even a moment.

"In an 80 zone like that, you cover a lot of road in a few seconds, so if you look away from the road, even very briefly, the situation can have changed dramatically when you refocus on the road," he said.

"It is lucky that there weren't serious injuries involved."

A local woman was airlifted to hospital with head and chest injuries following a collision at the same intersection on January 17 this year.

Warnings issued as Autumn fire wood collection season starts

THE 2019 Autumn fire wood collection season started across Victoria last Friday, and is scheduled to run until June 30.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Hume Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Aaron Kennedy said he wanted to remind people that it will once again only be legal to collect firewood from designated areas on public land during this period.

"It's important that people only collect firewood from designated fire wood areas to protect sites of cultural and environmental significance," he said.

Interactive maps showing where you can collect domestic fire wood went live on March 1,

and are available to view at www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood.

"People should drive on existing forest tracks and roads when collecting firewood and they must stay within collection limits, which are a maximum of two cubic metres per person per day and a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per year," Mr Kennedy said.

"Some households rely on firewood for winter heating, so it's important to consider others when collecting firewood."

"The felling of trees for firewood is strictly prohibited, and our authorised officers will be patrolling parks, forests and reserves to ensure

people are doing the right thing."

Mr Kennedy said he wanted to remind people to check local weather and forest conditions before heading into the forest, to make sure it's safe.

"Forests are currently extremely dry due to below average rainfall and a hot summer, so it's important firewood collectors are careful not to start fires when using chainsaws and splitters," he said.

"Some collection sites may be located near areas identified for our autumn planned burning program, so it's a good idea to check where burns are happening as these areas may be closed at short notice. Go to www.ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn, or download the VicEmergency

app or call 1800 226 226."

Under the Forest Act 1958, people who collect firewood outside designated firewood collection areas or a firewood collection season, or take more than the maximum allowable amounts, can face fines of up to \$8,059, or a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment or both, if the matter proceeds to court.

For any further information on firewood collection, or to report illegal or suspicious behaviour in public land areas, please contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on 136 186.

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Congregations gather for world day of prayer

MEMBERS of Numurkah's Christian congregations gathered as one last Friday morning to celebrate world day of prayer 2019.

Around 40 members from Numurkah's Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Catholic, Uniting, and Christian church congregations, as well as representatives from Shepparton's Salvation Army, gathered at the Presbyterian hall for the event.

Numurkah churches take it in turns hosting the event, which is held at a different venue each year.

The world day of prayer is an international ecumenical movement organised by women of many different Christian denominations, and held across the world on the first Friday in March each year.

Every year, worship service focuses on a different country, that year's 'host' country, and a specific theme. The host country for the year prepares the service for the year, and that is used across the world where groups gather to pray for the host country.

Slovenia was the host country for 2019, and the theme for this year's event was 'Come, everything is prepared!'

Slovenia was established in 1991 after the break up of the former Yugoslavia. Upon its formation, religious gatherings were again permitted, after years of restriction.

Beverley Browning, who helped organise this year's local service on behalf of Numurkah Church of Christ, said that as part of the service, a member from each local congregation read the story of a Slovenian, which was provided with this year's worship materials.

"It was interesting to hear their stories written in their own words, and learn about their country and their lives and their concerns," she said.

As part of this year's service, an offering was taken up, which raised \$226 for Trauma Healing for Women Slovenia.



March is Red Cross Calling month

THERE are few organisations that are recognised and welcomed in more corners of the world than the Red Cross.

Wherever they are needed - from war zones to disaster zones, to places where the homeless gather, to regional lounge rooms where a little bit of company is needed - the Red Cross can be found bringing practical support, comfort and hope.

Numurkah is no exception, and March is the month when we are all encouraged to give a little to help them on their mission of life-changing humanitarian action.

The Numurkah branch of Australian Red Cross uses the month of March to place donation boxes in prominent locations throughout the district, to allow people to donate when and where it suits them.

Red Cross Numurkah president Rosemary Kennett said that the people of Numurkah district always respond generously to the Red Cross, especially in March.

"Local people have always been very generous in the past, and we hope that remains true this year," she said.

"The Red Cross works all day, all year,

every year to help people in need. We are always one of the first responders to offer relief in times of emergency, but we are also in ordinary communities every day supporting people in need, and we appreciate the support of communities to help us do that work."

Money raised in March, and throughout the year, will be used to give comfort and every day essentials to someone who has lost everything in a fire, flood or other natural disaster. It will help families and young people to avoid homelessness and destitution, and it will ensure people who are isolated have someone to check in on them regularly.

Red Cross Calling boxes are located in a range of local businesses throughout March, in addition to donation buckets that are located at a number of local businesses year-round.

You can also make a donation at the Red Cross Op Shop on Quinn St, or at www.red-crosscalling.org.au, or by calling 1800 RED CROSS.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.



NUMURKAH CAFE BAR & RESTAURANT

Café open daily Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 6pm.
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Janeth & Uma wish you to know that the NUMURKAH CAFÉ BAR & RESTAURANT

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Fox and wild dog bounties resume for 2019

THE Victorian Government's fox and wild dog bounty has resumed this month, with Agriculture Victoria biosecurity officers at designated collection centres in the north east since Monday.

Agriculture Victoria Leading Biosecurity Officer, Nigel Roberts, said the fox and wild dog bounty had been running in Victoria since 2011.

"In that time, we have collected more than 722,000 fox scalps and 3,000 wild dog skin pieces through the bounty," Mr Roberts said.

"We will be collecting from March until the end of October, which is consistent with previous years."

Eligible participants can submit entire fox scalps for a \$10 reward, and entire wild dog skin pieces for a \$120 reward during scheduled collection times.

Mr Roberts urges hunters to refresh their knowledge with the terms and conditions of the bounty to ensure the pieces they submit are acceptable, and to check the collection centre open times, as there have been scheduling changes for 2019 due to public holidays.

"It's important that everyone participating knows the requirements, so they can benefit from the bounty."

He also reminded hunters that the collection of entire wild dog skin pieces for the north west wild dog control area is by appointment only. Appointments should be made by calling the Agriculture Victoria customer service centre on 136 186.

"We expect larger numbers of scalps and wild dog skin pieces to be submitted in the first few months, as farmers and hunters usually stockpile while the bounty shuts down over summer."

"There is also a peak in fox hunting activity as young, vulnerable juvenile foxes are displaced around the landscape at the end of summer and beginning of autumn."

Foxes and wild dogs require ongoing management from all private and public land managers. Agriculture Victoria supports an integrated approach, utilising a range of management practices to manage fox numbers, of which the bounty is a part.

Collection centres in the north east include:
Benalla (fox only): 89 Sydney Rd, Benalla, 10am – 12 noon on Wednesday, March 6, April 3, May 1, May 29, June 26, July 24, August 21, September 18, October 16.

Wodonga (fox and wild dog): 14 Moorefield Park Drive, Wodonga, 9am – 11am on Tuesday April 2, April 30, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 20, September 17, October 15.

For full details on bounty collection times and locations, terms and conditions, and frequently asked questions, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bounty or call the customer service centre on 136 186.

Voting age discussed

THE Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters held a public hearing in Perth yesterday to gather further evidence as it considers the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering Voting Age and Increasing Voter Participation) Bill 2018.

The Bill, as proposed by the Greens, would extend voluntary voting rights to 16 and 17 year-olds, allow enrolment for 14 and 15 year-olds, and permit a provisional vote on election day for unenrolled citizens.

Senator James McGrath, committee chair, said the committee wanted to hear directly from people and organisations with an opinion on this Bill.

"Australians are proud of our strong culture of democracy. It is important that legislation designed to alter this culture of democracy be considered carefully," Senator McGrath said.

"Today's young people will soon be the keepers of our democratic traditions, and we recognise the importance of their input into our considerations."

The hearing included evidence from individuals and representatives of youth organisations, as well as academics and legal experts.



High standard ... Rotary Club of Numurkah stalwart Lou Hamon with Suzanna Sheed MP and former Numurkah Rotary president Jacque Phillips on the opening night of last year's exhibition.

Standard of art show entries raises the bar

THE Rotary Club of Numurkah's 2019 art and craft exhibition is shaping up to be the best yet, with excellent entries having been received in the art, photographic and craft sections.

With entries coming in from all over Australia, including local artists, the exhibition claims its place as a genuine feature on the national art and crafts calendar, and one of the best art exhibitions in regional Victoria, once again.

Now in its 39th year, the Art and Craft Exhibition of the Rotary Club of Numurkah has raised over \$260,000 for local charities, thanks to the generous support of exhibitors, sponsors and the community.

This year's show features 20 awards, with prize money totalling \$10,000.

Major awards include Best in Show, plus a runner-up, as well as Best in Oil, Watercolour, Pastel, and Regional Artist.

Moira Arts & Culture Inc. provides an encouragement award for Moira Shire residents, and there are also awards for best work in pencil, and best framed photograph.

These awards are non-acquisitive, and are available for purchase.

A further 10 painting awards are sponsored acquisitions and are selected by the sponsor. The exhibition's major sponsor, of the \$2000 painting award, is Numurkah Home Hardware.

There are six awards in the craft section - a \$100 award for best craft entry, and \$50 awards for the best entry under the categories of fibres, threads or beads; framed needlework; and best quilt. There is also a \$50 award for an outstanding work outside of these categories, such as woodwork or metalwork.

The final craft award is a \$50 award for the best entry in this year's novelty craft category - toys.

The painting judge, Ross Paterson, is more than qualified to know what makes a painting award-worthy, having more than 220 major awards to his name.

Ross's work hangs in many permanent collections in corporate and municipal galleries, and also private collections throughout Australia and overseas.

He is an invited member of the exclusive art society 'Twenty Melbourne Painters', one of Australia's oldest art societies, and the Australian Watercolour Institute.

Claire Reid is the craft judge. Claire is a textile teacher at Numurkah Secondary College and has worked in a wide variety of textile mediums from pattern and dressmaking, to lace making.

Suzanna Sheed MP will officially open the exhibition at 8.30pm on Friday.

The opening will feature a wine and cheese tasting, courtesy of Monichino Wines, and musical

entertainment by the Numurkah Ukulele Club. Opening night admission is \$8.

Following the official opening, the judges will announce the winners in the various sections, with their comments, before the evening concludes with supper.

The exhibition will be open to the public from 7pm this Friday, from 10am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, and from 10am to 4pm on Monday, with an admission price of \$5, which includes a copy of the catalogue of the works on display.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Rotary club is raffling an oil painting, Scottish Trawler by Heather McKern, valued at \$500.

Patrons are invited to be their own judge, and cast their votes throughout the weekend for the art or craft work of their choice for the popular People's Choice Award, which has a \$100 prize for the winning artist.

Defibrillation now accessible to Numurkah public

NUMURKAH residents and visitors now have access to an automated external defibrillator (AED) machine, commonly known as a defibrillator, that is accessible to the public 24 hours a day.

After a presentation by Numurkah ambulance acting team manager Craig Beamish, the Numurkah senior citizen members voted at their recent AGM to re-position their AED, to make it publicly accessible.

As of last week, the machine is now located outside the front door of the senior citizens centre, on the corner of Knox and McCaskill Streets.

Senior citizen president Helena Cornelia said that, following Craig's talk about the value to the community of having 24 hour access to an AED, the club's members could see the sense in moving theirs outside.

"Our members were very supportive of the idea, as it doesn't reduce our access to the machine, but it does provide a valuable resource to the community, and could possibly save a life," Ms Cornelia said.

Once turned on, the AED provides step-by-step verbal instructions, meaning that no training is required, and anyone can save a life in three simple steps - call, push, shock.

Mr Beamish said that, as the senior citizens' AED is registered, if someone dials 000 to request an ambulance for a cardiac arrest, ambulance officers can advise them of its location so that they may be able to access it and start defibrillation whilst they wait for paramedics to arrive.

"It's all about reducing delay for treatment, to increase chances of survival," Mr Beamish said.

"Defibrillation and CPR are the only things that can facilitate resuscitation, and the sooner



Good move ... Numurkah ambulance acting team manager Craig Beamish congratulates Numurkah senior citizens club president Helena Cornelia on making the club's AED publicly accessible.

you start them, the greater the chance of resuscitation and survival."

Patients who receive bystander CPR or defibrillation are twice as likely to be discharged alive from hospital as those who do not receive bystander CPR, and for every minute that goes by without CPR and defibrillation, the chance of survival drops 10%.

"Even if someone starts using this AED just a couple of minutes before we get there, that increases the chance of survival," Mr Beamish said.

"We know a lot of people are nervous about attempting CPR or defibrillation, but any attempt is better than no attempt."

The Numurkah Leader.

GOULBURN VALLEY FARMERS' AND FRUIT GROWERS' GAZETTE

100 years ago

This week in 1919 ...

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

To view these editions online go to trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/S91.

Shire Honor Board.—Mr A. Stringer (shire secretary) has advised us that comparatively few names of soldiers have been sent in for insertion in the honor board list being compiled by the shire. This is a pity, for it is most desirable from every point of view that the name be sent in of every soldier who by birth or residence is entitled to a place on the board.

This paper had the greatest difficulty in securing names for the "honor roll" which we published throughout the war, and in some instances we were roundly berated for not having So-and-So's name in the list: the fact that we didn't know he had enlisted, and that the relatives were not sufficiently interested to drop into the office and give the name, did not count. It is to be hoped the shire will not have the same experience, but that relatives and friends of every man in the shire who enlisted will be handed in. The sooner the names are given in the sooner will the tribute to the boys be erected.

An Important Decision.—A case of considerable interest has just been decided at Glen Innes.

Joseph Parker sued a neighbor Patrick Hogan for £400 for alleged damage caused by the trespass of certain crossbred rams among the plaintiff's ewes. The rams were in a paddock adjoining that in which the ewes were depasturing and they broke through the fence, the result being that the ewes lambed some weeks before the usual season, causing considerable loss of both ewes and lambs. A verdict was given for the plaintiff for £216/5/-.

A Prolific Cow.—Mr A. J. Little, of Griffith, has a remarkable Shorthorn cow, which has given birth to seven calves during the last four years, among them being two lots of twins. In the same time this cow's calves have produced five. This makes a record of twelve descendants from the cow in four years. The last lot of twins was dropped on 27th December, 1918, and, like the preceding twins, were heifers: in fact, ten of her descendants are heifers.

A Frank Journalist.—An editor in the Western States of America—where all this sort of editor comes from—announces his policy in the following prospectus:—"Our Aim: Tell the truth though the heavens take a tumble. Our Paper: Of the people, for the people, and paid by the people. Our Religion: Orthodox, with a firm belief in hell for delinquent subscribers. Our Motto: Take all in sight and hustle for more. Our Policy: To love our friends and brimstone our enemies. If thine enemy smite thee on the cheek, swipe him with haste and dexterity at the butt of his most convenient ear. What we Advocate: One country, one flag, and one wife—at a time. Our Object: To live in pomp and splendour!"

Females, Beware!—Let us open by stating that we use the term "female" because by that word is described those of the gentler sex, who have a duty to perform under the Commonwealth Electoral Act. Mr F. R. Bloomfield, Divisional Returning Officer for Echuca, has written us that he has experienced great difficulty in getting ladies who reach the age of 21 years to apply for enrolment on the Commonwealth roll, and has had to have recourse to the unpleasant means of issuing summonses; in a case at Euroa the other day a lady who had reached the voting age was fined for her neglect.

Now Mr Bloomfield does not desire to appear un gallant, but if the fair ones of this district will not enrol voluntarily, then he'll have no option but to proceed against them in a court of law—horrid-sounding term! Forms of application and all desired assistance may be had at any post office.

After some 12 years Mrs T. Collins has decided to relinquish the Barwo post office. At no time has the remuneration been adequate, and Mrs Collins has earned the thanks of a large number of residents for keeping her charge so many years. In days long gone by—the coaching days—Mrs Collins dealt with the Picola mail.



Jamboree fun ... From left: Jake Beggs, Wade Tuddenham, Taneya Lee, Gemmah Hiberson, Charlotte Andrew, Jason Andrew (leader) and Brayen Lee thank the golf and bowls club for its contribution to their jamboree experience.



Getting close ... Charlotte Andrew and Shania Astrada practise getting the ball in the hole.



Future golfers ... Club professional Anthony Sanders gives the scouts some putting tips

Enlightening on jamboree

NUMURKAH Golf & Bowls Club board members learnt a thing or two about Scout jamborees last Wednesday, when the Baulkamaugh Scouts turned up to thank the club for its donation to help them attend.

Over 11,000 scouts headed to Tailem Bend in South Australia over the Christmas holidays, in a massive 12-day operation, including nine scouts and two leaders from the local area.

The scouts had been building up to the trip all year, learning new skills that would be required to spend 10 nights under canvas.

The scouts all said they had made lots of new friends, and had a fantastic time.

One patrol at a time was in charge of cooking for their troop. With 16 semi trailer loads of food trucked in each day, food preparation was obviously a huge task. They also used 1.5 million litres of water each day.

Each scout attending was required to play \$2,000 towards their trip, as well as money from fundraising and donations going towards the adventure, which is where the golf and bowls club came into things, handing over a cheque for \$500 to assist.

As well as a plethora of on-site activities, there were also off site activities, including a day in Adelaide and water activities on the Murray River at Wellington, with 94 buses a day taking scouts off-site.

Wade Tuddenham said the conditions at Tailem Bend were "dusty as hell".

Gemma Hiberson said the ground was so rocky that they had to drill every tent peg hole and, with a campsite that stretched for 1.5 kilometres, that is a lot of holes.

A big part of the jamboree is the collecting and swapping of badges. Charlotte Andrew displayed a host of badges that she had brought home with her.

Jake Beggs told of the market day activity when each patrol supplied and sold goods in exchange for pretend money. The Baulkamaugh scouts made pancakes coloured with food dye, while another group sold pet rocks.

There was a band every night, and other performances, including a magician one night, and closing night fireworks.

So, from one experience to another, after their presentation last week, the club's golf professional Anthony Sanders attempted to give the group a few tips on the putting greens, in the hope that some of them may take up the game in the future, and become a part of the club.

The Baulkamaugh Scouts are always on the lookout for more members, between the ages of 11-15 years.

Anyone wishing to find out more information should call Jason Andrew on 0412 690 982, or Stuart Hodge on 0417 378 869.

Women more powerful together



Fighting the good fight ... Moira Shire gender equity project officer Renata Lucas.

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day, celebrated globally this Friday, is both an opportunity to celebrate the contribution that women make to our society, and a reminder that we still have some way to go to achieve true gender equality.

Moira Shire Gender Equity Project Officer Renata Lucas told the *Leader* that one of the greatest obstacles to gender equality in Australian society is the sense in the broader community that we've already gotten where we need to be.

"We have made a lot of advances in recent decades, and you can see that everywhere you look, but statistics show that we still have a long way to go, and you can see that too" she said.

"It's in subtle everyday things, such as the fact that the unpaid workload in the home is still mostly borne by women, as well as in bigger things such as violence against women, which is still a significant problem in our society."

It is the Victorian Government's determination to address the issue of violence against women that accounts for Ms Lucas' presence at Moira Shire Council.

Moira Shire is one of 35 Victorian councils that has a gender equity project officer funded through the State Government's Free from Violence statewide prevention strategy.

"It is recognised that one of the key drivers of violence against women, wherever they are, is power imbalance and disrespect shown towards them," Ms Lucas said.

"By challenging the unequal power dynamic that still exists, and creating a genuinely inclusive society, we work towards creating a safe society and eradicating violence against women."

Ms Lucas described gender equity promotion as a complex issue, and a tricky space to work within.

"When you run campaigns promoting equality you challenge the status quo and that

almost always results in a backlash," she said.

"But if we can see that we are feeling a bit of discomfort about things, then that's an opportunity to have a conversation and challenge stereotypes, and that's how we can address long term issues, and effect change."

Ms Lucas, who has a background in health promotion, is working on an internal program within Moira Shire Council called 'Equity Ready', to develop a gender equity strategy and action plan.

She will then work to engage community stakeholders and develop a community strategy and work with others to promote gender equity in the broader community.

The UN Australia 2019 International Women's Day theme is 'More Powerful Together', and Ms Lucas said that it is extremely apt.

"Gender equality benefits us all, and we really want to show that, and demonstrate that everyone has a role to play."

Report highlights ASD drowning risks

AN Australian first report into autism and drowning has shown that children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are 160 times more likely to die from drowning compared to other children.

The report, launched last week by Autism Swim, the first and only certifying body in the world specific to ASD and aquatics, addresses the very serious risk factors associated with 'wandering' and drowning for those with ASD.

Autism Swim founder, Erika Gleeson said the report, Autism and Drowning – The Under-reported Issue, brings together, for the first time, the most pertinent evidence-based data to better understand the drowning deaths associated with ASD and wandering.

"This report provides a valuable and compelling insight into why we need to raise awareness of this tragically common issue, and what needs to take place to reduce the number of drowning deaths," Ms Gleeson said.

drowned with ASD and wandering.

Ms Gleeson, a senior behaviour and skill development specialist in ASD and cognitive deficit, said that wandering, which has the potential to result in harm or injury, is very common among children with ASD, with nearly 50% reported to wander.

"Wandering is a very stressful behaviour for parents of children with ASD – 58% report it as the most stressful. Many children with ASD are particularly attracted to water, therefore drowning is a significant risk for those who wander," she said.

"In addition to drowning, wandering brings other high-risk factors including exposure to the elements, dehydration, falls, hypothermia, traffic injuries or encounters with strangers.

"It's alarming to think that children with ASD are 160 times more likely to die from drowning, compared to other children. Yet, so very little is known or reported about this issue."

It was this lack of knowledge and resources around wandering and the risk of drowning, that prompted Ms Gleeson to establish Autism Swim in 2016.

Autism Swim's mission is to ensure parents, care givers, aquatic profes-

sionals and the community at large have access to the necessary knowledge, practical skills and support relating to wandering and drowning prevention.

Autism Swim certifies swim centres, swim instructors, therapists, and other aquatic professionals as 'Autism Swim Approved'. Additionally, they run a range of programs such as their modified "Nippers" program, called Dippers at beaches around Australia.

"Parents benefit from receiving expert resources, training, workshops, individualised programs and strategies on preventing their child/children from wandering and drowning," Ms Gleeson said.

Importantly, those with ASD ben-

efit from specialist preventive and responsive programs and water safety education. The report provides a clear outlook on the way forward in starting to rectify some of the associated challenges."

This Australian social enterprise has been embraced globally, with Autism Swim currently operating across six countries including Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Canada and USA.

To download a free copy of the report, learn more about how to become an Autism Swim approved swim centre, instructor or other aquatic professional; locating these services, as well as other drowning prevention tools for parents and those living with ASD, visit www.autismswim.com.au.

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Fireys get cash injection



Big donation gratefully received

... Back (from left): Pejay Mirtschin, Scott Adams, Greg McIvor, Brian Wilson, Allan Carroll, Cr. Kevin Bourke. Front: Leanne Pell, Kathleen Botterill, Vivienne Kenelley and Capt. Matt Carland.

Statewide sales ... (Right) Nathalia brigade benefited from the sale of merchandise across Victoria last year.

Big total for 2019 ... (Far right) This year's event raised almost \$6,000 for the Nathalia brigade.



Proud ... Public speaking judges Heather Robertson, Jock McPherson and Marie Luci congratulate Youth of the Year winner Lucia Rochford.

Lions present youth of the year

NUMURKAH Lions Club has once again sought to bring out the best in local youth, through its Lions Youth of the Year competition.

The competition, which includes an interview process and public speaking contest, is designed to foster, encourage and develop leadership qualities in young people.

Five contestants competed for the honour this year, each presenting a five minute speech on a subject of their own choice, as well as responding to two impromptu questions.

The diverse range of topics presented by this year's contestants were: Austral-

ian dairy farmers need help, the Murray Darling basin and fish deaths, social media, live animal exports, and freedom of speech.

Winner of both the public speaking contest and club final award, 17 year-old Lucia Rochford who attends Echuca's St Joseph's College, used her five minutes to discuss how freedom of speech is under threat from hate speech, and how free speech is worth protecting.

Though she didn't progress further than the next level of the competition, which was held in Lockington on Sunday, Lucia said it was a great experience.

"I think it's helped me hone some skills

that are valuable in life in general," she said.

"The interview process was very interesting, and I think that's an experience that will prove helpful later on."

Lucia said that responding to the impromptu questions, which included giving her opinion on drug testing at festivals, and expressing her thoughts on women holding senior roles in our society, was the biggest challenge.

"It's quite difficult to compose your thoughts and convey them clearly with no preparation without repeating yourself, but I did enjoy it too."

THE proceeds from Nathalia's recent Thank You Fireys event have been counted, and once again the small community has excelled itself, raising a whopping \$5,600.15.

Member of the Nathalia Thank You Fireys organising committee Leanne Pell said that the committee was blown away by the final tally.

"Our community is so generous, even when so many people are doing it hard themselves, so we want to say a huge thank you to everybody who made a contribution, big or small," Ms Pell said.

Last week's cheque presentation provided a triple treat for the Nathalia brigade, as not only was this year's cheque handed over, but also a cheque for the combined proceeds of the last three years which will go towards a new amenities block.

The final delight, was a big bonus in the form of a cheque from National Thank You Fireys Inc, which gifted the Nathalia brigade the proceeds from merchandise sales all over Victoria, last year.

The brigade intends to put that money towards electrical equipment including angle grinders, to help with gaining access to fires.

The rest will be put aside for the purchase of new breathing equipment when new lightweight equipment becomes available.

As always, the success of this year's event was truly due to a whole of community effort, with contributions large and small adding up to the total.

Brereton's Bakery raised over \$1600 through the sale of Thank You Fireys themed gourmet donuts and pizzas, which their customers snapped up with glee, whilst Blake Street Butchery and TJ's IGA provided generous discounts towards the goods for the creekside barbecue.

"So many individuals and businesses supported us again by making donations and dropping in and having lunch with us. We have such an amazing community."

The schools, pre-schools and childcare centre bridged the gap left by the non-sale of red balloons, by charging students a gold coin to spend the day out of uniform, and also brought a lot of energy and spirit to the event.

"Hopefully there are some up and coming volunteers there," Ms Pell said.

Long weekend warning after road toll surge

WITH Victoria's road toll substantially higher than for the same time last year, local highway patrol officers are reminding motorists of the very real effects of road trauma, as the long weekend approaches.

With the aim of achieving a zero-fatality Labour Day weekend, Cobram Highway Patrol members will be working two shifts per day on each of the three days.

Officers will be targeting offences of impaired driving, speeding, seat belts, mobile phones driver distraction and fatigue, which are well known for increasing the frequency, severity and intensity of road trauma.

The message from highway patrol is simple - plan ahead, allow extra time, get plenty of rest and if you are not sure whether you can drive, then make alternative arrangements.

Petition to protect against animal rights activists

NATIONALS Member for Ovens Valley Tim McCurdy has launched a petition to defend the rights of Victorian farmers against unlawful animal rights activists.

The petition supports a motion introduced to Parliament by The Nationals to ensure activists feel the full force of the law.

The action follows a large number of Victorian farmers and their families being left exposed by a mass publication online of personal addresses by activist group Aussie Farms.

"Local farmers and their families need our support and protection from unlawful extreme animal rights activists," Mr McCurdy said.

"Victorian farmers work hard and operate responsible and sustainable businesses. They deserve to be able to operate their farms without fear for their own safety or that of their family, employees and livestock."

"The State Government has failed to support calls for Aussie Farms to be stripped of its charity tax status after its mass privacy breach."

"Militant activism that includes trespass on Victorian farms, livestock theft and property damage isn't charity work - it's breaking the law."

Mr McCurdy said the State Government must act immediately to protect law-abiding farmers and ensure extreme animal activists who are threatening farmers, their families and putting stock welfare at risk feel the full force of the law.

The petition calls for the urgent need for stronger protection of law-abiding farmers and requests Aussie Farms' status as a charitable organisation be revoked.

It also calls for the Aussie Farms website that exposes farming families and threatens their property and wellbeing of livestock be shut down and stronger legal protections to appropriately penalise aggressive protesters and trespassers who threaten or encourage damage to property or incite trespass and biosecurity breaches.

The petition can be signed at Mr McCurdy's electorate office - 15 Murphy St, Wangaratta or by requesting an electronic copy on 5721 6155.

Lions leapfrog Panthers

THE Lions were the big winners of round three at the Numurkah Squash Club on Monday night, jumping from bottom spot to fourth on the ladder.

Their narrow win by one game over the luckless Panthers, sunk the black cats to bottom spot.

In the first three rounds, the Panthers' score lines have all been two rubbers-all but they are yet to win a match on countback of games and points.

On lines one and two, Panthers' Sam McPherson and Trent Lowrie had strong wins over Dave Poort and Will Watkins to start the night.

Sam won 9-4, 0-9, 9-4, 9-0, and Trent played out five games against Will, 9-1, 10-8, 7-9, 8-9, 9-5.

Despite the one-sided score line, Trent and Will's first game was an epic, with a huge amount of handouts: changes of serve when the receiver wins the point.

Lions Neroli Eddy and Caitlyn Brooks saved the day and levelled the match score two-all with wins over Kobi Hipwell and Michelle Beecher in the line three and four matches.

Kobi won the first two games before Neroli hit back strongly 7-9, 6-9, 9-2, 9-5, 9-5 and Caitlyn let down Michelle's tyres after her first win last week, 9-7, 9-4, 10-9.

The Cheetahs were once again dominant and won all four rubbers against the Leopards.

The only positive for the Leopards was club president Dave Kelly pushing Nick Pettigrove to five games in the line two match, before going down 9-7, 5-9, 9-7, 4-9, 4-9.

On line one, Damien Hipwell beat Christopher Lecompte 9-1, 9-0, 9-6.

Eamon Storer is growing about 10 centimetres a week and accounted for Andrew Phillips 9-6, 9-5, 9-4 on line three, and Sarah Brooks beat Breanna Inglis in line four, 9-1, 9-0, 9-3.

The third match of the night was the Tigers and Jaguars, battling for second spot behind the Cheetahs.

The Tigers got the honours this week, winning three of the four matches.

Club champion Andrew Storer was as impressive as usual on line one and did not hit any speed humps in his 9-4, 9-4, 9-6 win over Gavin Banco.

Geoff Eddy, playing line three, had a comfortable win over Sam Gierveld, 9-4, 9-1, 9-3.

Bailey Brooks challenged his mother Jodi, who was filling-in for Jaguars' line four Leesa Inglis.

Bailey earned this week's bragging rights at the Brooks household with a 4-9, 9-7, 9-1, 9-3 win.

Dad Greg Brooks won the only match for the Jaguars, against Jake McPherson, 9-5, 9-1, 8-9, 9-2.

Next week, the Cheetahs and Jaguars play off, the Lions take on the Leopards, and the Tigers play the Panthers.

Ladder: Cheetahs 3 match wins/34 overall games won, Tigers 2/24, Jaguars 2/17, Lions 1/19, Leopards 1/15, Panthers 0/20.

Securing a finals berth

NUMURKAH Golf's division one Friday pennant team made its way into this Friday's Murray Bowls Division grand final with a convincing 50 shot win at Cobram last Friday.

The Golfers had good wins on all three rinks to take victory 85-35.

Jan Niven's rink won 31-9, Robyn Hodgkin's won 29-14 and Loris Houlihan's 25-12.

The grand final between Numurkah Golf and Cobram will be held at the Numurkah Bowls Club on Friday, with play commencing at 9.30am.

The club's 21 up event got under way last week. First round winners were Marie Ryan, Merren Carr, Yvonne Clark, Barb Fayers, Katrina Glover, Jan Niven, Robyn Hodgkin and Helen Pickersgill. Matches will continue this week.

The team will remain the same as last week: J. Niven (s), J. Luci, Y. Clark, B. Browning; R. Hodgkin (s), D. Staggard, J. Sutcliffe, M. Carr; L. Houlihan (s), F. Houlihan, L. Browning, K. Glover.

Wunghnu through to grand final

by "Davo"

WUNGHNU booked a spot in the Murray Bowls division one pennant grand final with a 22 shot victory over Strathmerton on Saturday.

The Cobram Bowls Club hosted the preliminary finals for all divisions and had its greens in tip top condition, with a good crowd in attendance.

The Magpies started well, jumping out to a 10 shot lead overall after 10 ends of play and were never headed. By the tea break the lead was 17 shots and it blew out to 30 shots after 85 ends. However, the Strathy boys never gave up, reducing the deficit by eight shots in the closing stages.

Russell Smith (s), John McKenzie, Mark "Pud" Shelton and Leo Shannon were the standouts on the day, defeating Mick Ryan's rink 30-15. Shannon set the standard with a

near flawless display of lead bowls, whilst Pud Shelton made the most of his promotion to the top side, playing very well and cementing a place in the side for this Sunday's grand final.

Trevor Hosie (s), Todd Davies, Graeme King and Darryl O'Connor got off to a flyer, leading 15-2 after just eight ends. Todd Davies, playing his first game as a third this season, had a very good game under Hosie and was well supported by King and O'Connor.

The rink led 28-18 after 20 ends but, with the overall lead at 32 shots, took its foot off the gas in the closing ends for a 28-28 draw with Kevin Dunn's rink.

Barry "Cossie" Cosgrove (s), Nick Davies, Doug Larkin and Alan Jones had a great battle with Trevor Loe's rink, with little separating them for most of the match. However, Cossie and his men finished

strongly to win 26-17.

Andrew Henderson (s), Peter Revell, Wendy Coles and Lynton Stephens had a terrific battle with Gordon Ryan's rink before losing narrowly 20-22. Wendy Coles had a good day at the office and the rink did a great job in helping get Wunghnu over the line.

The Strathmerton division one side had a fantastic season after being promoted from division two and, with some promising players coming through the ranks, should be very competitive again next season. The Bulldogs enjoyed wins over fellow finalists Barooga, Wunghnu and Cobram during the regular season, proving that they are capable of beating anyone on their day.

Cobram will host this Sunday's grand final and it should be a very entertaining affair. Barooga Sports, the reigning premier, had a shaky

start to its season, losing three of its first four matches. However, they have since won 10 matches in a row and will rightly start favourite on Sunday.

Wunghnu will be chasing its third division one premiership in four years. Despite losing its last two matches against Barooga, the margins have not been big. If the Magpies play to their potential it should be a cracking match.

The Numurkah Bowls Club will host the division two, division three and division four grand finals this Saturday, with Tocumwal Golf represented in all three grades. Tocumwal take on Cobram in division two, Jerilderie in division three and Strathmerton in division four.

Davo's tips: Division One: Wunghnu, Division two: Tocumwal Golf, Division three: Jerilderie, Division four: Strathmerton.



Big winners ... Peter Mahoney and his team won big for Strathmerton on Saturday, to lead their side into this weekend's division four grand final.

Strathmerton bows out, one side still in

STRATHMERTON Bowling Club will have only one side playing in the Murray Bowls Division grand final after a day of mixed fortunes last Saturday.

The season is over for the division one side after it suffered a 22-shot loss to Wunghnu in the preliminary final, whilst Strathmerton Two won through to the decider with a solid 12 shot win over Finley in their division four preliminary final. The Bulldogs will take on Tocumwal on the Numurkah Town greens this coming Saturday.

Division one

Strathmerton was never really in the contest against Wunghnu at Cobram last Saturday, with the Wunghnu boys re-discovering some of their early season form on the well prepared 16 second greens.

Wunghnu gained the early ascendancy on all four rinks, jump-

ing out to a 20 shot lead very early in the contest, and whilst scores fluctuated across the rinks throughout the day, Strathmerton was never able to put a dent in the margin, resulting in Wunghnu running out very deserving victors.

Trevor Loe, Peter Young, Gary Murnane and Wayne Lowson found themselves pitted against the strong Barry Cosgrove rink and were six shots down early, however the Strathmerton foursome fought back to level the ledger by smoko. Cosgrove's team was able to garner three consecutive threes late in the contest, resulting in a nine shot, 17-26, loss for Loe.

Kevin "Jnr" Dunn, Wayne McGregor, Richard Buck and Ken Moore were also in trouble from the start and found themselves 12 shots in arrears at the break against the ever-consistent Trevor Hosie. In a

game of two halves, though, Dunn was able to lead his team back into the contest and secure a 28-all draw, after securing a two on the last end.

Mick Ryan, Steve Koopman, Dwayne Parnell and Matt Graham struggled all day against Russell Smith, with the Wunghnu boys able to slowly increase their lead all afternoon, resulting in a telling 15-30 loss for Ryan and his teammates.

Gordon Ryan, with Len Vann, Greg Sutton and Ross Kirkham in tow, battled hard all day against Andrew Henderson's quartet and, in a close match, emerged two shot victors. The 22-20 victory was due in no small part to the solid bowls from Ryan in a great contest with rival skipper Henderson.

Division four

Strathmerton played a very experienced Finley outfit, which had defeated it convincingly early in

the season, though Strathy was able to square the ledger when the two teams last met.

In a very solid team display, it was the Bulldogs who again came out victorious, recording a 12-shot victory with the rinks split.

Michael Day, Peter Philippe, Shawn Padman and Lyn Brook had a battle all match against Bob Wike and his team but found themselves two shots down after 21 ends. The 18-20 score line was a real indicator of the even contest.

John Jasper, Peter Mahoney, Peter Truman and Bill Madgwick proved far too strong for Karl Bergman's rink recording a 23-9 win and, in doing so, progressed the team into this coming Saturday's grand final.

Strathmerton will tackle Tocumwal in the decider, with the winner progressing to division three for next season.

NumurkahLEADER

classifieds

Find us on:
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club
Major raffle results
1st prize: Cameron family
Ticket no: 0684
2nd prize: Mark McDonnell
Ticket no: 1048
3rd prize: Liz Dell
Ticket no: 1318

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Numurkah Church of Christ

FETE

Saturday 9th March

NEWMAN SQUARE 8am - 1pm
Cnr. Melville & Quinn Streets

Homemade Cakes, Plants & craft, White elephant & Books Sausage sizzle all morning, Tea & coffee.

Live music - Numurkah Town Band



Temporary Road Closure Meiklejohn Street, Numurkah

As part of Council's capital renewal program, pavement rehabilitation works and an asphalt overlay are programmed for the section of Meiklejohn Street between Saxton Street and Quinn Street. This road will be closed to traffic on the weekend of 16 and 17 March for these works to proceed.

The Contractor will maintain access for residents.

Phone: 03 5871 9222 NRS: 133 677
Email: info@moira.vic.gov.au
Cobram Office: 44 Station St
Yarrawonga Office: 100 Belmore St
Mail: PO Box 578, Cobram VIC 3643

www.moira.vic.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

Numurkah LEADER

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Classified Line Ads: 12 noon Tuesday

Display Ads: Bookings by 12 noon Monday

Ph: 5862 1034
88 Melville St

PUBLIC NOTICES

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To our wonderful parents,
grandparents &
great-grandparents.

Best wishes on your special day
Your Loving Family



TENDERS



C021/19

Provision of Pre-mixed Concrete Supplies Panel

C022/19

Supply of Asphalt Products and Bituminous Emulsions Panel

Tenders closing 4pm 27 March 2019

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

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

Mark Henderson
Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC NOTICES



Birth Notices
03 5862 1034

MEETINGS

The 2019 Annual General Meeting of the NUMURKAH AGRICULTURAL & PASTORAL SOCIETY INC.

is to be held on
Tuesday, 12th March 2019 at 7.30pm
in the meeting room, Multi-Purpose Building,
Showgrounds, Tunnock Road, Numurkah
NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME



NUMURKAH GOLF & BOWLS CLUB INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Numurkah Golf & Bowls Club Inc A.I.A0007469P will be held in the members area of the club on Wednesday, 26th March, 2018 at 7.30pm.

AGENDA

- To confirm the minutes of the last annual general meeting held in 2018.
- To receive and consider the Presidents report for the year ended December 31st, 2018.
- To receive and consider the audited Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position for the year ended December 31st, 2018.
- Appoint an auditor for the financial year ended December 31st, 2019.
- Motion 1: Amend Section 32 of the constitution to read as follows.
- 32. Who is eligible to be a Board member?
 - a) Only those members with voting rights.
 - b) Only those members residing within 30km of the club.
 - c) Only those members who have been a member of the club for a minimum of three years continuously, in the membership categories of Life Member, Ordinary Member, Bowls Only Member.

All committee positions will be declared vacant. President x 1, Vice President x 1, Treasurer x 1, Committee x 3, except for an automatic seat for immediate past President if required. Nominations must be in the hands of the Manager by no later than 5.00pm Wednesday, 20 March, 2019.

Any member contemplating nomination must undertake a government probity check by the Office of Gaming Regulation and should contact the manager to discuss the Board Charter Document.

Grant Duffy ACCM MAICD Manager

GARAGE SALES

363 Fowlers Road, Strathmerton

House & Shed
Yard Garage Sale
Sat 9th & Sun 10th March

8.00 am to 2.30 pm
(No early birds)

A large range of bric a brac, collectables, books, tools and so much more
More details and photos in local BSS sites

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Environmental Sustainability Officer

Location: Cobram, Victoria
Salary: \$76,802.16 per annum + 9.5% Superannuation

Economic Development Officer

Location: Cobram, Victoria
Salary: \$85,727.08 per annum + 9.5% Superannuation

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

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

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

Leaving the area?



Please let us know so that we can remove your listing from next year's edition of the Local Phone Book

Numurkah LEADER

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printads@leader.net.au

Summer SPORT scoreboard

Cricket

CRICKET SHEPPARTON Two day game - Day two A GRADE

TATURA 16 NUMURKAH

Toss won by Tatura, batted first
1ST INNINGS - TATURA 161
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

J Smith c TX Kelly b J Petherick.....	0
T Braybon b J Thurston.....	17
T Arnel c ? b J Armstrong.....	10
D Grandell c & b B Armstrong.....	74
W Arnel c & b J Armstrong.....	0
SE Downie c M Archer b J Thurston.....	72
M Eckard st b M Archer.....	29
J Lau run out.....	7
L Gledhill st b R Singh.....	27
M Grandell b B Armstrong.....	8
M Cline not out.....	10
Extras (nb 2, w 1, b 11, lb 1).....	15
Total.....	269
Overs 81.0	
FOW: 1 (J Smith) 11 (T Arnel) 40 (T Braybon) 53 (W Arnel) 153 (D Grandell) 190 (SE Downie) 204 (J Lau) 229 (M Eckard) 247 (L Gledhill) 269 (M Grandell)	
Bowling: J Petherick 12.0 2 1 26; J Thurston 15.0 7 2 34; J Armstrong 11.0 1 2 45; TX Kelly 3.0 0 11; M Archer 11.0 1 1 57; R Singh 14.0 2 1 38; B Archer 7.0 1 0 19; B Armstrong 8.0 3 2 27.	

KATANDRA def WAAIA Toss won by Katandra, batted first

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA 222 1ST INNINGS - WAAIA

BG Carey c RW Shannon b C Hickford.....	48
G Meyland c B Clurey b C Hickford.....	0
J Cleeland c H Sirett b C Hickford.....	4
MJ Cleeland b RW Shannon.....	38
L Henderson b NJ Hickey.....	3
C Brown b C Hickford.....	0
SC Carey c C Simpson b RW Shannon.....	35
J Trower c B Black b RW Shannon.....	18
S Trower lbw b S Richardson.....	5
R Bradbury not out.....	5
AJ Ciavarella b S Richardson.....	1
Extras (nb 1, w 3, b 1, lb 2).....	7
Total.....	164
Overs 69.1	
FOW: 1 (G Meyland) 10 (J Cleeland) 76 (MJ Cleeland) 94 (L Henderson) 98 (BG Carey) 98 (C Brown) 146 (J Trower) 157 (SC Carey) 158 (S Trower) 164 (AJ Ciavarella)	
Bowling: C Hickford 20.0 2 4 54; H Sirett 12.0 2 0 29; RW Shannon 15.0 4 3 29; S Richardson 11.1 2 2 31; NJ Hickey 11.0 5 1 18.	

LADDER	P	W	2W	1	D	L1	L2	PTS	%
Katandra	12	2	8	0	2	0	0	74	1.66
CP/St Bs	12	3	6	0	3	0	0	72	1.48
Numurkah	12	1	9	0	2	0	0	70	1.46
Northlanders	12	1	6	1	4	0	0	55	1.40
Nagambie	12	0	7	1	4	0	0	51	1.21
Kyabram	12	0	7	1	4	0	0	51	1.10
Mooroopna	12	0	5	1	6	0	0	39	1.07
Shepp United	12	0	5	0	7	0	0	36	1.11
Old Students	12	0	5	0	7	0	0	36	0.88
Tatura	12	0	5	0	7	0	0	36	0.78
Karramomus	12	1	2	0	7	2	0	28	0.67
Waaia Bombers	12	0	1	1	8	2	0	15	0.61
Euroa	12	0	1	1	6	4	0	15	0.51

B GRADE NUMURKAH def TATURA

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH 225 1ST INNINGS - TATURA

C Dealy lbw b S Lewis.....	4
W Russell c B Roberts b S Lewis.....	0
S McAllister c K Jackson b S Lewis.....	7
T Vibert c M Price b B Smith.....	10
P Watt not out.....	70
N Watt c J Pruden b S Lewis.....	8
J Collett c ? b RL Lacuin.....	14
J Gerrish c ? b RL Lacuin.....	0
L Worm c ? b RL Lacuin.....	21
H Murdoch c ? b S Lewis.....	0
J Panther absent.....	0
Extras (nb 2, w 2, b 8, lb 7).....	19
Total.....	153
Overs 59.5	
FOW: 0 (W Russell) 12 (C Dealy) 26 (S McAllister) 36 (T Vibert) 39 (N Watt) 81 (J Collett) 87 (J Gerrish) 151 (L Worm) 153 (H Murdoch)	
Bowling: S Lewis 16.0 3 5 52; B Roberts 10.0 6 0 14; B Smith 10.0 4 1 24; A Cline 4.0 1 0 7; RL Lacuin 15.0 3 3 30; D Ebborn 4.0 0 0 11.	

WAAIA def KATANDRA Toss won by Katandra, batted first

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA 83	
1ST INNINGS - WAAIA	
Extras (nb 4, w 1, b 0, lb 2).....	
Total.....	
Overs 49.3	

2ND INNINGS - KATANDRA	
T Wilson b M Stuart.....	
B Simpson not out.....	
B Holmes run out.....	
Extras (nb 0, w 0, b 0, lb 1).....	
Total.....	
Overs 9.0	
FOW: 12 (T Wilson) 18 (B Holmes)	

LADDER	P	W	2W	1	D	L1	L2	PTS	%
Numurkah	12	1	10	0	1	0	0	76	1.56
Shepp United	12	2	7	0	3	0	0	68	1.77
Kyabram	12	1	8	0	2	1	0	64	1.28
Karramomus	12	2	5	1	4	0	0	59	1.33
Mooroopna	12	1	7	0	4	0	0	58	1.37
CP/St Bs	12	2	5	0	5	0	0	56	1.08
Undera	12	1	6	2	3	0	0	54	1.58
Tatura	12	0	4	0	7	1	0	34	0.87
Katandra	12	0	4	0	8	0	0	30	0.77
Waaia Bombers	12	0	3	1	6	2	0	27	0.65
Euroa	12	0	3	0	5	4	0	24	0.68
Old Students	12	0	3	0	7	2	0	24	0.63
Northlanders	12	0	1	0	11	0	0	12	0.53

D GRADE

NUMURKAH def TATURA

1ST INNINGS - TATURA 68 1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH 8/95 (dec)

2ND INNINGS - TATURA	
AR Ferguson c H Lambert b J Verhoeven.....	
T Becroft c R Verhoeven b D Cox.....	
P Trevaskis b H Lambert.....	
C Daniels c R Verhoeven b D Cox.....	
M James b D Cox.....	
H Trevaskis b D Roberts.....	
Z Trevaskis c D Potts b D Cox.....	
T Maher c J Verhoeven b H Lambert.....	
C Mandarone not out.....	
M Nihill b H Lambert.....	
Extras (nb 2, w 1, b 9, lb 1).....	
Total.....	
Overs 62.5	
FOW: 15 (AR Ferguson) 31 (T Becroft) 37 (P Trevaskis) 50 (M James) 65 (C Daniels) 89 (z Trevaskis) 97 (H Trevaskis) 104 (T Maher) 104 (M Nihill)	
Bowling: B O'Dwyer 4.0 4 0 0; J Verhoeven 24.0 13 1 26; D Roberts 7.0 4 1 9; D Cox 16.0 6 4 43; H Lambert 8.0 1 3 13; C Morris 5.0 3 0 3.	

2ND INNINGS - NUMURKAH	
D Potts b T Maher.....	
H Verhoeven not out.....	
D Cox not out.....	
Extras (nb 2, w 2, b 4, lb 0).....	
Total.....	
Overs 10.0	
FOW: 21 (D Potts)	
Bowling: T Maher 4.0 1 1 23; H Trevaskis 4.0 0 0 25; C Mandarone 2.0 0 0 18; T Becroft 1.0 0 0 9.	

LADDER	P	W	2W	1	D	L1	L2	PTS	%

McMinn primes up

by "She Wolf"

COL McMinn was in holiday mode for a weekend in Numurkah, and put together a terrific round of golf to win the first round of the Numurkah Plumbtec stableford trophy event.

McMinn's 39 points just snuck in from Graeme Sprunt, who finished with 38 points.

A large number of golfers from Murray Downs at Swan Hill joined the field and took several of the placings, including the top two spots in division two.

Rick Austerberry and Tori Ficarra obviously enjoyed the Numurkah layout, both coming in with 40 points to win the vouchers.

David Gilmour headed the list of the ball winners, with 38 points, finishing ahead of Garry Hosie, Chris Hicks, Sam Robertson Peter Stonehouse, Geoff Partington and Grant Duffy, who all finished with 37 points, and Kerry Collins, Christopher Merritt, Bruce Collins and Bill Padgett on 36.

Visitors Ian Elliott and Rob West won nearest the pin balls on the fourth and 15th holes, respectively, Dave Scanlan won the seventh, and John Trimble had the best shot to the 18th.

The weekend's golf sees the annual running of the Des Cockayne Memorial Triples event, at Tocumwal on Saturday, followed by two days at Numurkah.

For those blokes not playing the triples, there will be stroke rounds at Numurkah on both Saturday and Monday.

Full field for veterans' golf

ANOTHER full field of 116 Goulburn Valley veteran golfers enjoyed the warm weather, hospitality and well presented course at Kialla Golf Course on Monday.

A-grade winner was John Fanning, Hill Top, with 38 stableford points with John Bray, Kialla, runner-up on 37.

A countback was required to separate B-grade winners Laurie Stewart and Barry Osborne, both of Mooroopna Golf Club, with 38 points.

Brian Reiners, Kialla, was a clear winner in C-grade, 38pts, but a countback was required to separate Ian Clarke, Kialla, from the following pack.

The A grade ball for nearest the pin on the 11th hole, set at about 104 metres, was Numurkah golfer Bill Green. GV Vets treasurer Max Dawber, Shepparton, was successful in B grade and Don Ducksbury, Kialla, won the C grade ball. Max enjoyed that experience so much he also claimed nearest the pin on the 13th after teeing off on the 12th.

The ball run down included Bill Green, Alan Dalton, Bernard O'Hare, Phil Squires, Ron Wilkinson, Neville Smith, Allan Newby, Graeme North, Stephen Piggott, Dennis Koik, John Radiski, Shane Pollock, Andrew Christy, Kevin Taylor, Bill Padgett, Tony Papallo, John Bauerle, Ray Gourlay, Barry Williams, Bruce Collins, Cory Lifting, Des Pentreath, Keith Dougherty, Ian Scurrall, Ross Kirkham, Mike Prater, Ray Winnell, Ron Dixon, Roy Parrott, Maurice Webb and Wayne Jamieson.

The association's next syllabus event will be at Euroa Golf Club, on Monday, March 25, 9.30am assembly, for a 10am tee time.

Entries for the intra-zone challenge at Benalla on May 13 will be taken at the Euroa meeting. This challenge event is restricted to 36 players from each district of Dalhousie, Goulburn Valley and North East, so you will need to get in early if you wish to play.

A team of "young vets" will represent GVVGA and contest the VVGA 4BBB event at Neangar Park on March 18-19.

Tracey wins first trophy event

by "The Shankster"

WITH nine women from Swan Hill staying at the club on a golf package, Saturday's numbers swelled to a lovely 25 players, even on a hot day.

But it was the locals who filled most of the winners' places, with just two visitors taking home balls.

Tracey Clouston continued her stellar form with a lovely 39 stableford points, easily winning the day with a consistent round of 19 points around the back, and 20 on the front nine to win the first round of the Numurkah Plumbtec stableford trophy.

Jeanette Adams finished in second place, some way behind on 35 points, to win the club voucher.

Jenny Ludington took third place with 34 nett, followed by Pauline Davies, visitor Bev West, Bev McIntosh, visitor Mary Elliott and Norma Cullum, all with 33 points, while Julie Hannaford snuck in for the last ball with 32 points.

Murray Downs' Janette Tucker won nearest the pin on the fourth hole, Tracey Clouston won two balls, on the seventh and 18th holes, and Bev Hutchins hit the ball well on the back nine, and was the only player to get onto the 15th hole.

The five lowest handicappers out on the course last Wednesday (and in fact the five lowest handicappers in the club) won all the prizes in last Wednesday's stableford competition. But not in handicap order.

Nola Dalton won the day with 36 points, ahead of Felicity Booth on 35 points.

Tracey Clouston lost a count-



back to finish in third place with 35 points, ahead of Pauline Davies and Julie Daniel, both with 34 points.

Nola won nearest the pin on the seventh hole and Julie had a terrific shot to the 18th green.

It was another warm day for Thursday's nine hole chick run, and all but two players headed out during the morning.

Jeanette Adams had a terrific score of 20 points to win division

one, well clear of Bev Hutchins with 16 points.

Norma Crowe won division two with 16 points, two points ahead of Marion Tobin on 14. Bev Hutchins won nearest the pin with a good shot to the 18th green, and sunk the putt to see her finish with a birdie.

There are only five more chick runs to go now until the end of daylight saving, so make sure you get in for you final fix of the season

before it's too late.

Today's golf will be a monthly medal round, Saturday will be a stroke round, and the first day of the long weekend 'Doubles' event, which will conclude on Monday.

Next Wednesday will be the captain's versus president's challenge, the opening day of the winter season. Players should assemble by 9am for a draw for playing partners and a 9.15am hit off.

Roy's win a spoiler

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

ROY Peterson's admirable winning score of 40 stableford points last week blocked Matt Ebborn from achieving a rare hat-trick of wins in Thursday's mid week competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

Matt's total of 39 points was a frustrating, "missed it by that much," but still earned him second place and another half dozen yellow Titleist golf balls.

Other players whose scores enabled them to win a club

ball were: Steve Wilson 38, Geoff Partington 37, Ray Falla, Ian Hannaford and Gary Blackburn all 36, Bill Padgett 35, Sam Robertson, John McHale, Ron Smith, Neil Hutchins, Bruce Collins and Chris Hicks all 33, Alf Patman 32.

John Mackay picked up the tin of boiled lollies for coming last with a score of 22 points.

Steve Wilson has returned

to form. Not only did Steve score in the top three overall place getters, he also picked up two nearest the pin awards, viz. the GMCU ball on the third hole and the players' sweep on the seventh.

Lyle Talbot strung two accurate shots together on the 14th, to win a ball from Dennis and Roy, while Ray Falla took Graeme Sprunt's offering on the 161 metre 15th. John McHale gleefully accepted the Pruden Carpentry sponsored ball on the 18th hole.

Still unsure of the new rule changes in golf? Captain Ron Smith can supply you with a rule book for free! Also be aware that there is a local rules notice board on the north-east side of the building.

Would you like to join our merry brand of pranksters? Assemble on Thursday at 8.30am for a 9 o'clock hit-off. Visitors and guests are most welcome, no matter what football team they barrack for.

Spoil sport ... Roy Peterson spoilt Matt Ebborn's party by winning last Thursday's competition



Lindsay leads event

LINDSAY Braybon led the 50 metre prone event at Numurkah Small Bore Club last Thursday night, finishing with a score of 194.11, while Lou Cook led the small field in the 20 metre benchrest competition, with 197.5.

Other scores in 20 metre benchrest were C. Saxton 192.4, and D. Bradshaw 189.2.

J. Matys scored 189.3 in the 50 metre benchrest competition.

Scores for the 50m prone match were:

L. Braybon 98.6 96.5 194.11, A. Hill 95.3 97.4

Croquet

DESPITE summer being officially over, some Numurkah croquet players are still finding the heat very challenging.

There were 17 players at last Tuesday's social day. Rhonda Geddes and Faye Shannon were the winners with three wins 22 hoops, one

win more, but one hoop less than runners-up David Geddes and Kirsten Strike, with 2/23.

Graeme Tyack and Lyn Hughes both ran a hoop-in-one, while Kevin Hansen played two jump shots, and Ian Londey and Gordon Brown played three each.



Under 16s ... Ella Rohde took out both the girls' singles and doubles under 16 titles.



Big weekend ... James Kam capped off a big weekend with a runner-up placing in the 16 and under singles.



Hotshots ... Winner Nate Warrin and Xavier Dodos.



A red hot go ... Alexander Down and Hudson Storer finished runners-up in the 14 and under boys' doubles.



Under 12 ... Hannah O'Brien defeated Bridie Wilson in the under 12 girls' final.

A bit late but a great day

FOLLOWING on from a big day at the Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday, the kids were out in force again on Sunday morning, as the club conducted its junior singles and doubles round robin tournament, which was postponed due to extreme heat back in late January.

Conditions were still warm but that did not deter approximately 35 juniors taking to the courts.

Dhurringile's Aaron Niglia took out the 16 and under boys' singles title, defeating James Kam in the final, while Liam Williams from Yarrawonga, defeated another Dhurringile junior, Charlie Murdoch, in their 14 and under final.

Hudson Storer captured the 12 and under title

to go with his Callahan Cup trophy from the day before.

Good friends Ella Rohde and Natasha Dodos had a real ding dong battle in the girls' 16 and under final, with Ella eventually getting over the line 6-5.

Ella Wilson from Nathalia saluted in the girls 14 and under section, while Numurkah's Hannah O'Brien took the prize in the girls' 12 and under, from Ella's sister Bridie.

In the boys' 16 and under doubles, Zane Sutton and Thomas Liversidge from Kyabram had a comfortable victory, from Numurkah's Fraser Jones and James Kam.

Those Dhurringile lads were at it again in the boys 14 and under section, as Aaron Niglia made it two from two for the day, partnering with Charlie Murdoch to win the 14 and under section.

Hudson Storer and his partner Alexander Down, who is also his cousin, gave it a red hot go and finished runners-up.

Sisters Amy and Bridie Wilson from Nathalia captured the 16 and under girls doubles title, with Bec Williams and Ella Wilson the runners-up.

The combatants in the girls' 14 and under singles final, Ella Rohde and Natasha Dodos,

teamed up and swept all before them in the doubles section, winning four sets from four on their way to a comprehensive win.

Locals Hannah O'Brien and Bavesha Krishna tried really hard all day and were rewarded with the 12 and under doubles title.

You could hardly wipe the smiles of the youngsters in the hotshots section, such was their excitement as they prepared for their matches.

The boys' winner was young Nate Warrin, Xavier Dodos was the runner-up, while Zoe Hawthorn picked up the girls' award from Georgia Keir.

Hewitt wraps up season

by "Dot Ball"

THE Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club intra club junior program was finalised for the season on Saturday morning with Team Hewitt winning the 2018-2019 junior shield.

Team Hewitt, captained by Michael Kam and consisting of Hannah O'Brien, Ethan Davies, Nate Warrin, Kobi Hipwell and Aleece Bethell, defeated Djokovics, led by James Kam and made up of Jarred Bethell, Henry Ryan, Kye Warrin, Riley Coonan and Jenny Smith, in a tense, exciting final, getting home 5/56 to 7/51 before a large crowd of spectators.

The Millsys defeated Team Laver to win the battle for third, and the Federers got over the line from the Murrays for fifth.

There was some excellent tennis on display from all players and it was played in great spirit with nary a shriek or a groan to be heard from the combatants.

The individual season awards were also handed out, with James Kam winning the best and fairest, while his brother Michael picked up the most consistent award.

Nate Warrin was most improved, Kynan Bethell won most dedicated, Cassie Brooks captured the encouragement award, Sarah Brooks was awarded best fill-in and the best first year player was Harry Ryan.

Awards were also handed out for the best performed player at each ranking level, with James Kam again featuring, taking out the line one prize. Eamon Storer headed line two, Zac Bosse won line three, Ethan Davies took out line four, Nate Warrin line five and there was a tie in line six between Rahni Garner and Aleece Bethell.

The club also presented the annual Callahan Cup, awarded to the player deemed most determined.

The award is named after the late Paul Callahan, who always displayed plenty of determination when he was in action on the courts.

Paul was not only a long serving life member of the club for over some 40 years, but coached hundreds of kids during his time and left a lasting imprint on the club.

Paul's son Kevin and wife Mary Ellen were on hand to present this season's award to a very worthy recipient, in Hudson "The Mouse" Storer, who always gives 110%, never gives up and is the very definition of a pocket dynamo.

The Callahan Cup is now an annual event thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Callahan family and will perpetuate Paul's memory in a club that he loved so much.

Andrew Storer and his team of helpers are to be congratulated on running another successful junior program.

Andrew's enthusiasm for his role as junior co-ordinator rubs off on the kids and quite a few of these young players will be sure to graduate to the senior ranks in the not too distant future.



Line winners ... James Kam, Eamon Storer, Zac Bosse, Ethan Davies, Nate Warrin, Aleece Bethell and Rahni Garner.



Best and fairest ... James Kam.



Team Hewitt ... Michael Kam, Kobi Hipwell, Hannah O'Brien, Nate Warrin, Ethan Davies, Aleece Bethell.



Pocket dynamo ... Kevin Callahan with Callahan Cup winner Hudson Storer.

Off to states

FOUR athletes from the Nathalia Little Athletics centre have qualified for the state titles in nine different events, after the regional qualifiers were held at Albury last month.

A team of 10 athletes took part in the regionals, with a great result seeing 15 personal bests, 15 podium appearances and 15 medals.

Mason Cobblewick has qualified for the under 14 boys discus, high jump, 100 metres and 200 metres events.

Rhys Hansen will contest the under 11 boys high jump, and Taylah Hutchins has made the under 10 girls high jump event.

Connor Peachey will race off in the under 14 boys 200 metre hurdles, and the 200 and 400 metre events.

Individual results on the weekend were:

Zoe Cooper - Long jump, 1st; 100m, 1st; shot put, 1st; 800m, 1st.

Connor Peachey - 200m hurdles, 1st, 30.87, PB by 1.5 sec; 200m, 3rd, 26.59, PB by .4 sec; 100m, 4th, 13.24, PB by .2 sec; 400m, 3rd,

1.01.36, PB by 4 sec.

Mason Cobblewick - 100m, 2nd, 12.83; 200m, 2nd, 26.06, PB by 1 sec; high jump, 3rd, 1.45m, PB by 9cm; discus, 3rd, 21.96m.

Cheyenne Hansen - Discus, 4th, 22.49m, PB by 23cm.

Rhys Hansen - High jump, 3rd, 1.20; 800m, 5th, 2.59.27, PB by 4 sec; long jump, 10th, 3.24m; triple jump, 7th, 7.27, PB by 4cm.

Zahlia Kautai - 100m, 8th, 16.26; long jump, 7th, 3.38, PB by 6cm.

Desmond Morgan - 800m, 7th, 3.12.99, PB by 4 sec.

Taylah Hutchins - 100m, 7th, 18.34; 60m hurdles, 5th, 13.53; high jump, 3rd, 1.10, PB by 10cm.

Grace Morgan - high jump, 4th, 0.95m, PB 10cm.

Tennille Kautai - 400m, 6th, 1.27.93, PB 10 sec; 800m, 2nd, 3.17.59, PB 25 sec; 60m hurdles, 6th, 13.71 sec; long jump, 3rd, 2.89 sec.



Regional competitors ... Taylah Hutchins, Cheyenne Hansen, Zahlia Kautai, Mason Cobblewick, Rhys Hansen, Connor Peachey, Tennille Kautai, Zoe Cooper.

Still four on the floor

by "Dot Ball"

THE Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club had a day to remember last Saturday, as its teams all posted victories and, in the process, now has all four teams contesting finals.

This is a fantastic achievement for the club, but all teams know that the season starts afresh now as finals are a completely different ball game.

The GM1 Warriors cemented second place on the ladder, and the vital double chance that comes with it, after they accounted for the Shepp Bulls at the Numurkah courts, winning 5/56 to 3/44.

Not content with grabbing the three sets they required to finish second, the Warriors went on with the job as Helene Steward and Nick Fenaughty continued their rich vein of recent form, both winning their three sets for the day.

Helene won her singles in a canter 8-0, her doubles with Caitlyn Price 8-5 and her mixed with Fenaughty 8-4.

Nick saluted 8-5 in his singles and got home in the doubles, with skipper Mark Mills as his partner, 8-6.

Unfortunately Millsy and Caitlyn were both on the wrong end of a tie-breaker, losing their singles matches 8-7.

It didn't matter in the final wash up, however, as the home team achieved what they had set out to accomplish and will now face the unbeaten Tatura Cockroaches at Cobram in a qualifying final on March 16.

The Warriors are coming good at the right end of the season and believe they have the firepower to topple the flag favourite. Time will tell if their confidence is well founded.

In the GM2 division, the Raiders ground out another gritty win to overcome Yarrawonga White at Yarrawonga, posting a 6/67 to 5/60 victory.

The Raiders were on the back foot early, as Yarrawonga captured the first men's doubles contest and both ladies' sets to open up a handy lead.

However, as they have continually done all year, the Raiders stepped on the gas as Chris Cameron and Andrew Storer grabbed a vital 8-4 win and then the visitors won both men's singles encounters, Cameron and Matt Cason posting 6-4 and 6-5 wins, respectively.

Imogen Cameron won her singles match 6-4 to have the visitors only four games down with just the mixed to play.

The mixed sets have been one of the Raiders' major strengths this season, and so it proved to be again, as the father daughter combination of Chris

and Imogen Cameron won 8-2, as did Matt Cason and Penguinette Carol Storer who was filling in for the day.

Andrew Storer and Catherine Church were a bit stiff, losing 7-8 in a tiebreaker, but no matter as the Raiders had done enough to secure their 10th win for the season.

Chris Cameron was a three set winner, continuing his good recent form, but the whole team really contributed when it counted, yet again.

The Raiders finished atop the ladder after a very consistent season and they will now lock horns with the second placed Shepp Giants at Cobram on March 16 in a qualifying final.

It should prove to be a good, close match, as when they last met two weeks ago, the Giants just snuck home, so the Raiders will be out for revenge and a spot in the granny the following week.

The GM3 Penguins, like the Raiders, also finished top of the ladder after the home and away season, comfortably accounting for the Tatura Spiders, 9/92 to 4/64.

The Waddlers were always in control of the match, but there was some excellent tennis played throughout the course of the afternoon.

Tatura drew first blood in the men's doubles set, winning it 8-6, but the Penguins won the second as a blend of youth and experience, in the duo of Col Stone and Rhys Cason, got the job done 8-5.

Col then went out with Craig Brown and they notched up another solid win, saluting 8-4.

Skipper Dave Ludington and Rhys Cason then each produced a couple of solid performances in their singles matches, both coming away with 6-2 victories which opened up a handy lead for the visitors.

The Penguinettes were having a good afternoon, and Lou Walter and Kris Walker got them off to a cracking start, winning their doubles 8-1, while Narelle Page and Emma Schmedje had to work a lot harder, surviving a tiebreaker to win 8-7.

Lou and Narelle then cruised to an 8-5 victory while Kris and Emma lowered their colours 6-8, but the Penguins were skating along 22 games up at afternoon tea time.

The spoils were shared in the mixed contests, with both teams winning two apiece.

Tatura grabbed the third and fourth mixed sets 8-6, but Dave Ludington and Lou Walter romped home in the first mixed, winning it 8-1 as Lou produced a serving clinic and displayed her trademark cross court passing shots.



Let the games begin ... Helene Steward was a three-set winner for the Warriors on Saturday, as they made their way into the finals race.

Craig Brown and Emma Schmedje also posted another solid win, getting home 8-5, which saw the Penguins 28 games up at the end of play.

Lou Walter starred for the victors with a stellar three set winning afternoon, but the Penguins are a very tightly knit bunch and everyone put in when required.

Their next assignment will be a qualifying final at Cobram on March 16, against arch rival Nathalia, which will be a very close and interesting contest. The last time the teams met, they were tied on games with the Penguins getting the nod, having one more set win than Nathalia.

The good news story of the day for the Numurkah club was the great effort by the GM3 Open Ravens, which got over the line from the Mooroopna Misfits by virtue of more sets won on the day, as games were equal, and in doing so snared fourth place and a spot in the finals.

The Ravens won 5/50 to Mooroo-

pna's 4/50 and booked a spot in the finals, which looked highly unlikely two weeks ago. Their big win last week over Tatura and their narrow victory on Saturday has seen them home by just 0.79% from the fifth placed team.

This is a top achievement from the predominantly young side and just rewards for their endeavours all season.

The man of the moment James Kam led the way on Saturday with three set wins, while James' brother Michael, Lochie O'Brien and Cathy Brown all won two each in a plucky display from the Ravens.

Graham Henderson's team will now have to focus their thoughts on a finals campaign which starts with an appointment against the Kyabram Redbacks at Nathalia on March 16.

In what was a huge weekend for the club, the break up dinner and counting of the votes in the club's inaugural best and fairest award was held at the Shamrock Hotel on Saturday evening.

There was an award for each team

and an overall winner with votes being cast by the opposing captains each week.

James Kam completed an incredible day and season by taking out the main award, as well as the prize for top Ravens.

James' tennis has improved immensely and he goes about it in a no fuss manner. His win was a very popular one.

Helene Steward captured the Warriors' award after yet another stellar season from this brilliant player, while Caitlyn Price, back from injury this season, was duly rewarded with the trophy for best Raider.

The Penguins' award went to their skipper Dave Ludington, who was suitably surprised and humbled in that order, but he has battled along this season, and dedicated the award to his Penguin homies.

The drawing off the club's major raffle was also held, with the results in the classified section of today's Leader.

Katandra primed for finals

FOUR wickets to Corey Hickford has set Katandra up for a comprehensive 58-run win over Waiaia on Saturday at Katandra Recreation Reserve.

Hickford was in fine form as his side successfully defended 222 against Waiaia, which to its credit, ended a difficult regular season on a fighting note despite a grim start to its innings.

Greg Meyland and Jordan Cleeland were both early victims of Hickford, leaving their side on 2/10 early in the piece.

Waiaia managed to consolidate via Braydon Carey and Mitch Cleeland, who combined for a 66-run partnership before Cleeland was skittled by Ryleigh Shannon for 38.

Three down as it approached the 100-mark, Waiaia's Lachlan Hender-

son anchored an end as Carey continued to plug away at Katandra's bowling attack, but when Henderson was bowled for three, the innings began to teeter in the Eagles' favor.

Henderson's fall saw the scoreboard tick over to 4/94 and played precursor to Carey's innings coming to an end just short of his half century, thanks to Hickford claiming his third wicket of the innings.

Hickford claimed his fourth, and final, wicket of the innings after he bowled Connor Brown for a duck. The Eagles' four-wicket haul sees his home and away season tally grow to 27, with an economy rate of 2.39, capping off a tremendous season with ball-in-hand.

At 6/98, the momentum was firmly in Katandra's possession, but strong lower-order showings from Sean

Carey and Jesse Trower added a bit of bulk to Waiaia's chase.

The duo got their side to 6/146, and were showing positive signs and strong fightback tendencies, before Trower was caught out for 18.

Following Trower's batting demise and with the score at 7/146, the game was falling more and more into Katandra's hands.

Ryleigh Shannon, who had claimed Trower's wicket, picked up his third by having Sean Carey out for a well-made 35, the final Bomber score to enter double-digits for the innings. Shannon's 3/29 from 15 overs left the door open to Scott Richardson to come in and clean up the tail. Richardson's 2/31 from 11.1 overs were the final nails in the coffin as Waiaia finished the innings, and the season, all out for 164 from 69.1

overs.

The final round win ensures Katandra of top-spot heading into finals, while Waiaia's struggling inaugural season as a Cricket Shepparton side has come to end, finishing in 12th spot ahead of wooden spoon winners Euroa, simply by a matter of percentage.

The Eagles will now prepare themselves for a semi final clash against Kyabram this Saturday at Katandra Recreation Reserve.

B GRADE

Katandra's B grade season has come to a disappointing conclusion, having fallen victim to a Waiaia side situated just below the Eagles on the ladder in 10th spot.

Needing just six runs to claim victory, Waiaia didn't need to do much to gain first innings points.

The Bombers managed to surpass Katandra's total, and it led to the Eagles employing the bowling performances of 10 different players as the day drew on.

Waiaia managed to bat out 49.3 overs for 159 runs before its final wicket fell, with Katandra's Billy Holmes closing the book on the innings with his final wicket of the day to finish 3/26 from 6.3 overs.

With nine overs still remaining in the day's play, Katandra sent out youngsters Talon Wilson and Bailey Simpson to open the batting, and while Wilson could only manage five before he was bowled, it gave the Katandra faithful an insight into the future of the club.

Simpson finished not out on 11, with the score at 2/18 following the run out of Billy Holmes for one.

Lewis claims five in big Blues win

NUMURKAH finished the 2018/19 B grade regular season with a bang, accounting for Tatura by 72-runs on Saturday at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

Defending 225, Sam Lewis was the chief destroyer with the ball for Numurkah, taking 5/52 from 16 brilliant overs.

The Blue claimed the first three wickets of the innings to leave Tatura floundering at 3/26.

Bailey Smith chimed in, making it 4/36, before Lewis picked up his fourth scalp of the day just three runs later.

It was as Tatura approached the 100-mark that Reydan Lacuin began to make his presence known in the contest, taking two quick wickets and hamstringing the visitors with the score at 7/87.

Tatura captain Peter Watt dug his heels in at the crease, and with his eventual not out 70 combining with support down the order, the Blues were made to work hard to claim the final wickets.

That struggle saw Numurkah persevere, though, with Lacuin picking up his third and final wicket of the contest before Lewis capped off a great performance with his fifth, bringing a close on proceedings.

The win sees Numurkah finish the year as minor premier, eight points ahead of second placed Shepparton United on the ladder, while Tatura finished outside of finals contention in eighth.

The Blues now look ahead to a semi final clash with Central Park-St Brendans starting this Saturday at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

D GRADE

Last week's opening day of Numurkah's D grade tie against Tatura saw 18 wickets fall, and the second day was just as action packed, with the Blues picking up an outright win at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

As play resumed with Tatura 0/1, it wasn't long before the Blues began to start chipping away at Tatura's lineup.

Justin Verhoeven was the first to make an impact, picking up his sole wicket for the day amid a beautifully economical bowling performance, which garnered figures of 1/26 from 24 overs, including 13 maidens.

Verhoeven's miserly bowling contribution was indicative of the manner in which Numurkah approached the contest.

Tatura was simply never given the chance to make substantial inroads to post a defendable score on the day, with Brett O'Dwyer's four maidens from four overs, David Roberts' 1/9 from seven overs and Callum Morris' 0/3 from five all piling pressure on the visiting side.

These performances complemented Dylan Cox and Hamish Lambert's brilliant spells that accounted for seven wickets, while only coughing up 56 runs across 24 overs.

Cox bore the brunt of the workload between the two, finishing with 4/43 from 16 overs, though Lambert's ability to tighten the screws cannot go understated as he finished 3/13 from eight overs.

With the way Numurkah bowled, wickets fell with great regularity, and eventually, Tatura was all out for 104 from 62.5 overs, leaving Numurkah needing 77 runs to snatch the outright win.

The Blues needed to go at a quick rate, with less than 20 overs remaining in the day, and that is exactly how Numurkah took the game on.

Though Daemon Potts missed out and was out for seven, Hunter Verhoeven and Dylan Cox brought the attack to Tatura's bowling squadron.

Verhoeven scored 25 with Cox scoring 39, both not out, as it took just 10 overs for the Blues to score 1/79 and achieving the outright win.

Numurkah finished the season with the minor premiership in tow, but knows it will need to keep on its toes against Undera in this week's semi final at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve.

Blues make a statement as finals draw closer

IN its final A grade clash of the regular season, Numurkah has blasted past Tatura with a commanding performance on the second day's play at Frank Howley Oval on Saturday.

Needing to chase down 161 and already one day after Josh Smith fell late last week, Numurkah lost Tim Arnel early on Saturday for just 10 after the number three was caught out with 11 runs on the board.

Tim Braybon and Dylan Grandell teamed up in the middle thereafter for the Blues, but their partnership didn't last all that long, as Braybon was bowled out for just 17.

Will Arnel came and went, but it was when Shaun Downie joined Grandell in the middle that Numurkah truly got on top.

The pair's 100-run partnership ruined any hopes that Tatura had of pulling out a surprise win, with both batters hitting past 70 to take the game away from the home side.

Of the two, it took a caught and bowled to pry Grandell away from the crease for 74, while Downie was eventually caught out for 72 with 190 on the board.

Numurkah's lower order refused to let Tatura end the game early, despite first innings points already in the Blue's hands.

Michael Eckard and Jahlan Lau got their side past 200, and though Lau would be run out for seven, it didn't stop Numurkah from pushing forward.

Eckard was joined by team captain Liam Gledhill and the two ensured their side would finish well and truly on top.

Eckard scored 29, while Gledhill finished with a quick-fire 27.

Numurkah eventually finished the day's play all out for 269, 100 runs

ahead of Tatura's first innings total. Heading into the second week of this game, Numurkah captain Liam Gledhill had hopes that his bolters would be able to spend time in the middle, with one last chance to play themselves into a bit form ahead of final.

The batting performance his side gave was everything Gledhill could have asked for.

"It was pleasing that everyone got a good hit, spent some time in the middle and we were able to bat out the overs" Gledhill said, "It was a really enjoyable day to watch cricket, I suppose."

Despite the early stages of the day's play teasing the chance of a here-nor-there performance with the willow from the Blues at 4/53, Numurkah refused to be frazzled with Dylan Grandell and Shaun Downie taking the reins and powering the Blues to a big score.

"We lost a couple of wickets early in the day, but we bat quite low, so there was no need to panic or anything like that, and Dylan and Shaun consolidated well in the middle of the day.

"Those two batted really well together, they both got good value for shots at Tatura's ground and though it would have been nice for one of them to go on and score a century, it was great for their confidence.

"Dylan has been training really hard down in Melbourne and Shaun has been working brilliantly up here, so we're hoping for good things out of those two come finals time."

With Central Park-St Brendans leapfrogging the Blues into second spot and pushing Numurkah down into third, the finals opponent changes to Northerners, but one thing that won't change

is Numurkah's game plan heading into the clash at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

"We're just going to try and do what we've been doing over the last couple of years and that's play

good, positive cricket.

"I think everyone realises we've got a couple of quicks up top and a few good spinners, so if we can fire with the bat, I think we're a good chance of progressing."



Top score in a big total ... Numurkah's Dylan Grandell scored 74 as his side posted 269 on the second day of its final round win over Tatura on Saturday.



Close but no cigar ... Kody Jackson was unable to guide his side past Karramomus in Sunday's Cricket Shepparton under 16s grand final.

Young Blues falter in season decider

NUMURKAH'S under 16s side fell at the last hurdle on Sunday, going down to Karramomus in the 2018/19 grand final by 32-runs at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve. Having lost the toss and being forced to bowl, Numurkah got off to a positive start, picking up two quick wickets to have Karramomus 2/12.

Things went from good to great for the Blues, as Karramomus lost three wickets while only adding one run, to languish at 5/21.

Karramomus was able to fight back into the contest, and a 32-run partnership allowed the minor premier to get its foot back in the door of the contest.

Despite losing its sixth wicket,

the batting side powered ahead towards the 100-mark, eventually finishing the allocated 45 overs with a score of 9/112.

In reply, Numurkah simply wasn't able to get into the contest, while Karramomus' Billy Jones put forth an impressive bowling display to rip through the Blues' batting lineup.

Jones' return of 4/21 from seven overs was a telling blow to the Blues, while the fact Numurkah had three run outs pepper its innings certainly didn't help the cause.

In the end, Karramomus was far too strong on the day, and the Blues could only muster 80 all out from 32.2 overs.



Doing a job ... Dylan Baker claimed two wickets during Katunga's win over Cobram on Friday night.



Winners are grinners ... Katunga captains Aaron MacFadyen and Mitch Doyle reflect on their grand final triumph.

Photos: Rhonda Doyle, Cobram Photographics

Premiership glory finds young Swans

A STIRRING batting performance laid the foundation of a great grand final win for Katunga over Cobram on Friday, with the Swans picking up an impressive 42-run win to cement themselves as 2018/19 under 16s premiers.

As play began at 5pm on Friday afternoon, Katunga had padded up and prepared itself for a battle in the middle, and despite the loss of Dylan Craven for six, Katunga had the ascendancy thereafter.

Bailey Smith and team captain Aaron MacFadyen combined brilliantly to

give their side the upper hand in the division's showpiece tie.

Smith was on his way to a deserved half-century but was cut down with 42 attributed to his name, leaving his side at 2/88.

MacFadyen on the other hand, continued to prosper amid the pressure, batting well to guide his side into triple-digit territory.

A run-out made the score tick over to 3/101, but MacFadyen and new batsman Mitch Doyle worked well to consolidate its position, ensuring Cobram didn't break the contest open.

At 3/126, Cobram got a bit of a jump start courtesy of Jack Beasley, whose three quick wickets managed to curtail Katunga's push as the middle overs drifted by.

Beasley collected Doyle's wicket for six, while also taking MacFadyen's for 54, just one run later, damning the Swans to 5/127.

The search for runs late in the piece took another hit, as Beasley collected his fourth and final wicket, finishing with figures of 4/36 from eight overs. A late 18-run flurry from Katunga's Clayton Beer ballooned the score out

to 6/164 by the end of the 40th over, ensuring Katunga had a substantial total to bowl to in the second-half.

Cobram's pursuit was characterised by a number of decent contributions, while none blew Katunga's bowling attack out of the water.

The Swans did well to collect wickets regularly, despite Cobram's Matteo Allen and Noah Iddles putting runs on the board early.

Callum Howden took control of the game though, halting the run-rate, and slowly but surely giving Katunga the edge in the contest.

While Howden took 1/11 from five overs, his teammates bore the fruit of tight bowling, with Bailey Smith claiming 3/24 from eight overs, while Aaron MacFadyen, Dylan Baker and Lachlan O'Hara all took two wickets each.

The bowling onslaught was too much for Cobram to contend with, and while Jack Beasley stuck around to finish 21 not out, the Tigers were eventually all out for 122 from 32.3 overs, leaving Katunga to celebrate a gutsy premiership victory.

Katunga claims grand final berth

KATUNGA has soared past division one rival Nathalia on its way to a grand final opportunity after it claimed a 44-run win over the Purples at Katunga Recreation Reserve.

Having won the toss and electing to bat, the home side persevered past the early loss of Trent Baker to carve out a strong position at 1/57.

The fightback would be attributed to Jarrod Rankin and Josh MacFadyen taking control of the contest. MacFadyen would eventually be caught out for 30, with Adam Cook replacing the out-going batsman.

Katunga seemed to be on track to post a big score, but when Cook was gone for 13, it triggered a fall from grace for the home side.

Rankin continued to plug away at the Purples' bowling attack but was undone by Gerard Warren for 34. At 4/88, Katunga lost wickets regularly and only one of the last seven remaining batsmen managed to get past a single-

digit score.

The Swans lost 6/41 and were all out for 129 from 39 overs, well short of what it would have been hoping for following those early partnerships.

In reply, Nathalia's chase paled in comparison to Katunga's total, with Toby Miles the instigator of the Purples' demise.

Miles starred with the ball for Katunga, taking 4/15 across eight overs, while his bowling compatriots backed him up beautifully. Dylan Baker bowled seven overs and collected 1/22, while James MacFadyen and Shaun McAllister collected 2/10 and 2/22, respectively.

Katunga's bowling exploits proved too great a mountain to climb for the under-siege Purples, and Nathalia was eventually all out for 85 from 31 overs. Katunga will now hope to taste premiership glory over minor premier Finley, with the final game of the division one season to kick off at 1pm this Saturday at Katunga Recreation Reserve.



As safe as houses ... Jarrod Rankin blocks while top scoring with 34 in Katunga's win over Nathalia in Saturday's division one semi final.

Numurkah LEADER

Sports



Victorious ... Back row (from left): Zac Dixon, Lachie O'Hara, Aiden Cox, Dylan Baker, Ted Baker (coach), Cal Howden, Clayton Beer. Front row: Kiara Watson, Jorja Dixon, Aaron MacFadyen (captain), Mitch Doyle (captain), Dylan Craven, Bailey Smith.

Premiership glory finds young Swans

A STIRRING batting performance laid the foundation of a great grand final win for Katunga over Cobram on Friday, with the Swans picking up an impressive 42-run win to cement themselves as 2018/19 under 16s premiers. **Story Page 19**

Purples' season ends rough

NATHALIA'S 2018/19 MVCA season has come to a testing climax, with the Purples forced to stick it out in the field well after the competitiveness of its premier division tie against Katamatite had evaporated.

Defending 178, Katamatite had Nathalia all out for 135 from just 48 overs, before batting out the remaining 32 overs of the day.

The Purples saw their chase take ear-

ly blows, with Harrison Hawks, Scott Morris and Luke Quinn all succumbing with just 11 runs on the board. Adam Jorgensen teamed up with Ash Quinn in the middle, and the pair managed to put up a fight as they combined for 50-runs.

Jorgensen reached 29 before he was caught out, but it was as Nathalia approached the century mark where its Saturday began to really taper off.

At 4/95, Quinn and Jorgensen's replacement Shannon Young, were both batting well, and it seemed like Nathalia would have a great opportunity of snatching a final-round win.

That proceeded to pull further and further out of Nathalia's reach as Young and Quinn both fell in quick succession.

Young was the first to go, having scored 18, while Quinn was out just two runs later for 32.

From that point onwards, Nathalia lost wickets regularly, and only Brodie Ross and Clancy Congues managed to reach double-digit territory before the Purples were all out for 135 from just 48 overs.

With first innings points won, Katamatite took the pitch and prepared to bat out the day.

Nathalia utilised 10 different bowlers during those overs, with only Scott

Morris able to snag multiple wickets, eventually finishing on 3/16 from four overs.

An outright defeat was never on the cards for Nathalia and upon the completion of the 32nd over the game, and Nathalia's season, was over.

Nathalia finished the season in fifth spot, outside of finals contention, with Barooga sitting ahead of the Purples by 7.08 points.

10TH ANNIVERSARY NUMURKAH FUN RUN 2019

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
Contact: St Joseph's 03 5862 1804

GREAT PRIZES PLUS

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