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Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019

\$1.30

INSIDE

The greatest showman

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Hospital heads respond

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Naming rights

See story page 6



NATHALIA thanked its local fire brigades, and raised some much needed funds, with a community celebration last Friday. See story page 5.

Finally gone!

THE day many feared would never happen in time to avoid a catastrophic event has finally arrived - by the end of this week, Numurkah's notorious tyre stockpile will finally have been cleared.

More than a decade after Moira Shire Council issued a planning permit for a tyre recycling plant on the Saxton St West site, and five years since it commenced legal proceedings to have the dangerous eyesore removed, the last tyre has finally been removed from the site.

State Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio, visited the site yesterday to acknowledge the occasion.

Minister D'Ambrosio said that the tyre stockpile could only have been described as a significant disaster waiting to happen.

"I am pleased to be here on what is a very important day for the local community, and I want to acknowledge the forbearance of the community as they have waited for this issue to be dealt with," Minister D'Ambrosio said.

Moira Shire Mayor Libro Mustica told the gathering that he felt tremendous pride in the work of everybody who had combined to make the removal

of the stockpile a reality.

"I want to congratulate the EPA, Tyrecycle and Moira Shire Council staff on their efforts to remove this dangerous stockpile which has been within metres of homes and businesses, and posed a danger for so long," Cr Mustica said.

"It was a daunting prospect to remove it in such a short space of time, but by working efficiently together, we have made it happen."

When the announcement of the clearance project was made in early December, Minister D'Ambrosio praised independent member for Shepparton Suzanna Sheed for being a strong advocate for the issue throughout her years in parliament.

This week, however, Ms Sheed gave the credit to the people of Numurkah for keeping the issue on the political agenda.

"The Numurkah community should be very proud of their tireless advocacy and I would like to congratulate them for keeping the issue on the agenda," she said.

"Having vocal support in the community makes it so much easier for local representatives such as myself and Moira Shire to get the attention of govern-

ment and get work such as this done.

"The Numurkah tyre dump has been a safety threat to local residents and an eyesore in the region for too long and it's wonderful to see this difficult episode finally coming to an end."

In June 2018, the CFA assessed the potential consequences of a fire at the premises as 'catastrophic' and the likelihood of a fire at the premises to be 'likely', resulting in an overall risk rating of 'extreme'.

The clean-up operation has been undertaken by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), with project management by Moira Shire and funding of \$1.5 million provided by the State Government.

The EPA used its powers under the Environment Protection Act 1970 to enter the site and remove the stockpile, after other legal options had been exhausted.

When she visited Numurkah in December for the announcement of the project, EPA Victoria CEO Kathy Wilkinson said that the EPA had been legally prevented from taking any action to remove tyres from the site until legal proceedings against Side-bottom Group Pty Ltd had run their course.

Continued page 2

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Just shows to go...



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Published by Jinki Sixteen Pty. Ltd.
and printed by Newsprinters Pty Ltd
Registered by Australia Post - Print Post publication no. 100002644



United in joy ... EPA Victoria north east region manager Emma Knights, EPA Victoria CEO Kathy Wilkinson, Moira Shire Mayor Libro Mustica, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Lily D'Ambrosio, and Member for Shepparton Suzanna Sheed gathered to farewell the tyre stockpile.

Finally gone!

From page 1

"There have been a range of administrative and legal processes that needed to take place before we could become involved with the clearance of the site," Ms Wilkinson said.

"But now that we are able to proceed we won't relax and we won't rest until the last tyre has been removed."

Ms Wilkinson has proved as good as her word. Up to eight trucks a day have taken loads of tyres for shredding and recycling at an EPA licensed facility in Melbourne.

At the time of the announcement, EPA Victoria North East Regional Manager Emma Knight estimated that work would take around 10 weeks to complete.

Despite work needing to be halted on days of total fire ban - of which there have been seven since work began to clear the site on December 11, 2018 - the

work has been completed within 11 weeks.

The fight to have the site cleared began in 2014, when Moira Shire took the dump's owners, Sidebottom Group Pty Ltd, to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (VCAT) for numerous violations of planning conditions, following a fire at the site in 2013.

VCAT found Sidebottom Group to be in breach of planning conditions and ruled a number of steps must be completed, which included the removal of waste and combustible items, in stages to be completed by January 2015.

Sidebottom Group failed to abide by the VCAT order, and also failed to meet deadlines relating to a number of time extensions granted, both by VCAT and the Supreme Court, to which the case eventually progressed.

Shanan Sidebottom, sole director of Sidebottom Group, was found guilty of criminal con-

tempt in the Supreme Court in October last year, and sentenced to four months jail for failing to comply with the VCAT order.

Sidebottom Group Pty Ltd, was also convicted and fined \$50,000 for criminal contempt.

The EPA has confirmed that it will look to recoup the costs of the operation from Sidebottom Group Pty Ltd.

EPA CEO Kathy Wilkinson told the *Leader* that, under the Environment Protection Act, it has the power to pursue cost recovery through a range of means.

"We will be using every power at our disposal to recover the costs of the operation from the owners of the site," she said.

Ms Wilkinson confirmed that one of the cost recovery options available to the EPA is the seizure and sale of the land on which the stockpile is located, which is owned by Sidebottom Group Pty Ltd.

Lovell raises local issues with ministers

LIBERAL member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell has used the first weeks of the new Victorian parliament to raise issues of concern to Numurkah district locals.

Ms Lovell has used two adjournment debates to challenge government ministers to commit to providing the State Government's share of funding for the Numurkah Flood Mitigation Plan, and to take action on the reduction of the speed limit through Strathmerton.

In each case, the relevant Minister has 30 days from when the issue was raised to provide a written response to Ms Lovell.

Ms Lovell raised the matter of flood plan funding with Minister for Water Lisa Neville last Tuesday.

Ms Lovell told the minister that the Numurkah community had worked hard on the Numurkah Flood Mitigation Project for many

years, appointing a Flood Action Group to work with Moira Shire to identify the best option to mitigate a flood event.

Ms Lovell was unimpressed by Minister Neville's prior announcement of State Government funding for the Numurkah flood plan, as reported in the *Leader* on March 7, 2018.

Ms Neville was reported in the *Leader* at that time as saying "I can assure you that the Andrews Labor Government commits to our funding contribution under these arrangements, in partnership with the Moira Shire and the Federal Government."

Ms Lovell told the *Leader* this week that Ms Neville's statement was very carefully worded to give an impression of funding, but did not represent a firm commitment from the State Government.

"If the minister was serious about funding the Numurkah Flood Mitigation Plan we would have seen an election commitment," Ms Lovell said.

"The minister needs to stop being misleading with her wording and make a firm commitment to fund the Numurkah Flood Mitigation Plan, and it should be in this year's budget."

"The residents of Numurkah deserve protection from the impact of future flooding and I call on the Andrews Labor Government to provide funding to help implement this project."

In October last year, Ms Lovell visited Numurkah with deputy Nationals leader Steph Ryan, to announce that the Liberal National Coalition would provide the state's \$5.6 million share of the funding for the flood plan if they were elect-

ed at the November 2018 election.

Ms Lovell also raised the issue of the Strathmerton speed limit with Minister for Roads, Road Safety and the TAC Jaala Pulford in parliament's first week back for the year.

Ms Lovell said that there are legitimate concerns about the safety of pedestrians crossing the road with the current 80km/h speed zone.

"The residents and visitors to Strathmerton continue to negotiate a dangerous Murray Valley Highway with vehicles travelling at 80km/h through town," Ms Lovell said.

"The new Minister needs to apply common sense and immediately order the reduction of the speed limit for this section of the Murray Valley Highway from 80km/h to 60km/h to improve safety for the Strathmerton community."



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Locals walk away with Georgy awards

NUMURKAH district is alive with the sound of talent, with two local youngsters scoring coveted awards for the performing arts, at this year's Georgy awards.

St Mary of the Angels year 11 student Digby Bunnett took out the award for Best Junior Performance (Male), for his performance as Man in Chair in the college's 2018 production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*.

Numurkah's Chloe Hicks, meanwhile, was surprised to receive a Judges Award for Excellence for her portrayal of Anne in Numurkah Singers' 2018 production of *Anne of Green Gables*. Judges awards may be made to people who gave outstanding performances, but don't qualify for major awards.

Digby, for whom this was his third Georgy nomination, described his character Man in Chair, who narrates *The Drowsy Chaperone*, as quite a sad character - an introvert who has been unlucky in love and uses music as an escape.

Digby said he thought he might be in with a chance when he was asked to open the awards ceremony with a monologue from his performance, but was still surprised when his name was read out as winner.

"I was calm before the announcement because there were a lot of talented people nominated in that category who had won in the past. I didn't really expect to win, so it was exciting when they read my name out."

Georgy's judge Joyce Baker told the *Leader* that Digby's performance was outstanding.

"He is a very mature performer who should have a very bright future," she said.

Digby, who is currently studying VCE Drama units three and four, would like to pursue a career in the performing arts.

Chloe, not realising she was in the running for an award, wasn't there when her name was announced.

She chose to skip the ceremony in favour of attending a friend's birthday party, and didn't know she had won until her mum picked her up.

"I was pretty surprised because I wasn't nominated, so it never occurred to me I would win something," she said.

Ms Baker said that the judges were very impressed by Chloe's portrayal of Anne.

"She covered both the singing and dialogue very confidently, and gave such a vibrant performance for such a young girl," she said.

Chloe said that Anne was fun to play because, like herself, she has a 'no filter' personality.

"I didn't really know what she was like, or how I was going to play her, until I watched the movies, but then I got her. It's different to playing a really sensible character because you can let loose a bit more," she said.

Unlike Digby, Chloe doesn't plan to pursue a career in the performing arts, preferring just to keep it as a hobby.

"I'd like to do something in the allied health field," she said.

"I'd probably like to do productions when I'm at university, because I love to sing and play different characters, but it's not something I'd pursue as a career."



Happy man ... Digby Bunnett was thrilled to win a Georgy award for his performance as Man in Chair (inset).



No-filter sisters ... Chloe Hicks with her judges award for excellence, and on stage as Anne (inset), who she said was fun to play.

FIRE WATCH

Another quiet week for fireys

their stations.

A 52 year-old Katamatite man had a lucky escape, when his car caught fire as he drove to work at 4.45am on Saturday.

The man and pulled over on Chapel Street after smelling smoke, and discovered a fire in the rear of the vehicle.

Katamatite CFA volunteers extinguished the fire, which caused considerable damage but did not spread.



A PAIR of thieves evaded a local resident at Kotupna on the weekend, after he spotted them in a car that had been stolen from his property.

The pursuit occurred on Saturday afternoon, when the resident saw the vehicle and followed it to a nearby farm.

The resident called police and watched from a distance as two thieves transferred property from a white utility to the stolen silver Subaru. The thieves saw the resident and sped away through paddocks onto the Kotupna-Barmah Road.

Slippery thieves escape at Kotupna

The white ute was also stolen, and the thieves were not associated with the property the resident followed them to.

Anyone with information, or dashcam footage, is asked to contact police.

A 33 year-old Numurkah man has been charged with possession of an unregistered firearm, after police located an air pistol in his bedroom last week.

The man was bailed to appear in court in May.

39th Annual Art & Craft EXHIBITION
NUMURKAH TOWN HALL

Friday, 8th March — 7pm - 10pm
Saturday, 9th March — 10am - 6pm
Sunday, 10th March — 10am - 6pm
Monday, 11th March — 10am - 4pm

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When: You can choose from three options of dates and times:

Thursday 14 March 2019 from 5pm to 8pm
Friday 15 March 2019 from 10am to 1pm
Saturday 16 March 2019 from 1pm to 4pm

Where: Quest Shepparton, 177-183 Welsford Street, Shepparton VIC 3630.

Complimentary food is available. You will receive a detailed information handbook to take home.

Bookings: Are essential for catering and accessibility purposes. Please register by 6 March 2019. For more information and to register, visit:

www.disabilityloop.eventbrite.com
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COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS CLOSE 6 MARCH



Applications for our Community Strengthening Minor Grants up to \$5,000 are closing 4pm Wednesday 6 March.

If you need funding for an event or to improve facilities or services for your local community then these grants are for you.

If you require access to a computer, libraries across the shire have computers available for public use.

Every application is important and we want to make sure yours is the best it could possibly be, so if you require assistance in completing your application form please contact us.

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS – TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

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

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

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

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

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Communities across the shire are celebrating International Women's Day with various fun, insightful and inclusive activities.

- **Yarrawonga** - March 2 @ 8.30am - CWA rooms
- **Cobram** - March 7 @ 3pm - Cobram Community House
- **Nathalia** - March 7 @ 1.30pm - G.R.A.I.N Store
- **Numurkah** - March 8 @ 10am - Newman Square
- **Cobram** - March 22 @ 7pm - Irvin Hall

Make sure you get involved and honour the women in your life. Give us a call for more information or go to our website.

MOIRA SHIRE COUNCIL REPRESENTATION REVIEW CLOSES 6 MARCH

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is reviewing the electoral structure of Moira Shire Council and is seeking your input.

The review will help to ensure fair and equitable representation for all voters in Moira Shire.

Make sure you have your say – feedback closes Wednesday 6 March.

Find out more at www.vec.vic.gov.au or call 131 832.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – TONIGHT 27 FEBRUARY



Our first ordinary meeting of 2019 will commence tonight (27 February) at 6pm at the Cobram Civic Centre.

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

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In person: Cobram
44 Station St Cobram

In person: Yarrawonga
100 Belmore Street Yarrawonga

By mail
PO Box 578, Cobram VIC 3643



Running the gauntlet ... Strathmerton's school crossing is located on the busy Murray Valley Highway.

Near miss rattles Strathy

A NEAR miss on the Murray Valley Highway in Strathmerton last Friday morning has given added urgency to calls for the speed limit through the town to be reduced.

The incident occurred at around 8.10am Friday morning, when the town's school crossing supervisor was almost hit by a car that sped through the crossing.

The crossing supervisor, Margaret Devereux, is prevented from speaking to the media due to conditions of her contract with Moira Shire Council, but the *Leader* was able to speak to a Strathmerton resident who witnessed the incident at close range, and spoke to the *Leader* on condition of anonymity.

Though the incident occurred during the time when the speed limit is reduced to a school zone limit of 40kph, the witness estimated the vehicle to be going at least 60kph.

"Marg was standing in the middle of the crossing and had just blown her whistle for a young kid to cross the road, when the car blew through and came within about a metre of her," the witness said.

"Marg was pretty shaken, and I don't blame her, it was close."

The witness said that if the child, who had been waiting on the south side of the crossing, had already stepped out onto the road, he would almost certainly have been hit.

"The car passed between where he was standing and where Marg was in the middle of the road, so if the kid had stepped off the kerb, he'd have had nowhere to go. At the speed the car was going, it would have been bad."

"The driver didn't stop, didn't even blink, just kept right on going."

The *Leader* understands that a badly shaken Ms Devereux refused to leave her post, and a local resident came and stayed with her for the remainder of her shift.

Carolyn Ryan, who has been a vocal advocate

for the reduction of the speed limit through the town, said that she saw Ms Devereux about an hour after the incident, after her shift on the crossing had ended, and she still appeared badly shaken.

"She came into the cafe for a drink and as soon as I saw her I knew something had happened because she didn't look right at all," Ms Ryan said.

"She was grey."

Ms Ryan said that, although the incident occurred when a 40kph zone was in place, she has no doubt that the 80kph speed zone signs, located around 50 metres ahead of the flashing 40kph zone signs, contributed to the offending vehicle's speed.

"They just hadn't slowed down enough from 80, so they were still going way too fast. If they had been doing 60 to begin with, then they mightn't have been going so fast when they got to Marg."

"Obviously, they should have stopped, but if they had hit her, then 20kph difference could be the difference between life and death."

Ms Ryan said she spent the morning following the incident making phone calls to anybody she thought could help with the issue, including the office of the deputy prime minister, Federal Minister for Transport, Michael McCormack.

"They couldn't do anything to help me then and there but they gave me some good advice as to what to do next."

Ms Ryan said she also contacted the offices of local members Suzanna Sheed and Wendy Lovell.

"People just don't understand what this sort of thing does to you when you have a history of road trauma in your family like I do," Ms Ryan said.

"When something like this happens, it brings everything back."

"It's like our lives here don't matter."

The matter has been reported to the police.

Conversion therapy to be outlawed in Victoria

IN an Australian first, the Victorian Government will bring in laws to denounce and prohibit LGBTI conversion practices.

Conversion therapy is any practice or treatment that seeks to change, suppress or eliminate an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Premier Daniel Andrews joined Minister for Equality Martin Foley, Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos and many other Labor Government Members at the 2019 Midsumma Pride March to 'celebrate the huge contribution LGBTI Victorians make to our state.'

The ban follows an extensive investigation into conversion practices by the Health Complaints Commissioner (HCC), who found those subjected to it experienced long-term psychological harm and distress.

The HCC recommended legislation be introduced to clearly and unequivocally denounce conversion practices and prohibit them in law – a recommendation the State Government has accepted in full.

Minister for Equality Martin Foley said that

conversion practices have caused untold trauma to too many Victorians who were made to feel ashamed for who they were and who they loved. "We're banning these practices forever and for good," he said.

Premier Daniel Andrews described conversion therapy as a harmful, prejudiced and discredited practice.

"So called 'conversion therapy' is not therapy at all, and soon it will be against the law," he said.

The government has also given in-principle support to funding counselling and support services for survivors, and will work on developing a comprehensive and tailored package of supports for survivors.

Since being elected in 2014, the Labor Government has invested more than \$60 million in initiatives designed to make our community fairer and more equal for LGBTI Victorians.

Development of legislation to denounce and prohibit conversion practices will begin immediately, and will include extensive consultation with survivors, the LGBTI taskforce and community and faith-based organisations.

Health service boards respond to community concerns



Nathalia ... Nathalia District Hospital board chair Susan Logie.



Numurkah ... Numurkah District Health Service board chair Michael Buha



Cobram ... Cobram District Health chair Dale Brooks.

THE Leader's recent Q&A with NDHS board chairperson Michael Buha gained a strong response from our readers, as evidenced by last week's Letters to the Editor section.

The chairs of the three health services' boards - Michael Buha from Numurkah, Susan Logie from Nathalia and Dale Brooks from Cobram - have noted the concerns expressed, and provided responses to the issues raised.

A statement provided by the board chairs said that the proposal to join Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah health services aims to improve access to health care for local communities.

The board chairs said the recent consultation sessions highlighted a number of health service gaps that could be addressed through a formally joined service.

They identified some of the biggest health issues raised by the community as the need for: more mental health services, children's health services, more GPs after hours, more specialists, more aged care, dialysis, chronic disease services, drug and alcohol services, public dental, transport, cancer services, women's services and more.

The statement included the following list, titled 'the facts':

- The proposal to join services aims to combine the management and governance of the three organisations under one entity, pending ministerial approval.
- Existing facilities will remain in place, in their

current locations. Current services will be maintained and enhanced to improve access and deliver the best possible health care locally.

- There will be no reduction in services, no hospitals closing, no loss of staffing or funding.
- We recognise the importance of each health service continuing to maintain its own identity and special unique character.

• As part of the proposal, a new board would be created in line with state government policy. In any future combined board, there would continue to be representatives from each community to ensure each community has a voice. It would also be planned to have community advisory groups from each community to ensure local needs are always understood.

• A due diligence analysis of financial, clinical, human resource and governance matters, has also been undertaken.

• Community consultation and communication has been extensive and will be ongoing.

Susan Logie, board chair of Nathalia District Hospital, said that the hospital boards care about the local community and want to improve health outcomes.

"The proposal to join services is about keeping and enhancing existing services and facilities, as well as providing new services that will meet the changing needs of our three communities," Ms Logie said.

Michael Buha, board chair of Numurkah District Health Service, said that the boards are re-

sponding to community feedback that they need to keep services local, reduce travel, improve quality of care, provide new services, attract more doctors and specialists, and retain and attract more staff.

"By working together formally, we can ensure we have strong hospitals that can sustain health services into the future," he said.

Dale Brooks, board chair of Cobram District Health, said that in the eight months since the shared CEO role and memorandum of understanding and service agreements were put in place many partnership initiatives were already under way. These include an urgent care project, new mental health services, respiratory services, enhanced palliative care services, joined education opportunities, community rehabilitation services and integrated planning to prepare for upcoming quality and safety accreditation.

"It is really great to see services operating well and many plans under way to enhance access to local health care. Partnership initiatives already underway joining services formally will enable us to achieve much more - and attract funding for new services," he said.

Addressing concerns regarding consultation and communication, the board chairs said that the consultation process has been extensive and communication will continue.

"We have used a variety of methods to reach different age-groups, communities, and staff over the past year, including: six consultation

sessions in Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah; surveys online and in hard copy; eight community tents; facebook posts reaching more than 14,700 people; advertisements and news story coverage by *Shepparton News*, *Shepparton Adviser*, *Cobram Courier*, *Numurkah Leader*, *Redgum Courier*, and radio," the statement attributed to the three board chairs said.

"We initially sent out 15,000 postcards to households when launching the proposal. We sent over 150 stakeholder letters out to community groups, council, GPs, specialists, other health services and MPs etc. during both consultation periods.

"We have a dedicated NCN website: www.ncnhealthservices.org.au with questions and answers plus information on each health service website; we have presented to staff and the community at numerous meetings; and we have provided updates through newsletters throughout the year."

"We are happy to accept further feedback on the proposal.

"Please visit the official website page to find out the facts and keep updated: www.ncnhealthservices.org.au and submit a feedback form, or email us at ncnhealthservices@humehealth.org.au. You can also write to us at NCN Health Services Proposal, PO Box 252, Cobram 3644.

"Alternatively, you can make an appointment to come and talk to us at Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah health services."

Letter to the Editor

Not all amalgamations are bad

I CONSIDER that two matters relevant to the proposal to amalgamate the health services of Cobram, Nathalia and Numurkah may be of interest to your readers, especially those who may have related concerns.

Firstly: This is no rush to judgement and the concept is not a hastily conceived idea to build somebody's empire or to deprive people of the services and care to which they are justly entitled.

The concept of combining operations possibly originated when the three health services combined operations during, and for some years, after the floods of 2012 destroyed the old Numurkah faculty.

This was a period of unprecedented cooperation and understanding between Cobram, Nathalia and Numurkah which, as well as maintaining a viable hospital presence in Numurkah, removed some of the parochialism and competitiveness which existed.

Also, as a result of this very successful experience, proactive board members at all three hospitals began to see that there might be advantages to operating together as a single entity.

A natural flow on from this was to determine if something like this had been, or was being, done elsewhere in Victoria, how successful such ventures might be, and what the attitude of the

government bureaucracies might be to the idea.

In 2017, informal investigations revealed that some rural health services were improving services to their stakeholders by combining. The Department of Health also supported the enquiry, offered funds to assist, and stated that, whatever the outcome of such considerations, there was no pressure for forced amalgamations.

Continued research over the following years by the Cobram, Nathalia and Numurkah boards (in co-operation with Goulburn Valley Health which administered Nathalia) confirmed that combining the three services will strengthen the viability of the three hospitals and create a number of financial, clinical, operative and administrative advantages for all stakeholders.

This proposal was arrived at slowly, after lengthy research by the three volunteer hospital boards, and is now being tested in the public domain.

Secondly: Given the disaster which shire amalgamation forced onto the community in 1995, there is naturally some concern about another so called amalgamation, especially among those who remember what was lost.

However not all amalgamations are negative.

Few people know that just prior to the municipal fiasco, all water boards in Victoria were forced to amalgamate and Cobram, Nathalia and Numurkah water trusts became part of the greatly expanded Goulburn Valley Water Authority.

A very different outcome resulted,

compared to the local government event.

Multiple administrations were replaced with an existing single, efficient and competent management, most existing staff were retained, corporate knowledge was preserved, service delivery became uniform across the region, works which may never have otherwise been possible were (and are being) undertaken in a large number of smaller communities, and the water authority's bargaining power with government was greatly enhanced.

Some of the benefits which Numurkah would probably never have otherwise seen in my lifetime are multiple upgradings of the old water treatment plant at Numurkah, the new state of the art, multi-million dollar water treatment plant which replaced it, piping of treated water from Cobram to Strathmerton and upgrading of the Numurkah sewerage treatment facility.

Because of the complexity of the functions which the health services have to provide compared to a water authority, there is scope for an amalgamation of the hospitals to enjoy even more satisfactory outcomes, many of which have been referred to in your press of February 2019.

I congratulate past and present members of the three Boards for their courage and their far-sightedness with this issue and I consider that only good can come from implementation of the proposal.

Jock McPherson
Numurkah

Letter to the Editor

Petitions circulating

I AM writing to add my voice of great concern to the overwhelming number of comments via letters to the editor, in last week's *Leader* in relation to the Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram hospital amalgamations plans.

As I understand it, the only possible - and in no way certain - advantage amalgamation can offer to all three communities is a potential of extra funding, and to my mind a potential of an outcome is not a sound basis to proceed with this amalgamation.

Moreover, I can confidently say that the community consultation process in relation to this pending hospital amalgamation plan has been at best minimal, certainly not transparent, and virtually non-existent.

One should wonder, if the community consultation process is this flawed, what the community will be in for if amalgamation is to proceed.

I am curious as to what is the driving force for this amalgamation. If the communities don't stand to win anything from it, then who is to gain from this process - is it the hospital management team that could stand to receive increased remuneration for managing three hospitals and not just one?

The last time Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia were amalgamated was when the local councils amalgamated, and to my mind if amalgamation of the local hospitals gives a similar outcome, we can say good bye to locally focused services that we currently enjoy and get in line with all of Cobram and Nathalia residents to cue for health services.

If this amalgamation goes ahead there will be NO TURNING BACK - there is no DE-AMALGAMATION process.

There is still a chance for all community members to lodge complaints about the amalgamation and the lack of community consultation on this process by writing to The Hon. Jenny Mikakos Minister for Health Ministerial Office, Victoria State Government, Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000.

Or signing petitions available locally in Numurkah, Cobram and Nathalia which will be delivered to The Hon. Jenny Mikakos Minister for Health Ministerial Office Victoria State Government.

Janene Champion
Numurkah



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Help please ... Numurkah and District Historical Society member Linda Schirmer would love to be able to identify these faces.

Do you recognise these faces?

NUMURKAH and District Historical Society is asking local people for help in putting names to the faces in its extensive collection of historical photographs.

The search was prompted when the society provided a number of photos for the *Leader's* 2019 calendar, but was unable to provide all of the names to go with them.

Historical society member Linda Schirmer said that the society's photograph collection was like a gold mine.

"We have thousands of photos dating from the mid 1800s up to the 1970s," she said.

"We have everything from weddings to street-scapes to farming photos, it's a real treasure trove. If there are people in the photos it is great if you can put names to faces."

Linda said that being able to identify people in the society's photos not only assisted in building a narrative of life in the district in days gone by, but also assisted people researching their family history.

"It's really wonderful if someone comes looking and you are able to look up their last name and say 'yes, we have photos of your ancestors,'" she said.

"People get so excited when they can see a great-grandparent or other relative and it really helps them build a picture of where their family came from and who the characters were."

Often, photos come to the historical society in batches, but end up getting separated, so being able to identify the individuals in them allows historical society volunteers to return photos to their appropriate groups.

To publicise their appeal for help, the society has been given the use of a vacant shop-front in Melville St, but anybody wishing to see if they can help them in their identity quest is urged to visit the Numurkah museum.

Even if you think you're unlikely to recognise anybody in the pictures, it is a lovely way to spend an afternoon.

Nurse and midwife ratios loophole closed

NURSE and midwife numbers in Victorian public hospitals should improve, after a loophole regarding nurse to patient ratios was closed with the introduction of new legislation in state parliament last week.

The new legislation will enshrine improved minimum nurse and midwife to patient ratios in law – improvements that should see an extra 600 nurses and midwives employed in Victorian public hospitals.

The amendments to the Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act 2015 mean the number of nurses and midwives on a variety of shifts will be rounded up instead of down, removing a loophole that meant staff were often carrying a workload up to 50% higher than the prescribed ratio.

The law is designed to ensure that nurses and midwives can now devote more time to each patient, with safer care and better health outcomes.

Minister for Health Jenny Mikakos said that the evidence is clear that nurses and midwives who can spend more time with each patient give higher quality care in a safer environment, helping people recover and get back to their lives more quickly.

"These changes mean an extra 600 nurses on our wards and there are more to come, as we build a stronger and safer system," the Minister said.

Ratios will be improved in palliative care, birthing suites and special care nurseries, as well as during peak times in emergency department resuscitation cubicles.

Victorians suffering from stroke, blood disease and cancer will have more nurses caring for

them, with new ratios in acute stroke units, haematology wards and acute inpatient oncology.

The Andrews Labor government said it will now start work on more amendments to the Act that will deliver an extra 500 nurses and midwives.

The Labor Government also vowed to deliver on its commitment to create a \$50 million Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund, which will expand the existing Registered Nurse and Midwife Graduate Program and establish a graduate program for enrolled nurses for the first time.

This will employ 400 newly graduated enrolled nurses over the next four years, meaning Victorians will be able to study a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE – one of the Labor government's free priority TAFE courses – then start work as an enrolled nurse once they graduate.

The fund will also provide up to 400 postgraduate scholarships for current nurses and midwives to upgrade their skills, 400 places in programs such as the Postgraduate Midwifery Employment Program, as well as refresher programs for 800 nurses and midwives currently registered but not practising, so they can re-enter the workforce.

It will also include \$10 million for grants, scholarships, graduate jobs and refreshers for regional students and current nurses and midwives.

"Our fantastic nurses and midwives work hard to look after us when we are at our most vulnerable. We're supporting them with the pay and conditions they deserve, so they can work safely and well," Minister Mikakos said.

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Young leadership team ... Back (from left): Jackson Jenner, Christopher Bodsworth, Breanna Inglis-Goodliffe, Jhett Eddy, Jake Salter. Front: Connor Philpott, Karli Gertz-Seffern, Keisha Broad, Kayla Gerity.

Young leaders on the job

EACH new school year sees a new crop of young leaders arise, proudly sporting captain's badges, and ready to set an example for their peers.

This week, the *Leader* caught up with the captains from both Numurkah Primary School and St Joseph's Primary School, and couldn't help but be impressed by how seriously they take their new responsibilities.

St Joseph's students are being led by a team of four co-captains - Keeley Black, Hudson Storer, Aleece Bethell and Angel Cook - who principal Paul Arnel said all provide excellent examples to other students through what they say and do.

"These students were chosen by the grade sixes to be their leaders, and accepted by myself and the staff as students who could lead the school proudly," Mr Arnel said.

Each of the students reflected that the most important part of being a school captain lay in modelling responsible behaviour, and providing a positive example for younger students to look up to.

Over at Numurkah Primary School, school captains Keisha Broad and Connor Philpott are

assisted by a team of eight house captains - two for each of the four houses.

Principal Deb Oliver said that the student leadership provided a good opportunity for students to step up to the challenges of leadership, and modelling the school's values.

"The school captains lead assemblies and take responsibility for the notice board, and the house captains lead a house activity at least once per term," Ms Oliver said.

"All of the captains have embraced their responsibilities and are providing an excellent example for the other students."

School captain Connor Philpott said that he was proud to be chosen for a leadership role, and took his responsibilities seriously.

"You have to be responsible with your actions and set an example so other students can see what they should be doing," he said.

Keisha Broad agreed, and said that, as well as setting an example, she was enjoying her duties as captain.

"I like speaking at assemblies, and helping Miss Oliver, it feels really good."



Co-captains ... Keeley Black, Hudson Storer, Aleece Bethell and Angel Cook are setting an example at St Joseph's

Numurkah Show day locked in

THE Numurkah show may still be months away, but the committee has already put a big tick next to one of the most important items on its to-do list.

Wednesday, October 23 - Numurkah Show day - has officially been declared a public holiday in Numurkah district.

The declaration became official with a declaration by Minister for Small Business, the Honourable Adem Somyurek MP, in the Victorian Government Gazette.

Of course, that's not all the Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society committee has been up to; plans for the 2019 show are progressing at

an impressive pace.

The theme of 'boots and shoes' has been announced, and the schedule - which will be available in July 2019 - is taking shape.

As usual, entries will be accepted for judging in a wide range of categories including beef and dairy cattle, sheep and wool, ridden horses and show jumping, poultry, cookery, art, home produce, garden produce, craft, flowers, needlework and photography.

Full information about this year's show is available on the society's website: www.numurkahshow.com.au.

Rowe Street Retention Basin Works

Excavation works have commenced on the Rowe Street Water Retention Basin in Numurkah.

These initial scoping works are in preparation for the future extension of the basin's capacity and include cultural heritage investigations.

The Rowe Street basin extension project, with its increased basin storage, will reduce localised flooding under moderate rain events.

For more information on this project give our friendly Customer Service Team a call.

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Let the light in at Numurkah's new spa experience

HOLLY Brennan, owner of Numurkah's Reapers Hair and Beauty, achieved a long-held dream last week, as she unveiled a tranquil new spa wing at the rear of her salon.

Holly said the spa was something she had been working towards for years.

"I've always wanted to create a space where clients could completely unwind, and have all of

their hair and beauty needs met in one location without having to rush, and I've finally achieved that," she said.

Not rushing is a cornerstone of the Reapers approach, offering a truly relaxing salon experience.

"We've all been to salons where it's hurry, hurry, hurry and they rush you out as quick as they

can," Holly said. "We want every client to feel like our full focus is always on them and they are the only client in the salon, so we are luxurious with the time we spend because that is an important part of the salon experience in which people walk out the door feeling rejuvenated."

"The new spa services are the ultimate extension of that."

It's no surprise then, that Holly's favourite aspect of the new spa wing is the relaxing atmosphere.

"It's so serene," she said.

fusion.

Lightfusion technology is a painless, non-invasive LED treatment that promotes cellular processes that stimulate collagen production to hydrate skin, soften fine lines and increase skin elasticity, for firmer skin and a brighter complexion.

Photofacials, as light fusion treatments are known, are perfect both for instant results ahead of a special event, and for long-term skin improvement across a series of treatments.

"Photofacials immediately plump and hydrate skin and reduce redness, so they are perfect ahead of a wedding or other big event," Holly said.

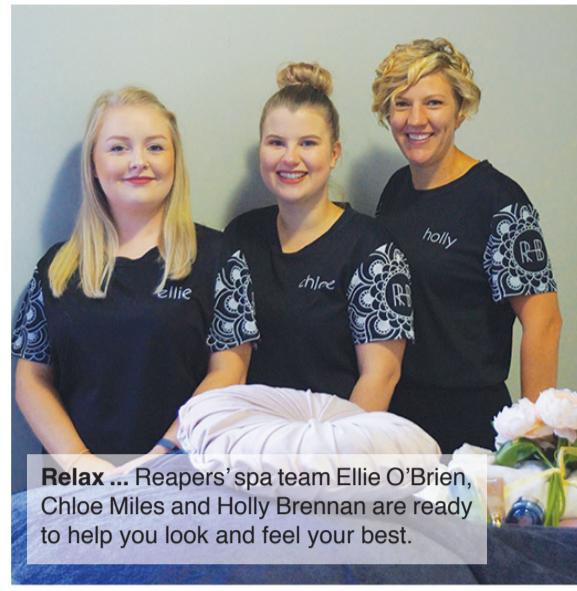
"Over the long-term, a series of treatments will really improve

the quality, tone and texture of the skin. We're really looking forward to helping our clients get the results they are after, and can put together bespoke packages tailored to their individual needs."

With Reapers still offering their full range of other treatments, including the full range of hair services, facials, make-up, spray tanning, nails and waxing, it now truly provides a single destination for all your beauty needs.

"The spa services are really just the cherry on the top," Holly said.

"I can finally offer our clients the full service that I have been working towards since we opened."



Relax ... Reapers' spa team Ellie O'Brien, Chloe Miles and Holly Brennan are ready to help you look and feel your best.

Letter to the Editor



Closing the gap

I WELCOME the government's changed approach to the Close The Gap targets. The refresh mentioned by our Prime Minister is one that brings Aboriginal communities a step closer to self-determination.

Self-determination is an important part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and incorporating collaboration into the Close The Gap target setting is a step in the right direction. It is a move by the government that will empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to establish targets they can work towards.

Self-determination is a key value in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and it's this value that must dominate the Close The Gap refresh in order to truly help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It's why, at Youth Off The Streets, we have an Aboriginal Services team that aims to equip young people and community with the right tools to affect change in their lives. The support offered by our team isn't one of telling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people what to do, but one of guidance and collaboration that gives them the opportunity to succeed.

Our Aboriginal Services team strive to teach our young people about self-determination. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the right to work with, and alongside, each other in order to better their future and the future of their community.

I'm constantly amazed at the strength and resilience displayed by the young people and communities we work with on a daily basis. I know that they'll succeed if the right approach is taken. Self-determination and empowering communities is the way we move forward and finally close the gap.

Fr Chris Riley
CEO and Founder at Youth Off The Streets

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Numurkah LEADER



This week in 1919 ...

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

To view these editions online go to trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/591.

DISTRICT NEWS.

From Our Own Correspondents.
NATHALIA.

It is satisfactory to be able to write that our health officer has given the town and district a clean bill of health in regard to the pneumonic influenza epidemic.

Cr. Ball is to be commended for the way he handles Western Riding funds but a bargain he recently struck with a number of ratepayers appears to be carrying the policy of thrift too far. The grader was required for some road work, and Cr. Ball agreed to its use on condition that a number of holes were filled in by those interested. Five men worked with two drays on the work, and seeing that the road is one used by a great number of ratepayers, and the holes were a menace to life and limb, it is generally thought that the work might have been done in the ordinary way.

STRATHMERTON.

The ways of some of the shire councillors are strange. During the late floods many of the roads in the shire became impassable, and travellers were forced to use neighboring paddocks, the use of which was in most cases cheerfully granted.

But some of the owners put in claims for compensation. One owner was voted £10 for the use of his paddock for a few weeks, whilst the claim of a neighbor, who still allows a right-of-way through his property was turned down after three months consideration.

All will agree that public men should handle public money carefully, but an impartial spirit should be shown at all times, and on the merits of the two cases there appears no doubt that the second owner mentioned had the better claim to compensation.

Stock Eat Poisoned Rabbits.—Mr J. D. Scott, of Delvine Park, found on Saturday that the heavy mortality among his cattle and sheep was caused by the animals eating poisoned rabbits. Dead cattle and sheep had been found lying about for several days, but the cause was not known till Mr Scott found a bullock in the act of swallowing a still warm poisoned rabbit. About 30 cattle and as many sheep have died, representing a loss of about £500 to the owner.

BOWLS NUMURKAH v. NATHALIA.

The extreme cold of Wednesday night last did not prevent three rinks travelling to Nathalia, where a most enjoyable game was played. Nathalia proved victors by seven points.

After the match, Mr H. Hooper (President) expressed the Nathalia club's pleasure at the visit, and at his invitation the health of the Numurkah club was honored. Messrs S. Callander and R. G. Selleck responded for the visitors.

NATHALIA.

Hooper, Tuckett, Richardson, Diviney	26
Angove, Pryer, McDonell, Walter	29
Steedman, Garvey, Kennedy Duncan	17

72

NUMURKAH.

Harper, Lee, R. Selleck, Pearson	21
Hickey, Galt, Tyres, S. Callander	12
C. Selleck, Martin, Morris, McPherson	32

65

Thistles.—At the last Tungamah police court, before Mr Pennefather, P.M., the local shire thistle inspector proceeded against half-a-dozen ratepayers for neglecting to destroy noxious weeds on their properties. Fines ranging from 40/- to 20/-, with 23/6 costs, were inflicted.

High Price.—At the realising sale of the saw-milling plant of the late R. Sidebottom, conducted by Messrs Robert Broomfield & Co. at Katamatite, the record price of £134 was obtained for the lease of a railway site. The bidding started at £2, and by 2/6 bids ran to £10, and then a few tenners and fivers were put in, a spirited duel between Messrs Jeffries Brothers, of Yabba, and Mr Withers, of Arcadia, resulting in the latter lasting longest.



Captain Koala ... Eleisha Lee and Captain Koala say thank you to Nathalia CFA volunteer Scott Adams

Nathalia thanks its fireys

THE Nathalia community gathered on the banks of the Broken Creek last Friday to hold its annual acknowledgement of the town's volunteer fire fighters.

Now in its fifth year, the event does double duty as a celebration of the volunteers' efforts, and a fundraiser to supply them with essential facilities and equipment.

In previous years, the event has raised an average of \$5,000, and by 1pm on Friday, this year's event appeared to be on track to at least equal that.

Equipment and facilities provided by the proceeds of the event over

the years include fit-out of the brigade's new shed, a thermal imaging camera and a canopy for the brigade's forward control vehicle.

Event organiser Leanne Pell said that those behind the event, Thank You Fireys Nathalia, a subcommittee of Nathalia and District Development Corporation, are just a group of local people who wanted to raise money for the Nathalia CFA brigade, and acknowledge their efforts in protecting the community.

"The first year we thought we might raise a couple of hundred dollars and we raised \$5,000 and

that has just kept up over the years," she said.

The Nathalia event was inspired by an event held in Bendigo in 2014, and it is now held annually at several locations across Australia.

Ms Pell and fellow Nathalia local Viv Kennelly are members of Thank You Fireys Day Incorporated's national board.

Previously known as Red Balloon Day, balloons are no longer a feature of the event due to growing evidence of the harm they do to the environment.

Though sale of red balloons previously made a strong contribution to

the day's fundraising, funds raised through out-of-uniform days held by local schools are expected to cover any shortfall.

"It's a really wonderful community day and everyone gets involved," Ms Pell said.

"Local businesses buy trays of cooked sausages and treats for their workers, which we deliver to them for their lunch, so that people who can't make it don't miss out."

"And for the people that can get here, it is a lovely day out by the creek."



Future fireys ... Benham and Brynn Hansen got into the spirit of the occasion with their fire helmets.



Pitching in ... Leanne Pell and Scott Adams stayed busy preparing and serving food throughout the day



Fun for all ... Nathalia Primary School students Charlotte Whyte, Riley Sanders, Zarlina Maynard and Aidan Young got in on the fun.

MAC Inc. is spicing things up with a hot, hot, hot start to cafe culture 2019



THE weather may have cooled a little after a hot start to the year, but that's all about to change. Moira Arts and Culture (MAC Inc.) is heating things back up with a scorching start to the 2019 Café Culture Series.

The first show for 2019 is the appropriately named 'Fever!'.

Fever!, presented by Just Shows To Go, is a musical performance that has been devised and developed specifically to suit the ever growing and loyal audiences of the series.

Just Shows To Go manager Mary Souness said that after more than 20 years of delivering quality small scale shows to regional Victoria, you begin to get a sense of what the audiences appreciate and respond favourably to.

"Armed with this knowledge, I decided to approach the wonderfully talented and respected Melbourne based singer/songwriter Rebecca Barnard and invite her to put together a show that would tick all the boxes for us."

The repertoire for Fever! has been inspired by Rebecca's eight years monthly residency at the Caravan Club, and she has selected the songs that people never fail to connect to.

The repertoire spans many genres and decades of music, and includes a mix of jazz, pop, folk, country, rock and soul from the 1940s onwards.

The mood swings from sweet and poignant Billy Holiday and Patsy Cline songs, to ambitious and successful renditions of Beatles, Paul Simon and Joni Mitchell, to a trip down memory lane with Australian artists Daddy Cool and Paul Kelly, and those we claim as our own, Crowded House and the Bee Gees.

Rebecca has hand picked a band to best deliver the music, and allowed them to apply their own arrangements to make the songs sparkle.

Performing with Rebecca are fellow talented female vocalists Monique diMatta, Brooke Russell and Jacqueline Tonks. The band is completed with the addition of ARIA award winning guitarist Shane O'Mara, and Harry O'Mara on drums.

Woven through the more familiar songs is a sprinkling of original compositions that showcase just how versatile and talented these musicians are.

Fever! is certain to set alight the hearts of anyone who has the pleasure of attending.

Of course, Fever! is just the first of the four shows in the 2019 Café Culture Series.

Following Fever! is the intelligent and funny social commentator, and singer/songwriter, Stephen Blackburn, known for TV shows including Australia You're Standing in It, Fast Forward and Choir of Hard Knock, with his new band and show entitled The New Hip.

Later in the year, upcoming four piece band Canyon will impress audiences with their extraordinary 70s radio sound and originals, with the fabulous rhythms and sounds of the Latin American style Dr Hernandez band bringing the series to a close with their version of Boogaloo and Cumbia.

The 2019 Café Culture Series is supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria and is presented in Yarroweyah by MAC Inc.

Fever! will be performed live at Yarroweyah Hall on Friday, March 1.

Tickets are on sale now, and can be purchased online at trybooking.com/WYJO, or by phoning 0488 370 504.

Generously discounted season tickets for the entire Café Culture Series are also on sale now.

2019 Café Culture Series subscription brochures are available at tourist information centres in Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah and Yarrawonga.



Insurers will need to group private hospital cover into four tiers: Gold, Silver, Bronze and Basic, each with minimum inclusions so you know what's included.

Private health insurance made simpler.

To find out more about the reforms visit: health.gov.au



Pool picnic a huge success for Numurkah PS



Concrete starfish ...
Brayth Diwell (top) and Jake Elsegood stay warm after a round in the pool.

THE sun may have been bright last Friday, but it couldn't outshine the smiles as the Numurkah Primary School community gathered for its inaugural pool picnic.

The picnic was the culmination of the school's two week long swimming program, in which all students from grades prep to six learned swimming skills to help keep them safe in the water.

Assistant principal David Jenner said that the picnic was an opportunity for students to practise their newly acquired skills in a fun environment.

"The swimming program is really valuable and important, but it is quite rigid in terms of its format, so we wanted to provide a chance for the students to practise their new skills in a relaxed and fun setting," he said.

The day's activities included a series of pool-based games that students rotated through, using the skills they had learned throughout the program.

"As far as the kids were concerned, it was just a chance to have some fun in the pool with their friends, and they hardly even registered that they were practising all the things they'd learned."

Mr Jenner said that it was also an opportunity to thank everybody who had assisted with the swimming program.

"It was a really great community day for us, and a way to thank the pool staff and all of the parent volunteers, and the volunteers from Numurkah Secondary College as well."

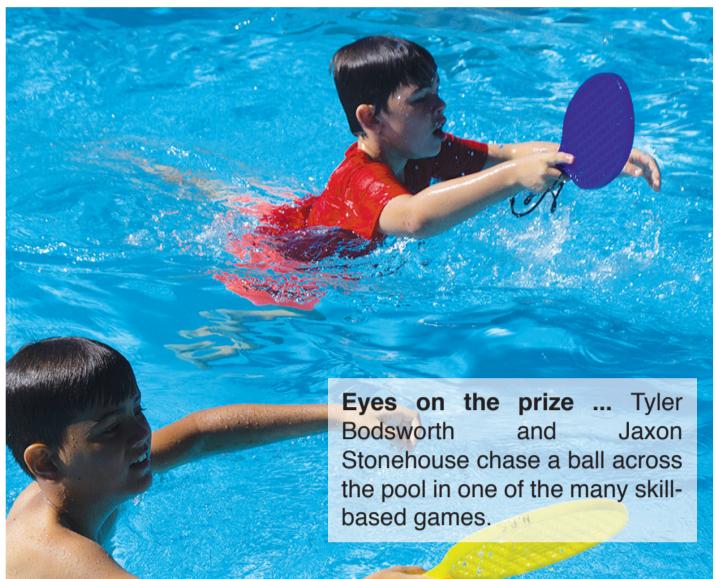
However, it wasn't all fun and games, with bragging rights for the winners of the house relay race, and the students-versus-adults race, on the line.

Victory in the house relay was claimed by green house, who won over gold house in a nail-biting finish, with just one metre between them.

The rivalry was even more fierce in the students-versus-adults race, which featured a modicum of rule bending on both sides.

Though the students claimed victory in that event, Mr Jenner maintained that it was a very, very close contest.

"The students did beat us in the end, but the important thing is that everybody had fun."



Eyes on the prize ... Tyler Bodsworth and Jaxon Stonehouse chase a ball across the pool in one of the many skill-based games.



Hoops of fun ... Chase Dellar takes his fun seriously as he participates in one of the games.



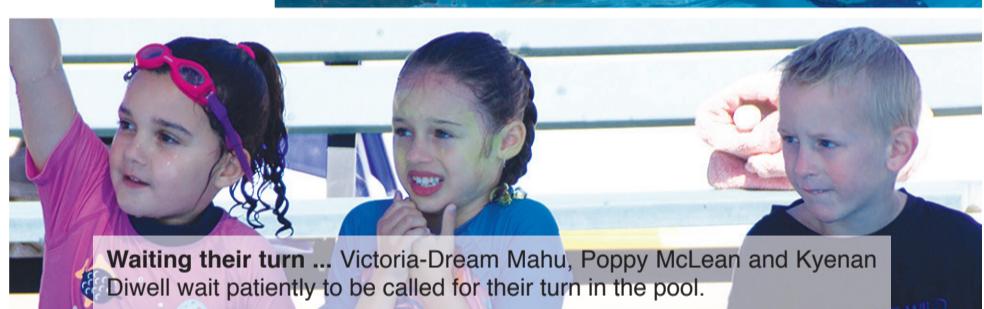
Happy as ... Ryan Vikstrom had a great day at the pool picnic.

Lovely day for a paddle ...

Khan-Lee Crowe couldn't be happier as he races across the pool backwards.

Though the students claimed victory in that event, Mr Jenner maintained that it was a very, very close contest.

"The students did beat us in the end, but the important thing is that everybody had fun."



Waiting their turn ... Victoria-Dream Mahu, Poppy McLean and Kyenan Diwell wait patiently to be called for their turn in the pool.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

GARAGE SALES

BIRTHS

MEETINGS

IN MEMORIAM

DEATHS



Numurkah Football Netball Club Inc.

Youth Girls Football registration for 2019 & Meet the Coach night

Inviting new and existing players to attend Tuesday, 5th March 7pm at the clubrooms

LAYER PULLETS
Commercial crossbreeds, vaccinated.

DUNCAN'S CHICKENS
(previously B.L. Poultry)
16 wk (Black X, Red X and White X)

\$20.50

Friday, 8th March, 10.30am, MG Trading Rochester

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12.30pm, MG Trading Numurkah

Ph: 5862 1166

15 Maple Crescent Numurkah

Saturday March 2nd, 8am (Moving)

Lots of Bargains

PUBLIC NOTICES

Numurkah LEADER

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Classified Line Ads: 12 noon Tuesday

Display Ads: Bookings by 12 noon Monday

TILLEY – Ian, Jody, Oliver and Archer welcome with lots of love and excitement their son and Brother **SPENCER ANDREW** Born February 12th 2019.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1st March at 10am

Numurkah Church of Christ Presbyterian hall Saxton Street ALL WELCOME

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, Tunnoch Road, Numurkah NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

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- NEW - well priced for early orders

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

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

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Numurkah and District Soccer Club

2019 SEASON REGISTRATIONS S.J.S.A. SATURDAY SOCCER

All boys and girls welcome.

Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 15 and Open Girls teams.

Now also running Kinderoos for pre-school aged children

Come and try session and Registration night:

Wednesdays, 20th and 27th February 2019

at 4.30pm

at: Numurkah Showgrounds

Cost: \$100 for Kinderoos, under 6, under 7, under 8 and under 10

\$105 for under 12, under 15 and Open Girls

\$40 (approx) club shirt if not previously purchased
(cheque/money order to be made out to Numurkah District Soccer Club)

TRAINING

Wednesday 4.30pm to 5.30pm

Beginning 6th March

Coaches and Team Managers needed

Require Working with Children Check

Any enquiries please contact

Sherelle Koeleman ph: 0438 533 060

Karyn Oswald ph. 0458 732 112

Numurkah and District Soccer Club

numurkahjuniorsoccer@gmail.com

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must:

- be sent to the Responsible Authority in writing;
- Include the reasons for the objection; and
- State how the objector will be affected.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before: **13 March 2019**

If you object the Responsible Authority will inform you of its decision.

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Email: info@moira.vic.gov.au

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Yarrawonga Office: 100 Belmore St

Mail: PO Box 578, Cobram VIC 3643

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CHAMPION – Marcus 25.02.1983 – 18.02.2019 At Moorabbin after a long illness. Much loved grandson of John and Anne (dec.) Rendell.

Dearly loved husband and father of Abbey, Willow and Grace, son of Ruth and Max and nephew of Dianne, Robert, Peter, David and Margaret.

A thoughtful, compassionate and strong person, who will be greatly missed.

McCRACKEN – John Charles 4.1.1943 ~ 25.2.2019 Late of Tawonga (formerly of Katunga), aged 76 years. Passed away peacefully at Mt. Beauty Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Our cherished Dad and Grandad, dearly loved by his children and their partners Wendy (Kable); Ben and Michelle; Linda (Sawrey); Donna and Peter (Rumbiolo); Bruce and Michelle; his grandchildren Rachael, Rebecca and Josh; Sarah, Jack and Sophie; Allan, Sean and Brodie; Abbey, Lachlan and Ella; Seth and Tess; and his great grandson Leo.

Your memory is our greatest treasure. To have and to hold in our hearts forever.

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DEATHS

FUNERAL NOTICES

McCRACKEN — John Charles Late of Tawonga, formerly of Katunga. Passed away peacefully at Alpine Health, Mt Beauty, on 25th February, 2019, aged 76.

Dearly loved son of Jack & Nance McCracken (both dec.). Loved brother and brother in law of David and Ros. Uncle of Rodney, Julie, Tim and Clare and their families. Rest in peace John — enjoy your eternal reward as you live on in our hearts.

PICKERSGILL (nee Baker) — Gladys May. Passed away peacefully at Karinya Aged Care, Numurkah on Friday, 22nd February, 2019. Aged 95 years. Dearly loved wife of Les (dec.). Beloved mother of Ray (dec.), Coral, Ronny, John and Judi (dec.). Mother-in-law to Frank (dec.), Maxine, Helen and Norm. Cherished Grandma of 10, great-grandma of 16 and great-great Grandma of 28. Caring and loved sister of Linda, Ron (dec.), Vera (dec.), Beryl (dec.) and Phyllis (dec.). *Forever In Our Hearts*

SADLER (Ross) — Edith May 4.4.1929–22.2.2019 Late of Numurkah. Passed away peacefully at Shepparton Private Hospital, in her 90th year. Dearly loved wife of John (dec.). Loved and loving mother and mother-in-law to Ivan and Jo. Cherished Grandma to Harry and Abbie. Softly within the shadows, There came a gentle call, With farewells left unspoken, You quietly left us all. Wherever we go, Whatever we do, We will always love and remember you. *Reunited With Dad*

McCRACKEN — The Funeral for Mr. John Charles McCracken will be arriving at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery on Friday March 1, 2019 for a Graveside Service to celebrate his life commencing at 11 a.m. No flowers by request, in lieu donations appreciated to Kiewa Valley House, envelopes available at the Service

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PICKERSGILL — The funeral service to celebrate the life of Mrs Gladys May Pickersgill will be held at the Numurkah RSL Club, Saxton Street, Numurkah on Thursday, 28th February, 2019, commencing at 1.00pm. No flowers by request, donations can be made to Alzheimer's Australia. Envelopes will be available at the service.

*A private cremation
will follow.*

**Owen Mohan
Shepparton
58212884**

SADLER (Ross) — An Interment Service for Mrs. Edith May Sadler will be held on Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery, Corke St., Numurkah at 10am, followed by a Memorial Service in celebration of the life of Edith, which will be held at the Uniting Church, Quinn Street, Numurkah, commencing at 11am. No flowers by request, donations in lieu appreciated to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Envelopes available at the Service.

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Cricket

CRICKET SHEPPARTON

Two day game - Day one

A GRADE

TATURA v NUMURKAH

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

R Singh c J Smith b M Cline	6
C Pratt c J Lau b T Arnel	5
TX Kelly c M Cline b T Arnel	0
M Cornwall b T Arnel	11
M Archer c J Smith b M Grandell	36
J Armstrong c D Grandell b M Eckard	37
J Petherick c L Gledhill b M Eckard	1
W Pyke c M Eckard b L Gledhill	11
J Thurston lbw b T Braybon	20
B Armstrong c T Braybon b M Eckard	7
B Archer not out	0
Extras (nb 0, w 12, b 8, lb 7)	27
Total	161
Overs 74.1	
FOW: 13 (C Pratt) 13 (R Singh) 19 (TX Kelly) 29 (M Cornwall) 88 (M Archer) 91 (J Petherick) 110 (J Armstrong) 145 (J Thurston) 159 (B Armstrong) 161 (W Pyke)	
Bowling: T Arnel 9.0 0 3 22; M Cline 12.0 3 1 35; T Braybon 8.0 1 1 27; M Martin 6.0 1 0 20; M Grandell 17.0 11 1 12; M Eckard 18.0 9 3 27; L Gledhill 4.1 2 1 3.	

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

J Smith c TX Kelly b J Petherick	0
T Braybon not out	1
T Arnel not out	5
Extras (nb 0, w 0, b 0, lb 0)	0
Total	1/6
Overs 2.0	
FOW: 1 (J Smith)	
Bowling: J Petherick 1.0 0 1 2; J Thurston 1.0 0 0 4.	

KATANDRA v WAAIA

Toss won by Katandra, batted first
1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

B Clurey c BG Carey b L Henderson	27
LD Nolan c SC Carey b J Trower	3
B Black b C Brown	50
S Richardson c SC Carey b J Trower	24
JM Wright b J Cleeland	32
RJ Ireland b J Trower	7
H Sirett b J Trower	29
NJ Hickey c S Trower b C Brown	0
M Black lbw b C Brown	15
C Hickford c SC Carey b J Trower	4
RW Shannon not out	11
Extras (nb 2, w 2, b 13, lb 3)	20
Total	222
Overs 76.1	
FOW: 9 (LD Nolan) 52 (B Clurey) 104 (S Richardson) 138 (RJ Ireland) 161 (NJ Hickey) 161 (B Black) 162 (JM Wright) 196 (M Black) 209 (C Hickford) 222 (H Sirett)	
Bowling: MJ Cleeland 9.0 1 0 22; J Trower 23.1 8 5 36; L Henderson 13.0 6 1 19; C Brown 25.0 4 3 105; J Cleeland 6.0 2 1 24.	

B GRADE

NUMURKAH v TATURA

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

T Woods run out (W Russell)	43
M Price c N Watt b L Worm	5
D Ebborn c P Watt b J Collett	13
J Pruden b P Watt	23
K Jackson c S McAllister b C Dealy	21
A Cline c N Watt b P Watt	6
S Dawson c C Dealy b J Panther	29
S Lewis c L Worm b C Dealy	0
B Smith c P Watt b C Dealy	45
B Roberts b J Collett	16
RL Lacuin not out	4
Extras (nb 1, w 1, b 12, lb 6)	20
Total	225
Overs 79.2	
FOW: 17 (M Price) 48 (D Ebborn) 84 (T Woods) 99 (J Pruden) 124 (A Cline) 124 (K Jackson) 125 (S Lewis) 177 (S Dawson) 205 (B Roberts) 225 (B Smith)	
Bowling: J Panther 13.0 4 1 19; T Olney 18.0 4 0 47; L Worm 7.0 3 1 28; J Collett 11.0 1 2 26; H Murdoch 9.0 2 0 29; W Russell 3.0 0 0 17; P Watt 11.0 4 2 21; C Dealy 7.2 2 3 20.	

WAAIA v KATANDRA

Toss won by Katandra, batted first
1ST INNINGS - WAAIA

Toss won by Katandra, batted first
1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

Toss won by Katandra, batted first
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

Toss won by Katandra, batted first
1ST INNINGS - TATURA

Toss won by Katandra, batted first
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

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1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

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1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

Toss won by Katandra, batted

One up – one down

STRATHMERTON Bowling Club will have two sides playing in the Murray Bowls Division preliminary finals after a day of mixed results last Saturday.

Strathmerton overcame Cobram in the division one first semi final at Finley RS to win a place in the prelim, whilst Strathmerton lost its division four second semi final against Tocumwal. Having secured the double chance, the Bulldogs live to fight another day.

Division one:

Not having played a division one final in the club's history, there were some early nerves from Strathmerton bowlers when play commenced but, with near perfect weather conditions on offer and the 16 second Finley RS greens running truly, the team soon settled.

Despite these early nerves, the Strathmerton bowlers were able to get themselves in front early in proceedings and were leading by 22 shots at the break. However, as expected with their season on the line, Cobram bowled itself back into the contest to get within seven shots with 10 ends to play, before the Strathy boys drew away again late, securing a 15-shot victory.

Kevin "Junior" Dunn, with Wayne McGregor, Richard Buck and Ken Moore in tow, set the tone for the Bulldogs with a dominant start to finish 22-shot victory over Greg Dunn's rink. With Ken Moore leading the way, this rink's 34-12 effort eased the pressure on the rest of the team, especially late when the scores tightened up.

Gordon Ryan, Len Vann, Greg Sutton and Ross Kirkham came up against a very experienced rink led by Bob Griffiths, and, in a fluctuating affair, eventually went down by seven shots. After being down by eight early, Ryan's rink hit the front right on smoko but was not able to match the consistent bowls of Griffiths' quartet in the second half, succumbing 16-23.

Mick "Pub" Ryan, Steve Koopman, Richard

Palczak and Matt Graham found themselves in a real arm wrestle against the ever-consistent Ray Parks. While the Cobram boys skipped away early, both sides led at stages, and neither team was able to gain any real ascendency. The 19-20 score line in favour of Parks' rink was a true reflection of the contest.

Trevor Loe, Peter Young, Gary Murnane and Wayne Lowson came up against Cobram's 2018-2019 club champion Steve Tatnall and his team and secured a tight, one-shot victory. In a similar match to that of Mick Ryan, neither side could take control at any stage with the 19-18 score again a reflection on the quality of bowls from both teams.

Division four:

Strathmerton played the very experienced Tocumwal side in the division four second semi final at Berrigan last Saturday but, unlike their division one compatriots, were 14 shots in arrears after 42 ends.

With these two teams finishing equal ladder leaders at the completion of the home and away rounds, a tight quality game of division four bowls had been expected.

While the Strathmerton boys were in the contest early, Tocumwal was able to produce the more consistent bowls when it mattered, especially after the break, and recorded a strong 47-33 victory, with both rinks up.

Michael Day, Peter Phillippe, Shaun Padman and Lyn Brook found Bob Adams' rink a little too strong, going down by nine shots, 18-27.

John Jasper, with Peter Mahoney, Peter Truman and Billie Madgwick in tow, went down to the strong Alan Whiteside rink by five shots, 15-20.

Having secured the double chance, the Strathmerton boys will tackle Finley Town this coming Saturday for a spot in the grand final, and another shot at Tocumwal.



Neck-and-neck ... Jan Niven won a very close 100 up final against Robyn Hodgkin last week.

Jan trumps 100

JAN Niven and Robyn Hodgkin played a very close match in the Numurkah Golf Club's bowls 100 up final last Tuesday, with Jan coming up trumps in the end.

Last year's winner, Robyn, got off to a flyer, leading 41-26 early on, and then 51-36 after the 13th end, but Jan staged a terrific comeback to eventually win 101-96.

"I had two bad ends, and it was neck-and-neck after that," Robyn said.

Jan has won the title once before, but was thrilled to take victory again.

"It was just such a great game," Jan said.

Those not involved in the 100 up played the usual social bowls. The winners were Marie Ryan, Lorraine Milner, Katrina Glover and Jenny Connelly.

The 21 up matches were due to begin yesterday.

The Golf Friday pennant side suffered a big,

61-94 loss in its semi-final against Cobram last Friday but, having finished in second place on the ladder, has a second chance to make the grand final.

The Golfers will meet Tocumwal at Cobram in the preliminary final this Friday.

The club's presentation night will be held at the club on Thursday, March 21, and those planning to attend should put their names on the list on the club noticeboard.

The bowls AGM will be held the following week, on Thursday, March 28, at a time still to be decided.

Friday's team - to play Tocumwal Golf at Cobram.

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. Emergency: H. Eddy.

Bus will leave at 8.15am.

One up, one down for Wunghnu bowlers

WUNGHNU'S division one and division three teams had mixed fortunes in the Murray Bowls Division semi-finals on Saturday, with the division one side suffering a 14 shot loss to reigning premier Barooga Sports and the division three team winning by 22 shots, also against Barooga Sports.

After winning nine matches in a row prior to the Christmas break, the division one side has struggled for consistency, only winning two of its last five games.

On a positive note, the three losses have been by fairly narrow margins, despite the Magpies not playing their best bowls.

With the double chance in effect, Wunghnu will be looking to bounce back when it takes on Strathmerton in the preliminary final this Saturday. The Magpies had a strong win against Strathy in round five of the home and away sea-

son but the Bulldogs squared the ledger with a 10 shot win in round 12.

The division three side continued its run of good form with a solid first semi final win over Barooga at Berrigan.

Rob Rodda's rink performed well, defeating Michael Whelan's rink 34-18, whilst Ivan Newby's rink was too good for Carol Wigg's quartet, also winning 34-18. Russell Burkitt's foursome battled hard all day but found Jill Toohey's rink a little too strong, going down 14-24.

The win sees Wunghnu through to the preliminary final where it will take on Tocumwal Golf. Tocumwal defeated Wunghnu in round six but the Magpies returned the favour with a strong win in round 13.

Saturday's preliminary finals will be played at Cobram with the roll up commencing at 12.45pm.

Numurkah small bore

GLEN Miles led the scoring in the Numurkah Small Bore Club's Fritz Schmidt handicap event last Thursday, finishing with 199.5 in the 50 metre prone event, while Colin Saxton scored 199.2 in the 20 metre benchrest.

Lou Cook was the only other shooter in the 20 metre benchrest event, and shot 195.5.

Scores for 20 metre prone: H. O'Brien 95.3 90.1 185.4, E. Ryan 57.0 64.0 121.0.

Scores for the 50 metre prone:

T. Braybon 97.4 96.3 193.7, G. Braybon

96.3 97.1 193.4; A. Hill 94.2 99.2 193.4, R. Hill 95.5 95.1 190.6; B. Sneddon 96.4 94.2 190.6, L. Braybon 92.2 95.0 187.2; A. Gibbon 90.0 95.2 185.2, A. Gibbon 92.2 92.2 184.4; A. Lee 93.2 90.1 183.3, G. Miles 92.3 90.2 182.5; S. Rosemeier 88.1 90.0 178.1, J. Cook 85.2 90.0 175.2; D. Cook 84.2 78.1 162.3, W. Willsher 71.0 85.1 156.1.

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



Moving on ... Nick Davies and Kerry Baldacchino are down to the last 16 mixed pairs in the state.

Another regional title for Murray Bowls

WUNGHNU'S Nick Davies (s) and Cobram's Kerry Baldacchino combined to win the Central Goulburn Murray Region state mixed pairs title at Seymour Bowls Club on Sunday.

Nick and Kerry won their way into the final with a hard fought 17-13 victory over Shepparton Park's Ross Higgins (s) and Sue Tyson.

The 18 end final saw Davies and Baldacchino take on Seymour VRI's Luke Spargo (s) and Seymour's Wilma Atkins.

The Murray pair jumped out of the blocks, scoring the first seven shots before Spargo and Atkins fought back to level the match 8-8 after eight ends. The combatants went shot for shot

in the middle stages of the match and, after 14 ends, Nick and Kerry held a one shot lead.

A terrific conversion shot on the 15th end saw Davies and Baldacchino pick up four shots and a trail for three shots on the 16th end stretched the lead to eight.

The Central pair could only score single shots on the last two ends, with Nick and Kerry winning the title 20-14.

The win secured Davies and Baldacchino a place in the last 16 of the state and they'll now head to the Bowls Victoria State Championship week, to be held at East Bendigo in April.

A perfect day croquet

ANOTHER perfect day dawned last Tuesday for the Numurkah Croquet Club's social competition day.

David Geddes was the best of the 17 players who turned up, playing two balls and winning the day with a score of three games and 25 hoops.

Heather Brown was runner-up, also playing two balls, with 2/26.

Heather ran three hoops-in-one, while David Geddes and Graeme Tyack both had one each.

David Geddes, Kevin Hansen and Rhonda Geddes all played a jump shot.



And one more makes two ... Matt Ebborn has shown some red hot form in recent Thursday competitions at Numurkah.

Matt repeats last week's success

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

MATT Ebborn once again left the rest of the golfing field in his wake as he sailed blithely onwards, recording 41 stableford points to win last Thursday's mid week competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

Runner-up to Matt was John McHale, the steady competitor from Valley View, who finished a gallant second with a total of 40 points.

The overall scoring of the 40 strong field was quite high, with 35% of competitors playing to their handicap or better.

Players whose scores won them a club ball were: Bill Green, Gary Blackburn and Rob Collins, all 39, Ian Gray and Jack Dell, 38, Barry Pruden, Steve Piggott, John Smith and Darryl Sheridan, 37, Hugh Gunn, Les Summerville and Bill Rutledge, 36. Ron Smith, on 34 points,

won the Trevor Bond memorial ball.

The lolly tin award for the lowest score once again went to Mike Duffett with 19 points. When will club pro Anthony Sanders' lessons kick in we wonder?

Jack Hepworth won the GMCU ball for nearest the pin on the fourth hole, while captain Ronny Smith's accuracy took the players' sweep money on the seventh. Ian 'Boots' Gray strung two delicate shots together to take Dennis and Roy's offering on the 14th, and Neil 'Bugs' Hutchins' accuracy cost Graham 'Doggy' Sprunt a ball with a ripper shot to the 15th. Steve Piggott took home the Pruden Carpentry sponsored Titleist on the 18th.

Why not join the field this Thursday? Assemble at 8.30am for a shotgun start at 9 o'clock. Visitors and guests are most welcome.



Hitting form ... Margot McGrath won a countback on Saturday to take her second golf win in as many weeks.

Margot and Bev battle it out

by "The Shankster"

MARGOT McGrath and new member Bev Peacock battled it out for honours in the Numurkah Golf Club's stableford competition on Saturday, with Margot winning a countback to come out victorious, with 36 points.

A countback was also required to decide the next two placings, Merren Carr finishing ahead of Pauline Davies, with 35 points.

Nola Dalton finished with 33 points, trailing off a little after a sizzling back nine, and Tracey Clouston won the last of the balls with 32 points.

Nola won nearest the pin on the seventh hole with a terrific shot, and Karen Harper was a two-shot wonder, winning nearest the pin on the 18th hole, and also landing on the second green, but with no prize on offer.

While there were a few good scores brought in last Wednesday, the scores dropped away pretty quickly, and balls went all the way to 78.

Jeanette Adams had the best score of the day with a very nice 71 nett, to win division one. Nola Dalton was divvy one runner-up with 73 nett. After a lacklustre front nine, Nola got her putter working well, recording three birdies on the back nine.

Division two went to Liz Dell with 78 nett,

one shot ahead of Norma Cullum on 78. Norma won a countback to get the runner-up placing but, due to the system of awarding down-the-line balls, the countback loser, Lorraine Craig, missed out altogether.

Balls went to Pauline Davies, 73, Felicity Booth, 75, Bev Hutchins with 76, and Tracey Clouston with 77.

Nearest the pin balls went to Sue Plattfuss on the seventh, and Tracey Clouston on 18.

The top two on the chick run season points ladder both furthered their leads last Thursday, Bev Hutchins winning division one with 37 nett, and Helen Pickersgill topping division two with 40 nett.

Julie Hannaford finished just half a shot behind Bev, while Merren Carr and Norma Crowe shared runner-up honours in division two. Bev earned herself an extra point with the only shot for the day that stayed on the seventh green.

With daylight saving not finishing until April 7, it looks likely the chick runs will continue until April 4, concluding with a presentation dinner in the club bistro.

Today's golf will be a stableford round, Saturday will be the Numurkah Plumbtec first round of the stableford trophy, and next Wednesday will be a monthly medal round.



What could have been

... Bill Padgett finished second on Saturday, even with a costly mistake during his round.

Golfers score well

by "Archie Bunker"

BRAD Tweed had a day out on the Numurkah golf course to win Saturday's B grade trophy with a terrific score of 42 points.

On a course he described as being in excellent condition, Brad won his grade by three points, relegating Bill Padgett's 39 points to second place.

Bill could have easily had an extra couple of points on his score, but for another costly mistake, hitting someone else's ball.

Ray Falla's A grade winning score was almost as good, his 41 points also three shots better than his nearest rival.

Neil 'Bugs' Hutchins could also possibly have finished better than his 38 points, but for a bad shot that didn't make the ladies' tee on the seventh hole, but which he still parred.

John Trimble and Martin Harper both finished with 38 points, Ian Hannaford, Alan Newby and David Scanlan all had 37 points, Alan Dalton, Darryl Sheridan, Dave Gilmour and Pierre Klaassen finished with 36 points, and Kerry Collins snuck in for the last ball with 35.

Bill Padgett won nearest the pin on the fourth hole, Alan Dalton was closest on the seventh,

sharing the honours with his wife Nola, who won the women's ball on the same hole, John Trimble played a good shot to the difficult 15th green, and Leigh Robertson won the ball and the eagle's nest with a terrific shot to the 18th. Robbo's ball must have looked very good in the air, as it finished up just behind the hole.

There were a few nominations for the ears this week, with not the usual one set of ears handed out, but three!

The main pair went to Bill Padgett for again hitting a wrong ball and one pair went to Neil Hutchins for not making the ladies' tee on the seventh. Bugs said he had always wanted to hit off the ladies' tee, and would have scored a birdie, if that had been his tee shot.

The third set of ears went to Hugh Gunn, for also hitting a wrong ball. His mistake proved costly, meaning he and his partner lost their group's fourball.

If there had been a fourth set of ears, the last ones would have gone to Bob I'Anson, who shanked a wedge into the dam from 60 metres out, almost hitting one of his playing partners.

This Saturday's golf will be the Numurkah Plumbtec first round of the stableford trophy, the first major event of the new winter season.

Central District's leading scores were Mark

GV loses shield

GOULBURN Valley veteran golfers just missed out on claiming a second consecutive Tom Downie Shield win when they played against the Central District Veteran Golfers Association at Heathcote on Monday.

The annual challenge is played in honour of Tom, who was a member of both associations at different times, and contributed much to them before his passing in 2012.

GV headed to Heathcote two players short of a full contingent of 60 players, due to a couple of injuries in the few days beforehand.

The course was in excellent condition and the tee positions were set for the championship course, which was reflected in the low average scores.

Leading the field for Goulburn Valley were John Boruch, Seymour, 37; Rolf Weber, Mooroopna, 35; Peter Curtis, Mooroopna, 34; Rob Frame, Mooroopna, 33 and Stephen Piggott, Numurkah, 33.

Central District's leading scores were Mark

Davies, 38, Doug Osborne 35, Brad Warren, 34 and Geoff Cook, 33.

The championship is decided on the aggregate of the best 40 stableford scores from both teams. Central compiled 911 points, just clear of the GV total of 893.

The ball run down for GV players included Vin Edwards, Graham Scott, Joel Watson, Dick Farmer, Gary Bow, John Penna, Paddy McCarthy, Graeme North, Ken Harris, Dennis Koik and Richard Stockdale.

Nearest the pin was contested on holes two (175m), eight (130m), 13 (145m), 16 (155m) and 18 (150m). Central claimed the first three holes to Richard Gry, Terry Rimpton, Garry Moore; and GV the last two with Rolf Weber and Peter Curtis winning balls.

Goulburn Valley will host the challenge next year.

The association's next regular event will be at Kialla on Monday, March 4, 9.30am assembly for a 10am tee time.



Demolition derby ... Craig Brown and Jarod Bacon won their doubles match on Saturday, on the way to a Penguins' demolition of their opposition.

Undefeated ... Narelle Page gets ready to return the ball back down the court in yet another win for the Penguins.

Raiders can't quite slay Giants

by "Candy Barr"

THE GM2 Numurkah Raiders gave it their all but just went down by three games of tennis to the Shepp Giants at Shepparton on Saturday, losing 5/64 to 6/67.

The Raiders were missing a few regulars and were a bit stiff to lose but, because of their great win loss record this season, they should still hang onto at least a first or second place finish, with just one home and away match left to play.

The contest was tight all day, but the strong Shepp ladies had the Raiders on the back foot early, winning the two ladies doubles sets 8-5 and 8-3 and also captured both singles sets, albeit by a single game in each contest, as Catherine Church and Caitlyn Price both lost 5-6.

The Raiders' menfolk were faring a lot better. Regular fill-in Chris Cameron won his singles 6-3, while Jai Harrington narrowly missed out, going down 5-6 in his tiebreaker.

Andrew Storer then joined forces, firstly with Harrington to record a gritty 8-6 doubles win, before having to work even harder with Cameron to

sneak home 8-7.

The Raiders were five games down with the mixed still to play and were right in the hunt. They edged a bit closer when Jai Harrington and Caitlyn Price won 8-5, and then put their noses in front as Andrew Storer and Catherine Church saluted 8-4.

Unfortunately for the visitors, the Giants grabbed the third mixed set 8-3 to hang on by just three games.

Andrew Storer was the standout for the Raiders, not dropping a set for the day, while Jai Harrington and Chris Cameron each won two from three in solid performances.

As mentioned, this loss, while it hurts, won't be costly for the Raiders, as they should still snare a vital double chance come finals time.

Their last home and away game sees them travel to Yarrawonga this Saturday to take on their White team.

The GM1 Warriors did not play last Saturday as they had the bye.

BACON SIZZLES AS PENGUINS FRY COYOTES

The GM3 East Penguins posted their sixth win on the trot, as they completely outplayed the visiting Shepp

Coyotes at Numurkah last Saturday.

Jarod Bacon, who was filling-in for the day, was brilliant on his way to a three set winning performance, as the Waddlers posted a 12/99 to 1/35 victory.

The big, rangy Bacon controlled the net with his brilliant overheads and volleys and never gave his opposition a chance with his powerful serving.

The Penguins' cause was helped by the Coyotes being a lady down for the day, but the result was so huge that even if they had a full compliment, they were never going to challenge the top of the table Penguins.

The only blemish for the Penguins came when skipper David Ludington was left a little frustrated after losing his singles match to Shepp youngster Tom Turcato. Ludington went down 6-5, after he had been leading 5-3.

It just goes to show how sport can be a funny game. In the doubles set earlier, Ludington and Craig Brown overcame a 2-7 deficit to win their doubles encounter 8-7 in an epic comeback against Turcato and Shepp captain Mal Thiel.

Apart from that, though, the home

side did as they pleased. Craig Brown, Elliott Small and Jarod Bacon, along with Penguinettes Narelle Page, Lou Walter, Kris Walker and Emma Schmedje, all went through the afternoon undefeated.

Elliott Small continues to bolster the Penguins' ranks with his quick court movement and positive attitude and he will be a vital cog in the Waddlers' finals tilt.

The Penguins remain top of the ladder and, with one match remaining in the regular season, look like having at least a first or second place finish and the vital double chance that comes with it, all wrapped up.

This week they will be hoping to avoid being bitten as they take on the Tatura Spiders at Tatura.

RAVENS CROWING AS THEY DEVOUR LOCUSTS

The Numurkah Ravens finally had something to crow about in their GM3 Open match held at the Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club last Saturday.

The Ravens did not give the visitors a sniff as they demolished their opposition by a massive 51 games, winning 9/72 to 0/21.

The team, consisting of skipper Graham Henderson, Pete Smyth, Michael and James Kam, Cathy Brown and Hannah O'Brien, had a day out, not dropping a set for the day after enduring a few weeks with not much to celebrate as far as wins go.

This was a well deserved win for the Ravens who, throughout the year, have been playing juniors in the team to give them valuable experience. This is now starting to bear fruit, as Saturday's result illustrates.

They will be hoping to string back-to-back wins together this Saturday, as they conclude their season with a trip to Mooroopna to take on their Misfits team.

A reminder to any intending players that the club will be conducting its junior singles and doubles tournament this Sunday, which was postponed from the January long weekend due to the hot weather.

All events are round robin with play getting under way at 9am.

Entries can be made by contacting club president Catherine Church on 0419 839 416.

Cheetahs stay on top

THE Cheetahs consolidated top spot on the ladder after round two of the Numurkah Squash Club summer competition on Monday night.

The team of Damien Hipwell, Nick Pettigrove, Eamon Storer and Sarah Brooks won three of their four rubbers against the Tigers, currently in third place.

The Jaguars have also won the first two rounds of the competition but they have won three rubbers less than the Cheetahs.

Nick Pettigrove took five games

to overcome Jake McPherson in the very even line two match up, 9-7, 9-1, 8-10, 8-10, 9-5.

Jake took a couple of games to find his feet and was down match point in the third game before he clawed his way back and won the third and fourth games.

Unfortunately he couldn't maintain the momentum and Nick won the entertaining match.

Geoff Eddy is looking to be the strongest player on line three and there is a target on his back.

Cheetah Eamon Storer was able to get one game off Geoff, who won in four games, and after two rounds he is looking unbeatable.

Sarah Brooks cemented the Cheetahs' win with a powerful three game display against her brother Bailey in the line four match, 9-0, 9-4, 9-5.

Damien Hipwell won the line one match by forfeit.

Newcomer, lefty Michelle Beecher, had her first win for the Panthers against Breanna Inglis, but it wasn't enough to get the Panthers the

match win against the Leopards.

Michelle won in four games in the line four match, but the one game Breanna won sealed the match for the Leopards.

Christian Lecompte won strongly against Panther Sam McPherson in the line one match 9-2, 9-5, 10-8, and Andrew Phillips beat Kobi Hipwell 9-4, 10-8, 9-1.

In the third match up, the Jaguars and Lions each won two rubbers and six games, and a point count gave the Jaguars a 72-68 win.

Jaguars Greg Brooks and Leesa In-

glis both won in three games against Max Hall and Jodi Brooks.

Lions Dave Poort and Neroli Eddy won in three games against Gavin Banko and Sam Gierveld.

Next week the Jaguars and Tigers play off for outright second, the Panthers and Lions battle to avoid the bottom of the ladder and the Cheetahs take on the Leopards.

Ladder: Cheetahs 2 match wins/22 overall games won, Jaguars 2/13, Tigers 1/14, Leopards 1/13, Panthers 0/12, Lions 0/10.



Tireless worker ... Emma Keane with her Little Athletics volunteer award and her two children, Noah and Jamison.

Volunteering pays off

EMMA Keane has proven to be a dedicated volunteer for the Nathalia Little Athletics Club, and her hard work was recently recognised with the volunteer of the year award at the clubs presentation luncheon and AGM.

Emma recorded and entered all competition night data, and made sure that all the folders were ready for each Wednesdays event.

She was always there to lend a hand in any area of the club, from the setting up, right through to the cleaning up.

The club held its presentation day as a lunchtime event for the first time, in very hot and humid conditions, which allowed the youngsters to partake in some water play outside while the meeting was taking place.

All committee positions were filled.

All under 6, 7 and 8 competitors were presented with a certificate and medal, while

the older age groups were presented with a certificate, and trophies were presented for the most championship points and most PBs.

Charlie McDonald and Toby Hansford were also awarded the junior and senior sports trophies for their great sportsmanship, being polite and helping out around the club.

Most personal best (PBs)

Under 9s: Boys - William Robin - 13; Girls - Grace Morgan - 17.

Under 10s Boys - Desmond Morgan - 21; Girls - Georgia Cavallaro - 9.

Under 11s Boys - Rhys Hansen - 21; Girls - Alice Trimble - 18.

Under 12s Boys - Joshua Dohnt - 13; Girls - Lilian Cobbley - 18.

Under 13s Boys - Daniel McCabe Jackson - 10; Girls - Cheyanne Hansen - 14.

Under 14s Boys - Connor Peachey - 21; Girls Shontay McCabe Jackson - 11.

Under 16s Boys Riley James - 8; Girls Pasandi Sooriarachchi - 14.

Under 17s Boys - Toby Hansford 12.

Championship points

Under 9s Boys - Cooper Weeks - 257; Girls - Taylah Connally - 228.

Under 10s Boys - Desmond Morgan - 234; Girls - Georgia Cavallaro - 201.

Under 11s Boys - Rhys Hansen - 312; Girls - Sarah Connally - 269.

Under 12s Boys - Joshua Dohnt - 203; Girls - Renae Russo - 171.

Under 13s Boys - Zac Newby - 212; Girls - Cheyanne Hansen - 274.

Under 14s Boys - Mason Cobbley - 298; Girls - Shontay McCabe Jackson - 219.

Under 16s Boys - Riley James - 287; Girls - Jessica Tyndall - 249.

Under 17s Boys - Toby Hansford - 252.



Overwhelming ... Rory Knight picked up three scalps for Waaia against B grade rival Katandra on Saturday.

Eagles reach post 222 as Trower takes five

WAAIA'S Jesse Trower claimed five wickets in his side's round 13 clash against Katandra on Saturday, while Brady Black's maiden Haisman Shield half-century gave the Eagles a boost at home.

Winning the toss and electing bat, Katandra got off to a shaky start, losing opener Luke Nolan for just three to be Trower's first victim of the day.

Opener Ben Clurey and Brady Black worked together and got Katandra past the 50-run point, but Clurey was undone for 27 by good bowling from Lachlan Henderson.

Henderson was tight, and stringent with his line and length all day, giving just 19 runs up from 13 overs in a brilliant performance with the ball.

Katandra though, built another decent partnership, accounting for 52-runs and soaring into triple-figures.

Scott Richardson joined Black in the middle, and the tandem's ability to persevere with patience on a slow deck came to the fore.

Richardson proceeded to 24 before he was caught out, Trower's third wicket.

At 3/104, Katandra knew it was a big chance to post an above-par score, and with Black anchoring one side with conviction, it opened the door for his teammates to make medium-sized, albeit important, contributions.

This included Jedd Wright's 32, Hadleigh Sirett's 29 and Mitch Black's 15 which were all imperative in Katandra eventually finishing all out for 222.

Time will tell if Waaia can finish its inaugural season off with a surprise win, or if Katandra's momentum towards a title defence will keep strong

when play continues this Saturday.

B GRADE

The B grade clash between Katandra and Waaia was characterised by shaky batting performances and controlling bowling displays, with Katandra batting first and being all out for 83 at Waaia Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Waaia is currently just six runs behind the visiting side at 4/77, and if the Bombers manage to grab the win, it will be just their third win for the season.

Katandra, coming off two wins, won the toss and elected to bat, though, the early loss of John McNamara was simply a sign of things to come for the Eagles.

Despite being able to consolidate and power through to a score of 1/40, Paul Harry's fall signalled a huge collapse on the horizon.

The Eagles proceeded to lose 8/26, with Matt Stuart taking four wickets for Waaia and Rory Knight taking three to heap misery onto Katandra.

With the score sitting at 9/66, Waaia had to wait a little while before taking the final wicket of the innings, with the moment coming halfway through the 50th over when Corey Walpole had Nick Minogue caught out for 16.

Chasing 83 but with still 27 overs left to bat, Waaia managed to make huge inroads towards victory.

Andrew Nicholls gave Katandra a bit of bounce by taking three wickets, but it didn't stop Waaia from finishing the day in strong position at 4/77. Play will resume this Saturday at 1pm.

Grandstand finish awaits Purples, Tigers

NATHALIA will need to dig deep this week after MVCA premier division rival Katamatite batted first to post 178 at Katamatite Recreation Reserve. With only 4.6 points separating the fifth-placed Purples and the fourth-placed Tigers, it was all to play for as the game commenced.

The Tigers won the toss and elected to bat and proceeded to get off to a strong start with their opening stand account for 66 runs before the first wicket fell.

Nathalia tried its hardest to fight back into the tie from that point, and managed to peg the Tigers back at 4/96, and the remainder of the innings saw both sides go blow-

for-blow as the Tigers pushed towards the 150-mark.

Nathalia was able to pick up regular wickets, though, and despite a late flurry from Katamatite's Brad Parnell, managed to have the Tigers all out at the end of the 80th over.

The Purples will need to produce some magic on the second day if it's any chance of making the premier division finals, when play resumes this Saturday.

DIVISION ONE

Nathalia's division one side was trounced at the hands of Berrigan on Saturday, with the home side's 6/177 proving to be much too large a mountain to climb for the Purples.

With only Gerard Warren and

Paul Harvie managing to pick up multiple wickets, Nathalia struggled to contain Berrigan, despite a relatively early wicket seeing the home side sit at 1/27. Berrigan captain Andrew Parr and new batsman Zach Taylor Nugent pushed their side towards the 100-mark before Tay Nugent was caught for 25.

Two wickets fell after that, in fairly quick succession, including Parr falling for 46 to see the scores at an evenly paced 4/95, but a not out 56 from Simon Packer ensured that Berrigan would finish its 40 overs 6/177.

Despite the loss, Nathalia will still feature in the final, with its semi final away to Katunga this Saturday at 1pm.

for a duck, and the game threatened to sour for the Bombers as they kept on losing wickets in the early stages of the pursuit.

Kevin Vandengoor was the next out for Waaia, having made just two, and when Chris Revell was out for 12, it meant that Waaia was languishing at 3/21.

In need of a steady partnership, proceedings seemed to be improving with the Daniels, Ben and Matt, but after combining for the biggest partnership of the innings up until that point, they were both gone with just

57 runs on the board.

Danny Glover and Charlie Burrows occupied the middle, with the latter only managing five before he was caught out.

Glover's knock may not have been the biggest score, but in the context of the contest, it was huge, only outdone by Mark Bryant.

Though Glover was out for 21 following an unfortunate run out, Bryant charged ahead in hope to guide his side to the finish line, but that seemed further away after he was bowled for 27.

At 8/107, it was left up to the lower-order to get the job done, and it was number 11 Shane Moore who stood up following Dylan Cornick's dismissal for five.

Moore joined Ryan Trimby, and with 12 and four respectively, got their side over the line, 39 overs gone.

With a bye awaiting it this week, Waaia will keep an eager eye on the result of the Old Students-Mooroopna clash as, if Old Students pull out a win, it will overtake the Bombers into third place.

Bombers rise to the challenge

WAAIA has sent a message to fellow finalists ahead of the Cricket Shepparton E grade finals with a morale boosting one-wicket win over second placed Northerners at Tallygaroopna Recreation Reserve on Saturday. The third placed Bombers have been the club's highlight of the season and that form continued, despite Northerners getting off to a strong opening partnership.

The home side was 0/49 before Charlie Burrows found the first breakthrough, shortly followed by a run out facilitated by Ben Daniel.

At 2/49, Northerners continued to lose wickets frequently and were simply unable to contend with Waaia's stirring bowling performance.

Aaron Hatch's return of 3/27 from eight overs led the line for Waaia's bowling attack, seeing Northerners go from 3/66 to 5/77.

The downward trend continued for the home side, when on 5/102, Dylan Cornick claimed his first wicket, the first victim of a 5/20 run that saw Waaia set a target of 122.

Waaia's chase got off to the worst possible start, with Aaron Hatch falling

for a duck, and the game threatened to sour for the Bombers as they kept on losing wickets in the early stages of the pursuit.

Kevin Vandengoor was the next out for Waaia, having made just two, and when Chris Revell was out for 12, it meant that Waaia was languishing at 3/21.

In need of a steady partnership, proceedings seemed to be improving with the Daniels, Ben and Matt, but after combining for the biggest partnership of the innings up until that point, they were both gone with just

Numurkah poised to end on a high

BAILEY Smith's 45-run contribution from number nine has helped Numurkah post a big score in its final home and away clash of the season against Tatura on Saturday at the Numurkah Showgrounds.

Smith slightly eclipsed Tyson Woods as top-scorer for the B grade Blues on Saturday, outdoing the opener by two runs.

Woods' contribution was massive in the context of the tie, though, especially after an early wicket saw the scoreboard tick over to 1/15.

Dusty Ebborn joined Woods in the middle and the pair got their side to 1/48 before Ebborn was caught out for 13.

Woods continued to add runs to his, and his team's, tally, while new batsman Josh Pruden got himself in at the crease.

Woods was unable to reach his half-century, falling for 43, but left his side in a decent position at 3/84, but when Pruden was gone for 23, the game teetered at 4/99.

Kody Jackson and Andrew Cline took guard and seemed to be guiding Numurkah on the right path once more, but when Cline was caught for six, it triggered a period of play that threatened to take the contest completely away from the home side.

At 4/124, Cline was out for six, Jackson then fell for 21 before Sam Lewis was out for a duck, leaving the side with a score of 7/125.

It was here that team captain Sean Dawson paired with Bailey Smith, and the duo set about pushing their side to a truly defendable total.

The partnership accounted for 52 very important runs, and despite Dawson falling for 29, Smith continued to guide his side to the 200-mark.

The Blues got past that milestone as Smith and new batsman Bailey Roberts partnered well, and even as Roberts was bowled for 16, Numurkah knew it was in a strong position.

Smith, though, was unable to finish the day's play not out, falling for 45 to signal the end of his side's innings, with a final score of 225 from 79.2 overs. Numurkah hopes that its bowling attack will make early breakthroughs this week as the second day commences at 1pm on Saturday.

D GRADE

Numurkah's Brett O'Dwyer and Dylan Cox both claimed four first innings wickets to see Tatura completely unravel, before embarking on a big comeback with the ball, on a tumultuous first day in its D grade clash at the Numurkah Showgrounds on Saturday.

After losing the toss and being forced to bowl, Numurkah's David Roberts forced an early breakthrough with just two runs on the board.

Brett O'Dwyer's first impact came next, with 11 runs on the board, leading to Roberts picking up his second scalp to have Tatura reeling at 3/13.

The game meandered for a little while after that point, with Tatura managing a 30-run partnership to reach 3/43, and it seemed as if a big fight-back was on the cards.

Though, an almighty collapse was just around the corner.

O'Dwyer and Cox tormented Tatura's batting lineup, finishing with figures of 4/6 from 11 overs and 4/13 from 7.4, respectively.

Tatura lost 7/25 to be all out for just 68 from 30.4 overs, but Numurkah's run chase got off to a rocky start.

The Blues lost both Jacob Morris and Daemon Potts for one run each, leaving their side at 2/13. Though Dylan Cox scored 12 before falling, he was one of just three Blues able to reach double-digits.

Daniel Hughes and captain Jason Verhoeven were the other two, scoring 23 and 28 respectively as their teammates fell by the wayside all around them.

Numurkah was 3/76, but when Verhoeven was out, it led to a series of wickets which saw the Blues lose 5/11.

Numurkah managed to reach 8/95 before declaring, and though it would be happy to have won first innings points, the batting performance will ring alarm bells as it heads into the final series.

Though, before Numurkah enter the finals, it still has one more day of regular season cricket, which will continue with Tatura sitting at 0/1 from seven overs.



Impact player ... Katunga's Shaun McAllister's 2/17 helped restrict CYU to 6/150 on Saturday.

Swans claim big win

KATUNGA batted well in its eight-wicket division one win over Cobram-Yarroweyah United on Saturday, but despite the win at Katunga Recreation Reserve, Katunga was unable to snatch top-spot away from Finley, by a matter of 0.03%.

Having lost the toss, Katunga was forced to bowl and did well to restrict CYU after it got off to a decent start.

A retirement of CYU's opener on 32 opened the door for the Swans to make a more substantial impact, and that's exactly what they did.

Shaun McAllister led the line for the home side, taking 2/17 from eight overs, while Toby Miles bowled well for figures of 1/22 from eight.

The only down note for Katunga's performance was the sundries.

The Swans gave up 27 extras as CYU finished its 40 overs with a score of 6/150 and, depending on

how Katunga went about the run-chase, those free runs could have proved costly.

Fortunately for the second-placed Swans, their batsmen refused to let CYU into the contest.

Jarrod Rankin and Adam Cook compiled an opening partnership that took the game away from the CYU bowling attack.

Rankin scored 38 as he and Cook took the stand to 0/87 before Rankin was caught, and though Cook fell for a well-made 57 not long after, the pursuit was never in danger.

At 2/114 Mitch Doyle and Ayden Youd made sure of the six points, finishing the chase not out on 18 and 20 respectively, with 34 overs down.

Katunga, riding high on the momentum of a solid batting performance, will next face Nathalia in the semi-final at Katunga Recreation Reserve.

DIVISION TWO

Katunga and Nathalia's division two season has come to a close following the Purples' six wicket win over the Swans at the Nathalia Showgrounds on Saturday. Josh MacFadyen's 56 was the lone highlight for the Swans as his compatriots were unable to make a substantial impact as Katunga posted a score of 5/115 from 35 overs.

All Katunga batsmen, aside from MacFadyen, seemed unable to dig in and produce an accompanying knock to help bulk up the total, as Dean Limbrick, 1/14 from seven, Eugene Atkins, 1/21 from seven, and Tom Nihill, 0/18 from seven, all turned the screws for Nathalia and ensured its opponent wasn't able to break into the tie.

In reply, Nathalia got off to an ominous start, losing Daniel Robinson for three when he was bowled by James Wilson.

Tom Nihill was joined in the middle by Dean Limbrick and the pair's partnership was the big difference-maker between the two sides.

While Limbrick's 40 cannot be understated, Nihill took the limelight with an impressive 66 and the 96-run partnership ensured the game was all but over at 1/104.

Nihill fell at that point, and while he was unable to close out the innings, Limbrick fell with scores tied.

Katunga's Clay Beer took both of those wickets, but the damage was done, and the Purples picked up their final six points of the season. With the season's final chapter played out, Katunga will wonder if it could have been after finishing just six points out of the top four, while Nathalia will hope to put a disappointing seventh placed finish behind it and hope for better next season.

One Blue side left in finals race

NUMURKAH has booked itself a spot in the under 16s cricket grand final, following a heart-pounding one-run win over Old Students at the Numurkah Showgrounds on Sunday.

Blues' captain Kody Jackson stood up and led his team to a score of 9/175 with an impressive 59-run contribution, while Bailey Roberts' 32 and Hunter Verhoeven's 26 also gave Numurkah the leg up in the first half of the game. It wasn't all smooth sailing for the Blues by any means, though.

Dusty Ebborn and Nick Thorpe fell for 15 and five, respectively, slumping to 2/24, and when Bailey Smith was out for just two, Old Students were on top with the score sitting at 3/55.

Needing a big partnership to get the Blues out of the funk it found itself in, Kody Jackson and Bailey Roberts delivered.

The pair's 69-run partnership came to an end when Roberts was bowled, with Jackson following him not long after, to see the score balloon to 5/129.

The two wickets allowed Hunter Verhoeven to enter the fray and take control of the latter periods of the innings.

Verhoeven's 26-runs was the sole highlight of a somewhat lean performance from the lower-order, no batsman after Verhoeven at six able to get into double-digits.

Despite this, the innings came to a close with the score 9/175, Verhoeven run out chasing more runs late in the piece.

In reply, Old Students' innings got off to a less than desirable start, losing its opener for just seven. A 41-run partnership forced Numurkah back on its heels but the Blues rallied to pick up a couple of quick wickets to see the score sit at 3/62.

Old Students' captain Connor Hangan batted brilliantly while his side was wavering, remaining unbeaten on his way to a retirement, while several wickets fell around him, with the score at 7/113.

Old Students continued to press, and by the time its eighth wicket fell, the score sat at 161.

As the 45th over approached, all eyes were fixed upon the middle, and the scoreboard.

A wicket in the second last over brought Hangan back into the contest at 9/169.

Old students needed six from the final over, bowled by Callum Morris.

Morris held his nerve and ensured there was no score from the first three deliveries, but when a two was scored from the fourth, the tension kept rising.

Morris gave up a single the next delivery and managed to keep Old Students to a single from the final ball to book a place in the grand final against Karramomus this Sunday at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve.

UNDER 14s

Numurkah's under 14s' season has come to a disappointing and remarkable end, losing to Old Students by 151 runs at Kialla park on Sunday.

Winning the toss and sending Old Students into bat seemed to be the only microcosm of control

the Blues had during the contest, with Old Students' top order completely dominating play throughout.

Numurkah was taken to the sword, picking up its first wicket with 135 runs on the board and several Old Student retirements behind it, indicative of the situation Numurkah found itself in.

Josh O'Dwyer would end up being the only multiple wicket-taker, picking up 2/16 from four overs, but it all proved to be futile as Old Students rocketed to 3/168 by the end of its 30 overs. Unbeknownst to the young Blues padding up and preparing to chase down the hefty total, a calamitous 10.1 overs were waiting on Numurkah.

All but two Numurkah players went out for ducks, with only Nash Siermans, two runs, and Baz McDonald, five runs, able to register a score.

The Blues' final score of 17 was boosted only by 10 extras given up by the 2018-19 under 12 grand finalist Old Students.

NumurkahLEADER Sports

Numurkah poised to end on a high

Giving the flick ... Tyson Woods' 43 set Numurkah up with a big total to defend against Tatura on Saturday.

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Blues have a fight on their hands

NUMURKAH will head into the final day of the regular season needing 156 runs, with nine wickets remaining, for victory over Haisman Shield rival Tatura when play resumes at Frank Howley Oval.

The Blues may have lost the toss, but won the ascendency early with Matt Cline and Tim Arnel both striking early to see the home side 3/19 in short order.

Arnel picked up his third wicket of the day not long after, eventually finishing 3/22 from nine overs.

Tatura managed to wrest back the momentum with a partnership that produced 59-runs, but Numurkah came roaring back to keep things on their terms.

Mitch Grandell picked up his first, and only, wicket of the day to finish with 1/12 from 17 overs, in a truly great performance that pro-

duced 11 maiden overs.

Meanwhile, Michael Eckard claimed two wickets of his own in quick succession to see Tatura hit the ropes at 7/110.

Tatura had one last fightback in it, managing to push forward to 7/145 before losing another wicket at the hands of Tim Braybon, leaving the door open for Michael Eckard and Liam Gledhill to close out the innings, leaving Tatura all out for 161.

Needling to face two overs to close out the day, Numurkah faced the nervy final overs and, with just one run on the board, lost the wicket of Josh Smith for zero.

Play came to a close with Tim Braybon and Tim Arnel not out, on one and five, respectively, finishing the day's play 1/6.

Captain Liam Gledhill was happy with his side's overall bowling performance.

"It was good to get a few wickets early, we knew it was going to be hard work after the ball softened up a bit."

"It was probably a good toss to lose with the grass cover and bounce from the pitch, and typically, it'll flatten out later in the day."

Though Tatura managed to creep back into the game following those early wickets from Tim Arnel and Matt Cline, Gledhill was happy to toss the ball to Mitch Grandell and Michael Eckard, who tightened the screws and made things difficult for the home side.

"It was really good to get some overs into Mitch, he probably hasn't bowled as much as he would have liked. He bowled 17 overs in a row and took the wicket of Tatura's best batsman. He had a really good day and it was great to get him some overs heading into finals."

"It was great to have Mitch and Eddy bowling

together, we managed to really get through our overs with them. They bowled 14 overs in half an hour, it was great to see them keep the pressure on."

Despite having lost a wicket in the final two overs of the day's play, Gledhill is hoping his side can make the most of the time in the middle this week ahead of the finals series.

"It's never the best time to bat with just a couple of overs left in the day, but someone has to do it and I'm sure Josh Smith will come back from that."

"We're going to be batting for as long as we possibly can, so we can give everyone a bit of time in the middle to make the runs we need, and maybe get some players in a bit of nick ahead of finals."

Numurkah's run chase continues this Saturday at 1pm.

NumurkahLEADER

INSIDE SPORT

Numurkah raid



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Jan's second title



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Killing Thursdays