

established 1895

Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019

\$1.30

INSIDE



Now a safe walk home

See story page 3



Off to nationals

See story page 4



CRICKET
Drought breakers

See pages 18 & 19



Time flies over 20 years for Jack

Jack Lindsay became the longest time resident at Barwo Homestead, when he celebrated 20 years in the facility last week.

See story page 6.

PUBLIC VOICE DOUBTS

A PUBLIC meeting to discuss the proposed amalgamation between Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram health services drew a healthy, but not necessarily happy, crowd in Numurkah last Wednesday night.

The meeting had been called by a group of concerned locals who believed the public consultation process had been inadequate, leaving users of the services badly informed about the realities and outcomes of an amalgamation.

Around 60 people attended the meeting which was chaired by Joe Few as an impartial party. Opening the meeting, Mr Few stated that the amalgamation proposal was not the Numurkah Floodplan

study, or the shire amalgamation, and to compare it to either of those situations was a mistake.

The meeting then featured presentations by organisers Kerry Cursons, Sandy Rodwell, Dianne Hill and Janene Champion.

Mrs Cursons, who has over 40 years' experience in the health sector, told the gathering that the two words they needed to keep at the front of their minds were partnering and amalgamation.

Mrs Cursons observed that although the local health service boards had stated that they had been told by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that they had three options - do nothing, work in partnership, or amalgamate - that

they had ignored the first two options and skipped straight to the third, to the detriment of the community.

Mrs Cursons went on to provide background and review the timeline for the amalgamation process, and outlined what her group's main concerns are.

These concerns included the community consultation process, lack of transparency, quality of information provided, and governance.

Mrs Cursons also reviewed the DHHS partnership model, referencing DHHS's own documentation, and spoke on why, with her experience, she felt that partnership was preferable to amalgamation.

Continued page 3.

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Letters to the Editor

Amalgamation is a dirty word

WHY have our CEO, boards and the Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah health services (NCN) neglected to use the word 'amalgamation' throughout their consultation process?

Instead they use the words 'governing', 'management', 'combine management', 'join services' and 'partnering' to name just a few.

1. The adverts in the *Numurkah Leader* notifying the public of the community meetings were called 'joining services', not amalgamation.

2. The NCN website had 2½ pages of questions and answers with not one mention of the word amalgamation, and NCN had the gall to call this a community consultation.

3. The Survey Monkey on the NCN website had 11 questions asking what we wanted in our health services. One question asked "what are your thoughts on the proposal to join Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah Health Services?". Again no mention of the word amalgamation or "Do you want an amalgamation?".

This was also considered a community consultation.

4. It was reported on the front page of the *Numurkah Leader* on June 6, 2018 that the amalgamation was not going ahead. End of story, no need for community concern or objection. However it has now been revealed that for the past 12 months the NCN have been planning for the amalgamation - without communities' knowledge.

5. Then suddenly it is announced the board is going to apply to the Health Minister for amalgamation next month. No

warning, just bang it's happening.

The State Government puts a huge emphasis on the need for transparency and community consultation in the decision to amalgamate. Why has NCN not followed these government guidelines? Why are NCN not held accountable?

Can NCN blame the community concerns for all the secrecy? What do they have to hide by being more open and transparent? No wonder many of the community have little faith in the NCN and the amalgamation process.

We have a fantastic hospital and a great bunch of caring nurses and staff at the Numurkah Hospital, why risk this by amalgamating?

Dianne Hill
Numurkah
58 624 090

Emergency that never was

A RECENT unsolicited and anonymous circular in my mailbox declared that there was a hospital emergency and that I needed to attend a public meeting to learn what was really going on.

A quick check revealed that the three local hospitals were all operating normally and that this was blatantly untrue.

However, as a matter of concern, I did attend a well attended, well run and very lengthy public meeting which was supposed to consider this non-existent emergency.

Two basic concerns were promoted by the presenters.

Firstly, it was strongly affirmed, that the existing partnership between Cobram, Nathalia and Numurkah was working very well indeed and that an amalgamation of the three bodies was therefore

unnecessary and would not guarantee any specific outcomes.

Secondly, it was claimed that the three hospital boards had not carried out a sufficiently extensive public information program about the amalgamation proposal and that few people had been able to consider the facts.

What was not said, with respect to the first concern:

It is absolutely certain that, in the future, the health departments, both federal and state, will prefer to deal with fewer, bigger health providers when allocating funding and when monitoring compliance. Even with the best will in the world, governments do not listen well to small stakeholders.

Although already operating as a very well run partnership, the three hospitals still have to apply individually and compete individually, for all forms of funding, carry out separate credentialing of medical practitioners, continually prepare individual compliance reports and triplicate many routine functions. This is a costly, time wasting situation which diverts money and resources from actual patient care.

Over and above the operational efficiencies which can still be achieved by working as a single entity, one of the most important benefits of an amalgamated health service will be its ability to negotiate with governments from a position of greatly increased strength. In this environment of increasing bureaucracy and over-regulation, what our health services need to thrive is the clout an amalgamation will deliver.

As for the criticism about lack of guaranteed outcomes:

The only certainties that any intelligent and responsible body or person can guarantee in life are death and taxes.

Much was alleged about lack of

consultation and I gained an impression that the three hospital boards were being accused of a conspiracy to hide the idea and the process from us.

I was not alone with this interpretation and thought the presentation demeaning of, and insulting to, the good people who give freely of their time and considerable talent to promote the well-being of their communities. If you take the time to check, you will also find that some of what was said was inaccurate.

The actual and honest record shows almost two years of steady, thoughtful information flow as three concepts were investigated.

For a long time there was little to report, but as those investigations proceeded, relevant information was presented on a number of platforms. Apathy, plain disinterest and life's distractions have meant that most of this passed us by without being noticed.

If you are really interested to know the truth, the facts are there for you to access. They have been in front of you for a long time now, and they demonstrate strong efforts by the three health services to keep their populace informed and up to date.

I entreat you to be careful who you listen to in sensationalist situations. Look at both sides of any proposition. Make sure you do understand what is really going on and beware of zealots.

I have written to the Minister strongly supporting the actions and the findings of the three boards.

If you want continuing progress and the spread of excellence in our local health services, I urge you to use the facts and also support the amalgamation in whatever way you can.

NJ "Jock" McPherson
Numurkah

POLICE BEAT



Info sought on suspicious fires and shootings

POLICE are seeking help from the public as they investigate two simultaneous fires which are believed to have been deliberately lit.

The two fires occurred at separate properties, one containing a house and the other a haystack, owned by the same person, and were reported just after midnight on Monday, March 18.

The property featuring the house is located at Picola North Rd, Yielma, whilst the haystack, containing a substantial amount of hay, is located at Waia-Bearii Rd, Yalca.

An exploding gas bottle also ignit-

ed a spot fire in a paddock adjacent to the Yielma property.

Although the home is normally occupied, the resident was not at home when the fire occurred.

CFA fire investigators and police arson chemists are investigating the fires, and anybody who was in the area around midnight on Monday, March 18, or who has any information is encouraged to dial 000, or contact Cobram Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU).

An 18 year-old Nathalia man facing charges relating to a serious assault in Nathalia on October 23

last year, has had his case adjourned until April 29.

The accused, who cannot be named as he was under 18 at the time of the incident, is facing charges of recklessly causing serious injury, and intentionally causing serious injury, arising from a glassing alleged to have been committed against a 19 year-old Bendigo man during muck-up day celebrations at Nathalia Recreation Reserve.

The victim, who was knocked unconscious, ended up being airlifted to Melbourne in a serious condition.

The case has been adjourned for

hearing at Shepparton Children's Court on April 29.

Cobram CIU is investigating after shots were fired at two Cobram residences last Wednesday night.

Around nine shots were fired at a Blackwood Crescent home just after 10pm, and at least four shots were fired at a home on Cedar Court a short time later.

Around 11pm, a car was found burnt out at Muckatah, which is believed to be related to the earlier shootings.

Anybody with any information is urged to contact Cobram CIU.

Farmer flouts fire period restrictions

providing local CFA brigades with their only call out of the week.

Katunga, Strathmerton and Naring brigades responded to the call

to a property at Spences Rd, Katunga, at 5.10pm.

A farmer had been clearing a paddock, pushing trees and rubbish into heaps and burning them during

the fire restriction period. Strathmerton and Katunga attended, but Naring and the second Strathmerton brigade were stopped en-route. Police were also in attendance.



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Concerned citizens ... The public meeting was well attended, with opinions expressed both for and against amalgamation.

Public voice doubts on amalgamation

Mrs Cursons maintains that all positive outcomes of amalgamation touted by the health service boards can be equally achieved under a partnership model.

Mrs Hill spoke about the community consultation process, and why the group felt it was inadequate, whilst Mrs Champion revealed public feedback she had received whilst collecting signatures for an anti-amalgamation petition, which now has over 200 signatures, throughout the district.

When the meeting was opened to the floor, a diverse range of attendees voiced their feelings regarding the amalgamation, both for and against.

Local farmer Peter Mapletoft said

that, whilst he wished to show no disrespect to the organisers of the meeting, he could not believe that any of the board members would want to do anything but the best for their communities.

"I urge people to write to the minister in support of the amalgamation," he said.

A woman identifying herself as Ruth from Tocumwal said that she had worked in the health sector for decades, and had been involved in four health service amalgamations in some capacity.

She said that, in her experience, the key to success of amalgamations was communication with the community.

"What I'm hearing here is that hasn't taken place, and that is a bad

sign for this process going forward," she said.

Mrs Cursons told the *Leader* that the organising group was very happy with the meeting, and had received positive feedback about it.

"We were very happy with the numbers and the diversity of those who attended, and by the questions and comments," she said.

"We are happy that we had the opportunity to give people more information and provide some balance, because all of the information has been coming from one side, and that is not balanced."

Mrs Cursons said that the questions and comments put forward at the meeting confirmed what the organising group had heard from

people on the street.

"People who do know about the proposal are quite confused by the information they have received before now, and they want clear answers."

Closing the meeting, Joe few observed that the one thing most people seemed to be able to agree on was that they were dissatisfied with the consultation process so far, but he personally felt that engagement from the community side could also be improved.

"The consultation process has been flawed, but we as a community need to step up and get more involved and take the opportunity to ask questions until we understand," he said.

Latest fire response times released

THE response times of Victoria's fire services across the state has not varied in the past three quarters, according to the latest data released by Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB), with the full results now available to view online.

Overall, CFA's state-wide compliance with community service delivery standard currently sits at 87.5% from a 90% target, having responded to 6,297 emergency incidents between the October-December 2018 period.

This rate is a measure of the first truck arriving on scene, regardless of brigade area, and is relevant across all hazard classes.

The December quarter figures show response times continue to vary depending on the type of environment, with brigades responding to:

- 88.4% of fires in medium-density urban areas within the standard response time of eight minutes;

- 89.1% of fires in low-density urban areas with the standard response time of 10 minutes;

- 99.1% of fires in areas with predominantly natural surroundings within the standard response time of 20 minutes.

Figures for the MFB show the service responded to:

- 93.2% of structure fires within 7.7 minutes, higher than the MFB and government target of 90%, and;

- 96.4% of Emergency Medical Response incidents within 9.2 minutes, higher than the target of 90%.

Up to date data from Victoria's two fire agencies is now available online, giving full transparency to all Victorians to see how their own fire services meet the needs of their community.

The complete CFA data can be viewed at cfa.vic.gov.au/about/emergency-response-times/.

The complete MFB data can be viewed at mfb.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Our-Performance.html.

Barmah firewood access for locals

AS of last Friday, all Moira and Campaspe Shire residents have been given access to firewood on Barmah Island.

Parks Victoria said that the remaining supply of firewood on Barmah Island has been assessed, and access is now extended beyond Barmah local residents, to all residents of the Moira and Campaspe Shires.

Parks Victoria District Manager, Rachel Murphy, said Parks Victoria staff will continue to patrol firewood collection areas and collectors may be asked to prove their address when collecting firewood.

"While the rate of firewood collection on Barmah Island has been steady, an assessment of the remaining supply has allowed access to be extended to more people in the community," she said.

"Those collecting firewood are advised to follow the collection

rules, as serious penalties apply if you break the law."

Those eligible to collect firewood are:

- Residents of the Moira Shire.
- Residents of the Campaspe Shire.
- Persons who are, or are eligible to be, members of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

Parks Victoria advised those collecting firewood not to use chainsaws on days of total fire ban, to avoid the risk of starting a fire. On days with a high fire danger rating or above, people using a chainsaw must carry a 9-litre knapsack, or a dry chemical fire extinguisher, between the hours of 12pm and 6pm.

For information about firewood collection, including collection limits, location and regulations, visit www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood.

Rotary Club of Numurkah BUSINESS BREAKFAST FEATURING Dr. Susan Alberti AC



- 2018 Victorian of the Year & 2017 Melbournian of the Year.
- She established the Susan Alberti Medical Research Foundation with the aim of curing type 1 diabetes. In 30 years, Susan has been responsible for raising in excess of \$200 million towards medical research.
- Former Vice President Western Bulldogs Football Club.

• National Ambassador for the Women's AFL Women's league.

• Featured on ABC Australian Story 'A League of Their Own'.

When: Friday 5th April 2019, 7.00am – 8.30am

Where: Numurkah Town Hall, Knox St, Numurkah

Cost: \$35 with Continental Breakfast

Tickets MUST be pre purchased from Numurkah Community Learning Centre, 99 Melville Street, Numurkah 5862 2249 (Cash or Cheque. Bank details upon request for direct debit)

Learn more about Susan on this link
<https://susanalbertifoundation.org.au/about-sue/>

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The Premier's Active April encourages everyone to get active, get healthy and have fun.

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

We have released a booklet with all the different activities on offer throughout the shire in April – go to our website or pick up a booklet at our Service Centres or Visitor Information Centres.

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS ON FRIDAY



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

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

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

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

FEEDBACK ON AQUATIC FACILITIES STRATEGY REVIEW CLOSES THIS FRIDAY

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

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

Go to our website for more details.

MULTICULTURAL AND YOUTH FESTIVAL THIS SUNDAY

Come celebrate with us this Sunday 31 March at the Multicultural and Youth Festival, Federation Park, Cobram. Beginning at 11am, entry is free and there will be live music from special guest Bella Paige, star of The Voice.

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

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

PET REGISTRATIONS IN THE MAIL – DUE APRIL 10



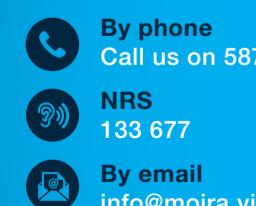
Our annual pet registration renewal notices have started to arrive in pet owners' letter boxes.

Your pet registration is due on April 10 – if your pet is deceased or no longer lives with you, please use the form to confirm this information to us in writing.

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – TONIGHT

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

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



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Proud, excited and nervous
... James Miller proudly wearing his Victorian team uniform.

Miller through to nationals

YOUNG Numurkah athlete James Miller has qualified to represent Victoria at the Australian Junior Track and Field Championships in Sydney in April.

James achieved a national qualifying time of 11.22 seconds in the 100 metre sprint at the state championships earlier this month, shaving 10 milliseconds off his previous best time to achieve a new personal best (PB).

James also qualified in high jump by winning the silver medal in that event, with a jump of 1.84 metres, which was six centimetres short of his personal best.

It's a fairly remarkable feat, given that James has been competing in high jump for just two years, 100 metres for just one year, and training with a professional coach for just a year as well.

James told the *Leader* that he is very excited to compete at the nationals, but also very nervous.

"I'm keeping a realistic mind frame about it and definitely not going in expecting to win. I'm just really happy to be going at all," he said.

"It's going to be a really big learning experience for me, and if I can just learn a lot, and maybe achieve a PB in either of my events, then I will be thrilled."

James' mum Karyn said that James' family and his coach are all extremely proud of him, especially given the challenges he faces as a young athlete from a regional area.

"It's just amazing he has made it this far in such a short time," she said.

"He's only been having coaching for a year, and even then we don't get there every week because we have to travel so far for it."

"His coach is thrilled, but told him not to get too excited because these kids will be the best of the best from across Australia and the competition is going to be incredible."

It won't be all hard work for James at the nationals though, as some of the other young athletes who he travelled to Canada with last year have also qualified, and he is looking forward to catching up with them.

"I made some really good friends from interstate on that trip who I've kept in touch with, and it will be really good to see them again and spend some time with them."

The Australian Junior Track and Field Championships will be held at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre from April 1 to 7.

Good Luck James!



Classic beauties ... Vintage vehicles like these will be on show at Wunghnu this weekend

Golden oldies to visit Wunghnu

THIS year's Goulburn Valley Vintage Tractor and Farm Machinery Club (GVVTMFC) annual rally at Wunghnu is getting some extra special visitors.

The event, which is to be held at Wunghnu recreation reserve this Saturday and Sunday, will also be the first stopping point for the Federation of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle clubs annual Golden Oldies Tour.

The tour is only for vintage vehicles - manufactured between 1919 and 1930 - and the federation will be stopping in Wunghnu for its official picnic from 10am to 2pm on Sunday, before it continues for a week-long tour of the north east.

Organisers are expecting 80 to 100 vehicles, mostly vintage cars, to be at the picnic, providing locals and enthusiasts alike the chance to see a range of vehicles that can rarely be viewed outside a museum.

As well as the visit from the federation vehicles, there will be a range of other attractions across the weekend, including a tractor pull, working vintage engines, trucks, vintage machinery and many other displays and attractions.

The GVVTMFC rally runs from 2pm until late this Saturday, March 30, and 9.30am until mid-afternoon on Sunday.

Entry is free, and on site catering is available.



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College, Nathalia

Come and explore your opportunities

**MARCH
2019**



PROJECT COMPASSION... Pictured (left) Year 11 student Angela Noonan amongst fellow students selling pancakes for Project Compassion at St Mary of the Angels Secondary College. Pictured (right) Year 11 students, Sophie McCracken, Annie Holt and Bella Sheehan selling pancakes in the main street of Nathalia for Project Compassion.

Lives change when we all give 100%

LENT is the season of reflection and preparation before Easter. At St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Nathalia, the school uses this time during Term One to fundraise for Caritas Australia. Caritas is the International Development agency of the Catholic Church in Australia. Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

St Mary of the Angels' Social Justice Leader, Ruth Bakogianis said, "Caritas organised a visit to the school

community by a guest speaker from Zimbabwe. Super Dube spoke to the Year 8 students about the need for the poorest in the world to have access to clean water. He told them a story of how many children in Zimbabwe risk their lives every morning to walk 7 km to fetch dirty water from a crocodile infested river. A partnership with Caritas Australia enabled one village to put in a pump system so that everyone in the village has access to clean water.

"The Social Justice group and the SRC began this year's fundraising by cooking pancakes on Shrove Tuesday both at school and outside TJ's IGA Supermarket. Since then, Homerooms have begun

organising fundraisers including various competitions and selling of delicious treats. Some Homerooms are also raising awareness of the plight of the world's poor. Students are voluntarily going for a lunchtime walk in sodden old shoes and socks to show solidarity with refugees affected by climate change. Others are running a rice lunch and a Year 12 Homeroom will be selling fair trade chocolate to educate the school community in the practice of buying slavery-free chocolate.

"St Mary of the Angels is a proud supporter of Caritas Australia and our motto from Caritas for Lent is "Lives Change when we all give 100%."

EDUCATION SUPPORT OFFICER

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St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Nathalia is seeking a full time Education Support Officer to join their Curriculum Support team.

St Mary of the Angels is a Catholic Secondary College which offers a variety of educational pathways and a learning culture focused on collaborative practice, professional learning teams and enhanced learning opportunities for all students.

Applications should include:

- A cover letter responding to the Role Description
- Curriculum Vitae, including three professional referees.

The Role Description can be obtained from: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/about/employment

Applications to be emailed to: principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 1ST APRIL, 2019

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 For further information visit us at www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au



stmarysnathalia

Time flies for Jack while he's having fun

TIME flies when you're having fun, and Jack Lindsay has been so busy since he moved to Nathalia's Barwo Homestead, that 20 years have disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Jack reached the 20 year milestone recently, making him Barwo Homestead's longest ever resident, and on March 19, the occasion was celebrated with cake, music and a certificate presentation last week.

When Jack joined the Barwo family on March 1, 1999, he changed the face of the place forever.

Before he made the move, Jack was a keen amateur clock restorer, and had an extensive collection that he had to leave behind.

However, he couldn't bring himself to part with his two stately grandfather clocks, and ever since he moved in, one has stood in the lounge and the other in his room.

The other change Jack brought with him is a love for jigsaw puzzles, and he has his own corner of the lounge dedicated to the pursuit, where he can be found every morning diligently working on his latest piece.

Though he does most of the work on the puzzles himself, Jack loves a helper, and residents, staff and visitors alike have all been roped into helping him over the years.

"I do have plenty of helpers, and I like that," he said.

"And they don't hide any of the pieces on me like my brothers used to do when I was a kid."

Though Jack said he couldn't begin to estimate how many puzzles he has completed during his two decades at the homestead, Barwo administrator Linda Walker said it would easily be in the hundreds.

"He has gifted so many to people, he's made sure all of the staff have one, we have some on the walls and he has given so many away to charity as well," she said.

As for the subject matter, Jack isn't fussy, and the completed puzzles currently on display in the lounge have subjects as diverse as Disney



princesses, classic cars and horses.

"People give them to me as gifts, or I get special requests where someone will see one they like and ask me to make it for them," he said.

"I don't care what the picture is, I just enjoy doing them."

As to the secret of completing them, Jack said it all comes down to one word.

"Patience," he said.

"Sometimes they are tricky, but you just have

to be patient and persistent until you get it. I've never given up on a jigsaw puzzle yet."

Whilst the mornings may be for puzzling, the afternoons are about music, with Jack watching his favourite Andre Rieu DVDs.

When he gets the chance, concerts, and meat pies at the Picola footy, are other favourite past times.

Having been a hard working farmer all his life,

A man's got to have a hobby ...
Jack Lindsay working on his latest puzzle at Barwo Homestead.



farming wheat and sheep at Narioka and Shepparton, Jack's retirement is certainly well-earned.

Whether he is tackling a new jigsaw, or watching Andre Rieu, Ms Walker said that Barwo Homestead just wouldn't be the same without Jack.

"Jack has been such an important part of the fabric of Barwo Homestead, and we are so lucky to have him as part of our family."

Easter Sunday and Christmas Day public holidays made into law

EASTER Sunday, Christmas Day and Grand Final Friday are now officially public holidays in Victoria, after the State Government introduced legislation last week to enshrine them into law.

These public holidays are currently gazetted as public holidays each year – writing them into law will make sure they are permanently protected.

Minister for Small Business Adem Somyurek said the new laws will ensure hard-working Victorians get more time to spend with family and friends, and that those who do have to work get paid properly.

"We promised to lock these public holidays in by changing the law, and we are delivering," he said.

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Safe passage ... Cr Kevin Bourke and Aaron Dove are relieved the new footpath is in place.

Safe passage for Aaron

NATHALIA resident Aaron Dove can now confidently perform a task that most others take for granted - walk safely between home and work - thanks to a new strip of footpath near his home.

Aaron, who is completely blind and uses a cane, previously had to navigate what he describes as a 'sheep track' to get from his home on Elizabeth Street to the paved path that crosses the river and connects to town.

"There was never a path there, it was just grass with a track worn through it and it was pretty uneven, so I always had to just wing it really," he said.

The situation was made worse a year or so ago, when an old house that sat beside the first section of track was demolished, along with its front fence. Prior to that, Aaron was able to use that as a guide for the edge of the track.

"Without that, there's no shoreline, so I had no idea where the edge of the grass was and I was really just hoping for the best and trying to maintain a straight line. I did crash into things, like a power pole and a brick pillar, a couple of times, because I didn't realise I'd gone off the track."

"Although the service road here is pretty quiet, the gutters are so deep that you can't use them as a guide to follow, so the track was my only op-

tion."

Aaron, aged 37, works a couple of days a week as a teacher's assistant at Nathalia High School, so being able to get himself to and from town safely is essential.

Moira Shire councillor Kevin Bourke, who is a member of council's disability advisory committee, said that getting the footpath installed had been a priority for the committee.

"There are a number of older residents with mobility issues along Elizabeth Street as well, so although it's not a very long strip of footpath, it was important to make it safe for everyone," he said.

"We have a responsibility to make sure our residents can negotiate their way around safely, and having residents going along the road on scooters because there was no path, and Aaron trying to make his way along a dirt track, wasn't good enough."

Aaron said that although there are a couple of road crossings between his home and work, the most treacherous part for him was always the section nearest his home.

"It's much safer now, and I feel much more confident getting into town. It's a little thing, but it's made a pretty big difference to me."

New website shows land history

THE Victorian Government has launched a new online tool to help Victorians identify and investigate the quality of land and groundwater on their properties.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio said the Victoria Unearthed site would help property owners identify past uses of their land, to help them better understand the history of the site.

Victorians can now enter an address, suburb, town or area into the searchable map and access information related to potential historical or existing contamination for that address.

Victoria Unearthed includes data about land and groundwater that's been brought together in the one place for the first time, delivering new levels of transparency for information relating to past land use.

Data available in Victoria Unearthed includes

details on environmental audits across the state, as well as locations of past and present landfills.

Victoria Unearthed also includes over 160,000 historical business listings from directories dating back to the 1890s - digitised for the first time from hard copies preserved by State Library Victoria.

As well as providing a valuable resource for historians, these historical business listings from old phone books can help Victorians understand more about potential contamination risks posed by past business activities.

Further investigation will be required to determine the precise condition of the land or groundwater on each site.

Victoria Unearthed, and further information on the tool, is available at environment.vic.gov.au/victoria-unearthed.



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Newman Square
8.30 - 9.30am



COBRAM
Multicultural & Youth Festival at Federation Park
11am - 4pm



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MORE THAN JUST A NEWSPAPER

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The Numurkah Leader.

GOULBURN VALLEY FARMERS' AND FRUIT GROWERS' GAZETTE

100 years ago

This week in 1919 ...

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

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

GOULBURN LEVEES SATISFACTORY SOLUTION SOUGHT

The problem of the Goulburn River flood levees is to be taken up by Mr Clark, the Minister of Water Supply, on Thursday, 10th April, at a meeting to be held in Nathalia. It suits one section of the landowners concerned to have the banks removed: in other areas their protection is essential.

Good Fodder.—As showing the value of Soudan grass as a fodder in dry times. Mr H Knight, of Colly Creek, N.S.W. planted an experimental plot just after Christmas. At the end of 38 days, during which time it only received about an inch of rain in scattered showers, the crop showed a growth of 6ft, and dairymen who saw it estimated it would give anything from 4 to 10 tons to the acre. The crop was grown on black soil.

The Unforgiving Boer.—Mrs W.H. Dick, an Australian who returned from South Africa recently, states that the color question is very grave, and that a disloyal white element is also existent. There is a deep feeling of unrest abroad that is very apparent. It is unsafe for any white woman to go outside her home after dark.

Mrs Dick adds that the antipathy towards Australians is still very marked. The only means of obtaining news of Australia is from Mr Gordon Graham, the Commonwealth representative. The public library will not file Australian papers, and the local papers only print abbreviated cables about the Commonwealth.

The Australian soldier (she says) had a very unfair deal passing through South Africa until the Y.M.C.A. established the Anzac rooms. Hotels were always closed when the boys passed through, and they were left to be the victims of the questionable colored girls and their dope dens.

"Bob" Biggar Scores Again.—Among the "cognoscenti" Mr Bob Biggar is referred to as the "bush trainer." But he "gets here," and that perhaps is the main thing; he can afford to laugh at any remarks that may be thrown at him. At the Numurkah St. Patrick's races Mr Biggar won three races with Handy Jack (twice) and Active Lad, and at Finley on Wednesday last he repeated the performance, Active Lad winning twice and Handy Jack once. The double winner started at 5 to 1 on each occasion, and won his first race by 100 yards and second in hollow fashion.

Handy Jack started at 2 to 1 on, and won easily. Sayers had the mount each time and also won on another horse - four winning rides for the day.

False Impression Corrected.—Speaking at the soldiers' welcome on Thursday night, Rev. J. A. Lee made a statement to the effect that a business in which we were formerly interested had "gone bung." There was no foundation for the statement, as Mr Lee well knew, and naturally we were "sore," for there are always people ready to gloat over another's misfortunes, while the many expressions of sympathy we received (some offered genuinely, some with the "tongue in the cheek") did not help us to a more equitable frame of mind. However, Mr Lee on Monday called in and expressed regret that an unfortunate choice of words might have conveyed an impression other than the one intended. We accept the explanation, and are glad not to be forced to publish a paragraph already written giving the statement an emphatic denial.

Motor Cars.—Those desirous of purchasing a motor-car are requested to note that Messrs J. McNamara & Co. have been appointed sole agents for Numurkah and district for the well-known "Dodge," which has electric light, self-starter, and all the most modern improvements.

Toilers Guild—At a meeting of ladies held in the Methodist Church on Monday evening, it was resolved to form a Toilers' Guild, and the following were elected officers:—President, Miss Bessie Trengrove; treasurer, Miss Errey; secretary, Miss Flo. McCleary.

The object is to raise funds for the improvement of the parsonage.



The clinic is open ... Vet Kate Creswell and vet nurse Annie Kirby with two of their Nathalia patients.

The animal doctor is in at Nathalia

ALL creatures great and small now have a new friend at Nathalia, with veterinarian Dr Kate Hodge, who practices under the name Kate Creswell, now in the Nathalia Veterinary Clinic five days a week.

Kate, who is from Numurkah, has over 30 years experience as a vet, treating all types of animals both large and small, 29 of those years spent working in the Goulburn Valley.

Though the clinic has been open for around two years, it has, until recently, been irregularly staffed, and Kate, along with vet nurse Annie, is excited to be changing that.

"It's really exciting to be offering this service to the people and animals of the Nathalia district, and Annie and I have really been enjoying putting our own stamp on the clinic and making it our own," Kate said.

Consultation and minor procedures including de-sexing, abscesses, stitches and some dental work, can be done on site for small animals by appointment, and farm visits are also available.

The clinic is closed on Mondays, but appointments are available between 9am and midday Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, and between 2pm and 5pm on Friday.

As business grows, it is planned that hours will be extended and more services offered.

Nathalia Veterinary Clinic is a satellite of Kyabram Veterinary Clinic, which is part of the Apiam Animal Health network.

When the Nathalia clinic is closed, staff from the Kyabram Clinic will be available to offer emergency services.

Kate said that being part of the

Apiam network gives her access to a wide network of veterinary specialists, along with her other long-established contacts.

"It allows us to provide a really thorough, high quality service to the Nathalia and district community, which we are really excited about," Kate said.

Kate is truly in her element now, doing a job she loves, in a community she loves.

"I remember being asked in grade two what I wanted to be when I grew up, and saying I wanted to be a vet. That never changed, and it's everything I hoped it would be.

"I've always loved Nathalia too. It's a great little community that the people here are really passionate about, and that makes it a pleasure to be here. I know two thirds of the people that walk in the door, which makes it even better."

Kate said that both Annie and her are passionate about helping people by helping their animals, so people can always expect compassionate and enthusiastic care for their pets and livestock.

That care also includes helping reunite lost pets with their owners.

"If someone finds a lost animal without identification, they can bring it in and we can scan it to see if it is micro-chipped."

Kate said she and Annie are keen for people to drop into the clinic, which is in the old ANZ Bank building on Blake Street, and say hello, and that they will be holding an open day soon so the community can see the clinic.

"We're really excited to be part of be part of the Nathalia community, and are looking forward to getting to know all of the people and animals here."

Record numbers using myGov online services

MORE Australians than ever are choosing to do their business with government online, with 15 million myGov accounts now in existence.

More than half a million users are also logging into myGov each day, which represents a 40% increase in the past 12 months.

The number of myGov member services is also growing.

Australians can now use myGov to do business with 12 government agencies, including Medicare, Centrelink, the Child Support Agency, the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Australian Taxation Office.

The introduction of the myGov Access app has

also increased the places where people can use myGov, such as overseas or in remote and isolated locations. The app, which has been downloaded more than 1.1 million times, provides a secure log-in option in areas where phone coverage is limited and people are unable to receive an SMS code to unlock their account.

Minister for Human Services and Digital Transformation, Michael Keenan, said the growing popularity of myGov follows a number of recent improvements that have made the digital portal simpler, faster and more efficient to use.

"The record number of myGov accounts shows

people are embracing the convenience that doing business with government online delivers," Minister Keenan said.

"Many of the things that only a few years ago required a trip to a government office, can now be done quickly and easily from your home computer or your mobile phone at any time of the day or night that suits you."

"The recent addition of the myGov digital assistant 'Charles' is also saving people time, so far answering more than 1.25 million common customer questions that previously would have required a phone call to obtain an answer."

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Three, two, one ride for awareness

BAROOGA'S Paul Quinane is always happy to get home to his family, but that is never more true than on March 21.

March 21 is world down syndrome day, and each year, to celebrate people with down syndrome and raise awareness about the condition, Paul leads a group of cyclists on a two-day 321km round trip - arriving home on March 21.

The numerical significance of March 21, and of the 321km ride, lies in the fact that down syndrome is created when the 21st chromosome splits three ways.

Paul started the 321 ride five years ago to raise awareness about down

syndrome in the local area, recognise people with down syndrome as part of the community, and encourage inclusion.

The ride starts in Barooga, passing through Numurkah, Shepparton, Benalla, Glenrowan, Wangaratta, Chiltern, Rutherford, Bundalong, Yarrawonga, Mulwala and back to Barooga.

The 321 riders group is mostly made up of riders from the Cobram Barooga Cycling Club who relish the chance to get together for a solid two days of riding, as their schedules usually see them riding at different times.

One non-local who made the ride this year was Paul's friend Dennis Ni-

cholson from Melbourne, who said he wanted to support Paul, who did a great job of organising the ride.

Dennis has done the ride before, and was under no illusions as to what to expect, especially as there were a warm couple of days ahead.

"It seems pretty flat in a car, but you'd be surprised how steep it is from Shepparton to Benalla," he said.

"Benalla to Glenrowan is actually the hardest and you've just about had enough by then, but thankfully it's all down hill to Wangaratta after that."

Paul said that he enjoys the chance to spread the word about down syndrome throughout the local area through the ride.

"In the early days after our son Ned, now aged 10, was born there wasn't a lot of support or information about down syndrome regionally.

"It's better now, but it's still good to get out there and remind people that we have people with down syndrome in our community and let other families with a member with down syndrome know where we are, and dispel a few myths for people who don't know much about it."

As well as awareness, the 321 riding team has been raising money for Cobram District Special School and PALS, through its 321 Ride for Down Syndrome facebook page, and hopes to have a couple of thousand dollars

by the end of this week.

When Paul did get home, hot and weary, last Thursday he received an enthusiastic welcome from the whole family, especially Ned.

Paul said that there were a lot of hugs coming his way.

"Ned's smiles are full-body smiles and his hugs are full body hugs, so when he is pleased to see you, you know about it," Paul said.

"Of course, his frowns are full body frowns as well, so if he's not happy, you know that too."

For more information about down syndrome and the 321 ride, or to make a donation, visit the 321 ride for down syndrome facebook page.

Report shows drug and alcohol use higher in regional areas

PEOPLE who live in regional or remote areas use drug and alcohol treatment services at a higher rate than those in major cities, and they generally travel for longer to do so, according to a new report.

The report, released last week by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), shows that around one in every 153 people seek treatment for alcohol and other drugs in regional and remote areas, compared with around one in every 171 people in major cities.

In over a quarter of drug and alcohol treatment episodes involving peo-

ple in regional and remote areas, the client travelled an hour or longer for treatment, compared with around one in 10 clients in major cities.

The report also highlights differences in patterns of drug and alcohol use across areas of Australia.

It shows that people living in regional and remote areas were significantly more likely than their counterparts in major cities to drink alcohol daily - 8% compared with 5%. They were also significantly more likely to drink at a level that put them at long-term risk of harm - 21% compared with 15%.

While the levels of recent drug use

were similar, at around 16% in both major cities and regional and remote areas, the type of illicit drug used varied.

People in major cities were significantly more likely than people in regional and remote areas to have recently used ecstasy and cocaine.

The report presents 'burden of disease' analysis to quantify the impact of drug and alcohol use. This measures the combined impact of dying prematurely, as well as the impact of living with disease.

For people in remote and very remote areas, the burden of disease due

to alcohol use was 2.1 and 2.7 times higher, respectively, than for those in major cities in 2011, AIHW spokesperson Moira Hewitt said.

The report also shows that the rate of drug-induced deaths in 2017 was slightly higher in major cities, compared with regional and remote areas - 7.4 deaths per 100,000 people, compared with 7.2 deaths per 100,000.

However, over the past decade, the rate of drug-induced deaths has increased at a faster rate in regional and remote areas than in major cities. In regional and remote areas the rate increased from 5.1 deaths per 100,000

people in 2008, to 7.2 deaths per 100,000 in 2017, compared with an increase from 6.4 deaths per 100,000 people to 7.4 deaths per 100,000 people in major cities.

Ms Hewitt said that by bringing together data from a range of sources, the report supported better understanding of disparities in alcohol and other drug use and treatment across Australia.

"The report is an important resource to inform policies and programs to reduce the harms that may result from the use of alcohol and other drugs," she said.

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Kris proves sand pit dreams can come true

IT'S not unusual for little boys playing in sandpits with trucks and diggers to dream that one day they will be the one driving the truck.

Whilst most boys move onto other dreams, Kris Lee not only held onto that dream, he made it come true.

Kris now not only owns the trucks and diggers, but plenty of sand - and rocks and granite - as well, and he said it is truly the culmination of a lifelong dream.

"As long as I can remember all I ever wanted to do was own an excavator and road grader," he said.

Kris persevered through high school, which he wasn't a huge fan of, getting his machine 'fix' by helping out Bill Gread at Katunga on the weekends.

After completing year 12 at Numurkah Secondary College, Kris went to work as a trainee with Goulburn Murray Water's maintenance team. Staying

with GMW for 15 months, Kris had plenty of opportunity to learn some new skills and drive some smaller machines, but he longed to get back behind the wheel of the big equipment.

Kris was then approached by Peter Henty, who knew of Kris' passion for, and skills with, earth moving equipment. Peter was thinking about investing in an excavator, but needed a driver, and Kris jumped at the chance.

From there, it was onward and upward for Kris.

In 2009, at the age of 23, Kris bought his own brand new excavator, which was quickly followed by a truck and a prime mover.

Over the past 10 years, Kris has added to his collection with a wide range of heavy equipment, and built a successful business doing a full range of earthworks.

As well as civil jobs, Kris also has had

a hand in re-shaping the landscape for private companies, including Booth Transport, for whom he supplied all of the rock for their Strathmerton site, dug dams, and completed other earthworks.

In 2016, Kris bought Shepparton's Aone landscaping and gardening, and around a year ago opened Numurkah Sand and Gravel to supply the local driver, and Kris jumped at the chance.

Numurkah Sand and Gravel supplies a full range of domestic landscaping materials, including garden topsoil, packing, lawn and washed river sand, compost, mulch, barks and commix.

They also supply white, blue, hill, agg and septic rock, brown rock of various sizes, cream and red granite and washed pebbles.

As you can imagine, Kris is in his element.

"It's taken a while to get here, but

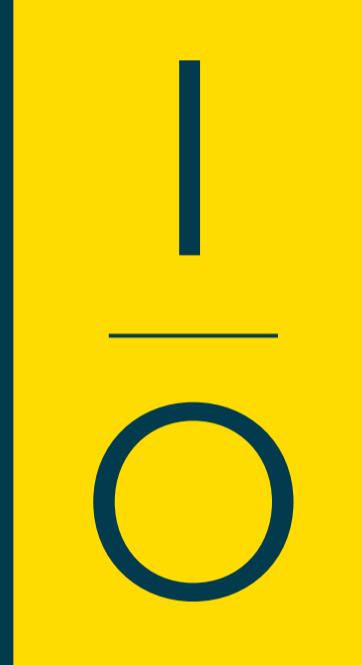


Family business ... Kris' wife Ash and daughter Billie love the earthmoving business as much as he does.

it's what I always wanted and I've just kept working towards it," he said.

"No job's too big or small, we can do them all and I love it."

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This number plate will self destruct

THE Victorian Government is trialling new technology to crack down on number plate theft and cloning - and it has a little dash of Mission Impossible to it.

The new trials aim to improve vehicle identification, and combat number plate theft and misuse.

One technology being trialled is radio frequency identification inside a sticker on a vehicle's front windscreens, which will act as a third number plate.

The sticker self-destructs when removed, enabling police to identify vehicles that are suspected to have a stolen or cloned number plate.

The second technology is dedicated short range communications, a new digital technology that can communicate with road infrastructure and could also be used to identify automated vehicles in the future.

New digital identification methods would make it harder for an offender to hide a vehicle's identity, as the additional identifiers will not match a stolen or cloned number plate.

In the 12 months to September 2018, Victoria Police recorded more than 19,000 incidents of number plate theft.

Stolen and cloned number plates are often used to hide a vehicle's identity when committing other crimes such as ram raids, petrol drive-offs and toll evasion.

The trials are a partnership between VicRoads, Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria Police and La Trobe University

Call to give back to Anzacs

THE Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch is putting out a call to the community ahead of Anzac Day 2019 - can you spare an hour or two for your local RSL, and volunteer to help raise much-needed funds for the 2019 ANZAC Appeal?

Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch President, Mackenzie Craig, said he would love to see new volunteers donate their time in support of the ANZAC Appeal.

"We have set an ambitious fundraising target for this year's ANZAC Appeal and need the support of our communities to reach our goal. We want to get more volunteers out there selling badges and raising much needed funds for veterans," he said.

"We would welcome the support of anyone who has an hour or two of their time to donate to the appeal.

"This could involve helping us pack our ANZAC Appeal badges into trays, dropping badges off at local businesses, or helping us sell badges for an hour or two."

RSL Victoria Appeals Manager, Peter Smith OAM, said you don't need to be a member of your local RSL to volunteer.

"Raising funds for veterans and their families in times of need is what we do, and we welcome businesses, sporting clubs, friends and family to be a part of helping this great cause," he said.

To lend a hand, please call Nathalia-Picola RSL Sub-Branch, Appeals Officer Loula Oliver on 0418 147 977 to register your interest.

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MONICHINO
WINES OF VICTORIA

YOUANMITE ANNUAL HALL BALL
Youanmite Hall, Friday April 26th 2019 8pm
Ian Stewart Music
Star matron and Beau
Lucky door- raffle and dance prize
COUNTRY STYLE SUPPER
ADMISSION
Adult \$12 Student \$5
Inquires Call Ray 0417 113 861

UNITING CHURCH — MONSTER GARAGE SALE and FETE
This Saturday, 30th March, 8.30am to 1pm
at the Uniting Church, Quinn Street
(opposite the Primary School).

MORNING TEA
White Elephants - Wonderful Bargains
Books - Wide selection for collectors and bookworms
DVDs, CDs, cassettes & vinyl - for your collection
Cakes - you'll have to be quick!
Produce - Incl. Jams, jellies, pickles and vegetables.
BBQ - It'll smell good and taste better!
Garden Enhancer - Your plants'll love it!
Plants - Great value for autumn planting.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Health and Human Services

Disability Development Support Workers – Casual Shepparton/Mooroopna/Kialla/Seymour/Alexandra/Numurkah (Goulburn)

We have exciting casual and ongoing opportunities available as a Disability Development Support Worker where you will directly support the wellbeing of people with a disability and provide a range of support services including personal care, health and community experiences empowering them to live a quality life with dignity, respect and social inclusion.

We can offer you great people to work with, comprehensive orientation and induction programs, work-life balance challenging and inspiring work environments and continuous learning and career advancement opportunities.

This is your chance to get an excellent grounding in Disability Services. If you are someone who loves to work with people, has a positive attitude and an ability to adapt to different situations, we want to hear from you!

For further information on the position description and the selection criteria visit; www.careers.vic.gov.au

or contact East Workforce Services on: (03) 9843 6036

Job Reference number: DHHS/CSO/001411773

Applications close: **Midnight Monday 1 April 2019**

SITUATIONS VACANT

Due to continued growth MHA Care are seeking to expand our team of Community Care Workers. We are looking for people who are passionate about providing excellent customer service and are committed to assisting people who are aged or have a disability to maintain their independence at home and in the community.



Employment Opportunity

• Community Care Workers Casual and Part Time possibilities in; Yarrawonga, Cobram, Numurkah.

For more information please go to: www.mhacare.org.au/work-with-us/career-opportunities. A copy of the position description can be found on this website. Applications **must address** key selection criteria and close at midnight Tuesday, 2nd April 2019. Please email applications marked 'Private and Confidential' to hr@mhacare.org.au.

EDUCATION SUPPORT OFFICER

Full time 2019 | ES 2-5B

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Nathalia is seeking a full time Education Support Officer to join their Curriculum Support team.

St Mary of the Angels is a Catholic Secondary College which offers a variety of educational pathways and a learning culture focused on collaborative practice, professional learning teams and enhanced learning opportunities for all students.

Applications should include:

- A cover letter responding to the Role Description
- Curriculum Vitae, including three professional referees.

The Role Description can be obtained from: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/about/employment

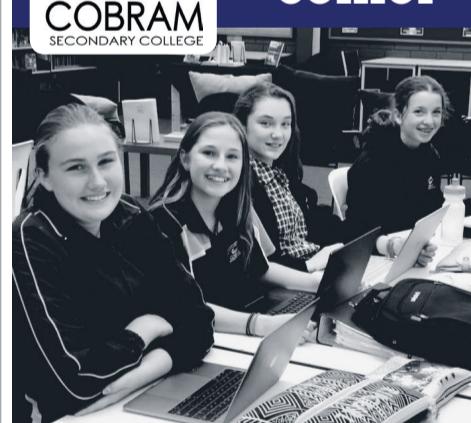
Applications to be emailed to: principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: MONDAY 1ST APRIL, 2019

St Mary of the Angels community promotes the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.



**COBRAM
SECONDARY
COLLEGE**



Business Manager Wanted

Join our staff to manage the finances and facilities of our school.

Essential: experience in finance or business management.

Desirable: qualifications in financial management.

This is a full time, on-going position.

Applications close on 5th April.

For further information visit

recruitment online or contact

Principal Kimberley Tempest

tempest.kimberley.a@edumail.vic.gov.au



An opportunity to join the Moira team and develop your career with an innovative leader committed to delivering excellent services.

Leading Hand (Roads West)

Location: Nathalia, Victoria

Salary: \$65,247.00 per annum + 9.5% Superannuation

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

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

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

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1998 EL Ford Falcon Futura sedan, white. 252,000 kms. Rego: PYK 187. Comes with roadworthy certificate. \$2,500. Ph: Brad 0437 800 458.

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IN MEMORIAM

MAPLETOFT —
Bruce Robert.
1927 - 2007
Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather.

MAPLETOFT —
Trevor Bruce.
1958 - 2009.
Dearly loved Son, brother and uncle.

Treasured memories are ours to keep.

MAPLETOFT —
Bruce Robert.
20.04.27 - 21.03.07
In loving memory of a very special dad and grandpa.
Love Trevor (dec.), Helen, Hanna, Ross, Iain and Adele.

MAPLETOFT —
Trevor Bruce.
3.5.1958 - 29.3.2009
Ten years have passed, since you left us but I see a reflection of you in our children, so you are with me each day. In my heart you will always stay, loved and remembered each and every day.
Love Helen

MAPLETOFT —
Trevor Bruce.
It's not what we write, It's not what we say, It's how we remember you, In our own special way.
Love Hannah, Ross, Iain and Adele

DEATHS

FREEMAN — William Robert "Bob" 8.9.1925 ~ 23.3.2019

Late of Numurkah, formerly of Yalca North. Passed away peacefully at Karinya, Numurkah.

Our loving Husband, Dad and Pa, dearly loved by his wife Norma, his children and their partners Kaye and Wayne (Chambers); Trevor; Lynette and Peter (Sprunt); his 7 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren and special friend Sandra.

*His Weary Days Are Over
Resting Peacefully*

A special smile.
A special face.
A special someone.
I can't replace.

From your loving wife of 70 years, Norma xx

We can remember Dad/Pa and only that he has gone
Or we can cherish the memory and let it live on
We can cry and close our mind, be empty and turn our back.
Or we can do what he'd want, smile, open our eyes, love and go on.

Dearly loved by Kaye & Wayne; Jacinta, Jason, Will, Max & Jorge; Amanda & Jason.

This day is remembered

No words needed

And quietly kept.

Loved father of Trevor, Pa of Kellie, Steve, Cindy and their partners and his 5 Great Grandchildren

Deep in our hearts a memory is kept, Of a loving Father & Pa

We will never forget.

Love Lyn, Peter, Tyler & Georgia, Nigel (dec.) & Kirby

BIRTHS

BRENNAN —
HARRIS .

Rick and Katie are prud to announce the safe arrival of

**FRASER REID
BRENNAN**

Little brother for Indi, Campbell and Violet.

BRENNAN —
HARRIS .

The Brennan and Harris families would like to congratulate Rick, Katie, Indi, Campbell and Violet on the safe arrival of Fraser.

KNOPP — Madison Ruby.

Our hearts are broken. Our beautiful talented niece we can't imagine our lives without you.

Aunty Judy and Uncle Kevin

DEATHS

OSWALD — Lancelot William "Lance"

Late of Strathmerton. Passed away peacefully, with his loving family by his side on March 20, 2019 at Warringal Private Hospital, aged 82 years.

Our loving husband, Dad and Pa, dearly loved by his wife Dot, his children and their partners Lance (Bomber) and Rosie; Peter and Judi; Susan and Bill (Sims), his grandchildren Lance & Anna; Scott & Jackie; Kerry and Shan; Marcus and Kim; Haiden & Danni; Bianca and Luke; Jess & Aaron; Billy and Lauren and Great Pa to 10.5

*Loving Memories
Go Saints*

A special smile.
A special face.
A special someone.
I can't replace.

From your loving wife of 62 years, Dot xx

A wonderful Father and Pa laid to rest, For each of us he did his best. He simply lived for those he loved, And those he loved remember.

*So dearly loved
So sadly missed*

Love Lance & Rosie; Lance, Anna & .5; Scott & Jackie; Kerry, Shan, Jayden, Codey & Kade; Marcus, Kim, River, Isaac and Ivy.

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

Love Peter & Judi; Haiden, Danni, Emmi and Molly; Bianca; and Luke.

To those who have a father, Treasure and love him with care, For you will never know the heartache, 'Til you look and find he's not there.

Love Sue and Billy; Jess & Aaron; Billy, Lauren, William & Sebastian.



MEETINGS

**NUMURKAH GOLF
AND BOWLS CLUB**
BOWLS
**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

Thursday 28th
March
5:30pm
at the Club.

GARAGE SALES

**Nathalia
Town
Garage
Sale**

Sunday March 31st
8-2pm
Collect your map from 6 Railway St Nathalia on the day for a gold coin donation
All profits will be donated to the Nathalia Cert Team

DEATHS

OWEN — Eileen Mary

30.7.1926 - 25.3.2019

Passed away peacefully at Karinya. Much loved wife of Tom (dec.). Loved mother of Dianne, Spot, Ronny and Allan. Mother-in-law of Steve, Jim and Julie. Treasured Nan of Rick, Melinda, Sharlene, Kim (dec.), and Royce. Great Nan of Matty, Mitchell, Riley, Georgia and Holly.

Always in our hearts

Passed away with her loving daughter Spot by her side.

It's not what we write,
It's not what we say,

It's how we remember you in our own special way

Lovingly remembered by your daughter Dianne and Stephen.

Grandchildren Rick, Melinda, Sharlene and their partners
Great grandchildren Matt, Mitch, Riley, Georgia and Holly

Mum, you could brighten any room. You leave an incredible hole in the lives of many. Reunited with Tom and Kim.

Love always

Spot and Jim

Loved mother of Ronny and loving Nana of Royce.

Sadly missed but forever in our hearts.

You have always been a beautiful mother, and hold many special memories for us.

Allan, Julie and Andrew.

FUNERAL NOTICES

FREEMAN —

The Funeral for Mr. William Robert "Bob" Freeman will be arriving at the Nathalia Lawn Cemetery, cnr Cemetery Rd., & Garonne St., Nathalia tomorrow, THURSDAY, March 28, 2019 for a Graveside Service to celebrate his life, commencing at 11am.

Peter Cox & Sons
Numurkah & Dist.
03 5862 3047

Member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association

OSWALD — The Funeral for the late Mr. Lancelot William "Lance" Oswald will be held at the Cobram Lawn Cemetery, Cemetery Road Cobram East on FRIDAY, March 29, 2019 for a Graveside Service to celebrate his life commencing at 11 a.m.

Peter Cox & Sons
Numurkah & Dist.
03 5862 3047

Member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association

OWEN — The funeral service to celebrate the life of Mrs Eileen Owen will be held at the RSL Hall, Saxton Street, Numurkah on Friday, March 29, 2019, commencing at 11am, followed by interment at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery.

Heritage Park Funerals
Numurkah - Nathalia & District
5862 2332



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Funeral Directors P/L

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PETER KRAKE**



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

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TROPHIES & ENGRAVING
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03 5862 1034

Pauline takes shirt

by "The Shankster"

A GOOD field of women took to the Numurkah golf course on Saturday, although forecasts of a warm day had most teeing off during the morning.

Pauline Davies played a consistent round of good golf to come in with the day's best score of 39 stableford points, to win the Meat on Melville shirt for the second round of the stableford trophy event.

Bev Hutchins continued her inconsistent form, coming in with 37 points to finish runner-up, followed by Helen Schmedje on 36, Merren Carr and Norma Cullum on 35, and Nola Dalton and Julie Hannaford on 34 points.

All four nearest the pin balls were won this week, for a change. Pauline won the fourth, Tracey Clouston won on the seventh, Bev got onto the 15th green, and Merren Carr had a great shot to the 18th green.

The club held its Ray Dobson Real Estate fourball stroke event on Monday, when a terrific field of 56 players took to the course, in less than ideal conditions.

Despite the cold wind blowing, the scores brought in were terrific.

Shireen Moore and Lynley Eadie from Shepparton won the day's event with a 65 nett, two shots clear of the runners-up.

Nathalia golfers Lauris Ashton and Alison Keogh finished in second place, with 67 nett, winning a countback from former local Margaret Walker, and Christine Molony from Yarrawonga.

Due to a large group heading to the hills to play the Great Alpine Challenge over three

days last week, only a very small number of players were out on Wednesday for a stableford round.

Mavis Birrell took the win with a very nice score of 37 points, that included a penalty in the dam on the sixth hole.

Kath Hepworth won a countback on 34 points to finish runner-up, and that's where the prize winners ended, no-one managing to get onto either of the nearest the pin holes.

The Numurkah girls at the Great Alpine Challenge represented their club well, tasting a bit of success.

Julie Daniel was runner-up in A grade on day one, at Wangaratta, and Margot McGrath enjoyed the Bright course on day two to win B grade. Liz Dell won B grade on the third day, at Myrtleford, and Bev McIntosh finished second in A grade.

Margot played consistently well over the three days to win the overall event in B grade, while Bev finished runner-up in A grade.

The field for Thursday's chick run was only marginally better, as the hillbillies made their way home from Bright.

Lorraine Milner won the day's event with 37 nett, ahead of Marion Tobin on 40 nett. Lorraine also won nearest the pin on the 18th hole.

With only two chick runs left to play, Bev Hutchins has taken the lead in the season points trophy, with some good scores to finish the season.

Helen Pickersgill got the season off to a flyer, and has led all the way through, until

now, currently sitting in second place on 46 points, two behind Bev.

Nola Dalton is the only other player in the forties, with 41.

The final nine hole event will be played next Thursday, followed by presentation dinner in the club, from 7pm.

Today's golf will be the qualifying round of the fourball knockout, a par round. Saturday will also be a fourball, but in the stableford format, and next Wednesday will be the annual gong day challenge against Nathalia, this year at Nathalia.



Putt, putt ... Pauline Davies is generally a consistent putter, and must have putted well on Saturday to come in with 39 points.

Locals feature at Euroa

TWO Numurkah golfers took out second placings with 128 players set up at the Euroa Golf Club on Monday for the Goulburn Valley Veteran Golfers Association's monthly event.

Steve Piggott's 39 points saw him finish runner-up to Seymour's John Boruch, who returned 40 points, in A grade.

Darryl Sheridan had a terrific score of 41 points, but finished a point behind Mooroopna's Laurie Stewart for the B grade win.

C grade winner was Peter Lahiff from Mooroopna, with 41 points, relegating Parklands' Roden Brady into second place with 40 points.

The 18th hole set at about 124 metres provided the nearest the pin target, and another two locals took home balls in A and B grades.

Bill Green won the A grade ball, while Denis Prosser had the best shot of the B graders. Kialla's Brian Reiners won the C grade ball.

The ball run down included Peter Beckton, Eric Sellinger, Neville Winch, Peter Eade, Vin Edwards, Peter Curtis, Bernard O'Hare, Neil Hutchins, John Keller, Philip Jarvis, John Bray, Phillip Blair, Len Adams, Ken Harris, Tony Borelli, Geoff Kittley, Alan Newby, Geoff Hamill, Paul Jones, Leo Hartup, Bill Murphy, Brian Johnson, Ray Winnell, Walter Tink, Ian Clarke (Kialla), Gary Hopcraft, Robert Frame, Barry Webber, Ron Dixon, Barry Graham, John Neale, Ray Gourlay and Jim Rae.

There are only a few places left in the team for the intra-zone challenge at Benalla on May 13. This event is restricted to 36 players from each district of Dalhousie, Goulburn Valley and North East. There is no handicap restriction and the usual 9.30am assembly.

The association's next event will be at Valley View Golf Club, Kyabram, on Monday, April 15, 9.30am assembly, for a 10am hit off.

Brad has a day out

by "Archie Bunker"

BRAD Tweed and Steve Piggott both had great days on the Numurkah golf course on Saturday, both recording fantastic scores of 43 stableford points.

But it was Brad who won the sponsor's shirt in a countback for the Meat on Melville second round of the stableford trophy event.

Fortunately for Steve, the two were in different divisions, Brad winning B grade, and Steve taking out A grade.

Peter Cowan finished runner-up in B grade with 41 points, the same score returned by Mark Hegarty to finish in second place in A grade.

Peter has himself a new driver, which must be making a difference to his game.

Mark began his round with a few wayward drives, but finally found his way on the par five sixth hole. A great drive and an eight iron to the green that landed about eight feet from the hole, saw him sink his putt to record a score-boosting eagle.

Geoff Partington and Chris O'Dwyer headed the list of ball winners, with 40 points, ahead of Rob Sutton and Graeme Sprunt on 39, and Leigh Robertson and Peter Stonehouse on 38.

Visitor Paul McGowan took out nearest the pin on the fourth hole, Hugh Gunn had the best shot to the seventh hole, no-one managed to get onto the 15th green, and Graeme Sprunt played a ripper to the 18th.

Bob I'Anson won the Mickey Mouse ears for his five shanks and a four putt.

This Saturday's golf will be a fourball stableford event, so players will need to find a partner, and then get out on the course for a little fun.



Top score ... Sam Robertson was in top form last Thursday, coming in with a terrific 43 points.

Sam's big day out

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

LONG hitting Sam Robertson accumulated 43 stableford points to have a clear win over the rest of the 40-strong field in last Thursday's mid-week competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

Runner-up to Sam was Martin Daniel, who recorded a more than respectable points total of 41.

Overall scoring was quite high, with a quarter of the field playing to their handicap or better.

The following players' scores earned them a club ball: Peter Cowan 39, Ron Smith 38, John McHale and Chris Hicks 37, Neil Hutchins, Leigh Robertson and Bill Padgett 36, Steve Piggott and Neville Smith 34, Bruce Collins, Willy Mason, Bill Green and Les Summerville all 33.

John 'Vesuvius' Trimble won the tin of boiled lollies for coming in at the tail of the field with a score of 25 points.

Bill Padgett won the Mickey Mouse

ears again, this time for having a 'windy' that was so forceful he lost his footing and landed face down on terra firma!

Darryl Sheridan's accuracy on the 169 metre fourth hole won him a ball from the GMCU for being nearest the pin. Steve Piggott won the players' sweep money for a similar effort on the seventh, John McHale scored an 'eagle' with his second shot on the 14th to take Roy and Dennis' sponsored ball, Frank Houlihan's dodgy back had loosened up enough to place his tee shot closest on the 15th and take 'Doggy' Sprunt's sponsorship, while once again Ramon Falla snaffled the Pruden Carpentry ball on offer for nearest on the 18th.

If you would like to join us this Thursday, March 28, assemble at 8.30am for a 9 o'clock hit off. Visitors and guests are most welcome.

Any readers who see Bill Padgett, please remind him that the hit off time does not change till April 4.

Summer SPORT scoreboard

Cricket

CRICKET SHEPPARTON

Grand finals - Two day game

A GRADE

KATANDRA It NUMURKAH

Toss won by Katandra, bowled first

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Grandell b C Hickford 8
J Smith b C Hickford 13
W Arnel c LD Nolan b S Richardson 7
SE Downie c LD Nolan b C Hickford 98
M Eckard lbw b S Richardson 36
L Gledhill c C Hickford b S Richardson 40
J Lau c LD Nolan b C Hickford 34
T Arnel b C Hickford 9
T Braybon run out (A Riordan, LD Nolan) 23
M Grandell run out (A Riordan, M Black (sub)) 1
M Cline not out 2
Extras (nb 4, w 0, b 2, lb 5) 11
Total 282
Overs 100.0
FOW: 22 (J Smith) 23 (D Grandell) 67 (W Arnel) 145 (M Eckard) 196 (SE Downie) 239 (L Gledhill) 255 (J Lau) 256 (T Arnel) 268 (M Grandell) 282 (T Braybon)
Bowling: C Hickford 25.0 4 5 73; H Sirett 9.0 1 0 37; S Richardson 24.0 5 3 67; A Riordan 12.0 2 0 33; RW Shannon 9.0 2 0 29; JM Wright 21.0 8 0 36.

KATANDRA - 1ST INNINGS

B Clurey c J Smith b SE Downie 18
LD Nolan b M Cline 3
S Richardson b SE Downie 59
A Riordan lbw b M Cline 10
JM Wright c M Grandell b M Eckard 73
H Sirett st J Smith b M Eckard 15
RJ Ireland not out 7
B Black st J Smith b M Eckard 5
NJ Hickey c L Gledhill b SE Downie 1
C Hickford c T Braybon b M Eckard 1
RW Shannon c T Arnel b SE Downie 1
Extras (nb 2, w 1, b 2, lb 7) 12
Total 205
Overs 88.4
FOW: 20 (LD Nolan) 43 (B Clurey) 66 (A Riordan) 166 (JM Wright) 190 (H Sirett) 190 (S Richardson) 201 (B Black) 202 (NJ Hickey) 203 (C Hickford) 205 (RW Shannon)
Bowling: T Arnel 10.0 1 0 33; M Cline 11.0 4 2 20; M Eckard 21.0 4 4 48; SE Downie 28.4 6 4 55; L Gledhill 18.0 6 0 40.

B GRADE

NUMURKAH It KYABRAM

Toss won by Numurkah, batted first

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

T Woods b K Singh 53
M Price c K Singh b N Ryan 61

J Pruden c K Singh b CD Hawes 9

K Jackson lbw b K Singh 0
D Cox lbw b K Singh 0
A Cline run out (CD Hawes, J Leocata) 46
S Dawson b K Singh 25
B Smith c J Leocata b CD Hawes 0
S Lewis st J Leocata b K Singh 10
M Martin not out 3
RL Lacuin run out (K Singh) 3
Extras (nb 1, w 1, b 2, lb 4) 8
Total 218
Overs 99.4
FOW: 81 (T Woods) 117 (J Pruden) 118 (K Jackson) 118 (D Cox) 130 (M Price) 192 (A Cline) 193 (B Smith) 208 (S Lewis) 215 (S Dawson) 218 (RL Lacuin)
Bowling: CD Hawes 30.9 2 60; DJ Parsons 5.0 1 0 24; N Ryan 7.0 2 1 17; N Chambers 9.0 2 0 19; K Singh 38.4 13 5 75; J Parsons 10.0 4 0 17.
KYABRAM - 1ST INNINGS
PM Parsons lbw b M Martin 12
N Pell not out 126
PD Parsons not out 74
Extras (nb 1, w 1, b 2, lb 3) 7
Total 1/219
Overs 60.5
FOW: 37 (PM Parsons)
Bowling: M Martin 15.0 5 1 43; B Smith 9.0 1 0 33; A Cline 10.0 0 49; RL Lacuin 19.0 5 0 47; D Cox 1.0 0 9; J Pruden 2.0 0 0 5; S Dawson 0.5 0 0 6; S Lewis 4.0 0 0 22.

D GRADE

NUMURKAH def INVERGORDON

Toss won by Numurkah, batted first

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Hughes c & b T Murdoch 17
J Morris b T Murdoch 50
D Potts c & b T Murdoch 5
J Verhoeven b T Murdoch 0
D Eborn b T Murdoch 2
B O'Dwyer run out 1
D Roberts c & b J Caldera 9
H Verhoeven run out 2
B Roberts c & b T Murdoch 1
S Morris not out 7
R Wallace not out 7
Extras (nb 1, w 0, b 0, lb 7) 8
Total 9/109 (cc)
Overs 80.0
FOW: 48 (D Hughes) 65 (D Potts) 67 (J Verhoeven) 69 (D Eborn) 74 (B O'Dwyer) 91 (J Morris) 91 (D Roberts) 92 (B Roberts) 95 (H Verhoeven)
Bowling
: HI Green 18.0 9 0 16; B Moor 6.0 4 0 2; J Caldera 34.0 12 1 51; TI Murdoch 22.0 6 6 33.
1ST INNINGS - INVERGORDON
H Green b B. Roberts 0
P Riordan c b J Verhoeven 11
B Bagley c B Roberts 0
A Cormican lbw J Verhoeven 1
T Murdoch c J Verhoeven 2
R Wallace not out 0
Extras 17
TOTAL 90
FOW: 4 (J Morris) 11 (D Hughes) 24 (S Morris) 60 (D Eborn) 60 (D Potts) 64 (J Verhoeven) 83 (R Roberts) 86 (B O'Dwyer) 86 (B Roberts).

A O'Connor lbw J Verhoeven 0

B Moor b J Verhoeven 0

C James c, b B O'Dwyer 3

B James c, b B O'Dwyer 3

D Bailey b B O'Dwyer 4

J Caldera not out 0

Extras 8

TOTAL 32

FOW: 0 (H Green) 4 (B Bagley) 12 (P Riordan) 15

(A Cormican) 15 (A O'Connor) 17 (B Moor) 21 (T Murdoch) 21 (C James) 31 (D Bagley) 32 (B James).

Bowling: B Roberts 6 4 3, J Verhoeven 10 5 5 14, B O'Dwyer 4 2 2 3 7.

2ND INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Hughes b J Green 4

J Morris b T Murdoch 0

S Morris c A Cormican 7

D Eborn c T Murdoch 31

D Roberts c & b T Murdoch 16

D Potts c, b T Murdoch 0

J Verhoeven c R Riordan b T Murdoch 0

B O'Dwyer c, b T Murdoch 12

H Verhoeven b P Riordan 3

B Roberts c, b T Murdoch 0

R Wallace not out 0

Extras 17

TOTAL 90

FOW: 4 (J Morris) 11 (D Hughes) 24 (S Morris) 60

(D Eborn) 60 (D Potts) 64 (J Verhoeven) 83 (R Roberts) 86 (B O'Dwyer)

HOW COULD WE FORGET DESSIE?

by Bev Hutchins

A LITTLE communication breakdown saw Foodworks inadvertently left out of our first AFL tipping page for the 2019 season, despite Dave Jenkins being eager to take part and see if he can once again show the dominance he displayed in our first competition back in

2016.

So Dave did his tipping and brought them over well and truly ahead of last Thursday's blockbuster, won by the Richmond Tigers over Carlton (of course - go Tiges).

So, Dave (or Dessie as he is more commonly known) goes into round two with a first

round score of five, just one behind the leader, Shamrock's Chris O'Dwyer.

It was an interesting round, with many tipsters winning just one from six games, going into Sunday's matches.

O'Dwyer, Numurkah Hotel's John Schaaf, GrainCorp's Troy Knox and Nu-Genes' Den-

is Brooks were the only ones to have picked three winners to that point.

My favourites were doing exceptionally well at that stage ... until Sunday, when none of them got up.

Still, I'm happy with my score of five for the round.

Numurkah LEADER

2019 AFL BUSINESS TIPPING COMPETITION

TOP 12 LEADERBOARD

Last week's winner
Shamrock

1. Shamrock	7. MV Rural & Plumbing
2. McNamaras	8. MG Trading
3. Num Hotel	9. Nu-Genes
4. Foodworks	10. Shepp City Fencing
5. Plumbtec	11. GrainCorp
6. Num Furniture	12. Ultimate Auto

ROUND TWO

Richmond vs. Collingwood (MCG) (N)
Sydney Swans vs. Adelaide Crows (SCG) (N)
Essendon vs. St Kilda (MRVL) (T)
Port Adelaide vs. Carlton (AO) (T)

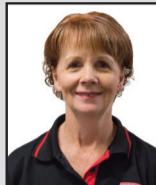
Geelong Cats vs. Melbourne (GMHBA) (N)
West Coast Eagles vs. GWS GIANTS (OS) (N)
North Melbourne vs. Brisbane Lions (MRVL)
Hawthorn vs. Western Bulldogs (MCG)
Gold Coast SUNS vs. Fremantle (MS) (T)

BEV'S FAVOURITES

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 Brisbane
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Carlton	9 Gold Coast
5 Geelong	

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

Last week 5 Total 5



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Lee Agnew

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 4 Total 4



Kylie Jackson

1 Richmond	6 GWS
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 5 Total 5



Chris O'Dwyer

1 Richmond	6 GWS
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 6 Total 6



Roger Seiter

1 Collingwood	6 West Coast
2 Adelaide	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 0 Total 0



Tom Buzzia

1 Collingwood	6 GWS
2 Sydney	7 Brisbane
3 Essendon	8 Bulldogs
4 Carlton	9 Fremantle
5 Melbourne	

Last week 4 Total 4



Peter Newby

1 Collingwood	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 melbourne	

Last week 3 Total 3



John Beitzel

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 4 Total 4



the Bottle-O

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Adelaide	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 3 Total 3



Katunga Fresh

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 Brisbane
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 3 Total 3



round score of five, just one behind the leader, Shamrock's Chris O'Dwyer.

It was an interesting round, with many tipsters winning just one from six games, going into Sunday's matches.

O'Dwyer, Numurkah Hotel's John Schaaf, GrainCorp's Troy Knox and Nu-Genes' Den-

is Brooks were the only ones to have picked three winners to that point.

My favourites were doing exceptionally well at that stage ... until Sunday, when none of them got up.

Still, I'm happy with my score of five for the round.

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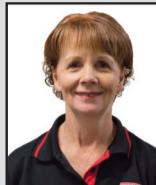
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Dave Jenkins

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Gold Coast
5 Geelong	

Last week 5 Total 5



Danni Woolley

1 Richmond	6 GWS
2 Sydney	7 Brisbane
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 4 Total 4



Kevin Morland

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Adelaide	7 Brisbane
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 3 Total 3



John Schaaf

1 Collingwood	6 West Coast
2 Adelaide	7 North Melb
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 5 Total 5



David Ludington

1 Richmond	6 GWS
2 Adelaide	7 Brisbane
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 4 Total 4



Nathan Morris

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

Last week 3 Total 3



Troy Knox

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 Brisbane
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Melbourne	

Last week 4 Total 4



Denis Brooks

1 Richmond	6 GWS
2 Adelaide	7 Brisbane
3 St Kilda	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide	9 Fremantle
5 Geelong	

Last week 4 Total 4



Liam Gledhill

1 Richmond	6 West Coast
2 Sydney	7 North Melb
3 Essendon	8 Hawthorn
4 Port Adelaide</td	

Kevin wins three in a row



division one final was his wife Joan, while Lois Lowe and the other Joan Hansen, Joan T. gave up their time to referee both games.

Kevin will now play in the GVCA championships at Rich River next Thursday, April 4.

Louise Vale won the club division two association croquet championship and will play at Shepparton in the GVCA championships on March 27 and 28.

Louise finished runner-up at Swan Hill country week recently and club members are hoping her good form continues.

Club members have been very busy travelling around the area.

Glenys and Ian Londey travelled to Boort last weekend to play in that club's annual handicap tournament, both acquitted themselves very well.

Glenys finished runner-up in division two doubles, and Ian was runner-up in singles in the same division.

Four members also travelled to Wangaratta last Tuesday. Ian Londey had another good day, winning the jump shots 'jump off'.

Only a small field of 12 took to the courts for last

KEVIN Hansen was over the moon to win his third Numurkah Croquet Club championship, but may have faced a bit of cold shoulder at home.

The opponent he beat 7-4, 7-4 in the golf croquet

Tuesday's social day, with some playing at Wangaratta, and the persistent hot weather deterring a number of others.

Kevin Hansen had another win, with three wins 23 hoops. He was also the only one to make a successful jump shot, scoring two for the day.

Runner-up was Chris Sharp with 2/20, followed closely by Barb McKeown with 2/19.

The club has also held its 2019 annual meeting re-electing several office bearers.

David Geddes is again club president, assisted by Laurus Hinchcliffe, and Marie Kempton as secretary. Joan T. Hansen is again the catering officer.

Lyn Hughes is new to the position of treasurer, and Barb McKeown has joined the committee.

Kevin Hansen and Lea Grant will be the GVCA delegates for the coming season.

Lea was appointed to the position of association captain, but no golf croquet captain has yet been appointed.

Bev returns to the bench

BEV Braybon returned to shoot benchrest at Numurkah Small Bore Club last Thursday night, scoring 196.3 for the night.

Thursday was the Fritz Schmidt handicap night, and Glen Miles led with 200.2 in the 50 metre prone. Lou Cook topped the 20 metre benchrest with 200.4.

Scores for 20 metre benchrest were: L. Cook 196.4, B. Braybon 196.3, E. Ryan 178.1.

20 metre prone: H. O'Brien 91.3 88.1 179.4, W. Willsher 78.1 74.0 152.1.

50 metre benchrest : J. Matys 196.8.

50m prone: G. Braybon 98.5 97.3

195.8, A. Hill 97.5, 97.3 194.8; L.

Braybon 96.2 97.4 193.6, T. Braybon 96.2 95.4 191.6; B. Sneddon 98.3

93.2 191.5, R. Hill 94.2 96.3 190.5;

S. Rosemeier 93.3 92.3 185.6, G.

Miles 91.1 94.1 185.2; D. Cook 91.3

92.2 183.5, J. Cook 89.0 91.1 180.1;

A. Gibbon 89.0 89.1 178.1, A. Lee

81.1 89.0 170.1; T. Lee 68.0 76.1

144.1.

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

Jazzin' it up

NUMURKAH tasted further grand final success with both the under 18s and under 16s Numurkah Jazz claiming premiership wins in the Greater Shepparton Basketball Association. The under 18s side strode to a flag after beating Nathalia 29-17.

The Jazz's ability to make the most of its shots beyond the arc proved to be vital, especially with Nathalia unable to make a single three-point shot.

Matthew Mansfield was the dead-eye from the deep, making all three of his side's three pointers in the 12-point win.

In the under 16s clash, the Jazz replicated the under 18s win with a 12-point triumph over Mooroopna. The 33-20 win was brought about by the Jazz's ability to dominate in the paint, making 15 two-point shots in comparison to Mooroopna's five.

The Cats may have landed three three-pointers while Numurkah couldn't manage one, but it didn't matter in the end as the Jazz ran away with a comfortable win.

Numurkah's Matt Hodgson led the scoring with 11, while Kye Warrin was also impressive with 10.

Numurkah LEADER

MFL DRAW - 2019

Season Opener - March 30

Finley v Rumbalara (N)

Round 1 - April 6 & 7

Moama v Tongala
Deniliquin v Echuca United
Rumbalara v Congupna
Katandra v Barooga
Cobram v Nathalia
Tungamah v Mulwala (S)
Numurkah v Finley (S)

Round 2 - April 13

Tongala v Numurkah
Echuca United v Rumbalara
Mulwala v Katandra
Congupna v Deniliquin
Barooga v Tungamah
Nathalia v Moama
Finley v Cobram (N)

Round 3 - Easter - Apr 19 & 20

Moama v Echuca United
Tongala v Nathalia
Mulwala v Congupna
Deniliquin v Finley
Numurkah v Rumbalara
Tungamah v Katandra (Mulwala) (Sat)
Cobram v Barooga (Sat)

Round 4 - April 27 & 28

Echuca United v Tongala
Congupna v Moama
Rumbalara v Cobram
Katandra v Deniliquin
Barooga v Mulwala
Finley v Tungamah (N)
Nathalia v Numurkah (S)

Round 5 - May 4

Tungamah v Rumbalara
Deniliquin v Barooga
Tongala v Congupna
Cobram v Katandra
Moama v Finley
Nathalia v Mulwala
Numurkah v Echuca United

Round 6 - May 11

Congupna v Tungamah
Barooga v Moama
Rumbalara v Deniliquin
Katandra v Tongala
Finley v Nathalia
Mulwala v Numurkah
Echuca United v Cobram

Interleague - May 18

Murray v Wimmera

Round 7 - May 25

Moama v Mulwala
Deniliquin v Tungamah
Katandra v Echuca United
Nathalia v Barooga
Numurkah v Congupna
Cobram v Tongala

FINALS

August 31 and September 1
September 7 and 8
September 14 and 15
GRAND FINAL September 21

Round 8 - June 1

Finley v Katandra
Mulwala v Echuca United
Tungamah v Cobram
Moama v Deniliquin
Congupna v Nathalia
Barooga v Numurkah
Tongala v Rumbalara

Round 9 - June 8

Deniliquin v Tongala
Cobram v Mulwala
Nathalia v Tungamah
Echuca United v Moama
Katandra v Congupna
Rumbalara v Numurkah
Finley v Barooga

Round 10 - June 15 & 16

Tongala v Finley
Congupna v Cobram
Mulwala v Deniliquin
Barooga v Katandra
Moama v Rumbalara
Tungamah v Echuca United
Numurkah v Nathalia (S)

Round 11 - June 22

Echuca United v Congupna
Deniliquin v Numurkah
Finley v Mulwala
Cobram v Moama
Rumbalara v Barooga
Tungamah v Tongala
Katandra v Nathalia

Round 12 - June 29

Nathalia v Rumbalara
Deniliquin v Katandra
Barooga v Echuca United
Moama v Tungamah
Numurkah v Cobram
Congupna v Finley
Tongala v Mulwala

Round 13 - July 6

Mulwala v Rumbalara
Katandra v Numurkah
Cobram v Congupna
Echuca United v Deniliquin
Tongala v Moama
Barooga v Nathalia
Tungamah v Finley

General bye - July 13

Vic Country v Metro

Round 14 - July 20

Nathalia v Echuca United
Numurkah v Moama
Congupna v Tongala
Rumbalara v Katandra
Cobram v Tungamah
Finley v Deniliquin
Mulwala v Barooga

Round 15 - July 27

Echuca United v Finley
Moama v Nathalia
Tungamah v Numurkah
Deniliquin v Cobram
Katandra v Mulwala
Congupna v Rumbalara
Tongala v Barooga

Round 16 (Split) - August 3

Mulwala v Tungamah
Finley v Tongala
Nathalia v Congupna
Echuca United v Katandra

Round 16 (Split) - August 10

Numurkah v Deniliquin
Rumbalara v Moama
Barooga v Cobram

Round 17 - August 17

Congupna v Katandra
Deniliquin v Nathalia
Cobram v Finley
Numurkah v Mulwala
Tongala v Echuca United
Moama v Barooga
Rumbalara v Tungamah

Round 18 - August 24

Barooga v Congupna
Mulwala v Cobram
Echuca United v Numurkah
Nathalia v Tongala
Rumbalara v Finley
Tungamah v Deniliquin
Katandra v Moama

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Ravens pull off coup

by "Winnie Free"

THE most amazing and unexpected flag success for the Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday would have to undoubtedly be the effort of the GM3 open Ravens who, four weeks ago, were not even on the radar to play finals, let alone challenge for the title.

As documented in previous bulletins, they scraped into the finals by 0.2 of 1% and then won both knockout finals last weekend before tackling ladder leader Kyabram Bombers in the grand final on Saturday.

Not content with just making the big dance, the Ravens went on the attack from the get go.

Cathy Brown and Lochie O'Brien jumped out of the blocks with an 8-0 win to give the young team some real self belief that they could indeed pull off a fairytale ending to the season.

Cathy then joined young Hannah O'Brien for a cracking 8-2 win and, when Lochie and Ella Sprunt got up by the same margin, the Ravenettes had cut a swathe through the Ky Bombers

to be 20 games to the good.

However, winning a flag is never as easy as that, and the Kyabram team hit back hard, winning the three men's doubles sets four, three and one, to leave the Ravens clinging to a precarious four game lead as they retired to the pavilion for afternoon tea.

The young team would have been feeling the pressure of the situation they found themselves in but the star of the day, Cathy Brown, partnered young Michael Kam to an 8-1 victory which gave the Ravens one claw on the flag.

Michael's sibling James and Lochie O'Brien tried hard to get five games in their set and, when skipper Graham Henderson lost narrowly 8-7 in a tiebreaker with partner Hannah O'Brien, the Ravens had done enough to score a terrific seven game upset victory over the Kyabram Bombers.

Cathy Brown was sublime, winning the MVP for the grand final, dropping only three games for the day to set up the win, but all team members contributed at some point to secure the victory.

In racing parlance, skipper Gra-

ham Henderson has pulled off a bigger training coup than some of our most famous horse trainers, having his troops peak at exactly at the right time to pull out an amazing result.

It was very hard to wipe the smiles off the Ravens' team members on Saturday evening, especially the youngsters who really savoured and enjoyed the win.

I am sure these young players will go on to bigger and better things for the club as they get older.

A special mention to vice captain Pete Smyth, who was emergency on Saturday but played well throughout the season and lent valuable support to Graham Henderson throughout the year and on Saturday.

That brings another tennis season to a very successful conclusion for the club. In closing, I would like to thank the *Numurkah Leader* for its continued support in covering local tennis over the past six months.

I hope everyone has a nice winter, and that it rains, and your footy and netball teams do well.



Raven beauty ... Back row (from left): Lochie O'Brien, Peter Smyth, Hannah O'Brien, Graham Henderson, Michael Kam. Front: Cathy Brown, Ella Sprunt, James Kam.

Raiders run home with the goodies



Raiders prevail ... Back row (from left): Matt Cason, Col McKay, Jai Harrington, Andrew Storer. Front: Imogen Cameron, Caitlyn Price, Catherine Church.

by "Winnie Free"

WHILE Numurkah's GM1 side was battling away the GM2 Raiders were locked in a tight tennis battle with the Shepp Giants and, like the Warriors, they had defeated their opposition the week before in the semi final quite comfortably.

The grand final rematch, however, was a much tighter affair, and the Giants were not going down without a real fight.

The Raiders had a setback early when skipper Col Mackay, having his first match back from injury, went down 8-4 with Matt Cason as his partner, in the first men's doubles match.

Jai Harrington and Andrew Storer righted the ship for the Raiders, however, cruising to an 8-2 win.

Jai then went on with the business in his singles, saluting 6-3, while Cason, as he normally does, completely outclassed his

opponent, winning in a canter 6-1.

Caitlyn Price and Catherine Church got the Raiders' ladies off to a good start, winning their doubles 8-5, and Caitlyn continued her good recent form, overcoming a very good opponent in Shepparton's Narelle Maxted 6-5 in an epic struggle.

Young Imogen Cameron tried hard but narrowly went down 6-4 in her singles match and, when the Giants won the second ladies' doubles match 8-1, the game was up for grabs with just five games separating the teams with the three mixed sets still to play.

Jai Harrington and Andrew Storer righted the ship for the Raiders, however, cruising to an 8-2 win.

However, it was too little too late for the Shepparton team and, when Matt Cason and

Caitlyn Price ground out a tough 8-7 victory, the Raiders were home to the tune of eight games.

Jai Harrington was awarded the MVP for the grand final with his three set-winning performance, and Caitlyn Price also excelled, winning three of her own.

Like they have done all season, the Raiders hung in there when it counted to get the job done.

Their flag triumph was even the more meritorious due to the fact that, most weeks, they had the bare minimum of personal available, so skipper Col Mackay had to be very shrewd and resourceful when it came to fielding a team each Saturday.

To top off the a great season for the Raiders, Andrew "Strazz" Storer won the MVP award for the season and the team celebrated long and hard into the evening.

Family connection

FOLLOWING on after the Warriors' historic GM1 win on Saturday, club champion Helene Steward did some delving back through the family photo albums, to discover a unique connection to the club's last division one flag.

Helene has dug up a photo of what is believed to be the last premiership-winning team, in

1980, that included both her parents.

Helene's mum and dad, Cathy and Max, weren't married at the time, only tying the knot early in 1982.

The team consisted of several well known local tennis players, including Daryl and Sue Twitt, Denis Holloway, Trevor Little, Val Gunn and Bev Florence.



Family flag connection ... Cathy O'Shanassy, Bev Florence, Val Gunn, Sue Twitt, Max Steward, Trevor Little, Daryl Twitt and Denis Holloway made up the last Numurkah division one winning team, until the Warriors won on Saturday.



Top gun ... Andrew Storer was awarded the season MVP in GM2.

WOWEE, IT'S THREE!

Triple flag treat for NLTC



Successful club ... The Warriors, Raiders and Ravens all together for one photo full of premiership players.

Warriors fight for one shot victory

by "Winnie Free"

The Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club arguably had its most successful finals day ever last Saturday, when its Warriors, Raiders and Ravens teams won the GM1, GM2 and GM3 Open premierships, respectively.

Playing at the Shepparton lawn courts in warm but perfect tennis conditions, the Numurkah teams and the large contingent of supporters enjoyed a day that will live long in the club's memory, witnessing some excellent, close tennis across all matches.

For a small club like Numurkah to grab three flags is an achievement in itself, but to have secured both the GM1 and GM2 titles is really special.

Following their semi final win, the GM1 Warriors were again pitted against the powerful Tatura Cockroaches, who had only lost the one game for the season, which came at the hands of the Warriors the previous Saturday at Cobram.

The Warriors did not get off to the best of starts as skipper Mark Mills and Nick Fenaughty lowered their colours to Tatura's David Starling and Bruce Ferguson 8-4.

However, Helene Steward and Emily Ryan recouped some of the deficit with a really gritty 8-5 win over Tatura's Brooke Starling and Leanne Moore.

Helene showed her class when she overcame Brooke Starling 8-3 in a high quality singles encounter, but the Cockroaches hit back as Leanne Moore just got the better of Emily 8-5.

This left the Warriors one game up as Mark Mills and Nick Fenaughty walked out on the courts to do battle with Bruce Ferguson and David Starling, respectively.

The match between Ferguson and

Mills was an absolute ripper, with both men playing some incredible tennis.

Mills gave it 110%, often diving to retrieve seemingly impossible returns. In one game, Mills flung himself through the air no less than four times to hit shots back, much to the entertainment of the onlookers.

As the dust settled, Ferguson hung on to win 8-7, which meant the two teams were locked together on 32 games apiece, however the seven games won by Mills would be crucial in the final wash up.

Nick Fenaughty was playing David Starling and some of the tennis on display was incredible, with Fenaughty, in particular, showcasing his amazing athleticism and shot making to the delight of the large contingent of Numurkah supporters.

The final score line saw Fenaughty triumphing 8-5, which gave the Numurkah team a priceless five game lead with just the two mixed sets to play.

To win the flag, the equation for the Warriors was simple: win a total of 12 games in the remaining two sets and the title was theirs.

Easier said than done, however, when facing the calibre of players they were up against and with everything to play for.

Mark Mills and Em Ryan had a cracking set against Ferguson and Moore, with a number of long rallies, but ultimately lowered their colours, going down 8-6. This saw half of the equation completed, leaving Nick Fenaughty and Helene Steward to garner the six games need for victory.

Their match against David and Brooke Starling was another corker, with neither pair giving an inch and,



Winning Warriors ... Mark Mills, Helene Steward, Caitlyn Price and Nick Fenaughty.

yet again, there was some incredible tennis played.

Despite some very anxious moments which kept everyone on the edge of their seats, the Numurkah duo, although losing their match, achieved the magic number of six games to see their team home by the one solitary game.

As the Warriors embraced and celebrated with teammates and support-

ers on the court, the sense of relief and joy on their faces was evident.

They had left nothing on their courts.

The Warriors were out of the four just weeks ago and, after a winless season last year, to capture Numurkah's first GM1 flag for some 35 years was a massive achievement.

The whole team should be justifiably proud of their efforts and skipper

Mark Mills is to be congratulated for his handling of the team which, combined with his role as GMLTA president, has kept his hands very full.

The inclusion of a GM1 side has sent a real buzz around the club, and to win the title is just the icing on the cake.

Hopefully the Warriors will stick together for the 2019-20 season in their attempt to win back flags.

Blue bowling bonanza seals flag triumph

The SJ Perry Shield has returned to Numurkah's grasp for the first time in over a decade following a grand final win over Invergordon at Vibert Reserve over the weekend. The Blues clinched the win despite a somewhat modest first innings total. Justin Verhoeven led the line with 5/14 and the side's bowlers gave the Blues the chance to rise to the top.

Numurkah openers Daniel Hughes and Jacob Morris got the Blues off to a strong start, but when Hughes was out for 17, it flicked a switch that necessitated that Morris take control of the innings at 1/48. From that first wicket, Numurkah struggled to find any sort of consistency as a side throughout the innings. Morris stood side-by-side with Daemon Potts, the two helping guide the Blues to 1/65 before they lost 4/9, slumping to 5/74.

Morris remained at the crease, and while he was able to raise the bat on a well-deserved half-century, he was forced to watch the remainder of the innings from the pavilion. The Blues managed to finish the innings 9/109 from 80 overs, a true testament to how well Invergordon did at turning the screws and keeping Numurkah from exploding with runs, as it has been known to do through the 2018/19 season.

The main contributor with the ball for Invergordon was Travis Murdoch, who finished with brilliant figures of 6/33 from 34 overs, and was poised to be the difference maker unless the Blues could fight back strongly.

Despite just two batsmen scoring more than 10 runs, the total Numurkah posted was still considered tricky, a score that would need every

run to be ground out as a determined Blues' bowling lineup attempted to pull off something great.

Numurkah's charge for that great premiership win got off to the best possible start, and only improved thereafter.

Bailey Roberts landed the first blow with a run yet to be scored and, for Invergordon, it only got worse from there.

While Roberts managed to snag another wicket, it was Justin Verhoeven's tormenting spell which tore through the Invergordon batting line up. The pair damned the batting side to 7/21, with Verhoeven picking up five wickets and forcing Invergordon to its knees in the most important game of the season.

The Blues, on the cusp of premiership glory, simply needed to clean up the tail and Brett O'Dwyer was the man to raise his hand for the job.

O'Dwyer claimed the final three wickets to ensure that Numurkah's name was etched on the SJ Perry Shield.

Numurkah was forced to bat for a second time, following the fall of that last wicket, and though another lacklustre showing with the bat followed, all out for 90, it did nothing to change the end result of the match.

A beneficiary of the second dig was Invergordon's Travis Murdoch, who claimed another seven wickets to finish with match returns of 13/56, claiming best on ground honours in the process.

The bowling display that will be most talked about for Numurkah was a team one, Verhoeven 5/14, O'Dwyer 3/7 and Roberts 2/3, provided the most cohesive and efficient bowling performance when it most mattered, and Numurkah is D grade premier because of it.



Winners ... Back row (from left): Daniel Hughes, Daemon Potts, Brett O'Dwyer, Hamish Lambert, Hunter Verhoeven, Jacob Morris.

Front row: Dave Roberts, Mitch O'Dwyer, Bailey Roberts, Jason Verhoeven, Dusty Eborn, Ryan Wallace, Steve Morris.



Let the fun begin ... The Numurkah D grade players celebrate their victory.

The one sour note

DREAMS of a three-premiership Numurkah weekend failed to come to fruition, with the B grade Blues the only Numurkah side to taste defeat over the weekend, seeing Kyabram raise the Clyde Young Shield on Sunday.

Despite posting a confidence building total of 218 all out, Numurkah's bowling attack was taken to the sword during the nine-wicket loss.

It started quite well for Numurkah. After winning the toss and electing to bat, Tyson Woods and Matt Price seemed to be guiding Numurkah down the right track with an 81-run partnership kicking the game off on Saturday.

Woods' wicket fell just after he reached his half-century, but Price and new batsman James Pruden managed to see Numurkah pass the 100-mark with just one wicket down and in a solid position. Kyabram managed to muscle its way back into the contest with three quick wickets, but with Price remaining not out to meet incoming batsman Andrew Cline, there was still

hope of a big score at 4/118. Price and Cline's partnership lasted just 12 runs before the former's 61-run innings came to an end.

Proceedings seemed to be going well for the Blues, Cline and captain Sean Dawson were in control and were approaching the 200-mark as the day drew to a close.

Cline's day came to an end with a run out stopping the number six just short of a half-century on 46, while his replacement Bailey Smith lasted just five deliveries for zero.

At 7/193, the game was in the balance; if Numurkah was able to bash out some late runs, the complexion of the game would see the odds of victory tipping towards the Blues. However, if Kyabram managed to ensure runs didn't leak too heavily in the latter stages of the game, then it was a big chance of chasing the score down with 100 overs to bat on Sunday.

Unfortunately for the Blues, Kyabram's Kanwal Singh, who had been dominant with the ball throughout the day's play, picked up his fourth and

fifth wickets, in addition to manufacturing a run out to curtail any flurry of runs Numurkah had in mind.

The Blue tail went down with nary a whimper, and Numurkah finished the day all out for 218.

The two teams returned to Mooroopna Recreation Reserve on Sunday, with everything to play for, but it was a horrid day for Numurkah.

Aside from a lone wicket to Myles Martin seemingly giving the Blues a foot in the door at 1/37, there was no other cause for celebration. Kyabram opener Nathan Pell and number three Paul Parsons dominated the game with a partnership worth 182 runs.

Pell's concentration was remarkable, indicative by the 126 runs from 203 deliveries he scored, all the while being backed up by Parsons' 74 runs from 119 balls.

The Redbacks' innings lasted just under 61 overs, finishing the lopsided grand final 1/219 and taking the Clyde Young Shield back with them to Kyabram.



Sunday struggle ... Numurkah's Sean Dawson bowling in the final over of the B grade grand final loss to Kyabram on Sunday.



All together now ... The combined Numurkah A and D grade premiership teams with the two shields.



Fathers and sons ... Four father/son combinations made up the bulk of the Numurkah D grade side on Saturday. From left: Dave Roberts and Bailey, Steve Morris and Jacob, Jason Verhoeven and Hunter, Brett O'Dwyer and Mitch.



Two out of three ... The B graders couldn't manage a third premiership for the club, but hung around to support the other two sides.

Emotion overflows

by "Blue without a flag"

FROM the moment Tim Arnel ran, dived and rolled over clutching the ball above his head in the outfield at Mooroopna on Sunday, victory to Numurkah triggered an enormous outpouring of emotion for the long suffering supporters of the Numurkah Youth Club Cricket Club.

As a sea of Blues supporters joined the players on the field, thoughts of past pain and suffering were replaced with hugging, back slapping and hand shaking, to a chorus of camera clicks.

Order was restored and Cricket Shepparton officials commenced

presentation duties.

Numurkah supporters cheered loudly as their D grade team, led by captain Jason Verhoeven, took centre stage to receive its medals, having earlier in the day bowled out Invergordon for a paltry 32 runs.

Unfortunately, the club's third side came up short in the B grade grand final, after a great season.

Finally the big moment arrived as captain and club legend Liam Gledhill introduced his team to the sea of supporters gathered below the Mooroopna cricket pavilion balcony.

There were seven fellow former club

juniors: brothers Mitch and Dylan Grandell, Tim and Will Arnel, Jahlan (Angus) Lau, Tim Braybon and Matt Cline; together with second year recruits, gun wicketkeeper Josh Smith, South African import, allrounder Michael Eckard, and allrounder Shaun ('The Messiah') Downie.

Downie was earlier awarded the Greg Luscombe medal for player of the match.

Next was the presentation of the Haisman Shield and, after 45 years, it was finally in Numurkah hands again.

More photo opportunities, but this time with the time-honoured tro-

phy taking centre place in family and group gatherings, as mementos of this long awaited day.

Not wanting to put an end to the euphoria, but also wanting to get home to their own clubrooms, supporters were summonsed to the change rooms by players, and it was then that the enormity of the occasion became apparent.

The sight of players and partners, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and club supporters, with club president Brad ('Bear') Naughton, chairman of selectors and club stalwarts Ross Gledhill and team manag-

er Ashley Lau shoulder to shoulder, belting out John Williamson's True Blue, brought tears of joy to swelled eyes, rolling down cheeks.

Emotions overflowed.

This was to be a precursor only and, as many local football mates joined the crowd, the theme song of both clubs resonated throughout the pavilion, signalling the commencement of many hours of promised celebrations.

Yes, finally the monkey is off the back.

Da da da da da, da da da da da, da da da da da da.

We are the Navy Blues ...

The drought is over!

FROM grand final runners-up last year, to the kings of Cricket Shepparton in 2019, Numurkah's road to Haisman Shield glory was an over 40-year journey filled with rocky roads and trying times. On Sunday, though, Numurkah had redemption, the Blues conquered and enjoyed the taste of a triumphant A grade season.

Earlier in the year, the Blues missed out on a spot in the one-day final by a single point, suffered consecutive defeats to Central Park-St Brendans and Katandra, the two teams that went on to finish above them on the end of season ladder, and there was questions as to whether Numurkah would be able to recover, as well as mount a substantial enough push towards a second consecutive grand final appearance.

Those two losses were important, especially looking back, because it was the final time Numurkah walked away from a game as anything but winners.

Entering the leadup to the league's showpiece on Saturday at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve, Numurkah captain Liam Gledhill had been in this situation before, but it was very different. The Blue leader knew that there was no point in wasting energy being exceedingly nervous or fixated on what had been, rather than the job at hand, and used last season as a learning experience, to ensure his side was heading in the right direction, rather than walking backwards.

"We didn't really talk about last year all that much, we wanted to leave that in the past and move forward," Gledhill said.

"Last season, it was really quite a mentally taxing week leading into the game, but this time we were relaxed and it showed in our cricket."

When it came time to front up on Saturday, the Blues lost the toss, but in a somewhat surprising turn, were given the reins in the middle and sent in to post a score.

"If we won the toss, we would have batted. There were overcast conditions, so Katandra may have thought it was going to break the game open in that first hour, but we started quite strongly."

"We were 0/20 or so off five overs, and even though we lost a couple of wickets, our ability to bat in partnerships was the difference in the end."

When those first two wickets fell, it gave Katandra's bowling attack a bit of life, and with spearhead Corey Hickford with his tail up, there was a chance the Eagles circling above could land a series of lethal strikes.

Numurkah's ability to blunt Katandra's sting, though, came to the fore and the game was flipped on its head.

"Will Arnel faced 60 balls, he helped take the shine off the ball, while Shaun Downie kept doing his thing."

"To finish with 282 after starting 2/20, I'd take that any day of the week. We knew it was going to be a big ask for them chasing. We knew we still had to bowl well, but that was massive."

It was massive. A score closer to 300 than 250 is a huge mountain to climb in such an important clash.

With the pressure high, and the entire local cricket community watching on, it's these types of situations that lend themselves to an individual taking control of the contest and stamping their authority as emphatically as possible.

For Numurkah, that individual was undoubtedly Shaun Downie.

"Shaun is a star," Gledhill said.

"A great cricketer and his performance throughout the year, well, the figures speak for themselves."

A season average of 44.08 with the bat, 29 wickets at 15.83 and a brilliant finals series leading into the grand final, it seemed like the moment was purpose made for Downie, and he more than took center stage with a magnificent 98-run performance.

"Shaun batted really well, he kept the game moving forward. We knew that if

we batted 100 overs, that we'd put a good total on the board.

"The team needed to bat around someone, he provided that while also scoring quite freely."

Despite Downie not being able to reach triple-digits, it didn't matter in the big picture, because his teammates went on to benefit from the foundation he had built, with partnerships playing the key role rather than individual performances thereafter.

"It was just so important, for guys like Eckard and Lau, to score at a high rate on Saturday, and it's exactly what they did. They just kept ticking the scoreboard over and they batted so well this season. "Tim Braybon's 23 was a really crucial knock to get us past 260 and into 280, it was really important, and I was just so pleased that the guys in the lower-order contributed so greatly to the win."

Having lost the toss and given the opportunity to bat, Gledhill and his side knew there was so much more work to be done, but having faced 100 overs of Katandra's best, the confidence was high heading into the final day of the season. "We feel our most comfortable when we've got a score on the board, and we're out there to defend. We knew how we can play, and that's exactly what happened.

"We knew that Katandra was going to have periods of play on Sunday, where the Eagles were on top, and they had that, they were on top for a degree of that game on Sunday."

Katandra's most commanding period of play was a century partnership between Scott Richardson and Jedd Wright, but it never had Blue heads dropping.

"The most pleasing thing is the way we just stuck at it and stuck at it. A 100 over day is such a long time in cricket, and we kept going to get the result."

Katandra's position was favourable halfway through Sunday's play, but Gledhill knew what his team was capable off, regardless the situation.

"At tea, Katandra needed 105 off 138 balls, I think. I thought if we could keep churning through the overs, just keep it tight and keep the balls and the runs in the same area then we were a big chance of keeping that pressure up, and that's exactly what happened."

The feeling that the game was never truly out of Numurkah's grasp was real, and two huge reasons for that were the bowling performances of the consistent Michael Eckard, and the man who controlled the game with the bat, Shaun Downie.

The pair took eight wickets between them, four each, and with it, the game was Numurkah's.

"Shaun and Ecky are both great cricketers, I felt comfortable with the ball in their hands and I knew they were going to play good cricket."

"I knew that if we were ever in trouble, I could put Shaun on and he'd block it down for a couple of overs, keep it tight and build that pressure from underneath them."

The Blues had done it, the drought was over, and the family-oriented club no longer saw the brass ring slip through its fingers. Everyone involved within the club was over the moon about it.

"Numurkah had a couple of the guys from the 73/74 premiership side there Sunday and they were presented to the crowd because the club really wanted to relish our past."

"We're just so happy we've been able to make our own history and the guys Sunday night were just so proud of us."

In the end, the Blues could have suffocated themselves amid the pressure of grand final redemption, or ending a premiership drought, but it was the calm, the confidence it had in its troops and its ability to persevere through even the most difficult passages of play that led to Numurkah, once more, being crowned A grade premier 45 years later.



Father and son ... Andrew Cline and his son, fast bowler Matt.



All in vain ... Katandra's Hadleigh Sirett made a quick-fire 15 runs from 25 balls in an effort to help resurrect his side's chances.



Brothers-in-arms ... A grade captain Liam Gledhill and club president Brad Naughton.



Happy chappy ... Club president Brad Naughton couldn't keep the smile off his face, after five years at the helm.

Blue redemption caps off stellar season



We did it ... The final wicket fell and the celebrations began.



Family affair ... Brothers Dylan and Mitch Grandell both played their part in the win.



Local legends ... Jahlan Lau and his dad Ash with the shield. Jaydo has been at the club for 21 years straight.



Time to reflect ... Tim Braybon, Matt Cline, Josh Smith and Dylan Grandell.

MORE than a year removed from grand final heartbreak, Numurkah has tasted redemption, and premiership glory, with a 77-run win over reigning premier Katandra, raising the A grade shield for the first time since the 1973/74 season.

The Blues' response to being sent into bat by the Eagles started on shaky ground following two early wickets falling without much fuss.

Josh Smith and Dylan Grandell looked to score quickly, but weren't able to stamp their authority on the tie, before both fell, for eight and 13, respectively.

At 2/23, Will Arnel and Shaun Downie took guard in the middle, and their partnership ensured that Katandra wouldn't get on top of the Blues in the early passages of the tie.

Despite scoring just seven runs, Arnel's ability to face 10 overs worth of deliveries ensured that Katandra's pace attack remained nullified following the two Corey Hickford wickets that opened proceedings.

Katandra finally found a way through Arnel's defence, though, with Scott Richardson having the number three caught behind to see the score tick over to 3/67.

At this point, Downie had well and truly begun to carve out an innings, which was just the first half of a brilliant grand final performance.

Michael Eckard joined Downie in the middle and the pair began to ensure Katandra would regret sending Numurkah into bat, despite the overcast weather giving the Eagles hope before play kicked off.

In what was a crucial partnership, the duo combined for 78 runs before Eckard was out LBW off Richardson's bowling for 36, but if Katandra thought that wicket would bring about a Numurkah fall, it was gravely mistaken.

At 4/145, Numurkah saw its captain, Liam Gledhill, walk out to the middle. Knowing that the Blues still had a lot of work to do, Gledhill and Downie continued where the last partnership left off.

Numurkah began to really crank the pressure up as it headed towards the 200-mark, but eyes remained locked on Downie as he approached a grand final century.

An innings that saw the Blue face over 200 deliveries, bat for more than four hours and set his side up to post a big score in a grand final, Shaun Downie fell just two runs short of a deserved century, caught behind off Corey Hickford's bowling. With the score at 5/196, Downie was applauded as he left the ground, but Gledhill and Jahlan Lau knew that they needed to keep pushing if they were to avoid risking another grand final loss.

Numurkah produced another favourable tandem, accounting for a further 43-run partnership before Gledhill was out for 40.

With commendable contributions from Numurkah batsmen having become the norm, the Blues faced their first shaky period of play since the opening stand, and proceeded to lose three wickets in fairly

quick order, with the Blues rushing to add as many runs as possible heading into the final stages of the day's play.

Katandra's Hickford had Lau out for 34, and also nabbed Tim Arnel before Mitch Grandell was run out, seeing Numurkah sit at 9/268 with just a few overs left to face.

Hickford was a major highlight for Katandra, finishing with figures of 5/73 from 25 overs, while being backed up by Scott Richardson, whose 3/67 rounded out the wicket takers for the Eagles.

One final run out saw Tim Braybon's 23-run cameo come to an end, along with Numurkah's innings, and with 100 overs bowled, the Blues finished all out for 282.

With a huge Blue mountain to climb, Katandra took the time to rest overnight before returning to Mooroopna Recreation Reserve to face the fierce battle ahead of it.

The day for the Eagles, though, did not get off to the start they were after.

Captain and opener Luke Nolan faced 32 deliveries before he was bowled by Matt Cline and with the score at 1/20, it was up to Ben Clurey and Scott Richardson to try and get Katandra into the game.

Clurey managed 18 before his hour and a half long innings came to an end, the first of four Eagles to be out at the hands of Shaun Downie. If Numurkah thought it was on top at that point, the wicket of Andrew Riordan not long after Clurey's would have given the Blues a real boost, seeing the score tick over to 3/66. Katandra was in a situation in which its leaders needed to stand up and be accounted for, and through Jedd Wright and Scott Richardson, that's exactly what the Eagles got.

The two amassed a 100-run partnership which gave real credence to the chance that Katandra might come and snatch the flag away from the Blues.

With Wright and Richardson at the crease, anything seemed possible, but when Wright was ousted from the middle by Michael Eckard, the grave concerns Katandra had about the game's position at this point got more harrowing.

Wright's replacement, Hadleigh Sirett, teamed with Richardson to push the Eagles towards the 200-mark, but the pair were given their marching orders as Eckard and Downie claimed their second wickets each, causing the alarm bells for Katandra to begin to toll.

With the score at 6/190, the Blues were the odds on favourites to pull out a memorable win, and they ensured that there was no waiting around, or time for a miraculous comeback to be manufactured.

Downie and Eckard, as they have done all season, kept the pressure up with the ball, taking turns to snag wickets to finish off the Katandra lower-order, ensuring Numurkah would be crowned premier for the 2018/19 season.

Eckard's 4/48 from 21 overs was exemplary, but Downie's 4/55 with the ball and 98 with the bat rounded off a brilliant individual performance, garnering man of the match honours in the process.

NumurkahLEADER

Sports



It's ours ... The victorious team: Back row (from left): Tim Braybon, Dylan Grandell, Tom Walker, Michael Eckard, Jahlan Lau, Shaun Downie, Mitch Grandell and team manager Ash Lau. Middle row: Matt Cline, Josh Smith, Tim Arnel, Will Arnel, and Liam Gledhill (front).

DROUGHT BREAKERS

Winning Warriors
... Mark Mills, Helene Steward, Caitlyn Price and Nick Fenaughty.



TWO Numurkah premiership droughts have ended amid a flood of grand final victories over the weekend. It had been 45 years since the Blues have won the A grade title and 39 years since the tennis club had done the same, but now Numurkah sits atop of the local sporting mountain with multiple premierships across several different sports.

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