

established 1895 Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019



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\$1.30

INSIDE



Skipping the party to help out

See story page 3



Give them time off

See story page 12



VCE achievers

See story page 4



Giving the real spirit of Christmas

Delivering kindness ... (From left): Curtis McKellar, Pieter Mezenberg from St Vinnies, Alexander Robertson, Claire Rae, Jarred Bethell, Lucas Hendy, Milla Dobson, Laura Bergamin, Francine Mezenberg from St Vinnies, Ashlee Dyson and Rahni Lawless walk gifts donated by the St Joe's community to the presbytery for sorting.

See story page 4.

Biofuel project to break ground in January

THE Katunga AgBioEn biofuel project has received planning permission for stage one, and plans are in place for ground to be broken at the 10 hectare Numurkah Road site in January.

Planning approval for the project was slowed by objections from owners of two nearby properties, who voiced concerns regarding an increase in heavy vehicle traffic, noise, air and environmental pollution, visibility of the plant and drainage.

Those objections were withdrawn following discussions with AgBioEn management that resolved

the residents' concerns, and stage one approval was granted by council in late October with conditions in place to address the objectors' concerns.

AgBioEn program director Lubey Lozevski told the *Leader* yesterday that they had received tenders from five local companies to perform the earthworks, and hoped to notify the successful bidder before Christmas.

"Obviously we want to let them know before everybody breaks for the holidays, and put a schedule in place for works to commence in the new year," he said.

"We are keen to get the ball rolling."

Mr Lozevski said AgBioEn management has also been proceeding with plans to work with local education providers to ensure a skilled workforce for the plant in the long term.

"We have had meetings with GOTAFE, LaTrobe University at Shepparton, Melbourne University Dookie and GrowShepp to look at what courses are available locally to provide the skills we need to fill jobs for the project's future workforce," he said.

Continued page 2

Free Delivery to Numurkah Christmas Eve

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	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
M 23/12	R. Kennett	K. Steel	R. Pendlebury E. Rees
T 24/12	V. Bunny G. Varley	E. Newby G. Russell	S. Green
W 25/12	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED	P. MacDonald C. North	M. Caccianiga L. Trimby
T 26/12	S. Morley J. Watson	J. Stanyer	B. Palmer
F 27/12	B. Macdonald P. Simpson	L. Grant T. Newman	Lions Club of Numurkah

Coordinator - MHA Care Phone 5742 1111

Katunga biofuel project to break ground in January

Continued from front page.
"We've discussed existing courses, new courses that could be provided and courses that could be augmented to provide students with the skills and qualifications that will be needed at the Katunga plant.

"We are also keen to create traineeships, apprenticeships and scholarships.

"We are looking to enter into memorandums of understanding with all of those organisations in the near future."

AgBioEn is also in talks with GOTAFE to commence ag-cropping trials with a range of crops, with the aim of a producing crops with a higher yield per hectare using less fertiliser and water.

Over the next four years, AgBioEn plans on establishing 75,000 hectares of cropping land in order to supply the plant with agricultural waste for raw material, in addition to buying waste from local producers.

Project sponsor Katunga Fresh has already commenced work on an additional five hectares of greenhouses from which the plant will source agricultural waste.

If ground is able to be broken early in the new year, stage one of the project is expected to be fully operational by late 2020, with the entire plant operational within two and a half years.

AgBioEn managing director energy Peter Holmgren told the *Leader* in October that they anticipate an even split between dry land and irrigated land for cropping purposes.

"With smart farming techniques we are confident that we can produce what we need with minimum water," he said.

"We won't be taking away any land from food production, as we will be selling the crops and just using the waste products at the plant.

"We also won't be taking any energy away from the local grid, as we will be installing five hectares of solar panels, and producing our own power."

Once fully operational, it is intended that the plant will produce renewable diesel, bio-jet fuel, food grade CO₂, fertiliser, electricity and hydrogen.

Mr Lozovski said that the energy produced by



Big plans ... Stage one of the project, located at 1249 Numurkah Road, Katunga, has received council approval.

the plant will save 400,000 tonnes of emissions, compared to oil drilling, to obtain the same amount of fuel.

The approval process for stage two of the project is currently under way, as is the documentation for EPA works approval.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT LOCATIONS

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 44 Meiklejohn Street | 18 Mae Street |
| 15 Wattle Drive | 49 McCaskill Street |
| 8 Olivia Court | 9 Tunnock Road |
| 187 Kinnairds Road | 8 Moss Street |
| 1 Brooke Court | 18 Moss Street |
| 9 Brooke Court | 12 Madeline Street |
| 15 Brooke Court | 2A Centenary Crt |
| 18 Brooke Court | 3 Katamatite- |
| 22 Maple Crescent | Numurkah Road |
| 53 Russell Street | 8 Reed Court |
| 59 Russell Street | 14 Dolphin Street |
| 18 Pine Street | 23 Dolphin Street |
| 16 MacKenzie St | 4 Swallow Street |

The best Christmas Light Show in and around Numurkah is to be viewed by the independent judge who will tour these listed addresses that have been nominated.

The prize is a Numurkah Love our Lifestyle \$100 Why Leave Town? to shop, gift card.

To see the winner check out the first Numurkah Leader of 2020, January 15.

Sponsored by Numurkah Love our Lifestyle and Numurkah Leader



POLICE BEAT

Silly season keeping local police busy

THE month of December has been a busy one so far for police across Moira Shire, with a wide range of offences being committed and theft of keys during burglaries continuing to contribute to vehicle thefts.

Overnight on Monday, December 9, an offender has entered an address on Allerts Road, Katunga and stolen the keys to the resident's black 2016 Hyundai I30 sedan. The vehicle, containing various power tools, was then stolen and has not yet been recovered.

The following night, Tuesday, December 10 an offender has entered a Wunghnu address, and stolen the keys to a vehicle.

That vehicle was also stolen and was located on the afternoon of December 11 in Kokoda Road, Numurkah missing all four tyres and with extensive damage to the windows and panels.

Also on December 10, a vehicle was broken into in Endeavour Court, Nathalia and a wallet was stolen from inside it. A card inside the wallet

was used a number of times and police enquiries are ongoing.

An opportunistic theft occurred at Ritchie's IGA Numurkah on Sunday, December 8, when an offender stole money that had been left on the counter, and used it to pay for their groceries before leaving the store.

A 34 year-old Katamatite man has been bailed to appear in Cobram magistrates court in February, after Cobram CIU executed a warrant at his address on Tuesday, December 3, and seized an amount of drugs.

In relation to damage at the Cobram Soccer Pavilion as reported in last week's *Leader*, a 14 year-old female has been charged and bailed to appear at the Shepparton Children's Court at a later date.

Police are reminding locals to line up a designated driver or call a taxi to get home from festive events after four drivers were detected with alcohol readings above .05 in Moira Shire last

weekend.

Cobram Highway Patrol carried out 1,758 preliminary breath tests, and almost 400 preliminary drug tests, last month and will continue with ongoing testing across the festive season.

Numbers of vehicles moving around Moira Shire roads will be at the highest for the year in coming weeks, and with large numbers of boats, caravans and trailers on local roads, police are urging travellers to make sure they are safe to drive, not fatigued, and that their vehicles are in a roadworthy condition.

Operation Roadwise commenced on December 13, and will run until January 5, 2020, with police from all stations carrying out extensive breath testing, drug testing and vehicle safety testing throughout the shire.

The highway patrol will be continuing to monitor speeding, impaired drivers and distraction offence.

Numurkah called to help at Lemnos fire

NUMURKAH fire brigade was called to provide breathing apparatus (BA) wearers to assist the Shepparton brigade at a structure fire at New Dookie Road, Lemnos last Friday, December 13.

The fire started earlier in the afternoon, and Numurkah was called in at 4.50pm to provide relief to the crews that had been working in BA. Numurkah fire fighters remained at the scene

until around 8pm.

Local brigades responded to two fires on Sunday, the first of which was a crop fire at Loofs Road, Naring.

Numurkah, Naring, Katunga, Muckatah and Katamatite brigades extinguished the fire, which was started by a harvester and burnt about two hectares of the cut crop.

At 8.15pm that night, Strathmerton, Yarroweyah, Katunga, Waaia and Yalca brigades were turned out to a hay stack fire at Starrets Road, Bearii.

The stack of around 600 round bales was fully alight when brigades arrived, and the decision was made to allow the hay stack to burn itself out. The cause is being investigated.

WHAT'S ON AT NUMURKAH GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB

WE WANT YOU

to spend new year's eve with this man

Dance the night away with LBDJ
The Waterwheel Bistro will be open from 6pm with limited bistro menu and a buffet
Reserving a table in the bistro or in the lounge area is recommended

Festive Friday Nights in December

Every Friday night we will raffle Hams, Turkey Buffs, Cakes, Puddings and some Christmas Cheer
Pack your pantry and fridge for Christmas
Raffle commences from 7pm



phone 5862 3445



Alternative schoolies ... (Back from left): Deb Doyle, Harrison Jenner, Huon Kelly, Rosie Arnel, Sophie Morris and Georgia Walpole. Front: Tim Bailey, Indi Addlem, Olivia Friswell, Marlee Ingamells, Hayley Thorne and Holly Scott.

Local schoolies skip the party to give back

HEADING north for a week of partying to blow away the stress of exams has become a rite of passage for Australian school leavers in recent years, but one group of local year 12s skipped the party this year to do some good for others.

A group of nine students from the Sandhurst diocese, including six from St Mary of the Angels, travelled to Cebu in the Philippines to experience how those less fortunate live, and to help ease their burden.

Numurkah's Sophie Morris, who was part of the group, told the *Leader* the idea of doing some good was far more enticing to her than a week-long party.

"We can go to the Gold Coast and party whenever we like, but alternative schoolies was an opportunity to have an experience that you won't get any other time," she said.

"It was really amazing to see how the people there live and to experience their culture.

"Their living conditions are so hard but they were so kind and welcoming. It was a real eye-opener and made me so grateful for what we have here and usually take for granted."

Each member of the Sandhurst group paid their own expenses for the trip as well as fundraising throughout the year to raise \$1,000 each

for the benefit of the communities they visited.

The local group spent 12 days travelling throughout the Cebu region, visiting a range of communities and initiatives including communities built beside dump sites, as well as those that had been relocated away from them, schools, a centre for sick and malnourished children and a halfway house for trafficked women.

They would spend time at each location hearing the stories of the locals, learning about their culture and playing with the children.

Marlee Ingamells, who was also part of the travelling group, agreed that it was an eye-opening experience.

"Every place we visited, there were children and it was amazing to see how happy they are even though they have so little," she said.

"It was quite an overwhelming experience, but so worthwhile. We formed some great connections and friendships with the children and the student ambassadors from Cebu, and I miss them already."

Both Sophie and Marlee were keen to thank the communities of Numurkah and St Mary's for their support with the year-long fundraising initiative for the trip.

"People were so supportive with buying

doughnuts and soup and raffle tickets, and so many businesses donated prizes. We couldn't have done it without them," Sophie said.

Marlee said the support meant a lot to participants on both sides of the exchange.

"I can assure everybody that it went to a really good cause. They were very grateful to receive the help, which is really going to change lives through education over there, and we were so grateful to be able to offer it."



Cultural exchange ... Members of the Sandhurst group spent lots of time getting to know the local kids through play.

Mandatory dairy industry code now in place

AUSTRALIA'S 5,200 dairy farmers now have increased protection, after a mandatory code of conduct which will govern the relationship between dairy farmers and milk processors was introduced last Friday.

The dairy Mandatory Code of Conduct, which was finalised months ahead of its expected delivery date of March 2020, contains a range of measures to improve transparency and set minimum standards of conduct in milk supply agreements.

A mandatory code of conduct between farmers and processors was a key recommendation in a report released by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) after it undertook a detailed inquiry into the industry after major milk processors Murray Goulburn and Fonterra introduced retrospective price cuts

to farm gate milk prices in 2016.

That practice is now forbidden under the mandatory code.

The ACCC inquiry examined, among other things, who had power and who bore the most risk and the impact of cheap supermarket milk on farm gate prices.

Whilst the code will not be responsible for setting the farm gate milk price, it will bring back some balance of power between farmers and processors and set standards and commitments for industry participants.

The ACCC has been given the power to step in and issue penalties for breaches of the code.

Paul Mumford, president of Victorian lobby group United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV) described last Friday as a monumental day for the dairy industry.

"One of our key, top priorities as an industry has now been ticked off," he said.

"It is good to see the government has listened to industry and the code has been strengthened following strong feedback on the consultation draft released last month."

The mandatory code will require processors to publish standard form agreements on June 1 each year, and will ban unfair practices including retrospective step downs, unilateral changes to contracts and processors withholding any loyalty payments.

Under the code, processors will now have to let farmers know how much they will be paid over the life of a contract.

It also includes improved dispute resolution processes for when contractual disputes arise between farmers and processors.

"Requiring processors to publish a non-exclusive agreement by default means farmers can take advantage of milk trading platforms that are currently being developed, if that suits their farming business," Mr Mumford said.

"Processors can also publish an exclusive supply agreement too, giving farmers much more flexibility with their supply arrangements."

"We thank Minister McKenzie and the government for listening to our concerns and strengthening the code accordingly and we encourage all Victorian dairy farmers to consider the code and the benefits it could have to their business. We have a chance to rectify any issues with the first review scheduled for January 2021."

For more information about the mandatory Dairy Code of Conduct visit the Department of Agriculture's website.

Lions Carols by Candlelight

Friday, December 20
NEWMAN SQUARE 7.30pm

All your favourite carols, Numurkah Town Band, choristers and featured groups

Twilight Picnic

in the Park

Before the Carols
NEWMAN SQUARE — 6-7.30pm
BBQ & FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Visit by Santa
Kids art and craft activities
free rides, cheap eats

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Effort pays off for high scorers

WITH VCE results being announced last Thursday, it is finally all over for Victoria's class of 2019.

Whilst every student has their individual priorities when shooting for a particular outcome, for many it is all about achieving the magic number that will provide a passport to the next step on their educational journey.

While all St Mary of the Angels Secondary College year 12 students were breathing a sigh of relief that the pressure of results was finally, officially done, some had extra cause for celebration, having achieved an ATAR (The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) among some of the best in the state.

Numurkah's Clancy Lester's ATAR of 91.95 scored him the title of dux for 2019, with Sophie Morris just two points behind in second place with 89.95, Chloe Armstrong the third highest ranked with 89.75, Michael Kam in fourth with 88.2 and Michael Brooks rounding out the top five with 83.85.

Though achieving those kind of marks only comes from putting in a lot of hard work, 2019 dux Clancy, who is torn between taking a gap year and heading straight to Melbourne University to study a Bachelor of Science, said it was worth it.

"I had a feeling that if I put in the work that I would get the reward, so I really had a crack and it paid off in the end, so I'm really happy," he said.

Each of St Mary's top three scorers studied courses in the maths and science field, and each of them fast tracked a VCE subject, giving them the advantage of study scores from a total of six subjects whilst only studying five this year.

Whilst both Clancy and Sophie had been optimistic of being among the high scorers based on their effort and past performance, Chloe said she was pleasantly surprised by her score.

"I needed an 86 and I was quite stressed about that. I was very happy when I got above that," she said.

Though Chloe may have been somewhat surprised by her score, the approach she took to get it was a recipe for success.

"I'm someone who strives to get to the level



High five ... St Mary of the Angels top five high scorers (from left) Michael Kam from Numurkah, Chloe Armstrong from Nathalia, Clancy Lester from Numurkah, Sophie Morris from Numurkah and Michael Brooks from Kotupna.

that I want to be at; I naturally put pressure on myself," she told the *Leader*.

"I had the number 40 for English in my head all year and I managed to get it, so I guess my advice to future VCE students would be to remain calm and allow yourself some distractions, but keep your goal in sight."

As for Clancy, he said that there is a time to have fun, and a time to knuckle down.

"Throughout the year you just need to remember to enjoy yourself. Don't cut off your friends

or your sports.

"If you like your footy, keep doing it, enjoy yourself, but when it comes down to crunch time, you've got to get your head down in the books and study. You can relax and enjoy yourself again and reap the rewards once the exams are finished."

Meanwhile, Sophie's advice is purely practical. "Don't leave everything to the last minute. Spread it out throughout the year, it will help big time," she said.

What is an ATAR score and how is it calculated?

ATAR (The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) is a ranking of Year 12 results that measures your overall academic achievement compared with all other final year students in Australia (excluding Queensland).

The ATAR is calculated by VTAC from an aggregate, based on up to six VCE scaled study scores. It is produced by adding together:

- A student's highest scaled study score in one of the English studies (English, English Language, English as an Additional Language or Literature)
- The highest scaled study scores for three additional permissible studies, and
- 10% of the scaled study scores for the fifth and sixth permissible studies.

Students are then ranked in order of their aggregate and a percentage rank is assigned to distribute students as evenly as possible over a 100-point scale.

Finally, the percentage rank is converted to an ATAR. The ATAR is an estimate of the percentage of the population that you outperformed. So if you receive an ATAR of 60, it means you performed better than 60% of students that year.

The ATAR is a number from 0 to 99.95 in intervals of 0.05. The highest rank is 99.95, the next highest 99.90, and so on. The lowest automatically reported rank is 30.00, with ranks below 30.00 being reported as 'less than 30'.



Community Update



Office closing for Christmas

Our council offices in Cobram close from 12pm **Tuesday 24 December 2019** and re-open at 9am on **Thursday 2 January 2020**.

The Yarrawonga Service Centre will close from 5pm **Monday 23 December 2019** and re-open at 9am **Monday 6 January 2020**.

Our Visitor Information centres will be open every day except for Christmas Day.

Limited essential services will continue during this period.

Please call (03) 5871 9222 or visit our website for more information.

In an emergency please call 000.

Free new pet registrations – January 2020

As a new year incentive, we are offering 'no fee' animal registrations for the month of January 2020.

This means anyone wishing to register a NEW animal (those not been registered before with Moira Shire Council) can do so free of charge.

You will then pay the renewal from 10 April 2020, as normal.

For more information go to our website.



Footpath trading – Christmas decorations

To get into the festive spirit, temporary Christmas decorations can be displayed on the footpath between 1 December and 31 December each year.

Just remember to make sure there is sufficient clear space for pedestrians of all abilities and you are meeting the requirements of the Footpath Trading Guidelines.

Go to our website for more information – happy decorating!

Pets and fireworks don't mix

With fireworks planned over the festive season please ensure your animals are secured in a safe environment.

RSPCA Australia – www.rspca.org.au – has tips on keeping animals safe during a fireworks event including creating a hideout and taking your dog for a walk in the early afternoon to tire it out.

A little preparation now will avoid the cost and inconvenience of retrieving your animal from the council pound and especially the trauma of losing your pet.

Bin Collections – Christmas and New Year schedule

There will be no garbage, recycling or organics collections on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December) or New Year's Day (Wednesday 1 January).

Residents who usually place their garbage & recycling bins out on a Tuesday night for Wednesday collection will need to put their bins out on the evening of **Monday 23 December** for collection on the Tuesday and then again on the evening of **Monday 30 December** for collection the following day.

If you have any queries don't hesitate to give DSK Waste Services a free call on 1800 041 041.



Phone
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NRS
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Mail
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To report service issues and emergencies after hours call (03) 5871 9222.



Class of 2019 ... Numurkah Secondary College VCE students have mapped pathways to success for themselves.

NSC students on the path to greatness

SUCCESS means something different to everybody, depending on what it is they hope to achieve, but by any objective measure, Numurkah Secondary College's 2019 year 12 cohort has had a very successful year.

Not only did the school have 21 students successfully complete their VCE, and seven students successfully complete their senior VCAL certificate, but six of those students have already been awarded La Trobe University Aspire Program scholarships and seven have been offered full-time apprenticeships.

NSC principal Claire Kelly said the school is exceptionally proud of all of its year 12 students.

"All of them have continued to shine and excel in so many ways this year and they should all be very proud of themselves," she said.

"Excellence is a lot of different things, but all of our year 12 students have had a goal this year and achieved it."

Mrs Kelly said that many students preferred not to publicise their ATARs, even if they had scored highly.

"Even if they've done very well, they may feel that they could have done better, or they might not have achieved the mark they need for their preferred course and won't know what their options are until university offers come out.

"We'll be spending some time this Thursday with all of our year 12 students to help them assess their options, and discuss possible pathways"

The Leader spoke to three members of the class

of 2019 this week, all of whom received awards for outstanding achievement as year 12s at the school's award ceremony on Monday, and who have already got plans in place for 2020.

2019 school captain Trinity Jose may not have done quite as well as she would have liked, but given that she went into her final exam knowing she had already received unconditional offers into two of her preferred courses, and conditional offers into another three, she knows she is already on the path to success.

"I got accepted into Pathology at Charles Sturt University in Wagga through a school recommendation scheme where they look at your year 11 results and other things you have done in the school and community," she said.

"I probably would have preferred to do nuclear medicine and radiology, but I am happy with pathology, and really pleased to know that I have a pathway ahead of me."

Aislinn Harrison chose to study VCAL over VCE and is looking forward to undertaking a Certificate 3 in Agricultural Studies at GOTAFE in 2020.

"I decided that VCAL was a quicker path into the workforce and it helps you develop a good skill set and fosters qualities like leadership skills and independence, which employers value," she said.

"I want to work as a jillaroo, and I got my Certificate 2 in Equine Studies as part of my VCAL course, but I'm also interested in working in the dairy industry so I want to get a Certificate 3 in

Agricultural Studies to consolidate and professionalise my knowledge in the field."

Zach McKeown is one of the six NSC students who has qualified for a LaTrobe University Aspire scholarship this year, but despite that, he won't be leaving NSC quite yet.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher and I've been accepted into an education degree, but I'm taking a gap year next year and working here as a teacher's aide," he said.

"It's exciting to have a full time job lined up and I'm looking forward to getting some experience in the classroom before I head to uni. I think sitting in the staff room here will take a bit of getting used to though."

Mrs Kelly said that Trinity, Aislinn and Zach were great examples of how NSC encouraged students to explore all available pathways, and offered them guidance to decide what was best for them.

"We really encourage our kids to contribute to the community in a meaningful way, and having done that has helped these guys to put themselves in a position where they already have established pathways into their chosen fields.

A number of other year 12 students were recognised at Monday's awards ceremony, including Renee Kennedy, who received the Ian Buxton Caltex scholarship.

Renee was awarded the scholarship for her strong leadership as Vice-Captain, including her commitment to raising money for the Pioneers Lodge, which was able to install heaters for resi-

dents to enjoy their outdoor spaces.

The sportsperson award has been a tradition at Numurkah Secondary College for 52 years, and is awarded to a male and female student who have achieved outstanding sporting results throughout their time at the college.

This year's recipients were Jaimee Cook and Jarrod Holmes.

Over the six years Jaimee has been at NSC, she has placed first or second in eight NSC athletic carnivals, showcasing her drive and ability to achieve personal best performances while providing support and encouragement for her team mates in Christie House.

Jaimee was age champion in five of the carnivals, placed second on three occasions and also represented the school a number of times at interschool level.

Jarrod's six years at NSC saw him place first, second and third in 15 out of 18 carnivals. His prowess on the running track saw him win athletics and cross country age champion three times each.

As captain of Hunkin House, Jarrod provided support and leadership for his teammates, and he also represented NSC at numerous interschool carnivals.

Mrs Kelly said the awards showed the effort students put in across a range of fields during their time at NSC.

"We're really proud of what all of our year 12s have achieved, and we know they are going to do great things."

Management and staff of the Numurkah Leader sincerely thank you for your support during 2019, and wish you a

Merry Christmas
and a safe and
Happy New Year.

The Leader office will be closing at 12 noon Friday, December 20, and will re-open on Monday, January 6, from 10am-2pm for printing, copying and photos.

The first issue of the Leader for 2020 will be published on Wednesday, January 15.

88 Melville Street, Numurkah
Phone 5862 1034

Numurkah LEADER

TELEGRAPH
Hotel

CHRISTMAS EVE
LIVE DJ
8 TILL LATE!

CLOSED
Christmas day
RESUME REGULAR
TRADING
BOXING DAY

NATH, BEC, RUSTY, VIV AND THE TELEGRAPH TEAM WISH ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Giving the real spirit of Christmas

WHILST Christmas is a time of joy and togetherness, it is also a season that can amplify the sense of stress and hardship experienced by those who are struggling.

As it does each year, the St Vincent de Paul Society's Numurkah conference has been quietly, but busily, collecting gifts and donations to distribute to local families and individuals to make sure they can share in the goodwill of the season.

They don't do it alone however; they are supported in their efforts by local individuals and organisations who embrace the ethos that it is better to give than to receive.

Numurkah's St Vinnies Christmas appeal will this week distribute gifts and hampers to over 50 local families.

The appeal has received generous donations of gifts from St Joseph's Primary School and Good Start Early Learning Centre, and local churches have provided funds, food and vouchers through the Interchurch Council.

St Vinnies Numurkah volunteer Francine Mezenberg said that, as the only local organisation delivering formalised welfare services, St Vinnies has seen an increase in families reaching out for help right throughout the year.

"It is very easy to find yourself in a hard situation. The business you work for may close and there isn't other work available, or you might get sick and not be able to work," she said.

"Many local families experience challenging times, but the pressure of that intensifies at Christmas.

"Suddenly there is no money to pay the bills, let alone buy Christmas presents, and what can you do?"

Vinnies has been active in Numurkah for around 40 years, and has been conducting the Christmas appeal for over 10 of those.

St Joseph's Primary School donates presents to the appeal each year, asking each of the school's 170 families to place a gift under the giving tree in the school foyer.

Francine and Pieter Mezenberg visited the school on Monday to collect the donated gifts before they, and other Vinnies volunteers, got busy sorting and distributing them from the parish presbytery.

Principal Paul Arnel said that the annual event was a way of making students aware of the plight of others.

"We want our students to understand that there are many in our community who are not as fortunate as they are," Mr Arnel said.

"It is very easy to get carried away at Christmas and forget about the true meaning of it, and this is a way to help our students remember, and be part of helping others."

Francine Mezenberg couldn't agree more.

"We all need to help each other, and give that gift to each other and ourselves."



Happy to share the goodwill ... Francine Mezenberg accepts a pile of gifts donated by the St Joseph's community from student Eva Laidlaw.

Below average risk of burglaries in Numurkah

A VICTORIAN household burglary statistics report released this month has shown that Numurkah households have a below average chance of experiencing a break-in.

The report, released by the RACV, relies on data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Crime Statistics Agency, Department of Transport, Planning, and Local Infrastructure and Australia Post, and provides burglary statistics for each Victorian postcode between July 2018 and June 2019.

According to the report, with a burglary rate of one household in every 92 households, the 3636 postcode - which encompasses Numurkah, Naring, Drumanure and Invergordon - comes in just below the state average of one in every 91 households.

The average for Moira Shire overall for the 2018/2019 period was above the state average at one in every 83 households.

Whilst some neighbouring postcodes - including 3635 (Wunghnu, Kaarimba and Mundooona) at one in 102 households, and 3638 (Nathalia, Kotupna and Yelima) at one in 123 households - enjoyed even less risk than 3636 in the 2018/2019 period, others were well above the state average.

Households within the 3640 postcode, which covers Katunga, bore a one in 55 risk of burglary, with those in the 3637 area - Waaia and Yalca - just behind at one in 59 households.

These numbers appear particularly stark, as both 3640 and 3637 were listed as 'safe suburbs' in the 2017/2018 report, with no household burglaries recorded.

Though lower in numbers than 3640 and 3637, the local postcode that has charted highest overall since 2017, with an above state-average rating for the past two reporting periods, is 3641 - Bearii, Mywee, Strathmerton and Ulupna - with a rate of one in every 60 households in 2017/2018 and one in every 70 in 2018/2019.

Senior Sergeant Darren McGrillen from Cobram police told the *Leader* that the above average rates of burglary listed for some local postcodes were reflective of smaller populations.

"Obviously you're coming off some very low numbers in terms of how many households there are in some of those communities," he said.

"We're certainly concerned about any crime, but Moira Shire is a safe place to live."

Eight out of the top 10 high risk postcodes across the state were in regional Victoria, and though none were in Moira Shire, three of them were in the north east.

Postcode 3629 - encompassing Ardmona, Coomboona, Mooroopna, Mooroopna North and Undera - came in at number five with a rate of one burglary for every 41 households, with 3564 - Echuca, Bamawm Extension - right behind it at number six with a rate of one burglary for every 42 households.

Postcode 3630 - Shepparton, Shepparton South and Caniambo - just made the top 10 at number nine, with a rate of one burglary for every 47 households.

The Crime Statistics Agency data for the 2018 calendar year found the most likely time for burglaries is on a Friday during the day.

More than 17% of burgled houses were broken into on a Friday, about 15% on Saturdays, 14% on Thursdays and 13.5% on Sundays.

About a third of burglaries happened between noon and 6pm, while 14% happened between midnight and 6am.

Almost one in five thieves broke in by forcing a door, while almost 14% got in through an unlocked door.

With the Christmas holidays upon us, Senior Sergeant McGrillen urged local residents who are planning on being away from home to put basic security measures in place before they leave.

"Let police know that you are going to be away by filling out an absence from residence form either at your local station or online at www.police.vic.gov.au," he said.

"Get a friend, family member or neighbour to clear your letterbox regularly and put the bins in and out. You don't want to make it obvious that there is nobody home.

"Whether you are home or away, keep your doors and windows locked and make sure any firearms are properly secured."

With theft of keys being an increasing feature of burglaries across the state, Senior Sergeant McGrillen said we all need to be aware of how we are storing them.

"Many of us tend to have them on a hook, or in a bowl, just inside the door to allow us easy access to them, but this allows easy access to thieves as well," he said.

"I know it's convenient, but keys are a popular item to steal now, so it is something we need to change our way of thinking on."



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Corellas' return not welcomed

EVEN if you haven't seen them yet, if you live in Numurkah, the morning chorus of squawking will have alerted you to the fact that the corellas are back in town.

The birds have been gradually re-appearing over the past few weeks, with their numbers having already swelled to around 1,000.

Unfortunately, it has taken the birds very little time to get back up to their destructive tricks, with all of the repair work done on the pitch at the recreation reserve, since the birds left town in June, in danger of being undone.

Being in possession of shooting permits from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Victoria Police that allow them to use control methods to move the birds on, the Numurkah recreation reserve committee has no intention of letting the birds get a firm foothold.

The aim of the limited cull is to move the birds on, with history showing that once you shoot a number of them, the others realise the danger and the flock leaves town.

The committee's permit, which is valid until May 2020, was put to good use last Thursday, with plans in place to continue the cull this morning in the event that the birds were present en masse, as they were yesterday, in the hopes that they will get the message.

With several hundred birds on the ground at the reserve last Thursday, a professional pest control shooter, hired by the committee, was able to cull around 100 of the birds, eventually sending the rest away.

That number brought the total number of birds killed at the re-

serve since the permits, which allow for up to 1,000 birds to be shot, were received in May this year, to around 200.

Recreation reserve committee member, and volunteer groundsman, Neil Hutchins told the *Leader* that the committee voted on Monday to continue the shooting campaign until the birds stopped returning and causing damage to the reserve.

"We've got no desire to kill any more of them than we need to, we just want them to go away," he said.

"They stayed away from the rec reserve at first, but they started coming back last week and now they've already just about undone all the good work I've done patching the ground up since September.

"After Thursday's shooting, they left for a couple of days but then came back in large numbers on Sunday and Monday. That seems to be their pattern at the moment, so we just have to keep going until they get the message that it is not a safe place for them and they stay away."

DELWP Manager of Regulatory Operations Hume, Nathan Stamos said that the Office of Conservation Regulator (OCR) is working with the corella committee of management in Numurkah to provide advice about wildlife management.

"Corella numbers fluctuate depending on conditions, food availability and the season and, in large numbers, they can create problems," he said.

"Traditionally, these birds would have gathered in areas of grassland and woodlands to feed on fresh shoots and seeds.



Back in town and causing trouble ... Corellas making themselves comfortable at the Broken Creek foreshore park last week.

"Since agricultural practices have changed land use, these birds have adapted; now they flock to places, including townships, where food, water and roost sites are often available."

The birds causing the trouble around town at the moment are long-billed corellas, which unlike the little corellas that have amassed in their thousands in Numurkah for the past few summers, are not a protected species.

Let's hope the long-billed corellas let their little cousins know that Numurkah is not a great spot for a summer holiday, before they decide to come back to town as well.



Stay away ... The corella cull will continue at the rec reserve until the birds get the message.

Emergency chiefs call out govt on climate

A GROUP of 29 former emergency chiefs, calling themselves Emergency Leaders for Climate Action (ELCA) has announced it will hold a national bushfire emergency summit after the current bushfire season ends.

The group, whose members include former deputy fire commissioners, former directors general of Emergency Management Australia, former Director General of NSW National Parks, and a former deputy SES commissioner, is calling for the Federal Government to better prepare Australia for worsening extreme weather events.

ELCA said it felt a duty to fill the Federal Government's leadership vacuum on Australia's bushfire and climate crisis.

ELCA member Major General Peter Dunn (retired), Former Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Authority, said intense drought and extremely hot weather put unprecedented strain on firefighting agencies, as well as firefighters, emergency workers, health services, and others.

"Australia needs a national approach to ensure that states and territories have the resources needed to keep people safe. Bushfires are burning simultaneously in several states and territories,

and worse conditions are expected over the summer. People's lives and properties at risk; this is what climate change looks like," Mr Dunn said.

"We have been calling for a bushfire emergency summit to work out a coordinated strategy for worsening extreme weather in the future.

"We will now take it upon ourselves to host it in March. The Prime Minister is invited to join us, and to show the leadership Australia badly needs on emergency management and climate action."

Greg Mullins, former Commissioner Fire & Rescue NSW, and ELCA member, said ELCA members are deeply concerned with the unprecedented scale and ferocity of the current bushfire crisis.

"Summer has barely begun but record numbers of homes have been lost in Queensland and NSW, major cities have been shrouded in smoke and destructive fires are burning across Australia," Mr Mullins said.

"Our coalition of concerned leaders is growing, and we are not going away until we see action that matches the scale and urgency of the climate emergency and gives some hope for future gener-

ations.

"Climate change is the key driver to the worsening conditions but the Federal Government remains in denial as far as credible action on emissions goes.

"Australia has become hotter and drier due to climate change, but politicians in Canberra seem incapable of admitting the link. There are no credible climate policies to phase out fossil fuels, or bring down emissions, and our government embarrassed us in Madrid.

"We feel a duty to fill Canberra's leadership vacuum on the fires and will call our own national emergency summit after the current bushfire season, to bring together a range of interested parties to look at how we can adapt to a far more dangerous environment. The safety and well-being of communities, firefighters, and wildlife is on the line.

ELCA presented a list of recommendations to Drought and Water Resources Minister David Littleproud and Energy Minister Angus Taylor in early December.

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The Numurkah Leader

BOULBURN 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.

House Destroyed by Fire.— Mr W. Saxton sustained a heavy loss on Monday afternoon, when his seven-roomed house was destroyed by fire. It is not known how the outbreak occurred, for there was no fire in the house excepting that in the stove in the kitchen. Mr Saxton was working near the house when he saw smoke issuing from the roof, and immediately rushed inside. By this time, however, the flames had got too great a hold to be successfully combated with the means at hand, and the building and contents were completely burned, the only articles saved being three chairs, a chum, and two drawers taken from a wardrobe. By the help of neighbors the flames were prevented from spreading to the outhouses and fencing. The house was insured for £400 and the furniture for £150, but Mr Saxton's loss will still be a heavy one.

THE ELECTIONS.

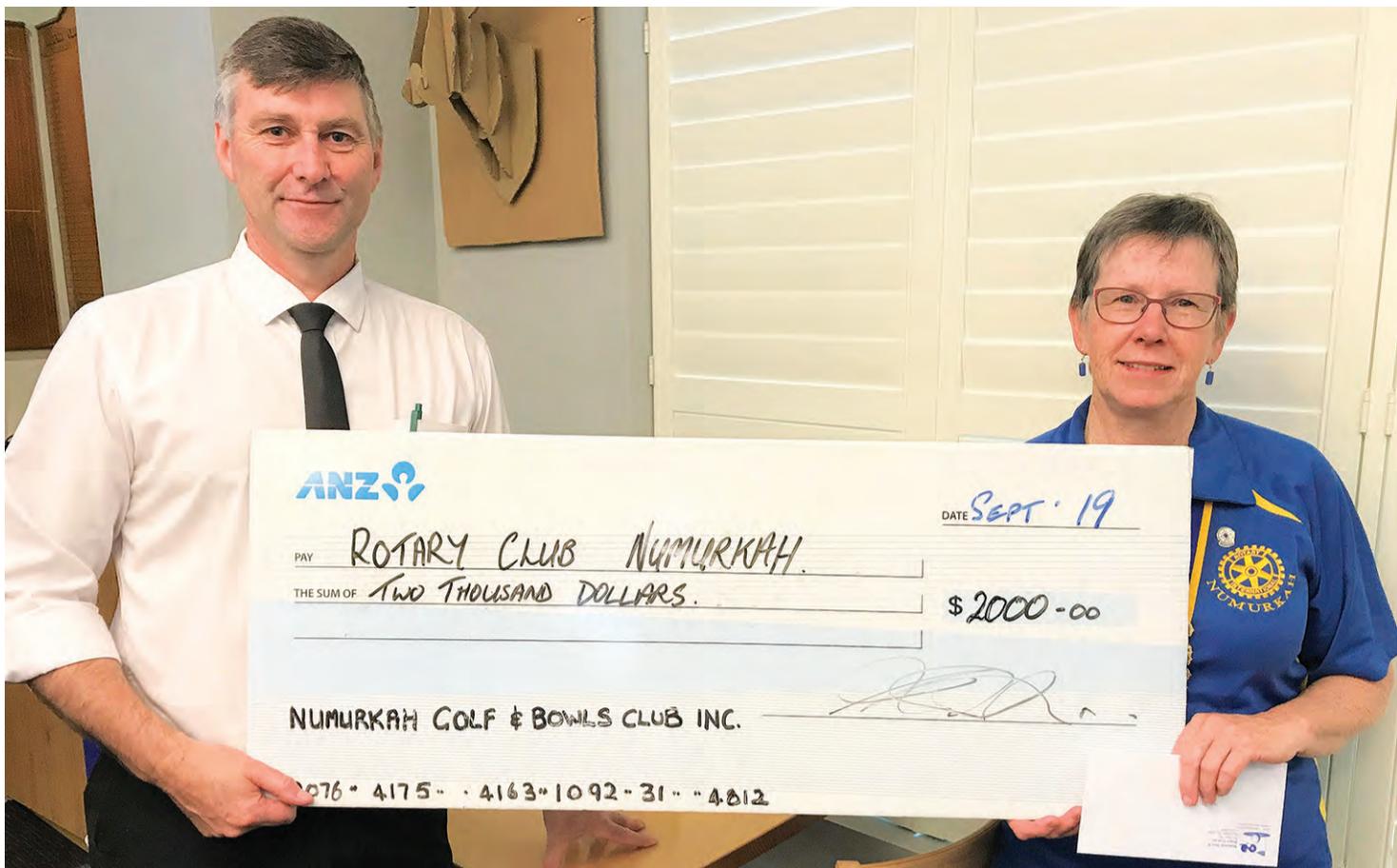
Polling for the election of members of the Commonwealth Parliaments took place on Saturday last, and so far as this district was concerned passed off quietly and without any heated arguments taking place though very decided opinions were expressed by supporters of all three parties. Chief interest locally centred in the fight for the House of Representatives. There were three aspirants—Mr W. C. Hill (Farmers' Union), Mr Burt Stewart (Nationalist), and Mr E. F. Russell (Labor). The Numurkah subdivision booths gave Mr Stewart a majority of 203 over Mr Hill 325, the vote showing an absolute majority over the two candidates—528 votes to 488 polled by Mr Hill and Mr Russell combined. As will be seen 1016 votes were cast. At the by election 906 votes were cast, of which Mr Purcell gained 453, and Mr Purbrick 89, Mr Purcell showing a majority of 89 over Mr Hill, and Polling exactly the same number as Mr Hill and Mr Purbrick combined.

An analysis of the figures show that Mr Hill in this subdivision polled 39 votes less than he did on the previous occasion, whilst Mr Stewart polled 75 more than did Mr Purcell. In other words, of the total votes cast for Messrs Purcell and Hill at the by-election, the former gained 56 per cent, and Mr Hill 11 per cent. On Saturday the proportions were — Stewart 62 per cent, Hill 38 per cent. At the by-election Numurkah was the only subdivision in which Mr Hill did not gain a majority over his opponents, but on this occasion he was in a minority on the first count in eight sub-divisions, Mr Stewart beating him in seven and Mr Russell in one. On the second preferences it seems certain that Mr Hill will be returned by a large majority, for it is estimated that 90 per cent, of Labor's second preference votes will go to him.

Failure of Orange Trees.—In an issue of this paper published during October we stated, in connection with the prospects of fruit crops in local orchards that orange trees gave promise of yielding prolifically next winter, for the trees had blossomed more profusely than had ever hitherto been the case in this district. A very different story must now be told, however, for after the blossom had "set" exceptionally well, so heavily indeed that it was seen that the trees could not carry the crop, during the past fortnight some destructive element has withered the bulk of the young fruit and caused it to fall to the ground, and in some instances not a single berry remains on the trees. The damage appears to be confined to Washington navel trees only, all other varieties having escaped. There is a difference of opinion amongst growers as to the cause, some believing it to be due to the effect of the frosts in October of last year, as Washington navel trees take a long time to recover their full vitality after a set-back, while others ascribe the mischief to hot winds while the trees were either in the blossom stages or when the fruit had formed. Whatever be the cause, it is certain that next winter's yield of Washington navels will be much tighter than was anticipated last month.

Cobram "Courier."

More Land Sales.—Campbell and Co. report recent sales totalling 6600 acres, including 3400 acres during the past week, full particulars of which will appear in these columns in due course. The same firm have during the last twelve months, sold 19 town properties comprising 15 houses and 4 building allotments.



Grateful for the support ... Numurkah Golf and Bowls Club assistant manager Kevin Morland presents a donation for \$2,000 to Rotary Club of Numurkah president Lorraine Greenwood.

Golf club donation aids Rotary mission

NUMURKAH Golf and Bowls Club has presented the Rotary Club of Numurkah with a generous donation that will help it with all the extra expenses that come with running a dynamic and active service club.

The \$2,000 cheque was presented to Rotary president Lorraine Greenwood by golf club assistant manager Kevin Morland, who said the club was pleased to be able to make a donation to an organisation that did so much for the local community.

"As a not for profit sporting club, we are always

pleased to be able to contribute to the local community beyond sport," he said.

"The Rotary club works tirelessly for the local community and, as a club, we agreed that we fully support their ethos and want to support what they do, especially with them working so hard for local families."

Ms Greenwood told the *Leader* that the donation will help pay for the extras that membership fees don't stretch to.

"All of our fundraising goes towards local projects, so we rely on membership fees to run the

club, but there are things they don't quite cover," she said.

"There are some bigger things like insurance that are essential, but also smaller things like paying for dinner for guest speakers, and special things such as allowing new members the opportunity to attend the Rotary Leadership Institute."

"To know that we have the support of other organisations in our community and that they value the work we do, and want to support us in it, is great."

"This donation will go a long way."

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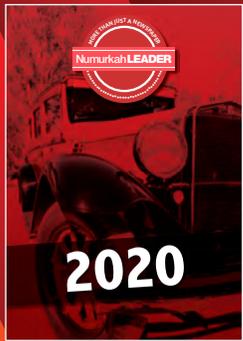
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To everyone in the Shepparton District, may you have a safe and happy holiday season



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The girl who sings ... Phoebe Timmis owned the role of Link Larkin in this year's production of Hairspray.

Talented Phoebe on her way

STARTING as the new kid at school can be intimidating, and whilst many try to tackle the challenge by blending in, that was never an option for Phoebe Timmis - she was born to stand out.

And now she has a prestigious award, and a song on iTunes and Spotify, to prove it.

A born musician and performer, Phoebe threw herself straight into St Mary of the Angels' music and performing arts program when she started at the school as a year 10 student, quickly becoming a valuable member of the VET music, production, band, and choir programs.

Phoebe has won a leading role in every school production presented since she joined St Mary's, showcasing her natural stage presence and vocal capabilities as Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, Robert Martin in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and this year, as Link Larkin in *Hairspray*.

Phoebe has performed many times at the college during masses, special events and unplugged lunchtime sessions. Fittingly, Phoebe performed the final song on the last day of school to close the college's presentation evening this year.

As if that weren't enough, Phoebe had two of her original songs nominated for awards in the statewide song-writing competition Kool Skools. 'Butterflies' was nominated for best acoustic track, and '23rd Street' for best indie pop track which she performed live at the Kool Skools event.

As the only representative from the area, Phoebe had the great honour of being invited to perform at the Kool Skools awards night, where in a surprise nomination, she won a Special Judges

Award for Singer/Songwriter.

The song she recorded, '23rd Street', now re-titled 'Lights are Going Out' has been released on all major music platforms including iTunes and Spotify under her stage name, Phoebe Belle.

St Mary of the Angels Vet Music teacher Kim Carter described Phoebe as an engaging and authentic performer, who mixes vulnerability with quirky humour and an unforgettable voice.

"She started out singing with the year 11 VET band during first year, making her mark with her amazing harmonies," Ms Carter said.

"It was when she moved into solo performance in her second year that she really began to embrace her own unique style, writing heartfelt songs based on her personal experiences."

St Mary of the Angels Choir Coordinator and Production Co-Producer Carmel Mills described Phoebe as an essential addition to the school production for three years.

"Phoebe's roles within production seemed repetitive, as she faced the 'can you please play our lead male?' request every year because of our need for her versatility and talent. She took each of these roles on with confidence and made them her own," Ms Mills said.

"Phoebe's musical contributions to this school are for sure what she will be remembered for. She quietly participated in band and choir but truly emerged with her stunning rendition of 'Oceans' at a school mass.

"For a long time, she was referred to as 'the girl who sings' by the younger students, and has only grown more well known since then."

Cops say tools down on TFB days

VICTORIA Police joined forces with Forest Fire Management Victoria and CFA in Shepparton Monday to remind the public they'll be taking a zero tolerance approach to deliberate and reckless fire behaviour this fire season.

With higher than normal temperatures forecast for the months ahead, the agencies combined to highlight the potential widespread harm that can be caused by deliberate or careless behaviour around fire.

Victoria Police Detective Senior Sergeant Will Watkins said that, whilst everyone knows arson is completely unacceptable, there will also be a strong focus on reckless behaviour, such as using angle grinders, farm machinery and faulty equipment on a day of total fire ban, due to the rising prevalence of this behaviour.

Senior Sergeant Watkins said these kind of actions have the potential to leave a severe impact on Victorian communities, including loss of life or destruction of property and the environment.

"It's everyone's responsibility to be mindful of their activities during fire danger periods, otherwise your actions could result in the cause of a bushfire," he said.

"Last summer we saw many fire-related offences caused by actions such as using tools or machinery during a fire danger period or burning off without a permit.

"As a result, we will again be relentless this summer in gathering intelligence and investigating any fire deemed suspicious."

Anyone found guilty of recklessly or intentionally causing a bushfire faces up to 15 years imprisonment or a fine of up to \$37,000.

This week's reminder follows Victoria Police's launch of Operation Safeguard in November, which focused on police having a highly visible presence in fire-prone areas on days of elevated fire danger.

The importance of the role played by the community and emergency services personnel in helping Victoria Police detect and prevent fires was also stressed.

Anyone who witnesses behaviour that has the potential to cause serious fires, should immediately call Triple Zero (000) and anyone with any information should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report to www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.

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- Handheld hoses can be used at any time if a trigger nozzle is attached
- Sprinklers can only be used between 6pm and 10am
- Brooms or blowers must be used to clean hard surfaces
- Use a bucket or handheld hose with a trigger nozzle to clean vehicles



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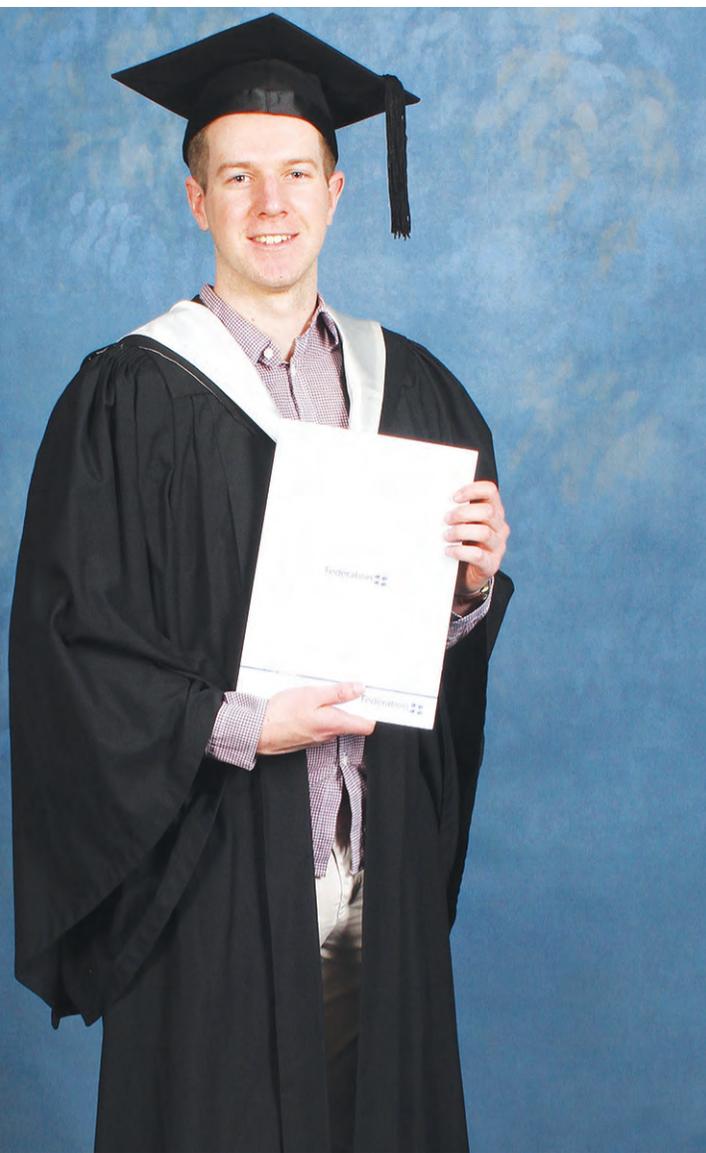
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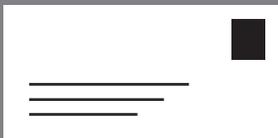


Andrew Smyth graduates Masters

FORMER Numurkah Primary School and Numurkah Secondary College captain Andrew Smyth recently graduated from Federation University Ballarat with a Masters in Strength and Conditioning.

Previous to that Andrew achieved a Bachelor in Exercise and Sports Science with Honours. Andrew is currently working at RADcentre in Ballarat.

Letter to the Editor



Spare a thought for those alone

IT'S that time of year again, when we are all excited to spend the holidays surrounded by loved ones and sharing the joy of Christmas.

Unfortunately, for many of Australia's vulnerable young people, this time serves as a reminder of what they don't have.

Every year there are many kids who spend their Christmas Day on the streets – they don't have a home to go to, let alone presents or a hot meal. What should be a joyous time is instead lonely, stressful and traumatic.

This Christmas season, I'll be handing out hundreds of hampers and presents across our services to families in need.

Just the simple act of giving a Christmas meal can drastically change the holidays for those who are struggling. By showing them they are loved and wanted, we can make a world of difference.

This year, when you are sharing the joy of Christmas with loved ones, I hope you can spare a thought for our young people who are alone. Together we can bring hope and safety to homeless and vulnerable young people this Christmas.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and new year and that 2020 brings you joy and happiness.

Father Chris Riley
CEO and Founder at Youth Off The Streets

Stride4Stroke reaches new highs

STROKE Foundation's Stride4Stroke challenge has concluded for 2019. It was an incredible effort by all who took part.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the almost 1,000 people from across Australia who participated and their generous supporters. During November, striders got moving, walking in rehab, running, cycling, swimming - some participants even jumped out of a plane!

Participants reduced their risk of stroke by boosting their exercise, meanwhile raising funds for the Stroke Foundation.

Through this amazing effort, \$200,000 was raised for Stroke Foundation.

Every dollar raised through Stride4Stroke will have an enormous impact. It will go towards vital Stroke Foundation programs like free telephone advice service StrokeLine (1800 787 653) and follow up services which help survivors and their families transition to life back home after stroke and throughout the recovery journey.

Stroke strikes in Australia every nine minutes. It attacks the brain, the human control centre, changing lives in an instant.

Yet this disease can mainly be prevented, it can be treated and it can be beaten.

Being physically active is an important step towards stopping this disease. Just 30 minutes of exercise, five times a week reduces your stroke risk by up to 25%.

I encourage all local residents to keep up their efforts and keep moving.

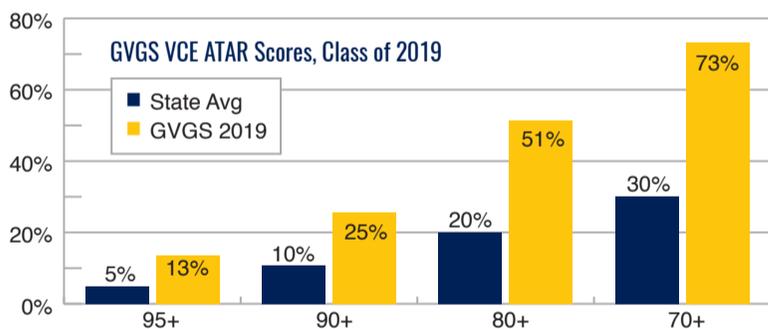
Together we can reduce stroke's impact on our community.

Sharon McGowan
Chief Executive Officer



GOULBURN VALLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Congratulations to the VCE Class of 2019



25% ATAR 90+ (22 students)

40% ATAR 85+ (36 students)

73% ATAR 70+ (65 students)

The school community congratulates all students in the Class of 2019. Their goal of deepening connections across year groups left a very positive legacy. Collectively they supported initiatives coordinating a diverse array of events and activities. Throughout Year 12 they remained committed to active involvement in sport, productions, public speaking, community service, leadership and music.

A genuine commitment to learning growth was evident through their effort and persistence. We are proud of our identity as an open entry school that welcomes a diverse range of students. We particularly acknowledge the courage and determination of students

who persisted in the face of obstacles and those who challenged themselves to seek excellence. Our students' learning was founded on the care and commitment of our dedicated staff who set high expectations for all.



L-R: Hugh Farrell (98.25), Muhammad Islam (99.9), Ishan Wijesingha (98.2), Lucy Asquith (99.7), Joshua Dillon (98.45), Larissa Watts (97.4).
INSET: Milla Pogue (97.7), Lynton Hoey (97.5).

www.gvgs.vic.edu.au



Your family, your business

Payments now available for household expenses

The Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA) Drought Relief Program is now offering payments of up to \$3000 to assist eligible farming families to pay household expenses such as food, household and medical bills.

The program is available to eligible irrigation farming families (including those that have transitioned from irrigation production systems to dryland production since 1 July 2018) workers and contractors in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (GMID).

For more information and to apply contact the CWA online at cwaofvic.org.au or email drought@cwaofvic.org.au.

For more information about the program and other available drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call **136 186**.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Invergordon man charged in bikie raid

A 59-YEAR-OLD Invergordon man is among eight men facing charges following raids related to outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) activity last week.

Police from Taskforce Echo, Armed Crime Squad, Vehicle Crime Squad, Fugitive Taskforce, State Liquor Unit, and local police from eastern and western regions executed warrants at properties at Shepparton, Mooroopna, Kialla, Muckatah and Invergordon following the alleged criminal activities of the 'Outlaws' OMCG.

Police located alleged stolen property, drugs, firearms and cash as they carried out search warrants at the properties as part of the ongoing investigation.

Members of the Australian Federal Police National Anti Gangs Squad were also involved in the warrants.

An Invergordon man has been charged with cultivate cannabis, traffic cannabis, assault police and possess proceeds of crime, and has been bailed to appear at Shepparton Magistrates' Court on March 23, 2020.

Other charges laid in relation to the investigation include:

- A 32-year-old man from Shepparton has been charged with traffic firearms, possess firearms, traffic amphetamine and possess precursor chemical.

- A 50-year-old Kialla man has been charged with prohibited person possess firearm, traffic amphetamine and cultivate cannabis.

- A 53-year-old Shepparton man has been charged with traffic and possess firearms.

- A 44-year-old man from Shepparton has been charged with possess amphetamine, cultivate cannabis and handle stolen goods.

- A 50-year-old Mooroopna man has been charged with traffic amphetamine, possess cannabis and possess proceeds of crime.

- A 32-year-old Mooroopna man has been charged with prohibited person possessing firearm, possession of ammunition, possess steroids and possess prohibited weapon.

- A 64-year-old Ardmona man has been issued with a cannabis caution and a drug diversion for possession of cocaine.

A 62-year-old Mooroopna man was earlier charged with possess and traffic cannabis and possess controlled weapon.

Further investigations will continue into liquor licensing offences in relation to contravening the liquor licensing act.




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History stars ... (From left): Katamatite School Principal Jason Whitely, Cooper Fitzgerald, Mitchell McPherson, Beth Brown, Chloe Verlin and Katamatite Historical Society president Don McPherson.

Keeping history alive at Katty

KATAMATITE'S commitment to keeping local history alive has seen the presentation of the inaugural Michael Lawless award to four Katamatite Primary School students for their contribution to a unique project.

The oral history project, instigated by the Katamatite Historical Society and sponsored by the Numurkah and Nathalia Bendigo Community Bank Branches, has paired Katamatite primary students with local elders to record their recollections of life in Katamatite.

Katamatite Historical Society president Don McPherson told the *Leader* the project met a number of aims for the society.

"We've been looking for a way to honour Michael Lawless, who was the first president of the Katamatite Historical Society," he said.

Along with Ada Rudd, Michael formed the Katamatite Historical Society shortly after the 1976 centenary celebrations of Katamatite. Together they instigated the building of the mud brick museum.

"Ada was eventually awarded an OAM for her contribution to the community - which was very well deserved - but Michael died quite young, so he was never recognised for his contribution," Don said.

"We thought this would be a good way of acknowledging that contribution.

"Michael was also very much a people person,

so we felt that a project that revealed the history of Katamatite through people telling their stories, and that brought young and old together, was a fitting thing to do in his name."

The four award recipients - Cooper Fitzgerald, Mitchell McPherson, Beth Brown and Chloe Verlin - interviewed long-term Katamatite residents Eric and Dulcie Barnes. Eric's family were original selectors at Katamatite.

Katamatite PS principal Jason Whiteley told the *Leader* the school was thrilled when the historical society reached out to them to collaborate on the project.

"We're very pleased to form any sort of partnership that can benefit and support the Katamatite community," he said.

"The students really got a lot out of this project. They've gained a lot of local knowledge and a greater understanding of their community.

"They've also learned a lot about question development and interview skills, such as active listening, and they'll develop a lot of multimedia skills when it's time to edit the video."

As for the students involved, they all agreed that it was a very interesting experience.

"It was amazing to hear Eric and Dulcie's stories about the way things used to be, and understand all the changes that Katamatite has gone through," Cooper said.

Mitchell told the *Leader* that he thinks there

are things from Katamatite's past that the community could learn from today.

"It was interesting to hear how they used to have so many community events like dances and picnics," he said.

"It would be good if we could have more things like that now. Even though there are lots of things we have that they didn't have then, they had a lot of fun together."

Chloe said that the process of completing the project was interesting in itself.

"The whole class worked together to put the questions together, and it was interesting to try and think of the kind of things we should ask about the past. I'm really looking forward to putting the video together too," she said.

Dulcie Barnes said that they were surprised to be asked to take part in the project, but were happy to oblige.

"We weren't quite sure what they'd be interested in knowing, but they asked good questions and we enjoyed talking to them," she said.

"We were given the questions the day before and they really made us think. It's always nice to go back and think about the things you've experienced in your life as time goes on."

The interview has been filmed and will be edited and presented to the Katamatite community in 2020 as well as adding to the vast resources of the Katamatite Historical Society.



Every drop counts Be water wise

It's everyone's responsibility to use water wisely.
Together, we can save a lot.
Always follow the Permanent Water Saving Rules or try Goulburn Valley Water's five top tips.



1

KEEP SHOWERS TO 4 MINUTES
Use a timer or play a song to help keep it short

2

ONLY USE YOUR WASHING MACHINE AND DISHWASHER WHEN FULL
And be sure to use the eco-mode

3

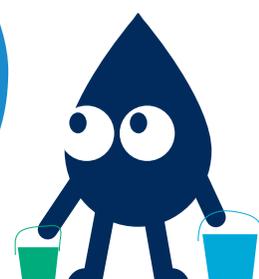
WATER YOUR GARDEN FOR LONGER, BUT LESS OFTEN
Plants will develop deeper roots for drought tolerance

4

USE MULCH ON THE GARDEN
You can stop water evaporation by up to 70%

5

USE THE HALF FLUSH BUTTON ON THE TOILET
Save up to five litres per flush



For more tips to save drips, visit: www.gvwater.vic.gov.au/every-drop-counts

GIVE US A BREAK



Give them a break ... Numurkah emergency services personnel Tim Mallon, Andy Green, John Shrimpton, Anne Connor, Tim Jenkins and Scott Osler want you to stay safe this holiday season.

Acting Sergeant Joe Tomasino Numurkah Police

AS Christmas and New Year celebrations approach and families are hitting the road for summer holidays, police and emergency services are urging all road users to take care on the roads and be sure to check their vehicles are in safe, roadworthy condition before departing.

This period there is a large increase of road users in the Goulburn Valley area, many of which are families making their way to their holiday destinations. I remind motorists to plan their trips to allow for time to take a break from driving.

Fatigue management is extremely important on rural roads, fatigue sneaks up on you and a micro-sleep can kill in seconds.

This year, unfortunately, there have been fatalities at intersections where it appears that driver error has been the contributing factor. Drivers are not approaching intersections with enough caution.

You may know the road well, you may have driven on it many times, however complacency in these situations can lead to tragedy.

When approaching intersections, break your gaze, you may see

the vehicle coming from your right a couple of hundred metres away but not see the vehicle 50 metres away. Lower your vision and get away from tunnel vision.

Police urge all road users to take care over this break and for those coming from Melbourne, our local drivers please take care, pay attention, stop and take a break.

Road users cannot afford to be complacent.

The attitude of drivers must change, this 'it won't happen to me' mentality, is disastrous.

Treat other road users as idiots, don't assume they are going to give way, stop or even see you.

Road tragedy has an enormous effect on families and the community.

- If you are late, exceeding the speed limit will not make you early
 - If you are going to drink, don't drive
 - Your decisions affect you, your family and friends
 - Before you drive, prepare yourself, make a plan, include breaks and set a reasonable time limit. The trip may take longer than you think.
 - Drive to the conditions not the speed limit.
- Drive, think and stay safe.

Strathy PS gives rain dance a try

ANYBODY driving past the rear of Strathmerton Primary School during lunchtime last Friday could not have been blamed for wondering what in the world was going on, as kids and teachers dressed as farmers danced in an energetic group in the playground.

However, it was all a bit of harm-

less fun - for a serious cause - and it was a scene being enacted at around 250 schools across Victoria and NSW.

The students at Strathy were doing a rain dance, kicking up plenty of dust in an attempt to 'bust the dust' by bringing on the rain.

Bust the dust was an initiative

started by students and teachers at Trangie Primary School in drought ravaged NSW as a way to both blow off a bit of steam and raise some spirits.

Strathy PS principal Geoff Wepner told the *Leader* that when the school heard about the idea, they thought 'why not?'

"Our students are aware of the

drought and its impact of course, and we thought it was something we could do together and have a conversation about the issue and raise a little bit of money for a good cause," he said.

The school used the occasion for an out of uniform day, and everyone came dressed as a farmer with a gold

coin donation.

Strathy students and staff lined up to dance to Nutbush, The Macarena, Git up, Stop, Cotton Eyed Joe and Gangnam Style, making sure they kicked up plenty of dust in the process.

Maybe the dancing didn't make it rain, but it brought plenty of smiles to plenty of faces.



Busting plenty of dust ... Strathy PS staff and students got their dancing shoes on for a good cause last Friday.

Trades & Services

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

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

GV Lawns & Yard Services
 ABN - 827 268 11412
Justin Barker - 0409 669 972
 Mowing / Ride on & Edging
 Garden Beds & Weed Control
 Hedge Trimming & Pruning
 Rubbish Removal & Handyman
 Pop Up Sprinklers - Install, Repair & Maintenance

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May Christmas
bring great joy to all
and may 2020 be a
prosperous year.

CLEM MAYBERRY Mechanical Repairs & Murray Valley Mufflers

Wishing all their clients a
very Merry Christmas
and a safe New Year.

Seiters Timber & Hardware

Management & staff wish
all their customers a great
Christmas and a wonderful New Year

CLOSED from 12 noon Saturday 21st Dec
REOPENING Monday, January 6, 8am ~ 3pm
Returning to normal hours from
Monday, 13th January 2020

SPORT FIRST

Mick and Rhonda wish all their
customers a very Merry
Christmas and thank them for
their support this year.

103 Melville Street Numurkah
Phone 5862 1338

FAIR SOCIÉTÉ

Thank you to all of our wonderful
clients for their support in 2019.
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year.
Closed from Wed 25th Dec, and
re-opening Thursday, January 2

Seasons Greetings
from all at

Numurkah

FOODWORKS

and Lotto

87 Melville St
Phone 5862 1722

Vikas & Yashik
thank you for
your support
throughout the year.

CALTEX ROADHOUSE

GV Hwy
Numurkah

Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

Open 5am-9pm every day over the
festive season
Ph: 5862 1887

NUMURKAH BAKERY CAFE

77 Melville St, Numurkah

Closed Public Holidays

Les, Tracey & staff
wish all their customers a
Merry Christmas and a happy 2020!

Ph 5862 1772

GV STEEL & SHEDS

Shaun & Glenda would like
to thank all their customers
for their patronage over the year.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Closing Friday, December 20 and re-
opening Monday, January 13, 2020
Ph: 5862 3838

Merry Christmas and happy
New Year from

CONNOLLY'S ACCOUNTING SERVICES

Taxation and Small Business Specialists
We will be closed from 5pm
Friday, December 20th and
reopening Monday,
December 30th, 2019

MIERLO

Adam Drust and
his staff wish
their friends and
customers a happy
festive time.

The cafe will be closed
Christmas eve, and all
public holidays

Ivan and Peter from HERITAGE PARK FUNERALS

wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and a
healthy, happy 2020

LAINO'S PIZZA & PASTA

The Laino family would
like to wish all their
patrons a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year.

**Closed Sunday
22nd December
Reopening
Friday, 3rd
January 2020**

**Ph. 5862 2803
126 Melville Street**

Wishing everyone a very
happy Christmas and
New Year celebrations

DLR

Doug Larkin Refrigeration
& Air Conditioning
Phone 0419 329 579

dollar curtains +blinds

Lorraine,
Greg and
team wish
all their
valued
customers a
safe and happy Christmas!

Closing 2.30pm Tuesday, Dec 24
Re-opening Monday, Jan 6
Ph: 5871 1142

Season's Greetings from DAVIES GARAGE

McDonald Street,
Numurkah

Phone 58621064

Bendigo Bank

Peter and staff of the Numurkah
Branch wish all their customers a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Safe New Year

27 Melville St Numurkah
Phone 03 5862 3135

PETER HILL HONDA

David & Jade Forman and
staff would like to wish
everyone a safe and happy
Christmas.

136-138 Saxton St, Numurkah
Ph: 5862 3000

All the crew at MURRAY VALLEY RURAL & PLUMBING

would like to wish their
customers a
very merry Christmas
and a happy New Year



WENDY LOVELL MP

Member for
Northern Victoria Region

would like to wish you and your family
a Merry Christmas and a safe,
happy and prosperous 2020

Ph: (03) 58216668
E: wendy.lovell@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by Wendy Lovell MP, 222 Wyndham Street Shepparton
Funded from Parliamentary Budget



MERRY CHRISTMAS

May Christmas
bring great joy to all
and may 2020 be a
prosperous year.

NORTHERN DOMESTIC WATER

Colin and Fred wish their customers a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Open on all public holidays
0427 269 518

THE RED CHERRY

Management and staff wish our customers and friends a Merry Christmas and happy 2020

We are closed Christmas, Boxing Day and New Years Day only

Helen Nicholas

Solicitor in Family Law & Residential Conveyancing

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Office reopens
Tuesday, 7th January 2020

Ravi and Rani and the team at
Louis Hamon Pharmacy
would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas & a safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

 Australian Men's Shed Association
MEN'S SHED NUMURKAH
The shedders would like to thank community groups and locals for their support.
Closed for the festive season to re-open Monday January 6, 2020
For men's health & wellbeing.

Ultimate AUTO REPAIRS

David, Danni and Rick would like to thank our customers for their support in 2019 and to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.
Closed Monday December 23, re-opening Monday, January 6

Wishing everyone a peaceful and safe Christmas and 2020
From

Peter and Jenny Cox, Family and Staff

Tyrepower

Ho! Ho! Ho!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Closed Christmas, Boxing and New Years Days
Ph: 5862 2663

The staff at
Numurkah LEADER
wish all our customers and readers a very happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.
The next edition of the Leader will be published on January 15. Our office will close at 12 noon on Friday, December 20 and re-open 8.30am Monday, January 6.

MONICHIINO WINES OF VICTORIA

All the team at Monichino Wines appreciate your support during the past year and extend to you SEASONS GREETINGS

Closing December 25, 26 and 27 and January 1
Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

 **Guardian PHARMACY**
Advice. Trust. Care.
Season's Greetings
from Col and Kerry, Katie and staff at
NUMURKAH PHARMACY
23 Melville Street, Numurkah
Phone 5862 1633

 **Goulburn Murray Credit Union**
Carly, Kim and Cynthia wish their members a Merry Christmas and a safe & happy New Year
102 Melville Street, Numurkah
Phone 5862 2894

 **LAILAW ELECTRICAL**
Wishing all of our valued customers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.
Adam & Leah, Tom, Josh & Cooper.
Ph: 0407 328 774

Seasons Greetings

from all members and staff of

NUMURKAH GOLF & BOWLS CLUB

Closed all day Christmas Day

Book now for New Years Eve
5862 3445

 **Capri Pizza**
Ph: 5862 1328
Keith, Kim and staff would like to wish all of our wonderful customers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Closed 24, 25, 26 December
Open from 4:30pm
27, 28, 29, 30 December
Closed 31 December and 1 January
Open for normal trading from 4:30 as of 2nd January

 **HOME TIMBER & HARDWARE**
Merry Christmas to all from the team at Numurkah Home Hardware - hope your stocking is filled with the coolest tools.
Closed Christmas day, Boxing day and New Years day only!
Phone: 5862 3131

 **DAN HENDY LAND FORMING**
Dan Hendy Land Forming would like to thank its customers for their support and wishes everybody a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.
For any enquiries please contact Dan 0428 383 256

TAKEAWAY
Vanessa & Staff wish their customers a happy festive season and thank them for their support.
Closed Christmas Day
Open every other day
on Melville

 **MAWSONS Concrete & Quarries**
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!
Closing from December 20
Re-opening January 6

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Enjoy a festive coldy with owner John Schaaf at happy hours

Monday - Thursday 4-5pm
Friday 6.30-7.30pm
Saturday 1-2pm

126 Melville Street 5862 1026



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and safe New Year

GrainCorp

Office & reception closed from 4.30pm Friday, December 20th.
Re-open Thursday January 2nd 2020
46-50 McDonald St
Numurkah VIC 3636
Phone 5862 1666



Justin & Kerri
wish their customers and friends a Merry Christmas and Happy 2020.
Workshop closed Mon Dec 23 to re-open Thursday, January 2, 2020.
Remember to get your car serviced for the holidays.

MEAT ON MELVILLE

Seasons greetings from Shaun, Rochelle & staff
Open Sat 21st Dec 6am-2pm
Sun 22nd Dec 6am-2pm
Mon 23rd Dec 6am-7pm
Tues 24th Dec 6am-4pm
Phone 5862 1225

PALS OPPORTUNITY SHOP
PALS would like to thank all our volunteers and customers for their support throughout 2019.
We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.
Closed Public Holidays



Kevin Fiona & Staff thank their customers for a good year.
The Numurkah office will be closed from 5 pm Friday Dec. 20 to re-open Thursday January 2, 2020.
Wishing everyone lots of festive fun.

Numurkah Community Learning Centre

Management & Staff would like to thank all their customers for their patronage over the year and wish them a happy and safe Christmas & New Year.
CLOSING FRIDAY 20/12/19
RE-OPENING WEDNESDAY 06/01/20



Angela would like to thank all her wonderful clients for their support over the past year, and wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
GKH ELECTRONICS
TV & AUDIO Services
Geoff Holmes
Cnr Sampsons Rd & GV Hwy
Phone 0428 845 074



Seasons Greetings from Management & Staff
101 Melville St., Numurkah
Phone: (03) 5862 1849
Closing Tuesday Dec 24 to Friday Dec 27.
Re-open Saturday Dec 28 to Tuesday Dec 31, closing 12 noon. Re-open Thursday January 2



The Bottle-O Numurkah staff & the Kerry family wish their customers a safe & Merry Christmas & thank you all for your support during 2019. We are open throughout the festive season (closed Christmas Day) & will be trading till late Christmas Eve.

NUMURKAH newsXpress

Craig, Andrea & Stephen & staff wish you all a merry Xmas and happy holidays.
Closed Xmas Day and New Year's Day
76 Melville St., Numurkah
Phone 5862 1109

BRERETON'S BAKERY & COFFEE LOUNGE
We would like to wish everyone a Merry Xmas & prosperous new year

NATHALIA HOURS
Mon & Tues 23rd and 24th 6am-5.30pm
Closed Christmas & Boxing Day.
Fri 27 6am -8.30pm, Sat 28 6am-2pm
Sun 29 7am-2pm, Mon 30 6am-5.30pm
Tues 31 6am-10pm
January 2020 trading
Wed 1st 7am-2pm, Thur 2nd 6am-5.30pm
Fri 3rd 6.00am-8.30pm, Sat 4th 6am-2pm

Noel Simmons Irrigation

Noel and Janet wish their customers a Merry Christmas
McDonald St., Numurkah
Phone 5862 3206

Christmas greetings from
Country Auto Service
(Barry & Sue Lewis)
Ph 5862 3332

24 hour breakdown & towing service, including Christmas & New Year's Day.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Holly, Court, Ellie, Kameeka, Claudia & Casey
vive
hair and beauty
Phone 5862 1874

I would like to wish everyone all the best for Christmas & this coming new year and look forward to servicing your cleaning needs in 2020.
Peter

Ph: 0438 505 976
Thoroughly Cleaned

Numurkah Furniture, Bedding & Removals

wish their customers a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year
92-96 Melville St., Numurkah
Phone 5862 1622

Shamrock Hotel

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and safe, happy and healthy 2020



Meraki Hair 'n' Beauty

wish all their clients & friends merry Christmas and a stylish, colourful new year.
Closed public holidays.
For booking for festive & holiday season phone Tanya and Emma 0448 585 399, Joanne 0488 400 093

The staff at



wish all their clients a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.
Closing Friday, Dec 20th
Reopening Monday, Jan 13th

The Directors and staff of
Cassidys Morrison and Teare

wish you and your family a safe and Merry Christmas.
Our office will close Friday 20th December 2019 at 5pm and re-open Monday 6th January 2020 at 8.30am
82 Melville St Numurkah
Ph: 5862 1444



Dom, Joanne and Staff thank their customers and wish them a happy festive season
The workshop is closed Friday December 20 to re-open Monday January 6 2020
Ph. 0417 323 812



Grant and the team @ Pozest Fire Systems wish customers & friends a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe 2020

2019: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

January 16

Ram raid at Bottle-O causes huge damage

WHEN Numurkah Bottle-O owner Brad Kerry responded to a security alarm at the store in the early hours of January 5, he did not expect to be met with a scene of carnage.

Lucky local wins first division

ONE Numurkah person saw in the new year in style, after scooping a first division prize in the final Tattsлото draw of 2018.

January 23

Foodbowl wins event of the year

THE Numurkah Foodbowl Festival has been crowned Event of the Year at the 2019 Moira Shire Australia Day Awards.



January 30

Helping people all the way to an OAM

NUMURKAH has a new member of the Order of Australia, with community stalwart Peter Cox having received the honour in the Australia Day honours.



FEBRUARY

February 6

Six arrested following major burglary investigation

SIX men have been arrested in relation to a spate of burglaries committed in the local area in the past six months.

February 13

Charges laid for Numurkah burglaries

TWO men have been charged with burglary, attempted burglary and theft offences arising from break-ins at five Numurkah businesses in December and January.

Picola water plant on display

GOULBURN Valley Water (GVW) opened the doors of the Picola water treatment plant last Friday so that local residents could see for themselves how the plant works, and the efforts that have been made to upgrade the facility.



February 20

Violent incident on Melville Street

DINERS at a local cafe were left in shock on Saturday night, when a violent assault occurred in full view of the public on Melville Street.

February 27

Finally gone!

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



MARCH

March 6

Call for a vote on health services amalgamation

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

March 13

Honour for trailblazer

Lorna

THE Victorian Honour Roll of Women now features a name that will be very familiar to the residents of Numurkah district: Lorna Morris.



March 20

Fun run success

THE Numurkah fun run celebrated its 10th anniversary on Sunday, and the biggest field of runners the event has ever seen turned out to give it their all.

March 27

Time flies for Jack

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.



APRIL

April 3

Mitch wins again

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

April 10

Cannabis operation found at Katunga

POLICE have discovered a sophisticated hydroponic cannabis operation on a disused dairy farm at Katunga.



April 17

Barmah brumby strategy anger

PETER Newman, president of the Barmah Forest Preservation League, is very clear on one thing - no way will he be letting anyone shoot brumbies in the Barmah Forest.

April 24

60kph at last for Strathy

CALM may not be a word you'd usually associate with a busy stretch of highway that hosts almost 5,000 vehicles per day - many of them trucks - but that was the word that came to mind watching the traffic pass through Strathmerton last Wednesday morning. The new 60kph speed limit signs had been installed the previous day, and the change was dramatic.



MAY

May 1

Shots fired on MacKenzie Street

A MAN was arrested in a dramatic raid at Stanhope last Wednesday night, after shots were fired into a MacKenzie St Numurkah home on Good Friday night.

May 8

GrainCorp fined over odour

ENVIRONMENT Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) has handed GrainCorp Oilseeds a fine of \$8,060 over a strong odour that drifted into nearby homes at Numurkah.



Wrong Pedal

A FOUR wheel drive vehicle smashed through the front brick wall of a Poplar Drive home and ended up in the lounge room at around 4pm yesterday.

May 15

Slow start to corella cull

THE plan to thin the numbers of Numurkah's flock of little corellas, and thereby encourage them to move on from the town, got off to a slow start on Monday, with the birds appearing to have got wind of the initiative.

May 22

Guilty verdict for Strathmerton murder

STRATHMERTON man Robert Strucelj has been found guilty of the murder of Bearii man Peter James Doyle at Strathmerton in January last year.

Marj is a living legend

IF anyone were in any doubt, it's now been made official - Numurkah's Marj Porter is a living legend.



May 29

Bomb squad neutralises device on O'Connor St

A NUMURKAH family is lucky to have avoided serious injury, after they transported an unexploded improvised explosive device (IED) in their car last Wednesday.

JUNE

June 5

Little hero gets birthday surprise

FRIDAY was a day of triple celebration for Waai's Kelsey Higgins. Not only was she celebrating her



eighth birthday, but she also got a surprise reward for something that was perhaps the biggest cause for celebration she'll ever have - saving her family's lives when their house caught fire last month.

VEC recommends Moira electoral subdivision

THE Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has recommended that Moira Shire Council return to a subdivided electoral structure, with three wards, each represented by three councillors.

June 12

Leigh receives well-deserved honour

NATHALIA has a new OAM recipient, with former Nathalia hospital Director of Nursing (DON) Leigh Giffard having been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.



June 19

History given context at heritage centre

NUMURKAH & District Historical Society knows how lucky it is to have such a great location to house its collection in its old bank building on Melville St, and it is determined to make the most of it.

June 26

Mustica under EPA investigation

THE Numurkah Leader has learned that Moira Shire Mayor Libro Mustica is under investigation by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) for alleged illegal dumping of rubble.

2019: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY

July 3

Amalgamated health service now a reality

THE much-debated amalgamation of Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram health services is now a reality, with the new NCN Health having come into effect on Monday, July 1.

July 17

Toy makers

NUMURKAH Men's Shed members have been putting their skills to good use making toys for Moira FoodShare to pass on to battling families.

July 24

From little thing big things grow

A VERY special birthday celebration was held in Numurkah on Saturday morning, but the guest of honour, a stalwart of the town, though welcoming of its guests, remained silent. The occasion marked a milestone - 80 years since the great oak tree in the memorial park was planted.



Numurkah' solar farm is go

FROM now on, whenever you travel on a Melbourne tram you'll be doing so courtesy of power generated just a stone's throw from Numurkah.



July 31

Huge Katunga biofuel plant a step closer

THE biofuel plant proposed for Katunga has been confirmed, with a public event held at Katunga Fresh last Friday to make the announcement.

AUGUST

August 7

Milking brothers bring home gold and silver



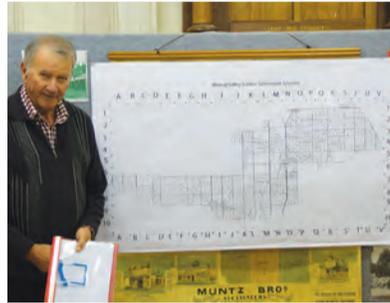
DAIRY farming brothers Chris and Justin Hiberson may not be in the milk business to earn accolades, but their recent

success in Dairy Australia's Milk Quality Awards was a sweet victory nonetheless.

August 14

Mapping Numurkah's soldier settlement history

THREE local community groups have been working hard on a project that goes to the very heart of Numurkah's history - mapping our town's soldier settlement program.



August 21

Council seeks proposals for information centre

MOIRA Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) to lease and develop a community hub and visitor information point within the old Numurkah Shire offices on Melville Street.

August 28

Lodge redevelopment on track

THE initial stages of the redevelopment of Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge are well under way.

SEPTEMBER

September 4

Locals call for skate park expansion

NUMURKAH skate park regulars are seeking community support for an expansion of the park so that people of all ages can enjoy the facility together.



September 11

Tragedy on GV Highway

THE Goulburn Valley Highway, between Gillespies Rd and Wunghnu Rd, was the scene of a fatal accident on Friday afternoon, in which two people died and three others were injured.

September 18

Council calls for pause on plan

MOIRA Shire Council has resolved to request the Federal Government delays further implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan.



September 25

Mona's century

MONA Kelly may have lived most of her 100 years within a small circumference of space around her home, school and church on Tocumwal Rd Numurkah, but her life has been anything but small.

OCTOBER

October 2

Equal partners after all these years

ACCORDING to Numurkah's Amy and Les Hall, if there is a secret behind the success of their 70 year marriage, it's communication.



October 9

Goulburn-Murray Water price drop

MOST Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) customers can expect to see reductions in their bills from next July, as GMW seeks final feedback on its pricing submission, which will determine its fees and charges from 2020 to 2024.

October 16

Complaint numbers raise ombudsman's eyebrows

THE Victorian ombudsman has declared that many Victorian councils are understating the number of complaints they receive, after the release of a report in which Moira Shire Council self-reported that it received just four formal complaints in 2018.

October 23

Raising the flag for inclusion and respect

LOCAL police stations have received a new addition this week, one which speaks to Victoria Police's recognition of indigenous Australians and its desire to maintain good relationships with the aboriginal community.



October 30

All the fun of the show

THE Numurkah show has been hailed a huge success once again, with a great time had by one and all.

NOVEMBER

November 6

Lake Numurkah 'closed' after positive E. coli test

MOIRA Shire has posted notices advising residents and visitors to avoid contact with the water in Lake Numurkah, due to potentially unsafe levels of E.Coli being detected in the lake.

November 13

Roadhouse ram raid sparks grass fire

POLICE are seeking three individuals who performed a daring ram raid at the Caltex roadhouse in the early hours of yesterday, stealing an ATM which they then dragged along the GV Highway for around a kilometre, sparking a grass fire.

No drought funding for Moira after all

LOCAL MP Damian Drum has been forced to admit that he jumped the gun with his recent announcement that Moira Shire would receive \$1 million as part of the Federal Government's Drought Communities Programme (DCP).

November 20

Proper, old fashioned op-shop celebrates 50 years

THERE are few, if any, organisations more recognised as being a force for good on a global scale than the Red Cross, and for 50 years, the entire Numurkah community has been a small part of that global force.

November 27

Beautiful artwork livens up town

NUMURKAH is famed, among other things, for its beautiful birdlife, and there is now a permanent celebration of that in the form of a magnificent colourful mural in McPherson's arcade.



DECEMBER

December 4

Local farmers march on Canberra

NUMURKAH and district farmers and business people were among thousands of regional Australians who marched on parliament house in Canberra on Monday, urging federal politicians to scrap the Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP).

Rain can't dampen passion

IF proof were ever required that car people are a hardy breed, Sunday's Show Us Ya Wheels provided it.



December 11

Offender steals police car and causes chaos

NUMURKAH district was the site of dramatic scenes last week, featuring, on separate days, the theft of a police car, and a police pursuit of two vehicles through Naring and Numurkah.

According to a police source, one offender was involved in both incidents.

NCN gets new branding

NEW branding for the amalgamated NCN Health service has been unveiled, with a new logo having been developed based on feedback received from staff and community engagement undertaken at the start of the year.



NCN Health

Nathalia
Cobram
Numurkah

Numurkah LEADER Classifieds



PUBLIC NOTICES

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Carols by candlelight Singers WANTED
to sing with existing choristers.
Lyrics in booklets provided, just come along to the Newman Square rotunda Friday December 20th, 7pm for 7.30pm start



Temporary Road Closures Nathalia

The following roads will be closed for the Nathalia New Years' Eve Market & Carnival

- 4pm Tuesday 31 December 2019 until 1am Wednesday 1 January 2020**
- Murray Valley Hwy/Blake St (VicRoads) from Pearce St to Weir St
- 4pm Tuesday 31 December 2019 until 1am Monday 1 January 2020**
- Church Street from Robertson St to Park St
- Park Street from Church St to Bindon St
- Pelling Street from Church St to Bindon St
- Mitchell Street from Bromley St to Park St
- Camp Street from Bromley St to Park St
- Cope Street from Bromley St to Park St
- Church Street from Robertson to Chapel St

Council has approved these temporary road closure under Schedule 11, 10(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1989. Please seek alternative routes during these times.
For more information contact Moira Shire Council on (03) 5871 9222.

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

www.moira.vic.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTIFICATION BY BUYER - INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE PERMANENT TRANSFER OF A LICENCE TO TAKE AND USE GROUNDWATER GMW Reference BPTWE0066-19

We, Four Leas Entities Pty Ltd of 596 Katunga-Picola Road, Katunga VIC 3640 Refer to Vic Roads Map 22 H9 intend to make application to permanently transfer entitlement to our existing Licence to Take & Use Groundwater and increase the licensed volume from 276 ML/Year to 489 ML/Year.

We intend to extract groundwater from an existing bore. The water will be used for the purpose of Irrigation.

To be used on lands described as:
Volume 9302 Folio 494 Lot No. 1 Plan No. 859537A Plan Type PS Parish Ulupna; Volume 10139 Folio 376 Crown Allotment CA62C Section C Parish Ulupna; Volume 10139 Folio 377 Crown Allotment 62D Section C Parish Ulupna; Volume 9231 Folio 293 Crown Allotment CA63 Section C Parish Ulupna; Volume 9429 Folio 566 Crown Allotment CA62B Section C Parish Ulupna.

Any person able to demonstrate that their interests will be affected by the transfer of this Licence including any intended groundwater use, is invited to make a formal submission setting out the nature of the impact within 14 days of receipt of this written notification.

To make a submission, please read the information available to download from www.g-mwater.com.au/customer-services/forms refer to No. 4 (or contact GMW to arrange for a copy to be posted to you). Submissions must be lodged in writing using the template available by either mail or email to Customer Support Coordinator, Licensing Administration, PO Box 165, TATURA VIC 3616 or email licensingadmin@g-mwater.com.au.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Classified Line Ads: 12 noon Tuesday

Display Ads: Bookings by 12 noon Monday

PUBLIC NOTICES

Friends of Karinya Xmas raffle winners
Sue Corbett, Lisa Solberg and Andrew
Thank you to everyone for their support.
Merry Christmas to all

V/Line Customers

We will be CLOSED from 4pm on Friday 20th December 2019

and will REOPEN 9.00am on Monday 6th January 2020

It is advisable to purchase tickets for your travel in advance of tickets can be purchased on the coach.

Thank you for your support in 2019



NUMURKAH COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE Inc
VIC 36477

Management & Staff
Numurkah Community Learning Centre

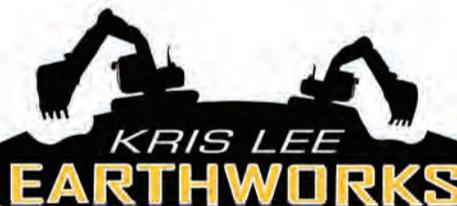
Numurkah Lions Club Inc. MARKET This Saturday DECEMBER 21st

South Bank of Broken Creek, Numurkah

Time: 8.00am - 12 noon

- Cottage Craft
- Produce
- New & Second Hand Goods
- Something for everyone

Enquiries Doug 0459 322 496
Another Lions Club Project



Numurkah Sand & Gravel would like to let everyone know that we have moved and are no longer in Trengrove St.

We have moved to 2046 Nathalia Rd
1km down on left from the highway.
Business as usual, for service please ring Kris or Ash.

Thanks
Kris & Ash Lee & employees would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

BIRTHS

BARBARO — Shaun, Rochelle and Rafael welcome

LEO ADAM
born December 10th 2019, weighing 9lb 2oz.
Thanks to the staff at GV Health

DEATHS

CHALKER — Thérèse. Loved sister, sister-in-law and aunty of Peter Bourke (dec.), Colleen and families. Daughter of Tom and Mon (both dec.) of Nathalia.
R.I.P.



CHALKER — Our school community is greatly saddened by the loss of our much loved teacher Thérèse Chalker. Our prayers and thoughts are with her family, her husband Matt children Dionne, Andrea, Monique, Chas, John, and their partners, along with her cherished grandchildren Spencer, Tilly and Margot.

She filled many roles, including Vice Principal, REC, Welfare Officer, Class Teacher and Mother and Nana T to all. There was devoted to our school founder St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She was much adored by staff, families and students alike. She will be sadly missed.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



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IVAN NEWBY
PETER KRAKE

DEATHS

SEYMOUR — Gerald
Passed away peacefully on 10th December, 2019.
Loved and loving husband of Yvonne (dec.), much loved and respected Father of Michael, Anne, Paul and David and Grandad and Uncle of many from all parts of Australia.
Eighth Son of Malachi and Mary (both dec.), brother of Michael, Edward, Norman, Patrick, James, William and Kevin (all dec.), Mary (Berthelsen), Thomas and Helen.
An exemplary life well lived Poidy, surely deserving of eternal rest with Yvonne in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

VICARS — John. Husband of Lorna, father of Philip, Rose, Michelle, Sharon and families.
Brother-in-law of Ralph Willgoose, uncle of Jenny, Carolyn, Andrew and families.
In God's Care

DEATHS

STELL — Kevin John.
14.2.1956-17.12.2019
Peacefully at Numurkah Hospital.
Loving husband of Sandra, loved father to his kids and grandkids.
R.I.P.

Private cremation



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Leader photos available for purchase

in full colour

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TROPHIES & ENGRAVING
NUMURKAH LEADER

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THANKS

Thank you Heavenly Father for prayers answered through the intercession of St Theresa of the Infant Jesus - The Little Flower - and St Rita The Advocate of the Hopeless.

M.L.

Leaf — Beverley Joan.
We wish to sincerely thank all those who have remembered our sister and aunty Bev at this time of loss. Your support has been greatly appreciated. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

Maureen & Maree O'Neill.

Thank you

Lambert — Ernest (Ern).
Passed away suddenly 30 November, 2019

Helen, John, Dearn and their families wish to thank everyone for the support to them in the sudden loss of Ern. A wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, who was loved by all and now sadly missed.

To those who travelled from far and near to attend Ern's service, the beautiful flowers, cards and telephone messages received have shown us how well he was regarded. Your kindness is appreciated very much, as was the food provided by friends and neighbours.

Special thanks to Dr Senan Al-Saffar, Chris and Sally at Numurkah Medical Centre and the caring staff at Numurkah Hospital.

Our thanks to Brian Walsh Funerals and Celebrant Tania Bell for the service arranged to celebrate Ern's life and to the Yarroweyah Hall Committee together with Strathmerton Groups for the catering provided.

Please accept this as our personal thanks.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

NCN Health | Nathalia Cobram Numurkah

NCN Health has the following vacancies at their Cobram Campus:

Perioperative Nurse Unit Manager

0.4 EFT – Fixed Term until 30th January 2021

Infection Control Coordinator

0.3 EFT – Fixed Term until 30th January 2021

All applications close 5pm, Sunday 22nd December 2019

Visit our website for further information including position descriptions, contact details and the application process.

www.cobramdistricthealth.org.au

NCN Health | Nathalia Cobram Numurkah

NCN Health now invites candidates to apply for our

Enrolled Nurse Graduate Program

Temporary Part Time – 64 hours per fortnight, fixed term 12 months

Closing date 5pm Sunday 22nd December 2019
Visit our website for further information including position descriptions, contact details, application processes

www.ndhs.org.au

Barwo Homestead, Nathalia

COOK

Short term contract
Up to 30th April, 2020

Mon - Fri. 9am- 5.30pm.

Sat. & Sun. 9am- 2.30pm.

Hours are negotiable, up to 7 shifts per fortnight.

Must have ability to provide good quality homestyle food. Flexibility in work practice and a good rapport with the elderly is essential.

A Police Record check must be provided by successful applicant.

Further details from:

Mrs. L. Walker Phone: 5866 2574

Applications close: 9th January, 2020

Written applications to:

Mrs. L. Walker

8 Federation St., Nathalia. 3638

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in minutes...

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BUSINESS NOTICES



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Please let us know before next year's edition so that we can ensure that all the information is correct.

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Summer SPORT scoreboard



Cricket

CRICKET SHEPPARTON One day game A GRADE

NORTHERNERS lt NUMURKAH

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

D Grandell run out (RN Sidebottom).....	21
M Price c M Hall b RN Sidebottom.....	0
W Arnel b J Brett.....	60
SE Downie b T Sidebottom.....	34
M Eckard lbw b J Brett.....	31
J Lau c Z Newbound b J Brett.....	21
L Gledhill not out.....	13
J Smith b J Brett.....	2
T Braybon run out (M Brett).....	0
M Cline b RN Sidebottom.....	1
Extras (nb 2, w 11, b 4, lb 7).....	24
Total.....	9/207 (cc)

Overs 45.0
FOW: 5 (M Price) 45 (D Grandell) 104 (SE Downie) 149 (W Arnel) 170 (M Eckard) 197 (J Lau) 202 (T Braybon) 202 (J Smith) 207 (M Cline)
Bowling: RN Sidebottom 9.0 1 2 35; J Sidebottom 5.0 0 23; J Brett 9.0 1 4 34; Z Newbound 5.0 2 0 14; T Sidebottom 8.0 1 1 40; G Hutchins 9.0 0 0 50.
1ST INNINGS - NORTHERNERS

M Hall run out.....	4
T Sidebottom not out.....	10
J Sidebottom lbw b T Braybon.....	0
RN Sidebottom c W Arnel b SE Downie.....	23
B Pedretti c J Smith b M Eckard.....	12
M Brett c J Smith b L Gledhill.....	36
R Lau c L Gledhill b T Braybon.....	47
G Hutchins not out.....	1
J Brett c J Smith b L Gledhill.....	19
Z Newbound run out.....	0
G Davidson c M Cline b M Eckard.....	31
Extras (nb 1, w 10, b 0, lb 7).....	18
Total.....	9/201 (cc)

Overs 45.0
FOW: 60 (B Pedretti) 62 (R Lau) 65 (J Sidebottom) 120 (M Brett) 148 (J Brett) 166 (G Davidson) 183 (M Hall) 192 (RN Sidebottom) 193 (Z Newbound)
Bowling: M Cline 7.0 0 0 47; T Braybon 8.0 0 2 37; M Eckard 9.0 1 2 40; SE Downie 9.0 2 1 25; L Gledhill 9.0 1 2 23; M Grandell 3.0 0 0 22.

WAAIA lt KATANDRA

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

L Henderson c JM Wright b C Hickford.....	0
S Trower b C Hickford.....	0
R Knight c JM Wright b RW Shannon.....	31
J Cleeland c & b H Sirett.....	20
BG Carey c JG Wright b S Richardson.....	7
MJ Cleeland c H Sirett b JM Wright.....	19
C Brown c L Patel b JM Wright.....	22
SC Carey c A Riordan b JM Wright.....	0
J Trower c JG Wright b JM Wright.....	1
M Stuart run out (A Riordan, JG Wright).....	1
C Walpole not out.....	0
Extras (nb 1, w 4, b 2, lb 2).....	9
Total.....	110

Overs 35.2
FOW: 0 (L Henderson) 2 (S Trower) 39 (J Cleeland) 60 (R Knight) 67 (BG Carey) 95 (MJ Cleeland) 95 (SC Carey) 107 (J Trower) 108 (M Stuart) 110 (C Brown)
Bowling: C Hickford 6.0 0 2 26; H Sirett 6.0 2 1 13; RW Shannon 5.0 0 1 24; S Richardson 6.0 1 1 13; JM Wright 8.2 1 4 23; A Riordan 4.0 2 0 7.
1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

B Clurey c BG Carey b J Trower.....	6
B Black c SC Carey b MJ Cleeland.....	7
L Patel not out.....	36
A Riordan lbw b MJ Cleeland.....	0
JM Wright not out.....	53
Extras (nb 0, w 10, b 0, lb 0).....	10
Total.....	3/112 (cc)

Overs 23.2
FOW: 9 (B Clurey) 18 (B Black) 20 (A Riordan)
Bowling: MJ Cleeland 9.0 1 2 41; J Trower 5.0 1 1 15; M Stuart 2.0 0 0 23; L Henderson 3.0 0 0 11; C Brown 3.0 0 0 12; J Cleeland 1.2 0 0 10.
LADDER P B W2W1 D L1 L2 PTS %

Numurkah	7	1	0	6	0	1	0	42	1.90
Katandra	7	1	0	6	0	1	0	42	1.57
Nagambie	7	1	0	5	1	1	0	39	1.39
Mooroopna	7	1	0	5	0	2	0	36	1.54
Kyabram	7	1	0	5	0	2	0	36	1.32
Old Students	7	1	0	3	0	4	0	24	1.11
Northerners	8	0	0	4	0	4	0	24	1.02
CP/St Bs	8	0	0	4	0	4	0	24	0.93
Shepp United	8	0	0	3	0	5	0	18	0.91
Euroa	8	0	0	3	0	5	0	18	0.73
Waaia	7	1	0	2	0	5	0	18	0.69
Tatura	7	1	0	0	1	6	0	9	0.36
Karramomus	8	0	0	1	0	7	0	6	0.66

LOVE THE GAME A GRADE T20 NUMURKAH def KYABRAM

Toss won by Kyabram, batted first
1ST INNINGS - KYABRAM

CR Mueller c.....	31
B McLay c.....	32
A Gillespie c.....	16
K Fitzgerald c.....	2
J Gascoyne c.....	19
A McKenzie c.....	1
L Hanslow b.....	8
CD Hawes not out.....	13
C McLay not out.....	1

Extras (nb 3, w 3, b 0, lb 7).....13
Total.....7/136 (cc)
Overs 20.0
FOW: 69 (CR Mueller) 76 (B McLay) 81 (K Fitzgerald) 110 (J Gascoyne) 112 (A McKenzie) 112 (A Gillespie) 127 (L Hanslow)
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

Extras (nb 1, w 9, b 0, lb 3).....13
Total.....3/142
Overs 14.4
Bowling: A McKenzie 3.0 0 1 24; C McLay 3.0 0 0 29; L Hanslow 3.4 0 2 32; J McLay 3.0 0 0 32; CD Hawes 2.0 0 0 22.

KATANDRA def TATURA

Toss won by Tatura, bowled first
1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

J McKinnon b B Archer.....	7
B Clurey c & b C Davies.....	88
L Patel c & b H Murdoch.....	15
JM Wright b J Armstrong.....	87
H Sirett not out.....	3
S Richardson c & b J Armstrong.....	0
JG Wright not out.....	7
Extras (nb 0, w 2, b 0, lb 0).....	2
Total.....	5/209 (cc)

Overs 20.0
FOW: 22 (J McKinnon) 81 (L Patel) 151 (B Clurey) 201 (JM Wright) 201 (S Richardson)
Bowling: J Armstrong 4.0 0 2 39; C Davies 3.0 0 1 27; R Singh 2.0 0 0 14; M Archer 3.0 0 0 37; B Archer 1.0 0 1 9; S McAllister 2.0 0 0 30; H Murdoch 2.0 0 1 16; B Armstrong 3.0 0 0 37.

1ST INNINGS - TATURA

D Miller c C Simpson b C Hickford.....	4
C Davies b H Sirett.....	0
R Singh b H Sirett.....	1
J Armstrong run out (L Patel, JG Wright).....	10
M Archer c & b L Patel.....	29
B Armstrong not out.....	11
S McAllister not out.....	5
Extras (nb 1, w 15, b 0, lb 1).....	17
Total.....	5/77 (cc)

Overs 20.0
FOW: 2 (C Davies) 4 (R Singh) 12 (D Miller) 42 (J Armstrong) 61 (M Archer)
Bowling: C Hickford 3.0 0 1 11; H Sirett 3.0 0 2 9; RW Shannon 4.0 0 0 23; S Richardson 2.0 1 0 2; JM Wright 3.0 0 0 5; L Patel 3.0 0 1 19; C Simpson 2.0 0 0 7.

Katandra	3	0	3	0	0	0	6	3.22
Shepp United	3	0	3	0	0	0	6	1.85
Numurkah	3	0	2	0	1	0	4	0.92
Euroa	3	0	2	0	1	0	4	0.71
Northerners	3	0	2	0	1	0	4	0.70
Kyabram	3	0	2	0	1	0	4	0.28
Karramomus	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0.12
Waaia	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	0.08
CP/St Bs	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	-1.21
Tatura	3	0	1	0	2	0	2	-3.14
Old Students	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	-0.58
Nagambie	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	-2.62

B GRADE NUMURKAH def NORTHERNERS

Toss won by Northerners, batted first
1ST INNINGS - NORTHERNERS

T Dunning c & b S Dawson.....	44
D Furnell c & b S Dawson.....	0
S Dawes b B Roberts.....	5
J Feeney b RL Lacuin.....	0
PJ Hall run out.....	23
D Newbound lbw b RL Lacuin.....	0
SN Marshall b RL Lacuin.....	3
T Brett st ? b RL Lacuin.....	57
S Lines lbw b.....	4
K Montgomery not out.....	2
L Mamone c & b RL Lacuin.....	0
Extras (nb 0, w 6, b 1, lb 3).....	10
Total.....	148

Overs 37.4
FOW: 9 (S Dawes) 13 (S Lines) 48 (PJ Hall) 126 (T Dunning) 127 (L Mamone) 131 (J Feeney) 131 (SN Marshall) 136 (D Furnell) 148 (T Brett) 148 (D Newbound)
Bowling: B Smith 5.0 0 1 16; B Roberts 6.0 0 1 24; M Martin 9.0 2 0 31; S Spicer 7.0 0 0 37; RL Lacuin 6.0 1 5 23; S Dawson 5.0 1 1 13.
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

S Spicer lbw b D Furnell.....	18
K Jackson c L Mamone b D Furnell.....	18
J Pruden b D Furnell.....	36
B Smith c & b D Furnell.....	0
S Dawson c & b K Montgomery.....	15
H Verhoeven c & b J Feeney.....	17
D Ebborn not out.....	24
B Roberts not out.....	2
Extras (nb 3, w 11, b 4, lb 1).....	19
Total.....	6/149

Overs 42.1
FOW: 45 (K Jackson) 53 (S Spicer) 59 (B Smith) 83 (S Dawson) 114 (H Verhoeven) 135 (J Pruden)
Bowling: T Brett 2.0 0 0 13; S Lines 7.1 1 0 27; S Dawes 9.0 3 0 23; D Furnell 8.0 1 4 28; J Feeney 8.0 2 1 19; K Montgomery 5.0 0 1 23; D Newbound 3.0 0 0 11.

ATANDRA def WAAIA

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

K Tatt lbw b RJ Ireland.....	27
JD Johnson run out (J McKinnon).....	16

A Ciavarella c P Inglis b AE Nicholls.....40
M Daniel c RJ Trewin b AE Nicholls.....17
CJ Armstrong lbw b RJ Ireland.....0
JA Gray lbw b N Minogue.....6
D Atkins c RJ Trewin b AE Nicholls.....14
H Hixon run out (P Inglis, M Black).....0
SG Moore not out.....29
R Trimby not out.....15
Extras (nb 0, w 10, b 2, lb 1).....13
Total.....8/185 (cc)
Overs 45.0
FOW: 36 (JD Johnson) 69 (K Tatt) 106 (A Ciavarella) 108 (CJ Armstrong) 108 (M Daniel) 128 (D Atkins) 129 (JA Gray) 162 (H Hixon)
Bowling: P Inglis 9.0 1 0 29; JA Thorne 9.0 0 0 50; N Minogue 9.0 1 1 41; RJ Ireland 9.0 3 2 34; AE Nicholls 9.0 1 3 28.

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

J McKinnon c & b CJ Armstrong.....	58
M Black lbw.....	7
RJ Ireland not out.....	80
S Dickson not out.....	24
Extras (nb 3, w 14, b 0, lb 1).....	18
Total.....	2/187

Overs 37.4
FOW: 26 (M Black) 132 (J McKinnon)
Bowling: H Hixon 6.0 1 0 37; K Tatt 5.0 0 0 17; D Atkins 5.4 0 1 36; JD Johnson 2.0 0 0 23; CJ Armstrong 9.0 1 1 30; R Trimby 9.0 2 0 39; M Daniel 1.0 0 0 4.

Kyabram	8	0	7	1	0	0	45	2.02
Mooroopna	8	1	5	0	2	0	40	1.50
Shepp United	8	0	6	0	2	0	36	1.50
Katandra	8	0	6	0	2	0	36	1.27
Numurkah	8	0	5	0	3	0	30	1.44
Northerners	8	0	5	0	2	1	30	1.06
Udera	8	0	4	1	3	0	27	1.12
Karramomus	8	0	4	0	4	0	24	1.01
Pine Lodge	8	0	4	0	4	0	24	0.84
Tatura	8	0	3	0	5	0	18	0.84
Old Students	8	0	2	0	6	0	12	0.68
Euroa	8	0	1	0	7	0	6	0.64
CP/St Bs	8	0	1	0	7	0	6	0.57
Waaia	8	0	1	0	7	0	6	0.55

C GRADE NUMURKAH def MOOROPNA WHITE

Toss won by Mooroopna White, bowled first
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

J Verhoeven c & b G Wood.....	22
run out.....	29
B O'Dwyer lbw b B Metcalf.....	7
D Cox c & b B Metcalf.....	4
S Lewis c & b JD Hunter.....	6
D Roberts lbw b P Schnorrenberg.....	22
S Morris not out.....	17
R Dawson not out.....	10
Extras (nb 17, w 5, b 8, lb 7).....	37
Total.....	7/158 (cc)

Overs 40.0
FOW: 52 (J Verhoeven) 64 (******) 84 (B O'Dwyer) 92 (D Cox) 98 (******) 117 (S Lewis) 142 (D Roberts)
Bowling: J Morcom 4.0 0 0 40; G Hallum 5.0 1 0 9; G Wood 6.0 1 1 14; P Schnorrenberg 5.0 2 1 17; JJ Woods 6.0 1 0 11; B Metcalf 4.0 2 1 8; L Leahy 4.0 0 1 4; JD Hunter 4.0 0 1 20; L Hall 2.0 0 0 10.

1ST INNINGS - MOOROPNA WHITE

LR Payne c, b B O'Dwyer.....	4
B Woods b J Verhoeven.....	13
JJ Woods b D Roberts.....	33
G Hallum c S Lewis b D Roberts.....	0
WL Wood not out.....	50
A Bettridge c T Woods b D Roberts.....	4
P Schnorrenberg b R Dawson.....	10
G Wood c B O'Dwyer b R Dawson.....	2
JD Hunter c S Lewis b R Dawson.....	4
L Hall run out.....	0
L Leahy run out (J Verhoeven).....	9
Extras (nb 1, w 12, b 0, lb 1).....	14
Total.....	143

Overs 40.0
FOW: 7 (LR Payne) 31 (B Woods) 34 (G Hallum) 72 (JJ Woods) 86 (A Bettridge) 108 (P Schnorrenberg) 118 (G Wood) 130 (L Hall) 130 (JD Hunter) 143 (L Leahy)
Bowling: R Dawson 8.0 2 3 23; B O'Dwyer 8.0 1 1 30; J Verhoeven 8.0 1 1 21; D Roberts 8.0 0 3 33; D Cox 4.0 1 0 18; S Lewis 4.0 0 0 17.

Murchison	7	1	1	5	0	1	0	46	2.00
Numurkah	8	0	0	6	0	2	0	36	1.25
Toolamba	8	0	1	4	0	3	0	34	1.36
Mpna Blue	7	1	0	4	0	3	0	30	1.77
Nagambie	7	1	0	4	0	3	0	30	1.50
Shepp United	7	0	0	5	0	2	0	30	1.23
Karramomus	6	1	0	4	0	2	0	30	1.04
Mpna White	7	1	0	3	0	4	0	24	0.81
Tatura	7	1	0	2	0	4	1	18	0.55
Euroa	7	1	0	0	0	7	0	6	0.44
Pine Lodge	7	1	0	0	0	6	1	6	0.40

UNDER 16 A GRADE NUMURKAH def KARRAMOMUS

Toss won by Karamomus, batted first
1ST INNINGS - KARRAMOMUS

Extras (nb 2, w 1, b 2, lb 2).....	7
Total.....	9/75

Overs 25.0
Bowling: B Smith 3.0 1 0 3; J Moore 2.0 0 1 9; B Roberts 3.0 0 1 10; H Verhoeven 3.0 0 0 3; C Sessions 2.0 0 2 10; D Ebborn 2.0 1 0 5; 2.0 1 1 5; C Beer 2.0

0 1 10; T Hughes 2.0 1 1 10; NH Siermans 3.0 1 1 6.
1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Ebborn retired not out.....	28
H Verhoeven retired not out.....	18
B Smith not out.....	12
c.....	0
B Roberts not out.....	7
Extras (nb 1, w 2, b 8, lb 0).....	11
Total.....	1/76

MURRAY VALLEY CRICKET ASSOCIATION ONE DAY GAME PREMIER DIVISION KATAMATITE def NATHALIA

Toss won by Katamatite, batted first
1ST INNINGS - KATAMATITE

A Erickson b BT Ross.....	27
JO Van Zuyden run out (A Congues, BT Ross).....	21
S Dorsey c L Evans b H Congues.....	62
A Saunders c A King b A Harding.....	32
B Beaton c H Congues b A Congues.....	6
JM Tierney st A King b A Congues.....	0
J Magowan c A Harding b H Congues.....	26
T Irvine not out.....	10
T Casha not out.....	11
Extras (nb 2, w 5, b 9, lb 7).....	23
Total.....	7/218 (cc)

Overs 45.0
FOW: 59 (JO Van Zuyden) 59 (A Erickson) 115 (A Saunders) 132 (B Beaton) 137 (JM Tierney) 182 (J Magowan) 195 (S Dorsey)
Bowling: CP Congues 5.0 2 0 27; A Jorgensen 8.0 1 0 34; BT Ross 9.0 2 1 17; A Harding 5.0 0 1 34; L Evans 9.0 2 0 37; A Congues 6.0 0 2 34; H Congues 3.0 0 2 19.

1ST INNINGS - NATHALIA

L Evans c & b A Saunders.....	18
A King c S Pool b A Saunders.....	0
A Harding b A Saunders.....	1
S Young c JM Tierney b B Beaton.....	

2019 SPORT YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY

January 23
When cloud nine isn't good enough, take 10
 HISTORY was made as Numurkah claimed a huge innings and 73 run outright victory over Euroa at Euroa Memorial Oval on Saturday, with Tim Arnel collecting an incredible 10/25 in the second innings.



January 30
No second chance for Murray Valley
 THE Murray Valley Cricket Association has come one game short of claiming the Bendigo country week title, going down to Goulburn Murray Cricket by seven wickets at Queen Elizabeth Oval on Friday.

MAY

May 1
Numurkah thwarted by old rival
 CAPPING off a round dedicated to honouring the nation's service men and women, Nathalia raised the Anzac Day shield, commissioned by both towns' respective RSLs, after claiming an important 35 point win at the Nathalia Showgrounds on Sunday.

May 8
First blemish
 STRATHMERTON'S undefeated start to the Picola & District Football League has come to an end after Berrigan piped the Bulldogs at the line with an eight point Saints win on Saturday.

May 22
Swans break the duck
 KATUNGA has registered its first seniors win for 2019 with a resounding 16.14.110 to 7.7.49 home victory over Jerilderie in its round six Picola & District Football League match up on Saturday.

May 29
Whole life achievement
 RACHAEL Howden has been around the Katunga Football Netball Club for pretty much her whole life, and last week she celebrated not one, but two, incredible milestones on the netball court.



SEPTEMBER

September 4
Mansfield and Dorrity top Blues' lists
 MATT Mansfield and Charli Dorrity took out the Numurkah Football Netball Club's top junior awards, when votes were counted recently.

September 11
Clash of the titans
 WAAIA and Strathmerton, the two ladder leaders, will play it out in the grand final of the Picola football league this Saturday.

September 18
Bulldogs reign supreme



STRATHMERTON players are the kings and queens of the Picola District Football Netball League after winning both the senior football and A grade netball premierships at Berrigan on Saturday.

September 25
Five and counting
 NATHALIA created history at Finley Recreation Reserve on Saturday, when it won its fifth consecutive Murray football league senior premiership against a gritty Tongala side.

FEBRUARY

February 6
Tiger Army's spotlight on Numurkah
 A LOCALLY owned pacer has brought the local harness racing scene into the national spotlight, becoming officially ranked as the number one two-year-old in Australia.

February 13
Flipper to register a landmark double-century
 NUMURKAH cricket captain Liam Gledhill will take part in his 200th A grade match this weekend against Shepparton United at the Numurkah Showgrounds on Saturday.

February 20
Nick takes two and Helene gets hattrick
 NICK Fenaughty captured his second club championship title, and Helene Steward completed a hattrick when she claimed her third championship title in as many seasons at Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club on Sunday.

February 27
One Blue side left in finals race
 NUMURKAH has booked itself a spot in the under 16s cricket grand final, following a heart-pounding one-run win over Old Students at the Numurkah Showgrounds on Sunday.

JUNE

June 5
Strazz sets new record with nine titles
 THERE are some esteemed names that appear several times on the club championship honour boards at the Numurkah Golf Club, but after the signwriting is completed this year, no name will appear as many times than that of the 2019 champion Andrew Storer.



June 19
Purples win fierce battle
 IN a battle between traditional rivals, Nathalia was able to overcome a determined Numurkah outfit in the last quarter to extend a two goal margin it carried for most of the day, to a 37 point win.

June 26
Fourball done and dusted
 ROBYN Hodgkin and Lorraine Craig have joined forces to win one of the most coveted handicap events on the Numurkah women's golfing calendar, winning the Saturday fourball event on Tuesday.

OCTOBER

October 2
Mother and son in it for life
 STRATHMERTON Football Netball Club recognised two club stalwarts with life membership of the club when it held its 2019 vote count and presentations last week. In a unique twist, the mother/son duo of Leanne and Tim Bramich were both thrust into the limelight with life membership.

October 9
Dedicated clubmen rewarded
 CHRIS O'Dwyer described himself as fortunate to be able to present life membership of the Numurkah Football Netball Club to Shane Miller, and was then astounded to also be presented with the same honour.

October 16
Hicks, Ward and Kellow take top awards
 NATHALIA held its 2019 football/netball presentation last Friday night and in a closely fought out contest, vice captain, Alex Hicks won the seniors best and fairest with 116 votes, just six votes clear of Bailey Bell, on 110.

October 30
Bushrangers announce under 16 squad
 LOCAL boys, Matt Hodgson, Kade O'Dwyer and Flynn Penberthy from Numurkah Football Club and Bailey Smith from Katunga have been selected in the Murray Bushrangers' 2020 under 16 pre-season squad.

MARCH

March 6
Premiership glory finds young Swans
 A STIRRING batting performance laid the foundation of a great grand final win for Katunga over Cobram on Friday, with the Swans picking up an impressive 42-run win to cement themselves as 2018/19 under 16s premiers.

March 13
Local boys make Bushies squad
 NUMURKAH footballer Rhys Cason and Katunga's Max Hendy have both been selected in the Murray Bushrangers under 16 squad.

March 20
Hat-trick on
 WITH two minor premierships in tow, Numurkah has a chance to solidify 2018-19 as one of the best seasons in the club's history, with all three senior sides preparing for grand final clashes this weekend.

March 27
Blue redemption caps off stellar season
 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.

JULY

July 3
Limbrick notches up 250
 A LOT of footballers don't get to taste premiership success even once, but Jason Limbrick has played in an incredible nine premierships, eight with the club he started playing his football with.



July 17
Nathalia women represent in win
 FIVE footballers from the Nathalia women's football side were part of the Northern Country Women's League winning team on the weekend, defeating Central Victoria by 14 points.

July 31
Close – but no pennant
 NUMURKAH's golf club's division one pennant golfers went agonizingly close to a fourth pennant win in five years on Sunday, but were pipped by Shepparton in a thrilling finish.

NOVEMBER

November 6
Ronny shoots his age
 RON Smith, men's captain of Numurkah Golf Club, achieved many a golfer's dream last Thursday by having his gross stroke score equate with that of his age in years.

November 20
Stokes stoked
 LOCAL cricketing legend Denis Stokes has become just the Murray Valley Cricket Association's second Hall of Fame Legend, being elevated to Legend status at the association's fifth Hall of Fame dinner on Saturday evening.



November 27
Two life sentences
 ALREADY well known as a life member and huge contributor to the Numurkah Golf and Bowls Club, David Ludington added another feather to his cap on Saturday evening, when the same honour was bestowed on him by the Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club.

APRIL

April 3
The final curtain on an historic season
 MICHAEL Eckard has been named Numurkah's cricketer of the year for the 2018/19 premiership-winning season, at the Numurkah Youth Cricket Club's awards night held on Sunday.



April 10
Numurkah paints the town Blue
 NUMURKAH made a statement during its round one Murray Football League clash against Finley on Sunday, accounting for the Cats by 97 points in a blistering display of run and carry football at Numurkah Showgrounds.

April 17
Bulldogs trounce Swans
 ALL four of Strathmerton's sides overcame Katunga on Saturday, but it was the senior side that came away with the biggest win of the day.

April 24
Still Blue at the top
 NUMURKAH held onto the top spot of the Murray Football League ladder with a convincing 41 point win at home to Rumbalara, damning the visitors to their fourth consecutive loss for the season.

AUGUST

August 7
Four from four for Waaia
 IN the penultimate matches for the home and away rounds, Waaia scored wins in all grades of football, playing away to Yarroweyah on Saturday.

August 14
Wiggy's double century
 SHANE "Wiggy" Miller has achieved many things in a long career in football, but hasn't yet tasted the ultimate glory. The 33 year old Numurkah veteran played his 200th senior game for the Blues on Saturday, being arguably his team's best player in a resounding win.



August 21
Bombers' turn
 WAAIA and Strathmerton have dominated the Numurkah indoor bowls competition in recent years, and this year it was Waaia's turn to take the premiership title.

August 28
Strazz makes two
 NUMURKAH Golf Club champion Andrew Storer has taken out the ultimate prize in the Goulburn Murray region, winning the champion of champions event at Barooga on Sunday.

DECEMBER

December 4
A ton of fun for Downie
 SEAN Downie scored his first century of the season in the first of the Cricket Shepparton "Love The Game" A grade T20 matches last Thursday. Batting through the entire innings, Downie recorded a magnificent 120 off 58 deliveries to steer his side to victory.

December 11
Cleeland's Christmas ton
 JORDY Cleeland must have been on Santa's nice list when he powered his way to 113 not out, giving his side an early Christmas present with a victory for only the second time this season.

Xmas ham on the table

by "The Shankster"
 JULIE Daniel and Di Davies made their Christmas preparations just a little easier on Saturday when they won the Christmas dinner fourball at Numurkah Golf Club on Saturday.

With a fabulous score of +5, the pair both took home a ham for the Christmas table.

The pair had an incredible round, with five wipes on their card, but offset that with 10 wins, both players contributing.

The scores, overall, were very good, with only one pair finishing in the minuses, reflecting the terrific condition of the course the day after the pro-am tournament.

Kath Hepworth and Lauris Ashton finished second, two shots behind with +3, winning a countback from Jeanette Adams and Gayle Smith. The last of the ball winners were Helen Schmedje and Norma Cullum with +2.

Smedje also won the only nearest the pin to be won, of the four on offer, with a good shot to the seventh green.

Rosemary Rutledge and Margot McGrath both made a rare appearance at Wednesday golf last week, and finished in the top three places.

Rosemary had a terrific score of 69 nett to win the monthly medal, followed by Lauris Ashton and Margot, both with 73s.

Both Robyn Hodgkin and Helen Schmedje came in with 74s, and Liz Dell took home the last of the balls with 75 nett.

Rosemary had the best shot to the 18th green, but no-one managed to get onto the seventh.

Julie Daniel had the best scratch score of 86 shots.

There was no chick run last Thursday, as the course was closed to allow the greens staff to make final preparations for Friday's pro-am, but we will be back for nine holes tomorrow.

Today will be the ladies' Christmas break-up, with nine holes of golf, followed by lunch. The hit off time has been moved earlier, due to the hot weather forecast for the day, with players to assemble about 8.45am for a 9.15am hit off.

Saturday also looks like being a hot one for a stableford round, the last outing before Christmas.

I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, and look forward to bringing you more golf news in 2020.

New course record

EVEN with a new course record to his name, Tim Hart had to settle for second place in the two day Greater Shepparton Masters played at Mooroopna and Numurkah last week.

The Queenslander fired a magnificent 64 at Numurkah on Friday, to go with his 72 at Mooroopna the previous day, and finished one shot behind the winner, Ashley Hall.

A professional golfer since 2006, Hall carded rounds of 70 and 65 for a two round total of 135 shots, 10 under par for the two days.

The previous record of 65 was also set in a pro-am round, by Chris Gaunt in 2014.

A total of 55 professional golfers played the two days, along with 113 amateurs at Numurkah on Friday, with the course presented in fantastic condition.

Last year's winner Max McCardle finished in third place a further shot behind with 137.

Dylan Grandell showed the professionals how to play Numurkah, coming in with a terrific score of 42 stableford points off a very low handicap, to win the men's amateur A grade prize. Jake Moore was run-

ner-up with 39 points.

Local painter Brad Tweed won B grade with 40 points, ahead of Roy Peterson with 39.

Jenny Ludington had a terrific front nine, before fading a bit during her second nine, but still held on to win the women's event with 36 points. Jeanette Adams won a countback on 35 points.

Jesse Trower won the non handicappers' prize with 45 points, ahead of Marcus Luxford on 40.

Colin McMinn nearly out-drove the professionals on the third hole to win the longest drive for the amateur men, while Bev Hutchins managed to get onto a good drive on the right hole, to win the women's.

Lee Talbot won nearest the pin on the seventh, while Ian Lee and Liz Dell had the best shots to the 18th green.

Ash Hall's group that included Trevor Sprunt, Graeme Sprunt and Marcus Luxford averaged three points a hole to win the team's event, two points ahead of Brad Doherty, Neville Montgomery, Ash Lau and Graham Montgomery.



Record breaker ... Tim Hart set a new course record at Numurkah on Friday with a sizzling 64 shots.

Graeme and Jack take honours

by "Archie Bunker"
 GRAEME Ashton and Jack Hepworth were glad that they paired up on Saturday at Numurkah in a 4BBB par round, working well together to win the day's Christmas hams on offer.

The holes that Jack didn't get a shot on, Graeme backed up with wins, to shoot a winning score of +11.

With a score of +9, Colin Booth and Kerry Collins finished in second place, winning a countback from Ian Walsh and Peter Cowan.

Balls down the line went to Rod Campbell/Robbie Sutton, the father and son team of Garry and Brandan Hosie, Matt Ebborn/Jack Thomas, and another father/son team of Leigh and Sam Robertson, who all finished with +6. The

last of the balls went to Geoff Stone and Bruce Collins with +5.

Nearest the pin on the fourth hole was Colin Booth, Geoff Stone was closest on the seventh, Roy Peterson got onto the 15th, and Matt Ebborn picked up the ball for his shot to the 18th.

There were no Mickey Mouse ears presented on Saturday, as members were keen to get to the club's members' Christmas party, but I did hear of one pair, namely Bob I'Anson and Bill Padgett, who had to ask the group playing ahead of them on the second tee what game they were playing. It may have been easier to just look at their score card.

The final round before Christmas next Saturday will be a stableford event.



10 under ... Greater Shepparton Masters winner Ash Hall with ANZ's Justin Stafford.

Local netballers named in academy squad

FOUR local junior netballers have been named in the AFL Goulburn Murray Tatura Milk Junior Netball Academy squads for 2020.

Katunga netballers Rhani Hendy and Bridie Kelly, together with Numurkah's Tessa Warrin, have been named in the 12-year-old squad, and Demi Hendy from Katunga joins the newly added 14-year-old squad.

The new age group will build on the last year's structure, with more of a specialised court structured development in preparing players for Netball Victoria Talent Pathway programs.

AFL Goulburn Murray Netball Administrator Peita Sleeth is excited about the progression and continued growth of the program.

"The improvements I have seen in Netballers that have been through the Academy can be attributed to the hard work our players and coaches put into every session. Our goal is to create a positive environment that fosters personal development with a group of passionate Netballers that are wanting to improve their skills".

"We are privileged to have dedicated coaches working hard to develop a specialised program, with a focus on player improvement and individual skill development," she said.

Ann Austin will again oversee the program says the implementation of the program last year has been a significant step forward for the region.

Ann in conjunction with last year's

Academy coaches Emma Clignett, Ash Bradley and skills coach Jacqui Hudgson will deliver a program with an emphasis on providing quality-based player development to support and complement Club, League and Netball Associations and in turn increase the depth of talent within the region, by exposing more players to a higher level of training, participation and coaching.

Academy participants will again be provided with a holistic approach to preparing them for Netball Victoria pathways incorporating skill development and provides squad members with the opportunity to develop into the best of their ability, ensuring they have an opportunity to advance in the sport.

Winner's a grinner

FAYE Miller had very good reason to smile at Numurkah Croquet Club's Christmas lunch yesterday, being in top form this year.

Faye won last Tuesday's competition, her third win for the season, which is only half way through.

As has become the norm, the day's winner was decided by shots against, with Fay taking three wins with 21 hoops, and only 13 shots against, while runner-up Heather Brown had the same wins and hoops, but 14 shots against.

Joan T. Hansen scored the only hoop-in-one,

while Lois Lowe, Joan I. Hansen and Kevin Hansen all played one successful jump shot.

Tuesday croquet will take a break over the festive period, resuming again on January 15.

The club is considering running a golf croquet intra club competition in the new year, which will provide a good practice opportunity for anyone interested, to be played on Thursday mornings from 9am.

Association pennant practice has also finished for the year, to resume on Friday, January 10.

Good start sets up win

A GOOD start proved to be the key to Ross Henderson winning the Numurkah Bowls Club's club championship title on Sunday.

Ross led by five shots early in his game against Alan Rogers, and five shots was the final margin, giving him his first championship title at the club, in what was otherwise a very tight match.

The ladies' championship final will be played between Viv Morris and reigning champ Ann Dealy. If successful, it would be Dealy's fourth title.

After defeating the top side the previous week, the Numurkah Saturday division one pennant bowlers were on a high. They gave Tocumwal a good nudge on Saturday, but could not quite get up for another victory.

Numurkah hosted Tocumwal Golf and had its nose in front at the afternoon tea break, but Tocumwal finished strongly to win by four shots.

Don Staggard (s), Terry Brennan, Noel Newham and Don Woolley won 29-22, Ross Henderson (s), Paul Rees, Bill Werner and Phil Perkins were up by six shots, while Alan Rogers (s), Jim Cline, Roger Newman and Russell Morris were narrowly defeated by two shots in a closely contested rink.

These, however, could not cover the loss by the Peter Dealy skippered rink, which went from chocolates to boiled lollies in the space of one week.

The division two side was at home to Finley and could not match its opposition, who won by 45 shots.

The only highlight for Numurkah was the rink win by Andrew Moffat (s), Tony Morris, David Kennedy and Howard Lowe, albeit by just two shots. For their efforts they received the Telegraph Hotel best winning rink award for the round.

The division four side followed up after the bye with another victory, this time by 14 shots over Katandra, winning again on both rinks.

Arthur Crawford (s), Noel Sutton, Lyn Cline and John Fleming won 23-16 and Shani Davie (s), Carmel Sutcliffe, Lindsay



First timer ... Alan Rogers with new club champion Ross Henderson after their final.

Mitchell and Neil Stuart had an identical score line.

The highlight for the Numurkah Bowls Club in Friday pennant was the battle of the creek in division two between Town and Golf, and the two sides could not be separated in an exciting finish.

The end result was one rink win each, the other rink a draw, and overall shots the same at 63 apiece.

This is the closest that the Town team has come to a victory and is reward for their enthusiasm and training.

Liz Rees (s), Lillian Nightingale, Jenny Rogers and Joan Watts tied 23 shots each; Pam Carey (s), Hugh Henderson, Judy

Henderson and Di Welsh won 20-16, and Sue Shaw (s), Lyn Cline, Carmel Sutcliffe and Gordon Gilmour lost narrowly by four shots.

The division one team played at Cobram and received a severe drubbing by the second placed team to the tune of 32 shots, giving Numurkah an indication of the improvement needed if it is to participate in the finals this season.

Ann Dealy (s), Peter Dealy, Jenny Stuart and Robyn Aumann returned to the winners' list, hanging on to take a win by one shot from the Marj McDonald rink, after a last end brain fade.

Bushrangers Girls Development Squad released

NATHALIA'S Cody Power has been selected in the final NAB League under 18 girls and under 16 girls Murray Bushrangers development squad for 2020.

Power, who plays for Northern Angels, is one of 52 players selected who will complete a Christmas training program and return to training in January at Cathedral College, Wangaratta.

Female talent coordinator Brianna Cossar explained the difficult process in selecting the squads.

"Over the past two months, more than 70 young female footballers from across Southern NSW, North East Border and Goulburn Valley areas have participated in our elite football training program.

"This has included AFLW testing components and intra club games to ensure players have both football and athletic attributes to perform in the elite U/18 competition," she said.

The Murray Bushrangers Under 16 development squad is the pathway program into the NAB League Under 18 competition and they will play two practice matches against Bendigo Pioneers and Calder Cannons on February 8 and February 15, both at J. C. Lowe Oval, Yarrawonga.

Bushrangers coach, Mario de Santa-ana highlighted the rigorous selection process.

"It was very difficult at the selection table with so many talented young girls with high quality skills and I'm really excited by the potential of this year's playing group.

"The players have an opportunity to really develop over the coming months with some high level coaching support by way of additional staff, reducing the player to coach ratio which is vital for the girls' individual development," he said.

The Murray Bushrangers will celebrate the launch of their 2020 NAB League season with a training day and jumper presentation on Saturday, February 1, at Yarrawonga Mulwala Golf Club Resort.

Davis takes bronze in Australian amateur titles

MARCUS Davis, the current Victorian Amateur Boxing League, Junior Welterweight title holder, took bronze in the Australian Amateur Boxing League titles, held over November 26, 27 and 28.

Representing the Victorian Amateur Boxing League, in the 63.5 kilo Junior Welterweight division, the boxer was drawn straight into the semi final to fight Jake Griggs from Queensland.

After four two minute rounds, both boxers remained standing at the end of the bout, the judges' decision giving the fight to Griggs on a split decision.

Although, he would have been happier with the win, he was not upset at the result as he gave it his all and has no regrets about the way he fought.

"I fought well and was just beaten by a better boxer on the night, I have no regrets," said Davis.

"Griggs is a seasoned boxer, originally from England with, I reckon, about 20-30 fights under his belt. This was my fourth bout and he was really surprised when he heard that."

Davis is looking forward to the next 12 months of his career, in which he plans to get as many fights as he can to gain experience and then cross over into the professional ranks.

Lou and Lindsay the winners

LOU Cook and Lindsay Braybon both scored well at the Numurkah Small Bore Club's weekly practice night last week, to top score in two disciplines.

Lou scored 198.5 in 20 metre benchrest, and 169.2 in 50 metre.

Lindsay Braybon topped the 20 metre prone with 196.5, and 50 metre prone with 193.7.

SCORES
20 metre benchrest: L. Cook 198.5, C. Saxton 190.0.
20 metre prone: L. Braybon 98.3, 98.2 196.5.
50 metre benchrest out of 200: L. Cook 169.2.
50 metre prone: L. Braybon 95.3 98.4 193.7, R. Hill 93.1 92.2 185.3, H. O'Brien 93.2 91.1 184.2, R. Hill 90.1 92.1 182.2, D. Cook 89.1 89.1 178.2, J. Cook 86.1 89.1 175.2, L. Sneddon 68.0 78.0 146.0.
The club's final shoot for 2019 will be held tomorrow evening.

One close loss and one big win

by "Nipper"

ONCE again, Numurkah Golf bowlers just missed out in another very close game in division one on the weekend, against ladder leader Wunghnu.

The four shot loss overall was indicative of the way these two sides play against each other every time they meet.

The Golfers did manage to get two rinks up on the day, with the biggest winners being the rink of Mark Jones, Des Staggard, Robyn Hodgkin and Brian "Groover" Gentle, who came away with an 11 shot victory over the rink of Drew Henderson.

The other winning rink was that of Joe Luci, Ian Hocking, Neil "Nipper" Macklin and big Butch Browning. The win was only by six shots, but the match see-sawed all day. After giving the opposition a 10 shot start in the first three ends, it seemed as though it would be a long day for the Golfers but, in true fighting spirit, we managed to turn it around after smoko, getting 15 shots in the last seven ends to claim victory over Russell Smith's rink.

The rink of Rob Glover, Geoff Sutcliffe, Frank Houlihan and Lidija Patching just

missed out, going down to Barry Cosgrove by five shots.

The remaining rink of Brian "Chops" Stanger, Jack Dell, "Sir" Sid Roughsedge and Loris Houlihan found the slick greens and gusty wind hard obstacles to overcome and they unfortunately fell short.

Disappointingly, the result sees us fall from second to fifth on the ladder but, on the brighter side, there are only about six points between fifth and second spots, so we are still well and truly in the hunt for a tilt at the finals race.

The division three side swept away all before them to record a magnificent 40 shot win over Tocumwal Golf, and the Threes remain well clear in second spot on the ladder.

The winners on the day were David "Wiggy" Miller, Yvonne Clark, Kenny Hodgson and Bayden Parkinson with a 17 shot win, closely followed by the rink of Allan Newby, Gavin Parkinson, Alf Harrison and Adam Bugeya, who recorded a 13 shot win.

The final winning rink was that of Ron Pickersgill, Gary Edis, Col "Doc" Hicks and Linda Isted. They got over the line by

10 shots.

Division four had the bye.

Heat seems likely to seriously affect all bowls this week. As the temperature is likely to be extreme on Wednesday, the match committee has cancelled the scheduled Turkey Trot on Wednesday evening.

Pennant teams for Saturday, in the unlikely event play will be possible, are below.

Division three has an early start at Jerilderie.

Division one to play Finley RS at home: M. Jones (s), D. Staggard, R. Hodgkin, B. Gentle; B. Stanger (s - duty), J. Dell, S. Roughsedge, L. Houlihan; J. Luci (s), I. Hocking, N. Macklin, B. Browning; R. Glover (s), G. Sutcliffe, F. Houlihan, L. Patching.

Division three to play Jerilderie away, bus leaves 9.15 am: D. Miller (s), J. Niven, K. Hodgson, M. Smith; R. Pickersgill (s), G. Edis, C. Hicks, L. Isted; A. Newby (s), G. Parkinson, Y. Clark, A. Bugeya.

Division four to play Strathay away, leave 12.30pm: M. Ryan (s), J. Sutcliffe, J. Connelly, M. Carr; J. Pickersgill (car), H. Pickersgill (car), B. Parkinson, G. Smith.

No losses for Golf

NUMURKAH Golf's division one mid-week bowlers travelled to Tocumwal and had a 15 shot win to retain top position on the ladder Murray Bowls Division ladder, winning on two rinks.

Loris Houlihan's rink had a 29-19 win, Robyn Hodgkin's rink won 28-22 and Jan Niven's rink just went down 22-23, with a good team effort from all.

Playing at home, the division two team fought out a draw with Numurkah Town,

which started very well and got away to a good lead.

Karren Nordbye's rink hung on and managed a four shot victory over Sue Shaw, Marie Ryan's rink staged a big comeback to draw with Liz Rees, while Merren Carr's rink went down by four shots to Pam Carey.

The division two side remains in third position on the ladder.

The club championship semi finals were held last Tuesday, with Linda Isted and

Loris Houlihan both having convincing wins over Jan Niven and Marie Ryan respectively.

The final was played yesterday, too late to make today's edition.

On Sunday, Linda Isted and Yvonne Clark won their way into the final of the state pairs at Strathmerton against Marj McDonald and Ieva Saunders from Cobram. The final will be played at a later date, still to be decided.

“The Mouse” roars, but Ravens fall just short

by “Holly Reith”

NUMURKAH'S GM3 Open Ravens just fell short in their tennis match on Saturday, losing to Kialla Park at Kialla 5/53 to 4/60.

Young Hudson “Mouse” Storer however did everything he could in an effort to lift his team over the line, winning his three sets for the day.

Hudson has been rapidly improving his tennis in recent weeks, and playing against older and more experienced opponents has hastened this process remarkably.

He won 8-7 with his brother Eamon, 8-6 with mate Nathan Page, and 8-6 with his skipper Graham Henderson, to cap off a fine afternoon's work for Hudson.

Dieter Page and Henderson won two from three, while Liam Booth, Nathan Page and Eamon Storer all won a set each, which was a pretty good effort by the predominantly young Ravens team, especially as they were playing on an artificial surface that probably none of them have encountered before.

Despite this setback, the Ravens are still lurking around the top four at the Xmas break and, after their brilliant finish to last season where they came from nowhere to win the flag, you could never count them out.

RAIDERS HAVE A DEVIL OF A TIME AGAINST SAINTS

The GM2 Raiders have lost to back-to-back matches for the first time in ages, going down by 12 games to the Shepp Saints at the Numurkah courts on Saturday.

It was nip and tuck all day, but the Saints prevailed, winning 6/65 to 5/53.

No-one won three sets for the Raid-

ers, but Matt Cason, Andrew Storer, Catherine Church and Caitlyn Price all won two from three.

The men's sets were evenly spread with two sets apiece, but the Raiders' chances took a dive when their number one player Matt Cason injured his knee and ankle halfway through his singles encounter, which severely hampered him for the rest of the afternoon.

The match was broken open when the Shepp Saint ladies scored a couple of big wins to open up a handy lead, which they never surrendered.

While the Raiders will be disappointed going into the festive season with a brace of losses, the defending champions will regroup in the new year to launch an assault on a top two finish and the precious double chance that comes with it.

PENGUINS CAN'T OUTFRONT COYOTES

The GM3 East Penguins were hoping for a hat trick of wins to end 2019 on a high note, but it wasn't to be as they went down to the Shepp Coyotes by 12 games at the Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday.

There were some very close matches throughout the entire day, but the Coyotes had the answers when it mattered, winning 8/88 to the Penguins' 5/76.

The men's doubles sets could get not much closer, Dave Ludington and Craig Brown losing 7-8, as did Col Stone and James Kam.

Brown and Stone then retrieved those two games with a gritty 8-6 doubles win.

The Coyotes hit back hard, winning the second singles rubber 6-1, but young James Kam came from the



Penguin flop ... Craig Brown on the court for the Penguins on Saturday.

clouds, winning the last 11 points straight to win in a tiebreaker, 6-5.

The Penguinettes were also involved in some good tussles, as Narelle Page and Cathy Brown saluted 8-5 and Lou Shannon and Cathy won 8-3.

Shepp won the other two ladies' doubles, however, and as skipper Dave Ludington pondered his mixed selections at afternoon tea, the match was finely poised, with the Coyotes just four game ahead.

The Penguins, in recent weeks, have been strong in the mixed sets, but

things went pear shaped pretty quickly as Shepp won three of the sets 8-5, 8-5 and 8-4 to put the result to bed.

Only Craig Brown and Emma Schmedje provided any joy for the home team as they got up 8-6, but it was a case of too little too late for the Waddlers.

Despite the loss the Penguins are still in third place going into the break and, with their best team available, are more than capable of beating most sides in the division.

Preparations are in full swing for

the club's annual tournament on the weekend of January 25 and 26. Entry forms are available on line or at the club.

As this is the last report for 2019, I would like to wish all readers a safe and happy Christmas and a great new year. Remember to go easy on the egg nog.

As far as a Christmas wish list goes, I have requested from Mr S. Claus, a top spin forehand, which club legend Alan Dalton insists that I badly need.

Showtime gets the chocolates

by “Holly Reith”

THE Numurkah Lawn Tennis Club's Shamrock Hotel twilight tennis competition concluded last Thursday evening after six weeks of fun, frivolity and, at times, some very good tennis.

The winners of the social division, which is always very hotly contested, was team Showtime, consisting of Emily Ryan, Keegan Ryan, Danny Buzza and Michelle Vandengoor, who never put a foot wrong for the entire comp, winning all of their matches.

They went into the final round tied with The Side On The Bottom, but they were never in trouble as they cruised to a six sets to nil win in their last encounter.

In second place was Soft Serves, who came from the clouds, smashing the previously men-

tioned Side on The Bottom 6-0 to edge them out of second place.

Soft Serves, comprising Sally and Mitch Sidebottom, Sarah Weideman, Chris Gleeson and Melissa Molloy, had bragging rights over Jake Hodgkin, Aimee and Kylea Sidebottom and Braden Reghenzani in a real grudge match which was played on show courts one and two.

In the open division, The Goodies, Matt Cason, Kris Walker, James Kam and a cast of thousands (well one or two others), claimed the prize for the umpteenth year in a row.

Tournament organiser Dave Ludington paid special thanks at the presentation of trophies to Kate Reghenzani who organises all the social teams and without whom the event could not be staged



Showtime ... Emily Ryan, Michelle Vandengoor, Keegan Ryan and Dan Buzza.



Show 'em no mercy ... Grant Chappell plays a shot back over the net during his mixed win with Helene Steward.

Warriors play the grinch

by “Holly Reith”

THE GM1 Numurkah Warriors got back on the winners list on Saturday when they comfortably accounted for ladder leaders the Shepp Hornets at the Numurkah tennis courts, posting a 7/69 to 3/51 win.

The Warriors played the Christmas Grinch and were in no mood to hand out presents after their shock loss from the week before.

Still with their number one man Nick Fenaughy sidelined through injury, the Warriors menfolk did enough to hold their Shepp counterparts while, as usual, the Numurkah ladies did the damage as far as the end result was concerned.

Skipper Mark Mills lowered his colours to Hornets star Nick Gattuso, 8-4, while Aaron Niglia tried hard but just went down 6-8 in his singles match.

Grant Chappell righted the ship for the home team with a terrific 8-5 win and then joined forces with his captain for a doubles win by the same margin.

The Hornets hit back with an 8-3 win in the

second doubles set, which left the visitors with a five game advantage on the men's side of the draw.

Helene Steward and Lisa Niglia set about doing what they do best, and that is play great tennis. In 99.9% of matches, this results in a Warriors win, and so that trend continued on Saturday.

Helene won her singles over the talented Giselle Andrews 8-4, while Lisa had a far easier time of things, getting home 8-1.

Helene and Lisa then joined forces for a strong 8-2 win in their doubles which gave the Warriors an almost insurmountable 12 game lead with just the two mixed sets to play.

They pushed home their advantage as Grant Chappell and Helene Steward cruised to an 8-4 win, while the mother and son duo of Lisa and Aaron Niglia ground out an 8-6 triumph.

This win will give the Warriors a good vibe going into the festive season break. They are now only a couple of points behind the Hornets in second place and perfectly placed to mount a strong title defence in the new year.

Blues make T20 semi



Swashbuckler ... Michael Eckard wields his bat like a sword.

NUMURKAH has made its way into the 'Love The Game' A grade T20 semi final after blasting past Kyabram last Thursday evening and winning by seven wickets, with just over five overs remaining. The Blues hosted Kyabram and were sent into field after losing the toss. Kyabram got off to a great start, scoring 63 off the first eight overs. Michael Eckard finally broke the opening stand of 69, and two more wickets fell shortly after, thanks to Shaun Downie and Matt Cline. Some good bowling through the

middle of the innings slowed Kyabram's scoring, with Cline picking up two quick wickets to have Kyabram at 6/112 after 18 overs. Some powerful, late hitting saw Ky reach 136 off its 20 overs. Dylan Grandell and Shaun Downie opened up for the Blues, Downie the first to be dismissed for six runs. Michael Eckard came to the crease and joined Grandell, the pair accelerating to put on 54 runs before Grandell departed for 33, the Blues in a good position at 2/64 off seven overs. Will Arnel was next in and supported Eckard well, Eckard show-

ing his power stroke play, and the pair scoring 71 runs over the next seven overs, before Arnel was dismissed for 14. The Blues finished 3/142, chasing down Kyabram's total in only 14.4 overs, Michael Eckard with a superb knock of 75 not out. The semi final, against Shepparton United, was held last evening with the result unknown prior to print. However, the winner will play off in the grand final to be held at Mooroopna Recreation Reserve tomorrow night against either Katandra or Euroa, commencing at 7pm.



Finals bound ... Shaun Downie sends down a delivery during Thursday's T20 match.

Waaia powers home

WAAIA won its final "Love The Game" T20 cricket match last Thursday, powering to victory by 51 runs against Central Park/St Brendans. Coming into the final round of the T20 matches without a win, the Bombers travelled to Central Park to rectify this situation. After winning the toss and batting, Waaia opened with Jordy Clelland and Riley Gow. Clelland was soon out with the score on six, and Brayden Carey joined Gow at the crease. Together they piled on 70 runs before Gow was dismissed for a well composed 36. Liam Evans joined Carey, and a 44 run partnership ensued before Carey was out for a terrific knock of 56.

After losing Mitch Clelland for a duck, Shane Moore and Evans took the score to 4/161 off 20 overs. In reply, the home team started well, compiling 22 runs before Jesse Trower struck for the first wicket. Riley Gow broke through for the second wicket with the score on 70 and this proved to be the catalyst, as wickets continued to tumble. Waaia was on its game, forcing two run outs and finally bowling Central Park out for 109. Best of the bowlers was Jordy Clelland 3/27, and he was well supported by Aaron Shelton 2/10, Riley Gow 1/7, Jesse Trower 1/13 and Liam Evans 1/21.

Katunga move into four

KATUNGA heads into the Christmas break in the top four after a great 78 run win against second placed Finley in its Murray Valley Cricket Association, division one game on Saturday. Playing at Finley, Katunga won the toss and batted and had 22 runs on the board when Brad Tweed was out for 12. A mini collapse followed, with the next four wickets falling for 38 runs and the Swans found themselves in trouble at 5/60. Adam Cook and Toby Miles combined to steady the ship and put on a great partnership of 67 before Miles was out for a well made 34. David Miles joined Cook at the crease and together they added a further 51 runs before Miles was out for 25. Cook was the last man out for a superb 69, leading his team to a score of 6/183 off its allocated 40 overs. In reply, Finley was never in the hunt, bowled out for a lowly 105 off 31 overs. Shaun McAllister was the destroyer, with figures of 4/15 off eight overs, and he was well supported by Toby Miles 2/32, Brad Tweed 2/20, Adam Cook 1/9, and Za-

vier Morris 1/9. The Swans resume after the break on Saturday, January 11, playing Berrigan at Berrigan. **DIVISION TWO** Katunga's division two cricketers made short work of cellar dweller Katamatite at home on Saturday with a terrific nine wicket win. After winning the toss and batting, Katamatite could only muster 8/92 off its allocated 35 overs. Wicket takers for the Swans were Josh Howden 3/20, Robbie Harris 2/10, Yehan Sooriarachchi 2/3, and Anthony Russell 1/8. Katunga was off to a flyer in reply, and was never in trouble, Tony Harris the only batsman to lose his wicket after being run out for a great score of 43 with the score on 92. Josh Howden joined Ayden Youd at the crease and together they took the score to 105 off 26 overs to take the win. Youd remained 51 not out, and Howden one not out. After the Christmas break, the Swans resume their season at Monash Park, Jerilderie on Saturday, January 11.

Blues win in tight contest

REIGNING premier Numurkah, head into the Christmas break atop the Cricket Shepparton, Haisman Shield A grade competition ladder after a hard fought seven run victory over Northerners on Saturday.

Tim Braybon also played his 150th A grade game on Saturday, one of only eight players to reach 150 A grade games for NYCCC. The Blues, playing at Tallygaroopna, won the toss and batted first.

Dylan Grandell and Matt Price once again opened the batting and Price was dismissed early for no score, which brought Will Arnel to the crease.

Grandell and Arnel combined well, putting on 40 runs before Grandell was run out for 21. Shaun Downie came to the crease, and he and Arnel batted well against some tight Northerners' bowling before Downie was dismissed for a well made 34.

Michael Eckard and Arnel got going and lifted the run rate, before Arnel was bowled for a top knock of 60 from 87 deliveries.

The Blues were going along solidly at 4/149 in the 37th over, and Eckard was beginning to get going when he was adjudged LBW for 31.

Another good partnership from veterans Jahlan Lau and Liam Gledhill saw the side reach 199, before Lau was dismissed for 21, and some late runs saw the Blues reach 208 off their 45 overs.

Northerners came out swinging, and in reply, brought up 50 runs in the seventh over for the loss of no wicket.

Michael Eckard broke the 60 run opening stand with a caught behind from Josh Smith.

Tim Braybon, in his milestone game, captured the wicket of Rhiley Lau for 47, then followed up with another wicket, to have Northerners at 3/65.

Some economical bowling from Downie, Eckard and Gledhill slowed down the home side's run rate, and they were 148 after 34 overs.

Northerners' Mitch and Joel Brett put on 55 runs, before Gledhill broke through, dismissing both Bretts caught behind, which reduced the home team to 5/148.

Needing 60 runs off 66 balls, pressure was applied to each new Northerners batsman. Eckard dismissed the big hitting Davidson, and the pressure applied by the Blues forced two run outs.

Eckard, Matt Cline and Downie bowled very tightly in the latter part of the innings, with the 41st over a maiden from Downie, then dismissing Ryan Sidebottom in his next over.

Matt Cline provided terrific death bowling in the penultimate over, only conceding one run, leaving Northerners requiring 13 to win off the final over.

Fortunately for the Blues, the home team could only manage six runs in the final over to finish 9/201.

Braybon 2/37 off eight overs, Eckard 2/40 off nine overs, Gledhill 2/23 off nine overs and Downie 1/25 off nine overs were the wicket takers for the Blues.

Gledhill was happy with his team's overall effort stating, "We batted to plan, we thought 208 was a good one day score."

"Our first 10 or 12 overs in the field were not good, however our spinners were able to peg them back during the middle overs and that made the difference."

Numurkah heads out to Vibert reserve to play Karramomus when the season recommences on Saturday, January 11.



Tippy toes ... Sean Dawson defends.



Take that ... James Pruden completes an on drive.

LACUIN GRABS FIVE

NUMURKAH'S Reydan Lacuin snared his first five wicket haul of the season and helped stalwart, Myles Martin celebrate his 100th B grade cricket match with a four wicket win against Northerners on Saturday.

Losing the toss, the Blues were sent into field on their home turf.

Young guns Bailey Smith and Bailey Roberts opened the bowling, and Smith captured the first wicket of the day with the score at nine.

Next over, Roberts picked up his first to have Northerners 2/13.

A 35 run third wicket partnership was broken by a run out from Kody Jackson.

A large partnership of 78 developed, and the breakthrough was captured by Sean Dawson just before drinks.

Reydan Lacuin came on and proceeded to tear through the Northerners middle order, Northerners losing 7/23, to be all out after 38 overs.

Best bowlers were Reydan Lacuin 5/23, Bailey Smith 1/16, Bailey Roberts 1/24, and Sean Dawson 2/13.

Chasing 148 to win, Kody Jackson and Sam Spicer opened up the batting and put on a solid partnership of 45 before Jackson was dismissed for 18. Spicer soon followed, out for the same score.

In form batsman Bailey Smith got a good delivery to be out for no score, then Dawson and James Pruden put on 24 before Dawson was removed for 15.

Hunter Verhoeven joined Pruden and the pair took the total to 114 before Verhoeven was caught for 17.

Dustan Ebborn came to the crease and put on 21 runs with Pruden before Pruden was out for a well made 36.

Ebborn (24no) and Bailey Roberts (2 no) saw the team over the line in the 42nd over.

Numurkah resumes its Clyde Young Shield B grade season at home against Karramomus on Saturday, January 11.

C GRADE

The C graders had an exciting 15 run win, when they took on Mooroopna White at home on Saturday.

Losing the toss and being sent in to bat, Jason Verhoeven and Callum Morris opened and put on a good opening stand of 52 off nine overs before Verhoeven was dismissed for 22.

Kade O'Dwyer managed four runs before he was run out, the Blues at 2/64.

Brett O'Dwyer and Dylan Cox made seven and four respectively before being dismissed, and when remaining opener Morris was run out for 29, the Blues had slowed to 5/98 off 26 overs.

Sam Lewis and Dave Roberts combined to put on 19 before Lewis was out for six. Veteran Steve Morris joined Roberts, moving the score to 142 before Roberts was trapped LBW. Youngster Riley Dawson, and Morris saw the Blues finish with 158 off their 40 overs.

Riley Dawson and Brett O'Dwyer opened the bowling and bowled tightly, with O'Dwyer capturing the first wicket with the score at seven. Jason Verhoeven and Dave Roberts captured wickets in quick succession to have Mooroopna at 3/34 off 18 overs.

The fourth wicket partnership was broken by Roberts, and he was able to take another soon after to have Mooroopna in trouble at 5/86 off 30 overs.

Dawson took the next three wickets to see Mooroopna at 8/130, still needing 28 runs off three overs.

The Blues kept the pressure on and teamed together to force two run outs to see Mooroopna all out for 143.

Riley Dawson finished with figures of 3/23, Dave Roberts 3/33, Jason Verhoeven 1/22, and Brett O'Dwyer 1/30.

Numurkah has the bye in the first round after the Christmas break and will host Shepparton United the following week on Saturday, January 18.

Jedd provides Wright stuff

IN an awesome batting and bowling display, Katandra's captain, Jedd Wright, led from the front, steering his side to victory over Waaia, by seven wickets in their Haisman Shield A grade cricket match on Saturday.

Wright starred for the Eagles snaring four wickets with the ball and remained unbeaten on 53 off 43 deliveries in his batting stint.

Playing on its home turf, Waaia won the toss and batted, starting disastrously with both Lachlan Henderson and Sam Trower out for ducks, off the bowling of Corey

Hickford.

Rory Knight and Jordy Cleeland settled the team and took the score to 39 before Cleeland was out for 20.

Brayden Carey joined Knight at the crease and added a further 21 runs before Knight was out for a well made 31.

Carey was out soon after and Waaia was 5/67.

Mitch Cleeland and Connor Brown came together for the sixth wicket and added 28 runs before Cleeland was out for 19 off the bowling of Jedd Wright for his first of four

wickets.

Wright tore through the tail end and Waaia finished all out for 110 off 35.2 overs.

Wright was the best of the Katandra bowlers and finished with the figures of 4/23 off 8.2 overs, supported by Corey Hickford with two.

Katandra's innings did not start off well, with Ben Clurey the first to go with the score on nine.

Brady Black and Andrew Riordan found themselves back in the sheds soon after, off some great bowling by Mitch Cleeland, as the Eagles slumped to 3/20.

Jedd Wright then joined Luke Patel at the crease and together they plundered the Waaia bowling attack, scoring the remaining 92 runs for victory for no further loss of wicket, Patel remaining unbeaten on 36.

Mitch Cleeland was the best of the Waaia bowlers with figures of 2/41 off nine overs. The other wicket taker was Jesse Trower.

Both teams return from the Christmas break on Saturday, January 11, with Katandra hosting Mooroopna and Waaia hosting Old Students.

Blues' juniors keep rolling along

NUMURKAH'S under 16s cricketers head into the Christmas break undefeated and atop the ladder, after defeating Karamomus by nine wickets at Numurkah on Saturday.

Bowling first, Bailey Smith and Bailey Roberts kept it tight, with Roberts making an early breakthrough before a run had been scored.

The opposition then lost its second wicket with the score on 12 after Callum Morris struck.

Wickets then fell steadily throughout the remainder of the innings, with most bowlers claiming wickets.

A little resistance towards the end of the innings saw Karamomus finish its innings with 9/75 off 25 overs.

Wicket takers were evenly spread, with Connor Sessions leading the way with two wickets and Clayton Beer, Jamieson Moore, Bailey Roberts, Callum Morris, Thomas Hughes and 10-year-old Nash Siermans with one wicket apiece.

In reply openers Dusty Ebborn and Hunter Verhoeven put on 46 off six overs before retiring.

Kade O'Dwyer was out quickly for a duck and Bailey Roberts and Bailey Smith then set about reaching the target in quick fashion.

Roberts and Smith passed the opposition score after 9.5 overs but in great Christmas spirit, Karamomus allowed the home team to continue batting.

Bailey Smith top scored with 38 and was well supported by Dustan Ebborn (28), Bailey Roberts (26) and Hunter Verhoeven (18).

The boys return after the Christmas break on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at Frank Howley Oval against Tatura.

UNDER 14

Numurkah hosted Shepparton United in a first versus second battle and was defeated by 26 runs, however the Blues still retain top spot on the ladder.

Bowling first, the home side had Shepparton in trouble immediately, with Riley Dawson claiming a wicket with his first ball.

The opposition then steadied with a 55 run partnership, which was finally broken by Lucas Roberts.

The visitors put on a further 25 runs before three quick wickets saw them 5/91.

Shepparton finished its innings at 6/110 after its allocated 25 overs.

Riley Dawson and Lucas Roberts both finished with two wickets and Jake Bell claimed one.

In reply, Nick Hughes and Riley Dobson opened the batting due to an injury to Reeve Verhoeven, who was unable to bat.

Hughes was out quickly for one and Mitchell O'Dwyer joined Dobson at the crease.

Together, they steadied the ship, with O'Dwyer the aggressor and Dobson retiring.

Riley Dawson joined O'Dwyer at the crease and was soon out for five with the score on 35.

O'Dwyer, who was hitting the ball to all parts of the ground, followed four runs later, out caught and bowled for a magnificent 23.

From there, wickets began to tumble as the home side, chasing runs, was unable to penetrate the field.

Numurkah finished with 8/84 off 25 overs, with Riley Dawson the only other batsman to reach double figures with 14.

After the break, Numurkah returns on Saturday, January 18, at Congupna Recreation Reserve to play Old Students.

UNDER 12

The under 12 cricketers, hosted undefeated Mooroopna White on Friday and were defeated by four wickets.

Batting first, Numurkah found it difficult to adjust to playing on turf for the first time and was all out for 75.

Alex Robertson and Kyren Dawson were the only batsmen to reach double figures, with scores of 33 and 14 not out respectively.

Tight bowling from Ollie Ruscoe and Nash Siermans saw a great start in the field, with the first wicket to fall with five runs on the board. The good bowling and fielding continued, however Mooroopna showed its class and finished with 6/103.

Wicket takers for the Blues were Nash Siermans with two, and Baz McDonald, Kyren Dawson and Joel O'Dwyer with one wicket apiece.

Numurkah returns after the break on Friday, January 17, playing Northerners at Tallygaroopna Primary School.



Effort ball ... Bailey Roberts puts everything into it.



Happy ... 10-year-old Nash Siermans enjoys his first bowling stint at under 16 level.

Kats too strong for Purples

NATHALIA came up short in its Barooga Sporties premier division game against Katamatite on Saturday, losing by a whopping 73 runs.

Katamatite won the toss and batted on its home turf, starting brilliantly until Archie Congues and Brodie Ross combined for a great run out with the score on 59.

Ross immediately followed up with another wicket and then the home side steadied with a third wicket partnership of 56 runs.

Nathalia was unable to make any further quick breakthroughs and, although wickets fell, partnerships were being made.

Katamatite finished at 7/218 after its allocated 45 overs.

In reply, the Purples lost Adam King for a duck with the score on 14, Aaron Harding followed soon after and when Liam Evans was out for 18, the score was 3/27.

Nathalia's middle order batsmen all got starts, however were unable to turn any of them into match winning scores, with the opposition bowlers taking wickets regularly.

Brodie Ross and Adam Jorgensen were out for 23 and

25 respectively, with Brayden Summerville (11), Clancy Congues (15), and Henry Congues (18no), the only other batsmen to reach double figures.

Nathalia was all out for 145 off 32.4 overs.

Cricket resumes on Saturday, January 11 for Nathalia, who take on Cobram at Cobram.

DIVISION ONE

Nathalia's division one cricketers were trounced by Berrigan, losing by 10 wickets at Berrigan on Saturday.

Batting first, Nathalia found itself in trouble early, losing its first five wickets with only 13 runs on the board.

Harrison Hawks and Dale James tried their best to get the score moving, however Hawks was out for 16 with the score on 49, and James followed seven runs later with a score of 18.

Once both batsmen were out, the Purples never troubled the scorers again and lost the remaining three wickets for nothing, all out for a paltry 56.

It did not take Berrigan long to reach its target, scoring 58 for no loss from nine overs.

Nathalia hosts Barooga at home at the resumption of the season on Saturday, January 11.

Eagles down Bombers

KATANDRA'S B grade cricketers powered their way to an eight wicket win against Waaia in their Clyde Young Shield cricket match on Saturday.

Playing at Katandra, Waaia won the toss and batted and was off to a good start with a 36 run opening partnership before Jacob Johnson was run out for 16.

Anthony Ciavarella joined Kane Tatt at the crease and put on a further 33 runs for the second wicket before Tatt was out for 27.

Ciavarella then combined with Matt Daniel for 37 runs before he was finally dismissed for a great knock of 40.

Ciavarella's dismissal created a domino effect and the Bombers lost the next four wickets for 23 runs to be 7/129 after some great bowling by Andrew Nicholls, who claimed three.

Some late order hitting from Shane Moore (29no) and Ryan Trimby (15no)

saw Waaia reach 8/185 off its allocated 45 overs.

Andrew Nicholls was the best of the Katandra bowlers with 3/28, ably supported by Ray Ireland with 2/34.

Katandra started its innings slowly, losing Mitchell Black for eight with the score on 26.

Ray Ireland joined Josh McKinnon at the crease and together they piled on 106 runs for the second wicket before McKinnon was out for a well composed 58.

Scott Dickson joined Ireland at the crease and together they saw Katandra over the line in the 37th over.

Ireland finished with a terrific score of 80 not out and Dickson remained not out 24.

Both teams will resume the season on Saturday, January 11, with Katandra playing Mooroopna at Mooroopna and Waaia playing Old Students at Congupna Recreation Reserve.

NumurkahLEADER Sports

FIRST ONE OF MANY

TWO first time winners have taken out the Numurkah Golf Club's bowls club championships, although neither is a stranger to having won many championship titles.

It is the first time both Mark Jones and Linda Isted will have their name on the champions honour board at the golf club, only because they are both new bowlers to the club.

Mark left Melbourne and played at Golf last season, but didn't play the championship event. This season he has taken on the coaching role at the club, and won Tuesday morning's final by a comfortable margin, defeating the defending champion Ian Hocking.

"It is good to get my name on the honour board with the likes of Geoff Sutcliffe, and some of the other great bowlers from this club," Jones said.

Jones said he had "won a few" championship titles in Melbourne, and a couple in Nathalia.

Linda is a five time club champion at the Hastings club, and has also won a champion of champions title.

Tuesday's win caps off a great season for her so far, having also won the club pairs event with Helen Pickersgill.

Linda had a comfortable win over former club champion Loris Houlihan in the final, and said she was very happy to score her first title in Numurkah.



Golfers and bowlers ... Mark Jones and Linda Isted lasted well in yesterday's heat to win the Numurkah Golf bowls club championship titles.

Eagles clobber Tatura

KATANDRA finds itself in the "Love The Game" A grade T20 semi final, after finishing atop the ladder with a resounding 132 run win against Tatura last Thursday.

Katandra played Euroa in the semi final last night with the result unknown prior to print.

The winner will play either Numurkah or Shepparton United in the grand final to be

played tomorrow at Mooroopna, commencing at 7pm.

Playing at home, Josh McKinnon and Ben Clurey opened the Katandra batting and had 22 on the board when McKinnon fell for seven. Luke Patel joined Clurey at the crease and together they put on 59 before Patel was out for 15.

This brought in form player and captain Jedd

Wright to the crease, and together he and Clurey smashed 80 runs for the third wicket before Clurey fell for a terrific knock of 88.

Wright continued to hammer the bowling attack to all parts of the ground, finally succumbing for a superb 87 off 30 deliveries, including nine fours and seven sixes.

The Eagles amassed 5/209 off their allocated 20 overs.

In reply, Tatura was off to a poor start, losing its first two wickets for four runs, due to some great bowling by Hadleigh Sirett.

Katandra's bowlers did not allow Tatura off the floor, bowling tightly and restricting the opposition to 5/77 off its 20 overs.

Wicket takers for Katandra were Hadleigh Sirett with two, and Corey Hickford and Luke Patel with one apiece.

NumurkahLEADER

INSIDE SPORT



Twilight winners

See story page 24



Course record

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