

established 1895
Numurkah LEADER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 \$1.30

INSIDE



Ride to remember

See story page 4



End of term fun

See story page 8



Skate park sabotage

See story page 6



Mona's century

MONA Kelly celebrated her 100th birthday on Monday. Still sharp, Mona reads the newspapers and knits every day. See story page 3.

Sheed savages water minister

AT just the second press conference she has called since her election, independent Member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed last week called on the Federal Government to sack David Littleproud as Minister for Water, and replace him with MP for Nicholls Damian Drum.

Ms Sheed was supported at the press conference by a contingent of dairy farmers and people whose businesses are dependent on them, the vast majority of whom travelled from the Numurkah district to attend.

Ms Sheed said that, for too long, we have had water ministers from the northern basin representing their own electorates, controlling water policy implemented into the southern basin causing great damage to communities there.

"We have had report after report

looking into the socioeconomic situation and we know that we have declining milk production, we have families leaving the region, we've recently seen the Nestle milk factory at Tongala close down," Ms Sheed said.

"These communities are bleeding, and it's not good enough that the Federal Government sits by and just lets it happen."

Ms Sheed said that Damian Drum was her choice to be federal water minister, saying he was born into a dairy farming family, understands the issue, has a broader view of the whole issue and will represent the national interest.

"Damian Drum is the only person from the federal National Party I've heard talk about these issues, and it's time that he was appointed as our water minister and Littleproud goes.

I believe Damian Drum as our water minister provides an opportunity for our voices to be heard and for the National Party to finally stand up and represent the broader national interests."

Though Ms Sheed may have been showing support for Mr Drum, he, on the other hand, gave her idea pretty short shrift.

"This talk about me replacing Littleproud is demeaning and disrespectful to everyone. She is asking me to behave in a disloyal and treacherous way, and I would never engage in that," Mr Drum told the *Leader*.

Despite throwing her weight behind Mr Drum, Ms Sheed was scathing towards the National Party as a whole.

"Southern basin communities are getting very tired of the National Party. They have the power in the Federal

Government to set the policy on this issue and they need to stand up or they will be gone," she said.

"It's not up to me, I can't throw people out, but everyone else in the community can; they get to vote on a regular basis and they can do something about it.

"People are sick and tired of not being properly represented, of not being heard and of having their livelihoods threatened by poor policy.

"Communities across NSW and Victoria have been displacing National Party members one after the other, so the National Party better take this on board and listen to what we're saying here today or they'll be gone." By way of response, Mr Drum talked up the Nationals' efforts so far.

Continued page 2.

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Strong local support ... Suzanna Sheed was flanked by farmers and business owners from the Numurkah district as she made her announcement.

Sheed savages water minister

"It's only because of the National Party that we were able to get the cooperation of South Australia to tie a socioeconomic test to the 450Gl of upwater," he said.

"The behind the scenes work needed to achieve this outcome simply could not have been done if I was not a member of the National Party.

"It is only the National Party which understands the impact of the drought. We are working with all our community and irrigation groups to look at how we can change the situation with irrigation water."

Numurkah business owner Anita Seiter, who was instrumental in gathering local farmers and business people to stand with Ms Sheed at the press conference, told the *Leader* that something had to change.

"The MDBP is an agreement be-

tween four states and not one of them is happy with how it has been managed," she said.

"The minister's continued insistence that it will be implemented in full and on time, and his refusal to consider any other option, gives me a sneaking suspicion that there is something they are not telling us, and there are ulterior motives at work."

As for replacing Minister Littleproud with Damian Drum, Mrs Seiter said she would hope that he would have a better understanding of the issues involved.

"Mr Drum would have to be better than Mr Littleproud, but to be honest, I'm a little disappointed in what the Nats have done to date in support of rural Australia with regards to the MDBP," she said.

"There have been so many reports and studies since the MDBP was implemented that show the dam-

age it is doing to rural and regional communities, but there has been no change in the Nats' approach.

"They are happy to use the 'we support the farmers' line to get re-elected, but they are not walking the walk.

"I would have thought they would be speaking out much louder given the pain that is being felt in the communities they represent.

"Whether Damian Drum replaces David Littleproud or not, I would like to see a lot more commitment to action from him."

Mr Drum said he is, and has been, doing everything he can to bring about actual outcomes.

"I'm not telling people what they want to hear, or talking about matters that aren't under my control," he told the *Leader*.

Minister Littleproud told the *Leader* that the Basin Plan has been formed in agreement with all basin

states, including Victoria, which prevents the plan favouring one state over another.

"All basin governments, including Victoria, have agreed to the socio-economic neutrality test, which stops any recovery of additional water going ahead unless it demonstrates it will in no way hurt basin communities," he said.

The minister declined to comment on negative socioeconomic impacts already being experienced in southern basin communities as a result of the plan.

A representative from Minister Littleproud's office told the *Leader* that the minister has no plans in place to visit the local area, having already visited Echuca and Albury this year, but may be prepared to schedule a visit if he received an invitation from an MP or local farmers' representative group.

POLICE BEAT Thieves remain active

THIEVES have remained active across the district in the past week, with a number of cars and properties targeted, both in and out of town.

A 2001 Subaru Liberty wagon was stolen from outside an address in Quinn St, Numurkah overnight last Thursday.

The vehicle was located the next morning with damage to the left hand side of the vehicle, near the water's edge near Quinn St.

Overnight on Tuesday, September 17, unknown offenders have entered an unlocked vehicle parked in a garage in Numurkah.

A packet of cigarettes and the vehicle ignition key were stolen from inside the vehicle, before the offenders entered the residence via the house access door.

A woman's handbag containing a small amount of cash, bank cards, etc. was stolen from inside

the house.

St George's Anglican Church Numurkah was broken into some time early on Monday. The police's Crime Scene Services Unit has examined the scene, however no other information is available at this stage.

A resident of a Katamatite-Shepparton Road property at Invergordon disturbed thieves in the process of stealing a set of mag wheels and tyres, valued at around \$1500, from a vehicle on the property last Saturday night.

An occupant of the property observed a torchlight at the vehicle at around 10.30pm, and alerted the owner, who chased the offenders out of the yard.

Whilst fleeing, the offenders dropped the spare wheel in a channel before making their escape in a getaway vehicle which was last observed head-

ing towards Shepparton.

Sometime between September 11 and 17 three chainsaws were stolen from a Union Road Invergordon address.

The chainsaws, one each of Stihl, Yardmaster and Husqvarna brands, valued at a total of around \$1,500, were stolen from a garage, possibly whilst the owner was in hospital.

In the same time period, between September 15 and 17, thieves targeted a Barmah -Shepparton Rd property at Barmah.

Thieves have entered the property via farm gates, before jemmying a side door entry to the shed. Once inside, the offenders have searched a small aircraft and boat stored in the shed, and have also attempted to gain entry to another part of the shed without success.

It appears that the offenders left empty handed.

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Mona's busy century as independent woman

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.

Mona has been a stalwart of the Numurkah community, serving as a committee member for around a dozen local sporting and community organisations over the years.

For 23 years Mona was a member of the Numurkah hospital board of management, including two terms as president.

She fitted all of this in around a busy working life in which she was a secretary for McNamara and Co Real Estate until their Numurkah office closed in 1969, at which time she joined Morrison and Teare Solicitors as a bookkeeper until her retirement.

Mid-life saw Mona take on a new challenge, when she and her sister Joan took responsibility for three teenage nieces and nephews whose parents had passed away.

Though she had never married, the role of carer was a familiar one to Mona.

At the age of 11, Mona stepped up to help her mother raise her six younger siblings, the youngest of whom was just four months old, when her father died.

Later, Mona, who had her share of suitors, turned down a marriage proposal in favour of caring for her ailing mother.

Any suggestion that Mona missed out on anything in life is pretty quickly put to rest by the woman herself, however.

"I've made the choices that suited me along the way, and I've always done what I wanted to do," she said.

"You have to help out your family and community, that's important to me, so I've always chosen to do that."

Mona had early ambitions of being a nun; joining the Josephites who populated the convent across the road from her home, and who she thought were wonderful.

"I spoke to the nuns one day and they asked

what I was doing now. I told them I was helping my mother and visiting people who didn't have connections in the community. I always had lots of relations, and I thought it would be terrible to be lonely," she said.

"The nuns told me that I should just keep doing that rather than join the convent, so I did."

Whilst Mona's life was about helping those who needed it, and caring for her family, she was no domestic goddess, and wasn't one to offer comfort through food.

"I wasn't one to go the oven and make scones or a casserole; I didn't cook for people. I made pikelets occasionally, but mostly I just provided company."

Whilst Mona says she's 'bounced in and out, backwards and forwards' around her Tocumwal Road neighbourhood since she was born at Mrs Meiklejohn's Saxton St hospital on September 23, 1919, she's also found time to travel the world.

"On one trip to Europe with a friend of mine, we knew every hotel in Paris," she said.

"Back in those days, people might have thought we were terrible, but we had a lot of fun."

Though Mona's travelling days are behind her, she still keeps up with the goings on in the world by diligently reading the *Age*, *Shepparton News* and *Numurkah Leader*.

"When I was working in town as a young woman, we used to say that if you wanted to know the news you should just go the butcher shop at 8am every morning, because that's where you'd hear what was going on in town," she said.

Still a keen knitter, Mona does lament the loss of traditional skills that allowed people to make things for themselves.

However, as someone who can clearly remember a time before homes had hot running water, she is not one to rail against technological advances.

"The world is more comfortable now, and people are more connected, and those aren't bad things."



Modern woman ... Mona Kelly at the McNamara & Co office in around 1960.

Cheap show transport for regional Victorians

THE Victorian Government is offering discounted public transport to make it that little bit easier for regional Victorians attending the 2019 Royal Melbourne Show.

Minister for Public Transport Melissa Horne said the reduced cost of travel will be offered to off-peak V/Line services, to assist anyone making the journey from the regions to attend the all-ages event.

People with a valid 2019 Royal Melbourne Show ticket will be able to purchase a \$15 special event fare, which provides economy off-peak return travel across V/Line's regional network.

The special event fare also includes free travel on metropolitan trains, trams and buses to get you to and from the show when in Melbourne.

The 2019 Royal Melbourne Show, held from Saturday, September 21, to Tuesday, October 1, at Melbourne Showgrounds, will have a new program of activities on offer.

Presented by The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, the Royal Melbourne Show remains one of the state's largest and most iconic annual community events and is a tradition among families and friends.

To take advantage of this special offer, passengers must present a valid 2019 Royal Melbourne Show admission ticket when purchasing their V/Line ticket.

For more information visit vline.com.au.

Preparations begin for a hot, dry fire season

VICTORIA'S emergency services are busy preparing for the upcoming fire season, and Victorians are being urged to start actively preparing in the coming weeks.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville joined key emergency services and supporting agencies last week to discuss the season ahead and the upcoming intensive month of activities to raise awareness in communities and assist them to prepare.

Hot and dry conditions are forecast over summer, particularly in East and West Gippsland where there has been low autumn and winter rain over the past three years.

These elevated conditions mean an extended preparedness campaign is necessary above and beyond a single week of fire action, which has been the practice in the past.

The State Government has provided more than \$29 million in funding for a record fleet of 50 aircraft, including a mix of water bombing, air supervision and air intelligence-gathering aircraft.

Victoria will also be supported by a surge capacity of up to 100 aircraft, which can be called to supplement the fleet when needed.

Emergency services agencies have begun preparations, pre-briefings and training exer-

cises, while thousands of volunteers and career firefighters are on standby to respond to emergencies.

While Victorian emergency management agencies are preparing, it's also important the community understands their own risk and is actively preparing.

Minister Neville said Victorians should start developing a fire action plan for themselves, their family and their pets, discussing it and even practising it so that everyone is ready to act.

"As we've unfortunately seen in Queensland and New South Wales, it's possible the fire season could start here in Victoria before the weather warms up," she said.

"Good information will lead to good decisions. Staying safe during a fire - whether you live in the bush or on the urban fringe - is a shared responsibility."

Victorians can stay up-to-date with emergency warnings throughout the fire season by tuning into ABC local radio or other commercial and community radio stations, downloading the VicEmergency App, phoning the VicEmergency hotline 1800 226 226 or visiting emergency.vic.gov.au.

FIREWATCH

WITH the weather starting to make some moves towards warming up, locals are being reminded to keep a close eye on their burn offs, as local CFA brigades responded to another burn off that had not been properly extinguished last week.

At 8.35am last Friday, Strathmerton, Katunga and Yarroweyah brigades were called to a report-

Watch your burn offs

ed tree fire at the corner of Bouchiers Road and Main Street, Strathmerton.

Brigades arrived to find that, although the tree was not on fire, some leaf litter around the base of the tree was burning as the result of a previous burn off.

Strathmerton brigade extinguished the fire; Katunga and Yarroweyah were stopped enroute.

Quantity of cash handed in to police

HAVE you lost a quantity of cash in Numurkah this month?

An amount of cash was recently handed in to the Numurkah police station after it was found in a public place, and police are seeking the owner to come and claim it.

In order to claim the cash, the owner will need to be able to tell police the amount, as well as the date and place it was lost.

Senior Constable Sooriarachchi from Numurkah police told the *Leader* that it was possible the owner of the cash had not reported it lost as they didn't believe anybody who found it would turn it in.

"There are some genuinely honest and caring people in our community. The person who found this money handed it in to us so its rightful owner can get it back," she said.

"They told us if it remains unclaimed, they would like to see it donated to a good cause."

The money will be held for 90 days. If you believe the money is yours and can provide the details required by police, contact Numurkah police.

WHAT'S ON AT NUMURKAH GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB

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Local cops ride wall to wall for fallen

WHEN 600 Victorian police rolled into Canberra on motorbikes two weeks ago to honour fallen officers from throughout Australia, two local officers were among their number.

The annual Wall to Wall ride sees motorcycle loving officers from each Australian state and territory ride from the police memorial wall in their own state, to the National Police Memorial in Canberra for a remembrance service honouring officers who have lost their lives on duty, or as a result of their service.

One of the 794 names to appear on the national memorial is that of Constable Ray Denman, who was shot dead in Numurkah on Sunday, May 3, 1964 after answering a call from a distressed woman who reported that her boyfriend was armed with a shotgun and was trying to beat down her back door.

Senior Constable Joe Tomasino of Numurkah and Leading Senior Constable David Liversidge of Katamatite, both keen riders, joined the ride from Victoria, along with their wives.

It was David's fourth time on the ride, which is in its 10th year, whilst it was Joe's seventh.

Sen Const Tomasino said every police member on the ride has at least one mate whose name appears on the wall in Canberra.

"It's a pilgrimage for us; somewhere we can go and remember our mates, and combine that common purpose of remembering them with our love of riding," he said.

Leading Sen Con Liversidge, who bought his first motorbike at the age of 13, said he personally knew five of the officers whose names are on the national wall.

"You never forget them, but the annual ride and service is a way to honour them publicly, alongside police members from all over Australia," he said.

The Victorian ride started in Melbourne at the police memorial in St Kilda, before winding its way to Lakes Entrance where a short memorial service was held.

It was then on to Cann River for a service in memory of Detective Senior Sergeant Victor Kostiuik. That service was especially poignant, as DSS Kostiuik died after he was struck by a



drunk and drugged driver during last year's Wall to Wall ride.

For all the moments of solemnity along the way, there were plenty of moments of pure enjoyment to be had.

Sen Const Tomasino said riding through the Latrobe Valley was a highlight.

"I stayed around the back of the pack this time and it was amazing going up the hills and looking up and just seeing so many bikes ahead of you snaking around the hills," he said.

"In the little towns there, the kids would line the streets and wave as we went through. It must

have been pretty incredible for them, when they don't usually get much traffic, to have 600 motorbikes come through on one day."

When they finally arrived in Canberra, the Victorian contingent joined riders from all over Australia, bringing their numbers to around 2,800 in total. There were even a couple of riders from Texas USA, where the idea for a police remembrance ride was born.

Once they had mustered in Canberra, the almost 3,000 strong group - riding everything from Harleys to trail bikes - rode in formation around parliament house to the National Police

Memorial on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.

There, a member from each Australian jurisdiction placed a specially created baton on the wall to mark the start of a service which included the Police Prayer and the Police Ode.

The service was completed with a live rendition of Graduation Day, which tells of the vows made by police and the risk, trauma and stress they encounter as part of their duty, performed by ex-Redgum front man John Schumann.

"It's always pretty moving," said Sen Const Tomasino.

"And it makes you proud to wear the uniform."



Community Update



Annual General Meetings for Committees of Management

Come along to your local Committee of Management's AGM to discover more about how the various facilities are going and what their future looks like.

Committee of Management	AGM Date	Time	Location
Cobram Scott Reserve Yarrowonga JC Lowe Oval Reserve	Wed 9 Oct	7.30pm	Cobram Scott Reserve
	Wed 9 Oct	6pm	Dempsey Pavilion, Yarrowonga JC Lowe Oval Reserve
Lake Rowan Hall St James Public Hall Numurkah Town Hall	Wed 9 Oct	7.30pm	Lake Rowan Hall
	Wed 9 Oct	7.30pm	St James Public Hall
	Mon 14 Oct	1.30pm	Supper Room, Numurkah Town Hall
Floridan Park Recreation Reserve	Tues 15 Oct	7pm	Bourchiers, 135 Kinnairds Road, Numurkah
	Tues 15 Oct	8pm	Picola Public Hall
Picola Public Hall Katunga Recreation Reserve and Community Centre	Wed 16 Oct	7.30pm	Katunga Recreation Reserve and Community Centre
	Thurs 17 Oct	8pm	Baulkamaugh Recreation Reserve and Community Hall
Wilby Racecourse and Recreation Reserve Wilby Memorial Hall Yalca North Recreation Reserve	Thurs 17 Oct	8pm	Wilby Memorial Hall
	Thurs 17 Oct	7pm	Wilby Memorial Hall
	Mon 21 Oct	7pm	Yalca North Recreation Reserve
Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve	Mon 21 Oct	7pm	Yarroweyah Recreation Reserve
Nathalia Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve	Mon 21 Oct	7.30pm	Nathalia Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve
Numurkah Showgrounds Reserve	Mon 21 Oct	7.30pm	Numurkah Showgrounds Reserve
Cobram Historical Precinct	Mon 21 Oct	7.30pm	'Old School', Cobram Historical Precinct

Free Mulch – 6, 13 & 20 October

Free mulch days are happening at transfer stations throughout the shire –

- 6 October – Yarrowonga
- 13 October – Cobram
- 20 October – Numurkah

Nathalia available on request.

Go to our website for more information.

Kerbside Organic Waste collection begins

We have begun fortnightly kerbside organic waste collections to residents in the previously unserved areas of Cobram, Numurkah and Yarrowonga plus the township of Tungamah.

The townships of Barmah, Bundalong, Katamatite, Katunga, Picola, St James, Strathmerton, Waaia, Wilby, Wunghnu and Yarroweyah have now received a 240 litre wheelie bin, a small kitchen caddy and a roll of compostable bags with their service to start in October.

Call our friendly Customer Service team for more details.

Nominate your hero – Australia Day Awards

Show your appreciation for our local community heroes by nominating them for a 2020 Australia Day Award.

Nominations are now open for five categories – Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year, Community Organisation of the Year and Arts, Culture and/or Environment Project of the Year.

Nominations can be made online via our website and if you require assistance in completing your application form please contact us.

If you require access to a computer, libraries and community houses across the shire have computers available for public use, by appointment.

Nominations close **Friday 8 November**.



Australia Day

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AgBioEn moving closer

THE AgBioEn biofuel project planned for Katunga is slowly moving closer to commencement, with hopes that the project will be able to break ground before the end of October.

The project is currently waiting for planning approval, a process that has been slowed as council considers objections from owners of two nearby properties.

Whilst one objection, from the owners of a property on Numurkah Road, relates solely to a large increase of heavy traffic to and from the proposed site at 1249 Numurkah Road, the other, from a Spences Road property owner, lists seven concerns.

In addition to sharing concerns about traffic, these concerns include potential negative impacts relating to noise, air and environmental pollution, visibility of the plant, and whether planning permission is needed for a planned additional 40 hectares of greenhouses.

They also expressed concerns regarding the effect on Katunga village, foreseeing problems with sewage and land for housing.

The objector also lists drainage as a major concern, citing concerns that runoff from the biomass plant and car park is likely to contain pollutants, and needs to be contained and not released into the drain at all.

AgBioEn project director Lubey Lozevski told the *Leader* that he and managing director (energy) Peter Holmgren had undertaken mediation with the objectors, and were confident the issues could be resolved.

"We have discussed their concerns, and feel confident that we can satisfy their concerns about the impact of the project," he said.

Once planning approval is received, work will begin on clearing the 10 hectare site.

In the interests of ensuring that work can commence without delay, and establishing relationships with potential contractors and suppliers, AgBioEn recently held an event at Katunga Fresh

to meet with local business people.

"This is a big project which is going to create a lot of jobs, and we want to work with local businesses and organisations as closely as possible," Mr Lozevski said.

Around 75 people attended the event, at which Mr Lozevski and Mr Holmgren outlined the timeline and processes for the creation of the facility.

If ground is able to be broken by the end of October, phase one of the project is expected to be fully operational by June next year, with the entire plant operational within two and a half years.

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.

Mr Holmgren told the *Leader* 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 Lozevski said that the energy produced by the plant will save 400,000 tonnes of emissions compared to oil drilling to obtain the same amount of fuel.

Master plan ... (Right) a plan of the proposed layout of the AgBioEn site at 1249 Numurkah Road Katunga.



URBIS **AGBIODEN BIOENERGY FACILITY-1249 NUMURKAH ROAD, KATUNGA**
LANDSCAPE CONCEPT PLAN - STAGE 1

Annual dairy survey shows trouble on farms in north of the state

AN annual survey of Victorian dairy farms has shown that farms in the north of the state experienced their lowest net farm income of the past 13 years.

The Dairy Farm Monitor Project surveys 75 farms across Victoria, breaking them into three regions - north, south-west and Gippsland - providing annual farm level data related to profit and production in Victoria.

The latest report is the 13th to be produced in collaboration with Dairy Australia.

The 2018-19 survey results showed that, whilst farmers surveyed in the south west reported improved net income on the previous year at \$27,000, it remained below the long-term average.

South west farmers were the only ones to make a profit, however, farmers in the north of the state, reported their net farm income fell to -\$85,000, the lowest level in the 13-year history of the project.

Gippsland farmers reported net farm income reduced to -\$15,000.

While profits were mixed across the regions, the project reported average earnings before interest and tax were \$85,000 in 2018-19, half of the level set the year before.

When interest and lease costs are considered, average net farm income across the state fell to -\$24,000, the fourth lowest since the project began.

Agriculture Victoria's Farm Business Economist Claire Waterman said there was a significant

variation in profitability across the three dairy regions of Victoria.

"The dry conditions have led to a 20% increase in variable costs as a result of higher irrigation water, concentrates and fodder prices," Ms Waterman said.

"Farmers also spent more on making home grown feed, including fertiliser, hay and silage making costs."

Despite the increased costs and earlier culling in some regions, herd size among the farmers surveyed remained constant at an average of 357 cows.

Milk price improved 6% to \$6.13/kg MS compared to the previous year, partially offsetting the increased costs.

"Following a challenging 2018-19 season, more than 85% of farmers predicted their farm profit will improve for 2019-20, underpinned by strong expectations for improved milk price and stable or improving milk production," Ms Waterman said.

Agriculture Victoria and Dairy Australia provide a range of services to support farmers managing drought and dry seasonal conditions.

These services include one-on-one consultations, workshops and grants.

For more information on the support available to dairy farmers please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons.

The annual report is available at agriculture.vic.gov.au/dairyfarmmonitor.



Barmah Punt Restoration Celebrations

Come one, come all to the official launch of the historic Barmah Punt, now restored to its original glory.

Sunday 20 October from 11.30am
Jack Edwards Park, Murray Street, Barmah

A delicious community barbecue will be provided.
For more information give us a call or go to our website.

This project was made possible with a Living Heritage Grant in partnership with Moira Shire Council.

Expect delays on Shepp alternate route

IF you're planning on driving to Melbourne these school holidays, you may want to consider an alternative to the Shepp alternative route.

Detours are now in place to allow for the roundabout upgrades at New Dookie and Old Dookie roads.

At various times, either westbound or eastbound traffic will be affected at the roundabouts, and drivers are asked to follow the detour signs.

During the first stage of works, New Dookie Road closes westbound after Doyles Road, with detours using Old Dookie Road.

Old Dookie Road closes in both directions on the eastern side of the Old Dookie Road roundabout.

New Dookie Road and the Midland Highway are being touted as good options, though you may still want to allow a little extra time.

Preparation works were undertaken last Wednesday night, with the installation of safety barriers to safeguard crews for the duration of the construction period.

For the latest traffic information around the state visit traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au or download the VicTraffic app via your app store.

If you see any hazards on our roads, please report them to the VicRoads Traffic Management Centre on 13 11 70, open 24/7. In an emergency, call 000.

www.moira.vic.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5871 9222





TAKE YOUR E-WASTE TO A BETTER PLACE

E-waste is any item with a plug, battery or power cord that is no longer working or wanted.

WHERE DOES E-WASTE GO?

The Victorian Government recently introduced a ban which prevents e-waste being placed in any bin or landfill.

Unwanted e-waste, or electronic waste, from the home, office or shed can be dropped at one of the below locations:

Cobram Transfer Station
100 Pye Road, Cobram East

Nathalia Transfer Station
26 Balls Road, Nathalia

Numurkah Transfer Station
367 Naring Road, Numurkah

Yarrawonga Transfer Station
81 Channel Road, Yarrawonga

Visit www.ewaste.vic.gov.au or contact your local council to find your nearest e-waste drop-off point.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY UNWANTED E-WASTE?

Your unwanted e-waste is transferred from Resource Recovery Centres to a reprocessor where it is shredded, sorted and repurposed. E-waste is recovered in a number of ways, depending on the item and can be repurposed for use in new batteries, electronics, homewares and more.

Valuable materials recovered from e-waste include:

- gold
- silver
- copper
- aluminium
- platinum
- cobalt

By disposing of your e-waste correctly and dropping it at the Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah or Yarrawonga Resource Recovery Centres you are protecting the environment by:

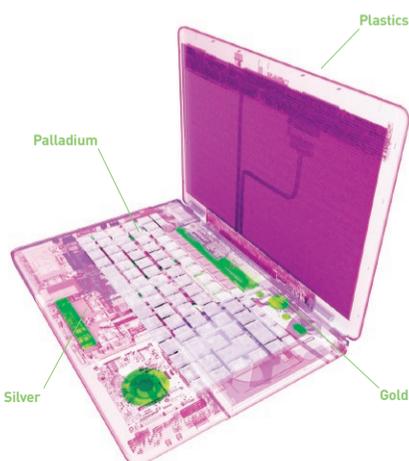
- Reducing what is sent to landfill
- Keeping harmful materials contained in e-waste out of the environment
- Reducing greenhouse gases created in the production of new materials and products

WHAT IS E-WASTE?

Examples of e-waste include:

- Large and small household electrical appliances
- IT telecommunication and TV equipment
- LEDs and fluorescent lights
- Power tools
- Electrical toys

Your old electrical items have plenty left to give when they're recycled properly



Goulburn Valley
Waste and Resource Recovery Group



Sabotage ... Numurkah skatepark was the site of vandalism overnight last Thursday.

Skate park vandalised

NUMURKAH skatepark users have been left disappointed by repeated acts of vandalism at the facility.

Skate park regular Josh McKenzie said he arrived at the venue last Friday, September 20, to find an oily substance poured over the concrete ramps and bowl.

Mr McKenzie told the *Leader* this is not the first time vandalism of this type has occurred.

"It happens around a couple of times a month," he said.

"I was here yesterday evening and it was clean, so it's been done over night; it's almost always overnight on a week day."

Mr McKenzie said that the substance appears to be a type of vegetable oil, but on some occasions other unidentifiable, sticky substances have been used.

As to the motive and identity of the vandal, Josh can't be certain, but he does have some theories.

"I think it's someone's attempt to stop or discourage people

from using the skatepark, because you can't go skating or riding over oil can you?"

"There have been verbal clashes with some of the local residents in the past, when they've objected to noise, so I suppose that it's a possibility that it's somebody who lives nearby. I mean, it's obviously not a skatepark user.

"I have been here in the past when the police have arrived, saying they had reports of fighting, when there definitely hasn't been any. I think some people just don't like the park being here and want to deter people from using it."

Mr McKenzie acknowledged that he was aware of some people using the skatepark after dark, which goes against regulations stated on signage at the park.

"Some people, working adults mostly, do come after the school kids have gone home in the evening, to ride BMXs.

"Unfortunately, in the winter time, that means it's getting

dark, or already dark, but still, we're taking about six or seven pm, which isn't exactly late, and it's the only time available to them to use the facility.

As far as Mr McKenzie is concerned, that just strengthens the argument for an expansion of the park.

"With a bigger facility, more users, and different types of users, would be able to use the facility at the same time, and it may cut back on some of the after hours use."

For now, Mr McKenzie will continue cleaning up unwelcome messes when they appear, so that use of the skatepark can continue.

"This is a public space, and it was built for a reason.

"We have a right to use it. It's frustrating that people would continually try and sabotage it and stop people being outside in the fresh air, getting exercise in a community space.

"A bit of tolerance and understanding would be nice."

Almost showtime

WITH the 2019 Numurkah show just 28 days away, the countdown is well and truly on.

Though there is much work still to be done, excitement is mounting and the big day - Wednesday, October 23 - can't come soon enough for the Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society committee.

A&P Society secretary Sue Aldridge said, after receiving 50 entries for judging on last year's theme of hats, the committee was looking forward to seeing what the people of Numurkah and district could come up with this year for boots and shoes.

"We hope to get a similar number of entries this year, and that they are just as creative as last year's," she said.

"Rubber boots, track shoes, high heels and work boots all lend themselves to decoration, and there will be a display of all entries in the poultry pavilion during the morning, with prizes in all sections."

While in this pavilion to see who you think has produced the best-decorated footwear, you can see some 60 types of

poultry, hens, ducks, bantams and waterfowl shown by both junior and senior handlers.

The pavilion also holds everybody's happy place - the animal nursery.

There is always a wonderful range of farm animals, especially baby ones, as well as kittens, pups, rabbits and chickens. You can pat and feed some special ones if you want to, a very happy place.

A reptile display will be close by, with many wonderful snakes, lizards and native animals, which will be fascinating for those who like that kind of thing.

Meanwhile, on the arena, the show jumping is always of a very high standard, with ridden horses and ponies, and harness horses after lunch. Many of these are Melbourne show winners, and make a marvellous display.

Further to the south of the grounds, you'll find beef and dairy cattle and sheep.

The beef display at Numurkah is worthy of any show, and there should be up to 60 huge, beautiful cattle of all breeds. Dairy cattle are also shown

with classes for children with calves that they have reared and fed.

At the northern end, it's all about the dogs - more breeds of them than you can count, and in absolute peak condition.

For those for whom a show means action, there will be sideshow rides, large, small, scary and tame.

Along with the gloriously gooey, greasy sweet and sticky food that we all love along sideshow alley, you'll also find traditional fare such as sandwiches, cakes and tea and coffee sold at the kiosk and upstairs in the multi-purpose building.

There are also two pavilions housing cookery, needlework, photography, craft, art, flowers, school displays and wool and sheep shearing, with Cobram Spinners and Weavers there to show how it used to be done.

There will also be many, many more attractions, including face painting, puppets, stalls from local organisations and lots of food stalls.

Start counting down the days people - and get some rest - it's going to be a big, big, big day!



Team Miller ... (Back): Barry and Faye Miller with (front): Mark, Ciara, Cooper and Nicola when they took a break from training and visited Numurkah last week.



The best ... The Aus Crocs competing at the world championships in Tully in May.

White water family rules the river

GROWING up on the banks of the Broken Creek doesn't automatically suggest a future as a world-class white water rafter, but that's precisely how former Numurkah man Mark Miller, the son of Barry and Faye Miller, ended up.

Mark has represented Australia in the sport three times, and now lives in Cairns with his family, who all share his love of the sport.

Mark's 16 year-old son Cooper was part of the under-19 Australian men's team - the Aus Crocs - that took out the world championships on the Tully River in May this year.

Mark's wife Nicola is team manager, whilst Cooper's younger sister Ciara is part of the newly formed girls team, which is already showing huge promise.

The victory of the boys team, which competed in the R6 (denoting a crew of six) category, was all the sweeter for the fact that they were all aged between 15 and 17, and fitted training in around school and part time jobs.

On top of that, they achieved the

fastest time for any Australian team across all divisions.

Nicola said that the key is to make training fun.

"They all love their adrenaline sports and really physical sports so they love the rafting, but if you're wanting them to train three or four times a week and not making it fun then you won't have a team," she said.

"They love it though. You see them on the river and they're working their guts out, but they've got the biggest smiles on their faces."

Cooper, though a young man of few words, said the thing he loves most about rafting is it's a team sport.

"I really love motocross and downhill mountain bike riding and white water kayaking as well, but they're individual sports," he said.

"With rafting, you're in the boat with your mates and you're all working together and that's really fun."

The boys mostly trained on the Barron River 10 minutes out of Cairns, but for a year leading up to the world

championships they would make the two and a half hour trek to the Tully once a month for a training session.

Mark said that whilst every river is different, the Tully and Barron are similar, which stands the boys in good stead.

"They are both low-volume rivers with rocks, so they're technical in a way a lot of rivers aren't," he said.

"The boys have had to develop the technical skill of reading the water and navigating down river, which is really valuable to them and is probably what makes them the most successful young team out there."

Those are skills they'll need as they move up the age ranks, which they plan to do, given that they'll be competing against teams of professional rafters, former Olympians and professional river guides.

Even the competitors they have faced so far have been somewhat intimidating.

"We were intimidated by them on land, and I think they were trying to intimidate us because they are bigger and

more experienced, but on the water they just weren't keeping up so we stopped feeling intimidated," Cooper said.

In fact, it's the professionals that should be intimidated after the boys' performance at the pre-worlds in China in July.

Competing in the open men's division as an R4 team (the world championships alternate biannually between an R6 and an R4 competition), the Aus Crocs placed sixth out of 15 teams - the top four of which are crewed by professional athletes.

Nicola said it was an honour for the boys to represent their country as an older team, considering they were only 16 years old.

"This is not something that has happened before, as junior teams are not normally skilled enough to do the same course as open men. The boys are pretty unique," she said.

Not only that, but they caused a massive upset by knocking out the UK team - one of the favourites to win the competition - in a head to head in

the first round, causing them to place fourth overall.

Of course, international competition comes at a cost and they need to raise around \$20,000 for both the boys and girls teams to compete at the world cup in China next August.

"We have a small amount of corporate sponsorship, but we've got a lot more money to raise yet," Mark said.

"When we were raising money for the pre-worlds it was really amazing to see that we had some donors from the Numurkah district. That really meant a lot to me, and I want to say a big thank you to those people."

Assuming they can come up with the funds, what does Cooper hope to get out of the sport?

"I just want to keep winning. I want to stay in it until I'm 23 and can compete in the open section and just keep winning."

Anybody wanting to donate to the Crocs' cause can contact Nicola via Facebook Messenger through the AUS CROCS Facebook page.

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The Numurkah Leader.
GOULBURN VALLEY FARMERS' AND FRUIT GROWERS GAZETTE

100 years ago

This week in 1919 ...

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

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

ECHUCA BY-ELECTION HUGE MAJORITY FOR MR HILL

Polling for the Echuca seat in the House of Representatives, rendered vacant by the death of Mr A. C. Palmer, took place on Saturday last, and, as will be seen by the details of the polling, resulted in the return of Mr W. C. Hill, of Colbinnabbin, by a very large majority on the first count. Not a very great amount of interest was taken in the election generally, excepting in centres here and there, for it was recognised that the outcome would serve only the purpose of estimating strength of the parties. In this regard, the result shows that, in the Victorian Farmers' Union is a force to be reckoned with, and no doubt the Union will now be still further encouraged in its determination to contest all country seats at the general elections, which it is generally supposed will take place in December next. There were three candidates—Mr Hill, Major Purcell (who stood in the interests of the National party) and Mr E. Lewis Purbrick Independent—and the voting showed yet once again that an "independent" candidate has no chance of successfully conducting an election against organisations such as have been built up as a result of party representation in the House.

DISTURBING MEETINGS (To the Editor)

Sir—Knowing your columns are open for the venting of any public matter, I venture to ask your aid in remedying a grievous nuisance, to wit, the disturbing of public meetings. On Friday night last when Senator Reid, a visitor from Queensland, was addressing a public meeting in the Mechanics' Hall, the interruptions were so annoying as to call for protest from the Senator and the chairman, the latter threatening to have the interrupter removed, still the annoyance continued, and one of the audience not being able to put up with it any longer left the building. You see the shameful position created—a respectable citizen "out" and the disgraceful person "in". The police should certainly be asked to attend such gatherings in the future, as this condition of things should not be tolerated any longer.

—Yours, etc., ORDER.

PERSONAL

During last week Mr "Bob" Guthrie was in Numurkah and received a warm welcome from old friends in the district. In the early days Mr Guthrie and his brothers held land in the Yaroweyah district, but the "land boom" caused him, as it did many other good men, to seek other avenues of employment, and he joined the staff of the "Sydney Mail", in which journal his writings, under the penname of "Moir", attracted attention right throughout the Commonwealth. Mr Guthrie was sent to the Continent by his paper on one occasion to inquire into the marketing of Australian produce, and also to make purchases of cattle on behalf of the N.S.W. Government. Our old friend had about reached the topmost branch of the journalistic tree in Sydney when his health forsook him. He is now preparing the way throughout the Commonwealth for the organising of branches of the Australian Industries Protection League, which, as its name implies, has been formed for the purpose of fostering a national sentiment in favor of Australian industries.

Sale of Booths.—The booth rights for the agricultural show on October 16 will be sold by Messrs Kilpatrick, McLellan & Co. on Friday of next week, October 3. They comprise the publican's booth and fruit and lolly stall, and the terms of purchase are announced in the advt.

Football.—The large crowd that attended the Numurkah showgrounds on Saturday in Saturday in the expectation of seeing a close contest between Muckatah and Drummanure were somewhat disappointed, as Muckatah had all the best of the game, and won by 7.8 to 2.4. The winners showed marked superiority in handling the ball and "picking their men," whilst Drummanure appeared at a loss to know what to do with the ball when they got it. Granted that Drummanure had four of their leading players out, they were still outclassed.

Winners are grinners ... Place getters in the intermediate race were happy as.



Calamity on the course ... Some teams fell foul of the barrel slalom.



Ready to race ... (Back from left): Riley Dobson and Matthew Ward, with (front from left): Abbie Smith and Demi Hendy, hope their 'car' has the legs to win the race that stops a school.



Now that's an obstacle ... Some of the teachers saved the biggest obstacles for year 12 competitors.

Serious fun at St Mary's

LAST Friday, being the last day of term and a gloriously sunny 27°C, wasn't the type of day that was conducive to getting much school work done.

It was fortunate indeed, then, that St Mary of the Angels had designated that as the day it would celebrate the feast of St Francis, which falls during the school holidays on October 4.

After mass in the morning, the whole school turned its focus to cars - of the cardboard variety.

For the 11th year running, the school held the FMDM Grand Prix - a cardboard car race - to raise money to support the work of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDM).

FMDM is an order of nuns who, among other initiatives, support poor African children to attend school.

The grand prix is comprised of three races, junior, intermediate and senior, with each home group entering a car in the race with four nominated drivers - two male and two female. This year's theme was sports, meaning cars and costumes alike needed to represent a sporting theme.

Each car had to complete two laps of a figure-eight shaped obstacle course, with the option of swapping drivers between laps.

The rules are few and far between, but include the necessity for all drivers to wear helmets or other

head wear, complete the whole course, stay together even if their car doesn't, and not indulge in any foul play.

Whilst drivers managed to follow most of the rules, some of them applied a fairly broad definition when it came to the final rule.

A range of obstacles littered the course, including staff armed with balls and water balloons to pelt competitors with on straight stretches of the course.

Though it was a first past the post competition, each race was subject to the ruling of two judges, and a number of promising teams fell well foul - and quite early on too - of a rule stating that in order to be declared winner, a car must be intact.

Event organiser Ruth Bakogianis, who is the school's social justice leader, said it was a great day for the whole school community.

"Everybody has a lot of fun and it's for a very good cause," she said.

"There are incentives for raising money, such as gaining a one metre head-start for every \$10 raised, and the winning home group from each year level receives a voucher for hot chips."

This year, for the first time, there was also the incentive of extra points for cars which were made entirely out of recycled, and recyclable, materials.

A range of local businesses and individuals chipped in on sponsor cars, with around \$6,500 raised over all.

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds



PUBLIC NOTICES

NATHALIA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

NATHALIA SHOW 2019

SATURDAY 5TH OCTOBER

Events from 9am
Nathalia Showgrounds

THEME - OLD SCHOOL

To celebrate 100 years of
Nathalia Secondary College

- Sheep dog trials
- Miniature train
- Delicious food
- Equestrian & livestock events
- Crafts and cooking
- Market stalls welcome
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TENDERS



C022/17

Provision for Asset Maintenance Services Panel Refresh:

PART B - Concreting

PART H - Pre-Cast Concrete Products

C048/19

Provision of Waste Management Operating Software

C049/19

Work Health Program

Tenders closing 4pm Wednesday 16 October 2019

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

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

Mark Henderson
Chief Executive Officer

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SITUATIONS VACANT

MHA Care is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing high quality home and community care services across the Moira Shire and surrounding districts for the past 19 years.



Employment Opportunity

• **Senior Finance Officer**
Yarrowonga, Full Time, 12 Month Fixed Term (with possibility of extension)

For more information please go to: <http://www.mhacare.org.au/work-with-us/career-opportunities>. A copy of the position description can be found on this website. Applications must provide a current CV and address key selection criteria by close of business Wednesday, 9th October 2019.

Please email applications marked 'Private and Confidential' to hr@mhacare.org.au

Numurkah LEADER

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Classified Line Ads:
12 noon Tuesday

Display Ads:
Bookings by 12 noon Monday

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SITUATIONS VACANT

NCN Health | Nathalia Cobram Numurkah

NCN Health has the following vacancies:

COBRAM CAMPUS

Registered Nurse – Grade 2

8 shifts per fortnight (0.8 EFT) – Permanent

Registered Nurse – Grade 2

8 shifts per fortnight (0.8 EFT) – Fixed term to 14th March 2020

Enrolled Nurse – Grade 2

9 shifts per fortnight (0.9 EFT) – Fixed term to 10th August 2020

Enrolled Nurse – Grade 2

11 shifts per fortnight available (1.1 EFT) – Fixed term to 30th October 2020

Respiratory Project Nurse

8 shifts per fortnight (0.8 EFT) – Fixed term to 30th June 2020

Lifestyle and Leisure Assistant

6 shifts per fortnight (0.6 EFT) – Permanent

NATHALIA CAMPUS

Enrolled Nurse – Grade 2 / 3

Casual

Administration Assistant

6 shifts per fortnight (0.6 EFT) – Permanent Part Time

Visit our website for further information including position descriptions, contact details and application processes. All applications close at 5pm on the 6th October 2019.

www.cobramdistricthealth.org.au

www.nathaliahospital.org.au

www.ndhs.org.au

TROPHIES & ENGRAVING NUMURKAH LEADER



Numurkah Community Learning Centre

October - December Courses/Activities

COURSE	TIME	START DATE
Accredited Courses		
Youth Program 15-24 Years		
Certificate in General Education for Adults	10am-3pm	Tue 8th Oct
Compliance and Workplace Requirement Courses		
Responsible Service of Alcohol (Vic) (Deivered by AMD Training Solutions)	5.30pm-9.30pm	Tue 12th Nov
First Aid - Delivered by Yarrowonga Education & Training-RTO 21765		
HLTAID001 – Provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation	9am-1pm	Sat 19th Oct
HLTAID003 – Provide first aid	9am-5pm	Sat 19th Oct
FREE Courses available for Term 4		
Computer Skills for Employment (7 sessions)	9.30am-12.30pm	Thurs 24th Oct
Introduction to MyGov Website (2 sessions)	1pm-3.30pm	Thurs 14th Nov
Beauty and Wellbeing (6 sessions)	9.30am-2.30pm	Wed 30th Oct
FoodREDI Course (3 sessions)	10am-1pm	Thurs 10th Oct
FREE childcare with a registered Childcare Provider may be available to eligible students studying the above courses		
Pre Accredited Courses		
Introduction to Horticulture (20 sessions)	9am-2pm	Tues 8th Oct
Special Interest Activities		
Auslan - Australian Sign Language (5 sessions)	5pm-6pm	Tues 22nd Oct
Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop	1pm-2pm	Mon 21st Oct
Boomerang Bag Making (4th Wed of the month)	10am-4pm	Wed 30th Oct
iPads, Tablets and Smartphones (2 sessions)	1pm-3pm	Thurs 24th Oct
Meditation Classes (Every Wednesday evening)	8pm-8.45pm	Wed 25th Sept
Meditation Classes (Every Thursday during school terms)	11am-11.45am	Thurs 10th Oct
NumurkahUkelele Club (Every Wednesday)	7pm-9.30pm	Wed 25th Sept
Parents Support Group (Every Monday during school terms)	9am-11am	Mon 7th Oct
Sip N Sew Social Group (Every second Wednesday)	10am-3pm	Wed 2nd Oct
Yoga - Dru (Every Monday during school terms)	7pm-8.30pm	Mon 7th Oct
Yoga - Purna (Every Tuesday during school terms)	6.30pm-7.30pm	Tues 15th Oct
Yoga - Ashtanga Sunday Class	8.30am-10am	Sun 10th Nov

Bookings and enquiries are welcome and may be made at 99 Melville Street (Visitor Information Centre), Numurkah
Phone 58 622 249 or email nclcj@bigpond.com
Please like us on Facebook or see our website www.nclc.me

Have your Local Phone Book details changed?

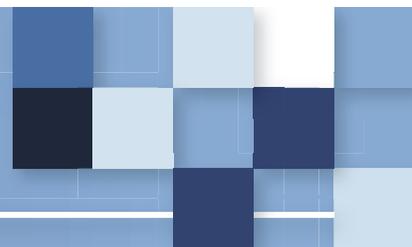


Please let us know before next year's edition so that we can ensure that all the information is correct

NumurkahLEADER

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Numurkah LEADER Classifieds



GARAGE SALES

23 Maple Crescent Numurkah
 Saturday 28th September
 Starting 9am - 3pm
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IN MEMORIAM



BARNSTABLE — Jenny.
 10.10.64 - 30.9.15
 It's been 4 long years since you suddenly left us.
 Missing you, always in my thoughts
 Terry

Dear Mum,
 Love you always, missing you more than ever Mum.
 Forever missed but still in our hearts.
 Love from Kyle

Mum,
 We miss you more and more each passing year.
 Forever in our hearts.
 Love from Josh and Liz.

DEATHS

GUNDRILL — William John "Bill" 13.7.1933~21.9.2019
 Passed away peacefully at Numurkah, surrounded by his family.
 Husband of Marjorie. Father and father-in-law of Philip, Gwenda, Bill and Shirley and their partners. Grandpa and Pa of 17 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren.

*Now At Peace
 A Life Well Lived, A Man Well Loved*

There's a gift in life you cannot buy, It's very rare but true, A special gift of memories, Like the ones I have of you.
 Loved husband for 63 years of Marjorie.

Father of Philip, father-in-law of Rhonda.
 Grandpa of Robyn, Stephen, Alan and Kim.
 Friend of Step, Emma and Kane.

Great Grandpa to Skye, Kara, Charlotte and Mila.
Now At Rest

Loving father of Gwenda, friend to Bob.

Much loved Grandpa of Dean, Roxanne, Clinton, Kurtis, Jenna, Katelyn, Serena, Michelle and partners.
 Cherished Great Grandpa of 18.

Father of Bill, friend to Annie.
 Special Pa to Rodney and Alicia, Melissa and Josh.
 Great Pa to Tahlia, Nathan, Max and Harriet.
 How lucky we were and very proud too,
 To have a Dad and Pa as wonderful as you.

Dearly loved father of Shirley, father-in-law of Graeme.
 Special Grandpa of Rhiannon, Courtney and Jordan.
 Thank you for the years we shared,
 The love you gave and the way you cared,
 The long battle has now passed, finally at peace.

DEATHS

HUTCHINS — Neville Thomas "Chief" 9.12.1935~20.9.2019
 Late of Nathalia, passed away peacefully after a long illness, at G.V. Health, Shepparton.
 Our loving husband, Dad and Pop, dearly loved by his wife Joy of 58 years, his children and their partners Brendan; Kate and Jim; daughter-in-law Tory, his grandchildren Alex, Jordan, Jamie, Lincoln and Ethan; friend and "Chief" to Sharon and Travis.
We'll Love And Remember You 'Til Forever Ends

May the winds of love blow softly
 And whisper for you to hear,
 That we will love and remember you
 And forever keep you near.

No words we write could ever say,
 How empty and sad we feel today,
 But in our hearts you will always stay.
 Loved and remembered every day.

Ah, but the book of life must close.
 Like the petals on a rose.

Son of Ned and Nell Hutchins (both dec.).
 Loved brother of Jack, Henry "Ted", Alma, Len, Pat, Nellie, Alan (all dec.), Ivy, Don (dec.), Lindsay, Brian and Doug and their partners.
 Much loved special Uncle to all his nieces, nephews, their partners and families.
To Know Him Was To Love Him

HUTCHINS — Neville Thomas "Chief".
 Passed September 20, 2019.

Much loved brother-in-law of Marie and Ron Martin and uncle of Myles and Tamara, Nick and Steph.
 Special great uncle of Audrey, Leo and Maggie. xxx
 We have so many happy and special times to remember.

DEATHS

HUTCHINS — Neville "Chief".
 Loving brother of Len (dec.) and brother-in-law of Beryl (dec.).
 Much loved uncle of Marg and Ernie, Neil and Bev and their families.
 Special memories of Uncle Chief.
Forever in our hearts.

JOHNS — Neil David
 Late of Numurkah, formerly of Sale.
 Passed away peacefully after a long illness on 20th September, 2019, aged 76.

Reunited with his wife Wendy.
 Cherished Dad, of Andrew, James, Suanne and David.
 Beloved Grandfather of Caitlyn, Braiden, Ebonye, Samantha, Tyson, Rocco, Archie, Eli, Kallen and Javier.

Your battle is now over; no more tears flowing down your cheek,
 No more pain, no more suffering; now you are no longer weak.
 We still do not understand why this had to happen to you,
 But we are proud to say you are my dad, the greatest man we ever knew.

Your pleasures were simple, Your needs were few,
 If we were happy you were too.
 You gave us love in the fullest measure,
 Care, devotion and memories to treasure.
 We shared our hopes and dreams and tears.
 Thank you Dad for those precious, but too few years.
 A beautiful life has come to an end.
All Our Love Forever

WATTERS — Andrew James 'Jim' 1943 - 2019

Loved husband of Christine and loved father and father-in-law of Fiona and John, Simon, and grandfather of William.
 Loved youngest son of Andrew and Dorothea Watters (both dec.).
 Brother and brother-in-law of John (dec.) and Margaret Watters, Bob and Dawn, Margaret, Jean and John Tinney, Helen and John Aberton and their families.

A private memorial service was held in Doncaster.

FUNERAL NOTICES

GUNDRILL — A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. William John "Bill" Gundrill will be held at the Shamrock Hotel, Melville Street Numurkah on MONDAY (September 30, 2019) commencing at 11.30 am.
 Private Cremation

No flowers by request.

*Peter Cox & Sons
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HUTCHINS — A Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Neville Thomas "Chief" Hutchins will be held at the Nathalia Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Church, Chapel and Bromley Streets, Nathalia on FRIDAY (September 27, 2019) at 10.30 am after which the cortege will leave for the Nathalia Lawn Cemetery.

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 DISTRICT
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JOHNS — A Graveside Service for the life of Mr. Neil David Johns, late of Numurkah, formerly of Sale, will be held this FRIDAY (27th September, 2019), commencing at 2pm, at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery, corner of Corke Street and Katamatite Road, Numurkah.

Lions Members are respectfully invited to attend.

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 Location: Cobram

Building Surveyor

Type: Full Time, Permanent
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 Location: Cobram

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Golf bowlers have a busy week

NUMURKAH Golf bowlers have had a very busy week as they gear up for the start of the pennant season in a couple of weeks' time.

A good crowd turned out last Tuesday for the ladies' season opening day, where members started the season with a solid drill session, which seems to have already paid off with good results in the first two major events.

The ladies hosted their first trade day last Wednesday, with 78 bowlers attending the Peter Cox and Sons sponsored event.

The home team of Jan Niven, Jenny Sutcliffe and Yvonne Clark took victory, over Finley's Nan Smith, Fiona Rourke and Heather Tabe. Jerilderie had the best last game score.

The club hosted the first two rounds of the Murray Bowls Division state fours on Sunday, and the club was well represented.

Marie Ryan, Barb Fayers, Lorraine Milner and Merren Carr won their first round against a respected Barooga team, while Jan Niven, Linda Isted, Jenny Sutcliffe and Yvonne Clark had a good win against a Cobram team.

A composite team of Nan Smith (Finley), Loris Houlihan (Numurkah Golf), Heather Tabe (Finley) and Robyn Hodgkin (Numurkah Golf) defeated Tocumwal and then went on to defeat the current title holders from Cobram in the second round.

The two Golf teams played off against each other in the second round, Jan Niven's team winning after a close game.

The final will again be played at Numurkah Golf, this Sunday from 1pm.

Jan Niven's team will meet the Golf/Finley composite team, so either way there will be some happy locals at the end of the day.

The first rounds of the 60 and over pairs will be played at Finley RSC today.

Knights under 8s finish runners-up

THE Numurkah Knights under 8s capped off their season by making it to the grand final on Gala day, however, were beaten in their final match by Shepparton East.

Caleb Lewis and Timmy Oswald tied for the Zac Murfett memorial trophy for Most Inspirational Player in under 10s.

Bethany Oswald was the recipient of the under 12s best and fairest perpetual shield.

Fourth day brings results

by "The Shankster"

AFTER few days playing golf on some challenging golf courses around Torquay last week, Rosemary Rutledge showed on Saturday that she had benefitted from the extra rounds, winning the day's stroke event.

The event was also the annual captain's versus president's team challenge, and Captain Ronnie's team easily overcame President Bev's side by a margin of nearly four shots average.

The day looked a lot like the girls could have expected on the peninsula, cold, windy and sometimes wet, so that perhaps gave Rosemary an advantage on her way to a 74 nett.

Jenny Ludington won a count-back from Karen Harper to finish in second place, followed by Helen Schmedje and Julie Hannaford on 76 netts.

Nola Dalton won nearest the pin on the fourth hole, Karen Harper held on all day to win nearest the prize on the seventh, Bev McIntosh hit a good shot tot he 15th green, and Kath Hepworth won the ball on the 18th.

Although, as stated, a number of the members were away playing in

the Victorian Seniors Tournament at Barwon Valley and Thirteenth Beach golf courses last week, a good number of women turned out to contest last Wednesday's stableford event.

Helen Schmedje finished with the best score of 37 points to win from Tracey Clouston on 35 points.

Balls went to Liz Dell with 34 points, and Pauline Davies and Lorraine Craig on 33.

Pauline won the division one nearest the pin on the seventh hole, while Bev Peacock won the division two ball, and Mavis Birrell won the cake hole voucher to the Numurkah Cafe Bar and Restaurant for a great shot to the 18th green.

Today's golf will be a stroke round that will be the club final of the silver spoon event, and the yearly medal play-off for all those who won monthly medals during the past 12 months.

Saturday will be a stableford round, with most players teeing off in the morning so that they can be finished in time to watch the AFL grand final.

Next Wednesday will be a par round.

Go Tiges!

Houli's back is back

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

FRANK Houlihan is a multi talented sportsman whose success rate has always been tempered by the state of his dodgy back.

This was not the case last Thursday, however, when Frank had a back-ache free, runaway win in Numurkah Golf Club's mid week stableford event.

Scoring 40 points, Frank clearly outpointed the in-form runner-up John Trimble, who finished with a total of 38 points.

Other players whose score won them a pro ball were: Gary Blackburn and Hugh Gunn 37, Bill Green, Jack Hepworth, Neil Hutchins, Geoff Partington and Kerry Collins all 34, Ron Smith, Graeme Sprunt, Ramon Falla, Neville Smith, Ian Hannaford

and Bill Padgett all 33.

Ron Wilson, in a come back of sorts, understandably finished at the tail of the field with the low total of 24 points to win the tin of boiled lollies awarded to those who come last.

Hugh Gunn used his driver skilfully to place his tee shot nearest to the pin on the fourth hole and took home a GMCU sponsored Titleist, whilst Dennis Prosser did the same on the seventh hole to earn the players' sweep money.

Graeme Sprunt played two accurate shots on the 14th hole to win Dennis and Roy's sponsored ball and thus cover the one he had to pay out to John Smith for being closest to the pin on the 15th.

John Trimble rounded out his good day by taking the

Pruden Carpentry sponsored ball on the 18th hole.

This week's winner of the Mickey Mouse ears, awarded to those doing silly things, went to veteran Sid Roughsedge.

On the 16th hole Sid hit his drive out over the fence but, luckily for him, his ball hit a tree and rebounded back onto the course. After a brief search Sid's ball was found and, excited he had not earned a penalty, he pulled out his three-wood, lined up and gave it an almighty heave ho. Swoosh. Sid had missed the ball completely!

If you would like to join our circus, assemble at the clubhouse this Thursday at 9.30 am for a 10 o'clock hit off. Visitors and guests are most welcome.

Captain takes down president

by "Archie Bunker"

THE captain's team proved far too good for the president's men and women when Numurkah golfers contested the annual captain's versus president's challenge on Saturday.

With a good field competing, it was Hugh Gunn who came in with the best score of the day, doing his utmost for President Bev's side, but to no avail.

The day's blustery conditions suited Hughie's game well, and he managed to regularly find the middle of the fairways to finish with a great score of 67 nett to win the B grade voucher.

Runner-up to Hugh was Alan Newby, with 68 nett, who said he was happy to not make many errors during his round.

A grade winner was Ray Falla, with 68 nett, finishing just ahead of his good buddy David Ludington.

Ray sometimes goes off in his own little world to focus on his golf, which he seemed to do on Saturday but, despite this, his playing partners said he still left a few shots out

on the course.

David would have been very happy to have a 69, and it is possible that David's humour may have helped to keep Ray on track.

Ian Clark headed the list of ball winners, also with a 69 nett, followed by Geoff Partington on 70, John Trimble, Bill Padgett and Sid Roughsedge on 72s, and Frank Houlihan continued his good form from last Thursday's round, to take the last of the balls with 73 nett.

John Trimble won nearest the pin on the fourth hole, Robbie Sutton had the best shot to the seventh, Graham Sprunt was best on the 15th, and Alf Patman won the ball on the 18th.

The even handicappers who made up Captain Ronnie's team finished with an average score of 74.125, beating the president's odd handicappers, with 78.

This Saturday's golf will be a stableford round, with most participants hitting off early in order to be finished in time to watch the AFL grand final between Richmond and GWS.

Golf bowlers in semi

THE Murray Bowls Division section of the state fours title has reached the semi-final stage after two rounds were completed at Numurkah Golf and Bowls Club on Sunday.

The Numurkah Golf team of skipper Mark Jones, Geoff Sutcliffe, birthday boy Neil "Nipper" Macklin and Joe Luci is one of the semi-finalists, having eliminated Berrigan's Rick Bradbury's rink in the second round after a first round bye.

Jones and his team will play the Finley RS rink skipped by Warren Blanch next Sunday at the same venue in one semi final, while Wunghnu's Barry Cosgrove will lead his team against Baroo-

ga's Jim Townsing in the other.

Both matches will commence at 10am.

Also on Sunday, Numurkah Golf's Saturday pennant team will host Tallygaroopna in a practice match starting at 1pm. Intending players are urged to enter their names on the list on the club noticeboard.

A further practice match will be held against Wunghnu, also at home on Saturday, October 5 and pennant begins on Saturday, October 12.

Syllabus books for the 2019-20 season have been printed and Golf members can get them from Butch Browning or Jan Niven.

Community groups shoot off

IT was a busy week at the Numurkah Small Bore rifle range, as the club hosted two community groups, as well as its own regular meet.

Numurkah cricket club members shot two different disciplines last Tuesday night, with Matt Cline top scoring in both 20 metre prone, with a score of 167.1, and with 157.1 in 50 metre prone.

Shaun Downie top scored in 50 metre benchrest with 197.6.

Other scores were as follows: M. Graddell - 20m prone 66.1 79.0 165.1, 50m prone 75.0 60.0 135.0, M. Cline - 20m prone 83.1 84.0 167.1, 50m prone 78.0 79.1 157.1, S. Downie - 20m prone 81.0 86.0 167, 50m bench 92.2 95.4 187.6, B. Naughton - 20m prone 68.0 77.0 145.0, 50m prone 58.0 75.0 133.0, S. Dawson - 20m prone 52.0 44.0 96.0, 50m bench 88.1 94.2 182.3.

Then, on Saturday it was time for the Venturers from Baulkamaugh, Kialla, Mooroopna and Shepparton North to try their hands.

Participants shot 20 metre prone and 50 meter benchrest. Eleisha Lee shot the

top score of 173.1 for 20 metre prone and Will Galt top scored in 50 metre benchrest with 190.6.

Thursday was the monthly Fritz Schmidt handicap event, with Glenn Braybon leading 20 metre prone with 200.10, 50 metre benchrest leader was Lou Cook with 199.2, and 50 metre prone was led by Hannah O'Brien with 198.6.

Scores for 20 metre prone: G. Braybon 97.6 99.4 196.10, T. Braybon 98.6 96.6 194.12, L. Braybon 95.4 98.4 193.8, R. Hill 97.3 94.3 191.6, S. Rosemeier 94.0 93.1 187.1, A. Gibbon 94.4 92.1 186.5, D. Cook 88.0 94.1 182.1, G. Miles 88.0 86.2 174.2, M. Brown 83.0 88.0 171.0, J. Matys 88.2 82.0 170.2, J. Matys 80.0 85.0 165.0.

Scores for 50 metre benchrest: D. Bradshaw 189.4, C. Saxton 187.2, E. Ryan 186.3, G. Miles 180.2, B. Braybon 175.2.

Scores for 50 metre prone: H. O'Brien 91.2 95.4 186.6.

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

Action on croquet courts

THE Numurkah croquet courts saw plenty of action last week, with golf croquet social play on Tuesday, association pennant on Wednesday, golf croquet pennant on Thursday and association practice on Friday.

With the improvement in the weather and the return of holiday makers, numbers at golf croquet have increased.

Aggregate winner for the day last Tuesday was Joan I. Hansen with three wins and 21 hoops, followed closely by three equal runners-up: David Geddes, Kevin Hansen and Graham Tyack, all with 2/20.

Gordon Brown played two successful jump shots, while Joan I. and Kevin Hansen both scored one each.

After a great win the previous week, Numurkah's association pennant team saw a reversal of fortunes when it met Shepparton Green last Wednesday.

In a low scoring match, Green won the day with 4/77 to Nu-

murkah's 2/39. Numurkah's two wins came from Lea Grant, 9-8, and Jennifer Sprunt, 8-6.

There were mixed results for the two golf croquet teams on Thursday, a very big win for the Blues, at home to Rich River Emus, and a close but disappointing loss for White, at Deniliquin.

Blue got off to a great start to its match, winning six of the eight singles, setting up a big challenge to their opposition, with only four doubles matches left to play.

After a change to the rules this season, Numurkah was able to play a substitute in the doubles.

Laurus Hinchcliffe excelled as the substitute, winning both doubles, 7-0 with Kevin Hansen, and 7-2 with Rhonda Geddes.

Joan I. Hansen won both her singles games, and David Geddes won all four of his games, with Blue only losing two singles matches for the day.

The end result saw Numurkah Blue take victory 10/79 to 2/47. Numurkah White went down

to Deniliquin by just five hoops, but could only manage to win four games in an extremely close match, 4/65 to 8/70.

Kirsten Strike was the best player for White, winning both her singles games and her first doubles, and only going down 5-7 in the second doubles.

Golf croquet pennant this Thursday will see Numurkah White at home to Kyabram, and Blue travelling to Echuca.

The association pennant team will be at home to Rich River today.

The club will hold a Senior Week come and try day next Tuesday, October 1, commencing at 1pm, but being a senior is not a pre-requisite. Anyone interested in trying their hand at croquet will be made very welcome. Equipment will be provided by the club.

Play should finish around 3.30pm with a cuppa and afternoon tea.

Good seasons crowned for Mitch and Sarah

MITCH Sidebottom and Sarah Weidemann were crowned as the Katunga Football Netball Club's top players for the 2019 season, when votes were counted on Saturday evening.

Sidebottom, a mobile ruckman who can take high flying marks, as well as push back as a strong defender, won the Keith Wills Medal ahead of Kevin van den Goor, who has worked hard to improve his game this season, his ability to kick accurately and rarely miss a target a key feature of his game.

Sidebottom's partner, Sarah Weidemann, only joined the Swans this season, but made a real impact, both on and off the court. The defender took out the Rachel Howden Medal ahead of Rachel Howden, who played her 300th A grade game this year.

Josh Tetley had an outstanding year after returning to the club this year to win the John Cossens 2nd XVIII medal, his season soured by a broken leg in the last home and away game, which cost him a chance to prove himself in the finals series.

Versatile Trent Corby finished as runner-up. The B grade netball best and fairest was won by Kate Towe, an experienced leader, who put in solid performances each week, ruthless in defence. Kate also finished runner-up in the league medal, and had a big impact on the Swans' B grade premierships win.

Jordyn Sutton shot an incredible 748 goals for the season, and finished runner-up.

Other netball awards went to Kate Mansfield in C grade, ahead of Shanel Few, and Kylea Sidebottom won the C grade best and fairest, with Madison Donehue runner-up.

Dennis Learmonth was awarded the Don Harrison club person of the year trophy, as a great contributor to the club, even though he has no family involvement in the club any more.

Dennis has been doing the timekeeping for both the seniors and seconds every week, including away games and finals, for the past four to five years, and is always prepared to assist with other events as needed.

OTHER AWARDS

1st XVIII - Jake O'Hara Best Team Man, Xavier Thorp; Duncan Hendy Most Determined, Ethan Hodgkin; Coaches' trophy, Will Newman.

2nd XVIII - Best team man, Josh Bale; Coaches' trophy, Luke Davis; Most consistent, Michael John; Most determined, Tony Harris; Best in finals, Steve Few and Tyler Hinck.

A grade - Coaches' trophy, Emma Fothergill; Best in finals, Sarah Weidemann.

B grade - Players' player, Stacey Weeks; Best in finals, Jordyn Sutton.

C grade - Coaches' trophy, Marlee Ingamells. C reserve - Coaches' trophy, Ash Lee.



Top Swans ... Mitch Sidebottom and Sarah Weidemann.



B grade ... Kate Towe.



Reserves ... Josh Tetley.



C grade ... Kate Mansfield.

Swans count juniors



Top netballer ... 17 and under B&F Sammy Simpson.



Best and fairest ... Under 17 winner Kody Jackson.

KODY Jackson survived an extremely tight vote count to emerge as Katunga's under 17 best and fairest when votes were counted on the weekend.

Only six votes separated the top five vote-getters, and Jackson sneaked home by a solitary vote over runner-up Sam Arho.

A quick and agile, highly skilled wingman/half back flanker, Jackson went into the Swans' premierships decider with 14 grand final losses to his name, in both cricket and football, but finally tasted success in his 15th attempt when the Swans defeated Strathmerton in the Picola league final.

An accurate and dominant goaler, Sammy Simpson took out the 17 and under netball top award, finishing ahead of pocket rocket Demi Hendy, who is still eligible to play in the 13 and under team.

Abbie Smith's ability to play at both ends of the netball court saw her win the 15 and under best and fairest award, ahead of reliable goal keeper Eloise Kelly.

Rahni Garner won the 13 and under netball award, finishing ahead of defender Renae Russo.

Viv Russo never gives up on the footy ground and, with another year left in the fourths, and a 2019 best and fairest award in hand, shows plenty of potential for the Swans.

Russo finished just two votes ahead of runner-up Lochie O'Brien, who missed out on a berth in the thirds premierships side, after breaking his leg just two days before the grand final.

The junior club person of the year award was this year shared between Nick Thorp and Abbie Smith.

Nick assisted coaching the fifths on both training and match days, as well as assisting with umpiring duties. He regularly assisted with the thirds on Saturdays, doing water, timekeeping, goal umpiring and vote cards.

Nick missed out on being eligible to play in the thirds' premierships side by a matter of hours, but his dedication to the side never wavered. He showed himself to be a great role model for younger players.

Abbie helped with the setup of the courts at every home game, regularly umpired the 11 and under games, could often be found babysitting, and was willing to help out wherever needed, making her very worthy of the recognition.

Editorial

IT'S A TOUGH GAME SOMETIMES

THE newspaper business can be a difficult gig at times, when every mistake you make is presented on a platter, in print, to the whole district.

This was evidenced last week when, despite being written, the Numurkah football story failed to make its way into the publication.

Tuesdays are always a bit hectic in our office, but footy and netball finals add a little more chaos to the pot, with many games being played on Sundays.

Our most valued club scribes often struggle to get in their reports in their usual timely fashion (and we certainly understand this), but we find ourselves struggling to meet deadline as a result.

Sure, this is a bit of an excuse, and one we usually manage to overcome without our readers being any the wiser, but on this occasion we messed up, and the Numurkah report was left out.

Readers expressed their disappointment to me but, I can assure you, no-one was as disappointed as we were.

But as tough as the newspaper business is, Numurkah footballers found footy an incredibly tough game too.

To cut a long story short, the Numurkah seniors missed out on the weekend's grand final match against Nathalia, going down to Tongala by a solitary point, after leading by 19 points deep into the final quarter.

The story that should have appeared last week follows:

Blues pipped at post

NUMURKAH snatched defeat from the jaws of victory on Sunday, going down by the narrowest of margins to Tongala in the

Murray Football League preliminary final.

Numurkah started strongly, with the ruck tandem of Mitch Price and Michael Griffiths having the advantage early.

The midfield capitalised on this to surge forward on several occasions where Mikey Herlihy and Ben Gunning were lively inside forward 50.

The Blues maintained possession for most of the quarter to restrict any chance of Tongala working forward, limiting them to one goal to the Blues four in the first term.

Tongala worked its way back into the contest in the second term, but wasteful kicking and the strong resolve of Grant Gallus, with support from his defenders on the last line of defence, resulted in Tongala only kicking one goal six behinds despite having the majority of the play in their forward half.

After the main break, the Blues started to get overrun by their Tongala opponents. The Tongala midfield was looking more dangerous and began to match the Numurkah onballers around the ground.

Numurkah was still able to put four goals on the board for the quarter but at the other end the revolving Tongala forward line made the most of their forward entries to kick straighter than the first half and finish with a 5 goal quarter to see Numurkah two points up at the last break.

Numurkah came out firing to start the last quarter. Mitch Price got back on top at the centre stoppages and both Beau McKeown and Jamie Fulton willed the ball out of the packs to go long inside 50.

The forward entries created chaos for the Tongala defence where Herlihy and Gunning, along with Josh Hoffmann, were once again

dangerous.

With the margin out to 19 points in the Blues favour, Tongala began to find the answers and closed the gap as the quarter wore down, through veterans Jordan Souter and Cam Ilett.

Scores drew level and with one minute left on the clock, Tongala kicked a point to take the lead, managed to keep the ball in their half to hold onto the slimmest advantage and Numurkah came away with the heartbreaking one point loss to miss a grand final appearance.



Season over ... Numurkah co-coach Jye Warren.

NETBALL SCOREBOARD

MNL

GRAND FINALS

A GRADE

Echuca United 35 d Moama 33

B GRADE

Moama 52 d Deniliquin 40

C GRADE

Echuca United 44 d Mulwala 31

C RESERVE

Echuca United 33 d Mulwala 30

17 & UNDER

Echuca United 31 d Moama 21

15 & UNDER

Deniliquin 37 d Tongala 32

13 & UNDER

Tongala 48 d Finley 54

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD 2019

MFL

GRAND FINALS

Saturday at Finley

SENIORS

Nathalia 2.3, 5.5, 10.6, 13.8 (86)
 Tongala 1.2, 1.6, 5.9, 5.11 (41)
 GOALS, Nathalia: Bailey Bell 4, Ashley Quinn 3, Thomas Byrnes 2, Liam Evans 1, Ben Armstrong 1, Brett Valender 1, Adam Jorgensen 1. Tongala: Jordan Souter 2, Makenzie Ryan 1, Jack Hammond 1, Coby McCarter 1.
 BEST, Nathalia: Bailey Bell, Brodie Ross, Alex Hicks, Ryan Butler, Ashley Quinn, Tom Nihill. Tongala: Cameron Ilett, Jack Hammond, Anthony Dennis, Jordan Souter, Adam Lovison, Riley Bacon.

RESERVES

Tongala 3.7, 4.9, 7.10, 9.11 (65)
 Rumbalara 0.0, 2.2, 4.3, 6.4 (40)
 GOALS, Tongala: Bradley Power 2, Tyler Vick 1, Steven Phillips 1, Bryce Denham 1, Jesse Robilliard 1, Charlie Lowe 1, Samuel Tyler 1, Jesse Moran 1. Rumbalara: Blayne Briggs 2, Graham Weston 2, Jamie Michael 1, Alanlance Hexter 1.
 BEST, Tongala: Zane Johnstone, Tyler Vick, Daniel Maher, Lachy Hipwell, Matthew Ohlsen, Tom Nevill. Rumbalara: Kane Atkinson, Jonathon Henderson, Alanlance Hexter, Graham Weston, Blade Larkins, Simon Hunter.

UNDER 17

Cobram 2.2, 5.2, 6.6, 9.10 (64)
 Rumbalara 1.2, 4.3, 5.4, 5.5 (35)
 GOALS, Cobram: Lewis McShane 4, Will Slatterie 2, Matteo Allen 1, Harry Beasley 1, Luca Allen 1. Rumbalara: Djaidha Miller 2, Lenard Weston 1, Andre Briggs 1, Anthony Miller 1.
 BEST, Cobram: Matteo Allen, Luca Allen, Lewis Kennedy, Will Slatterie, Lewis McShane, Oscar Mackay. Rumbalara: Gavin Handy, Ashlyn Atkinson, Jayden Armstrong, Tyreese Briggs, Bailey Wilson, Malachi Atkinson.

UNDER 14

Deniliquin Rams 2.2, 3.3, 4.4, 6.10 (46)
 Nathalia 1.0, 1.1, 2.2, 2.3 (15)
 GOALS, Deniliquin Rams: Charlie Hillier 2, Zac Free 2, Brodie Park 1. Nathalia: Mason Cobbleddick 1, Darcy Conroy 1.
 BEST, Deniliquin Rams: Charlie Hillier, Marcus Moore, Logan Leiper, Cooper King, Zac Free, William McCartney. Nathalia: Ewan Congues, Oliver Sheehan, Darcy Conroy, Kai Lundberg, Max Frostick, Ned Bramwell.

Girl power powers Katunga

THERE were some emotional scenes when Katunga Football Netball Club life member Rachael Howden invited two more women to join her as life members of the club.

Peta Russo and Kellie Salter were described as two very hard members of the club, dedicated and significant contributors to the club.

Peta has been senior vice president of the club, and on the netball committee for many years, which included two years as treasurer.

In 1997 Peta began assisting with the casserole tea rosters, but it was in 2010 when Peta took on the role of catering coordinator for the netball club, that the club saw her flare and devotion to the role really evolve, and Peta continues in this role to this day.

"Pete's dedication to coordinating the canteen, Thursday night meals and any other event which requires catering, is exceptional," Howden said.

"Her commitment to this role has been further demonstrated by her choosing to take multiple seasons off playing to concentrate on ensuring the smooth running of the introduction of new concepts.

"Since 2010, when Peta commenced doing the Thursday night sit down meals, even whilst playing, her commitment to these responsibilities, and the value that she places on this, both socially and financially, has meant she has missed out on training with her team on these nights."

Peta has been responsible for the introduction of deep fryers and a coffee machine in the club canteen, and has since introduced salad bowls as a healthy meal alternative.

"Our canteen is well renowned around the league for its smooth operation and variety of options," Howden said.

"Our Thursday night dinners are exemplary and the inclusion of kids' meals, half serves, sweets and takeaway meals not only provide a fantastic community atmosphere within the club' but make the nights a good revenue raiser."

On weekly meal nights the club serves up an average of 75 kids' meals and 100-130 adult meals.

Kellie has played 300 senior club games with the Swans, winning dual premierships and a runner-up best and fairest award.

"Kellie exemplifies the type of player every coach wants in their team, her encouragement and ability to listen and influence those around her is extraordinary," Howden said.

Upon joining the Katunga Football Netball Club, Kellie immediately got involved with helping coordinate the casserole rosters for the netball club and being on the social committee.

In 2001 she stepped up to the position of president, as well as taking on coaching of the juniors. Since this time Kellie has taken on many coaching roles, including as assistant coach



In it for life ... Kellie Salter, Rachael Howden and Peta Russo at Saturday night's life membership presentation.

for the A grade side in 2014.

"Kellie's passion for coaching is remarkable. She wasn't phased in the slightest with the large numbers in her 11 and under team this year and quickly set about establishing two teams within the team to assist coordinate fair rotations and roster system," Howden said.

Kellie has always been involved in the netball committee, taking on such roles as publicity officer, grant coordinator, senior netball convenor, netball sponsorship coordinator and grounds committee representative, and since the amalgamation of the football and netball clubs, Kellie has continued to

be involved with securing sponsorships for the club.

"In 2014 Kellie joined the amalgamated committee and took on the role of first aid coordinator, then in 2015 she stepped up to the position of senior vice president - netball, and was instrumental in securing an outside A grade coach for the first time."

"Both of these dedicated ladies have been significant contributors to the club for 24 years, have had a substantial influence on the club and are absolutely deserving of this acknowledgement for their loyalty and devotion to our wonderful club," Howden concluded.

Fourths fall short

A PREMIERSHIP flag remains elusive for the Nathalia fourths who went down to Deniliquin by 31 points at Finley on Saturday.

The boys were in their third straight grand final and, unfortunately, were unable to better their previous two results.

A blustery morning greeted both teams and it took a while for the sides to settle. Great pressure from Ryan Dealy, Kian Brereton and Jack Hutchins enabled the Purples to get on the board.

Connor Peachey, Jerry Amery and Mason Cobbleddick relished the conditions, and their foot speed was apparent in numerous contests.

At half time the deficit was 14 points and the Purples were still in the game.

The efforts from Ewan Congues and Darcy Conroy were fantastic all game, and Gus Bramwell in the ruck, proved a handful for Deniliquin, giving Kai Lundberg, Charlie Sheehan and Brandon Orton a lot of the footy.

Billy Liddell, Brodie Armstrong, Brady Walpole and Elgin Farrall-Stone were fearless in and under, as they have been all year. The backline, led by Oliver Sheehan, Max Frostick, Ned Bramwell, Charlie Dietrich, Ben Nave and Tom Dohnt were terrific for the entire game, however, were unable to prevent the Rams from kicking away in the final term.

Best Players: Ewan Congues, Oliver Sheehan, Darcy Conroy, Kai Lundberg, Max Frostick, Ned Bramwell.



Let's stick together ... The under 14s run through the banner prior to the start of play on Saturday.

1, 2, 3, CAN THEY KEEP STREAK ALIVE?

Continued from back page

Sixteen year old Ben Armstrong, playing his first full year at senior level, kicked his first goal for the seniors in the final quarter and had the players and supporters cheering from all levels.

"It was fantastic to kick my first goal for the seniors in the grand final," Armstrong said.

"It was really exciting and a fantastic win for us."

Nathalia held Tongala goalless in the last quarter, whilst booting another three, to take an unprecedented fifth straight senior flag.

Bailey Bell, with his four goals and tireless ground work, was judged the VCFL medallist in an outstanding display.

Liam Evans, who had a great year, was named player of the finals.

The senior premiership was a first for young Nathalia players Harrison

Hawks, Clancy Congues, Armstrong and Tom Bynes, who had won a senior premiership with Picola previously.

They were ecstatic after the final siren, soaking up the atmosphere with Purples mainstays, Jason Limbrick, nine premierships, Ash Quinn and Brett Vallender, each with eight.

"It's a feeling of relief that we finally did it," an excited Clancy Congues said.

"We trained at Katandra, prior to the Congupna match and it was quite windy, very similar to the conditions we had today, which worked in our favour, however, we played well and we knew our best would beat their best."

The boys continued their celebrations with a parade around Nathalia on Monday.

There was a procession down the main street with the boys pil-

ing into trailers and tractors and visiting the hospital and Barwo, reflecting that it truly is a community effort.

"The whole town is involved, the community gets behind us and it's fantastic," said Barnes.

Best Players: Bailey Bell; Alex Hicks; Brodie Ross; Ash Quinn; Ryan Butler; Tom Nihill; Ricky Barnes; Clancy Congues; Tom Byrnes.



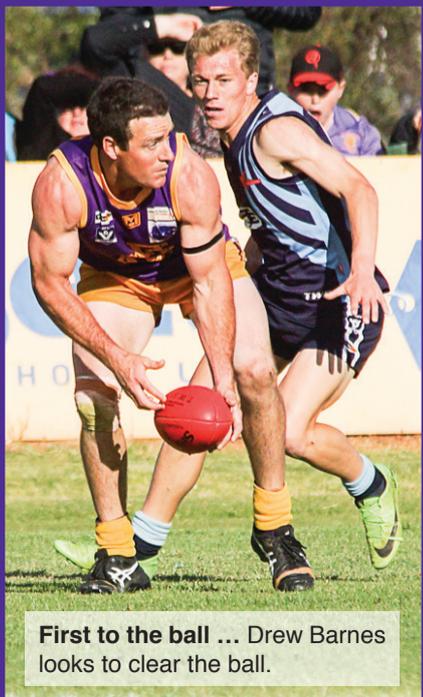
Presenting the cup ... Administrator of the year, Nathalia secretary, Jeannette Hill presents the cup to Tom Nihill and Mal Barnes.



Wonderful feeling ... Mal Barnes holds the trophy, the first of his coaching career.



Doing it tough ... Tom Byrnes comes off with the blood rule.



First to the ball ... Drew Barnes looks to clear the ball.

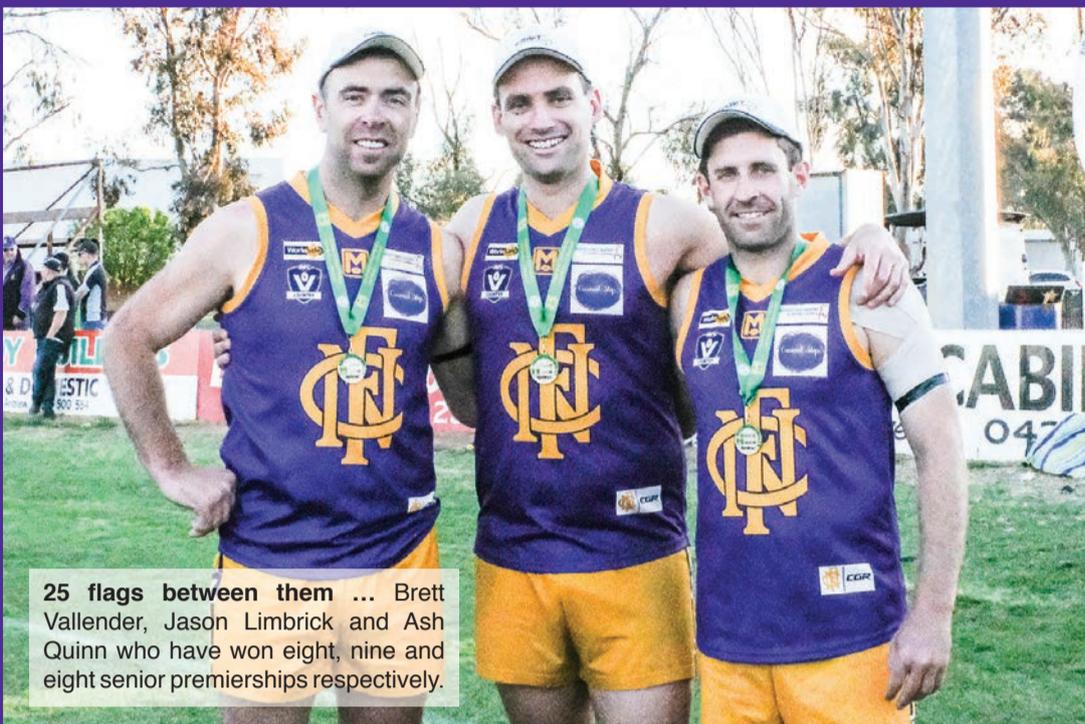


Rising up ... Brodie Ross appears to have the upper hand in this ruck duel.

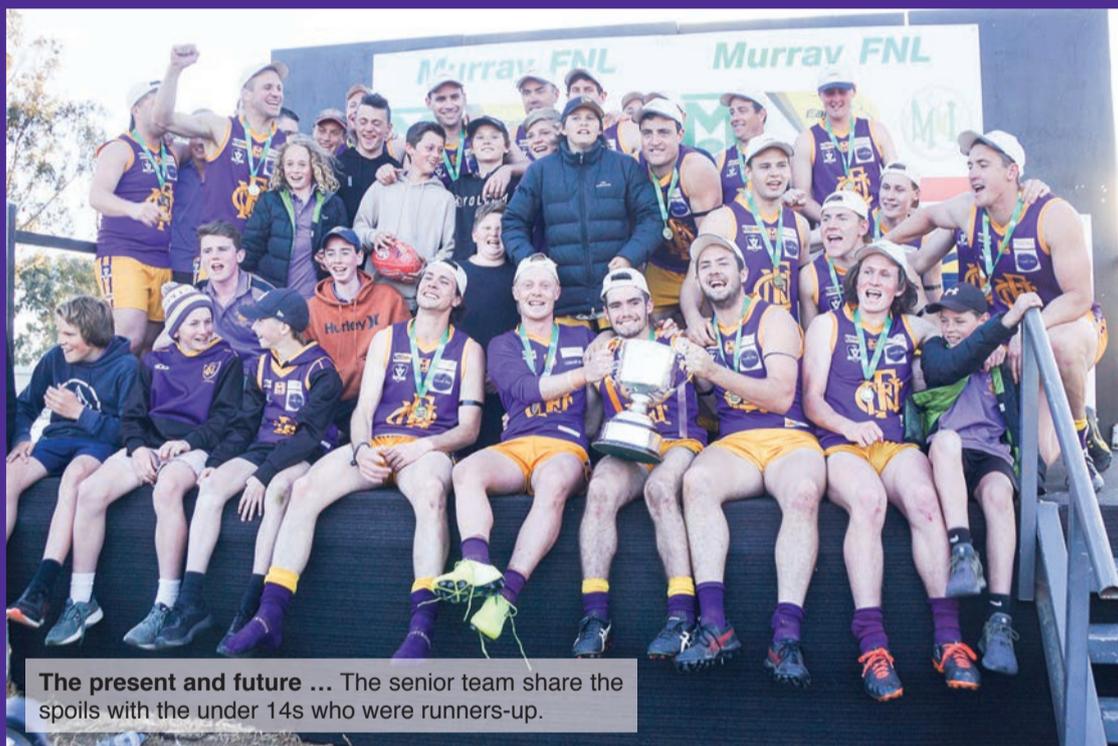


Young guns ... Ben Armstrong, Tom Byrnes, Harrison Hawks and Clancy Congues with their first premiership medallions for Nathalia.

4,5 THE



25 flags between them ... Brett Vallender, Jason Limbrick and Ash Quinn who have won eight, nine and eight senior premierships respectively.



The present and future ... The senior team share the spoils with the under 14s who were runners-up.



Golden fist ... Ryan Butler punches the ball clear.



Medal winners ... Player of the match and player of the finals series, Bailey Bell and Liam Evans.



Brotherly love ... Tom, Ned and Joe Nihill after the match. Tom received a shoulder injury during the match and Joe was unable to play due to a shoulder injury received just prior to finals.



Three amigos ... Brothers Drew, Ricky and Mal Barnes proudly hold the premiership cup.



Gotcha! ... Alex Hicks lays a tackle while Mal Barnes comes in to assist.



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FIVE AND COUNTING



Winners are grinners ... Nathalia seniors celebrate their premiership win.

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. The 45 point win to the Purples saw them take out their 10th flag in 15 years, a fantastic effort considering the team is made up solely from local players. "All of our players played junior footy here at Nathalia apart from four, however they went to school here," Nathalia coach Mal Barnes said. "We had a great mix of young and

older experienced players and we all know each other really well, which helps with developing the side," said Barnes who had coached his first ever premiership win. "I said to the boys, it's a matter of staying the journey, it might happen in the first quarter or it might happen in the last five minutes of the game. That's what our mantra has been all season," said Barnes. Blustery conditions met the sides early on and it was hard work moving the ball forward.

The deadlock was broken when Ash Quinn slotted home the first goal of the game and Nathalia took a seven point lead into the first break. The second quarter was much like the first, however Nathalia appeared to handle the strong cross ground wind better, with Ricky Barnes giving the Purples first use of the ball. Tom Byrnes entered the fray to take contested marks, and kick two goals, whilst Bailey Bell, Alex Hicks and Tom Nihill were influential, winning countless possessions to drive the

Purples forward. Nathalia extended its lead to 23 points at the main break, restricting the Blues to one goal in the first half. Both teams came out firing after the break, and the game lifted a notch in physicality, which saw the Purples' captain, Tom Nihill, leave the field with a shoulder injury after being crunched by a Tongala player, not returning for the remainder of the match. Tongala scored the first goal of the third quarter to close the gap, however Nathalia responded with two goals to

Bailey Bell in a best afield performance. Brodie Ross was getting on top in the ruck, while Ryan Butler, Drew Barnes and Alex Hicks started taking control. A combined nine goals were scored in the third quarter and the Purples took a 27 point lead into the last break. The final quarter saw the wind die down slightly and Nathalia take full control, with clean hands at ground level and strong hands in the air. Bell kicked the first of the quarter, snapping truly after a three bounce run.

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INSIDE SPORT

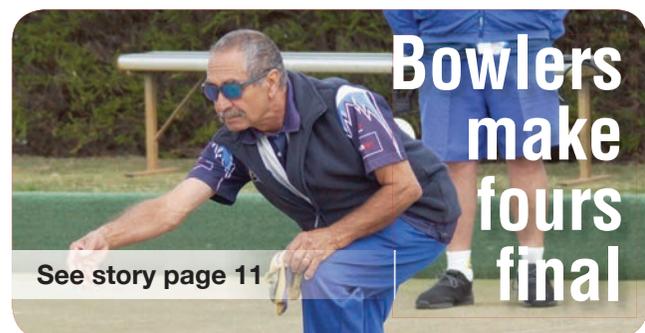


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Croquet in swing



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Bowlers make fours final