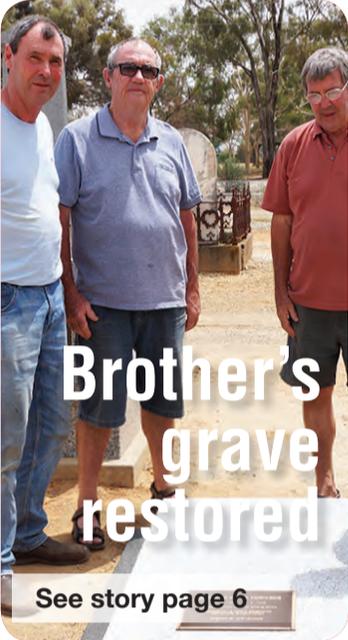


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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020

\$1.30

INSIDE



**Brother's
grave
restored**

See story page 6



**Sewing
for a cause**

See story page X



**Rescue
mission**

See story page 4



Lake to run dry

Dropping quickly ... The water level in Lake Numurkah is slowly but steadily getting lower.

WITH no significant rain forecast for the coming months, it is expected that the bottom of Lake Numurkah will be clearly visible in the near future, and plans are being made to take advantage of that situation to safeguard it against future dry spells.

The three entities with an interest in the lake - Lakeside Developments, Moira Shire and Department of En-

vironment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) - have been in talks about deepening the lake bed when the seemingly inevitable happens and evaporation empties it completely.

Lakeside Country Club manager Darren Drum told the *Leader* that although the club is keen to see the project happen sooner rather than later, the timing was entirely dependent on the weather.

"There is no way I can put a timeline on it, and I don't want to speculate on when it will happen," he said.

"Although the water level is dropping fairly quickly at the moment, we need it to be completely dry in order to get the heavy machinery in to dig, and that may take several months.

"We need to wait until the time is right."

Further discussions are planned between the entities in the near future, with issues such as funding and an exact plan as to the depth and the extent of the digging to take place.

"At this rate, it's inevitable that the lake will be empty soon, and it's an ideal opportunity to do what we can to drought proof it for the future," Mr Drum said.

Corella numbers back up and doing damage

NUMBERS of the notorious little corellas have crept back up in recent weeks, and this week the campaign to move them on has escalated accordingly.

Though nowhere near the 10,000 plus Numurkah was hosting early last year, the flock in town at the moment, estimated to be around 2,000 strong, is large enough to have done plenty of damage already.

In line with its permits issued by DELWP and Victoria Police, the rec reserve committee has continued its management program by engaging professional shooters to conduct a session on Monday evening to shoot a limited number of birds with a view to deterring the flock from landing on the reserve.

In line with the corellas' established behaviour patterns, the birds avoided landing on the rec reserve in significant numbers yesterday, but it is anticipated they may return today - if so, a professional shooting group is on standby to conduct another deterrent shoot.

Numurkah recreation reserve committee of management president Andrew Henderson told the *Leader* that leaving the birds alone is not an option.

"They are just incredibly destructive and have done a huge amount of damage to the facilities at the rec reserve over the years," he said.

"It's much more than just them digging holes in the ground - you can't let them have access to anything that they can damage with their beaks.

"We've had to put frames around the air-conditioning unit and other things on the roof, the wiring for the electronic scoreboard has had to be replaced a couple of times, and they've done their best to destroy the lighting.

"They have cost us a lot of money over the years." Mr Henderson said that a number of methods have been used to try and deter the birds, but little has worked.

"We've tried trapping them, and using the 'eagle eye' mirror disks, but they used to just sit right next to them.

"We've had people driving on the oval to scare them off, but they come back.

Continued page 3.

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No holiday for local brigades

WITH a horror start to the fire season across Australia fuelled by some extreme weather conditions, Numurkah district may have - so far - been fortunate enough to escape the terrifying scenes in other parts of the country, but that doesn't mean local brigades have not been kept extremely busy.

Between December 19 and January 7, local brigades responded to 11 fires, and four other incidents, in addition to local members assisting at fires at Murchison, Euroa and Tallangatta.

The most serious incident locally during the holiday period was a grass fire that burned around 20 hectares after igniting in a hay stack and, pushed by strong gusting winds, spreading into grass and trees on a property at Stokes Road, Strathmerton, between Bearii East Road and Carroll Road, at around 12.20pm on December 30, which was a day of total fire ban.

Tankers from Numurkah, Strathmerton, Cobram, Katunga, Yarroweyah, Naring, Muckatah, Waaia, Yalca/Yielima, Wunghnu, Barmah, Boosey, Drumanure, Kaarimba, Katamatite, Katandra, Nathalia, Picola, Tallygaroopna and Burramine brigades responded, along with forward control vehicles, a forward operations vehicle, quick fill pumps and a rehab vehicle to monitor the health of the firefighters.

Two helicopters were also involved in dropping water on the fire and three task forces - each with four tankers and a forward control vehicle - from Benalla, Echuca and Shepparton, also responded.

An excavator was used to pull the haystack apart so that it could be extinguished, whilst a contractor cut down or knocked over dangerous trees.

Through the combined efforts of the various services, the run of the fire was stopped at a channel.

Police were also in attendance and closed roads around the fire, including the Murray Valley Highway, because of the poor visibility caused by the smoke.

Brigades responded to three other hay stack fires in the district in recent weeks, and although none escalated on the scale of the Strathmerton blaze, a hay stack and rubbish fire at Hester Road, Katamatite on January 3 burnt about half an acre of rubbish and grass.

Brigades from Numurkah, Katamatite, Muckatah, Cobram, Katunga, Naring, Boosey, Katandra, Strathmerton, Tungamah and Yarroweyah responded, and were able to use a quick fill pump to pump water from the creek to the hay trucks. A tractor was used to pull apart the hay stack, which contained around 50 bales, and brigades extinguished the burning bales.

Around 600 hay bales were destroyed in a hay stack blaze at Starrets Road, Bearii on the evening of December 19, but responding firefighters from Strathmerton and Yarroweyah brigades were able to prevent it from spreading outside of the shed.

Another hay stack blaze occurred at Sless Road, Yielima on January 4, with brigades from Strathmerton, Barmah, Yalca/Yielima, Picola and Nathalia attending.

Dousing hay stacks which have ignited internally is a common enough activity for fire crews in the warmer months, but fires caused by spontaneous combustion inside silos is fairly rare.

Nonetheless, Numurkah, Nathalia, Picola, Barmah and Kutupna brigades attended a fire that had spontaneously ignited in a silo of meal at Rex James Stockfeeds on the Murray Valley Highway, Nathalia, on December 21.

Crews emptied the silo to deprive the fire of fuel - with a number of minor dust explosions occurring in the process - and were able to extinguish the blaze.

The need to keep properties clear of rubbish has been brought home over the festive period, with crews responding to two rubbish fires in Numurkah in the week leading up to Christmas.

The first, at the rear of Pinnuck Street on Friday December 20, was quickly and easily extinguished by Numurkah and Katunga brigades

before it could spread.

Whilst also speedily extinguished, by fire crews from Numurkah, Katunga and Wunghnu, the second was slightly trickier as it was between a shed and a fence at a property on Melville Street, between Katamatite/Nathalia Road and Madeleine Street.

The rails on the fence were burnt, and the iron on the shed and fence scorched, but crews were able to extinguish the blaze before it set the shed alight.

In what is hoped isn't a sign of things to come, 2020 started with local crews called to battle two blazes on January 1.

At 10.55am, Nathalia, Kaarimba, Waaia, Strathmerton, Picola, Waaia and Moama brigades responded to a grass fire threatening a shed at a poultry farm at Tinklers Road, Nathalia, which burnt approximately 15 acres.

Then at 9.35pm, Numurkah was called to assist Nathalia at a house fire at Veldt Street, Nathalia, between Pearce and Manifold Streets.

Though 11 of the holiday season call-outs required urgent action, there were four others that proved, thankfully, to be false alarms.

At 9.30pm on Saturday, December 21 - a day on which the temperature reached the low 40s - Numurkah brigade was called to a report of a baby locked in a car. Police also attended, but fortunately the report proved to be false.

On January 3, at 10.15pm, Strathmerton brigade was called to investigate a camp fire at Grassy Beach, Koonoomoo but couldn't find any sign of fire when they arrived at the location.

On Monday January 6, Strathmerton and Yarroweyah brigades were called out twice to assist Cobram brigade when an alarm went off at the Telstra building, Main Street, Cobram.

Numurkah brigade twice responded to alarms at NDHS; the first, on January 5, was caused by an alarm automatically activating due to high temperatures in an electronics room, and the second, at 8.30am on January 7, was caused by burning toast.



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Firies go where they're needed

THE current fire crisis has once again shone a light on the absolutely vital role of volunteer firefighters and the sacrifices they are prepared to make for their communities.

However, it is not just their own communities they are prepared to fight for, firefighters go where they are needed, and in recent weeks, with fires burning across the state, local firies have been needed all over.

Personnel and equipment from local brigades, including Numurkah, Wunghnu, Nathalia, Yarroweyah and Kaarimba have joined task forces assigned to fires in Murchison, Euroa, Tallangatta and Corryong.

Although we may feel a sense of pride in knowing that our local firies are helping other communities in their hours of need, some of us may also experience a sense of trepidation knowing that local resources are absent during potentially dangerous conditions.

CFA district 22 commander Travis Harris told the *Leader* that, although understandable, that feeling is unwarranted.

"We operate a system called the step-up process which allows for coverage and sharing of workloads across the district," he said.

"It's an integral part of how we manage workloads at any time, because our members are volunteers and have work and family commitments that need to be considered, and in busy periods we need to ensure fatigue management as well, so we have systems in place for that.

"There is also the fact that most brigades have 20 to 30 members, but probably only two trucks which take five firefighters each, so there are almost certainly quite a few personnel still in town, even if all of the trucks are called away."

Commander Harris said that the events of December 30 provide an ideal example of how the step-up process works.

With trucks and firefighters from Numurkah, Strathmerton, Cobram, Katunga, Yarroweyah, Naring, Muckatah, Waaia, Yalca/Yielima, Wunghnu, Barmah, Boosey, Drumanure, Kaarimba, Katamatite, Katandra, Nathalia, Picola, Tallygaroopna and Burramine all engaged in fighting a large grass fire at Strathmerton, a tanker and volunteers from Shepparton were sent to Numurkah to ensure a quick response to any other fires in the area.

"We always attempt to provide coverage, but sometimes that proves difficult," he said.

"December 30 was a day of total fire ban with high risk weather conditions so we identified Numurkah as a strategic location to place a vehicle to allow a quick response in the area.

"That proved it's worth on that day because, when a fire was reported in a paddock on Dolphin Street, the crew that had been stepped up to Numurkah were able to respond quickly and extinguish that fire."

Numurkah CFA brigade captain Jason Cox said that it was important to remember that although the CFA does everything it can to ensure communities are covered, and that resources are allocated where they are needed, we must all remain vigilant.

"We can't ever get complacent," he said.

"Everybody can see how dry and crisp it is around the district, we are right in the middle of summer and the weather is constantly up and down. Any fire in these conditions is serious, and a very dangerous fire could easily happen in our area so we all need to be very careful, and never assume that we are not in any danger or that the danger is over."

NCN Health welcomes Corryong evacuees

RESIDENTS of Corryong aged care facilities have received a warm welcome in Moira Shire after being evacuated due to bushfire risk.

Ten of the residents have been housed at Ka-

rinya and Pioneers Memorial Lodge, whilst another has found a temporary home in Nathalia.

It is understood that a further 26 patients

have been transferred from Corryong to Yarrowong Health facilities.

It is not known when the patients will be able to return to Corryong.

Numurkah LEADER

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Back in force ... Corellas were making themselves comfortable on the rec reserve on Monday morning.



Corella numbers back up and doing damage

From page 1.
 “They only thing they seem to respond to is the shooting.
 “Their numbers are down a lot on last year since we started the shooting, so that is working in terms of deterring them. There’s still enough of them to do significant damage though, so we just have to keep at it with the shooting until the rest of them get the message and stay away.”
 Recently, the returned flock has done significant damage to the cricket pitch, which poses a risk to player safety.
 Numurkah Youth Club Cricket Club secretary Tyson Woods told the *Leader* that it was now a given that the grounds would need to be repaired before play on a Saturday.
 “Every week we have around eight people - vol-

unteers - spending a couple of hours on Saturday morning fixing the ground to make it safe for play,” he said.
 “We water the pitch after every match and the corellas like to get at it after it’s been watered. So far we’ve been lucky that any damage to the pitch itself has been limited to early in the week when we have had time to fix it and lay a new pitch before the weekend.
 “If that happened late in the week we wouldn’t have time to repair it and we would have to move the match or, if that wasn’t possible, forfeit.
 “The corellas are relentless. As soon as they turn up in numbers you know you are going to be dealing with a lot of damage.
 “We’ve installed bird scaring kites to try and keep them off the pitch, but in those type of numbers there is only so much you can do to

keep them off it.”
 Following a visit to the rec reserve as part of a DELWP delegation last year, DELWP Hume regional manager Clare Kiely told the *Leader* that, seeing how extensive the damage was, the importance of a solid management plan was clear.
 “Getting people together for recreation is crucial in regional communities, especially when those communities are experiencing other challenges such as drought,” she said.
 “To have those activities jeopardised by damage being done by birds in excessive numbers, like they are here, is something we need to try and avoid.”
 The rec reserve committee has received a grant of \$2,000 from Moira Shire to help with the expense of deterring the birds from causing dam-

age.
 Moira Shire Acting General Manager Community Georgia Hills said council is supporting the rec reserve committee in the protection of a valuable public asset.
 “The committee of management has secured all the appropriate permits from DELWP and has developed an animal management plan which will be monitored and evaluated as it is worked through with methods of animal discouragement a high priority,” she said.
 “Some of these methods include reducing or modifying items the animals, in this instance birds, are chewing on to prevent further damage; exclude them from areas with wildlife friendly netting; and making areas less appealing through the use of bird scaring kites, big eyed balloons and mirrors shining light into nesting trees.”



At work ... A group of corellas enjoying themselves on the grass on the western side of the creek on Monday morning.



Damage ... Taken directly after the photo to the left, this photo shows the damage done by even a small group of the birds.

Kids warned over spate of fires on Dolphin Street

NUMURKAH police have given two local children a stern talking to after a number of fires were lit on a nature strip and vacant land at Dolphin Street in recent weeks.
 The second incident occurred on the afternoon of December 30, when brigades from across the district were already engaged with fighting a large grass fire at Strathmerton.
 A Shepparton tanker with a crew of volunteers, which had been stepped up to Numurkah whilst

Numurkah crews were fighting the Strathmerton fire, attended and extinguished the blaze in a paddock on Dolphin St.
 This followed another fire on December 27, which burnt around five square metres of grass on a nature strip at the corner of Stewart and Dolphin Streets.
 Another fire was lit in the same area on Saturday, January 4, and was also quickly extinguished by Numurkah fire brigade.
 Following information provided by members

of the public, Numurkah police identified two local children as the culprits.
 At least one of the two is also believed to have ignited a fire between a shed and a fence in the rear yard of a Melville Street house on December 23.
 Numurkah Sergeant Joe Tomasino told the *Leader* that the children had been given a stern talking to, and they are not suspected of lighting any fires since.

“We have spoken to the two kids about the dangers of lighting fires, especially in relation to the weather we’ve been experiencing, and the possible consequences of their actions,” he said.
 Efforts are being made to engage the two children in a junior fire awareness and intervention program.
 The age of criminal liability in Victoria is 10, and as both of the children are believed to be younger than this, they cannot be charged with any offences.

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Fish relocated from Lake Numurkah

AN unusual rescue mission has been under way in town recently, with the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) transferring fish from the ailing Lake Numurkah to the safer waters of the Broken Creek.

VFA was assisted in its efforts by staff from Lakeside Country Club Resort, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Moira Shire Council, as well as members of Numurkah Fishing Club.

Moira Shire Council General Manager Community Sally Rice said the relocation, which took place in mid-December, had been brought forward due to a forecast heatwave.

“The last few years have been hot and dry, with the lake receiving limited storm-water runoff from the surrounding residential areas,” she said.

“With the water levels continuing to drop, and forecasts for a hot and dry summer, the fish are vulnerable to increasing water temperatures, decreasing oxygen levels and too many fish for the available space.

“On previous experience and advice from Victorian Fisheries Authority, we believe the best course of action is to relocate the native fish to the Broken Creek.”

The relocation was done via a process called electro-fishing, which temporarily stuns the fish, allowing them to be collected with nets and transferred to the creek with minimum trauma.

Among the native fish relocated in the exercise were 12 Murray cod over 50cm, 22 silver perch between five and 50cm, and 27 golden perch between 25 and 58cm.

An unknown number of exotic (non-native) species such as carp, which are a designated environmental pest, were euthanised and disposed of.

Numurkah Fishing Club president Clayton Harris said the club was pleased that the relocation had been undertaken, and hoped to be involved in another relocation in coming months.

“Our members would hate to see the fish going belly-up in the lake due to lack of water; that would be tragic,” he said.

“Some time ago, fishing club members helped relocate fish from the eastern channel near Lemnos when they were poisoning for weed control there, so we know there are a lot more fish in there that weren’t caught in the first transfer and we are keen to help out with another attempt.

“Once the water goes down a bit more and all of the fish are in that one deeper spot, we should be able to get most of them.”

Among the fish that weren’t caught in the first relocation is a Murray cod estimated to be over a metre in length which was simply too big to fit in the nets.



Rescue mission ... VFA officers transfer a stunned fish into a tank to be taken to its new home in the Broken Creek.



Community Update



Celebrating Australia Day – 26 January

Come along and celebrate Australia Day events and activities across the shire.

Barmah – 8am; Jack Edwards Reserve – corner of Evans and Murray streets; free barbecue breakfast, face painting and entertainment.

Cobram – 10.30am; Civic Centre – Punt Road; award presentations and guest speaker; entertainment by Cobram Pipe Band; barbecue.

Katamatite – 8am; Police Paddock – corner of Foy and Beek streets; free community breakfast; award presentations; fun family activities.

Nathalia – 6pm; Recreation Reserve – Park Street; award presentations and guest speaker; a range of family fun activities and entertainment; free barbecue.

Numurkah – 8am; Newman Square – corner of Quinn and Melville streets; free barbecue breakfast; entertainment; award presentations.

Tungamah/St James – 8am; Lions Park – Boyd Street, Tungamah; free cooked breakfast; award presentations.

Yarrowonga – 7.15am; Kennedy Park – Murphy Street; free cooked breakfast provided by Rotary Club; award presentations; entertainment.



Australia Day

Free new pet registrations – January 2020

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

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

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

For more information go to our website.



2020 Immunisation Program – lock in the dates

Our 2020 Immunisation Program is now up and running.

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting people against harmful diseases before they come into contact with them.

To get the best possible protection for your child, make sure their immunisations are on time, every time.

Go to our website, check the 2020 Immunisation Calendar and lock in the dates that are applicable to you.

Take care in the summer heat – helpful health tips

The summer heat we have been experiencing looks set to continue over coming weeks.

It is important to take extra care on days of extreme heat – wear sunscreen, a hat and long sleeves; avoid going out in the hottest part of the day; keep an eye on your family, friends, neighbours and pets; and remember to stay hydrated.

For more tips, head to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au



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FIREWATCH

Busy Friday for local brigades

LOCAL CFA brigades have responded to five incidents in the past week - four of which occurred last Friday, which, with temperatures reaching 40°C and accompanied by strong winds, was a day of total fire ban.

Strathmerton and Katunga brigades got the worst of it, with their day starting at 4am when they were called to respond to a car fire at Bearii.

The car had been driven partially into the river at Morgans Mill Road before being torched. When fires arrived, the fire was starting to spread to the bush, but was quickly brought under control.

Then at 11.45am, Strathmerton and Yaroweyah brigades were called to assist Cobram at a major gas leak at the corner of Campbell Road and Murray Valley Highway, after an excavator working on a drainage line fractured the gas line.

The fire brigade was on scene for around three and a half hours using a fog spray to disperse the gas until repairs could be made.

Firefighters were rotated approximately every 10 minutes because of the extreme heat while wearing structure turn out gear. The CFA rehab crew was on scene to monitor the firefighters' health.

At 5.20pm that evening, Strathmerton brigade was turned out again, along with Numurkah, Katunga, Waaia, Nathalia, Yalca/Yielima, Yaroweyah, Naring, Drumanure, Kaarimba, Katamatite, Muckatah, Picola, Tallygaroopna, Wunghnu and Boosey brigades, to a hay bale and grass fire at the corner of Waaia/Bearii Road and the Murray Valley Highway, Yalca.

The large number of trucks called out was due to the high chance of the fire spreading quickly with the strong south westerly wind.

The fire is believed to have started by spontaneous combustion, burning two bales of hay and about one hectare of grass.

Fortunately, the first trucks on scene were able to stop the fire from spreading, and Numurkah, Naring, Drumanure, Kaarimba, Katamatite, Muckatah, Picola, Tallygaroopna, Wunghnu and Boosey brigades were turned back.

The day wasn't over yet for Katunga brigade, which was turned out to power lines arcing on Katunga North Road, Katunga, between Carter and Lease Streets, at 8.35pm.

The combination of the wind and a tree knocked down a power line; Powercor was called and the fire brigade blocked the road until police arrived.

Friday was followed by a mercifully quiet few days for local brigades, until Numurkah was called to assist Nathalia at a microwave oven on fire in a house in Cope Street, Nathalia at 2.35am yesterday.

Nathalia brigade soon had the fire under control and Numurkah was stopped enroute.



Focal point ... Cafe Mierlo owner Adam Drust is thrilled with the completed mural.

Mural gets new member

NUMURKAH'S first piece of permanent street art has gotten a little bigger, with the addition of a new piece.

The colourful work along the 20 metre long northern wall of McPherson's arcade, which was commissioned by Cafe Mierlo owner Adam Drust and painted by artist Sobrane Simcock in November, had one small gap in the form of a window which had been almost entirely covered by a makeshift wall on the interior of McPherson's Numurkah.

Far from being disturbed by the window being painted over, McPherson's Numurkah owner Duncan McPherson is thrilled.

"That wall really lends itself to a mural and the original work looked sensational, but the gap where the window was really stood out," he said.

"I was more than happy for it to be painted over and Sobrane has done a fantastic job."

Whilst the mural has an overarching theme of bird life, and features a superb blue wren, an azure kingfisher, a yellow-billed spoonbill and a budgie, it also contains a blue-banded bee, and artist Sobrane told the *Leader* she thought the piece needed another insect.

"I really think insects are beautiful and extremely important to our ecosystem and I thought a ladybird would work really well with the rest of the piece," she said.

Rather than incorporating it into the larger mural, Sobrane decided to make the addition

stand alone.

"The shape of the window provided a natural frame, so I thought, why not?"

"The frame actually took longer than the ladybird, and was a bit trickier because it had to be entirely hand painted with no spraying, but I'm happy with how it came up."

Adam is also happy with the finished product, as is everyone else.

"I think it's great and so much better than having a plain wall there - it's really brightened the place up and provided a real focal point," he said.

"The reaction from other people has been amazing as well. I've had lots of people stop me in the street and tell me how much they love it, and every day people are stopping to have a

good look at it."

Adam also hopes the mural is just the first of many pieces of public art in Numurkah.

"We have access to some great artists in this area and there are so many blank canvases that they could work wonders with.

"The north east Victoria silo trail has done a lot for small communities across the region and it would be great to tap into that. We are trying to establish a Murray mural art trail with murals at Cactus Country, Rich Glen Olive Oil, the Big Strawberry and Tocumwal IGA, and it would be great if there were more in Numurkah to give people a reason to not only come to town, but spend a bit longer walking around and visit more local businesses."



Before ... The gap in the mural caused by this window was crying out to be filled.

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Brothers return to Numurkah on heartfelt mission

FOUR former Numurkah brothers returned to town last week on a labour of love - to renovate the grave of their beloved brother who rests in the Numurkah cemetery.

Clive, John, Leo and Paul Edwards, along with their brother Barry and sister Valerie, moved to Numurkah as young children in 1953, when their parents Ken and Ruby took up the offer of a soldier settlement block.

The Edwardses, who left Numurkah in 1966 after their peach orchard failed, welcomed two more sons, Norman and Geoff, during their time in Numurkah, but Norman was sadly killed in a tractor accident aged three.

Clive told the *Leader* that when he, John, Leo and Paul visited Norman's grave during a camping trip to the region two years ago, they resolved to make it a memorial worthy of their much loved little brother.

"It was old and in need of repair and just said 'Edwards' with no given names or dates on it, and we knew we had to do something," he said.

The brothers put a plan in motion, and Clive, who lives in Melbourne and is therefore the closest geographically, got to work organising a new granite grave cover and a plaque, with the whole family contributing to the cost.

The brothers finally managed to coordinate their schedules to come to town and put them in place last week, in what they all agree is a long overdue tribute.

"He was such a great little kid, and so loved by us all, it's just a shame that mum and dad aren't here to see it," Leo said.

Whilst their dad Ken died in 1995 at the age of 75, Ruby passed away just last year, a mere 10 months short of her 100th birthday.

Whilst the sadness of losing their brother remains, the Edwards brothers all have happy memories of growing up in Numurkah.

"It was a great childhood for us kids," Leo said.

"There was a swamp down the back paddock that we used to spend hours in and we were always building cubbies in the pruning stacks."

John remembers there being plenty of work to do, picking, sorting and packing peaches, but also plenty of eating and time for leisure.

"The fruit was delicious and we spent a lot of time fishing in the channel as well, catching fish and yabbies by the tonne."

Clive recalls riding their bikes half a mile north from their home, which was two and a half miles north of Numurkah, in order to qualify for a free trip on the school bus.

"It was either that, or ride the full two and a half miles to town, which we did on Tuesdays and Thursdays because we had football training after school. Then we had to ride all the way home again," he said.

The four brothers, along with older brother Barry, all played in the thirds for Numurkah, with the team featuring different combinations of four of the brothers from 1962 to 1964.

John remembers his football career with Numurkah as one of ups and downs.

"In 1962 we were undefeated all year but lost the grand final to Deniliquin," he said.

"In '63 we were undefeated all year and won the grand final, but in '64 we were undefeated all year and lost the grand final again."

Despite stirring up some memories of sporting disappointments, the brothers agree that it has been a satisfying trip to their childhood home.

"It's like finishing an episode," Paul said.

"It's something that should have been done 50 years ago, but we're very glad to have it done."



Brotherly love ... Clive, Leo, John and Paul Edwards are pleased to have finally honoured their much loved brother Norman.



A single ember can spread bushfires as far as **40km**.

Burning embers from bushfires can travel up to 40km, starting new fires in seconds, destroying homes and making escape impossible. If the Fire Danger Rating is ever extreme or above, don't hesitate. Leave early.

How well do you know fire? 

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Original dark tale to thrill at Byramine

VIEWING numbers for shows like *Game of Thrones* and *The Witcher* leave no doubt about the modern appetite for medieval sorcery, skullduggery and sword-play, meaning local audiences are going to want to get in quick to secure tickets for an upcoming performance of the original story from which all such tales stem - Macbeth.

This summer, Moira Arts & Culture (MAC) Inc. proudly presents the Essential Theatre production of Shakespeare's famous tragedy in the grounds of Byramine Homestead on Sunday, February 2.

As the temperature drops and twilight sneaks in, the fabled witches come out to play and the audience will be drawn into Essential Theatre's raw, edgy and entertaining production of Shakespeare's rousing tragedy filled with ferocious battles, supernatural horrors, stunning language, and some of the bard's most vivid characters.

Tempted by the prophecies of three mysterious witches, and encouraged by his power hungry wife, Macbeth will do anything to be king.

He is quickly led into a nightmarish world of evil and deceit as he tries to murder his way to the throne of Scotland.

This is the fifth Essential Theatre production brought to Moira Shire by MAC Inc., commencing with *Romeo & Juliet* in 2016, followed by *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2017, *Twelfth Night* in 2018, and *Midsummer Night's*



Conniving couple ... Owen Little's Macbeth's ambitions to take the throne are fuelled by Alex Aldrich's Lady Macbeth's conniving influence. Photo: Jack Dixon-Gunn.

Dream in 2019.

Whether you're new to the work of Essential Theatre or a first-timer, you are guaranteed a night to remember as the cast of eight professional actors take you on the thrilling and dark journey

that is Macbeth in the beautiful gardens of Byramine.

Tickets are \$55 for adults, \$20 for secondary school students and \$50 for MAC Inc. members, and bookings can be made at www.trybooking.com/BGCSG.

Gates open at 4.30pm, with the performance commencing at 6.30pm.

BYO picnic or order a platter, but no BYO alcohol - drinks will be available for purchase at the venue.

Regional Victorians twice as likely to drown

VICTORIANS in regional areas are almost twice as likely to drown compared to those in metropolitan Melbourne, according to Life Saving Victoria's 2018-19 Drowning Report.

In Victoria's highest fatal drowning toll in 20 years, a total of 56 people died from drowning across Victoria over the past year, with a further 101 non-fatal drowning incidents attended by paramedics.

Life Saving Victoria's (LSV) research manager Rhianon Birch said the report, released on Sunday to coincide with the start of Water Safety Week, highlighted a dramatic spike in the state's drowning rate for coastal areas and inland waterways.

"Tragically, last year we saw a 49% increase for drowning deaths in inland waterways such as rivers, creeks and streams - while drowning deaths in the ocean and coastal waterways rose by 46%," Ms Birch said.

Drowning statistics consistently show that males are at higher risk than females across regional Victoria, and 2018-19 was no exception, with 80% of drowning deaths statewide in that period being men.

"This is a timely reminder for men to watch out for each other, avoid alcohol around water and to always wear a life-jacket."

Ms Birch said Victoria was also experiencing a troubling trend which had seen an increase in drowning deaths among people who didn't even intend to enter the water.

"Accidental entry from slips, trips and falls were the most common activity prior to drowning, representing almost half (46%) of last year's drowning deaths," Ms Birch said.

A 68% increase was recorded in those walking or playing near water just prior to the drowning incident, compared to the 10-year average. This was also the most common activity in 2017/18 representing 12 (21%) of all incidents.

"We're also seeing a trend from recent years continue - older adults are more likely to drown than children.

"The report shows a 71% increase in the drowning rate for those aged 65 years and over compared to the 10-year average, while adults 45-64 had the second highest drowning rate of all age groups.

"There was also a 77% increase in the drowning rates of Victorians aged 15-24 years."

Ms Birch said the warmer months were a crucial time to communicate water safety messages to Victorians across the state.

"Two thirds of Victoria's drowning deaths took place in summer and autumn last year and both of these seasons saw large increases in the drowning rate compared to the five-year average.

"As we mark the start of Water Safety Week and the beginning of summer, Life Saving Victoria is urging all Victorians to play it safe by the water by always swimming between the flags, always actively supervising children around water, learning swimming and water safety skills and remembering you are never too old to learn and refresh your skills."

Regional statistics over the previous decade (2008/09-2017/18) for the Hume region show that there were 27 deaths in the past 10 years, of which:

- Adults aged 25-44 are over-represented in the drowning toll;
- Males are 3.3 times more likely to drown than females;
- Most common location: rivers/creeks/streams;
- Most common activity: swimming/paddling/wading.

Statistics over the same period for the Shepparton region showed 12 deaths in the past 10 years, of which:

- Children aged 0-4 are over-represented in the drowning toll;
- Males are five times more likely to drown than females;
- Most common location: bathtubs/spa baths;
- Most common activity: bathing.

Twinkle twinkle Christmas winner

CHRISTMAS may seem a distant memory now that most of us are back at work for another year, but some Numurkah residents are still enjoying a well-earned rest from the labour of love that is erecting - and then deconstructing - their Christmas light displays.

Numurkah really turned it on for Christmas 2019, with some elaborate, and truly dazzling, displays to be enjoyed, making it a hard ask for the judges of the Numurkah Love Our Lifestyle Christmas lights competition.

Judge Tracey Bannon said that, whilst driving around to look at all of the displays made for a great night, it was difficult to choose a clear winner.

"It was amazing to see so many people going to the effort of decorating their homes and they were all good in their own way," she said.

"There were a few stand-outs, but it was very close between the top three, and really hard to choose a winner."

The *Leader* is happy to announce the winners of the 2019 competition as Tracy and Robert Davis for the display at their Tunnock Road property, with Col and Maria Dyson's Meiklejohn Street display a close second and Shaun and Rochelle Barbaro from Kinnairds Road right behind them in third place.

To say that Tracy Davis was excited when the *Leader* gave her the news is something of an understatement. "Oh my god, that's epic!" she said.

"We don't do it because of a competition, we just really love making people smile and laugh and providing something a bit magical for all the kids."

Tracy and Robert really went the extra mile, laying on lucky dip presents and lollies for the kids in the two weeks leading up to Christmas, and she said they were so impressed by the response.

"Everybody was so friendly and the kids were all so polite and didn't have to be reminded to say thank you," she said.

"We even got four or five thank you notes in the letter box which was really unexpected and so nice."

The display, which takes three to four weeks to erect, included a number of inflatable pieces, a 'freaky Santa', Santa on the toilet and some lights only available in the US.

Tracey Bannon said that, though competition was tough, the fact that the Davises decorated their entire front lawn - and then some - pushed them over the line.

"It was a great display - really colourful and heaps to look at - they deserved to win."

As winners, the Davises will receive a \$100 Why Leave Town? gift card to spend at participating local businesses.



Epic display ... The Davises display proved very popular with the public and judges alike.



Lucky dip ... Lucky dips were available for the kids in an alcove featuring lights only available in the US.



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Bushfire Response — Australian Defence Force Reserve Call Out

For the first time in Australia's history, Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reserve Brigades have received a Call-Out Order of Reservists: Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019-2020.

At the request of the Australian Government the Governor General, His Excellency General, (Retd), the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC has issued the Call Out Order.

The Call Out will see up to 3000 predominately Army Reservists deployed to help State Agencies throughout the fire affected areas. The majority of Reservists who have been called out come from the Australian Army's 2nd Division, 4 Brigade, 5 Brigade, 6 Brigade, 9 Brigade, 17 Sustainment Brigade and the broader ADF Community.

With skills in professions including engineering, medical, logistics and transport, Reservists will support agencies in responding to the current bushfire emergency in New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

The priority for those involved will be to assist in ensuring the safety of life, support the evacuation of affected people, provide assistance to communities and support State-managed evacuation centres.

Reservists currently supporting the fires are exempt from this Call Out. For more information about exemptions please visit www.defencereservessupport.gov.au

FOR RESERVISTS	FOR EMPLOYERS
<p>If you have been called on to provide support, you will be notified by a letter or through your chain of command.</p> <p>The Reserve Call Out is compulsory.</p> <p>Your service is protected under the <i>Defence Reserve Service (Protection) Act 2001</i>. This means your employer must release you from your civilian employment.</p> <p>You will be employed under continuous full time service with all entitlements.</p> <p>Families wanting information or advice can contact The Defence Community Organisation 24/7 Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or 1800 801 026.</p>	<p>Your Reservist employee will have information for you.</p> <p>If your Reservist employee is subject to the Call Out, you do need to release them unless a valid reason can be provided. Please call the Unit point of contact in the information your Reservist will provide to you.</p> <p>To assist with the costs associated with the absence of your employee during this period you can apply to receive payments under the Employer Support Payment Scheme (ESPS).</p>

Both Reservists and the Employers of Reservists can contact **1800 DEFENCE (1800 333 362)** or www.defencereservessupport.gov.au should they have any queries relating to the support available to them as a result of the Call Out.



Moira updates whistleblower protections

MOIRA Shire Council has reinforced its commitment to public accountability with the adoption of its updated Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower) Policy at the December council meeting.

CEO Mark Henderson said the updated policy reflected the new requirements of the Victorian Public Interest Disclosure Act and includes the appointment of a Protected Disclosure Coordinator within council.

"We are accountable for the delivery of a wide range of community services, administration of more than \$60 million of public funds and the enforcement and exercise of powers that can have a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of individuals within our community," Mr Henderson said.

"We will not tolerate improper conduct and our policy makes clear the support we will provide to individuals who come forward to disclose such conduct."

Key changes to the Victorian legislation include a broader definition of improper conduct, enabling more independent expert bodies to investigate disclosures and introducing a 'no wrong door' approach to ensure disclosures aren't excluded because they were lodged with an organisation that doesn't have the powers to action the issue or to share the information with the appropriate agency.

"It takes courage to blow the whistle on inappropriate conduct, and often individuals fear their identity will be disclosed and they may be subject to reprisals," Mr Henderson said.

"These risks can be even greater in small regional communities so our policy has been tailored to encourage individuals to report their concerns to IBAC or the Victorian Ombudsman in the first instance – this is already the case for reports regarding councillors.

"We stand ready to support any investigation by these agencies and to protect the confidentiality of individuals associated with the matter."

Following council's adoption of the policy, council's website will be updated to provide guidance on how to make a report and the support that is available.

"Promoting awareness of this policy is a key part of our commitment to being an accountable and well run council," Mr Henderson said.

Further information about Public Interest Disclosure is available from the websites of the IBAC and Victorian Ombudsman.



Crafting for a cause ... Lauren Luci, Bek Happy, Karen Bell, Nicole Wells, Austin Webb, Heidi Wells and Nikki Harvey have been very busy putting their skills to good use.

Numurkah getting crafty for a cause

THE Aussie spirit of helping out a mate has rarely been so spectacularly on display as during the recent bushfire crisis, and Numurkah has been no exception.

As well as locals donating impressive sums towards relief appeals, a group of handy local ladies have been very busy putting their crafting skills to good use.

The group started out last week making cooling neck ties for fire fighters as part of the 'Cool the Fireys' campaign, making over 500 in just two days.

The group was forced to rethink its mission, however, when the CFA announced that the neck ties were not approved for use by volunteer fire fighters.

The CFA released a statement

saying that although it is incredibly appreciative of community members offering to assist the firefighting effort where they can, the 'Cool Ties' neck scarf product, and other home-made variants, are not approved for use by CFA members, and a safety alert advising CFA members not to use the product had been issued.

"Cotton that has not been treated with flame retardant (as CFA turnout uniforms are) can burn when exposed to direct flame," the statement read.

"Furthermore, the water crystals are potentially flammable when dry, or may cause serious steam burns to skin when wet and exposed to the heat of fire."

Lauren Luci, the organiser of the

Numurkah sewing group, which is now known as Numurkah's Crafting for a Cause said whilst the group's members were disappointed by the CFA's announcement, they were still determined to put their skills to good use.

"It's a shame because we think they would have been ideal for the firefighters to use during recovery, but there are lots of other things we can do," she said.

"We are continuing with making cool ties to make up what we have cut - which is hundreds and hundreds - and donate them to the fire affected communities, local aged care facilities and farmers who would like one.

"After that we will be making things like animal pouches for in-

jured or orphaned animals, beanies for babies, reusable bags - any item that any cause or organisation needs that we can sew, knit or crochet."

Anybody with crafting skills who would like to help out, or anybody who would like to donate materials, can contact Numurkah's Crafting for a Cause through its Facebook page.

Ms Luci said that, although the group's initial mission has been thwarted, they are all about the silver lining.

"It's really given us the push to think about other things we can do and evolve into a group that can help lots of organisations and causes, and that's a good thing."

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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.

WUNGHNU'S "LAST MEN" WELCOMED HOME

In proportion to its population, Wunghnu district supplied as many men for participation in the Great War as any other district in the Valley, if not the State. Unfortunately, it suffered its proportion of sacrifices, too, but, while showing in every way possible their sympathy for the bereaved parents and relatives, and doing all that was humanly possible to lighten their afflictions, the good folk of the district have always extended the heartiest of welcomes to the brave boys who were permitted to return. On Monday night the last of the "welcome homes" was given, for all the boys who were fated to return have been restored to their loved ones, and so far as this portion of their duty is concerned, the activities of the Welcome Home Committee are at an end.

GERMAN GOLD MYSTERIOUS WOMAN SPY.

Some of the witnesses at a courtmartial on alleged spies at Lille (France), recently told an amazing story of a mysterious woman who was one of the most influential German agents in Belgium. The woman lived in great style and luxury in a chateau near Antwerp, to which prospective Belgian and French spies were brought with the utmost secrecy late at night in a closed motor. Some of her dupes stated that they knew her only as a beautiful, blonde-haired lady, who met them in a darkened room, into which she walked swiftly, carrying a large bag of gold, the contents of which she scattered on a carpet as an inducement to them to betray their country. If the bait was taken she presented the victim with a smaller bag, saying "Here is for to-day. If only you will work you will soon be rich." The Chateau was equipped with wireless and numerous telephone connections. It is believed that the mysterious and unknown woman is the daughter or niece of General Heintich, who was Governor of Lille during German occupation.

It is with great regret that we have to chronicle the visit of the grim reaper, Death, for the third time to the Robert Brenion household within a comparatively short period, the last to be taken hence being Mrs Rosetta Brenion, relict of the ceased lady had been in failing health for a long time, so that her demise was not unexpected. She came to Numurkah district with her late husband in the very early days, and endured all the hardships that the grand old women of the period had to face what time they nobly did their share towards carving homes out of the virgin forest.

The late Mrs Brenion was a woman of fine Christian character, and her death is deeply deplored by a very large circle of friends who loved her for her many grand attributes. To the bereaved family sincere sympathy has been offered in this their added affliction. The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, Rev. J.A. Lee reading the burial service at the graveside, while Mr Alex Dunn had charge of the mortuary arrangements.

"Philanthropy?"—For some weeks a par has been going the rounds of the provincial press under the caption, "The Wail of the Unreported." The original paragraph contained the word quoted at the head of this paragraph, but was spelt Philanthropy. We have watched our exchanges and no less than 11 published the word as contained in the original par. Surely the art of spelling country is not being lost to the country printer, along printer, along with his objections to printing any old stuff so long as it is supplied him free and it that does not entail any labor on his part.

Cow Suckles a Pig—A remarkable case of a cow suckling a pig has been witnessed by Mr G. Tarrant, a farmer in Warracknabeal district. When the cow's milk unexpectedly fell off Mr Tarrant was curious to know the cause, and he was surprised to find that the cow was suckling a pig. As the most effective way of ending the trouble, Mr Tarrant killed the pig, but soon afterwards he found that another pig was enjoying a milk diet. The sight was so remarkable that Mr Tarrant secured a photograph of it for publication in "the Leader." Mr Tarrant states that when the pigs were locked up in the evening the cow bellowed for them all night.

Stay safe in the smoke

THE volume of smoke in the air due the sheer scale of the current bushfire crisis means that ignoring the situation is simply not an option.

Yesterday, bringing as it did air quality in the moderate to hazardous category across the district, (and with more such days to be expected as summer continues) provided a stark reminder that the fires present a health risk to us all.

So, how do you protect yourself against the potentially dangerous effects of smoke in the air?

Firstly, minimise the time spent in smoky conditions as far as practical, and if you do need to be outside for a prolonged period you should wear a 'dust mask'.

Ordinary paper dust masks and handkerchiefs won't filter out fine particles from bushfire smoke - use a special P2 or N95 filter mask, which you can get at a hardware store. Be sure it fits properly and you don't have any medical issues that would prevent use.

Some people are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke.

You will be more sensitive to smoke if you have a heart or lung condition (including asthma), are pregnant, or are over 65. Children up to 14 are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke.

If you are sensitive to smoke you should reduce prolonged or heavy physical activity. Where possible you should try to stay indoors.

If you have a heart or lung conditions, you should take your medication as prescribed by your doctor.

If you are asthmatic, follow your asthma plan and carry reliever medication with you.

If your maximum visibility is 1.5 kilometres or less, your air quality is in the hazardous level, and you need to limit your time outdoors, limit exercise and follow any treatment plans.

When should I be worried, and what should I do if I am?

Symptoms of smoke inhalation injury can include itchy eyes, sore throat and runny nose through to shortness of breath, coughing, vom-



Better off indoors ... Smoke was clearly visible in the air on Melville Street yesterday morning, and more smoky days are expected in coming weeks.

iting, nausea, and confusion.

If you have concerns about your health you should seek medical advice or call Nurse on Call on 1300 606 024.

Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness and difficulty breathing should call Triple Zero (000).

For more information on smoke and your health visit <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/air/smoke>.

You can guard against exposure to smoke by taking some simple precautions:

- Stay inside your house if possible; close all windows and doors;
- If you use an air conditioner switch it to 'recycle' or 'recirculate';
- Avoid exercise
- It is recommended that you use multiple sources to stay informed about the air quality in your area.
- Credible sources include:
 - www.epa.vic.gov.au/EPAAirWatch.
 - www.emergency.vic.gov.au.
 - ABC Local Radio.

Grade sixes farewelled

THOUGH the summer holidays are in full swing, many local students, and parents, are still in awe of the fact that a major rite of passage has recently been achieved.

A whole crop of 12 year-olds are primary school students no longer, and St Joe's class of 2019 was given a send-off worthy of such a milestone.

On the evening of the last Tuesday of term for 2019, the 41 students and their families finished the year in style with a red carpet graduation.

Fr Michael Grace celebrated mass and presented awards in what was a grand finish to primary school life.

Renaee Russo received the prestigious Mary MacKillop Award for striving to do her best and living the values of the school founder.

Harry Moon and Bridie Kelly received Rotary scholarships for achieving all-round excellence and leading by example, while Shaylee Dietrich and Addison Oswald were awarded the Zac Murfett scholarship in encouraging each to continue to do their best and believe in themselves.

Though on the Thursday evening some students in particular were recognised for efforts above and beyond the norm, the following day - their final day of primary school - each grade six student enjoyed a long-awaited moment of glory.

St Joe's has an annual tradition of waving the graduating class off with something of an 'avenue of honour' with students from all classes lined up in class order to see them off.

Principal Paul Arnel told the *Leader* that it was an annual tradition that each student looked forward to.

"They line up from preps through to grade five and the grade sixes are called out individually and walk through and the younger students see them out," he said.

"Each year the students move up a spot in the line-up as they move up a grade.

"Most of our grade sixes have been taking part in this graduation parade since they were preps, so it's really something for them to finally be the grade sixes and be the ones being seen out. It's a great tradition that everybody really enjoys.

"I wish all of our graduating students well in leaving the school as strong, confident and proud graduates of St Joseph's."



Highest award ... St Joe's principal Paul Arnel presents Renaee Russo with the school's prestigious Mary MacKillop award.

Letters to the Editor

Rebuilding after the bushfires

THE bushfires wreaking havoc are leaving a mess behind which will likely take years to clean up as arguments dominate as to who is responsible.

Politicians play their childish blame games while bureaucrats see that victims do not receive too much support too quickly.

Insurance companies will try to protect 'their' investments from claimants who will have to justify every cent claimed.

Insurance is a form of gambling where the insurance 'bookmaker' tries to limit his payout when the 'insured's horse' wins.

How should we be facing the issues of drought, bush fire, and lack of finance?

It is the latter which is most dangerous to us as a nation!

What should WE be doing?

In the first instance, seeing to the safety and well-being of people caught up in the conflagrations — I believe this is happening.

There should be absolutely no arguments as to who is paying for support, however delivered — money should not be a limiting factor. If help is physically possible then it MUST be financially possible.

People and livestock must be sustained with food and water, then shelter and hygiene requirements to maintain fitness and health.

In situations like this people become depressed and traumatised; this can be overcome by finding something to occupy their minds — what better way than help them help themselves?

Cleaning up after the fires can be done by providing the tools necessary to make the work easy; here I am referring to excavators and trucks lying idle in yards awaiting a buyer. Let the buyer be the government, supporting individuals to rebuild their lives with constructive activity. This in turn will elevate their spirits with hope, rebuilding faith in a sustainable future.

This should be 'The Australian Way' to overcome adversity and rebuild OUR NATION.

The first question to affected people should be, "Is there anything you need?"

This can be anything from prescription medication, underwear, or a toothbrush!

The BIG hurdle is FINANCE, so it must be closely examined, 'open your minds to this'!

Money, finance, credit, has always been a contentious subject shrouded in mendacity.

What is money and where does money come from?

- Money is a substance of 'exchange' for goods and services.
 - Modern money is nothing more than figures in a ledger or 'blips' on a computer.
 - The government can issue all the money it needs, free of cost, and without the need to repay, if it so desires.
 - Is there a limit on this money? YES!
 - Money is worthless if there is nothing to exchange for it.
- Here is an example exercise:—

The bush fire destroyed a school and it will cost \$500K to replace, so what do we do?

1. Do the people want the school rebuilt? YES
2. Are the materials available for rebuilding? YES
3. Does the community have the expertise to rebuild? YES

The Commonwealth Government then instructs the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Australia to make the funds available as required. Remember, these people are creatures of the Commonwealth Parliament! See the Reserve Bank of Australia Act 1959.

The school is built and now the community has a 'school asset'—physically built and paid for.

The asset can now be credited to the community and the ledger 'squared off' leaving no debts behind. If the community does not want the school, or the materials are not available, or the community does not know how to construct the school, then the money is not issued under any circumstance—this is how the finance system should work!

But there is another aspect of the finance system which must be understood. The current providers of finance lay claim to the school after it is built and they add another cost to the construction called 'interest', and they want to be paid for the school, which effectively costs the community more than double its original cost i.e. school built by the community and then the money lenders for creating the finance.

There are many people suffering because of the drought and bushfires and they should not be penalised for a disaster not of their making.

The Government, through its agent the Reserve Bank of Australia, can and should use the resources of the RBA to rebuild the devastated communities without undue delay.

People opposed to this course of action should be required to place their opposing argument before the Australian people for adjudication, but let the rebuilding begin!

To accuse the Prime Minister of failing to recognise climate change is nonsense, see here <http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/>.

The authority is charged with advising the government how to implement the UN 'climate policies' ... now you know where 'climate change' is coming from!

Lou Cook
Numurkah

Family law reform

ON August 1, 1974, the then Attorney-General Senator Lionel Murphy rose to give his Second Reading speech regarding the Family Law Bill 1974.

He said that "The main purpose of the Bill is to eliminate as far as possible the high costs, the delays and indignities experienced by so many parties to divorce proceedings under the existing Matrimonial Causes Act."

He then added that "These provide for more simple procedures, require courts to proceed without undue formality."

Unfortunately Senator Murphy failed miserably in his endeavours.

Our current family law and child support sys-

tems destroy lives and increases suicide rates. The court system, rather than being a simple procedure, promotes an adversarial system that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in each case.

At the same time, family members are alienated from other members of their families.

For example, one part of our community that is significantly affected, includes those personnel in our defence force. These personnel may return from overseas commitments to find that they have lost their families. As a result of the subsequent family law and child support issues, suicide rates in our defence forces increase out of proportion to their numbers.

Rather than stopping delays, a court case in the Family Court can last as long as two to three years before it is heard. As a result, children often do not see one parent during this period and this then becomes the status quo after the proceedings have been determined. At the same time, the costs escalate out of control.

The solution is obvious. We need to revert to the principles espoused by Senator Murphy. This includes the setting up of an informal tribunal, without lawyers, to carry out divorce proceedings.

John Flanagan
Secretary
Fairness In Child Support (F.I.C.S.)
THIRROUL, NSW

A new decade of hope for stroke

IF you or a loved one had a stroke 30 years ago, the chances of returning to the life you knew were slim. But that is not the case any more.

With the right treatment at the right time, it is possible to make a good recovery.

With a new year under way, it's a fitting opportunity to look back on how far we have come in stroke treatment and care, and think about what we can do to reduce our own personal stroke risk in the future.

Stroke strikes the brain, the human control centre.

There will be more than 56,000 strokes in Australia in 2020 – that is one every nine minutes. Sadly, the numbers continue to climb as our population grows and ages and lifestyles become more sedentary.

But in good news, stroke is no longer a death sentence for many. Medical diagnosis and treatment have become much more advanced in the past two decades. There has been a significant reduction in lives lost as a result.

The game changers were the introduction of the time-critical therapies, thrombolysis (blood clot dissolving treatment) and endovascular thrombectomy (blood clot removal treatment). Australian researchers were at the forefront of these treatments.

In addition, the number of patients being treated in a dedicated stroke unit has increased. So too has access to rehabilitation and carer training.

There has been increased recognition that stroke's impact extends beyond the physical to mental health. Together these steps help maximise quality of life and independence after

stroke.

While much has been achieved, there is still a lot more to be done in 2020 and beyond.

Our regional health services and patients are being left behind as our city hospitals innovate. We know our regional patients have limited access to well established standard treatments.

It doesn't need to be this way. There is huge potential for telehealth to remove geographical barriers to stroke treatments and boost the capacity of our regional health services and clinicians.

Researchers are constantly looking for the next major breakthrough. We must ensure all Australians have equitable access to these innovations to maximise their benefit.

Finally, every single Australian can make a difference to reducing the burden of stroke on our community.

Stroke is largely preventable. While we cannot avoid ageing and genetic factors, there are many steps we can take to reduce our own stroke risk.

In 2020, I urge you to make time for a health check with your doctor to determine your risk of high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat). These issues can be controlled, reducing stroke risk.

Make healthy changes part of your daily life: stay active, eat a well balanced-diet, avoid too much salt and sugar, quit smoking and drink alcohol only in moderation.

Let's aim for a healthier Australia, one free from disability and suffering caused by stroke.

Professor Bruce Campbell
Stroke Foundation Clinical Council Chair

Deadly Bushfires and Brave Firefighters

DEDICATED to Australia's firefighters — especially to those who lost their lives during the bushfires of 2019-2020. RIP Samuel McPaul, Geoffrey Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer.

The summer sun is blazing hot,
In the air there's a smoky smell,
As fires are raging everywhere
And our land is as hot as hell

The inferno is quickly spreading,
For the bush is parched and dry,
Strong winds are blowing flames around,
And embers are falling from the sky

Batemans Bay is being threatened,
Mallacoota's folk are on the beach,
Kangaroo Island is badly scorched —
It seems that nowhere is out of reach

A little baby is missing a father,
A sad parent grieves for a son,
As a firefighter has lost his life
Doing brave work which must be done

The fire brigades are working hard,
To protect all of us, they strive —
And whilst Australia now is hurting,
In the end, we will survive.

Numurkah water on the nose

NUMURKAH residents concerned about the quality of their household water supply in recent days have been assured that, despite a less than ideal colour, taste and smell, the water is safe for use.

Describing the taste and smell as 'earthy', Goulburn Valley Water Regional Operations Manager Daryl Bennett, said the organisation appreciated people's patience and understanding while it worked to fix the issue.

"We became aware of an issue with the quality of the raw water sourced to supply the Numurkah water treatment plant last Thursday, which caused water supplied to Numurkah and Wunghnu resi-

dents to have an 'earthy' taste and/or odour," he said.

"We increased our treatment process at the treatment plant and our staff have flushed areas of the network to remove affected water.

"The water quality supplied to residents continued to improve during the past couple of days, but some of the affected water remained in the towns' water supply systems.

"We also issued advice to residents via text message and asked them to flush their systems by watering lawns and gardens etc., if they were still experiencing affected water.

"Water always remained safe to drink."

Future funding needed for Queensland fruit fly program

MOIRA Shire Council has voted unanimously to advocate to the Minister for Agriculture the Hon Jaclyn Symes for continued funding of the Goulburn Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Program (GMVRFPP) over the next three years.

Mayor Libro Mustica said QFF was a constant threat to the region's annual production of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of fruit and vegetables that can act as hosts for the insect.

"This program has achieved a 60% reduction in QFF populations between 2017-19," Cr Mustica said.

"It continues to design innovative approaches to manage QFF, with the most recent being undertaking a Ster-

ile Insect Technique trial, where sterile male fruit flies were released in the Cobram area.

"The program's success has been acknowledged recently by receiving the Regional Achiever of the Year Award as well as winning first place in the Prime Super Agricultural Innovation Awards."

The GMVRFPP is a partnership between Agriculture Victoria, Fruit Growers Victoria, Cobram and District Fruit Growers Association and Campaspe, Shepparton, Strathbogie, Berrigan and Moira councils, as well as Lions International District 201V6.

The Victorian Government has already contributed \$2.4 million (\$800,000 per year) to the program,

with funding scheduled to cease in June 2020.

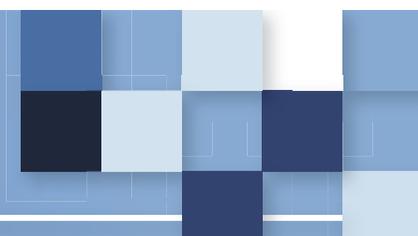
"Continued effective QFF control via this program helps prevent a major environmental threat to horticulture, through education and host tree removal and monitoring," Cr Mustica said.

"This also helps the environment in limiting chemical control measures.

"It is absolutely critical the Victorian Government continues to protect the region's \$762.5 million fruit and vegetable industry which support approximately 5,000 jobs.

"This is also a substantial export industry with significant growth potential."

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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88 Melville St
Numurkah

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NOTIFICATION BY BUYER - INTENTION TO APPLY FOR THE PERMANENT TRANSFER OF A LICENCE TO TAKE AND USE GROUNDWATER
GMW Reference BPTWE0075-19

We, Kinkora Pty Ltd of 572 Wungunu Road, Drumanure VIC 3636, Refer to Vic Roads Map: 46 E6 intend to make application to permanently transfer entitlement to our existing Licence to Take & Use Groundwater and increase the licensed volume from 6.6ML/Year to 101.6 ML/Year and:

- We intend to extract groundwater from an existing bore constructed to a depth of 169 metres.
- The water will be used for the purpose of Irrigation.

To be used on lands described as:
Volume 9901 Folio 217 Lot No. 1 Plan No. 210711G Plan Type TP, Parish Drumanure.

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

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

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SITUATIONS VACANT

BIRTHS

BAU (Griffin) — Lachlan and Kate are proud parents to little **CHLOE CATHERINE**

born Christmas Eve 2019 at 8.20pm, weighing 3.15kg (6lb 9oz) in Newcastle. Chloe is the first grandchild for Colin and Mary from Numurkah and second grandchild for Brendan and Bridget from Mansfield.

Local People for Local Jobs

Don't waste your money advertising regionally when you want local people to fill your vacancies.

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Numurkah Community Learning Centre

January-March 2020 Courses/Activities

COURSE	TIME	START DATE
Accredited Courses		
Certificate III in Education Support	9am-3pm	February 2020
Certificate III in Individual Support (Delivered by Yarrowonga Education & Training—RTO 21765)	9am-3.30pm	Thur 27th Feb
Compliance and Workplace Requirement Courses		
Responsible Service of Alcohol (Vic) (Deivered by AMD Training Solutions)	5.30pm-9.30pm	Tue 21st Jan
	5.30pm-9.30pm	Tue 10th Mar
Pre Accredited Courses		
Introduction to Horticulture (20 sessions)	9am-3pm	Thur 6th Feb
Introduction to Community Services (5 sessions)	10am-2pm	Tue 25th Feb
FoodREDI Course (3 sessions)	10.30am-1.30pm	Wed 4th Mar
Employment and Technology Skills		
Intermediate Computers (8 sessions)	9am-12pm	Thur 6th Feb
Computers for Newbies (3 sessions)	1pm-3pm	Thur 20th Feb
Internet and Email for Newbies (3 sessions)	1pm-3pm	Thur 12th Mar
Special Interest Activities		
Art Therapy Group (Monthly-check facebook for dates)	10.30am-12.30pm	Fri 24th Jan
Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop	12.30pm-2pm	Wed 12th Feb
Boomerang Bag Making (4th Wed of the Month)	10am-4pm	Wed 21st Jan
Knotted Macramé Classes	10am – 1pm	Sat 8, 15, 29 Feb
Knotted Macramé Classes	10am – 1pm	Tue 11th Feb
Mediation Classes – (Every Wednesday evening)	8pm-8.45pm	Wed 15th Jan
Meditation Classes – (Every second Friday)	11am-11.45am	Fri 17th Jan
Numurkah Ukelele Club (Every Wednesday)	7pm-9.30pm	Wed 15th Jan
Parents Support Group (Every Monday during school terms)	9am-11am	Mon 3rd Feb
Sip N Sew Social Group – (Every second Wednesday)	10am-3pm	Wed 5th Feb
Women's Circles (Monthly-check facebook for dates)	10.30am-12.30pm	Fri 7th Feb
Yoga - Dru (Every Monday during school terms)	7pm-8.30pm	Mon 3rd Feb
Yoga - Purna (Every Tuesday during school terms)	6.30pm-7.30pm	Tues 28th Jan
Yoga - Ashtanga Sunday Class	8.30am-10am	Sun 15th Mar
Beeswax Workshop	7pm-8.30pm	Thur 19th Mar

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

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds

SITUATIONS VACANT

DRIVER REQUIRED



Variable Shifts, some weekend work
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY
Ph: 0429 317 658 NUMURKAH TAXI

Barwo Homestead, Nathalia COOK Permanent Part-time

Mon - Fri. 9am - 5.30pm.
Sat. & Sun. 9am - 2.30pm.
Hours are negotiable, job share will be considered.
Up to 8 shifts per fortnight.

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

A Police Record check must be provided by successful applicant.

Further details from:
Mrs. Christine Symmons Phone: 5866 2574
Applications close: 31st January, 2020
Written applications to:
Mrs. L. Walker
8 Federation St., Nathalia. 3638

St. Joseph's Primary School Numurkah



2020 School Cleaner/s 15 hours per week

We seek an enthusiastic person/partnership who would like to join our team in serving our school families and staff.

- The successful applicant/s will need to:
- Undertake daily cleaning duties
 - Ensure School is secure at the end of the day
 - Ensure correct use of all cleaning materials and maintain supplies

Hours can be negotiated.
Partnerships will be considered.

Interested persons can send a written application including experience and the names of at least two referees to

Mr. Paul Arnel - Principal
St. Joseph's Primary School
16 Tocumwal Rd.
Numurkah 3636
Phone: (03) 5862 1804
parnel@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au

Closing Date for Applications
Wednesday, January 22, 2020

This person must be committed to the safety, wellbeing and protection of all children in our care

ANNIVERSARIES



Jack and Liz Dell

celebrated
**40 years
of marriage**
on 12 January.

Congratulations on reaching a wonderful milestone.

All our love,
Caitlin, Sharn, Dave,
Maggie, Niamh,
Lucy, Sinead and
Dara.

FUNERAL NOTICES

COOPER — Dulcie. A graveside service to celebrate the life of Dulcie Cooper will be held at the Kyabram Cemetery, Lancaster Road, Kyabram, on Thursday, 16th January, 2020, commencing at 10am.

Following the graveside service, a memorial service will be held at Merritt Funeral Services Chapel, 10-16 Macisaac Rd, Mooroopna, commencing at 11.30am.

Merritt Funeral Services
58251651

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NCN Health has the following vacancies:

Enrolled Nurse Grade 2 COBRAM CAMPUS

Permanent Part Time Various Hours

Food and Domestic Services Assistant COBRAM CAMPUS

Casual Position

Health Care Worker NUMURKAH CAMPUS

Part Time Shifts Available

Lifestyle and Leisure Assistant COBRAM CAMPUS

Permanent Part Time 0.6 EFT

All applications close 5pm, Sunday 26th January 2020

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

www.ndhs.org.au

DEATHS

BREEN – Martin James “Marty” Late of Numurkah. Passed away peacefully on January 1, 2020 at Karinya, Numurkah in his 77th year.

Our loving Dad & Pop, dearly loved by his children and their partners Gabrielle; Bradley & Elisa; Christopher & Tanya; and his grandchildren Jordan & Cody; Charlie and Oliver.

Peacefully Sleeping

Dearly loved son of Frank & Margaret (both dec.). Brother and brother-in-law of Bill & Pat (both dec.); Gerald (dec.); Cath & Lindsay (Smith); Maureen & Wally (Doran); Robert (dec.); Allan (dec.) Mary & Geoff (McHugo); Carmel & Bill (Millen); Pat & Barry (Smith). Much loved Uncle of his nieces & nephews.

In Memory Of Our Loving Brother

Dearly loved brother of Cath and brother-in-law of Lindsay. Loved Uncle of Wayne, Rob and Jeanette and Adrian.

Loved and missed brother of Maureen and brother-in-law of Wally. Loved Uncle of Michael and Michelle, Tracey and Joe, and David and Melissa.

Loved brother of Mary and brother-in-law of Geoff. Loved Uncle and Great Uncle of Monique, Mal and Lachlan.

Dearly loved brother of Carmel and brother in law of Bill Millen. Loved Uncle & Great Uncle Marty of Stuart, Yuka, Alicia & Kenta; Natalie, Brett, Hannah, William, Sophie & Lucinda; Daniel, Bianca, Bradley, Benjamin, Karley & Matthew; Allan, Denelle, Makayla, Brooke, Jack & Patrick; David, Leanne, Charlie & Jamie and Katie.

Rest In Peace Until We Meet Again xx

Dearly loved brother of Pat and brother in law of Barry Smith. Loved Uncle & Great Uncle Marty of Steve; Fiona & Mateo and Tania, Mark, Isla, Paige & Kaellun (dec).

Rest in Peace

Marty's Family would like to thank the greater Numurkah community especially the Numurkah Football Netball Club, St. Vinnie's, the Shamrock, Middle and Telegraph Hotels, Lou Hamon Chemist, Bendigo Bank, District Nurses, Numurkah Medical Centre, Dr. Arup Bhattacharya and Karinya for their love, guidance, support and watchful eye over Marty.

Marty's Graveside Funeral Service took place at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery on Wednesday January 8, 2020.

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TUTTLES

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Caring 24 hour service

Inc. Binger & Tuttle, Limbrick & Tuttle, Numurkah Funeral Services

DEATHS

COOPER — Dulcie. 30.5.1929–10.1.2020 Passed away peacefully on Friday, 10th January, 2020 at Werribee Mercy Hospital, (formerly from Mooroopna and Numurkah) surrounded by loving family.

Dearly loved wife of Raymond (dec.). Loving mother of Elaine (dec.), Jack (dec.), Allan and Debra Much. loved and loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Forever In Our Hearts

COPE — Darryl. 6.1.1955~24.12.2019 Late of Katunga, formerly of Ingham. Passed away unexpectedly at home.

Dearly loved husband of Annette and father of Robert.

Peter Cox & Sons
5862 3047

MARTIN — Grange Lewis. 3.8.1938 - 11.1.2020 Peacefully at Goulburn Valley Health.

Loved Son of Lew and Norma (both dec.). Loving father of Anne (dec.) and Greg.

Please see later paper for funeral details or contact.



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DEATHS

NAD — Ivan. 22.10.1932–22.12.2019 Late of Picola, passed away peacefully at G.V. Health Shepparton.

Our loving Husband, Dad, Pop, Grandad and Great Grandad, dearly loved by his wife Joan, of nearly 45 years; his children and their partners, Mark and Anne; Danni and David Woolley; his grandchildren Tahlia and Pran, Alirra; Jacob, Aiden and Liam; and his great granddaughter Miley.

You had a smile for everyone,
You had a heart of gold.

You left behind wonderful memories, That we will always hold,
Sweet is the sleep that ends all pain,
We would not wake you to suffer again.
In God's garden you rest above,
In our hearts you rest with love.

'Gone Fishing and Checking Your Bees'

Ivan's Funeral Service took place in Picola on January 2, 2020 followed by a Private Cremation.

Peter Cox & Sons
5862 3047

NISH (Vickers) — Annetta Agnes “Nette”

25.11.1930 ~ 4.1.2020 Peacefully at Maculata Place Shepparton, late of Numurkah, formerly of Katunga.

Our loving Mum, Nan, Nana, Nana Nette, and Nana Nishy, now reunited with her beloved husband Bob; remembered with love by her children and partners Annie; Pamela; Colin; Gayle and Rob; Joy; and Rod and Isabelle; her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Friend to Sally, Bruce and Joan.

Promoted to Heaven 'Au Revoir' 'Have Fun'

A Private Funeral at Nette's request, took place at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

Peter Cox & Sons
5862 3047

TROPHIES & ENGRAVING
NUMURKAH LEADER

Summer SPORT scoreboard



Cricket

CRICKET SHEPPARTON

One day game

A GRADE

KARRUMOMUS It NUMURKAH

Toss won by Numurkah, batted first

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

D Grandell run out.....	10
SE Downie b B Jones.....	47
W Arnel b J Ibbotson.....	64
M Eckard not out.....	107
J Lau not out.....	15
Extras (nb 3, w 20, b 1, lb 8).....	32
Total.....	3/275 (cc)
Overs 45.0	
FOW: 25 (D Grandell) 85 (SE Downie) 213 (W Arnel)	
Bowling: J Ibbotson 5.0 1 0 16; A Heslin 6.0 0 0 20	
0 1; C Crouch 3.0 0 0 14 0 1; L Keady 3.1 0 0 25 1	
3; TX Kelly 4.0 0 0 28 0 1; B Jones 9.0 0 1 40 0 3; Z	
Groombridge 7.0 0 0 39 0 3.	

1ST INNINGS - KARRAMOMUS

TX Kelly c M Grandell b SE Downie.....	26
Z Groombridge c D Grandell b M Cline.....	4
M McGrath b M Eckard.....	15
N Jones c D Grandell b M Grandell.....	28
M Mandaradoni c & b M Grandell.....	1
J Ibbotson c W Arnel b M Eckard.....	0
JM Dhosi run out (W Arnel).....	47
B Jones not out.....	8
L Keady run out (M Grandell, SE Downie).....	0
A Heslin not out.....	0
Extras (nb 0, w 5, b 2, lb 1).....	8
Total.....	137
Overs 39.2	
FOW: 33 (Z Groombridge) 39 (TX Kelly) 68 (M Mc	
Grath) 69 (M Mandaradoni) 70 (J Ibbotson) 100 (N	
Jones) 137 (JM Dhosi) 137 (L Keady)	
Bowling: M Cline 7.0 0 1 27; T Braynon 8.0 2 0 21; SE	
Downie 5.2 3 1 13; M Grandell 9.0 0 2 40; M Eckard	
6.0 1 2 17; L Gledhill 4.0 1 0 16.	

KATANDRA def MOOROOPNA

Toss won by Mooroopna, batted first

1ST INNINGS - MOOROOPNA

B McDonald c JM Wright b H Sirett.....	4
B Lowe b H Sirett.....	12
SS Shaikh c JM Wright b C Hickford.....	7
B Mulcahy c JM Wright b A Riordan.....	3
J Cam c C Hickford b H Sirett.....	0
S O'Brien b RW Shannon.....	5
J Wright run out.....	32
M Kitto c & b C Hickford.....	17
S D'Elia b C Hickford.....	20
H Barrow c & b H Sirett.....	8
A DiFede not out.....	6
Extras (nb 1, w 5, b 0, lb 0).....	6
Total.....	120
Overs 36.1	
FOW: 9 (B McDonald) 22 (SS Shaikh) 24 (B Lowe) 24	
(J Carn) 28 (B Mulcahy) 53 (S O'Brien) 76 (J Wright)	
100 (S D'Elia) 111 (M Kitto) 120 (H Barrow)	
Bowling: C Hickford 9.0 1 3 28; H Sirett 6.1 2 4 10; S	
Richardson 1.3 0 0 2; A Riordan 7.3 0 1 27; RW Shan-	
nnon 4.0 1 1 22; JM Wright 5.0 0 0 20; SW Wright	
3.0 0 0 11.	

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

B Clurey c B McDonald b SS Shaikh.....	69
B Black not out.....	45
L Patel not out.....	2
Extras (nb 0, w 4, b 0, lb 1).....	5
Total.....	1/121
Overs 21.5	
FOW: 109 (B Clurey)	
Bowling: H Barrow 2.4 0 0 9; A DiFede 4.0 0 0 27; B	
Mulcahy 0.2 0 0 1; J Wright 5.0 0 0 31; S D'Elia 5.0 0	
0 30; B Lowe 3.0 0 0 12; SS Shaikh 1.5 0 1 10.	

WAAIA It OLD STUDENTS

Toss won by Old Students, bowled first

1ST INNINGS - WAAIA

S Trower b C McCabe.....	0
S Moore st J McNamara b N Breslin.....	64
R Knight c L Callegari b C McCabe.....	4
MJ Cleeland c J McNamara b T Looby.....	13
J Cleeland run out (C McCabe).....	6
BG Carey c J Busiello b L Callegari.....	0
C Brown c N Breslin b K Jones.....	12
L Henderson c J Busiello b L Callegari.....	5
J Trower c K Jones b C McCabe.....	31
SC Carey not out.....	0
M Stuart not out.....	4
Extras (nb 1, w 23, b 0, lb 2).....	26
Total.....	9/165 (cc)
Overs 45.0	
FOW: 0 (S Trower) 5 (R Knight) 30 (MJ Cleeland) 48	
(J Cleeland) 53 (BG Carey) 84 (C Brown) 100 (L Hen-	

erson) 158 (S Moore) 160 (J Trower)
Bowling: C McCabe 8.0 1 3 41; T Looby 9.0 3 1 30; K
Jones 7.0 1 1 23; J Carr 6.0 0 0 14; L Callegari 6.0 0
2 25; N Breslin 9.0 0 1 30.

1ST INNINGS - OLD STUDENTS

M Harris b C Brown.....	21
H Singh b MJ Cleeland.....	8
C McCabe not out.....	91
J Carr b C Brown.....	2
N Breslin c SC Carey b J Cleeland.....	1
L McPhillamy b MJ Cleeland.....	15
T Looby b MJ Cleeland.....	1
L Callegari not out.....	23
Extras (nb 1, w 6, b 0, lb 1).....	8
Total.....	6/170
Overs 43.2	
FOW: 15 (H Singh) 42 (M Harris) 44 (J Carr) 55 (N	
Breslin) 125 (L McPhillamy) 129 (T Looby)	
Bowling: MJ Cleeland 9.0 0 3 29; J Trower 9.0 0 0	
37; C Brown 9.0 1 2 27; L Henderson 2.0 0 0 18; J	
Cleeland 9.0 3 1 12; S Moore 2.0 0 0 14; M Stuart 2.0	
0 0 13; BG Carey 1.2 0 0 19.	

LADDER	P	B	W2W1	D	L1	L2	PTS	%
Numurkah	8	1	0	7	0	1	0	48 2.18
Katandra	8	1	0	7	0	1	0	48 1.74
Kyabram	8	1	0	6	0	2	0	42 1.38
Nagambie	8	1	0	5	1	2	0	39 1.24
Mooroopna	8	1	0	5	0	3	0	36 1.30
Old Students	8	1	0	4	0	4	0	30 1.15
Northerners	9	0	0	5	0	4	0	30 1.09
CP/St Bs	8	1	0	4	0	4	0	30 0.93
Shepp United	9	0	0	4	0	5	0	24 0.94
Euroa	9	0	0	3	0	6	0	18 0.70
Waaia	8	1	0	2	0	6	0	18 0.68
Tatura	8	1	0	0	1	7	0	9 0.40
Karramomus	9	0	0	1	0	8	0	6 0.58

B GRADE

NUMURKAH def KARRAMOMUS

Toss won by Karramomus, batted first

1ST INNINGS - KARRAMOMUS

T Murray c J Morris b S Lewis.....	12
S Green c K Jackson b S Lewis.....	17
T Guppy b B Smith.....	57
J Mandaradoni st K O'Dwyer b RL Lacuin.....	28
P Trevaskis b S Dawson.....	7
L Sibley b RL Lacuin.....	4
A Shields c B Smith b H Verhoeven.....	12
J Keating b B Smith.....	0
C Michel b M Martin.....	10
B Dehne-Jenkins not out.....	0
J Kerr b M Martin.....	0
Extras (nb 0, w 4, b 4, lb 5).....	13
Total.....	160
Overs 43.3	
FOW: 22 (T Murray) 39 (S Green) 101 (J Mandara-	
doni) 116 (P Trevaskis) 127 (L Sibley) 137 (T Guppy)	
137 (J Keating) 160 (A Shields) 160 (J Kerr) 160 (C	
Michel)	
Bowling: B Smith 9.0 3 2 33; S Lewis 5.0 0 2 16; M	
Martin 7.3 0 2 23; B O'Dwyer 4.0 0 0 28; RL Lacuin	
9.0 3 2 16; S Dawson 5.0 0 1 20; H Verhoeven 3.0	
0 1 15.	

1ST INNINGS - NUMURKAH

K Jackson c A Shields b J Keating.....	2
J Morris b J Keating.....	40
Kade O'Dwyer lbw b J Kerr.....	5
D Cox lbw b J Kerr.....	0
H Verhoeven lbw b B Dehne-Jenkins.....	5
S Dawson c J Keating b L Sibley.....	28
B Smith c J Keating b C Michel.....	25
B O'Dwyer not out.....	19
S Lewis c A Shields b L Sibley.....	0
M Martin not out.....	21
Extras (nb 0, w 13, b 1, lb 4).....	18
Total.....	8/163
Overs 43.5	
FOW: 10 (K Jackson) 17 (D Cox) 17 (******) 35	
(H Verhoeven) 83 (J Morris) 101 (S Dawson) 123 (S	
Lewis) 123 (B Smith)	
Bowling: J Kerr 7.5 4 2 20; J Keating 8.0 1 2 36; C	
Michel 8.0 1 1 38; B Dehne-Jenkins 5.0 0 1 23; T	
Murray 8.0 1 0 26; L Sibley 6.0 1 2 15.	

MOOROOPNA It KATANDRA

Toss won by Mooroopna, batted first

1ST INNINGS - MOOROOPNA

J Catalano c M Black b C Simpson.....	9
B Boyle c RJ Ireland b N Minogue.....	11
J MacCansh c RJ Hopkins b RJ Ireland.....	17
T Brown c RJ Hopkins b A Nicholls.....	27
R Moon c J McKinnon b RJ Hopkins.....	24
TB Hall not out.....	27
M Creaney c K Rosevear b RJ Hopkins.....	0
D Zampaglione not out.....	22
Extras (nb 0, w 7, b 0, lb 2).....	9

Total..... 6/146 (cc)
Overs 45.0

FOW: 9 (J Catalano) 33 (J MacCansh) 45 (B Boyle) 95
(R Moon) 97 (T Brown) 98 (M Creaney)
Bowling: RJ Ireland 9.0 0 1 36; C Simpson 4.0 0 1 18;
NJ Hickey 9.0 1 0 33; N Minogue 5.0 1 1 9; A Nicholls
9.0 1 1 23; RJ Hopkins 9.0 0 2 25.

1ST INNINGS - KATANDRA

J McKinnon lbw b R Moon.....	15
M Black b RJ Young.....	18
RJ Ireland not out.....	74
C Simpson not out.....	26
Extras (nb 1, w 9, b 0, lb 5).....	15
Total.....	2/148
Overs 35.3	
FOW: 31 (J McKinnon) 66 (M Black)	
Bowling: JI Woods 6.0 0 0 24; R Moon 6.0 1 1 21; RJ	
Young 9.0 3 1 12; TB Hall 7.0 0 0 41; B Boyle 4.3 0 0	
15; D Zampaglione 2.0 0 0 18; J Catalano 1.0 0 0 12.	

OLD STUDENTS It WAAIA

Toss won by Old Students, batted first

1ST INNINGS - OLD STUDENTS

S Rigby not out.....	67
CT Walton b D Atkins.....	9
T MacLaughlin lbw b D Atkins.....	6
J Sandhu c M Daniel b R Trimby.....	0
G Sabri lbw b D Atkins.....	0
XM Lewis b R Trimby.....	3
M Lewis b K Tatt.....	15
D Fichera not out.....	3
Extras (nb 5, w 17, b 4, lb 1).....	27
Total.....	6/130 (cc)
Overs 45.0	
Bowling: H Hixon 5.0 1 0 29; bj daniel 9.0 3 0 22; D	
Atkins 9.0 1 3 33; R Trimby 9.0 1 2 17; K Tatt 9.0 2 1	
19; D Wilson 4.0 1 0 5.	

1ST INNINGS - WAAIA

K Tatt b XM Lewis.....	8
D Wilson lbw b G Sabri.....	1
A Ciavarella not out.....	37
D Booth b D Fichera.....	53
M Daniel st CT Walton b B Kumar.....	18
D Atkins not out.....	0
Extras (nb 0, w 4, b 13, lb 0).....	17
Total.....	4/134
Overs 32.4	
FOW: 9 (K Tatt) 17 (D Wilson) 107 (D Booth) 130 (M	
Daniel)	
Bowling: G Sabri 9.0 0 1 26; XM Lewis 6.4 0 1 25; S	
Rigby 5.0 1 0 11; M Lewis 2.0 0 0 23; D Fichera 5.0 0	
1 18; B Kumar 5.0 1 1 18.	

LADDER	P	W2	W1	D	L1	L2	PTS	%
Kyabram	9	0	8	1	0	0	51	2.01
Shepp United	9	0	7	0	2	0	42	1.50
Katandra	9	0	7	0	2	0	42	1.32
Mooroopna	9	1	5	0	3	0	40	1.37
Numurkah	9	0	6	0	3	0	36	1.41
Northerners	9	0	6	0	2	1	36	1.14
Undera	9	0	5	1	3	0	33	1.09
Karramomus	9	0	4	0	5	0	24	0.99
Pine Lodge	9	0	4	0	5	0	24	0.78
Tatura	9	0	3	0	6	0	18	0.82
Old Students	9	0	2	0	7	0	12	0.68
Waaia	9	0	2	0	7	0	12	0.59
Euroa	9	0	1	0	8	0	6	0.63
CP/St Bs	9	0	1	0	8	0	6	0.62

MURRAY VALLEY CRICKET ASSOCIATION

ONE DAY GAME

PREMIER DIVISION

COBRAM def NATHALIA

Toss won by Cobram, batted first

1ST INNINGS - COBRAM

W Van Zyl c & b B Summerville.....	22
L Hyde run out.....	45
H Hyde c & b CP Congues.....	3
A Decicco c & b B Summerville.....	58
T Baden not out.....	31
M Allen b BT Ross.....	1
MB Artavilla b BT Ross.....	7
JM Silva not out.....	1
Extras (nb 0, w 17, b 13, lb 1).....	31
Total.....	6/199 (cc)
Overs 45.0	
FOW: 33 (W Van Zyl) 55 (H Hyde) 129 (L Hyde) 170	
(A Decicco) 174 (M Allen) 189 (MB Artavilla)	

1ST INNINGS - NATHALIA

Extras (nb 1, w 10, b 1, lb 5).....	17
Total.....	153
Overs 40.1	
Bowling: A Decicco 9.0 1 3 26; W Van Zyl 5.0 0 0 25;	
M Haberfield 6.0 0 3 13; L Hyde 6.0 2 1 9; J Beasley	
5.0 0 1 17; H Hyde 4.0 0 0 26; T Baden 5.0 0 1 31; N	
Hoban 0.1 0 1 0.	

COBRAM-YARROWEYAH UNITED

It KATAMATITE

Toss won by Cobram-Ywh, batted first

1ST INNINGS - COBRAM-YWH UNITED

A Latessa c.....	9
J Andrew b.....	11
K Andrew b.....	20
D Ashcroft b.....	0
S Thomson lbw.....	5
H Ukich st.....	1
L Benn run out.....	4
L Adams not out.....	7
C Hulley c.....	8
B Andrew c.....	10
D Langshaw b.....	0
Extras (nb 2, w 10, b 4, lb 1).....	17
Total.....	90
Overs 41.4	
FOW: 25 (A Latessa) 31 (J Andrew) 31 (D Ashcroft)	
38 (S Thomson) 41 (H Ukich) 54 (L Benn) 60 (K An-	
drew) 77 (C Hulley) 90 (B Andrew) 90 (D Langshaw)	

1ST INNINGS - KATAMATITE

Extras (nb 3, w 7, b 1, lb 0).....	11
Total.....	2/94
Overs 22.1	
Bowling: L Benn 9.0 3 1 20; K Andrew 4.0 1 0 18; C	
Hulley 4.0 0 1 14; J Andrew 2.1 0 0 32; S Thomson	
2.0 0 0 9.	

LADDER	P	W	D	L	PTS	%
Cobram	8	8	0	0	48	1.88
Deniliquin Rhinos	8	7	0	1	42	1.96
Katamatite	8	6	0	2	36	1.40
Barooga	9	5	0	4	30	1.27
Nathalia	9	3	0	6	18	0.83
Cob-Ywh United	9	1	0	8	6	0.46
Tocumwal	9	0	0	9	0	0.42

DIVISION ONE

NATHALIA It BAROOG

Tracey's good start

by "The Shankster"

TRACEY Clouston got her golfing year off to a good start over the past week, with two wins under her belt already.

The five handicapper won the first Wednesday competition of the year last week with a handy score of 72 nett.

Tracey also had the best scratch score of the day, with 77 shots, and won nearest the pin on the seventh hole, but had to survive a countback to win the main event.

Bev McIntosh was the unlucky countback loser, being relegated to second place, courtesy of a nasty seven on the par four 17th hole.

The ever-consistent Nola Dalton finished third with 73 nett, followed by Lauris Ashton on 74, Lorraine Craig with 75, and Helen Schmedje, who won a countback to take the last ball, with 76 nett.

Nola also won the other nearest the pin, with a great shot to the 18th green.

Fast forward to Saturday, and there was another countback to decide the winner, this time, Tracey beating Karen Harper to the spoils, with a terrific +2 in the windy conditions.

Di Davies finished third with one down, ahead of Sandy Trimble, -2, and Julie Hannaford, -3.

Three of the four top place-getters won the three nearest the pins, Karen on the fourth, Tracey on seven, and Sandy knocked off both Di and Tracey to win the ball on the 18th.



Good form ... Tracey Clouston has got her year off to a good start with two golf wins over the past week.

Thursday was warm for the chick-runners, but there was still a reasonable field of women out on the course.

Rosemary Rutledge finished with the best score of the day, 34 nett, to win division one, ahead of Bev Hutchins, who is finding she can manage to hold together her game for nine holes, with 35.5 nett.

Helen Pickersgill took out division two with 36 nett, ahead of Gayle

Smith on 40.

Nola Dalton was the only other player in the field who managed to finish in the 30s, on a day when the majority of scores were really horrendous. Nola finished with 37.5

No-one managed to get onto the seventh green.

Today's golf will be a stableford round, as will Saturday, while next Wednesday will be par.

Graham in good form

by "Archie Bunker"

GRAHAM Ashton's handicap is dropping with every game he plays lately, finding form now that he has become a regular on the fairways at Numurkah.

While many golfers cringe at the mention of a par round, Graham wouldn't have been fazed by it at all on Saturday, coming in with a terrific score of +5 on Saturday morning.

Runner-up to Graham in B grade was another golfer who has been showing some good form of late, Bill Padgett, who finished with +4. Bill would also be happy that, while his golfing prowess has improved, he has also not been the recipient of the Mickey Mouse ears for some time.

Sam Robertson put in a terrific round, scoring +2 off his six handicap to win A grade. Sam said that it was the best he has ever played, even despite playing with the little champ, Alan Dalton.

Bob IAnson continued his good form, finishing with +1 to finish runner-up behind Sam in A grade.

Dave Gilmour headed the list of ball winners, with +2, ahead of Jack Hepworth +1, Paul Arnel, Bill Green and Chris O'Dwyer, square, and the last of the balls went to Geoff Stone, Neil Hutchins, Ron Smith, Anthony Sanders, Jacob Hodgkin and Graeme Sprunt, all with -1.

Dave Scanlan played a terrific shot to the fourth green that was good enough to win nearest the pin, but not score him a birdie. Andy McKeown won the ball on the seventh, Matty Campbell took the 15th, and Peter Cowan had the best shot to the 18th.

Captain Ron Smith didn't have to look too hard to find the recipient of the Mickey Mouse ears on Saturday, relating a story about himself at presentations.

Ron was sharing a cart with Adam 'Happy Days' Farrell, but put his clubs, sandwich, drink and scorecard on Barry Pruden's cart. In his defence, they are both green.



One of two ... John Smith surveys a shot out of the rough during his pennant match on Sunday.

Barry thought he was changing groups, seeing as Ronnie's card was pinned up on his steering wheel, but Ronnie picked up his things and loaded them onto the right cart.

Then, driving up to his ball on the fairway, Ronnie got out of the cart to get a club out of his bag, and told Happy Days, "I can't hit this." "Why?" "Because I've got no clubs."

Ronnie's clubs had fallen off the back of the cart when they drove off from the tee, and it would seem both men were talking so much, they didn't even hear them land. Ronnie was blaming someone else for undoing the belt holding them in.

There was a great field of men out last Wednesday for the nine hole chicken run, allowing for prizes to be awarded in three grades.

Jye Warren had the best score of the day, with a terrific 31 nett, winning C grade ahead of Josh Hoffman with 33 nett.

Col Barrett won A grade with 33

nett, with Adam Farrell winning a countback to take second spot.

Adam Cook's 32 nett saw him win B grade, and another countback was needed to decide the runner-up, Brad Tweed taking the balls with 33 nett.

Adam Cook also won nearest the pin on the seventh hole.

The summer pennant season got under way at Mooroopna last Sunday week, when Numurkah lost 1-4 to Tallygaroopna/Cosgrove. Mark Hegarty and Jye Warren were the only winners, taking victory 2/1.

Sunday's pennant was at Numurkah but, even with the home course advantage, the local fellas lost, going down to Kialla 2-3. John Smith/Chris Hicks and Ian Hannaford/Adam Farrell were the two winning pairs.

Pennant will be played at Shepparton this coming Sunday, while Saturday's event at Numurkah will be a stableford event.

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Another close win for Golf bowlers



Three in a row ... Frank Houlihan keeps a close eye on Lidija Patching's shot, as Gary Roulston gets ready to have his shot. (Photo: Lidija Patching, Frank Houlihan, Gary Roulston)

by "Nipper"

DIVISION one bowls produced another nail biter between cross town rivals Numurkah Town and Numurkah Golf on Saturday, but this time it was the Golfers who got home in a very hard fought contest.

Although going down on three rinks, the rink of Rob Glover, Geoff Sutcliffe, Frank Houlihan and Lidija Patching got the Golfers over the line with a magnificent 32 shot victory, which was enough to secure a four shot win overall.

That win puts Golf back in the four with only three rounds left in the season.

The closest result was that of the rink of Joe Luci, Ian Hocking, Neil Macklin and Butch Browning, who fell agonisingly short, going down by one shot with the last bowl of the game.

The rink of Brian Stanger, Jack Dell, Sid Roughsedge and Loris Houlihan found the windy conditions just a little bit too tricky and they eventually fell to Alan Rogers' rink.

The same could be said for the rink of Mark Jones, Des Staggard, Robyn Hodgkin and Brian Gentle, who allowed the rink of Don Staggard to get away from them a little bit in what can only be described as very difficult conditions.

Division one plays Tocumwal this

week and all players need to be clear headed and fully concentrate on their own game if they are any chance of holding their spot in the four.

The Golf division three side had a bit of a topsy turvy game against Finley RS and just went down overall by 11 shots.

With only one winning rink, it was Ron Pickersgill, Gary Edis, Col Hicks and Linda Isted that recorded a sensational 22 shot victory which wasn't enough to cover the other two rinks.

David Miller, Jan Niven, Adam Bugeya and Mark Smith had a pretty rough day, as did the rink of Alan Newby, Gavin Parkinson, Alf Harrison and Yvonne Clark.

The Three's are still holding on to second spot on the ladder, so finals are a real chance if performances improve.

The division four side was the best performed from Numurkah Golf on the day, recording a clean sweep of their opponents Katandra, coming away with all 14 points on offer.

The rink of Mark Nordbye, Maree Luci, Bayden Parkinson and Jenny Connelly had a 10 shot win, followed closely by the rink of John Pickersgill, Helen Pickersgill, Marie Ryan and Gayle Smith, who got home by seven shots.

The club event draws are up on the

board and also on the bowls Facebook page, so if you have entered either the 21up or 100 up check the board or the page for the draw and starting dates.

The 21up starts on January 25, the Saturday of the long weekend because there is no pennant that day, and the 100 up begins on March 14.

All games have the opportunity to be played on or before the listed date so make sure you know who your opponent is and communicate with them regarding playing times.

Bowls uniform must be worn for all club events.

PENNANT TEAMS FOR SATURDAY

Division one to play Tocumwal away, bus leaves at noon. M. Jones (s), D. Staggard, R. Hodgkin, B. Gentle; B. Stanger (s), J. Dell, S. Roughsedge, L. Houlihan; J. Luci (s), I. Hocking, N. Macklin, B. Browning; R. Glover (s), G. Sutcliffe, F. Houlihan, L. Patching.

Division three to play Tocumwal Two at home: D. Miller (s), J. Niven, K. Hodgson, A. Bugeya; R. Pickersgill (s), L. Isted, C. Hicks, M. Luci; A. Newby (s), G. Parkinson, A. Harrison, Y. Clark.

Division four to play Berrigan at home: M. Carr (s), M. Ryan, B. Parkinson, J. Connelly; J. Pickersgill (s), H. Pickersgill, J. Sutcliffe, G. Smith.

Just four shots in it

THE local derby between the two Numurkah division one bowls sides on Saturday proved a very close contest, with the Golfers prevailing by four shots over the Towners.

In much cooler, but very windy conditions, the Towners won on three rinks, but couldn't cover the loss on the fourth rink.

Don Staggard (s), Terry Brennan, Noel Newham and Don Woolley won 31-17 to give them the Telegraph Hotel best winning rink award for the round.

Alan Rogers (s), Jim Cline, Roger Newman and Alan Clark finished 13 shots up, and Ross Henderson (s), Steve Wyatt, Paul Rees and Phil Perkins, who had trailed for the majority of the game, finished strongly to win by one shot.

The division two side played under lights at Katandra on Friday night, going down by 27 shots in a memorable game, when the temperature suddenly dropped 20°C, and the bowling green lights went out, resulting in a very late finish.

Numurkah's best rink was that of John Wright (s), Russell Morris, Gordon Gilmore and Col Jensen, who won 25-23, while Rod Seen (s), Bill Seymour, Noel Murdoch and Joel Howman, after leading comfortably, succumbed in the last few ends, but salvaged a draw, 28 shots each.

The division four side travelled to Barooga to play the top of the ladder team and, although competitive, went down by 10 shots, losing on both rinks.

Arthur Crawford (s), Noel Sutton, Ken Moffatt and John Fleming did best with a two shot defeat.

All Friday pennant was abandoned due to the heat rule. Numurkah currently sits fourth on the division one ladder, with three rounds to be played.



Lean machine ... Don Staggard led his rink to a big win over his golf opponent on Saturday.

Handy Andy cleans up the opposition

by 'Rufus T. Firefly'

ANDREW McKeown scored a runaway 46 points to trounce the majority of a large field in last Thursday's stableford competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

Runner-up to Andrew was Tallygaropna legend Graeme 'Sparra' Montgomery with a very respectable score of 41.

Both players received appropriate golfing prize packages in recognition of their fine achievements.

Other competitors whose score earned them a pro ball were: Steve Thornton and Jack Hepworth 40, Martin Daniel 39, Willy Mason 38, Alan Newby, Darryl Sheridan and Ian Gray 37, Matt Ebborn, Ron Smith, Mark Hegarty and Andrew Congues all 35, Neville and John Smith both 34.

Once again, Roden Brady came in at the tail of field with a measly 24 points to earn the tin of boiled lollies.

Geoff Stone took out the nearest the pin in two shots on the 192 metre second hole, kindly sponsored by Mike Duffett,

while competition winner Andrew was closest with his tee shot on the GMCU sponsored fourth hole.

Roy Peterson scooped the players' sweep money with his tee shot on the seventh and Darryl Sheridan scored a ball courtesy of Pruden Carpentry for his accuracy on the 18th hole.

John Smith won the daily double, being nearest the pin on both the 14th and 15th holes. Dennis Kite, Roy Peterson and Graeme Sprunt were the generous sponsors.

The Mickey Mouse ears this week were won by club identity Geoff Partington for his inaccuracy in the car park. It seems that after playing his round of golf, Geoff went and loaded his golf cart onto his trailer, only for him to finally realise that it wasn't his trailer at all, nor was it attached to anything resembling his car!

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

Second title for Larkin



Close encounter ... Doug Larkin won his second Wunghnu Bowls Club championship in a nail-biting finish.

DOUG Larkin took out the Wunghnu Bowls Club's singles championship for 2019/20, scoring a nail biting 25-24 victory over Andrew Henderson.

It is the second time the club's president has taken out the blue ribbon event, having won the title back in 2014-15.

In hot conditions, with the green running at a good pace, Drew was the first to score, picking up three shots on the first end. However, Doug soon found his range, hitting the front after four ends of play.

By the ninth end, Doug had skipped away to a handy 13-5 lead and it looked like he would win comfortably.

However, Drew was up for the challenge and won

the next four ends to cut the margin back to just two shots. The two then went shot for shot during the middle stages of the game and after 22 ends the scorecard read 20-18 in Larkin's favour.

A full count of four shots on the next end saw Drew hit the lead before Doug hit back, scoring two shots to level the match 22-22. Drew then scored single shots on the next two ends, putting him on the cusp of victory.

Despite the tension of knowing his opponent needed just one shot for victory, Doug, showing nerves of steel, scored three shots on the very next end to win what was an enthralling contest.

Golfers taking state events by storm

NUMURKAH Golf bowlers Linda Isted and Yvonne Clark have won their way into the regional finals of the state pairs event, winning the Murray Bowls final at Strathmerton late in December.

The local pair defeated Finley's Nan Smith and Tracey Miles 22-10, holding such a big margin that they didn't need to play the final end.

The regional finals will be played sometime in February, at a date still to be confirmed.

Pennant play was cancelled last Friday, due to the extreme heat, and smoke, but the Golfers have been busy over the holiday period.

Loris Houlihan and Yvonne Clark teamed up with Cobram bowlers Ieva Saunders and Jenny Warfe last Tuesday to win the Shepparton Golf Bowls Club's Tunza Money tournament, and the club still has two pairs in the state mixed pairs event, although only one will go through to the final..

Jan Niven and Joe Luci will meet Lidija Patching and Ian Hocking in the semi final today, at Numurkah Bowls Club.



Next step ... Yvonne Clark and Linda Isted posted an easy victory in the Murray Bowls Division state pairs event.

Ann notches up No. 4

ANN Dealy overcame a gallant Viv Morris to win her fourth Numurkah Bowls Club women's championship before Christmas.

The final proved to be a very close game that lasted nearly three hours with the lead see-sawing throughout.

Viv started well, leading until the 11th end, when Ann hit the front to lead 10-9.

Viv reclaimed the lead until the 19th end, when Ann edged back in front, and the lead changed several times before Ann took the lead 22-21 on the 29th end.

Ann finally won the last two ends to win by four shots, after nearly three hours on the green.

Ann won her second round game in the Murray Bowls Division championship of champions, and will now meet Elisha Rigoni, representing Wunghnu, in the semi final.

The final of the women's 21 up event was won by Jenny Rogers, who defeated Robyn Aumann.



Still standing ... Viv Morris congratulates Ann Dealy after their marathon championship final.

Tough day on the carpet for Wunghnu

by "Davo"
WUNGHNU'S pennant sides found the going tough in round 11 of the 2019/20 Murray Bowls Division season, with the division one side going down by 12 shots and the division three side down by five shots.

Playing on Barooga's carpet is always a tough assignment for visiting teams, and when you add in a gusting south westerly wind, it can become a true test of character as well. Despite the losses, the endeavour of both Magpies' teams could not be faulted.

In division one, Trevor Hosie (s), Ray Hill, Graeme King and Allan Jones continued their unbeaten run this season with a 26-19 victory over Brett Wright's quartet. It was an impressive performance considering "Doggy" and his men were 10 shots down nearing the halfway mark of

the contest. Andrew Henderson (s), Nick Davies, Todd Davies and Wendy Coles were well down against Geoff Mitchell's rink for much of the day, but picked up nine shots in the last four ends to salvage a 24-24 draw.

Russell Smith (s), John McKenzie, Peter Revell and Darryl O'Connor battled hard all day in their 20-24 loss against Peter Ware's rink, whilst Barry Cosgrove (s), Doug Larkin, Rob Rodda and Lynton Stephens suffered their second loss of the season, going down 21-36 to Ray Emerson's foursome.

With nine wins from nine outings, Trevor Hosie remains at the top of the MBD skipper's table. Despite Saturday's loss, Barry Cosgrove still sits in third place with seven wins.

Despite going down, Wunghnu maintained its po-

sition at the top of the division one table, 29 points clear of Cobram in second place. The Magpies take on Strathmerton at home this Saturday.

The division three team had a ding dong battle with fellow finals contender Barooga, with little separating the sides all day.

Only the one rink tasted victory, with Ivan Newby (s), Les Clarke, Mark Shelton and Jim Brown continuing their good form with a solid 25-17 win. Ian Gray (s), Elisa Rigoni, Damian Hommes and Dean Graham went down 15-24, whilst Rob Robison (s), Russell Burkitt, Paul Richardson and Jack Rigoni lost 17-21.

The Magpies remain third on the ladder and still on target to see finals action come February. Round 12 sees the division three team host ladder leader Jerilderie.



In training ... Association players Louise Vale and Cheryl O'Dwyer enjoying a practice last Friday.

Croquet players warming up

NUMURKAH Association croquet players were back on the courts last Friday for their first practice after the Christmas/new year break.

Cheryl O'Dwyer was keen to have a good training session before heading down to Warrnambool to compete in its annual association tournament this week.

Louise Vale was also pleased to get in some practice before the start of the AC twilight

comp which begins at Mooroonpa this coming Friday.

Tuesday morning's golf croquet social play started after the holiday break yesterday and, with the weather being a little kinder than in the past few weeks, it was great to see everyone keen to play at the start of a new year.

A reminder to all players that our new starting time means names are to be in by 8am for

an 8.30am start.

GC captain Rhonda Geddes is taking names for the intra club pennant comp, which will most likely start at the end of January. This is a great way for new players to learn this form of the game in a more social environment.

Next Tuesday will be the usual annual Australia Day themed morning, so remember to wear your best Aussie gear.

Warriors in cruise control

by "Lori Driver"

THE GM1 Numurkah Warriors continued their dominant season of tennis, easily accounting for the Echuca-Rochester combine on Saturday, winning 8/71 to 2/40.

Stand in skipper Nick Fenaughty took the reins in regular skipper Mark Mills' absence and, despite also missing their number one lady Helene Steward, the Warriors cruised to a comfortable win.

Fenaughty led from the front by winning all of three sets (three, one and three) and seems to be well and truly over a hamstring injury that hampered his form before the break.

Ashley Andrew also enjoyed a good afternoon, winning her three encounters 8-1, 8-5 and 8-3 and really stepped up in Steward's absence.

Harley McCarthy continued his solid form, winning two from three, as did Lisa Niglia, while Lisa's son Aaron posted a very good singles victory to boost his confidence.

This latest win leaves the Warriors right up there with the Shepp Hornets, filling the top two spots on the ladder with daylight to third.

Like all the Numurkah teams, the Warriors will be back on home soil this Saturday as they take on the Rich River Rebels.

Raiders roll on

by "Lori Driver"
NUMURKAH'S GM2 Raiders bounced back for a new year of tennis, snapping a two game losing streak as they accounted for the Stanhope-Mooroopna combine, winning 8/71 to 3/51.

The Raiders' men set up the win early on, Brayden Price making a welcome return to the courts, partnered Rhys Cason and then Andrew "Strazz" Storer, to 8-5 and 8-1 wins, respectively.

Strazz then cruised to a 6-2 singles victory, with the combine gaining some ground back when Rhys Cason went down 3-6 in his singles encounter.

Things were a lot closer on the women's side of the draw. Catherine Church and Caitlyn Price just lost 6-8 in the first doubles set, but Catherine bounced back with an 8-7 victory with Hannah O'Brien as her partner.

The Raiders started to open up a match winning lead as Price and O'Brien won their singles matches 6-1 and 6-4 respectively, which left them 17 up with just the mixed to play.

The visitors completed the job as

siblings Brayden and Caitlyn Price got up 8-3, while Andrew Storer and Hannah O'Brien won 8-6, which gave them both a 100% record for the day.

It was fantastic to see young Hannah win all three as she has had to contend with a massive rise in the standard of opposition she faces each week compared to last season.

Joining Hannah and Strazz with three sets was Brayden Price, who has been out of action with a football injury for some time, so it was also great to see him back and firing.

The Raiders are now in third position on the ladder and will be trying to chase down Nathalia for the prized top two position and the double chance that comes with it.

This week they tackle the Shepp Giants at Numurkah, in what shapes as a crucial contest in the context of the season.

PENGUINS PIPPED AT POST
The GM3 East Penguins didn't start 2020 as they hoped, losing a nail biter to fellow finals aspirants the Cobram Cobras 6/74 to 7/75.

Playing at Cobram on brilliantly prepared courts, it was nip and tuck all day but in the end the Pen-

guins just could not get the job done, going down by the narrowest of margins.

One bright spot to come out of the day, however, was the performance of young Hudson "Mouse" Storer who was promoted from the Ravens for the day, due to the unavailability of several of the Penguins' male players.

Hudson showed maturity far beyond his tender years as he partnered skipper Dave Ludington to an 8-6 victory, then just went down 7-8 in a tiebreaker with Col Stone. He completed an excellent afternoon when he partnered Lou Shannon to an 8-3 mixed doubles win.

Lou also starred for the Penguins, winning all three sets, 8-5 with Billi Fasano, 8-3 with Emma Schmedje and, as mentioned 8-3 with Hudson Storer.

Emma and Narelle Page posted a solid 8-4 doubles win while skipper Dave Ludington toiled to the point of near exhaustion to rack up a 6-0 singles win which left the Penguins five up with just the mixed to play.

But losing three out of four mixed sets will not get the job done, so now the Penguins find themselves

clinging to a top four spot but with a big assignment this Saturday when they take on ladder leader Nathalia at Numurkah.

A reminder that the club will be holding its annual tournament on the weekend of January 25 and 26, with entry forms available on line or at the club.

RAVENS WHITEWASH TATURA
The GM3 Open Ravens kicked off the new year in the best possible way as they annihilated Tatura by a whopping 52 games, winning 9/72 to 0/20.

Playing at Tatura, the team of Graham Henderson (captain), Liam Booth, Pete Smyth, Eamon Storer, Cathy Brown and fill in Nathan McKay did not let the opposition win a set, as the most Tatura could muster in any one set was four games.

This massive win leaves them just inside the top four and, if they can manage to sneak into the finals, they will have a big say in the title race.

This week they take on fellow finals aspirants the Kyabram Redbacks at the Numurkah courts, in a must win game.

Long wait for grand final replay

WAAIA will have to wait until round 13 of this year's Picola football league draw to seek revenge on Strathmerton for its 2019 grand final drubbing, while the netball grand final replay will be played in round one.

The Picola District Football Netball League announced its 2020 draw a week before Christmas, after rejecting applications by Katandra and Tungamah to re-join the league, back in November.

Strathmerton and Tocumwal will play the only game in the league on Good Friday, replacing their round 12 clash.

Katunga and Waaia meet in the local rivalry clash in round five on May 9, and then again in the last round of the home and away season, on August 8.

Strathmerton will meet Katunga in round seven, and then host Waaia in round 13.

Teams will play four teams twice for the season, Strathmerton meeting Picola, Deni Rovers, Katamatite and Mathoura a second time.

Picola will get off to a tough start to its season, meeting both of the 2019 grand finalists in the first three rounds, facing up to the reigning premier in round one, and then the runner-up in rounds three and 17.

Cobram too good for Nathalia

NATHALIA went down by 46 runs to ladder leader Cobram in its Barooga Sporties premier division cricket match on Saturday.

Batting first on its home pitch, Cobram started well, putting on 33 for the first wicket before Brayden Summerville struck.

Clancy Congues took his first wicket with a great caught and bowled to have Cobram 2/55, but the home side then knuckled down and put on 74 runs for the third wicket before a run out saw them 3/129.

Another solid partnership occurred before Summerville struck again, claiming his second scalp. Brodie Ross picked up a couple of wickets at the end of the innings as Cobram chased quick runs, finishing with 6/199 off its allocated 45 overs.

Brayden Summerville and Brodie Ross finished with two wickets apiece and Clancy Congues one. In reply, Nathalia could only manage 153 before being bowled out in the 41st over.

This Saturday, Nathalia plays second placed Deniliquin Rhinos at Memorial Park.

DIVISION ONE

Nathalia's division one cricketers were unable to grab their second win off the season, going down to Barooga by a solitary run at home on Saturday. Chasing 101 for victory, Nathalia was bowled out for 99 in the 31st over.

Batting first, Barooga could not put together any substantial partnerships with wickets falling at regular intervals.

Bowled out for an even 100 off 33.3 overs, Lachie Gemmill's 4/10 was the best of the Nathalia bowlers, ably supported by Sean Zammit 2/21, with Angus Hawks, Dale James, Andriana Oliver and Sam Boyd all picking up one wicket each.

The home side started its chase disastrously, losing its first wicket without a run being scored.

Sean Zammit and Adam King fell in succession with the score on 17 and Nathalia was 3/17.

Jackson Walpole and Jamie Hardy took the score to 41 before both were dismissed.

The Purples were 7/64 when Harrison Hawks and Sam Boyd were at the crease and they took the score to 93 before Hawks was dismissed.

With two wickets remaining, requiring a further eight runs for victory, the home side was unable to grab victory, with Boyd the last batsman out for a well made 21.

Harrison Hawks (20), Jamie Hardy (20) and Jackson Walpole (12) were the only other batsmen to reach double figures.

The division one team joins its premier division side at Memorial Park this Saturday, taking on lad-



In full flight ... Andriana Oliver in action on Saturday.

der leader Deniliquin Rhinos.

DIVISION TWO

Nathalia's division two side now sits outside the top four on percentage after its four wicket loss to Deniliquin Rhinos on Saturday.

Winning the toss and batting first, Nathalia managed to score 7/143 off its allocated 35 overs.

In reply the Rhinos started well, losing their first wicket with the score on 53.

The Purples toiled hard and claimed the second wicket with the score on 95, and Deniliquin then lost another three wickets for 24 runs to be 5/119. Nathalia continued to bowl tightly and claimed its sixth wicket with the score on 141.

The visitors managed to surpass the 143 required and finished with a score of 6/152 off their allocated 35 overs.

Nathalia hosts Katamatite at home this Saturday.

Katunga falls short

KATUNGA returned from its Christmas/New Year break, in the Murray Valley Cricket Association division one cricket match with a 58 run loss to Berrigan, losing its last five wickets for 10 runs.

Playing at Berrigan, the Swans won the toss and sent Berrigan in, with immediate impact, Dylan Baker breaking through and Berrigan losing its first wicket with the score on one.

The home side settled and took the score to 82 before Nick Thorp claimed a run out with a direct hit.

A 68 run third wicket partnership was broken by Brad Tweed and Berrigan was 3/150.

Tweed claimed a second wicket 13 runs later and the home side finished 5/171 after its allotted 40 overs.

Brad Tweed was the best of the bowlers with 2/25, supported by Dylan Baker 1/28 and Ryan Said 1/34.

Nick Thorp and Brad Tweed opened the batting for Katunga in the run chase, and Thorp fell for a duck with the score on two.

Mitch Doyle came in and also fell for a duck, one run later.

Ben Whitford joined Tweed at the crease and the pair put on 37 for the third wicket before Tweed fell for 21.

Toby Miles joined Whitford at the crease with the score 3/40 and, 16 runs later, Whitford was dismissed for 18.

Daniel Henderson came to the crease to partner Miles and together they took the score to 72 before Miles was out.

When Henderson lost his wicket with the score on 103, the Swans crumbled to be all out for 113 off 34 overs, Daniel Henderson top scored with a fine 34.

This Saturday, Katunga takes on Cobram at home, looking to consolidate its position in the four.

DIVISION TWO

Katunga inflicted Jerilderie's first loss of the season in their top of the table clash, prevailing by 26 runs at Jerilderie on Saturday.

Katunga lost the toss and was asked to bat, with Ayden Youd and Spencer Small opening the batting.

Both Youd and Small retired once they had reached their half century, allowing other batsmen time at the crease.

Clayton Harris was the first wicket to fall, with the score on 121, Oliver Small followed seven runs later.

Brad Harris joined Josh Howden at the crease and put on a further 30 runs before

Harris' was the third wicket to fall, causing a middle order collapse of 3/0.

Howden continued to bat well and saw out the remainder of the overs.

Katunga posted 6/187 off its allotted 35 overs. Top scorers for the Swans were Spencer Small (53no), Ayden Youd (52no), Josh Howden (47no) and Brad Harris (14).

Katunga broke through the home side's batting line up immediately, claiming the first wicket before a run had been scored.

The Swans kept the pressure on to have the home side 3/49.

Jerilderie then settled and piled on 74 runs for the fourth wicket before the visitors struck again.

At 4/123, it was anyone's game and it was Katunga that held firm, bowling tightly and fielding well, forcing Jerilderie into rash decisions.

At the end of its allocated overs, Jerilderie had managed to score 9/161, falling short of its target and losing its first game of the season.

Best of the bowlers for Katunga was Robbie Harris 3/21, well supported by Anthony Russell 2/5, Oliver Small 2/8, Brad Harris 1/28 and

Katandra too good all round

KATANDRA returned from its Christmas break firing on all cylinders, thrashing Mooroopna by nine wickets in their Haisman Shield cricket match on Saturday.

Playing at home, Katandra lost the toss and found itself fielding first.

The Eagles could not have asked for a better start, with opening bowlers Corey Hickford and Hadleigh Sirrett taking the first four wickets between them to have the visitors 4/24.

Andrew Riordan chimed in for the next wicket and Mooroopna was on the ropes at 5/28.

"We had discussed how their top order has some dangerous bats in it and we were extremely happy to dismiss five of the top six batsmen for under 10 runs," Katandra coach Ben Clurey said.

Some lower order hitting and a couple of dropped chances saw Mooroopna climb to 120 all out, off 36.1 overs.

"If you'd offered us to be chasing 120 at the start, we would have taken that any day of the week," said Clurey.

In reply, Katandra's openers Ben Clurey and Brady Black put on a batting display and added 109 runs before Clurey was out for a terrific 69.

Luke Patel joined Black at the crease and together they surpassed their target and Katandra finished 1/121 off 21.5 overs, Black remaining 45 not out.

"The win was very welcome, as Mooroopna had been playing well and was pushing up into contention for the top couple of spots," said Clurey.

Katandra will play Numurkah at Numurkah this Saturday, their first meeting since last year's grand final.



In full flight ... Hadleigh Sirrett in action on his way to four wickets.

Ireland continues good form

RAY Ireland continued his pre Christmas good form with a great all round performance when Katandra took on Mooroopna in their Clyde Young Shield B grade cricket match on Saturday, scoring 74 not out and also taking a wicket, in his side's eight wicket win. Bowling first, Katandra claimed its first wicket with the score on nine and had the home side 3/45 before Mooroopna steadied.

A 40 run partnership was broken by Ross Hopkins which saw a middle order batting collapse with Mooroopna losing 3/3.

Mooroopna finished with a score of 6/146 off its allocated 45 overs.

Wicket takers for Katandra were Ross Hopkins with two, and Ray Ireland, Clay Simpson, Nick Minogue and Andrew Nicholls with one wicket apiece. Katandra's innings started well, with a 31 run first wicket partnership before Josh McKinnon was out for 15.

Ray Ireland joined Mitch Black at the crease and took the score to 66 before Black was out for 18.

Clay Simpson and Ireland saw out the home side's bowling attack, reaching 2/148 with 10 overs remaining.

This Saturday, Katandra will host Numurkah.

E GRADE

Katandra played Old Students in its final E grade T20 match on Saturday, losing by 48 runs and finishing fifth overall.

Bowling first, Katandra was a little wayward, allowing the opposition to obtain easy runs.

Old Students finished 6/168 after its allotted 20 overs.

Wicket takers for the Eagles were Tom Jeffrey with two, and Jaidyn Thorne, Matt Koutroubas, Jett Wilson and Jack Nelson with one wicket each.

In reply, Katandra batted solidly, however was unable to overhaul its target and finished with 6/120 off its 20 overs.

Darcy Simpson top scored with 33 not out and was well supported by Jack Nelson (21), Tom Jeffrey (17). Finn Walters and Jaidyn Thorne both scored 10 runs each.

Katandra will host Murchison this Saturday in its Whitelock Shield game.



Blues win a tight one

NUMURKAH'S B grade cricketers started their new year off with a hard fought two wicket win over Karamomus on Saturday, surpassing their target with seven balls remaining. Playing at home, Blues captain, Sean Dawson lost the toss and fielded first. Sam Lewis claimed the first wicket with the score on 22 and followed up with his second wicket with the visitors on 39. Karamomus then consolidated with a 62 run partnership before Reydan Lacuin claimed the first of his two wickets. With the score 3/101 at the halfway mark, it was looking as though the Blues would be chasing 200 plus, however some great bowling in the middle overs tied the visitors down and Numurkah bowled Karamomus out for 160 off 43.3 overs. Best of the bowlers were Bailey Smith 2/33 off nine overs, Sam Lewis 2/16 off five overs, Myles Martin 2/23 off eight overs, Reydan Lacuin 2/16 off nine overs and Sean Dawson 1/20 off five overs. The Blues were confident of chasing down the total, however a shaky start saw the loss

of youngsters Kody Jackson, Dylan Cox and Kade O'Dwyer cheaply, to be 3/17. Hunter Verhoeven was dismissed just before drinks, and the Blues were in trouble at 4/35.

Sean Dawson joined opener Jacob Morris and steadied the ship before Morris was bowled for a well made 40 runs.

Bailey Smith joined Dawson, the pair putting on 18 before Dawson departed for 28. At 6/101, the Blues still required 59 runs off 12 overs to win.

Bailey Smith and Brett O'Dwyer combined well before Smith departed for 26, and when Sam Lewis went soon after, the Blues were 8/123, needing 37 off seven overs.

Myles Martin (21no) came to the crease, and together with the experience of O'Dwyer (19no), the pair guided the team home, with seven balls to spare.

Numurkah plays Katandra at Katandra this Saturday.

After having the bye last week, Numurkah C graders return this Saturday hosting Shepparton United.

Fast paced ...
Bailey Smith puts everything into his delivery.

Bombers' B grade win

WAAIA tasted success for only the second time this season in its Clyde Young Shield B grade cricket match on Saturday with a magnificent six wicket win against Old Students.

Losing the toss and having to bowl first, Waaia never allowed the opposition to get into the match.

Wickets tumbled at regular intervals, and tight bowling only allowed Old Students to reach 6/130 off its allocated 45 overs.

Damian Atkins was the major wicket taker with figures of 3/33, and he was ably supported by Ryan Trimby 2/17 and Kane Tatt 1/19.

The Bombers' innings was off to a bad start when Tatt was out for eight and Darcy Wilson followed soon after for one, leaving Waaia at 2/17.

David Booth joined Anthony Ciavarella at the crease and together the experienced pair put on a match winning 90 run partnership, before Booth was out for a superb 53. Matt Daniel came to the crease and, together with Ciavarella, took the score to 130 before he was out for 18, Ciavarella seeing his side over the line remaining 37 not out with 12 overs remaining.

This Saturday, Waaia is at home to Kyabram. Waaia D grade will host Kyabram this week in its SJ Perry Shield game at St Josephs Primary School.



Under 16s ... Bailey Smith, Hunter Verhoeven, Dustan Ebborn and Callum Morris with their winning medallions.



Under 14s ... Riley Dawson and Mitch O'Dwyer.



Under 13s ... Riley Dobson and coach Vince Gagliardi.

Local juniors represent associations in Country Week

LAST week saw the running of the Country Northern Rivers Junior country week with a host of local juniors representing Shepparton Cricket Association and Murray Valley Cricket Association in all age groups.

Playing for Shepparton Cricket Association were: Kody Jackson

(U/17), Bailey Smith, Dustan Ebborn, Hunter Verhoeven and Callum Morris (U/16), Riley Dawson and Mitch O'Dwyer (U/14), Harry McDonald and Matt Ward (U/14), Riley Dobson (U/13B), Jamiesen Moore and Jemima Moore (U/14 girls) all from Numurkah, Will Trower

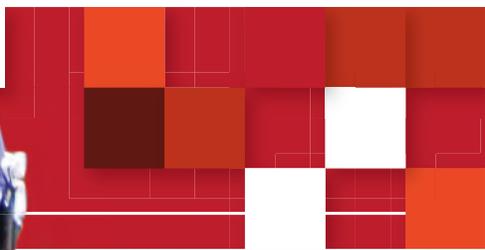
(U/13A) and Kaleb Gilmour (U/13B) from Waaia. Playing for Murray Valley Cricket Association were: Sam Boyd and Oscar McKeown (U/16), Ewan Congues, Brady Walpole and Kai Lundberg (U/14), Nate Summerville, Zander Quinn and Gus Frostick (U/13B) all from Nathalia

and Zavier Morris (U/13A) from Katunga.

Cricket Shepparton was victorious in under 16, under 14A, and under 13B and was also runner up in under 17.

Murray Valley was runner up in the under 16 competition.

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Close, but no win for Waaia



WAAIA hosted Old Students on Saturday in their Haisman Shield one day match and lost by four wickets in a tight match, with only 10 balls remaining. Batting first, Waaia was in trouble early when Sam Trower was out for a duck, and when Rory Knight followed shortly after, the home side was 2/5. Mitch Cleeland joined Sebastian Moore at the crease and took the score to 30 before Cleeland was out for 13. Waaia could not string together any significant partnerships and found itself 7/100, when Jesse Trower joined Moore at the crease. Together, they batted beautifully and put on a 58 runs partnership before Moore was finally out for a well compiled 64.

Trower followed two runs later, out for 31, and Waaia finished 9/165 after its 45 overs. Old Students started slowly in reply and Mitch Cleeland struck with the score on 15. With the score on 42, Connor Brown removed the remaining opener and a mini collapse occurred with Old Students losing 3/13 to be 4/55. A 70 run fifth wicket partnership steadied the visitors and they managed to get over the line in the 44th over, finishing with 6/170. Mitch Cleeland was the best of the bowlers with 3/29, well supported by Connor Brown 2/27 and Jordy Cleeland 1/12. This Saturday, Waaia plays Kyabram at Kyabram Recreation Reserve.

Focussed ... Sebastian Moore is a picture of concentration after playing his shot.

Eckard begins new year with a bang

NUMURKAH'S Michael Eckard received a late Christmas present on Saturday, notching his second century for the season and taking two wickets with the ball in a fantastic all-round display of cricket, steering his team to a 138 run victory. With one over remaining, Eckard required 13 runs for his ton and smashed the final four deliveries for 20 runs, bringing up a superb century. Playing Karramomus at Vibert Reserve and batting first, Numurkah won the toss and batted first in its Haisman Shield A grade cricket match. Dylan Grandell and Shaun Downie opened and began solidly, before Grandell was given

a free hit from a Karramomus no ball but was unfortunately run out for 10. Will Arnel joined Downie at the crease, and the pair put on a partnership of 60 runs, before Downie was bowled for 47 off 60 deliveries, to have the Blues at 2/85 after 19 overs. Eckard then joined Downie, and together they built a strong partnership of 128 runs, taking the score to 213 off 39 overs, when Downie was finally dismissed for a terrific 64. With six overs remaining, veteran Jahlan Lau (15no) made his way to the crease and, together with Eckard (107no), took to the Karramomus attack, combining power hitting with clever rotation of the strike, scoring 62

runs between them. The Blues posted an imposing total of 275 off their 45 overs. The Karramomus innings got off to a solid start, with the score at 33 after 11 overs before Matt Cline struck with the Blues' first wicket. Shaun Downie captured a wicket in his second over, bowling terrific line and length, only conceding one run in his first 24 deliveries, to increase the pressure on the home side. Michael Eckard struck with his first wicket with the score on 68, followed by Mitch Grandell with his first, one run later, Eckard capturing another wicket soon after to have Karramomus at 5/70 after 25 overs.

Mitch Grandell captured his second wicket with a great catch by brother Dylan, and a superb fielding effort from Will Arnel resulted in a direct hit run out to have the home side 7/137. Soon after, another run out was forced, and with two men down, Karramomus was all out for 137. Michael Eckard starred with 2/17, alongside his 107 not out, well supported by Mitch Grandell 2/40, Matt Cline 1/27 and Shaun Downie 1/13. Numurkah will host Katandra this Saturday, their first meeting since Numurkah defeated the Eagles in last season's grand final.

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INSIDE SPORT

Close call in local derby
See story page 16

Pennant loss
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Eagles too good
See story page 18