

established 1895  
**Numurkah LEADER**  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 \$1.30

**INSIDE**



**The men are back**

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**Labuan Rd concerns**

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**Strazz eyes off 10th**

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**Life satisfaction ...**  
Lorraine Greenwood is happily retired after a 40 year teaching career.



# A cuppa with Lorraine

## Bravery award for Invergordon crash hero

ANDREW Black remembers the events of October 26, 2015 clearly, but not in great detail. "I remember seeing the Commodore was on fire, and thinking that it probably had a plastic petrol tank and cars don't explode like they do in the movies, so I might get a few flash burns at worst. I knew those blokes weren't getting out of there without help, so I assessed it as a risk worth taking," he said.

All of these thoughts went through Andrew's head in a matter of seconds, as he stood on Sheparton-Katamatite Road at Invergordon having just witnessed the Commodore in question being hit by a prime mover.

The decision to risk his own safety and render assistance to the occupants of the Commodore was one of a number of split-second decisions he made in quick succession that day.

Andrew had been driving his Nissan X Trail behind the Commodore, with his partner and two year-old daughter on board, when the car in front

of them was hit by the truck, which then jackknifed. As the truck skidded across the road, blocking it, continuing forward was not an option for Andrew - and travelling at 100kph, neither was stopping in time to avoid it.

"That last half a second following the collision took forever," he said.

"I knew I couldn't go right, because the truck would try and correct, so I decided to go left, towards the ditch, hoping I'd clear it. I just said to my partner 'this is going to hurt'."

Andrew didn't clear the ditch, but came to a rest at the bottom, right behind the Commodore. When his vehicle stopped, his first concern was for his partner and child.

"When the powder and the noise from the airbags deploying stopped, I realised they were both screaming, which was a good sign."

Andrew got himself and his family out of their badly damaged car, and quickly ushered his partner and child a safe distance away from the scene.

"The only physical injuries any of us had were bruises from our seatbelts, which was pretty incredible," he said.

Andrew could immediately see that the occupants of the Commodore hadn't been so lucky, and that's when he made the split-second decision to approach the burning car and attempt to help them.

"The driver looked like he was already dead, and his body was trapped. The front seat passenger had already gotten himself out and was lying on the ground near the car. I offered to help him move further away, but he told me there was a passenger in the back seat."

Andrew could see that passenger, Joel Pring, moving around, so he tried to open the rear door of the car, but it was jammed.

With the car's roof caved in, and the fire getting bigger and closer, the passenger was trying to climb out through the back window.

Continued page 5

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<b>T</b> 16/7	M. Caccianiga	Church of Christ	R. & C. Hardham
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# Are you surprised that crime in Numurkah has doubled?

LAST week the *Leader* reported on recently released crime statistics, which showed that crime in Numurkah increased dramatically in the 12 months to the end of March 2020. Whilst crime dropped in Cobram and

Strathmerton, and rose by a very small amount in Nathalia and Yarrowonga, in the same period, it increased by half in Numurkah, with the town's figures basically single-handedly accounting for a 9.6% increase

in Moira Shire from the previous year.

This week we took to Melville Street to ask people if they were surprised by figures and what action they thought should be taken to bring them under control.



**Chris Bethell**

Yeah, I am surprised by it; it's a big statistic. I live out of town, and we haven't been affected, but it does concern me. We definitely need a bigger police presence, because obviously the criminals know they can get away with it here.



**Joe Patten**

I am a little bit surprised. I live up behind the high school and we haven't had any problems but I know people who have had things stolen in other parts of town. I always keep the house locked, but I know some people don't. We need to see police around more so that people know they're around.



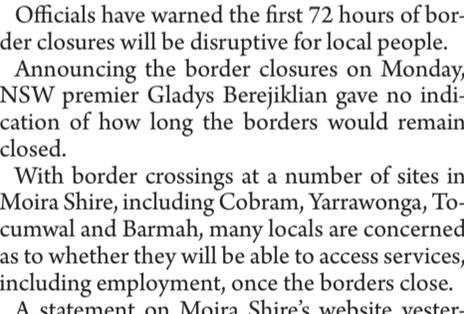
**Ray Nicholson**

I didn't think it was that bad, so I am a bit surprised. We need more police presence in town, I think that's about all you can do. I know there are a lot of hoons around, and they know there are no cops about to catch them.



**Ashleigh Mayberry**

50%? that's a lot! I didn't think it would be that much, especially when crime has gone down in other places. We need more police around all the time so they can get on top of it.



**Tanya Saraikin**

I am surprised. We moved up this way for a safer lifestyle, and I wouldn't have thought crime was that bad - it's still a lot lower than in the city. They definitely need a 24 hour police presence if they want to stop it getting any worse.



# Border closures now in force

AS of this morning, Victoria is officially an island.

At 12.01am today, NSW, the only Australian state still allowing Victorians to cross its border without a permit, closed those borders, making yesterday the last day people could travel freely between NSW and Victoria.

Officials have warned the first 72 hours of border closures will be disruptive for local people.

Announcing the border closures on Monday, NSW premier Gladys Berejiklian gave no indication of how long the borders would remain closed.

With border crossings at a number of sites in Moira Shire, including Cobram, Yarrowonga, Tocumwal and Barmah, many locals are concerned as to whether they will be able to access services, including employment, once the borders close.

A statement on Moira Shire's website yesterday said that, at that stage, the only information available to council regarding the details of the border closures had come from the NSW and Victorian Premiers' media conferences.

Ms Berejiklian said she appreciated the restrictions would cause stress on border communities, and urged people to be patient while guidelines and a system were worked out.

She said Service NSW - the government's online service function - was given notice on Sunday to get a permit system into action. She did not reveal what exemptions will be permitted,

but said she hoped the system would be ready when the borders closed.

She said the emphasis will be on minimising disruption to border communities and ensuring essential services such as health workers and food-and-supply-chain freight can continue their vital roles.

NSW Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the swift action was necessary to protect NSW residents and to assist Victoria in its attempts to bring the outbreak under control.

"We must remain flexible throughout this ongoing pandemic and adjust our strategies as the threat grows and recedes," Mr Hazzard said.

He said exemptions would only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

"The only way you'll get here is through a permit and that's going to be a very rare commodity," he said.

"Bottom line is that no NSW resident should be travelling to Victoria."

NSW residents returning from a Melbourne hotspot were already required to go into 14 days of self-isolation. This requirement has been extended to anyone returning from Victoria and will be backed by heavy penalties and fines.

Ms Berejiklian there will be provisions in place for residents of border regions, and special conditions will be in place for freight operations and other critical services, but gave no further details on what they would be.

NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller said a hard border would be established at appropriate locations to enforce the border closure.

"The NSW Police Force is ready to step up, 400 police officers plus other agencies are preparing to enforce the closure of the NSW and Victorian border," Commissioner Fuller said.

NSW Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said the measure will ensure NSW citizens are protected, and she urged residents here to remain vigilant and continue to present for testing.

"The Victorian increase in community transmission has been particularly worrying," Dr Chant said.

Ms Berejiklian said the decision to close NSW's borders was made after consulting with the NSW Chief Health Officer and discussions with the Prime Minister and Victorian Premier Dan Andrews.

"I do not take this step lightly, but have always said we will do what we must to protect the health and jobs of NSW residents," she said.

"The people of NSW have done an incredible job to help stop the spread of COVID-19, allowing us to open up our economy," Ms Berejiklian said.

"The outbreak of cases we are seeing in Victoria is putting these gains at risk.

Residents in both NSW and Victoria will have to apply for an exemption through Service NSW.

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# Local unimpressed with intersection addition

THE intersection of Labuan and Nathalia-Katamatite Road's notoriety is widespread, but its closest neighbour is unimpressed by the latest effort to make it safer.

Regional Roads Victoria, under the Department of Transport, has recently installed street lights on either side of the intersection in an attempt to improve visibility, but Pat Hangan said the new infrastructure has had the opposite effect.

"All they've done is clutter the approach up even more and created a distraction," he said.

"The lights are handy for attracting insects and giving the hoons some light to do their donuts by, but that's about it."

Mr Hangan said he had a recent near miss due to a driver failing to give way at the intersection, an incident which he says provides a perfect illustration of the real issue at play.

"It makes absolutely no sense for there to be give way signs here instead of stop signs," he said.

"I asked VicRoads a while ago why they have give way signs here instead of stop signs, and they told me that everyone knows they mean the same thing. Do they? As far as I'm concerned, people see the give way signs here and take it as a nod to go right on through."

Mr Hangan said that give way signs make the intersection all the more dangerous, as the curvature of the road to the east of the intersection makes visibility more difficult.

"People won't give way to that which they cannot see, and the way the road's laid out they look to the left straight down past my place on the wrong side of the road, instead of at what might be coming at them, and they keep going."

"Stop means you stop regardless, and making people stop would be much better solution than putting in lights that actually make visibility worse by turning your windscreen opaque as soon as you get under them."

By way of background, the Department of Transport told the *Leader* the improvements at Katamatite-Nathalia and Labuan Roads were determined

using best-practice road safety principles and considering the intersection's crash history.

It said the sight distance on Katamatite-Nathalia Road has been assessed by RRV's road safety team, which has found a stop sign on Labuan Road is not required.

Along with a splitter island, the raised banks were installed on each approach to the intersection in 2013. They are set back on the side of the minor road to provide a visual cue to drivers and act as a traffic-calming measure. They also to help reduce headlight glare at night.

Steve Bowmaker, Regional Director (North Eastern), Regional Roads Victoria, said works at the intersection were part of vital safety improvements being undertaken at high-risk intersections across north east Victoria, as part of a statewide program to improve safety on rural and regional roads.

"The intersection of Katamatite-Nathalia and Labuan Roads has been targeted for upgrades in response to its crash history - particularly those occurring due to drivers failing to give way at dusk and in poor light," he said.

"Warning sign upgrades, refreshed linemarking and new lighting will improve safety by raising awareness about the upcoming intersection for drivers on both the main and side roads."

Mr Hangan said that stopping people failing to give way was as simple as replacing the current give way signs with stop signs, and raising awareness would be achieved more effectively by installing flashing signs facing Labuan Road to alert approaching drivers when traffic was oncoming.

"I believe in lights where needed and common sense where required, and it's common sense that's required here," he said.

"If people fail to give way to a car that's coming at 100kph it's too late. If you took away all of these unnecessary poles and signs, made them stop, and let them know when traffic is coming then it's problem solved."

"Simple."



Not helping ... Pat Hangan says street lights recently installed at the intersection of Labuan and Nathalia-Katamatite Road only make the intersection more dangerous, and a stop sign is needed.

## FIREWATCH



LAST Thursday evening, July 2, was a busy one for local fire brigades, with three of the week's four turn outs taking place in the space of a few hours.

At 4.50pm, Kaarimba and Numurkah brigades, along with Ambulance Victoria, were turned out to a report of a man trapped under a tractor at Walshs Bridge South Road, between Billingham and Ross Roads, Mundoo-na.

The trapped person managed to get himself free, and had left the scene when the ambulance and fire brigade reached the scene.

At 8.05pm, Numurkah, Katunga and Wunghnu brigades, along with Shepparton aerial pumper and hazardous material van, were turned out to a chimney fire at the Telegraph Hotel on Melville Street. Being a two story building, Bendigo brigade's platform was also turned out, but

was then stopped enroute.

When the fire brigade arrived at the hotel, embers were coming out of the chimney. The fire in the fireplace was put out to help cool the chimney, and thermal imaging cameras (TIC's) were used to check for hot spots, finding one between the ceiling and the first floor.

With the aid of the TIC, firefighters were able locate the exact spot where the fire was, necessitating only a few tiles to be removed, and a small hole cut in the newly renovated floor, so the fire could be extinguished.

The TIC, which was purchased by Numurkah and other local brigades from community funds, has been invaluable at detecting hot spots at all types of fires.

Also that evening, at 7.35pm, Strathmerton brigade was called to an incident at Meyers Street, Bearii, where a man had

fallen onto a fire bucket.

The man had been put under the shower, and he remained there until the ambulance arrived.

At 10.20am yesterday, Numurkah, Katunga and Wunghnu brigades, along with Shepparton's aerial pumper and hazardous materials van, were called to a house fire at the corner of McCaskill and Knox Streets, Numurkah.

The fire, which started from a suspected faulty power point, burnt some furniture, architraves and skirting boards and filled the house with smoke, and the heat from the fire melted a split system air conditioner.

The owner had the fire out when the fire brigade arrived. The fire brigade used the thermal imaging camera to check for hot spots and the ventilator fan to clear the smoke from the house. Katunga, Wunghnu and Shepparton were stopped enroute.



Clearing the smoke ... Numurkah fire fighters used their ventilator fan to clear the home of smoke while they checked for hot spots.

# NEW RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW IN PLACE

With an increase in coronavirus cases, these postcodes have further restrictions in place:

**3012** Brooklyn, Kingsville, Maidstone, Tottenham, West Footscray

**3021** Albanvale, Kealba, Kings Park, St Albans

**3031** Flemington, Kensington

**3032** Ascot Vale, Highpoint City, Maribyrnong, Travancore

**3038** Keilor Downs, Keilor Lodge, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens

**3042** Airport West, Keilor Park, Niddrie, Niddrie North

**3046** Glenroy, Hadfield, Oak Park

**3047** Broadmeadows, Dallas, Jacana

**3051** North Melbourne

**3055** Brunswick South, Brunswick West, Moonee Vale, Moreland West

**3060** Fawkner

**3064** Craigieburn, Donnybrook, Mickleham, Roxburgh Park, Kalkallo

If you live in one of those postcodes, there are only 4 reasons to leave home.



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caregiving



Exercise



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if you can't do it  
from home

If you're sick - get tested and stay home. We all have a part to play. And it's up to all of us to make this work.

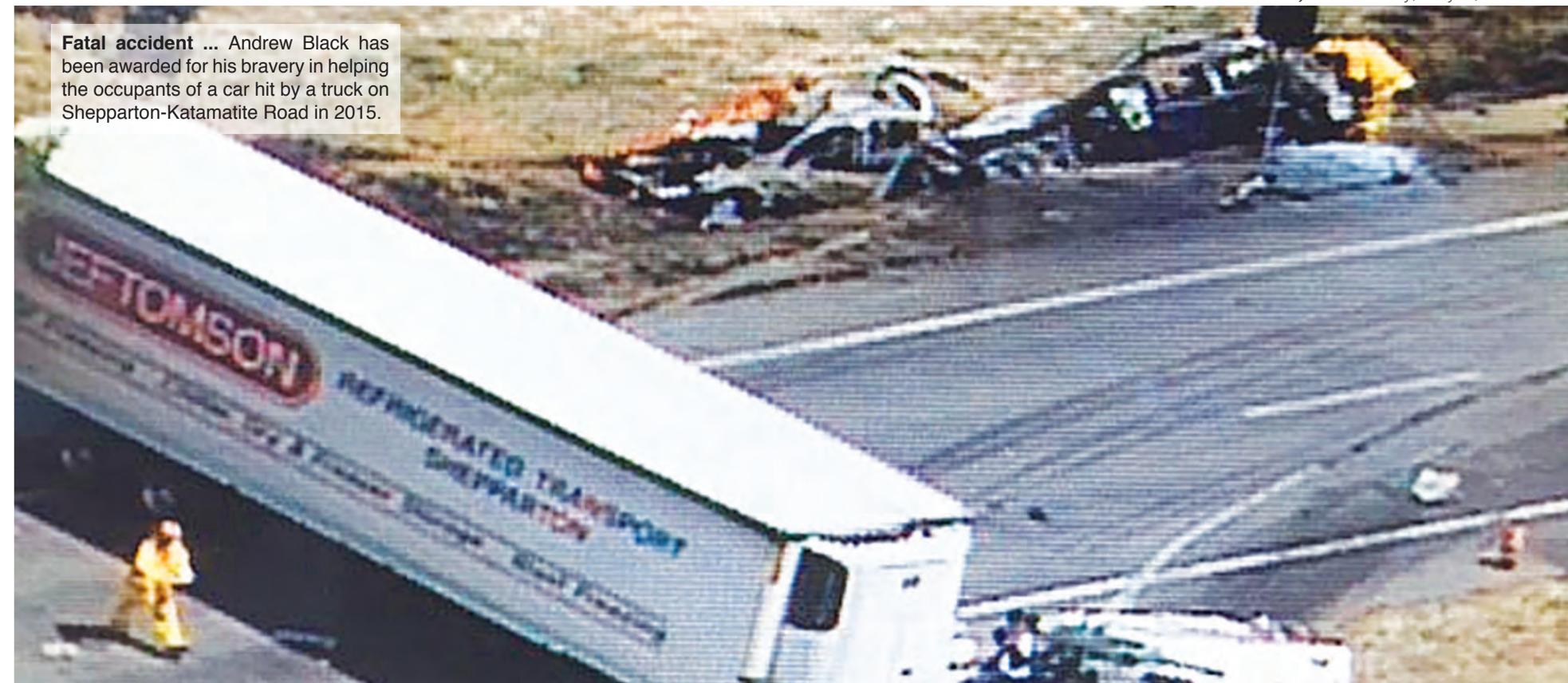
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US | TOGETHER

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**Fatal accident ...** Andrew Black has been awarded for his bravery in helping the occupants of a car hit by a truck on Shepparton-Katamatite Road in 2015.



# Bravery award for Invergordon crash hero

*Continued from page 1.*

"I didn't think he'd fit through the window, but I knew I had to help him, so I grabbed him by the shoulders and pulled him," Andrew said.

"The most incredible thing was that Ewert, the bloke who'd gotten out of the front, came and helped. He had a broken pelvis and he stood himself and came to help. Everybody needs a mate like him."

Once Andrew, and others, had helped Mr Ewert and Mr Pring a safe distance away from the car, his main concern was trying to keep the seriously injured men conscious.

"I was really worried that if Joel lost consciousness, he'd never wake up again," he said. The car, along with Andrew's vehicle, became fully engulfed in flames before any attempts could be made to remove the driver from the vehicle.

After surgery, and months of rehabilitation, both passengers recovered from their injuries, and three weeks ago, Andrew's bravery was recognised with an award from the Royal Humane Society of Australasia, presented by the Governor General.

"I wasn't expecting anything; the fact that those

guys are alive and back with their families is enough for me. The reward is that what I did worked," he said.

"I suppose it is good though, because people might see it and hear about it and know they can make a difference.

"Maybe hearing about this will remind people to pay attention, because if you don't the consequences can be deadly."

Though Andrew and his partner suffered only very minor physical injuries in the crash, the psychological impact has been ongoing.

"My partner didn't drive for two years afterwards, and I'm hyper-vigilant around trucks

now," Andrew said.

"I've always been a fairly confident driver, but one day I was on the freeway and I was surrounded by trucks and it made me panic a little bit. I really wanted to pull over, but I thought if I did, I'd probably never drive again."

Despite the ongoing impact of that fateful day, Andrew has never questioned his actions.

"Bad things happen when good people do nothing," he said.

"Without help those blokes weren't getting out of there. I didn't know them, but I knew they were somebody's family. I'd do the same thing tomorrow if I had to."

## Local COVID-19 community testing continues

MORE than 100 symptomatic people across Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram have been swabbed for COVID-19 at NCN Health community testing clinics in recent weeks.

Numurkah residents accounted for just under half of these tests with more expected to attend.

NCN Health CEO Jacque Phillips said she was very happy with the community response and thanked everyone for their vigilance.

"As we head further into winter, there will be a lot of coughs and colds going around. We encourage anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, even very mild, to get tested."

Ms Phillips said it was important those who get tested for COVID-19 stay home while they await results.

"You should isolate yourself in your house or accommodation until you get your results from NCN Health. Do not go to work, school or attend public places or events. If your symptoms get worse, you should contact your doctor, the hospital where you were tested, or in the case of

emergency, 000."

Ms Phillips said while the Moira Shire currently has no active cases of COVID-19, it was not a time for complacency.

"With school holidays and visitors arriving from Melbourne and interstate it is more important than ever to monitor your health and the health of your family. Remember to always follow good hand hygiene and practise social distancing, keeping 1.5 metres apart from others."

She said COVID-19 community testing would continue to be available Monday to Friday in Numurkah, Nathalia and Cobram, and seven days a week in Yarrawonga by appointment.

"Testing is available to people who are showing symptoms, however mild, of COVID-19 including; fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or runny nose," she said.

The Numurkah community testing clinic is open Monday to Friday, 1.30pm – 3.30pm in the Numurkah hospital car park, off Katamatite-Nathalia Rd.

## Mayor's Message Border closure and funding opportunities



The NSW Premier announced on Monday the NSW/Victorian border was to close.

Both the NSW and Victorian Premiers have indicated special arrangements will be made for border communities like Cobram, Barooga, Yarrawonga and Mulwala, with permits to cross the border for work and health related reasons to be issued.

At this stage, the details provided to us are still being worked through but we will keep our communities updated as soon as we receive any new information.

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through these emerging issues.

Moirā Shire Council has received some wonderful funding news with two critical projects receiving grants for the continuing of services and upgrading of facilities.

Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes announced last week Moirā Shire received \$522,800 to extend Queensland Fruit Fly protection measures through the Goulburn Murray Valley Fruit Fly Area Wide Management Project.

This Management Project is a collaborative effort between industry, community and five local government areas to improve fruit fly management.

We are also pleased to have been successful in receiving \$137,500 funding from the Federal Government's Regional Airports Program to update the lighting at the Yarrawonga Aerodrome.

The total budget for this much needed project is \$286,400 and Council will be contributing \$148,900.

With the continued expansion of local businesses in both Yarrawonga and across the border in Mulwala, larger aircraft such as moderate size twin engines and the jet-driven Cessna Citations are now frequent visitors to our aerodrome.

Importantly fixed wing and helicopter ambulance facilities are catered for 24 hours a day at the Yarrawonga aerodrome.

We currently have two funding opportunities open for applications from interested organisations.

Firstly, up to four Creative Hubs will be established across the shire and will deliver outcomes detailed in our inaugural Arts and Culture Strategy 2020-26 at a local level.

We will provide annual funding to each hub of \$30,000 per year for three years with an additional \$5,000 in the first year for establishment costs.

Ideally, each Creative Hub will support inclusive and connected communities, value the culture of our First Nations Peoples, support youth-based programs, plan or provide exhibition and performance spaces, identify professional development opportunities for artists and performers, and plan for broader regional access to the arts.

The second funding opportunity is for the Innovative Services are Better Services program.

Innovative Services are Better Services has been developed in response to changes to funding arrangements for community care services to people with disabilities, who are frail or aged.

Funding up to \$131,750 will be offered each year for three years.

We are looking for applications that demonstrate sustainability and can be used to leverage contributions from other sources including in-kind contributions.

For more details on each of these funding opportunities, to view information packs or to apply, go to our website.

Applications for Creative Hubs and Innovative Services are Better Services close 4pm Thursday 30 July 2020. Stay safe everyone.

## Introduction to Horticulture



This course is designed to not only help you learn skills for entry into a full certificate course in horticulture but will show you ways to grow food in your home garden which you can use to make money from sales at markets and stalls.

This is a great chance to learn in a local environment.

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or call into our Office at 99 Melville Street,  
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## Purna Yoga



Georgia will be teaching Purna Yoga, which is founded on the body/breath/mind connection. The practice builds postural alignment, strength, flexibility and balance.

Please bring a mat, light blanket and a water bottle.

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Tuesday 18th Aug – 15th Sept

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Or call into reception at

99 Melville Street, Numurkah

Monday-Friday - 9am – 4pm



# COVID HAS VICTORIA IN ITS GRIP

VICTORIA'S daily COVID-19 numbers continue to climb, with the state now recording its highest numbers since the pandemic began.

Yesterday's official tally was 191 new cases of coronavirus. However, the overall total has increased by just 164, after 27 cases were reclassified - largely due to duplication - putting the total number of cases in the state at 2,824, 772 of which are active.

Of the total cases, 2,469 cases are from metropolitan Melbourne, while 261 are from regional Victoria.

Of the new cases, 37 are linked to outbreaks and 154 are under investigation. No cases have been detected in returned travellers in hotel quarantine.

To date, 22 people have died from coronavirus in Victoria.

Of the new cases which have already been linked to outbreaks, the breakdown includes:

- 13 cases relating to the North Melbourne and

Flemington public housing towers, with the total now 69.

- 12 new cases linked to the Al-Taqwa College outbreak, with the total now 90.

- Four new cases have been linked to the Northern Hospital in Epping, with the total now nine. This is made up of eight staff and one household contact.

- One case linked to Aitken Hill Primary School in Craigieburn, with the total now 10. The case is a household contact of a confirmed case.

- The remaining new cases are linked to existing family clusters in Truganina, Patterson Lakes/Lysterfield, Fawkner and Sunshine West.

#### COVID-19 in Victoria by numbers

- 438 cases may indicate community transmission

- 772 cases are currently active in Victoria

- 35 cases of coronavirus are in hospital, including nine in intensive care

- 2,028 people have recovered from the virus

- Of the total cases, 1,481 are men and 1,319 are women

- More than 979,000 tests have been processed to date

A new case has also been confirmed in a staff member at the Assisi Aged Care facility in Rosanna. The staff member did not work while infectious. Widespread testing of staff and residents at the facility began yesterday.

With case numbers continuing to increase rapidly, Victoria's Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said it was more important than ever for all Victorians - but particularly those in restricted postcodes, to follow the current health directions.

"Victorians in these locked down suburbs are being urged to do their bit in the fight against coronavirus - stick to the rules and get to a testing station," Professor Brett Sutton said.

"This virus is not selective - it will impact anyone it encounters, and personal contact is

the clear source of its transmission. More than 300,000 people live across the hot-zone suburbs. We need everyone to do their part and ensure it is stopped in its tracks.

"There is no excuse for not getting tested. We have people knocking on your door, coming to your neighbourhood - we are bringing the testing to you. There are also several drive-through and fixed sites where people can go."

Though the current focus is on the areas of Melbourne where cases are surging, with all Victorians subject to restrictions, including closed state borders, it is interesting to look at the distribution of cases across the state.

Victorian COVID-19 cases by local government area (LGA) are:

LGA	Confirmed	Active
Hume	276	145
Brimbank	186	77
Melbourne	185	97
Wyndham	171	105
Moreland	136	38
Casey	125	20
Moonee Valley	120	50
Stonnington	106	6
Banyule	104	8
Whittlesea	89	36
Melton	85	20
Boroondara	83	8
Darebin	72	16
Greater Geelong	70	2
Interstate	65	2
Mornington Peninsula	64	1
Monash	62	8
Glen Eira	60	0
Port Phillip	60	12
Yarra	56	19
Maribyrnong	50	21
Frankston	42	1
Manningham	41	8
Hobsons Bay	39	17
Bayside	37	2
Kingston	35	1
Whitehorse	32	7
Greater Dandenong	29	3
Nillumbik	28	1
Yarra Ranges	28	2
Knox	27	4
Cardinia	22	0
Maroondah	19	3
Mitchell	19	7
Greater Shepparton	15	1
Wellington	12	0
Ballarat	11	0
<b>MOIRA</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>
Greater Bendigo	10	1
Latrobe	9	1
Macedon Ranges	9	0
Surf Coast	9	0
Mount Alexander	6	0
Ararat	5	0
Baw Baw	5	0
Campaspe	5	0
Mildura	5	0
South Gippsland	5	0
Warrnambool	5	0
Bass Coast	4	0
Overseas	4	0
Swan Hill	4	0
Benalla	3	0
Horsham	3	0
Loddon	3	0
Mansfield	3	0
Moorabool	3	0
Northern Grampians	3	0
East Gippsland	2	1
Gannawarra	2	0
Hepburn	2	0
Murrindindi	2	0
Southern Grampians	2	0
Strathbogie	2	0
Wangaratta	2	0
Wodonga	2	1
Alpine	1	0
Central Goldfields	1	0
Corangamite	1	0
Glenelg	1	0
Golden Plains	1	0
Moyne	1	0
West Wimmera	1	0
Yarriambiack	1	0
Unknown	25	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2824</b>	<b>772</b>

## A CRISIS OUT THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE IN HERE.

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**HELP IS HERE CONTACT MENSLINE**

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Australian Government

# The men are back in their shed

NUMURKAH'S men's shed is a home away from home for its members, and the smiles on their faces when you walk through the door leaves you in doubt how happy they are to be back.

With most of the blokes in the high-risk age category, they took the decision to close the shed, even before government COVID-19 restrictions required them to.

So began a long seven weeks without a place to go for good company, hot cuppas and a bit of tinkering with wood.

Whilst some members have chosen not to return just yet, since the shed re-opened a couple of weeks ago, up to half of the 20 members can be found working on projects - or just sitting around the pot-belly stove.

Vice president Alan Anderson said the members were glad to be back.

"We kept in touch with them by phone to make sure they were doing okay, but it has been a long time to be away," he said.

"We've had five to 10 members at each session since we came back, and we're enforcing hygiene and distancing rules, but we have plenty of room here so it's not difficult."

The shed's youngest member James Harding said he had missed the companionship the shed offered.

"I missed sitting around the fire having a yarn with the other blokes," he said.

"I really like the company here, so I'm glad we've been able to come back."

It's not all sitting around the fire having a cuppa though - since their return the blokes have been working on projects including toy trucks, cake stands, bench seats and dog kennels.

"It's good for the blokes to be busy, that's why



**Good company by the fire ...** Men's shed members gather around the fire for a yarn - at a safe distance.

they come here," Alan said.

The place is going to be even busier soon, with work on the shed's extension due to start any day.

The eight metre by six metre extension to the front of the shed will allow a clean, dust free space for painting and other work.

Though the space has been partly funded by grants, the men have been raising money as well. Unfortunately, fundraising activities of all sorts

were put on hold due to the COVID crisis.

"We usually have a big raffle at Easter, and another winter raffle for fire wood, but we haven't been able to do those this year," Alan said.

"If anyone has a job for us, or just wants to make a donation, we'd be happy to accept it."

Numurkah men's shed is open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, and Friday morning, at its Knox Street premises.



## Cold, but visually effective

ONE of the many surprises that 2020 has thrown up in the local area is a proper, old fashioned winter with plum-

meting temperatures, regular downpours, and fog. Lots of fog.

Whilst they're not much fun to drive in, re-

cent foggy mornings and evenings have provided some extremely atmospheric sights across the district - such as this

one of some young blokes having a kick of the footy at Numurkah recreation reserve one recent evening.

### Tech Savvy Seniors



Are you over 50? Do you need help with devices? Lack Confidence in using your phone, iPad, tablet or laptop? Feel free to pop in and have a chat with Matt on Friday's from 10am - 12pm. He will do his best to help guide you through those little issues or questions you have with your device.

Friday 17th July - 18th September

10am - 12pm Cost: Gold Coin Donation

NCLC - President's Room, Numurkah

Phone: 03 5862 2249

Email: admin@nclcinc.edu.vic.au

Or call into our Office at 99 Melville Street, Numurkah between 9am - 4pm Monday-Friday



### Intermediate Computers



This course is intended to build on skills that have already been developed, either through other short courses, or through home learning and experience. We aim to assist the learner to further develop their understanding of Microsoft Office programs and Social Media platforms.

Tuesday 28th July - 15th September (8 classes)

9.00am - 12.00pm

Cost: Funded: \$20 Concession: \$10

Numurkah Community Learning Centre

Enrolments: Phone: 03 5862 2249

Email: admin@nclcinc.edu.vic.au

Or call into our Office at 99 Melville Street, Numurkah between 9am - 4pm Monday-Friday



### iPads, Tablets and Smart-phones unlocked



This course is designed to introduce you to the basics of iPads, Tablets and Smartphones - including using the internet, email, social media, photos and more. Bring your own device if you have one, or we can provide you with one for the course.

Monday 27th July - 3rd August (2 classes)

or Monday 17th August - 24th August (2 classes)

10am - 12pm Cost: \$20.00

Numurkah Community Learning Centre

Phone: 03 5862 2249

Email: admin@nclcinc.edu.vic.au

Or call into our Office at 99 Melville Street, Numurkah between 9am - 4pm Monday-Friday



### Numurkah Ukelele Club



The Ukulele is an easy instrument to learn. So why not join the Numurkah Ukulele Club in a supportive and fun environment. No experience necessary.

Experienced players also welcome. Phone Jacqueline on 0434 354 846 for more information.

Every Wednesday Evening

Next date - Wednesday 17th July

7pm - 9.30pm

NCLC - President's Room, Numurkah

\$5 per night

Enquiries: Phone Jacqueline on 0434 354 846



# A CUPPA WITH DOM

## A cuppa with Lorraine



**Full name:** Lorraine Joy Greenwood

**Age:** 67

**Marital status:** Divorced, with two daughters

**Schools attended:** South West Brunswick Primary School, Moonee Ponds Central Primary School, University High School, Melbourne University

**Summer or winter?** Winter. I hate the heat.

**Beach or mountains?** Mountains.

**Oscar the Grouch or Cookie Monster?** Cookie Monster

**Crunchie or Violet Crumble?** Crunchie

**Elvis or The Beatles?** The Beatles

**AC/DC or INXS?** I have no idea, I'm not really a fan of either. I'm not great on music – I never went through that time when I was mad about it. I do Like Eva Cassidy though.

**Favourite colour?** Blue.

**Favourite song?** Eva Cassidy's version of It's a Wonderful World.

**Favourite TV show?** Line of Duty. I like those kinds of shows that make you think.

**Favourite movie?**

It used to be Out of Africa. I love Meryl Streep, and Robert Redford was gorgeous in it, and the house and all of it. But I've been thinking that, in light of all the talk about slavery and Black Lives Matter, it's very much a colonial movie that perhaps, these days, the message in it isn't one we should support. Another one I really like though is Shirley Valentine, be-

cause she breaks away from talking to the wall and changes her life and leaves the ratbag behind.

**Favourite book?**

I don't think I have a favourite, but I like things like Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch series. I don't do a lot of reading these days; I like to be doing things, so I tend to listen to audio books so I can be out in the garden and listen at the same time. Rather than sitting down and reading and achieving nothing else, I can do both.

**What football team do you support?**

The Saints. I have barracked for them all my life because my grandmother was a great Saints supporter. I was at the MCG in 1966 when they won their one and only ever grand final by a point. That's my claim to fame, that I was there.

**Do you make lists?**

Yes, when things are getting a bit hectic, I do. And I sometimes add something I've already done to the list, so I can cross it off.

**Who do you admire?**

At the moment, I'm listening to a lot of podcasts, and I'm astounded by Geraldine Doogue's knowledge and intelligence. I used to listen to Phillip Adams years ago – he's still on, I think he's about 80 now. People like that who know so much and are so intelligent in their interviewing are people I admire. Also, world leaders like Nelson Mandela and Barack Obama. I also support and admire environmental people like David Attenborough

and David Suzuki.

**When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

When I was in about grade six I told my teacher I wanted to be an astronaut and he said 'you can't do that, girls can't be astronauts, you should be a secretary or a teacher'.

Times have certainly changed since then. I did go on to be a teacher, but it was a science teacher, so I think that is a nice compromise.

I was in about year 11 when the moon landing happened, and they brought TVs in so we could watch it. Someone rang up and said there was a bomb in the school, so we got evacuated and we were all out on the oval when the first step onto the moon happened, so we missed it. How cruel is that?

**What type of kid were you?**

Pretty quiet. Self-conscious. I wasn't extroverted, and I was pretty good at school.

**Why did you decide to become a teacher?**

In those days, the government provided studentships for people to become teachers. If you told people these days, they wouldn't believe you. They paid all your fees and paid you a living allowance for the four years of the degree, and you were bonded to teach for three years. I did my three years and then I left the education department and didn't go back. I wanted to travel for 12 months and I asked for leave but they didn't approve it. Other people made up stories about how

they wanted to study overseas and things like that, but I was honest, and they didn't grant me leave. I'd been planning it for seven years, and they weren't going to stop me, so I quit.

I did the Kathmandu to London overland trip. In those days you could go through Iran and Afghanistan and those sorts of places; it took three months to do that with a group. We travelled on the back of a truck and camped our way across central Asia. It was pretty amazing.

Then I worked in London for a while before going to Israel and staying in a kibbutz for a few months.

After I came back, I went into the catholic system and taught there.

**What did you learn from that experience of travelling as a young person?**

That we live in the best country in the world, but we don't have a lot of history. We have the indigenous history of this country, but from my perspective, my culture doesn't have the history that you have in central Asia and obviously England and Europe. Going to places like the ruins in Persepolis, and other places like that, was just astounding, coming from Australia and never having seen anything like that. And just our lifestyle; I could never live anywhere else in the world because home is so good.

**Did you learn anything about people during that experience that has stuck with you?**

I spent about three months in Israel, and I learned about the establish-

ment of Israel from a Jewish perspective and was very much supporting them because of what they'd been through during World War Two. And reading books such as Exodus, I was very much in favour of Israel. Then, the year before last, I spent a week in Bethlehem. The friend I was travelling with, her brother was working at the university there, in Palestine, and we stayed on campus with him. There were these beautiful young Palestinians, women in particular, and they did talks for some groups coming through, and we got to listen to them. I got to see it from the Palestinian point of view, and life is so hard for them. It really changed my perspective, and that's been really interesting. It opens your eyes when you travel, to see that sort of thing.

**You've just handed over the presidency of the Rotary Club of Numurkah. How did you become involved in Rotary?**

I moved to Numurkah in 2011 because both my girls are up here, but I didn't know anybody else. My brother and sister-in-law have been in Rotary for about 15 years and they convinced me that I should join. My first meeting, I walked in the door and they said 'are you our guest speaker?' because nobody ever just walks up and says 'can I join?'. It's how I got to know people in the town.

I bought this house at Katunga when I moved here and I worked in Shepparton, so I'd just go up Labuan Road to get to and from work, so I wasn't

# A CUPPA WITH DOM



getting much chance to get to know people in Numurkah, and Rotary has given me an opportunity to do that, which has been really good.

**Were you keen to take on the presidency?**

I was a bit nervous about it, but it was an interesting challenge. There are so many people in Rotary who have been presidents that, to not do it, you're a bit of a fish out of water almost. I'd been a facilitator for the Rotary Leadership Institute where you help people learn about Rotary, and nearly everyone who comes in is a president, or about to be a president, and I wasn't, so now I can say I'm a past president.

**What do you like about what Rotary is?**

The first thing is, its motto is 'do good in the world' and I don't think you can go wrong with that. I say to people that I'm in an organisation that has 1.2 million members in around 200 countries, and that's absolutely amazing. To be part of an organisation that has that vision and the leadership, and the work that it does, is amazing. We just do a little bit in our town, but the work the whole organisation does is astounding.

**As president, what approach did you take to doing work for the benefit of Numurkah?**

Trying to get Rotary involved with other community groups, rather than just doing little bits on our own, was important to me. Saving the swimming pool is a focus that we've taken on for the long term, so we got a few little projects done there, and we applied for a few grants that we didn't get, but we're going to keep working on that.

We did a bit with the community house, and the primary schools, in an effort to support other organisations that are already there, rather than us trying to take things on ourselves that maybe we can't sustain, but we can help other groups with what they're doing.

We've had some great applications for grants; we're giving Waaia Community Group some money to do some work out there.

**Numurkah is a thriving little place, but there is also a real issue with dairy farmers, and others, facing serious challenges. How do you see that conflict between a community that is on one hand thriving, and on the other has a lot of people facing serious disadvantage?**

I think it's really sad that a lot of the little farms are disappearing, and that whole farming communities are facing extinction, and there are big com-

panies buying up huge amounts of productive land and taking away that community aspect of it. I think Numurkah is lucky that it does have such a dynamic and supportive community. A few years ago, we had a 'Showcase Numurkah' event and there were around 60 different groups that put on displays, so it's really fortunate that we have that level of interest and commitment and variety. But it is really tough for the rural communities outside the town.

**You were a teacher for 40 years; did you enjoy teaching?**

Yes, I loved it. Right up to the end I found it challenging and rewarding.

**You strike me as someone who would be a fair, but fairly no-nonsense, teacher; is that a fair assessment?**

There are always difficult students, but there are lots of lovely ones as well. I always tried not to let the troublemakers get me down, though it did happen from time to time. I always had high standards of expectation because I think if you expect more you will get more from students. I was probably fairly strict in class, but not a total dragon I hope. I have high standards and I wanted the kids to do well. As a maths teacher, it was always a real buzz to see the light bulb come on for kids and hear them say 'I understand!' that was always really satisfying.

I always challenged myself to do things differently and find different ways to explain things, so the job never got boring right until the end.

I was working at Notre Dame's year nine campus after I moved up here. That was interesting, because we got a fresh batch of year nines every year, so you didn't know the students at all before that, and you never really get to see them in the senior years.

**Why did you choose to do a science teaching degree rather than humanities?**

I was always good at maths at school, and when I got to year 11 I had to choose, and I think it was a case of 'you can't choose humanities and then transfer to science, but you can choose science and transfer to humanities'. I like chemistry and I was going to focus on that at university, but I had to pick biology as an extra subject, and I fell in love with it. Having an understanding of biology, and how complex life is, and how amazing it is, has coloured my thinking about life. I loved teaching it, and I tried to get that amazement and appreciation across to my students. Unfortunately, there is too much to learn to really appreciate the amazement of it in the senior years of school.

**Teaching for 40 years, you would have seen a lot of change. What was the biggest change?**

The technology. In the past you would be teaching science and have a text book and that was it. Now, the sky's the limit.

You hear 'teachers have no authority now, kids can do what they want', but that's not true. It depends on the teacher; there's always been good teachers and bad teachers, and teachers that can't control a class. In terms of the kids, they're basically the same as they've always been.

One of the good things at Notre Dame was they banned phones at school early on. I could not imagine being at a school where kids had their phones out during classes. How would you teach?

But in terms of laptops and other technology, it's just brilliant what kids have access to.

**You've spent a lot of time with young people as a teacher, and Rotary does a lot of work with youth. Do you think this perception of young people being lazy and not caring is fair?**

I think a lot of young people have families that don't care, so the kids don't get the motivation and aspiration and the rewards in their families for doing well. I don't think it's intrinsic in the kids, I think it comes from the families.

I remember at university, studying a list of six things that had been shown to improve student learning outcomes, and one of them was sitting down to dinner as a family. Something as simple as that is so important, and a lot of kids don't get that any more. Sitting down and spending time together and talking about your day. So many kids don't get the chance to succeed because they miss out on those simple things at home. It's always been that way though.

**You have alpacas in the garden - how did that come about?**

They're my daughter's but they live here now; they came here last spring. I had a lot of grass and they had hardly any feed for them so I said 'I either cut my grass or you can bring the alpacas'. We have five now, including one baby. I have to keep the boys and girls apart at the moment because alpacas mate fairly quickly and it takes 11 months to get an alpaca baby, so if they mated now the baby would be born in the middle of next winter, which is not good.

It's funny, because they wander in and out of the garden beds, but today is the first time I've seen them eating plants instead of grass. They were

pruning the roses for me, and I don't mind that. I have goats as well, but I keep them in the paddocks because otherwise they eat everything.

**So, you've gone from city girl to farmer. Did you ever envisage that?**

I didn't really have any dreams when I was younger, it was just getting on with life. This is where I've ended up and I'm really happy to be here.

I love country life; I love being out of town and I love my garden. I have bee hives now and I went to some bee-keeping workshops at Collingwood Children's Farm early this year, just before the pandemic hit. I was driving through the city early one Sunday morning and I thought 'if the traffic was always like this, I could stand to live in the city'. I haven't lived in the city since university really, except for on the outskirts. I just don't have the patience for the traffic and the noise. We have it so good in the country, you get cranky if you can't get a parking spot right outside the supermarket.

**You are part of Save the Koalas - what is the attraction to koalas?**

My daughter Louise is a wildlife foster carer for Dutch Thunder. Koalas were actually her favourite animal when she was very young, which we actually only remembered recently when we found some old photos.

She's helped look after koalas with scabies and seen what it's done to them. It's just such a nasty way for them to die; it's just awful. The scabies cases have actually gone down recently, we're not sure why, but we think it's got something to do with the weather. We're still fundraising for research though, because if it flares back up we need to know why and what to do about it.

Louise and I sew toy koalas to sell at markets. I learnt to sew when I was in year seven and I taught myself from there. I love sewing, and if I'm not out in the garden or with my grandchildren I'm sewing, because I like to be doing something. I'm not the type who can just sit around; I like to be achieving something and have something to show for my time.

One of the things I like about living here is that I have so many projects to do. I thought when I retired I'd have time to do them all, but there is still so much to do. At the moment I'm trying to keep up with the weeds after all the rain and warm weather, but it never ends.

**If you could have one superpower what would it be?**

I think I'd like to be able to make everybody appreciate life. If everyone valued life we wouldn't have wars, we

wouldn't have environmental destruction, we wouldn't have cruelty to animals. That comes from doing biology and learning how amazing life is. You look at a little bird; they have a little heart and digestive system. They're just so incredibly complex. If everyone in the world could just appreciate life it would make a huge difference. Some people just don't care what they kill, or how much damage they do, and if we could change that it would be amazing.

**As someone who has an understanding of the intricacies of life, do you think there is life on other planets?**

Given that we have an infinite universe, and there are billions and billions of galaxies, and in each galaxy there can be billions of stars, I think it is quite possible. I can't believe that, in such a vast universe, Earth is the only planet where something like life exists. Just getting the right combination of chemicals in the ancient soup that created life, surely, statistically, it's got to have happened somewhere else.

**If you could have one talent, what would you choose?**

I'd like to be able to sing. You see people who can sing, and they get such pleasure out of it. Being able to paint or something would be nice, but singing you can take with you.

I'm a hopeless singer. In grade six my school had a singing group and a poetry group, and I was head of the poetry group.

I went on a school trip to Fiji as a teacher and we went to a church service and there was the most beautiful singing - no music, just singing, and it was beautiful. Another time, we had a group of Japanese students come out and I was taking them to an activity and they were sitting up the back of the bus singing, and it was amazing. That was just part of their culture, and we don't have that in our culture unfortunately.

**What one issue do you feel humankind needs to resolve to ensure a positive future?**

Climate change, obviously, because you can't treat the planet the way we are. And respect for life as well, because if you respect life, everything else will flow. If you respect life then you respect your neighbours, and animals and trees and everything else.

We need equality too. You can't have people that get \$20 million a year in salary while other people starve, and decent people can't feed their kids or buy them shoes. That's just obscene.

**NumurkahLEADER**

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# The Numurkah Leader

Goulburn Valley Farmers and Fruit Growers Gazette

## 100 years ago

*This week in 1920 ...*

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](http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/title/591).

**Numurkah's War Gun.**— At a public meeting presided over by Cr. W.A. Campbell, held in the Shire Hall on Thursday evening last, Messrs E. Cope, R. G. Selleck (representing the public), and C. Cook (representing the returned soldiers) were appointed to take charge of the captured German machine gun that is to be presented to the town by the War Trophies Committee.

The duty of the local trustees will be to make arrangements for the proper housing and care of the trophy, and to promote a suitable function for the formal presentation. It was announced by Mr A. Stringer (shire secretary), in reply to a question, that Lewis gun, behind which Gunner Wally Crozier served with great distinction in France, had not been received in Australia, and therefore there was no possibility of it being secured for Numurkah.

### WUNGHNU DISTRICT SOLDIERS BOARD UNVEILED IN THEIR HONOUR

The coping-stone has this afternoon been placed upon the work of the Wunghnu Patriotic Society. Such was the expression used by one of the speakers at the function held at Wunghnu on Wednesday afternoon last, when a Roll of Honor was unveiled to the memory of some 52 soldiers who had enlisted from that district to serve in the Great War. The expression is a fitting one from the moment, almost, of the beginning of Australia's participation in the great struggle, the Wunghnu Patriotic Society—headed by Mr T. Nicholls (President) and Mr H. V. Howell (secretary)—has been working in every direction that would lend to the alleviation of the lot of the soldier abroad, and those who returned were welcomed in right royal manner and made the recipients of presentations to remind them of the high esteem in which they were held by the members of the society and by the public generally.

**Numurkah State School**—Mr J. D. Mitchell, M.L.A. for this district, has notified the Numurkah State-school committee that as a result of his representations to the Education Department, the Minister has at last approved of the erection of new outhouses, and improved lighting conditions in the school, buildings. The school committee with Mr Mitchell's assistance, has been endeavoring for months past to secure these necessary reforms and it is pleasing to know their request is now to be granted.

**Dairy Cow Test.**—In another the Numurkah Agricultural Society advertises the conditions under which prizes for dairy cows will be awarded at the show in October. The test will commence immediately, and end a week before the show, the arrangements being designed so that the cows will be judged on their performances under conditions in which they have been accustomed, instead of having them subjected to the excitement of a show-ring. Owners of cattle are asked to make their entries forthwith, so that the competition may be made as interesting and valuable as a record as possible.

### NUMURKAH COURT OF PETTY SESSIONS Maintenance of a Child

Mary Jane Tait proceeded against John Briggs for the maintenance of his child, Rene Ada Briggs. Mr D.C. Morrison (Messrs Morrison and Teare) appeared for complainant and Mr W.McC. Abernethy for defendant.

Mr Morrison stated that complainant was the maternal grandmother of the child, defendant being husband of her daughter. The parties were married in January, 1902, and the child was born on 27th September 1909. The husband and wife lived unhappily together for some time, the wife occasionally leaving the home and going back to her mother. The culminating stage of the unpleasantness was reached on 31st December, 1918, when Mrs Briggs went to her mother's place. Defendant followed her and asked her to return home, which she said she would do after she had attended a watch night service with her parents. Defendant gave her two or three hours to return. Next morning Mrs Briggs and the child went to their home, which they found locked up. The child was sent to ask defendant for the key of the house, and was told by defendant to tell her mother "to go back to the place she had come from."



## Local asthmatic cites COVID fears as an excuse for poor treatment

A STRATHMERTON man has voiced concerns that asthmatics are being denied urgent care and placed in life-threatening danger, due to symptoms of the condition mirroring those of COVID-19.

Cameron Guy said he was denied an appointment at a Shepparton GP clinic on Sunday, and subsequently received sub-standard treatment at Cobram hospital's emergency department, when he presented with symptoms of a chest infection.

"I've been an asthmatic all my life and that makes me more susceptible to chest infections," he said.

"I knew what was wrong with me, and I explained to them that I was asthmatic, but they wouldn't listen to me. They made me wait in the car, and then in a cold, drafty ambulance bay for hours."

Mr Guy, who has written to state and federal health ministers about the incident, said that concerns about COVID-19 were no excuse for the health of asthmatics being neglected, and that clear direction needed to be provided to health services to prevent a fatal incident.

"Asthma is a very serious condition - it can kill you," he said.

"The government needs to have a clear plan, and direct health services in how to treat asthmatics during COVID before somebody dies."

"There is too much confusion about where you can and can't go, and health staff are too scared of COVID to treat people like me properly."

Mr Guy said that he refused to take a COVID-19 test when asked by hospital staff.

"I was already stressed enough, and the test is too intrusive," he said.

"The only symptom I had that was similar to

COVID was a cough, and it wasn't a dry cough - I was coughing up phlegm. When I was finally seen by a doctor he told me that I wasn't displaying any COVID-like symptoms, which is what I had told the nurses. The doctor diagnosed me with a chest infection, like I knew he would."

Mr Guy also said that his treatment at Cobram hospital contravened the Disability Act as he disclosed to hospital staff that he also has a disability, and received treatment of a lower standard than a non-disabled person would receive.

Whilst NCN Health is unable to comment on individual cases, it told the *Leader* it would like to reassure the community that it continues to provide access to health care and emergency care despite the COVID-19 restrictions.

NCN Health CEO Jacque Phillips said all current restrictions and regulations in place around its hospital and health care services are in response to the directions from The Victorian Government and the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Any person, including volunteers, staff, tradespeople and visitors, attending any NCN Health Service is screened upon entry. This screening includes a temperature check," she said.

"Any person seeking medical treatment in the emergency or urgent care is also screened when they arrive. If they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, even very mild symptoms, they will be isolated while they wait for a health professional. Symptoms of COVID-19 include; sore throat, runny nose, cough, fever, loss of the sense of smell and shortness of breath."

Ms Phillips said patients with symptoms will be encouraged to have a swab test for COVID-19, they may be isolated in a separate room of the hospital or asked to wait in their vehicle,

where appropriate, until a health professional was available to see them.

Despite these infection control precautions, she said it is important to understand that very unwell patients would still be treated as a priority.

"While we have to take precautions due to the risk of infection from COVID-19, the pathway to treatment in an emergency remains the same."

"If any person presents at emergency or urgent care who is critically unwell, they would be treated as a priority, regardless if they were displaying symptoms of COVID-19," she said.

Ms Phillips acknowledged that there were some members of the community with underlying health issues, such as asthma, compromised lung or heart health, who may often have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, for example, a cough or shortness of breath.

"I understand it is frustrating for the community to continue to be asked to screen for COVID-19 health checks when trying to access basic health care, however, these measures are in place to protect everyone, especially our vulnerable groups."

Ms Phillips said since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic the guidelines from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Victorian Government have changed rapidly.

"NCN Health are working to implement changes to ensure we take precautions and protect our patients, residents, staff and community."

Feeling neglected ... Cameron Guy said his treatment when he presented with a chest infection on Sunday indicates dangerous neglect of asthma sufferers during the current pandemic.

## Local libraries extend their hours

LOCAL libraries are on the comeback trail from the COVID-19 shutdown, with extended opening hours - including the return of Saturday mornings.

Since re-opening on June 1, all Goulburn Valley community libraries have been gradually increasing their services, with a maximum of 20 patrons in library spaces to ensure local communities can borrow and use computers as safely as possible.

They will increase their capacity limit when allowed by the government.

CEO of Goulburn Valley Libraries, Kevin Preece said the organisation is adopting a cautious approach and only increasing opening hours and services when it can be done safely.

"This is great news for our communities and staff who have been very patient while waiting for the restrictions to ease," he said.

"While we are open, we are encouraging peo-

ple to come and borrow from our great on site collections, pick up a reserved item or use our on site computers for a limited time."

Opening hours will vary from pre COVID hours, and are reduced to ensure adequate time for staff to sanitise the library.

Library patrons will be expected to continue to physically distance and maintain good personal hand hygiene, as has been the case since re-opening.

All returned books are cleaned before going back on the shelf and personal computers and high use surfaces are regularly cleaned.

Mr Preece said that the mobile library will not return to service yet, as safe physical distancing within the limited mobile library space cannot be provided.

"Mobile library patrons can arrange alternative borrowing and delivery by contacting us on 1300 374 765," he said.

Patrons are still encouraged to make use of online services that have taken off while people are in isolation.

"We have a huge range of free eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eMagazines for adults and kids," Mr Preece said.

"People can join online and get access straight away. We also offer video streaming of movies and documentaries through our Kanopy streaming service. Why pay for Netflix when you can just go to [www.gvlibraries.com.au](http://www.gvlibraries.com.au) or call 1300 374 765."

New library hours for Numurkah, Nathalia, Cobram and Yarrawonga are Tuesday to Friday 10am-12noon and 2pm-5pm, Saturday 10am - 12noon.

Shepparton is open Monday to Friday 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 5pm, Saturday 10am - 12noon.

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## DEATHS

**JONES — Ernest.** To Heather and family, our thoughts are with you at this very sad time on the passing of Ernest. He was an esteemed and well-respected past Board Member and Chair of Numurkah District Health Service.

Board of Directors, Management and staff of NCN Health.

## DEATHS

**SARGENT (Lavis) — Joyce** 28.11.1922 – 1.7.2020. Late of Cobram. Passed away peacefully at Nathalia. Dearly loved wife of Harry (dec.). Our loving Mum and Nana Joyce, dearly loved by her children and their partners Diane (dec.) and Barry (Porter); Kaye and Graeme (dec.) (Bernhardt); Noela and John (McGuffie); Gail (Hines); Jan and Gary (Fisher); Peter and Jenni; her 18 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren.

*Reunited With Dad*

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

Joyce's Graveside Funeral Service was held at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery on Monday July 6, 2020.

**Peter Cox & Sons Numurkah & Dist.**  
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## TENDERS



C008/20

**20030/CW – Creekside Estate Stage 2, Bourke Road Nathalia**

**Tender closing 4pm Wednesday 29 July 2020**

Specification documents can be obtained by visiting [www.moirā.vic.gov.au/our-council/tenders](http://www.moirā.vic.gov.au/our-council/tenders)

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

**Mark Henderson**  
Chief Executive Officer



**JONES — Ernest.** The President, Board and Members of Rotary Club of Numurkah pass on their sincere condolences to Heather Jones and family for the loss of Ernest, a valued and respected club member since 1985.

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# Numurkah LEADER Classifieds



## DEATHS

### WILSON — Peter

18.2.1935 ~ 3.7.2020

Loving husband of Hilda (Bub) (dec.).  
Loved father and father-in-law of Anthony and Diana, Felicity and David (Booth), Christopher and Clare, adored Pa Pete of 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

A chapter completed,  
A page is turned,  
A life well lived,  
A rest well earned.

Burrs and bindiis are sprayed.  
Crops are sown  
Sheep are shorn  
We'll really miss you at harvest old mate.  
Hang up your hat, time to rest Dad.  
Anthony, Diana, Jack, Aimee, Ella and Bridie

God saw you getting tired  
And a cure was not to be  
So he put His arms around you  
And whispered "Come to me."  
With tearful eyes we watched you  
As you slowly slipped away  
And though we loved you dearly  
We couldn't make you stay.  
Your golden heart stopped beating  
Your tired hands put to rest  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.  
Felicity, David, Aaron, Laura and Haddie,  
Liam, Jonah and Alysha

His pleasures were simple  
His needs were few  
If his family was happy  
He was too  
He gave us life in the fullest measure  
Care, devotion and memories to treasure  
He shared our dreams, hope and tears  
Thankyou Dad/Pa Pete for those precious years.  
Chris, Clare, Josh, Sean, Darcy, Sophie

Due to the current government restrictions,  
a private family funeral service will be held.



## PUBLIC NOTICES



Wish to thank our fire brigades for the prompt attendance to the fire last Thursday night



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## ROAD CLOSURES

### Wilson Rd between Murray Valley Highway & Morris Rd

Wilson Rd will be closed between Murray Valley Highway & Morris Rd for 24 hrs on any day from 9th July '20 to 22nd July '20.

All Traffic Sign boards & detours will be erected before start of job.

Nominated site supervisor for project is  
Rohit Singh.  
Phone: 0470 553 930 or  
email: [rohit.singh@gradianprojects.com](mailto:rohit.singh@gradianprojects.com)



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## SITUATIONS VACANT

2021

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St Mary of the Angels Secondary College is currently seeking suitably qualified individual/s with the ability to teach in the following areas:

- Religious Education 7-12
  - English 7-12
  - Maths 7-12
- Senior Science 10-12
- Humanities 7-12
- VCAL/Applied Learning
- PE/Outdoor Education 7-12
  - HHD 11-12

St Mary of the Angels Nathalia is a Catholic Co-educational Secondary College that is committed to exploring and embracing the Franciscan values of inclusivity, social justice and right relationship with creation.

We are a College that offers a variety of educational pathways inclusive of a comprehensive senior school program and differentiated approach to our pedagogy. Our learning culture focuses on collaborative practice, professional learning teams and the use of data to enhance the learning opportunities for our students. St Mary of the Angels Secondary College is also a member of the Nathalia Learning Community.

#### Applications should include:

- A cover letter
- Response to the Key Selection Criteria
- Curriculum Vitae, including three professional referees.

Key Selection Criteria and Role Description can be obtained from:  
[www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/about/employment](http://www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/about/employment)

Applications to be emailed to:  
[principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au)

**APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 17TH JULY, 2020**

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

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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NCN Health has the following vacancies:

### Graduate Registered Nurse Program

Across NCN Health

0.8 to 1.0 EFT – Fixed Term

January 2021 to January 2022

### Maintenance Worker

Cobram Campus

1.0 EFT - Full Time

### Clinical Support Nurse

Cobram Campus

0.4 EFT – Fixed Term

13th July 2020 to 29th December 2020

### Clinical Support Nurse

Nathalia Campus

0.2 EFT – Fixed Term

20th July 2020 to 29th December 2020

### Health Care Worker

Numurkah Campus

Casual

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

[www.ncnhealth.org.au](http://www.ncnhealth.org.au)

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## Numurkah Community Learning Centre

### July-September 2020 Courses/Activities

COURSE	TIME	START DATE	COST
<b>Pre Accredited Courses</b>			
Introduction to Horticulture (10 sessions)	9am-2pm	Thur 16th July	\$25
Introduction to Community Services (5 sessions)	9am-1pm	Thur 13th Aug	\$15
<b>Employment and Technology Skills</b>			
Intermediate Computers (8 sessions)	9am – 12pm Tues	28th July	\$20
iPads, Tablets & Smart Phones Unlocked (2 sessions)	10am – 12pm	Mon 27th July	\$20
Tech Savvy Seniors – for over 50s (every Friday)	10am – 12pm	Friday 17th July	
(Gold coin donation would be appreciated)			
<b>Special Interest Activities</b>			
Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop - Day Class	11am – 1pm	Sun 30th August	\$18
Beeswax Food Wrap Workshop – Evening Class	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Sat 12th September	\$18
Boomerang Bags & Craft Circle (4th Wed of the Month)	10am-2pm	Wed 22nd July	FREE
Numurkah Ukelele Club (Every Wednesday)	7pm-9.30pm	Wed 17th July	\$5
Sip N Sew Social Group – (Every second Wednesday)	10am-3pm	Wed 22nd July	FREE
Yoga - Purna (Every Tuesday during school terms) (5 classes)	6.30pm-7.30pm	Tues 14th July	\$75
Yoga - Sunday Class with Libby	8.30am-10am	Sun 2nd August	\$15

Bookings and enquiries are welcome and may be made at  
99 Melville Street (Visitor Information Centre), Numurkah  
Phone 58 622 249 or email [admin@nclc.vic.edu.au](mailto:admin@nclc.vic.edu.au)  
Please like us on Facebook or see our website [www.nclc.me](http://www.nclc.me)

# Tracey by six in quest for 10th title

by "The Shankster"

TRACEY Clouston holds a six shot lead in an attempt to win her 10th golf club championship title after the first round was played last Wednesday.

After an ordinary front nine, Tracey settled around the Numurkah back nine to come in with a score of 83 shots, netting down to a 79 nett.

Nola Dalton sits in second place with 89, one shot ahead of Pauline Davies.

The other contender for the title, Julie Daniel, had to pull out after nine holes with an injury, which sees her out of the running. Julie Hannaford won the day's monthly medal and division one, with a nice score of 74 nett, ahead of Jeanette Adams on 76.

Karen Harper had an even better score than the previous week, finishing with 74 nett to win division two, making it two wins in two weeks, but not two medals, as she lost the countback to Julie. Runner-up in division two was Norma Cullum with 76 nett.

Balls went to Helen Pickersgill and Robyn Hodgkin with 77 nett, and Tracey Clouston and Nola Dalton, both with 79 nett.

Tracey obviously won scratch in division one, with her 83 shots, and Karen Harper won the ball in division two with 97 shots.

Course conditions haven't been easy recently, and parts of the course were quite wet for the third round of the Saturday nett championship.

After winning both of the first two rounds, Tracey Clouston only managed a second placing this week, finishing four shots behind Margot McGrath, who walked away with the Numurkah Leader/R. & K. Smith monthly medal shirt.

Margot had a terrific day out, with a great short game on show, to finish with a handicap-equaling 73 nett.

Tracey finished with 77 nett, ahead of Nola Dalton on 79.

Incredibly, and testament to how hard the course was playing, balls went to 86 nett. Jenny Ludington and Di Davies both finished next on the ball chart with 84s, and the last of the prizes went to Julie Daniel and Bev McIntosh.

Going into the final round, the nett championship is basically down to a two-horse race between Tracey and Margot. Tracey has a three shot lead, but with one of the four scores to drop off, Margot has a one-shot worse score in her current three, bringing the difference back to just two shots.

The first of the Saturday fourball

knockout semi final matches was played on Sunday, in a marathon effort that went 22 holes.

It seems unfair that there should be a loser after such a close contest that was square after nine holes, and still square after 18, but in the end, Di Davies sunk a good putt to take her and Julie Daniel to the final, knocking Jenny Ludington and Liz Dell out of the contest.

The other semi final, between Felicity Booth/Rosemary Rutledge and Nola Dalton/Bev Hutchins will be played this week.

Two of our women members scored holes-in-one last week - unfortunately for both, they were in practice rounds.

Val Powles went out for a hit on Monday and sunk her tee shot on the 18th hole, then Bev McIntosh repeated the same feat, on the same hole, on Tuesday.

Today's golf will be the second round of the club championships, in conjunction with the qualifying round for the Thelma McBride singles knockout. The championships will conclude next Wednesday.

Saturday's golf will be the final round of the Saturday nett championship, and the July round of the Numurkah Leader/R. & K. Smith monthly medal - we've finally caught up.



Texas wedge ... Tracey Clouston plays a favourite shot, with a putter from off the green during last Wednesday's first round of the club championship.

# Clarky gets a medal

by "Juan Antonio Ramon Del Los Squanderosa"

IAN "Clarky" Clark posted the best nett score of the day to capture the June Compusult monthly medal at the Numurkah Golf Club on Saturday.

Ian returned a very solid round of 89-18-71 to win B grade and claim the main prize on offer for the day, finishing on top of the 69 strong field.

There was little or no run on the course due to overnight rain and this, combined with slick greens, treacherous pin placements and a biting cold wind, made Ian's score all the more commendable.

Runner-up in B grade, a whopping five shots adrift of Ian, was young Jordy Cleeland on 92-16-76.

Jordy continues to play well each week and, with one round to go, finds himself leading the C grade championships.

The winner of A grade, for the second week running, was Dylan Grandell, who returned another great round of 73-1-72 to claim the spoils.

As mentioned in last week's golf report, Dyl has been playing a lot of golf of late, and the big hitting molly-dooker is shooting some really good numbers.

Runner-up to Dylan in A grade was Steve Piggott with 84-11-73 who, like Dylan, puts in a lot of work on his game and is never far off the mark, week in and week out.

Just finishing out of the podium finishes was Andrew Storer with another typically solid round of 73-0-73 to collect a bounty of four balls for his efforts.

Aiden Sheridan continued his good recent form with a nett 73 to snare three balls, while cousins Matty Sellars and Mitch Grandell collected three and two balls respectively for their 74 netts.

Barry "The Coach" Pruden relished the heavy going to post a nett 74 and grab a brace of balls, while Paul Arnel got the last of the multiple ball prizes, also on 74.

Single ball recipients were Col Mc-

Minn, Dave Gilmour and H. McComm on 75, B. Carey, Dave Dell, Brandon Hosie, Adam Farrell, Sam Robertson and Neil Hutchins on 76, while Andrew Nicholls, Will Arnell and James Pruden rounded out the ball winners on 77.

Golf, as we all know, can be a rewarding, addictive and at times frustrating game, but the golfing gods work in mysterious ways, as evidenced on Saturday.

David Ludington was not having the best of days, continually squandering shots from good positions and, slowly but surely, his blood and his brain were starting to boil, much to the amusement of his playing partners Jack Dell, Alan Dalton and Kev Morland.

Following a particularly inept double bogey on the 15th from David, where he used the putter no less than four times, the aforementioned Mr Dell could contain himself no longer and burst into fits of laughter, much to David's chagrin.

Not a very nice thing of Jackie to do, I hear you say, but probably warranted in the comic circumstances. Then, on the very next hole, karma was served as Jack, still chortling, managed to hoik his second shot out of bounds on the long par five 16th, on his way to a big fat hen (10), thus resulting in the shoe being well and truly on the other foot.

As far as the championship leader boards go, defending champion Andrew "Strazz" Storer, in search of his 10th title, still has a handy four shot lead over the pack of young guns on his tail.

All three leading players shot 73 on Saturday, so the status quo was maintained. Strazz sits on 218, with Dyl Grandell and Matty Sellars on 222, and Mitch Grandell a shot further back on 223.

These lads are all playing some terrific golf in trying conditions and, while Andrew will go into the final round as favourite, if one of the other boys can

get hot early, Saturday may yet prove to be a very interesting afternoon.

Steve Piggott has tightened his grip on the B grade title, as his score of 84 on Saturday has him on a 54 hole score of 255, five shots clear of probably his only danger, Rod "Rocket" Campbell, on 260.

Paul Collins and Matty Ebborn are another six further back on 266, with Paul Arnel on 269, but this trio is most likely too far back to mount a serious challenge to the two leaders.

As mentioned earlier, young Jordy Cleeland leads C grade, by two shots on 276, from Saturday's medal winner Ian Clark on 278, with Geoff Stone on 284 and first round leader Andy McKeown on 288.

As is tradition in this time honoured event, the leading four players will play together in the one group with Andrew Storer, Mitch and Dyl Grandell and Matty Sellars teeing off at 11.50am, Steve Piggott, Rod Campbell, Paul Collins and Paul Arnel at 11.42am, with the C grade lads of Jordy Cleeland, Ian Clark, Geoff Stone at Andy McKeown off at 11.34am.

The semi finals of the singles knockout were conducted on Sunday, but only one match was played as, unfortunately, Shane Falla had to forfeit his match to Andy McKeown, due to back spasms.

In the other semi final, David Ludington managed to defeat Paul Collins on the 18th hole.

The golf, at times, was not of the highest calibre, but the match was a nip and tuck affair and David managed to find himself in front by the most slender of margins at its conclusion and will now go onto meet Andy McKeown in the final.

This Saturday will see the final round of the club championships and the captains putter sponsored by James Price, as well as the running of the July monthly medal sponsored by Pierre Klaessen.



Tight affair ... Ian Clark closed the gap in the C grade championship with a medal winning 71 nett on Saturday.

# Mikey the mystic predicts win

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

MICHAEL Herlihy, whilst imbibing of some cold "frosties" with his mates last Wednesday evening, made the bold prophesy that he would win the forthcoming Thursday's mid-week event at Numurkah Golf Club. And so it came to pass.

Scoring 40 stableford points, Mikey decimated the rest of the 55 strong field to win by a clear two points from fellow A grade competitor Martin Daniel, on 38.

There was no such hullabaloo in B grade, where a "steady as she goes" Alan Rogers' score of 36 points held off an equally dour Graeme Montgomery's total of 34.

Fellow competitors whose scores won them a

club ball were: Mark Hegarty 38, Jack Dell and Matt Campbell 36, Andrew Nichols 35, Steve Piggott, Adam Farrell, Dylan and Matt Grandell, all 34, Matt Ebborn and Nick Smith 33, Les Summerville, Peter Stonehouse and Ron Smith 32.

Rohan Brady's total of 21 points was the lowest on the countback totem pole, thus giving him ownership of the tin of boiled lollies awarded for worst score returned.

Finally, next week I hope Mikey will remember his old school teacher who ferried him to inter-school golf competitions from Beechworth to Frankston and supplied him with the numbers to Thursday's Powerball.

# Iceberg bowls

LAWN bowls started back at the Numurkah Bowls Club last Saturday, with more than 30 bowlers taking to the greens in icy conditions.

Pairs and triples were played for two games of eight ends each.

The winners were Rod Seen and Jenny Stuart, while the runner-up prize was shared between Bert Visser, John Fleming, Geoff Jorgensen and first time bowler Ron Litchfield.

Several new bowlers attended the first winter bowls day for the season, and afternoon tea followed under COVID-19 restrictions.

Bowls will continue this Saturday, same time, same place.

# Small bore

COLIN Saxton and Lindsay Braybon top-scored in the Numurkah Small Bore Rifle Club's second week of competition since lockdown, Colin with a 190.5 out of 200 in 50 metre benchrest, and Lindsay with 195.10 in 50 metre prone.

Scores:  
50 metre benchrest: C. Saxton 190.5, G. Miles 183.4.

50 metre prone: L. Braybon 98.5 97.5 195.10, T. Braybon 96.4 95.3 191.7, G. Braybon 93.2 94.3 187.5, R. Hill 97.3 90.0 187.3, G. Miles 90.2 94.1 184.3, A. Gibbon 90.0 90.1 180.1, D. Cook 88.0 88.0 176.0, J. Smith 87.0 89.0 176.0.

There will be shooting in compliance with the club's COVID policy this Thursday night at Numurkah.



# 2020 AFL BUSINESS TIPPING COMPETITION

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Last week's winner Shamrock

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6. MG Trading
7. Agnews Plumbing+
8. GrainCorp
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### ROUND SIX

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Geelong v Brisbane     | Melbourne v Gold Coast |
| Collingwood v Hawthorn | Essendon v North Melb  |
| Fremantle v St Kilda   | Port Adelaide v GWS    |
| West Coast v Adelaide  | Richmond v Sydney      |
|                        | Carlton v Bulldogs     |

### Dominique Cosgriff

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1 Brisbane   | 6 North Melb |
| 2 Hawthorn   | 7 GWS        |
| 3 St Kilda   | 8 Sydney     |
| 4 West Coast | 9 Carlton    |
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Last week 3 Total 11



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4 West Coast	9 Bulldogs
5 Gold Coast	

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4 West Coast	9 Bulldogs
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### John Beitzel

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3 Fremantle	8 Richmond
4 West Coast	9 Bulldogs
5 Gold Coast	

Last week 7 Total 28

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3 St Kilda	8 Richmond
4 West Coast	9 Bulldogs
5 Gold Coast	

Last week 5 Total 23

## TELEGRAPH Hotel NUMURKAH

### Nathan Morris

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3 St Kilda	8 Richmond
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5 Melbourne	

Last week 7 Total 22

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### Peter Bau

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3 St Kilda	8 Sydney
4 West Coast	9 Carlton
5 gold Coast	

Last week 6 Total 25

# LOCAL SPORTING LEGENDS

## Sport brings open doors for Macca

*Continued from back page*

Having played over 400 games, David retired from football in 1978 at the age of 35, as the result of one of very few injuries he ever suffered on the field.

"I retired because I broke my jaw," he said.

"I bumped into a bloke from Wunghnu, and my jaw broke and that was that. I was pretty lucky, because I never had many injuries playing footy. I did have a broken cheek-bone once, and that was an accident too. I'm still great friends with the bloke who got accused of it. It definitely wasn't his fault; that's just the sort of thing that happens when you're playing footy."

Little did he know as he was nursing his injured jaw, but David was about to be handed an even bigger challenge than braving the inherent dangers of the football field.

Not long after David retired from the field, Doug McDonald decided to step down as league president, and David was asked to put his hand up as Doug's replacement.

"I got a phone call from my cousin who was a Katunga person, and he said 'how would you like to be president of the league?'" David said.

"I said I'd have to do some consultation. I told my first wife, Diane, that I'd been asked to be president of the league and she looked at me for a while and said 'yes, well, if you do that I need an open fireplace in this house.'

"Picola footy club nominated me in the end, and I got the votes, but it really hinged on me installing a fireplace."

David said that, although Diane saw a good-natured chance to leverage her way into a fire place, he couldn't have held the positions he has without her support, and that of other family members.

"I've been very lucky that Diane, who later died of cancer, and my second wife Cheryl and my children Scott and Megan, and Cheryl's children Kellie, Kristy and Travis, and my mother, always supported me. I never would have been able to do any of the things I've done, otherwise. They all sacrificed things along the way for me to be able to do what I've done."

On David's part, it was an opportunity to continue giving back for having had the chance to play the game he loved.

"I believe I was lucky to be able to play football, but someone had to put the football on for me and I think that was my way of giving back for being allowed to achieve what I wanted to achieve."

Whilst David's announcement of his ambitions as a newly minted high school student had proven to be at least partly prophetic, the same can't be said for a prediction he made the day he was inducted as Picola District Football League president.

"I've got a newspaper article at home where they asked me, the day I became president, if I was going to be president as long as Mr Pearce and I said 'there's no way I'll be here in 30 years' time,'" he said.

David said the job was manageable because, in those early days, the league had just eight clubs playing one division of football, but it wasn't without its challenges.

"The first couple of years were tricky, because we not only had a brand new president, but also a brand new secretary who'd never played footy. No disrespect to him, he was a handy secretary, but we both had a lot to learn."

"Because we were a small league, and I had been playing for a long time, I knew people from all across the league. Even if I didn't know everyone, I knew who everyone was, and I think that really helped."

"I'm not sure why, but the job suited me too, and I enjoyed it."

They say time flies when you're having fun, and that may, at least in part, explain why David went on to remain president of the league for 30 years.

"The most satisfying thing was to see people play football and netball. We gave people the opportunity to play sport," he said.

"It's very important to small communities to still have that outlet to get together and enjoy each other's company, and I'm proud to have been part of that. Those small communities have lost a lot of services over the years, but you can still go to the football."

"My most satisfying moment was when mum was a life member of Picola footy club, I was a life member, and my son was made a life member. We based our league around that type of family commitment."

"We always classed ourselves as a family league, and everyone wanted to come to us. People wanted to come to us; we never had to do the hard yards and get people to come and play with us."

"By the time I retired, there were 17 clubs in the league playing with four grades of football and nine grades of netball."

"That was probably one of my proudest parts of it in the end."

After he had been at the helm of the Picola league for a quarter of a century, David's commitment to serving the communities encompassed by it led to him being asked to take on another type of leadership role - as a member of Moira Shire Council.

"I had a weak moment one day when someone asked me to stand for council," he said.

"I said 'yeah, that'll be fine' and then I went away on holiday in Tasmania for two weeks. There was no campaigning or anything like that."

"I came back from holiday, and two days later I was mayor of the shire."

"Someone told me I only got so many votes because people knew who I was through sport, and that was true. I wasn't a politician; I never would have gotten onto council if it wasn't for sport."

David not only found himself a councillor, but he was also elected mayor.

"They thought because I'd been president of the league I'd had experience with running things, but when I got to be mayor I didn't have a clue what was supposed to go on. I had no idea what the mayor did."

"I think my years with the league did stand me in good stead though. Even though they say that you're not a team as councillors, you do need to work together to get things done. And there is politics in sport as well, so they weren't dissimilar."

Though he was thrown in at the deep end, once again, knowing people from across the district made David's tenure on council easier.

"Moira Shire and the league area were almost identical, so I knew the places and a lot of the people and that made it easier."

"I was on council for 10 years and I served three terms as mayor. I felt like I was doing something for a bigger community, and I'm proud of some of



**High achiever ...** David McKenzie has enjoyed a career that has seen him prove equally handy on the field and in the board room.

the things we were able to do.

"Still, I feel like I got a lot more out of out of council than I put in."

One of the greatest things David got out of being on council came in his earliest days as mayor - meeting one of his sporting heroes.

"The greatest achievement I ever had was sitting and talking to then Governor of Victoria John Landy like I'd talk to anyone," he said.

"He was one of my idols, and I remember watching him run second to Roger Bannister in the four minute mile."

"He and his wife came to Moira Shire and it was mine and Cheryl's job to show them around."

"Here I was, little old David from Picola, sitting in a car with John Landy. We talked about his running, and football. He'd played a few games for Essendon thirds, so we actually had some things in common."

"It was funny, but I was very comfortable to sit and talk to him."

Another of David's proudest achievements was being awarded an Australian Medal for Sport in 2000, with the Queen's name on it.

"It just turned up in the post; I didn't even know such a thing existed. To this day I don't know how it came

about, but someone must have nominated me at some stage."

David was proud to add that medal to his collection of Pearce medals, which he belatedly received during his time as league president.

"There wasn't an actual Pearce medal when I was playing," he said.

"One year I got a tray, and another a cup, and various other things. After I became president we struck a Pearce medal and when I used to present them I'd say 'I haven't got one of these.' Then one night they gave me the four medals I'd won. That was quite a proud moment."

As proud as he is to have been awarded his four Pearce medals and the Australian Medal for Sport, David has never worn any of them.

"The only medal I've ever worn is my VCFL (Victorian Country Football League) medal, which I got in 1985."

"That's the one I'm most proud of, because it recognises that you've contributed to something bigger, and you've been recognised right across Victoria."

For all he that is proud to have been recognised for his contribution to sport and community life, David insists he has been the one to benefit most from it.

"Sport was my life from a very young age, but sport opened a lot more doors for me than just opportunities in sport," he said.

"Sport allowed me to go to a lot more places and meet a lot more people than I ever would have been able to otherwise."

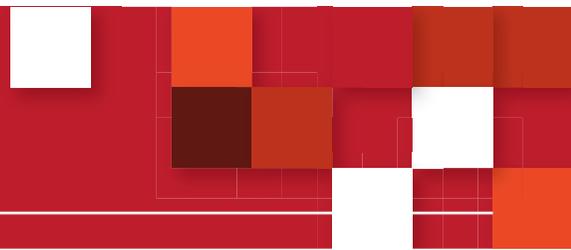
"I'm vice-chair of MHA Care now, which is a great organisation that I'm really passionate about because it looks after the elderly and vulnerable, and I was talking to a new board member the other night who said he'd known me for a long time."

"I knew of him, but I didn't know him. But he said he used to play out at Tungamah and he remembered me goal umpiring the fourths in a grand final."

"It gave me so much satisfaction that people knew me as someone who was involved as more than the president of the league."

"Football isn't just recreation, it opens up a lot of opportunities for people if you address it in the right manner."

"I got a lot of satisfaction out of both being a football administrator and a councillor. I achieved more in my career off the field, than in my career on it."



# SPORT BRINGS OPEN DOORS

DAVID McKenzie remembers his first day of high school well.

"The teacher, Miss Walsh, asked us all what our ambitions were and I said I wanted to play league football and run a Stawell Gift. I can still remember her looking at me like she was thinking, 'what an idiot he is, I'll never teach him anything,'" he said.

Whether or not Miss Walsh was right that day is lost to history, but we do know that David was at least half right, as, a decade after declaring his ambitions, he did indeed play league football.

By the time that happened, David had been playing seniors football for almost half his life.

"I started playing football when I was 12 - I never played a junior or reserves game of football, I went straight into seniors," he said.

"Picola was playing at Katunga and I was running the boundary. The Picola captain was Bert Lucas who used to play for South Melbourne - he was a huge bloke, six foot six and very well built; by the end of that day I was glad he was on our team and not the opposition.

"They only had 17 players that day and Bert asked me if I wanted to play. I said 'yeah I wouldn't mind'. My uncle was there and he said 'don't worry about it Snowy, I'll talk to mum'.

"I don't remember much about the game, but people said that I played pretty well, and I must have done alright, because I went on to play about another half a dozen games that year."

It was the start of a long career for David, in which he played more than 400 games - all bar five of them for Pi-

cola. That wasn't for lack of trying on behalf of other clubs though.

"I still remember the first invitation I got to play for Nathalia," he said.

"I was in form two, and Hop Collins, who had played for Richmond, was the headmaster at the time. I walked into class and he said 'McKenzie, I want to see you'. I didn't remember doing anything wrong that day so I had no idea what was coming. He said 'I reckon you should come and have a run with Nathalia'. I looked at him and said 'nope, I'm not interested in Nathalia'. A long time after, he asked me why and I said that I didn't really know, but I wasn't interested.

It was some time around David's 20th birthday, when he had long since cemented himself as a leading player in the Picola league, that the VFL came knocking.

"I don't think I was any different to any other footballer really, I think I got noticed when others didn't because I won the Pearce medal four times," he said.

"I was invited down to train with Fitzroy in 1961 or '62. Even though I'd always wanted to play in the VFL, I came home and thought 'no, that's not what I want to do' because I didn't like Melbourne.

"Twelve months later they called and asked if I wanted to come back for a run, and I thought 'I don't know'. Then I got a letter from Hawthorn, and I was a guest of Hawthorn when they played Geelong in the grand final. Then they wrote and asked me if I'd play for them.

"Fitzroy had asked me first and I felt I had an obligation to them, so that's

where I ended up.

"I've always been an Essendon supporter, but they never approached me. I never felt conflicted about playing for Fitzroy, because I'd always wanted to play league footy and they offered me the chance to do that.

"My uncle worked with the Essendon coach John Coleman and John told him that, at 21, I was too old."

David played a few practice matches with Fitzroy before walking out onto the field to achieve his dream.

"Barry Connolly - BC - was a great friend of mine and he told me that I was unique because, to his knowledge, I was the only footballer who played district football and then played my next game in a VFL team.

"I don't know whether that's true or false, but I reckon BC would know."

Despite having always dreamed of playing league football, and winning an award for best first game in his debut match with Fitzroy, David's career in the big league was short-lived.

"After my second game with Fitzroy I told the coach Ken Murray 'thank you very much, but I've had enough. I won't be back on Thursday to train,'" he said.

"There was no way I was moving to Melbourne, and travelling there and back to train and play each week was too hard. I'd achieved what I wanted to achieve, and that was enough for me."

In walking away from league football, David was also walking away from his dream of having a chance of running in the Stawell Gift.

"I was a fairly handy runner, and if I had stayed at Fitzroy I might have

had an opportunity to take that somewhere. One of the trainers there, Jim Spain, offered to train me, but it would have taken me too far away from home for too long."

Despite getting a couple of follow up phone calls from Fitzroy trying to entice him back, David stood firm. However, as he waited for the Picola league's season to start, he did get a few games in elsewhere, meaning that he played in four different leagues in a short space of time.

"I played a game for Echuca and a couple of games for Nathalia as well. I just loved footy and wanted to play, but I was never tempted to leave Picola permanently. I only lived about a kilometre from the ground, and it was part of my life, all my life."

David's dad had played a few seasons for the club in the 1930s, before David was born, but his family was still active in the club when David was born in 1942 and it was his mother Joyce who introduced him to life at Picola Football Club.

"Mum was on the ladies' committee at Picola because that was part of town life," he said.

"Football was one of the few social outings in those days.

"I can remember we used to cart water down to the ground the day before a game and fill up the old electric copper. The next day they'd cook the sags in it. It was a lined copper, and you couldn't get at the element, so it was never washed. You'd never be able to do that now."

At just a few years old, David's life as a volunteer had started.

"I knew that football clubs were run

by volunteers, and I was brought up by mum to be a volunteer. Someone had to put the game of football on, and it was just in my nature to help out."

David joined the Picola Football Club committee when he was aged around 17, and was soon the club's delegate to the league.

"When they wanted me to take on a position I just did it because I felt like it was my duty. I was a delegate for Picola to PDFL from the 1960s, and I was secretary, treasurer and president of the club over the years.

"If a job needed doing I was happy to do it; that's how clubs and leagues run. Because I ran the boundary at Picola, I was invited to run the boundary for the league when Picola wasn't in the grand final. I loved to run, so I always enjoyed running the boundary."

Though he was from a rival club, David found a great example in Picola league president Cyril Pearce.

"He was a Moira person, so we were from different clubs, but I looked up to him" David said.

"I was very proud to have the Pearce medal, because Mr Pearce was someone I looked up to. I used to drive him to the delegate meetings for a few years, and we hit it off.

"I learnt a lot off him, and I suppose you could say he was a mentor of mine. He was the president of the league for 29 years before Doug McDonald took over, and he was a very astute person who made sure everything ticked.

"He and Roy Tweddle, who was secretary with him for a long time, were very good at administration and the league ran very well."

*Story continued page 15*