

established 1895
Numurkah LEADER
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020 \$1.30

INSIDE



Mask making

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A cuppa with Duncan

See story pages 8 & 9



More enjoyable walking

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Contaminated ... Soils tests being conducted at the Rowe Street site after the EPA investigation commenced and the site was closed.



Moira under EPA investigation

MOIRA Shire Council is being investigated by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) for breaches of the Environment Protection Act.

The investigation is a result of illegal dumping of asbestos contaminated soil from the Rowe Street retardation basin in Numurkah, at landfill sites at Strathmerton and Tungamah.

Waste from the Rowe Street site, which is a former landfill, is categorised as prescribed industrial waste category C, and as such, can only be disposed of at sites licensed to accept it.

Neither Strathmerton or Tungamah landfill sites are licensed, and the only facilities in the local area that hold such licences are located at Cosgrove,

in the City of Greater Shepparton, and Bowser, in the Rural City of Wangaratta.

EPA North East Regional Manager Renee Palmer told the *Leader* the investigation is ongoing.

“Environment Protection Authority Victoria is continuing its investigation of the discovery and removal of contaminated soil from the retardation basin in Rowe St, Numurkah,” she said.

“EPA has issued Moira Shire Council with a Minor Works Pollution Abatement Notice (MWPAN) requiring further testing and controls to prevent any potential hazard at the Strathmerton Waste Transfer Station.”

Works to extend the Rowe Street

site to create better capacity to manage storm events began in early April, and the EPA was contacted at the end of that month by a concerned local resident.

The site was inspected by both the EPA and Worksafe following this notification, and work on the site stopped shortly after. It has not resumed since, and the site remains fenced off, with no warning signs in place.

Moira Shire General Manager Infrastructure Andrew Close told the *Leader* that council was aware that soil at the Rowe Street site was contaminated by asbestos prior to the commencement of works.

“The site is well known as a former landfill and so, through prior testing

and laboratory results, we were aware of the presence of bonded asbestos (asbestos sheet fragments),” he said.

“The drill testing on-site produced a range of core samples and so we engaged a licensed asbestos handling contractor to assist in the identification and removal of the asbestos sheet fragments as it was sorted at the site.”

The contract for the works was not tendered by council which said, as the works were undertaken by a contractor in its approved panel, a tendering process was not necessary.

The *Leader* has been unable to confirm whether the contracted company was licensed to transport asbestos contaminated material.

Continued page 3

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Should the AFL grand final be played interstate this year?

AFTER a season severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AFL is pushing hard to get its usual number of games played.

With all Victorian teams now having taken up residence interstate, the unique 2020 fixture, which has been subject to change at any time, may be punishing for players, but it now seems to be getting the job done.

But what happens when finals time rolls around?

Though the MCG is the traditional home of the grand final, and Melbourne has a contract with the AFL to host the great occasion until 2057, with the public health situation in Melbourne not improving, it seems unlikely that significant crowds, if any, will be filling the stands of the MCG by the end of September.

Western Australia not only has the pandemic well and truly under control, it also has a brand new stadium that can seat 80,000 people. Sim-

ilarly Queensland, which is hosting Victoria's teams, is also capable of hosting games with significant crowds.

So, rather than have the grand final played at an empty, or near-empty, MCG, should the 2020 grand final be played interstate for the first time ever — even if it's two Victorian teams vying for the flag?

This week, the *Leader* took to Melville Street to ask the people that question.



Bradley Hall

I wouldn't be too happy if it came to that, but I think it's fair enough under the circumstances. You need atmosphere for a grand final, and it doesn't look like you'll get much of that in Melbourne this year. If it does go interstate, I think it should be played in Brisbane because of all the help Queensland has given in taking Victorian clubs so the season can continue.



Ethan Lyons

I think it depends on who's playing. If it's two Victorian teams, then it should stay in Victoria whether crowds can attend or not. If it's interstate teams, then I reckon it's alright to play it interstate. It's a shame though.



Kyle Diwell

I think they should leave it at the 'G; it's the home of the grand final. They probably will send it interstate though, which is pretty sad.



Ken Hatfield

The whole season has been a non-event this year, so I don't think where the grand final's played is much of an issue. If they can't have a crowd in Melbourne, but they can interstate, then send it interstate, no matter who's playing.



Michelle Lyons

I'd like to see it at the MCG, but life isn't exactly normal in Melbourne at the moment and I can't see that changing in time for the grand final. Crowds keep the game going and give it atmosphere, and, especially for the grand final, crowds deserve to be able to watch it. It'd be a shame, but it probably should go interstate.



Joy Smith

I think it should be played at the MCG no matter what. It's Victoria's game and Victoria's grand final, and it should be played in Victoria. If Victoria has the contract for the grand final, then they just shouldn't agree to give it up. I don't care who's playing, or whether or not they can have crowds, the grand final is always played in Melbourne and there should be no exception this year.

Charities ask for mask donations

COVID-19 has seen a huge demand for items Australians have never given much thought to before — with hand sanitiser and face masks topping the list.

Unfortunately, the simultaneous increase in unemployment and under-employment means that those things, even when they can be found on shelves, are beyond the budget of many, leaving them to rely on charities for the supply of these now essential items.

From community groups to homeless shelters and mental health services, charities are struggling to supply their clients with these items, along with other basic necessities, and the national 'charity-for-charities' GIVIT is calling for generous Australians, businesses and organisations to make a donation to ensure that all Australians have what they need to get through these unprecedented times.

The immediate and urgent need for over 260 GIVIT-registered charities across Victoria are face masks and hand sanitiser.

GIVIT has already sourced 30,000 masks for Victorian charities utilising donated funds, but GIVIT Victorian Manager, Solange Ardiles, said many more are needed

to meet the skyrocketing demand.

"Every day dozens of charities are reaching out to us and asking for tens-of-thousands of essential items, especially disposable and reusable masks as well as hand sanitiser," Ms Ardiles said.

"As with the initial outbreak just months ago, we're seeing an unprecedented amount of people in need — including many who may never have found themselves in such a vulnerable position before."

To best help vulnerable Victorians, GIVIT is asking Victorians to donate to its COVID-19 Victoria Appeal. 100% of donated funds received are used to buy and source urgently needed items for frontline community workers, purchasing from local and Victorian businesses where possible.

Ms Ardiles also urged all Victorian charities, schools, councils and community groups to register for free via GIVIT.org.au/need-help/ organisations so they can request items for the communities they're supporting through the coronavirus crisis and beyond.

Partnering with Bushfire Recovery Victoria in February 2020, GIVIT has spent over \$141,000 of donated funds to coordinate more

than 3,500 donated items such as water tanks, generators and clothing for communities from Corryong to Mallacoota, as part of their Victoria Bushfires Appeal.

"We know from past disasters that Australians are incredibly generous. It doesn't seem to matter where or what occurs, Aussies always want to help by donating money, goods and services," Ms Ardiles said.

"That's why we're encouraging people to pledge funds, or specifically requested items listed on GIVIT.org.au, to allow us to meet the everyday needs of Victorians under renewed restrictions.

"GIVIT's online donation platform and 'online warehouse' is the safest and most practical way of donating to those who are most vulnerable and have been hardest hit by this public health emergency."

The immediate needs for vulnerable Victorians are toiletries and grocery vouchers, as well as home-schooling items, heaters and winter clothing. Many are struggling due to the virus' economic effect exacerbating existing hardships and challenges for disadvantaged communities.

Ms Ardiles stressed donated items need to be of high quality — goods

you would proudly give to a family member or friends — to best assist and respect the dignity of recipients.

As in disasters and emergencies such as the recent bushfires, GIVIT is working with all levels of government and over 3,400 registered charities and community groups nationally to best manage donations and ensure all have access to essential items when they need them.

GIVIT empowers community organisations to request exactly what they require for the people they support. GIVIT then sources and provides free essential items to people in need across Australia by matching donations from corporates and individuals with the needs requested on GIVIT.org.au.

The GIVIT website removes the need for councils, charities and not-for-profit groups to physically collect, sort and store donations, significantly reducing the administrative and financial burden as well as saving valuable resources for critical recovery activities.

GIVIT.org.au is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports thousands of charities across Australia. The national charity has matched almost two million donated items since 2009.

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POLICE BEAT



LOCAL police have reported that a fence in Tweddle Street, Numurkah was graffitied overnight on the weekend.

Unknown offenders were seen spraying black paint on the fence at approximately 3am on Saturday, July 25.

A camper trailer was stolen from a property at Katunga-Picola Road in Katunga on July 19. The damaged trailer was later recovered in Kata-matite.

Cobram Highway Patrol would like to remind drivers in our community that many schools are operating in the Moira shire towns, and ask drivers to follow school zone speed limits at all relevant times.

Police have also asked that anyone seeing unsafe driving to report it to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

“Dangerous driving and using unsafe vehicles

affect the entire community,” police said.

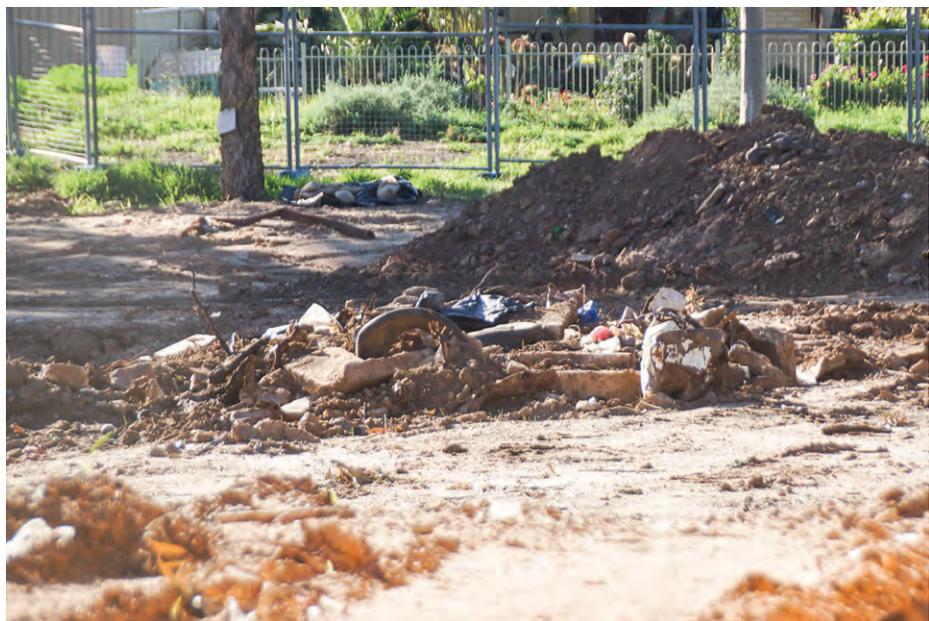
“The matter will be investigated and there is the opportunity to link people to behaviour change support services.”

There is evidence from vehicles being broken into that offenders are looking for keys left in the vehicle and police are urging people to not leave their vehicle unlocked, and especially don't leave the keys in the vehicle, including behind the visor, under floor mats, etc.

“If you do it is an invitation for offenders to steal your vehicle,” Sgt John Higgins from Yarrawonga police station says.

“Do not leave keys in the vehicle when parked, even if there are passengers in the vehicle. An opportunist desperate thief may take the opportunity to steal the vehicle.

“Ensure your vehicles are locked when parked.”



Contaminated ... Excavation works at the Rowe Street site are on hold while EPA Vic completes its investigation

Moira under EPA investigation for contaminated landfill

From page 1

“It's important to note that bonded asbestos does not cause asbestosis, most older homes in Numurkah would have some form of bonded asbestos in their construction,” Mr Close said.

“By engaging an asbestos hygienist we were able to ensure the site was safe for surrounding neighbours, our staff and contractors.

“We also installed a system of air monitoring for loose fibres under the supervision of a licensed asbestos hygienist.

“The EPA and Worksafe have been involved more recently as we remove the excavated and screened fill to closed landfill sites as part of their final capping.”

The EPA performed compliance inspections at the landfill sites at Tungamah and Strathmerton on May 28, and the reports arising from these inspections stated that matters to be followed up by the EPA included:

1. Council to submit proposals to EPA in relation to the treatment for re-use (fit for

purpose) of removal of contaminated soil stockpiles presently onsite to a site licensed to accept such waste.

2. [1] EPA will assess the need for a remedial notice to determine further management of or removal of contaminated soils from the premises.

[2] EPA will consider applying a sanction in relation to the depositing of industrial waste on the premises.

The EPA did not respond to questions from the *Leader* as to whether sanctions have been, or will be, applied.

“EPA officers are now reviewing information provided by the council and will consider the necessary measures required to protect the community and the environment,” Ms Palmer said.

“EPA will continue its work to ensure the duty holders comply with Victorian regulations in any future transportation and disposal of waste from the sites.”

Police community survey

Just two minutes of your time will help local police to help you.

Since the start of July, you may have seen more police out and about in the community as part of the CommConnect initiative across the Eastern Region of Victoria.

CommConnect is a different approach to policing. Officers (usually at Sergeant level) will be assigned to engage with key stakeholders in specific sectors of the Police Service Area, more directly focusing resources to build stronger and more collaborative relationships.

Allocating ownership to a specific supervisor to keep our communities safe will increase presence and visibility and allow police to respond to and focus on victims and people in need in a more agile way.

As part of this process, local police are asking their communities what concerns they have regarding policing in their local suburbs

and townships and ways in which police can better connect and support the community to address those concerns.

The Community Connection survey takes just two minutes to complete.

Each survey relates to a local government area, and residents are asked to respond to the survey relevant to your area. Your information is totally confidential and will not identify you.

Moira shire residents can complete the survey by going to <https://engage.vic.gov.au/victoria-police-community-connection-project/victoria-police-moira>.

Please note that these surveys are not a way to report a specific crime.

If you would like to report a non-urgent crime or event, please use the Police Assistance Line on 131 444, or Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000. If there is an emergency, please phone Victoria Police on 000.

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New tools to help you enjoy your walk



Stay hydrated ... This new drinking fountain at the memorial park makes it the perfect rest spot for walkers.



Poo no longer an issue ... The centrally located bag dispenser should prevent footpath unpleasantness.

WITH its friendly locals, pleasant weather and abundant natural beauty, Numurkah is well known as a lovely place to take a walk – and that free and easy pastime has recently been made even nicer with a couple of new council-provided amenities.

The presence of uncollected dog poo has been the subject of much discontent for locals over the years, but it's hoped that the recent provision of bags for that specific purpose will alleviate the problem.

Located in a dispenser outside the Numurkah Visitor Information Centre on Melville Street, the bags mean that forgetting to bring your own no longer needs to present a dilemma for dog walkers, and a minefield for their fellow pedestrians.

Forgetting your water bottle no longer needs to be an obstacle for a pleasant walk either, with a drinking fountain now present at the memorial park on Saxton Street. With its beautiful oak tree providing ample shade, the park has always been a pleasant place to take a break on a warm day, and with its own hydration station, there is now no better mid-walk destination.

Walk on in comfort Numurkah.

Backing women to stand for council

A DRIVE by the Victorian Government to inspire a new generation of women on councils is gathering pace ahead of the October local government elections.

Opening the LGPro Women's Professional Development Series, Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane announced that social impact marketing firm Ellis Jones had received a \$50,000 grant to encourage and support more women to stand for election.

"Gender equality makes communities, councils and Victoria stronger. That's why we're making support available to encourage women to run for council and support safe campaigning," Minister Leane said.

Expected to launch in mid-August, the It's Our Time campaign aims to inspire women to get

involved in local government and nominate for election. The push will include the provision of online resources including webinars.

It's Our Time will draw on the experience and expertise of a range of partners including LGPro (Local Government Professionals), the Australian Local Government Women's Association, the Victorian Local Governance Association, the YWCA and the Ethnic Communities Council.

Minister for Women Gabrielle Williams said Victoria is leading the country when it comes to improving gender equality.

"We want people of all genders to enjoy equal rights, opportunities, responsibilities and outcomes – and programs like this help us make it happen," Minister Williams said.

Moira Shire currently has two women on the

nine member council, Numurkah's Marie Martin and Yarrowonga's Wendy Buck.

A century on from the election of the state's first woman councillor, Mary Rogers, Victoria now boasts the highest number of female mayors in history, with 32 in place across the state. However, 13 of Victoria's 79 councils have just one female councillor while overall, women account for just 38% of elected representatives.

The new grant brings the Victorian Government's investment in promoting pathways for a more diverse range of candidates standing for local government in 2020 to \$137,000. This has included backing the Victorian Local Governance Association's Your Community, Country and Council campaign to Aboriginal communities.

Minister Leane has also announced the launch

of a new Gender Equality Advisory Panel, which will focus on achieving the 50% representation target set by Victoria's gender equality strategy Safe and Strong, and delivering the reforms of the state's new Gender Equality Act 2020.

"The new Gender Equality Advisory Panel will be full of experience and know-how. It's an important step towards achieving gender equity in councils by 2025 and one that will inspire a new generation of councillors," Minister Leane said.

The panel will include members from across the sector including LGPro and councillor representatives.

The Local Government Act 2020 also promotes gender diversity with stronger action on sexual harassment and rules for councils to measure gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness in their workforce plans.



Community Update



Updating Council documents – feedback needed

We are reviewing some key policies and documents to ensure they provide up to date information for the future strength and transparency of Council procedures under the new *Local Government Act 2020* and we would like to hear your thoughts.

We are seeking your feedback on the following documents –

- Public Transparency Policy
- Governance Rules
- Councillor Expenses Policy
- Councillor and Staff Interaction Protocol



You can view these documents on our website or to request a hardcopy, please contact our Customer Service Team on 5871 9222.

You can provide your feedback to us by lodging a submission on our website or by email to info@moira.vic.gov.au.

Feedback closes **5pm Wednesday 5 August**.

CASI – community activation and social isolation initiative

Council, in partnership with local community agencies, is part of the Victorian Government's COVID-19 community activation and social isolation initiative (CASI) roll out.

Central to the CASI program is the community support hotline 1800 675 398 where callers will receive emotional support and help by volunteers trained in psychological first aid.

This program helps people maintain important connections with family, friends and community and to build new social connections and networks of support in their local communities during the pandemic. COVID-19 is disrupting regular social interactions and networks.

The purpose of CASI is to support and expand these activities, ensure they are appropriate and effective, and that they are reaching the most vulnerable and isolated people.

Community Houses in Moira Shire

The Numurkah Community Learning Centre, Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House, Nathalia Community House and Cobram Community House have local knowledge, local connections and local expertise.

As well as providing multiple training and social engagement opportunities for residents, each House has access to a range of support services and networks they can refer people to if they are looking for assistance.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Numurkah Community Learning Centre | 5862 2249 |
| • Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House | 5744 3911 |
| • Nathalia Community House | 5866 2449 |
| • Cobram Community House | 5872 2224 |



Next Council Meeting – August - Cobram

Our next meeting will commence at **5pm on Wednesday 26 August** at the Cobram Civic Centre.

Due to the Emergency Measures Act 2020 this meeting will be closed to the public, however it will be streamed live via our Facebook page and can be viewed on our website.

Questions from the public must be emailed to info@moira.vic.gov.au and be clearly marked as questions for the August meeting.

Submitted questions will be read at the designated section of the meeting and answered by the appropriate officer or councillor.

For more information please give our friendly Customer Service Team a call.

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Sewing circle returns with a new purpose

NUMURKAH'S Boomerang Bags sewing circle convened in person for the first time in months last week, with an urgent new project to work on.

Members of the group, which usually sews reusable shopping bags, have been sewing in isolation from home in recent times, but met at the Numurkah Community Learning Centre last week and got busy sewing reusable face masks.

The group's leader Bec Happy told the *Leader* they had a good turn out for the first in-person session.

"We've had around 15 people come and go throughout the session, which is the capacity we can have here in the president's room, so that's been really good," she said.

"We've still got a lot of people sewing from home, but some of our members were really keen to get back and enjoy a bit of company while they sew."

One such member was Mary Costa, who said that, although she had stayed busy sewing from home, and had also been working in the community garden, it was good to be back with her sewing friends.

"It's good to do something normal and have people around to chat and laugh with while you sew," she said.

"Nobody comes and visits any more, so none of us have had much company."

Members of the group said it was also good to be together to consult on the finer points of producing face masks, which none of them had made before.

Although the group usually only convenes on the third Wednesday of the month, they'll be squeezing in an extra session next week to make sure they get a good supply of face masks and bags built up to meet local demand.

Reusable face masks made by the group are available for a donation at the Numurkah Community Learning Centre, though they may not be immediately available, depending on demand.

Anyone wishing to attend next week's session should RSVP to the Facebook event on the Boomerang Bags Numurkah's Facebook page to ensure that pandemic gathering restrictions are adhered to.



Back with a new purpose ... Members of Boomerang Bags Numurkah sewing circle were pleased to be meeting with a renewed purpose.



Updating Council documents – we want to hear from you

We are reviewing some key policies and documents to ensure they provide up to date information under the new *Local Government Act 2020* and we would like to hear your thoughts.

We are seeking your feedback on the following documents

- Public Transparency Policy
- Governance Rules
- Councillor Expenses Policy
- Councillor and Staff Interaction Protocol.

These documents are intended to formalise Council's commitment to good governance, as well as open and transparent decision-making.

Our priority is to set high governance standards on ensuring access to information and decision-making processes are as transparent, responsive, effect, equitable, inclusive and participatory as possible.

You can view these documents on our website or to request a hardcopy, please contact our Customer Service Team on 5871 9222.

You can provide your feedback to us by lodging a submission on our website or by email to info@moira.vic.gov.au

Feedback closes Wednesday 5 August.

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It's up to all of us to keep our friends and families safe.

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- If you do have to see people, keep your distance. No handshakes or hugs. Maintain good hygiene. Don't share food or drinks.
- If you're feeling unwell - you must stay home. Don't visit friends and family. Don't go on holiday. Don't go to work. Stay home.

And if you have symptoms - get tested.

This is a wake up call. We cannot be complacent.

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Reinvigorated approach to Student Services



POSITIVE NEW SPACE... From left, St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Wellbeing Officer, Katie Mills, College Chaplain, Sandy Carver and Wellbeing Officer, Lauren McKinnon with Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing and Development, John Wilkinson.



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College have recently unveiled their new dedicated FMDM (Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood) Student Services Centre, providing a dedicated space to support the needs of students with regard to careers, pathways and wellbeing across the board.

Residing in the former convent, the repurposed space will facilitate a broad range of student services including careers counselling, wellbeing counselling, parent support and group sessions as well as referral services and visiting specialists including allied health and remote services such as Telehealth.

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing

and Development, John Wilkinson said, “As student numbers have increased over time, so too has the need for further emphasis on support services. As a proud Catholic College underpinned by the Franciscan Charism we pride ourselves in being inclusive, welcoming, joyous and hope-filled, working with students from all walks of life to achieve their God given potential. Providing the best student services possible is a critical part of this endeavour.”

“With regard to Wellbeing, we have students who require different types and levels of support, both ongoing and short term. Wellbeing support is an integral part of what we do

here and will sincerely benefit from the refurbishment and ongoing development of this space.”

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College College Chaplain, Sandy Carver said, “We currently have 628 students within the College and approximately 10 percent are involved with or utilising the services within the College.

“It’s an evolving space. We’re still offering all of the same services that we were offering from the much smaller space, that hasn’t changed. But we’re now able to explore and discover our full potential and in turn, support our students to reach their full potential.”

John Wilkinson continued, “Student Wellbeing and Learning and Teaching

are inextricably linked. If a student isn’t feeling safe, supported and well, it is extremely likely to impact on their learning negatively. The aim is to create a balance and that’s what we do through the FMDM Student Services, we look after the overall wellbeing of the student to free up thinking space, empower them and provide them strategies to deal with what’s going on with their own wellbeing, which in turn enables them to flourish in a learning environment and post school lives.

“The new space has created a greater capacity to rethink, reinvent and reinvigorate the way that we approach the provision of student services in a positive way.”

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

The 2020 VCE Drama class at St Mary of the Angels Secondary College have been diligently working on the construction and production of their group performance known as ‘Mother’. Based upon the three stimulus materials of the famous film ‘The Truman Show’, the concept of Big Brother from the novel 1984, and the song ‘Power’ by Kanye West.

Students were required to brainstorm, develop, script, cast, and direct a full one hour show.

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College, Drama Teacher Shannon Orlandi said, “Not only was this task a monumental feat on its own, but it also had to be done in line with a prescribed theatrical performance style: Theatre of Cruelty. Theatre of Cruelty relies on attacking the five senses of the audience through intense lighting and sound, aiming to give audiences a raw, sensual experience.

Students took this concept into their stride, attempting to alienate their audiences with the world of Mother affectionately known simply as ‘Home’. “The performance the students have created centres upon a mysterious, omnipotent figure called ‘Mother’ who has created an underground utopia called Home, where every day is perfect, and every day is meticulously planned and coordinated. However, not all is as it seems, as some of her ‘children’ begin to learn that there was once one called ‘Father’. Mother, disgruntled with the hearsay that she is not as wholesome as she appears, threatens to destroy all she has built in order to save her reputation as all-loving and all-caring. It is only through the ghostly appearance of her late husband does she soon realise that giving love does not have to be perfect in order to feel loved. It is only then does she give the children an ultimatum:



VCE DRAMA CLASS... From left, Nathalia Secondary College student, Jaz Truman, St Mary of the Angels Secondary College students Brendan Potter, Maddi Pawlowicz, Nikita Pawlowicz, Zoe Germon and Josephine McInnes.

either leave and live in the outside world, or stay within the confines of a perfect Home.

“Despite some setbacks from remote learning, students have managed to still pull their performance together in time for their VCE outcome. The ensemble performance is a hallmark feature of the VCE Drama study design, and students often feel

proud with their accomplishments and newfound friendships they have formed by collaborating with one another to create an original piece of theatre. Whilst the performance may not be viewable for a community audience as normal, the show must still go on! A huge congratulations goes to the class of 2020 VCE Drama for their utmost resilience and creativity in the face of some challenging circumstances.”



Ready to bring your spark back ... Physiotherapist Zoe Ludington is bringing a wealth of clinical and sporting experience home with her to Numurkah.

Bringing the Spark home

SOMETIMES the spark of inspiration can be found in dark places, and so it was that sporting injuries suffered as a teenager led Numurkah's Zoe Ludington to a fulfilling career as a physiotherapist.

"I became fascinated with how the body works, the connections between different parts of the body and rehabilitating injuries," she said.

Zoe and husband Nick, who has a degree in Sport/Business Management, have brought their talents home to Numurkah, with their business Spark Physio Co. opening on Melville Street tomorrow.

"We've missed the country lifestyle, and love the idea of being closer to family, so we've bitten the bullet and decided to move home," Zoe said.

Since graduating from Charles Sturt University in Albury with a Bachelor of Physiotherapy, Zoe has worked across multiple clinical and sporting settings in Melbourne. Most recently she has been practising at Alphington Sports Medicine Clinic, one of the largest sports medicine practices in the city, working with physiotherapists who work with national sporting teams.

Zoe herself has worked as a physiotherapist in women's AFL and men's soccer, and is currently the physiotherapist for Volleyball Victoria.

Qualified to treat all age groups and all musculoskeletal issues from head to toe, Zoe has a particular interest in sporting injuries, headaches, cervical and lumbar dysfunction, and shoulder and ankle pathology.

With post graduate training in clinical pilates, the GLA:D Program for hip and knee osteoarthritis, and functional training, and currently undertaking a Masters in Sports Physiotherapy, Zoe is more than qualified to treat whatever comes her way.

"My belief is that physiotherapy is about treat-

ing each individual client rather than just the injury they present with," she said.

"I aim to get people back on their feet as soon as possible and I tailor my management plan to the individual needs of each client, with the aim to return to full activity and improved quality of life."

Zoe's tailored management plans may include treatments not currently available anywhere else in the area, including the GLA:D Australia Program, which is an education and exercise program designed to improve pain and function, and either prolong or eliminate the need for a joint replacement, in those with hip and knee osteoarthritis.

Spark Physio Co. will also be offering clinical Pilates classes from mid-August - both mat and reformer - suitable for all age groups and fitness levels, including options for those who are injured.

Other services available will include massage, one-on-one exercise consults, GP care plans and home visits, with all classes and consults private health deductible, and, naturally, all the necessary COVID-19 precautions will be in place.

Initially, Zoe will be seeing clients each Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday at Spark Physio's newly renovated rooms at 108-110 Melville Street, as well as consulting at Shepparton Medical Centre at Graham Street on Fridays.

Zoe can't wait.

"We're so excited to be home, and we're really looking forward to growing the business here," she said.

"We would love to form affiliations with local clubs, sporting teams, personal trainers and other health professionals. We want to give back to our local community in any way that we can."



MHA Care
'The Right Care for You'

MHA Care – Your local Home Care Package Provider

MHA Care is a Not for Profit organisation and your local provider of Home Care Packages. We have been supporting individuals with their Home Care Packages since 2016 and now employ 4 Coordinators and support 150 individuals to access services and supports through their packages.



What is a Home Care Package?

A Home Care Package is a coordinated package of Care and Services to assist you to continue to live independently in your own home and community for as long as you can. The assistance provided to you through your Home Care Package will be informed by and based on your assessed needs and will be aimed at achieving positive outcomes for you.

How can you get a Home Care Package?

Home Care Packages are allocated by My Aged Care. You will be required to participate in an assessment to determine your eligibility for a package and an assessment to determine your level of need.

The first step to access government-funded aged care services is to check your eligibility for a face-to-face assessment. You can call the friendly and knowledgeable My Aged Care contact centre staff to talk about your needs on **1800 200 422**. Or you can apply online at <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/assessment/apply-online>

Further information can be found at <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/assessment> You can also call MHA Care directly on **(03) 5742 1111** and ask for assistance from one of our Home Care Package Coordinators.

What can you use your Package for?

Depending on the level of your Home Care Package you can use your Package to get assistance with services such as:

Services to keep you well and independent:

- ✓ Personal care (Showering, Grooming),
- ✓ Nursing (Assistance with medicines),
- ✓ Allied health and therapy services (physiotherapy, podiatry), Specialised support (help with a particular condition e.g. vision, dementia) and
- ✓ Meals preparation and diet (help with feeding and meal preparation)

Services that keep you safe:

- ✓ Domestic assistance (Help with basic chores around the house),
- ✓ Home maintenance (Help with keeping your home and garden safe),
- ✓ Home modifications (Changes to your home to improve safety and access e.g. ramps and rails), and
- ✓ Goods equipment and assistive technology (Items to help you get around or adapt e.g. walking frame, shower chair)

Services that allow you to interact with your community:

- ✓ Transport (Community transport, transport to your GP) and
- ✓ Social support (Social activities in a community-based group setting or accompanied activities).

If you would like further information on Home Care Packages please visit My Age Care at <https://www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-at-home> or call MHA Care on **(03) 5742 1111** or call into our office at 22 Orr Street, Yarrowonga.

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Ph: (03) 5742 1111 • Fax: (03) 5743 2533
mhacare.org.au



FIREWATCH

Big wheels burning

A TRACTOR that caught fire at Tallygaroopna last Wednesday had local fire brigades out in the cold.

Tallygaroopna, Katandra and Wunghnu brigades were called out to the tractor fire on Thompsons Road, between the Goulburn Valley Highway and Edwards Road at 6.20pm. The tractor was fully involved when the fire brigade arrived.

Strathmerton and Yarroweyah brigades were turned out to support Cobram at an alarm at Ottery Homes, in Campbell Drive, Cobram just

after 1pm on Monday. Someone had accidentally pushed a button to activate the alarm. Strathmerton and Yarroweyah were not required.

Then at 6.00 pm, Strathmerton, Cobram, Yarroweyah and the Shepparton hazardous materials van were called to a smell of gas at the Caltex service station, Maguire Street, Strathmerton.

The Shepparton crew used a gas detector but could not find any gas leak at the service station; the smell, which may not have been gas, must have drifted from another source.

A CUPPA WITH DOM

A cuppa with Duncan

Full name? Duncan Alexander McPherson
Age? 60
Marital status? Happily engaged, for 10 or 15 years or something like that. We have four kids between us, and two beautiful little grandchildren.

Schools attended? Numurkah Kindergarten, Numurkah Primary School, Numurkah High School. I was meant to go to Scotch College but I didn't want to go to boarding school.

Summer or winter? I like them both.

Beach or mountains? The river, because I love my fishing.

Oscar the Grouch or Cookie Monster? I like them both; I'm a bit grumpy, but I love my food.

Crunchie or Violet Crumble? Violet crumble

Elvis or The Beatles? I'm a real Hendrix and Led Zeppelin fan. I like them both; I love my music.

AC/DC or INXS? AC/DC

Favourite colour? Pass

Favourite song? That's a really hard question. I love Led Zeppelin's *In My Time of Dying*, Hendrix's *Red House*, and *Life's Been Good to Me* by Joe Walsh.

Favourite TV show? Anything entertaining as long as it's not reality TV. We just watched *Mystery Road* on the ABC, and that was very good. I like *The Project* as well.

Favourite movie? Anything by Quentin Tarantino

Favourite book? I'm not a big reader, but my favourite one at the moment is *Wombat Stew*. The grandkids love it.

What football team do you support? Brisbane. They're doing very well at the moment thank you very much, they're going to knock

Collingwood off.

Do you make lists? I do. I even follow them every now and then when I can find them.

Who do you admire? Outside my mum, back in the day it was Cliff Moss. He was one of the Numurkah Mob and one of my dad's best mates. He was a mountain of a man and a real old school, logical type bloke. He was sensational. My mum's 94 and looks after herself extremely well and is very healthy. She's just been an amazing person for me.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

I'd like to be able to change people's minds, like if I saw people doing wrong stuff I could tell them to stop it and grow up and they would.

If you could have one talent what would it be? I always wanted to be a muso, but I never had any talent. My dad was a muso, he was in the town band, and he tried to get me to learn the bagpipes but I didn't go for it.

What type of kid were you?

Some would say I was little spoilt, because I had four older sisters. And probably a bit naughty.

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

I used to want to be a farmer because of Cliff Moss. I used to stay out at his place a bit and help out with the sheep and cattle. Then I wanted to be a plumber, then I got a job as a fitter and turner and I was happy with that. I think I was born to be in here in the shop, but I never wanted to be. I was always better with my hands, and that's why I didn't want to go to Scotch College.

How did you end up running the shop after all?

My dad passed away in 1985 and I thought I'd come home and help mum sort the business out and then head off. I was living in Melbourne before that and it was sensational, it was really good fun. The food was amazing because it was such a diverse community and the music scene was sensational. We'd go out every night and see bands like the Angels and Men at Work. I had sisters living down there, as well as a bunch of friends. I had 17 addresses in 10 years. I lived with lots of different people and some of them couldn't boil a kettle, which I thought was incredible. When I lived at home I'd come home from school and there'd be a note on the table telling me to put the veges on because mum would be out playing golf with Lorna Morris or something, so I knew how to look after myself and I enjoy cooking.

Are you surprised to still find yourself here?

Sort of, yeah. But when I worked at CUB in Melbourne I worked shift work, so when I came here it was very easy coming to work at nine o'clock and going home clean at five o'clock. And Brian Eddy had worked here for a long time, so he knew how the business was run, so life was extremely easy. I had opportunities to go work over in the west, and in the north, but I didn't take them. The weather here is good, and I have lots of friends here, so life was good. There's a lot to be said for easy.

What are the pros and cons of working for yourself?

I don't like being told what to do, so I like being my own boss. Working under bosses used to annoy me because some of them would tell you to do ridiculous things, that you knew were a waste of time or weren't going to work.

I'm not good at business, but it's a good thing

to be able to do what you want to do, and not being told.

You are the youngest with four older sisters. Did you desperately want a brother?

No, the girls all went off to boarding school so they weren't always around, and I had lots of mates. I did have painted fingernails from time to time though. I got up in the roof one day and found a shoe box full of cards from when I was born and all these people were congratulating dad on finally having a son, and I always felt bad for my sisters, but dad loved them all.

Your dad was one of the Numurkah mob, was that legacy of service something you felt strongly growing up?

When I grew up, Numurkah was different, it was much closer community. Those blokes used to have reunions, and they were massive – people came from all over the place. We'd have Legacy picnics out at Cliff Moss' place or at the river. We'd have dances at the RSL hall on Saturday nights and it was really fun. But those blokes did it really tough. They all supported each other, but they never spoke about to anyone else. It was their thing.

You've renovated a few houses now, what do you like about that?

I renovated my first house with dad when I was a young teenager, down near Dubuque. I remember dad got given a heap of pink paint and made me paint inside the house with it. I like old things and I like making things work, so I think that's why I enjoy renovating old houses. I remember Chris said to me years ago when we were driving past Dubuque that we were going to buy it, and I said 'no we're not', because it would be way too hard.

The Victorian Government's Household Relief



Support available, don't miss out

The Victorian Government is providing household relief through the Country Women's Association of Victoria's Drought Relief Program with grants of up to \$3,000 to help farming families pay household expenses.

The program is available to eligible irrigation farm businesses in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District and closes **28 August 2020** or when program funds are expended.

To apply visit cwaofvic.org.au or email drought@cwaofvic.org.au. For more information visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.



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A CUPPA WITH DOM

The Numurkah Leader
GOLFERS 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.

GOLF TOURNAMENT AT NUMURKAH. A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

The first golf tournament held in Numurkah since the outbreak of war took place on the new links at the race course on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

The old course was in the Park, and the natural difficulties of that course made ideal links. But the floods of late years made it impossible to use the links, the result being that the club moved to their present site. At first it seemed a difficult problem to make good links there, but little by little each year they are being improved, and at the present time will compare very favorably with any inland links.

Bunkers have been erected on most of the holes, the latest being to hit over the old rifle mound, which makes an ideal bunker, the hole being only one of 90 yards. It may take two, or it might take ten before the little white ball finds the hole or the putting green. This hole seems to be feared more than any others on the links, and has been named by some "Spion Kop" and by others the "camel's back."

The fairways have been widened, especially on the 8th hole, which is 600 yards long. With a few more of the trees and stumps removed, this hole will be one admired by golfers. The committee appointed to prepare the links for the tournament spared no efforts to have the ground in good order, and they were amply rewarded for their work by the many complimentary remarks made by visitors.

Members of the club gave every assistance, and some very heavy lifting was done. The ladies, of course, were to the fore, and the catering managed by them left nothing to be desired, and added greatly to the enjoyment of the outing. Mrs Pearson (the President's wife) and Mrs Cohen (the ladies secretary) supervised this department, which went with a swing from beginning to end. The ladies in charge of the dispensing of luncheon and afternoon tea were—First day: Mesdames R. Kilpatrick. C. T. Trengrove. T. Trengrove, Misses Calder and James: second day: Mesdames McKenzie, Calder, Bitcon, Pearson and Harper. The viands dispensed were all that could be desired, and the booth was greatly appreciated by players and visitors.

The entries for the different events were large, and the contestants included players from Melbourne, Echuca, Nathalia, Nagambji, Berrigan and other towns. The play was of a high order, some remarkably good scores being made. J. M. Treacy, the energetic secretary, won the championship event playing consistent golf throughout and returning a card showing a score of 130 for the 36 holes. P. O'Donnell (captain of the local club was a good second, with a score of 157. In this event, a record for the course was put up by Mr O'Donnell, he scoring 36 for the nine holes. He played brilliant golf, his card reading—4, 5, 4, 4, 4, 2, 6, 3 (bogey for the course is 40). Mr O'Donnell was warmly complimented by his opponent (Mr Stokes of Echuca) and other players on the termination of the round, one old player remarking that he was pleased to see a veteran return such a splendid card: it showed the old 'uns still had grit. Mrs P. Cohen, another member of the local club, annexed the Ladies' Championship, with the good score of 87 for the 18 holes.

FAT STOCK PRICES

Recently much comment was made about fat sheep making £6 at Shepparton, the price up to then being a record since the Shepparton Corporation Yards had been established, but at last week's Shepparton sales J. McNamara & Co. sold on account of Mr J. Maloney, Mooroopna, 2 crossbred wethers at £0/10/-, and two ewes at £4/10/- each, and 5 lambs at £3/7/- each. On account Mr Bob Saddler, Cosgrove, 1 fat wether at £5/15/-; on account R. H. Warren, Undera, 3 fat sheep at £4/1/- each. The same firm sold at their Tatura special stock sale on 22nd July, 4 prime 3-year old bullocks, on account Mr W. Worden, Gillieston, at £32/15/-.

All this prime stock was purchased by the well-known butchers. Messrs O'Connell, Daish and Hodgson.



I used to, but not any more. I was pretty keen on reaching 100 years in business, but business has changed so much and all the kids want to do their own thing. It's hard when you're up against online shopping, and Shepp's too bloody close. Back in the day, dad always wanted to blow up the road between here and Shepp.

We've got it on the market; it's quite a good business and hopefully somebody will see that.

You're been involved with Numurkah Love our Lifestyle for a long time, does that involvement come from purely a business perspective for you?

My dad was always involved with anything and everything, and I was determined not to do that, I decided I'd choose one thing, and that was the chamber of commerce back in the day. I just want to see Numurkah survive, and that's how I contribute to it.

What's the biggest obstacle to that, do you think?

Water. The water situation is ridiculous. There are way too many snouts in the trough. We could feed the whole country from here if we had the water, and this community is really suffering because of it. We need communities like this – like the hospital; it takes pressure off Shepp and Shepp takes pressure off Melbourne. Victoria doesn't end at Craigieburn.

As you say, your dad was involved in a lot of community things; so much so, that Rotary has an award named after him. How did it feel for you to win the Col McPherson award last year?

Extremely strange. I really didn't feel worthy of

it. The amount of work that a lot of other people do compared to me, others deserve it so much more.

If you could have one wish come true for the good of Numurkah, what would it be?

To have our own bloody shire back. We'd have some control again and things would get done and we wouldn't be just an afterthought. When they amalgamated the shires they killed a lot of things.

There are so many positives about Numurkah. All our schools are doing really well, we have a great hospital, and we have some great businesses. Nathalia's a great town too. Maybe we should have a Numurkah/Nathalia shire and incorporate all the little towns around us.

If Numurkah got its own shire back, and you were in charge, what would you do?

I'd make things work, and I'd make people accountable. And I'd ban all consultants. I just get really frustrated with governments and how they work, and we need to bring logic back into public life. I'd also sort the lake out, it's a great attraction, but we need water in it all the time.

You love fishing; what would be your dream fishing experience be?

A mothership with a tinny on that back, all the way from Cairns around to Perth – for 10 years. Apart from catching fish, I just love being out in the bush. I love the solitude, but I love fishing with a mate as well.

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

Greed. It's pretty simple.

I like doing things properly, taking the windows apart and patching them up and putting them back. That's satisfying for me.

When you were renovating Dubuque did you ever get to the stage where you thought it was too hard and you'd made a dreadful mistake?

A couple of times a day in the early stages. It took us four months just to tidy the yard up. Then you start burning the paint off the skirting board or something in a room and you'd look around at how much you still had to do and it would seem impossible. But then you'd finish a room and close the door on it and you'd feel really good about it. Some days you don't like it, but some days you love it.

I underpinned a corner of the house once and that was no fun at all.

Do you enjoy running a bed and breakfast?

Yeah, I do. You meet some great people and you get to make them feel happy and that's great. I think I've been conditioned to dealing with the public through the shop. I used to come in after school and work so I knew how to work with the public from an early age.

You don't have the pressures of retail with the B&B, but they're similar. I've always enjoyed retail, and I've especially enjoyed outfitting people for their weddings and seeing them go off happy and have a great day, and having guests and making them happy and giving them a nice stay has the same type of feeling.

As the third generation to the run the shop, do you feel a lot of pressure to keep it going and keep it in the family?

NumurkahLEADER Classifieds



PUBLIC NOTICES

DR THET NWE & SUSAN PATRICK

The Medical Centre of Numurkah

is very pleased to announce that **Dr Thet Nwe (FRACGP)** will be joining our clinic as a general practitioner commencing **Monday 3rd August, 2020**

Dr Thet has recently been working at Nathalia Medical Centre, previously at Wyndham House Clinic in Shepparton, and Alice Springs.

Dr Thet has a special interest in women's health, paediatrics and chronic disease management.

Dr Thet is available for appointments via phoning the clinic on 5862 2111 or online through HotDoc.

The Medical Centre of Numurkah would also like to extend a very warm welcome to

Susan Patrick

who has recently joined our team as a medical receptionist

TENDERS



C006/20

Electrical Communications Integration, Moira Shire Offices Cobram

C024/20

Supply and Delivery of One All-Wheel Drive Wagon

Submissions closing 4pm Wednesday 19 August 2020

Specification documents can be obtained by visiting www.moirá.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

SITUATIONS VACANT

MECHANIC/BUS DRIVER Full Time

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College is currently seeking a suitably qualified individual to help maintain and support our bus services.

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Bus Operations has a modern fleet of 10 buses which ferry 498 of our 628 students to and from school each day.

Our Bus Operations prides itself on providing a safe, reliable and modern fleet for the students and families in our care.

The successful applicant will be located at the Bus Depot and Workshop in Nathalia. These facilities are modern, providing an excellent workspace.

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.

Applications should include:

- A cover letter
- Curriculum Vitae, including three professional referees.

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

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

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST, 2020

SITUATIONS VACANT



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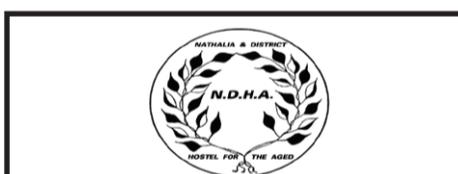
Location: Cobram

Type: Permanent Full Time
Salary: \$59,598.42 per annum + 9.5% Superannuation

For further information about the above positions, visit moira.elmotalent.com.au/careers/Moira/jobs.

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

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



Division 1 Registered Nurse Permanent Part Time Gr 4A

Nathalia and District Hostel for the Aged Association Incorporated (Barwo Homestead) has an opportunity for a Registered Nurse to join our management team. The successful applicant will have strong clinical skills and knowledge or willingness to learn the ACFI and Aged Care Quality and Safety process.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assist the Administrator in supporting and ensuring that Barwo Homestead provides safe and effective personal and clinical care for all residents.
- Ensure compliance requirements and accreditation standards are maintained

Hours: 0.4 EFT with flexibility required to increase hours according to the facility's needs.

The successful applicant must have:

- Current AHPRA registration
- Current influenza vaccination
- Current Police check
- Drivers licence
- Experience in aged care or a passion to provide person centred care to the elderly

Applications close:

Friday 21st August, 2020

Further details from:

Mrs Lynda Walker 03 5866 2574

Written applications to:

Administrator Barwo Homestead
8 Federation Street, Nathalia, Vic, 3638

THANKS

Hall - Amy Hall and family sincerely thank everyone for their cards and flowers on the loss of their dearly loved husband, father and pa. Thankyou to Peter and Jenny Cox for thier efficient funeral arrangemnt. *Thankyou*

IN MEMORIAM

LAKIN — Robert Arnold (Bob). Passed away July 26, 2019. As time unfolds the first sad year. Loving memories keep you near. *Love always Elaine*

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www.ncnhealth.org.au

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20 years on, another win

by "The Shankster"

IT'S been 20 years since Nola Dalton and Bev Hutchins first won the club fourball knockout event at Numurkah Golf Club and, despite many attempts since, they have only managed to secure one more win in this prestigious event.

Until Friday, that was, when they managed to get another win, with a fine display of match-play golf, defeating Julie Daniel and Di Davies five and three.

Their first win came in 2000, in the relatively early days of women playing golf on the weekends, and Nola and Bev were amongst the instigators of playing a fourball knockout on a Saturday.

Their next win came in 2011, when the Saturday event had become an honour board event, due to a lack of numbers entering the midweek match-play game.

Now, their names will again appear on the honour board together, with no midweek match-play event being played, due to the shortened season.

The pair went into Friday's final hungry for another win, and got off to a good start, winning the first hole, although handing that back on the second when Di parred the hole with a shot up her sleeve, for a nett two.

But the eventual winners steadied and progressively added wins to their scorecard, turning three up, before winning the 14th and 15th holes to secure the win.

"My handicap has gone out a lot, and I've just started playing some reasonable golf, so we thought this was our best chance in a while, and so it proved to be," Bev said.

Tracey Clouston continued her terrific form on Saturday, winning herself another shirt, courtesy of a club sponsor, this time Numurkah Milk Supplies, with a one shot victory over Margot McGrath and Gayle Smith.

The course is drying out nicely, and this showed in the improved scores, Tracey finishing with 39 points, Margot and Gayle on 38.

Norma Cullum and visitor Ruth Messner secured balls with 37 points,



On the board again ... Nola Dalton and Bev Hutchins were very keen to put in a good performance to get a win in the fourball event last Friday.

while the last of the prizes went to Robyn Hodgkin, Karen Harper and Di Davies, all on 36 points.

The golf fields have had a little boost to the numbers due to the closure of the New South Wales border, with several women from Cobram joining us last Wednesday, and again on Saturday.

It was again Tracey's day, the club champion stamping her authority on the week with a great round of 72 nett, to win division one. Nola Dalton finished three shots behind with 75.

Helen Pickersgill was dominating proceedings a little while back, until her handicap caught up with her, as happens in golf. Helen was back

in terrific form again on Wednesday, winning division two with 72 nett, and winning the countback from Tracey to win the monthly medal. Helen finished just ahead of Karen Harper, who came in with a 73.

Both Tracey and Helen also won balls for having the best scratch scores in their respective divisions, Tracey with 77 shots, and Helen with 97.

The final voucher for the day went to Robyn Hodgkin with 76 nett, while balls went to Margot McGrath, Marg Rhode and Robyn Jackson, all with 77 nett, and Di Davies snaring the final ball with 78.

The Shankster had a bit of brain fade

writing last week's report, when I said that Robyn Hodgkin had failed, for the second consecutive year, to win a play-off for the B grade championship.

This was totally incorrect, as Robyn defeated Karen Harper last year, to win the B grade title.

Today's golf will be a stableford round, followed by a monthly medal and the fourth round of the silver spoon next Wednesday.

Saturday will be a Numurkah Leader/R. & K. Smith monthly medal round, followed by dinner in the club bistro. Anyone wanting to come back for dinner should book at the club.

Steady Steve and Tyson scoop the Srixons

by "Rufus T. Firefly"

STEVE Piggott survived a five-way countback to win A grade in last Thursday's mid-week competition at Numurkah Golf Club.

Scoring 36 stableford points, Steve held off an equally steady golfer in lefty Alan Dalton, who had the same score in a relatively hook-free round.

B grade was almost a replica of A grade, with Tyson Woods scoring 36 points and holding off Steve Jones in a countback.

A pleasing field of 57 players participated on the clear winter's day, augmented by a number of golfers from Cobram and Yarrawonga who are prevented from playing at their home clubs due to the virus restrictions on cross-state travel.

The following players' scores earned them a club ball: Ron Smith, Adam Farrell and Brian Tate 36, Jye Warren, Roden Brady, John Smith and Vic Willmoth 35, Dennis Prosser, Bill Green, Neil Hutchins, Scott Hutchins, Jack Hepworth and Matt Campbell all 34, Dylan Grandell, Neville Smith, Steve Thornton and Sam Robertson 33.

Visitor Tony Hardy scored the tin of boiled lollies for coming in with the lowest score of the day, 23 miserable points.

A reminder to all players that tee bookings have now moved to online. Anthony and Kevin have designed a "How to book online" instruction slip available for all members. With the size of fields increasing exponentially, it is important that members become au-fait with the new system.

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Four Blues' sides in action

IN what might seem more like a dream than reality under the current restrictions, Numurkah Football Netball Club had four teams playing footy at home on the weekend, with the under 14s and under 16s starting the Shepparton District Junior Football League season a week late.

UNDER 12S

With a first game against Eastern Rangers Gold under their belts, the under 12s lined up for their first home game on Saturday morning against the tall timber of Eastern Rangers Blue.

With new boys Kyren Dawson reaching high in the ruck, and Tom Mohr roving with confidence, the Kialla boys peppered the points liberally in an incredibly physical opening term, but they were denied majors, largely to the incredible pressure applied by JB Bethell, Seth McCracken, Aaron Watters and Oliver Ruscoe.

With sterling advice from coach Ben Ruscoe and Bud Stammers ringing in their ears, it was game on for the second term, their confidence renewed.

Declan Lowden was agile and busy in the middle, Hughie Stammers was everywhere, and Maison Taylor-Wilton, new to footy but playing like a 50 game man, was taking every chance, while the Smith brothers, Arthur and Teddy, were tackling hard.

Kyren Dawson threaded the needle with exquisite skill to tighten the margin, though a couple of majors for the Rangers, with one on the siren, had the game swinging in the favour of the visitors who were impressing all with their speed, cohesion and skill.

The second half resumed with renewed vigour, Kaleb Gilmour a running revelation, and his partner in crime Alex Robertson showing the opposition his heels, but Kialla pushed forward to press the advantage again and again. This was despite some brilliant positive ball movement from Nash Siermans, Jade Holmes and Tyson Simpson, before sticky mitts Maison Taylor-Wilton calmly booted another major on the siren.

The fourth quarter saw great action from both sides, Harry Ryan starting to show the skills and smarts he possesses in spades, Kaleb Gilmour seizing every opportunity to break free, Ollie Ruscoe kicking the team's third goal, and the Numurkah kids were completely spent.

Awards: Marie and Ron Martin Socks: Maison Taylor-Wilton, Pizza Hut: Declan Lowden, Red Cherry: Kyren Dawson.

Goals: Kyren Dawson, Maison Taylor-Wilton, Oliver Ruscoe.

UNDER 10S

The under 10s played their second game for the year, at home against Eastern Rangers Blue.

The visitors scored early in the game, which turned out to be an indication of how things would progress.

There was some great defensive work by Mason Alexander and Tanner McKellar, and some good marking and tackling across the board.

Kade Rogers showed his strength and determination early in the second quarter with a strong tackle and great mark, while Chase Rodda used his height to his advantage in ruck contests and took some great marks. A mark to Jaxson Stonehouse at full back stopped a sure goal.

Keyon Taylor-Wilton took many marks in the backline during the third quarter and was a dominant player throughout the whole game. Chase Rodda had a shot for goal after taking a mark but was unlucky when it got touched just before the line.

Charlie McDonald and Kade Rogers contested well in the backline to finish the game, but the opposition were just too tall.

Tanner McKellar played a great game, getting lots of hands on the ball and clearing it out of the pack, even when playing for the opposition. This was something that many of the Numurkah players had to do, taking their turn to play for the visiting side to even up the numbers and give everyone a run.

Despite the game being very one sided, the young Blues kept fighting right up until the final siren.

Awards: Red Cherry Café: Tanner McKellar, Pizza Hut: Chase Rodda and Marie and Ron Martin sports socks: Kade Rogers.

UNDER 16S

The under 16s scored a dominant victory over Echuca United Blue, scoring 23.12 (150 to Echuca United's 4.2 (26).

The Numurkah Blues managed to keep their opposition scoreless for the first half before allowing them to score two majors in each of the last two quarters.

Dusty Ebborn showed his goal kicking form hasn't waned during the off-season, booting nine goals for Numurkah, while Will Slatterie and Flynn Penberthy both added three, Riley Dawson scored two, and Matteo Allen, Kobie Rahilly, Lachlan O'Hara, Hugh Hyde, Mitchell Ward and Hunter Verhoeven all contributed a goal apiece.

Best players were named as Flynn Penberthy, Dustan Ebborn, Matteo Allen, Will Slatterie, Lachlan O'Hara, and Ryan Mele.

UNDER 14S

The under 14s came up against the strong Shepp Swans White team, which sits on top of the ladder after two rounds.

The Blues failed to trouble the scorers, going down to Shepp Swans White 11.12 (78).

Best players were Reeve Verhoeven, Oliver Price, Lucas Roberts, Nick Hughes, Viv Russo and Tarkyn Taylor-Wilton.



Under 12s ... Back row (from left): Aaron Watters, Kyren Dawson, Harry Ryan, Seth McCracken, Hughie Stammers, Maison Taylor-Wilton, Kaleb Gilmour, Declan Lowden, Tyson Simpson, Tom Mohr. Front: Oliver Ruscoe, Nash Siermans, Jarred Bethell, Alexander Robertson, Jade Holmes, Arthur Smith, Theodore Smith.



Keep out ... Hughie Stammers shepherds Alexander Robertson as he gets a kick.



Surrounded ... Jarred Bethell gets a handball away.



Stacks on the mill ... There were plenty of kids in on the action.



All eyes on the ball ... Tanner McKellar makes sure he gets this one.



Style ... Keyon Taylor-Wilton gets away one of his many kicks for the under 10s on Saturday.

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Gold Coast v GWS
Fremantle v Collingwood

ROUND 10

Port Adelaide v Bulldogs
Richmond v Brisbane
Geelong v North Melbourne
Adelaide v Melbourne

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Gold Coast v St Kilda
Essendon v GWS
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ROUND 10	
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ROUND 10	
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2 Richmond	6 Gold Coast
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4 Melbourne	



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ROUND 10	
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2 Brisbane	6 gold Coast
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2 Brisbane	6 St Kilda
3 Geelong	7 GWS
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5 North Melb	

ROUND 10	
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2 Brisbane	6 St Kilda
3 Geelong	7 Essendon
4 Melbourne	



Last Round 7 Total 40

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John Beitzel

ROUND 9	
1 Richmond	6 St Kilda
2 Port Adelaide	7 West Coast
3 Carlton	8 Gold Coast
4 Brisbane	9 Collingwood
5 North Melb	

ROUND 10	
1 Port Adelaide	5 Collingwood
2 Richmond	6 St Kilda
3 Geelong	7 Essendon
4 Melbourne	



Last Round 4 Total 32

Troy Knox

ROUND 9	
1 Bulldogs	6 Sydney
2 Port Adelaide	7 St Kilda
3 Hawthorn	8 GWS
4 Brisbane	9 Collingwood
5 North Melb	

ROUND 10	
1 Port Adelaide	5 Collingwood
2 Brisbane	6 St Kilda
3 Geelong	7 GWS
4 Melbourne	



Last Round 4 Total 66

Nathan Morris

ROUND 9	
1 Bulldogs	6 St Kilda
2 Port Adelaide	7 West Coast
3 Carlton	8 GWS
4 Essendon	9 Collingwood
5 Adelaide	

ROUND 10	
1 Bulldogs	5 Collingwood
2 Richmond	6 St Kilda
3 Geelong	7 Essendon
4 Melbourne	



Last Round 6 Total 38

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Peter Bau

ROUND 9	
1 Richmond	6 St Kilda
2 Port Adelaide	7 West Coast
3 Carlton	8 GWS
4 Brisbane	9 Collingwood
5 North Melb	

ROUND 10	
1 Port Adelaide	5 Collingwood
2 Brisbane	6 Gold Coast
3 Geelong	7 GWS
4 Melbourne	



Last Round 5 Total 329

LOCAL SPORTING LEGENDS

Continuing a family tradition

MARK Hansford competed in his first wood chopping event at the age of 15, but he had been attending them since he was two weeks old.

With his father a long-time axe man, and Mark's older brother following him into the sport, it was pretty much a given that Mark would eventually join them.

"My first competition was on New Years Day 1985 at Glenlyon mixed sport event, and I still compete there," he said.

At the age of 83, Mark's father is still competing, and as far as Mark is aware, is the oldest registered wood chopper in Victoria. A third generation of the family has now joined in, with Mark's nephew also competing.

The opportunity to compete with his family is one of Mark's favourite elements of the sport.

"Going to competitions is a bit of a boys' weekend," he said.

"Three generations of the family competing on the same day, there are not a lot of sports where you can get that, and they're great days."

Though Mark relishes the opportunity to spend time with his family, it is far from the only thing that keeps him competing in the sport after 35 years.

"It's always a challenge," he said.

"There are always things to learn, and there are always things you can do to adjust and improve your technique. You can't know too much, and you are always trying to refine and get better."

"It's really good when you compete and you know you've cut well, and been able to win or place. I do get a lot of enjoyment out of that, particularly if I've had a run of not placing for a while."

At most wood chopping competitions, there are three events: underhand, where you stand on a horizontal log and cut between your feet; standing block, where the log is vertical and you cut into it in a sideways motion; and cross cut sawing, in which you compete either single-handedly or with a partner.

Most events, depending on the number of competitors, will have three or four heats, with the first two place-getters going into the final.

Cross-cut sawing is Mark's favourite, and he regularly makes the finals in that event.

Whilst he enjoys standing block the least, he's never considered not competing in it.

"Nah, you can't do that. I mean, you could, but I wouldn't," he said.

"If I'm driving all the way to a competition, especially somewhere like Noorat in western Victoria, I'm not going to not compete in an event just because it's not my favourite. It's not that I don't like the standing block, I just don't like it as much as the others."

Whilst the sport is judged on how fast you can chop, or saw, a log, beyond who comes first, second or third, the times don't matter all that much beyond how they affect your handicap.

"We never keep times, so I don't really know how long it takes, but it would be somewhere between 20 and 30 seconds," he said.

"Although you're judged on speed, technique is the most important thing, so that's what I focus on."

"You have to be able to hit accurately and do that repetitively all the time, every single event. You have to be able to put hits in the right spot, and on the right angle, and if you can combine great technique with strength and

speed, that's the optimum.

"Whether you come first or last though, for me, it's just about trying to cut the log as fast as you can."

They're handicap events, so sometimes your handicap may be a little bit harsh and, realistically, you probably don't have a lot of hope of winning before you even start, but my aim is always just to cut the log as quickly as I can and to the best possible standard, with the correct technique, making sure it hits in the right spot at the right angle.

"You can't worry about what other people are doing; if someone else cuts better than you and you don't get in the final, you can't really control that. You can only control how well you cut the log."

Mark said he is definitely better at underhand than standing block, but cross-cut sawing is his favourite.

"I really like single-handed sawing, but unfortunately a lot of competitions don't run that event. I have good technique, but not enough brute strength, and you have to be really aggressive."

"In the double-handed cross-cut sawing, I usually partner with my brother or my nephew. It's easier if you compete with same person all the time because your timing is in sync."

Overall, Mark describes his technique as 'okay, but not great,' but he has won a respectable number of events, which is something to be proud of, given that he is probably competing in the toughest wood chopping competition in the world.

Wood chopping as a sport started in Ulverstone Tasmania in 1870, as a bet between two people, and though it now has an international competition, Australia is still by far the dominant nation.

"There are around 800 registered axe men in Australia, and the standard at the top end is just phenomenal," Mark said.

"There are competitions in most states, but the Victorian competition is the toughest, and most of the best axe men are from here."

"Internationally, the Kiwis are extremely close - they're very good. Americans, Canadians and Welsh also compete, and it's quite popular in Spain as well. The Spaniards do things a little bit differently; they do endurance events where they might cut four or five logs in a row, which we don't do here, but they have some very, very good axe men."

"The Stihl timber sport series has made the sport a bit more widespread in mainland Europe, but Australia still has more competition than anywhere else."

Australia's claim as the home of wood chopping is borne out by the fact that four world titles - cross-cut saw, standing block, underhand and tree felling - are held at the Sydney Easter Show every year.

Strength is obviously a factor in the sport, something that Mark said holds him back.

"As a school teacher, I don't get a lot of exercise, and I'm one of just a few white-collar workers in the sport."

"There used to be a lot of competitors linked to the timber industry, but because it's a bit of a dying industry in Victoria, there are nowhere near as many now. You get a lot of farmers, shearers and tradies, that type of thing, but anyone can compete."

Despite his busy schedule as a teacher at Numurkah Secondary College,



Mark does find time to train.

"Single handed sawing is a good work out, as well as for practising technique," he said.

"I do train by myself but it's not ideal. It's always better if you can train with someone else, because they can tell you if you're not doing something correctly, because you don't always know if you're on your own. You have a pretty good idea, but there may be minor technical things you're not aware of."

"My brother has a training arena set up at Castlemaine and I try to train

over there with him and my nephew as much as I can."

"Getting training logs is a hassle as well. I usually get them at the Bendigo show from a guy who supplies them to a lot of competitions, but since that's not on this year, I don't know where I'm going to get them."

The sport can also be an expensive one, with a range of different axes required, and decent competition saws costing around \$3,000 each, not to mention travel expenses and competition entry costs.

"It hurts me a bit to say it, but the

best equipment comes from New Zealand, from a company called 'Tutatahi,'" Mark said.

"I don't know how the guy does it, but his axes can be thinner on the edge, but less likely to bend. They are more expensive, and you do need quite a few axes, so if you were starting out you probably wouldn't get them, but they are worth the money."

For Mark though, it's not the expense of purchasing the equipment that is his least favourite part of the sport, but the need to maintain it.

"One of the occupational hazards of

LOCAL SPORTING LEGENDS

wood chopping is maintaining your equipment – axes are fairly fine on the cutting edge,” he said. “They’re ground to a 17 degree angle, if it’s softer wood you can take it down to 14 or 15, if it’s harder wood you can make it a bit thicker. Even if a log looks perfect on the outside, if you run into a knot on the inside, it can do a lot of damage to the axe – the cutting edge will bend, but also chip. “Minor damage may only take an hour or two to repair, but it’s pretty labourious, and tediously boring, to be honest. Rubbing a bend out is as boring as all hell, but you have to do it, and you have to do it properly; you can’t rush it. “Thankfully, my dad doesn’t mind fixing axes – he’s retired, so he has plenty of time for it.”

The type of timber has a huge bearing on how long it takes to cut through it, and also the thickness of the cutting edge.

“Mountain Ash is really soft, so it’s easier to cut, which really suits me, but it does have a lot of knots in it, so it’s a really good timber for breaking axes,” Mark said.

Despite what some may assume about a sport centred around such sharp equipment, Mark said there are very few accidents.

“You do have occasional accidents, but they’re usually fairly minor. I know a few people who’ve cut their toes, but I only know one person who has cut their toe off,” he said.

“You can get chainmail socks, but if you cut

straight into it you’ll still do some damage.

“Most people are skilled and competent and know what they’re doing, so you don’t see too many accidents.”

As well as being skilled and competent, Mark said most wood choppers are also pretty friendly.

“You see the same people a lot at the competitions. There are a lot of people I’ve gotten to know over the years that I otherwise wouldn’t have met,” he said.

“Most choppers are really helpful and supportive, and if they see some technical adjustment that someone could make that might improve their performance, they’ll share some advice and give some guidance.

“Overwhelmingly, most are really friendly and supportive. It’s really rare that you have an issue with someone.”

With the competition season being based mostly around agricultural shows, it is a summer sport, with most competitions taking place in October, November, March and April.

“I haven’t competed at all this season because of COVID, and I doubt we’ll get any in this year at all,” he said.

“I’m looking forward to getting back to it. It’s good being able to compete with family. Father and son events are always special to win, and something we’ve done quite well in.”

A love of community involvement

From page 16

It was during this period that the general committee saw a need to simplify the club’s committee structure, which involved re-writing the club’s constitution, abolishing all committees and bringing them back in as sub-committees under the control of the club’s board.

Jack has been on both the golf and bowls match committees, and served on the board for four years, in addition to four years as club president. He was also re-elected to the club’s board at the AGM on Monday night, for another stint.

On the sporting front, Jack has played pennant in both golf and bowls teams, and he is also an accredited rules official in both sports.

His golfing achievements include winning the Jack Roche fourball with David Ludington, a B grade club championship, and the Hoax Triples. He has also been a staunch supporter of both golf and bowls tournaments run by other clubs in the district, proving a great representative of the club.

In bowls, Jack has won the 21 up championship, twice been 100 up champion, and is a three-time winner of the silver shoes pairs event. As well as a mixed pairs title, he was also a member of four premiership bowls sides.

When Jack first became president of the club, he only played golf, but decided to take up bowls as well, in an attempt to unite the two sections of the club.

“I thought that if I started playing bowls, it might help to bring the bowlers and golfers a bit closer together, and I think it worked.”

Jack’s sporting achievements at the

club have been a big highlight of his club involvement.

“There was a golf pennant that I captained, four bowls pennants, and a big highlight was winning the Jack Roche fourball event with David Ludington, after about 30 tries.

“It was also very special to me to win the silver shoes pairs with (former life member) John Thompson.

“The club has also played a big part in our family life with both our children, Caitlin and David, having taken traineeships there and Dave has his name on a couple of honour boards.

“My wife, Liz, has also done her bit, being secretary of the ladies’ golf committee for at least 15 years.

“The club also provided the ideal venue for Caitlin’s fabulous wedding reception.”

Since his retirement, Jack’s extra spare time has seen his dedication to the bowls section of the club grow immensely. In his role as bowls secretary, he has almost single-handedly organised many tournaments, club events, trade day tournaments, and hosting rounds of the Victorian Open at the club.

Jack’s computer skills have seen the club gain a reputation for the big tournaments, namely the autumn bowls carnival and the Plumbtec pairs, as being some of the best run events anywhere, as Jack had a program constantly updating the leader boards projected onto big screens in the club.

Of special mention, is that Jack’s nomination, which required five signatures, was signed by the club’s five current life members - Geoff Sutcliffe, David Ludington, Neil Hutchins, Geoff Partington and Syd Roughsedge.

“That was very gratifying,” Jack said.



Always in it for life ... Jack Dell was rendered speechless when he was presented with a life membership of the Numurkah Golf & Bowls Club last week.

Beam me up, Scotty

by “Archie Bunker”

SATURDAY dawned as a perfect day for the Numurkah Milk Supplies third round of the stableford trophy at Numurkah Golf Club, when Scott Hutchins had a day out, scoring a terrific 46 points to win the day.

With a number of visitors from border clubs joining the field, a great field of 80 men enjoyed the course conditions, although none could get even close to Scooter.

Scooter finished the day with a one over par round of 73, to win A grade and the sponsor’s shirt. The youngster has been in good form since moving back to Numurkah to get away from the virus in Melbourne, getting in plenty of practice since Easter, and starting to enjoy his golf.

Matty Ebborn could be considered just a little unlucky, finishing with 41 points himself, but having to settle for the runner-up placing in A grade.

Peter Malins finished with 39 points, win-

ning B grade by a single point from junior golfer Hudson Storer.

Down the line balls went to Sam Robertson, with 39 points, Graeme Ashton, Tyson Woods, Brandan Hosie and Dylan Grandell on 38 points, Colin Rankin Garry Hosie, Andrew Nicholls, Jack Dell and Brady Trotter on 36, Dave Gilmour, Paul Collins, Barry Pruden, John Trimble, Dave Ludington, Glenn Thompson, Neil Hutchins, Winston Willis and Paul Arnel, all with 35 points, and the last of the balls went to Steve Piggott, Robbie Sutton and Barry Schmedje, with 34s.

There were a couple of nominations for the ears, but club accommodation manager Brad Naughton was a hands down winner for his exploits on the day.

It seems unfair to lambast someone for nearly being hit by someone else’s wild, errant drive, but that’s only the beginning of the story. Playing the 10th hole, Brad drove

his ball into the garden bed, and then heeled his drive on the 16th, which unfortunately just missed hitting his left foot, and sailed out of bounds.

Brad noticed a youngster riding his scooter down the nearby road, and threw his club towards him, calling out, “It’s yours”. The smart kid called back, “If that’s the best it can do, you can keep it”.

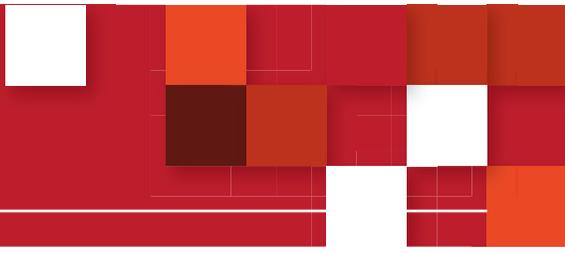
After many, many years, Sunday golf is making a return to Numurkah, due to the number of new golfers becoming regulars on the golf course, with a Sunday comp beginning this weekend.

The comp will be available to both men and women, with online bookings available. For the time being, the competition will be stableford.

This Saturday’s golf will be a Compusult monthly medal round, with bookings online. There will also be dinner in the club bistro, please book with the club in advance.



No contest ... Scott Hutchins played an almost perfect, one over par round to win Saturday’s stableford trophy competition.



Continuing a family tradition

MARK Hansford competed in his first wood chopping event at the age of 15, but he had been attending them since he was two weeks old.

A love of community involvement

BY his own admission, Jack Dell is rarely lost for words, but it was a different story at the Numurkah Golf and Bowls Club's annual meeting last Monday night, when Jack was awarded with life membership of the club. Jack was left speechless when club president Beverley Hutchins announced a life membership nomination had been received, and recommended, by the club's board. A show of hands was called for after Jack left the room, requiring a two-thirds majority, but the vote was unanimous from the members in attendance. Jack said it was an honour to be recognised for doing something he loves doing. "Everything I've done, I've done be-

cause I love the club and want to help it succeed. "I have to thank my late father for instilling in us the importance of community and volunteering. If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well, was one of his mantras, and another was never criticise the job a volunteer is doing unless you're prepared to do it yourself. "I find it hard to believe everybody kept the secret from me for so long. Thanks to those who suggested me for this honour and those who supported the nomination. "This is probably one of the best things that has ever happened to me. Jack has been involved with the club for more than 30 years, his volunteer

role starting on the bar roster when the only employee paid by the club was out on the course. But this proved a great induction for the former teacher, when he left the education department for a time and took up a staff role at the club. Jack was treasurer of the club when the then committee decided to get on the pokies bandwagon, applying for loans, gaming licences and appointing the club's first ever manager. Prior to this, his role saw him responsible for paying the wages, taxes and all the accounts, a far cry from the treasurer's job these days, now that the paid staff handle all of these tasks. *Continued page 15*



NumurkahLEADER INSIDE SPORT



46 points for win

See story page 15



Four teams at home

See story page 13