

established 1895 Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020



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INSIDE



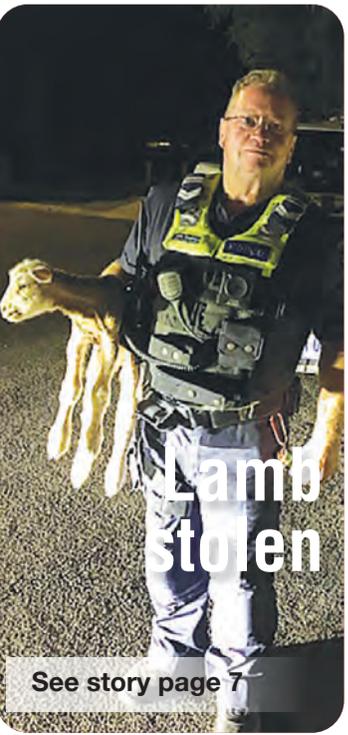
PJ Day

See story page 7



Tanya closes salon

See story page 3



Lamb stolen

See story page 7

New Lions



LIONS new and old keeping their distance in unique induction... New Numurkah Lions members and their nominees, from left: Chris Boyden, Keith Nicoll, Sue McCracken, Jack Fischer, Harry Fischer, Mark Nordbye, district governor Omen Ndlovu, David Morris, Elsie Sparrowhawk and Lea Tyndall.

See story page 4.

Leader will still go on

AS this edition of the *Leader* hits news stands we are all facing extraordinary times.

In coming weeks many businesses in Numurkah, and across the state, may be forced to close their doors - indefinitely.

The *Leader*, as a regional newspaper, is listed as an essential business and will not be among them.

With the new social distancing laws causing most sport and community events to be postponed or cancelled, the *Leader*, like the rest of the world, will look a bit different to what we are all used to for the next little while, but it will remain full of local content.

Like 125 years of *Leader* staff before us, we take our responsibility to keep local people informed of local news, events and personalities seriously, and that will never change.

Through two world wars, the Spanish flu, the depression, fire, flood and drought, the *Leader* has published uninterrupted, and we have no intention of breaking that record.

A time may yet come when, in the interests of safety, we deem it necessary to close our doors to the public, but our commitment to publishing the paper, even if it is literally from behind closed doors, will remain un-

changed.

We have already enacted a number of measures designed to keep *Leader* staff and customers safe - including stringent cleaning practices and card-only payment - and from here on out, we will be conducting as much business as possible via telephone and email to avoid face to face contact.

We do have the capability of each working remotely, and we have discussed arrangements for that should it come to it.

However, as we say, these are extraordinary times.

Getting the paper out each week is very much a team effort, and we are a small team - should one of us fall ill and be unable to fulfil their role, there may yet come a time when, temporarily, Wednesday is not synonymous with the local paper.

As far as business goes, that is not our major concern though.

About the only thing we don't do ourselves when it comes to producing the *Leader* is the actual printing.

We want to assure you, our readers, that should the outlet that prints the *Leader* have to temporarily close, we will continue to publish our online edition.

Continued page 2.

COVID-19 case confirmed in Moira

A CASE of COVID-19 has been confirmed in Moira Shire.

Yarrawonga Health officially confirmed yesterday that a person who presented to its urgent care centre last week has tested positive to the virus.

The person was mandatory isolating after returning from overseas, when they developed symptoms.

Telephone contact was made, followed by presentation to Yarrawonga Health. Infection control procedures were implemented immediately and the patient who was well enough to return home following assessment until test results were received.

The person has remained at home, is said to be recovering, and will continue with self-isolation.

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services told the *Leader* that, as part of its contact tracing, any public exposure sites of the infected person had been contacted and provided with advice about the transmission risks and any cleaning that may be required.

DHHS does not identify individual cases or their close contacts.

As of lunchtime yesterday, there were also three confirmed cases diagnosed at GV Health in Shepparton.

Although two of the Shepparton cases are known to involve people who have recently returned from overseas, both of whom are now in isolation at home, we have been unable to obtain details regarding the third. One case has also been confirmed in Echuca.

As of lunchtime yesterday, the total number of cases in Victoria stood at 411.

At the present time, there are six confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Victoria that may have been acquired through community transmission.

Twelve people are currently in hospital, including two patients in intensive care. One hundred and thirteen people have recovered.

More than 25,000 Victorians have been tested to date.

Of the total 411 cases, there have been 350 in metropolitan Melbourne and 41 in regional Victoria. A number of cases remain under investigation.

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Meals on Wheels Roster

	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
M 30/3	K. Steel	M. Caccianiga	Lions Club of Numurkah
T 31/3	A. Cook	L. & M. Mitchell	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
W 1/4	L. Decker V. Dickinson	C. North C. Boldt	R. & G. Chessells
T 2/4	S. Kennedy L. Watson	E. Adams	M. Caccianiga
F 3/4	J. Brandreth	L. & M. Mitchell	J. Stanyer

Coordinator — MHA Care Phone 5742 1111

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CANCELLED

- Start up of Club
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- Working Exhibits with Machinery of Yesteryear
- Tractor Trek Saturday Morning 10am
- Twilight Tractor Pull Under the Lights Saturday Night
- Onsite Catering and Camping • Wood Turners
- Federation Picnic car display Sunday

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COVID-19 – Statement from Mayor Libro Mustica

AS you may be aware, the State Government has announced a shut down of all 'non-essential' activities to combat the threat of COVID-19, so many services the shire normally provides are being reduced or, in some cases, closed.

The Federal Government has also announced mandatory social distancing rules relating to indoor gatherings, where people now need to be at least four square metres apart, so this has resulted in the need to cancel our many community engagement functions.

As this situation is unprecedented, we are all needing to be flexible and responsible – we are meeting daily to review any new information that comes to hand and make decisions accordingly.

Everyone has a role to play in protecting yourself and your family and there is no better way than to start with your personal health, and if you are feeling unwell – please stay at home.

In terms of food and provisions, there is plenty for all Victorians so please don't take more than you need.

Be a good citizen and do the right thing, check on your neighbour or the elderly and let them know they are not alone.

No matter what we look like or where we live, getting sick reminds us that at our core we're all just human.

Our economic development, maternal and child health and community teams are speaking



Unprecedented ... Mayor Libro Mustica urges us all to abide by restrictions.

with businesses, health centres and residents and working hard to put measures in place to buffer the impact this pandemic is causing.

Our customer service centres are still open at this stage, however we are urging everyone to use email, website or phone contact first, and only visit if the matter is urgent.

Our visitor information centres are now closed, as well as the sports stadium in Cobram, the Nu-

murkah Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the Yarrawonga Splash Park.

The latest advice is we have potentially months of restrictions as we head towards winter, so if we all play our part we will be better placed to recover from the health and economic impacts that are now unfolding globally and locally.

For all council updates please go to our website www.moirav.vic.gov.au.

Schools stay open for the few

DESPITE Sunday's announcement that Victorian school holidays would start a few days early and schools would close as of Tuesday, Numurkah's primary schools have kept their doors open.

Attendance has been much lower than usual though - with just the children of emergency services personnel in attendance.

Both St Joseph's and Numurkah Primary School were contacted by the Department of Education and Training late on Monday to instruct them to remain open for the rest of the week for the few students who fall into that category.

In the case of both schools, that meant eight to 10 students out of their usual enrolment, with numbers depending on their parents' shift rosters.

The *Leader* spoke to the principals of both schools, who said that, whilst they have been instructed that all students are to return to school when term two commences, school staff are making preparations for home learning to commence in the event of schools closing for a longer period.

Statement from the Premier of Victoria

VICTORIAN Premier Daniel Andrews has issued a statement that leaves no doubt that, when it comes to recently announced COVID-19 containment measures, the State Government means business.

The Premier's statement, issued on Monday, reads: Victoria Police has established a coronavirus enforcement squad of 500 officers to ensure containment measures that have been put in place to combat coronavirus are followed.

Coordinated through the Police Operations Centre, the officers will be out in the community doing spot checks on returning travellers who are in 14-day isolation, as well as enforcing the bans on indoor and outdoor gatherings.

This includes the decision of the National Cabinet to implement Stage One of a shutdown of non-essential activity across the country from midday Monday, which is aimed at slowing the spread of coronavirus.

The businesses that will close due to the Stage One shutdown include pubs, clubs, nightclubs, Crown Casino, and licensed venues in hotels and pubs. It also includes gyms, indoor sporting venues, places of worship, cinemas and entertainment venues. Restaurants and cafes will only be allowed to provide home delivery or takeaway services.

This decision and other containment measures are meaningless if Victorians don't take them seriously or don't think they will be caught if they flout the rules.

Such thinking is wrong and the new coronavirus enforcement squad at Victoria Police will take action against anyone caught doing the wrong thing.

The Stage One shutdown will have a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of many Victorians, but if we don't do this, more Victorians will contract coronavirus and more Victorians will die.

The decision will be reviewed regularly by the National Cabinet, and speaking as honestly as possible, it's likely that governments across Australia will need to go further in the days and weeks ahead.

The government can also confirm that school holidays for government schools in Victoria will be brought forward, starting on Tuesday, March 24. Schools will use this time to support teachers and staff plan for flexible and remote learning in the event schools need to move to that method of teaching.

I have recently told Victorians that the government will ask them to do things they have never experienced before – these are the types of measures that I was talking about.

I also call on every Victorian to undertake their civic duty and practise social distancing: don't be closer than 1.5 metres from another person, wash your hands and practise good hand hygiene.

Do that for yourself, your loved ones and for the loved ones of people you have never met. It will save lives.

Leader will go on

Continued from front page.
The online edition is the same as the paper copy and can be accessed by subscription via the *Leader* website.

We know that one of the reasons the *Leader* has remained strong, when so many other regional newspapers have closed down, is that we enjoy the support of a great local community.

As any small local business will tell you, that is the difference between life and death in a small town.

We implore you to continue to support Numurkah and district's businesses in these troubled time so that when we come out the other end of this pandemic - which we will - they will still be here to contribute to our vibrant, supportive community.

If you are not sure how to go about that, give them a call - they will let you know.

In our case, supporting us is simple; buy the paper, read the paper, and if you've got a story, let us know. As always, we want to hear from you so you can keep hearing from us, and from each other.

Online subscriptions to the *Leader* cost just \$5.95 per month, or \$54.95 for 12 months, and can be arranged via our website numurkahleader.net.au, or by calling the *Leader* on 5862 1034.

If you are self-isolating and would like a hard copy of the paper delivered, this can be arranged through newsXpress Numurkah by calling them on 5862 1109.

Numurkah LEADER

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Non-essential business closure direction

UNDER Victoria's current state of emergency, declared by Premier Daniel Andrews on March 15 and becoming effective as of midday last Monday, March 16, the Chief Health Officer of Victoria is authorised to exercise emergency powers by the Chief Health Officer under section 199(2)(a) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic).

On Monday, Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease) Dr Annaliese van Diemen, as authorised by the Chief Health Officer, made a direction regarding the closure of non-essential businesses in Victoria.

The direction, in part, reads:

I, Dr Annaliese van Diemen, Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease), consider it reasonably necessary to protect public health to give the following direction pursuant to sections 190(1)(a) and 200(1)(d) of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic):

Preamble

1. The purpose of this direction is to prohibit the operation of non-essential businesses and undertakings in order to limit the spread of Novel Coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV).

Note: All businesses or undertakings that continue to operate must comply with the Mass Gatherings Directions (No 2). Those directions limit indoor gatherings in a single undivided space to fewer than 100 people. In addition, the total number of persons present in the indoor space at the same time must not exceed the number calculated by dividing the total area (measured in square metres) of the indoor space by four.

A person who owns, controls or operates a non-essential business or undertaking in the State of Victoria must not operate that business or undertaking between noon on 23 March 2020 and midnight on 13 April 2020.

Definition of non-essential business or undertaking

A non-essential business or undertaking means any of the following, whether operated on a for profit or not-for-profit basis:

- a. a business characterised as a pub, bar or club that supplies alcohol under a general licence, an on-premises licence or a club licence, but not including any part of the business constituted by a bottleshop;
- b. a hotel, whether licensed or unlicensed, but not:
 - i. to the extent that it provides accommodation, takeaway meals or a meal delivery service; or
 - ii. any part of the hotel constituted by a bottleshop;
- c. a gym;
- d. an indoor sporting centre;
- e. a casino;
- f. a cinema, nightclub or entertainment venue of any kind;
- g. a restaurant or cafe, other than to the extent that it provides takeaway meals or a meal delivery service;
- h. a place of worship, other than for the purposes of a wedding or funeral.

PENALTIES

Section 203 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) provides:

Compliance with direction or other requirement

(1) A person must not refuse or fail to comply with a direction given to the person, or a requirement made of the person, in the exercise of a power under an authorisation given under section 199.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units.

In the case of a body corporate, 600 penalty units.

(2) A person is not guilty of an offence against subsection (1) if the person had a reasonable excuse for refusing or failing to comply with the direction or requirement.



Not smiling now ... Tanya Harrison (left) with stylist Emma Kate, refuses to take the chance of contributing to the spread of COVID-19.

Hairdresser shuts up shop

MERAKI Hair 'n' Beauty Salon owner Tanya Harrison has closed her Numurkah salon's doors rather than take the chance of contributing to the spread of COVID-19.

Tanya told the *Leader* that, despite it being her livelihood, she does not consider hairdressing an essential business and believes that, in light of the current situation, no salon should remain open.

"Just because we were not specifically named on the list of non-essential businesses doesn't mean we are essential," she said.

"There is absolutely no way you can maintain

social distancing while providing hair or beauty services and I am not going to be responsible for contributing to the spread of this virus.

"This is people's lives we are talking about."

Tanya said, whilst she is sure that salon owners across the country have enacted stringent cleaning regimes, and understands they have worked hard to build businesses they don't want to lose, it was no excuse for risking exposure of themselves, their staff or their clients.

"We need to use our common sense. It's just not worth it," she said.

"I know I'll probably lose my business over

this, but who cares about money? You can always start again as long as you're alive."

Tanya said that she felt like the public were being given misleading information regarding the 'essential' status of hair and beauty salons.

"The government has never said that hair and beauty salons are essential businesses - we were never listed as such by the government - the media has done that, and I think the media is wrong.

"I'd be absolutely devastated if I thought keeping my doors open had contributed, in any way, to someone to be infected.

"Nobody needs their hair done that badly."

Numurkah pulls together in time of crisis

WITH empty supermarket shelves providing a stark reminder of the depths to which human nature can sink, the simple, kind actions of some ordinary locals have provided an antidote to the rising tide of selfishness that threatened to extinguish all hope during our current troubles.

Proving, once again, that Numurkah is a community that looks after its own, one local woman's actions have started a small but powerful movement, making sure no-one gets left behind.

When Numurkah's Leesa Lawrence walked out of Coles supermarket in Shepparton last Monday night, she was almost in tears.

"There was almost nothing on the shelves and it was just so depressing," she told the *Leader*.

"I wasn't so much upset for myself, but for other people, especially vulnerable people, who might not be able to get things they really need.

"It was just unbearable, and I thought there had to be something I could do."

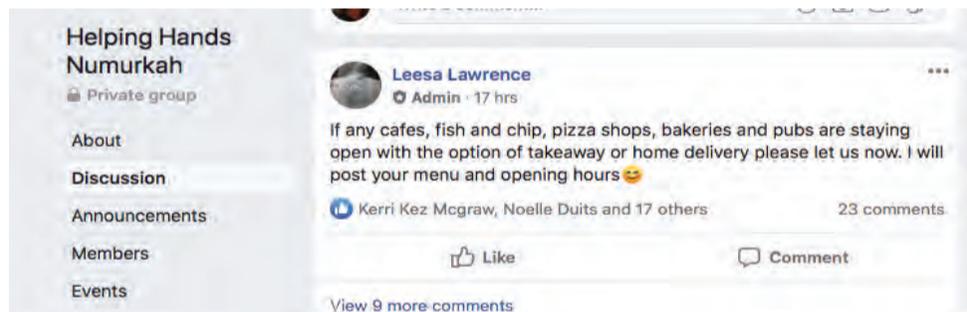
Leesa came up with an idea, the almost instant success of which left her shocked.

Last Tuesday, the day after her fateful supermarket trip, she started the Helping Hands Numurkah Facebook group, and within 24 hours it had over 300 members.

"I couldn't believe it - I really thought it would get about 20 people, but it just immediately had so many people interested," she said.

Leesa said that she thinks the group's popularity is as much an indication of how many people want to help, as how many people need help.

"It's provided an outlet for people to connect and help each other. I think a lot of people were feeling really helpless in the face of the whole sit-



Pulling together ... The Helping Hands Numurkah group is connecting locals to help individuals and businesses struggling as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

uation and this has given them a positive way to channel that and do something.

"If we all get together and help each other, then the whole situation is less stressful."

As of yesterday - a week after its creation - the page had 484 members.

Of the dozens of posts made by members, some were pleas for help in finding items such as nappies, toilet paper and baby Panadol, whilst most were offers of help and advice regarding substitutes for items made impossible to find due to panic buying.

One member even posted a design for a card that can be dropped in letterboxes of neighbours who are self-isolating to let them know that you are available to offer assistance with accessing supplies.

Leesa has been thrilled by the way people have embraced the group.

"It's been so good, it's making me smile every day. There have been at least a couple of posts

every day, and people are really connecting and helping each other, which is exactly what I hoped for when I started the group," she said.

On Monday, after the deadline for local eateries to stop serving sit-down food and drinks, Leesa invited them to post their take away menus on the group's page to let customers know what is available.

"It's shocking how this situation is affecting everybody and we all need to support each other and to help local businesses stay in business," she said.

Although she started the page in reaction to the current crisis, Leesa is now determined to keep it going, come what may.

"I'm still going to keep the group going once this is over because there is always someone who needs a hand.

"It's made me feel like I have finally done something with my life."

WHAT'S ON AT NUMURKAH GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB

**CLUB AGM
POSTPONED**

NGBC IS CURRENTLY CLOSED

due to Federal Government COVID-19 restrictions and will re open as soon as the government deemed it safe to do so



Vulnerable to receive care packages

VICTORIANS self-isolating due to coronavirus (COVID-19) with no access to food and essential supplies will receive emergency relief packages under a program introduced by the State Government.

The program will support people in mandatory self-isolation, who have little or no food, and no network of family and friends to support them. Each eligible household will receive a two-week supply of essential goods.

Food packages will include items such as long-life milk, pasta, cereal, canned vegetables and sugar. Personal care packages will also be distributed to eligible households and include soap, toothpaste and deodorant. Additional items may also be provided depending on the needs of the household, such as nappies or baby formula.

The packages will be delivered door-to-door, with other distribution points to be established as required. People who are not eligible for the emergency relief packages, are encouraged to be self-reliant and call on the help of family and friends wherever possible during the current pandemic.

Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan said we need to look out for each

other over the next few months, but for people who have no one nearby to support them, the State Government will make sure they get what they need.

“There is plenty of food for all Victorians, so please don’t take more than you need,” he said.

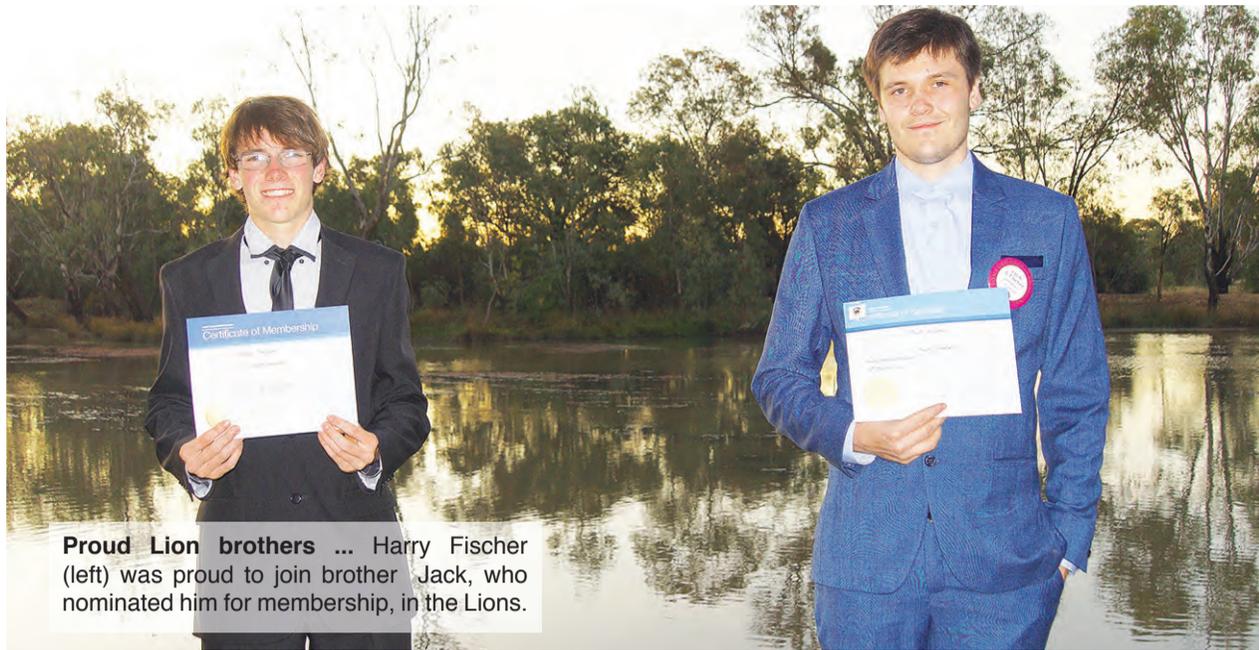
“But if you do find yourself isolated, and can’t access the basics, we have emergency relief packages for you.”

The emergency relief program for those in mandatory self-isolation will be coordinated by the Red Cross in partnership with Foodbank Victoria and under the direction of the State Relief Coordinator.

Foodbank Victoria CEO David McNamara said that, as we saw during the bushfire crisis, Foodbank Victoria is well-placed to assist all vulnerable Victorians.

“At this time, when everyone’s feeling anxious and uncertain our message is – in partnership with the government – we’re here to protect and support you, as we’ve been doing for the past 90 years.”

The program started on Monday and can be accessed by calling Victoria’s dedicated coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398. The hotline can also refer people to other support services if needed.



Proud Lion brothers ... Harry Fischer (left) was proud to join brother Jack, who nominated him for membership, in the Lions.

New Lions get unique induction

THE recent introduction of new social distancing regulations has thrown us all for a bit of a loop, and put the kibosh on planned gatherings of all sorts.

Numurkah Lions Club had made arrangements for district governor, Omen Ndlovu to attend a Numurkah Lions meeting on Monday, but then the new

regulations saw the cancellation of all club meetings.

Not wanting to make the new members - who were chomping at the bit to officially be declared Lions - wait, the club got creative and organised a meeting that is believed to have created international Lions history.

The unique induction was held outdoors, at the Lions Park by the Broken Creek on Monday evening, with all present observing social distancing recommendations as Lea Tyndall, Sue McCracken, David Morris, Chris Boyden and Harry Fischer were welcomed into the pride.



Fire spotted from tower

ONE of two incidents local brigades responded to in the past week was a grass and scrub fire spotted from a fire tower.

Kaarimba and Wunghnu brigades were called to assist Tallygaroopna, after smoke was spotted at the corner of McClelland Road and Grant Track, Shepparton North, at 1.25pm last Wednesday.

The fire, which was on a bush property, burned around two acres of grass and scrub. DELWP also attended and worked on extinguishing some trees. The cause is unknown at this stage.

Approximately 300 round bales of hay were burnt on a property at Old Coach Road, Mywee, between Ruttles Road and Farralls Road, in what is thought to have been a case of spontaneous combustion last Saturday.

Strathmerton and Yarroweyah brigades were turned out to the blaze at 1.55 pm, and made sure the area around the hay stack was safe before leaving the hay to burn out under the farmer’s supervision.



COVID-19 Community Update

As you may be aware, the State Government has announced a shut down of all ‘non-essential’ activities to combat the threat of COVID-19.

This includes the early closing of schools as of Tuesday 24 March.

The Federal Government has also announced mandatory social distancing rules relating to indoor gatherings where people now need to be at least four square metres apart.

What is Council doing?

As this situation is unprecedented, we are all needing to be flexible and responsible – we are meeting daily to review any new information that comes to hand and make decisions accordingly.

Council places the highest priority on the health and wellbeing of our staff and community and as such we have put the following measures in place –

- Our *Customer Service Centre* in Cobram will remain open under strict social distancing regulations. However the Yarrowonga centre will now be closed until further notice. We are asking people to visit our website www.moirá.vic.gov.au, email us at info@moirá.vic.gov.au or phone us on (03) 5871 9222 in the first instance and only come into the service centres as a LAST RESORT.
- Our *Visitor Information Centres* will be closed from Tuesday 24 March.
- Council facilities including the sports stadium in Cobram, the Numurkah Aquatic and Fitness Centre and the Yarrowonga Splash Park are now closed.

Help for businesses

We are currently compiling available grants and information to send out to all businesses in the shire with the possibility of incorporating online workshops and training.

Stay tuned for more information.

Maternal and Child Health

Starting this week, our immunisation sessions will cease to be drop-in sessions and will move to scheduled appointment times.

This arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future.

Importantly, only those receiving a vaccine and their parent/carer are to attend their scheduled appointment – DO NOT attend if you or your child is unwell.

Please contact us on (03) 5871 9275 to book your appointment.

More information

For the most up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 please go to our website or www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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

NCN Health issues timely advice for local residents

NCN Health has assured local health service users that it is working hard to protect the health and safety of residents, patients, clients and staff in relation to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

NCN Health CEO, Jacque Phillips said the health and safety of staff, residents, patients and all users of NCN Health Services is a priority.

"We are taking advice from the Department of Health and Human Services and Commonwealth Government, and we are working closely with other health services and experts to make preparations, protect people and provide the latest information," Ms Phillips said.

"I would like to thank the local community and consumers of health care services for their understanding and patience during this busy time.

"At NCN Health Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah, the doctors, nurses, dentists, allied health, administration, finance, supply, kitchen, cleaning and maintenance staff are working together to continue to provide quality and safe care. This is greatly appreciated."

"There are a number of changes for visitors and clients of health care services taking place across NCN Health in the interest of health and safety for everyone."

"It is important to note that we continue to provide essential services. Much work continues in our urgent care centres, wards, residential aged care and community health services across all locations, to continue to deliver health care to all," she said.

The Commonwealth Government has provided new guidelines in relation to members of the public visiting residential aged care services.

The following restrictions aim to

protect the health and safety of residents in aged care and patients in the hospital:

Visits are limited to two immediate family members/support people per day for a maximum of two hours, in rooms.

People will be unable to visit if they:

- are sick (with fever/acute respiratory conditions);

- have returned from overseas travel in the last 14 days;
- are children aged under 16 years.

Some exemptions are applied in a palliative setting.

The government restrictions have been implemented at NCN Health's residential aged care homes in Nathalia, Cobram and Numurkah. The same visitor restrictions are in place in all of NCN Health's inpatient wards.

NCN Health is also reviewing community health group programs and activities, and said it is taking this action to protect residents, patients and staff against contracting Coronavirus.

The health service offered the following advice regarding social distancing, hygiene and self isolation:

Social distancing is about minimising contact between yourself and other people.

You can practise social distancing by:

- Keeping 1.5m away from others.
- Stay at home if you are feeling unwell.

- Deferring large meetings or public gatherings.
- Stop handshaking as a greeting.

Good hygiene is important to protect yourself and your family:

- Wash your hands regularly.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow when coughing or sneezing.

- Clean work and home spaces before and after use.

Self-Isolation

The Prime Minister recently advised that all people who have returned from travel overseas are required to self-isolate for 14 days. All close contacts of confirmed cases will be contacted by the Department Health and Human Services and told to self-isolate for 14 days.

People who haven't travelled but have a fever and an acute respiratory system may also be advised to self-isolate.

During the 14 days of isolation, people must stay at home and must not go to public places including work, school, childcare, university or public gatherings – and must not have visitors. Only people who usually live with you should be in the home. People are encouraged to contact friends, family and neighbours by phone, email and social media.

The public is requested to follow the steps below to access information in relation to COVID-19:

- Contact your local general practice clinic by phone, prior to attending.

- NCN Health urgent care centres should be contacted prior to attending.

- Triple zero (000) calls should be for emergencies only.

- For information on self-isolation, social distancing and hygiene visit: www.health.gov.au.

- For information regarding Coronavirus visit the Department of Health and Human Services website: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

- If you are unwell, please call the Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Advice is being updated regularly – for the latest information please visit: www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus.

Numurkah keeps its distance

THE world has changed dramatically in just a few short weeks, with practices we once couldn't have imagined filling the public consciousness and dominating our everyday lives.

As this week started, measures were enacted to ensure social distancing in an effort to slow the spread of coronavirus, and the *Leader* took to Melville Street on Monday morning to see how locals were taking to them.



Gavin Thomson, Numurkah

"I had throat cancer a few years ago and needed very high dose chemotherapy and I have a poor immune system as a result, so I'm happy to stay at home. I get home help and that is still operating so I'll be okay."

"I came out early today to get a few essentials and now I'm going straight home

and I'm going to stay there.

"I live a pretty quiet life anyway, so it won't affect me too much. I go to the pub for a few quiet beers sometimes and I won't be able to do that now, so I suppose the sky really is falling."



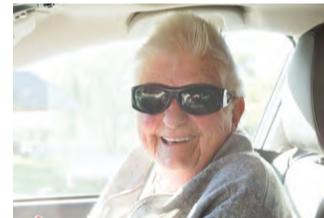
Ron Laidlaw, Numurkah

"I just came in because I needed plumbing supplies, otherwise I wouldn't be here. I'm going straight home now."

"I go and visit my wife in Pioneers Lodge every afternoon - they are allowed two visitors a day at the moment - but apart from that I stay home. I don't like being out now."

"I've got enough toilet paper, and anything else I don't have I usually just make do without."

"I've had to improvise with my cooking a bit but I'll be okay. I'd rather just stay safe at home than go out to get things."



Johanna Rovers, Numurkah

"I only came out to get chook feed because I really needed it, and I thought I'd get a take away coffee while I was out, to support a local business."

"I'd much rather just stay away from everyone and that's what I've been doing the rest of the time."

"I don't like the way so many people are just breaking the rules; it makes me quite angry."

"People need to listen and do what they're being told they need to do."

"Both my parents lost family members to the Spanish flu - my father lost three sisters. This situation is very serious and just because people haven't experienced anything like this before is no excuse. People need to listen."

An important message from the Victorian Government

MANAGING CORONAVIRUS TOGETHER WILL FLATTEN THE CURVE.

1



Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds.

2



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.

3



If you feel sick - stay at home.

Stay informed at coronavirus.vic.gov.au



Managing this *together*



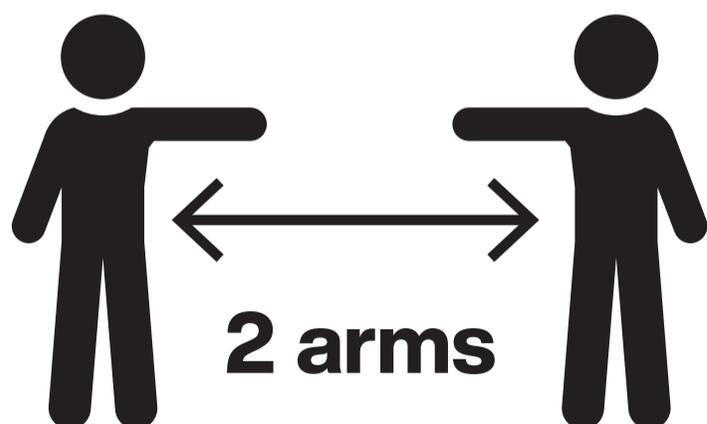
Australian Government

OFFICIAL MEDICAL ADVICE

Coronavirus: what is social distancing?

Keeping a distance of two arms lengths (1.5 metres) from others where you can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Including in your home, work and public spaces.

Where it's not practical to distance (such as on a train or bus) practise good hygiene as always.



australia.gov.au

Coronavirus Info Line

1800 020 080

Katunga PS gets cosy for a cause

IF you happened by Katunga Primary School without prior warning last Friday, you'd have been excused for doing a double-take at the uniform on display.

Students, teachers, and even school council president Bud Stammers, donned their PJs and brought along their favourite teddy bear for the day in return for making a donation to raise money for the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

The fundraiser was an initiative of the junior school council, with the aim of making life a little bit more pleasant for kids who find themselves spending time in RCH.

Whilst the idea to hold a fundraiser for RCH came from principal Natalie Hopcroft, the junior school council members did the rest, with grade two student Indi Brennan suggesting a PJ day.

"I just thought it was a good thing to do and it would be fun," Indi said.

Year six junior school council member Rhani

Hendy said the councillors were all aware that RCH patients are kids just like them.

"Every kid should have a chance to learn and play, even if they're in hospital, so we hope to raise money for them to be able to do that a bit more," she said.

Whilst the students seemed quite at home getting around the school in their jim-jams, teachers, not so much.

Principal Natalie Hopcroft and teacher Kellie McLinden both agreed that being at school in their pyjamas definitely felt a bit wrong.

"It felt super-weird getting in the car to come to work this morning," Ms McLinden said.

Ms Hopcroft agreed that it made for an interesting morning drive.

"I was very aware that this morning was a morning that I especially didn't want the car to break down. That would have been hard to explain," she said.

PJ day raised a total of \$102 for the Royal Children's Hospital.



PJ power ... Millie, Bonnie, Rhani and Tillie. Middle: Jordynn, Jesse, Raleigh, Logan, Dean and Indi. Front: Kelsie, Joss, Aimee, Jackson and William.

Victoria to get spent convictions law

THE Victorian Government has committed to introduce a legislated spent convictions scheme to ensure old criminal records for eligible offences do not impact on an individual's opportunity to gain employment and rehabilitate.

The commitment is part of the State Government's response to recommendations of the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into a Legislated Spent Convictions Scheme, which was tabled last Thursday.

Historical criminal records can have a lasting, damaging effect on an individual, limiting their ability to gain employment, secure housing or undertake volunteer work.

Victoria is the only Australian jurisdiction that does not have a legislated spent convictions scheme – under the scheme individuals who have previously

committed an offence and have since demonstrated their ability to rehabilitate, will be given a chance to fully contribute to society.

An individual's historical criminal record for eligible offences will no longer show up in a police check after a set period of time, if they do not re-offend.

Certain convictions, such as for serious sexual or violent offending, will not be eligible under the scheme to become spent.

In the interests of public safety, police and courts will continue to have full access to criminal history information.

In addition, complete criminal records will still be released for the purposes of enabling certain employers and third parties to make well-informed risk assessments.

This includes licensing for

trusted professions, checks for working with children, and employment in sensitive government roles.

Following the committee's comprehensive inquiry, the government is now consulting with stakeholders, including law enforcement, justice sector agencies, victims' representatives and Aboriginal groups, to develop the detail of the scheme, including eligibility criteria.

Attorney-General Jill Hennessy said the government would undertake a thorough review of existing schemes and research to deliver a fair scheme that keeps the community safe.

"People who have committed eligible offences, who have worked hard to turn their lives around, deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential," she said.



The trooper and the jolly jumbuck ... Leading Senior Constable Chris Westrope with the stolen lamb.

Dumb lamb thieves

THERE was an echo of Waltzing Matilda at Katamatite in the early hours of Sunday morning, but although there were troopers and sheep thieves involved, nobody ended up in a billabong.

Katamatite policeman Leading Senior Constable Chris Westrope received a call at 5.25am on Sunday that three men had been seen stealing a lamb from a farm paddock on Labuan Road.

On arrival, a white Commodore was observed leaving the scene with two occupants - one of which was a lamb - whilst farmers were keeping an eye on two men who had been left behind and were trying to hide.

The two men - a 21 year-old and a 25 year-old both from Cobram - were both arrested and interviewed and will be charged on summons with attempted theft of livestock.

The third thief, who escaped in the Commodore, is expected to be arrested and charged with theft of livestock this week.

In a happy twist, the forgetfulness of one of those arrested led to the recovery of the stolen lamb.

LSC Westrope went to deliver the offender's copy of the interview recording, which he had forgotten to take with him, to the offender's address, and found the lamb in the kitchen.

"I couldn't believe it," LSC Westrope said. "He told me they'd wanted it to keep the grass in the yard down. I said 'mate, it's three days old - it's not even eating grass yet,'"

LSC Westrope returned the lamb to a very happy farmer within hours of it being pinched.

"He was delighted, he couldn't believe we'd found it so quickly," LSC Westrope said.



Ordinary Council Meeting – Public Health Announcement

Our next meeting will commence TONIGHT Wednesday 25 March from 6pm at the Cobram Civic Centre.

This meeting is still open to the public, however Council is requesting people evaluate their need to be present and if it isn't urgent, to please stay at home.

If you do choose to attend, seating will be spaced according to strict social distancing advice.

You are asked to arrive just prior to the commencement of the meeting and to take your seats immediately; likewise at the closure of the meeting you will be asked to depart the premises without delay.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

(03) 5871 9222

133 677

info@moira.vic.gov.au

www.moira.vic.gov.au

The Numurkah Leader

GOULBURN VALLEY FARMERS AND FRUIT GROWERS GAZETTE

100 years ago

This week in 1920 ...

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

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

BROKEN CREEK WATERS SCHEME

There was a very enthusiastic meeting held at Nathalia on Saturday last, to advocate a supply of water for irrigation from the Sugarloaf reservoir to the Broken Creek. The President of the Shire Cr. W. C. Schier was voted to the chair. Mr E. A. Neeld explained the past work of the Broken Creek Committee. They had received a promise from the Water Commission that the request for water into the creek would receive favorable consideration when the Sugarloaf scheme was completed. As the Commission was taking steps to allot the water, it was thought advisable to wait on the Commission. On Monday week last, in company with Messrs W. P. Scott and G. Stickels, the Commissioners had been seen. They could definitely say now on the word of the Commissioners, that water would be impounded at the Sugarloaf at the end of 1921, and that in 1921-2 the work would be in full going order.

The Commission proposed to visit the district, due notice of which would be given, and advised that they were prepared to listen to any scheme, and suggested bringing forward all the arguments in support.

HEAVY MANURING EXPERIENCES OF FARMERS.

Examples are multiplying of farmers who in the past year or two have applied heavier dressings than the usual in their districts when sowing the wheat crop. So pleased have they been with the results that they have readily added their testimony to those of scores of others in favor of the practice.

As has been pointed out on previous occasions in the columns, the crop returns were specially stimulated in the dry season of 1919. Mr A. E. V. Richardson, the Agricultural Superintendent in the Department, indicates that on the average a good season follows a poor in Victoria. In numbers of important sections of our wheat belt there was a comparative failure last year. It is reasonable to believe, on past history of rainfall, that the coming wheat crop will be at least a fair one.

Dramatic Club.—A dramatic club has been formed in conjunction with the Numurkah Mechanics Institute, and the members are desirous of getting straight to work. To give every body a chance of joining, a general meeting has been called for next Monday, when it will be decided what play will be staged.

NUMURKAH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING OF EXECUTIVE

There was a large attendance of members of the Agricultural Society executive at the monthly meeting on Tuesday last, the President (Mr J. S. Christie) in the chair.

Mr Gribben wrote that his mare, which was the subject of a protest at the meeting following the last show, had not proved in foal, as anticipated, and the first prize was thereupon awarded to Mr G. Bedwell.

The question of laying water on to the grounds was again mentioned.

The secretary stated that the cost of piping to the publican's booth would be £87, and there would be a considerable distance to carry the water to the stock troughs.

Mr W. Hooper, in whose hands the matter had been placed, said it had been agreed, in view of the cost, to defer the matter, though, personally he thought they might run the pipe from the weir inside the grounds fence.

Mr Kilpatrick strongly urged the work being done; he was sure the various sporting bodies interested would assist. It was eventually agreed to refer the matter to the incoming committee.

The President to be Honored.

A rather unique happening occurred at the close of the meeting, the President being asked to leave the room for a few minutes. Mr Christie having done as desired, Mr Kilpatrick explained that it was generally considered that their President should have a presentation made to him to mark the successful inauguration of the new society. The great success achieved had been in large measure due to Mr Christie.

Mr McKenna (vice-President) supported, and moved that an enlarged group photo of the retiring executive be presented to the President.



All donations gratefully accepted ... Show Us Ya Wheels committee members, Ritchies IGA staff and representatives of local community groups gathered for the cheque presentation last Thursday.

Show us ya generosity

DESPITE ran dampening last year's Ritchies IGA Show Us Ya Wheels event, thanks to a hardy and loyal group of supporters and car enthusiasts the annual car show still raised almost \$10,000 for local community groups.

Last Thursday night, representatives from most of the 13 community groups receiving donations gathered at Ritchies IGA - the event's major sponsor - to receive cheques from Show Us Ya Wheels

committee members. Show Us Ya Wheels president Damien Hipwell told the Leader that the committee was happy to be able to be able to make a positive contribution to the community during such tough times.

"The original intent of Show Us Ya Wheels was to provide a high quality event to local people at a low price and to use that to make a financial contribution to local groups," he said.

"It's great to have been able to donate so much even though visitor numbers through the gate were drastically reduced due to the cold.

"Local people still made the effort to come out and support us, as these donations show, and that's fantastic.

"We'd like to be able to donate to everyone who needs it, but we reckon 13 groups is pretty good."

The committee is hoping to be able to make a second round of donations later in the year, depending

on how costs of this year's event pan out.

This year will be the event's 20th anniversary, and plans are under way to make it one of the best yet. Anyone interested in getting involved is welcome.

Mr Hipwell said that, given the current state of affairs with regards to COVID-19, getting involved in a local community group is a great way to stay connected to the community while we all self-isolate.

Study to capture experiences of pregnant women during disasters

RESEARCHERS from The Australian National University (ANU) are studying how natural disasters affect pregnant women, to help better understand this vulnerable group and the potential impact of future disasters.

The study, being conducted by PhD scholar, Cynthia Parayiwa and Associate Professor Alison Behie, will focus on pregnant women living in Queensland who were exposed to a severe cyclone event over the past 10 years.

The team are also examining the impact of fire and flood on pregnancies.

Dr Behie said studying the pregnancies of women who experienced cyclones in this decade, along with our other research from the Black Saturday and Canberra bushfires and Queensland floods, will provide the most comprehensive picture of how natural disasters impact pregnancies in Australia.

"With the bushfires, smoke, cyclones and floods we've had just this summer, Australia needs to be better prepared for more frequent

and intense weather events," Dr Behie said.

"With the data and personal experiences of vulnerable groups we'll be better able to say this is how we can best protect them."

Previous work by the pair in 2018 found that, in areas affected by Cyclone Yasi, more premature births were recorded. Babies were also born with lower birth weights. Both these conditions were found especially among women in their first trimester when the cyclone hit.

Dr Behie said the importance of stressors during the first trimester is not yet understood, and hopes the research may shed new light on this critical period of pregnancy.

"Pregnant women are much more susceptible to any stress because their bodies are already under extra stress from carrying a baby. Experiences during disasters can trigger the endocrine system and release stress hormones, or cortisol," she said.

"During the first trimester, the baby is getting established, so if there are high levels of cortisol

in the system, it may signal to the foetus there's a sub-optimal environment out there and maybe it speeds things up, causing a premature birth."

The team, which has access to Queensland Health population records, will also document personal experiences shared by women.

"Participants will respond to a short online survey, and will also have the option of telling their story face-to-face or via video to give more insights into their pregnancy," Ms Parayiwa said.

"We're looking for resilience factors in pregnant women, such as whether they had strong family networks or continued access to their doctors and midwives.

"But we also want to hear about personal stressors they may have faced. Did they lose a house, or a pet or a loved one during the cyclone? Did they lose sleep or did they seek help?"

Pregnant women who experienced a Queensland cyclone in the last 10 years are invited to take the survey here: https://anu.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_etvHlbuhv23LLSZ.

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Numurkah LEADER

Gloves come off in fight for timber jobs

VICTORIAN Government MPs will face flying pickets, mass community meetings and rolling stoppages as timber workers ramp up their campaign to highlight the turmoil facing the industry.

The crisis facing the forestry sector escalated last week after a court injunction halted harvesting in areas earmarked to provide timber for sawmilling and paper manufacturing over the coming weeks and months, putting jobs at risk.

The union representing timber workers, the Construction Forestry Maritime Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), said it was drastically escalating its campaign to protect thousands of timber jobs due to 'ongoing atrocious mismanagement' of the industry by the Victorian Government.

CFMEU National Secretary Michael O'Connor said the union will use every available tactic and forum available to it to change the government's approach until they begin to take the plight of workers, their families and communities seriously.

"The gloves are coming off and timber communities punch above their weight, so the Andrews Government better be ready, or better still, be prepared to reset their plans and approach," he said.

Mr O'Connor said it is clear that the government has no proper or viable plan for the industry.

"The industry is in crisis, people are bleeding and the Victorian Government is out to lunch," he said.

"The government is flat footed, asleep at the wheel and we'll be making it our mission to wake them up from their slumber."

The industry was already in disarray prior to last week's injunction, with some workers and contractors stood down or out of work for months, anti-timber protesters occupying forestry coupes, contracts voided by VicForests, and the fate of sawmills' wood supply agreements up in the air.

Mr O'Connor said there was growing frustration, bewilderment and shock at the degree of incompetence and seeming disregard from some corners of people's predicaments.

"Workers and working communities should never be treated like this by a Labor Government or indeed any Government," he said

"Workers in the industry, their families and communities are understandably appalled."



Interactive ... Grade six student Lachlan Cartledge helps zoologist Andrew Hamilton demonstrate how skulls have changed over time.

Junior archaeologists ... Students dig for bones in a demonstration of how scientific discoveries can be made.

Skulls tell the story at Waaia Yalca South

WAAIA Yalca South primary school students learned the story of their species last Friday via a unique medium - skulls.

The school received an interactive visit from zoologist Andrew Hamilton, who used a collection of nine replica skulls to show students how the bones in our heads affect our functional abilities.

With skulls ranging from primates to homo sapiens, Mr Ham-

ilton demonstrated how small differences make big differences.

"Each bone and shape in a skull has a functional purpose," he said.

"You can see in primate skulls that they lack the elements needed for walking upright, and the skulls of Neanderthals - who actually shared Europe with homo sapiens for a time - indicate that they were capable of making sounds, but we don't know

whether they had speech as such."

Mr Hamilton made his presentation to a rapt audience, calling students to the 'stage' to demonstrate various aspects of his talk.

He said that in many ways, once they are introduced to the fact that science goes far beyond chemistry, children are natural scientists.

"Children are very open-minded and receptive, but their con-

cept of science is often that it's about test tubes and bunsen burners," he said.

"Letting them know that science is really just the study of the natural world, is about creating and encouraging curiosity."

One of the highlights of the presentation was the opportunity for students to take part in an archaeological dig to find various bones hidden in a sand pile.

Popular camping areas set to open before Easter

RECOVERY works are under way in the Ovens Valley to ensure popular camping areas, impacted by recent bushfires, are safe and open ahead of the Easter holidays.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) staff and contractors are clearing and stabilising tracks, dealing with dangerous trees and repairing hundreds of kilometres of drainage along forest roads and tracks.

FFMVic, Ovens District Manager,

Jarrod Hayse said crews have been working around the clock to reopen Buckland Valley campsites, and northern access roads and tracks to the Wonnangatta Valley before the Easter holiday period commences.

"During the next six weeks crews will focus on soil stabilisation works and will assess roads and tracks for further damage and the need for technical assessments to repair land slips and culverts," he said.

"There is still a lot of work to be done and we'll continue that work for many months, but we're confident that the most urgent assessments and repairs will be completed before the holiday period."

All state forests in the Buffalo Valley and Buckland Valley are currently closed. Abbeyards Road is closed at the Rose River Road intersection and the Buckland Valley Road is closed at Buckland Bridge.

The Abbeyard - Yarrarbula fire started on December 31, 2019 from lightning, and burnt 105,910-hectares of predominately public land in the Mount Buffalo National Park and state forest. It was contained on February 5.

"Although the risk of fire has decreased, rain events in fire-affected areas can cause flash flooding and landslips, which can significantly impact roads and tracks," Mr Hayse said.

"Four-wheel drivers and campers

are being advised to check road and track closures which are in place for public safety due to the unstable road conditions."

For all road and track closures, visitors should visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au, www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au or www.ffm.vic.gov.au/media-releases/park-and-forest-closures for the most up to date information.

For the most up to date incident information visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au

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LOST

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATIONS VACANT

END OF *Harvest Dinner*
 EVENING APRIL 4TH AT 6-6.30PM START
 by Italian inspired Chef Stuart Davidson.
 from the Piemonte Region in Italy.
 Wine maker, local wine tasting.
 Numbers are limited.
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MEETINGS

NUMURKAH GOLF AND BOWLS CLUB

BOWLS SECTION

PRESENTATION NIGHT
 Wednesday 11th March

All welcome in club bistro
 All welcome - Please add names to list on
 men's noticeboard

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Wednesday, 1st April
 5:30pm in clubhouse.

Nominations for committees on noticeboards

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The Numurkah Leader is looking for
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Duties will include:

- Accounts payable
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- Advertising bookings
- Phone and counter enquiries
- Some proof-reading
- Assisting with typesetting in inDesign
- Managing website content

Knowledge of Xero and inDesign would
 be an advantage, but not essential. On
 the job training can be provided.

Applicants will need to have the following
 attributes:

- Good command of the English language
- Be energetic and enthusiastic
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Interested applicants should send an
 application letter and resume to:

Beverley Hutchins
 Manager/Editor
 Numurkah Leader
 88 Melville Street, Numurkah, 3636
 or email printads@leader.net.au
 For enquiries please phone 5862 1034

Numurkah LEADER

TENDERS



C060/19

Provision of Security and Cash Collection

Tender closing 4pm Wednesday
 15 April 2020

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

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

Mark Henderson
 Chief Executive Officer

Numurkah LEADER

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BIRTHS

DEALY — Ryan and Kelsey are delighted to announce the safe arrival of

BELLA MAKIYA
Born March 8th 2020, weighing 6lb 9oz.
A granddaughter to cherish for Neil and Glennys, Jimmy and Barb.

THANKS

JORGENSEN — A huge thank you to all for the beautiful flowers, cards, messages and phone calls on the recent passing of our mother, Irene. To the Pioneers Memorial Lodge and Karinya Aged Care, your support and care of Mum was first class. Please accept this as our personal thanks to you all.
Geoff Jorgensen and Gail Adams and families.

IN MEMORIAM

MAPLETOFT — Bruce Robert
20.4.27 - 21.3.07
In loving memory of a very special Dad and Grandpa.
Love Trevor (dec.), Helen, Hannah, Ross, Iain and Adele.

MAPLETOFT — Trevor Bruce
3.7.58 - 29.3.09
The loss in my life I will always feel, in my heart you will always stay.
Loved and remebered every day.
Love Helen.

MAPLETOFT — Trevor Bruce
Dad
It's not what we write
It's not what we say
It's how we remember you in our own special way.
Love Hannah, Ross, Iain and Adele.

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DEATHS

PRINGLE (Lawless) — Wendy
11.10.1962 - 22.3.2020

Peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family, and faithful dogs, Rusty and Charlie. Loved daughter of David and Joan (both dec.). Loving mother to Holly and Prudence. Sister and sister-in-law to Robert and Lynda, Graham (dec.) and Claire. Loved aunt to their families.

Rest in Peace

Loved sister of Robert and Lynda, aunt of Michael and Sheree, Brenton and Penny, Ryan and Mary, Great Aunt to Rahni, Sienna, Rhyley, Willow, Brydie, Jemma, and Frankie. Great memories of a wonderful sister and loving Auntie.

Auntie Wendy,
Always remembered for the kind and caring person you were. You will be sadly missed.
Love Michael, Sheree, Rahni, Sienna, Brydie and Jemma.

Her nature was loving and giving
Her heart was made of gold
And to us who truly loved her
Her memory will never grow old.
Rest in peace Auntie Wendy.
Auntie to Ryan and Mary, Great Auntie of Rhyley, Willow and Frankie.

Sister of Graham (dec.) and Claire.
Fond aunt of Matthew, Alice, and Brayden and Genevieve.
Great aunt of Archie.
Remembered with love



DEATHS

TREASE — “Doug” Douglas Richard
Late of Numurkah, passed away peacefully on 21 March 2020, in his 72nd year.
Dearly loved husband of Jenny (dec.). Loved and loving Dad of Carl, Shaun, Quinton and Kane and their partners. Loving Grandpa of Sarah and Ainslie; Koen and Scarlett; Joel and Hayley; Nevaeh and Harper.
Reunited With Mum

Dear Dad and Pa,
Our love for you will always keep, it will not fade, it lies too deep.
When family chains are broken, nothing is the same, but as we go with life we know we will meet again.
Loving and kind in all your ways. Always seeing the good in others.
Thank you for your love and care.
Always in our hearts
Carl, Liz, Sarah and Ainslie xxxx

Dear Dad, Doug, Pa,
Words cannot express the sadness we feel, We have lost a wonderful Dad and Pa. You had a heart of gold, that we will always hold now it's time to reunite with Mum. Going to miss you Dougie.
Love always
Quinton, Nikki, Joel and Hayley xxxx

Doug, Dad, Pa,
How lucky we were and very proud too, to have a Dad and Pa as bloody good as you. The tears in our eyes we can wipe away. But our love for you will always stay. Today, tomorrow our whole lives through, We will always love and remember you.
♥ Back with Mum xoxo
Spud, Stacey, Neveah and Harper.

We would dearly love to hold a service to celebrate Doug's life, but at this time it is not possible. A Private Funeral will be held and a Memorial Service will be advised at a later date.

Peter Cox & Sons
5862 3047

DEATHS

TREASE — Doug.
Dad you where one of a kind, you will be greatly missed.
It saddens us to not give you the send off you deserve because of the current government laws
Love always,
Porky and Missy and your adored grand-kids Koen and your little tiger Scarlett
XOXO

TREASE — Doug.
Passed away 21st March, 2020.
Adored brother to Dawn (dec.). Brother-in-law to Daryl and friend of Jenny. Loving uncle to Brett, Greg, Narelle and their families.
Fond memories we will forever cherish of our wonderful family times together. Our thoughts are with you all, Carl, Porky, Quint and Spud.
Rest Peacefully
Doug.

FUNERAL NOTICES

PRINGLE (Lawless) — The funeral service to celebrate the life of Wendy Pringle will be held in the gardens at 254 Central Mundoona Road, Numurkah, on Thursday, March 26, 2020, commencing at 1pm.

Private Cremation

In lieu of flowers, donations to Goulburn Valley Oncology Unit would be appreciated. Envelopes available at the service.



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Numurkah LEADER

Gayle gets herself another shirt

by "The Shankster"
 NUMURKAH golfers played the first round of the stableford trophy event on Saturday, and Gayle Smith found some good form to win the Meat on Melville sponsored shirt.

Gayle won a countback on 35 points, relegating Lauris Ashton to second place.

Nola Dalton headed out early on Saturday morning and played a terrific back nine and, although she couldn't keep her form going, finished in third place with 34 points.

The rest of the placings were decided on a countback, Julie Daniel, Pippa de Bondt and Helen Schmedje finishing in that order.

Margot McGrath won nearest the pin on the seventh hole, and Bev Hutchins played one good shot for the day, and a very good shot it was too, to

win the ball on the 18th.

Last Wednesday's event was a monthly medal round, and Felicity Booth proved too good for the rest of the field to win the medal.

Felicity finished with 71 nett, three shots better than division one runner-up Helen Schmedje on 74.

Liz Dell took out division two with 73 nett, with just one shot to spare from Margot McGrath on 74.

Julie Hannaford headed up the list of ball winners with 75 nett, ahead of Tracey Clouston, 76, and Robyn Hodgkin, 78.

Tracey had the best scratch score of 80 shots, and Margot McGrath had the best division two scratch score with 97 shots.

Nola Dalton won the cake hole voucher from Numurkah Bakery for her shot to the seventh green, while Jenny

Connelly won the voucher from new sponsor Casual Step, Nathalia, for being nearest to the pin on the 18th hole.

There was only a small field of players out for last Thursday's chick run, but that didn't stop there being a couple of great scores.

Julie Hannaford won the day with a terrific 33 nett, and Gayle Smith was just getting herself primed up ready for Saturday, coming in with 35 nett.

No-one managed to get onto the seventh green.

With the club closed in accordance with direction from the Federal Government, there will be no organised golf competitions in the foreseeable future. No doubt there will have to be some changes made to the season's syllabus when we are able to get back to something like normal life.



Revenge is sweet ... Back row (from left): David Scadden, Peter Limbrick, John Nihill, Nick Bakogianis, Anthony Wilson, Aaron Booth. Front: Corina McLeod, Caitlin Bourke, Helen Ginnivan (capt.), Loretta Richardson, Sue Vaughan, Di Wilson.

Nathalia takes flag

AFTER finishing the tennis season on top on the ladder, Nathalia continued its good form to take out the Goulburn Murray division three east premiership on Saturday.

The Purples took revenge on the second placed Tatura Chargers, who had beaten them the pre-

vious Saturday in the semi final, by one solitary game.

Nathalia then had to front up on Sunday and outed the Numurkah Penguins in convincing style.

Saturday's grand final saw Nathalia win nine sets to Tatura's four, with a 23 game advantage.

Karters make do with test day

WITH COVID-19 causing the cancellation of all go-kart events, the Goulburn Valley Kart Club, following government guidelines, held an unofficial test day on Saturday.

Around 30 karters attended and took to the track in their classes and age groups.

The track was fast and many achieved personal best times (from their data loggers.)

Nathalia's Ella Dealy clocked 27.2 in the KA4 heavy class,

while Ryan Dealy logged 26.8 in KA4 light.

Relatively new to karting, Numurkah's Emily, Harry, and dad Michael Hogan also achieved PBs.

Numurkah's Goulburn Valley Kart Club was established in 1959, making it the oldest kart club in Australia.

The club spent two years at the showgrounds before it moved to its current site east of Numurkah on the Katama-

tite-Nathalia Road in 1961.

With 80 race licences it is the fifth biggest kart club in Victoria.

The club was due to host round three of the Golden Power series championship in July, and then the Australian Kart Titles in September.

Whether or not these will go ahead is well and truly up in the air, but club president Ben Dealy says they can only hope they go ahead.



PB ... Ella Dealy managed to clock a personal best time.

Come back victory

KAYE Hocking showed her true fighting spirit again last Tuesday with a come-from-behind win in the Numurkah Golf Club's bowls 21 up final. Kaye has fought back a couple of times this season, this time defeating Katrina Glover 21-16.

Katrina got off to a flying start but Kaye pegged her back to take her second victory in this event, her previous title coming in 2012.

On her way to the final, Kaye had victories over Marie Ryan, Jenny Connelly and Helen Pickersgill.

The club's bowls season has come to a premature close due to the current virus situation, but the midweek bowlers have had a terrific season, with many trade day and tournament wins, and the division one premiership.



Fighting spirit ... Kaye Hocking and Katrina Glover after their final match last week.

The Coach tops A grade but Dash gets the dream

by 'Rufus T. Firefly'
 WHILE having a hole-in-one is every golfer's dream, not every one manages this achievement, and you could consider them pretty rare.

But, following on from Geoff Stone's ace on the long weekend, the Leader gets to report another hole-in-one at the local club.

This week it was Darryl 'Dasha' Sheridan, who slam-dunked his shot to the 18th green in last Thursday's stableford competition.

"I usually hit a seven or eight-iron," Darryl said, "but I didn't want to be short, so I pulled out my six-iron."

"It hit the hole on the full, which was pretty lucky, otherwise it would have definitely gone over the back."

Barry 'The Coach' Pruden returned to the winners' circle on Thursday.

In a large field of 46 players, Barry became the inaugural A grade winner in a two tier player grouping introduced to better represent the achievements attained in a growing

mid-week field.

Scoring 39 stableford points, Barry finished three points ahead of runner-up Neville Smith on 36.

Winner of B grade, with a mammoth 45 points, was Steve Mackay who finished four points ahead of 'Postman' Will Smith on 41. All place getters received golfing paraphernalia prizes commensurate with their achievements.

Other players whose score won them a pro ball were: John Mackay 38, James Robb 36, Hugh Gunn, Kerry Collins, Graeme Montgomery, Sid Roughsedge, Geoff Partington, Bill Rutledge and Leigh Robertson all 35, John McHale, Jack Dell, Steve Thornton and Adam Farrell 34.

On a lowly 16 points, Dennis Kite was the winner of the tin of boiled lollies awarded to those at the tail of the field.

Ron Smith received his weekly ball prize, donated by Mike Duffett, for being closest to the pin on the second

hole with his second shot, while Roy Peterson won the GMCU sponsored ball for the most accurate shot to the fourth hole.

Graeme Sprunt was over the moon to win the players' raffle money for his close shot to the pin on the seventh hole, only to fall into a deep funk on the 15th when he saw how close to the pin Mark Hegarty had placed his tee shot.

Barry Pruden picked up a ball courtesy of Dennis and Roy on the 14th but, of course, had to pay it out to Darryl Sheridan on the 18th.

Both Darryl and fellow member Geoff Stone have, in the last few weeks, been fortunate enough to score a hole in one and receive a \$100 payout from par three sponsor Numurkah real estate agent Kevin Hicks.

As a non-essential service, the golf club is currently closed, in line with government regulations, so there will be no Thursday competition until further notice.



Slam dunk ... Darryl Sheridan was especially lucky with his hole-in-one last Thursday.

Katamatite presents its best

KATAMATITE Cricket Club held its annual awards night on Saturday, with a number of players receiving multiple awards.

Ashley Saunders and Sam Dorsey both had terrific seasons in the premier division, with Ashley the recipient of the batting award (511 runs @ 56.78) and champion player, and Sam receiving the bowling (27 wickets @ 12.30) and best and fairest awards. Tom Casha was presented with the captains award.

In division one, Glen Edis and Benjamin Lucas tied for the

champion player, while Matt Hodge received the best and fairest. The captains award was bestowed to Lachlan Hatton.

Matt Wright and Jawid Iqbal Anwar won the batting and bowling awards with (254 runs @ 25.40, and 15 wickets @ 14.40) respectively.

Division two was a tight contest all round with a number of ties for awards. Stephen Cameron and Alistair Monk both tied for champion player and best and fairest, as well as both receiving the Ron Flanagan Memorial award. Connor Lawless was the recipient

of the coach's award, Alistair Monk capped off an extraordinary season with the batting award (135 runs @ 16.88) and Chris Hibberson picked up the bowling award (8 wickets @ 18.38).

Connor Lawless was the recipient of the senior coach's award, while Ben Lukies and Daniel Emmi both received an achievement award for claiming hat-tricks against Finley and Nathalia respectively.

Tracey Erickson was named club person of the year and Gil Lawless received the president's award.



B & F ... Sam Dorsey won the best and fairest, and premier division bowling award.

Hard worker ... Tracey Erickson was named club person of the year.

Warriors' final fight

NUMURKAH'S GM1 tennis side failed in its big back-to-back premierships wins, going down to the Shepparton Lakers on Saturday afternoon.

Things didn't get off to the smoothest of starts for Numurkah, with Nick Fenaughty and Harley McCarthy only being able to register one game in their set against Shepparton's pairing of Luke Dixon and Sam McHarg 8-1.

The second men's doubles was much more of a contest. Grant Chappell and Harley couldn't quite get across the line, losing 8-6 to Luke Dixon and Luke Turcato.

Mark Mills played a repeat of last year's grand final, losing 8-7 in a tiebreaker and blowing two match points along the way

against young James Nethersole.

Harley struggled to get into any sort of rhythm in his singles set, losing 8-3 to Luke Dixon, while Nick Fenaughty provided the Warriors with a glimmer of hope, with a strong 8-4 singles victory.

Helene Steward and Lisa Niglia strangled back some momentum in the ladies' doubles, winning 8-3. This doubles win completed a perfect season for this pairing, not losing a set together for the entire duration.

Helene continued her winning streak in her singles set, taking victory 8-1 against Kate Durling. Lisa took an important five games in her 8-5 singles loss to Katie Ferguson.

Numurkah was two games

down heading into the final two mixed doubles sets, which gave it the makings of a grandstand finish.

Nick Fenaughty and Helene Steward were made to fight for every one of their points, but stood strong under pressure to win 8-5.

Mark Mills and Lisa Niglia were not as fortunate, going down 8-3 to James Nethersole and Kate Durling.

These results left the Numurkah Warriors four games short of claiming back to back premierships, with Shepparton Lakers taking out the 2019/20 GM1 premiership.

Helene Steward capped off her stellar season, being named the grand final MVP.



A poor second ... Helene Steward was named MVP in Saturday's grand final, but would no doubt have preferred a premiership for her side.

One final shoot

THE Numurkah Small bore club held its Fritz Schmidt Handicap last Thursday, the last time the club will conduct a shot for a while.

The leaders were Emma Ryan on 199.2 in 20 metre benchrest, Lauren Sneddon with 190.2 for 20 metre prone, Colin Saxton with 191.3 (out of 200) at 50 metre benchrest and Glenn Braybon on 200.8 in 50 metre prone.

Match scores were as follows:

20 metre benchrest: L. Cook 97.1 99.2 196.3, E. Ryan 97.2 95.0 192.2.

20 metre prone: Lauren Sneddon 82.0 83.2 165.2.

50 metre benchrest: C. Saxton 183.3, G Miles 179.1.

50 metre prone: G. Braybon 98.5 96.3 194.8, L. Braybon 96.1 98.6 194.7, T. Braybon 96.1 95.4 191.5, R. Hill 94.3 96.3 199.6, D. Cook 95.0 93.1 188.1, B. Sneddon 90.0 96.7 186.7, G. Miles 92.2 93.3 185.5, H. O'Brien 93.1 90.1 183.2, M. Hunt 92.0 86.0 178.0, A. Gibbon 84.0 88.1 172.1, J. Smith 80.0 89.1 169.1, H. Reith 70.0 68.0 138.0.

There will be no further shooting at Numurkah until further notice.

Veterans' golf off agenda

THE Goulburn Valley Veteran Golfers Association committee held a special meeting on Sunday and has voted to cancel the GV veterans' syllabus until June 1.

This decision was necessarily taken in cognizance of the escalating situation with coronavirus and the restrictions on non-essential movement of citizens within Victoria.

GVVGA secretary Rolf We-

ber said events and golf clubs affected include Euroa, Shepparton, Valley View and Rich River.

"Although golf is an outdoor activity that has a low risk of spreading the virus, we do congregate at assembly and for lunch and presentations, which does carry some risk," Weber said.

The situation will be reviewed in late May, by which time or-

ganisers hope that the program may resume at Merrigum on June 1.

The Victorian Veterans Golf Association also met on Sunday and has moved to cancel the country championship at Phillip Island, and the sand-scape championship at Parklands Hamilton.

Running of the team event and state championship will be reviewed at the end of May.

Will there be a 2020 footy season?

LOCAL football clubs in the Murray Football Netball League and Picola & District Football Netball League have adhered to government policies and cancelled all training at their venues.

Numurkah, Katunga and Waaia football clubs have taken action and cancelled all practice matches and training until further notice.

Numurkah had discussed the possibility of a small group of five or six players training on alternate nights, each with their own water bottles, to maintain fitness levels if the season does happen to kick off in June, however this has now been scuttled as per the government's recommendation regarding sporting activities.

"We have been in talks about doing an individual program for each of our players to do to keep up their conditioning, however, it's up to them if they want to do it," Numurkah coach, Jye Warren said.

"We are pretty confident that the boys will continue to do as much as they can, given the circumstances.

"Gyms are closed and I believe if you decide to run in a group, you could face a club and/or individual fine.

"My personal opinion is that the 2020 season will be cancelled altogether, as people's health and well being is much more important than a game of football," said Warren.

"We will adhere to the league's recommendations and wait for the next

update in June."

Katunga Football Netball Club president Greg Sutton said his club had taken action to ensure the safety of its players and members.

"We are aware of the potential seriousness of this situation," Sutton said.

The executive took steps last week to send out emails to members to be extra careful in regard to hand hygiene, and not to come to the club if feeling unwell.

"Then we met last Thursday and made the decision to postpone all practice matches and trainings.

"We understand why the government has taken the action it has, and, as custodians of the club, we want to take all precautions to ensure the

safety of our players and members," Sutton said.

"We have closed our gym, and no one can access the change rooms.

"We have left player fitness up to the individuals, but have made suggestions to our senior players, in particular, to maintain a level of fitness, in an unofficial capacity, but to do this alone."

Waaia president Matt Brown said his club was following all advice regarding training.

"We trained last Thursday night before the Picola league made the decision to postpone the league starting date. I believe we were one of just a handful of local clubs to do so, but we made sure we used separate drink bot-

tles and avoided contact," Brown said.

"Once the league postponed the season, we cancelled all training.

"We are now exploring our options, to maybe train in smaller groups, and the coaches are providing individual programs to players."

Brown said he wasn't sure how it would affect the club financially.

"Our sponsors have again been very generous this season, so that helps.

"We will lose gate takings and beer sales, but then we won't have a lot of expenses, either.

"We are in a pretty stable position, financially, which helps greatly."

Nathalia and Strathmerton clubs were contacted for their input, however did not respond by deadline.

No footy or cricket, but ... there was golf

WITH footy practice matches called off, and the cricket grand final cancelled, local sports-people took to the golf course for their day's activities on Saturday, with a terrific field of 59 players assembled for what will be their last outing for a while.

Scores reflected the number of players, with a quality showing, with balls only going down to 36 points.

Dave 'Happy' Gilmour had the score of the day, winning A grade, and the Meat on Melville first round of the stableford trophy, with a great 42 points.

Long drives were the order of Happy's day, as his chipping, at times, was a little wayward, causing more than a few problems for him.

Runner-up in A grade was Glen 'Bubba' Thompson, playing alongside Happy, with 40 points. Bubba might be scared of playing stroke around Numurkah but held no fears with the stableford format on Saturday.

Nathan Hicks won B grade with 41 points. The young fella turned the tables on the old man, however credit was given, and whether it be humbly or a little tongue in cheek, didn't matter.

Paul 'Pisto' Collins was runner-up in B grade with a score of 39 points. Any other day this would probably have been enough, but not on Saturday, as scores were hot, hot, hot.

Rob Sutton headed the list of ball winners, winning a countback from Wayne Hooker on 38 points.

There was a huge logjam on 37 points, testing the countback system to its limit. Denis Prosser,

Shawn Boswell, Kerry Collins, Brad Naughton, Brandan Hosie, Dylan Grandell, Brad Tweed and Grant Duffy finished in that order.

Grant's score might have been a little better had he only played his own ball, instead of someone else's, but hey these things happen.

The last of the balls went to Allan Newby, Jahlan Lau and Neville Smith, all with 36 points.

A whole different four players took out the nearest the pin prizes. Rob Sutton got onto the fourth, Michael Eckard hit a terrific shot to the seventh, worthy of a measure, that finished just 26cm from the hole, Andrew Storer got onto the 15th, and Colin Booth had the best shot to the 18th.

Another good field took to the course last Wednesday for the nine hole chicken run event, with some great scores recorded.

A worst score of 34 nett was needed to win balls, and local cricketers dominated the winners list.

Michael Eckard took out A grade with 32 nett, finishing just ahead of Matty Ebborn on 33.

Marcus Luxford won B grade with 33 nett, finishing just ahead of Brad Tweed on 34, while Tyson Woods finished with 32 nett to win C grade, two shots clear of Matt Smythe on 34.

Wayne Hooker won nearest the pin on the seventh.

This coming Saturday was scheduled to be the Agnew's Plumbing Plus second round of the stableford trophy, but with the club now closed for an uncertain amount of time, there will be no competition golf in the foreseeable future.



Premiership smiles ... Katandra's B grade premierships team. Back row (from left): Talon Wilson, Nick Minogue, Ryleigh Shannon, Scott Dickson, Karl Rosevear, Nathan Hickey. Front row: Clay Simpson, Ross Hopkins, Ray Ireland, Andrew Nicholls, Josh McKinnon, Mitch Black.

Katandra wins Clyde Young Shield

KATANDRA'S B grade cricketers have won the Clyde Young Shield without a ball being bowled.

With Cricket Shepparton calling off the grand final due to the COVID-19 virus, Katandra was deemed premier, in accordance with the rules and by-laws of the association, as they finished higher on the ladder than their counterpart, Numurkah.

The win brings the second premiership to the club's senior ranks this year, as the E grade team tasted victory the week before, which is a great coup for the club that fielded three senior sides in the competition.

"The guys were a bit flat because they had worked for this all season and really wanted to put in a good showing on the cricket field for the last game of the season. Some guys were in terrific form with the ball and the bat and so to not get the opportunity to "win" the grand final was a little frustrating," Katandra senior coach, Ben Clurey said.

"However, given the current climate and the risks around at the moment, there are few other options that could have been taken," said Clurey.

"The whole club is extremely proud of the achievements of the B grade side, and also E grade this year which took home the

Whitelock shield the week before.

"It can be particularly challenging to fill lower grade sides in a small country town and last year our B Grade really suffered because of this. We had the talent at the top but kids being really young and lack of numbers meant it was difficult to sustain good performances.

"This year, however, we've had a really good bunch of blokes and some really terrific individual efforts. Ray Ireland was awesome with the bat all year, winning the league batting and Andrew Nicholls was again great with the ball all season," Clurey said.

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Numurkah wins back-to-back flags

NUMURKAH has won the Haisman Shield 2019/20 premiership without raising a bat, or bowling a ball, after Cricket Shepparton ruled to call off last weekend's grand final due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Unfortunately for the club's B grade side, the rule that saw A grade win means that the B grade side suffered the opposite fate, Katandra taking out the Clyde Young Shield.

The Blues finished the season on top of the ladder, but lost to Nagambie in the first final. Cricket rules say that, in the event of a game being called off, the higher placed team takes the win.

Cricket followers right throughout the area were not sure which team would be regarded as the winner, due to Nagambie's qualifying final win, but the by-laws say that the team that finished higher on the ladder in the home and away season would win.

Club president Brad Naughton attended a Cricket Shepparton executive meeting at 5.30pm last Tuesday, where they voted to either give Numurkah the win, or abandon the season. The vote went to follow the by-laws, and award premierships in all grades.

Naughton said it was a clear cut rule, that benefited his club's A grade side, but unfortunately meant the B graders missed out on a chance of victory.

On Tuesday night he said it was a strange feeling for his players.

"It's a strange feeling, it still hasn't sunk in. I'm disappointed for the B graders, but by Thursday, after they've had a think about it, I guess they'll come to terms with it.

"In the end, the best sides in the comp have won."

A grade captain Liam Gledhill said, regardless of the outcome, his players all wanted to take to the field on Saturday, and win on their merits.

"It feels a bit hollow really, we don't know how to feel," Gledhill said.

"Frankly, I think we're in shock."

"It feels so totally different to last season's win, but I guess, after a few days, it will sink in, and we will celebrate our season as a whole next weekend."

And that they did. The club ran a family day on Sunday where players and supporters celebrated their premiership win.

"It was a good day to be with the team, but it certainly wasn't like a normal premiership celebration," Gledhill said.

"Obviously it wasn't as big as last year, but we enjoyed the moment."

Monday's continuation didn't go ahead, with all hospitality venues forced to close at lunch time.



Club legends ... Dylan and Mitch Grandell, with grandfather, club legend Sono Grandell.



In it together ... Jahlan Lau and his father Ashley.



Top brass ... Captain Liam Gledhill and president Brad Naughton with the Haisman Shield.

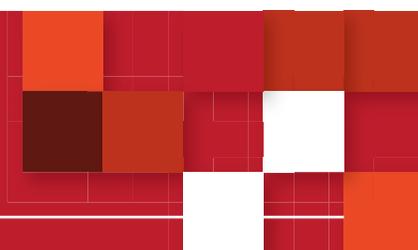


No home ... Liam Gledhill with South African import Michael Eckard, who now looks like calling Numurkah home for a while longer.



Team photo 2020 style ... Social distancing (from left): Josh Smith, Shaun Downie, Jahlan Lau, Liam Gledhill, Tim Braybon, Matt Cline, Matt Price, Will Arnel, Mitch Grandell, Michael Eckard.

NumurkahLEADER Sports



Numurkah wins back-to-back flags

NUMURKAH has won the Haisman Shield 2019/20 premiership without raising a bat, or bowling a ball, after Cricket Shepparton ruled to call off last weekend's grand final due to the Coronavirus pandemic... *Story page 15*

LOCAL FOOTY SEASONS POSTPONED

'DESPITE a story that appeared in Saturday's *Herald-Sun* stating that the Picola and District Football and Netball League had decided to forge ahead and begin its season as planned, on April 4, league operations manager Shane Railton said that was never the case.

"The whole article was completely out of context," Railton said.

"The board hadn't made any decision to alter the season starting date, as they hadn't met to discuss it.

"That meeting was scheduled, and took place, on Friday night, whilst at that time, and even this morning (Sunday) the board were planning

to meet with clubs Monday night to outline their decision.

"Information from the Federal Government meant the board cancelled the meeting scheduled for Monday night."

Railton issued a press release on Sunday stating that the board had decided to postpone all football and netball competitions until the weekend of Saturday, May 2, 2020.

The AFL made an announcement, also on Sunday afternoon, to abandon its season until May 31, but Railton said the PDFNL will review its stance in mid April.

"There are a number of leagues in

country Vic who have set a similar, or the same, time line as ourselves," Railton said.

"The league will continue to correspond with the various authorities and re-convene by Friday, April 17 to review and/or confirm this commencement date, subject to the status of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The decision has been made after ongoing consultation with the office of federal and state ministers, Netball Victoria, Netball Australia, AFL, AFLGM, PDFNL clubs and in consideration of the ever changing Federal Government requirements.

"The PDFNL advises all of its clubs

to remain aware and vigilant of current federal and state government requirements regarding gatherings.

Providing support to PDFNL members, along with the many commercial partners who continue to support the PDFNL community, is of high priority, during these unprecedented times.

"This decision has been reached with consideration to the health and welfare of all stakeholders and league and club sustainability."

The Murray Football Netball League announced last Tuesday evening that it would delay the commencement of its season until June 6.

League general manager Dale Norman said the decision was based on advice received from AFL Victoria and AFL Goulburn Murray to protect the health and safety of players, coaches, volunteers, supporters and the broader community.

"Murray FNL will explore fixturing alternatives via input from the clubs, however acknowledge the situation continues to evolve and any decision may be subject to change.

"The Murray FNL, like many organisations, is doing its best to make decisions that are in the best interests of all concerned."

NumurkahLEADER **INSIDE SPORT**

Nathalia flag

See story page 12

Karting action

See story page 12

Dasha's hole-in-one

See story page 12