Print Post: 100002834 No: 4209

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Recommended Price \$2.00 Inc. GST

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FISHING COMP. PAGE 5





NOT SHEEPISH!



By Lloyd Polkinghorne

The Wakool Show was back with a fantastic flurry of fun, food, music and entertain-

This year's show was rolled into one action packed evening and the community support was fantastic with families coming from Wakool, Moulamein, Koondrook-Barham and Deniliquin.

The former Wakool Football Club oval had a course for the equestrian events with tent pegging and potato races showcasing the skill and bond of the riders and their steeds.

Contestants competed on parallel courses and at the start signal they charged off to the first peg or potato, collected them while mounted and returned around the start point before venturing out to the subsequent peg or potato.

A collection of show bags, and a jumping castle on the netball courts provided the young kids with much entertainment, complemented by the Kerang Rotary Club Train weaving a course around, filled with joyful children.

came in the form of a Lego competition. The teams of kids were all given a bag of Lego in which they had to design and create their potential winning design.

While the kids were occupied, the adults had a chance to sample the goodies on offer. A fully stocked bar was complemented by Jo and Don Hearn, Restdown Wines, with locally grown organic wine on offer. The selection of food was fantastic, from all the traditional show favou-

The extra thrill for the kids rites to arancini balls, risotto pulled out all the stops, it was and back across the line. The and lasagne.

> The quick shear competition was back with Aussies versus Kiwis. The first battle saw the ladies taking to the boards, dragging out a ewe and giving it a haircut. The Aussies won the ladies' battle.

The second battle was the male teams with each fielding four shearers. The energy was high as the shearers guided the combs through the fleece as the crowd cheered on. The Kiwis developed an early lead and although the Aussies the Kiwis who took out the

The final event before 'Endangered Species' provided the live music was race between man, horse and horsepower. Under lights, race man, Darcy Hausler lined up against horse and rider, Dakota, ridden by Lucy Anthony and horsepower, Charles Adams on a dirt bike. At the drop of the flag the competitors took off down parallel courses then circled around consecutive 44 gallon drums nail biting finish saw Darcy sprint home to victory nudging out Lucy and Dakota in second, Charles roaring home

Fashion Results

Tiny Tots: 1st Layla Treweek, 2nd Amelia Elphick, 3rd Paige Luks.

Miss Show Girl: 1st Isa Parker, 2nd Taylah Prattnener, 3rd Mia Paul.

Miss Teen: 1st Abby Paul More photos PAGE 7 2 - Thursday, March 18, 2021 | The Koondrook-Barham Bridge

The Bridge

~ ESTABLISHED 1909 ~
THE KOONDROOK & BARHAM
BRIDGE NEWSPAPER

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Published by Barham Media Trust Pty Ltd, at the Registered Office: Shop 2, 5-9 Mellool Street, Barham, NSW 2732. Printed at Newsprinters Pty Ltd, 1 McKoy Street, West Wodonga, Victoria 3690

KOONDROOK GENERAL STORE



The South Australian pilot

of the Commonwealth On-Farm Further Irrigation Ef-

ficiency (COFFIE) program

began in September 2016

and closed in October 2018.

WESA provided \$12 million

to this pilot program and an-

other \$0.2 million to a further

two South Australian projects

under the Water Efficiency

Murray-Darling Basin Wa-

ter Infrastructure Program

began in July 2018 and closed

in December 2018 when Min-

isterial Council decided that

additional socio-economic

criteria must be incorporated

into the program and obvi-

ously this second attempt by

the Federal Department did

The Water Efficiency Pro-

gram began in July 2019

and the 'on-farm' efficiency

project was axed on March

3, 2021 by Minister Pitt,

stating that only 0.2GL had

been recovered or 0.4% of

not take this into account.

Program.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S WATER EFFICIENCY PROJECTS A DISMAL FAILURE

Dear Editor

The Water Efficiency Program (WEP) designed to recover 450GL under the control of Minister Pitt's Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has a deplorable record. Over five years, three programs have been developed by the department and all have closed down, failing to acquire more than a minimal volume of water. A total funding of \$1.775 billion is available for these programs, provided by the Water for the Environment Special Account (WESA). This money can only be spent on the 'relaxed' constraints or water efficiency projects designed to acquire the additional 450GL upwater promised to SA.

Dear Editor

The Labor party victories in the recent Queensland and West Australian State elections are a reminder that a Labor government will eventually be elected federally as well.

Of course, Labor's water policy of delivering the disastrous Murray Darling Basin Authority Basin Plan in full and on time is the same as the Liberal/National Party Coalition's, but also includes the extra demand of removing an additional 450 gigalitres of water from productive farm

The NSW and Victorian State governments have signed up to the Basin Plan every year since 2010 and can be expected to continue doing

so in the future.

The people in the irrigation areas of NSW and Victoria need to realise that their State and Federal governments are not on their side. Due to political necessity, they are actually on the side of the much larger city-based populations, with their very large Green voting portions.

Regrettably, there is prac-

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Letters to the Editor

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The Koondrook-Barham Bridge welcomes any member of the public or organisation to respond to articles or current affairs in the "Letters to the Editor" section: The Koondrook–Barham Bridge is your voice!

Just remember that all contributors of articles or letters must have your name and current address clearly indicated at the time of submission. You can remain anonymous or go under a pseudonym for publication. Inform us on your submission if you wish to do so. Your details will never be disclosed.

Your submission may be edited to correct spelling or grammatical mistakes, or withheld or not published for legal reasons.

To maintain the impartiality of The Bridge Newspaper: unless your submission is an unbiased media release, a name must be applied to the contribution.

the 450GL, the government was committed to recovering under the Basin Plan. The Minister stated, "I am terminating the WEP. It hasn't delivered what it was supposed to or what was expected."

Minister Pitt has known since March 2020 when the Independent Review of the WESA and the associated Marsden Jacob Report revealed that the WEP could not achieve 450GL and nor could that volume be acquired in the legislated timeframe of by July 1, 2024, after which

funding is no longer available. Yet he waited till March 3, 2021 at a meeting with irrigators in Northern Victoria to announce he is now going to make a fourth attempt at recovering the 450GL using 'off-farm' water efficiency projects. What an absolute dog's breakfast!

Surely there must by now be some disquiet and realisation amongst the water bureaucrats in Canberra, that the aspirational assumptions of the 450GL upwater and 'relaxed 'constraints strategy are not only unviable but not practically achievable. These projects were based on bluesky thinking and enshrined in legislation prior to any investigation as to their feasibility.

And still no mention has been made of the elephant in the room – the impossibility of delivering the additional 450GL to South Australia without creating massive environmental degradation and socio-economic impacts.

Jan Beer Cheviot Hills Yea VIC

tically no likelihood that the continuation of the Basin Plan can be averted, let alone reversed, while under the governance of these states.

Forming a Riverina State, including the irrigation areas of northern Victoria, is essential for protecting the irrigation and other natural resource-based industries. This state will have authority

over all the water, timber, and other natural resources within its area, and will ensure these are used for the benefit of its own people.

Necessity ensures that this state will be formed, and the sooner it happens, the better off we will all be.

David Landini

President, The Riverina State Group

Kyalite Pub Dice Run

Grab your leathers and saddle the steed.

Saturday, March 27, you can join in the Kyalite Pub Dice Run presented by Kuntrymemba Club.

Over the 16 years the club has been running it has raised thousands of dollars for communities around the district.

"We like to help people in need," said Riva, one of the event organisers. "It's a great weekend with live music and just having a good time.

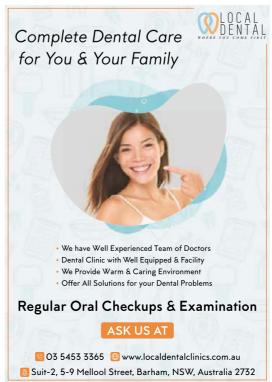
"We've had some great fundraising over the years, we even raised money for the Moulamein Preschool to purchase play equipment." Previous years included events at Pretty Pine, Moulamein and Beverford.

After a year off due to CO-VID-19, the club is looking to make the 2021 Dice Run an event to remember. Participants receive a patch and there are raffles and prizes in the day, Barham Bridge

Motor donated accommodation as one of the prizes.

The event starts at the Beverford Tavern. The \$25 entry fee includes poker run and three highest score. Accommodation will be available at the Kyalite Pub in cabins, dongas or swags. See advertisement for full details.







Brekkie Success

The first local Men's breakfast since COVID-19 restrictions put an end to the popular mornings, was held on Saturday, March 13.

Over 50 blokes from Northern Victoria and Southern NSW attended the breakfast.

Barham Lions Club catered for the morning, also receiving a donation from the morning's collection.

The guest speaker for the morning was *The Bridge's* Editor Lloyd Polkinghorne, discussing a wide variety of subjects from water, politics, mental health to love, compassion and philosophy.

It was an excellent morning with a great opportunity to meet lots of new faces and enjoy a delicious breakfast together.



Men's Breakfast member John Webb and Koondrook-Barham Lions Rob Doors.

Fire Safety House Calls



Fire Rescue New South Wales visited homes last weekend in Barham to conduct a free fire safety and smoke alarm check.

Inspector Phillip Eberle was one of the staff visiting homes.

"The average smoke alarm has a 10-year service life.

"For the homes we visit

they receive brand new smoke alarms free of charge.

"The new alarms have a battery with a 10-year life span."

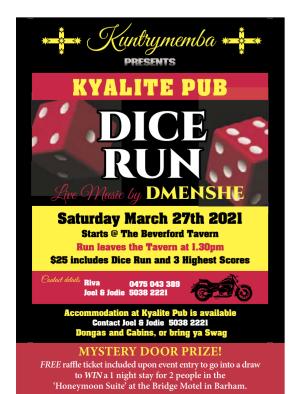
The new alarms are easily installed with double sided tape, so no holes in plaster!

"We also check power points and how many appliances are on them. Often, older homes with limited power points can have too many appliances connected to one point."

While in town, Inspector Eberle was also on a recruitment drive to fill the 10 vacancies at the Barham Fire Rescue Station. Retained Fire Rescue positions earn up to \$35 per hour for their service.



Inspector Phillip Eberle at the home of Cynthia Kinsey.



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As your local member, I want to keep you updated on what I've been doing for you this month.

Rural health inquiry comes to Deniliquin

Since being elected, I've campaigned for better regional health services.

Due to public pressure, the NSW Parliament are conducting an inquiry into the dreadful state of rural health care.

They'll be a public hearing in Deniliquin on 29 April to find out about problems and challenges here.

I'd encourage people to get involved, share your stories or come and watch the hearings.

Email portfoliocommittee2@ parliament.nsw.gov.au to express your interest and find out more.

Sneaky law change legalises floodplain harvesting

The NSW Government have once again put through a sneaky law change allowing Northern Basin irrigators to divert water onto their private dams.

This means less water will flow down the Darling River, and lower water allocations for Murray River farmers. The National Party made this regulation while NSW Parliament was not sitting and with no consultation beforehand.

I am fighting to have this law change reversed.

Follow my Facebook page Helen Dalton MP to join the resistance.

Secret rail report to be made public

In 2017, the National Party commissioned a report on reopening the vital Narrandera to Tocumwal rail line. They spent \$500,000 taxpayer dollars to do so. But when the report was completed in 2018, the Nats deemed it confidential and refused to release it.

This is unacceptable. A taxpayerfunded report should not be kept secret from you the taxpayer.

My party has made an order for papers through Parliament. This has forced the NSW Government to release the report by the 17 March. I will post a copy of the report on my website www.helendalton.com.au, continuing my fight against secrecy and corruption.

Helen Dalton MP for Murray

Authorised by Helen Dalton MP. Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements



P 03 5881 7034 E murray@parliament.nsw.gov.au 228 Cressy St, Deniliquin NSW 2710

New Business Profile - Leah's

By Ali Bohn

Having had a passion for style and fashion since she was a toddler, it was inevitable that Leah Ryan would follow a career path of creativity in some form.

When she was offered an opportunity to take on a position as apprentice hairdresser during her final year of high school, something in her gut told her that this was the path she was destined to follow, although she had dreams of a somewhat different career in the back of her mind at the time.

"I thought I would like to be a marine biologist. But then I was offered a hairdressing apprenticeship by Mum's hairdresser in Swan Hill, and when she asked me, I didn't hesitate to accept. It just felt like the thing to do," Leah told *The Bridge*.

From very early on, Leah knew that to broaden her knowledge, she would have to experience work in other salons and other areas and so she made her way to sunny Queensland to do just that.

While she loved the beachside culture of turning brunettes blonde and weekends on the beach, before long she was on a plane and returning to rural Victoria as her heart had been stolen by a Murrabit local.

"I always said I was born for the beach but live in the dust!" She laughs.

Upon her return, Leah took over Koondrook salon, Major Look, which

she had for 10 years, slowly building a steady clientele base. However, due to health reasons she was forced to take a hiatus for just short of a year. When she returned, accepting that she could no longer be at the salon full-time if she were to get her health back on track, she decided to sell the salon to staff member, Carmen, who still has the salon to this day.

"I worked under Carmen for a while then I did a bit of freelance hairdressing, but I had in the back of my mind that I wanted to get back into a salon when I started working with Julie at Barham Family Haircare. My passion for style and fashion was very much still there. The urge became stronger to go out on my own during COVID-19

actually, and Julie encouraged me to follow it. Julie really gave me the courage to make the decision as well as family support. Then one day I walked past the barber shop and looked in the window and just said to myself 'there's my shop.' I knew that Grant (the barber) was leaving so I rang the landlord and that was that, here I am!"

In a mammoth turnaround of just eight days, the former barber shop was transformed into 'Leah's', and it seems that the timing couldn't be more perfect, with Leah feeling an overwhelming sense of positivity for the year ahead.

"Everything has just fallen into place. Barham is a great town and I'm not going anywhere.

This is our local, I just think it's great to see so many women in business. I'm really looking forward to coming in every day and seeing my clients and meeting new ones. I'll continue to further my knowledge and bring that to the salon."

Leah's is now open in Mellool Street, Barham, right next to Barham Meats.

Logan McNeil Triumphs at Yarra Valley

By Kendall Jennings

Logan McNeil, the 19-year-old younger brother of 2020 Melbourne Cup Winner, Jye McNeil, has won the Bet365 Protest Promise BM64 Handicap at Yarra Valley Racecourse on Sunday, March 14.

Riding 'Lord Sundowner' on a soft track, over 1000m, it was the Ronald Tait trained six-year-old Bay Gelding that was the victor, with a weight of 61.5kg.

Logan also rode the 1200m on threeyear-old gelding, 'Helloadream', finishing seventh with a weight of 56kg at Yarra Valley.

On Saturday, March 13, Logan was at Berrigan where the track was good.

Race one, Russell Osborne trained 'Jumpin' Jaguar', a three-year-old filly, finished ninth with a weight of 55kg in the 1200m Jim and Eileen Fisher Memorial Maiden Plate.

Race two, the 1200m Barooga Sporties/ Elders Finley Class One, upon 'Okra', Logan finished third with a weight of 58.5kg.

Race three, The Gerald Egan trained 'Miss Benefits', a four-year-old mare, finished second with a weight of 55kg in the 1400m Eagle I and Nutrien Ag Maiden Plate.

Race four, Andrew Dale trained 'Port Triano', an eight-year-old gelding, finished tenth with a weight of 55kg in the 1400m Con Carr Betta Home Living/Finley IGA Finley IGA Cup -Benchmark 58 Handicap.

Race five, Andrew Dale trained 'Classic Fastnet', a four-year-old gelding, finished 14th with a weight of 60.5kg in The AF (Bert) Honeychurch Memorial sponsored by Sun Valley Finley Benchmark 50 Handicap.



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Your Wellness By Monique Gibson

PERSONAL GROWTH CAN BE UGLY

Personal growth is not always an attractive process, it is not linear, and it is not sudden. It is a journey, and it can really feel ugly sometimes. One day you feel totally high on life and the next you are crying on the floor, too scared to face your next challenge.

People you follow on the internet can make it look like it is all smiles, with simple mindset shifts and that all is well. Sometimes, though, you are so entrenched in your old self and what is holding you back that learning to let go of that feels absolutely impossible.

Personal growth is also something that progresses for many years. Once you learn how to grow and better yourself, you will keep building on that desire to strive to be the best version of yourself. Growing as a person is a lifelong process. That does not mean you have to view yourself as always needing more work to be done, otherwise you will never be there. As you evolve, as life evolves, so does the way you approach and perceive things.

Sometimes we can get so caught up in this ideal of being such a well put together person, that we do not realise the progress we have made. I have conversations with people who completely dismiss any healing they have made because they feel like they are still struggling. The progress you make is not mute just because you feel you are not entirely there yet.

Look back at yourself when you first started, when you hit that rock bottom moment and said enough was enough and things needed to change. I can almost guarantee that where you

are right now has parts of exactly where you had hoped you would end up. It does not feel that way because as you grow, so can your expectations for yourself.

Just because your story may still have dark moments, because sometimes you still fall apart, does not mean you are failing at improving yourself. It is part of the process; it is part of life. Life is always going to have ups and downs, and just because you are heading down the road of personal development does not mean you will never have a down moment again, or that you won't occasionally fall in a heap.

These are all things that come with the roller-coaster of human emotions. Our emotions are supposed to be varied and have a whole range of different types. We all love to happily hang out with joy, gratitude and happiness, but we are so quick to shut out any association with anger, sadness or fear. You will never be rid of these emotions. What allows them to have less impact on you is you accepting them and embracing them when they come knocking on your door.

Personal development is not always going to look and feel like the positivity you are led to think it should. It is all things and helping yourself through those different stages is a part of you taking care of yourself. What is one thing you can let go of this week that you feel you have not been doing well enough in? Where can you realise that you are doing the best that you can in this moment?

Moulamein Fishing Comp

On March 6 and 7 competitors enjoyed a very successful Moulamein fishing competition. The 2021 Swan Hill Truck Service Cash Classic MFNC Fishing Comp had picture-perfect weather as visitors flocked to the junction of the Edward River and Billabong Creek attempting to land that winning fish!

Winners for the event were:

Cade Hickey Memorial: Jamie Martin 77cm Cod

Matthew Morson Memorial Largest Carp: Adam Smolau 71.5cm

Debbie Hughes Memorial Champion Lady Angler: Dianne Holland

Session 1

Cod: Garth Kahle 70.5cm, Michael Cook 55cm

Yellow Belly: Dianne Holland 37.5cm, Liam Jennings 35.3cm

Session 2

Cod: Cody Bennett 73cm Yellow Belly: Matt Scott 37cm

Session 3

Cod: Jamie Martin 77cm, Peter Tanner 60.5cm

Yellow Belly: Caleb Scandolera 46cm, Peter Bergman 40.5cm

Juniors

Cod, Blade Hunter Memorial: Zaiden Booth 51.5cm, Kaiden Miller 48.5cm, Lawson Buckley 46.5cm

Yellow Belly: Zayden Clark 35.5cm Raffle winners: 1st Graeme May, 2nd Ray Leach.





Matthew Morson Memorial Longest Carp winner, Adam Smolak (right), Truck service Tyrone Parkinson (back) and Katrina Townsend (left).



Cade Hickey Memorial winner, Jamie Martin (left) with Graeme Hickey (right).



Deb Hughes Memorial Champion Lady Angler winner, Dianne Holland (right) and Deb's daughter (left).



Lucky Door Prize winner, Lisa Battenally.



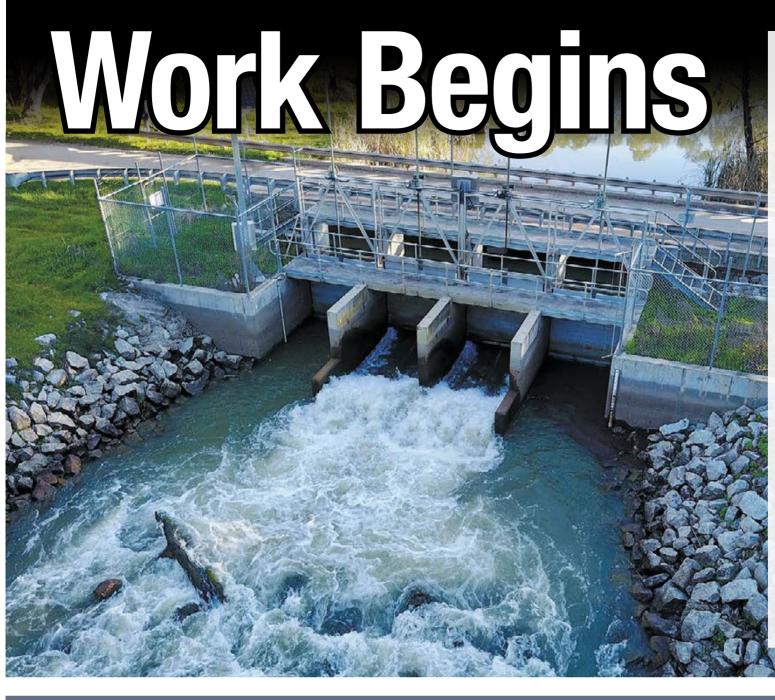
Wow...did you know 800 new jobs have been created in Farrer through our Government's latest apprentices wage subsidy?

From tradies to hospitality, retail or clerical, sales, service & more, this funding pays 50% of wages to a new or recommencing apprentice/trainee, for 12 months up to \$7,000 per quarter.

And we've just expanded the program till September.

Boosting jobs and providing extra support to the vocational education and training sector is a vital part of our economic recovery coming out of this pandemic.

Bosses! Get in touch if you would like details.



Work has officially begun on two new fishways at Cohuna and Koondrook along Gunbower Creek.

These fishways will allow fish to safely move between the creek and the Murray River.

While minimal impact on Cohuna and Koondrook residents is expected, please note:

The walking access track over the Cohuna Weir structure will be closed for the duration of the works, and the Cohuna Public Recreation Reserve will remain accessible via Cohuna Island Road. The swimming pool will also have temporary access through the bowls club during the works period.

The northern end of the Koondrook Track will be closed for the duration of the works, and an alternative northern access to Gunbower Creek will be signposted via Condidorios Bridge/River Track/ Coughlan Track. The camping and boat ramp area on the Koondrook Track is available via this alternative route and Spences Bridge.

Photo: GMW (Facebook)

Murray River Council UPDATES

visit us at www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au



(f) @murrayrivercouncil





Message from the Mayor

Border issues have come into sharp focus this last year with the chaos that COVID and the closures have brought to our communities. We certainly hope that the worst of that is behind us

Let me introduce another border issue to you...

Did you know that Victorian accredited building surveyors cannot work in NSW without undertaking NSW accreditation? And that such accreditation takes upwards

of 6 months to achieve? This is one of the many border anomalies that we battle every day, one that has a major impact on our ability to attract qualified building surveyors. That is in a background of a national shortage of these professionals. As a result, we are suffering from a backlog of inspections that is holding up our approval times.

Outsourcing this work to private certifiers has been one option for us in the past, but they are all up to their ears in work as well. To alleviate the situation longer-term we have two cadet positions currently filled, but they have another 12 months to go in their training before they can operate on their own.

With Development Applications up some 40% on last year, it's little wonder that our staff are feeling the pinch a tad. Nonetheless they are working hard to review and approve applications as quickly as they can.

We understand that there will be some frustration at times when approvals don't come through as quickly as people would like. Please be assured that our staff are striving to bring those processes to completion as quickly as possible.

Cr Chris Bilkey MAYOR

Lighting up the Murray

We'll be lighting up the Murray in May this year when we launch our exciting new festival: Moama Lights!

An immersive sound and light trail showcasing the story of Echuca Moama, Moama Lights will feature light installations and projections including theatrical fog, strobe and cutting edge moving light technology. The show runs from 8-22 May and is FREE to attend. Tickets at www.echucamoama.com/moama-lights

Notice of Council Meeting

The March ordinary meeting of Murray River Council will be held on Tuesday 23 March 2021, commencing at 2pm, at the Council Chambers - MRC Office Moama.

Interested community members are invited to live stream the meeting via: webcast.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Discover Grants Hub

Council has launched a Grants Hub for all businesses, community groups and not-for-profits located in Murray River Council. The Hub provides a comprehensive list of all grant and funding opportunities available Australia wide. This is a FREE service, all you have to do is register and start searching! Once registered, it will send you email alerts with new funding opportunities.

murrayriver.grantguru.com.au

Barham Transfer Station hours

Transfer Station trialled extended operating hours over the Christmas/New Year's period. These extended hours were very popular with many community members making use of the new opening hours. So much so, that we have extended the hours of the site permanently.

The Barham Waste Transfer Station now operates:

9am - 5pm on Wednesdays and

1pm - 5pm on Sundays.

Community Grants program OPEN

If you're part of a community group or not-for-profit organisation you can now apply for the latest round of our Community Grants Program.

Applications will be accepted until 8 April 2021.

www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au/community/grants/



Recreation spaces and facilities

As part of an extensive assets evaluation, we're currently asking you to have your say on how you use local facilities...the sport and recreation ones in particular.

This is important info, as it helps us plan for how we maintain these assets now and into the future.

We'd love to hear about what you and your family enjoy doing most in the region, and how often you use sport and recreation facilities.

yoursay.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Raw water meter install continues

The installation of smart raw water meter devices in Barham, Tooleybuc, Moulamein and Murray Downs continues. This is stage 2 of our smart meter installation program, following the installation of the new filtered

Those who have a raw water connection at their property will receive a notice at their property with more information.

Please contact customer service on 1300 087 004 if you have any enquiries about the smart meter connection.

Stock on Roads

With the weather remaining warm and no rain to speak of, the risk of stock leaving properties in search of water or feed increases. As such, there is an increase risk to motorists as stock on roads can pose a serious threat.

If you do find stock on the road, take care and slow down. Pull over if it is safe to do so and contact the owner of the stock, if known, or alternatively contact Council's Rangers on 1300 087 004 or the Local Land Services Office.



Australian Quick Shear Team (left), Kiwi team (right).









Lego competition.



Potato Race.



Winning Quick Shearing team (Kiwi) with the Ginger Lowry Trophy.



Race: Man vs Horse vs Horsepower.

8 - Thursday, March 18, 2021 | The Koondrook-Barham Bridge

A chat with ... Zacc Tuari

By Ali Bohn

For the past week, I have had the song 'To all the girls I've loved before' by Willie Nelson stuck in my head. It's a rather odd way to introduce this chat, but once you start reading the article you will see the relevance.

This is certainly a chat with a difference. First of all, at the age of 46, Zacc does not even come close to the usual age bracket of a typical 'chat with' recipient but also, Zacc has only lived in Barham for a few short years. Although he is not what would be considered a local, it is his story that urged a couple of locals to contact me about him, hoping he would let me retell it.

We exchange a few phone calls before the extremely private Zacc agrees to catch up with me. On my way to our meeting place, I am extremely nervous and certainly curious. I know that if I don't tread carefully then I will ruin any chance of him telling me any of his story. I quickly learn at this first meeting that Zacc is a straight shooter. He doesn't suffer fools and he is up front from the get-go about the approach he wants to take with the interview.

"First of all, I just want to say that it s#!ts me being known as Zacc, the bloke in the wheelchair. I'm much more than that. I understand why people refer to me as that, it just annoys me is all. Now, if we're going to do this, I don't want it to be all sad and depressing; I am happy to do this interview if it helps James and his family. That's my main reason for agreeing to do it."

Zacc, is of course, referring to local family, the Langs, and most importantly their son, James, who recently survived an horrific motorbike accident which has left him a paraplegic.

I respect Zacc's honesty, but before we even get into his story, we need to break the ice a little, so we talk music, our community, and then, just as we're getting relaxed and having a laugh –

"I'm going to have to go, sorry Ali. Bathroom accident."

I dare not tell Zacc that I am sorry to hear this, before I even have the chance to react, he simply says "what can I say, s#!t happens?"

All I can do is laugh, and I think he appreciates I get his humour. In fact, I love it, it puts me at ease to know he's this open.

Take 2.

Zacc returns after an hour and we pick up where we left off. And then, approximately 45 minutes later – "S#!t. I'm going to have to leave again." This time I can't help but tell Zacc I'm sorry, and his response puts me swiftly back in my place. "Why? It's no big deal, happens every now and then. I'll catch you tomorrow, same time?" He literally is unphased, so as suggested, we meet again the following day, different place

Take 3.

I arrive at the café where we are to meet, and Zacc and girlfriend, Taya, are waiting for me nursing a coffee.

"I'm all organised today," Zacc as-

He opens his laptop to show me a short film he has made about his experience.

As he clicks on the tab to play the video, he explains that, "this is what I presented in court when I was trying to get support from the Transport Accident Commission."

The first frame shows a young, shirtless and dread locked, beautiful looking man whizzing past the camera in an electric wheelchair with a massive cheesy grin, wearing an aura of mischief all around him. A dead ringer for Lenny Kravitz, I'm embarrassed to say that my eyes almost popped out of my head at how good looking he is. (Sorry, Zacc, don't mean to embarrass you but honestly...)

I watch the film which has been carefully edited with a great soundtrack and short interviews and shows the real Zacc just a few years after the accident that left him a paraplegic.

"This is me," he tells me, "not just Zacc in the wheelchair, I have always been this way. I'm an adrenalin junky," he laughs.

The film shows how a wheelchair does not define Zacc, nor does it impair him from doing the things he loves, in particular, sky diving. Man, watching him jump out of a plane with his mates makes me dizzy, and in one shot you can see that Zacc is yawning as he's falling, he's so unperturbed by what's going on. Then there are the music festivals he hosted. Footage shows him getting the party going, mixing music to an adoring crowd of people, his big smile of perfect white teeth on camera as he DJ's in the background. He is in his element, he looks - happy.

I ask Zacc about this and wonder what or who gives him this positive energy and cool attitude towards life. His answer puzzles me.

"To all the girls I've loved before."
And so, the story begins...

Zacc was born in Bacchus Marsh in 1974. The youngest of one other siblings, a sister, he was born to an Australian mother and a 'big scary maori' father. The family of four lived on a cattle farm and weekends meant helping his father chasing cows, fixing fences and chasing rabbits.

His childhood was largely made up of thrill seeking fun, such as riding motorbikes, surfing and being a typical rough and tumble teen.

He began his catholic education at St. Bernard's Primary School in Bacchus Marsh and went on to attend St. Mary's Technical School in Geelong. A very bright student, but also easily distracted, he was the sort of kid who couldn't sit still, preferring to be out having fun with his mates than sitting in a classroom.

"I loved being with my mates, but I spent a lot of time with my sister and especially enjoyed hanging out with her female friends!" he laughs.

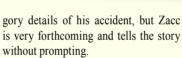
"But I was a typical farm boy and loved being around my dad. He was a hard worker and he also raced cars. He had no time for bulls#!t, he just got on with the job."

I wonder if that attitude rubbed off on Zacc?

"Most likely," he says, "my attitude has always been 'get busy living or jump on the rope."

Another quote that comes to mind which was featured in Zacc's short film we just watched was, 'life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans,' by the late, great John Lennon.

The year 1992 started out pretty normal for Zacc. Loving life, he was working full time driving earthmoving machinery and with his good looks and charm there was no shortage of female interest. He had just started seeing a girl on the night he had jumped on his ZZR Kawasaki to go and see her. Now, my intention was not to ponder over the



"I was racing on the road against a mate. We'd raced this particular road before. The last thing I remember is seeing the point I wanted to be but there was a car parked there. Then my mind goes blank."

Zacc has done a hell of a lot of research on brain trauma and explains to me that when you experience something as horrific as what he endured, the brain shuts out what you don't need to remember. It's as though it goes into protection mode

At a staggering 160km per hour, it was a tree of approximately 40cm in diameter that brought Zacc's bike to a grinding halt and for the next eight weeks he had absolutely no recollection of anything

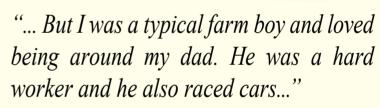
"My first memory is being weaned off the morphine and being brought out of a coma to be told, 'you will never walk again, you will be in a wheelchair for the rest of your life and you will be in hospital for six months.' Then they gave me a big dose of morphine and put me back to sleep again."

Zacc was just 17 years old, and when he reflects on this time he says, "any hope I may have had, they were just killing it in my eyes. They told Mum I'd never speak again. She was a mess."

As his friends and family stood by his bedside tearful and highly emotional, it was Zacc's father who knew from the beginning he was going to be alright and that he would defy the doctors.

Zacc explains.

"This weird thing in our family is that my dad, his father, and his father's father all had accidents and are missing their right arm. I lost all movement in my right arm from the accident, so it's kind of strange I suppose. But yeah, Dad was with me one day at the hospital and I tried to tell him something that he



had to lip read. I said, 'I owe the publican \$70!' At that moment Dad said, 'Zacc is going to be alright. He'll speak again, he'll walk again.'"

His father's intuition that everything was going to be fine aside, initially Zacc didn't share his positivity.

"I initially thought 'life's f###ed.' I couldn't remember a thing. I didn't know my girlfriend, I had everyone around me pampering me and crying. Then after it all sank in it was too much. I didn't want everyone hovering around me. Seeing Mum crying was just too much, I wanted everyone to go away so I could process it. I spent a lot of time crying at the start and then one night when everyone had gone home, I was asleep in the hospital bed and a nurse came in. She kissed me, passionately. Looking back, it was obviously unprofessional, but God was it good! The next day she came in and asked me if I remembered the kiss, and of course I did. She was a lot older than me, but I thought it was great. That really gave me a boost."

In those early days following the accident, Zacc says that it was particularly hard watching his mates go on as they did before.

"Watching them just continue was sad for me. In those early days I was completely dependent on carers or I just couldn't get around. At first, I was angry at what I had done, but once I got past that I think I turned off all emotion. I was hardened and f###ed. I didn't want to fall into depression and was determined that I wouldn't. Yeah, I held a lot of anger at the circumstances.

Even when my dad died in 1998 I had no tears left to cry. I just don't let myself feel tears of sadness anymore, only tears of joy."

Like any parent, Zacc says that both his mother and father were always telling him to slow down and be careful, and like any teenager, he thought they were being overprotective, but alas...

"As a teenager, the only thing you don't know is that you don't know," he says metaphorically. I love this.

Zacc says that apart from the accident itself, he wasn't prepared for the hurdles ahead. What he means by this is the constant fighting for what he was rightfully entitled to in terms of support and assistance. When he was discharged from The Alfred Hospital, he returned home to live with his parents where carers would come and tend to his needs. But that free-spirited adrenalin junky was still within him, and after a while

"I just said to a mate of mine, 'Wanna go travelling?' We'd intended on going just before the accident and were going to wait until he finished school, but now I still wanted to go. I wasn't worried about not being able to do things. I'd learned a lot through the hospital and anyway, why shouldn't we go. So, we took his Landcruiser and hit the road, and had an adventure."

It was an adventure indeed, and as Zacc puts it, 'everyone has to get out of bed every day, I just happen to get out of bed and into a wheelchair, that's

Continued page 9



A chat with ... Zacc Tuari

From Page 8

the only difference for me.' He was not about to let anyone or anything get in his way. He partied like there was no tomorrow, he sky dived, he went white water rafting, he started DJ'ing and found his niche in making short films and editing. He was... being Zacc, just as he was before. "Hey, you can ask," (I wonder what the hell he's implying here) "Yes, I ejaculated, it still works down there! Everyone wonders that don't they?" Typical Zacc, nothing is off the table and so I can't help but laugh and thank him for clarifying what I was not going to ask about in fact!

"After 10 years life got f###ing amazing! I met some amazing people; I did some amazing things. Through the sky diving I got into film editing. Well, when I saw how much money

KINDER

TICK

these blokes were making for filming half a dozen jumps a day I thought, 'I could do that!' So, I learned how to do it. I was mixing music, arranging bush doofs and parties. We stayed in Perth for a while and that's where I met Chris Foreman who is the promoter for the Crusty Demons. We rented a house with him for a while and we became really good friends, and still are today. Life was awesome, and then when I returned, everything turned to s#!t. That's when the fight really began for compensation. They didn't want me to move away from a city area, but the problem was, that wasn't me. I don't like the city, I'm pretty stubborn and just thought, 'I'll do whatever the hell I want.' That's what brought me to Barham. I decided I wanted to live near fresh water, in a place 20 metres above sea level that was affordable. So that

was Barham."

Of his experience, Zacc mostly likes to expand on what he has learned throughout the years. He is fiercely protective of being labelled first of all, but what he really wants to get across is how difficult it is for someone such as himself having to deal with the effect his accident has had on the people around him. He hopes that James Lang doesn't have to go through what he did in terms of the way people react to him.

"Don't judge someone just because they're in a wheelchair. Look past the chair and see the person for themselves. Don't pity us or feel sorry for us because we can do the things you can, we just do them a little differently. 99% of the time in our situation, your first impression is probably wrong."

These days Zacc has a strong urge to do right by others. He is a very spiritual

guy who relishes living in the moment and does it like a pro. He says that he feels compelled to do the right thing by others morally.

"I can't help it. I'm happy to put myself in the way of danger to help anyone. I make goals. My next goal is getting healthy again and to just enjoy the next chapter of life. I think that there's no such thing as try, you either do or you don't. I don't think I will ever settle. I'm a drifter. All I want is happiness for everyone, and a spiritual abundance of love. Financial stability will come for all, and I wish that for everyone I meet. I also just want James to know that I'm here for you, mate. Also, to the Lang family, my journey started 29 years ago, and I've done a lot of research and have been through plenty of hurdles through the system. I'm here if you need to talk about anything."

Find out more at vic.gov.au/kindertick

I can't leave without asking Zacc to remind me again what keeps his spirits up and his smile so big. His energy is

"My own angels. Good friends, family - and to all the girls I've loved before...and to the only girl I will ever love again, the new Mrs Tuari - Tay Tay, my wife. We just got married."

Wow, guys. That's such awesome news, and what an amazing couple you are. May you share all the happiness in

Zacc Tuari, whether you accept the compliment or not, I don't care. You are an inspiring force of nature and I'm eternally grateful we finally got this bloody interview done. Love your

We're Here for Langy **Cruise**

Wetlander Cruises is hosting a cruise on the stunning Gunbower Creek to raise money for James Lang.

When: Sunday, March 21, 2021 between 3pm and 4.30pm.

All proceeds go to the 'We're Here for Langy' fundraiser. Jim and the team look forward to your participation and raising money for a worthy cause.

Bookings essential, call Jim on 0438 537 104 or email wetlandercruises@gmail.com





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Lions Bingo, Barham Reception Centre at 8pm.

Every second Sunday of the month

Bar-Rook Field and Game, 1184 Gonn Rd, Barham at 10am.

Every second Monday of the month

Koondrook-Barham Garden Society at 1.30pm in the Barham Pavillion.

Every Tuesday

Tai Chi - cluBarham, 9am

Every Tuesday and Thursday

Community Exercise - cluBarham, 10am



- Which colour are the flowers on a 'forsythia' plant?
- James Dyson is famous for inventing WHAT?
- How much does a cubic meter of water weigh?
- Which internal organ produces bile?
- Which French soldier and saint was burned at the stake in Rouen in 1431?
- In which continent is Timbuktu?
- What is the name of the handle of a knife or axe?
- Who was the first rock star to receive a British Knighthood?
- 9. Disney's The Jungle Book is based on a collection of stories by WHICH author?
- 10. Which vegetable is associated with Halloween?

9. Rudyard Kipling; 10. Pumpkin;

L'Yellow; 2.Cyclonic Vacuum Cleaner; 3.1000kg; 4.Liver; 5.St Joan of Arc; 6.Africa; 7.Haff; 8.Cliff Richard;

by Scarlett Brandt **Episode 252**

"Well, now they are together."

Nellie didn't know what else to say, but thought it was better than saying nothing.

"She never liked me, but I think she was probably good for Dad. They seemed to share a strong bond," Terry smiled.

Little did he know that it was more than a bond that they shared. They had a secret that they had now taken to the 'grave', or had they? Would it ever be... 'uncovered'?

"What is important right now is that we go home, have a shower and try to get some rest. I know this is hard for you but tomorrow we will work through this. Tomorrow we will do what we need to do, but right now we are exhausted and emotional."

Nellie was reluctant to give Terry any false hope of them having a future together. She was well aware that she and Ian had plans that needed to be followed and those plans had no place for Terry. She could play the game however, for now at least.

"Let's go," she said, as she reached

for Terry's hand.

"We'll go to your place, but I can't stay. I'll help you get settled in and then I'll have to head home."

Terry never said a word, and he and Nellie walked back to his car and headed for Terry's place.

"Actually, I might just call into Famished and grab a bite to eat. Want anything?" Terry asked.

Nellie thought this would be a perfect opportunity to call Ian and let him know she would be late.

"No, I'm fine. You go ahead," she

No sooner had Ian got out of the car, and Nellie was on the phone to Ian.

Th dial tone rang and rang but there was no answer.

She instead sent him a text, simply saying -

'Running late, hun. Don't wait up for Had she known the whereabouts of

her husband, she would not have dared sending such a message. But it was too late, the text was al-

ready gone.

To be continued...

the creek connecting community

LEO OF THE YEARPage 12



Sunday, March 28, 2021

FLETCHER SHOOT
Page 15

HUGE SUCCESS

By Kirstin Nicholson

Organisers of Sunday's AWMA Water Control Solutions 28th Cohuna Bridge to Bridge are thrilled with the day. Cooler weather presented ideal conditions for entrants who competed in seven running and cycling events from as early as 8am.

Close to 400 people registered for the day, helping to raise funds for the theatre and recovery refurbishment project at Cohuna District Hospital. Around 16 entrants who signed up to the virtual version will complete their event over the next two weeks, with some already sending in proof of their participation.

Entrants travelled from across Victoria

and New South Wales to participate, with many staying overnight and injecting cash into local businesses. With events catering for all ages and abilities, participants ranged from serious runners and cyclists to those out for a leisurely Sunday walk, with many ex-locals returning for the event.

Event Director, Jess Holgate, said, "It was fantastic, absolutely fantastic. We got a lot of feedback that it was the best one yet. I think the atmosphere with the live music and in the event village was great, we're really getting the mix right now. It's taken our new team a couple of years to tweak it each year. This year we really hit

the nail on the head, and we'll just keep moving on from there."

Those waiting for family and friends to finish their events were well catered for at the event village in Apex Park with live music, face painting, stall holders and plenty of food options. Northern District Community Health provided the live music which provided everyone with a relaxed atmosphere.

COVID-19 caused some angst leading up to the event, with the committee not sure whether it would go ahead, especially with the snap lockdown just weeks before. Jess explained, "I think it impacted us prior to the event because we were up

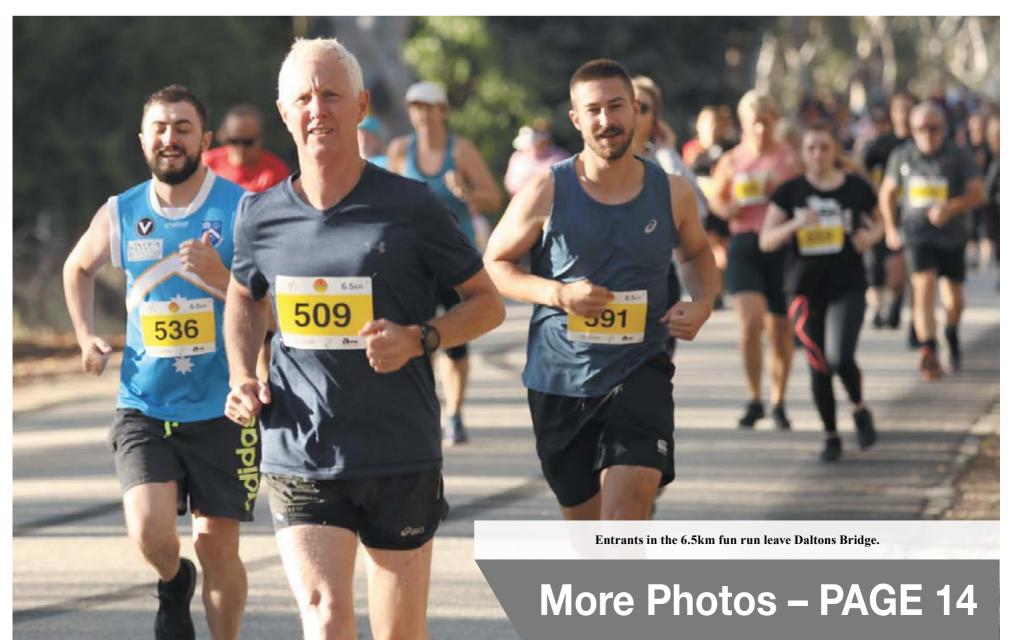
and down whether we were going to go ahead or go to a virtual event. The snap lockdown scared us a bit, so it was still up in the air and we thought, no, we're going to go for it and put it all into play. If you build it, they will come. We put it on, and they came in droves. In the last couple of weeks, the numbers shot through the roof. They were still booking in the day before."

The committee implemented extra measures to ensure the event was CO-VIDSafe, with hand sanitising stations and QR codes spread around the precinct, social distancing encouraged, and bus travellers asked to wear face masks. Reg-

istrations were all online to minimise the handling of cash and paper, a process that was embraced by entrants this year. "Everyone is used to it, it's part of life now," Jess said.

Presentations were made throughout the day, and a full list of results can be accessed at the event's website.

The committee thanks the sponsors, vendors, the CFA and all the volunteers for making the day a success, and of course everyone who entered the events. Final fundraising figures will be known in the coming weeks. "I can't wait to hear how much we've raised this year," said



Thursday, March 18, 2021 | The Koondrook–Barham Bridge

demorial Shoot Well Attended

By Kirstin Nicholson

The inaugural Gordon and Wendy Fletcher Memorial Shoot was well attended on Saturday, with competitors travelling from across Victoria and interstate. The Cohuna Clay Target Club introduced the memorial shoot after two of its valued members, Gordon and Wendy Fletcher, passed away in recent years.

Organisers were pleased with the day, with 85 competitors vying for \$5,500 in cash and prizes. Entrants competed in the 25 Target Point Score Championship, the 25 Target Single Barrel Championship and the 50 Target Double Barrel Championship. Peter Dertimanis was the overall gun winner with a score of 148/150 from the three events, earning himself \$500, a sash and the honour of being the first name on the shield.

Sons of Gordon and Wendy, Rohan and Jarrod, were in attendance with other family

members and were impressed with the turnout. "There are a lot of people here who probably haven't shot for a long time, who have come out because of the memorial shoot. It's good to see them come out," said Jar-

Rohan was one of those,

shooting for the first time in about 20 years when members of the Fletcher family did five shots to kick off the event. "I got two, so I'm happy," he said.

The Gordon and Wendy Fletcher Memorial Shoot will be an annual event, held in March each year.





Inaugural winner of the Gordon and Wendy Fletcher Memorial Shoot was Peter Dertimanis, pictured with Jarrod Fletcher.



Rohan and Jarrod Fletcher with the Gordon and Wendy Fletcher Memorial Shield.

COHUNA SHOW

By Kirstin Nicholson

The Cohuna Show will go ahead this Saturday only, with the focus on competitions held across several areas. Organisers were forced to scale back the event to safely abide by current CO-VID-19 regulations, and reluctantly cut back all entertainment, including sideshows. Access to the grounds is restricted to financial members of the society and there will be no general admission.

High numbers of entries have been received in the cattle, dog and horse sections, which all took pre-entries online only. Pavilion entries are limited to the horticulture section (all classes) and classes that are qualifiers for NDASA regional and VAS Ltd state competitions. The pavilion will be open for viewing on Saturday.

Entries for the pavilion and poultry sections will be accepted until 10am on Friday, March 19 and can be submitted at the show office in King Edward St up until Thursday morning, and then at the show grounds on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Schedules can be downloaded from the Cohuna Show

website at www.cohunashow.com

Despite not having entertainment and all the extra thrills and spills that visitors usually expect from the show, the Cohuna A. P. & H. Society is keen to at least provide the long-awaited competitions that many exhibitors have missed over the past 12 months.

Exhibitors and visitors are asked to self-assess for COVID-19 symptoms and stay home if necessary. The event will be a COVIDSafe event, and everyone is asked to be patient as these are implemented.

Regional Leo of the Year

By Kirstin Nicholson

Leos from across the Lion's Club's 201V6 District put their public speaking skills to the test on Sunday when they competed in the regional level of the Leo of the Year at Cohuna.

Cohuna's Chenoa Cutter, 15, repeated her strong performance of the speech she delivered at the local level in Cohuna, 'Social standards and cyber bullying in the social media world, and how it can impact your mental health status'.

Benton Lucas from Cobram on the Murray and Aydan Stark-Beswick from Tungamah and District Leos also competed in the event.

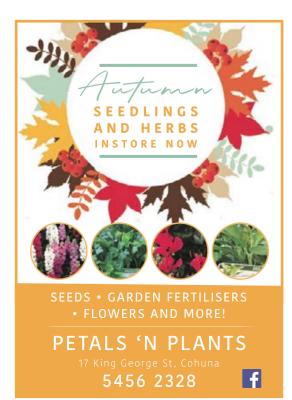
In addition to public speaking, competitors

were judged on involvement in their Leos club and local community, what they believe Leos has done for them, and their goals. They were required to submit a resume and essay to the judges, Norm Walkington, Anne Shanahan and Jeanette Cowan.

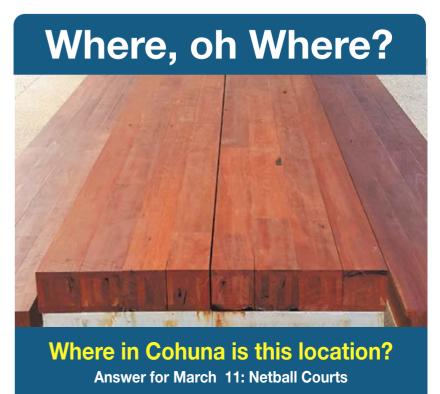
Chenoa will compete at the state final in Altona on March 28, and her fellow Cohuna Leos will be there to support her.

Cohuna Leos are holding a social night at the scout hall this Friday, March 19 between 5pm and 8pm. Youths aged 12 and over are welcome to partake in kayaking, board games and dinner, and discover what the Leos do around









Sponsor: M. & J. Mc-Glone. Thank you.

Winner: Brenton Smyth (11) +1

NTP - 2nd: Brenton Smyth. 8th - Flynn Appleby.

Next week Sat-Par. Sun-Stroke and Monthly Medal.

Duty Sat - Don Potter and Dom Baxter. Sun - Liz Thynne and Adam Jackson.

Cohuna Golf Club Results 14/3/2021

Sponsor: AD Home Furnishings. Thank you.

Event - 3 Person Gentsomes

Winners: Ladies - Helen Hall (28), Ros Dunne (18) and Di Woolhouse (18) 80 points. Runners-up - Lyn Richardson (21), Jennie Goulding (23) and Liz Thynne (26) 79 points.

Winners: Men - Joel Woolhouse (8), Tim Mitchell (16) and Jeff Mason (25) 89 points. Runnersup - Geoff Miller (15), Dale McGraw (10) and Robyn

Social bowls was at-

tended by nine ladies on

Tuesday, March 2, with

two teams playing four

against three. The win-

ners were Suzanne Ben-

nett, Barbara Hildebrand

and Yvonne Dehne. Con-

Next social day is Tues-

day March 16, 9.45am for

Midweek Bowls Divi-

defeated

sion 2 results - prelimi-

Kerang 39 (8pts) to 29

Val Dehne defeated S.

Jean Devitt defeated D.

Congratulations to the

team who now play in the

nary final March 10.

gratulations, ladies.

10am start.

Leitchville

Pascoe 23/14.

Frantz 16/15.

(0pts).

McGraw (16) 90 points, Consolation - Don Magick (26), Ted Jackson (20) and Murray Johnson (15) 89

NTP - 2nd Glenda Crichton and Adam Jackson, 8th Gary Valentine. 11th - Joy Johnson and Dennis McGlone. 17th - Rob Wilson

Friday 19-3-21: Police and Chaplaincy Day. 4 Player Ambrose

Cohuna Golf Club Wednesday 10.03.2021

Event: Stroke/Monthly Medal

Sponsor: Cohuna Automatic Transmissions. Thank you.

A Grade Winner and Medallist: Marg Winship 89 (17) 72 nett.

B Grade Winner: Barb Barry 102 (25) 77 nett. C Grade Winner: Linda Maloney 104 (28) 76

NTP's: 2nd: Wendy

grand final on March 17

at Kerang. Good luck and

Next committee meet-

ing is on Tuesday April

13 at 7.30pm. The an-

nual meeting will be on

Tuesday May 11 at 7pm.

Nomination forms are

available at the club, so

put your nomination in if

you would like the club to

keep going. A reminder

to all members that Ken

Dehne is standing down

as secretary and the club

needs to find a replace-

ment for the 21/22 bowls

The presentation night

will be on Friday, March

26 at 7pm at the Leitch-

ville Hotel. Please list

names on sheet on no-

season.

good bowling.

Woods, 2nd on 3rd: Di Woolhouse, 11th: Jennie Goulding.

Least no. putts: Barb Barry 28 putts.

Next week: Par book duty: Liz Thynne and Corrie Murchie. Hit off time 10am till 10.15am.

18 ladies played today after a busy Saturday with the Golfanza. Thank you to anyone who helped in any way, it was a huge success.

Next Sunday: AD Home Furnishings Day. 3-player Gentsomes.

Get your team organised. Golfers without a Golflink number will be allocated a handicap for the day. Entry form in clubhouse or text Liz. Pre entry would be appreciated for catering purposes. Liz

Friday March 19 Cohuna Police and Chaplaincy Day. 4-person Ambrose

ticeboard or contact Ken

Dehne or Roma Opie,

as names are required

by Monday March 22 for

catering purposes. All

members need to return

their raffle books by the

presentation night to Ken

Dehne or Graham Doug-

Midweek Consistency

A/C Fours Wednesday,

March 24 at 8am, contact

Yvonne Dehne 0437 019

618 or Raylene Hore 0431

Tournament

Good golfing.

Leitchville Bowls

COHUNA LAWN TENNIS

Cohuna Tennis Club -Notes March 13

Semi-finals this week with all games held in Kerang. Cohuna was well represented with seniors and both junior teams making it to the semifinal showdown. In the morning we held the last development squad and Hotshot's sessions, in 33-degree heat, strong humidity and no wind. The afternoon was a very different season as the cool change came through. Jumpers and umbrellas were needed, however, it remained dry enough to play through with results achieved in all divisions.

Club Championships

Our annual Club Championships will be held on March 20 at the Cohuna courts at 3pm. This will be followed by presentations and dinner. Simply turn up if you want to play.

Development Squad and Hotshots

The last Hotshots and Development squad session were held on Saturday morning with presentations following. Congratulations to Evie Carmichael, Casey Baker, Charlie Hauser and Lana Farrant who received most improved awards. A massive thank you to our coaches. Harrison Cleave and Jason Hensley, who have given their time and effort all year to make these programs available.

Twilight

There are still two weeks left of twilight. With the evenings getting shorter, please make it a priority to get started early. The leaderboard is looking very tight for both divisions so the next couple of weeks will be interesting

Semi-finals Seniors (Cohuna Vs Murrabit)

Cohuna Seniors played Murrabit in the semi-finals with the winner heading through to the grand final. In cool and damp conditions, the teams battled it out in a very close encounter, with the men dropping four games, one set to two. The women were three games up with two sets to one. This resulted in a one game deficit heading into the mixed. Dropping another seven games, and one set to two sets down, it would be Murrabit heading to Barham next week in the decider. Congratulations to the Murrabit

side, we wish you all the best for

Men's

H. Cleave & J. Hensley 7 vs S. Morton & N. Teasdale 9

H. Cleave & D. Gately 9 vs S. Morton & B. Monaghan 8

J. Hensley & D. Gately 5 vs N. Teasdale & B. Monaghan 8

Women's S. Barker & M. Rodwell 9 vs S. Mc-Donald & J. Yard 7

S. Barker & L. Lacy 8 vs S. McDonald & A. Morton 5

M. Rodwell & L. Lacy 7 vs J. Yard (injured), S. McDonald & A. Morton 9

H. Cleave & S. Barker 1 vs S. Morton & S. McDonald 8

J. Hensley & M. Rodwell 8 vs N. Teasdale & J. Yard 6

D. Gately & L. Lacy 7 vs B. Monaghan & A. Morton 9

Semi-finals - Juniors Cohuna Gold vs Kerana

Cohuna Gold played Kerang in this knock out event. Dropping all the singles sets, Cohuna would find it extremely difficult to reign back Kerang's 12 game lead. Even grabbing two sets in the doubles was not enough to push Cohuna into the grand final next week. Well done, Kerang, on making it to the grand final, we wish you all the best.

Singles

C. Lacv 1 vs T. Meehan 6 L. Farrell 4 vs J. Wise 6 Sa Sajeev 5 vs C. Meehan 6 Sh Sajeev 2 vs C. Crellin 6 **Doubles**

C. Lacy & L. Farrell 4 vs T. Meehan & J. Wise 6

Sa Sajeev & Sh Sajeev 6 vs C. Meehan & C. Crellin 5

C. Lacy & Sa Sajeev 6 vs T. Meehan & C. Meehan 2

L. Farrell & Sh Sajeev 2 vs J. Wise & C. Crellin 6

Semi-finals - Juniors Cohuna Blue vs Gunbower Red

A very different result to last week. Gunbower presented with a 'nothing to lose' attitude and really served it up to the ladder leaders. Cohuna Blue only banked one set in the singles, dropping six games and the doubles was a similar result dropping a further 10 games. Well done to Gunbower. We wish them all the best for the grand final.

Singles

Ze Hensley 6 vs L. Garner 2 B. Wishart 5 vs E. Kingma 6 T. Lacy 3 vs J. Spittal 6 Z. Pollock 0 vs Aaron Garner 6

Doubles

Ze Hensley & B. Wishart 2 vs L. Garner & E. Kingma 6

T. Lacy & Z. Pollock 5 vs J. Spittal & Aaron Garner 6

Ze Hensley & T. Lacy 4 vs L. Garner & J. Spittal 6

B. Wishart & Z. Pollock 3 vs E. Kingma & Aaron Garner 6

Easter Tournament

This event is our one big event for the year, and we encourage our families and community to support us in any way possible. If you could spare some time or would like to donate a dessert (for Sunday night) please touch base with Raelene Farrant or Mary Rodwell. We are also seeking donations for prizes and raffles, a massive thank you to those who have already supported us. This year we are also offering sponsorships for the tournament and events, if you are a business keen to advertise and support please get in touch with Jason Hensley who can help organise a sponsorship package that works for you.

Our annual Easter Tournament has now commenced registrations. Registrations can be made online at https://tournaments.tennis.com. au/tournaments It's time to start organising a tennis partner or getting some friends to join in. The tournament has many sections for both doubles and singles play, catering to all standards including:

Mens

Singles Graded (Friday); Singles Championship (Friday); Round Robin Doubles - Individual (Saturday)

Doubles (Monday)

Ladies

Round Robin Doubles - Individual (Friday); Singles Graded (Saturday); Singles Championship (Saturday) Doubles (Monday)

Doubles Round Robin - Individual (Saturday); Graded Pairs (Sunday) **Junior**

Singles Graded (Sunday); Doubles Graded (Monday)

Hope to see you all there!

COHUNA BOWLS

Starting on a sad note again, another bowler, Margy Bath, lost her battle with that dreaded illness. To Norm and family, we are thinking of you. Marg's funeral is next Thursday. Another bowler who passed away during the week was Mic Gastin, who was a bowler at Royal Cohuna and also a life member of the Union Football Club. Mic had a great innings, reaching the age of 101 years.

President Bryan has asked that we fill out the intention forms and return it to our secretary ASAP. With so many bowlers at the club the club may have to put in another team, so it is important you get the forms in.

Midweek Pennant this Wednesday is the grand final with Cohuna playing Kerang, starting at 9.30am at Kerang. Hopefully we can win this event. Nomination forms are being circulated around the club, so put your hand up to help out the club. Good luck, midweek team on Wednesday.

Breakfast

358 382.

COHUNA GOLF BOWLS CLUB

Grand final week began with the ladies on Tuesday, where Mary Rodwell notched the Hundred Up title after a thrilling win over Irene Trezise 102 to 99. Congratulations to both. The daily winners were Yvonne, Val, Barb, Elizabeth and Noelene defeating Rhonda's rink

Onto Wednesday night bowls where it was preliminary final time. Results saw Max Simmonds defeat Ruff Farrant, and Mal Appleby winning against David Turnour. Pickup winners were skipped by Helen Hall and Alan Cooke. Trophies on the night went to Max Simmonds, (may help towards the cost of the wedding), Len Mathers and Richard Flinders.

Grand final this week with Lee Sutherland to play Max Simmonds in the top four, whilst K. Hocking plays A. Cooke for second four honours. Cookie scores

duty as well.

After two busy days setting up, we had the facilities as smart as possible for Saturday's grand final, thanks to the members who assisted. Our raffle girls were well prepared for the large crowd, with a great range of prizes. Thanks to Cohuna Bowls Club, Cohuna Butchers, Rocky's Fruit Supplies and our Shire for their valued contributions to the running of the

Tucker and his helpers kept everyone hydrated and also dry, thanks to the Ag Society's tents and chairs. Our scoreboard attendants, Jon, Gwen and Des (on loan from Cohuna) did their job well and kept the crowd and players informed of the close finishes.

On to the games, and as reported elsewhere, the Ones finished too strongly for their gallant Kerang opposition, maintaining their reputation as the powerhouse of the Northern District. Well done to all players for the dedication shown throughout a difficult year, and best of luck in the regional title playoffs.

Division Two gave their fancied opponents a real fright and may have been a shade unlucky not to also win a flag. To tie the match after 63 ends, then lose the extra end by just one shot was a credit to all players, especially as a fortnight ago they were thrashed by the same team. Well done to Bruce and his rink who were the standouts over the final series, and all members who had played with the Whites throughout the

On the home front we congratulate Harrison Keely who has passed his umpire's course. He will be a handy addition to our band. Also, we have been asked

to host the Northern District Pairs on March 27, good bowls to watch here no doubt. Our jackpot pairs resume on March 25, names to Peter, Mick or Pat whilst the very popular Pie and Soup series is set to begin on April 9, also at Cohuna Golf. Triples with Peter or Mick taking team entries.

Thanks to the social committee and the catering ladies who worked from dawn to dusk. We enjoyed a great night in the clubhouse on Saturday evening. The food was excellent, the mood very cheerful making for an excellent finish to the day. Thanks to N. D. President, Tony, for spending the night with us.

Good luck to our two Country Week sides that head for the bright lights of Bendigo this week. With a little care and early nights most of you should be able to go the distance.





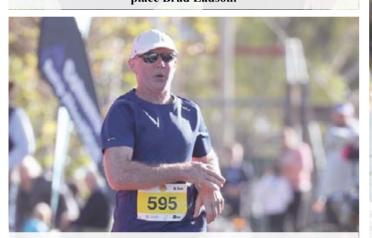
21.1km trail run 1st place winner, Matt Barron (left) and 2nd place Brad Ladson.



Annabelle Brown was determined to complete the 6.5km junior cycle.



The 6.5km fun run was enjoyed by all ages.



Brett Nicholson crosses the finish line in 2nd place for the 6.5km fun run.



Adam Laughlin and Graeme Butcher approach the turnaround point for their second lap of the 50km cycle.



Ariah Burns heads towards the finish line of the 6.5km fun run.



Former local, Gillian Barron returned home for the 21.1km trail run.



Paul Robinson and Kim Hallinan are all smiles as they cross the line in the 25km cycle.



Chloe Elizabeth entertained the crowds at the event village in Apex Park.



Rick Henery finishes off the 21.1km trail



The 12.5km trail run winds its way through the Gunbower Forest.



The mini miler was a big hit with the kids.



By Kendall Jennings

Koondrook Barham River Raiders and the 2019 Central Murray Football Netball League Back-to-Back Premieres, Woorinen Tigers, broke the local Australian Football League drought in front of a large crowd at the Barham Recreation Re-

serve Thursday evening for a practice match.

Due to COVID-19, the Central Murray Football Netball League did not hold a 2020 Championship. The evening was also the first time the new Koondrook Barham River Raiders Clubrooms were used for a senior

football game after being upgraded from a junior oval to the primary competition oval, including a new digital

The practice game scores were not kept; however, both sides managed to kick the ball into a post, and Woorinen seemed to be able to convert when the ball was in their forward line while also making it difficult for the Raiders to score with their Tiger defence. There definitely would have been some sore bodies struggling through Friday.

Future practice matches are planned before starting the 2021 Central Murray Football Netball League Premiership Season. A practice match is scheduled for this weekend (March 20) at Deniliquin. There will be a warm-up game at the Barham Recreation Reserve, where the Raiders will face Tyntynder on Saturday, April 10, before the beginning of the 2021 Premiership Season on April 17 against Cohuna Kangas.

Tour For Their Future

By Kendall Jennings

The Sebastian Foundation 'Tour For Their Future' passed through the region on Sunday, March 14. The 'Tour For Their Future' is an eight-day cycling challenge riding from the first weir on the Mighty Murray River in Albury, NSW to where the River runs into the ocean at Sugars Beach, Goolwa, SA. Riders will cover

approximately 1033 km which is an average of 130km per day.

The Sebastian Foundation was formed in 2013 by singer Guy Sebastian and his wife Jules. The Sebastian Foundation has school programs that aim to make a difference in the mental health of adolescents, helping them to understand and survive issues such as low self-esteem, trauma,

abuse, bullying/friendship difficulties, addiction, eating/body image issues, depression /anxiety, loss/grief at an extremely vulnerable time in their lives, as well as supporting young girls, domestic violence shelters, hospitals, including music therapy, mentoring programs for teenagers, women who have experienced domestic violence and more.







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 Thursday, March 18, 2021 The Koondrook-Barham Bridge





Runners Up (L-R): Lorraine Durbridge, Rob Malseed, Marlene Ellis, Ian Ellis, Rob Hampton.

54th Legacy Bowls at Barham

Legacy's 54th Annual Legacy Bowls Day sponsored by cluBarham, was held at Barham Bowling Club, on Sunday March 14. A great day with the weather being kind, and 104 bowlers, all had an enjoyable day.

Thanks to our green keeper for our good greens, thanks to Spike, and a special thanks to all the ladies who supplied slices and helped in the kitchen, and to all who helped us in any way to make it such a successful day.

We would like to make a special thank you mention to our Legatee Joan Williams in her

90+ years who sells the ticket every year, a tireless worker for Legacy, R.S.L, and Senior Citizens, looking after senior people. Thank you Joan for all the work you do, you are amazing.

The winners of the day were Garry Cook, Ian Fasham, Ken Rye, Allan Lar-

pent. Runners up were, Ian Ellis, Lorraine Durbridge, Marlene Ellis, Rob Malseed.

All proceeds go to Kerang Group of Legacy which covers Barham, Koondrook, Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville, Murrabit, Pyramid Hill, Wakool and Ouambatook, and benefits the welfare of our local widows

Profit for the day was \$1,441.

Tables were laden with generous prizes from business houses, and private people,

from our local area, for our monster raffel .We would sincerely like to thank each and every one for their generosity. Donations received by: Trend-Skate-Surf, Barham Thule, Boyds, Barham Pharmacy, Barham Meats, Murray River Meats, Coleen Lahy, Belle Bartlett, Riverside Embroidery, Murray Blu, Shoosh, Barham I.G.A, Barham Foodworks, Elders, Barham Hotel, Royal Hotel, Cookes Barham, Barham Family Haircare, Ron

Hillman, Gael Mathers, Molins Motorcycle & Marine, Koondrook Post Office, Skin Essence Koondrook, Arbuthnot Sawmills, Membrey Auto, Koondrook General Store, Border Plumbing & Irrigation, Joan Williams, Frank Boxall, Mates Hotel, Sporties Kerang, IGA Kerang, Woolworths Kerang, Rulcify's Kerang, AutoPro Kerang, Arnold & Greenwood, Halls Hardware, Wakool Hotel and Mawsons. Many thanks to you all.

All Smiles at the Barham Skate Park

By Kendall Jennings

Wheels hit the concrete at Barham's Skate Park with Skate Park League's Skate Park Competition. On Saturday, February 27, athletes were treated to free workshops to hone their skills. On Sunday 28th, athletes put their skills to the test in a competition format, with every competitor given two 45 second runs on the last day of summer.

Three disciplines contested, the street scooter, BMX and the skateboard. Athletes were able to compete in all three fields in various age groups.

The local talent impressed the small crowd, setting achievable goals with new tricks under the Skate Park League Coaches' guidance.

The Murray River Council is looking to hold more events with the Youth Engagement Program being set up for the youth to

plan activities and events, bringing fun to the community.

Scoot **Under 10**

1st Harry Rennie 2nd Eddie Puddick 3rd Jimmy Puddick

Under 13

1st Kade Taylor 2nd Charlie Rennie 3rd Riley Dixon

Under 16s

1st Connor Davis **BMX**

Under 13

1st Kade Taylor; 2nd Charlie Rennie; 3rd Riley Dixon

Over 16s

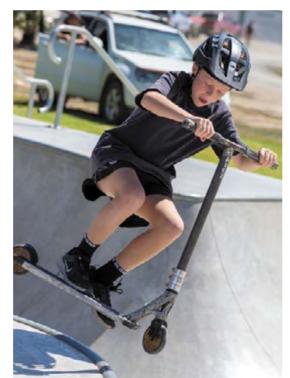
1st Chris Barnes

Skate Under 10

1st Jimmy Puddick 2nd Harry Rennie 3rd Eddie Puddick

Under 13

1st Kade Taylor 2nd Logan Faul 3rd Charlie Rennie











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Philip & Karen Davey

Living and Active

By Bruce Stewart

Earle was a messed up young man and had to be hospitalised. He was into the drug scene and made terrible decisions. One day someone gave him a Bible. He was happy with this gift because each page was nice paper to roll his cigarettes with. He smoked his way through Matthew, Mark and Luke but by the time he got to John he started to read the contents. He found them interesting, challenging and convicting. In fact, he became a Christian, a follower of Jesus. His life was trans-

Earle had been seeing a

psychologist regularly. Soon the psychologist was astounded with the positive changes in Earle. She said, "I don't understand all the good things happening in your life." She shared how she had 'everything', a good job, nice home... but "I am empty inside." Earle shared about the story of Jesus and the psychologist became a Christian, they started dating and then married. Transformation began when Earle began reading

Now an older testimony. The story of 'Mutiny on the Bounty' has been retold and popularised for many years.

Let me tell a part of the story which is less known. The mutineers sank their ship and settled on the lonely island of Pitcairn. There were nine British sailors, six Tahitian men and ten women. One of the sailors discovered a method of distilling alcohol and the whole island was soon affected by drunkenness and crime.

After a time only one of the white sailors who landed still survived, surrounded by women and children. This sailor, Alexander Smith, found a Bible in a chest which had been rescued from the Bounty. He began to teach his fellow exiles its



principles, with the result that his own life, and ultimately the life of the whole community, was changed.

In 1808 the United States ship, 'Topaz', visited the island and found a thriving

ing heavenly gifts come in

many different packages,

and sometimes when we

Recently, one friend here

shared with us about an

unusual gift. Due to CO-

VID-19 restrictions, this

young couple spent an ex-

tended time in the US last

year. Just before returning

to Nepal, he was strolling

with his mum around their

property, admiring and en-

joying the beautiful sight of

bright fireflies. He thought

to himself, 'I think I'll re-

ally miss seeing these back

in Kathmandu.' Shortly

afterward, he and his wife

flew back into Nepal. It was

late and dark when they ar-

rived, tiredly they emerged

from their airport taxi,

laden with baggage. Just as

they stepped toward their

front door, suddenly, they

encountered the brilliance

of some fireflies! The first

time they'd seen them here

in the city. Heavenly timing.

A God gift. Yes, I'm with

you, I do hear the whispers

of your heart, you are on my

mind, you are in my plans

and purposes for you. A

timely reminder that all was

least expect them.

and prosperous community without drunkenness, without a jail, without crime and without an asylum. As the people committed themselves to following Jesus Christ and His teachings as

well, and that God is still in

I love how God answered

a prayer that was never

prayed. A heart longing,

the realities of parting from

loved ones, and then came

some heavenly encourage-

ment, an unexpected gift.

God is like that. Searching

shelter during the storm on

our hillside hike, we found

a low roofed dwelling built

over a natural spring. As

we waited for the rain to

abate, I watched a trickle

of water begin to make its

way downhill. Slowly the

trickle grew into a stream,

but its way was blocked by

leaf and stick debris. But the

water merely found a new

way, around the blockage on

both sides, and the leaf mat-

ter also began to shift a little

from the force of the water's

flow. God's grace flows to-

wards us from heaven, re-

lentless in his love, he looks

for ways to touch all our

lives. Words, actions, gifts

in different guises. Hidden

surprises, sudden blessings.

Firefly gifts...

control.

expressed in the Bible the life of the entire community was transformed for the bet-

The Bible is our Creator's letter to humankind - given for our benefit – so that we may live life in such a way as to gain forgiveness, direction, purpose, joy, peace and hope. The Bible describes itself this way: "For the Word of God is living and active. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword... It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." Acts 4:12. The Bible reveals the story of Jesus and He is the one who can bring transformation in our lives.

I listened with interest to Australian gold medalist swimmer, Duncan Armstrong, who shared with 900 of us at a Melbourne prayer breakfast, "There was not any one thing, but rather a series of events, that led me to Jesus." Duncan said that he found the Bible a bit 'boring' the first time he read it but then he began to love reading the Bible and get to know more about this God who loves us. "I just want to follow Jesus; I want to develop a set of behaviours that are around forgiveness and understanding - in the world this is a very hard thing to do. I am still learning what it's all about and still getting into 'The Book'.".

Read a modern translation of the Bible and check it out for yourself. The message of the Bible is indeed 'living and active' and sharper than a 'two-edged sword'.

'A Firefly Gift'

By Rosemary **McCormick**

Stormy season is gradually taking hold here in Nepal, afternoon wind squalls are accompanied by billowing grey cloud banks that carry with them the promise of rain. Last Saturday we again took the opportunity for a Kathmandu hill hike. There is a small tea shop perched

on a ridge along one of the ancient trade routes that give access to the valley, and for the price of a chia you can leave both bike and helmet in their care. Then it's away up to explore the hill paths. About one hour's walk into the forest, along a leafy trail, all was quiet and peaceful. Then suddenly, heavy hail, rain, cold wind,

at Cranbourne

A family reunion for the Flemington Win. Daryl McNeil, Jess and Jye with

son Oakley, and Michelle McNeil, after Jye's Group One win aboard the

United States' seven-year-old gelding 'Homesman' in the TAB Australia

Cup on March 6. (Photo: Reg Ryan/Racing Photos)

thunder and lightning, how quickly the mountain

weather can change. Rapidly we became soaked and chilled, yet somehow, it was still lovely to receive a refreshing downpour, to know the dry and bare contoured gardens of the nearby vil-

lage will once again soon become lush and green with vegetables... and I'm think-**Jye McNeil Wins**

By Kendall Jennings

Twenty-six-year-old 2020 Melbourne Cup Winner Jye McNeil won at Cranbourne in the 1400m O'Brien Real Estate Three-Years-Old Maiden Plate upon threeyear-old gelding 'Thomas Hawk' trained by Tom Dabernig and Ben Hayes, with a margin of 1.2 lengths on the good rated track with a weight of 58 kilograms on

Jye also had three other rides, Michael Moroney trained 'Quesadilla' for a second, Tony and Calvin McEvoy trained 'Cuban State' for third, and Ciaron Maher and David Eustace 'Through Irish Eyes' for third.

On March 13, Jye rode at The Valley. The highest placing was a fifth on two-year-old colt 'Montana Flash' trained by Michael, Wayne and John Hawkes in the second race of the day, the 1600m Powerflo Solu-

cuit at Sale, Victoria. Race 2, Mothers Day High Tea 9/5 3YO Fillies Maiden Plate upon New Zealand three-year-old filly 'Madagascar Miss' trained by Michael Moroney for second place by two lengths. Jve rode two-year-old gelding 'Lightfast' also trained by Michael Moroney in race one for an eighth-place finish.

tions VOBIS Gold Reef.

March 16, Jye rode the 1,112 metre cir-

COHUNA & DISTRICT ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

COHUNA: Cranmer the Martyr 32 Channel St,

Sunday 9am Morning Prayers - Lay Lead.

GUNBOWER: Christ Church - Cnr M.V. Highway and Church St, Gunbower Sunday 11am Morning Prayer.

LEITCHVILLE: Latimer the Martyr - 23 Findlay Ave, Leitchville

Sunday 11am Holy Communion with Rev. Sue Allen.

KERANG: St Johns Anglican Church - 60 Wyndham St, Kerang.

Sunday 9am Holy Communion with Rev. Sue Allen; 2pm Prayers Day of Gratitude.



FRIDAY MARCH 19

2pm World Day of Prayer @ the Catholic Church

SUNDAY MARCH 21

ST JOHNS: 10am Holy Communion

ST MARTINS: 10.30am with Uniting

ST BARNABAS: 2pm Holy Communion. Parish AGM

WEDNESDAY MARCH 24

4pm Choir Practice 5pm Evening Prayer

• Enquiries Fr Neale: 0497 359 576

BARHAM – WAKOOL UNITING PARISH

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Barham - 10am - M. Knight.

Moulamein - In recess.

Wakool - 10:30am - SMT.

• Enquiries: L. & J. McKindlay 5884 2130

C.C. = Children's Church. SMT = Shared Ministry Team.

KOONDROOK - BARHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 10AM

50 MELLOOL ST, BARHAM.

Enquiries: Rev Ross Barnes – 5453 2250

BARHAM CATHOLIC CHURCH

Daily Mass: 9 am - Barham Presbytery chapel.

SUNDAY MASS:

Wakool: 8.30 am.

Barham: 10:30am.

Moulamein: every second week at 5:30pm.

Phone Fr Stan: 0413 311 598



Classifieds

EXHIBITION OF DRAFT POLICIES

PUBLIC NOTICE | murray river council

Public comment is invited on the following draft policies:

Procurement Policy Drink Water Quality Policy

The draft policies are currently on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and may be inspected, during normal office hours, at Council's offices in Moama (52 Perricoota Road), Moulamein Business Centre (Morago St), Barham (15 Murray Street), Mathoura Visitor & Business Centre (Cobb Highway) or on Council's website www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au.

Submissions in relation to the draft policies should be addressed to the undersigned or emailed admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au and received by 4:00pm on Thursday 22 April 2021.

TERRY DODDS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PO Box 906 MOAMA NSW 2731



Fox and Rabbit Baiting Program

As part of a wider Local Land Services managed baiting program, Forestry Corporation will be carrying out a 1080 baiting and ejector program on three key sandhills, along the private property boundary/State Forest boundary and adjacent to selected main roads from 3 February 2021 to 31 March 2021.

1080 baiting will occur along the boundary of Campbells Island, Perricoota and Koondrook State Forests, on Horseshoe, Boysons and Big Bonum sandhills as well as adjacent to selected roads in these areas, including River Road and the main access tracks to popular campsites in these forests.

Signage will be erected at all main entrances and campsites, as well as other strategic locations to advise people of the presence of the baits

Adjoining property holders and visitors to the forest are advised to be aware of the presence of the baits and keep all animals under close supervision during this time. Children should also be closely supervised during this time.

Please contact Andrew McCurdy, District Manager, on 0428 288 618 should you require any further information regarding this program.



It's been 48 years on March 24th of wedded bliss.

I reckon you and I have done all right for ourselves. I love you Sylvia - Allan



Public Notice Pig Baiting Program

Forestry Corporation will be conducting a 1080 pig baiting program throughout the Koondrook and Perricoota State Forests from 29 March 2021

Signage will be erected at all main entrances, as well as other strategic locations to advise people of the presence of the baits.

Adjoining property holders and visitors to the forest are advised to be aware of the presence of the baits and keep all animals under close supervision during this time. Children should also be closely supervised during this time.

Please contact Kulpreet Kaur, Forest Planner, on 0429 317 661 should you require any further information regarding this program.



The Bridge Mellool Street, Barham Ph: 5453 2057

RUBBER

STAMPS



The Bridge

Death Notice

DEAN - Valma Eileen (Val)

Peacefully at Barham on March 9th 2021 Aged 88

Loved daughter of Eric and Gladys (Casey) (both dec.). Loved mother of Leonie and Gavin (dec.).

Loved mother in law of

Loved Nanna of Emma, Travis and Shannon and Little Nanna of Laycee, Noaah, Kaden and Saige

In God's Care.

POSITIONS VACANT | murray riv



Murray River Council is an equal opportunity employer.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT **PROGRAM OFFICER**

Fixed Term to 30/12/2022

Minimum 15 hours per week @ \$33.27 per hour

The Community Service Department has a very exciting role in their Youth Engagement Program. This fixed term role will be responsible for engaging with and supporting young people living in the Murray River Council to pursue their individual life aspirations and goals. You will be supporting young individuals to participate in community life and contribute to sustainable activities in the region predominantly in the western area of Murray River Council.

The administrative tasks will include compiling confidential client information, reporting and maintaining up to date data as required by the governing body. Assist in the Grant applications by planning, costings, applications and administration of the funds.

This position will offer you the opportunity to join a team keen to build the capacity of Murray River Council's Youth Engagement Program.

Applications close 24 March 2021

To Apply:

Head to the careers section on our website - www. murrayriver.nsw.gov.au to obtain a position description which lists the mandatory selection criteria of the role.

Submit your application, including a cover letter, address the selection criteria separately and a current resume to admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au jwain@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

OR

Jo Wain **Human Resources Murray River Council** PO Box 906 MOAMA NSW 2731

For more information on any of the roles listed above please call Jackie Ingwersen, Manager Community Services





Murray River Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Murray River Council has opportunities for the following positions based in Moulamein.

GANGER (PATCHING TRUCK)

Salary Range: \$60,548 to \$67,814 + 9.5 % Superannuation + 9 Day fortnight

The Ganger is responsible for the "Crew" working on the Patching Truck, providing leadership and information on site to all operational (works) units in the Engineering Operations work unit in accordance with plant operational requirements, WHS legislation, risk management and other policies and procedures, as necessary. Under the direction of the Works Manager, Project Engineer and/or Works Coordinators, they must coordinate and supervise staff and contractors involved in construction and maintenance as per the Works Program.

PLANT OPERATOR

Salary Range: \$53,393.60 to \$59,801.04 + 9.5 % Superannuation + 9 Day fortnight

Carry out general labouring and plant operation duties associated with road construction, road maintenance, town maintenance and road drainage duties in accordance with Murray River Council's works program and policies and procedures.

Head to the careers section on our website - www. murrayriver.nsw.gov.au to obtain a position description which lists the mandatory selection criteria of the role.

the selection criteria separately and a current resume to: admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Jo Wain **Human Resources Murray River Council** PO Box 906 MOAMA NSW 2731

jwain@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

For more information on any of the roles listed above please call Ian Keech, Works Manager on 1300 087 004.

For further information contact council on 1300 087 004 or visit www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Applications close: 26 March 2021



General Practice Nurse (EN/RN)

We are seeking a part-time general practice nurse for Ochre Medical Centre Cohuna.

Essential criteria

- Must have current unconditional registration with
- Demonstrate outstanding work ethic, organisational and time management skills
- Have experience in a fast-paced, multiple practitioner environment

Desirable criteria

- · Experience with wound management, Immunisations and assisting in procedures
- Experience with Developing Health Assessment and
- Experience with Best Practice software highly regarded.
- 2-3 years+ General Practice nursing experience highly
- · Experience with cosmetic and surgical assistance

- · Highly professional setup
- On the job training
- Friendly and supportive team of colleagues

Applications

To apply or find out more about this role, please send a cover letter and resume to Leanne Dickinson at ohmccohuna@ochrehealth.com.au. Applications will be reviewed as received with a final closing date of 15th April,

Note: Ochre Health does not sponsor any visa or working holiday visa.



2/2/1960 - 10/3/2021 Suddenly at home in Koondrook.

Loved Wife of Scott. Loving Mother of Nikki and

Brenden.

Loving Mother in Law of Teague and Renee. Loving Nanny Donny of

Brittany, Grace, Victoria, William and Ethan.

Loving Nanny Di of Lucy, Sophie and Isla.



Corbett) - Dianne

Passed away 10-03-21. Dearly loved daughter of Alice & John Corbett (dec.). Dearly loved mother of Nickki & Teague, Brenden & Renee.

Sister of Kim, Narelle (dec.) & James (dec.) Chris & Andrew Margaret & Marty, Helen & Kenny, Rod & Jodie, Grandma of 8 So dearly loved

For further information contact council on 1300 087 004 or visit www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Classifieds

Death Notice



Loved daughter in law of Rose and Alan.

Loved sister in law of Lindsay and Debbie, Marilyn and Paul and Rosemary.

Loved Aunty and Great Aunty to the Children. Loving Memories

Funeral Notice

BURGESS

A graveside funeral service for Ms Kerry Lynn Burgess will be held at the Kerang Lawn Cemetery on Monday, March 22 commencing at 10.30AM



DEAN

A Funeral Mass for Mrs Valma Eileen 'Val' Dean will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Barham on Friday 19th March commencing at 11am. Followed by burial at the Barham Lawn Cemetery.



MILLAR

A graveside funeral service for Mrs Diane Millar will be held at the Koondrook Lawn Cemetery on Monday March 22nd at 2 PM



The Bridge

ADVERTISERS!

Articles or new advertising bookings need to be submitted

before 12 noon, Tuesday afternoon.

Any artwork, proof changes/acceptances, booking cancellations or changes must be received no later

than 5pm Tuesday afternoon.

Any addition, correction or cancellation requests received later may not be

The Bridge

CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISING

Readers in the Cohuna and Leitchville area can make classified advertisement bookings from Cohuna Papers Plus Newsagency.

PUBLIC NOTICE | murray river council



NOTICE OF RABBIT BAITING PROGRAM: MOULAMEIN RACECOURSE

Residents are advised that Council will be baiting rabbits at the Moulamein Racecourse.

The baiting Program will run from Monday 15 March through to Monday 3 May.

The program will be managed in accordance with the Pesticide Control (Pindone Products) Order 2010 and aims to protect native flora and reduce the amount of damage to grassed areas, racetrack and surrounding buildings and assets.

Carrots baited with Pindone will be placed at the racecourse during the afternoons of the above dates. Any uneaten Pindone will be removed the following mornings.

This pesticide is lethal to dogs and cats and if consumed can cause illness to humans. Contact your local vet or seek medical advice in the case of suspected poisoning.

Pindone has an antidote (vitamin K1) and is safer to use in closer settled areas.

Please follow directions of on-site notification signs or contact Council's Biosecurity Team on 1300 087

TERRY DODDS

For further information contact council on 1300 087 004 or visit www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

/CTORIA

KOONDROOK CEMETERY TRUST

The Koondrook Cemetery Trust is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified members of the community who would be interested in becoming honorary trust members. Women and those from a diverse background are actively encouraged to seek appointment to ensure that the trust's membership accurately reflects the composition of the community

Cemetery trust members are appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of up to five years and are responsible to the Minister for Health for the proper and efficient management of the public cemeteries under the control of the trust, including the provision of future cemeteries services and the preservation of local history.

Being appointed to a cemetery trust provides successful applicants with a unique opportunity to develop their competencies as a board member. In addition, the Department of Health provides free governance training to all trust members.

Current and previous cemetery trust members may apply for reappointment as part of a competitive selection process.

More information about the role of cemetery trust members is available at: https://www2.health.vic. gov.au/public-health/cemeteries-and-crematoria/ cemetery-trust-appointments/class-b-cemetery-trust-

To register your interest please contact the Secretary of the Koondrook Cemetery Trust as follows within two weeks of the date of this advertisement:

e. koondrookcemetery@gmail.com

m. 0409 638 420

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that government boards and committees reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. This includes appropriate representation of women, people of all ages, Aboriginal people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, gender diverse and intersex people.



2021 GOOD FRIDAY **APPEAL COHUNA**

Friday, April 2, 2021

The Lions Club of Cohuna will Conduct Door to Door Collections This will be conducted from Cohuna CFA Located at Cnr. Sampson Street & King Edward Street Cohuna

If you would like to Volunteer to Collect meet at the Cohuna CFA at 9am on Good Friday





Forest Operations Supervisor

At Forestry Corporation we pride ourselves on being the largest manager of commercial plantation and native forests in New South Wales. We manage renewable timber production, environmental sustainability and recreation across more than two million hectares of NSW State forests. You can discover more about Forestry Corporation and the work we do by visiting www.forestrycorporation.nsw.com.au.

We have a fantastic opportunity for a driven and passionate Forest Operations Supervisor to supervise and oversee numerous harvesting and haulage crews operating in the River Red Gum forests of Koondrook, Perricoota and Campbells Island (KPC). The area harvests circa 65,000 tonnes of Red Gum Timber per year.

The role will also work independently managing tree marking and working extensively outdoors in these State forests, being a steward of the forests.

The Location

Located on the northern side of the Murray River, the NSW town of Barham and its Victorian twin partner Koondrook, on the other side, form the commercial centre for the region's, lamb, cattle, cropping and dairy producers. Barham is best known for its citrus groves, superb fishing and relaxing at the man-made lakes on the river's edge. The twin towns service the extensive pastoral and horticultural regions with many tourists attracted to these scenic towns.

- · You are self-motivated, proactive and passionate about forestry operations. You will also demonstrate the following skills and experience;
- Knowledge and experience of forestry operations OR experience in other industries at a supervisory level will be looked upon favourably;
- Extensive experience in managing contractor crews with superior decision making and problem solving skills;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills coupled with strong negotiation and conflict resolution abilities;
- Strong stakeholder management experience with the ability to liaise effectively with forestry staff members, contractors, industry, neighbours and the community;
- Demonstrated experience in operational compliance audits to ensure continuous improvement;
- Well-developed technical skills in computer usage, map reading and GPS ideal;
- Have a current Driver's Licence;
- Ability to contribute to fire preparedness and suppression activities. Full training will be provided.

How to Apply

Send a copy of your resume and a cover letter outlining why you would like to join the team in Barham to: jobapplications@fcnsw.com.au

For more information and a confidential discussion about the role, please contact Andrew McCurdy, District Manager, Western on (m) 0428 288 618.

Applications Close: Sunday 28 March 2021

Forestry Corporation is an inclusive workplace which promotes diversity and encourages flexible working ar-

You will be required to undergo a pre-employment medical assessment for musculoskeletal functionality and drug and alcohol screening as part of the recruitment process. As this role has front-line fire-fighting responsibilities, A Task Based Assessment (fitness test) at a standard of at least the Moderate Field test must also



SWIM INSTRUCTOR and LIFEGUARD

Casual positions

Warm water exercise pool, Kerang

For further information go to www.gannawarra.vic.gov. au

Applications close 5pm Wednesday 31 March 2021

POSITIONS VACANT | murray river



Murray River Council is an equal opportunity employer.

MECHANIC - BASED IN MATHOURA

Salary Range: \$60,548 to \$67,814 + 9.5 % Superannuation + 9 Day fortnight

Murray River Council has a vacancy for a highly motivated and enthusiastic Mechanic to join our Workshop/Fleet team in the Mathoura Depot.

Murray River Council is located within the popular River Country district of Southern New South Wales. The region offers a relaxed lifestyle that people want for a holiday on the popular Edward and Murray Rivers. You can enjoy great eateries to live music festivals throughout the Council set against a natural backdrop of moving rivers and ancient

The successful applicant will require the necessary qualifications to work on Murray River Council Fleet and Plant to ensure they are functional and safe. You will work as part of a team alongside the Workshop/Fleet Manager and Apprentice.

Key responsibilities are detailed in the Position Description and include, but are not limited to:

- Perform vehicle maintenance, repairs and servicing on all Council fleet and plant as required.
- Assist the Workshop/Fleet Manager in the management of all workshop activities associated with the maintenance of Councils fleet and plant.
- Ensure that all maintenance, repairs and servicing are carried out in accordance with the approved specifications, standards and procedures.
- Ensure all plant and equipment are operated in a safe and competent manner within all regulations. Ensure that small plant and equipment are maintained
- in a sound condition to maximise production. Ensure all plant, day labour and other resources are deployed and utilised economically and effectively.
- Assist in ensuring Council plant and equipment are secure and that the relevant records are maintained

To Apply:

up to date at all times

Head to the careers section on our website - www. murrayriver.nsw.gov.au or the Seek website - to obtain a position description which lists the mandatory selection criteria of the role.

Submit your application, including a cover letter, address admin@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au jwain@murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

Jo Wain **Human Resources Murray River Council** PO Box 906 MOAMA NSW 2731

For more information on any of the roles listed above please call Ian Keech, Works Manager on 1300 087 004.

Applications close: 22 March 2021

For further information contact council on 1300 087 004 or visit www.murrayriver.nsw.gov.au

BY Riverside

TOWN HAPPENINGS

Congratulations to the Wakool Bowls Club which brought home the champion's trophy this year. Barham Koondrook A Grade cricket lost its grand final at Gunbower on the weekend. Bad luck, but what an amazing effort to get there. Good luck to everyone else playing in the upcoming tennis grand finals this weekend in Barham

John Bott will celebrate his 70th and is planning a few drinks with family and friends in a few weeks. Raiders raffle winners last Friday went to Wendy Membrey, who scored the \$50 voucher, David Salter will make use of his meal

voucher, Shagga has scooped up the six-pack and Aaron scored two bottles of wine.

The Murrabit Football Club will host its annual fishing competition this weekend out at Murrabit. No doubt there will be quite a few fishing boats making their way through our towns. Construction of the Koondrook all abilities playground is underway. This is being built on the former Koondrook Memorial Hall site. The Koondrook car wash is also full steam ahead with structures already up. Some of you may have noticed the Barham Anglican Church Hall was demolished this week in preparation for their new hall to be built.

The ducks are certainly having a wonderful relaxing time at the Koondrook Pool since it closed for the season. At least they don't need to worry about getting their feet nibbled on. Business street talk is having a spell this week.

BLAST FROM THE PAST (25 YEARS AGO)

Casting our way back to the 1996 Wakool Show, where a beautiful photo of Tania Flight winning the Wakool Show Girl presents itself on the front page. Miss Teenager was won by Kimberley Gordon, Miss Autumn won by Maggie Ellis and Miss Junior Show Girl was won by Bryony

Green. Luke Guerra and Melissa Puiatti both competed in the State Little Athletic Championships. Talented 16-year-old cricketer, Bradley Hein, is pictured batting for Prahran during a Dowling Shields Competition. Hein was awarded the best all round cricketer in the Melbourne competition and has since been hand selected to attend the VCA coaching camp to be coached by Dean Jones.

HUMOUR OF THE WEEK

Sharing a couple of humourous things I came across this week, just to get that head shaking side-

• What do you call a nun that sleepwalks? A Roaming Catholic.

• The word 'swims' upsidedown is still 'swims' (I bet you're turning your head sidewards trying to check).

• What if my dog only brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

WHAT I LEARNT TODAY

We all know what M&M's are, those yummy colourful chocolates we place by the handful in our mouths. I've always been curious if the two Ms had any meaning behind them. The two Ms represent the names of Forrest E. Mars

Sr., the founder of Newark Company, and Bruce Murrie, who had a 20 percent share in the product. The two men called their new company 'Mars & Murrie' or as we know M&M's.

CLOSING

Thoughts go out to several local families this week who have unexpectedly lost loved ones. Life is too short, and we can't be sure of anything in the future. We can't go backwards and rewind to change the past. The present is where we are now, so we need to put all our energy into living it. Planned that trip around Australia anyone? It's never too early to travel, just don't leave it too late.

By China Gibson

Footy-Netball Back

It was great to see our footy ground and netball courts getting used again, with us, Balranald and Blighty. Our under 17's had a good hit out. The trouble is that in a normal year, we do not see our kids for the six-month break of no footy or netball. This time it has been 18 months. Many of our juniors have gone from kids to young men in that time frame. Us old fellas will work out who is who once the season starts. Our senior team had plenty of numbers, and for a team that do not know each other's names yet, they did well. Let's hope our mate COVID-19 keeps away and we can get a season this year. Go the Mighty Moulamein Swans, we survived another year.

Rain

We had the break we were after coming our way last weekend. Up to 50ml was forecast. Then it went back to zero. Then there could be 25ml or so coming early next week. Then there was bugger all again. Now we may be getting 30ml at the time of writing. I have given up waiting and I will start the second irrigation on my

pasture country.

The jets are leaving more trails as they fly over us. Admittedly, there are more jets than there have been. The new moon has come in on its side so it may be tipping the rain out. All I need now is a lizard on the top of a fence post and we will get wet. If the kookaburras start to laugh and their mates join in, that will help. I cannot remember if that is morning or afternoon. But if I see a few kookaburras in a tree not laughing, I will go over and tell them a joke or two no matter what time of day it is. I was talking to someone the other night. They have been out in our back country out north and the little black ants are working overtime building their nests up. Must remember to have a look next time I am feeding the sheep out there. Please do not nail lizards to the top of fence posts. It does not work, and they are protected.

The important bit about the weather forecast is that according to 'The Weather According to Jack', it is still going to break in April, and we should have a good winter. Jack is still worried about the spring as some of the weather patterns are

doing what they want to do, not what he expected they would do. Same wet result up north, just did it without many cyclones. Wet up north usually means a good year for us. If you see galahs hanging upside down on the power lines (it used to be the telephone lines, but we do not have those anymore, so I assume they still do it on the power lines) then batten down the hatches as our big break is on the way.

Rice

It is not far now to our best rice harvest in our district for many years. Because of the cooler than normal summer, the crops will be a lot later this year. I was talking to a couple of agronomists the other night at a party. I put the hard word on them to get the potential yield prospects because of the bloody cold end to the season. Their opinion was that there looks like there will be no disasters that we will not put headers into, but there will be a lot of dead heads and very few bumper crops, but they should yield okay. Let's hope they yield better than okay, as anyone that had the balls to grow rice this year with the price of water at the time of sowing deserves a good return.

Win for our Billabong Creek

There was a chance that our Billabong Creek could have been dried up a few times a year to keep

other wetlands going. Our Yanco-Billabong Creek system is one of the best cod breading streams in our great nation as well as having its own unique wetlands that seemed to get ignored when those that make the rules found some more important frogs, fish and birds. There are more cod per square meter of water in our Billabong than in any other river system. We now have a guaranteed 50 megs a day out the bottom of our creek into the Edward River at Moulamein thanks to YACTAC. Our YACTAC committee, which stands for Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council, has been putting in untold amounts of hours

to keep our creek flowing, all of them unpaid. We have a couple of experts on the pay roll because we have to nowadays. Due to the expense of keeping the battle of keeping what we have, YACTAC has had to put its membership up to \$1,000 per year, up from \$50 just a couple of years ago. But we have to keep ahead of those that do not value our Yanco-Billabong Creek system. There is a fair few that think if everyone else pays it we can hide and pay bugger all to ride on the shirt tails of those that do pay. Some of those that do not pay their membership were the first ones to drive to Canberra to waste their time marching around just to be ignored by the media. If our Billabong irrigators want to make a difference, please pay your membership ASAP.

Moulamein Gallery Sculpture Competition

This will be happening on June 11 if COVID-19 allows. There will be two sections. Section one is a large freestanding sculpture. The first prize is \$2,000. The sculpture will be acquired by our gallery. They can

have mine for that. Second prize is \$500. Section two is a small free-standing sculpture of around 30cm x 50cm. The prize for this is \$500 first and \$200 second. I will have to measure the one I made last year to see which section I can enter. I think it would go close to section two. I think the rules are it has to be made mostly of second-hand steel that

River Levels

can be found on a farm.

The Edward seems to be rising again at the moment at just over 2,140 megs a day and just over 2.1 meters. I was talking to a father and son on the river the other night. The young fella was rapt. He had got 16 'Subway' cod for the day. Six on shrimp and 10 on cheese. The old feller did not want to stuff around with the 'Subway' cod so he put a yabby on to get a keeper. I think he named it Fred and gave it its freedom at the end of the day as he did not get a bite. There is still the odd keeper getting caught and the only yellers getting taken are from our Billabong Creek.

WAKOOL NEWS

By Greta Ryan | gretaryan@bigpond.com

Firstly, my apologies for not getting my notes done last week. I have been unwell and spent some time in hospital, but back on track now.

- * There will be a memorial for the friends and family of Peter Cook (Cookie) on Sunday, March 21 at the Wakool River Reserve at 2pm. Please be advised food is provided with BYO alcohol.
- * A huge congratulations to the Wakool Lawn Bowlers for winning the grand final on Saturday, I imagine there would have been a few foggy heads on Sunday morning.
- * Wakool Club membership number was Elaine Hosking, not present, closest was Norm Free. Raffle winners were Hayden Noles meat tray and cooler bag, Gennie Ogian meat tray, Ian Troymeat tray, Brian Martin blender, Sherie Deane fruit/veg tray and Marion Coote fuel voucher.
- * Wakool Pub Kitty Jackpot saw Blue drawn out for a throw at \$2,480. He was unlucky and the jackpot increases next week. Liam won the \$15 voucher, Sonia the \$10 voucher, Mick S. the free pot and Bob Grant won free tickets for next week. To the pub social raffle, and we watched Stan and Maureen win both meat trays, Sandra got the six-pack and Snodge won the pizza voucher.
- * Let me catch up on some birthday wishes; happy birthday to Liza Mathers, James Pringle, Daine Lowry, Brian and

Mary Gleeson, Peter Lowry, Judy Pringle, Sarah Mathers, Blair Flight, Jenny Murphy, Bob Grant, Ryan Gleeson, Mark Treweek, Heather Pilcher and Sophie Fashom.

* To the pub punters, and we had Arthur and Jean punting for us at The Valley. Jean went an early quaddie and a couple of each ways, and Arthur went a trifecta and an each way. The weather played a big part during the day with it being warm, then cool and then very wet. This made it very hard to select winners, which is the excuse I am giving our two punters as the only collect was from a late scratching. Next week it's over to our current Punter of the Year, Snodge and Guy, to steal us in the right direction. Saturday tipping, and they say a week is a long time in tipping. I proved this to be true as last week I didn't trouble the scorer but this week I was a runaway winner thanks to two late winners at very juicy odds. The real race was for the minor placing and it was Ross who got his nose down on the line, beating Jan by the small margin of \$0.40c with a host of others close by. Overall, Faye stumbled but still leads by a massive margin over Bob, with Grant sitting in third. Good luck and good punting.

* If you would like me to include any information or announcements please email me or call into the pub for a chat. Take care.



ELDERS BARHAM

FOR ALL YOUR MOOCHOO, SEED AND FERTILISER NEEDS.

Call in and see the Elders Barham team or call on 5453 3377





ELDERS BARHAM 45 Moulamein Road, Barham p: 03 5453 3377



A Message to MP Pitt

March 1, 2021 Dr Peter Barker, Cohuna

To the honourable Mr Keith Pitt, Federal Minister for Water.

I would like to apologise for not being here in person as prior commitment means I am in theatre at the local hospital today. I have been asked to talk to you from the perspective of a local doctor.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for coming south to see what is causing so many sleepless nights for those in our towns. My phone tells me that you were an electrical fitter in a past life and also interested in occupational health and safety. So, you are interested in people and their lives. I note that you also have the very sensible idea that nuclear power is a no brainer to fill the base power vacuum when coal goes offline. I agree and think possibly, for a generation, until we really figure how to harness the sun, this is such a sensible idea.

I'm hopeful you can apply the same personal and long-term view to our water mess. To quote Gandhi: "the earth, the air, the land and the water are not our inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children, so we have to hand to them something at least as good as what was handed to us. Your job, as a custodian for the future of our land, is such an important role and your actions will be discussed by our children's children. I'm hoping you have the clarity to find a way forward and the determination to see it happen.

You are surrounded by the passionate custodians of the southern Murray Darling Basin. I deal with these ladies, gentleman, and their kids on a daily basis and when they are sad or vulnerable, I hear the stories. So, what is it that is driving some to want to sell the farm as a best counselled option after weeks of therapy as opposed to the suicide planned when the wife brings her husband in the night at the point of desperation. I'm going to talk

about some of the straws that are breaking backs and what follows is extracted from many conversations I have had with troubled farmers when they see a problem with no solution, they can influence

The unfairness of water trade. We have an entitlement, and we pay for it.

We also pay a delivery fee and a drainage fee. A water trader does not. Why not? His water needs to be delivered somewhere. There was a cap on trading between irrigation districts. This seems to have miraculously disappeared. It would be harder to find out who initiated that rule change than it would be for the royal commission to find out who in Dan Andrews government decided to OK untrained quarantine workers.

I'm sure you have heard the history of changes to water trade and the results of subtle rule changes culminating in an unregulated water market now regarding water as a commodity for trade. A generation back, water entitlements were tied to developed irrigation farms and there were set rules for applying water with local agencies allocating entitlements.

There were no more entitlements to be bought and they were sold with the land they were used on. Generations of farmers worked their blocks but also met in groups to consider the health of the district. Salinity was recognised and dealt with. Land was productive. The riverine ecosystem adapted years ago and there were thriving wetlands both on farms and in adjacent forests. Our communities loved the interaction of wildlife and farming and farms were profitable.

Farm viability related to corporate encroachment. Unregulated trade in the name of free trade has seen Australian farmers subtly become uncompetitive compared to countries hiding subsidies. This forced lower and lower produce prices on, for example, dairy has led to viability issues when mixed

with fixed or rising costs (as in water). Corporate raiders have seen the development of Timber plantations, also new crops like olives and almonds. The business cases to open these new pursuits were not based on realistic long term returns but glossy prospectuses for investors and projected profits which were/are unlikely to be achieved as once supply increases and prices fall. Timber plantations supported by super funds went bust. Super funds are artificially inflating water prices to get water for their agri pursuits. Everyday a farmer tells me the water needed to supply the almond trees once they are fully developed down the river cannot be delivered as there isn't enough in the system and if there was it can't be delivered. So super funds are starving basic farm producers in irrigation areas to develop products not confirmed as sustainable. There is a lack of a guaranteed base price for essential farm produce like dairy and no recognition of need to be nationally independent of imports of basic food essentials. Perhaps, the corona virus will change the value of primary produce, like dairy in the eye of

Environmental degradation. This has brought more than one intergenerational land custodian (that's what a farmer is) to my door in tears. The many studies suggesting the forests along the river are dying have not been confirmed by the results of environmental flooding which, in many cases, is damaging what it wants to help. In the last while we have seen artificial floods in our forest enacted by environmental engineers. The timing in spring followed by heavy natural rains and heat led to widespread destruction of plant life, wildlife (no grass) and marine life. The delivery of the floods damaged waterways and the Blackwater events that followed sterilised waterways. The science involved may have quotable sources to justify it but the implementation has been disastrous. There has been a complete lack of respect for the knowledge of the local custodians- the farmers. There remains a disrespect for the knowledge of those who know, that is those sitting in front of you now.

They have personal understanding of their land and their wildlife. Many have names for each undulation on their land and know the animals which reside there by sight. When a swamp filled with catfish is drained or a grey box forest is flooded as opposed to a red gum one and damage occurs they are the ones who cry.

There is the South Australian issue. I have had more than one farmer tell me they have gone to South Australia to check the construction of the artificial barriers on the lower Murray. Why? They were planning their explosive destruction. One must be on the edge to consider that. The forcing of water through the Barmah Choke, damaging the river is a scar every farmer carries and they all shake their heads at the management which is trying to move irrigation water from regions where it has been managed east of the choke to other new areas west of the choke. There appears lack of understanding that the Murray is not a drain or a conduit for irrigation water but a huge ecosystem with limits on how it can be manipulated. The thoughts I hear is how many palms are greased to allow that to happen.

As a northerner you have a better idea than us if it's climate change or illegal diversions which is killing the Darling. Seems remarkable that South Australian needs now come from the southern profitable environmentally diverse farmlands at the expense of farming. Tell me I'm wrong. That is the feeling of the farmers. In this time of COVID-19 we have seen the necessity of being independent of other countries for basic commodities like food. When we hear of influential South Australians sailing on fresh water transferred from farms in our regions and water price hikes often initiated by water traders buying water for the government making it impossible to buy water to farm in the Murray Darling Basin it is another straw on the back of the battered local farmer.

The city-based papers love to green bash farmers. The animal rights groups invading land molesting goats and pigs. The general feel that we are being pushed off the land and we have not cared for it and don't deserve it. The corporate talk that all food can be imported more cheaply.

There is a leftist slant in some media saying farmers and other manufacturers are not worth looking after. When we are not valued or significant this becomes another straw on the farmers' back. The Murray Darling Plan's lack of recognition of its effects on the inhabitants of the districts enhances our feeling of worthlessness.

Perceived Governmental inaction. Water transfers out of productive land continues with bad effect. The classic yes minister reply to the current mess seems to be that's a State issue or the state people say that's a Federal issue. No one owns it and the irrigators lose out. What my patients tell me is that there is no excess water. So many excuses for savings have been made resulting in water being removed from irrigation systems and sent west to new farms or to placate South Australian politicians. No one is owning the problem. I'm hoping, you Mr Pitt, will.

If there is indeed climate change leading to a drying of the southern basin the answer is not in stopping agriculture in the area but in long term planning for more efficient usage as is currently happening with the irrigation modernisation project.

Does the northern inland river need a connection to the Burdican as John Bradfield proposed? Can science engineer increased rainfall? Does Lake Eyre need to be filled? Does South Australia need a desalination plant? All long-term areas to spend time planning from a responsible coordinated government if it wants to increase the supply of water. But we see diversion of focus from these key ideas into the straws breaking farmers' backs mentioned above.

We need a wise politician -to quote Benjamin Franklin "who sees the water and the land not as static sterile possessions but as life giving assets to be directed by wise provision for future days"

Possibly, it's on a day when his milk cheque was reduced, or when he noticed the brolgas have left his swamp which has dried out, but it is the day another of my farmers arrives in the night to our local hospital.

Yet, we are resilient. We are valuable. We are productive. We are the custodians of the land for our children. We would like to hand them something of ecological value as we were handed from our parents. A place to live with nature and a place to be valued and productive. We would like formal recognition that farmers lives matter.

It's not more counselling that is needed but an addressing of the problems in the system causing the distress that needs the counselling.

Thank you for your ear. I hope our children remember you as the man with the courage to deal with the unplanned consequences of the Murray Darling Basin Plan, which have been raised in part here today.

Dr Peter Barker, OAM

From poet Christopher

No one owns the water
No one owns the land
No one owns the oceans
No one owns the sand
These are given by our mother
The planet provides for free
Only by the hands of the greedy
does the earth require a fee

Nation Building Policy Needed

SPEAK UP

Australia needs inclusive, nation building water policy to protect environmental outcomes and a secure sustainable food supply in the face of climate change.

Representatives of communities from the Murray Darling Basin, including the traditional owners, alongside academics and parliamentarians gathered at the conference titled "The Future of the Murray Darling Basin, Lessons from History 2021" in Rutherglen Victoria.

Former federal MP Dr Sharman Stone noted that ironically the event marked the 27th anniversary of the COAG agreement made on February 25, 1994 in Hobart, which set a pathway for new Water Resource Policy entitled "framework for action".

The two-day event concluded with two panel sessions led by community representatives from the Southern Murray Darling Basin who addressed a key theme on 'Are Australia's national water policies in the Murray Darling Basin working and appropriate for the future'.

They raised serious concerns that Australia is not equipped to protect its staple food security, the environment or cultural and social needs in the face of climate change with the current water management policies in place.

Panellists such as David Farley and Chris Brooks, who have a wealth of knowledge in commodity markets, concurred that recent imports of grains such as wheat and rice should have raised Rural Communities

serious alarm bells in the nation's capital.

refusing assumpt

In particular Mr Farley raised the very real issues which will impact the wallets of all Australians, the fact that food prices are likely to increase from 14% of the take home wage, to 27% of the take home wage if we do not change direction.

Darren De Bortoli from De Bortoli Wines argued we have farmers in the Basin who are sustainable, yet are being forced off the land whilst Governments are refusing to address the flawed assumptions of the Murray Darling Basin Plan- assumptions based on modelling using outdated basin inflows and flood data.

Attendees applauded Professor Max Finlayson, wetland ecologist when he stated that the MDBA made an error of judgement when they decided to delay including climate change modelling in the 2012 Basin Plan, despite being advised by experts that it was necessary.

An all female panel included Dr

Stone, Member for Murray Helen Dalton and community advocates Debbie Buller, Jan Beer, Louise Burge, Sophie Baldwin and Shelley Scoullar. The women believe everyday

The women believe everyday Australians would be appalled if they were aware of the government imposed dysfunctional water trade policy and squandering of taxpayers' dollars which has seen vast volumes of water leave staple food producing regions.

They believe the average Australian would be outraged that foreign investors who own large volumes of our most precious natural resource, water, do not require an ABN and are not required to pay Capital Gains Tax when profiting from water trading. Nor would they be happy

that over \$9 billion of taxpayers' funds have been spent on a plan which has allowed northern water Floodplain Harvesting to cause the disconnect of the Darling to the Murray.

Community leaders involved in the conclusion of the event united to develop a Rutherglen statement calling on a change to protect an asset which belongs to all Australians.

It reads: Australia needs inclusive, nation building policy which provides for social, economic and environmental needs, now and into the future, to ensure environmental outcomes and secure sustainable food supply in the face of climate change.

Bowls Grand Final Thrillers

Cohuna Golf was the venue for last Saturday's Northern District bowls finals and with plenty of colour, large marquees and a beautiful setting, the stage was set for a great day's sport.

In Division Three, Wakool, top dogs all year, met Barham Blue for the title. Aided by strong play by skippers Rod and Steven Chalmers, along with the Mills rink the Northerners steadily established a commanding lead, which they maintained until match end. The final scores were Wakool 65 to Barham Blue 51.

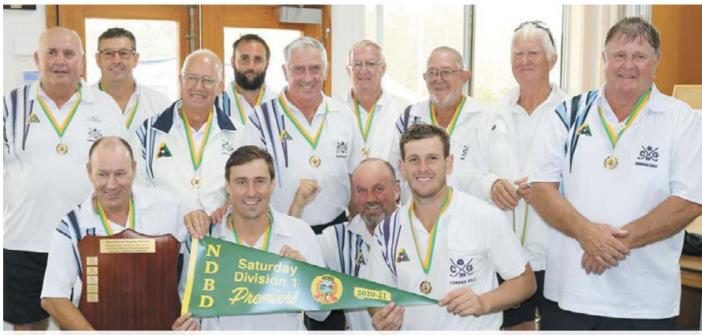
This was the first pennant for the great little club since winning a Division Four flag in 2002 and will be well celebrated in their wonderful new clubrooms.

Division Two saw a rematch between flag favourites Barham Blue and a Cohuna Golf side. Aided by the speedy conditions when play began, Golf matched its opponents in all departments, and established a small lead mid-game through good draw bowling. As conditions worsened, and the green slowed down with the persistent drizzle, Barham fought back

The Holloway rink re-took the lead, matching Bruce Morrison's advantage for Golf. At match end each side had a win by five, plus a drawn game, that between the Thomas and Eckhardt teams. An extra end was called for, the end result favouring Barham three shots to two, and a memorable first flag for the composite side now to be known as Barham Bowling Club.

Cohuna Golf and Kerang had been the standout sides all year in the major competition, and so it proved in their match. Kerang relished the early conditions and raced out to a huge 16 shot lead mid game. With the developing wind and rain becoming a factor, the Golf sides fought back hard, no more so than Harrison Keely's team which won eight ends on the trot to win by nine. A couple of huge bowls from James McGillivray earned three shots for Golf on their last end, going down to Trevor Pocock by three, whilst Damien Murray allowed Jarred Hammond only nine ends in his victory for Kerang, also by three.

The end result after a great battle was Golf home by three, adding to their impressive run of pennants over recent years. They will now play surrounding associations for the regional title enroute to the State Pennant Championship



Division 1 winner, Cohuna Golf.



Division 2 winner, Barham Blue.

Division 3 winner, Wakool.

cluBarham Indoor Bowls

On mat one saw Heather, Rod and Barb battle it out against Kath, Margaret D and Maggie with 10 ends played. Kath's team won that one

After a five-minute break to draw lucky ticket. Congrats Margaret Daffy.

On mat two, and another 10 ends with players bowling well saw Heather, Rod and Barb going home overall winners on the night.

On Thursday, March 18 there is a meal at the Club before play followed by a meeting afterwards.

See you at 6pm for din-

Rockin' Kitty

Northern District Bowls Association

Results – Grand Finals March 13, 2021

Division 1

Kerang 56 v Cohuna Golf 59

Division 2

Cohuna Golf White 50 v Barham Blue 50 This required an extra end and Barham Blue won by 1 shot, 53-52.

Division 3

Wakool 65 v Barham Blue 51

Congratulations to all winners. Thank you to Cohuna Golf B. C. for its facilities. Good bowling for next season for all bowlers.

Barham Golf Club Weekly Roundup



Ladies' Events:

Wednesday, March 10 was the ladies Stroke Monthly Medal event. Winners on the day were:

Division 1 winner was Gayle Gray (23) with a score of 78, runner up was Pat Taylor (26) with a score of 79. Division 2 winner was Shirlev Hall (28) with a score of 71, runner up was Ruth Phillips (30) with a score of 73.

Ball rundown went to 79 with Irene Whelan winning the Pro Pin.

Saturday, March 13 was a Ladies Stableford event.

The winners on the day were: Division 1 winner was Di Waller (24) with a score of 39, runner up was Kerrie James (13) with a score of 35. Division 2 winner was Janine Bibby (30) with a score of 37, runner up was Sue Thompson (26) with a score of 34.

Ball rundown went to 30.

Mens' Events:

Thursday, March 11 was the Men's Stableford Event.

The winners on the day were: Division 1: Winner was Gordon Graeme (12) with 38 points. Runner up was John Brunt (10) also with 37 points.

Division 2: Winner was John Ficken (15) with a score of 40 points and runner up was Dallas Biddy (13) with a score of 39 points.

Division 3: Winner was John McNeil (24) with a fantastic 42 points, runner up was Tony Freeman (20) with a

score of 37 points. The ball rundown went to 34. Doug McKnight won the Pro Pin.

Saturday, March 13 was a Stroke event - Monthly Medal.

The winners on the day were as fol-

lows: Division 1: Geoff May (11) with a score of 75, runner up was Ian Douthat (12) with a score of 76.

Division 2: Ray Thompson (13) with a score of 75, runner up was Dallas Bibby (14) with a score of 77.

Division 3: Chris Veldman (24) with a score of 75, runner up was Steve Boorer (19) with a score of 77.

The ball rundown went to 79.

The Pro Pin was won by Grant Weaver and the Monthly Medal Winner was Geoff May.

Sunday, March 14 was a Medal Stableford Event.

Winners on the day was a family affair with Geoff Storm (16) winning with a score of 36 and Liz Storm (19) runner up with a score of 35.

Ball rundown went to 32 and Geoff Storm topped off his day winning the

WAKOOL BOWLING CLUB

It was all about the grand finals this week and Division Three did us proud to finally take out the medals. After making it to the granny four years straight on Saturday, we came away with a convincing win over Barham Blue.

Steve Chalmers led all the way 23/14; Chris Mills took a few ends to start but once going kept up the good work 24/14, and Rod Chalmers had a great come back to only go down by two shots 21/23. But it's a team game and ALL players have managed to put in

throughout the year to bring home our FIRST FLAG in 20 years. It will look great albeit a little lonely in our new club rooms. The celebrations were long and noisy with a few early causalities sneaking off early when the pace became too

Last Thursday was the final night for the Twilight Bash and as expected, the supper provided by the players was delicious. The overall winners for the four weeks were Jean, Frank and Rick. The Wakool Hotel 'Kitty Jackpot' is still up for grabs and is now \$2,480.

Since this will be our last scribe for the season, I would like to thank Frank and Greta from Wakool Hotel for their sponsorship of Kitty Jackpot, Julie and Co from Barham Royal Hotel for meal vouchers each week, all our tournament sponsors throughout the year, and lastly, *The Barham Bridge* for putting our notes in each week, it is much appreciated.



Barham Bowling Club

A GREAT RESULT last Saturday for Division Two Blue in a nail-biting finish against a very determined opposition, being Cohuna Golf. After 21 ends, scores were level, so another end had to be played. Alan Thomas' team with Lynne Ashton, Joey Lake and Ken Ashton ending up two shots up, with Joey playing the shot of the day and Alan playing a ripper. Geoff Hollaway's team, consisting of Chris Hope,

Ken Rye and Charlie Bagg, went down by two shots. Reg Scott's team of Jenny Laursen, Michael Laursen and William Boulton won by one shot. A win to Barham by one shot, a 'close game'.

Division Three Blue put on a great show but sadly went down to a very strong Wakool. Hilary Archard, Barry Theobald, Gordon Graeme and Ron Hillman won by two shots. V. Majhrovski, Russel Baker, Hugh McCallum and Neil Nash, down by nine shots – a magnificent comeback. Graeme Goodwin, Lorraine Durbridge, Dawn McCallum and Jenny Orr down by 10. A very good season of pennant, with one flag.

A huge thank you to the

selectors. I won't name them just in case someone holds a grudge. With the amalgamation of the two clubs, it must have been a very tough job, and we thank them for their input into the club. It's a hard task to please everyone. All I can say is that anyone that was disgruntled this season, how about putting your name up next season! Talking about names up, in the next week or so, nomination forms for all positions will be available at our club. Don't be frightened to stand up and be counted.

Our presentation night will be held on Tuesday, April 27. All members are most welcome. Please put your name down if you are going. And why wouldn't you? Good company, good food, tea and coffee, if that's what you want. You are respectably invited by our president, Mr. Graeme Archard, who will take a very dim view if you don't attend!

Our AGM will be held on May 5 at 7.30pm, allowing time for any member that is still working to show up. If anyone wants to change anything on the constitution, it needs to be in writing and presented ASAP.

Our autumn tournament will start on Monday, April 12 and run through to Sunday,

April 18. If you want a berth, you'd better hurry up because it's filling up quickly. On March 26 we will host the school championships and it would be great if you could turn up and urge our Barham team on, because they are the future. Teams will be there from all over the state, so come and make them welcome. Good luck, team.

LEGACY DAY. What a great crowd that turned up for a great cause. A wonderful day enjoyed by all, and the work that went into it was nothing short of amazing. Thanks to all the sponsors, also to the ladies that put so much into the preparations. Special thanks to the bar staff, both to inside and the shed. A big thanks to the greenkeeper and a huge thanks to the men and ladies from Legacy, who do a wonderful service. Thank you!

Winners for the day were Garry Cook, lan Fasham, Alan Larpent and Kenny bloody Rye. Well done. Runners up were lan Ellis, Lorrain Durbridge, Marlene Ellis and Rob Malseed. Before I close, I would like to, on behalf of our club, thank Cohuna Golf for its great presentations of greens and facilities last Saturday. Great work by members of your

See you on the green.

WEARY.

The text rived Thur say Michae

Koondrook Tennis

Well, what a day. Kerang hosted the semifinals which started overcast and warm but ended in cold and showery conditions.

The Koondrook-Barham Bridge

Division 1 took on Kerang which is always a tough match up. They got off to a good start Fiona and Jen winning strongly and Mark and Tlarnee notching up a good win. A couple of losses bought the scores closer and with only three sets to go the scores were even. Down to only one set left and our guys were one up, Greg and Fiona had to pull the proverbial rabbit out of the hat and they did!! A great 8-5 win led them to a 4 game win and a berth in next weeks' grand final.

Division 3 took on Kerang White who only last week beat them convincingly, but they were not going to give up that easily. The boys took a little to get going and managed

two wins....in tie-breaks. The girls also had a slow start to the day but managed a couple of good wins. Heading into the mixed they were a few down but with a bit of work they were still in with a chance. Even though they managed three out of four wins in the mixed, it wasn't enough, and they ended up going down by 15 games.

So that's it, it's up to Division 1 to fly the flag for the Koondrook Tennis Club next weekend at the Grand Final. It will be held at the Barham Tennis Club commencing at 1.00pm, lets get a big crowd and great support over there to cheer them on and let's hope they can bring home the flag.

See you at the granny

Bash Hearty.



Saturday, March 13 and 16 teams, including Barham Division 2 Navy and Barham Division 3 Navy, headed to Kerang to play finals in the hope of making it to the grand final to be held next Saturday. The weather conditions made it a tough day for tennis with howling hot winds at the start of play and then rain and howling cold winds later in the day. Many were caught unawares and looking for jumpers, towels and anything to dry off and keep a bit warmer. Despite the terrible conditions it was great that the matches could be completed.

Congratulations to Barham Division 2 Navy on winning its final. Unfortunately, Kerang Green was just too strong for the Barham Division 3 Navy side and its season is over.

Matt and Andy A. were not happy at the start of the day, coming off the court with their first zero for the season and not a great start for the team. James M. and Andy E. battled it out for ages to finally come off the court winning the tie breaker. Matt was still finding his form and James was still recovering, and they came off the court with a narrow loss. The two Andys made up for that with a narrow win. Andy E. continued his form having a win with Matt and Andy A., and James had a narrow loss. So, the men were almost even at the end of their sets.

The girls had a fabulous day winning all their sets reasonably comfortably, although as a spectator it did not look that easy as there were some tough rallies on display. The team was able to seal the deal by winning all their mixed sets.

Congratulations to President Andy and all the girls in the team who won all their sets for the day. Congratulations also to Division 2 Navy on your fantastic win and good luck for the big dance at Barham this Saturday, March 20.

The text message arrived Thursday night to say Michael had unfortu-

nately been called to work and would not be home in time for tennis on Saturday. Luckily the ever-reliable George was named emergency and he was only too happy to get on the court. Thanks also to another great club person, Wes, who agreed to be the early emergency in case Michael did not make it by 2pm. Although the team was okay with no injuries it was a great comfort to have Wes there and very necessary as Michael got held up by rain and did not arrive till nearly 4pm. The men started and finished their sets with two losses and had two wins in the middle. The ladies started with a tie break loss, another two losses, two wins and a loss.

Then the mixed was also

tough, with the team only

able to get one win. Commiserations to the Barham Navy Division 3 side on its loss to Kerang Green which was the better side on the day but congratulations on a great season and making the finals.

This Saturday, March 20, BDSM Lawn Tennis Club will be hosting the NDLTA Grand Finals. Any club members who can give a hand would be most appreciated. Also, after the grand finals there will be a barbecue at the clubrooms and all are welcome to come join in.

Further updates on results, club champions and upcoming events for the BDSM Lawn Tennis Club next week.

The Barham Curious Writer

Northern District Lawn Tennis Association

NDLTA FINALS SERIES 2020/21 Preliminary Finals Results Played 13/03/2021 1V4 & 2V3

DIVISION 1

COHUNA 61 Lost to MURRABIT 69 KERANG 53 Lost to KOONDROOK 57

DIVISION 2

MURRABIT 80 Defeated GANNAWARRA 73 BARHAM NAVY 88 Defeated KERANG RED 52

DIVISION 3

KERANG WHITE 88 Defeated KOONDROOK 66 BARHAM NAVY 66 Lost to KERANG GREEN 82

DIV 2 JNR

COHUNA BLUE 28 Lost to GUNNY RED 44 COHUNA GOLD 30 Lost to KERANG 43

GRAND FINALS to be Played at BARHAM 20/03/21

DIVISION 1 Murrabit vs Koondrook
DIVISION 2 Murrabit vs Barham Navy
DIVISION 3Kerang White vs Kerang Green
DIV 2 JNRGunbower Red vs Kerang

Play to commence at 1pm sharp. Afternoon tea and bar facilities available. COVID-19 SIGN IN AND RESTRICTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED. GOOD LUCK TO ALL TEAMS.

Northern District Bowls Association MIDWEEK PENNANT

Preliminary Final Results 10th March

Division 1

Kerang 57 def Barham Blue 56

Division 2

Leitchville 39 def Kerang 29

Congratulations to winners Next week's games to be played at Kerang B. C. Good bowling to all.

I would just like to thank everyone for the concern and care

on Wednesday, all okay now. Thank you, much appreciated.



BARHAM/KOONDROOK CRICKET CLUB A GRADE GRAND FINAL

BARHAM/KOONDROOK V LEITCHVILLE/GUNBOWER

A Grade went into its first ever grand final on Saturday with some fantastic form and a confidence that they can get the job done. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be as the boys fell well short in the end by 102 runs despite their wonderful efforts throughout the finals.

Leitchville/Gunbower won the toss and batted on a track that could host some of the best cricket in the country such was its quality. Early on LG didn't make the most of the wicket with BK reducing them to 3/20 and were well and truly on top. Warren Lolicato was bowling with some genuine heat picking up two early scalps and had the opposition jumping around the crease.

BK were on top and looked only a wicket or two from running through, but this is where the lads didn't take their chances. The saying goes that catches win matches, well it's the reverse if you drop them and unfortunately the BK boys couldn't quite grab their opportunities, and this was after fielding quite brilliantly the previous weekend.

LG steadied the ship with a 97-run partnership taking the game away from the good guys. Some good bowling at the end kept the total under 200 but this was always going to be a tough ask particularly with the looming weather. Chameera Akurugoda grabbed three wickets while Warren Lolicato and Dave Cooper took two wickets each and while it wasn't the cleanest effort in the field the boys kept fighting right to the end.

While the opposition did get away from them the BK team weren't overawed by the target and started positively with the rain falling from ball one. Unfortunately, the batsmen couldn't get going and it was only Tim Millard with 29 and Jaryd Wishart being the only batsmen to really look like taking it up to the LG team but after that it was a regular fall of wickets leading to the final tally of just 92.

The boys went into every final as the underdog and for them to win the big one they needed a lot to go their way which it didn't. We dropped catches while they took screamers, batting in the constant rain led to tough conditions and some unlucky dismissals all led to a disap-

Nevertheless the A's should be proud of what they achieved. Despite losing by the margin they did, they were actually a lot closer than you think, if things had gone their way. But you make your own luck.

LEITCHVILLE/GUNBOWER

C.McNaught Bowled W.Lolicato	0
L.Keath c M.O'Neill W.Lolicato	2
J.McEwen c J.Hall M.O'Neill	11
J.Lunghusen c M.Baldissera C.Akurugoda	78
O.O'Shea c T.Millard C.Akurugoda	57
B.Hawken c W.Lolicato C.Akurugoda	26
J.Hawken Bowled D.Cooper	2
A.Keath c M.Baldissera D.Cooper	3
J.Keath not out	8
S.Tatt not out	2
_	

Extras 5 Total 8/194

Bowling: W.Lolicato 6/1/21/2 C.Akurugoda 9/1/38/3 M.O'Neill 7/1/35/1; D.Lolicato 9/0/27/0 T.Guerra; 4/1/11/0 J.Hall 4/0/34/0; D.Cooper 6/0/27/2

BARHAM/KOONDROOK

W.Lolicato Bowled A.Keath	9
C.Akurugoda LBW A.Keath	4
J.Wishart st J.McEwen S.Tatt	17
T.Millard LBW J.Keath	29
D.Lolicato C&B J.Lunghusen	5
M.Baldissera c J.Wilson-Keir S.Tatt	5
M.O'Neill st J.McEwen J.Wilson-Keir	6
D.Cooper LBW J.Keath	1
T.Guerra c J.Hawken J.Wilson-Keir	1
L.Laursen Bowled J.Keath	3
J.Hall not out	1
	Extras 11
	Total 10/02

Bowling: L.Keath 5/0/17/0 A.Keath 4/0/20/2; J.Keath 9/0/27/3; S.Tatt 9/4/15/2 J.Lunghusen; 3/0/7/1 J.Wilson-Keir 2/0/4/2

The club would like to thank Ochre Health for their donation of the beautiful luncheon which was provided on Sunday at the Presentation Day and to all of those who attended it was a great day.





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