

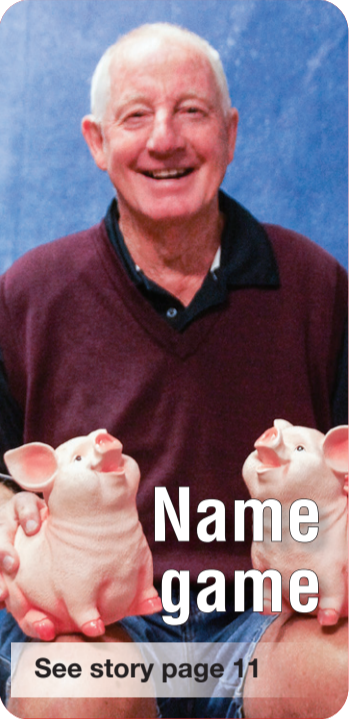
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Numurkah LEADER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2021

\$1.30

INSIDE



Name game

See story page 11



A cuppa with Cathy

See story pages 8&9



Fleecy fugitive

See story page 11

TELEGRAPH Hotel publican Nathan Morris is delighted to have been given the all clear to welcome patrons back after a challenging week. See story page 4.



Back in business

Numurkah COVID tests lost

WITH a rush for COVID testing brought on by the announcement of a local tier one site last Tuesday, many locals are still waiting for their results a week later, after taken at the drive-through testing site at the Numurkah recreation reserve last Wednesday, October 6, were lost.

Around 100 people were effected by the mishap, with tests from the NCN Health Numurkah site and GV Health sites having gone missing.

Locals waiting for results of tests taken last Wednesday grew increasingly frustrated when the weekend arrived without results, with many calling Melbourne Pathology, where the tests were being processed, to find out when they would get word.

One local told the Leader on Sunday morning that they had rung Melbourne Pathology and the COVID results line a number of times and had been given

a different story each time.

"They say something different each time, so you really don't know what to believe," they said.

Locals were put out of their misery, and into more, when they finally received a text message on Sunday afternoon telling them that their results had been lost after arriving in Melbourne. People in the affected group were advised that they would need to get retested and isolate until they had received a negative result.

NCN Health CEO Jacque Phillips told the Leader that the health service understood that the tests had not been processed after they left its facility.

"We are not sure why or how this has occurred. It is highly unusual and our staff are following up with the pathology laboratories to try and determine how this happened," Ms Phillips said.

"We hope this does not deter community members coming forward for testing in the future. COVID tests are sent to Melbourne daily, they are not processed in many regional and rural areas, with results usually returned within 24 – 48 hours, depending on the demand."

Meanwhile, although Greater Shepparton came out of lockdown at midnight last Friday as scheduled, caution is still being urged, as case numbers in the city's outbreak continue to grow.

As of midday Monday, there were 138 active cases of COVID-19 in Greater Shepparton, spread across 75 households.

Victoria is on track to hit the 70% fully vaccinated target on, or shortly after, October 24, and 80% sometime around November 6.

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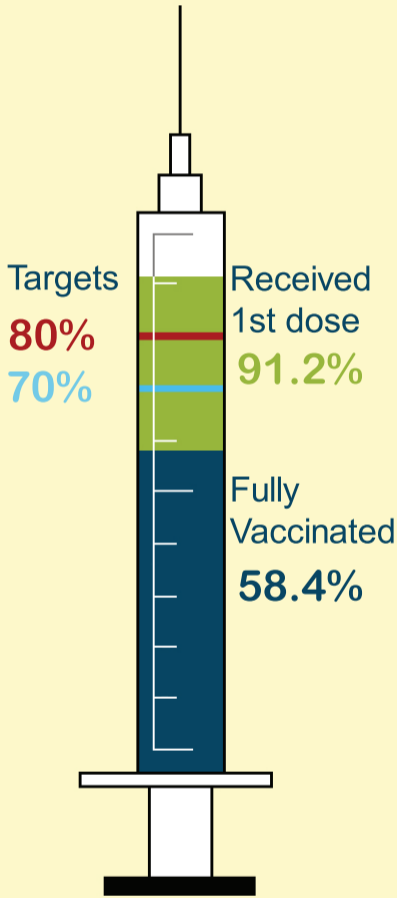
Meals on Wheels Roster

	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
M 18/10	M. Crowther-Harris	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED	S. Green
T 19/10	G. Varley V. Bunney	G. Russell M. Mandersloot	A. De Varies L. Saltmarsh
W 20/10	P. & D. Heard	F. Booth	R. & G. Chessells
T 21/10	Diverse Builders	Church of Christ	R. & C. Hardham
F 22/10	B. & J. Macdonald	L. Grant T. Newman	Lions Club of Numurkah

Coordinator - MHA Care Phone 5742 1111

**COVID-19
Vax Tracker**

MOIRA SHIRE
Eligible Population (15+) 24, 759



Data Current as at 3 October 2021
Source: Aus Gov Dept of Health



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Editorial: Press freedom recognised at highest level

"PRESS freedom is not just for journalists. This is a critical time for democracy around the world, both in the Philippines and the United States.

"And you must fight for your rights while you still can."

So said Maria Ressa after becoming joint recipient of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize on the weekend.

Ms Ressa, who co-founded Rappler, a digital media company for investigative journalism in the Philippines, was awarded the prize alongside Dmitry Muratov who is editor-in-chief of Russian investigative newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

It is the first time the award has been given to a journalist since 1935.

"Ms Ressa and Mr Muratov are receiving the Peace Prize for their courageous fight for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia," Berit Reiss-Andersen, chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, told a news conference.

"At the same time, they are representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions.

"Free, independent and fact-based journalism serves to protect against abuse of power, lies and war propaganda."

The UN human rights office congratulated the two journalists, saying it was "recognition of

the importance of the work of journalists in the most difficult circumstances".

"Throughout the years, we've seen an increase in attacks on journalists during the COVID lockdown as well," spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said in Geneva.

"I think I'd speak for the High Commissioner (Michelle Bachelet) when I say congratulations to all journalists out there who are doing their job to keep us informed and to amplify the voices of victims everywhere."

The fact that the importance of free and independent journalism is valued and recognised at such a level is something that has really resonated with me this week.

While I would never compare myself to Ms Ressa or Mr Muratov; I am not even close to being in their league, and never will be, I do feel enormous solidarity with them. Freedom of the press is every bit as important Moira Shire as it is in Manila or Moscow.

My life may not be on the line in my current battle with Moira Shire, but my right to maintain my independence and publish what I wish, as long as it's true, has certainly been challenged by the government. Local government - the level of government that actually has the most impact on our day to day lives.

The actions and attitude Moira Shire has taken against the *Leader* is especially appalling when you learn, as I have, that this situation is not, or

at least not only, about the article we published about Chris Brooks.

What has really upset our new CEO is the *Leader's* willingness to expose wrongdoing on the part of the shire and its officers; Chris Brooks is merely an excuse.

Even if an article merely states facts, as articles we have published regarding the inappropriate dumping of waste containing asbestos from the Rowe Street basin site, and the subsequent investigation by the EPA, or the unnecessary and unacceptable delays to the Numurkah flood mitigation process, have done, they are apparently seen as critical of council.

Moira Shire's recent treatment of the *Leader* is designed to demonstrate that such reporting will not be tolerated.

Moira Shire has flexed its muscles to try and prevent any future exposure of wrongdoing on the part of the shire, or its officers, by local news outlets. In doing so, it has aligned itself with the governments that have sought to stop Ms Ressa and Mr Muratov's investigation and criticism of them.

They will, of course, choose not to see it that way, but that does not change the facts and it will not change the *Leader's* approach going forward.

As Ms Ressa said, you must fight for your rights while you still can, and I intend to.

Blaze razes shed in Nathalia



LAST Thursday, October 7, Nathalia, Numurkah and Waaia Fire Brigades were called to a shed fire at Federation Street, Nathalia, near Pearce Street, at 8.20pm. The nine metre x five metre shed was a total loss. The fire is thought to have been started by an electrical fault; the cause is being investigated.

At 5.50pm last Tuesday, Numurkah and Wunghnu brigades were turned out to a report of a fire in the roof of a house at McKenzie Street, Numurkah, between Henderson Court and Tweddle Street. There was no fire; the smoke was coming from an occupier burning rubbish in their back yard on the opposite side of the street.

From where the caller rang from, it looked like the smoke was coming from the roof.

On Saturday, at 3.25pm, Kaarimba, Wunghnu and Numurkah brigades, were turned out to a grass fire at the southern end of Sutcliffes Road, Numurkah. The fire burnt about three acres of pasture.

Jabba the bus headed our way

JABBA the bus will become a familiar sight around Moira Shire over the next fortnight, with GV Health and NCN Health outreach teams conducting a mobile COVID-19 vaccination blitz in local towns.

The blitz will be starting tomorrow with appointments available at:

- Waaia recreation reserve from 9.30am to midday.
- Katunga recreation reserve from 1.30pm - 3.30pm.
- Strathmerton Hall from 10am to midday.
- Bearii community centre from 10am to midday.

Next Thursday, October 21, appointments will be available at:

- Katamatite Hall from 10am to midday.
- Tungamah community centre from 1.30pm - 3.30pm.

Appointments can be made for the Waaia and Katunga sessions by calling 5862 0555, and for Strathmerton, Bearii, Katamatite and Tungamah by calling 58710950.

Tractor accident prompts warning

LOCAL police are warning motorists to take extra care on the roads after a car collided with a tractor at Muckatah last week.

Senior Constable Scott Osler told the *Leader* that, with farmers starting to harvest crops across Numurkah district, the presence of slow-moving farm machinery has increased on local roads.

"Drivers need to be patient around farm machinery and just take their time," he said.

Sen Const Osler said last week's collision was a result of driver impatience and inattention.

"The car has attempted to overtake the tractor, not realising that the tractor was about to turn, and they have collided," he said.

"Driving on the roads with farm machinery, as we do in this area at this time of year, is no different to driving at any other time with any other type of traffic," Sen Const Osler said.

"You need to be patient, pay attention and not take risks.

"Farm machinery vehicles are heavy vehicles, and even though they move fairly slowly, an accident with them can be catastrophic.

"Last week's accident could have been much, much worse, and it could have been avoided altogether if better attention was paid."

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Not taking it lying down... West Moira Concerned Citizens Committee president John Blackman and secretary Kerry Cursons are encouraging anybody who is unhappy with Moira Shire's actions to sign the petition.



In Parliament last week . . .

Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Bill 2021

I supported the Water and Catchment Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 debated in the Legislative Assembly.

The bill aims to regulate the places, rates, and times of taking water; introduces ministerial powers to deal with taking unauthorised amounts of water; the renaming of City West Water Corporation; and other matters.

The most important part of this bill is that it seeks to allow the names of individuals who own more than 2 per cent of Victoria's water to be made public. The holdings of corporations have been known for some time and this additional capacity to report individuals' ownership is welcome. We have long discussed who owns the water in northern Victoria and across the Murray Darling Basin and have called for more transparency for years.

The Commonwealth of Australia is the largest water owner across the Goulburn and Murray systems. The second largest owner is Fresh Country Farms of Australia, a Sydney-based investment company owned by Canada PSP investments, which allegedly has \$168 billion in assets.

The bill also seeks to manage the risk of delivery, particularly to river pumpers below the Barmah choke, that will inevitably emerge when there are water shortages.

Greens Lake

I called on the Water Minister Lisa Neville to release the management plan for Greens Lake during my adjournment debate.

In April, the then Acting Water Minister Richard Wynne asked the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to develop a Future Use Management Plan for Greens Lake and I have yet to see the plan.

I recently visited the lake, and it appears the once-healthy environment is still in decline. The wetland area has reduced in size and there were only a few wetland waterbirds present. It urgently requires additional water supply to facilitate recreational uses.

Action needs to be taken if we want the lake to return to its usual social meeting place where the community can gather and enjoy recreational activities on the water.

Hume Dam

On Thursday last week I raised my concerns about the capacity of Hume Dam and the local flooding that was occurring.

We have seen floods downstream of Hume Dam many times, and the communities along the Murray are watching closely with the dam at 97 per cent capacity.

I asked the Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes what flood preparedness plans were in place to safeguard these communities should more severe flooding be imminent.

Asheed



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Western Moira community raises its voice

RATEPAYERS from across the western side of Moira Shire have banded together to officially express their outrage at the recent actions of Moira Shire.

Community members unhappy with what they consider attempts by the shire to impose censorship on their local newspaper, which they say, in turn, results in discrimination against residents in the shire's west, have formed a committee to demand action from the state government.

The West Moira Concerned Citizens Committee held its first meeting on Friday, October 1, and passed four motions by unanimous vote, all of which have been stated in a letter sent to Victorian Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane.

The motions are:

1. The Minister attend a public meeting between Moira Shire and the community.
2. A vote of no confidence in the Moira Shire Chief Executive Officer.
3. A vote of no confidence in the Moira Shire Mayor.
4. Request for the undertaking of a probity audit of Moira Shire Council.

The committee has also created an online petition, hard copies of which have also been circulated across the western side of the shire, which it is encouraging local citizens who agree with its stance against the shire to sign.

West Moira Concerned Citizens Committee president John Blackman told the *Leader* the committee was formed so that local ratepayers could formally express their outrage at the shire's recent actions.

"People are outraged at the way the *Leader* has been treated, and many of those who had contacted the shire about it had received no response, and those that had were unsatisfied with the responses they received," he said.

"How dare they treat us like children and tell us what we can and can't read? Do they think we're stupid and can't decide things for ourselves?"

"How dare they try and use financial coercion to try and tell our local newspaper - which has been a respected part of the local community for over 125 years - what it can and can't publish?"

"It's an attack on free speech, and that is not the shire's job."

"There was so much angst about the situation

in the community, and it all just mushroomed from there."

West Moira Concerned Citizens Committee secretary Kerry Cursons reiterated that local people felt the shire had taken them for fools.

"The editor of the *Leader* credited the paper's readers with enough intelligence to see Mr Brooks' opinions for exactly what they were; one man's opinions," she said.

"The article didn't even mention the vaccine apart from to say that he wasn't planning to get it, which I understand was a deliberate decision on the part of the editor."

"As for everything else, this far into the pandemic people either believe COVID is real or they don't. I can't see anyone being swayed by the opinion of one unqualified person from Nathalia."

Ms Cursons said that forming a committee was the best option open to concerned locals in the current situation.

"If it hadn't been for COVID restrictions we would have held a public meeting, and we'd have packed out the town hall I believe, because so many people are so disgusted by the shire's actions," she said.

"We couldn't do that, so we thought 'why not form a committee?'"

Mr Blackman said that, for those on the committee, the matter came to a head when the shire failed to advertise an employment opportunity in the *Numurkah Leader*, but advertised it in the *Yarrawonga Chronicle*, *Cobram Courier* and the *Shepparton News*.

"That really made it personal for a lot of people because it really discriminated against people on this side of the shire," he said.

"To single us out for the way they provide information is one thing, but for them not to provide equal access to opportunities with the shire - the shire that people here pay their rates to - is absolutely outrageous and really discriminates against us."

Ms Cursons said that, although the decision to pull advertising from the *Leader* was made by the CEO, the committee considered that the Mayor's actions - or lack thereof - with regards to the situation, warranted a vote of no confidence.

"The council is well aware that the people of western Moira are up in arms about this, but

only two councillors have acknowledged that," she said.

The *Leader* has reason to believe that a number of councillors have asked for an explanation for the CEO's decision to pull advertising from the paper, and have expressed some displeasure at the move, though by the time the committee was formed only two had openly engaged with the community on the issue.

"The Mayor has done absolutely nothing to stand up for or support the community in any way," Ms Cursons said.

"He is supposed to represent the people, not the personal opinions of himself and the CEO."

"For him to condone the *Leader* being singled out, and to the point where information about employment opportunities is being withheld from half of the shire, is absolutely appalling and really speaks to a lack of judgement, not just on the CEO's part, but on his as well."

"For him to take a side that says that certain opinions shouldn't be heard, but then allow his own opinion to affect what information people he was elected to represent have access to, is ridiculous."

"Why should we have any confidence in him at all?"

Mr Blackman said the crux of the matter is that the shire has absolutely no right to try and censor what information is available to the community.

"They have no right to tell the *Leader* what it can and can't print, or to tell people what they can and can't read, or to try and control those things," he said.

"Primarily, the committee is trying to get some resolution to what the shire is doing to the *Leader*. If the mayor and the CEO need to go in order for us to achieve that, and it appears that they do, then so be it."

As of yesterday morning, almost 300 people had signed the committee's petition online, and around 100 more had signed hard copies.

Copies of the petition can be found at NewsXpress Numurkah, Numurkah Pharmacy, Numurkah Foodworks, Wunghnu Cafe, Katunga Store, Strathmerton Bakery, and Nathalia Hair and Beauty, or by visiting: <https://chng.it/zSZP4KKFDL>.

After a wild ride, the Telegraph is back

NATHAN Morris got the news that every business owner dreads last Wednesday - the Telegraph Hotel had been identified as a tier one COVID-19 exposure site.

Nathan said he first received the news on Tuesday morning from a patron who had attended the venue the previous Wednesday, and had just received a positive test result. It wasn't until later that afternoon that they received the official word from the Department of Health.

"We were really shocked. Shocked, disappointed, dumbfounded. You hear about it happening at other venues, but you never think it will happen to you," Nathan said.

"It wasn't the customer's fault; they're a good customer and they did all the right things. They had no idea they'd been exposed and they checked in, sanitised, wore a mask and let us know as soon as they tested positive.

"It was just really unlucky for them and us."

With the pub closing immediately and all staff sent for testing, Nathan began a long mission to find out what they needed to do.

"It was pretty frustrating because we were on hold to the department for hours trying to find out what we needed to do," Nathan said.

"I'm not bagging anybody, because everyone's flat-out and doing their best, but it's hard when you've got so many questions you just need answers to straight away.

"What do we do? Who is considered a close contact? How long until we can reopen? It was all pretty intense."

As soon as they received instructions from the department, a deep clean was booked and the long wait for test results began.

Unfortunately, many of the pub's staff and their close contacts submitted for

testing at the drive through clinic in Numurkah on Wednesday, and were notified on Sunday that their swabs had been lost and they would have to start the process again.

"At this stage, we've still got nine staff in isolation waiting for their results, so we're really on a skeleton staff right now," Nathan told the *Leader* on Monday.

That means that, although the Telegraph was given the all clear to reopen on Friday, and did so that night, they had to close Sunday night due to lack of staff.

Only the pub's beer garden, where the infected patron had dined, was listed as a tier one site, but the Telegraph did not appear on the Department of Health's official list of exposure sites.

NCN Health CEO Jacque Phillips told the *Leader* that the health service had been advised by the Department of Health and the Local Public Health Unit to expect these delays going forward, and that the communication and management of local exposure sites will be a two-tiered approach.

"Much of the responsibility will be falling to local public health services and local government in partnership with the Department," she said.

"We can confirm the Telegraph Hotel beer garden only was a tier one exposure site. This was confirmed following contact tracing by the Public Health Unit. The community can be assured that NCN Health will only ever act on information that comes directly from the Department of Health and Local Public Health Unit."

After a stressful few days, Nathan wants to reassure the community that it's safe to return to the beloved watering hole.

"We're clean and we're open, and we're looking forward to seeing everyone again."



The bar is open... After doing its time as an exposure site, the Telegraph is squeaky clean and publican Nathan Morris is back behind the bar and ready to serve locals.

VCE final exams draw closer



Hard at work... Shannon Martin (left) and Kate Kelly getting some last-minute study in.

IT'S that time of year for the class of 2021, with the VCE English examination just 14 days away.

Students around the state are studying furiously - writing essays, solving equations, and completing practice exams - in preparation for the biggest two weeks of their schooling life.

Numurkah Secondary College students Shannon Martin and Kate Kelly give their insights into what it's been like in the VCE hot seat so far, and how their studying has been going.

"It's really good, I feel like throughout this year and last year, despite the lockdowns, I've kept myself really motivated and maintained my endurance, which I think is really good; I didn't expect that. The teachers' support has

really helped," Shannon said.

"Studying is going well, I'm feeling well prepared for the exams," Kate said.

Students in the past two years have had the extra burden of having to complete the year coming in and out of lockdowns - an obstacle that no other year levels have ever had to navigate before - but Shannon says she's just rolled with the punches.

"I don't necessarily think it's been harder because of COVID," she said.

"I think it would've been easier being at school to retain a lot of the learning, but I don't think I've found it more difficult to learn the content.

"Definitely sometimes I catch myself slacking off because it's easy to when

you're at home, but I think I've maintained my motivation really well."

Kate has had a bit of a different experience with lockdowns though.

"My motivation has waned a little bit through lockdowns," Kate said.

"It's difficult, because I like learning in an environment with people around me, and it was difficult not being able to see my teachers."

Shannon says she is nervous, but she's also making sure to keep some perspective.

"I'm pretty nervous for the exams," she said.

"Teachers depict your exams to be your whole future - they just emphasise how important it is to do exams, so it's only natural to get a bit nervous

about it, and you only get one chance at it.

"But I don't think it's necessarily as important as what they say it is. I think you can make a future for yourself even if you don't go to school at all."

Shannon studies English, business management, further mathematics, physical education, and she's already completed her outdoor education unit, having fast-tracked it. Business management and maths are her favourites, but she feels fairly prepared for everything.

"I think I am prepared but, because there's still a few weeks to go, I still have so much more that I can be doing," she said.

"If the exams were tomorrow, I'd be prepared, but the next few weeks will just help that little bit more.

"I've been doing lots of tutoring with my teachers after school, I do a bit of extra tutoring for English outside of school as well, I've been doing lots of practice exams, and also going back and watching lectures. I've really just been focussing on the things that I've struggled to retain.

"I think I'm most prepared for business management. I aced all the SACs and I'm really confident with the content so I feel like I have no extra learning or catching up to do, it's just revising what I already know.

"But I'm definitely most nervous about English, because English has the most writing on it, it's the only prerequisite that I need, and it's always going to count in your score, even if it's one of your bottom two. Also, it's probably not my best subject."

Kate and Shannon differ a bit with their strengths.

"I'm probably most nervous for my history exam because there's lots of content to remember," Kate said.

"My favourite subject is probably English though."

Kate wants to go to university in Melbourne, but she's not sure what she wants to study yet.

Shannon wants to study either primary education or a bachelor in business at university next year. Her preference is to attend La Trobe University in Bundoora, but she's already gained early acceptance into both RMIT (city campus) and Federation University.

Although she's done well to maintain her motivation for study during lockdown, she says it's been tough on her mental health to be studying so hard while effectively being isolated for most of the year.

"My mental health has not been the best at times," she said.

"I thrive off human connections; being with my friends every day makes me happy and gives me a lot of good endorphins. Because I haven't been able to see them, I've definitely hit some lows sometimes.

"Within every family, you have some family struggles, then you've got your own individual struggles, so things just build up on you a bit.

"I've been going for two walks every day, the gym three times a week, and doing an ab workout every night, so that's been good for my mental health."

With only days left now before she's finished her VCE studies forever, Shannon is lapping up every minute she has left at school.

"I already miss it!" she said.

"In the school holidays, I missed going to school every day. I won't miss the school part; I'll just miss the environment and the teachers and being with my friends every single day."

Life might not be easy, but it's still good

IF the COVID-19 pandemic has taught Nathalia's Kristy Bourke anything, it's accepting that you can't do it all.

Especially when you're a single mother raising a six-year-old son, working full time and studying a Masters of Business Administration. All from home.

Kristy is no different to many others trying to juggle family, work and life during one of the most challenging periods in our history, and she shares her story of 'surviving the chaos' as part of Mental Health Awareness Month.

When restrictions came into effect, Kristy and her son Bodhi, like millions of others, went into lockdown.

That means Kristy has been working and studying remotely while home schooling Bodhi on and off for about 18 months.

Kristy joined Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) in 2017, writing procedures for the mechanical and electrical team, working in dam safety and asset planning, corporate planning and performance and risk before being appointed as the customer experience acting manager for the next three months.

Kristy said that, for her, one of the hardest parts of working from home is missing the social interaction.

"I like working in the office, and the people who I work with," she said.

On top of that came the loneliness from isolation and stress of home schooling.

"Working, studying, full-time parenting and teaching is really, really hard," Kristy said.

"Bodhi missed most of his kinder

year as well as some of his foundation year at school and, as an only child who has consistently been in daycare since he was a baby, removing his village and friends meant he was left with me.

"As a family of two, we rely on our village, so that was really hard."

Striving to be the perfect mother, employee and student, Kristy tried to do it all.

"I used to wake up at 4-5am, work until about 10-11am, go for a big walk or kick the footy with Bodhi and then work from about 1pm to 4-5pm. I would then hang out with Bodhi, give him tea, a bath and put him to bed and then study until 9-11pm," she said.

"It was crazy and not sustainable."

Realising this was a collision course to burnout, Kristy learnt to give attention to what mattered most at the time.

"Sometimes I worked more and studied less and some days I took leave or study days to focus on study," she said.

"Other days, I didn't turn on the computer at all and Bodhi and I would spend it together in the garden or watching movies or going on an adventure."

"I learnt that it doesn't matter if the house is messy, if the garden has weeds or if you eat breakfast for dinner."

"I think my lesson in all of this is the importance of just doing what you can and not putting too much pressure on yourself to be perfect."

Which has meant laughing about Bodhi spending \$68 on her credit card buying cartoons while she was in a meeting, or burning dishes so many times that her son associates the smoke alarm with

dinnertime.

And accepting she is doing the best she can.

"Bodhi has wonderful teachers and they have accepted my novel way of teaching him - maths through playing card games or monopoly, Bodhi reading my work and words from the documents that I am currently writing, including the corporate plan and annual report, and science in our house being all about water," she said.

"Work has also been really supportive. Bodhi pops into many of my meetings, and everyone has been kind and accepting of him, even when he is running around crazy in the background."

And while life can still be manic, the support from her workplace, understanding her limits and taking time out for pleasure are essential when it comes to good mental health.

"To me, good mental health means laughing till I cry with my friends, hanging out with Bodhi and being challenged and fulfilled at work," she said.

"I am very lucky in that I can continue to work through COVID-19 in a role that I love, we are safe and so is our family."

While Kristy believes she's luckier than many who are doing it tough, mental illness doesn't discriminate, so she hopes this month sparks some conversations around mental health.

"Good mental health is about being able to recognise when you don't feel okay and being able to do what you need to do to get better, whether that is exercise, sleep, being with friends and family, asking people for help or just watching Netflix for the day."



Learning their limits... Bodhi and Kristy Bourke have learned that you can't do it all, and that's okay.

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Owner pleads for return of beloved pet

A NUMURKAH mother is pleading for information following the disappearance of her daughter's much-loved dog, after the animal disappeared from the family's back yard recently.

Tracy Bradbury told the *Leader* that she believes Panda, a seven month-old golden retriever who appears fully-grown, was stolen from the family's back yard on Pinnuck Street on October 8.

"The back yard is secure and there is no way she could have gotten out on her own. She's never escaped before, so the only way she could have gotten out is if someone let her out or took her," she said.

"I heard the gate open and close between 7.30 and 8pm on the night she disappeared, but I thought it was my landlord coming to feed their dog, which was here as well, so I didn't think anything of it.

"When we got up the next morning,

Panda was gone. I spoke to my landlord, and they said they'd been over earlier the previous day, so I think when I heard the gate, it was someone taking Panda."

Tracy has checked with the council pound, local vets and the police, but there has been no sign of Panda.

"She's micro-chipped, so if she turned up at the vets or the pound they would know where she came from and get in touch," Tracey said.

"She's a beautiful dog, so I really think someone has taken her."

Tracey's suspicions have been made stronger by reports from neighbours of unfamiliar vehicles and individuals seen in the street in the days leading up to Panda's disappearance.

"One neighbour said they saw two men who looked like they were in their 30s, one with long brown hair and one with black hair, coming out of my yard two

days before, and another neighbour said they saw a white Toyota Hilux with a large tool box in the tray out the front the day before," she said.

"I think someone was casing the place and then came back when it was dark to take her."

Tracey said she is devastated at the loss of Panda, and so is her two year-old daughter, who was given Panda as a gift.

"My daughter keeps asking 'where's Panda? When's Panda coming home?' It's awful, and we're all so sad.

"I'd just like to say to whoever took her 'you've stolen a two year-old's pet - please bring her back,'" she said.

"Whoever has her now, she's not yours, she's our family pet and we need her back."

Anyone with information about Panda's whereabouts is asked to contact Numurkah police on 5862 3311.



Where she belongs... Panda curled up at home with a feline family member before her disappearance.



EMPLOYER SUPER OBLIGATIONS ARE CHANGING.

Multiple super accounts are costing Australians millions in fees and insurance premiums so the Australian Government is changing the system. From 1 November, an employee's super account will follow them when they change jobs. If an employee doesn't choose a super fund, employers must use the ATO portal to request details of the new employee's existing super fund. For more information on what to do, visit yoursuper.gov.au

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PHOTOGRAPH BY SIMONE ZARNOVA

weekly puzzles

QUICK CROSSWORD

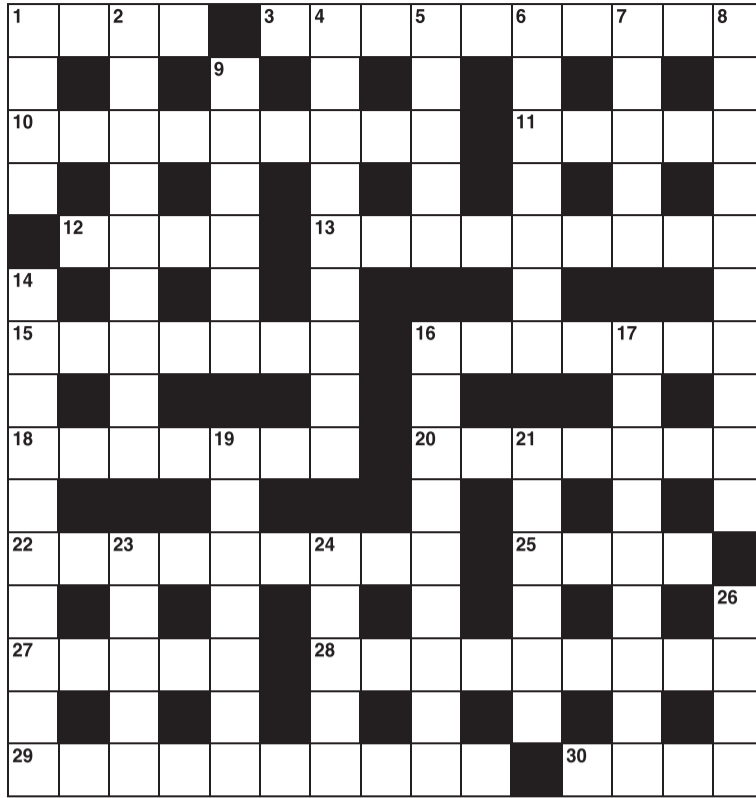
No. 016

ACROSS

- 1 Gap; crevice (4)
- 3 Differentiation (10)
- 10 Lawyer; canvasser (9)
- 11 Killed (5)
- 12 Food eaten (4)
- 13 Embarrasses; horrifies (9)
- 15 Bandits (7)
- 16 Relating to earthquakes (7)
- 18 Proclaims (7)
- 20 Eight-sided shape (7)
- 22 Emotional release (9)
- 25 Leg section (4)
- 27 Ratio; climb (5)
- 28 Extensive outbreaks (9)
- 29 Coughed (10)
- 30 Joins (4)

DOWN

- 1 Sleep (4)
- 2 Fabricates; lies (9)
- 4 Positive viewers (9)
- 5 Less contaminated (5)
- 6 Italian opera composer (7)
- 7 Guru (5)
- 8 Very small amount of time (10)
- 9 Grass cutter (6)
- 14 Transmits (10)
- 16 Boot polish (9)
- 17 Enlarged (9)
- 19 Chemistry substance (7)
- 21 Trialled (6)
- 23 Path (5)
- 24 Rubbed leather (5)
- 26 Snakes (4)



QUIZ



- 1 Which colour is known as vert in French?
- 2 Which country is located to the northwest of Ethiopia?
- 3 Which white wine originates in the Rhine region of Germany?
- 4 Which flightless bird of New Zealand became extinct in the 15th century?
- 5 The Petrified Forest National Park is located in which US state?
- 6 The archipelago of Guadeloupe uses what currency?
- 7 What city was once known as Edo?
- 8 The Al-Aqsa Mosque (pictured) is located in which Israeli city?
- 9 Which country did France, under Napoleon, unsuccessfully invade in 1798?
- 10 In which ocean would you find the Rocas Atoll?

9-LETTER

No. 016

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included, and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in "s".

M	I	I
T	R	G
T	E	N

Today's Target:
 22 words: **Good**
 33 words: **Very good**
 45 words: **Excellent**

WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words listed in the grid below? The remaining letters will spell out a message.

No. 016

- BASIN
- BAY
- BAYOU
- BEND
- BIGHT
- BOG
- BROOK
- CANAL
- CATARACT
- COVE
- DAM
- FALLS
- FEN
- FJORD
- GULCH
- GULF
- GULLY
- INLET
- ISLAND
- ISLET
- LAKE
- LOCH
- MARSH
- MOAT
- NECK
- OASIS
- OCEAN
- PLAYA
- POND
- POOL
- PORT
- PUDDLE
- REEF
- RESERVOIR
- RIVER
- RIVULET
- RUN
- SEA
- SHALLOWS
- SHOAL
- SOUND
- SOURCE
- STRAIT
- STREAM
- SURF
- TRIBUTARY
- WASH



SECRET MESSAGE: Where there is water, there is life

SUDOKU

Fill in the blank cells using the numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block.

MEDIUM

No. 016

	4		6		8			
8				1	9			
9	6							
		7	1	5		2	8	
1	2						7	5
	5	8		9	2	3		
							1	9
			9	6				7
			3		1		6	

HARD

No. 016

					4	3		
	4	5	3					7
3				1		6		
7	8	9						
5				6				7
						2	9	3
			8	9				6
	1				8	5	4	
		3	4					

SOLUTIONS

1310 Puzzles and pagination © Pagemasters | pagemasters.com

9-LETTER

emir, engilt, germ, grin, girt, grim, grime, grin, girt, inert, inter, interim, intermit, merit, meriting, miner, minter, mire, miring, mire, miring, nitre, nitrite, nitre, nitrite, reign, remit, REMITTING, rent, rime, rining, ring, rite, term, terming, term, trite

SUDOKU

MEDIUM

2	7	8	9	3	4	1	5	6	2
4	1	2	9	6	5	8	3	7	
5	3	6	2	8	7	3	6		
1	6	4	5	8	7	2	9	3	
1	2	4	8	3	6	9	7	5	
3	9	7	1	5	4	2	8	6	
9	6	1	4	2	3	7	5	8	
6	4	5	3	2	9	8	7	1	
2	4	5	6	7	8	1	9	3	

HARD

2	7	3	4	5	6	9	1	8	
4	1	6	7	3	8	5	4	2	
5	3	6	2	8	7	3	6		
1	6	4	5	8	7	2	9	3	
1	2	4	8	3	6	9	7	5	
3	9	7	1	5	4	2	8	6	
9	6	1	4	2	3	7	5	8	
6	4	5	3	2	9	8	7	1	
2	4	5	6	7	8	1	9	3	

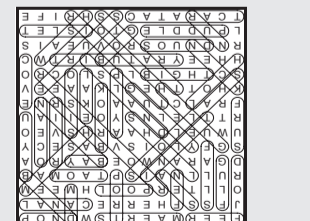
QUIZ

- 1. Green 2. Sudan 3. Riesling 4. Moa 5. Arizona 6. Euro
- 7. Tokyo 8. Jerusalem 9. Egypt 10. South Atlantic

CROSSWORD



WORD SEARCH



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Numurkah

A CUPPA WITH DOM

A cuppa with Cathy

Full name: Catherine Mary Palmer, but I get called Cathy

Age: Irrelevant

Marital status: Single with one daughter

Schools attended: Mt Carmel Catholic School in Sunbury, Sunbury High School, and St Columbas in Essendon

Summer or winter? Winter

Beach or mountains? A bit of both. I love the coolness of the mountains, but I find the beach very, very therapeutic. I love the ocean and I love the beach, but I don't love the sun, and they're often connected. We have a house at Ocean Grove and I go down there when I can, and I love to go there in the off season - not in the howling rain - when the sun's not too hot.

Oscar the Grouch or Cookie Monster? Cookie Monster. I admire his love of food, and he's a happy one and always makes you laugh. He's simple; what you see is what you get and there is not a lot about him that you need to guess.

Crunchie or Violet Crumble? Crunchie. As a child, my dad used to drive a lot for work and he would have Crunchies and Cherry Ripes in the glove box. On the weekends we'd run out to the car and check the glove box and if there were Crunchies there I'd have them.

Elvis or The Beatles? Beatles, Beatles, Beatles. I grew up with mum absolutely crazy for the Beatles, so I've listened to lots of stories about when they came here. They've got such a huge catalogue and they kept evolving, so you go through those chapters, and that's something that is really magical. I grew up with all those chapters. Maybe if Elvis hadn't ended his life, he would have had that evolution for us to enjoy as well.

AC/DC or INXS? AC/DC every day. Aussie rock, you can't beat it. Growing up in Sunbury, my bothers went out to the rock festival when AC/DC were playing and one of our neighbours was related to the Young brothers somehow, and they came to visit them. I watched a documentary on them, and Brian Johnson was saying that he still gets called the 'new' AC/DC singer even when he's been with them for 40 years, way longer than Bonn Scott.

Favourite colour? It changes a bit, but I'm going to say it's versions of blue.

Favourite song? Rolling Stones, *Beast of Burden*.

Favourite TV show? Probably the best show I've watched recently is *Ted Lasso*, which is a real feel good show. If I just want to laugh, then I watch *Modern Family*. My daughter grew up with that all through her school years, and still, on a Sunday night we'll say 'let's watch some *Modern Family*'.

Favourite movie? *The Godfather I, II and III*.

Favourite book? This is a difficult one, because I haven't really read much for years. The book I'm reading at the moment is called *Why We Should Give a F*** About Farmers*, and I recently read Leigh Sales' book, which was brilliant, but I don't think I really have a favourite book.

If you could have one talent what would it be?

To play music, piano specifically. I learned a bit as a kid, but not enough. I was always on the other side of the



desk in the music industry, and I'd love to be able to play.

If you could have one superpower what would it be?

I'd like to be able to teleport. I spend a lot of time driving to Melbourne for work, and I hate it, so I would love to be able to just snap my fingers and be there. It would save me a lot of time and effort if I could do that.

Do you make lists?

Yes, but not enough. I make them in my head more than on paper, but I'm really trying to make them on paper more. One of my girlfriends is really into paper lists, and she'll wake up in the morning and make them to the detail that they include 'shower'. She tells me that when you get really busy, it really works, and my brother is another one who tells me to make them. He's an associate professor of criminology, and he tells me to put up on my white board, or get some butchers paper and list what I need to do, be-

cause I get overwhelmed and feel like the wheels are spinning. They're right, because I find if I do make a list, then it stops that.

Who do you admire?

Personally, my mum. She came from absolutely nothing and had six children and actually made a very successful life for herself. She bought and sold real estate very successfully, and continues to manage our family, which now has 34 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Professionally, I really admire Peter Singer, the ethicist. I've started reading his book *The Life You Can Save*, and he doesn't discriminate between rich or poor, or animals or humans; it's just about living a kind life. There was this really powerful quote in one of the chapters, and it basically said if you have money to buy yourself something that you really want, or even just to buy the juice that you like, then you have money to give to a good charity,

and most of us just don't think like that. He lives a very humble life, and recently got given by a million dollars by a philanthropist in the US, and he's just passing it all on.

He invited me to one of his talks in Melbourne, which I was so humbled by, and I met him and he was genuinely fascinated by what I was doing with the way I farm. There is nothing flashy about him, and I try and keep him front and centre as I professionally grow. He's doing amazing things, and he's gone on a full journey with changes to his diet and how he lives. He genuinely walks the walk.

What type of kid were you?

Very outspoken, apparently. My dad said I would stand up to him if he was telling my brothers off. I'd be three years old pointing my finger at dad saying 'don't tell him dad, it wasn't his fault'.

I had four brothers older than me and that made me incredibly compet-

itive, naturally, because I was always trying to keep up with them. I learned to kick footballs, play netball and basketball against them; there were six of us, which is a netball team, so we used to play half court all the time. We had a pool in the backyard, so we always had swimming races. We used to play cricket, and I had to learn to bowl properly or they wouldn't have me in their team. I was really gung-ho, and I was probably quite inconsiderate because I didn't have any time for sitting around thinking about things, it was just go, go, go in our house. We were very naturally driven, I guess.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

First of all I wanted to be a rock star, because all of my brothers were playing in bands from a young age, and went on to make careers out of it, so I thought I wanted to be playing in bands with them.

But I always had this side hustle

A CUPPA WITH DOM



The Numurkah Leader
GOLDEN VALLEY FARMERS AND FRUIT GROWERS GAZETTE

100
years ago

This week in 1921 ...

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

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

FATAL END TO QUARREL. AGED MAN DIES AFTER A FALL YOUNG MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER

A quarrel that is alleged to have taken place between Robert Parsons Ellis, who follows the occupation of painter in Numurkah, and an elderly man named Samuel Lucas, of Shepparton, and who was known as a vendor of fruit at district shows, had a fatal termination on Sunday night.

From the particulars the police have been able to glean, it appears that the two men met on Saturday afternoon last and had a few drinks together. In the course of a conversation a difference arose regarding the ownership of a racehorse, and a bet of £1 was made. It is stated that Ellis received the money in due course from the stake-holder.

Later in the evening the two men had an argument over this money. Ellis stating that he had returned Lucas his £1 (the bet having been declared off), while Lucas denied that he had received it. Some words passed between them, and it is alleged that Lucas was struck, and fell, head striking the asphalt footpath. He was rendered unconscious, and the services of a doctor were obtained.

The removal of the man to the Mooropna Hospital was advised, and on Sunday Lucas was taken to the institution, where he died at about 10.30 the same night.

In the meantime Ellis had been arrested and charged with having assaulted Lucas and occasioned actual bodily harm, and was admitted to bail in two sureties of £100 each. He was brought before Mr E. Cope, J.P. at the Numurkah Police Court on Monday, when the charge as altered to one of wilful murder, and a remand granted till this morning when a further remand to the coroner's court, on Thursday (tomorrow) afternoon, will be asked for.

Accused was admitted to bail in two sureties of £100, Messrs P. Ellis and G. Staggard being accepted as bondsmen. Mr W. J. Teare appeared for accused.

Senior-Constable O'Donnell gave formal evidence on the lines stated. Accused had made a statement, in which he said he pushed deceased, who fell.

RE WILLIAMS V. ELLIOT.

(The Editor "The Leader")

Sir.—In your report of this action, that appeared in the "Leader" of the 5th inst., it is stated in error that "the Judge said he was in doubt as to whether defendant (Elliot) had not received one head of cattle less than he should have got, and on this point he would find for defendant. As a matter of fact, the Judge said he had come to the conclusion that defendant had got all the cattle he bought from the plaintiff and in his order he allowed me the full amount claimed by me for the cattle, together with interest, as shown in the report.—Yours etc.

ROBERT
WILLIAMS
Plaintiff.

Invergordon. 8th Oct.

Our report was taken from the Shepparton News, and we published it as it appeared that paper.—Ed.

MUCKATAH V. DRUMANURE

The above teams will again meet on Saturday next, on the Numurkah show-grounds. Muckatah, as minor premiers, having taken advantage of their right to challenge Drumanure to a "grand final." A good game should be seen. Special trains will run from Nathalia and Cobram.

of looking after animals. We had goats, and our house was always the place where people dumped their cats and kittens, and animals that weren't quite right. At one stage, I had 13 cats and I trained them to only eat from their own bowls, which everyone thought was amazing, because they were cats. So, as I got a little bit older, I always thought I'd be a vet, until the reality of the study came along.

You had a real 70s/80s suburban childhood; do you look back on that fondly?

I do. There was lots of crap there, but I think our childhoods were pretty amazing. We were outside a lot, and I know I read that in so many interviews, and my daughter yawns when she hears that, but it's true.

Sunbury was a small country town then, probably not much bigger than Numurkah - it's huge now, but I remember there being a big hullabaloo when it got to 10,000 people - and everyone knew each other, and we had a really big circle of friends. I had different circles of friends, I had friends I did competitive swimming with, I had school friends, netball friends, friends from the football club. We had this wonderful bubble of a life in a way. We never had much money, but we never had hardship either. I remember my definition of when I knew that my family got really wealthy, was mum came home with the shopping one day, and she had choc-chip ice cream. I remember seeing it in the shopping bag and I was like "we have made it, man, we are wealthy now".

We used to have to make our lunches on a Sunday; everyone would line up and make sandwiches, like Vegemite and cheese, or the old chicken loaf, and we'd freeze them. That was fine in summer, because they'd defrost in your bag, but I ate so many frozen sandwiches in the winter. We used to put them on top of the radiator in the classroom and beg them to hurry up and defrost. I can still taste the frozen bread.

Mum was always playing music, and we had Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles on high rotation, so you'd be making your Sunday sandwiches with Miss You by The Rolling Stones going full boar in the background.

We always used to talk about the festivals they had up here; Rockalonga at Yarrowonga and Peaches and Cream at Cobram. They used to have unique Aussie rock line-ups that you wouldn't get in the city. We used to talk about doing a rock weekend up here because those events went so well, with those festivals you knew that it was money in the bank because it was guaranteed to sell out. The country was great for touring bands because you could book a gig on a Tuesday night and it would be packed, whereas people in the city would say 'no, I have work the next day' but, because country people didn't have as much access, they'd go out any night if there was a good gig.

Although you were never in a band like your brothers, you did end up working in the music industry didn't you?

Yeah, I started studying a back door path into veterinary science, which was animal behavioural science, and I did my first dissection and went 'no, I don't think this is for me'. So, I got out of there and took off travelling for as long as I could. When I decided it was time to get a career, I always used to do the door for my brother, who was playing in bands around Melbourne, and for other bands, so I got to know a lot of people and someone was looking for an assistant in artist management. He managed TISM, and Chris Wilson, and he went on to manage Dave Graney and the Coral Snakes, so I went to work for him. My first job, which I spent a week doing, was cutting out newspaper articles and sticking them to bits of paper, because there was no scanning then, to make press packs for the bands.

We started doing tours as well. We did the Nick Cave Red Right Hand tour and we nearly got thrown out of the Palais. We'd had the fire brigade come and tell us that Nick couldn't smoke on stage and we said 'Nick pretty, pretty please you can't smoke on stage' and he said 'yeah, that's fine' and then he smoked on stage. They were screaming at us from the side of stage and we thought 'we're going to have to close the curtains', it was just mayhem. I worked on some great tours all around Australia.

I did some tour managing and decided that was no fun at all, and I got offered a job in A&R (artists and repertoire) in the publishing part of what is now Mushroom Records. My job was to

find the talent and sign them, which was a really great job.

My job was really about the song writers, which is what I was really passionate about. I would find the people who were writing the songs, and I would try to hook them up. Going back, you have someone like Dolly Parton who has written songs for everybody, so I was working on the upcoming artists to do that with. We also had an amazing back catalogue, so you would pitch to try and get your songs in films. Being around music every day is a pretty blessed environment to work in, and I loved it.

You've gone from the music industry to being a dairy farmer - and an 'alternative' one at that - how, and why, did that come about?

I took a break from the music scene when I had my daughter. I did run a few tours, and my brother and I had a small record label developing young artists, because we had seen them sometimes get misrepresented, and that was just something to keep us busy and help young artists out. Then I met my former partner, and he was a dairy farmer - well, he'd grown up as a dairy farmer and become a very well established consultant. He commented to me that he was surprised I ate dairy, because I didn't eat meat and hadn't done for a long time. He told me the truth about dairying and how they separate the newborn calves from their mothers, and I thought 'no, no, no, how am I going to reconcile this with myself?'. So, I asked why can't we do a dairy that doesn't do that, and he said because it's not economically viable for the dairy farmers, and that's consumer driven.

I thought someone had to fight for that. I was in a space where I had stepped away from my former career, knew a lot about marketing, and I was used to challenges because I'd represented a lot of bands who were very politically incorrect, so I knew how to handle negative press and so forth.

Fast forward two years, we came up with the concept of doing a really small cow and calf together dairy. We bought 18 cows and I googled the heck out of the subject to see if anyone else was doing it, what research had been done, how did you do it etc. The only things I could find was scientific research where they separated the calves at different stages to see how the mother and calf reacted. Surprise, surprise, at every step they were traumatised, no matter what age they were. The analysis was that it was probably nicer to separate them at day one than 10 or 14.

So we started our dairy farm, and I knew basically nothing about dairying, but we introduced our first cow and calf to the system, and after we did one, the other cows just followed, and we started our little label 'How Now Dairy'.

My partner and I separated, so I had to find another farm, and I'm leasing a small farm at Kata-matite - I wish someone would give me a farm!

I put a lot of work into the artwork, and the branding, and the defining of who we are. How Now is 'how now brown cow', but it's also 'how can you do it?' and 'now is the time for change'. I felt it was a really important time for it, because the RSPCA was out there running ads with celebrities holding hens with the slogan 'that ain't no way to treat a lady', campaigning against battery farming, you had supermarkets advertising sow-stall free pork. Everybody was talking about these animal welfare issues, but in the meantime, everyone was accepting that it was okay to take newborn calves away from their mothers.

Gandhi said "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

I started out thinking dairy farmers were greedy, I pretty quickly changed my mindset on that because I learned that it's not the dairy farmers; they're just doing what they can to survive, and it's all driven by consumers. Dairy farmers love their cows, but they're just doing what their fathers and grandfathers did to survive in the business, which is all driven by consumers.

I spend a lot of time in shops in Melbourne selling and marketing our milk and I see people pick up a bottle of fruit juice for \$5 a litre, then they'll go and pick up the cheap milk. The processors say it's the supermarkets' fault, and the supermarkets say it's the processors, but I say they both need to hold themselves accountable for dairy farmers not having any options.

I'm trying to show that I am a friend to dairy farmers, I want them to be treated better and get the pay they deserve for the work they do, be-

cause they work so hard. Dairy farmers deserve medals.

I would love more dairy farmers to join us, because we get a good price for our milk, because people are prepared to pay a premium for ethically produced milk. But the farmers would need to be prepared to do things our way, which is different to what they are used to, and involves much smaller volumes than most dairy farms, but is easier in a lot of ways.

People say it must be a nightmare with all the calves running around, but the cows do all the work for you. There's no feeding of calves, the calves are healthy and they don't die, there are so many advantages to it.

I make a living out of my business, it doesn't make a lot of money yet, but it's not about that, it's about proving that it's sustainable so that other farmers can do it too. I'm constantly trying to find new ways to do things and keep challenging the norm, because I don't believe that I'm even half way there.

A dairy farm is a very different environment to offices, and pubs, and concert halls - how have you adjusted to the more rustic elements of it, such as the smell?

Yes, they're similar aren't they? It is very different on one level, and I am very conscious of the smell. We're milking 53 cows at the moment, and we only milk once a day, and I milk on my own once a week, which is important to me to maintain that connection with my cows.

I love being on the farm, there are a lot of large gum trees and it's just beautiful. My favourite thing to do after I've been in Melbourne for a few days is go out to the farm with a cup of tea in a travel mug and lie down in the paddock. I go and see the girls, they always come over and see me, and they reward me in so many ways and remind me why I do what I do.

I've been playing different types of music to the girls in the paddock - they don't like rock - they don't mind some Van Morrison though; I played them some harp last week, which was painful for me to listen to, but they didn't mind it. Yesterday I just randomly put some classical music on, it was Schubert apparently, which I wouldn't have had a clue about, and within 60 seconds they started coming over to me. I'd been sitting there for 15 minutes and they hadn't been paying any attention, but that bought them straight over.

They are so smart, their organisational skills are incredible.

You're the new president of Numurkah Love Our Lifestyle; what are your plans for that?

I'm really passionate about Numurkah. At the AGM last week I got asked 'why Numurkah?', because I've only lived here a year, and the answer is: it's a thriving country town. So many country towns are dying, desolate, but Numurkah is thriving. The town is beautiful, we've got great businesses and really passionate locals.

I want to bring more visitors to this town, and I'm determined to put this dairy region back on the map. I think there are a lot of ways we could promote Numurkah as a great food region and include dairy as part of that.

I'd like to see a microbrewery and distillery, because people love that kind of thing, make it a real foodie destination. When we open the How Now Dairy shop front, we'll be selling locally produced cheese, and we'll be processing milk here when we're set up, and other things as well. That is the type of thing I'd like to see in town; a trail of boutique food and booze producers so that people will come to Numurkah for that experience.

I think we could bring a lot of tourists to town; I know a lot of people would jump at the chance to come to my farm and have those type of experiences, and I think we could put this region on the map by offering more experiences to people.

I'm really passionate about the arts as well, and I see that as a really viable avenue for bringing more people to town. I'm really excited to get started

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

Climate change is very real, and I hate that people are denying it and that our government is not acting on it. I think that's the highest priority. There are so many more things we could be doing; packaging is one - our government could make a big difference if it was prepared to make legislation on it.

Time to grab a grant from the Bendigo

APPLICATIONS for the Bendigo Bank Community Grants Program 2021 are now open for Numurkah and Nathalia district community groups.

Charitable and not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants to fund projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for the community, contributing to its development in building social capital, community welfare, environmental, health, education or cultural areas.

The grants program, which is administered by Community Enterprise Foundation, and made possible by the Community Bank in Nathalia and Numurkah, will support programs and projects in the area.

The Community Grants Program is designed to make better, targeted use

of funds that are responsive to community needs, and to support projects that make a positive contribution to Nathalia, Numurkah and districts.

To be considered, each application must include the following supporting documentation:

- Financials
 - Current Audited Financial Statements for the applicant organisation and project partner (where applicable)
 - If your organisation is not required to audit your financials please provide a profit and loss statement as a minimum, and a balance sheets if available. Please also include a current bank statement.
- Quotes
 - Quotes are required for all budget

items.

• If you have conducted this project/program before, copies of receipts/invoices that substantiate this request from previous expenditure may be acceptable together with a detailed budget.

Project Budget
• Please ensure that your budget and/or supporting documentation clearly shows how the funds requested will be spent.

State Government entities are encouraged to call the Foundation before submitting an application, as there are some requirements that will apply.

The application process is now online only, and is to be completed through: www.bendigobank.com.au/



foundation. Once you are on the site, scroll down to the Community Grants box, click apply now and then type either Numurkah or Nathalia into the box for searching locations.

For assistance with applications you can phone 1300 304 541, or contact company secretary Tracey Mark on 0408 662 129 for guidance.

Applications close on Friday, October 29, 2021.



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Wildlife warriors on the job at Katunga PS



Wildlife warriors... Bryce Stackpole, Shania May and Lucas Milne are taking an holistic approach to caring for the environment.

A NEW generation of environmentalists have picked up the mantle at Katunga Primary School, spurred on by witnessing nature in action on the school's grounds.

When prep to grade two students returned to school last week following the school holidays, they were thrilled to discover a nest of baby birds, believed to be swallows, and their mother, in residence.

The birds had set up home in the sheltered doorway of one of the school's outbuildings.

Grade two student Lucas Milne told the *Leader* there were believed to be five baby birds living in the nest.

"Nobody saw the nest there before the holidays, so we think the mother bird came and made it there because it was a quiet place when nobody was at school," he said.

"She must have laid her eggs there and then the baby birds hatched. We have to be careful and leave them alone so they can all be safe.

"It's very important to take care of nature."

Lucas is the leader of a small group of students who have taken on the role of wildlife warriors to protect the birds, and they are taking the role seriously.

The group have made posters which they have placed near the nest, and at other spots around the school, warning their fellow students not to disturb the birds.

They have also started looking at other ways they can protect the environment.

"I've been picking up litter at recess so that it doesn't end up in the river or the sea and hurt the animals there," Lucas said.

"We're going to take our posters down at the end of the day too, and put them back up in the morning so they don't blow away and end up as litter."

Fellow wildlife warrior Shania May, who is in grade one and has experience in wildlife protection having helped rescue a koala on her family's property, is also looking at the bigger picture.

"We have to take care of the plants and flowers too, because the bees need them to make honey," she said.

"All of nature is important, so we need to take care of it."

Katunga PS principal Nat Hopcroft said she found the students' enthusiasm for protecting their natural environment inspiring.

"It's really wonderful to see," she said.

"Our world's going to be in safe hands with children growing up like this."

Letter to the Editor

Still in the dark on Cahills Road

SINCE our letter to the *Numurkah Leader* last week, all attempts by Cahills Road Yarrawonga residents to meet with Moira Shire Council have been unsuccessful.

We have been given conflicting information in phone conversations with Moira Shire Council regarding the distance the existing retaining wall is now proposed to be setback

on Glanmire Park lots, ranging from 900mm to 350mm and, as such, are still clueless to its subsequent effect on our properties.

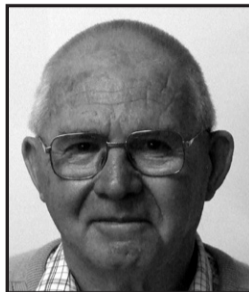
Every request sent via email from the Cahills Road spokesperson to the Moira Shire Council CEO requesting information regarding Glanmire Park over a four week period, have received no response of any kind from Moira Shire Council.

Sharon Powell
Spokesperson for Cahills Road Concerned Residents

ADVERTISEMENT

ARCHIE'S OPINION

Written and authorised by Archibald R. Browning,
PO Box 400, Barooga NSW 3644
Email: archiebrowning02@gmail.com
Letter No. 45 - October 13 2021
Please read, circulate & debate all my letters.



I believe all Australian Federal Governments over the last 40 years had no intention of educating Australian children to their full mental capacity. I believe Federal and State Governments make millions of dollars a year by educating paying foreigners in their universities at the expense of Australian students. I believe Federal Governments then rely on educated foreigners to return to Australia with dual citizenships and rule the nation by their wealth and expertise.

I believe that Australian politicians know that it will be a mistake to educate its citizens to their full potential, because a dopey population can easily be manipulated by them.

I know from by conversations in clubs and pubs that most people cannot read or write and are prepared to allow their children and grandchildren to enter a life of enslavement without a fight. Politicians know that well educated citizens have the mental power to question religion, law, science and propaganda. I try not to chase people in authority who renege on their promises. I would rather have a beer in a pub on my own and enjoy it than listening to empty-headed garbage. I enjoy intelligent debate with useful dialogue.

I believe good Australian leaders should change the educational system dramatically. I believe the Federal Government should relieve the states of all educational responsibilities and set up a national unbiased curriculum based on truth and trust.

I believe classrooms should be large, and every student must have their own desk facing a big screen, similar to the way television stations deliver the weather reports. I believe this form of education will benefit every school in Australia as the same lessons may be taught to every student, wherever they live. I believe lessons could be upgraded in every school in Australia within a week. I believe every student in Australia should have a federal educational number and those who play truant can easily be identified in Canberra, as they will need to clock on and clock off. Education in schools should be compulsory, as it teaches children how to mix with the general population and fight those who want to remove their inherent civil rights.

I believe all lessons shown on a big screen should be supervised by a very highly qualified teacher on a stage and report on the behavior of the class.

Private schools should not, by law, teach religion in their school grounds and they are entitled to teach religion elsewhere to those who need to be administered by others. I believe teaching on a big screen will help alleviate teenage crime, which governments, judges, lawyers, barristers and solicitors definitely do not want.

Private schools have a big advantage over government schools because they have the best trained teachers, and most have good sporting facilities and fitness classes overseen by a qualified instructor.

Governments know that it is impossible to make a meek, weak-minded person strong-

willed, and it is easy to make strong-willed people weak by removing their civil liberties and imposing unconstitutional restraints on the individual's aspirations.

I believe educating students via a big screen has many social and financial advantages. I believe schools may be able to teach students above and beyond quality university diplomas, and the pupil will not need to leave home and pay exorbitant university fees. Universities could be made redundant. The only time a student may need a university is when aspiring surgeons and dentists are taught to operate on patients by highly skilled personnel. I believe every Australian citizen, regardless of their age, should be allowed by law to enrol in the national big screen educational system and reach their full academic potential. I believe students with brilliant minds may be able to graduate with superior educated diplomas, issued by the Federal Government, years ahead of the average time frame.

I believe modern technology is great and it is unfortunately abused by the media, governments and dictatorships like Goulburn Murray Water and its paid legal team, which are untouchable by their cheated clients and abetted by the incompetent politicians who despise private enterprise.

May I congratulate Lou Cook on his advert in the *Numurkah Leader* newspaper about the Moira Shire Council's undemocratic stance on advertising in the paper. May I also congratulate the editor of the *Numurkah Leader* for allowing free speech and having an overwhelming desire to retain private enterprise.

I believe ratepayers in the Moira Shire did themselves a disservice by not voting for me in a shire election. I needed to be elected so that I could use my power to enact fair civil laws. It seems to me, that all councillors at the time succeeded in their united quest to have me rejected by the electorate because they feared losing their over generous councillor allowances.

I believe today's councillors simply rubber stamp government and bureaucratic decrees. I believe the only power the council has now is rubbish. I know that if I had been elected to council, all this nonsense by councils and their bureaucratic socialist friends may have been averted. I believe councils are meant to hire their chief executive officer. I believe councils and any elected politicians should not have a mandate to financially ruin owners of a private enterprise like the *Numurkah Leader* and small democratic farmers.

I have been advised to advertise my letters in the *Yarrawonga Chronicle*. I may oblige if my letters are not censored. I believe Tim McCurdy and Damian Drum need to be exposed to the public as to their credibility, and are conspicuous in their silence regarding serious issues pertaining to the Moira Shire. I refuse to chase these two politicians and they refuse to communicate with me. I believe if they are competent they are entitled to chase me. More in my next letter.

Wild sheep chase through the streets

A QUIET Friday evening turned into something else entirely for some Numurkah residents recently, when a rogue sheep on the run provided them with some unanticipated exercise.

Railway Parade residents Karen Bell and Colin Steele were sitting outside enjoying a pizza and a fire while waiting for the sun to set on October 1 when they saw something unexpected.

"Lo and behold I see a lone sheep running towards us on the vacant railway land site," Karen said.

With that, the chase was on, and Karen, Colin, their neighbours and the local police spent the next two hours trying to catch the fleecy fugitive.

One neighbour offered the use of an empty chicken coup to hold the beast, and the motley crew of shepherds nearly had her corralled, but it wasn't to be.

"Unfortunately, she escaped custody," farm crime liaison officer Sen Const Scott Osler told the *Leader*.

Sen Const Osler was actually off duty that evening, but with his wife Sen Const Nicole Osler rostered on her own, he and two of their children came to join the apprehension effort.

Nicole said the sheep's eventual capture was a great effort on the part of many locals.

"It was actually really lovely how everybody joined together and helped," she said.

The sheep certainly led the capture team on a merry chase, absconding up Saxton Street, Nelson Street, Swallow Street and along the train line before eventually being captured on Quinn Street.

The sheep made a pivotal



You're going home in the back of a divvy van... The fleecy fugitive couldn't escape the long arm of the law, and locals, and was eventually apprehended after a two hour pursuit.

mistake when it tried to evade its pursuers by diving under a four wheel drive.

"I couldn't believe it," Nicole said.

"It disappeared right under the car, but then Colin ran around the other side and pounced on it when it came out, and then Scott pounced on him and tied the sheep's feet to make sure it couldn't get away again."

With the offender finally apprehended, it was carted away in the back of the divvy van.

Scott said that, although the

sheep was called plenty of names during the prolonged pursuit, it was not bestowed with an official moniker.

The sheep's owner, who lives in town, was notified after being identified when the animal's ear tag was checked. Apparently, the beast was one of two he had purchased just that day, and it had escaped when the gate wasn't closed properly. Surely that's a mistake he is unlikely to make again.

"So much for a quiet Friday night in Numurkah," Karen said.



In need of names... Peter Dealy with two little pigs that need to be named.

What do you call those then?

THE Numurkah show may not be going ahead next week, but there is still farm-animal related fun to be had for young and old in the lead up to the not-so-big day.

Numurkah Agricultural and Pastoral Society has teamed up with Numurkah Discounts on Melville Street for a 'name the farm animal' competition with a difference.

Two little, pretend, pigs - one

male, one female - are on display in the window of Numurkah Discounts patiently waiting to find out what their names will be. Locals of all ages are being invited to complete a free entry naming the pigs, with entries closing on October 24.

There are three age levels for entries: prep to grade three, grade four to six, and open. Winners will be drawn at random, and the prize for each cat-

egory is a Numurkah Love Our Lifestyle voucher.

Show society 'general odd-sbody' Peter Dealy told the *Leader* the competition was a way for people to still get involved with the show, even though it's not going ahead.

"It's just a bit of fun with a theme that's show related," he said.

"It'll be interesting to see what people come up with."

Numurkah LEADER Classifieds



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR A LICENCE TO CONSTRUCT WORKS (BORE) / TAKE AND USE LICENCE FOR A LICENSABLE PURPOSE

GMW Reference No: BGW0072-21
 We Murray River Land Pty Ltd Of Lukies Road, Naring Vic 3636 Refer to Vic Roads Map: 33 A2 intend to make application to Goulburn-Murray Water for a Licence to Construct Works (Bore), and if successful: This is our notice for an application of a new Licence to Take and Use Groundwater for and we intend to apply to transfer 3,500 ML of licensed entitlement from an existing licensee/s on a temporary or permanent basis. The application is for one bore to be constructed to a proposed depth of 130 metres.

The water will be used for the purpose of Irrigation.
 To be constructed and used on lands described as: Volume 11471 Folio 636 Lot No.2 Plan No. 716308E Plan type PS; Volume 12304 Folio 002 Lot No. 2 Plan No. 838291N Plan type PS; Volume 11290 Folio 668 Lot No. 2 Plan No. 622229X Plan type PS; Volume 10596 Folio 700 Lot No. 1 Plan No. 523212T Plan type PS; Volume 10596 Folio 701 Lot No. 1 Plan No. 5174830 Plan type PS; Any person able to demonstrate that their interests will be affected by the issuing of this Licence including any intended groundwater use, is invited to make a written submission (via post, email or fax) setting out the nature of the impact within 14 days of receipt of this written notification. Late submissions will not be considered.

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

TENDERS



C029/21

Maintenance Grading Panel

Submissions closing 4pm Wednesday 3 November 2021

C027/21

Construction of Yarrawonga Library, Event and Performance Precinct

Submissions closing 4pm Wednesday 10 November 2021

Specification documents can be obtained by visiting www.moira.vic.gov.au/Our-Council/Tenders

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

Clare Keenan
 Chief Executive Officer

THANKS

McNamara - Hilda would like to offer her heartfelt thanks to all her family, relatives and friends, and those who kindly sent her flowers, cards, and good wishes, on the occasion of her recent 90th birthday.
Thank you

MEETINGS



Waaia Football Netball Club AGM
 Friday 5th November 2021
 7pm at the Waaia Recreation Reserve
 All Welcome

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SHOWER Chair with removable pan. Chair has flip back arms and foot rests. Will tilt back. Large and comfortable. Invacare. Free delivery Numurkah \$415.

ALTERNATING Mattress. Invacare Model 8555. Used approximately 12 months. No instruction booklet. Simple to use. Free delivery Numurkah \$615 (Assistance with setting up add \$25) Phone Robyn 0439 213 919

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I am looking for work in the home care sector.

Previous experience with elderly including dementia care. Drivers license. Flu and Covid vaccinated. First Aid Certificate. Willing to do cooking, companion, household chores, light gardening, and shopping.

Any enquires phone Robyn 0439 213 919

SITUATIONS VACANT



Lakeside Country Club requires

HOUSEKEEPERS

Casual housekeeping staff required for Friday work in busy Resort in Numurkah. Must have own car, and proof of Covid 19 Vaccination. Training provided.

Please email resume to: lakeside@holidayconcepts.com.au or call into Reception and speak to Susan or call 58622077

2022



TEACHING POSITIONS

Full Time | Commencing 2022 | Student Population 650

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

- Senior English
- Religious Education
- Maths
- VCAL/Applied Learning
- Languages - Italian

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

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

Applications should include:

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

Key Selection Criteria and Role Description: www.smotanathalia.catholic.edu.au/about/employment

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

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 2021

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

SITUATIONS VACANT



LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS

Full time & Part time | ESB 2-1

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Nathalia has positions available for both part time and full time Learning Support Officers to join their growing Learning Support Team. Commencement January 2022 or earlier by negotiation.

St Mary of the Angels is a Catholic Secondary College which offers a variety of educational pathways and a learning culture focused on collaborative practice, professional learning teams and enhanced learning opportunities for all students.

Applications should include:

- A cover letter responding to the Role Description
- Curriculum Vitae, including three professional referees.

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

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

APPLICATION CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, 25TH OF OCTOBER, 2021

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



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Across NCN Health

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Across NCN Health

Nurse Practitioner Candidate Nathalia

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Graduate Dentist Cobram

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Visit our website and sign up to our LiveHire Talent Community today for further information including position descriptions, contact details, closing dates and the application process.

www.ncnhealth.org.au

IN MEMORIAM

McCANN (Thorpe)

– Patricia Ann
 Passed 11-10-2000
 Another year has passed. Loved and remembered every day Mum.

Love Frank (dec), Val, Marie and Allan, and families.

FUNERAL NOTICES

MOSS — Due to Covid 19 restrictions. A private family funeral for the late Mrs Dorothy Moss will be held on Friday October 15 at 1.30 pm . A live stream of the service will be available at Kittle Bros facebook page.



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DEATHS

Moss – Dorothy May (Wright) 27th June 1923 – 9th October 2021

Passed away peacefully at home, aged 98 years, at Glenara farm, Tallygaroopna, surrounded by her family.
Dear Daughter of Violet (Eddy) and Arthur Wright, of Dookie. Beloved Sister of Jean Thorne, Jack Wright and Ron Wright. Sister-in-law of Alf, Dawn and Elva. Loving Wife of Stanley Moss. Dearly loved Mother of Neville, Beverley, Margaret and Cheryl. Mother-in-law to Trish, Stepan, Alan, Peter and Kevin. Devoted Grandmother of ten. Great Grandmother of nine.

Now In God's Loving Care

Mum, Nana and Great Nanna, We will miss you so much, we were so lucky to have you on the farm. Such lovely memories we have. Neville & Trish, Brad & Louise, Michelle & Stephen, Ethan, Chantelle, Owen, Madelyn, Logan, Hayden, Ruby & Jade.

Mum, Nanna, Grandma Moss; you were such a kind and caring quiet achiever; your grace will continue to guide your family down the generations. Your deep love of Jesus was a shining light on us all. You will now be our brightest Star in the Heavens for ever.

Our deepest love Beverley, Stepan, Garrow and Junko; Stepan, Noah and Emma; Aram and Amanda; Alan, Matthew, Gordon and Ailsa; Cohen and Ariana.

Mum, Nanna, Nanna Nanna. We will miss you so much. You were always there for us. Margie & Paul, Amanda, Michael and Great Grandson Leo, Tyson & Kim.

Our Darling Mother and Nana. You were devoted to your family and couldn't do enough for us. We will miss visiting you on the farm and looking out the window at the pepper trees.

Cheryl, Jake, Amy & Tegan

Rest with God Now.

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STRATHMERTON'S

A SUBJECTIVE LIST OF STRATHMERTON'S

by Harrison Reid

AFTER five previous instalments in the *Leader's* 'Best of the Best' series, I thought this might get easier.

But the more I've done, the harder it seems to get.

In last week's edition, I spoke about the different challenges each club had thrown up, and the new challenge of navigating through a record 62 different names that last week's club, Katunga, had thrown up.

With Strathmerton this week, I've had nearly all those challenges thrown into one, and a new record number of names to go with it.

If I thought 62 Katunga names were a lot from which to pick just 10 – try 83. That's right, the 15 astute Strathy observers, players and coaches from ranging eras gave me a combined 83 different names to consider for this list.

There's also the added challenge which has to be considered; that Strathy played at a higher standard in the Murray league until 1993 and has played in the Picola league since. Does that mean that more weight should be given to O'Dwyer medals (MFL best and fairest) rather than Pearce medals (PDFL best and fairest)? You can make up your own mind on that, but it's something to consider.

"Good luck, I don't envy you" – that's what I heard from most of the people I spoke to. In fact, that's what I've heard from most I've spoken to from every club.

Indeed, I will need some good luck. I never expect anyone to agree completely with these lists – this week's as much as any other's – but that's the whole point of it. Agree with it, disagree with it, debate it – that's the fun of it.

To reiterate what I've said in every week's instalment; this list is not my own opinion. I've just tallied up and combined the opinions of 15 of the club's sharpest observers, and this is what they've come up with.

As always, players are judged on their performances for Strathy, however, all things must be considered, which means that experience at higher levels must count for something.

In an elite group of 83 names from a club in a small town, there are bound to be some quirks – and that there are.

Of the 83, eight are Ryans, five are Hendersons, four are Carters, and three are Lawlors. Disclaimer: to the best of my knowledge, not all of the namesakes are related. Still a funny quirk though.

Now for the hard part.

How do you leave out names who have won best and fairests, league medals, premierships, and goal kicking awards?

David Bolton came to the club straight out of his 123 game AFL career with Geelong and Sydney in the early 1990s, coached the club, and was rated by some as one of the best few Strathy players they'd seen. The classy midfielder was a running machine and could crash through packs at will, but misses out on a spot in the list.

Some described **Chris O'Dwyer's** ability to win a hard ball in the midfield as unparalleled with any Strathy player they'd seen, and the pocket rocket could even take freakish marks on opposition players' heads, but he also just narrowly misses out.

Some said the hard-running superstar winger of the 1990s, **Julian Pinnick**, should feature somewhere in the list.

Others had **Andrew Geddes** high in their rankings – fair enough too, considering he went on to have AFL experience with West Coast and Adelaide.

Gary Carter could've also had AFL experience; Geelong chased him very hard, but he chose not to go. The freak talent of the 1970s won the Murray goalkicking award at just 16. Hard to believe. Even harder to believe that he still couldn't find a place on this list.

Others who can consider themselves hard done by are **Darren Lawlor, Adrian Shannon, John Brunskill, Gary Lawlor and Robbie Bryant**.

All stars, all missed out.

Here's who didn't.

1. J.J. Ryan

Era: early 1950s – mid 1960s.

One of the easiest choices I've had to make. No one who saw him play had him anywhere other than the top of the tree, and even those who didn't see him play knew that when it comes to Strathy's best of the best, there's only

one. It's Jono Ryan every time. Five O'Dwyer medals. Five. Does anything more need to be said? For justification, no. But it would be remiss not to. A beautiful centre half forward who had 'all the time in the world' to do whatever he pleased with the footy. When Ryan got the ball, it was like everyone around him just stopped, he had that much time with the ball. Wasn't necessarily a massive gorilla of a power forward, but he had a solid enough build, and exquisite balance like you'd never seen before. He was unique. AFL (VFL) club Melbourne chased him endlessly, but he had no interest in leaving Strathy. The stories about the desperation of the Dees to lure him down are legendary. As one story goes; in a last-ditch effort to bring Ryan down to the big time, the Demons told him that if he came down, he'd slot instantly into their side and play centre half forward on the MCG. Melbourne's famous Corder brothers – legends of the club – would often play centre half forward, so Ryan asked how he could fit into centre half forward if one of the Corder brothers were there. "They'll play forward pocket if you're there," he was told. Retired from footy at 28 but left a special mark on the sport. With five O'Dwyer medals – 1957, '58, '59, '63, '64 – he's arguably the Murray league's greatest ever player. Certainly Strathmerton's.

2. Lance Oswald Snr

Era: 1963 – early 1970s.

Not produced by Strathy, but certainly embraced by Strathy. And Strathy was blessed by him. A member of AFL club St Kilda's team of the century and hall of fame, a two-time Saints best and fairest winner, twice a Victorian representative, Ovens and Murray league medallist with Wangaratta, and a member of Wangaratta's team of the century. A stunning list of achievements, and that's without even getting to Strathy yet. Came to Strathy straight from St Kilda and was instantly one of the all-time greats of the club. Brilliant midfielder who had the ball on a string and played at a different level to everyone else. Those who saw him play said some of his drop kick goals from the scoreboard at Strathmerton had to be seen to be believed. Coached the 1964 premiership

side in his second year with the club.

3. Chris Bell

Era: early 1980s – late 1990s.

Star midfielder who very nearly made it at AFL level. Strathy junior who went on to play in Geelong's under 19s and reserves sides before going across to South Adelaide in the SANFL for a year. Could have played longer in the SANFL for sure, but chose to come home to Strathy, and dominated the league for the next 15 odd years. Can also consider himself slightly unlucky to be at Geelong when the Cats had so many great midfielders. Only small in stature but caused havoc in the guts. As the Dogs' best player for a long time, Bell would often get targeted by the opposition, but was almost never beaten, and was more than happy to give a bit of cheek back. Good looking player who ran hard, kicked beautifully, and thrived on the contest. Also ultra-competitive and made sure he was the fittest player out there – he was even one of the fittest at Geelong when he was there. Could kick left and right foot, and had a deadly accurate kick for goal. Looked great in space on the outside but was tough as nails and cracked in under the packs as hard as anyone on the inside. O'Dwyer medallist in 1984 and club best and fairests in 1983, '85, '89 and '90.

4. Frank Tuck

Era: 1940s.

One of the greats of the Collingwood Football Club who originally came from Strathmerton. Was a member of the famous Collingwood half back line of Kingston, Lucas and Tuck, and even captained the Pies. Went on to coach Corowa after his 131 games with Collingwood, but started out as a star at Strathy. Defender at AFL level but could play anywhere for Strathy and was effectively unstoppable wherever he went. Brilliant skills, quick off the mark, great decision maker, and a great leader as well. Special player.

5. Ian 'Ben' Newell

Era: 1980s.

The best tap ruckman you could ever hope to rove to. Formed an unstoppable partner-



BEST OF THE BEST

10 BEST FOOTBALLERS EVER

ship with Chris Bell, and is probably some of the reason why Bell was so dominant for Strathy. Would also take it upon himself to rove to his own taps at times and run away with the clearance. Newell would ruck all day without a rest, could take telling marks around the ground, and played with a dominant presence. Although he rarely moved out of the ruck, he would however drop behind the ball and help out in defence. Possibly the most frustrating player to play or coach against, because the ball always just seemed to get kicked on his head, and he'd mark everything. Was also remarkably good at ground level for a big man; Newell could swoop in and pick the ball up at pace almost like a nippy forward pocket would. Played a bit like Melbourne great, Jim Stynes. Some said he could've played AFL. O'Dwyer medallist in 1988, when Strathmerton wasn't so strong, and a club best and fairest in the same year.

6. Stephen Reynoldson

Era: late 1970s - 1980.

If you had've told Strathy people that Reynoldson would go on to play 142 games of AFL footy for Geelong and Brisbane when he was coming through the juniors, and even in the early part of his senior career, at Strathy, you may have been met with some strange looks. Wasn't necessarily a star by any stretch of the imagination as a kid, but all of a sudden burst out into a champion while playing seniors at Strathy, before Geelong snapped him up. Slightly awkward looking, gangly sort of player with long levers and rare abilities. He was already over six feet at 14 years of age. Really only played a handful of games for Strathy - probably less than 30 - but could turn it on in the blink of an eye. Floated between ruck and centre half forward for the Dogs, and no one could go with him. Played at centre half forward for the Cats, and centre half back and ruck for the Bears.

7. Brian 'Fred' Henderson

Era: 1960s - early 1980s.
Reliability personified. Played well over 300

games for the club and won four best and fairests; 1968, '71, '73 and '75. Not the most freakishly talented player on this list, but quite possibly the most reliable and consistent. Held down centre half back for years on end - many said he was the best centre half back they'd ever seen. Played on some of the great power forwards of the Murray league and took their scalps on a regular basis. Interleague representative countless times, had brilliant hands above his head, and an uncanny ability to spoil the ball when he looked otherwise beat. Did also spend some time at centre half forward and was a damaging force at that end of the ground as well. Henderson could kick five goals as a forward as easily as he could save five as a defender. His massive strong hands were a hallmark of his game.

8. Norm Smith

Era: 1960s - early 1970s.

Incredibly gifted player who might've played more AFL footy if it weren't for being called up for national service duty in the army. Played five games at Hawthorn and was also a GVFL star with Lemnos and Tatura, where he won a Morrison medal at each club. Member of the 1964 premiers side as a destructive midfielder. Wasn't necessarily the strongest over his head in the air, but had a stunning kick on the burst, and was a brilliant runner. O'Dwyer medallist in 1966, and back-to-back club best and fairests in '65 and '66.

9. B.J. Ryan

Era: late 1980s - early 2000s.

Son of J.J. who was a superstar himself and could play any position on the ground other than ruck. Midfield, centre half back, centre half forward - it didn't matter, Ryan was a star anywhere, but he did a lot of his best work in and under the packs in the midfield. He was one of those players who just seemed to know exactly where to go and what to do to get the ball. Was also strong as an ox and had a Dustin Martin-esque fend off; you couldn't tackle him. Ryan was so smart and clever around the ball that he would mesmerise his opponents -

and probably his teammates too. He could part the seas through a clutter of traffic. His incredible ability is especially remarkable when you consider he's mostly deaf, and his teammates had to whistle at him for him to hear anything. Pearce medallist in 1997, and club best and fairests in 1994, '96, '97, '99, and 2000.

10. Matt Shannon

Era: mid 2000s - current.

Dominant centre half back/midfielder, but another one who can play anywhere, and has done lots of damage as a midfielder for Strathy, especially earlier on in his career. Represented the Ovens and Murray league as its full back when he played at Yarrawonga. Not that tall, but has a massive frame and is as tough and reliable as any. No one loves a hard ball get as much as Matt Shannon; he'd often have north of 15 contested possessions a game. Far too strong to ever be knocked off balance; one person described him as "a beast of a bloke." Possibly not the greatest kicking technique, but still effective enough. Four time best and fairest winner, and the only Strathy player to play in four premierships. COVID has probably robbed him of more best and fairests and premierships, too.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Keith Christie

Era: late 1940s - early 1960s.

Great nullifying defender who was undersized as a centre half back but held some of the league's best players down weekly. Member of Strathmerton's team of the century.

Ron Dunne

Era: 1973 - 1975

Another member of the team of the century who, some would argue, should definitely have found a place in the 10. Small midfielder who had the rare ability to kick 60 and 70 metre torps with ease. O'Dwyer medallist.

Ray Burch

Era: 1970s.

Tall forward or defender who even spent some time in the ruck. Fitness machine who wasn't scared of anything. Initially had a massive build, but then lost lots of weight and slimmed right down. Would run 10kms up the road and then milk cows for hours.

Graeme Frew

Era: 1960s.

Imposing centre half forward/full forward with enormous hands and an almost perfectly straight kick for goal. Kicked over 100 goals in the premiership winning year of 1964, including 10 in the grand final.

Marcus McMillan

Era: early 2000s, mid 2010s - current.

Would most probably be inside the 10 if he didn't go and play most of his best footy at Yarrawonga. Was only a kid when he came into Strathy's side, but held down centre half forward and oozed talent and potential. Yarrawonga hall of famer, but has since returned to Strathy, and is still a star.

Luke Carter

Era: 2002 - 2015

Pure midfielder with pace and great skills. Silky smooth, great user of the footy, and extremely clever. Won best and fairests at Sandhurst, to go with his three at Strathy (2005, '11, '12).

Lance Oswald III

Era: early 2000s - current.

Grandson of Oswald Snr, and a gun in his own right. Genuine midfielder with electric pace and classy skills. Best on ground in the 2019 grand final.

Mick Carter

Era: 1950s.

Vigorous ruckman who played one game with Hawthorn. Not that quick, but always seemed to be where the play was. Broke his leg when he came back from Hawthorn in 1958 and was never the same.

Great mentor... Jesse Trower coaching Waaia's under 14s.



Big brother becomes coach of the year

WAAIA'S Jesse Trower was last week crowned AFL Goulburn Murray (AFLGM) Youth Coach of the Year, after mentoring the Bombers' fourths for the past four seasons.

The local product was awarded the top honours after being nominated as Youth Coach of the Month in August.

AFLGM recognises a youth, junior and senior coach of the month for each month of the season, the top candidate of whom is then chosen for the major award at the end of the year.

Clubs nominate coaches to be considered, and then send in descriptions of what their coaches have done and why they are worthy of the honour.

"It was just a bit of a description to

say what I do around the club for the juniors and what I've done over the past few years while coaching the under 14s," Jesse said.

"We have a buddy system between our senior and junior players, which includes training together as well as going to games and watching each other.

"We also organised a few trips down to Melbourne where we went to Essendon footy club, and also trained just across the road from the MCG, where Collingwood trains, and then walked across the road and watched the footy. Essendon ran us through a tour of its facilities and then we had a training session there as well.

"It's good because the AFL pays for the tickets – they're called 'community tickets' that you can apply for – and you can get 40 or 50 of them which means you can take the kids' parents down with you. It helps the kids out because not all of them get to go down to Melbourne to watch the footy, so it's something a little bit different for all of them."

Jesse says he's never put the coaching whistle around his neck in the hope to be formally acknowledged, so it was a bit of a surprise.

"I was pretty surprised," he said.

"I didn't really expect the monthly award to begin with, and then obviously to get the call about the major

award was even more surprising.

"It's probably more of a reflection on our club than what it is on me; it's not just me that puts in the effort and the work, it's a range of people who do a lot of things for the club."

His coaching career all started when he was taking his younger brother to his games, and realised he could help out.

"My younger brother was playing fourths, I was finished playing juniors, and they needed a fourths coach after a couple of blokes had done it for a while," he said.

"They asked me to do it, and I was available and going to the games at the time anyway, so I had a crack.

"I was a bit nervous at the start, but I developed a bit of a passion for it, kept doing it each year, and got a little bit more motivated each year to keep doing it.

"That's how it sort of started, and since then I've been trying to develop a bit of a program for not only our under 14s, but also our under 17s, to build up into our senior grade."

Jesse's younger brother is finished in the fourths now, and he's had a fair stint in the role, so he's handing the reigns over for next season, but the club has already found a replacement.

He will still play seniors at the club though, and he plans on doing another couple of roles as well.

Hansen pushed into second spot again

CONDITIONS were less than perfect for Numurkah Croquet Club competition last Tuesday but, there were still 20 hardy souls on the courts.

David Geddes had the benefit of drawing good partners to take the top spot with a score of 3/27, pushing Kevin Hansen

into second spot with 3/23, for successive weeks.

Specialist shots were on the lean side. Successful jump shots went to Lyn Hughes, who is in good form, with three, and David Geddes with one. No one made a hoop-in-one, but Kevin Hansen snared an 'in off.'

The club's association mode players have confirmed that the spring pennant has been cancelled but are still playing socially each Friday at 9am. Both association and golf modes will look to run an autumn competition.