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margin Rd 2

ketball

points, while the on picked up the ball and scored!

lobetrotters are in front of a small Monday night, Phil owed us the Kerang their National tour.

aps the scoring sys- should be examined. McGibbon shot ng "tres" from wn in Boort's 2 ctory over Sharks. week's leading

roll (Boort) 20. Neill (Scripts Yel-

Hogg (Churches cks) 16. Hogg (Bombers 15. Lees (Bombers 14. dke (Sharks) 13. Jackson (Churches cks) 13. unstan (Bombers 13. brough (Bombers 12. Murray (Churches cks) 12.

ESDAY NIGHT

girls - Bombers 29 rs 28. A fantastic with the winning eing shot inside the econds. Fast paced ssure packed to the uzzler. K. Duffy rs 11 pts) and K. aara (Rovers, 10 od out.

es 20 d Falcons ss game all night e separating each Top scorers: K. Churches, 6) and ons J. Gardiner Hampton 4 each.

Melbourne Cup Gala Day

Barham Sports Complex

Tuesday, November 2 1993

Smorgasbord Luncheon

12 noon

Lady of the Day

Sweeps on Races

Lucky Envelopes

For bookings please call 054 53-3774

The NORTHERN Times

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REGIONAL WEATHER

TEMPERATURES
Thursday minimum 5.8 degrees, maximum 17.2 degrees. Friday 6.9, 20.1. Saturday 10.2, 25.6. Sunday 14.4, 26.6. Monday 9.7.

RAINFALL
Sunday, 2.4 mm. Month to date, 111.4 mm. Year to date, 429.2 mm. (1992 to October 25, 453.4 mm).

EVAPORATION
Weekly pan evapora-

tion, 25.2 mm.

FORECAST
Becoming fine, cool. Outlook Wednesday: Fine, mild. Thursday: Cooler, scattered show-ers.

ROADS CLOSED

The Wakool River flood alert will remain for about another week until the peak reaches Stony Crossing, but it will be weeks before all water recedes.

NSW State Emergency Service controller at Moulamein, Mr Neil Whelan said yesterday that farmers in the Cuninyeuk and Mallan areas were currently waiting for the expected peak.

SES workers have been helping farmers with supplies of sandbags, hay and plastic sheeting to strengthen levees.

Mr Whelan said that the Moulamein unit appreciated the support of the Kerang SES unit, which has spent four days helping remove sheep from flood-bound properties.

Roads closed in the area yesterday were Gonn, Nacurrie South, Fishers, Swan Hill-Deniliquin, Nacurrie North, Cuninyeuk, Mununda and Cabool Island.

Flooding devastation on farms over border

RECORD flooding in the Wakool River is spreading a devastating path of inundation across farms.

Farmers on the New South Wales side of Murrumbidgee have waged a constant battle over the past three weeks to maintain flood levees holding flooding that is up to 60 cm higher than previous major floods.

Water is expected to remain on thousands of hectares of paddocks for about another month, severely hampering farming operations for months to come.

While near-record flooding on the Murray River and flooding of parts of towns have grabbed the headlines, the plight of farmers along the Wakool River has gone almost unnoticed.

Former Wakool shire councillor, Ron McDonald, believes the failure of authorities to carry through with a flood mitiga-

tion plan after flooding in the mid 1970s is aggravating the plight of farmers in the lower reaches of the catchment.

"It has done a lot of damage", Mr McDonald said.

Murray River flooding which has flowed out through the Koondrook State Forest on the NSW side and has entered creeks feeding the Wakool system to bolster the flood flow.

Sheep have been stranded on a couple of properties and thousands more have been transported out for agistment.

All but about 240 hectares of John and Judi Ficken's 1600-hectare "Merran Downs" is flooded and an adjoining McDonald family property is also severely affected.

Many district roads are also under water. The Wakool River flood is also pushing

water into the Merran Creek, which also traverses the Ficken property.

Mr Ficken has spent the past three weeks constantly patrolling and repairing sections of a 4 km levee.

"We had a couple of major breaks. We were able to plug one, but I let the other one go", he said.

A flock of lambs remain in a paddock near the house and 1200 breeding ewes are being agisted on a Victorian property.

Although the flooding appears to have surpassed previous floods, Mr Ficken said that it was the duration rather than the height that will affect his farming operations.

Paddocks started flooding during the last week in September and may not be dry for another month.

No feed will remain after such a period of

saturation and the Fickens do not expect to be able to re-introduce stock until late December.

Mr Ficken sees a certain irony in the expected need to sow pasture seed.

"In the name of progress, we ploughed up the native pasture. What little we have comes back better and is better for the stock. Normally there would be feed there after the water has gone down, but I'm not sure whether it would last that long either", he said.

Water is within 5 metres on one side of the house and Mr Ficken has been setting out each day in a motor boat, passing through the back gateway of the house yard and travelling for more than five minutes to take fuel to a tractor powering a pump, then returning to the boat and travelling for about another 10 minutes to check the state of the levee.



Farmer John Ficken carefully crosses a sandbagged section of a levee separating floodwaters from part of his property, 11 km north of Murrumbidgee, after refuelling a tractor being used to pump water off a paddock.

Domestic farm water payments altered

PAYMENT periods for stock and domestic supply water rates by landholders in the Normanville and East and West of Loddon water works districts have altered.

Water users must pay 20 per cent of their total bill by today and the balance by the end of February, rather than 50 per cent now and 50 per cent in February.

The new arrangement has been reached by Victorian Farmers Federation waters resources deputy chairman, Mr Colin Fenton, and the Rural Water Corporation Goulburn Murray regional board.

Mr Fenton said the new arrangement had been made following an anomaly in payment periods between local water work districts and the Wimmera-Mallee district.

He said many consumers had not realised they were required to pay 50 per cent by today until they had received a bill for payment.

Mr Fenton said the payment period should have been the same for all the water works districts.

SMILE FOR A DAY.

Wearing a smiling badge this Friday can help save lives.

Smile for a Day badge sales benefit the Life Education Centres in Australia including Northern Victoria.

The centres take positive health and anti-drug abuse programs to more than 1 million primary school children this year.

Patron for the annual appeal is entertainer, Cliff Richard, who points out, "did you know that over 500 people die each week from the effects of drug and alcohol abuse? And causes one in three deaths between 15 and 34 years of age?"

"It also costs each Australian almost \$1000 a year. This is in addition to the actual costs of drugs and alcohol."

"I believe it is a tragic human and economic waste and a price that no country should have to pay."

"However, there is good news and it comes from Australia's Life Education Centres."

"They are helping to solve the problem by preventing it before it begins, by giving our children the skills and knowledge to resist drug and alcohol abuse in early adolescence."

"Let us support this fantastic and innovative organisation in their efforts. You can do that in a concrete way by purchasing a Smile badge."

The Smile for Life badges are on sale for only \$2 each at The Northern Times and Cohuna Farmers' Weekly offices this week. Please buy a badge and help the children in our community.

INSIDE

Pilot survives plane crash

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WIN WITH YOUR LOCAL PAPER

FRIDAY

Caption **ZANETTI'S** cartoon

Win dinner for two at the Gilbert Club Hotel - and the original cartoon See Page 2

Previews:
PYRAMID HILL SHOW
BACK TO NORMANVILLE