

established 1895

Numurkah LEADER

PROUDLY INDEPENDENT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025 \$2.00

INSIDE



Happy birthday NPML

See story page 6



Cemetery facelift

See story page 4



Fishing fun

See story page 5



Time to read!

ONE of the greatest days on the Numurkah community's annual calendar was held recently - Community Reading day! Conga lines of costumed kids lined the streets as they headed to local businesses where local grown ups were ready to share the joy of reading. . See story page 3.

	Rnd 1	Rnd 2	Rnd 3
M 8/9	J. & M. Luci	C. & R. Hardham	Belmores Accountants
T 9/9	M. Porter	Numurkah Sec College	NO MORE TUES RND 3
W 10/9	R. Kennett	C. Boldt C. North	P. Sloan
T 11/9	CWA Baulkamaugh	St Joseph's Primary Sch	NO MORE THUR RND 3
F 12/9	R. Wright	CWA Baulkamaugh	C. Cole

If you would like to join our volunteer group for even just 1 hour a month, please contact Laura - 57421111 we would love to have a few more community members or businesses on board.

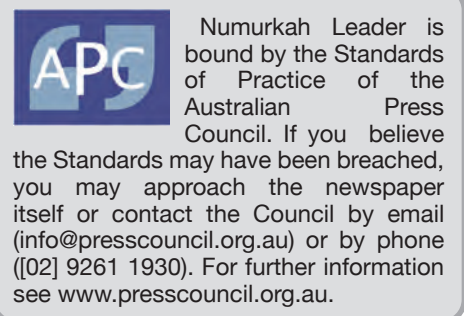


**"I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
BE HOMELESS."**

More people are now
facing homelessness
than ever before.



Visit **salvationarmy.org.au**
or scan the QR code



Footy franks trigger alarm

IT'S been a blissfully quiet week for local CFA brigades who have made just one turnout over the past seven days.

Last Thursday, August 28, at 11.15am, Numurkah, Wunghnu, Katunga and Waايا Fire Brigades, along with Shepparton Platform Pumper, were called to a report of a house fire at Madeline Street, Numurkah, between Thornton and Newby Streets. A saucepan of cocktail saveloys cooking on the stove were left unattended and burnt dry, setting off the smoke detector. The occupier had taken the saucepan outside when the fire brigade arrived. All oncoming vehicles were stopped enroute.

Community Strengthening grants now open

Emonson said.

“These grants help support projects that bring people together, improve our local environment and promote health and wellbeing across our communities.”

The grants support projects across seven categories:

- Arts and Culture
- Community Events
- Equipment
- Environmental Sustainability
- Health Promotion
- Tourism (must attract visitors from outside the Shire)
- Other community projects

Previous grants have supported diverse projects across the Shire including:

- Yarrawonga Yacht Club - new kitchen cup-

boards installation

- Katamatite Cricket Club - pitch covers and heat mat purchase
- Allegro Theatre Company - Theatre Drama Workshop program
- Lions Club Katamatite - permanent fencing installation at Katamatite Silos
- Numurkah Yarners Craft Fellowship Club - Christmas yarn bombing project

To be eligible, organisations must be incorporated not-for-profit groups with membership open to

Moirra Shire residents, or unincorporated entities registered with national statutory regulators.

Applications and guidelines are available at moira.vic.gov.au

Meet Murphy and Eevee



Numurkah LEADER

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www.numurkahleader.net.au



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Got a news tip?
Phone us on
5862 1034
or email
printads@leader.net.au

Off to read... Conga lines of costumed kids were a common sight throughout the morning as groups moved between their reading appointments.



Community comes together to share love of reading

PERHAPS the greatest day on the Numurkah community's annual calendar took place recently - Community Reading Day!

Over 200 primary and preschool kids from as far afield as Strathmerton and Wunghnu gathered in Newman Square dressed to the literary nines, before heading off on a guided tour of Numurkah to enjoy a range of picture books read by local business people.

The event, which is a partnership between NCN Health and Numurkah Library, involves youngsters from local primary and pre schools dressing up as their favourite book characters and visiting participating businesses around town to have picture books read to them.

NCN Health Team Leader Health Promotion and Community Engagement Jenny Burrows told the *Leader* there were many benefits to be gained from the event.

"Firstly, it promotes early literacy which we know is really important and is one of the foundations of lifelong health," she said.

"It's also a great way for kids to get to know the community, they also get a bit of outdoor exercise walking to and from the reading sites and learn some road safety as well. By having adults from different businesses read to them they can see that everyone can enjoy reading as well.

"Also, it's a lot of fun for everyone! We know people from the businesses that always participate really look forward to it, and we value a lot as a way for the community to interact and get to know each other."

The event involved children, from Numurkah Kindergarten and Bridie Knight Childcare, Goodstart Early Learning Centre, Strathmerton Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah Primary School and Wunghnu Primary School.

Twenty businesses took on the task of spreading a little joy through books, from fields as diverse as a veterinarian practice, a newspaper, a take away shop, a hardware store and real estate agents.



Thrilling tale... Geoff Buzza from Numurkah Home Timber & Hardware reads *Possum in the House* to a group of spellbound kids.



Getting familiar with the classics... A group of primary school kids are treated to a reading of Mem Fox's beloved Aussie classic *Possum Magic*.




**St Patrick's
Catholic Church
Strathmerton**
Celebrates
90 years of worship

**Mass will be held
Saturday 13th September 2025
at 6.00pm**

**Followed by refreshments
at the Railway Hotel
37 Main Street Strathmerton
Everyone welcome**

**For information contact
Chris 0428732488
Colleen 0429334458**



**Trophies
and
Engraving
requirements**

NumurkahLEADER

Ph.58621034
88 Melville St, Numurkah

Wunghnu cemetery gets a facelift

WUNGHNU cemetery has received a facelift, with a new entrance and a plaque commemorating the town's 150th anniversary.

A large crowd gathered for the unveiling on Sunday, including locals and descendants of those buried in the cemetery had travelled from as far as Wagga Wagga in New South Wales for the opening. Members of many Wunghnu pioneer families, including Mapletoft, Twitt, Gilles-

pie, Purdie, McGowan, Moss, Lowe and Galt, to name a few, were present to see the unveiling of the new entrance and enjoy a catch up over a coffee and BBQ.

The new entrance gates are a legacy project of the Numurkah Wunghnu Cemetery Trust to celebrate the Sesquicentenary of Wunghnu township, and 146 years since the first burial at Wunghnu, Susan Mapletoft in 1879.

Th new entrance project was made possible with a grant from the Bendigo Bank Community Grant Project.

Local contractors were employed along with volunteer Trust members who assisted in the project. The old gates have been reinstalled near the entrance and made into a seat which was much appreciated on the day.



Pretty schmick... After 146 years of serving the community, Wunghnu cemetery has been given a fresh new entrance.



Commemoration... Norm Newby and Lynette Mapletoft unveiled the plaque that commemorates the 150th anniversary of Wunghnu and 146 years since the first interment at the cemetery.



**Australia Day
Awards 2026**
Nominations now open

Award Categories

- Citizen of the Year
- Junior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Community Organisation of the Year
- Arts, Culture and/or Environment Project of the Year.

Nominations close Friday 21 November 2025

To find out more or to submit a nomination please visit www.moira.vic.gov.au

Nominations must be submitted via the smarty grants portal.





**Community
Strengthening
Grants Now Open**

**Up to \$10,000 available
for your community
project**

Applications are now open for Moira Shire Council's Community Strengthening Grants, offering up to \$10,000 to support arts, culture, events, equipment, sustainability, health, tourism and small capital projects.

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your community project with Council support!

Applications close 15 September 2025.

CONTACT US

For more information or for support please contact our friendly Customer Experience Team on (03) 5871 9222.

APPLY TODAY!

Visit our website or scan the QR code to view guidelines and to apply.



moira.vic.gov.au

Fishing for Father's Day fun

WEEKLY bush kinder sessions have become a treasured part of the program for Numurkah Kindergarten's four year-old kinder kids, and this week's sessions are extra special thanks to an invitation to some very special guests in honour of Father's Day.

Dads and Grandads have been invited to sessions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week with a special twist - fishing!

In a collaboration with Numurkah Fishing Club, which provided all of the equipment plus a barbecue lunch, the kids got to spend a couple of hours fishing at the Broken Creek with their favourite blokes - and a few mums too.

Although the section of creek that runs through Numurkah isn't renowned as a great place to actually catch fish, that was no problem for Monday's participants.

Elijah Donnelly, who was fishing with dad Chris while happily munching on a sausage in bread, was happy just to be there.

"I saw a fish and we caught some leaves!" he told the *Leader*.

Chris was equally unbothered by the lack of bites.

"It's great just to spend some time with my son on a beautiful day," he said.

Winnie Mapletoft, who attended the event with her Pop Peter Maguire, as her dad had to work, said she loves going fishing, especially with her Dad and Pop.

"It's really fun," she said.

"I caught a stick!"

Peter said he was more than happy to attend the event with his granddaughter.

"I came to see how good she was with a fishing rod," he said.

"It's been a really nice day."

Numurkah Fishing Club's Frank Barbaro said the members involved were more than happy to help make the event happen.

"It's part of our service to the community," he said.

"It's easy and fun for us. Most of us have got grand-kids, so we didn't think twice about making this happen."

"We've had three sessions with just kids over the past couple of weeks and we've got three sessions with dads this week. We also have our junior fishing competition coming up soon, which was a great success last year."

"Despite the relative lack of fish, it's a good spot here because we've got plenty of space and we've got the picnic tables and our shed is right here with all the equipment."

"It's great to be able to host events like this with the community."



Great day out... Elijah and Chris Donnelly might not have caught anything more impressive than a bunch of leaves, but they had a great time regardless.



Lots of fun... Winnie Mapletoft couldn't have been happier than to spend a morning fishing with her Pop Peter Maguire.

THIS WEEK'S HOTEL SPECIALS



**Father's Day This
Sunday 7th September**

Specials Menu

Pot and Parmesan \$22.00
*Traditional Chicken Parma with
chips and salad*

Pot and Steak \$40.00
*Porterhouse with mash, veg, red
wine jus and a chilli prawn topper*
From Fri Sept 5 - Fri Sept 12

Melville Street, Numurkah Ph. 5862 1066

Sunday 7th September
**FATHER'S
DAY TREAT**
One free pot per meal
Father's Day Lunch Only
Book a family table, phone 5862 1051



Specials Menu

**Eat in or Take-away
Mains**

Traditional Indian Prawns Curry
\$28.00

Slow Braised Beef Ribs \$32.00
Honey Soy Glazed Pork Belly \$30.00
*Whiting Risotto, asparagus, peas &
red sauce \$28.00*

Dessert

Cardamon & Cashew Rice
Pudding \$10.00

Thurs Sept 4 - Wed Sept 10

Melville Street, Numurkah Ph. 5862 1051



Strong ties to the Lodge... Past board members, volunteers and auxiliary members, celebrate 49 years of Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge and Lorna Morris and Margaret Mitchell's Birthdays. Back(from left): Margaret Caccianiga, Lindsay Mitchell, Barb McKeown, Margaret McClelland, Heather Brown Middle: Gweneth Varley and Rosemary Kennett. Front: Lorna Morris and Margaret Mitchell.

Birthday celebrations at the Lodge

NUMURKAH Pioneers Memorial Lodge celebrated 49 years on Thursday with residents their families and staff in attendance.

Adding to the festivities were the birthdays of Lorna Morris (98) and Margaret Mitchell. The event kicked off with a poetry recitation from Des Ginnane followed by a slideshow of photos from the recent Numurkah Historical Society's 150th celebration in town.

Lodge Resident John Scott cut the Lodge Birthday Cake to applause from the crowd. John spoke about how he supported the original Auxiliary when the Lodge was first built.

A number of attendees have had a long affiliation with the Lodge, including past Board Members, Auxiliary members and Volunteer Coordinators. Director of Operations Justin Sullivan spoke to the crowd about the progress of the new Residential Aged Care development that will eventually replace the Lodge. He explained that the build was in the detailed design phase with demolition happening at the site on Hurley

Court in the coming months. Construction of the new lodge will begin mid 2026 and be finished in 2027.

Winner of the Ladies Auxiliary birthday raffle was Margaret Powell and the crowd enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea of birthday cake, slices and sandwiches.

Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge was originally opened in 1976. The land was donated by the Numurkah Shire and was built up with landfill to protect the building from floods.

It was originally designed as a hostel and featured 36 single rooms with ensuites. The NPML auxiliary was formed and continues today. The auxiliary raises funds for the resident's lifestyle program activities, furniture and equipment to enhance the quality of life for residents.

The committee employed the staff and were responsible for the operations of NPML. Potential residents wrote to the committee to ask if they could become a resident. The cost was \$500 to enter. Residents were able to bring their car and

a car port was provided. There was no nursing care, a manager was employed to run the facility. Meals were cooked in the Numurkah District Health Service kitchen located across the road and delivered to the Lodge via vehicle transport. This was lunch and dinner. Breakfast was prepared in the Lodge kitchen. This arrangement is still in place today.

In early 2000s the ownership of NPML was transferred to Numurkah District Health Service and the land title was transferred around 2007. In 2003 a master plan was done of Numurkah District Health Service to redevelop the whole site. Funding was provided in 2004 for stage one which included a new residential aged care facility, known as Karinya (was previously Baala), new support services building including kitchen, staff dining, stores, laundry etc. A new maintenance shed was also built at this time.

NPML was to be included in stage two which was to bring NPML across the road to the main campus and join Karinya making it a 66-bed res-

idential aged care facility. Also, to be included in stage two was a new hospital. Stage two was not funded. In 2012 floods destroyed the Numurkah District Health Service hospital and in 2013 following a master plan commissioned by Department of Health the budget included funding to build a new hospital. The 2013 master plan excluded NPML despite the Board trying hard to have it included. In addition to getting the funding for the new hospital the Commonwealth Health and Hospitals Fund granted us nearly \$5m to build a new primary health facility. The Board and both governments agreed to combine the funding of \$23.8m to build the new hospital and primary health facility. Unfortunately, NPML was not included.

In 2023 NCN Health has welcomed the Victorian Government's commitment to the redevelopment of the Numurkah Pioneers Memorial Lodge through the allocation of up to \$55 million in the state budget.

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To all the Dad's and Dad figures, we wish you a Happy Father's Day!

- From the team at the
Numurkah LEADER

Dad's Day,
Build a Pie Box
add a cake too!

Great for Lunch or Tea. You and the family decide what goes in it.

Numurkah Bakery Café
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Pick up Saturday Sept. 6 to enjoy on Sunday

A FATHER'S DAY FEAST

Cuts of meat for a BBQ or roast for Dad and family to enjoy.

Check in with Adam and the Crew.

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PH. 5862 1225

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TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government



NumurkahLEADER Classifieds

DEATHS

ANDERSON (Linden) – Isabelle “Jean”

17. 09. 1937 – 30. 08. 2025

Late of Numurkah, (formerly of Raymond Terrace, NSW; and Queensland). Passed away peacefully at Karinya, Numurkah.

Wife of Roy (dec.). Mother and mother-in-law of Karen and Tony (Roberts); Brian and Sharon; Robyn and Mick (Cameron). Gran and Granny to her 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Your Memory Is Our Greatest Treasure
To Have And To Hold In Our Hearts
Forever

‘Forget Me Not’

Private Cremation.

Peter Cox & Sons
03 5862 3047

JORGENSEN
Gavin Talbot
Of Waaia

Peacefully departed this life at Numurkah Pioneer Memorial Lodge to be reunited with his beloved Joanie on August 31 2025, aged 96 years and 9 months.

Dearly loved father & father-in-law of Michael & Dianne, Chris & Gill, Glen & Vicki, Paul & Virginia, Cherished Pa to Tameeka & Luke, Kalynda & Levi, Luke & Vanessa, Drew & Teagan, Sophie, Dani & Adam, Ashleigh & Cam
Great Pa to Tessa & Ned, Henry & Archie, Kayli, Marly & Ellie, Cooper & Dusty

Our deeply cherished & respected Patriarch who lived for his family and loved the Waaia Community

We hold you in our hearts forever
Good, better best, Pa, you have earned your eternal rest
XXXXXXXXXX

Funeral details are yet to be finalised.
Please see later paper or contact -

Peter Cox & Sons
03 5862 3047

DEATHS

ROCHFORD
Moya

16.4.1934 - 28.8.2025

Lived in Invergordon for 20 + years.
One of the last original settlers.

R.I.P.

Barry & family

DEATHS



JORGENSEN,

Gavin
The Waaia Football Netball Club and community mourn the passing of our much-loved Life Member, legend and true gentleman. A loyal member of our Club and the PDFNL, Gavin's contribution will never be forgotten. Deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

Rest peacefully,
Gav

NumurkahLEADER

Classifieds

03 5862 1034

In Memoriam

For Sale

Engagement

Birthday

Thank You

Wedding

FUNERAL NOTICES

MAPLETOFT — Friends are warmly invited to gather with the family of Mrs. Jessie Christina Mapletoft to share memories and refreshments at the Wunghnu Tavern, **THIS MORNING,** Wednesday 3rd September 2025, from 11.30 am. Preceded by Private Family Service.

PETER COX & SONS
Funeral Directors
Numurkah & District
(03) 5862 3047
Member of the A.F.D.A.

ROCHFORD.
Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mrs Moya Rochford will be offered at St John's Catholic Church, Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah, on Friday, September 5, 2025, commencing at 11am.
Followed by Interment at the Numurkah Lawn Cemetery.
Rosary will be recited at the above Church at 7pm Thursday evening September 4, 2025.
To view the live stream of Moya's Service go to link vimeo.com/event/1875005

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IVAN NEWBY
PETER KRAKE

DEATHS

MAPLETOFT (Prentice)
Jessie Christina

Died peacefully on Tuesday morning
August 26, 2025, aged 95

Devoted wife of Bruce (dec)
Loving mother of Lynette, Rosemary, Trevor (dec) and Dianne
Mother-in-law of John, Helen, & Craig
Grandma of Liam, Hannah, Ross, Iain, Adele, Zoe & Nicola
Great grandmother of Winifred, Madeline, Otis, Lennox & Sophie.
Sister of Isobel Cousins (dec)

Many thanks to all the staff at Ave Maria, Shepparton for their wonderful care of Jessie.

'There are no goodbyes, where ever you'll be, you'll be in my heart.'
- Mahatma Gandhi

ROCHFORD
(nee Kervin),
Moya Philomena.
16.04.1934 ~ 28.08.2025.

Peacefully at
Numurkah Hospital.

Dearly loved Wife of Patrick (dec).
Loving Mother and Mother-In-Law of Barry and Anne, Colleen and Steve, Daniel, Denise and Stuart, Patrick and Francine, Mick and Renee.
Adored Grandmother of 18 Grandchildren.

*We have so many happy memories.
You will be forever in our hearts.*



Numurkah LEADER

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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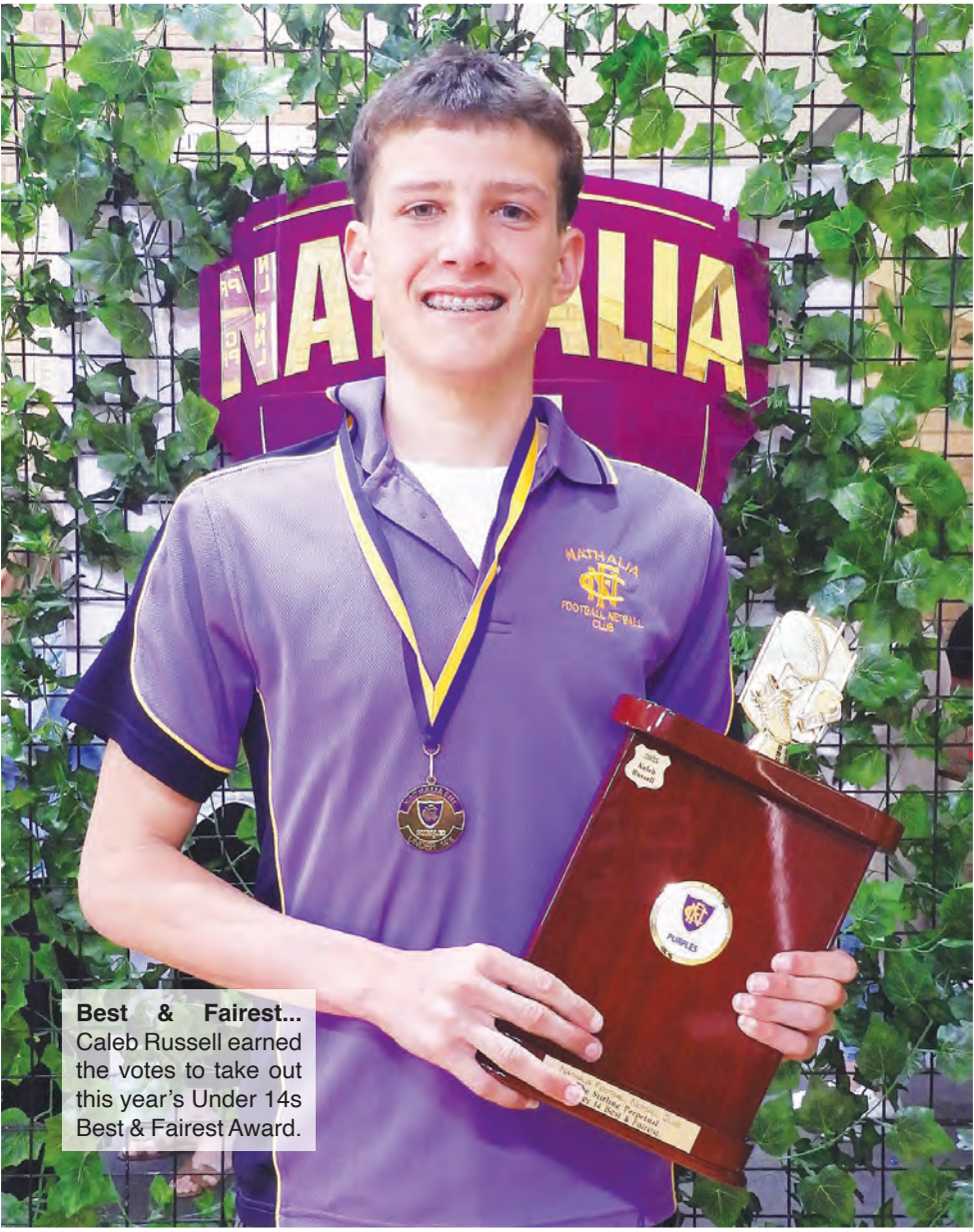
Ph 5862 1034
88 Melville St
Numurkah

Junior Purples celebrated

NATHALIA'S Under 14 footballers have celebrated the end of season 2025 with an end of year celebration and awards presentation.

Caleb Russell earned the votes to take out this year's Best & Fairest Award, while Kade Rogers came Runner-Up.

The award for Most Consistent was presented to Charlie McDonald, Hayden Feltham won the prize for Leading Goal-Kicker, the Most Disciplined went to Spencer Caldwell, Evan Ratcliffe was recognised as Most Improved, and the Coaches' Award went to Asher Johns.



Nathalia Under 17s recognised

NATHALIA'S Under 17 footballers have celebrated the end of season 2025 with an end of year celebration and awards presentation. Levi Lower earned the votes to take out this year's Best & Fairest Award, while Declan Begley came Runner-Up.

The award for Most Consistent was presented to River Freeman, Gus Frostick won the prize for Leading Goal-Kicker with 42 goals for the season and was also the fifth highest Under 17s goal kicker in the Murray League, the Most Disciplined award went to Dylan Dohnt, Tristan Kendall was recognised as Most Improved, and the Coaches' Award went to Cam McDonald.



Runner-Up...
Declan Begley was presented with the Runner-Up Best & Fairest award.



Best & Fairest...
Levi Lower earned the votes to take out this year's Under 17s Best & Fairest Award.



Golden boot... Gus Frostick won the prize for Leading Goal-Kicker with 42 goals for the season.



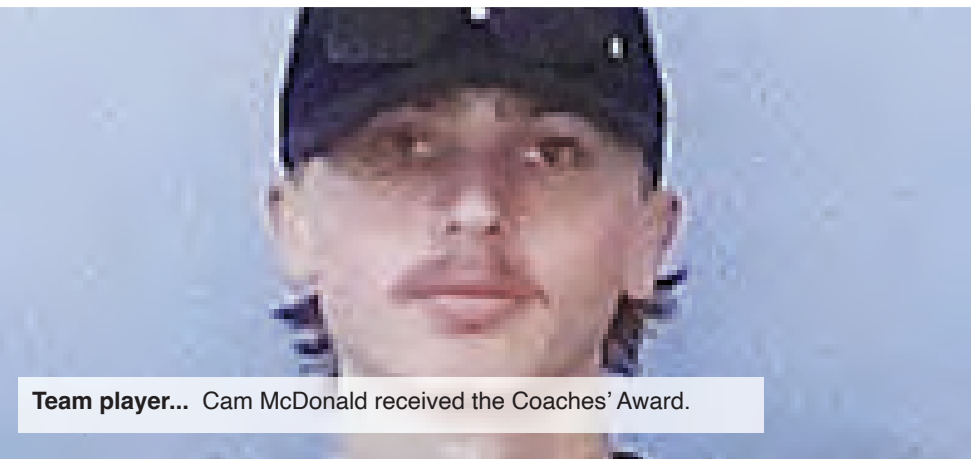
Most Disciplined... His commitment throughout the season won Dylan Dohnt the award for Most Disciplined.



Strength to strength... Tristan Kendall was recognised as Most Improved for his skill gains this season.



Most Consistent... His steady performance throughout the season earned River Freeman the Most Consistent award.



Team player... Cam McDonald received the Coaches' Award.

Purples girls awarded

NATHALIA'S Youth Girls footballers have celebrated the end of season 2025 with an end of year celebration and awards presentation. Ariella Vallender earned the votes to take out this year's Best & Fairest Award, and also received the Leading Goal Kicker award for her total of eight goals throughout the season.

Addison Wardle received the Runner-Up Best & Fairest award, Sienna Jorgensen received the award for Most Determined, the award for Most Consistent was presented to Kasey Caldwell, the Most Improved award went to Summer McIver, the Coaches' Award went to Lucy Damon, and the Nathalia Hair & Beauty Have-A-Go award went to Grace Leslie.



Runner-Up...
Addison Wardle was presented with the Runner-Up Best & Fairest award.



Best & Fairest... Ariella Vallender received both the Nathalia's Youth Girls football side's Best & Fairest award and the leading Goal Kicker award.



Most Determined... Her commitment throughout the season won Sienna Jorgensen the award for Most Determined.



Team player... Lucy Damon received the Coaches' Award.

Blues recognise their juniors

NUMURKAH'S junior footballers have celebrated the end of season 2025 with an end of year celebration and awards presentation.

Ollie Ruscoe earned the votes to take out this year's Under 17s Best & Fairest Award, while Izaak Hopkins came Runner-Up, while in the

Under 14s, Declan Stockwin took Best & Fairest honours and Khanlee Crowe was Runner-Up.

Also in Under 14s, Angus Parkinson was awarded Most Consistent, Bailey Archer was presented with the award for Most Determined, and Cruze Morley was recognised as Most Improved.



3rds B & F – Ollie Ruscoe.



3rds Runner Up – Izaak Hopkins.



4ths B & F – Declan Stockwin.



4ths Runner Up – Khanlee Crowe.

Junior netballers awarded

NUMURKAH Football Netball Club has a presentation night to honour its junior netballers and award those who have especially shone this season.

In the 17 & Under grade, Best & Fairest for the 2025 season was awarded to Bridget Brown, with Nuhlira Morgan as Runner-Up, and Ella Parkinson receiving the Coach's Award

Best & Fairest in the 15 & Under grade went

to Poppy Dobson, with Molly O'Callaghan being awarded as Runner-Up, and Addison Newell receiving the award for Most Improved.

In the 13 & Under grade Matilda Ruscoe earned the votes to be awarded Best & Fairest, Rahni O'Callaghan was Runner-Up, and the Coach's Award went to Indi Rodda.

The coveted Junior Club Person of the Year went to Skyla Norrish.

Well earned... Best & Fairest in NFNC's 15 & Under grade went to Poppy Dobson.



Gun... Bridget Brown was voted Best & Fairest for NFNC's 17 & Under team.



Great work... Molly O'Callaghan was awarded as Runner-Up Best & Fairest for NFNC's 15 & Under team.



B&F... In the 13 & Under grade Matilda Ruscoe earned the votes to be awarded Best & Fairest.



Runner-up... Rahni O'Callaghan was Runner-Up Best & Fairest in the 13 & Under grade.



Every club needs one of these... Junior Club Person of the Year award was presented to Skyla Norrish.



It was a short break

By PG
AFTER having reported the arrival of much improved perfect golfing weather at last week's Thursday Bear challenge at Numurkah golf, unfortunately, this week we can't say the same, with 42 brave souls venturing out in very blustery, cold conditions, optimistic that the forecast rain would stay away - and luckily it did.
The score of the day, 38 points, belonged to Daryl "Dasher" Sheridan who made a mockery of the trying conditions to pick up the B Grade winner's prize by a shot from Neil "Budgie" Parker. It was suggested that Budgie, who has been struggling a little, may have been advantaged a little in the windy conditions due to his relatively low centre of gravity. A good score just the same.
A Grade winner's prize was presented to Adam "Happy Days" Farrell, who obviously benefited from the warm weather he had experienced recently on a holiday, to hand in 37 points on his first game back. Runner up to Happy, on 36, was "Mr Consistent" Marty Daniels. Marty, who rarely wears a jumper, no doubt benefited from the conditions, as he couldn't see what all the fuss was about.

Another one who obviously benefited from his lengthy holiday was Graham "The Eagle" Ashton. The Eagle, after losing the B Grade countback to Budgie, picked up four golf balls at the top of the ball chart. Seven players returned 35 points with the big beneficiaries of the count back system being Billy Green and Ian Dodd, with Bill getting three balls and Ian two. The remaining five players received a ball each: Graeme "Doggie" Sprunt, Colin McMin, Micheal Rossborough, David Scanlan and Neil Hutchins. The following three players to return 33s all received a ball as well: Nathan Morris, another benefiting from a recent holiday - Mark Hegarty, and our current sole remaining village person Billy "Sugar" Caine.
A visitor, Kevin Mooney, didn't leave empty handed, albeit with the tin of boiled lollies firmly in his grasp, and for the second week in a row Geoff Partington won his own sponsored OBE ball.
Mark Hegarty almost holed his second shot on two to win Nifty Smith's ball, Micheal Rossborough picked up the GMCU ball on four, Geoff Stone hit a great shot into seven to collect the players' cash seventh, Marty Dan-

iel' still not wearing a jumper' hit two great shots into the Roy and Dennis 14th, and Billy Green collected a ball off "The Coach" Bazza Pruden on the final hole. As has been the case in the previous four weeks, even with a handy tail breeze for assistance this week - although some players were heard lamenting the assistance when their shots failed to stop ending up over the back of the green - the Doggie Sprunt 15th once again remained uncrackable, with the jackpot advancing to five balls next week.
All that remains now are the ears, and although we had one group make a bit of a hash of manually scoring a round, the ears were justifiably presented to one wee Colin McMin, as it wasn't detected until Andy McKeown's name was called and he didn't appear, that Colin had taken the liberty to enter Andy but inadvertently had failed to alert him to the fact as Andy was busily working elsewhere on the day.
The challenge returns next Thursday same time 9.30am for a 10 o'clock start, with the added incentive of trying to conquer the difficult 15th hole and prize five balls out of Doggie Sprunt's cupboard.

Two person medley ambrose for something different

By Go Cats
A "CAPTAIN Garry's Call" saw a change to Saturday's event, with a two person medley ambrose replacing a par day, and it was a good call given how the weather was looking. In this medley event, the pairings can be two men, two women or one of each, and each player needs to record a minimum of six drives for the round.
A field of 26 pairs headed out in blustery conditions, ready to check out the recently cored greens, which had benefited from the bit of rain during the week. Scoring was very good, considering the conditions and there was less than five shots between first and 14th place.
Coming home with the win was the pairing of David "How can I have possibly got down to a six handicap" Ludington and Mitch "The Club Champ" Grandell with a nett 65.75, earning them a prize portal boost of \$45 each. I played in the same group as these two and they were ruing several close shave putts until David

produced the putt of the day on the 17th hole, knocking in a 25 to 30 footer for a birdie, which was their fifth one for the day and securing them a win. Initially, David was paired to play with his son Nicholas, but a late change saw Mitch, "David's other Son" called off the interchange bench, when Nick had other commitments. Very astute team management David!
Second, third and fourth places were separated by a countback, with club employee team of Anthony "Bear" Sanders and Tyson "Tiger" Woods taking advantage of a chance to have an afternoon of golf together, pipping Denis Prosser and Thomas Estrada, and Ben Jalkanen and Ryan "Tweaked Performance" Cosens, with all three teams recording 66.25 nett. Anthony and Tyson picked up \$20 each, while Denis and Thomas had three balls added to their prize portal each, and Ben and Ryan two.
The ball rundown saw the first of the mixed teams, Tracey Clouston and Garry Hosie, pick up a ball each for a nett 67, ahead of early start-

ers Dallas Hill and Jack Thomas, and another mixed team of Julie and Martin Daniels, with both pairings finishing on nett 67.25. Davin Scott and Micheal Deacon came in with a nett 67.75 to score a ball each, with the final group in the ball run down being Adam "Happy Days" Farrell and Mark "Yak" Hegarty on nett 68.75.
Surprisingly, the NTP on the fourth went begging, however Mitch Grandell and Julie Daniel cleaned up on the seventh. Steffen Norbye took the 15th, while Julie scored her second NTP ball on the 18th and Ian Dodd put in a very fine shot on the 18th to not only take the NTP ball but also the eagles' nest, for being inside one metre from the hole.
The annual visit to Royal Chiltern is scheduled for Sunday, September 14, so don't forget to add your name to the list on the men's notice board, if you are wanting to go.
Next Saturday's event is par.
Happy Hitting.

Fog can't stop the vets

THE morning fog had lifted by 10am to send the 50 veteran golfers on their way at Merrigum Golf Club, on Monday. The playing conditions were perfect with a temperature from 8-15oC and a gentle breeze not topping 13 km/hr. Most jumpers were off before noon.
"Preferred lies" were implemented to compensate for the tough autumn-winter grass growing conditions on the fairways. The "Young Vets" sponsored the trophies on the day and the Merrigum ladies again catered admirably with ham and cheese toasties followed by hot apple crumble and ice cream.
Scores were well below par for many golfers, possibly falling victim to the tight spaces off a number of the tees, although the fairways are a generous width once through the gap.
Jim Georgiou of Shepparton GC headed A-Grade on countback from John Fuller of

Merrigum, both with 35 stableford points.
This winning margin was stretched in B-Grade where Laurie Radley (Rochester) with 37 points was followed by Richard Stockdale (Ky Parkland) with 30 points. Incidentally, Richard achieved this position last year with 34 points.
Ian Clarke of Kialla, with 31 points, emerged victorious from a small field in C-Grade and a surprised Ian Scurrah (Lockington) runner-up with 29 points.
Nearest the pin was contested on the 149 metre long ninth hole, where no-one troubled the scorer. The trees protecting a direct flight to the green were the winners on the day.
Ball winners in A-Grade: Dennis Prosser (Numurkah), Kevin Humbert (Lockington), Jack Dell, Numurkah), Rolf Weber (Mooroopna), Don Hughes, Murchison), John

Mortimer (Shepparton) and Mick McAuliffe (Valley View). B-Grade: Phil Steers (Shepparton), Mick Stevens (Mooroopna), Bernard O'Hare (Nathalia), Clyde Hammond (Kialla). C-Grade: Geoff Squires (Valley View).
Our next event is at Hill Top Golf & Country Club, Tatura, on Monday, September 22, 2025, 9.30 assembly for 10am tee. This is the first round of our championship with the championship sponsored by Goulburn Murray Credit Union. The champion in all grades is decided on the best two scores over the three rounds at our venues in September, October and November.
We have two teams entered into the VVGA annual teams tournament at Portland GC on Monday-Tuesday, September 15-16, where "Team One" is defending their trophy from 2024.

Three clubs and a putter

By In the Rough
GOLFERS are allowed a maximum of 14 clubs in their bag when they play a round of golf, and most golfers would carry this number to allow them to be prepared for all contingencies. A driver, fairway woods, long irons, short irons, wedges and a putter. Last Wednesday the ladies that braved some quite unpleasant weather were handicapped by being restricted to three clubs of their choice, and a putter. This was not the only challenge on the day, as the greens were cored and sanded a couple of days prior and bore no resemblance to the slick green surface the girls are used to.
Seven ladies played 18 holes and another five played a nine hole event. Triumphant in the 18 hole event was Helen Schmedje who coped pretty well with the format and conditions to score 33 points, one point clear of Merren Carr and M'Liss McCarty on 32. Merren won the countback to be runner up on the day. M'Liss won a ball and a voucher to the Shamrock Hotel for her shot to the seventh green, and Bev Hutchins won a ball and a voucher to the Numurkah Bakery for her nearest the pin on the 18th.

Gayle Smith, who has been in great form, again played very well to score 19 points and again win the nine hole comp, with Mavis Birrell one point behind on 18. Gayle continues to reduce her handicap knocking two points off over the last two outings.
Saturday saw 52 players pair up to play a two person ambrose. There were ladies, men's and mixed pairs represented, and all played for the same prize pool. Mitch Grandell and David Ludington took the honours from Anthony Sanders and Tyson Woods. The only ladies to feature in the presentations were Tracey Clouston who partnered Captain Garry Hosie to come in fifth to win a ball, and Julie Daniel pairing with her husband Martin took seventh spot to also win a ball. Julie played great shots to the seventh and 18th greens to claim the nearest the pin on both and be rewarded with two more balls.
On Sunday, Bev Hutchins and M'Liss McCarty represented Numurkah at Murchison. Having played on our newly sanded greens stood them in good stead playing the sandscapes at Murchison. M'liss holed out from 70 metres on one par four to add an amazing five points to their score. They had a great day out, not winning the event but coming home with a beautiful bouquet of flowers each for being runners up on the day.
Today, 13 ladies are heading to Yarrawonga to attempt to bring home the Murray Broken Challenge Trophy. This is a biannual event held when the respective clubs are renovating their greens. A mammoth task faces the girls from Numurkah. Not only will they need to stay out of the rough but, more importantly, out of the numerous bunkers that guard the greens. Good luck.

Numurkah Small Bore Rifle Club results

THIS week's Numurkah Small Bore Rifle Club top scorers were Shane Keats with 196.7 in 20m Benchrest, Brad Sneddon with 192.3 in 50m Prone, and both Lindsay Braybon and Rod Hill shooting 195.8 in 20m Prone.
20m Benchrest: S Keats 97.3 99.4 196.7; S Keats 97.2 98.8 195.10; Colin Saxton 98.3 96.2 194.5; D Cook 96.1 98.4 194.5; G Braybon 93.1 94.0 187.1.
50m Prone: B Sneddon 97.1 95.2 192.3; J Matys 90.0 86.1 176.1; J Matys 84.0 85.2 169.2.
20m Prone: L Braybon 96.4 99.4 195.8; R Hill 97.4 98.4 195.8; H O'Brien 96.1 98.5 194.6; G Miles 97.5 96.1 193.6.
There will be shooting as usual Thursday night in Numurkah.

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Knights go out swinging

THE Numurkah Knights Under 6s played Grahamvale on Saturday in an epic clash to end the season with a bang.

Grahamvale caught the young Knights off guard early, however with one game left, it wasn't long before Numurkah picked up their pace and showed what they've got. Renato Santana-Roumpo and Zara Hazelman's ball-winning abilities were on display for all, accompanied by some incredible dribbling from Oliver Nugent and Sam Burns, Numurkah's chances started raining in.

Max Pettigrove started the second half very well, standing tall in defence with some excellent last second saves, with Nicoletta Santana-Roumpo's excellent pressure a great help too. Isabelle Malcolm, Emerson Kerry and Sam Hazelman won the awards this week. Isabelle's dribbling impressed all, getting past multiple players multiple times, Emerson Kerry's great set pieces made every attack look dangerous, and Sam Hazelman's acceleration had him saving goals up one end and almost scoring them in the same play down the other. Great performances from both sides on a cold windy day in Shepparton.

The Knights Under 8s took on Shepparton City in truly atrocious conditions on Saturday. With the wind howling like a freight train, and rain pelting from every direction, it was always going to be a tough test.

The Knights lined up without a few of their key playmakers, which meant every player had to dig deep. Shepparton City took early advantage of the gale, piling on three quick goals and forcing the Knights onto the back foot. Attacking into the wind was a near-impossible task, and the Knights went into the break trailing 0-3.

After the change of ends, the momentum swung. With the wind now at their backs, Numurkah kept the ball camped in Shepparton's half and created chance after chance. Jetty Hastings broke through with a well-taken goal that lifted spirits and gave the Knights a sniff of a comeback. Despite relentless pressure and multiple opportunities, the final touch just wouldn't come.

In the end, the Knights went down 1-3 — their first defeat since the early rounds — but the effort, teamwork, and sportsmanship shone through in what was one of the toughest matches of the season.

Although this week marked the end of the Under 8s campaign, the team is buzzing with excitement to step up and help the Under 10s in next week's Gala Weekend.

The Knights Under 10s also played in difficult conditions this week, with the wind howling in off the snowy mountains for their match against St Luke's.

The Knights showed great strength, making multiple goal attempts in the first half of the match, with the wind in their favour. Eli Galvin, Alex Jovanovski, Joel Brennan and Jetter Arkoshy worked hard keeping the ball in play under immense pressure, while Lincoln Voigt, August Alston, Taylor Mongan, Oliver Mason and Ben Hubbard battled hard to push the ball toward goals, scoring two against the odds.

The rain started in the second half of the match, making the conditions much worse and the wind working against the Knights. While there were many signature defensive kicks from Sonny Murray down the field, and a lot of grit and hard work from all, the opposition were stronger, certainly in numbers and in defence, with players often using their bodies to stop the ball and intercept the play. If Caleb Campbell wasn't such a strong goalie, there would surely have been many more St Luke's goals scored.



Knights never say die... The Numurkah Knights Open Girls team ready to do battle against Shepparton united on Saturday before the weather turned on them.

Despite the Knights slogging it out in the rain and wind and hoping for the win, St Luke's stepped up and scored two goals in the final minutes of the game to seal the 3-2 win. They certainly had strength in their attack game in the second half of the match.

The Knights Under 12s played Shepparton Blasters this week in their semi-final.

Winning the toss, the Knights elected to kick with the wind; the plan was to score a couple, while at the same time trying to tire the Blasters. Unfortunately, Numurkah were unable to find the back of the net, but not without trying; there

was at least a dozen great shots on goal that barely missed or were caught by the goalie. Left back Logan Smith tried his best from long range on three occasions with each shot getting closer to the target. Ayden Watt also hit a couple of long-range shots, but again, without success. Daniel Te did hit the back of the net only to be disallowed for offside.

The first half definitely belonged to Shepparton, however Numurkah fought very hard to get back into the game and won more of the position in the second half, but just didn't get the opportunities they deserved on the day.

As usual, the Knights played with every ounce of energy they had until the final whistle, even though they were never going to pull it back at that stage.

The game was a well fought out battle, and the 0-6 win for Shepparton was not a true reflection of the game.

Lots of awards this week: Max Opie, Elsa Hastings, Ariah Arkoshy, Logan Smith and Raleigh Beverley, with the coaches' award once again going to Logan for another outstanding performance; look out for his name in the future.

The Numurkah Knights' Open Girls were up against the top team, Shepparton United, in their semi-final on Saturday.

Despite the atrocious conditions, the sideline was full of spectators ready to cheer the girls till the final whistle. The game started off with Numurkah showing dominance, going after every ball coming through the midfield. The midfield of Ruby Davis, Grace Jones, Charlie Mison and

Trinity Attwell were relentless on the ball, giving United little breathing room. The wind kept all the players guessing on occasion and there were many impressive headers from Lotte and Trinity Attwell.

Toward the end of the first half, with the game till scoreless, the girls showed amazing teamwork and set up a brilliant goal scoring opportunity for Brianna Boyden, which she executed beautifully. Emotions were high leading into halftime with the girls sensing that victory was close!

The Knights took the field in the second half determined to hang onto their lead, alas, United managed to slip one past, in part thanks to the wind. Lilly Fiddock showcased a masterclass performance in goals, throwing herself on the ground with grit and passion determined to keep them out of the game. The second half was tightly contested, and the sideline of spectators were looking just as stressed as the players! Savannah Mison did a brilliant job of keeping the defensive line ready and organised to stop United breaking through. Heartbreakingly, United managed to get a penalty in the final minutes which they managed to score from to take the final score to 2-1.

The game showcased just how far this exceptional group of girls have come over the last few seasons. To lose to the top team by one goal is an absolutely monumental achievement. The girls can be proud of their hard work, sportsmanship and team spirit. They put on an epic show for everyone watching and they can be proud of everything they have achieved this season.



Open Girls Ruby Davis launching onto the ball.



Strong in defence... Nathalia Goal Keeper Bella Cavallaro passes the ball to Goal Defence Alysha Cornell to get it out of Congupna's goal ring.

Purple girls battle on

AFTER a gallant four quarter effort against Congupna on the weekend, Nathalia's C Reserve netball teams get to progress to week two of the 2025 finals.

Nathalia knew from the get-go that Congupna would take it up to them, but the never say

die attitude, coupled with a composed and calm finish, saw the Purples come away with the win.

Nathalia were pushed to play their best, and continue to rise at each break, as Congupna continued to peg back the small leads the Purples

created throughout the game. Nathalia had to reset their focus a few times through the game, but they never lost their determination, and fought out the match right to the final whistle.

For three quarters the teams couldn't be separated, and Nathalia, spurred on by a loud and

proud crowd, took the reigns in the fourth quarter to finish, looking like the team that has been unbeaten in the later part of this season. The girls take on Cobram at Numurkah next Sunday in what is set to be another good tussle.

Nathalia 47 defeated Congupna 41.

Bombers surge forward into prelims

IT was a fiercely contested battle when second-placed Waaia faced seventh-placed Jerilderie, a side with nothing to lose but everything to gain, in the Picola Netball League's C Grade semi-final on Sunday.

From the first whistle, the game was goal-for-goal, with neither team able to break away. The Bombers' defenders fought hard but struggled to gain an inch against a tall target in Jerilderie's shooting ring, keeping the margin tight at half time.

The momentum shifted after the break when Waaia shooter Claire Baxter came out firing, sinking crucial shots to push the Bombers into the lead at three-quarter time.

The final quarter had everyone on edge, as possession became the deciding factor. Every ball mattered, and both sides refused to give in. In the last three minutes, the Bombers dug deep, lifted their intensity, and played their best netball when it counted. After 57 minutes of grind, they showed up in the final three to secure the win.

The Bombers will be looking to take advantage of

their home-court status when they meet Katunga in the preliminary final at Waaia this Saturday.

Waaia 43 defeated Jerilderie 38.

After last week's tough loss, Waaia's Under 17 netballers pulled together to face off against Tungamah in Saturday's semi-final.

From the very first centre pass, it was clear the Bombers had a renewed sense of energy and determination. The defensive pressure was elite, forcing turnovers all over the midcourt. Waaia's defenders were relentless, grabbing intercepts both in and outside the goal ring, and executing a perfect three feet. Their shooters were in perfect sync, converting almost every opportunity that came their way. And no matter the rotations, the team maintained their focus and chemistry, continuing to build on each quarter.

It was a brilliant, collective effort from start to finish from Waaia who will now face Berrigan in the preliminary final this Sunday.

Waaia 38 defeated Tungamah 21.

Katunga's seniors finals hopes dashed

KATUNGA'S A Grade netballers met Dookie United in the semi-final on Sunday, with high hopes of keeping their finals campaign alive.

The Swans had worked hard all week on their response from the week before, and, as usual, there was some nerves and Dookie capitalized on Katunga's early errors. The Swans remained positive, and kept this mindset going on court with Rachael Crowther setting the standard with some beautiful intercepts and pressure, getting the ball back for her side. Chelsea Winn was a real driving force in WA, and wore her opponents down all game with her pace and determination.

The second half saw Katunga really gel, and this swung the momentum their way with some hard defence, great feeding and smart goal circle movement which saw them pull back from six goals down.

The last quarter could have gone either way, and Katunga's positivity kept them going until the final siren sounded on a tie.

In extra time it was still anyone's game. Katunga's work rate didn't flag, and they played an entire 19 minutes of extra time with no sign of slowing down, but unfortunately fell two goals short.

While not the result they wanted, it was a great team game to finish 2025 with.

Dookie United 46 defeated Katunga 44.

Katunga's C Reserve netballers faced off against a determined Picola United side on a miserable day for netball weather-wise. Unfortunately for the Swans, Picola seemed better able to handle the conditions, and came away with an eight goal victory and a spot in this Sunday's preliminary final against Waaia.

Katunga 18 defeated by Picola United 26.

Can't stop me... Tanner Quinn gets a handball away under pressure for Nathalia's fourths.



Junior Purps still in it

NATHALIA'S fourths put together another strong performance on the weekend, defeating Barooga by 31 points. Nathalia started steadily before breaking the game open in the second quarter, piling on four goals to take control of the contest. From there, they maintained their pressure and work rate right across the ground, never allowing Barooga back into the game.

It was a great all-round team effort, with plenty of contributors. Caleb Russell was outstanding, winning plenty of the ball and using it well. Charlie McDonald gave the side drive through the middle, while Kade Rogers competed strongly all game. Seb Garner and Evan Ratcliffe were both impressive in their roles, and Xavier Murray also stood out with his effort around the ground. The boys showed great teamwork, linking up well with handballs and keeping their structure throughout the game.

Nathalia 7.8.50 defeated Barooga 2.7.19.

Goals: C. Russell, L. Barton 2, W. Feltham, P. Sherer-Richards 1.

Best: Caleb Russell, Charlie McDonald, Kade Rogers, Seb Garner, Evan Ratcliffe, Xavier Murray.



Take that... Nathan Hicks kicks to a teammate on the lead.

Senior Blues' season over

IN a hard-fought Elimination Final at Deniliquin, Moama proved too strong for Numurkah's senior team, ending the Blues' season with a 10-point victory.

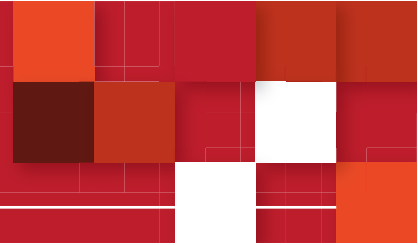
Moama had the advantage of a strong breeze in the first quarter but were kept in check by a determined Numurkah side, who trailed by just one point at quarter time. The second term saw the breeze favour Numurkah, but they struggled to fully capitalise, heading into the main break with only a slight lead.

The second half was a see-sawing affair, with both teams finding goals hard to come by as pressure mounted. In the end, Moama were able to make the most of their opportunities and finished stronger, running out 10-point winners.

Moama 8.9.57 defeated Numurkah 7.5.47.

Goals: Z. McKeown 1, T. Arnel 1, B. Jones 1, J. O'Dwyer 1, K. Lukies 1, J. Holmes 1, B. Millen 1.

Best: Numurkah Seniors: B. Sutton, K. O'Dwyer, T. Down, J. O'Dwyer, B. Jones.



Sending it down... Ty Grinter kicks long into the Blues forward line on a great day out for Numurkah reserves.

Blues reserves power through against Mulwala

SATURDAY proved to be a great day for Numurkah's reserves as they emerged victorious from a tense elimination final on the weekend against Mulwala.

A beautiful day for footy greeted the team at Congupna, and they started the game well with repeat entries inside 50. Although they struggled to capitalise on those opportunities, they managed to go into the quarter time break with an 8-point lead.

The second quarter saw the Blues kick four goals to one to take a 25-point lead into the main break, in no small part due to a superb effort from their backline who smartly halted any forward thrusts from the Lions.

Mulwala come out of the blocks hot in the third quarter, kicking the first two goals, but Numurkah rallied to kick the next three, steady the game, and take a 32-point lead into the last quarter. Mulwala fought back in the last, outscoring

the Blues, but it was too little too late to stop Numurkah bringing home a great 23-point win.

There were many Numurkah players worthy of an award on the day, the backline was led by veterans Tommy Buzza and Cooper Beitzel, and the young boys followed suit with Ashton Comaduer, Riley Dobson and Pat Millen all playing great games in defence. The evergreen Dan Buzza controlled the middle part of the ground, while up forward Ty Grinter and Mick Peterson

scores two goals each.

The Blues now look forward to a great challenge against a strong Cobram team.

Numurkah 10.10.70 defeated Mulwala 6.11.47.

Goals: T. Grinter 2, M. Peterson 2, F. Beitzel 1, D. Buzza 1, P. Collins 1, D. Ebborn 1, B. Kimberley 1, J. Church 1.

Best: D. Buzza, T. Buzza, R. Sanders, N. Hughes, J. Kam, T. Grinter.

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INSIDE SPORT

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