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Red Gum

NATHALIA & DISTRICTS NEWSPAPER

Courier

Friday 15th
December, 2023

*Delivered FREE to
Nathalia, Waaia, Yalca,
Yielima, Barmah, Picola,
Kotupna, Wunghmu & Kaarimba
1750 Published Fortnightly*



*Xav, Lily, Gracie & Bec Bell with Father Christmas at the Nathalia Christmas Market last Saturday.
More photos of the Christmas Market on page 7.*



Once again another busy year of production has come to an end at the Nathalia Printers & Red Gum Courier office and the staff are looking forward to our Christmas break.

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who contribute to the success of our local newspaper, from the scribes and community groups who submit articles and advertising, the keen local photographers who often supply photos, our local businesses whose advertising is a major contributor and to our distributors who ensure that you receive your copy each fortnight. Thank you also to our readers on their positive feedback throughout the year!

The Red Gum Courier will return on January 12, 2024.

We wish you a Safe, Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year!

~ From all the staff at Nathalia Printers & Red Gum Courier

Next issue of the Red Gum Courier: Friday 12th JAN

Copy Deadline: Monday 8th JAN

NEWS/SPORT/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING PH: 5866 3060

EMAIL: redgum@nathaliaprinters.com.au

The Red Gum Courier is now online & in colour!
Scan the QR Code or head to our website
www.redgumcourier.com.au





Community Update

Help Shape our 2024/25 Budget

Moira Shire Council invites you to play a crucial role in crafting the Annual Budget for 2024/25 and beyond.

Your input is vital in reflecting the priorities of our community. Share your thoughts, rank services, and vote on projects at moiramatters.com.au/Budget-Planning.

Need assistance navigating the online platform, call our Customer Service Centre for assistance (03) 5871 9222.

ACT NOW, consultations are open until **Friday 19 January 2024**.

Join us in building a brighter, thriving future for Moira Shire!



Scan to have your say

Adjusted Kerbside Collection Schedule over Christmas/ New Year Period

There will be a one-day push back to your usual kerbside collection schedule over the Christmas/New Year period.

Please take note of the revised dates:

Yarrawonga and surrounds: Tuesday 26 December and Tuesday 2 January

Cobram and surrounds: Thursday 28 December and Thursday 4 January

Numurkah and surrounds: Friday 29 December and Friday 5 January

Nathalia/Bundalong and surrounds: Saturday 30 December and Saturday 6 January

Remember co-mingled recycling, including wrapping paper, cardboard, and glass, is free to drop off at all Moira Shire Resource Recovery Centres.

Council Office Christmas Closure



The Moira Shire Council offices will be closed on **Friday 22 December 2023** from 4pm, and will reopen on **Tuesday 2 January 2024**.

For urgent assistance during our office closure, please call (03) 5871 9222 for our after hours phone service.

Community Amenity Local Law now adopted

The new Community Amenity Local Law was adopted at last week's Council Meeting and is now in effect. Local laws help Council to provide for community safety and wellbeing, keeping of animals and pets, streets and roads responsibilities and certain activities on Council land. More information can be found on our website.

Community Flood Recovery & Resilience Grants

We invite community groups, not-for-profit organisations and creative entities who have a project to assist flood recovery to apply for grant funding of up to \$5,000. Please note that the guidelines for these grants have been updated. Council is looking to support projects that:

- On-site and outreach recovery services including mental health and wellbeing services
- Community recovery capability building initiatives for example training, events, education and programs
- Events and services to bring community together and enable social recovery by increasing social connection and social capital
- Support to Aboriginal communities affected by the Flood Event, ensuring Aboriginal culture is valued and respected

Successful funded projects are to contribute to community recovery and foster resilience. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Flood Recovery team for detailed discussions before applying.

Scan to visit website



PHONE 5871 9222

NRS 133 677

EMAIL info@moira.vic.gov.au

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRES 44 Station Street, Cobram & 100 Belmore Street, Yarrawonga



NATHALIA IGA plus LIQUOR
Supporting Our Local Community

How the locals like it. **IGA**

TJ'S WOULD LIKE TO WISH THEIR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A SAFE AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Nathalia IGA Christmas/New Year Trading Hours

Saturday 23rd December.....8.00am – 6.00pm
 Sunday 24th December8.00am – 6.00pm
CHRISTMAS DAY: Monday 25th December CLOSED
BOXING DAY: Tuesday 26th December9.00am – 3.00pm
 Wednesday 27th – Friday 29th December..... 8.00am – 7.00pm
 Saturday 30th December.....8.00am – 6.00pm
 Sunday 31st December8.00am – 6.00pm
NEW YEAR'S DAY: Monday 1st January..... CLOSED
 Tuesday 2nd January..... Normal Hours

Online Shopping available on weekdays for Delivery or Click & Collect
Visit: www.iganathalia.com.au

PH: (03) 5866 2593

*** No deliveries on public holidays or weekends**

Congratulations to the Class of 2023

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College proudly celebrates the achievements of the Class of 2023. Our students have shown persistence, determination, compassion and kindness in their endeavours this year. Our students persisted and this is something they should take pride in across both the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Victorian Certificate of Education, Vocational Major (VCE VM) cohorts.



St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Dux 2023

It is with great excitement that we announce Angus (Gus) Bramwell as the St Mary of the Angels College Dux in 2023. Gus has achieved an extraordinary ATAR of 97.6 placing him amongst some of the highest achievers across Australia. This year Gus studied English, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Specialist Math in 2022 he fast tracked Math Methods achieving excellent results across the board. In 2024, Gus intends on pursuing a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University.

Throughout his time at the College, Gus has consistently exhibited the Franciscan values of compassion and kindness. Gus has shown great humility, diligently and persistently going about his studies across his VCE journey. Furthermore, he showed great generosity, frequently helping those around him in their own learning.

As the SMOTA community, we wish Gus, and all our students, the very best of luck in their ventures in 2024 whether that be tertiary studies, apprenticeships or full time employment.

Outstanding achievements

All of our top 10 ATAR scoring students are from Nathalia and Numurkah.

Gus Bramwell	97.6
Jenna Mason	93.8
Ned Bramwell	93.2
Lachlan Black	90.7
Zara Limbrick	90
Kate Buha	89.9
Eamon Storer	89.2
Darcy Conroy	84.6
Grace Eddy	82.8
Charlie Sheehan	80.3



SMOTA's Dux Gus Bramwell



A big Congratulations also goes to our own Top Class performer, Kian Brereton who received a formal invitation to audition for Top Class Drama in 2024 due to his high score in his performance examination for Year 12 VCE Drama 2023.

A wonderful achievement!



L-R: Kate Buha, Zara Limbrick, Charlie Sheehan, Lachlan Black, Gus Bramwell, Ned Bramwell, Eamon Storer, Darcy Conroy, and Grace Eddy. (Absent: Jenna Mason)



NATHALIA
HAIR & BEAUTY
Leanne Pell
5866 2442



Nathalia Hair & Beauty would like to thank all their wonderful clients and friends for their support during the year, and wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas and Happy and Hairy New Year!**
Leanne & Kevin

CHRISTMAS EVE
Carol Service



24th December . 7.30 pm

Looking for something special to do this Christmas Eve?



Come along and join in the old favourite Christmas Carols.
Bring the kids!
Candles provided – no charge.
Nathalia Uniting Church, Bromley St

Retiring Offering for Christmas Bowl Appeal

Nathalia Community House Celebrates Christmas



Nathalia Community House Committee of Management and staff enjoyed a very relaxed Christmas break-up on the 7th Dec 2023. Committee Of Management Chair Susan Logie prepared a beautiful meal, including a Christmas pudding. Susan thanked Manager Edwina Fieldman and the office staff Leonie Holmes and Stacey Thorpe for their dedication and commitment to the organisation.



The Community House would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who give up their time to support our Community Car Service, Foodshare and Community Garden. Thank you to our partners NCN Health for their continued support of the Nathalia and District Community Car, Moira Shire, Foodshare Cobram MHA, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Salvo Care, and Services Australia. Special thanks to Nathalia Fert and Grain for a donation of soil for the garden and the Superb Parrot Project for donation of local native plants. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year and look forward to your continued support in 2024.



MEALS ON WHEELS December 15 - January 12

December	
Friday 15th	David & Cheryl McKenzie
Monday 18th	Maryse Quarrell & Moria Bourke
Tuesday 19th	Dawn Bowen & Trish Hawks
Wednesday 20th	Nathalia Primary School
Thursday 21st	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
Friday 22nd	Graeme Smith
Monday 25th	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED
Tuesday 26th	Darryl Hill & Mary Wilson
Wednesday 27th	Pauline Thomas
Thursday 28th	Carmen Gilson
Friday 29th	Pauline Thomas
January 2024	
Monday 1st	Maryse Quarrell & Moria Bourke
Tuesday 2nd	Russell Shaw
Wednesday 3rd	Laurel Dimond & Leeanne Caldwell
Thursday 4th	Carmen Gilson
Friday 5th	Trish Hawks
Monday 8th	Mick & Alison Keogh
Tuesday 9th	Dawn Bowen & Trish Hawks
Wednesday 10th	Mary Agius
Thursday 11th	Heather Frostick
Friday 12th	Mary Agius

**If you can cover one of the volunteer required runs please contact Laura,
Volunteer Programs Co-ordinator - MHA Care
Phone 03 5742 1111**



CHURCH TIMES

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH
Ph: 5866 2694

Nathalia Parish Priest - Fr Jophin Joy
Nathalia Mass times:

Tuesdays: 9:15am - Reconciliation following Mass
Thursdays: 12:30pm
Sundays: 9:00am
Strathmerton

Mass will be held 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday of the month at 6pm

NATHALIA UNITING CHURCH

Margaret Cobbledick Ph: 0429 662 039

December 17th: 8.30am @ Anglican Church

December 24th: 9.30am streaming service

December 24th: 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight at Uniting Church

December 31st: 9.30am Parish Hymn Service

January 7th: 9.30am, Margaret Cobbledick
Picola: 9.00am services

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH - NATHALIA

Fr Gunnar Rippon Priest 5862 1046

December 17th: 8.30am Holy Communion, Uniting Church to visit Holy Trinity

December 24th: 8.30am Holy Communion

December 25th: 8:00am, Christmas Day, Holy Communion

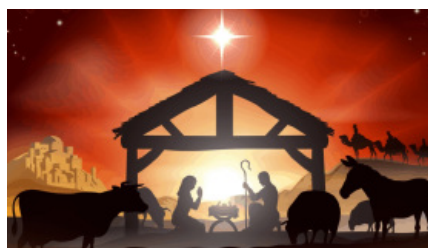
December 31st: 8.30am, Holy Communion

January 7th: 8.30am Holy Communion

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Contact - Erik 0411 731 916

Every Saturday: Services 10am & 11.30am or Zoom.
124 Graham St., Shepparton.



Caterpillar Corner



FAMILY DAY AT BUSH KINDER

We celebrated our last bush kinder for 2023 by inviting families to join us. It was a spectacular turn out, with adults enjoying picnic sandwiches with their children. As a treat for seconds, we melted chocolate buds in sliced banana on the firepit. The children were keen to show their families all the discoveries that bush kinder presented; our collection of bones, the swing tree, the bouncy branch, our two cubbies, the sandpit, the Cough nest, ant nests and more.



What's on Locally		UPCOMING EVENTS
Dec 15	Barefoot Bowls, Nathalia Bowling Club, 6pm	
Dec 15	Kaarimba Hall Community Christmas Celebration, 6pm	
Dec 15	Cobram Lions Twilight Market—Federation Park, 4-8pm	
Dec 16	Numurkah Lions Club Market - Tunnock St, Numurkah, 8am-12pm	
Dec 24	Nathalia Uniting Church Christmas Eve Carol Service, 7.30pm	
Dec 25	Christmas Day (Public Holiday)	
Dec 26	Boxing Day (Public Holiday)	
Dec 31	Nathalia New Year's Eve Carnival Fireworks at midnight	
Jan 1	New Year's Day (Public Holiday)	
Jan 3	U3A Film @ Night, 7pm	
Jan 12	First Red Gum Courier edition for 2024	



Sessions



Family Funerals

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57 Blake Street Nathalia
Phone: Andrew Sessions
5866 2257 or 0427 663 083

Locally owned and operated

Contact Nathalia Printers to have your event featured on our 'What's on Locally' calendar.

© redgum@nathaliaprinters.com.au (03) 5866 3060



Nathalia Veterinary Clinic News



This little kitten was fortunate enough to have a life changing experience of being found under a building at a local school. Riddled with fleas and very small, the school kids named him Lemon and he has been taken on by a local school teacher who bought him in to be checked over. Lemon was washed and dried and treated with a flea and worm product. Lemon is now loving life, with some new feline and human siblings and plenty of attention. We would like to wish all our clients and their pets, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thankyou for all your support. We look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

~ Kate, Alli, Finn and the rest of the Nathalia Vets team



Rotary Report



Thank you to everyone...

who supported Rotary by purchasing tickets in the Community Raffle at the Christmas Market on Saturday...good luck to you all (and to everyone else who has bought tickets over the past couple of months, and those who may yet buy tickets). If you missed out and would like to buy any tickets, your LAST chance to do so will be outside IGA this Friday morning (December 15th). The 1st prize will not be on display though, unlike at the market. Raffle will be drawn at Mooroopna's NYE carnival and winners notified.

Our Rotary meeting at the bakery on December 6th had 100% attendance of Rotary members, as well as a few guests, and did indeed have a guest speaker. After we had eaten our meals President Loula introduced David Liddell as our guest speaker. David is chairman of the Bendigo Bank and he talked to us about the bank's history, its start in 2000, its projects over the years, the grants that have been given to many organisations, ownership of the Early Learning Centre which opened in 2012. David also said that more community projects are being considered and we may have a fully automated car wash in Nathalia in the early part of 2024. We were warned about online scams, which unfortunately are commonplace in today's modern world, and told to be very careful. A few questions were answered at the end of David's talk then he was presented with gifts of appreciation.

Our social evening last Sunday was a small but very enjoyable affair and

it was held at a member's home in Weir Street. Delicious food and good company were enjoyed by those in attendance.

Christmas is almost upon us and that will be quickly followed by New Years Eve. All is on track for prizes, etc. for the spinning wheel; volunteers to sell tickets for the wheel are yet to be finalised. We hope that all will go well on 31st, that this fundraiser for Rotary's community projects will be well supported, that there will be many happy winners and that Mother Nature will be kind to all stall holders and visitors.

On December 20th we will have our last Rotary meeting for 2023 and it will be at Three Belles. Hopefully the weather will be pleasant and all Rotarians and partners will be in attendance...perhaps a few guests too.

Not only will it be our club's last meeting for the year but it will also be my last meeting as a Rotarian. I have resigned from this club after 14 ½ years of service and fellowship. Over the years I have been president twice, secretary once and treasurer a few times also. As well, I have written a club bulletin after meetings. Since July 2010 I have submitted Rotary News articles on a fortnightly basis (except for a very few times when absent from Nathalia) and now this has come to an end also. This is my last Rotary News article.

I'd like to thank everyone, since 2010, who has been instrumental in printing my submissions each time. I also thank the readers, some of whom have even complimented me on a particular article. THANK YOU.

Before finally signing off I'd just like to remind readers about the

Community Raffle THIS morning, and the NYE carnival where Rotary will have its spinning wheel.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2024.



Guest speaker David Liddell at the Rotary meeting.



David Liddell & Loula Oliver



Nathalia Christmas Market



Obituary MAXWELL GARY BAKER (MAX)

04.05.1960 – 09.09.2023

Max was born in Melbourne, the second child of Maxwell John and Christeena Amelia Baker (nee Gulliver). He was a younger brother to Gail, and later had 2 more siblings, Russel and Jane. His parents lived in Glenroy. His father worked at Johnson and Rielly's timber yard in Keilor as a sawyer and saw doctor, and his mother was a homemaker.

Max had a happy childhood playing with his siblings and cousins who all lived nearby. His favourite toy was a little red trike. Maybe that was the start of his future love of motorbikes.

He started school at Westbreen state school at 4 and a half. When he was 7, the family shifted to 25 acres at Bullengarook, near Gisborne, and he transferred to Bullengarook state school. He loved building cubby houses and billy carts, and they soon had poultry, cattle, goats and horses. Max had his own pony and was a member of Bullengarook pony club. He also joined Gisborne boy scouts. There were a lot of weekends spent attending agricultural shows, helping his mum showing her dairy goats. Max later attended Bacchus Marsh High School.

At 14 they shifted to Neerim onto a dairy farm. Max transferred to Neerim South High School. He hated school and said the day he left school just before his 15th birthday was one of the best days of his life.

He started his working life on a dairy farm in Warragul, travelling to work by bus each day.

In 1976 the family shifted again to a bigger dairy farm at Mathers Rd Waaia. He started work as a relief milker, did hay carting, farm work, drove trucks and picked tobacco. He started his own hay carting business (small squares) and in the off season did fencing. In 1978 he joined Nathalia Young Farmers club, and his life changed. NYF took up most of the next 7 years. He had so much fun, made many lifelong friends and gained a lot of confidence. He had a term as president. He went on motorbike trips with mates from young farmers in 1983, 84 and 85 to Perth, Cairns and Darwin and had an incredible time.

In 1985 Max married Belinda Bloodworth who he had met through young farmers, and they shifted to Cobram to work on a dairy farm. Feb 1986 he was hit by a car while riding a motorbike home from the dairy. He was severely injured, the most serious injury resulting in a below knee amputation of his right leg. He recovered amazingly well and returned to work in 8 weeks. They shifted to a dairy share farming job at Waaia, and then ran a piggery just near the abattoirs for a couple of years. In 1990 Max bought the family dairy farm from his parents and began building up the herd. He introduced the Brown Swiss breed and continued dairying until the end of 2018, when he went into beef.

In 1996 after 11 years of marriage a surprise package arrived, a new son Michael. Max was a proud and loving dad. He always loved children, but

unfortunately they lost 2 infants born with medical problems over the next few years. Max and Belinda's marriage ended.

A new lady eventually came into his life. Max married Suzanne Beames in 2014 and he gained a step family including daughters Tara and Megan whom he came to love. They gave him 4 grandchildren to love as well.

Max was a member of Nathalia Lions Club, and served 2 terms as president. He was so dedicated he went to meetings by boat in the 1993 floods! He helped organize many motor bike poker runs and Roarer's rallies for Lions.

He was also a proud life member of the Barmah Forest Cattlemen's Association and enjoyed the Barmah musters. He had his own mustering team called Max's Mongrels, and had agisted up to 50 head of cattle in the forest.

Max loved riding motorbikes. He eagerly looked forward to the annual Koetong run between Christmas and New Year. He'd been on it 35 times with the same group of good mates, and was often the life of the party.

Max's health problems began 3 years ago, when he was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer. He endured major surgery and many treatments, always confident of a cure. He was the most optimistic person, he still had a lot of life to live, and a family who loved him, but it claimed him in the end. He died in Nathalia hospital aged 63.

Max's funeral at the community centre was attended by 500 people, and he was escorted to the Nathalia cemetery by a large cavalcade of motor bikes. RIP.



Max Baker

NATHALIA PRINTERS

Extends to all their valued customers & readers a *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

The office will close at 3pm on Friday December 22 and Re-open on January 8 2024.

Writers Group Nathalia U3A

Broken Creek Drama

FLYING A KITE.

'Have you ever flown a kite?' Russell asked his grandson. A puzzled Noah just shook his head.

Russell handed Noah the kite kit he had purchased at the variety store. Together they looked at the instructions and set to work. The nylon fabric was a bright red and it was easy to work out where the rigid wire pieces were to be inserted to provide the kite's classic diamond shape. Next it was time to attach the long-striped tail to the bottom of the kite and then finally the single line tightly wound on a small spool.

Russell smiled at his grandson. 'Well, let's go to the park and see if we can get this beauty to fly.'

Noah still looked puzzled. 'But Grandpa, we haven't put in any batteries.'

BSL

Excursion to Twisted Science



Recently the St Francis Foundation Grade 1 and Grade 2 students went on an excursion to Twisted Science in Echuca. It was a fantastic day with all the children having a blast. Lots of squeals and amazed looks as students tested their senses and investigated all things science.

Children saw how chemicals react, used gel balls, fluorescein balls, UV beads and UV lights to read secret messages. They also enjoyed using coloured snow and glittery slime. The excursion gave students an opportunity to learn in an engaging and exciting manner while exploring how people can investigate things using all of their senses.



Mythic Australia Mythic Australia

Mythic Word Search Aussie Christmas

H	P	L	O	D	U	R	D	E	L	S	S
H	A	P	P	Y	T	I	N	S	E	L	L
M	P	E	R	B	E	L	L	S	R	Y	L
C	R	E	L	O	P	H	T	R	O	N	E
R	E	C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E	B
E	S	S	A	N	T	A	T	F	I	G	H
E	E	R	E	C	N	A	R	P	Y	T	G
D	N	T	O	Y	S	H	F	R	O	R	I
N	T	J	O	L	L	Y	I	U	J	E	E
I	S	S	E	L	V	E	S	T	N	E	L
E	M	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	S
R	A	E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	S

TREE
TINSEL
TOYS
JOLLY
JOY

SLEIGHBELLS
PRANCER
MISTLETOE
NORTH POLE
CANDY CANE

SLED
HAPPY
FUN
ELVES
GIFT

PRESENTS
REINDEER
RUDOLPH
CHRISTMAS
SANTA

BELLS

With the leftover letters, discover a Christmas message.

www.MythicAustralia.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO DECORATE THE

Community Christmas Tree of Remembrance

LIBRARY

COBRAM, NATHALIA
OR NUMURKAH

this December

As preparations to celebrate the festive season are underway, people may become aware that this time of year may be difficult for some, especially those who are remembering loved ones who have died.

Moira
Palliative Care

E 1830 Myths Palliative Care@moirahealth.org.au
T (05) 5862 0558

Cards and pens are available to use at the tree for messages to family members, friends and pets who have died to include them in the spirit of Christmas. You are very welcome to bring along your own message card to hang on the tree.

serving the communities of
Cobram, Nathalia, Numurkah
and Yarrawonga

Museum Moments...

Brought to you by Karen Davis on behalf of the Nathalia & District Historical Society.

One of the other members set me to a task to make an old rather odd wall hook. With the forge ablaze I set to work heating and hammering. My joy overflowing, eager to tell anyone who would listen all about the art in between hammer blows. What a lot of people don't know in blacksmith work is that if you get the temperature right it's like hitting clay with a hammer. It doesn't take much work or strength to get a result. The changing colour tells the smith what temperature it is, and they learn what they can do with the metal at that temperature. For example, close to white, commonly known as straw colour, is the temperature you need in order to weld two pieces of metal together.

A blacksmith has to pay attention to the fire, the colour of the metal, and using the right hammer in the right manner to get the desired result. I think it would have taken a special kind of person to do well in this trade. Not thick like they are commonly portrayed in books, but instead clever, creative

and passionate. Spending their time changing mental gears, fast when the iron is hot, then slow when the metal is in the fire. Even though the work is often repetitive a blacksmith has to think about each step and all the steps to get to a finished product. I can honestly say I have put hours into working out how something was done and what steps I would need to take to get the same result.

According to the Institute of Australian Culture an employed blacksmith in 1856 could expect to earn 3 pounds to 4 pounds 4 shillings a week. I expect however a blacksmith working for himself, particularly in a country town, could make a lot more. This was a standard wage for the times; in today's money (adjusted for inflation) it would be \$211.26 to \$288.72 for a six day work week. It's a good thing that the cost of living at that time didn't involve petrol, power bills and phone bills.

The first blacksmith to come to Nathalia was William O'Brien in 1879, but Nathalia Coach Factory was the first building to go up in town in 1882. John Manifold's blacksmith business soon followed in 1883. By 1888, there was no less than 10 blacksmiths working in Nathalia as general blacksmiths, implement makers, spring makers, coach builders, wheelwrights and farriers.

If finding out more about blacksmithing appeals to you, the museum has a great array of items made by blacksmiths, and if you're lucky, you might find me in the forge.



MANIFOLD'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

We would like to hear from you as well..... If at any time you wish to tell a story, or provide some information or feedback, we would love to hear from you. You can call at the museum in Pearce Street any time that you see the gate open—usually each Tuesday and Wednesday, or on Open Day which is the second Sunday of the month (1.30pm to 4pm). To contact Jeanette phone—0420 247 480.

U3A Christmas Party



An enjoyable evening and delicious meal was appreciated by all who attended the U3A Christmas party on 6th December at Barmah Hotel.

Philippa shared all the film titles for 2024, giving movie buffs much to look forward to. We all enjoyed being entertained by the line dancers and their choice of Christmas music.





Nathalia Secondary College News



I would like to congratulate our newly elected 2024 School Captains - Cheyanne Hansen, Nikki Polancos, DJ Liu, and Caleb Sutton. Your leadership roles are not just titles; they are an embodiment of responsibility, vision, and the trust bestowed upon you by our school community. We look forward to witnessing your positive impact in the coming year.

A massive congratulations to everyone who received Semester 2 awards at our end of year assembly. You should all be proud of the efforts you have made this Semester.

Looking ahead to 2024, let's embrace the new year with optimism and



enthusiasm. Together, we will continue to build a learning environment that inspires successful and passionate learners.

I am excited about the possibilities that 2024 holds for Nathalia Secondary College. Let us approach the new year with open minds and a shared commitment to creating a community that supports, inspires, and empowers all its members.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our school. May this holiday season bring you joy and a well-deserved break. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

~ Daniel Robinson, Principal



End of Year Celebration Concert

On Tuesday night Nathalia Preschool had our celebration concert on a very hot night. The children have been practicing their songs, dance moves and making their costumes this last term. They all did a fantastic job singing and dancing in front of a very big crowd.

Music and dancing have many benefits such as the development of speech and language, improves coordination, it helps release happy hormones, improves brain function and can provide social connection. Children learn to work together as a team and helps to improve their confidence.

We wish to thank the Nathalia Angling club for the wonderful BBQ after the concert. To the parent committee, Thank you for all your help with the fundraising throughout the year, set up and pack up on the night. A very big thankyou to all the families who came and helped celebrate your children and the end of year with us.

Just a reminder to our community that the community garden is located in Railway St. The preschool garden behind the police station is our Children's Garden. The children have been very busy weeding, sowing and watching their plants grow. We have had produce harvested before the children have had the chance too.

Best of luck to the our 4 year old children who will venture into a new chapter of primary school. We wish you all the best.



We wish our community a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to the new year.



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ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

The G.R.A.I.N. Store's Excellent (and occasionally sad) 2023

It is too soon to be doing Happy New Year, but Ian Bolton from Clydebank says that is what the Scots celebrate more than various religious festivities. In our message to you all we mention how many artists, performers, donors, workshop leaders, volunteers and visitors we have to thank for the liveliness and extent of our thirty-two offerings in 2023.

This whilst also dealing with the sadness of the July death of Bill Kelly, our Artistic Director and Inaugural G.R.A.I.N. (Growing Rural Art in Nathalia) Chairperson.

We will be open New Years' Eve as part of the town's celebrations; and during January we will feature our Floods 2022 Installation. We will be open for as many days we have people volunteer to open. So if you have some time to help with this...please contact Philippa 0400 037 432.



Semi-Abstract Botanical Collages
with **Linden Lancaster**
Sat 24 & Sun 25 Feb 2024
9-2pm

A two day class that will result in a cohesive set of small collages that can be framed or attached to boards. The workshop is suitable for artists of all skill levels who would like to delve into abstraction, learn new techniques and have some serious play.

Workshop includes:
-Abstracting visual elements from botanicals.
-Developing visual language through mark making.
-Making a range of collage papers using a variety of materials, papers and techniques.
-Introducing low-tech printing including mono-printing, foam etching, using found objects and the gel plate.
-Gluing papers, composing and cropping.

Materials list on enrollment.

Our first **Exhibition** to which you may contribute is **Some Shiny Days: Moments of Ordinary Madness**. Opening 2.30pm Sunday 11 February (after the Ukelele Jam)

Our first **Performance** will be **Numurkah Ukelele Group Sunday 11 February 10am-2pm** Starting with a beginner's workshop; with a break for lunch and then 1-2 a Ukelele Jam!! Featuring new learners and Ukelele regulars

Our first **Workshop** is Linden Lancaster's 2 day **23 & 24 February Semi-abstract Botanical Collages** Thank you for your continuing support; and particular thanks to Ruby Wyatt-Carter and our Board members Jane Hando, David Hanna, Madeleine Jane, Brendan Ginnivan and Vanessa Byrnes.

Philippa Schapper G.R.A.I.N. Inc Board Chairperson 0400 037 432.

U3A Film @ Night Thank You and next Film Mrs Harris Goes to Paris

7pm Wed 3 Jan 2024

There are many stereotypes about us older people. I would hope that in a smaller community, those stereotypes would be challenged by reality. Ironically, this is not the case, as our age frequently makes us invisible; so even reality rarely impinges.

One stereotype is that older people "don't go out at night". We challenge that by our title: U3A Film @ Night. Our next film for viewing, and discussing, at night is **Mrs Harris Goes to Paris**. Mrs Harris is played by the wonderful Lesley Manville (of BBC Series

Mum...definitely an acquired taste). She is a house cleaner, and she goes to



the House of Dior. So much to love about this film. Based on a Paul Gallico novel, I hope that the film introduces you to some of his other gently delightful writings, including **Thomasina** (about a cat) and **The Snow Goose** (WW2)...check out the Historical Society's Superb Reads Second Hand Bookshop. Eligibility to be a member of U3A starts at 50. U3A Nathalia never asks your age. Our commitment is that we will design programmes of interest to people 50 and older; but any one who is interested in what we offer, will be most welcome.

Sudoku sponsored by

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

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Nathalia & District Men's Shed News

There was an open meeting held at The Shed on Wednesday 6th of December concerning the response time of ambulance call out organized by Men's Shedder Jim, where it took up to 3 hours in a case that he was a partaker in.

The Nationals MP Kim O'Keeffe who attended the meeting explained that at the recent parliament meeting she voiced the concerns brought to her attention in the brief allotted speaking time, although brief it will be recognized in the parliament minutes for further deliberation.

Jim is looking for volunteers to form an Ambo/Doc on call committee to help to coordinate with organizing and general input with ideas and head banging. Jim Cassells can be contacted at the Men's Shed.

Although the present system maybe adequate doesn't mean improvements can't be made.



Pictured right:
Kim O'Keeffe and Jim Cassells.

Wendy Lovell MP

Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Region

Together with staff members Tamara, Katerina and Rowan, I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and safe, happy and prosperous new year in 2024.



 03 5821 6668
 wendy.lovell@parliament.vic.gov.au
 www.wendylovell.com.au

Authorised by Wendy Lovell MP, 222 Wyndham Street Shepparton.



Christmas/New Year Trading Hours

Saturday 23rd December.....	7am-12pm
Sunday 24th December.....	CLOSED
Monday 25th December.....	CLOSED
Tuesday 26th December.....	CLOSED
Wednesday 27th December.....	8am-5pm
Thursday 28th December.....	8am-5pm
Friday 29th December.....	8am-5pm
Saturday 30th December.....	7am-12pm
Sunday 31st December.....	CLOSED
Monday 1st January.....	CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd January.....	8am-5pm

The Butchers would like to wish everyone a Safe & Happy Christmas & New Year.

Thank you for your support throughout 2023 and we look forward to seeing you all in 2024!

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Christmas/New Year Trading Hours

	<u>Nathalia</u>	<u>Numurkah</u>	<u>Yarrawonga</u>
Saturday 23rd Dec.....	6am-2pm	8am-2pm	7am-2pm
Sunday 24th Dec.....	7am-2pm	CLOSED	7am-2pm
Monday 25th Dec CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 26th Dec BOXING DAY	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Wednesday 27th Dec.....	6am-5pm	7.30am-2pm	7am-2pm
Thursday 28th Dec.....	6am-5pm	7.30am-2pm	7am-2pm
Friday 29th Dec.....	6am-5pm	7.30am-2pm	7am-2pm
Saturday 30th Dec.....	6am-2pm	CLOSED	7am-2pm
Sunday 31st Dec.....	7am-2pm	CLOSED	8am-2pm
Monday 1st Jan NEW YEAR'S DAY	7am-2pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd Jan.....	6am-5pm	7.30am-3pm	7am-2/3pm

Back to Normal Trading Hours

*All times subject to change, check our Facebook page for updates.

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Kim O'KEEFFE MP
THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR SHEPPARTON DISTRICT



As the year comes to an end, I reflect on the past 12 months. I am so very proud of the caring and giving communities in which we live.

There are so many ways that we can share the joy of Christmas by donating to the variety of charities that will ensure Christmas is a time of joy for all. You can also drop gift donations to my office.

This Christmas season, stop and make time for special memories with your loved ones and be safe during this holiday time.

Merry Christmas from my family to yours

🏠 318 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630
 ☎️ 03 5831 6944
 ✉️ kim.okeeffe@parliament.vic.gov.au
 🌐 kimokeeffe.com.au

Nathalia Pharmacy

**Merry Christmas
 And a Happy New Year!**

Thank you to all our valued customers
 for your support during 2023

Christmas Trading Hours

23 rd Saturday	9.00am-12.00pm
24 th Sunday,	CLOSED
25 th Monday, Christmas Day	CLOSED
26 th Tuesday, Boxing Day	CLOSED
27 th Wednesday	9.00am-5.30pm
28 th Thursday	9.00am-5.30pm
29 th Friday	9.00am-5.30pm
30 th Saturday	9.00am-12.00pm
31 st Sunday	CLOSED
1 st Monday, New Year's Day	CLOSED
2 nd Tuesday	9.00am-5.30pm

*From Chris & Staff
 At Nathalia Pharmacy*

10 Blake Street, Nathalia 3638
 03 5866 2416



The team at Limo's would like to wish all their loyal customers a **Merry Christmas & a Safe & Happy New Year.** Best wishes to all for a prosperous 2024!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TRADING HOURS

Sat 23 rd December	8:30am – 12:00 pm
Sun 24 th December	10:00am – 1:00 pm
Christmas Day: Mon 25th December	Closed
Boxing Day: Tues 26th December	Closed
Wed 27 th - Fri 29 th December	9:00am - 5:30pm
Sat 30 th December	8:30am - 12:00pm
Sun 31 st December	10:00am – 1:00 pm
New Year's Day: Mon 1st January	Closed
Tue 2 nd January	Normal Trading Resumes

1-7 Blake Street, Nathalia | Ph: (03) 5866 2401



Merry Christmas

**Dawn, Phil and all
the H&G Team**

wish you a Merry
Christmas and a
wonderful 2024!

CHRISTMAS HOURS

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1st & 2nd January

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OPEN NEW YEAR'S EVE
31st December 9am - 10pm

CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS
1st, 2nd, 3rd January
Reopening on 4th January

*The team at
Al's Café would like
to wish all our
customers a very
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!*



 5866 2139

Nathalia Primary School News

I would like to acknowledge all of the great achievements that our Nathalia PS community have accomplished during a very busy 2023. I would like to thank the students and staff for making our school a great place each and every day. Sadly we say goodbye to Ms Caitlin Columbus, thank you for your dedication and hard work in our grade 5/6 classroom this year, we wish you all the best at your new school.

We hope that all of our families have an amazing and safe break over the summer with some time to relax and refresh before we come back for 2024.

Over the summer we have building works starting with a restumping project, painting and minor maintenance. We are increasing the number of classes in 2024 to cater for the growing student population. Additionally, we have Uniting Care providing before and after school care at Nathalia PS starting in 2024. This service is open to all primary school aged children in Nathalia. Please call the school for details or see details on the banners around the school boundary.

I would also like to congratulate our Grade 6 graduates as they move on from primary school to secondary colleges around the area. We wish you all the best and look forward to hearing about your continued achievements.

Merry Christmas to everyone, we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

~ Troy Woolley

Principal, Nathalia Primary School



NATHALIA CHRISTMAS MARKET - CHERRY STALL

Wow! What a great time we had at the Christmas Market last Saturday morning. It was fabulous to see so many people out and about on a beautiful, but warm, summer's morning.

The community support of our Cherry and Fruit Sales along with our raffle tickets was amazing. So much that we sold out of 120kg of Cherries before 11am! Thank you all! We would like to thank Boris' Fruit Shed, Shepparton East for their stone fruit, and, we could not hold the stall without the help of Vince at the Cherry Fruit Shop. Vince can be found at the Shop at 6315 Midland Highway in Ardmona, he supplies us with the cherries at the market (please see The Cherry Shop for any more cherry or fruit supplies). We are so grateful to him for his generosity and community spirit.

CLASSIFIEDS

DEATHS

TREWIN, John

We are saddened to announce the passing of John Trewin, aged 97, on the 7th December 2023 in Adelaide.

John was born in Nathalia in August 1926 to parents John and Marjorie Trewin where he lived until joining the Royal Australian Air Force during WWII. John was the youngest born sibling to Arthur, Marjorie, Lesley and Josie. John's family was actively involved in the Nathalia Uniting Church, and donated the land for the development of the Barwo Homestead Aged Care Facility.

John is survived by his sons Andrew and Kym, his grandchildren Amy, Christopher and Jessica and his great grandchildren, Hudson, Peggy and Edmund.

A ceremony will be held at the Cheltenham Cemetery, Adelaide at 10AM on 18th December where John will join his beloved wife Joan. John will be dearly missed by all

MEMORIAM

GEMMILL, Dorothy 'Dot'

12.07.1927 - 13.12.2022

A year has passed already, remembered everyday. I was there when you left so peacefully to be with Dad.

Your brothers ashes (Norman) rest with you and also at your farm.

You never turned away from me when I was down, always trying to help as with so many others.

Sorry I can't keep my promise to look after the farm you worked so hard to establish. Greed, jealousy, selfishness and money is more important to some! The Black Sheep loves you more than all the others.

*Loving you always,
Boy-O*

GEMMILL, Dorothy 'Dot'

12.07.1927 - 13.12.2022

One year without you Mum / Nanna Your presence we miss, Your memory we treasure.

*Loving you always,
Forgetting you never.*

*We love you
Barry, Rosina, Meg and Josh
xoxoxoxo*



MEMORIAM

HUTCHINS, Doug

Happy memories of days gone by, a wonderful brother-in-law to Joy and brother to "Chief" (dec), uncle to Brendan and Kate. Loving thoughts to all the families.

"Another Voice for the Choir"



PUBLIC NOTICES



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Call 5866 3060

GEMMILL, Dorothy 'Dot'

12.07.1927 - 13.12.2022

My beautiful Mother/Nan, those special memories of you will always bring a smile. If only I could have you back for just a little while. Then we could sit and talk again, just like we used to do. You always meant so very much and always will too.

The fact that you're no longer here will always cause me pain, but you're forever in my heart until we meet again.

*Heaven is now your home,
Love you forever,
Rest peacefully.*



*Christine, Greg,
Sarah, Scott & Caleb,
Brodie & Alysia,
Stacey & Malcolm.*

CLASSIFIEDS



COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPEN CAFÉ Christmas Break Up



Our last cuppa for the year was held on the 14th of December, restarting on the 1st of February 2024.

Nathalia Uniting Church holds an Open Café every Thursday morning at 10am in the Nathalia Uniting Church Hall, Bromley Street.

Come and join us for a friendly chat, cuppa and some great morning tea—all at no cost. There is no religious content, just friendship and conversation.

THANK YOU



THANK YOU

We wish to thank you for all your support at the Nathalia Christmas Market this year, it is very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you all again at next years Easter Market.

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Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris



Philippa ☎ 0400 037 432

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

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Merry Christmas
and wishing you all
the best for 2024!



The G.R.A.I.N. Inc Board would like to wish our 2023...

- 60 exhibiting visual artists
- 82 performing artists
- 6 workshop and studio leaders
- 37 volunteers
- 840 audience attendees
- 1000 gallery visitors
- 7 generous donors and our community a

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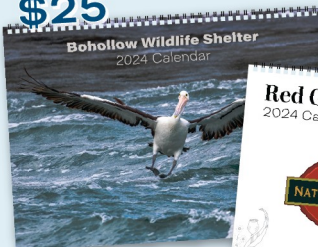


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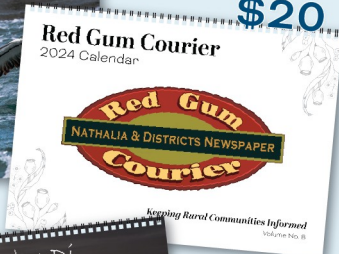
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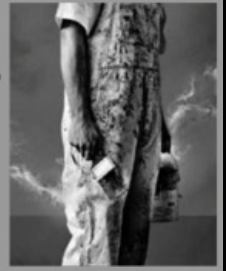
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Nathalia Golf Club News



WED 29th Nov - three brave ladies put there wet weather boots on and played a friendly 9 hole game. Winner was Nina Pell with 12 stableford points. There was no rain, damp under foot. Well done ladies.

FRI 1st Dec - 8 players played ambrose.

On Saturday the 2nd of December Ricky Barnes bucks party was held at the golf club. They came by car, bus and by boat. All had a great time. /

SUN 3rd Dec - The men played stableford. John West was the winner with 39 stableford points. John also got NTP on the 18th.

Well done John.

WED 6th Dec - winner Nina Pell with 19 stableford

points. On Thursday fifteen students from St Mary's college had a hit on the golf course. Thanks John Nihill. It's great to see the students keen to play. They are most welcome anytime.

FRI 8th Dec - six players played stableford, with three lots of pairs Peter Poon and Heather Frostick won with 41 points.

Great shot by peter just missing the cup for an ace by millimeters then rolling past it by 5 inches. Bad luck, but a great shot Peter.

SUN 10th Dec - in warm conditions The men played stableford.

The winner was Stan Verlinden with 34 stableford points. NTP went to John West.

Till next time... good hitting all!



How close was that, great job Peter!

Ironman Bussleton

Regan Hollioake has once again put in a stellar performance competing in the Western Australia Ironman at Bussleton on the 3rd of December placing first place in her age group and the first non-professional female overall with her nearest competitor a whopping 28 minutes behind. This performance would have placed Regan in 5th place in the Pro field. The top four Pro Women were from Great Britain, Sweden and the Netherlands and some have Olympic gold medals for cycling showing Regan can mix it with the World's best.

Regan has been focusing and adjusting her training volume specifically for this event since returning from Finland in late August, She also competed in the Melbourne 70.3 Half Ironman as a practice race on Nov 12 placing first place in her age group of 30-34 and 6th place overall including the professionals with a time of 4:03:53 but this time reflected a shortened swim leg (1km) due to the conditions of a bad St Kilda swell.

Regan completed the Bussleton Ironman in a blistering time of 8:52:50, anything under 9 hours in an Ironman is considered Elite and many, many athletes in the world strive to go under 9 hours and not many in Australia have actually achieved this feat. Regan is now comfortably the fastest Ironman the Goulburn Valley has ever seen and is currently the fastest female Ironman in Australia.

The 3.8km swim consisted of 2 laps with athletes having to exit then re-enter the water at the halfway point with a little beach sprint. Great for spectators but tough for competitors, Regan again swam very well in the choppy conditions and had the third fastest overall female swim of the day and was ten minutes in front of her Age Group leaving the water.

The 180km bike ride was warm and windy, Regan's new Trek bike with a new

rear disk wheel may have had other competitors and spectators thinking it had a motor inside of it as Regan averaged 38.52km/hr for the full 180km course. As the ride went on the gap in her Age Group widened and when she completed the bike leg, she was 33 minutes in front of her nearest rival completing the bike in 4hrs and 40minutes and also the 5th best bike time out of all the females on the day.

The full marathon of 42.2km wasn't easy for the athletes in Bussleton due to the sea breeze really picking up into the afternoon, but the upside was it helped to slightly cool the athletes as they completed 4 laps of ten km around the foreshore. Regan was worried the lady in second place, known for her running ability was closing in but at the end of the run leg Regan was still a whopping 28 minutes in front completing only her second marathon in a time of 3hrs an 13 minutes at a pace of 4:35 min/km.

This performance has the whole triathlon community talking as Regan has just set a world record. She had laid down the fastest (non professional) female time in the full Ironman distance ever in a time of 8hrs 52minutes and 51 seconds. Joanna Soltysiak-Vrebac of Poland had the record and she was also the winner of the world championship 70.3 (Half Ironman) in Finland in Regan's Age Group. Joanna had set

the previous record at Ironman Italy in late September this year. Regan and Joanna have kept in contact on social media since Finland and this is how Regan knew of the record time, getting the record was icing on the cake of this performance as Regan had anticipated a time of 9 and a half hours but in the last lap of the run thought the record may have been possible and really pushed hard to beat it by 3 minutes. This race has given Regan the confidence now to step up to the Professional field in the new year and to feel that she can be competitive with the world's best, All Regan's hard work training 30plus hours a week with a full-time job for the last 4 years is paying off. Regan would like to thank her Coach Sarah from Complete Performance Coaching, My ride and Leading Edge Cycles in Shepparton, her Nutritionist Johanna Clark, her partner Wade and the Shepparton triathlon club team and of course all her friends and family that have helped and sent well wishes, she is truly appreciative of all the support.

If anyone would like to offer this world class athlete some sponsorship to aid her in traveling to races Regan would be very humbled to discuss having them come onboard as she is only just getting started in the full distance game and she is excited to constantly develop and continue to improve, or if you would like to see her race photos and results you can reach her on Instagram @rhollioake.

If you think you would like to give Triathlon a go the Echuca-Moama Triathlon is approaching on the evening of 20th Jan, (online registration only) it has the easiest 700m swim around as it is downstream in the Murray, then a 20km bike and a 5km run all in the heart of Echuca. It is a fantastic local event and a brilliant triathlon for a first timer, Regan and Wade will also look to set up a few triathlon training nights at the local pool and some 'mini tris' for the kids so stayed tuned for those dates over summer, any kind of bike and any ability is most welcomed as the emphasis is having a tri!



Twilight Netball Comp

Two local Nathalia friend teams entered the Shepparton Netball Association Twilight Netball Competition that ran for 8 weeks. Both teams known as The Purples, were under the leadership of Denise Liddell, and managed to take home the Premiership in their respective divisions, making Denise a double Premiership coach on the night. It was a well deserved win for both teams.



15 & Under: (L-R) Sarah Connelly, Molly Sheehan, Summer McIver, Abbey Sheehan, Jayda Liddell, Keira Liddell, Zahlia Kautai, Tayah Lundberg & Sarah Stone.

13&U Division 1 Primary - undefeated the entire competition, the girls played in extremely hot conditions against St Brendan's Lighting winning 17-2. Most Valuable Player went to Chantelle Dealy.

15&U Division 2 - it was tough and go for the girls making it into the Grand Final. However, they made it through and in a really tough game against Greater Shepparton Secondary College, the girls were 4 goals down going into the last quarter and secured the win by 2 goals (18-16). Most Valuable Player went to Jayda Liddell.



13 & Under: (L-R) Denise Liddell, Ivy Paton, Jordy Rudd, Chantelle Dealy, Ruby Cavallaro, Keira Liddell, Sienna Vallender, Lily James & Ava Bourke.

Nathalia Association Cricket Club News



A Grade vs Tocumwal: Losing the toss and having to bowl, it didn't take long for the first wicket to fall, Clancy getting proceeding's going with his 5th ball. Wickets regularly continued to fall due to some good bowling by all bowlers. Liam Evans getting 3/5, Dylan Cunningham 2/9 and Clancy Congues 2/11 were big players in keeping Tocumwal to 81. Eight overs was all that was needed and some power hitting from Liam Evans saw him hit 62 off 39 balls including 9 4's and 3 6's. Support from Luke Quinn with 17 was the only other batter to get a look in.

A Grade vs Katamatite: The start of two day games saw us win the toss and have a bat. Runs ticked along regularly but so did wickets. Sam Boyd looked to be top scorer with a well crafted 78 off 130 odd balls creating the back bone of our score of 10/246. The platform created allowed Dylan Cunningham to enter with no pressure at all, to which he gave the crowd a show to remember hitting 81 off 59 including 10 4s and 5 6s.

With 20 overs still to bowl after all batters out it started off well claiming a wicket on the last ball of the first over. The next two batters tried their hardest to survive but some great pressure bowling and fielding saw us claim another two wickets before the end of the day to have Katamatite 3/40.

B Grade vs Katamatite: Having already had 2 wins against Katamatite the boys let their guard down. Restricting Katty to 9/116 it could be said the boys relaxed a little too hard. Dale James and Xavier Daniel bowled beautifully claiming 3 wickets each.

The batting innings ticked along and came within reach but unfortunately they came up short. It got close due to some good batting from the father son duo Thomas (24) and Nathan (18) Binks.

B Grade vs Cobram: Coming up against ladder leaders Cobram, the boys were optimistic. Cobram won the toss and elected to bat. 7/141 was what the boys were able to restrain Cobram to. Billy Liddell, Mark Wilson and Gus Frostick all claimed 2 wickets each. Batting innings was lead from the front by

Captain David Brereton with 60 not out, this accounted for half of the team score. Mark Wilson 21 and Thomas Binks 13 offered a bit of resistance but ultimately we came up 14 runs short.

C Grade vs Denilquin: The less said about this game the better, all involved would rather forget. Deni posted 2/294 with only Josh Woods and Zander Quinn got a wicket.

In return we posted 7/155 with Glenn Edwards backing up his first innings 50 with a second one. The boys tried their best but were worn out from fielding first.

C Grade vs Tocumwal: In what was a battle of two teams who had young and old players making up majority of their teams, Tocumwal came out victors. Toc batted first and put up 8/142, with the best performance on the field going to Zander Quinn with 3/17 a runout and a catch followed closely by Matt Lundberg with 2/10.

Best performance with the bat, which is becoming a regular occurrence was Matt Lundberg with 36, supported nicely by his son Kai who made 13. Second top score came from a Milkman who made his debut for C Grade in Aiden Daniel with 17. Unfortunately due to not much more help the boys fell short all out for 113.

U12 v Katamatite: It's building... we finally got to see the progress we have been making. After being belted in the first game by Katty, we only lost by 20 odd runs this time.

Katamatite won the toss and batted first posting 5/82, Grace Leslie, Spencer Eadie, Henry Hawks and Miller Butler all got a wicket. Wides top scored, but other than that there was a little bit of progress with some good lines.

Our turn to bat and the team put value on their wickets seeing majority of them retire and get to go back in. We were finally taking some good singles instead of dot balls.

Whilst we may not have had anyone hit a large score they all tried their hardest not to go out.

A little bit more training and our first win will be right around the corner.

U/12 v Deni - Wash out

U/15 v Cobram: Chasing 144 for victory we fell

short by 8 runs. This is the closest game Cobram have had for a while and it was largely thanks to our newest fill in Murphy Stephens. On debut for the NACC he crafted a beautiful 82 to make Cobram a little nervous. The rest of the team tried their best and there was some good support from Gus Frostick, Cam Liddell and young Kade Rogers who batted beautifully as the last wicket partnership with Murphy.

With the addition of Crüe and Murphy it has had an effect of allowing our players to not feel as stressed that one wrong shot hurts the team. Hopefully we continue to build and the development of the players grows a lot quicker.

U/15 vs Katunga: Winning the toss and choosing to bowl after a wet week is always a good option. Although Neale had done a great job on preparing the wicket it still played like a normal Saturday wicket. Zander Quinn and Gus Frostick started proceedings and a great start it was, both snagging a wicket each for only 11 runs off their 10 overs. Next to bowl was Hamish Whyte and Cam Liddell, now whilst Haim didn't get a wicket for a kid playing his third game 0/16 off 4 overs is pretty good. Cam is gaining confidence each week and managed to snag a wicket for 18 off his 4 overs. The following pair was Lachie Barker and Kade Rogers. Kade continued on his normal way bowling nice lines to Katunga's best batsman and just like last week with the bat he handled the pressure with the ball, picking up a wicket. Enter Lachie, with his best spell of bowling I've seen from him 2/8 off 5. It was great to see him finally smile after his spell of bowling. Charlie McDonald is making claims to be a better bowler than both his older brothers 0/7 off his 4 and Murphy Stephens bowled well in partnership with him 0/11 off his 4 whilst there was plenty of gaps.

Crüe Lucas and Dylan Dohnt were the last two to bowl and they both followed what their teammates had set up. Crüe claiming 1/4 off 2 and Dylan unlucky not to get one with 0/16.

The boys restricted Katunga to 9/109 which is a tricky total but if they all concentrate, it is one that they should be able to chase down.



Picola Bowling Club News

MIDWEEK PENNANT

5 Dec 2023, Round 9 - We played away Finley losing by 18 shots. Karen, Keith, Mary and Tony's rink losing 19-30. Sue, Bill, John and Helen's rink losing 13-25. Julie, Geoff D, Maureen and Trevor's rink winning 22-17.

12 Dec 2023, Round 10 - We played home to Barooga Sports winning by 4 shots. Karen, Tony, Boxy and Mary drew 15-15. Sue, Bill, Helen and John losing 13-18. Keith, Geoff D, Maureen and Trevor won 24-15. Well done team.

Round 11, 16 JAN 2024 - Picola are away to Numurkah.

Round 12, 23 JAN 2024 - Picola are home to Numurkah Golf.

WEEKEND PENNANT

2 Dec 2023, Round 9 - Division 2 We played away to Barooga losing by 9 shots. Bruce, Tony, Max and Roy drew 21-21. Archie, Sue, Bill and Karen won 25-17. Keith, Jeff P, John and Geoff D lost 29-12. **Division 5** - We played away to Numurkah losing by 9 shots. Julie, Mary, Gavin and Geoffrey C lost 21-28. Trevor, Wally, Aaron and Maureen lost 18-20.

9 Dec 2023, Round 10 - Division 2 We played away to Finley losing by 18 shots. Keith, Jeff P, John and Geoff D's rink won 21-18. Archie, Sue,

Bill and Karen's rink losing 19-24. Bruce, Tony, Max and Roy's rink lost 8-24. **Division 5** We played away to Nathalia and winning by 1 shot. Boxy, Bill P, Mary and Maureen lost 18-23. Trevor, Wally, Aaron and Geoffrey C won 28-22.

Round 11, 20 Jan 2024 Div 2 - are home to Strathy
Round 11, 13 Jan 2024 Div 5 - are home to Strathy.
Round 12, 27 Jan 2024 Div 2 - are away to Wunghnu

Round 12, 20 Jan 2024 Div 5 - are away to Cobram.
Reminder.....Christmas Breakup will be at Picola Bowling Club this Saturday for a BBQ lunch. All members and their families are welcome to attend. Please contact Bruce with numbers if you are attending for catering purposes.

Merry Christmas and have a safe New Year. GO PICOLA !

Season Close for Blue Jazz



Our final game of the season was against the Cats and unfortunately would not go the way we all hoped. The boys put in a strong effort and tried their best, but the Cats were able to utilise their timeouts and substitutions late in the game to hold onto their 4 point lead and secure the win.

The focus of every junior coach is never on winning games or making finals. The focus is always on player development and enjoyment. Well, I can tell you that the player development of this team has been nothing short of remarkable. Every single player on the

team has grown, not just as a basketball player but as a sportsman and as a young man.

I am incredibly proud of this team, and I could not have asked for a better group of young men to coach. Each player should think back to the start of the season and see how much they have improved every week.

At the start of the season, I aimed for us to play competitive basketball and hoped we could secure one win for the season. In the end, the boys played so well that we almost made the finals, missing out only on

percentage, this is a credit to every player on the team and something they can all be proud of and hold their heads up high.

All the boys have a very bright future, both on the courts and off, and I wish them all the best moving forward. I can't wait to see you all develop and I hope you all continue with your basketball.

Junior sports teams rely heavily on volunteers and helpers, and I want to say a huge thank you to all the parents. From scoring, bringing kids to training nights and games, through to supporting the coach, you have all done a fantastic job.

A special thanks to Kyle James, for help with coaching and training the team every week.



Nathalia Parkrun Celebrates Milestones

Over the last few weeks the Nathalia Showgrounds Parkrun has reached two big milestones and celebrated well.

It is 2 years since the first Event finally hit the 5 kilometre creek-side track after official approval was given by the International Parkrun administrators. COVID-related delays kept the initial crew of volunteers, led by Helen Williams, paused but ready and there have now been 100 successful Events. Cakes from 'Three Belles' were offered at the finish line to share the fun anniversary celebrations.

Local people, aged between 4 and 84, make up the majority of participants, gathering at the start line behind the tennis courts each Saturday for an 8 a.m. start. There are no limits on the number of runners/walkers, and all are welcome. A simple, free, once-only online registration is encouraged which creates an individual barcode used to digitally collate your records for you no matter where in the world you take part. Just bring your device with you



Above: Helen Williams & Raine Plattfuss.



Right: Nathalia Parkrun Group celebrating their 100th event & 2 year anniversary.

and a volunteer will help you complete it. There is never any cost to join in, and the friendly volunteers will help you enjoy our beautiful track along the creek, whether you walk slowly (with your dog if you wish) or run quickly, or any combination in between. You will never be the final person over the line because that is a role for a volunteer (Tailwalker) who ensures all participants safely complete the course. The event is timed, in case you want to challenge yourself to get faster, but the focus is on regular healthy exercise in a lovely outdoor environment. If 5 kilometres doesn't sound like a challenge you want to tackle but you like the sound of the friendly community, we'll welcome you as a volunteer!

Nathalia Showgrounds is a popular choice with 'Parkrun tourists' from around the country. Dedicated Parkrunners can spend most

weekends travelling to new places, then join the 'locals' for coffee or breakfast, gathering information about attractions in the area they might enjoy before going home. It's a lovely way to start the weekend! At Nathalia Showgrounds Parkrun a total of 1527 people have crossed the line at the end - an average of 15 people per week. That's 503 different people who have finished our Nathalia showgrounds Parkrun since it started. The average finish time is about 37 minutes, though some people are pursuing the Nathalia record, set by Shane Thiele (an AFL Umpire) on 19 February 2022. Shane completed the course in less than 17 minutes! Rhianna Wik-Gamble set the fastest female time - 21:27, at Event #2 in December 2021. 138 volunteers have helped make this free, fun and friendly event a regular gathering at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, behind the tennis courts. Come on down and join us!



Regular volunteers waiting at the finish line - (L-R) Raine Plattfuss, Judy Dealy, Beth Leslie & Georgia Smith.

Nathalia Junior Tennis Results

B2 Purple: B2 Purple took on Murchison at home coming away with a comprehensive win 7-44 to 1-20. Purple head into the Christmas break sitting 2 games clear on top the ladder. The kids will have a well deserved break returning for the final 4 games of the season in February.

B2 Gold: Team B2 Gold (consisting of Ella McLennan, Isla Putman, Eliza Raleigh, Taylah

Hutchins & Molly McLennan) have had mixed results the past couple of weeks, with a close win against Shepp Lawn Blue at home, and a loss to Tallygaroopna, on the hard courts of McEwen Reserve. All the very best girls, for your last match of 2023 against Mooroopna Lawn this coming weekend.

C2 Purple: Sitting in 1st place on the ladder, C2 Purple took on 3rd placed Shepp Lawn Yellow at

home. With lots of good tennis played by the team, we managed to secure the four points and won 5-36 to 3-28. Our scheduled last game before the Christmas break is at Kialla this Friday night.

C2 Gold: C2 Gold played Shepp Lawn Blue on Saturday in Shepparton. The team played well winning 7-48 to 1-18. Each player has displayed great improvement during the season. Our next game will be Friday night in Nathalia against Kialla where we will enjoy a BBQ together.

Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club Senior Results



GM 2 - 2nd Dec: home match and Nathalia Div 2 defeated Kyabram Bombers, 7 sets 63 games to 4 sets 61 games

GM 2 - 9th Dec: With Christmas break looming, it seemed a good opportunity for GM2 team to bring its A game to Tatura to get a much needed win after an excellent win the week before over Kyabram. Tatura hadn't read the memo and put up a good fight, Tim Hubbard being the only 3 set winner.

Ted and John battled hard, but fell short 6-8. Tim won his singles well to even things up a bit, followed by a strong win to Rose and Corina 8-3 which kept our nose in front, Nick stepped out at number 1 singles against strong opposition and battled hard to go down 4-6. Ted and Tim held in for an 8-7 tiebreak win. Rose went back on court with Helen and after a strong display won 8-5, then the final set before the break Helen and Corina worked hard for a 6-8 result.

At arvo tea time we held a 6 game lead, so things were tight. John and Rose headed out for mixed doubles with no arvo tea for Rose (not a good thing) playing thru so Corey from Tat could go milk cows. They battled hard in now windy conditions to go down 6-8, but with wins to Nick and Helen 8-3 and Tim and Corina 8-7 we hung on to win by 10 games. This week is the final game for 2023. Another win will prove useful going into the break so we will practice hard this week.

GM 3 - 2nd Dec: A real contest between Nathalia Div 3 and Kyabram Bombers resulted in a nail biting finish. The day started with a good singles win by Ryan Bell 6-4. Men's doubles pairs Anthony Wilson/Jim Brereton and Jim Brereton/Greg Frostick won both their sets. The ladies achieved many games between them, but no set wins, with Monique Bryant and Di Wilson narrowly missing out at tie break. At afternoon tea, Nathalia was trailing by 5 games and we went into the mixed doubles with a change of strategy. It worked, with Nathalia winning 3 of the 4 sets. Ryan Bell and Monique Bryant won their set 8 - 3, and Anthony Wilson and Philippa Slinger pulled ahead to win 8 - 4. The winning set was delivered by Jim Brereton and Di Wilson to win 8 - 5. Loretta Richardson and Greg Frostick faced off the top pair going down 2 - 8. After a tense count, the final tally couldn't be closer: Nathalia was declared the winners 6 sets 74 games to Kyabram's 7 sets, 73 games. One more game to Kyabram would have meant they would have won the day - showing that every game counts. Well done to Ryan Bell who won 3/3 of his sets.

GM 3 - 9th Dec: Nathalia met old rivals Numurkah on a warm but overcast day in a home match. Ryan Bell pulled ahead early with a 6-0 singles win. He was helped by wins from the men's doubles Aaron Booth/Anthony Wilson, and David Scaddon/Anthony Wilson. The ladies also pulled their weight: pairs Loretta Richardson/Di Wilson, and Loretta Richardson/Philippa Slinger had solid set wins. It was more or less neck and neck at afternoon tea break, so Monique Bryant and Loretta Richardson devised a strategy for the mixed pairings. Anthony Wilson and Philippa Slinger had a decisive 8-1 win, David Scadden and Loretta Richardson won 8-3. Aaron Booth and Di Wilson had a real slog of a match, digging in deep to claw 6 games from their wily opponents. And finally Ryan Bell and Monique Bryant wrested a respectable 5 games from the top pair. The mixed doubles had done enough to win the day: Nathalia beating the tourists 7 sets 79 games to 6 sets 71 games.

GM 4 - 2nd Dec: We had some amazing fill ins step in at the last minute to help us get over the line, to at least have a shot at playing against the top of the ladder Tatura Monsoons. The boys did not disappoint, with Liam Booth being man of the match winning all 3 of his sets with Pat Ryan, Jared Laffy and the mixed with Katie Halden. Leonie Holmes won the mixed after quite a battle with Jared 8-6 and had to dig deep to pull up from 4-0 down with Judith Slattery but unfortunately lost 8-6.

Overall, we lost by only 3 games, Tatura defeating Nathalia, 56 games to 53.

GM 4 - 9th Dec: A decisive win for Nathalia, defeating Numurkah Raptors 64-36. Lucy and Mitch Daniel and Judith Slattery won all 3 of their sets. Matt Slattery and Pat Ryan fought against some tough opposition in their first set winning 8:6 and Pat and Hamish Mcleod just lost on a tie break. Matt and Pat, stalwarts of our GM 4 team this season, both won 2 out of 3 of their sets.

It is fantastic to see such strong Juniors rising through the ranks, which has undoubtedly helped push GM 4 up the ladder to now be in 4th position.

Div 1 - Numurkah Warriors v The Velvet Tigers:

The Velvet Tigers made the trip over to Numurkah in blustery conditions on Saturday, weather more suited to kite flying than playing tennis. Thanks to both the curator and the weather, the courts managed to dry out enough after the deluge earlier in the week for play to proceed.

Numurkah scraped home with a 7 sets 70 games to 5 sets 68 games victory.

The Velvet Tiger women had the claws out and sharpened to perfection winning all the

women's sets. Eliza Bingham continued her rampaging form winning her three sets and Hannah O'Brien also won her singles.

Jarrold Bingham & Sam McHarg won a Men's Doubles, and the final set salvaged for the Velvet Tigers was a mixed doubles by Eliza and Jarrod Bingham over the Bassett siblings in an entertaining affair that was appreciated by the small and enthused gallery at the Katamatite Road complex.

The Numurkah men of Jack Bassett, Nick Fenaughty, John Brunner and Mark Mills took a clean sweep of all the Men's Singles helping them to the 2 game victory.

For Numurkah, John Brunner and Mark Mills won their three sets for the day.

Div 1 - 9th Dec: The velvet tigers ventured to Shepparton on Saturday and came up against Shepparton Lawn "The Valley" coming up trumps in a narrow affair 6 sets 72 games to 6 sets 69 games.

In the men's it was a tough start for the VTs with Jarrod Bingham and Michael Richardson going down 8-2 to Luke Dixon and Dave Starling make his debut for his 4th club in the association within the last decade.

Luke again was too strong for Jarrod in the singles, as was Starling for Richo.

The 3/4 mens doubles was a tight affair with Ned Nihill and Dean Limbrick stepping up to Section 1, losing in a narrow tie break. Dean was unlucky enough to also go down in another close tiebreak encounter in his singles with Will Rohde. Ned had a strong victory in his singles ousting Matt Crittenden 8-4.

As usual the Velvet Tiger women were solid, Eliza Bingham ruthless in another 8-0 over Anna Reynolds and Ash Cobbledick fighting hard and managing to win 8-6 over the craft and finesse of Leanne More. The womens doubles was also a solid 8-1 for Bingham/Cobbledick.

Ned nihill and Michael Richardson were able to turn the tables with the tiebreak fortune, with a well fought high standard victory over Dixon/Crittenden.

Cobbledick and Limbrick went down in the second mixed doubles, to Reynolds and Rohde. The Bingham and Bingham combination were too good for Starling and More helping seal the narrow victory.

Well done to Dean Limbrick for stepping up to Section 1, and fighting out some close tiebreakers which counted to get the Velvet Tigers to victory.

The final round before the Christmas break, the Velvet Tigers will face Shepparton Lawn "Average Joes"

Wunghnu Bowling Club's Spick Picket Fence



After many hours of work, discussions and planning by a band of volunteers and professionals the new picket fence has been completed at the west side of the Wunghnu Lawn Bowling club.

L and J Webb fencing was the group responsible for the supply and installation of the fence led by Dean Graham. The initial idea was the brain child of Dean Graham and with the generous support of the Moira Shire that idea came to fruition. The Shire grant of \$10,000 as well as the magnanimous sponsorship of \$2000 by Australian Consolidated Milk has allowed the Wunghnu Bowling community to be the recipients of the beautification of our site. Many helpers need to be thanked who worked under Dean's supervision including Peter Malins, Barry Cope, Peter Graham, Damian Hommes, Jim Brown and Ian Gray as well as others who helped along the way.

Originally the west side was a bit of an eye sore but now it is the talk of the town with onlookers and the bowlers singing its praise. So if you are thinking about having a roll come down to our club we are very welcoming people.

Pictured top left works underway with the finished product pictured left.

Nathalia Bowling Club News



As this is the last news item from the **Bowling Club** for 2023, we wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please look forward to more news in 2024.

Our **PENNANT SEASON** so far, has been one of mixed results. **SATURDAY PENNANT ROUND 9 on 2nd December - DIVISION 3** played Cobram at Cobram with the following results as follows: Cobram 57 to 56 shots going down by 1 shot overall. Steve Campbell's team lost 9 shots to 24. Bev Hutchins team won 29 shots to 16 and Peter Hutchins team won 19 shots to 16. **DIVISION 5** Nathalia played Cobram at home, and lost overall, but gained 2 points. Gary Manley's team 18 shots to 16. Ian Bolton's team went down 18 shots to 25. **SATURDAY PENNANT ROUND 10 on 9th December - Nathalia** played Berrigan at home winning 76 shots to 50. Nathalia gained 14 points. Steve Campbell's team 11 shots to 18. Bev Hutchins' team up with 32 shots to 16 and Peter Hutchins' team also a good win 33 shots to 16. Division 3 sitting 3rd on the ladder. **DIVISION 5 ROUND 10** played Picola at Nathalia and fell by 1 shot in a hard fought game. Gary Manley's team 23 shots to 18. Chris Briggs 23 shots to 18. This was the last Round before the Christmas break. Division 3 resumes on 20th January 2024 and Division 5 on 13th January, 2024.

MIDWEEK PENNANT ROUND 9 on 5th December was played at Nathalia against Cobram - 63 shots to 64. Nathalia went down by 1 shot on the last end and as Cobram are on top of the ladder this was a good effort by Nathalia. Berris Baldwin's team won 26 shots to 14. Bev Hutchins' team won 21 shots to 15 and Tessa Ward's team were disappointed to go down 16 shots to 35. **MIDWEEK played ROUND 10 on Tuesday 12th December** being the last Round before the Christmas. Nathalia

played at home against Tocumwal Golf and Bowls losing by 31 shots, final scores 46 shots to 77. Bev Hutchins' team 16-24. Fiona Rourke's team 18-21 and Berris Baldwin 12-32.

On Thursday December 7th December Nathalia hosted a **MENS TRADE DAY** which was gratefully sponsored by **Peter Cox and Sons Funerals, Numurkah** with 24 teams of three, 72 players in all competing from all the region. The weather was favorable helping make a pleasant day for bowling and friendliness. A big thanks to Alan Cooper for the excellent greens and Steve Campbell for running the bar and all other members who contributed to making the day a success. Also, to Tessa Ward and Ladies for supplying lunch. The winners on the day, winning with 4 games were a Team from Findley - Ash, Tom and Gordon. Congratulations. The Jackpot once again went unclaimed.

THE CLUB held a **PLUM PUDDING BOWLING DAY** (bowls were played with, not Plum Puddings) on Friday 8th December, 18 bowlers played 2 games of 6 ends and again the weather conditions were very pleasant. Plum Puddings once were the prizes but now Christmas Cakes made and decorated by Tessa Ward and her daughter Kerryn Hamilton.



Kevin Scolyer at the Plum Pudding Day - very relaxed.



Rosemary Glover deciding where to place the mat on Plum Pudding Day.

The competition was friendly but fierce and the winners were Keith Holland, Ian Bolton and Ash Hutchins. Runners Up - Bill Seymour, Tim Cullen and Peter Brown. President Bev Hutchins thanked all for coming and all who worked to make the day successful.

A LADIES TRADE DAY was held on the Thursday 14th December at Nathalia. The day being sponsored by Peter Cox and Sons Funerals, Numurkah, which is very much appreciated. 12 teams entered from the region. Results will be published in the next edition.

Nathalia Bowls Club is very happy with the members support by shopping at **TJ'S IGA** during the year and contributing their rewards points to the Club, which collected \$286.00 from IGA. A great community effort and our thanks to TJ's for the generous support to the town.

DON'T FORGET BAREFOOT BOWLS ON FRIDAY NIGHT the 15th, your last chance to have a go at this great game for the year. Numbers have been pleasing and all attending enjoying the experience. Be there by 6pm to get a game and a bite to eat. All for \$10.00! The Bar is open at 5pm, so come early and see our cheerful Barman Steve and have a coldie.

The Club is off to Barmah Hotel on Saturday 16th December to have a Christmas Celebration to round off the year. Until 2024 - Cheers.



(L-R) Cake maker & decorator Kerryn Hamilton and Tessa Ward with winners of the Plum Pudding Day Ian Bolton, Keith Holland and Ash Hutchins.



Dove Motors

60 Elizabeth Street, Nathalia
 ☎ 5866 2511

Christmas Trading Hours

Saturday 23rd December	8.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 24th December	9.00am - 12.00pm
Monday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	CLOSED
Tuesday 26th December BOXING DAY	CLOSED
Wednesday 27th December	7.30am - 5.30pm
Thursday 28th December	7.30am - 5.30pm
Friday 29th December	7.30am - 4.30pm
Saturday 30th December	8.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 31st December	9.00am - 12.00pm
Monday 1st January NEW YEAR'S DAY	CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd January	7.30am - 5.30pm

Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy
 New Year to all our valued customers



WISHING YOU A VERY *Merry Christmas*

There's tinsel on the trees, crowds in local shops and smiles on children's faces – it's Christmas and however you decide to celebrate, it's a special time of year. Our amazing communities continue to go from strength to strength, in their recovery from the challenges of 2022 and the opportunities of the future.

I will continue to work collaboratively to ensure our voice is heard in Canberra, and that the Federal Government understands what it needs to do to ensure we can continue to thrive.

This Christmas I encourage you to shop local. Our region has an endless range of goods and services on offer and buying locally means you're also giving a gift to regional businesses and supporting jobs.

I hope you have a safe and happy holiday, filled with lasting memories with family and friends. I look forward to meeting with many of you in 2024.



Sam BIRRELL MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

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Authorised by Sam Birrell, The National Party of Australia, Shepparton.

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

Congratulations to Nathalia's Dorothy Barnes

Dorothy was the winner of my \$500 grocery voucher.

Earlier this year I sent out a community survey and everyone who completed the survey went in the draw to win one of two grocery vouchers.

Dorothy's name was pulled out of the draw as one of the thousands of people who took part.

It was amazing to meet with Dorothy and hear stories about her life. A very deserving winner.



Get on with it and Build Bridges

Recently, Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Darren Chester MP, joined me in Nicholls to discuss with the community about the need for funding for regional infrastructure projects. Mr Chester was instrumental in securing funding for the

Echuca Moama Bridge while in government. This project has changed lives and saved lives. Regional funding from the Labor Government for similar critical infrastructure projects needs to be put back on the table. Projects like the Yarrowonga – Mulwala Bridge, Kirwans Bridge and the Shepparton Bypass, are essential for their communities and deserve to be funded. It comes as the Labor scrapped the \$208 million dollars which the former Coalition Government secured to get the first stages of the Shepparton Bypass off the ground. A disappointing decision and another example of Labor abandoning regional Australia.



Labor and Greens Destructive Deal

The Labor-Greens deal on water is the worst outcome for farmers, manufacturers, and communities across the Murray-Darling Basin. It will hurt production, increase costs, impact jobs and the prosperity of basin communities. The Coalition fought for a strong

socio-economic neutrality test to protect communities and for a cap on water buybacks, but these were rejected. The legislation to implement the revised Murray-Darling Basin Plan has now been passed and the clock is ticking on water buybacks. At a recent showcase of produce from the Basin Labor Water Minister Tania Plibersek told SPC she always bought Australian tinned tomatoes for her cooking; so why pass legislation that will make them more expensive and harder to grow? On Wednesday I asked Minister Plibersek whether she had done economic modelling on her basin plan, and she refused to answer; instead, she displayed her total lack of understanding by suggesting that taking water out of the consumptive pool would not impact agricultural production or communities, and even suggested food prices would fall. I care, the Nationals care, we will keep fighting to protect communities; and we should all hold Labor and the Greens to account for the damage they do.



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Authorised by Sam Birrell, The National Party of Australia, Shepparton.

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia





Christmas

trading hours

Saturday 23 December – Closed

Sunday 24 December – Closed

Monday 25 December – Closed

Tuesday 26 December – Closed

Wednesday 27 December – 9.30am to 5pm

Thursday 28 December – 9.30am to 5pm

Friday 29 December – 9.30am to 5pm

Saturday 30 January – Closed

Sunday 31 January – Closed

Monday 1 January – Closed

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