

Friday 3rd November, 2023

Delivered FREE to Nathalia, Waaia, Yalca, Yielima, Barmah, Picola, Kotupna,Wunghnu & Kaarimba

1750 Published Fortnightly

In This Edition



St Francis celebrated book week with a parade. See page 9 for more photos.



Probus visited Broken Creek Flowers. See page 15 for the Probus news and more beautiful photos by Estelle Chalker.



Find out more about Jasmine Johns' beautiful quilt on page 6.



Nathalia Secondary College Year 12 Valedictory Dinner The graduating class of 2023: Kairi, Kaiya, Tash, Ocean-Lee, Kylah, Corey, Mason, Connor, Brayen, Brandon & Joel. More NSC news page 12.

Next issue of the Red Gum Courier: <u>Friday 17th NOV</u> Copy Deadline: <u>Monday 13th NOV</u> NEWS/SPORT/CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING PH: 5866 3060 EMAIL: redgum@nathaliaprinters.com.au



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Proudly representing Nathalia and District in State Parliament.

> For assistance with all State Government matters please contact my office.

p: (03) 5821 6668 e: wendy.lovell@parliament.vic.gov.au www.wendylovell.com.au

Authorised by Wendy Lovell MP, 222 Wyndham Street Shepparton.

One Year Anniversary of October 2022 Floods

Come reflect and acknowledge our communities strength and resilience

Wednesday 8 November 2023 4pm - 7:30pm Nathalia Recreation Reserve. Park Street, Nathalia

- Dr Rob Gordon
- Free BBO Dinner
- Photo Wall
- Art Installation
- 72HR Program
- Launch









New Tenders Open

A number of new tenders have opened this week, all closing at 4pm on Wednesday 8 November 2023.

- C018/23 Provision of Electrical Maintenance Services - Panel
- C019/23 Provision of Painting Services -Panel
- C020/23 Provision of Plumbing & Gas Fitting Services - Panel
- C021/23 Provision of Tree Maintenance Services - Panel
- C022/23 Provision of Building Maintenance Services - Panel
- C023/23 Provision of General Trades & Services - Panel
- C024/23 Provision of Plant & Labour Hire - Panel
- C030/23 Flood Recovery Works Stewarts Bridge Road, Lower Moira

Visit our website for more information and

to view specification documents.

HONE

5871 9222

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

CDS is commencing in Yarrawonga on 1 November and in Cobram on 27 November 2023, allowing you to return your eligible drink cans, bottles, and

cartons for a 10-cent refund. FOOTT Waste Solutions are operating CDS depots at 5 Coglan Street, Cobram and 97 Benalla-Yarrawonga Road, Yarrawonga. Visit our website for operating hours and what you can and can't return.

Cultural Diversity Grants

The Cultural Diversity Grants are now open. These grants provide community organisations and/or businesses who are interested in hosting Cultural Diversity Week events or activities an opportunity to apply for funding.

Events or activities outside of Cultural Diversity Week may be considered so long as the applicant is able to demonstrate its cultural theme and benefits. Applications for both the minor (up to \$1,000) and major (up to \$10,000) Cultural Diversity Grants will be considered. Applications close on Wednesday 15 November 2023 Visit our website to view the guidelines and apply.



Festive Funding Success

Congratulations to the successful Festive Funding applicants. These groups will be providing a variety of activities and decorations throughout the Moira Shire over the Festive Season

- Yarrawonga Mulwala Tourism .
- . Barmah Social Club
- Cobram Barooga Business and Tourism .
- Numurkah Lions Club Inc
- Katamatite Community Group Inc
- Wunghnu and District Voice
- St James Silo Art Committee Inc
- Kaarimba Public Hall Inc.
- Katamatite Cricket Club
- . MHA Care
- Strathmerton Community Steering Committee
- Nathalia Barmah Business and Tourism Inc
- Numurkah Community Learning Centre
- Tungamah Lions Club

For more information please contact our friendly Customer Experience team on (03) 5871 9222.



isit website

NRS 133 677

EMAIL info@moira.vic.gov.au

44 Station Street, Cobram & 100 Belmore Street, Yarrawonga



Jumping Castle

Glitter Tattoo

Balloon Twister

Face Painting

Fairy Floss



Georgy Nominees







NATHALIA

 \ensuremath{S} t Mary of the Angels Secondary College is excited to announce that three members of the 2023 Cast of Mamma Mia have been nominated for a Georgy Award.

Nominations for these awards are very hard to achieve and are a fantastic recognition of the students' hard work and commitment.

BEST PERFORMANCE IN A JUNIOR PRODUCTION Kian Brererton for his role as Sam Adeline Hutchins for her role as Donna BEST PERFORMANCE IN A SUPPORT IN A JUNIOR PRODUCTION Abigail Walsh for her role as Tanya

BEST SINGING IN A JUNIOR PRODUCTION

Kian Brererton for his role as Sam Adeline Hutchins for her role as Donna

The SMOTA community would also like to congratulate Teaching Staff

member. Sean O'Brien who was nominated in the Senior Section for role as Oliver his Warbucks in the Seymour Performers Workshop production of Annie

The awards night will be held on the 25th of November at Eastbank. Tickets are available from by calling **Riverlinks Box Office:** 03 5832 9511.



OPEN 7 DAYS PH: (03) 5866 2593

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Home Deliveries	NOVEMBER SPECIALS	Trading Hours
Nathalia: Monday to Friday \$6 Delivery fee for over \$50 spend, \$4 for over \$100 spend, \$2 for over \$150 spend Free for over \$200	BEEF T-BONE BRUSHED POTATOES	Mon to Fri: 8am-7pm Sat & Sun: 8am-6pm Melbourne Cup day Tues Nov 7 9am-3pm
spend Orders placed by 12pm for delivery 4-6pm <u>Waaia / Bearii /</u> <u>Katunga / Yalca /</u> Yielima / Strathy:	STEAK \$28.99/KG \$4.99EA	Click & Collect: \$4 Picking fee Monday to Friday Minimum spend \$40
Wednesday \$6 Delivery fee, Minimum spend \$40, Orders placed by 8am for delivery 10am-1pm <u>Barmah / Picola /</u> <u>Picola West</u> : Thursday	ZOOPER DOOPERs \$4.50	Place order by 8am - Collect between 10am-1pm Place order by 11am - Collect between 1pm-4pm Place order by 2pm -
\$6 Delivery fee, Minimum spend \$40, Orders placed by 10am for delivery 12-6pm	Melbourne Cup Day, Tues 7 Nov, Open 9am-3pm	Collect between 4pm-6pm *subject to change

Community Event to Reflect, Connect and Heal from the 2022 October Flood

T o commemorate the one-year anniversary of last year's significant flood event, Moira Shire Council invites the community to come together to reflect, connect and heal from the on-going effects of the flood.

A special event will be held on Wednesday 8 November at the Nathalia Recreation Reserve. From 4pm to 7.30pm Council, alongside the community, will be commemorating this journey, recognising the challenges our community has faced, pay tribute to those affected, acknowledge the strength of the community and look forward to the future with hope and determination.

Community will be able to enjoy a free barbecue dinner and family friendly activities such as a jumping castle and face painting. A special art exhibition will be presented on the day featuring work from Nathalia Primary School, Grainstore Nathalia and local artist Phillippa Schapper.

Special guest Dr Rob Gordon, renowned disaster trauma specialist will deliver an address on the resilience and healing in the face of adversity.

Moira Shire Council Administrator Suzanna Sheed said the event would allow members of the community to come together to not only reflect on the event, but also find the strength and resources to continue moving forward.

"Now 12 months on, the flood recovery continues and not just in a physical sense, the impacts of the flood are long-lasting, affecting our physical infrastructure, economic, social and health and wellbeing of our communities," said Ms Sheed.

"Our residents are very resilient and this is a moment to come together to continue to support one another, share stories, connect resources and help each other on this path of healing."

Moira Shire Council would like to acknowledge the contributions of the Australian and Victorian Governments who have jointly funded the Community Recovery Hub which has worked to support the communities dealing with the impacts of the flood and help build resilience and preparedness for future events.

For more information about the event contact the Moira Shire Flood Recovery Team via Council's Customer Service Team on (03) 5871 9222. **Event Details:**

Date: Wednesday 8th November

Time: 4pm – 7:30pm

Location: Nathalia Recreation Reserve, Park Street, Nathalia

MEALS ON WHEELS November 3rd - 17th

IGHT CARE POR						
	November					
Friday 3rd	Patricia Hawks					
Monday 6th	Alison & Mick Keogh					
Tuesday 7th	VOLUNTEER REQUIRED					
Wednesday 8th	Mary Agius					
Thursday 9th	Heather Frostick					
Friday 10th	Mary Agius					
Monday 13th	St Mary of the Angels					
Tuesday 14th	Nina Pell					
Wednesday 15th	Nathalia Primary School					
Thursday 16th	Marlene Moor					
Friday 17th	David & Cheryl McKenzie					
If you can cover one of the volunteer required runs please						
	contact Laura,					

Volunteer Programs Co-ordinator - MHA Care Phone 03 5742 1111



 ${f T}$ he Moira Shire Council has begun its annual Fire Prevention inspections throughout the shire.

Council officers will inspect township areas and will respond to complaints to identify fire hazards on properties.

Landowners will receive a Fire Prevention Notice which they must comply with by slashing blocks, creating firebreaks, clearing undergrowth and removing flammable materials from their land.

There are significant penalties for failing to comply with a Fire Prevention Notice, owners can be issued an infringement of \$1923 of fined up to \$23,077 or imprisoned for 12 months at the Magistrates Court.

Acting Chief Executive Officer of Moira Shire Council, Michael Tudball said we all have a role to play in reducing fire risk for the community.

"With a very long hot summer forecasted, it is important for us all to be prepared and remove any fire hazards. There are important things that you need to start doing to reduce the risk of fire." Mr. Tudball said.

Simple things like cleaning gutters, keeping lawns short and gardens maintained, cutting back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings and cleaning up fallen branches and debris will all help in reducing the fire hazard risk to your property.

Mr. Tudball asked the community to prepare their property now.

"Start now, keep it maintained and help reduce the fire risk. The CFA, State Government, Council and the community all have a responsibility in reducing fire risks. Let's work together to help make our homes and businesses safe," he said.

Please visit the CFA website for more information on how to prepare your property.



Red Gum Courier, Friday November 3rd, 2023 Caterpillar Corner



Discoverers (nursery)

Throughout the past couple of months we have seen massive changes in children, more verbal language is being expressed through conversations, group times, one on one time and during moments of solitude. The children have been enjoying the warmer weather while loving the water play experiences using creativity, fine and gross motor skills to follow their ideas and interests.

The older children have been creating beautiful moments with our younger children within the room playing peek a boo and pulling funny expressions to assist in keeping them settled.

NATHALIA PRINTERS

The children have really enjoyed and engaged well in our October plan, especially the trains that have been the biggest hit getting all the children involved throughout the month and giving opportunity for the children to create their own train track. We have been out and about into our community doing excursions to get the children out and observing what is in our community, we spoke about road safe rules while crossing roads, and being observant in our surroundings and using our active listening hearing, cars, dogs, birds, voices, they really love excursions and getting out in our community.







What's on Locally

Nov 6	Exercise Circuit @ Nathalia Sports & Community Centre 6pm
Nov 7	Melbourne Cup Day (Public Holiday)
Nov 7	Senior Citzs Members Meeting & Melb Cup Celebrations
Nov 9	Nathalia Women's Health & Support Group Oaks Day "With A Twist"
Nov 10	RSL Memorial Service at Memorial Gardens, Elizabeth St, Nathalia @ 11am
Nov 10	Craft Day, Senior Citizens Clubrooms, 10am
Nov 11	Remembrance Day
Nov 12	Kid's Fishing Competition
Nov 13	Bingo, Senior Citizens Clubrooms, 1pm
Nov 13	Exercise Circuit @ Nathalia Sports & Community Centre 6pm
Nov 17	Barefoot Bowls, Nathalia Bowling Club, 6pm
Nov 18	Poultry Auction
Nov 24	Craft Day, Senior Citizens Clubrooms, 10am
Nov 24	Barefoot Bowls, Nathalia Bowling Club, 6pm
Nov 27	Bingo, Senior Citizens Clubrooms, 1pm
Dec 9	Nathalia Christmas Market
Dec 25	Christmas Day (Public Holiday)
Dec 26	Boxing Day (Public Holiday)
Dec 31	Nathalia New Year's Eve Carnival

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



H



NCN Cobram Health Numurkah NCN HEALTH NATHALIA Board Director opportunities at NCN Health

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP, is pleased to invite applications for part time director positions at NCN Health.

The positions start on 1 July 2024 and appointments are for two to three years. These positions provide an exciting opportunity for Victorians to contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Applicants are selected for their capabilities, including personal and professional attributes, experience. knowledge, and skills that contribute to the strategic leadership and oversight of health care for the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government is

committed to ensuring boards reflect the rich diversity of the Victorian community. Applications are welcomed from people of all ages, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and from lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, gender diverse, intersex and queer people. Safe and high quality healthcare for all Victorians is a priority of the Victorian

Government. Applicants must be able to demonstrate and provide evidence in support of the capabilities they identify in their applications.

Applications close at **Midnight Sunday 19 November 2023.**

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply, please go to the following website:

www.health.vic.gov.au/ board-applications

The Journey is in the Fabric

Quilt making, according to St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Student, Jasmine Johns for most students the idea "takes you back to the days of Year 7 textiles with Mrs McCallum", but for Jasmine, something about those Year 7 classes stuck and today, as a student in Year 11 she still continues to guilt.

Jasmine said, "In term one of this year, I decided I would make a quilt, a large quilt 2.3m square to be exact. I had many decisions and much planning to do. Step one was to design a quilt, but instead I designed three quilts, each a different shape. I liked all three, so I decided I would join them together.

"As part of the course work (Unit 3 and 4 Product Design Technology), I needed to decide



Jasmine Johns with her quilt.

on a design factor, I made the decision that I wanted my quilt to be focused on being sustainable. Not so easy to plan or imagine, when you start with hundreds of four inch triangles cut from many fabric scraps.

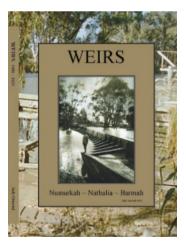
"But...Three terms and some tears later, I made a quilt. With the amazing help and guidance from Mrs McCallum and the generosity of Mrs Andrews for the amazing quilting she did.

"So, when you're in textiles in Year 7 and wondering about quilting, just remember that we all have to start somewhere."

Weirs

W eirs is the latest book written by local Judy Ormond. Copies are available from Judy 0428 933 188 or at Nathalia Printers.

Judy Ormond is a descendant of an early pioneering family who settled on drv land in the Yielima district in the nineteenth century. In 1970, Judy married Rex Ormond who descended from several pioneering families that settled near the Broken Creek. Narioka in 1876.



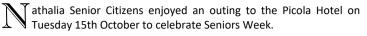
Judy has a long-standing interest in local history. She has written family books on the Schier, Ormond and Storey families and Barmah a mustering ritual unique to the Barmah Forest.

In this book Judy has focused her attention on weirs and crossings that span the Broken Creek from Numurkah to Barmah. For decades Judy regularly photographed many of these structures, and now she has combined her images with local newspaper items and oral histories, to create a fascinating story of changes to the Broken Creek waterway over nearly one-hundred and fifty years.

~ Dr. Julie Gross McAdam.



Nathalia Senior Citizens News



Thank you to Bruce, Kathryn and Lisa for their wonderful hospitality and lovely meals.



Publican Bruce Agnew



Waitress Kathryn



Our waiter, Peter



Senior Citizens group enjoying a meal at the Picola Hotel.

BRERETON'S BAKERY & COFFEE LOUNGE

20 Blake St, Nathalia: 5866 2466 | 64 Meiklejohn St, Numurkah: 5862 1790 159 Belmore St, Yarrawonga: 5744 0130

Come in with friends and enjoy a locally roasted Evoke Coffee!

School Aged Staff Wanted For weekends, after school & school

holidays Come in and see David or Karen, or email your resume to sales@breretonsbakery.com.au

Open 7 Days

Self-Serve fridge now stocking ready-to-go

- Salad Rolls
 - Salads
- Sandwiches
 Wraps



Museum Moments...

A choir was formed in Nathalia in 1956. A group of ladies were invited to sing together at a Country Womens' Association function and they were so well received that they decided to form a choir. Many of the early members are pictured at right.....

Back Row—Joan Harding, Jean Crane (pianist), Dorothy Bates, Nance Hutchins, Grace Broom, Kath Binger, Joan Killmister, Maureen Mannion, Heather Harding.

Front Row—Bessie Ferguson (conductor), Ida Saunders, Eileen Crane, Vera Betts, Margaret Cobbledick, Phyl Hawkey, Dorothy Heard.



Brought to you by Jeanette Holland on behalf of the Nathalia & District Historical Society.

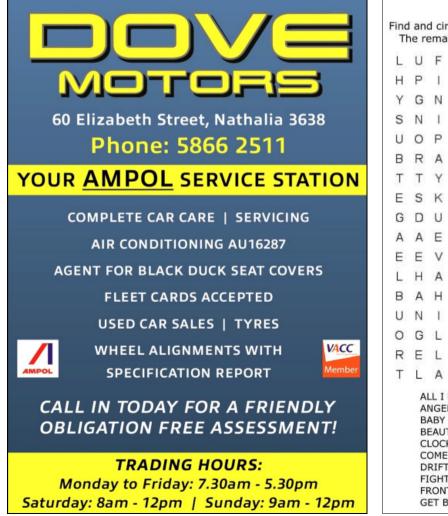


Pictured at left is the Nathalia CWA Quartet, which consisted of Joan Killmister, Dorothy Heard, Val Pickard and Margaret Cobbledick in the 1960's. This quartet wore a distinctive green gown with gold trim. They were invited to sing on a lot of occasions and often won State competitions. Margaret Cobbledick has continued her long association with a choir in Nathalia conducting the Nathalia Community Choir for 15 years until handing over the role to Linden Lancaster in 2015. Margaret now continues to enjoy singing with the choir.

Thanks to Deborah Killmister for supplying these photos and to Margaret Cobbledick for assistance with naming the faces and telling the background story.

We continue to enjoy the performances of the Nathalia Choir at the many community functions held in out town throughout the year.

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.



Songs From the Year 2003

Find and circle all of the songs from 2003 that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 22 letters spell an additional song title from 2003.

L	U	F	1	т	U	А	Е	В	U	L	С	А	D	Ν	I	U	F
н	Ρ	L	С	Т	U	R	Е	R	Y	0	В	Y	В	А	в	0	J
Υ	G	Ν	T.	Т	Ν	0	R	F	А	S	Е	Υ	Y	А	S	Υ	G
S	Ν	I.	Ν	Т	0	Y	0	U	М	1	S	S	Y	0	U	Т	Н
U	0	Ρ	U	D	Ν	А	Т	S	н	U	Ν	W	Е	L	L	Ν	Т
в	R	А	т	I.	R	0	Ν	Е	S	Т	0	0	s	W	Е	А	Е
т	Т	Y	S	U	Ρ	Е	R	М	А	Ν	Т	0	Ν	Ν	0	W	R
Е	S	Κ	L	0	F	Ρ	1	S	S	0	G	н	0	М	М	1	А
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0	G	L	Υ	U	А	L	1	Ζ	Т	S	1	Ν	1	А	М	Κ	Е
R	Е	L	0	Е	Y	С	Е	Е	Т	S	G	0	Ν	R	Н	0	G
Т	L	А	U	L	А	Ν	D	s	L	1	D	Е	Ν	А	D	Т	С
ALL I HAVE ANGEL BABY BOY BEAUTIFUL CLOCKS COME OVER DRIFT AWAY FIGHTER FRONTIN' GET BUSY				GET LOW GOSSIP FOLKS HEADSTRONG I CAN I WANT YOU I'M WITH YOU IGNITION IN DA CLUB INTO YOU INTUITION				LI LI MI MI PI R/ RI S/	LANDSLIDE LIKE A STONE LIKE GLUE MESMERIZE MISS YOU PICTURE RAIN ON ME RIGHT THURR SAY YES SENORITA			STAND UP STUCK SUGA SUGA SUNRISE SUPERMAN					

St Francis Primary - Book Week

The Book Week Parade is a joyous occasion and a highlight of the school year with children (and parents) going to such great effort

to design costumes to represent a character from their favourite books. The Book Week Parade this year at St Francis was held in Term 4 to align with student learning in the classrooms. With the sun shining, we had a wonderful day celebrating literacy at St Francis.

We remember that Book Week is a time to enjoy the written word, share stories, and foster a lifelong love of reading. The ways to celebrate are endless, and the most important thing is to have fun and appreciate the world of literature. We had a great time at school with some amazing costumes!



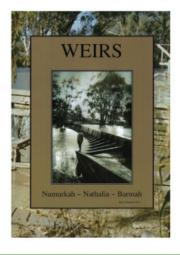




NEW PUBLICATION By Local Historian

WEIRS Numurkah ~ Nathalia ~ Barmah

Compiled by Judy Ormond



The history of Weirs 1880 ~ 2023 is dedicated to the Water Trusts, Shire Councils and Councillors who planned and built the weirs to conserve water along the Broken Creek. Generations of farmers in this district have flourished because of the supply of water for their stock, crops and domestic use.

\$45.00

Copies Available from Judy Ormond M: 0428 933 188 or at Nathalia Printers T: (03) 5866 3060









Fish habitat makes Waranga golden location for perch

abitat has been installed in Waranga Basin, creating a sustainable golden perch fishery readily accessible by recreational fishers.

Fish habitats provide small ecosystems for different species of fish. The Waranga Basin fish habitat has been specifically designed for golden perch and constructed with a range of locally sourced materials, including river timber, plants, cinderblocks, and sleepers.

Construction of the habitat will be supported by the stocking of 700,000 golden perch fingerlings in the storage over the next three years.

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) Recreation and Land officer Chris Braden said Waranga Basin was the perfect location for the habitat.

"Waranga Basin is a very popular destination among both boaters and fishers," he said.

"We get approximately 200,000 visitors to the basin each year.





"In recent years we have upgraded the Harriman Point boat ramp, and made numerous improvements to the facilities at the basin, including the installation of multiple allability facilities.

"The fish habitat is another piece of good news for people who frequent Waranga Basin and an excellent reason for those that don't, to pay it a visit."

The site will be located near Murray Drive, approximately 500m south of Waranga Boat Club.

Several factors determined where the fish habitat would be located, including the topography of the basin floor, the basin's operating levels, minimising the impact of other users at the storage, and accessibility for fishers.

The habitat was constructed after Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs (GVAAC) successfully applied to Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) for a grant. The Wedge Group designed the fish habitat and Campaspe Shire Council provided timber from its Rushworth to Murchison Rail Trail Project.

GVAAC chair Roland Huber said he was pleased to see the project come to fruition.

"It's been a great effort from all the different agencies to see this project completed," he said.

"A lot of people have helped out in researching the habitat's location and design, so I'm confident it will be an excellent outcome for the community." oulburn-Murra

Works on the habitat were completed on Friday 13 October.





Children's Week

🎙 hildren's Week is a national celebration that 🔬 🌉 recognises the talents, skills, achievements, and the rights of children.



"Children have the right to relax, play and to take part in

activities they enjoy" was the theme for 2023 and is based on Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The children in the three year old preschool program participated in the Moira Shire Activities that were held at the Nathalia Recreational Reserve. The children had the opportunity to explore the activities, games and also the Nathalia Fire Brigade truck with brigade volunteers supporting the children's learning with exploring the truck and teaching them how to call for emergency services. Face painting provided by the students from Nathalia Secondary College was a popular choice as was a story read by Geke from Nathalia GV Library. The offer of morning tea was taken up by the children with the favourite being the slinky apples, yoghurt and fresh fruit.

The children were able to follow their own interests and engage with experiences when they chose.



The children riding their bikes around the rec Reserve.

The four year old preschoolers welcomed the children and educators from Barmah Kindergarten to their day of bike riding and kite flying at the Rec Reserve for their Children's Week activities. The children were excited to share their bike riding skills with the children and to share their bikes and helmets.

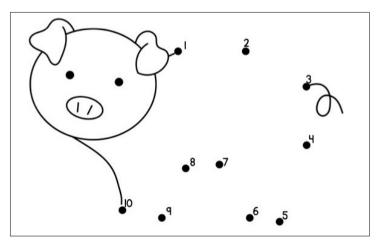
The breeze was just enough to fly their kites, although a challenge to begin with. Some



Barmah Teacher Robyn Trickey demonstrating how to fly a kite.

of the children mastered the skill to where they utilised all of the string available to have the kite flying as high as possible.

A shared BBQ lunch before it was time for everyone to pack up and head back to their preschools or go home.



Combined Training Day at Bunbartha Pony Club

The Kaarimba Racecourse was the scene of a very successful combined training day on Sunday October 29.

The racecourse was severely impacted by the October 22 floods, and Bunbartha Pony club members spent many hours preparing the grounds and repairing and restoring their equipment for the event during the preceding few weeks.

They were rewarded with a good turnout of pony club and open riders from all of the surrounding districts, all keen to compete in the grade 3 to 6 events on offer. Combined training involves each rider completing a dressage test, followed by a showjumping round. The scores from each discipline are added together to decide the winners.

Prizes were sponsored by Horseland and Hunters, Shepparton, and Night Owl Creations.

BPC is now preparing to host a Northern Zone dressage and show jumping Qualifier event on November 19.

We are always keen for new riders to join our club, find us on facebook. *Pictured below are some of the winners from various grades.*



Nathalia Primary School News

Here at Nathalia Primary School we are preparing for the end of 2023 and are very busy planning for the 2024 school year. We are pleased to say that our prep enrolments are still open as we have secured new teachers to enable us to run 8 classrooms next year.

2024 CLASSROOM STRUCTURES & SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

As mentioned, we are running 8 classrooms next year and have allocated teachers to the classrooms as follows:

Prep - Ms Kate Willcock & Mrs Alana Zammit Grade 1/2 - Mrs Sharon Sheedy & Miss Eden Buckley

Grade 3/4 - Ms Rachel Russell, Ms Ashlea Baker & Miss Michaela Duncan

Grade 5-6 - Mr Aaron Johnson & Ms Helen Williams

We are also running specialist classes for the students in LOTE: Chinese, Art, STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths) & Physical Education. Teachers for these classes are being sought and we look forward to letting the community know the successful applicants once appointed.

MATHS CHALLENGE

On Monday 30th October a group of our highest achieving mathematics students took part in a Statewide competition. Our team consisted of Duane Shaw, Cassie Amery and Ethan Halden. Students were required to work through a series of challenges involving mathematical puzzles and quizzes, with points being awarded for difficulty, accuracy, team work and strategy in solving answers. The day involved over 400 students from across the state. Our students enjoyed the day describing the event as exciting, amazing, fun and challenging. Well done to the team. We will keep an eye out for future events and hopefully enter some additional high achieving mathematicians into the team.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

We have recently accepted a proposal from Uniting to run our Out of Hours Care program. This program, starting in 2024, is open to all primary school aged students from Nathalia and surrounds. Uniting will be running before school, after school and vacation care here at the Primary School as part of the service. Please do not hesitate to call the school on 5866 2677 for further information or to place an expression of interest in the program.

PREP 2024: TRANSITION PROGRAM

We are excited to welcome the 2024 Prep students next week to begin their transition to Primary School. The transition program starts at 9am on Wednesday 8th November and goes for 2 hours until 11am. Transition will take place each Wednesday during November culminating in a whole day at school on the Statewide Transition Day, Tuesday 12th December.



Maths Challengers Cassie Amery, Duane Shaw & Ethan Halden

Horse Results -Nathalia Show 2023

R TH Williams' Bailing Contractors & Hay Supplies Supreme Champion Led – Keira Park Unforgettable – Debby Cheeseman

Gus & Lil Grinter Memorial Supreme Champion Ridden – Nattai River Dawnlight – owned by Maisy Saunders & ridden by Kristy Craddock.

Supreme DEVA – Burren-Dah Camelot – Lisa Glascott

Supreme Champion Clydesdale – Monaltrie Clydesdales Lady Violet

Heather Guilfoyle & Michelle Guilfoyle-Powles Pony club aggregate- there was a tie for 1st place.

Rhani Lawless from Nathalia PC & Lexi Koroma from Euroa PC.





Dylan Dohnt with Supreme Clydesdale Champion Lady Violet

Nathalia Secondary College News







Children's Week Student Volunteers

ur team of volunteer face painters did a fantastic job at this year's Children's Week celebration activities at the Recreation Reserve. The theme was centred around children's right to relax and play and there was plenty of that! There were many very happy little Spider-men, princesses, butterflies, fairies, Hulks, and tigers running around afterwards. Well done to our budding young artists: Kyah, Linsey, Makai, Zoe, Zahra, and Lil.





Book Launch at G.R.A.I.N. Store

^{**¬**}he U3A Writers' Group will be holding an official launch of Bruce Lees' book 'Another Funeral' at The G.R.A.I.N Store on Sunday, 12th November at 2.00pm. Despite the grim title it is a light-hearted and, at times, humorous novella. It is Bruce's first attempt at writing a substantial piece of fiction having previously penned flash fiction contributions to the group's Broken Creek Drama segment, published in the Courier.



Bruce will talk briefly about his work including a reading from the book. Light refreshment will be served and there will be an opportunity to purchase a signed copy. All are welcome to attend.



Lollipop

Colleen felt good and was pleased with herself. Having taken the train to Melbourne she had no trouble catching a tram to head to her sister's house in Burnley. Not bad for a country bumpkin. She stepped off the tram closest to her sister's place which was close to a school. When she went to cross the road at the traffic lights she was surprised that the

lollipop lady walked onto the road with her, holding up her stop sign. 'Do you help everyone across the road,' Colleen queried. "We always assist the kiddies and the elderly,'

was the reply. Colleen's pride evaporated.









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G.R.A.I.N. Store - Growing Rural Art in Nathalia

ecember 1 may seem a long way away....but I know some of our readers already know how many days it is before Christmas!! Simon Marks and Band www.trybooking.com/CMGOL

Or buy tickets at The G.R.A.I.N. Store or on the night (but it really helps our catering if you buy your tickets before Monday 27 November)

For some relaxation and enjoyment before the crazy month starts, why not organize a table of friends to come and enjoy Simon Marks and his new band members...all wonderful musicians in their own right. Keen Simon Marks and G.R.A.I.N. Store followers will already have met Shane McGrath who did beautiful sound at our first multi-lingual Piano, Poetry and Pizza session this March; while Hamish Davidson is a terrific instrumentalist who regularly performs with Simon. Georgia Taylor is a vocalist and James Chandler will be a surprise.

Original singer and song writers are to be treasured and encouraged as they create and respond to our lives. Simon shared last year's floods with us and has put together a Sound Scape to accompany the John Donegan curated photo installation at the Moira Shire's Flood Anniversary event Wednesday 8 November 4-7.30pm.

Gates and bar open at 6pm for the supper and catch ups with the performance starting at 7pm. Kids under 12 are free; ages 12-17 and Concession are \$15 and General admission is \$30. **Exhibitions:**

Last days of the Land Exhibition through till Sunday 12th November... keeping it up for the Bruce Lees' Book Launch of the tantalisingly titled Another Funeral, 2.00-3.30pm Sunday 12.

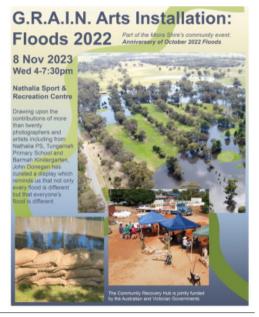
The G.R.A.I.N. Store End of Year Celebration



With a live Book reading and suitable eating fare...this is a wonderful chance to help Bruce celebrate his literary achievement

The last of our Call to Contribute Exhibitions for 2023 is Under the Microscope...with art works due by Monday 13th November it is not too late to let Ruby know you have something to contribute...by email info@thegrainstore.com or by calling in when we are open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays





Container Deposit Scheme ready to be rolled out

he Nationals Member for Shepparton District, Kim O'Keeffe, joined local waste management company, FOOTT, this week at their new site where they will operate the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic). From November 1, Victorian residents can return eligible cans, containers and bottles for a 10c reimbursement.

Ms O'Keeffe said she was delighted to see CDS Vic get underway, and that it was being facilitated by an iconic



A worker at FOOTT demonstrates how the CDS depot collects and sorts containers.

local company. "It was exciting to see the facility operating and the process in

action, which collects and sorts containers efficiently," said Ms O'Keeffe.

"This is a fantastic incentive for recycling that will put change back in the pockets of communities for depositing eligible drinking containers that would end up in landfill.

"FOOTT have done a tremendous job driving this initiative in our region and preparing the business for this exciting new chapter in Victoria's circular economy.

"The scheme also provides charities, schools, community and sporting organisations with a simple way to fundraise, while generating jobs around the state and in our region."

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150ml and 3L are eligible. Check the 10c mark on the drink container label.

FOOTT will operate CDS Vic Depots in Shepparton, Benalla, Yarrawonga starting November 1 and in Cobram from November 27. Depots will have staff on-site to guide people through the process. Automated counting machines will then efficiently process containers, making the whole process quick and easy.

Charities and community groups can now register as a donation



The Nationals Member for Shepparton District, Kim O'Keeffe MP with FOOTT founder, Peter Foott.

partner. Registered groups will be ready to accept donations from supporters once CDS starts on November 1. For further information on eligible containers, visit https://cdsvic.org.au/eligible-containers To learn more about CDS Vic, visit https://cdsvic.org.au/

Red Gum Courier, Friday November 3rd, 2023 Nathalia Wildflower Group

Athalia wildflower group members enjoyed walking through the bushland near Colman's Road, Kotupna on Saturday, 21st October. Many plants of interest were located among the Grey Box, beside the creek. Over 30 plants were identified on the day. Afterwards we all enjoyed morning tea, followed by

discussion of each specimen we had found. *Photos Judy Ormond*









Year 11 VM Ag Industry Tours

The Goulburn-Murray Region Agriculture is well known as a world class industry with the agrifood sector being the largest contributor to the local economy. Thanks to a new initiative, RACE (Raising aspirations and career education in agriculture) Goulburn-Murray Region and the partnership with CQ University, Agriculture Victoria and GMLLEN St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Vocational Major students are among those who have been able to connect the classroom with the wider world of agriculture and explore potential industry in their own backyard.

St Mary of the Angels Secondary College Pathways Officer, Kirby Shelton said, "One of the offerings through the RACE project are Food and Fibre Industry School Partnerships. The Industry-School Partnerships connect schools/classes to industry partners and provide opportunities for students to learn more about the various pathways and skills required for a career in the agricultural industry.

"The aim is to develop a sustainable partnership of mutual benefit, which will continue past the formal project period."

"Our students were able to visit both the Walpole's Dairy and Aussie Pride Produce during the recent tour.

"Mark Walpole gave us a tour and a run down of his family's new rotary dairy and barn set-up. The Family currently milk 2,000 cows with the plan of building another 2 barns to double their herd, meaning they could be milking 24/7.

"Everything that can be automated has been, from taking the cups off and tracking of the cows' health, food and milk production with neck collars to the fans in the barns being connected to the weather channel; it is an amazing set-up.





"Aussie Pride Produce is a hydroponics farm built in the middle of a commercial cropping operation that grows lettuce, basil and Bok choy.

"With around 40 days from planting a seed to harvesting, growing this produce in a Hydroponic form is working well.







"This set-up also allows for weekly payment from customers rather than waiting for their commercial crops to be ready.

"Thank you to the Walpole family, Aussie Pride Produce and the RACE Goulburn team for helping to facilitate these kinds of projects for our students."



NATHALIA SECONDARY COLLEGE

"Inspiring successful and passionate learners"





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We have а unique opportunity to provide students with one-to-one access to laptops and we priortise the teaching of responsible use. Enhancing digital literacy skills is crucial for students' future success, making them adaptable more and competitive in the workforce.

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Our College is dedicated to support the collective needs of each of our students limitless opportunities, with authentic connections and a vibrant educational environment.





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Probus News

t the October meeting, President Anne Bell welcomed Ian and Wendy Lusted to the club before presenting them with their badges and member information kits. Ian and Wendy came to Nathalia from Mission Beach, Queensland, and were Probus members there



The competition winner this month was Marcia Murrell. At the November meeting, which will be held in the Nathalia Anglers Clubrooms, members have been asked to bring a baby photo of themselves. The photos will be displayed with

an individual number for everyone to guess who the member in the photo is.

At the conclusion of the October meeting, Probus members travelled to the Broken Creek Flower Farm, where they were warmly welcomed by owners Tammy & Brett, who grow flowers for the wholesale market and for some individual florists. Tammy has also provided fresh flowers for sale at Three Belles. Before setting up the business in Nathalia both were in separate businesses near Melbourne. Tammy outlined their 10 years in flower farming and how it has expanded before taking members around the flower plots. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing hour or so in pleasant surroundings.

In December, Probus members have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Xmas Lunch with local entertainment before having the usual January break from meeting. Non members may join in any Probus functions, trips, etc. Come and try, it is all for fun and fellowship...



Welcoming Ian & Wendy Lusted



David McKenzie with a Show & Tell Item



Show & Tell Table—photos courtesy Estelle Chalker





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Rotary Report

A re you looking for a way to make a positive difference in your community and the world?

Joining Rotary is a great way to give back to the community, locally or globally, by volunteering your time or utilising your professional expertise. The Rotary Club of Nathalia offers a range of services, including fundraising for various charity causes and working with the community to address issues.

Fellowship was the foundation of Rotary, and it continues to be a key draw for new members. Members of Rotary benefit from the companionship of like-minded people, and collaborating on club projects with others, which presents the chance to form lifelong friendships.

Rotary clubs are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

If you are interested in joining Rotary please contact Anthony Oliver on 0418 106 652 or Ross Smith on 0438 662 490.

The Heart to Heart House at Barmah had two recent bookings, one after another. Guests stayed for 2 nights from October 6th and the next guests stayed for double that amount of time, from October 13th. At time of writing there are no further bookings until December 31st when guests will stay for 6 nights. From past experience we know things can change,

Kim O'Keeffe MP Office Relocation



The Nationals Member for Shepparton District, Kim O'Keeffe, is pleased to announce their office is moving to 318 Wyndham Street Shepparton.

Ms O'Keeffe said, "We are really pleased to be moving to a much more prominent location, and that the move will allow for better engagement and connection with the community, while improving accessibility for constituents and stakeholders when they visit the electorate office."

"My team and I are very excited to be moving and we look forward to continuing to serve the community and welcoming people to our office." To ensure a smooth transition, the current office at 5 Vaughan Street,

Shepparton will be closed from October 23-26. The electorate office will reopen to the public at the new location on Friday, October 27.

Ms $O^{'}$ Keeffe thanked the community for their patience while during the office relocation.

"We apologise for any inconvenience the move may cause and we appreciate your understanding as we work through this transition.

"Our contact numbers, email addresses, and website will remain the same, ensuring that you can reach us easily during and after the relocation process."

Office furniture and equipment are available to community groups that may be in need.

Please phone the office on 5831 6944 or email kim.okeeffe@parliament.vic.gov.au to enquire.



Locally owned and operated

at the drop of a hat, and we well may get more bookings before year's end. A few members attended a Rotary meeting at Shepparton South and also had some social time after it, at Bill King's place. Bill was in charge of judging cars at our last Show and Shine and will take on that role again in 2024 (17th March is date of this event). In the meantime Bill will attend some of our meetings when car show related matters are on the agenda. The judging, by Bill and his team, was very professional and well liked by people who showed their vehicles.

November 8th will be our next meeting, at the bakery, and a guest speaker is booked. There will be more meetings at the bakery too (22nd November and 6th December). Before we know it our last meeting for 2023 will be upon us and this is scheduled for 20th December at Three Belles. Last year our final meeting was there too, seated outdoors, but it was spoiled a bit by the unseasonably cold spell! We hope that Mother Nature won't be cruel this year.

The Rotary Community Raffle ticket sales have been going well...thank you everyone who has supported this (also our volunteers who have sold tickets). We have 2 dates in November booked outside IGA (Saturday 18th and Saturday 25th) and hope to sell more tickets then. In December we have booked Friday 8th and Friday 15th; in between we expect to have a stall at the Christmas Market on Saturday, 9th. We hope to continue successfully, each time we sell these tickets, and thus be able to contribute even more to the community and Rotary causes.

CLASSIFIEDS

COMMUNITY EVENTS

OPEN CAFÉ 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.

NEXT Edition.....Nov 17

DeadlineNov 13

All welcome!

NATHALIA POULTRY AUCTION Sat. 18th November, 2023 NATHALIA SHOWGROUNDS Start Time Sundries - 9:20 am ID Driver's Licence Required. Entries Invited Cages Limited. All Birds Should Be Booked In. Phone details to Mick Rudge 0401 897 923 **Book Launch of** G.R.A.I.N. STORE * NATHALIA * ANOTHER **End of Year Celebration** FUNERAL mon By Bruce J. Lees 1 Dec 2023 | Doors: 6pm Sunday,12th Show:7-9.30pm Nov 2023. At The GRAIN Store, 2.00 pm



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POSITIONS VACANT



Nathalia Secondary College

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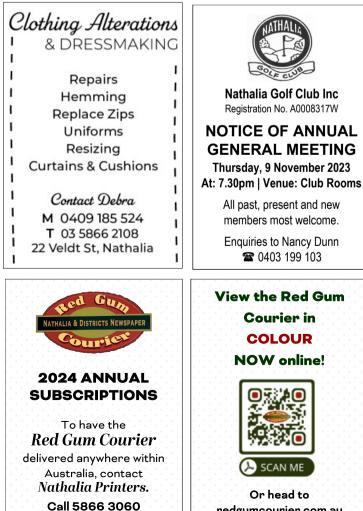
- No previous experience required
- Must be energetic, committed and willing to learn
- Ability to work cooperatively with a range of people including teachers, education support staff, students and parents
- School leavers are encouraged to apply •
- Eligible to complete Cert III level training
- Learn and develop your skills whilst gaining hands on training
- Willing to gain a Working With Children Check or hold one

Please send your application to Daniel Robinson, Principal, PO Box 42, Nathalia Vic 3638 or email to nathalia.sc@education.vic.gov.au

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- Purchase leave options

To view more information, and other positions that we are currently recruiting for please visit 'Careers with us' on our website



PUBLIC NOTICES



Proposal to discontinue and lease part of Richardson Street, Nathalia

Moira Shire Council gives notice under clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989, that it is considering a proposal to discontinue 20 x 13 metres of road at the north end of Richardson Street. Nathalia (defined in Plan of Subdivision 1315 Parish of Barwo County of Moira).

If discontinued, Council proposes to enter into a lease with Trans Tank International.

Have Your Sav

Council is inviting submissions this proposal in accordance with section 207A and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

- · You can provide your feedback to Council by lodging a submission online, by mail or at our service centres in Cobram & Yarrawonga. Your submission must be
- received by 5pm 5 December 2023.
- When you lodge your submission, please indicate if you, or your representative, would like to speak to your submission at the Committee of Council Meeting on 6 December 2023, if required.
- Any submissions received by Council by the deadline will be considered by Council prior to deciding whether to proceed with the proposal, with or without amendment, at the Scheduled Council Meeting on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

A summary of submissions will be available at the meeting and on public display for 12 months.

Further information including a map of the area is available on our website or by contacting (03) 5871 9222.

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Nathalia Bowling Club News

WO ROUNDS OF PENNANT have been played since the last edition of

the Red Gum Courier. **SATURDAY DIVISION 3 PENNANT** played Berrigan at home on 21st October with a good result for Nathalia winning 76 shots to 46 shots gaining 14 points to Berrigan 2 points. On Saturday 28th October, Nathalia played Numurkah Golf away at Numurkah Golf. After a hard fought battle, Nathalia went down by 7 shots with Numurkah Golf on 60 shots and Nathalia on 53 shots, Nathalia scored 2 points and Numurkah Golf 14. **DIVISION 5, ROUND 3 - 21ST OCTOBER,** Nathalia played Strathmerton at home and had a pleasing win 48 shots to 29 shots and on **October 28th** playing Round 4 Nathalia travelled to Cobram and was defeated 59 shots to 34.



Bev Hutchins coaching the Students.

picking up 2 points.

mentoring the students.

allow for catering.

 $\mbox{MIDWEEK PENNANT}$ Division 1 on Tuesday 24^{th} October, played Numurkah Golf at Nathalia and it was not a good

result for Nathalia going down 78 shots to 30. Nathalia winning on one rink picking up two points. Tuesday October 31st travelling to Finley, Nathalia had a better day but went down by 10 shots overall and



St Mary of the Angels Students ready to try their hand at bowls.

Nathalia Blue Jazz Basketball Report

$\mathbb{R}^{\text{ound 10: Nathalia Blue Jazz U14s (Shaw) - 24 defeated by Celtics U14s White - 28}$

Game 10 for the spring season and we faced off against the currently undefeated Celtics White team.

Every junior sports coach hopes to help their team develop over the year, and facing the Celtics White team for the second time this year, was going to be a good indicator of our teams improvement, and what a huge improvement it has been.

The whole team played hard all game, from start to finish. Every one of our boys played a crucial team role and we pushed the opposition hard until the final buzzer. All I ever ask of the boys is to have fun, enjoy their basketball and give 100% on the court. Well they all did that and so much more.

We didn't quite get the win, but at the end the boys were all smiling, knowing they had played an amazing game and as their coach I could not have been any more proud of each and every one of them.

Keep training the way you are boys, keep improving, keep supporting each other on and off the court and I cannot wait to see how much further you all can develop as players.

Round 11: Nathalia Blue Jazz U14s (Shaw) - 13 defeated by Tigers U14s (Adams) - 30

Our eleventh game of the season, facing off against Tigers (Adams), was a real challenge for the whole team. From the start of the game the boys were confronted by a very physical, aggressive and dominant team.

Our first half was really impressive, we utilised the skills we have been developing to enter the half time break, trailing the Tigers by just 10 points.

In the second half, we put up a great fight. Everyone of the boys tried their absolute hardest, but unfortunately it wasn't our night.

Luke Nave, in his first game back in three rounds, played a great game. He intercepted the ball and put himself in the right position at the right time.

Ben Osler won a number of contests and was able to steal the ball from the opposition on multiple occasions.

BJ Liu had another impressive game, and although he wasn't able to hit the scoreboard this week, he helped his team in every play.

Blair Watson played hard all game. He was involved in nearly every contest and gained numerous rebounds for the team.

Blayde Wiki-King put in a huge effort, scoring four points, getting five steals and seven rebounds.

Duane Shaw again showed his commitment to the team, as he literally put his body on the line to win possession of the ball.

Tyson James was the teams leading scorer this week. He drove the ball in hard, all the way to the basket, and finished the game with a total of 8 points.

In the end, we just couldn't get the baskets to drop for us, no matter how many shots we put up on the night. The boys put in a valiant effort and kept pushing until the final buzzer, and that is something we can all be proud of.

To my team, I just want you to know I am so proud of how you all look after each other, support each other and help each other, on and off the court. Games like this are hard, the losses hurt, but the lessons you learn and the strength and resilience you develop will help shape you into amazing men.

Well done boys!

All games played at Shepparton sports stadium, times are subject to change, check times on the Nathalia Blue Jazz Facebook page.

With only three games left of the season, if you haven't had the chance to come to a game and support our boys I encourage you to do so. You will have the privilege to watch a great game of basketball

and support a great group of young men. 09/11/23 vs Demons Clarke 6pm on court 2 16/11/23 vs Demons Harding 6:50pm on court 1 23/11/23 vs Cats Panthers 5:10pm on court 4



Karen Stortenbeker mentoring.

The **Secondary Schools** have been enjoying visiting the Club to try their hand at Bowls. **ST MARY'S** have had up to 35 students in a session. Club members have been

BAREFOOT BOWLS IS ON AGAIN – and will run on the following Fridays November 17th and 24th and on December 1st, 8th, 15th. It will be 6.00pm for 6.30pm start. It will comprise of 2 games of 6 ends. Cost will be \$10.00 which will include a light meal. The Bar will be open from 5pm. Names to be in by 1pm of a Friday to

Sisters Showing Their Talent in Darwin

roha and Tennille Kautai headed off to Darwin in August to represent their state and schools in the School Sports Australia National Touch Football Tournament as Co Captains of the 12 Girls Victorian Team. The sisters, who were voted in as captains by their peers, were excited to take on a leadership role together. Zahlia Kautai attended the tournament in the 15 girls category being the most experienced player on her team, 2023 being her 4th year representing Victoria at the touch football School Sports event. Darwin put on some good weather for the tournament with the days getting to tops of 32-33 degrees and the nights a nice low of 20 degrees. It was a bit of an adjustment from the bitterly cold Melbourne winter days the girls trained in. The opening ceremony saw Aroha and Tennille flag bearers. A beautiful welcome to country, a couple short and sharp welcoming speeches and the games were underway.

Day 1 of the tournament saw the 15 girls open the tournament playing first up against WA. WA usually brings along a pretty talented side and are hard to beat. The VIC 15 Girls, having never played together as a team prior to their first match, were a little nervous out of the gates and WA seized an opportunity to score their first try. VIC scored their first try of the tournament about 10mins in and scores were even. WA went into the second half ahead 2 to 1 and quickly pulled ahead scoring again early in the second half. Zahlia Kautai was instrumental in VIC's second try providing a try assist for a team mate who scored the try. Shortly after VIC were able to score again leveling scores 3 all. Both teams fought hard to score again, 4 all with 6 minutes to go. WA managed to score on the final play after the siren winning 5-4. An incredible start for team VIC considering they had not had a dress rehearsal not even 1 training session with the whole team present.

ACT were the next competitors for VIC 15 girls. ACT are a strong competitor each year almost always taking out 3rd place behind QLD and NSW. The VIC 15 girls played well and defended hard but ACT were too strong winning 14-1.



Aroha Kautai in action dodging players.

Zahlia Kautai scoring VIC's first and only try in the 15th minute of the game dodging several players before making it across the line to score the try.

The VIC 12 Girls also played WA for their first match. Knowing it could be tough to win the VIC girls went in optimistic and hoping to bring home their first win. WA got off to a strong start scoring the first try of the game 6 mins in. VIC were quick to respond, with Aroha Kautai scoring a try in the next set, the first try for VIC to even the score 1 all. WA pulling ahead with another try leading at half time 2-1. The second half saw VIC come out and racing with Tennille Kautai getting a run away try in the first 3 mins of the second half, tying up the game again at 2 all. WA gave a quick response scoring a try a minute later to take the lead. With 2 minutes to go Team VIC tied the game getting another try on the board. WA never gave up and were too good for VIC, finishing strong with a try on the final siren taking the game 4-3.

Next up the VIC 12 girls faced ACT. The girls prepared for a tough defensive game. ACT started strong with their first try on the scoreboard within minutes of the game starting. Tennille Kautai helped VIC get on the scoreboard in the 9th minute with a try assist that saw Tennille run from dummy half beating her opponents over the try line and maintaining her composure until a team mate joined her over the try line, Tennille was able to pass the ball to her teammate to score the try. The supporters, coach and the girls were incredibly excited to head into half time even at 1 all. ACT had a strong start to the second half pulling ahead with a try in their first set 2-1. VIC answering the very next set with Aroha Kautai scoring a diving try in the corner and the scores were even. ACT had a strong second half with 3 more tries that VIC were unable to match. VIC did score the final try of the game with 2 mins to go with a final score of 5-3 ACT taking the win.

Day 2 of the tournament started with a tough game against QLD. QLD are a very well polished team with experience far beyond any southern state or Victorian side. It is commonly said that

> if VIC can keep QLD and NSW under 20 tries and score a try against them it's like VIC have won the game! The VIC girls played an incredibly fast paced game showing their incredible defensive skills. QLD were too strong for our 15 Girls finishing 18 tries to 1. The VIC girls were super excited to have been able to score a try against QLD and keeping them under 20 was a successful game in our eyes. The VIC 15s had 3 games on day 2 which was difficult in the heat. The second game was against NT, with home state advantage the NT were going to be hard to beat, but not impossible.



The Kautai sisters displaying their Championship certificates and awards. (L-R) Tennille, Tavia, Aroha and Zahlia.

Through no fault of her own, Zahlia waited on the bench for the first 15minutes of the game and chomping at the bit to get on Zahlia came on firing, immediately setting up VIC's first try for the game with a try assist and the scores were even 1 all. VIC went on to score again leading 2-1 at half time. VIC made some subbing errors and NT capitalized on their opportunities and soon took the lead 3-2. Zahlia Kautai saw an opportunity and went for it scoring a try to tie the game. In the final minutes of the game NT were able to get over the line once more winning the game 4-3. It was a disappointing loss for the girls knowing this was their only chance at a win this day. The VIC 15 girls last game on day 2 was against NSW. The girls playing their 3rd game in the heat for the day and having had already played top side QLD the girls were incredibly fatigued. They played a courageous game against NSW going down 21 -2. Although the girls were disappointed the VIC 15 girls were the only team in the competition (other than QLD) who managed to score against NSW, a pretty incredible achievement.

In the 12 girls game against QLD on day 2, the highlight of the game was Aroha Kautai subbing on and immediately getting possession of the ball catching the QLD winger offside and taking a run down the sideline to score a try! Aroha's coach advised Aroha that no other Victorian girl in the 12's division has achieved a try against QLD before. The VIC 12 girls were beaten by QLD 19-1 but felt like they had won the game when VIC scored. In a great show of sportsmanship the QLD team found Aroha later in the tournament awarding her a QLD hat as a prize for scoring. QLD merchandise is highly sought after at these touch competitions so it was a lovely gesture. The second game on Day 2 for the VIC 12 girls was against home side NT. It was a well matched first half with NT leading 1 - nil at half time. NT went on to score 2 more tries until VIC answered with Tennille Kautai dodging a couple of players and running almost the full length of the field to score VIC's only try against NT. The home team NT winning 4-1.

Day 3 the girls got to have a rest from playing touch football and the 12 Girls team headed on an educational excursion to Crocodylus Park to see some of NT home grown Crocodiles. Learning how to be croc wise when in the NT the girls decided it was safest to come home and have a swim in the pool skipping the croc infested ocean. The 15 girls went to the museum to learn about the Darwin bombings and war.

Day 4 was a nice late start with team VIC having a bye in the morning. All VIC teams preparing to verse SA in the afternoon. SA and VIC at these touch tournaments have a rivalry like NSW and OLD and we are often well matched. The VIC 15 girls were able to win against SA last year and were hopeful to have a win again this year. However, SA had come with a fire in their belly and a determination not seen before. The SA 15 girls were spotted training every night after the tournament and even on their day off on day 3. SA came to win and they started off strong going into half time winning 2 - nil. VIC had some incredible plays but could not get past the very determined SA side. Tensions rose and the referee's had a word to both team's captains before VIC went on to score a try 10 minutes into the second half with Zahlia instrumental in the try play, giving direction and support to help get her teammate over the line! SA responded quickly with another try ultimately taking a well earnt win at 4 -1. The VIC 15 girls incredibly disappointed finishing in 7th place. This meant they would have a semi final against



Tennille Kautai charging forward under pressure.

2nd place, which was NSW. The girls played NSW again losing 21 to 0 and their tournament was over.

The VIC 12 girls played SA on day 4 and were keen to take this opportunity to bring home a win having narrowly lost to SA last year. VIC were first on the scoreboard with Aroha Kautai scoring on the wing within 3mins. Tennille Kautai scoring the second try of the match shortly after in the 7th minute of the game with a strong left footed step dodging past her opponent to score. Tennille Kautai followed this up with a Try Assist taking score to 3 nil at half time. The dominating VIC 12 girl's

side started the second half strong scoring another try in their very first set. SA answering with their first try of the match in the set after. Tennille making the most of a turn over opportunity, ran another almost full field length to score VIC's 5th try. Another try in the 33rd min to VIC followed by another try with 3 minutes to go saw Tennille making a hat-trick running a field length try to seal the game at 7-1. VIC 12 girl's first win!

On Day 5 the 12 girls who had finished the rounds in 6^{th} position went into the finals to play off for 5^{th} position against home team NT on the final day. NT proving to be too strong for the VIC girls with VIC going down to NT 3 – 0.

Team awards were given out in each Victorian Side. The Most Valuable Player in 12 Girls was awarded to Tennille Kautai. Tennille scoring 5

tries and had 2 try assists for the series. Tennille the co-captain of the team also showed great speed in defense and supported other players with direction and encouragement. After each game the players were encouraged to select the player they thought gave the best contribution to the game and this Player's Choice award was awarded to Aroha Kautai. Aroha scored 4 tries throughout the tournament with the try against QLD the stand out.

At the closing ceremony QLD and NSW took 1^{st} and 2^{nd} place in all divisions followed closely by ACT who took out 3^{rd} in all divisions. The Victorian U12 Boys coached by Kaokao Kautai finished in 5^{th} place overall. The Victorian U12 Girls 6^{th}



Zahlia Kautai gains possession of the ball.

place and the Victorian 15 girls in 7th place. The All Australian Teams were made up of QLD and NSW players with only one 15yr boy player being chosen from WA. Zahlia Kautai was awarded the Sportsmanship Award selected from all students from states and territories at the closing ceremony. This award was for a student who went above and beyond. Zahlia was recognized for helping her own and other VIC teams with warm ups, for assisting and supporting the VIC teams during the game also for her sportsmanlike behavior on and off the field.

The Kautai family would like to send a special Thank You to BHB Motors, TJ's IGA Nathalia, Nathalia Post Office, Barooga Sporties and SMOTA for their sponsorship of the girls to help make their way to Darwin. Although the Victorian Teams didn't come away with the titles the Kautai sisters had some incredible personal successes.



(L-R) Aroha, Zahlia, Tennille, Tavia and Kaokao Kautai.



Rhys Hansen and Eliza Bourchier.



Miller Butler and Rhys Hansen.

NLAC News

 ${f T}$ here has been plenty happening at Nathalia Little Athletics Club this season.

There was much enjoyment had at our first 'Snake Night' (PB Night) held last Wednesday on the 25th of October. Well done to all our athletes, we had 55 PB's and 4 records and special thanks to our sponsor for the night - Nathalia Hair & Beauty.

We've had quite a few records broken this season, Miller Butler broke the 60m Hurdles, Eliza Bourchier broke the 700m, and Rhys Hansen has broken the high

Jump, long jump, triple jump, 1500m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and the 300m hurdles. *Well done Athletes!*



Controversial Result at the BRP



R ound 3 of the GMLTA saw all 4 Nathalia teams playing at home. It was a great atmosphere with sets being fought out on every court,

kiddies playing in front of the clubhouse and the fridges full of delicious afternoon tea treats. Division 1 and 2 were defeated by strong opposition while Division 3 came out with a quality 29 game victory. Division 4's opposition was a last minute forfeit, so the club gathered interested part time players and fillins to take part in a 'friendly' match.

After play, the evening progressed to the second annual Bernie Ryan Plate social event. This 'plate' is awarded to the 'best afternoon tea maker' for season 2022-23. Votes for the coveted trophy had been gathered and counted under strict NLTC guidelines and were delivered to the clubhouse under guard.

The ceremony was a wonderful evening filled with anticipation. Joe and Corina were the aficionados and the club was absolutely thrilled

to have Bernie Ryan graciously himself accept the invitation to attend. Adding to the atmosphere was an outrageous comedy act from John and Nick who gave running updates of the 'odds on' favourites and late scratchings. The bookies changed the after odds several rounds when the favourites had their famous slices out voted by egg sandwiches and 'lemon pepper cheese'. The crowd hushed as the votes for the final round were read out. Controversially three

Wayne Giesler recipient of the inaugural BRP 2021-22

votes were given to two players instead of 3,2,1 which was pivotal to the outcome. In a thrilling result Jodie and Sam were joint winners. Interestingly the winner of the BRP chooses their trophy from the 'miscellaneous plates draw' in the clubhouse. Jodie was pleased to discover and select her own missing platter while Sam loved his retro glass dish.

The concept of the Bernie Ryan Plate was born out of a series of lack lustre afternoon tea experiences at opposing clubs. Our club captain was quoted as stating "I'm sick of rubbish packet biscuits". So in order to bring back the passion for home baked and freshly prepared afternoon tea delights a decision was made to delete the 'most valuable player' award and introduce the

BRP. The premise is simple. At the conclusion of afternoon tea the opposition team consults with their players to allocate votes of 3,2,1. The opposition is unaware of who prepared which plate and their secret votes are placed into a

sealed envelope. As part of the live vote count, player names are matched



Jodie Daniel and Sam McKenzie-McHarg joint winners of the 2022-23 Bernie Ryan Plate.



Bookies John Nihill and Nick Bakogianis explaining the odds.

against votes with a running tally after each round.

While Bernie was interviewed during the ceremony, Joe and Corina explained that it is only fitting for the event be named in his honour. Bernie Ryan was involved at the club as a player and committee member for many years. He was part of the movement and establishment of the club to its current location. He was club

champion no less than 9 times. Most importantly though he is a talented chef and while playing was renowned for his afternoon teas at home games. On the evening Bernie said he felt like a celebrity and felt very much at home at his old club. "It is great to see that this is still such a family club. The courts and surrounds are in pristine condition congratulations to all involved and all the best for the 2023-24 season."

Picola Bowling Club News

24 Oct 2023 ROUND 4 of MIDWEEK PENNANT we played home to Numurkah, unfortunately we went down 48-74. Julie, Geoff D, Maureen and Gary went down 16-29. Karen P, Keith, Mary and Karen M went down 14-29. Sue, Bill, Helen and John won 18-16.

31 Oct 2023 ROUND 5 of MIDWEEK PENNANT we were away to Numurkah Golf. Sue, Bill, Helen and Gary's rink lost 38-11, Julie, Tony, Maureen and Trevor's rink lost 28-10 and Karen P, Tony, Mary and Karen M's rink lost 15-26.

ROUND 6, 14 NOV 2023 Picola travel to Cobram.

21 OCT 2023 ROUND 3 of WEEKEND PENNANT Division 2 played home to Finley. Having their first win for the season. Keith, Jeff P, Geoff and John's rink winning 17-14. Sue, Boxy, Archie and Bill's rink winning 21-14. Bruce, Tony, Max and Roy's rink losing 18-20. **Division 5** played home to Barooga, losing 27-44. Helen, Mary, Gavin and Geoffrey's rink lost 14-27. This was Helen's first time to skip so well done. Julie, Maureen, Cheda and Roger's rink lost 13-17.

28 Oct 2023 ROUND 4 WEEKEND PENNANT Division 2 travelled to Strathmerton and lost by 10 shots. Bruce, Tony, Max and Roy's rink won 29-18, Keith, Jeff P, Geoff D and John's rink lost 14-23, Sue, Boxy, Karen P and Bill's ring lost 13-25. Division 5 travelled to Numurkah Town and lost by 26 shots. Julie,



Helen, Geoffrey C and Karen M's rink won 21-19 and Gary, Mary, Roger and Maureen's rink lost 37-9.

ROUND 5, 4 NOV 2023 Div 2 are home to Wunghnu and **Div 5** are home to Nathalia.

Sue, Karen P, Helen and Mary played in the State Fours at Barooga. Unfortunately they lost 9-14 after a tight tussle.

Club Championships are being played so please check on the noticeboard, they have had a timeline placed on them so if you have not played your matches by these dates you will have to forfeit. This also applies to the pairs and 100 up.

The Club would also like to wish John a speedy recovery.

Nathalia FNC Farewell Coach Simon and Welcome Alyx to the Role for 2024 Women's Football Season

The Nathalia Football Netball Club would like to thank Simon Quarrell for all his hard work over the past six years with the



Alyx Jorgensen and Simon Quarrell

NFNC Women's Football Teams. Simon has informed us he is retiring and is looking forward to spending some quality time with his

family. Sime started as an assistance coach back in our inaugural year 2018, and was then coach for the next five, finishing his sixth year as co-coach. In his time he went from one win in a year, to finals, Covid Premiership, back-to-back Premierships 2022, and nearly a 3peat this year. We thank you for your outstanding effort and amazing contributions that you have made to getting the Women's team off the ground, and to where they are today. Thanks Sime. We are very excited to announce Alyx Jorgensen as the Women's Football coach for season 2024.

Alyx started her playing career in 2013 and joined the Purps in 2020.

She has accomplished many accolades in her career including VIC Kickstart Rep player 2013-2014, Calder Cannons YG's academy, Bush Rangers/Bendigo Pioneers YG's Academy Player, Woomeras Rep. at National Championships 2015, VIC Country YG's Rep Championships 2014, Represented Australia in New Zealand 2015, 4x Premiership player including 2 for the mighty Purps, and co-coached the Purps this year. Congratulation Alyx and we look forward to 2024!

Nathalia Lawn Tennis Club Report

athalia GM 4 Open, 21st October Tennis is underway and after a shaky start the previous week this week we had players to spare. This round is the 'Gather Round' where all teams of the same grade play at the same venue. We travelled to Tatura to take on Tatura Lightning and came away with a win. Nathalia 6 sets, 62 games defeated Tatura Lightning 3 sets, 37 games.

The format for GM 4 Open is teams of 6, any gender and all sets are doubles matches played first to win 8 games. We welcomed to the team Carly Luca who rewarded us by winning 3 sets. An outstanding performance by Judith Slattery to record winning 3 sets.

Nathalia GM 4 Open, 28th October. We were to play Tatura Storm at Nathalia however they were unable to field a team.

After round 3 we have had 2 wins and sit 3rd place on the ladder in a competition of 7 teams.

Nathalia Junior Tennis

B2 Purple: B2 Purple played at home against Mooroopna Lawn White where they continue their unbeaten start to the season with a 6-41 to 2-31. The day started off with 2 tight opening doubles wins to Lucy Daniel and Mitchell Daniel and Katelyn Halden and Hamish McLeod 6-5 and 6-4 respectively. Lucy continued her stella form in the singles to have a comprehensive 6-1, and Katelyn battled it out in a long singles set to get up in an tie-break. Mitch and Hamish sealed the win getting up in a dominant display 6-0. Nathalia Purple will face Shepparton Lawn Blue after the Melbourne Cup bye weekend.



B2 Gold: Some close tussles were witnessed in B2 Gold's fortnight of junior tennis, with two away games on the trot. The Gold team of Taylah Hutchins, Isla Putman, Eliza Raleigh and sisters Molly and Ella McLennan, are showing good signs in recent weeks, bringing home a win against Mooroopna Lawn White (41 to 34) and a loss this Saturday v's Shepparton Lawn White (41 to 32). Enjoy the bye weekend, rested up and ready for the clash v's Murchison at home.

C2 Purple: C2 Purple this week took on Kialla Park Old Students White at home. Ava and Finn both won their singles 6-0 respectively along with Blayde and Keira both having easy wins. Duane also had good results with this doubles wining 6-2 & 6-1. The final score being Nathalia 8-48 defeating Kialla Park OS White 0-11. The team has the next two weekends off with the Melbourne Cup weekend bye, followed by the round bye.

C2 Gold: C2 Gold continued their winning streak this week to defeat Katandra West 43 games to 27. It was great to see the team enjoy their tennis. A terrific effort, well done.

Nathalia Representives for Murray Bushrangers Pre-Season Squad





Congratulations to Nathalia FNC Youth Girls, Claudia Plattfuss, Ruby McIver and Ariella Vallender, who have been named in the Coates League Murray Bushrangers Pre-Season Girls Squad.



In the Swing at Nathalia Golf Club

I would like to welcome our newest member Janet Pycroft to the Golf Club.

Thanks also to our Sponsors Brereton's Bakery, Remax & TTI.

Wednesday the 18th of October - the ladies played stroke. Winner was Heather Frostick 78 net. No NTP.

Sunday the 22nd of September - winner Tony Brown with 32 stableford points. NTP John Drenen.

Wednesday the 25th October - the ladies had their yearly break up. They played the back nine at Echuca. Followed by a great lunch at Moama Bakery. Great day was had by all.

Also on Wednesday, nineteen students from Nathalia Secondary College had a hit at Nathalia Golf Club. Going by all reports from Helen Ginnivan, all had a great day and would like to come again. Most welcome anytime.

'Friday Fun Day' the 27th of October - eight players played Ambrose. The men outscored the ladies by four strokes on a sunny day.

Sunday the 29th of October - seven men played stableford and the winner was Gary Manley 35 stableford points. NTP went to Tony Brown.

Plenty of flies and mozzies around and thanks to Gary one less bee. So don't forget the aerogard. *Good hitting all!*



Ruby McIver

Claudia Plattfuss



Nathalia Association Cricket Club **Festival of Cricket Wrap Up**

armah Hotel A Grade: Katamatite won ${igstar}$ the toss and chose to bowl on what could only be described as a new road in town. They were unfortunately met by the steam roller that is known as Chook Congues who took 4/24 off his 9 overs. This along with Brenton Campbell taking 2/27 left Katamatite 7/149 off their 45 overs, a little behind what they were hoping. The run chase saw the in form duo of Scotty Morris (59no) and Ewan Congues (53no) set about making sure no one else got to bat and we finished on 2/150

Fertgrain B Grade: NACC won the toss and chose to set the total on the beautiful Old Trafford (Yalca North) deck, the experience trio of David Brereton (21) Ash Quinn (77) and Archie Congues (26) all made sure that a more than competitive total was achieved. 7/180 was set for Katamatite to chase and the boys didn't have to much trouble defending, having Katamatite all out for 120. Xavier Daniel was the pick of the bowlers with 4/23 off 8 well supported by James Vallender and Nirmal Samarawickrama taking 2 wickets each

Frostick Contracting C Grade: This was the closest of all games, coming down to the last over. In front of a large crowd NACC won the toss and chose to bat, the veterans in Matt Lundberg (50 retired) and Glen Edwards (35no) helped the boys to a decent score of 7-148. Matt in his first game for a while batted aggressively and Glen for his first game in a long time carried his bat through the innings. As the crowd got bigger the young opening bowler tied down the batters before the experienced Katamatite batters built up their total. Enter the Lundbergs - Kai Lundberg taking 4/16 swung the game back in our favour setting it up for his Dad to complete a man of the match performance and take the remaining 2 wickets for 2 runs off 4 balls. Restricting Katty to 138 and

winning by 4 runs. **Breretons Bakery** Women's:

The ladies playing under lights and with an even bigger crowd than the C grade boys, won the toss and chose to bat. Posting close to their highest score for the season so far Abby Favaro (17) hitting three 4's and Courtney Cunningham (11) made a big chunk of the teams total. It seemed like the ladies had it under control with Katamatite around 30 runs off 13 overs but when you drop a damaging batter twice it can always come back to bite you. Katamatite ended up passing the total in the 18th over with Abby taking the only wicket.

Gagliardi Scott Real Estate Under 17's: Week one has seen the bovs keep Barooga to 9/122 with some damage bowling from Will (Lightning) Trower 4/14 and Harry (Rang) Ryan 3/5. It could have been a lower total but some dropped catches and lapses in the field, it just means that the boys will have to be concentrating a little bit harder when taking to the crease on Thursday.

Dellcorp Under 15's: We took on Cobram in a one dayer and after winning the toss and choosing to bat, Dylan Dohnt (20) kept his good form going and got a little support from Gus Frostick (18). We managed to get a total of 64 to



Above: Katamatite's Glen Wombat Edis batting, (L-R) Nathalia's James Vallender. Ash Quinn and Thomas Binks.



Above: Nathalia's Xavier Daniel takes a catch, with Katamatite's umpire Smoky Erikson looking on.



Above: Nathalia's Women's Keeper Cara Briggs in action.

try and defend. We didn't get the early break throughs we were hoping for with Gus and Charlie McDonald getting the only two wickets and having Cobram 2/134. We had 2 new players in Hamish Whyte (7) first ever game and

Kade Rogers helping out. Big Congrats goes to Sienna Jorgensen who made her first runs for the team, her confidence is growing.

Limo's Mitre 10 Under 12's:

The team got to experience playing under lights at the conclusion of the festival of cricket. This was the first game for a fair few of our players and it was going to take a bit to get used to each other. Tanner Quinn won the toss and chose to bowl first which lead Katamatite to making 103 with Spencer Eadie taking the only wicket for our bowling innings and also his first ever wicket for the club.

In return the Katamatite bowlers were just a little too strong with only Tanner (16) and Lucas Barton (14) the only batters to get into double figures. Our innings finished all out for 78.



Congratulations to Nathalia's Will Trower on his first of hopefully many 5fa's for the club in Round 1's Under 17's win against Katunga.





Pictured: Nathalia and Katamatite's Women's cricket teams at the end of the Open Women's clash under lights on Saturday the 28th October hosted by Nathalia Association Cricket Club, which made great conclusion to the Festival of Cricket Day.



Graeme Bernhardt Memorial



Where: Broken Creek Nathalia between Chinaman's Weir and the Town weir

When: Sunday 12th November 2023, registrations from 9.00am, presentation 2.30pm



"Nathalia Angling Club — Encouraging Family Fishing"

The Fight Isn't Over – Water Buybacks

Recently, I voted against the Water Amendment (Restoring Our Rivers) Bill 2023 because I strongly oppose using the blunt instrument of water buybacks to achieve environmental outcomes at the expense of productive agriculture, jobs and regional communities.

The passage of this legislation through the House of Representatives was a sad day for people across the Murray-Darling Basin who face the economic and social destruction of their communities. It was disappointing to see Independent MPs led by Member for Indi, Helen Haines, vote with the Labor Government in favour of this devastating legislation.

The Bill still needs to navigate the Senate, and I continue to work towards a sensible outcome which includes the reinstatement of a socio-economic test that prevents buybacks unless there is a proven neutral or positive impact for Basin communities. We can't afford Labor's water plan and this fight isn't over.

Cutting the Ribbon on 230 New Jobs



Tongala has opened its new state of the art, meat processing facility which will see the company increase its meat processing capabilities to export high quality local beef to the world.

\$10 million dollars from the Federal Coalition while in Government helped get this project off the ground.

I am so proud to see this come to life; growing jobs and driving economic growth in our region.



Cost: \$5.00 per child Includes bag

containing water, lunch voucher, goods

to the value of \$30.00

Enquiries to: David McKenzie

0438 691 252 or Col Bernhardt

0400 313 253





Our office has moved to 318 Wyndham Street, Shepparton.

We look forward to welcoming you at the new address and serving the electorate from this central location.

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1 Year On

It was just over 12 months ago when flood water inundated towns across our region including Nathalia. The damage to property, and the interruption to business and community life took a devastating toll on our



region. However, the resilience and community spirit of Nathalia shone through in one of its most difficult moments.

In the days following the flood, I saw devastation firsthand and brought Federal Emergency Services Minister Murray Watt to the region to commit his support. This relationship has continued over the past year and we have worked collaboratively to ensure relief funding is provided and passed on through the Victorian Government.

\$3.5 million from the first round of the Federal Government's Disaster Ready Fund has helped communities understand what happened and identify projects that could be developed in the future to mitigate floods. A billion dollars from this fund is available over five years and this initial funding will inform bids for more significant projects over the next 4 rounds.

While the recovery effort has been amazing, I know there's more work to be done over the coming years. I continue to work with community organisations and local governments to ensure our region can learn, overcome and build back better.

It's been a tough year and I commend everyone for their strength and kindness.



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