

# The Bridge

THE KOONDROOK AND BARHAM BRIDGE NEWSPAPER

No: 4199 Print Post: 100002834

Thursday, January 7, 2021

Recommended Price \$2.00 Inc. GST Pages: 16

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**POLLACK  
TOUR  
PAGE 5**



**CFA AWARDS  
PAGE 12**



Devastation and confusion for holiday makers...

## BORDER TOWNS: BOOM TO BUST



**Exodus.** Holiday makers return quickly over the border after the snap announcement by the Victorian Government of border restrictions and closure on New Year's Day.

### Border Restrictions

A new set of border restrictions were announced by Victorian Government New Years Eve.

The Victorian border closure is aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 into Victoria from the Sydney outbreaks.

Much confusion has surrounded the closure. All traffic entering Victoria is being checked.

Victorian or NSW border residents can enter Victoria by showing their drivers licence. The border residence zone includes all local government areas alongside the Murray.

- Agricultural, transport and travel permits are available at [service.vic.gov.au /services/border-permit/home](https://service.vic.gov.au/services/border-permit/home)

- If you are a Victorian from a border community, and you cross into

NSW using your license, you can only travel within the NSW border zone, if you leave the border zone you will need to apply for a permit to return.

- If you are a NSW border resident, you are not limited to the Victorian bubble but it is recommended to stay within the border zone unless the matter is urgent.

**By Nicole Fraser**

In the blink of an eye, New Year's Eve celebrations turned into a "new year's leave" as border town Barham went from a buzz of excited holiday makers and visitors to a state of confusion with tough COVID-19 border closures and restrictions ruining any positive ringing in of the new year.

From Boxing Day boom trades and fully booked accommodation to an unwelcome and unexpected late New Year's Eve Victorian Government border closure announcement, new year festivities and holiday plans were thrown into chaos.

**Continued Page 4**



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~ ESTABLISHED 1909 ~

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BRIDGE NEWSPAPER

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/koondrook barham bridge newspaper

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Published by Barham Media Trust Pty Ltd,  
at the Registered Office:  
Shop 2, 5-9 Mellool Street, Barham, NSW 2732.  
Printed at Newsprinters Pty Ltd,  
1 McKoy Street, West Wodonga, Victoria 3690

# The Bridge

## Letters to the Editor

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Dear Editor

In 2021 we need to look at 'federalism' and changes that are needed to protect our nation and its communities, particularly those in rural and regional areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the divisions between states and the inability of the Federal Government to enforce legislation in the best interest of Australia. Instead, parochial state governments make selfish decisions, over which the Federal Government either has no control, or will not exert power for fear of political ramifications.

A prime example is the damage to tourism through state border closures. Queensland's new Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchcliffe has defended his state's decision to close borders to NSW by stating only 10 percent of the state's visitors are from NSW.

He does so with no factual sup-

port, with executive director of the Australian Tourism Industry Council Simon Westaway calling for a national approach to COVID hotspots as the tourism industry, which employs one in 12 Australians, is "forced into flakey debates" that suggest intrastate and local tourism can make up the shortfall which he describes as "a lot of rubbish".

While we appreciate the need to keep areas safe from COVID-19, inconsistencies and state parochialism have intervened and stopped sensible decision-making.

The same parochialism and inconsistencies, mixed with a dose of political ambition over-riding the best decisions for our nation, has dogged water management for well over a decade and it is getting worse, not better.

In a sensible world, how could any government destroy fragile ecosystems with over-watering,

as we are seeing along large parts of the Murray River, claiming these are 'environmental flows'? In truth, it is all about sending huge quantities to South Australia, which turned around its water fortunes after huge issues during the Millennium drought with some astute political posturing.

It claimed water was needed to 'save the Coorong', but in reality this could be achieved with engineering works to the Lower Lakes barrages that would not cause so much upstream damage. Even when the Federal Government provided hundreds of millions of dollars for a desalination plant to shore up Adelaide's water supply, the insatiable demand by the Croweaters for upstream water did not ease.

Its constituency was convinced that upstream irrigators were demons, they were 'entitled' to massive quantities from upstream

dams and delivering it was, after all, 'saving the Murray-Darling'.

And now the Federal Government has created a monster that it cannot tame. It seems incapable of restoring sensibility to the debate and development over water policy, because to do so would threaten important South Australian marginal seats.

Couple this with a dysfunctional cohort of Water Ministers called MinCo and we have a recipe for disaster. Where else do you have an organisation where a unanimous vote is needed to make a decision, as is the case with this catastrophe?

We need to learn lessons from mistakes, a key one being that the Commonwealth needs the power to override states when it is the national interest. Never has this been more evident than in 2020.

*Yours faithfully*  
Shelley Scoullar  
Albury NSW

# "Result Obvious"

Dear Editor

It appears increasingly obvious that State and Federal politicians intend to continue the reduction, if not complete closing, of the irrigation, timber and other natural resource based industries in NSW. This has a corresponding negative affect on the lives of the people in this area.

Regrettably, the domination of NSW by the large population centres of Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong, and their lack of interest in non-metropolitan industries, and the large Green oriented portion of this population, will most likely ensure that the reduction in irrigation etc continues.

A Riverina State, separate from NSW, will have



authority over all the water, timber and other natural resources within its area. Government by the people in the Riverina will ensure that use of these resources, and other governance, are most beneficial for the

people in this state. This will ensure the irrigation, timber and other natural resource based industries prosper, with corresponding prosperity for all the people in this state.

The Riverina State group

intends to advocate for a new state via public promotion, eventually holding a referendum of the people in the Riverina on whether to leave NSW, and to use the expected successful result to compel the NSW

Parliament to consent to this formation.

The consent of the Parliament of NSW is the only requirement for the formation of this state.

*David Landini*

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# Something to Show and Shine About

Let's get this show on the road! With lockdowns, restrictions, COVIDsafe measures and new border zones in place a 'Show and Shine' event is still set to hit the streets of Barham this weekend.

New Caltex Business managers, Lee Miller and Angela Fedley, put their ideas into top gear and ran with them as they took over the management of the local service station last month.

"We both love old cars and it was one of the first things we thought of doing once we took over the business. Kerang Vintage Club, local collectors and anyone else interested in displaying their vehicles are welcome to. I'm thinking around 60 or 70 cars, motorbikes and karts will be on show. "It's a chance to welcome back visitors to the town and to support local businesses too," Lee said.

Also a fundraising event for Lee's son Ben Miller 14, in support and as a stepping stone towards a dream of being an F1 professional driver, the event is ready to get up and go.

**The 'Show and Shine' will be held this Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 12.30pm opposite the Caltex Service Station in Murray St. Barham.**

**For more information call Lee Miller on 0438 173 120.**



## "The Year That Was"

**By Jen Bradshaw, December 2020**

Twenty, twenty the year that was, heaven forbid  
Let's look backwards, some people survived however not all did  
During this year a lot of things began to transpire  
It began with NSW and Victoria ravaged by bushfire

To follow, a huge fundraising concert was held  
Where the amount of money donated just swelled and swelled  
By year end though, sadly those affected by fires were to ask  
What happened to the cash that was raised for a certain task?

The global Black Lives Matter anti-racism movement is formed  
Which began after the killing of George Floyd, people and shops were stormed  
Australian protests have Aboriginal deaths in custody as their focus now  
Justice for all is something they vow!

This is the year Holden removes itself from our shores  
The uproar from the Australian public for their icon it ignores  
Then we realise that this is a minor event in our life  
Because our world is about to enter into turmoil and strife

The Coronavirus began in Wohan, China, then swoops Europe and Asia  
The enormity of COVID-19 causes at times for us all bouts of aphasia  
The first case in January is confirmed in Melbourne Victoria  
Causing whatever the hell is opposite to euphoria

The spread of this virus is sadly very systemic  
In March, Australia recorded its first death from the pandemic  
The Prime Minister Scott Morrison says to non-residents "No!"  
"You are forbidden to enter our country," for them and us it is a huge blow

Anzac Day a day to show our respect  
We stood at the end of our driveways for affect  
The Last Post on radios as the sun rises into the sky  
Bloody COVID I have to let out a deep sigh!

A national cabinet is formed to manage the virus impact  
And how it affects our people and economy to be exact  
The parliament passes an economic stimulus package for all  
Meanwhile the queues that form outside Centrelink are huge not small.

We are having a recession, the first in nearly thirty years  
The economic downturn is responsible for many of our fears  
The tourist and hospitality industry are stuffed  
And the Grand Prix for this year stuffed

Now twenty, twenty is the year the Coronavirus started



The year all reasoning and sanity departed  
There were long queues in our supermarket shop  
For all our staples the people fought nonstop

For toilet paper, tissues, pasta, flour and tomatoes in a tin  
Rice, chicken, mince, food rations, and limits had to come in  
Later special hours for essential workers, disabled and the elderly to buy  
So they can get their fair share, get their grocery supply

The beaches, kid's playgrounds and many non-essential shops are closed  
Along with restaurants, pubs, clubs, and cafés a closure is imposed  
No movies or gyms, no eating or going out and about  
But the football continues, this it seems we cannot do without

Severe restrictions on weddings, funerals and social functions  
And loads of restrictions on our hospitals because of Covid 19 malfunctions  
The nursing homes have a total lockdown rule  
Now you work from home or are doing home school

What has the world come to, its all doom and gloom  
The Doctors and churches are via video link we're lucky to have the app Zoom  
The borders have been closed for a long while  
What with curfews and lockdowns its hard to find a smile

We mustn't forget to mention social distancing and the elbow bump  
Masks and the hand sanitiser in a bottle with a pump  
Victoria has been at least 52 days COVID-free  
But staying this way there's no guarantee

There's been an outbreak in NSW on their northern beaches  
There is no telling how far this virus outreaches  
So all the borders are closing once more  
Throwing Christmas plans into chaos, causing uproar!

The Sydney to Hobart yacht race is cancelled first time in history  
How do you stop this terrible virus, unfortunately it is a mystery  
The world is scrambling to develop a successful vaccine  
The scientist to be the first is quite keen

On a more positive note, we have learnt to show others we care  
For those in the neighbourhood, their needs we became more aware  
Together as a family we spent a lot more time  
And maybe because of lockdowns we can report a downturn in crime

This is the year where there will be no Carols by Candlelight  
Or the New Years Eve spectacular fireworks display at night  
Let's face it we all want this year to finally be over and done  
We all can't wait to welcome in twenty, twenty one!



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# “New Year’s Leave” affects border businesses

## From Page 1

As the communication filtered through, confusion for visitors and campers resulted in a mass exodus with a desperate bid to cross back over the bridge into Victoria to avoid quarantine and lockout.

Sharon Gawronski, co-owner of the small family business Barham Holiday Park - Oasis on the Murray, spoke on how the New Year’s Eve plans turned from a happy holiday destination to panic within hours.

“As the vans arrived, just lots of smiles and happy faces, and we were thinking ‘here we go – we are back in business again, things are picking up.’ We were looking forward to the new year, looking forward to 2021 to be better than 2020. Then whammo...”

“It (the government announcement) came very late. We found out via people who were staying here. People just came in and were panicking and said ‘We’ve got to go home.’

“We weren’t aware of what was happening with the border closure until we saw more on the news and Facebook.

“It was absolutely chaotic, everyone wanted to come in to pay their bills and they wanted to get their permits to get back across the river, and everyone was out there frantically packing up.

“People were pouring into the office, queues were out the door. They thought we had more information than they did, but this wasn’t the case.

“It was really, really stressful, not just for them but for us as well because we didn’t really know what was going on.

Manager of Barham Caravan and Tourist Park, Vicki Bassett,

also shared a similar story for New Year’s Eve with visitors departing quickly, leaving the park nearly empty.

“We were fully booked. Everybody was having a lovely time, enjoying their stay.

“It was really devastating that they called it at 3.30pm-4pm on the afternoon of New Year’s Eve. Not enough information was put out there, everybody was confused, it was just mayhem.

“Everyone wasn’t sure what they should be doing. We weren’t sure either. It led to refunds, but some people kept their credits.

“It impacts everybody, the supermarkets, the pub. The whole town has been impacted of course, as they got in stock, and now it’s like a ghost town.

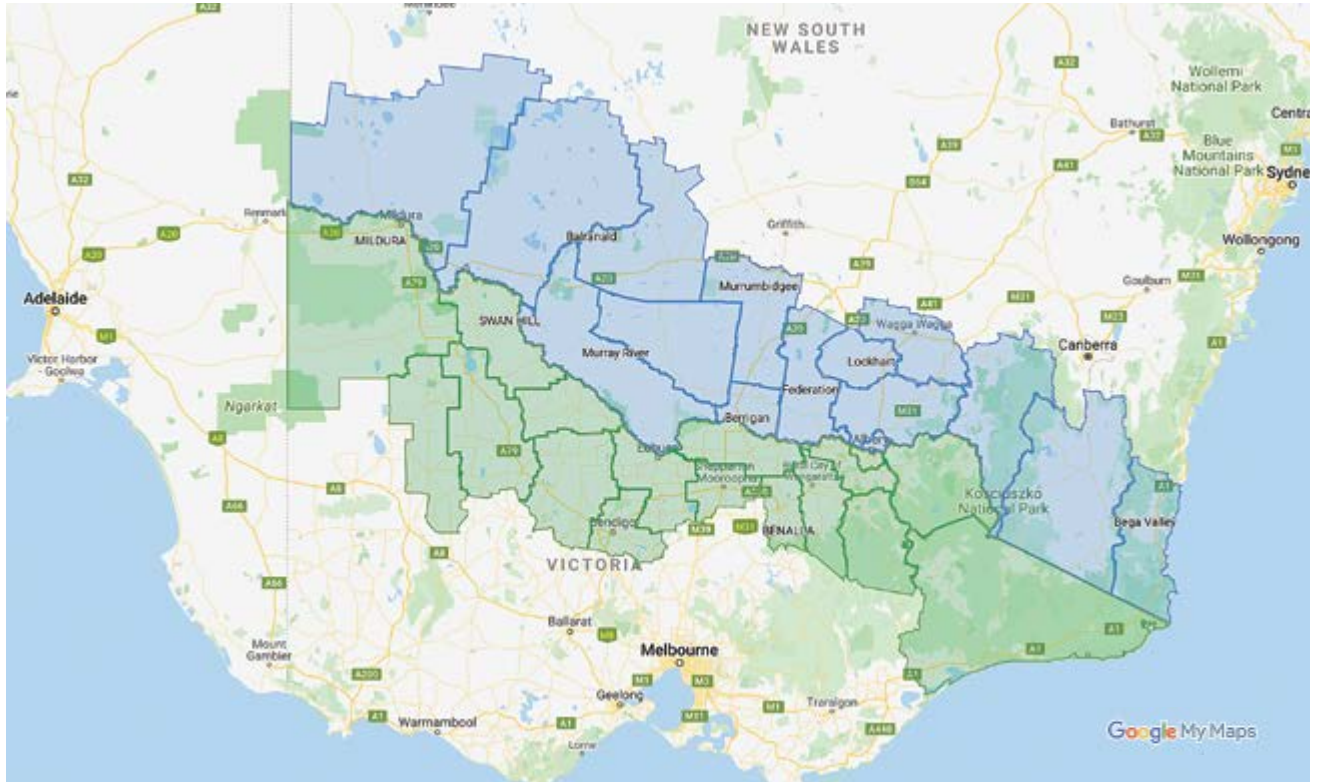
“It went from thriving, enjoying themselves to an eerie silence, is how I would describe it.

“The next hurdle is going to be Australia Day. We are fully booked three weeks away. Who knows what’s going to happen between now and then, but hopefully a bit more normality and people can start travelling again.

Trend Skate n Surf and Toys n Outdoors business owners Bree and Dave Derksen had a busy lead up to Christmas and New Year. They too felt the impact of the border closure heading into the new year.

“Christmas was crazy. Lots of visitors and lots of locals coming back as well. Really busy between Boxing Day and New Year’s Eve, again, tourists and locals.

“We opened the Saturday following on from New Year’s Day. The town was like a ghost town pretty much, it was so quiet, it was eerie quiet.



“We will keep doing what we can do. We will always keep the doors open for our community as long as we feel safe and they feel safe. We are still doing everything from hand sanitising and store limit of people and wiping down of surfaces regardless, but this is a reminder that this is still real and how quickly things can change. It was like a whirlwind.”

Lisa Frankling, manager of Murray Blu shared how business changed so quickly from Christmas to new year.

“Leading up to Christmas it was great. With a lot of local support and visitor support, it was amazing. Even just after Christmas it was looking like it was going to be a great holiday with a lot of visitors in town.

“Once the border closure kicked in, it was like everybody left town instantly. It has been felt, even today (Monday). I think this is where we are going to feel it now.

“It should never have happened the way that it happened.

“We will strive on and will stay open and are hoping everything will get turned around very quickly.”

For Shoosh’s Ainsley Fyfe it was like all her Christmas’ had come at once as the festive season rolled in but then things changed quickly.

“The positive shopping response by everyone even after the business pivot during COVID-19, going online, closing for a little while due to home learning and back again once the school reopened, kept the juggle real.

“The week between Christmas and New Year was phenomenal, I couldn’t believe it. The number of people in town, it was booming, absolutely fantastic.

“All the retailers felt a lot more positive and there were going to be a lot more around for January, but that then went.

“We are going to ride it through, it’s just another wave but they’re just coming a lot quicker than we thought.”

Golden Rivers Real Estate owner, Lauren Polkinghorne, said the holiday management side of the business had mass cancellations.

“With bookings over 12 months ago and late bookings between Christmas and New Year they were fully booked.

“Amid a lot of confusion, bookings were cancelled and refunded as tourists fled the state back to Victoria.

“The cancelling caused exhausting hours of work in working through the situation.

“Those who were here were trying to work out when they were going to leave while others were cancelling in advance.

“It was a long day with trying to answer questions about the changes and those who had inspections requesting to do them before the border closed.

Barham IGA Supermarket’s Mel and Glenn Faul also felt the impacts.

“We were 25% up on last year and having a boomer. It was amazing - the amount of people in town - and the support, and taken away from us in hours,” said Glenn.

“They were spending everywhere.”

Ordering stock to support the influx of visitors to the town for this time of year is generally done days to a week out. With all departing the town in an instant, the business was left with excess stock.

“An example of this is with my milk order. I had to order Thursday lunchtime on New Year’s Eve for Saturday delivery. At that stage we had between 800 to 900 customers coming through our doors every day. Overnight, that was taken back to 300 and (we) couldn’t do anything about it.

“It was three times what I would normally order.

“A lot of perishable orders we placed last Monday, are yet to hit store, they’re still coming.

“It’s the holiday food,” said Mel.

“And who wears the cost of this? We throw it in the bin,” Glenn said.

“The frustrating thing is, the people who make these decisions, they get the same amount in their pay packet every week regardless of what happens. There is a confidence lost in those people too.

“I feel for the accommodation

providers mostly. COVID-19 really hit them hard obviously, like it did all of us. But they have only one income stream and this is their bread and butter, and this was to get them through those quieter times.

“I actually feel for the whole town,” said Mel.

New managers of Barham Caltex, Angela Fedley and Lee Miller, were also affected with the business riding a positive wave and then slowing again to a crawl.

“The switch went off. To say the least, it was disgusting.

“It could’ve been handled much better. Not everyone had to leave right from the start, not everyone had to get out of town. Massive implications.

“There is no business in this border town that would not have suffered, none at all. Our priority is this place,” said Lee.



Murray Blu’s Glenda and Lisa Frankling.



Ainsley Fyfe from Shoosh.



Barham Caravan and Tourist Park Manager Vicki Bassett.



Fully booked for a bumper holiday period in the lead up to the new year... To deserted campsites. Almost a near ghost town in a matter of hours. Local caravan parks, such as Barham Holiday Park (pictured) and accommodation outlets were just some of the local businesses to bear the brunt of the Victorian Government’s Victorian/NSW border closure.



# POLLACK TOUR HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR “COMMUNITY-LED APPROACH”

Last month's tour of the Pollack and a similar site within Koon-drook Perricoota forest hosted by Western Murray Land Improvement Group (WMLIG) attracted over 45 attendees from Barham and surrounds, some making the trip from as far as Deniliquin, Moama, and Kerang. The purpose of the tour was to demonstrate the positive effects that managed environmental watering has had in the Pollack, to raise awareness of the current poor condition of the broader Koondrook Perricoota (KP) Forest, and to lead a bottom-up community-led approach for a shared vision of the forest.

The tour included three stops: the Pollack Swamp Inlet, the Pollack Lagoon, and lastly the KP Smokehouse Lagoon. The tour began at The Ark, with Barapa Barapa elder Ron Galway performing a Welcome to Country. Tour presenters for the day included Environmental Consultant Dan Hutton, fish expert Dr John Conallin, Australia National University Researcher and Anthropologist Dr Colin Pardoe, and Forestry Corporation of NSW's Jean Dind.

The Pollack, a 700ha wetland within the Koondrook State Forest is located 10 minutes north of Barham. In the last 6 years, the area has been exposed to regular controlled inundation. This managed flooding is facilitated by irrigation channels via the Bringan Irrigation Trust Infrastructure surrounding the area. In this time, Hutton, Conallin, and a team including Moama Local Aboriginal Land Council staff, local Landcare and community members have worked to improve its ecological condition.

Upon reaching the first site, a swamp inlet leading into the Pollack Lagoon, Hutton set the tone for the day stating that community “Can have an impact on decision making but need to act, and act immediately.” He spoke beneath a growing canopy of river red gum, which he pointed out had improved dramatically since they started on the project, providing suitable cover for waterbird nesting. The swamp beneath the canopy now has an excellent diversity of native water plants, and improved water quality each year. The water has “a dissolved oxygen level of eight” which is considered excellent. This in turn provides suitable habitat for small native fish and other aquatic species.

The swamp has proved the most successful in the KP for waterbird breeding post the 2016 flood. Working to improve the biodiversity and food source within the swamp, Hutton and his team saw it attract many species back to the area. Pointing into the distance he recounted seeing two to three nests of different species appearing on each tree. Responding to a question about what is breeding this year, he listed what he calls the “normal” breeders, white-



necked herons, white-faced herons, Nankeen night herons, half a dozen duck species and for the third year in a row a pair of Little Bitterns.

Upon approaching the second stop, the Pollack Lagoon, Dr Conallin was already in the water dragging out two large nets that had been set up overnight. The nets, which were visibly heavy to carry, were filled with small-bodied native fish. Gudgeons, rainbow fish, tadpoles, even turtles and yabbies were pulled out. There were no alien fish such as carp or Mosquito Fish to be seen: one of the benefits of building up a carnivorous small-bodied fish population. Another notable absence were the mosquitos, predated upon by these native species.

Benefitting from good light penetration, the lagoon allows for aquatic vegetation to thrive. This circulates a high amount of oxygen back into the water, aiding fish and other water species including vegetation. A revegetation project last year involved transplanting native vegetation such as pin rush, giant spike rush and cumbungi to the lagoon. Deniliquin resident Roseanne Farant shared that a similar project had been conducted on the banks of the Edward River, where the community has transplanted 8km of aquatic vegetation.

The amount of biomass collected from the lagoon demonstrated the ecological richness of the area which would have been present when the local Indigenous population was living in its surrounds. Dr Pardoe provided insight into what life may have been like 4,000 years ago for the Barapa Barapa and Yorta Yorta population that inhabited the area. “They would have been collecting whitebait and tuber to eat. Perhaps using cumbungi to make flour, collecting clay for heat retaining bricks...it would have been far clearer [referring to physical area], and children would have played in these open spaces”.

The third and final stop was the KP Smokehouse Lagoon. The lagoon is currently empty and there was no wildlife in sight. The group gathered in a circle, sharing their experiences from decades past of coming down to the site for a swim or fish. The feeling of nostalgia and sadness was a stark contrast to the distinct feeling of excitement amongst the group at the earlier visited Pollack Lagoon, which demonstrated the possibility and resource that lies at the doorstep of so many.

The group discussed solutions to a complex issue. The tree overcrowding and extensive woody debris on the forest floor in the KP was a topic of concern for community and KP team alike. A few suggested firstly clearing of some trees, and then the forest floor by way of low intensity backburning. There was a degree of caution around broadscale flooding of the area, many citing hypoxic black water events and other issues that arise with making dramatic environmental changes. Providing some insight from over the border, Cohuna resident Dianne Pearce praised the work of the Pollack Project Team.

Overall, the community vision was to see the forest stay local and to make the KP better than it is now for the future generations. All supported a community-led approach to revitalise the KP but felt that the broader community need to get involved if there was to be transformational or tangible change. It was suggested for example that pockets of refugia could be created to maintain resilience for short-lived native species that have become locally extinct in the KP Forest except for the Pollack Swamp.

There was resounding support from the group that there was need to create a louder collective community voice to support groups already making an impact. One such group is the Koondrook Perricoota Alliance, made up of landholders, Indigenous community, and local stakeholders. It was suggested that this could be done via creating smaller focus groups for individual areas of interest. Concluding the tour, Hutton stressed the urgency of the community taking control and protecting their forest. “after working on this project for the last ten years, this area will not last another ten without irreversible damage”.

Dan Hutton and Dr John Conallin are now gathering expressions of interest regarding topics for a series of upcoming Workshops. Workshops could include but are not limited to environmental watering, native fish populations, revegetation projects, camping and leisure opportunities, fishing etc. To register your interest in topics, send a message via the “Contact Us” section on WMLIG's website [www.westernmurraylig.org](http://www.westernmurraylig.org) or call 03 5453 1577.

More photographs and some videos from the day will be available to view on the WMLIG website shortly. Community are also welcomed to drop into Murray Connect 27 Thule Street Barham to view photos.

WMLIG would like to thank local landholders, Forestry Corporation of NSW and Murray Local Land Services (Murray LLS). The tour was funded by Murray LLS through their Catchment Action NSW program.



The group gathering around Dan Hutton at the Swamp Inlet



Some of the tour's youngest members playing with nets at the Swamp Inlet.



The group gathering to hear Dr John Conallin speak about the species now present in the Pollack Lagoon



# Christmas 2020 – parents behaving badly

By Ali Bohn

It's hard to believe it's been two weeks since we celebrated Christmas.

The massive lead up throughout the year of frantic gift buying and stocking up on enough food to feed an army; all over in one day.

I thought I would reflect on Christmas 2020 by looking at the behaviour of adults, particularly my own, on Christmas Day. As if the hysterical, over excited children aren't enough to contend with, it occurred to me this last Christmas that the older generation's behaviour needs some attention.

Once again, I'm poking fun at myself here, but you may be able to relate.

Before I begin however, I thought I might mention an instance that occurred a few Christmas Eve's back.

As Santa is so busy delivering presents all over the world on Christmas Eve, sometimes he does not have the time nor the elf power to assemble all of the toys in time. So this task is often left up to the parents.

After enjoying a few celebratory drinks before retiring to bed this particular evening, a certain member of my family decided that it might be an idea to put together the trampoline that had arrived in 6000 separate boxes.

It was no mean feat and after many hours of reading and destroying instructions, rehydrating and then rehydrating again, the massive jumping apparatus was complete.

For sheer safety purposes and possibly also for their own pleasure, the said family member decided to test the trampoline and with one very high jump, landing not on the large mat beneath them, but rather down the side of the outer frame and net. Completely stuck, two other equally hydrated onlookers were called upon to retrieve the non-acrobatic test dummy from the sticky situation and repair the damage before the children it was intended for, awoke.

I think there is a lesson to be learned here which is to allow plenty of time for toy assembly, if required, and also perhaps to hydrate *after* the said toy has been assembled.

Back to Christmas 2020 though.

Jacked up on a breakfast cocktail of 90% of the Christmas Lollies stocking, (only 90% because "you won't eat your lunch if you eat the whole lot now!"), a sleep period of about 4 hours, and heightened hysteria after discovering that big box wrapped under the tree was in fact the present they've always wanted; kids at Christmas can be a challenge to tolerate!

The same can be applied to adults as well – I for one chowed down half a jar of Cadbury Chocolate Coated Almonds for breakfast, and I too had only managed about 4 hours sleep! The gift however was no shock, for I had purchased and wrapped my own present. Putting on my best Academy Award Winning Actress performance however, my portrayal of a surprised 44-year-old mother-of-two receiving the new frock she's always wanted would have made Cate Blanchett proud. It's always a safe bet to buy your own gift, and besides, that way your other half has no idea how much you've spent!

After all the gifts have been unwrapped, it is my job, by default, to bundle up all of the paper and toss it in the bin, being careful not to throw

out any gifts with the rubbish.

This is where a little of my OCD comes in ('my' OCD is a complete self-diagnosis and I am possibly exaggerating slightly here). Gifts are stacked upon each other into two neat piles, one for each child.

About half way up the pile there sits a jigsaw puzzle and as my son spots it, he leaps at the box, tearing the cellophane covering and just as he is about to rip open the box, I army tackle him to the ground as though he is about to step on a landmine.

No, there is not a flesh-eating spider under the box that is about to attack him, I am attempting to stop him from making the mistake of OPENING THE BOX THAT CONTAINS THE PUZZLE!

"Leave that!" I beckon him.

Irrational Mum has arrived as she has not yet had her coffee, is tired and may be coming down from her 15-minute sugar high from breakfast.

I realise the puzzle was a gift but, in my state, I'd much prefer if the pieces stayed in the box for him to admire and imagine completed, you know, all nice and neat, rather than him tip it all out across the lounge room floor, about five minutes in get sick of it, and go outside to play with the old toys he hasn't touched since last Christmas!!

Because the jigsaw was a gift to look at, not complete?? Hmm, that does kind of defeat the purpose of a puzzle doesn't it??

Now the kids are outside, still in their pyjamas and having a great time. My husband has come to my rescue with a coffee which is thoroughly appreciated. Thirsty, I drink it very quickly and decide to make another.

Half way through I'm having heart palpitations (common for me when I'm sleep deprived) so I decide to leave the rest. Maybe a little lie down for a Nanna Nap might be an idea?

I crawl into bed and shut my eyes.

Just as I am about to nod off into a deep slumber, I am awoken suddenly by number two son jumping on top of me Spiderman-style, desperately wanting me to play with him and his new Nerf Gun which he just pulled from the pile I had stacked so neatly.

I snap, as I don't love being frightened awake.

"YOU LITTLE–!"

"Mum, quick, don't go to sleep, come and play with me. Come on, it's Christmas and I want to play with you!"

His beautiful brown eyes staring at me take over, and before I know it I'm out in the yard being shot at with foam bullets. I curse my husband who is nowhere to be seen, as this is Dad's job. I read the books. I don't get shot at, although I'm so tired I probably wouldn't mind being shot for real right about now.

I pretend I'm hiding from the gunman and sneak back inside to finish my little lay down, still cursing my husband.

Then, out of the corner of my eye I see him through the front window playing basketball with number one son. Where the hell did he find that energy? Now I feel bad for being mad at him.

I'm about three steps from my inviting bed when the phone rings with well wishes, one after the other. It's lovely to hear from family at Christmas, but can't they call back in an



hour, after I've finished my nap?

I take the phone outside for the kids to talk to their cousins and get shot with two Nerf bullets. "Mum, where were you? You were supposed to be playing with me!" Here comes the abuse - I've been caught out trying to nick off!

I make a quick getaway, and this will be the last time I make an attempt for the nap I so desperately want. Running to my room, I go to slam the door behind me, but my husband's arm stops it from closing. With a stubby in his hand, he reminds me that I have to do the roast vegetables for us to take to Christmas lunch at his cousin's place.

I have resigned myself to the fact that I will not be getting any more than my 4 hours sleep today.

I consider growling at him for having a beer so early, but in the back of my mind I know I need to keep the peace because in just a few short hours I am very likely to be having that damned sleep and he won't have a hope of waking me up!

I prepare the vegetables, tell the boys to get dressed in their nice new clothes and then I have a shower. Thankfully the water wakes me up and I feel temporarily refreshed.

We pack the car and just as I am about to round up the kids, I see they are now in the sandpit with the hose going, wearing their new clothes. They...are...filthy.

A quick wardrobe change and we're off.

We arrive for Christmas Lunch where there are tables chock-a-block with food for as far as the eye can see. Four variations of potatoes, four types of meat, steamed greens, a range of sauces, proper gravy made with pan juices, julienned carrots, the list goes on. The kids are fed first. With so much to choose from, their plates consist of 1 roast potato and a slice of ham! They may as well have eaten the full contents of that darned Christmas Lollies Stocking after all!! We crack the Bon Bons and as usual my husband tears his as he pushes it onto his head. Bad jokes are told and trinkets are compared, glasses are filled and plates are piled up with more food than we can possibly consume. Why do we do that? It's as though the idea

is to eat as much food as you can on Christmas Day that you would explode. In fact, I myself had a ticket to redeem at the Porcelain Bus midway through my meal and still went back for seconds!

Proclaiming that there was no way I could possibly fit another thing in, plus the fact that there were sound effects coming from my stomach that sounded a little like there was an internal video game going on, out came dessert.

Puddings, icecreams, custards and creams, you name it, it was on offer. Suddenly as if by magic, there is room for a 'sliver' (which in fact is an actual chunk but you dare not cut the serving any smaller), and you load up once again.

It's funny how it takes Christmas lunch to inspire and motivate you to go on a diet! Why wouldn't you just serve up a Christmas lunch midway through the year, stuff yourself and then go on a diet half way through the year??

With lunch done, this strange thing happens where everyone except for the wives disappear! Have you ever noticed that? As contagious as COVID, a sudden onset of Domestic Phobia which funnily enough only latches onto husbands, causes the gents to vacate the kitchen in an instant. The only way they can be saved is to congregate to the nearest Esky and not move. Apparently, it can be even more helpful if the contents of the Esky are consumed as soon as possible, with many of the Domestic Phobia sufferers having no choice but to have to lay down after the consumption.

After the dishes are done, it's time to boil the kettle and bugger it, why not have something else to eat, because you've bloody earned it!

Auntie M. has made biscuits and be blown if you're going to miss out on sampling one. Once they're all cleaned up, someone cracks open a box of Cadbury Favourites and who are you to argue that they're not necessary? Yes please, I'll have the Boost Bars and Cherry Ripes even though I couldn't possibly fit another thing in!!

Finally, the kids have peaked. As they say, what goes up must come down and now fights have broken out. There are tears, you know those re-

ally whingey tears?? No, they aren't coming from me, although I could very well break down right about now because I have only just been able to relax after resigning myself to the fact that I will not be getting that nap I so desperately want.

It is not a myth that there are crocodiles in Barham because by this time I am snapping like an angry saltwater croc, and anyone of shoulder height is potential prey!

Gathering up the children, I promptly pop them into the car and while I am seriously considering leaving my husband, who by now has drunk the Esky dry, behind, I simply give him 'the look' that tells him it's time to leave.

We have barely left the premises and both kids are almost asleep. I breathe a sigh of relief.

Gently, the kids are carried inside (I'm quietly envious and wish someone would carry me inside as I slept) and are placed into their beds. Looking at their sweet little faces as they snuggle into their doona, I am hit like a tonne of bricks with guilt as one of them opens their eyes slightly and says "Mum, this has been the best Christmas ever, thank you."

My heart melts and I feel terrible for my immature behaviour today. I kiss both of the boys on their soft cheeks, tell them I love them and go back to the living room where my husband too is in a deep slumber. Only his adorability is overshadowed by intermittent snoring and bottom burps, thanks to the day's consumption of beverage choice and rich meats.

I go and put the kettle on to make myself a cup of peppermint tea, stretching and yawning as I pour the water. I am so excited about going to bed, but just before I turn in, I look over to the present piles lying on the floor and decide to put them in the kids' rooms. Carefully, I lift the pile with the jigsaw puzzle and once again there is that pang of guilt for not letting my son get it out of the box. The little darling is sound asleep as I bend down to place the pile by the side of his bed...and drop the bloody box containing the puzzle, scattering it all over the floor and waking him up!

Bugger the mess, I'm off to bed!...



# Help spread the word

Local businesses are being encouraged to sponsor a new project aimed at increasing awareness of the unique issues facing local forests and waterways.

Central Murray Environmental Floodplains Group Inc. (CMEFG) is reaching out to businesses and individuals from townships in the central Murray floodplains region from Yarrawonga to Swan Hill, asking for financial assistance to support the initiative.

The group, which comprises local farmers and community members, want to highlight concerns about the management of the central Murray floodplains, in particular the Gunbower Forest and Guttrum - Benwell State Forest.

Spokesperson Skeeta Verhey said they have been gathering information which they now want to share with the public to improve community education of local issues.

“Our members are passionate about water issues and the environment in our unique part of the country. We understand the need for balanced water and natural resource management to protect our environment on both public and private land.

“We have been working together to steadily collate information and data on different aspects of environmental watering in our region, and this has provided backing for our concerns about the current management practices of our precious waterways and forests,” he said.

Mr Verhey said they want to raise \$5000 to establish a website so the wider public has access to the information the group's members have compiled.

“Between us there are different areas of interest, knowledge and skill sets. We wanted a way to collate and organise that informa-

tion so it can be shared with others, and the world wide web provides that tool.

“Our organisation approached a communication consultant and we have developed a plan to ensure our information gets out into the public arena.

“We are calling on locals to support the project by becoming sponsors, which will enable our website to be set up and monitored for the year. All sponsors will have credit on the site,” Mr Verhey said.

He said any amount would be most welcome to get the project up and running. To find out how you can help email [centralmurrayefg@gmail.com](mailto:centralmurrayefg@gmail.com) or contact Skeeta on 0429 408 708.

## Five common mistakes made when setting a new health goal

So, you're trying to build new health habits. Maybe you have had the same new year's resolution for the last five years. Every year you just know, 'THIS IS GOING TO BE MY YEAR!' Unfortunately, it goes the usual way and you do great for two weeks - maybe a month if you're lucky. Then life gets in the way, you lose motivation and it's the same old story. You just don't know how to have enough will-power to stick to it long term. Well buckle in, I'm about to teach you five reasons why this keeps happening and what you can do to change that - and kill it at your goals.

### Mistake #1 – Not finding your why

To be truly motivated you need to know why you are doing something. You need to know why it is deeply important to you. Attach that goal to as many important values in your life as you can.

### Mistake #2 – Setting extrinsic goals

Avoid setting your goals and basing your motivation on things outside of your control. Unless your goals are making an internal difference to you, your motivation is not going to keep up.

### Mistake #3 – Changing too much at once

I have heard the phrase 'new year, new me' several times. We can easily get caught up in the idea that unless we are changing everything, and doing it all, we are doing it wrong. Changing it all at once is going to rely heavily on your energy and your will-power and doesn't often end in great things. Change gradually. Just because you are going slow does not mean you are not making great changes in your life.

### Mistake #4 – Goals not specific enough

Know what you want. Have something specific you are

working towards. Saying, 'my goal is to feel healthier' is not specific. What does healthy look like to you? How will you know when you get there? What are the details?

### Mistake #5 – Choosing the wrong crowd

Show me the five people you spend the most time with and I will show you how far you will progress with your goals. We are a herd; we love to be part of a community. If our herd is not working towards the same thing we are, we will fall back into old habits. Choose your herd wisely and find people moving towards similar goals so you can support each other through the progress.

These are all very common mistakes. Check in to see where your goal setting may be falling short and try a new approach. It is never too late to make a change, and nothing is ever impossible. If you have the will then you will find the way.

## Central Murray Environmental Floodplain Group Inc.

need your support

## SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE PROJECT

Local knowledge benefitting future generations

***We must unite to have our say.***

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Contact Skeeta Verhey  
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email [centralmurrayefg@gmail.com](mailto:centralmurrayefg@gmail.com)



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## 10 QUICK ONES

1. Which actress, who rose to fame as part of the Harry Potter franchise, described herself as 'self-partnered' in an interview?
2. Complete the title of the hit 2019 film "Ford vs. \_\_\_\_\_"?
3. Which major tech organisation announced its purchase of health tracking company Fitbit in November 2019?
4. Which anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing was celebrated in July, 2019?
5. What is the source Italian expression of the motor vehicle abbreviation GT?
6. In pathology what is the common term for a displacement and protrusion of part of an organ through its cavity wall?
7. The organic chemical compound  $C_{12}H_{22}O_{11}$  is better known as what additive?
8. What is the chess playing robot called in TV's Thunderbirds?
9. What traditional confectionary takes its name from Greek glukus, sweet, and rhiza, root?
10. What is an S-shaped roof tile, named after a cooking vessel?

ANSWERS:  
1. Emma Watson; 2. Ferrari; 3. Google; 4. 50 years; 5. Gran Turismo; 6. Hernia; 7. Sugar; 8. Braham; 9. Liquorice; 10. Pantile.

## UNDER THE BRIDGE by Scarlett Brandt Episode 242

"Well, well, well... What a lovely surprise!"

Immediate heart palpitations, Ian couldn't get his seat belt off quick enough to get his hands-on Marielle.

"To what do I owe this... Incredible pleasure?"

Ian jumped out of the car and promptly took Marielle into his arms, carrying her inside and slamming the door behind them.

With a very nice bottle of French champagne right next to the bed, the two shared an evening of passion so intense that it almost brought Marielle to tears.

She was well aware that this was merely a fling, a friends with benefits type of scenario, but having never had children or married before, or even been in love, Marielle could hardly stop her imagination getting away from her. In just a short time, she was growing feelings for Ian, but she dared never tell.

As they lay on the bed, Ian wondered what Nellie was up to with Terry and if she would be returning home this evening. Marielle couldn't help noticing Ian's distantness.

"A penny for your thoughts?" she prompted.

"Hmm? Oh, oh, that? You don't want to know what I'm thinking right now!"

Ian teased, not letting on that it was his wife he was thinking of.

"Just as long as its only me you're thinking

of, its bad enough I have to share you with someone else so when its just you and me that's all you should be thinking of!"

Ian held Marielle, kissing her on the head, physically trying to reassure her rather than with words.

"I'm a bit peckish. Do you have anything in the fridge?"

Pulling back the covers, Marielle crawled seductively out of the bed as she sashayed across the room and off to the kitchen.

"I'll see what I can find," she smiled over her shoulder.

Taking the opportunity to check in on Nellie without Marielle's knowledge, Ian grabbed his phone and flicked her a text.

"How is everything going? Are you coming home tonight? Don't make me wait too long, we have much to discuss..."

Send.

The second he took his finger off the 'send' button, Ian suddenly realised what he had done.

The mobile phone on the bedside table next to him beeped, he had sent the message to Marielle by mistake!

He quickly reached over to grab the phone, and then -

"I wasn't sure how hungry you were, so I hope this is enough."

TO BE CONTINUED...



# COHUNA

the creek connecting community

**CSC EXCELS DESPITE  
A TOUGH YEAR**  
Page 11



Sunday, January 24, 2021

**FOUR AUSSIES  
IN DAKAR**  
Page 12

## CRACKING CARNIVAL



**Mabel Johnson from Cohuna and Anouk Bock from Torquay enjoyed the festivities at the Cohuna New Year's Eve Carnival. MORE PHOTOS Page 10.**

**By Kirstin Nicholson**

Organisers of the New Year's Eve carnival held in Cohuna say they are pleased with the popularity of the event. The three-day event treated residents and tourists to a carnival atmosphere usually associated with beachside holiday destinations. The Cohuna and District Progress Association cancelled the regular New Year's Eve celebration in August amid concerns that COVID-19 restrictions would prevent the event from taking place.

A few weeks out from the new year and with the COVID-19 landscape improving, committee members saw the potential to host an event to entertain locals and the large number of visitors Cohuna attracts during the holiday sea-

son. The three-day carnival, rides and permits were pulled together within a week. "These guys have been really good, they've worked in with us, they moved very quickly to get all these rides here," Progress Association president, Andrew Gibbs said.

To ensure COVID-19-compliance, public service announcements were made every half an hour and visitors were asked to check in to the event, regularly use the hand sanitising stations positioned throughout Garden Park and socially distance.

While patrons paid for rides on New Year's Eve, leftover drought funding from the Federal Government Drought Communities was secured to provide the following two nights' entertainment

free of charge. Visitors and locals enjoyed the cha-cha, dodgem cars, giant slide and teacups, along with showbags, face painting, sideshows and catering provided by local community groups and businesses. "They've been fantastic, they've all had a good time," Mr Gibbs said.

Progress Association secretary and main instigator of the event, Sonia Wright, said, "The whole idea is to try and activate the town as a destination, spread the word that we have a lot to offer and support our local businesses. The Lions are being paid for their role as COVID-19 officers with drought funding so that goes back into the community. We've hired the sanitisers from Neighbourhood House so that also goes

back into the community."

Mr Eade, a carnival operator was thrilled with the organisation of the event and the response from the community. While he owns and usually operates several rides, he has been appointed the COVID-19 officer, ensuring patrons adhere to COVID-19 regulations. "Everything just runs smoothly, we've had no trouble from anyone," he said. The carnival was a welcome reprieve from a year of no work, with COVID-19 causing the cancellation of events they would usually attend in Victoria and interstate. "Some of these operators haven't worked for 12 months. COVID-19 has affected us badly, very badly," he said.

Whether the usual format will return

next year is unknown. A lack of volunteer and financial resources is forcing a rethink of the event, and with the high cost of fireworks and entertainment, and the usual fireworks site no longer available, this carnival format may be repeated next year. "If they're happy to do it, it may be a different option for New Year's Eve going forward. As a group we need to look at what is sustainable, what brings the most benefit and it has to be something that we can manage financially and volunteer wise. The Association needs to look at how it can raise \$12,000. We don't know what the next New Year's Eve will bring but we welcome feedback from the community," Mrs Wright said.



# CRACKING CARNIVAL



Amiyah Farrar from Melbourne and Michelle Chapman.



Ari and David Mayall from Ballarat.



Marie Purton, Cheryl Cooke and Anthony Troy - Lions Club - COVID-19 officers - photo from Sonia Wright.



Jess Farrar and Jackson Farrar-Johnston from Melbourne.



Jakob, Ange and Summer Hutchins from Kerang.



Ellie and Ashton Dye from Cohuna.



# Students excel despite tough year

By Kirstin Nicholson

After a challenging year, VCE results have been released and anxious students can now start planning their future. Jack Kervin is the Cohuna Secondary College 2020 Dux with an ATAR of 95.40. "We are proud of all our students for getting through their VCE or VCAL during a very difficult year. Our results show how focussed, resilient and how hard our students worked throughout the year," principal of Cohuna Secondary College, Fiona Miller, said.

Emily Wight received an ATAR of 92.85 and four students achieved ATARS in the mid to high 80s. Since results were released, staff have worked with students to ensure that there was a pathway for them going forward,

regardless of their result.

Mrs Miller said Jack worked hard and believes anyone can do really well if they're prepared to put in the work and the effort to get to where they want to go. Jack says, "Coming up to the day I got my results I was not really that nervous, you can't change it. You just have to alter your course depending on that. There's no point stressing about it now. I was more stressed at exam time because I know that's what's set in stone. After that there's nothing you can do. Online schooling was difficult for everyone, not just having to motivate yourself at home, but not seeing friends out of school."

Jack's score is easily what he needed to enter a Bachelor of Commerce

at Melbourne University where he plans to major in actuarial studies and complete a Masters degree. For now, he and his fellow VCE graduates await the first round of offers mid-January and wonder how their first year of university will be structured with COVID-19 lingering.

Despite students undertaking remote learning for much of the year, staff were in daily contact with all students and supported them academically and emotionally. "We can't underestimate how tough it was for both students and staff. Our results are testament to the incredibly dedicated and committed staff of the college," Mrs Miller said.



Emily Wight and Jack Kervin - photo supplied by Fiona Miller.

## COHUNA & DISTRICT ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021

**Cranmer the Martyr** 32 Channel St. Cohuna  
Sunday 9am Holy Communion with Rev. Sue Allen

**Christ Church** Cnr MVHighway and Church St. Gunbower  
Sunday 11am Morning Prayer with UCA

**Latimer the Martyr** 23 Findlay Ave, Leitchville  
Sunday 9.30am Morning Prayer



## 2021 Market Dates

24 Jan	4 Apr	27 Jun	26 Sep	28 Nov
28 Feb	25 Apr	25 Jul	24 Oct	19 Dec
28 Mar	23 May	22 Aug	31 Oct	

## Leitchville Bowls

Hope everyone has enjoyed the Christmas New Year Break and didn't over indulge.

Saturday Pennant recommences on 9th Jan and Mid-week on 20th Jan. Tuesday Social bowls will commence 19 January at 9.30am and the first round of the Ladies Club Pairs Championship will also be played at 9.30am. Entries close at 12 noon on Tuesday 12th January and can be put on the sheet inside the club room.

Suzanne Bennett was runners up in the Champions of Champions at Barham, a great effort well done.

Ladies Social Bowls is on every Tuesday morning and every Friday evening will be

### Saturday Pennant Teams – 9 January 2021

#### Div 1: verse Kerang at Home

Manager: Kevin Dehne

Kevin Dehne (S), T. Cantwell, Peter Griffiths, D. Irvine  
Ken Dehne (S), W. Fehring, Trevor Hore, P. Patterson  
John Kincaid (S), D. Opie, J. Dehne, H. Hooper

#### Div 2: verse Pyramid Hill at Home

Manager: Graham Wilson

G. Wilson (S), S. Bennett, M. Brewer, A. Thomson  
Ray Opie (S), J. Walters, G. Brown, N. Woods  
L. Crawford (S), G. Hawken, D. Dye, S. Griffiths

Emergencies: B. Hildebrand, G. Douglas

Saturday Pennant practice for members and new members all welcome, for further enquiries contact President Roma Opie 0458 567 587 or Lady President Raylene Hore 0431 358 382.

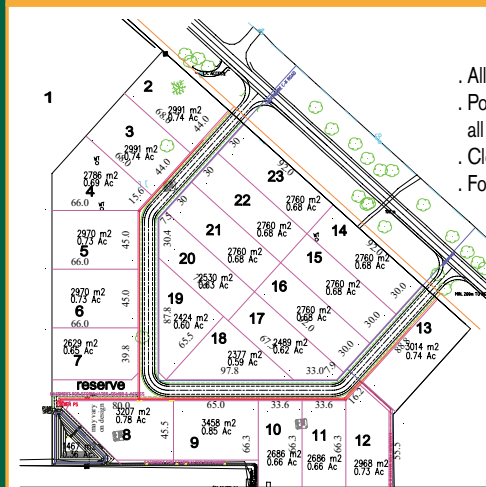
Next Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 12 at

7.30pm.

The Men's Club Pairs Championship will be played on Wednesday, January 13 at 5.30pm. Entries close at 5.15pm and teams can be put on the sheet on the club noticeboard.

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# Koondrook CFA Awards

On December 18, 2020, Koondrook Fire Brigade held a Presentation Award dinner at Mates Koondrook.

Nicholas Shepard received a five year certificate. Nick joined the brigade at a young age and unfortunately had to wait 12 months to do his minimum skills course before he could go on the truck.

Since then, Nick has progressed very well, completing the crew leaders' course, first aid course, breathing apparatus and structural fire fighting course. Nick turns out to jobs on a regular basis and is gathering the skills required for a volunteer firefighter.

Glen Hammond (Gasket) received a 40 year Service Award. Gasket joined the brigade in 1981 and was foreman from 1989 to 1993, then became captain in 1995 until 2001. After that, he remained on as a lieutenant from 2001 to 2009. Gasket has always been an excellent contributor to the brigade where his work and family time permit, as well as always willing to give up his time to go away in strike teams.

Three Koondrook members, David Shephard, Glenn Hammond and Kenneth Bell received Bushfire Emergency Citation certificates for their efforts in helping fight the devastating Southern

NSW Bush Fires. District 20 Commander, Michael Masters presented their certificates which have been signed by the premier of NSW Gladys Berejikilian in recognition of their service.

Ben Archard received Life Membership. Ben joined Cohuna fire brigade as a runner on the 24/10/1977, and represented them at many championship events.



**Ben Archard (left) receiving his award from VFBV District 20 Council President and State Councillor, Greg Murphy.**

Ben rose up through the ranks and eventually became First Lieutenant before moving to Koondrook where he joined Koondrook Brigade on the 15/08/2005 and have benefitted from his experience for many years since.

Ben was a lieutenant at Koondrook from 2007 until 2009 when he became captain, and served in that position for eight years.

During this time, Ben has been the

main driving force behind the FEM program which is now the brigade's only fund-raising activity.

Along with all the brigade activities Ben has always been actively involved with the VFBV both through the championship events at his previous brigade Cohuna, and also being the Koondrook brigade representative at VFBV meet-

ings. Ben was also elected to the executive at the last VFBV election.

This dedication has not only earned Ben a Brigade Life Membership, but also the prestigious VFBV Gold Star award.

The award was presented by VFBV District 20 Council President and State Councillor, Greg Murphy.



**District 20 Commander, Michael Masters (left) present the lifetime membership to Glen Hammond.**

# Four Aussies in Dakar Bike Class

**By Kendall Jennings**

Four Australians have made it to the start line of the 43rd Annual Dakar Rally being held in Saudi Arabia from 03-15 January 2021.

Queensland's Toby Price (dual winner 2016, 2019) and Rookies Daniel Sanders (Victorian), Michael Burgess (Victorian) and Andrew Houlihan (New South Wales) have entered the most challenging Navigation Rally in the world 7646 kilometres over twelve days, a physical challenge of mind, machine and mother nature, a marathon.

To win the Dakar, an athlete must achieve the quickest combined time from Special Sections from all Stages.

Prologue (Liasion 118 kilometres, Special 11 kilometres) 02 January 2021.

- 3rd Daniel Sanders 6 minutes 14 seconds.

- 9th Toby Price 6 minutes 24 seconds.

- 39th Michael Burgess 7 minutes 15 seconds.

- 97th Andrew Houlihan 13 minutes 47 seconds. A Navigation Equipment Gremlin caused a Time Penalty 5 minutes.

Stage 1 Jeddah - Bisha (Liasion 345 kilometres, Special 277 kilometres) 03 January 2021

Highest point 1400 metres and lowest 1200 metres above sea level—soil Types Sand, Tera and Cailoux (rocks), six checkpoints.

The ninth athlete to start, Toby Price finished the Stage 3 hours 18 minutes and 26 seconds winning the Stage by 31 seconds, an achievement with a navigational error near the end of the special section.

"It's just the first Stage, so Today [was] quite difficult with the navigation. I got lost a little bit about 7 kilometres from the finish. I took a

little bit of time just trying to get back on track here. It's been a good, clean day for us. I think you're gonna see a lot of chopping and changing in the standings in this race. You just gotta stay calm and let it cruise along and make it work." Said Toby Price.

Victorian Daniel Sanders was third to start the Stage due to his impressive Prologue. The Rookie finished twenty-fifth for Stage 1 in a year of learning opportunities.

"It was really cool to start off third after the Prologue yesterday. I saw the Honda guys turn left on this point... I wasn't too sure because it's my first year, not much navigation, but I should've followed my instincts..." Stated Sanders.

There aren't many opportunities in Australia to learn and practise navigation in a racing environment. Navigation is a weakness that Sanders is aware of, and the longer he is in the saddle, the better he will be.

Victorian Rookie Michael Burgess completed Stage 1 in thirty-third position with a journey of 3 hours 56 minutes and 45 seconds.

New South Welshman Andrew Houlihan has recovered well after his navigation equipment issues during Prologue which caused a 5-minute penalty, and the Rookie finished 68th for the Stage (5 hours 25 minutes and 27 seconds).

Stage 2 Bisha - Wadi Ad-Dawasir (Liasion 228 kilometres, Special 457 kilometres) 04 January 2021.

Highest point 1200 metres and lowest 1000 metres above sea level—soil Types Sand, Tera and Dunes, 12 checkpoints.

Toby Price in conserver mode as the rear fuel tank on his KTM had an issue; the dunes were also problematic for Price, losing valuable time getting caught in the soft sand finishing 28th Overall for Stage 2, 15th Overall.



"Today was difficult to lead out, the first 100km felt good and traded back and forth for the lead with Kevin, but at the 300km mark I started to have an issue with the rear tank, and the fuel wasn't working so then I had to conserve running only the front tanks. Tough one but we'll work on the bike this afternoon, and we're at another finish line, so I'm happy! Still, a long way to go." Said Toby Price on social media.

Rookie Daniel Sanders continued to impress, running up the front and in podium contention for the Stage before falling back 16 minutes from the leaders, starting from 25th and finishing 9th in Stage 2.

Rookie, Michael Burgess finished 45th for Stage 2 and is sitting 42nd Overall.

Rookie, Andrew Houlihan was consistent with his ride during Stage 2. In

his first Dakar, he is just focusing on Safety and completing the event. Unfortunately, Andrew missed a checkpoint and was penalised 20 minutes finishing 67th for Stage 2 and will be the 68th bike to start Stage 3.

In an impressive performance, riding in the twenty-nine riders in front of him, Toby Price won Stage 3 Wadi Ad-Dawasir, in 3:33:23. Six hundred twenty-nine kilometres with a 403-kilometre special section, comprising of Sand, Terre and Dunes.

"So far, it's been up and down. It's quite frustrating to be in front one day and then at the back the next. The difficulty of the navigation means it's hard to open the road. I'm going to have to do it tomorrow, but I hope there'll be a bit of respite and that it will be a day that's less complicated on the navigational front. The result doesn't mean much, because there are

ups and downs. But anyway, it's been a good day for me. The bike's working well, I didn't fall, and I didn't have any fuel problems like yesterday. Every day is going to count right up until the last one, but so far there have been no major problems". said Toby Price.

Rookie Victorian Daniel Sanders also impressed finishing 8th for the Stage (3:44:45). Fellow Victorian Rookie Michael Burgess finished 37th (4:12:08). New South Welshman Andrew Houlihan finished 72nd (5:35:53).

After Stage 3, Toby Price is in 4th place overall, Andrew Sanders 16th, Michael Burgess 40th and Andrew Houlihan 69th.

Racing continues to the Friday 08 January, Saturday the 9th a rest day is scheduled and will continue Monday 11 January to Friday 15 January 2021.




# Classifieds

The Bridge

**Weeds**  
& General Garden Maintenance

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 **Welcome to 2021**

**2021 BOOK COLLECTION & payment**  
Cohuna Secondary College Office  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January  
8:00am – 5:00pm  
(cash on day or Bpay)

**Welcome to 2021 School Year**  
STAFF commence 27<sup>th</sup> January.  
**OFFICE OPEN from 8:30am.**  
ALL STUDENTS: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

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**STAFF CHECKLIST**

- ☐ You have a "Can do!" attitude.
- ☐ You're loyal and committed.
- ☐ You have a willingness to learn.
- ☐ You're a team player.
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- ☐ You're a "people person" with a smile.
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*It's a Boy!*  
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**The Bridge**

## The Bridge ADVERTISERS!

Articles or new advertising bookings and material need to be submitted **before 2pm, Tuesday afternoon.**

Any cancellations or booking changes must be received no later than 10 am Wednesdays.

Any addition, correction or cancellation requests received after these times may not be possible.

## Moulamein NOTEBOOK

By China Gibson

### COVID-19

We almost had it. None in NSW, none in Victoria or any other state. So, what do we do? We import it from overseas.

We should close the borders. We are an island. We were free of this bloody thing. If you want to come back to our clean country, you should be tested before you get on the plane. To me, it is not rocket science. You need a passport to get here. You should also get a health check. We even have the new strain from the UK here which is 70% more contagious than the first strain.

When I become president of this country, we will learn to protect ourselves. Vote One China, to keep out what China started and our Government is still stuffing around with.

### Lake Lock Changed

Normally I feel a bit like the Grinch when I change the lock to our Moulamein Lake just before Christmas. I was a couple of days late this year due to circumstances beyond my control. The lock has been changed so memberships are now due. We should have enough water left to keep the level of our town lake suitable for skiing for this season. We will run out of water to put into our town lake around the 12th of January if I just keep pumping at night. The future of

our Moulamein Lake is up to our Murray River Council. Let's hope our new CO reads my notes.

### Bowls Tournament

I usually mention our Moulamein Bowls tournaments to encourage more players to get their names in. Not this year, we are full up. Even with the dreaded COVID we only lost one team because they are out of our Border Bubble. We even have a few teams waiting for someone to pull out so they can come and enjoy our great day. What a great day it will be. I was actually the last name to go in. My old mate Marilyn from Tooley-buc needed a partner so what could I say. Look out on the 10th of January. I expect big things from Marilyn, I hope she does not expect too much from me. Looking forward to meeting everyone on the day.

### Cod Still Biting

More in the Edward than the Billabong but if you want a yella, the Billabong is the place to be. Subway cod are still plentiful in our Edward which is great to see for our river. We went out a couple of times over Christmas. I think our total was about 11 cod, 2 grunners, one dirty carp and a thousand tangles and snags with the grand-kids, all on cheese. This will be great for our rivers until black water wipes them out. Fishing Clubs and natural

breeding bring them back. It is just a pity that those in charge keep giving us unnatural black water events that put our fish behind the 8 ball when it comes to breeding and surviving.

### Cemetery Looking Good

I have had a go at those who look after our Moulamein Cemetery in the past because it used to look very neglected at the two most important times of the year when people visit their loved ones. Easter and Christmas. Our Cemetery looks good all year now, so thanks for that to those in charge and those who do the work. It looks especially good at these two times of the year.

### Moulamein Heritage Village

This is coming on in leaps and bounds. We had the old Dhuragoon School, the Jeraly Shearing Shed go up. The new toilet and shower block is getting built to make it easier for Grey Nomads and Truckies to get a shower in our town.

It may be new, but it fits into the old look of the village. Next should be the Moolpa Blacksmiths Shop.

Well done to our Moulamein Advancement Committee for getting this project up and running. It will be great for our town in the future.

### Weather According To

### Jack. (Two Weeks Ago).

It has been a while since I have written Jack's predictions but so far. I think he has not been far from the mark for a wet spring and summer. The big news is that if La Nina keeps going, we will have a wet March and April in our local area. This is only if La Nina holds out. One prediction Jack did make (and remember, this is over two weeks ago) is that Townsville has not had its share of the rain yet. If Jack knows what he is talking about, you are about to cop it. (and they are). So please be prepared in the Towns-

ville area. Other predictions are that the Darling will keep flowing and water will reach Lake Eyre.

### River Levels

The Edward is at around 2.1 meters and 2300 meg a day and steady. Due to the MDBA there is over 570 megs coming down our Billabong Creek. Do not get me wrong, this will do our creek the world of good but, it is only to get more water to my Crow Eating mates downstream. Finally, these Crow Eating bastards are doing me good. This is the first time that has ever happened. The rules say that there has to be

50 megs a day going out the end of our Billabong Creek. Due to this flush for my Crow Eating mates, there will be 350 megs going past me and I think about 1,500 megs going past Balranald in the Murrumbidgee. This would be great if we did not have to pick up the losses of getting this water to my Crow Eating mates but we do. We get the losses and they get 100% of water every year and fresh water to flush out to sea. Not a bad deal for a state that does not have a catchment.

## PETER WALSH MP

### MEMBER FOR MURRAY PLAINS

If you have any concerns with issues relating to Victorian government departments, please contact my office for assistance.

[peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au)

### Peter Walsh MP

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# — 'Welcome to the new' —

**By Rosemary McCormick**

Coloured chalk is impossible to find these days in Kathmandu, transport trucks bearing such goods have been stuck in the mountains at the China border for almost one year now.

So, I need to use the more expensive 'chalky' soft pastels for our daily artworks on the café blackboards.

On the plus side, this results in a greater range of both colour and brightness.

Today, I drew some

white, stylized clouds, and next, a big golden sun with bright sunbeams that reached down to touch the earth and I coloured the edges of the clouds in yellow tints, then it was time for some high hills in contrasting shades of green, and then, finally—snow! I made snow showers falling from the clouds in unnaturally big flakes, and I covered the hill tops in bold strokes of white.

A prophecy I hope, for we need some rain, and in the mid-winter cold and greyness here,

wet weather will result in snow, all through the hills and in abundance up in the mountains.

I love the way that with just a few sticks of chalk, I can make a whole new world, create a fresh look, or draw something the way I'd really like it to be. Welcome to the new...

It's funny, how the turning over of a calendar page, or writing the new numbers that herald the arrival of yet another year, can make it seem like such a new beginning. Last year has

tipped over into the new. Welcome to the new... actually, with hardly a murmur here in Nepal, as the new Nepali calendar year will arrive around mid-April.

Yet, it feels new. New Year's Eve found us sitting around an outside open fire with some other expat friends tasking turns to share what 2020 had meant to us. All different stories, challenges, and struggles throughout a very peculiar year. Yet, there was a common thread, a sort of repeating theme. Each person

in turn shared how during 2020, they'd felt encouraged, strengthened, helped, by simply knowing Jesus was with them. Someone told how they'd suffered from COVID-19 and finally recovered, '... stand and see the salvation of the Lord...' Others became separated from kids who were stuck in foreign lands, or they had worried for aging relatives, or were trying to find ways to keep businesses afloat. '... I will be with you always...' Welcome to the new... The mistakes, failures,

and low points of last year now lie buried beneath the weight of God's grace, whilst the joys, highlights, and victories become memories to take with us into the new. A fresh opportunity to trust in God's loving best for our lives and for our future. 'Your will be done, your Kingdom come...'

Mmmm... tomorrow morning I think I'll draw something completely different.

A new set of colours, perhaps some fresh inspiration, a surprise or two even... welcome to the new.

Have a most blessed 2021, from the top of the world.

## A Christmas Miracle

**By Bruce Stewart**

My Father is the Engine Driver  
2021 has begun. 2020 is finished.  
What a year 2020 has been – with bushfire flames and destruction rampant over large parts of Australia early in the year. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic impacting near every aspect of our lives in Australia and indeed the whole world.

Last year was for most people a tough year. It was a year of challenges, choices and changes. Many experienced loss—maybe even lost a loved one and loss of property. Others had wonderful things happen. For example, "Heavy rainfall around the towns of Gunnedah and Tamworth is swelling rivers and waterfalls and delighting farmers celebrating an "unbelievable" end to a drought many of them thought would never be over" (Weatherzone December 31st 2020). Where there had been massive fires and dust bowls in 2019 and early 2020 there has been wonderful rain over large parts of NSW and Queensland and Victoria – producing some of the best grain crops for decades.

In the midst of disaster and pain there are stories of people giving generously of themselves in service one to another, the giving of clothes, food, money and a wonderful sense of "community" developing. The sacrifice and service of thousands of "fireys" and then so many medical people on the front lines in the COVID times is much appreciated. Now we have a new year before us – 2021. As I contemplate these things at the start of a new year I am reminded of a story which concerns a boy who was travelling alone in a passenger steam train on the Edinburgh to London route – a 700 km journey. At one of the stations an elderly gentleman engaged the boy



**Where there had been massive fires and dust bowls in 2019 and early 2020 there has been wonderful rain over large parts of Australia in the rest of 2020 – producing some of the best grain crops for decades. Photo – Ross Stewart and his son Aaron harvesting wheat in Victoria's Western district.**

in conversation.

"Are you travelling alone sonny?"

"Yes sir".

How far are you travelling?"

"To the terminus in London"

"Are you not afraid of taking such a long journey all by yourself?"

"No, I'm not".

"Why not?"

"Because my father is the engine driver."

The boy had confidence because his father was in control of the train. So it is as we face the future – though it may sound scary and uncertain at times. The Bible says we have a Heavenly Father who made the universe and He is in control. Everything was perfect in the beginning with perfect harmony and no suffering. Our Creator gave us humans free will – we each have incredible potential to achieve highly with wonderful deeds and creativity but all of us

also have the capability to make wrong and evil decisions with sometimes terrible consequences. From soon after the beginning the first humans chose to do the wrong thing and sin entered the world with consequences of death, (Romans 5:12) disease and suffering. . We have each at times chosen to do wrong (Romans 3:23) and "all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present" (Romans 8:22).

The Bible tells us that our loving Heavenly Father has provided a way of forgiveness and redemption for us humans if we – "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord" Acts 3:19.. The bridge of redemption was achieved through the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross of Calvary which we are especially reminded of at Easter. Our Creator knows all about suffering when He watched His Son

suffer and die – He did it out of love for us. This is a wonderful gift offered to us and like a Christmas present we need to receive it and open it – with repentance and thanksgiving which then leads to living life with hope and "thanksgiving".

As we face 2021 with its challenges and joys the Bible tells us to "acknowledge Him (our Creator God) and He will direct our paths" Proverbs 3:6. Let Jesus be the "Engine Driver" of our lives and we can experience His peace, hope and direction. The Bible also says that one day – if we follow Jesus- 'He (our Creator God) will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' (Revelation 21:4).

There is a wonderful hope for today and eternity if we allow Jesus to be the "engine driver" of our lives. Have a great 2021.



## Lions Bingo


What a great night. Our first night of bingo for nine months.

The weather was not that good to us, but 26 Bingo players came to play, we hope they all enjoyed the night as much as the Lions members enjoyed having so

many old faces back to play. The wildcard and game 20 jackpots never went off making them \$940 and \$260 respectively. The game 30 jackpot of \$80 was won by Jenny Orr.

Roster will be sent to members shortly.

## Church Notices



**ANGLICAN CHURCH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**

**ST JOHNS: 10am:** Morning Prayer.

**ST MARTINS: 10:30am:** Holy Communion.

**ST BARNABAS: 9am:** Morning Prayer.

• Enquiries Fr Neale: 0497 359 576

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**BARHAM – WAKOOL UNITING PARISH**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10**

**Barham – 10am:** L. & J. McKindlay.

**Moulamein – 10:30am:** Combined with Moulamein.

**Wakool – 10:30am:** Combined with Anglicans.

• Enquiries: L. & J. McKindlay 5884 2130

C.C. = Children's Church. SMT = Shared Ministry Team.

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**KOONDROOK – BARHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

**SUNDAY 10AM**

**50 MELLOOL ST, BARHAM.**

at Koondrook-Barham Baptist Church.

Enquiries: Ps. Bernard Blumel - Mobile 0466 820 420

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**BARHAM CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Daily Mass: 9 am - Barham Presbytery chapel.**

**SUNDAY MASS:**

**Wakool: 8.30 am.**

**Barham: 10:30am.**

**Moulamein: every second week at 5:30pm.**

**Phone Fr Stan: 0413 311 598**



# CLASSIFIEDS

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# Barham Bowling Club

Here we are, Christmas is over and we are into a brand-new Year. A few things happening with one of the main one's being THE BARE-FOOT BOWLS. This is to start on Thursday, January 14, with a 6pm to 6.30 start. It will be \$10 a head, which

includes a sausage sizzle. Sheet on the noticeboard, or ring Spike on 0427 532 553. He will be so pleased to hear from you. Team entries or single.

Can't tell you how good these nights are, and if we end up with one new bowler,

then it's worthwhile. Great job, Spike and Charlie.

OUR STAR DAY. A/C Two bowl triples are on Sunday the 24th of January with a 12.30 start. Entry is \$30 a team.

BAR ROSTER THIS WEEK IS KEN ASHTON AND JEAN FAIRCHILD. Thank you in advance.

Draws for the Men's and Ladies, B Grade Singles are on the board. Please check, and make sure that you play your games by the designated times.

I guess that we are all thinking about the health of Ian Mues, and also at the moment Mel Durbridge. We wish them well in their recovery, and hope to see them back bowling soon.

I have to admit, that I would sooner have an argument with either of them, instead of seeing both unwell.

As we head into the last of the Pennant, I think seven games to go, I hope we see dedication to our new Club. There is something very special about winning a flag, and that's in any division. BRING IT ON.

This virus seems to me just rears up whenever it wants to, with Dxxxheads dragging it along with them like a dog on a chain. If these people who keep flouting the law and putting us all in danger, then we are in trouble. I think that this pandemic is something that we are going to have to learn to live with, but disrespectful idiots,

that think they are invincible, will undoubtedly make things worse.

ONE FOR THE ROAD. An out of town driver drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled "Pull Nellie, pull" Buddy didn't move.

Then the farmer hollered "Pull Buster Pull."

Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded "Pull Coco, Pull".

Nothing.

Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull Buddy, Pull," and the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious,

He asked the farmer why he called the horse by the wrong name three times?

"WELL... Buddy is blind, and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try."

See you on the green. WEARY.

## BARHAM BOWLING CLUB SATURDAY PENNANT 2021 Saturday, January 9, 2021

### Division 1 Barham V Cohuna (Home)

Skip	P.Goudie	J.Lunghusen	G.Faul
3rd	R.Maud	D.Patterson	S.Manners
2nd	I.Fasham	G.Archard	ED Whelan
Lead	Kim Watts	Kerry Watts	E.Graco
Manager:	G.Faul		

### Division 2 Blue V Bye

Skip	A.Thomas	J.Holloway	M.Laursen
3rd	G.Lake	C.Bagg	W.McNeil
2nd	B.Fasham	K.Rye	B.French
Lead	L.Ashton	C.Hope	M.McNeil

### Division 2 Green V Cohuna Golf White (Away)

Skip	T.Keegan	W.Waller	K.Lake
3rd	G.Cook	A.Larpent	R.Baker
2nd	C.Cassidy	I.Ellis	G.Walker
Lead	J.Cunningham	R.Kendell	B.Pippin
Manager:	I.Ellis		

### Division 3 Blue V Wakool (Home)

Skip	C.Gent	E.Schelbert	G.Goodwin
3rd	B.Theobald	V.Majhrovski	L.Mues
2nd	H.Archard	G.Graeme	D.McCallum
Lead	R.Hillman	N.Nash	J.Orr
Manager:	V.Majhrovski		

### Division 3 Green V Kerang (Home)

Skip	K.Ashton	R.Scott	B.Berry
3rd	S.Barnes	G.Wishart	R.Fraser
2nd	M.Kizan	G.Kennedy	I.Mues
Lead	D.Gross	K.Lohner	G.Moxom
Manager:	G.Kennedy		

### Division 3 White V Bye (Home)

Skip	B.Pringle	R.Grant	L.Durbridge
3rd	G.Williams	P.Madeley	M.Alexander
2nd	Y.Henery	H.McCallum	P.Slingo
Lead	N.Martin	W.Cook	B.Carey
Manager:	W.Cook		

### Duty Team: Division 1 Barham (G. Faul)



## No Friday night cricket Saturday B Grade

Wandella vs B/K WO

## A Grade

Wandella vs B/K WT



## Wakool Bowls Pennant Teams 9 January 2021

### Division One

#### Div 1 – Wakool vs Gunbower (away)

(s) I Main, M Filmer, L McNaul, G Lodge  
(s) G Treweek, J Fairchild, A Shannon, F Ryan  
(s) R Burmeister, B Vinecombe, R Grant, J Lolicato

#### Div 3 – Wakool vs Barham Blue (away)

(s) C Mills, S McNaul, K Lolicato, W Bourke  
(s) S Chalmers, F Burmeister, G Rowland, N Free  
(s) R Chalmers, A Hamilton, A Stewart, G Lang

Emergencies: S Mills, S Stewart, J Amor



## Changes to raw water quality

Warm weather in the Murray River catchment area is contributing to poor raw water quality in the Coliban Water Murray Supply System.

This system supplies water to the townships of Echuca, Cohuna, Leitchville and Gunbower.

Customers may notice changes to the taste and odour of the drinking water.

There are no health risks associated with the drinking water being supplied to these towns. It is safe for drinking, bathing, food preparation and continues to comply with the health-based guidelines as part of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

Treatment measures are in place at the relevant water treatment plants and water quality staff are closely monitoring the raw water quality.

# Barham Golf Club Weekly Roundup



### Ladies' Events:

Wednesday 23rd of December was the Ladies stableford event. Winners on the day were 1st Jeanette Weaver 36 points. 2nd was Sue Thompson with 33 points.

The Ball Rundown went to 31 points and Jeanette Weaver added to her win by winning the Pro Pin.

Saturday the 26th December was a ladies Stableford with Merle Jobling (21) taking out 1st place with 39 points and runner up went to Sue Thompson (26) with 34 points. Ball rundown went to 34.

Wednesday 30th of December was the Ladies stableford event. Winners on the day were 1st Pauline Jones (29) with 36 points and 2nd was Dianne Waller with 35 points.

The Ball Rundown went to 33 points and Joan Goodwin won the Pro Pin.

Saturday the 2nd of January saw thunderstorms deter most our ladies from playing, though a few early starters beat the weather and posted good scores. The winner on the day was Lorraine Howard (26) with a score of 39 points. The ball rundown went to 34.

### Mens' Events:

On Thursday 24th December, the men played their usual round of Stableford.

Div. 1 winner was Jason Campbell (10) with a score of 39 points, and in

2nd place was Paul Robinson (1) with a score of 36 points.

Div. 2 winner was Brett Whitman (18) with a

score of 37 points and in 2nd place was Gavin Smith (13) with 33 points.

Div. 3 winner was Steve Boorer (19) with a score of 41 points, and in

2nd place was Matt Hodgson (29) with a close 40 points.

The Ball Rundown went to 32 points, and the Pro Pin was won by Robert Hobbs.

On Saturday 26th of December, the men played a Stableford event.

Div 1 winner was a visitor, Lindsay Ryan (10) with 37 points, runner up was Paul Robinson (2) with a close 36 points.

Div. 2 winner was Rick McKenzie (20) with a handy 41 points and runner was a visitor, Stephen McDavid (16) with 38 points.

The ball rundown went to 33 and the Pro Pin was won by John Ficken.

On Thursday 31st December, the men played their usual round of Stableford with a big field of 71 players.

Div. 1 winner was Glenn Bartels (7) with a score of 36 points on the countback from Bill Cannon (9) also on 36 points and in 3rd place, also with 36 points was Garry McCashney.

Div. 2 winner was Ross Stanton (15) with a great score of 41 points and in 2nd place was Bas De Bondt (17) with 39 points and 3rd place went to Jacob Barrington (15) with a close 38 points.

Div. 3 winner was Robert McCaig (19) with a score of 36 points on the countback from Doug Mortlock (22) also with 36 points and in 3rd place was Michael Jones with a close 35 points.

The Ball Rundown went to 34 points, and the Pro Pin was won by Matthew Finch.

On Saturday 2nd January, the men also endured the stormy weather to play a Stableford event, being the Hudson Cup.

Div 1 winner was Peter Doherty (11) with 37 points on the countback from Colin James (8) also with 37 points, and in 3rd place was Bruce James (10) with 36 points.

Div. 2 winner was Michael Jones (21) with a great score of 42 points, and in 2nd place was Robert Hobbs (15) with a score of 40 points and in 3rd place was Bas De Bondt (17) with a score of 35 points.

The ball rundown went to 32 and the Pro Pin was won by Bruce James, and the Hudson Cup was won by Robert Hobbs.

### Public Holiday Medley:

Monday 28th December, was a Medley Stableford that fielded a great number of starters, both visitors and members.

Div 1 winner was Dallas Bibby (15) with 39 points and runner up was Travis Cook (6) with 38 points.

Div 2 winner was Jan Alborough (27) with 38 points on the countback from her husband Geoff Alborough (21) also with 38 points.

The ball run down went to 34 and the Pro Pin was won by Dallas Bibby, rounding out his great day on the course.

New Year's day, Friday the 1st of December saw a Medley Stableford held with a diminished field

due to the departure of many holiday makers back over the border.

Div 1 winner was Grant Weaver (16) with a great score of 41 points and runner up was Ian Bunyan (11) with 37 points.

Div 2 winner was Bas De Bondt (17) with 37 points and runner up was Carole Letheby (19) with 35 points.

The Ball run down went 33 points.

### Sunday Medley:

Sunday the 27th December was our usual Medley Stableford with many visitors filling the field.

Div. 1 was won by a visitor Simon Sheedy (2) with a terrific score of 42 points, runner up was Ray Thompson (14) with 39 points.

Div. 2 was won by another visitor Luke Gervasi (24) with 39 points and runner up was also another visitor, Tully Bland (36) with 37 points.

The ball rundown went to 32 and the Pro Pin went to Ray (Champy) Thompson.

Sunday 3rd January, was our usual Medley Stableford held in much better conditions than the previous day.

Div 1 winner was Ian Bennett 38 pts  
R/Up Rob Mcnaughton 36 pts  
3rd Peter Doherty 36 pts

Div 2 was Nathan Walle 33 pts  
R/Up Janine Bibby 33 pts on a c/b from Bas De Bondt 33 pts.

Pro Pin Winner Grant Weaver  
Ball rundown went to 33 pts.



# BHS Dux Accolade for Ellie

Completing Year 12 can be a stressful time. Completing Year 12 in 2020 during COVID-19 added a whole new dimension.

The Bridge caught up with Ellie Disher, Barham High School Dux for 2020, Ellie received an ATAR of 85.6.

**How has completing Year 12 during COVID-19 been? What were the challenges, what were the opportunities, did it make you think about schooling differently?**

2020 has definitely been one crazy year. My Year 12 experience has been like no other [previous]. As many students would say, this was supposed to be one of the best years of our schooling and it feels like we have missed most of it.

COVID-19 has had a major impact on our learning with the added stress of the unknown and how our content was going to be delivered. We experienced a new style of learning such as the remote learning from home period. It was dif-

ficult for many students as it meant you had to stay motivated and determined to do the work yourself. A lot of frustration was caused as many students found it harder to understand concepts and to be able to ask questions, as you normally would in a classroom setting.

The greatest effect would have been socially on our year. During the year we, as students, would gather together to support one another, share our highs and lows, and the ability to discuss assessments and results. We also support each other in more personal ways which were a lot harder to do online. While at school many students would look forward to the weekends as they were the time to have a break, see friends, have social outings and a chance to recover. During lockdown it made us feel like we didn't have a chance to have any down time out of the house. There was also the disappointment around the annual school events such as our last Sporting Carnival, as well as the rites of passage into adulthood that were

missed or postponed, such as getting a driver's licence, 18th birthday parties, school formal. Which doesn't fit the picture of our final year of high school that everyone had in mind or how they wanted to remember it.

Apart from all the downsides and negative impacts COVID-19 had on us Year 12s, there have also been many positive opportunities experienced. We, as a year, have learnt many life skills such as how to be resilient and persistent to cope with challenges in many different ways throughout this unfamiliar year.

After the experience of remote learning I have a greater appreciation for school, its resources, the social opportunities that are experienced, the freedom to go places and sticking to routines.

**How did it feel to receive Dux? Was it something you aimed for; did you have standout subjects?**

I was very excited and delighted to receive the Barham High Schools 2020 Dux. It was such a good feeling as I knew it meant my consistent and determined efforts throughout the year had paid off. If you put in the hard work, you will be rewarded. During Year 12 I had aimed to do my best in all my subjects and be satisfied with my results. My most enjoyable subjects were PD/H/PE and Ancient History, subsequently scoring my highest marks in these subjects.

**Other than being talented, what tips or learnings advice would you share with other students who are facing Year 12?**

My biggest tip for any students who are facing Year 12 would be to set up a study plan early, to organise yourself and get yourself into a routine. A study plan will allow you to identify your key priorities whether that be assessments or tests, giving yourself enough time to prepare and be focused. Adding extra hobbies and other commitments to your



Ellie Disher.

plan helps to break up the workload and creates a balanced lifestyle. Year 12 is a marathon and you need to work hard and consistently throughout the whole Year. Don't be afraid to ask for support or assistance from your teachers, as they are always more than willing to help.

**What are your plans for 2021? Do you have a career path or higher education mapped out?**

My plan for 2021 is to continue my education at a tertiary level, studying at University. I can't wait to begin the Uni student life and see where my future takes me.

**What do you enjoy about BHS, anyone you would like to thank?**

It was a pleasure to be a part of the Barham High School student body. I enjoyed making many positive friend-

ships with students and teachers throughout my junior and senior years, that I will remember forever. I would encourage other students to participate in extra curriculum activities offered as they helped to extend my knowledge and to build confidence.

I would like to personally thank all the teachers and the staff at Barham High School for their expertise and guidance throughout my schooling years. My passionate teachers were very willing to put in extra time to help me succeed further, which I am forever grateful for. To the student body, I thank you for being respectful towards the Year 12s and being there for support.

I would also like to thank all the other Year 12s a part of the 2020 cohort. We stucked together and pushed through this challenging year to achieve great success. Without each other and the moral support, our Year 12 experience would have been very different.

## ATAR FACTS

- ✓ The ATAR is a rank, not a mark. ATARs are calculated in each state to reflect a student's rank against other students in their state. In NSW, the ATAR is calculated and released by UAC.
- ✓ It's a number between 0.00 and 99.95 that indicates a student's position relative to all the students in their age group (ie all 16 to 20 year olds in NSW).
- ✓ So, an ATAR of 80.00 means that you are 20 per cent from the top of your age group (not your Year 12 group).
- ✓ Universities use the ATAR to help them select students for their courses and admission to most tertiary courses is based on your selection rank (your ATAR + any applicable adjustments).
- ✓ The average ATAR is usually around 70.00. If every school student went on to achieve an ATAR, the average ATAR would be 50.00.

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