

Weather

TODAY

Sunny with light winds.
Min: 5°C
Max: 21°C



TOMORROW

Mostly sunny with light northerly winds.
Min: 7°C
Max: 24°C



FRIDAY

A sunny day with isolated showers during the evening.
Min: 9°C
Max: 26°C



Sunrise: 6.31am Sunset: 7.40pm

NSW Lotto

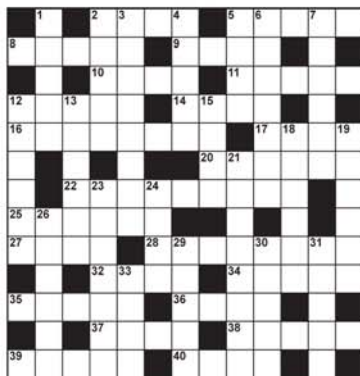
The winning numbers in NSW Lotto Draw number 2974, drawn Monday, October 18 1, 13, 19, 21, 27, 33 and supplementaries 12 & 45
 Dividends: 6 numbers = Jackpot; 5+1 sup = \$3455.05; 5 = \$304.35; 4 = \$19.40; 3+1 sup = \$13.45.
 Results provided to THE RIV are subject to confirmation.

Quote of the day

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."
 — Henry Ford

CROSSWORD

No. 8840



ACROSS

- 2 Blockhead
- 5 Chemical compound
- 8 Slumber
- 9 Qualified
- 10 Golf mounds
- 11 Divine messenger
- 12 Prise
- 14 Fish
- 16 Repeats
- 17 Roman garment
- 20 Ran away to marry
- 22 Wharf labourer
- 25 Carry too far
- 27 Burrowing animal
- 28 Dwelling
- 32 Hurried
- 34 Showground attractions
- 35 Cite
- 36 Profit
- 37 Body of water
- 38 Stair handrail post
- 39 Cut off
- 40 Droops

DOWN

- 1 Navy
- 2 Frighten from
- 3 Performed surgery
- 4 Sample
- 5 Dash
- 6 Politician
- 7 Come forth
- 12 Lithe
- 13 Ship
- 15 Second-hand
- 18 Laid bare
- 19 Lets in
- 21 Letting down
- 23 Table support
- 24 Ballot choice
- 26 Quantity
- 29 Borders
- 30 Pits
- 31 At no time
- 33 Fruit

Riverine Herald Crossword Solution 8839



Letters to the Editor

letters to the editor



Letters may be posted to: The Editor, Riverine Herald, PO Box 21, Echuca 3564, faxed to 5482 5454 or dropped in to 270 Hare St, Echuca.
 Emailed letters should be sent to: editorial@riverineherald.com.au



Letters must be no more than 300 words.
 All letters must include the author's name for publication and a residential address and phone number for verification or clarification.
 Unless emailed, all letters must include a signature.
 The editor reserves the right to withhold or edit letters.

Great community

Madam,
 On Saturday, October 16, my friend, visiting from Melbourne, had a fall in the car park in Annesley St.

A lady and her daughter came to our assistance with a bandage and blanket.

Another lady removed her jacket to provide extra warmth for my friend until the ambulance arrived.

I am so proud to live in a community where people really care for others.

I am pleased to say my friend was not badly injured and after a few hours was released from hospital.

Joan James
 Moama

Basin hit

Madam,
 The proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan, if carried out in its present form, is going to put riverine communities further down the drain.

Some of them have already taken a big hit with the outrageous decision by the Natural Resources Commission and the NSW Government to shut down a viable and sustainable timber industry.

These food bowl communities would be washed down the drain, let me say, down the Murray, along with the wasted water that will end up in the Southern Ocean.

Ray Hill
 Timber Communities of Australia, Mathoura

People are involved

Madam,
 It is little wonder there is a declining recognition of the importance of irrigated agriculture to Australia's economy and the community if the comments by Professor Quinten Grafton (Age, October 14) reflect the theories being taught to current students.

Prof. Grafton claims the permanent removal of 4000 gegalitres will only have a modest impact and supports his statement with evidence based on a small decline in production during the period of recent drought.

Although farmers were able to maintain production during the period, it was only able to be achieved with the ongoing support of financiers and government drought packages.

While banks and government

may be willing to offer assistance over a short period of time to which they can see an end, there is much evidence to show that they are not prepared to continue the support indefinitely.

The professor mentions the ability to trade water and its movement to high value crops as a benefit, yet one only needs to look at the number of MIS's (managed investment schemes) that have purchased significant volumes of water during his period of comparison and invested in crops that were considered to be of higher value which are now in the hands of administrators.

The current debate around the Murray-Darling Basin Plan is not just about numbers on a page, it is about real people, businesses and communities.

Unfortunately as an economist the professor would prefer to focus just on the monetary cost rather than consider the social cost as was evidenced by his comments in the Canberra Times on April 5, 2007.

Neil Pankhurst
 Tongala

Down the drain

Madam,
 "1. (Abbr. R.) A large natural stream of water emptying into an ocean, lake, or other body of water and usually fed along its course by converging tributaries."

I had a look at the meaning of the word 'River' (above).

To me that means a 'Drain'. Not something that has to have water all year round.

When will people wake up and help the river?

Mother Nature emptied all rivers to clean them out and rebuild with better, stronger flora and fauna.

Don't let good water go down the 'drain'.

Mariann Westerhoff
 Tongala

Figures queried

Madam,
 The most telling comment

contained in the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Guide is on page XIX:

"It is important to stress that notwithstanding extensive research and modelling, it is not possible to set an exact figure for the amount of additional water needed for the environment as there are significant variables and uncertainties. The authority is therefore using a range of water needed for the environment in determining its proposals."

Are these the rubbery figures that could potentially destroy irrigation communities in the Murray-Darling Basin?

Where is the accounting for water already taken or purchased ie, the National Water Initiative, Water for Rivers, State Government purchases and the Living Murray?

John Williams
 Member for Murray-Darling

Chemical concern

Madam,
 As far back as 1983 the then Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Health released a booklet 'Poisoning by Pesticide'.

The booklet's page 12 stated: "Pesticides are chemicals especially formulated to kill living organisms. Therefore they are all poisonous to humans to a greater or lesser extent."

Since printing the booklet and following a paper I submitted to the Senate Select Committee on agricultural chemicals years ago where I included quotes from this booklet, the booklet appears to have been removed from government libraries.

Having a nursing background and following information I gained from this booklet, I have continued to carry out my own investigations.

I chose to address the potential of pesticide involvement in me and my family's many health and behavioural issues, including hyperactivity, severe depression and aggression.

As a result I have become increasingly aware of the impact pesticides may have on the quality of life of people of all ages, from the unborn to the aged.

By concentrating on the contribution of environmental factors, including pesticide exposure, the quality of our family life physically and behaviourally, has improved remarkably.

We implemented considerable measures to reduce exposure to pesticides and eliminate possible residues in our bodies' system. As a result we have been able to remain drug and surgery free and maintain a quality of life I once thought not possible.

With the intense control measures being implemented for locust management, I feel very concerned.

I feel concerned regarding the degree of exposure many people of all ages, including pregnant women, may be unintentionally exposed to, a) as the result of drift and b) entering into an unmarked spray zone.

What legal rights does an individual have when these types of contaminations occur?

It's not just our flora and fauna, our crops and livestock that might be at risk. What about humans?

Anne Phillips
 Barmah

Fuel anger

Madam,
 The time has come to have another gripe about the price of fuel in Echuca as it has not followed the downward spiral that has happened in Melbourne and also the bigger regional centres like Bendigo and Ballarat where it is \$1.17 per litre and less with the shopper docket.

Maybe now is the time when everybody is up in arms about our dilapidated hospital, that we also boycott the independent fuel outlets to force them to market changes.

Woolworths and Coles lead us to believe that they are only following the prices so can't do anything about them.

Let the anger continue.

Ken Thomas
 Echuca



Gum really is mighty

A river red gum east of Echuca has been ranked among the largest trees in Australia.

The tree (pictured), which stands near River Bend Caravan Park on Stewarts Bridge Rd, has a circumference of 10.56m, stands 38m tall and has a 26m crown, totalling 561 points.

The National Register of Big Trees lists Australian trees, indigenous and foreign, and measures them with a point system on the basis of a formula which includes trunk girth, the tree's height and crown spread.

It is a measure used for more than four decades by the American Forests Register of Big Trees and one that Derek McIntosh, register creator and South African expatriate, adopted for Australia.

The register contains 431 trees spread over 227 species.

For information or to register a tree, visit www.nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au



On this day

1956: A record 15°C is recorded at Esperanza Station, Antarctica.

1960: World's first fully mechanised post office opens in Providence, Rhode Island, US.

1967: Bigfoot is purportedly caught on film.

1973: The Sydney Opera House opens.