



Inverloch Police are continuing their investigations after hoons drove an allegedly stolen car into a pool in Toorak Road in the early hours of New Year's Day.

NEW YEAR'S DIP

Hoons raise hell for Inverloch residents

IT WAS a fearful way for some residents of Toorak Road, on the outskirts of Inverloch, to 'welcome' in the New Year.

Shortly after 1.30am on New Year's Day, January 1, they were woken up by blazing headlights and the roar of an engine on a 60km/h section of residential road, that many treat like a highway.

"I saw the headlights coming straight for our bedroom. They were going fast,

you could tell that from the engine noise," said one of the affected neighbours.

"They've skidded on our driveway, clipped the number off our letterbox, hit a big pile of gravel hard and then there was a loud bang as they've hit the pool."

The young man and his partner, together with another couple further down the street, came racing outside to see what they could do to help, fearing

the worst.

"We saw the car floating on top of the pool and then quick as a flash, it sunk to the bottom," said an eyewitness.

"I think we disturbed them because there was a bloke sitting on the side of the pool trying to get the number plates off, but when he's seen us, he's taken off. "I didn't get much of a look at him."

Continued page 3

Coastal views on edge of town



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Kilcunda

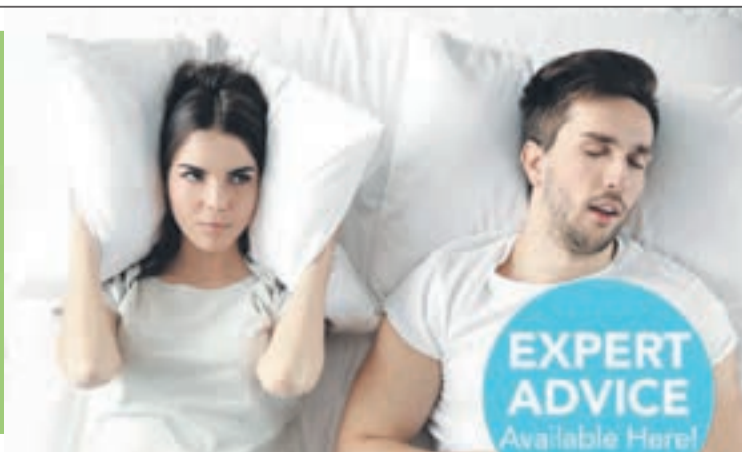
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New Year's dip

From page 1

In a heroic act, however, the two women got straight into the pool and ducked down in the murky water to see if anyone was still trapped, but there was no one.

They came out with scratches on their legs from the broken glass and little thanks for their trouble.

It has since been reported that a routine Inverloch Police Patrol had tried to pull the car over minutes earlier, but didn't chase the vehicle after the driver took off at a fast-rate of speed.

While they were calling the incident in to police communications, they were notified that the car, a silver/grey XR Falcon, had finished up in a pool.

The car was allegedly stolen, according to the owners, between 12 midnight and the crash time of 1.38am, reportedly from the Inverloch Boat Ramp Carpark but police are keen to see dashcam footage



or surveillance video from the Ramsay Boulevard-Esplanade area around that time.

The owner of the swimming pool, who previously had a delightful summer oasis at the front of her home, was devastated by the incident.

She was home, asleep at the time.

Car salvage operation

Tow trucks attended the scene on the night but were unable to extract the car from the pool.

The team from Greg's Panels and Wonthaggi Towing returned the next day with reinforcements in the form of a large excavator.

"We've got cars out of dams before but not too many from pools," said company principal Greg Klun.

"We couldn't use a crane because of the overhead powerlines but this was the next best thing," he said, after carefully manoeuvring the old Falcon out of the pool without causing more damage.

Team member Travis Eferm had the dirty job of diving down into the pool to fix the tow chain to the rear of the car. Jake Klun was also involved.

Apart from the two would-be rescuers, no one else was injured but it left locals renewing calls for Regional Roads Victoria and the shire to come up with a strategy for slowing traffic on the busy road.

"They get to the edge of town, and they think it's a highway but it's still a 60km/h zone. There's kids, people and bikes along there all the time. We've written letters but they won't do anything," said a neighbour.

Police are continuing with their investigations and have urged anyone with information and surveillance or dashcam footage to contact Inverloch Police on 5674 1202 or anonymously to Crime Stoppers by calling 1800 333 000.



Two collisions, two Christmas fatalities at Phillip Island

A MAN tragically died following a two-car collision in Cowes on Christmas day.

The collision, between a van and car, occurred at the intersection of Ventnor and Red Rocks roads about 6.45pm.

Sadly, the male passenger from the car died at the scene.

A woman from the same vehicle was airlifted to a Melbourne hospital.

Two people from the van, believed aged in their 20s, appeared to have escaped serious injury.

Major Collision Investigation Unit detectives continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the collision.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, has dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100, Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au

Motorcycle fatality

IT WAS a tough 24 hours for emergency services on Phillip Island with a fatal motorcycle crash on Saturday, December 24 kicking off the Christmas long weekend.

It's believed the motorcycle was travelling along Phillip Island Road in Cowes just after 9pm when it ran into a car.

Police performed CPR on the male rider until ambulance arrived but sadly, he died at the scene.

The exact cause of the crash is yet to be determined at this stage.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, has dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100, Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au

Investigations ongoing after man seeks assistance from healthcare staff with gunshot wound

POLICE are investigating after a man was located with a gunshot wound on December 24.

The man sought assistance from staff at Phillip Island Health Hub on Church Street in Cowes about 3pm.

The man was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The exact circumstances surrounding the incident are yet to be determined at this stage. Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Police seeking assistance after spate of assaults

CRIMINAL damage occurred inside the Esplanade Hotel, Inverloch at approximately 11.15 pm on December 29, where a male smashed a pool cue.

The male was in the company of the other males.

Subsequently, on January 1, at approximately 12.45am, two 19-year-old males were

assaulted outside the Esplanade Hotel, on Ramsey Boulevard by three males present in the venue on December 29, and involved in the earlier incident.

Police are seeking assistance to identify the four males involved in a criminal damage at the Esplanade Hotel Inverloch,

and two serious assaults outside the same venue.

The males are believed to have been staying in the Inverloch area over this period, and police are seeking any information from the public, particularly anyone that may have provided accommodation to, had any dealings with, and/or

CCTV of, any of these males.

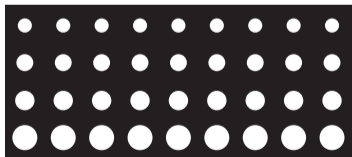
Footage of the males is available on the 'Eyewatch - Bass Coast Police Service Area' Facebook page.

If anyone has any information, please contact Inverloch Police on 5674 1202 or call Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Santa's sober celebrations

Not the first year nor the last that Santa has been pulled aside and breath tested on Christmas Eve whilst embarking on an early Christmas present run with Wonthaggi CFA.

The eggnog may have been at home, but it's a friendly reminder that no-one is immune from the RBT. Santa even had some special gifts for the Highway Patrol. C07_0123



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6 Day
Weather
Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND

 WED Jan 4 Shower or two. Wind AM: SW 15-25km/h Wind PM: S 15-25km/h 13° 19°	 THUR Jan 5 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h 13° 23°	 FRI Jan 6 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: E 20-30km/h 12° 24°	 SAT Jan 7 Sunny. Wind AM: E 15-25km/h Wind PM: E 15-25km/h 13° 27°	 SUN Jan 8 Sunny. Wind AM: E 15-20km/h Wind PM: E 15-20km/h 13° 28°	 MON Jan 9 Mostly sunny. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light 14° 28°
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IN BRIEF

EV chargers
still down at Cowes

THE Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers at the Cowes Transit Centre are still expected to be inoperable for the coming weeks. The chargers were impacted by an electrical supply issue in late December, with Bass Coast Shire working with the appropriate authorities to find a permanent solution, to be implemented in early 2023. Alternative facilities, available during their opening hours, are:

- NRMA Phillip Island Beachfront Holiday Park
- Ramada Resort by Wyndham Phillip Island
- Clifftop Accommodation Phillip Island
- Penguin Parade Visitor's Centre
- Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre
- BIG4 Phillip Island Caravan Park
- Silverwater Resort

Alternative EV Charging Stations can also be found on PlugShare.com, an interactive map which allows customers to zoom in and explore their location, in Australia or anywhere in the world: PlugShare.com/map/australia. To keep up to date with the latest developments on the Cowes Transit Centre electrical works go to: engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/transit

Prior and Hobson
back at Wonthaggi

THE star attractions at this year's 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Melbourne Myer Music Bowl, Marina Prior and David Hobson have rescheduled their '2 of Us' concert tour dates and will be back in Wonthaggi in July. They are offering two performances at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre:

- Saturday, July 22, 2023 Marina Prior & David Hobson 'The 2 Of Us' Re-Scheduled Show 2:30pm matinee in Wonthaggi
- Saturday, July 22, 2023 Marina Prior & David Hobson 'The

2 Of Us' Re-Scheduled Show 7:30pm evening in Wonthaggi After 4 years of selling out 180-plus shows and 85,000 tickets around the country, the soprano and tenor powerhouse legends of musical theatre and opera, will embark on their Encore Tour, 'The 2 Of Us' in up close and personal mode with brand new songs, back-stage and life stories, and including the classics from their vast repertoire. Accompanied by renowned pianist David Cameron in a 2-hour concert, Marina and David will perform their classics from productions such as The Phantom of The Opera, Cats, 9 TO 5 The Musical, Evita, Les Miserables, West Side Story, Guys and Dolls, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and La Boheme, to name a few, as well as favourites from their award-winning albums. David Hobson has local family connections in the Wonthaggi area and loves coming back to the town.

Lifesaving equipment
ready to go

MEMBER for Monash Russell Broadbent attended the unveiling of the "Power for LIFE" project recently at Walkerville. The event showcased a new AED and petrol generator, being housed at Walkerville Satellite Station (CFA) 20 Panoramic Drive, Prom View Estate Walkerville on Thursday, November 17. In attendance were members from the Walkerville Residents and Ratepayers Association and Venus Bay & District CERT Responders and Committee.

Critical reports
earmarked for April

THE Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) has been progressing the planning for Wonthaggi North East by finalising technical reports in response to recommendations from the VPA Projects Standing Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC has recommended updates and additional infor-

mation to inform the Precinct Structure Plan and Development Contributions Plan. VPA have been working with technical experts to finalise the Wonthaggi North East Revised Drainage Strategy and Wonthaggi North East Functional Designs and Costings Report. It is expected these reports will be completed in April 2023. Once they receive this final technical advice, VPA will finalise plans and planning scheme amendment as soon as possible to submit to the Minister for Planning for approval.

Building slows
in Bass Coast

BUILDING activity is predictably down across Bass Coast for the first 10 months of 2022 with the shire likely to finish the year with upwards of 300 fewer building applications than the previous year. In 2021, there were 1811 building applications, and to date, 1264 to the end of October in 2022. If the shire records an average of 100 applications for November and December, it will still leave the shire 300 below last year's peak. But, anecdotally at least, local building companies say the demand for building works is becoming more orderly, more manageable, aided by the improving supply of building products.

How to get your
group a grant

THE South Gippsland Shires' Community Grants for 2022/23 open on January 1 and you've simply got to be in it to win it. And the shire's Community Strengthening team is hitting the road soon to tell you how it's done. Drop-in sessions will be held at the locations below between 10am and 3pm:

- Monday, January 9 Sandy Point Community Centre
- Wednesday, January 11 Venus Bay Community Centre
- Monday, January 23 Meeniyan

Hall, and

- Wednesday, January 25 Nyora Public Hall.

More dates following in February at Korumburra, Poowong, Toora and Foster.

Toilet works for Kilcunda

BASS Coast Shire advise of works to rectify identified defects within Kilcunda Foreshore Toilets. The works will be undertaken by GR Design & Construct Pty Ltd, commencing on January 16 and with expected completion by January 24. The works will be completed in sections to ensure that public users of these facilities can continue to access the toilets during the works. The works are being conducted to ensure this facility is fully functional for Kilcunda Lobster Festival, scheduled for Australia Day weekend, to meet the increased demand.

Immunisations on point at
Foster College

FOSTER Secondary College has won this year's return rate for the immunisation consent cards 2022 competition. Both year seven and 10 achieved a 100 per cent return rate for 2022. Each year South Gippsland Shire Council awards a prize to the secondary school that connects the most students with the secondary school immunisation program. Korumburra Secondary College came second with an overall return rate of 96%. A special mention to Mary MacKillop Catholic College for "Most Improved" as they went from 49% returns last year to 74% this year. Letitia Bullen received two \$250.00 Big W gift vouchers for Foster Secondary College as part of their achievement. The immunisations will continue next year.

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Megadraw millions takes Wonthaggi winner by surprise

A WONTHAGGI man, who purchased his entry from Lucky Lotto Wonthaggi Plaza was oblivious to his good fortune until contacted by lottery officials at the weekend.

He had joined 12 other people as one of Australia's newest millionaires, each pocketing \$3,333,333.34 as the proceeds from a winning Division One prize in the \$40 million New Year's Eve TattsLotto Megadraw.

The Wonthaggi man's New Year's Day was interrupted in the best possible way with news of his instant riches.

And he promptly declared 2023 was going to be his year after initially expressing his disbelief to The Lott officials.

"Are you joking?!" he exclaimed when the enormity of his prize was revealed.

"This is not a joke? Sh**!

"It comes as a shock! This is a lot to take in!

"You have no idea how much this means to me. I'm going to get a new home for my family.

"I'm crying! 2023 is my year!" he said.

The man's winning marked 10-game entry was purchased at Lucky Lotto Wonthaggi Plaza, Kiosk 4, Wonthaggi Plaza, 2 Biggs Drive, Wonthaggi.

Lucky Lotto Wonthaggi Plaza owners Gio and Robyn Fantin said they were ready to celebrate the local win.

"We are ecstatic! This is our fourth division one winner in the nine years we've had this outlet!" Gio exclaimed.

"We last sold a division one winning entry a few years ago – also

in a New Year's Eve draw.

"It's great to see a big win land in town. Congratulations to our winner on their life-changing win!"

The winning numbers were 11, 20, 23, 35, 42 and 45 and the supplementary numbers were 8 and 38.

The Lott spokesperson James Eddy said winning a share of Division One in the \$40 million jackpot would certainly put a spring in your step heading into 2023.

"Megadraws in previous years have created more millionaires in a single night than any other draw," said Eddy, and this year's draw was no different.

Last year's New Year's Eve Megadraw saw 17 Division One winning entries share the jackpot, with each entry enjoying just over \$2 million in prize money.

This year the winners get more than \$3.3 million.

More than 400 people posted their best wishes on social media.

Wonthaggi local Leanne Tessari summed it up: How awesome is that. Congratulations. Happy New Year.

Four Victorians shared in the win, an Essendon dad, a teared-up Dandenong man, a syndicate of 10 from Portarlington and our own Wonthaggi winner.

Lucky Lotto Wonthaggi Plaza owners Gio and Robyn Fantin spent the morning on Tuesday this week fielding more congratulations on behalf of the local winner.

"It was great to have played our part in getting a big prize to the local area," said Robyn.



Gio and Robyn Fantin Lucky Lotto Wonthaggi Plaza were delighted that one of their Wonthaggi customers won more than \$3.3 million in the New Year's Eve Lotto Megadraw.

New Korumburra Men's Shed set to advance

THE progress of Korumburra's new Men's Shed building will take a major step forward with its concrete floor slab expected to be laid in February.

The Shed's John Davies said once the floor is ready for use it will enable the men to start making the new shed 'habitable'.

It's hoped that power to the shed will be organised soon, with a new pole required.

If that hasn't occurred by the time the new floor is in and ready for use, the men will at least have extra storage space, with their current railway goods shed home of approximately seven years now too small for their needs.

Plans are currently being finalised to improve access to the new Korumburra Men's Shed home, with the building having previously served as a locomotive storage shed.

The building is being leased from VicTrack, which will reimburse the cost of the soon-to-be-laid concrete floor.

Korumburra Men's Shed members have already been playing their part to get the site ready, holding working bees to clean up the area.

John said everyone is looking forward to moving into the new shed.

"We're excited about what's coming up; it's going to be a bit of hard work but I think everyone's really keen to get stuck into it," he said of the shift and the preparation required.



Not your normal call out

A MAGPIE was rescued by CFA members from a tree on New Year's Eve in Wonthaggi after becoming tangled in builders string line that subsequently tethered the bird to the tree.

Ambulance Victoria urges double check before you lock up

AMBULANCE Victoria is urging all community members to remember never to leave kids, older people or pets in a parked car.

The temperature can double in minutes. Even on a mild day, the temperature inside a parked car can be 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the temperature outside.

Heat can cause illnesses such as heat cramps and heat exhaustion or lead to heatstroke which is fatal in up to 80 per cent of cases – however heatstroke is entirely preventable.

Those most at risk are older people, young children and people with a medical condition.

A child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult.

The latest data on Ambulance Victoria call outs to people locked in cars shows:

Paramedics were called to 1228 cases of people locked in cars from December 1, 2021, to November 30, 2022.

Most of the call outs were in the summer months with 33.4 per cent – or 410 cases – were between, December 1, 2021, and February 28, 2022.

December 2021 had the most cases (165), dropping to 75 cases in June 2022.

Of concern, numbers are already rising with 113 cases

last month.

Thankfully, treatment is most often not required. Of the 1228 call outs, paramedics treated 198 patients at the scene and transported just 15 to hospital.

Children below the age of 13 (newborns, pre-schoolers, schoolers and toddlers) represent 92.5 per cent of cases reported.

Toddlers aged 1 to 3 make up the most cases – or 62.2 per cent.

For children under 13, 11am was the busiest time of the day for locked in car calls outs.

Ambulance Victoria urge people to remember that heatstroke is a life-threatening condition –

so don't hesitate to call them.

If you or someone else is experiencing seizures, confusion or stroke-like symptoms, collapsing or is unconscious, contact Triple Zero (000) immediately.

If you are feeling unwell, call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24, see your doctor or local pharmacist.

If you've got a pre-existing health condition, take extra care. Make sure you keep up your regular health checks with your GP or specialist and that your medicines are up to date over summer.

For more information on staying safe in the heat, visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au

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Market committee:

L. Montebello 0423 176 476

A. Lamers 0412 300 456,

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Mayor's message



Cr Michael Whelan



DECEMBER was a very busy month across Bass Coast with events galore and we even saw sunny summer days peak through towards the end of it.

Bass Coast Shire Council is a proud supporter of many events across our region. This was showcased in December with Council hosting three New Years Eve family friendly fireworks session at Cowes, Inverloch and Coronet Bay. Plus we organised and funded the fireworks for the Cowes Christmas Carols. It's always so heartwarming to see the community out in force at these events.

We provided vital community grant funding to Christmas Carols events in Corinella, Coronet Bay, Grantville Inverloch, San Remo and Wonthaggi. I'd like to recognise the incredible number of volunteers we have across the Shire, without these people these events simply wouldn't happen. These events take many hours of planning and it's incredible to see what small teams can achieve.

Local markets including the Rhyll Twilight market, Island Foreshore Market and Inverloch Farmers Market all received support with their waste and our waste team was on hand at several events to educate the community on how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

We also welcomed thousands of cruise ships passengers to our shores. We were pleased to support the Rhyll Community Group to deliver the Cruise Ship welcomes and many of our Visitor Information Centre staff provided event support and we continue to do so for the remainder of the cruise season.

Alongside event support, we are helping to ensure everyone stays safe by the water and has plenty of opportunities to have fun. We have financially supported the YMCA Cowes Outdoor Pool to ensure it can open during the summer school holidays. We look forward to seeing big attendances; it's such a great day out for the family and an opportunity to get in some lap swimming.

Beach patrols have also been ramped up over summer. Through our partnership with Life Saving Victoria (LSV) between 26 December and 19 February we support additional patrols to the LSV volunteer patrols, who generally patrol the beaches on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays. This means our beaches at Inverloch, Cowes Main Beach, Smiths Beach and Woolamai Beach benefit from patrols on weekdays and Saturday mornings as well. I encourage you to visit these beaches and swim between the flags.

Wishing you all the best for 2023.



Pedestrian crossings along Graham Street in Wonthaggi have finally been completed. Ns010123

Safer crossings but heavy traffic in Wonthaggi

PEDESTRIAN crossing upgrades along Wonthaggi's CBD have officially been completed after lengthy delays.

Works involved building two new raised pedestrian crossings on Graham Street, outside Plaza Arcade and in front of Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre.

The works also included upgrading an existing zebra crossing on Murray Street to a raised pedestrian crossing.

And introducing 40km/h along Graham Street, Murray Street, Billson Street and McBride Avenue in the CBD.

The lights in front of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre are anticipated to be switched on in the new year, with the final installation of artwork also to be completed in January 2023.

The \$1.76 million project is a jointly funded project from the State and Federal Governments.

A traffic island was also built along the centre line of Biggs Drive/Billson Street to reduce movements into Murray Street to left-in/left-out only.

While concerns have been raised due to the traffic build up along Graham Street since the crossings were installed, Fiona Fleming of Wonthaggi Newsagency and Lotto was thrilled with the upgrades along Murray Street.

Fiona highlighted that although she was frustrated by construction delays which impacted the business, she had been strongly advocating for the safety upgrades for years.

"It's causing a traffic jam but the biggest issue I have is people that go through the roundabout when they can't go through (Murray Street) and block off McBride Avenue," she said.

"People need to learn to drive, have a bit of courtesy, and follow the road rules.

"There's been a couple of near misses apparently, but people have slowed down to a certain extent."

She was also pleased with the median strip at Biggs Drive.

"That was something my dad and I were advocating for seven or eight years before it even got

in," she said.

"We were the pushers for it initially to try and get something sorted out with the intersection, because you couldn't get across to the clinic and to the low income units there, so it's good to see it finally done."

The community is also reminded that roadside workers are too often putting their lives at risk when simply doing their job, with stories of distracted drivers, speeding or reckless drivers ignoring traffic management are far too common.

A meaningful landscape design was also produced at all three locations, combining a coastal relaxed theme and Indigenous artwork with support from the Bunurong Land Council - the registered Aboriginal Party to Wonthaggi.

Koorrin Edwards, a proud Gunnai, Gunditj-mara, Bunurong, Mutti Mutti and Yorta Yorta mother, partner and community member designed the artwork which was stencilled onto the footpaths representing connection and each individual's journey in coming together.

Shire's not-so-happy Christmas party

BASS Coast Shire Council is one of 15 councils in Victoria, one of only six regional councils chosen to take part in a unique State Government initiative; the 'Free from Violence Local Government Program 2022-2025'.

The three-year program, worth \$300,000, of which the government is contributing \$262,500, will support councils "to embed gender equality and family violence prevention practices into their work and the programs and services they deliver".

It's all about the government's vision "to create a Victoria free from violence, where all community members experience equality and respect in all their relationships".

So, it was especially galling when an unsavoury incident marred the council's Christmas party at the Silverwater Resort at San Remo on Friday, December 16.

Exactly what happened will be the subject of a shire investigation, but a long-serving machinery operator has been stood down in the meantime.

Asked for comment about the incident, a shire spokesperson has ruled out any suggestion that council-supplied alcohol was an issue.

"On December 16, Bass Coast Shire Council held an annual end-of-year celebration event attended by Council employees. The event included music, food and one free welcome drink.

"Unfortunately, one employee behaved inappropriately and aggressively towards the Chief Executive Officer while she was on stage making presentations to staff.

"The incident was de-escalated quickly," said an official spokesperson for the shire.

"The worker is not currently at work and has been given notice by Council of disciplinary action with an investigation underway.

"Council is disappointed that the actions of one person caused distress to the employees responsibly enjoying the night."

It has been alleged that some shire staff members were annoyed that the practice of knocking off early on break-up day has been discontinued under the present CEO. There has also been comment that there is too much emphasis within the shire workplace on social programs of the kind to be delivered by a designated project officer under the 'Free from Violence Local Government Program'.

The Council spokesperson denied the emphasis on such programs was an issue.

"Council is proud of its workplace campaigns, which include a zero-tolerance approach to all violence or aggressive behaviour, against anyone."

Earlier in December 2022, the shire's CEO Ali Wastie spoke about Bass Coast's commitment to the 'Let's Chat Gippsland' campaign, the theme of which is that conversations create social and behavioural change, especially in relation to violence against women.

"The first step is having difficult but vital conversations about this issue and what we can do. The big focus of Let's Chat Gippsland is to start those discussions. We must call out behaviours that are unacceptable, whether in our workplace, our community, or the family home," Ms Wastie said as part of the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' campaign last month.

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Always something to try at Gurneys Cider

FOSTER'S Gurneys Cider is expanding at a rapid rate but remains a family owned and run business offering a friendly vibe, proper cider, and other delightful beverages such as its recently released apple brandy.

People are flocking there to enjoy its products and to take a tour of 'The Arches', the production and storage facility that is currently the world's largest underground cider cellar.

While the concrete structure used to create the cellar was originally intended for use at Hazelwood Power Station, it became available due to the Victorian Government's decision to close that facility.

It required 18 semi-trailer loads and a couple of cranes to transport the concrete arch panels and put the structure in place at its new home.

A Regional Victorian Tourism grant of \$430,000 helped to turn the new cellar into the functional facility and tourist drawcard it is now.

"That grant gave them the ability to make it what it is today," tour manager Craig Privett said of what the Gurneys Cider founders and owners, the Gurnetts have done.

It has proved an inspired piece of innovation, with the use of stones on top of the structure, and wooden doors providing surprising character from the outside, with the structure fitting into its setting despite its original purpose.

"The doors were handmade by Amber Creek Sawmill up in

By Andrew Palocz

Fish Creek," Craig said.

The cellar maintains a relatively constant internal temperature, usually in the vicinity of 10 to 12 degrees centigrade, ranging up to 15 degrees.

Being underground, its natural insulation has allowed Gurneys Cider to store products without the need to install costly three-phase power, something that would have been necessary to cool a suitable storage shed.

The first batch of Gurneys Cider hit the market in 2018, with just 3000 litres made in the Gurnett family's original shed, using Breville juicers.

A couple of shed upgrades later, and with a major boost in equipment, almost 70,000 litres of cider were made in 2022.

Having migrated from Somerset England and yearning for a cider to compare favourably with the traditional dry ciders produced there, the Gurnetts found the search fruitless, eventually deciding to make their own.

Father Bill took on the project with sons James and Tom.

While the expansion of the business has exceeded all expectations, the aim is to continue to innovate rather than focusing on mass production.

"You've got to experiment, and you can't be afraid of failure," James said.

The aim is to always have different ciders available to try when people visit the cellar door, something that main-

tains interest for the Gurneys Cider team as well as the public.

Those taking 'The Arches' tour will sample some of that creativity, including the apple brandy inspired by French Calvados, and Ice Cider, an idea that stemmed from French ice wine.

"The French let the grape freeze on the vine," Craig said.

At Gurneys, a large quantity of apple juice is frozen, being defrosted slowly when the weather is at a suitable temperature.

"Once it's frozen, we put it out on the coolest days of winter, and it's leveraging the different melting points of the water and sugar in the juice," James said, explaining the aim is to extract apple essence.

That apple essence is then fermented to produce the Ice Cider.

Gurneys apple brandy has been aged on French oak for seven years, having been distilled by a third party as there are no distillation facilities at the cidery.

The Gurnetts bought the land on which their business is situated in 2015.

James described the expansion of the business since its first public release of cider as "unfathomable".

Gurneys Cider was named 'Business of the Year' and the 'Food and Wine Producers' winner in 2022, proving the Gurnetts' innovative outlook is working.

Visit gurneyscider.com.au to book a tour.



James and Bill Gurnett display a couple the products at Gurneys Cider in the garden overlooking Wilsons Promontory. A08_0123



Gurneys Cider offers a wide range of products. A05_0123



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New space for alcohol and other drugs counselling

BASS Coast Health (BCH) is proud to offer the community new private rooms for the provision of counselling for alcohol and other drugs.

BCH's knowledgeable alcohol and other drugs counsellors have two rooms in the Allied Health building at Wonthaggi Hospital, accessible via the Outpatients' reception.

Construction of the new rooms was enabled by funding from the Victorian Department of Health.

Deb Guy, team leader of alcohol and other drugs, said the new rooms will have many benefits.

"This dedicated space will not only lift our profile in the community but also offer a comforting, welcoming space for clients to access our diverse services," she said.

"Our team assists clients with counselling, pharmacotherapy, withdrawal assistance, care recovery, a needle exchange program and referrals to detox services."

People can access the services of the Alcohol and other Drugs Counselling Team by phoning the Australian Community Support Organisation on 1300 022 760 or filling in the e-referral form at aco.org.au/aodmh-support

Arms wide open for new Guide Park



The mine themed slide tower has already become a big hit for the kids! Ns040123



Lauren and children Brantley and Paisley couldn't be happier with the new Guide Park. Ns020123

WONTHAGGI residents have been warmly embracing the revamped Guide Park with young and old eager to explore all that it has to offer.

The redevelopment of the Guide Park and Playspace was carried out by Planned Constructions Pty Ltd, at a cost of \$1.77M.

Bass Coast Shire received support from the Victorian Government with \$700,000 funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria and \$350,000 from the Growing Suburbs Fund.

The new park includes:

- a regional scale play-space including a mine themed slide tower, flying foxes, a trampoline, carousel, gentle exercise area and nature based play.
- Supporting infrastructure including a drinking fountain, bike racks, pathways, fencing and an accessible barbecue.
- New garden beds, mature trees and irrigation works.
- Changes to the internal road configuration to create more parking and improved vehicle access.

Judith Alcorn and David White of Wonthaggi were busy exploring the Guide Park last week, and chatted with the Sentinel-Times on their thoughts.

"We're delighted, the plants are stunning," they said.

"The mine tower is great, it looks fantastic."

"Some people have been criticising the cost of it, but they haven't seen the extent of the works."

"Plus all the designs and permits that have gone into it."

They highlighted that the timing of the new park coincided perfectly with the expanded Wonthaggi Hospital, as it will give families plenty of options and space to keep the kids entertained during hospital visits.

Other features of the new park include: water taps that lead through to different channels; extensive sand play with sand pulley, sieve and tubes; young children's play area with small play tower, log steppers and balance beams; nature play with tunnels, timber representing the train line with stone pathways; and monkey bars to challenge older children. A general exercise area is designed for older adults and rehabilitation too.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria





Everyone encouraged to share our shores this summer

Supported by Bass Coast Dog Owners Association, Phillip Island Nature Parks have launched the Sharing Our Shores campaign encouraging individuals to be mindful of local wildlife on the beaches and in the dunes this summer.

SCHOOL children are being encouraged to showcase their artistic flair as part of a creative community collaboration to foster respect for the Phillip Island's beaches and wildlife this summer. Phillip Island Nature Parks, supported by the Bass Coast Dog Owners Association, have launched the Sharing Our Shores campaign, encouraging all residents and visitors to be mindful of protecting local wildlife, amid the peak holiday season. As part of the campaign, there

will be an art competition where students can create a poster that communicates the importance of harmonious relationships between residents, visitors and the island to support local conservation efforts. Phillip Island Nature Parks Jessica McKelson, Conservation Manager said it was a joint community responsibility by all beachgoers to help safeguard local wildlife. "Phillip Island is home to some of the most incredible and endangered wildlife in Australia and it

is incumbent on everyone who enjoys the island to ensure these birds and animals are kept safe," Jess said. "The highly threatened hooded plover shorebirds nest along the high tide line and in sand dunes during spring and summer, with their eggs and chicks easily stepped on because they are difficult to see. "In addition, the migratory short-tailed shearwaters breed in sand dune burrows from September to May and fly north

in winter. "Keeping to the designated paths and having your dog on a lead, away from signed nesting areas, helps to ensure the survival of these birds." Dog owners can check local signage or the Phillip Island Nature Parks website relating to dogs as regulations varied depending on the beach locations and the summer periods. For more information, visit penguins.org.au/about/local-community/news/sharingourshores

Family fun, nature and history in Port Welshpool

PORT Welshpool springs to life for the Seadays Festival this weekend, with a mix of hands-on activities and informative nature and historical talks, and with the town's maritime museum opening for the first time in 12 months after major refurbishment. The museum outlines the history of the local fishing industry. John Woolley is set to entertain attendees with his 11am chat about the history and stories of Clifly Island and the ketch Myrtle Burgess. Local historian and author Cheryl Glowrey will discuss the intriguing history of Snake Island and the Cattlemen of the Sea. Her talk is at 1.30pm, with copies of her book on the topic available to buy for \$25. Devonshire tea will be for sale at the museum. The museum is located on the corner of Turnbull and Townsend Streets. It is the 18th annual Seadays Festival, with a strong focus on nature and the environment. Visit seadaysfestival.com.au to learn more of what is on, including the chance to try fishing. The festival runs this Saturday and Sunday, January 7 and 8, between 9.30am and 3.30pm each day, with admission just \$5 per adult and children 16 and under free. The Port Welshpool Maritime Museum opens from 10am until 4pm both days. A gold coin donation is encouraged for museum entry.

SHARING OUR SHORES

1 December - 30 April



Please do your best, to help wildlife rest and nest

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Phillip Island NATURE PARKS

penguins.org.au/about/local-community/news
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f t i

BALD HILLS WIND FARM Community Fund Invites Applications for its 2023 District and Small Grants

The Bald Hills Wind Farm Community Fund (BHWFCF) is inviting organisations with community projects benefiting the Tarwin Lower, Venus Bay and Walkerville districts to submit applications for its 2023 District and Small Grants. The District Grant, is a single grant valued at up to \$15,000 providing an exciting opportunity for a local organisation to develop a significant project to benefit the district community. Small Grants, which will be awarded up to the amount of \$2,000 per project, are designed to enable organisations to provide a benefit or service to the local community.

Previous grants have funded upgrades to infrastructure at the Tarwin Recreational Reserve, Mechanics Hall, Men's Shed, Tarwin Lower Pony Club and Venus Bay Community Centre; mobility equipment for the Tarwin Lower and District Community Health Centre; medical equipment for the Venus Bay & District Community Emergency Centre and Tarwin Lower Mechanical Institute; IT resources and infrastructure improvements for the Tarwin Lower Primary School; arts projects such as the Venus Bay Water Tank Mural project and the Thirsty Works Gallery; and assistance to the Tarwin Wildlife Shelter, Watch for Wildlife and Community Bee Keeping.

Grant applications will be available from 5 December 2022 until the closing date of 5pm 14 April 2023.

The grant criteria and Application form are all available at <http://baldhillswindfarm.com.au/community-fund/>.



No need for speed on the roads

SPEEDING accounted for more than a third of offences detected during Victoria Police's 12-day operation on the roads this Christmas with drug driving and illegal phone use also causing concern.

Speed, impaired driving and distraction were the major focus of Operation Roadwise, which concluded at 11.59pm on December 27.

Across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, eight drink and three drug affected drivers were caught, alongside three disqualified drivers and five unlicensed drivers.

Eight seatbelt offences, seven mobile phone offences, five disobey signs/signals, one impound and five cyclist offences were rounded out by 143 speeding offences in the region.

Victoria Police's road safety efforts now turn to holiday hotspots with the increased presence to continue right through the New Year.



With seven deaths including two fatalities on Phillip Island during Operation Roadwise, Police are urging drivers to take care on the roads.

Across Victoria a total 4803 speeding offences were recorded during Operation Roadwise, with 3753 of these motorists travelling 10km/h-25km/h over the speed limit. The figure is extremely concerning for police as research shows travelling at such speeds increases the risk of a collision causing

serious injury or worse by more than 40 per cent.

There were 511 drink driving detections from 201.091 preliminary breath tests, a strike rate of one in 394. This is an improvement on last year's operation when one in every 270 motorists tested returned an illegal blood alcohol reading but still worse than

before the pandemic when the strike rate was around one in 450 tests.

Alarming 375 drug driving detections were recorded from 5122 roadside tests, a strike rate of one in 14. This figure reflects the targeted nature of drug testing however shows increased prevalence of drugs on the roads compared with last year when there was one detection for every 17 tests.

Victoria Police analysis shows daily offence detections were up 13.9 per cent compared with last year's Roadwise operation, which ran across 10 days.

Seven deaths were recorded across the operation compared with nine fatalities over the same period last year.

For more information and tips for staying safe on the roads visit the Road Safety page on the Victoria Police website.

Avoidable accidents and speed infringements

POLICE have been inundated over the New Year's period with 44 tickets issued since New Year Day alone.

More than 50 per cent of infringements were speed related, of particular note, mid-range speed, with a several licences also lost.

A female in her early 60s was one instant licence loss, after being caught around 4pm travelling at 124kms per hour in an 80s roadworks zone in Koonwarra.

The warning to slow down and avoid distractions also comes as multiple avoidable accidents have occurred on roads, with a number that could have resulted in fatal consequences.

Cyclist seriously injured at Kongwak

BASS Coast Highway Patrol officers are appealing for witnesses following a crash in Kongwak this morning.

Police have been told the man was found injured on Kongwak Road, near Lolands Road, about 8.20am.

It is understood the rider came off his bike and was located by a passer-by who raised the alarm.

The man from Queensland was taken to hospital with life-threatening injuries.

The 37-year-old was riding a white Ridley road bike and was wearing black lycra shorts and an orange fluoro top.

Anyone with information or who may have witnessed the incident or with dashcam is urged to call Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100, Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or jump onto crimestop-persvic.com.au

Meth found in vehicle search

POLICE intercepted a vehicle in Michael Place Leongatha at approximately 11.30pm on the December 23.

A subsequent search of the vehicle and occupants was conducted, where police located an amount of alleged methylamphetamine on the 46-year-old female passenger from Fish Creek.

The female was arrested and processed and the Leongatha Police Station where she was later released, charged and bailed to attend court at a later date.

Officers set to engage locals

LEONGATHA police will be out and about throughout January engaging with local retailers and the public, discussing business and personal security.

If you have any concerns, you are encouraged to approach the local Leongatha members who will be walking the streets and more than happy to hear from you.

Police appeal for assistance with theft in Bass

POLICE are appealing for dashcam and CCTV footage on Woolamai Road, Bass between December 20-24 when a chain was cut to the front gate of a rural property.

Various bobcat parts and tools were stolen.

Tools stolen from construction site

A PADDLOCK was cut to a house under construction on Malcliff Road, Ne-whaven between December 19 and 24.

Tools were stolen from the site including nail guns, plumbing fittings and fixtures.

Fixtures located in San Remo theft

THIEVES were not as lucky on Longfin Crescent in San Remo on December 21 at 4.30am after breaking into a house under construction and removing fixtures, in some cases forcibly.

After attending the scene, Police located the missing items hidden in a walkway between Longfin Crescent and Panorama Drive.

The offender/s have not yet been located and police are appealing for information from the public.

Don't come down on her too hard, they say

THE general community will take a dim view, if the response on social media is any indication, if police chiefs come down hard on a young, female officer who joined New Year's Eve celebrations on Phillip Island last Saturday night.

A video has emerged on TikTok of the police officer being pushed around a central Cowes roundabout, interacting with the crowd, while she is videoed by members of the community and fellow officers.

It was all harmless fun in keeping with the moment and the response on Facebook and other social media platforms has endorsed that, especially as celebrations on the Island went off, almost without a hitch.



Police officers joined the New Year's Eve fun in Cowes and received plenty of public support for doing so.

Police hierarchy have acknowledged they've seen the clip and also identified the officer but have not overreacted.

"While we support officers having a good time when they

on shift, it shouldn't be at the risk of their own safety and that of road users," they said.

Here's what the community said:

• **Judy Tiziani:** Good for her! I hope her seniors don't come

down too hard on her. She was working on a night most people have off and was just enjoying a bit of fun. Community policing at its best.

• **Catherine Barrett:** Good on her, just engaging with the public, should be more of it than our current touchy-feely-woke Police Force.

• **Jasmin Davis:** Nice to see police having fun. Very innocent fun.

Only a few weren't impressed:

• **Kate Loader:** Funny as it is, and we all like having fun, this wasn't the smartest decision for a Police Officer.

The one standout issue with Phillip Island's NYE celebrations were the number of illegal fireworks and boat flares exploding all over the Island at midnight, and for 20 minutes afterwards.

Police incidents throughout the local region

JANUARY 2, 2.20pm – A Plate driver has driven along the right-hand side of Meenian Promontory Road, Buffalo for unknown reasons and collided with an oncoming vehicle. The three passengers, including, husband, wife and child, in the oncoming Camry were struck down the right-hand side. Paramedics attended the scene with no major injuries, however, both cars were towed from the scene. Investigations are ongoing and anyone with information including dashcam footage or CCTV is urged to call Bass Coast Highway on 5671 4100 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

December 31 – Approximately 3.15pm – Police intercepted a vehicle along Main Street, Foster. A 24-year-old male passenger from Glen Waverley was not wearing a seat belt and as a result he received an infringement notice for \$370.

December 31, 9am – A motorcyclist is in a critical condition after a collision at Grantville. The rider slowed for the changing lights but was hit by his mate riding behind. The male in his early 30s did not have his helmet correctly fastened and as a result the helmet has displaced during impact. The rider was airlifted to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Alfred Hospital with suspected leg and pelvic injuries. Investigations continue and anyone with information including dash cam footage are urged to Bass Coast Highway on 5671 4100 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

December 31, 9am – A motorcyclist is in a critical condition after a collision at Grantville. The rider slowed for the changing lights but was hit by his mate riding behind. The male in his early 30s did not have his helmet correctly fastened and as a result the helmet has displaced during impact. The rider was airlifted to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

December 30 – Three drivers were sent to Wonthaggi Emergency Department after a triple vehicle nose-to-tail collision on Inverloch-Venus Bay Road. A learner, driving correctly, has slowed and indicated to turn onto Pound Creek Road. The driver in his 50s in a vehicle behind has braked heavily and avoided hitting the turning vehicle, but a third driver (also a male in his 50s) has not reacted in time and collided with the second vehicle shunting the middle vehicle into the first. All vehicles were towed from the scene with no major injuries.

December 30 – Three drivers were sent to Wonthaggi Emergency Department after a triple vehicle nose-to-tail col-

lision on Inverloch-Venus Bay Road. A learner, driving correctly, has slowed and indicated to turn onto Pound Creek Road. The driver in his 50s in a vehicle behind has braked heavily and avoided hitting the turning vehicle, but a third driver (also a male in his 50s) has not reacted in time and collided with the second vehicle shunting the middle vehicle into the first. All vehicles were towed from the scene with no major injuries.

December 27, 6.53pm – Police detected a vehicle travelling at 118km/h in a 100km/h zone along the Foster Promontory Road, Foster. A 59-year-old Foster man was issued with an infringement notice for \$370 and three demerit points.

December 26, 5.51pm – Police detected a vehicle travelling at 118km/h in a 100km/h zone along the Koonwarra-Inverloch Road, Leongatha South. A 52-year-old Leongatha woman was issued with an infringement notice for \$370 and three demerit

points.

December 26 – A 64-year-old Leongatha man was airlifted to Royal Melbourne with suspected leg and chest injuries following a collision between a motorcyclist and a tractor with trailer. It's understood neither the motorcyclist nor tractor saw each other until the last minute with the tractor turning into a private property along Glen Alvie Road, Glen Alvie.

December 23, 5.10pm – Police detected a vehicle travelling at 118km/h in a 100km/h zone along the Meenian Promontory Road, Yanakie. A 51-year-old Foster woman was issued with an infringement notice for \$370 and three demerit points.

December 18 – An 18-year-old male from Cowes has been interviewed by police regarding an attempted robbery and theft at Anderson Bus Interchange.

The alleged offender approached a male at the interchange making demands and threats of assault at 7.30pm on the evening of December 18.

Tourism numbers down but spending up

WHILE tourism levels in Phillip Island continue to rebound since lockdowns, they are still 12 per cent below pre-COVID numbers for domestic visitors according to recent surveys.

Results from the National Visitor Survey (NVS) and results from the International Visitor Survey (IVS) for the year ending September 2022, have indicated strong recovery in Victoria's visitor economy.

Domestic visitors to Phillip Island totalled 2.1M in the year ending September 2022, a 17% increase from 1.8 million the year prior.

However, this number remains 12% below the pre-COVID number of visitors in the year ending September 2019.

Domestic daytrip visitors to Phillip Island increased by 6% to 1.1M in the year ending September 2022.

This is a 15% decrease in the pre-pandemic daytrip visitor numbers (1.3M) compared to the year ending September 2019 results.

Domestic overnight visitors to Phillip Island increased by 32% to 1M in the year ending September 2022.

This is an 8% decrease in the pre-pandemic daytrip visitor numbers (1 million) compared to the year ending September 2019 results.

Visitor nights totalled 3.2 million nights with each overnight visitor spending an average of 3.2 nights in the region, a 24% increase year-on-year and 15% increase from pre-pandemic levels in the year ending September 2019.

Tourism expenditure in Phillip Island has increased, despite visitor numbers having not yet recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Total expenditure for the



Pelican feeding is always a popular attraction at San Remo as tourism levels continue to increase across Bass Coast.

region was \$665M, a 40% (plus \$189 million) increase year-on-year and a 27% (plus \$139M) increase from the year ending September 2019 results.

Domestic daytrip spend in Phillip Island increased by 76% to \$138M in the year ending September 2022. Daytrip spend in Phillip Island has fully recovered and surpassed the year ending September 2019 results (plus 4% or plus \$5M). This equates to \$123 per domestic day trip visitor.

Domestic overnight spend

in Phillip Island experienced a year-on-year increase (+33% to \$528 million), equalling \$515 spent per domestic overnight visitor and \$161 per visitor night. This exceeds the year ending September 2019 results (plus 34% or plus \$135 million).

For the purposes of this research, the Phillip Island region is defined as French Island, Phillip Island and Bass Coast (Wonthaggi to Inverloch). No data was collected for international visitation for the region.

Total tourism expenditure

in Victoria was \$26.5 billion in the year ending September 2022, representing an increase of 95% compared to the year ending September 2021 which had limited travel due to restrictions.

Intrastate overnight spend has fully recovered and has well exceeded the pre-COVID September 2019 level (plus 22%), as well as strong growth in domestic daytrip spend which was also above pre-pandemic levels (plus 9%).

Overall total tourism spend was back to 84% of the pre-pandemic result.

• FAITH FACTOR

A year of unlimited potential

By Pastor Charles Lazaro, Wonthaggi Baptist Church

LOOKING back over 2022 I can truly say: God has helped us through the ups and downs of the year. Some will choose to brood over the negatives, the obstacles, and the problems of 2022, while others will just thank God for guiding them safely through the twists and turns of the past year.

I believe we should be thrilled that we got through the past twelve months and faced with the potential of another twelve months ahead of us.

We are standing on the threshold of another new year, 2023.

I have personally decided not to waste my time moaning about all that is behind me.

But to look forward with enthusiasm and anticipation to the next twelve months of unlimited potential.

God always programmes each year ahead of us with unlimited potential.

I am sure that God has prepacked 2023 too with great possibilities for each one of us to explore.

We can discover these opportunities by seeking God's wisdom, guidance, and support as we journey through 2023.

I believe, God expects everyone to reach their full potential. The Apostle Paul sums it up in Ephesians 3:20-21 "20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. 21 Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."

God's desire is for us to maximize our potential by taking small steps of faith each day through the year ahead. Now is the time to rise to a higher level with God's help.

He expects us to live a triumphant life through 2023 which is only possible by the power of His Holy Spirit. So, let's do it together!

I wish each and every one of you God's very best through 2023.

Remember: Mediocrity is to live below our God ordained potential.



Let us know your thoughts about our coastline.

What should be included in South Gippsland's new Coastal Strategy?

What are the greatest challenges and opportunities facing our coastal communities?

The South Gippsland coastline is a beautiful natural asset which is highly valued by our local community and the many visitors it attracts. However, it is facing a range of pressures and it's clear we need to take proactive steps to prepare our coastal communities for the future.

Let us know your thoughts at our upcoming pop-ups, via written submission or online at:

yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 7 January

Pop-up at Port Welshpool Sea Days Festival
Come see us at the Sea Days Festival between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

Pop-up at Sandy Point Foodies and Artisans Market
Come say 'hello' at the Foodies and Artisans Market from 4.00pm.

More pop-ups coming soon...



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Fireworks impress all around Bass Coast



A Massive crowd poured into Cowes on a perfect night to welcome in the New Year with a massive fireworks display from the Cowes Jetty. With huge explosions filling the sky with colour and movement, there were many shouts of 'ooo' and 'ahh' from the assembled masses, heavily dominated by visiting family groups. The occasion on Phillip Island was later marred with the most extensive display of illegal fireworks seen on the Island, from San Remo to Grossard Point and everywhere in between.



ABOVE: A large crowd lined the waters edge between Coronet Bay and Corinella on New Year's Eve for the fireworks display at 9.30pm. Photo: Anna Carson @ Seabrae Photos



LEFT: Picnic blankets, camp chairs and standing room, Inverloch Recreation Reserve was packed to the brim on New Year's Eve as young and old alike gathered for the Family Fireworks at 9.30pm. C100_0123



Bass Coast Shire has welcomed the State Government's 3.5 per cent rate cap announcement, despite the Essential Services Commission recommending 4 per cent.

Wrong time to raise rates, they say

A NEW rate cap of 3.5 per cent is being offered to all Victorian councils by the State Government in the 2023/24 financial year.

But Bass Coast Ratepayers and Residents Association President Kevin Griffin is fearful the local shire will take the maximum from local ratepayers.

He said it was a terrible time for the State Government to be raising rates, with many homeowners struggling with higher interest rates and inflation, and he cautioned the shire against immediately introducing the highest possible rates.

"It should be a case-by-case assessment as to whether a local shire accepts the full increase in rates," Mr Griffin said this week.

"In our case, the Bass Coast Shire Council will have to be completely open and transparent about any increase proposed, but I'm not confident that will be the case.

"Bass Coast has consistently proposed Capital Works programs they have been unable to deliver, so if they can't complete the work, they shouldn't be taking the money from the ratepayers."

Mr Griffin said councils should concentrate on efficiency gains first, and on getting the most out of the administration spend so that more money is available for works and services.

It's interesting to note, however, on the Ratepayers Victoria website, that average Bass Coast rates are listed as the 67th lowest of the state's 79 councils at \$1563.65 as compared to Nillumbik on the north-east Melbourne fringe at an average of \$4303.04.

South Gippsland's average rates are listed at the 11th highest at \$2085.50 leaving Bass Coast with a strong argument for raising rates by the full 3.5 per cent.

"Whilst the Essential Services Commission (ESC) recommended a 4% increase, Council welcomes the decision by the Victorian Government to set the rate cap of 3.5%," Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan said.

"There has been no significant increase in recent years, and the cost of providing much needed community services continues to grow in excess of this figure."

Councils set rates for their residents and use the revenue to fund essential community services and infrastructure like local parks, libraries, community centres, roads, kindergartens, waste collection and sports grounds.

Rates are set individually by councils for their municipalities every year through their budget process and must consult with their communities on decisions relating to budgets, rates and other charges.

Under the Local Government Legislative Amendment (Rating and Other Matters) Act 2022, Victorian councils have the power to defer or waive rates, charges and interest to rate payers experiencing financial hardship.

To learn more about how council rates are set, visit localgovernment.vic.gov.au/council-rates-and-charges.

Christmas period welcome boost for Leongatha

LEONGATHA Business Association president Johnny Ozols said that although it wasn't a bumper Christmas trading period in the town, there is plenty to be positive about.

"It was encouraging to see so many people up the street; Sportfirst's Christmas photos were a great hit and the line was out the door most times," Johnny said of Santa's appeal locally.

He noted that as well as the efforts of the business association, the annual hall sale held at Leongatha Memorial Hall was an example of local traders cooperating, with Panthers Menswear, Shan's Lingerie & Leisurewear and Sportfirst combining to run the event.

Johnny highlighted that pre-Christmas sale as a success, noting the array of bargains available appealed to shoppers.

While pleased with the event's success, he expressed disappointment about an overnight break-in that oc-



Leongatha Business Association president Johnny Ozols was pleased to see plenty of people out in town in the lead up to Christmas. A10_0123

curred during the sale.

But that was outweighed by the overall positive nature of the Christmas period.

He noted that local traders are doing well despite the current challenges faced around Australia in terms of high living costs.

"It's an indication of a healthy

local economy, and if people are able to spend money in town, that would mean surely that the farmers are having a good year, trades are doing ok and we're a little bit insulated, so to me it's pretty positive," Johnny said.

Looking ahead to 2023, Johnny is enthusiastic about

the benefits that will flow from improvements in the Leongatha Railway Station precinct, where works are ongoing.

Longer term, he hopes for measures to draw more people to Leongatha, particularly a boost in accommodation options.

Gippsland health unit issues mosquito disease warning

IT MAY not be a problem at Phillip Island now, or around low-lying, swampy and poorly-drained areas around Western Port.

Phillip Island health authorities say there have been no presentations so far this year of mosquito-borne viruses.

Not yet, but the long run of wet weather, leading up to summer this year, has created the perfect environment for mosquitoes to multiply in huge numbers.

And the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit has issued a warning about covering up and using repellent to stop mosquito bites.

Back in 2021, there were upwards of 15 confirmed cases of Ross River virus on Phillip Island, the impacts of which raised concerns locally. There were also cases of Japanese encephalitis (JEV) in Victoria, although none locally, to our knowledge.

"More than 275 species of mosquitoes are found in

Australia. Fortunately, only a few species bite humans, and fewer still are vectors of human diseases," said GRPHU communications officer Tracy Vanderzalm.

"In Victoria, the most common viruses transmitted from mosquitoes to humans are Ross River and Barmah Forest virus.

"Infections caused by Japanese encephalitis virus, Murray Valley encephalitis virus and Kunjin virus are rare, but do have the potential to

cause severe disease.

"The most effective way to reduce your risk of mosquito-borne diseases is by avoiding mosquito bites and removing mosquito breeding sites around your home.

"Cover up, use repellent, clean up still water around your home and campsite, and use fly spray when eating or gathering outdoors."

Visit the Department of Health website for more information [Mosquito-borne diseases \(health.vic.gov.au\)](http://Mosquito-borne-diseases.health.vic.gov.au)

Wonthaggi Toyota

WE BUY
CARS!



USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2021 MG MG3 Core
17,990 DRIVE AWAY
24,399kms, automatic hatch
SN: W101429



2016 Hyundai i30
18,990 DRIVE AWAY
112,287kms, 7 speed sports auto
hatch SN: W101416



2017 Ford Escape Trend
23,990 DRIVE AWAY
94,365kms, 6 speed auto AWD
wagon SN: W101417



2018 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross LS
31,990 DRIVE AWAY
61,053kms, CVT auto wagon
SN: W101419



2019 Hyundai Santa Fe Elite
39,990 DRIVE AWAY
116,955kms, 8 speed sports
automatic SUV SN: W101372



2019 Mazda CX-9
53,990 DRIVE AWAY
51,466kms, 6 speed sports auto
SUV SN: W101245



2021 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MK III
64,990 DRIVE AWAY
30,399kms, 6 speed auto 4x4
Double cab SN: W101421



2017 Ford Mondeo Ambiente MD
24,990 DRIVE AWAY
56,332kms, 6 speed sports auto
wagon SN: W101415

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2021 Toyota Yaris Ascent
32,990 DRIVE AWAY
2,097kms, Sport CVT auto hatch
SN: L100950



2018 Toyota Corolla Ascent Hybrid
32,990 DRIVE AWAY
18,511kms, 10 speed sport auto
hatch SN: L100942



2018 Mitsubishi Pajero Sport GLX QE
52,990 DRIVE AWAY
40,885kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: L100955



2019 Toyota Hilux SR5
60,990 DRIVE AWAY
89,521kms, 6 speed auto 4x4
Double cab ute SN: L100960



2021 MG MG3 Core
17,990 DRIVE AWAY
18,979kms, automatic CVT hatch
SN: L100971



2022 Ford Ranger PY XLS Hi-Rider
49,990 DRIVE AWAY
18,054kms, 10 speed CVT auto ute
SN: 6Z9R



2022 Toyota Landcruiser Sahara
184,990 DRIVE AWAY
5,376kms, 10 speed CVT 4x4
wagon BYH 282



2018 Toyota Kluger GX
39,990 DRIVE AWAY
70,133kms, 8 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L10896

Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi VIC 3995
T (03) 5672 1722
LMCT 8179
wonthaggitoyota.com.au

Leongatha Toyota
7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha VIC 3953
T (03) 5662 2302
LMCT 8179
leongathatoyota.com.au



OH WHAT A FEELING

* Disclaimer: If the price does not contain the notation that it is "Driveaway*", the price may not include additional costs, such as stamp duty and other government charges.



Zac Langstaff (College & Community Leadership Award - junior)



Xen Lawry (Year 7 English Award)



School leaders Sophie Close, Casey Treloar, Hamish Box and Mia Deenen



Xavier Bolge (Senior Sport Record Breaking Award and VCE Year 11 PD & T Award)



Trent Beggs (Year 7 Mathematics Award)



Tayla Lester (Jock Dowling Memorial Quiet Achiever Award, Year 7)



Tayla Boase (Jock Dowling Memorial Quiet Achiever Award, Year 9)



Sophie Kenney (Year 10 Arts Award)



Sophie Close (Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award and Larry Hills Music Performance Award)



Sophie Boase (Year 7 Effective Learner Award)



Skye Munro (Year 11 Health & Human Development Award)



Sienna Cruickshank (Year 10 Health & Physical Education Award)



Shaelin Selmes (Year 9 Music Award)



Sam Holt (Year 9 Technology Award)



Roxy Robson (Year 11 Visual Communication Award)



Remy Jans (Year 9 Health & Physical Education Award, the Principal's Junior Award and the Year 9 Effective Learner Award)



Rahni Jeffrey (Year 7 Technology Award and the Humanities Award)



Poppy Stewart (Matthew Trotman Memorial Award)



Poppy Clarke (Year 12 Studio Art Award)



Piper Goldsmith (Year 12 Further Mathematics Award, Legal Studies Award and Business Management Award)



Phoebe Collins (Year 10 Humanities Award, Sonya Johnston Performing Arts/Dance Memorial Award and Year 10 Effective Learner Award)



Peyton Callahan (Year 8 Effective Learner Award)



Peter Gardner (Year 12 Music Award)



Omarsha Miller (Year 7 Science Award)



Olivia Burgess (Year 8 Science Award)



Olivia Bott (Jock Dowling Memorial Quiet Achiever Award, Year 10)



Oliver Silcock (Year 9 Mathematics Award)



Nicholas Graham (VCE Music Excellence Award)



Montana Kranen (Year 10 Science Award)

Leongatha Secondary College was proud to acknowledge their students' efforts over 2022 at their recent awards presentation night.



Molly Grimley (Sport and Recreation Certificate)



Milla Fixter (VCE Year 12 Food Studies Award)



Mia Deenen (Dux, Year 12 Chemistry Award, Biology Award, Mathematical Methods Award, English Award)



Max Minchella (Pursuit of Excellence in Science & Technology Award)



Macy Elliott (Year 8 Health & Physical Education Award)



Luke Murphy (Year 10 Technology Award, Mathematics Award and ADF Future Innovators Award)



Louisa Campbell (Year 12 Physics Award, ADF Future Innovators Award and Year 12 Effective Learner Award)



Lincoln Russell (Junior Band Dedication to Music Award)



Lily Hume (Whitworth Award for Year 11 Excellence, Effective Learner Award, Studio Art Award, Year 12 Outdoor & Environmental Studies Award)



Lachlan Gill (Year 11 Chemistry Award, Physics Award, Mathematical Methods Award, English Award, Year 12 Psychology Award and Distance Education Award)



Kelsey Fisher (Year 9 Humanities Award)



Kaydee Jones (Year 8 Mathematics Award and English Award)



Katie Harris (Year 11 General Maths Award and Physical Education Award)



Jude Fixter (Year 11 Effective Learner Award)



Jesse Pearce (School Sport Victoria Academic and Sporting Achievement Award)



Jack Birkett (Year 7 Science Award and Effective Learner Award)



Hannah Hogarth (Year 9 English Award)



Hamish Box (Year 12 Media Award, Vic Rowlands Perpetual Trophy, and Ampol Best All Rounder Award)



Georgia Cousens (Year 7 Health & Physical Education Award)



Georgia Challis (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Award - intermediate)



Freya Liepa (Year 12 Geography Award)



Finn Bennett (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) Award - senior and Jock Dowling Memorial Quiet Achiever Award, Year 12)



Elijah Jones (Year 7 Arts Award)



Eddie Colwill (VCE Year 12 PD & T Award)



Dylan Hicks (Year 12 History Award)



Courtney Embury (Year 12 Physical Education Award and Health & Human Development Award)



Claire Parkes (South Gippsland Trade Skills Alliance Encouragement Award)



Chloe Stoops (Principal's Senior Award, Year 11 History Award, Effective Learner Award, Jock Dowling Memorial Quiet Achiever Award, Year 11)



Chloe Goff (VCE Year 11 Food Studies Award, Geography Award, and College & Community Leadership Award - senior)



Casey Tumino (Year 8 Arts Award, Effective Learner Award and Jock Dowling Memorial Quiet Achiever Award, Year 8)

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

How to beat the bulge in 2023

GETTING fit, taking care of your health, making sure you set aside enough family time, volunteering, and gaining new skills and qualifications... there's plenty to draw on there for a New Year's resolution.

But one of the big challenges of 2023 will be financial.

And it's time for everyone to get proactive.

It doesn't mean we can't have fun and if the record-breaking \$74.5 billion spent in the run-up to Christmas is any indication, there's still plenty of people feeling confident about the future.

And why not! There's tons of jobs available and those that have owned their own home for five years or more have booked a terrific increase in equity in recent years.

Farm incomes also remain strong, and the hospitality and tourism sector are showing good signs.

But with several rounds of home loan interest rate increases still to come this year, before we knock the top off inflation, and with power prices, council rates and other utility costs on the march; we need to be on the ball to make savings where we can.

Finding a cheaper energy provider is an obvious one, paying bills early where discounts are offered, taking advantage of low-interest-rate incentives to switch credit card providers and renegotiating your home loan are areas we all need to put some time into.

There's every indication that inflation will start to come down later in the year, and we're already seeing that in fuel prices, but the key to success this year will be developing a strategy for cutting back on unnecessary costs. What are you going to do to beat the bulge this year, physically and financially?

Managing Victoria's bushfire risk

This year, many Victorians have experienced extreme weather with heavy rain and flooding. Our changing climate means these events are becoming more frequent and extreme.

The recent State of the Climate report by the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO confirms that changes to weather and climate extremes are happening at an increased pace across Australia.

In the coming decades, we will see an increase in the number of dangerous fire weather days and a longer fire season for southern and eastern Australia.

Even though conditions have been wetter through most of the state this year, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) has continued to take action to manage bushfire risk.

Victoria is Australia's most bushfire prone state. By investing in prevention, we aim to protect people, property and the environment by reducing the risk and impact of major bushfires.

We look for opportunities year-round to conduct planned burns that will protect people, and our environment – including forests, their wildlife and biodiversity – from bushfires this summer and in the drier years to come.

We burn to the conditions, not the calendar. Some burns that were planned for spring may take place this summer if conditions are right and it's safe to do so. Others could take place in autumn next year.

Although we don't expect many long-running or large forest fires this summer, areas

Vox Pop

Do you have a New Year's resolution?



Michael Carter
Leongatha

"To get fitter and get moving again, and hopefully to do more overseas travel."



Gavin Sharp
Leongatha

"If I was going to make a resolution it would be not to make the mistakes I always do, and also to be kind and compassionate to others because that's one thing the world needs now."



Aliesha Wrigley
Korumburra

"I want to get my golf handicap down to 18. I'm at 22 at the moment and if I get it down to 18, it's one shot a hole."



Helen Byrnes
Mirboo North

"To ask local councils to put themselves in a disabled person's shoes for a day and fix the footpaths and the roads. An uneven surface caused me to be bounced out of my wheelchair and I may have broken my foot."

across the north and west of the state may see increasing fire potential from mid-summer, especially in areas of high grass growth.

Drier forests, woodlands and heathlands are also at risk of fires with the onset of hot and dry weather conditions.

Going forward, we will prioritise planned burns in places with increased risk.

The wetter weather has presented opportunities for different types of burning. In some areas, the higher levels of moisture in the soil and natural gullies have allowed our crews to conduct lower-intensity burns.

The gullies act as natural boundaries for the fire, which is not always possible during drier conditions.

Past events show us that planned burning can reduce the loss and destruction caused by bushfires.

As a world leader in bushfire risk management, we have many different tools in our toolbox.

Planned burning is not the only way we manage bushfire risk and reduce fuel like grass, leaf litter, twigs, bark and vegetation. We've increased our use of mowing, slashing and mulching this year.

We've also expanded our network of strategic fuel breaks to better protect against bushfires.

These strips of land are in the highest priority locations – close to towns, water catchments and sensitive environments.

We have also upgraded our infrastructure, including forest roads, fire dams and fire lookout towers.

In addition to our bushfire risk management program, FFMVic, together with Country Fire Authority (CFA), is

continuing to support Traditional Owners to use cultural fire on Country. Over 200 cultural burns are planned over the next three years.

We work with CFA, Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), local government and communities to deliver the best local approaches to bushfire risk management in Victoria.

The combination of our actions helps communities and our environment to become more resilient.

Our crews will continue to keep communities safe all year by reducing the risk and impact of bushfires on Victoria's parks, forests and other public land.

While FFMVic does a vital job managing bushfire risk, I encourage all Victorians to ensure they have the right information, tools and actions to prepare for fires.

This means familiarising yourself with the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System. This system is the same across Australia, so you can assess risk and take action if needed, wherever you are.

If you live on or near land that is at bushfire risk, make sure to follow the Fire Ready Kit from CFA.

If you're camping this summer, do not leave campfires unattended and make sure the ashes are cool to touch before you leave.

You can find out when planned burns are happening in your area by signing up at plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au and make sure you have the VicEmergency app on your phone.

To find out more about what my team at FFMVic and I are doing to help keep Victoria safe, visit ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-management-facts.

Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, Forest Fire Management Victoria

Energy efficiency reality

I recently had cause to write to our Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) Mayor regarding the Shire's efforts to facilitate Energy Efficiency in our community.

Regardless of your views concerning climate-change, the 2019 Climate-Emergency or the renewable energy revolution; the reality is simple.

The reality is that energy costs are going up. The rate of that increase in electricity costs will be governed by State and Federal government actions towards our energy generation and infrastructure.

The running costs of your homes are rising and will continue to rise into the foreseeable future.

Improving the Energy Efficiency of your home means that each dollar you spend on electricity will go further to heating your water, cooking and maintaining a comfortable temperature within your home.

Our BCSC has spent a lot of your rates developing their Community Action Portal (CAP) so they can show what a great job they are doing to address the declared climate emergency in Bass Coast.

The problem is that this CAP is designed to support Community Action against Climate Change and it has allocated a lot of money to make the Shire's Corporate activities look clean and green by 2030.

But there is precious little money directed towards assisting individual householders to improve their energy efficiency by 2030.

Some people might call this green-washing by Bass Coast Shire Council and the CAP's projected figures on future performance and costings, show very little improvement in the energy efficiency of individual households during the next decade.

Other shires have assisted their ratepayers with technical advice and bulk buying of photovoltaic systems and insulation to make energy efficiency and generation more affordable.

This Bass Coast Shire Council lacks the vision, plan and desire to assist its householders with the coming challenges and changes to our energy infrastructure.

There are huge financial opportunities for householders to participate in Virtual Power Plants by utilizing renewable energy and battery storage within a mini-grid by means of smart software.

Bass Coast Shire Council seem content to sit and watch its community remain victims of greedy domestic power companies.

If a professional pollster was to walk down Graham Street, Wonthaggi and interview 100 people on the benefits of Virtual Power Plants they would be lucky to get a single positive reply.

This is part of the challenge for Bass Coast Shire Council and without responsible leadership you will all be so much poorer.

Edward Minty, North Wonthaggi



Nici Cahill of Snapshot Photography captured this incredible fast moving storm cell at San Remo overlooking Cape Woolamai. Send your photos to news@sgst.com.au



With Sir Douglas Mawson's flag from April 28, 1909, in hand, Peter become the first Australian to the North Magnetic Pole 89 years later.

Conquering the Arctic

This is part two of a series focusing on Peter Bland of Wattle Bank Farm

Introduction to Antarctica

“ON THE vessel was a man called David Hempleman-Adams,” Peter Bland explained.

“He had done the Seven Summits and was attempting the four poles; the magnetic poles and the geographic poles. We were doing the South Magnetic Pole with him on this one...”

“On Valentine’s Day, the yacht got trapped in the ice – a sheet had dropped over the side in the night with the engine going which had led to the propeller being fouled.”

Hours later subjected to the harsh Antarctic conditions the mainsail ripped; effectively the boat was a sitting duck, trapped in the ice six kilometres from Boat Harbour in Commonwealth Bay.

A few more perilous encounters and Peter consulted the ships doctor, Ollie, to see how long he would give Peter to dive over the side and cut the rope free.

“He said, ‘five minutes.’

“I went back to the navigation table and said, ‘I’m volunteering to dive over the side and cut the rope free’. David said, ‘are you serious?’ and I said, ‘I’m serious but not stupid. I want three things. I want the dive into the ice filmed, I want the international film rights to the footage (hence the documentary) and thirdly, I want you to invite me to join you to the North Magnetic Pole next year.’

“If you do this you can have whatever you want’, David replied.

“We drove the yacht in behind an iceberg, strapped the knife to my hand with electrical tape, and with no wetsuits on board I just wore my sailing suit, a dry suit; and I went over the side.”

It took three dives for Peter to swim 12-feet diagonally down.

“I was out of breath and so cold I couldn’t speak. They were going to pull me out; and I cut the rope free.

“The next day we stepped foot in Antarctica – it was amazing.”

The experience was transformational.

“A couple of very profound things happened to me that shaped my whole life.

“That very day with David beneath the southern lights, “I said, with emphasis on the word I, ‘I’m gonna be the first Australian to the North Magnetic Pole.’

“He turned to me and said, ‘is that all?’

“I gave him all my reasons and justifications – I’m a kid from the bush and I had heart surgery when I was a kid... and he said, ‘no Blue, turn your life into a cause, a cause which

is bigger than you.”

That moment changed Peter’s life and led him to his endeavours ever since – adventures with a purpose.

“Adventures with a purpose are life changing...”

“I came back to Australia – I had inflamed feet and migraines, and I had a bit of frostnip from the cold, but I was so excited because I was going to the north.

“I went to England and met with David. We climbed Snowdonia with the other team members for the forthcoming trip.

“I was so full of myself, and I come back here to Australia. I’m pulling a tyre up and down Albert Park Beach simulating what a sled would be like, and I collapsed on the beach...”

Rushed to hospital, doctors discovered Peter had an aneurysm.

“I had collapsed from pneumonia; my aorta was three times diameter and was pushing my lung across. I was very fortunate I got pneumonia and the radiologist picked it up...”

“We’re sitting there with a top vascular surgeon, and he said he has to cut it out.

““Okay doc, can you fix it tomorrow or leave it for six months?” He said, ‘no, why?’ and I explained I was going to be the first Australian to the pole and was leaving in March.”

Explaining the risks and fact he was not going anywhere, Peter was dejected. His hopes and dreams were pinned on being the first.

“I reached out to David in the UK, and he said two things: when the going gets tough the tough gets going, so get going and he reminded me about a conversation around good causes in your life.”

Fast forward, and a conversation with the Heart Foundation later, Peter was made the first Aussie Heart Hero.

“I was invited to give talks; one of the first I ever gave as a professional speaker was to Sandringham Primary School, encouraging kids to eat healthy and walk 30 minutes a day.

“All of a sudden, my trajectory toward polar exploration took off – because it wasn’t about me. I was raising money and awareness for the National Heart Foundation.

“We headed up to northwest Canada in March...”

Missing Hempleman-Adams’ trip, David assisted in facilitating Peter’s journey to the North Pole in 1998, 12 months later.

“We were walking in the frozen sea from Resolute Bay – it’s not the end of the earth, but they say you can see it from there.

“Carrying 80 kilos and our sleds,

we’d walk about 10 nautical miles a day. We were walking through sstrugi – when ice goes vertical...”

From a prune every 15 minutes to break up the day to reciting ‘The Man from Snowy River’ or ‘Waltzing Matilda’ the days were far from an easy adventure.

With two of his teammates falling through the ice in boots and radio communications failing near the magnetic pole, thankfully realised en masse preventing the rescue plane from coming out in search, adventures were certainly had, and work arounds found.

Especially when the gun froze (it was polar bear season), the lithium batteries (supposedly proven against the cold) succumbed to the temperatures and the teams’ sleeping bags were not tested in Antarctic conditions (as promised) when the weather dropped to minus 30 degrees and permeated the sleeping bags.

And as part of his Heart Foundation work, Peter agreed to wear a heart rate monitor.

“We didn’t get attacked by a bear, they saw us but would scamper off, nor did we have to use the flares.

“We were on the ice for 28 days, 780 kilometres trekking on the frozen sea. I got there carrying Sir Douglas Mawson’s flag; the first Australian to the South Magnetic Pole in 1909. I was the first Australian to the North Magnetic Pole in 1998...”

“And the energy that I got wasn’t from the food, but the school kids around Australia measuring how many times my heart was beating; because I don’t have an aorta, I have a synthetic one...”

Corporate workshops and public speaking events filled Peter’s schedule upon his return.

“The summer of 2000, going into January 2001, Jay and I would play tennis on Thursday nights at Royal South Yarra Tennis Courts, and we’d take a chart, and plot a scheme for our next adventure.

“The next big adventure we saw was to attempt the world first crossing of the Antarctic Peninsula...”

A multi-part series on Peter Bland’s fascinating life tune in next week for part three – the Antarctic Peninsula.

And whilst some may prefer to read adventures in print, if you would prefer to join Peter on his next adventure ‘Northern Enlightenment September 2023’ head to leadershipgroup.com.au for more details on the 14-day adventure to the Arctic’s research labs and polar stations.

New year,
new you

Bena Ong
Pharmacist

Terry White
Chemmart
Leongatha

A NEW year often signifies a fresh start for many people. For some, this means making new year resolutions to make certain changes in their routines, learn new skills or meet health goals.

In fact, a recent survey has revealed that 72 per cent of Australians – equivalent to almost 14 million people – have set at least one New Year’s resolution.

Amongst all the resolutions, diet and exercise-related resolutions are the most common, with Aussies looking forward to a healthy start to the year.

The survey found almost 1 in 3 (30%) have pledged to adopt healthier eating habits, and more than a quarter (28%) are motivated to lose weight.

All in all, the general consensus is that most people are motivated to improve their health in some way or another at the start of the new year.

However, more often than not, the health and wellness resolutions chosen are highly restrictive and unsustainable, leading most people to break their resolutions within a few weeks.

This is why many people make the same resolutions year after year.

To break that cycle, it’s important to make resolutions that not only improve health but also be followed for life.

Here are three lifestyle changes that are achievable, and can help you make baby steps to meeting those **#healthgoals**:

- 1. Sit less, move more**

Whether it’s due to having a sedentary job or simply being inactive, many people sit more than they should. Sitting too much can have negative effects on health. Making a resolution to sit less is an easy and attainable resolution that can be tailored to fit your lifestyle. For example, if you have a desk job that requires long periods of sitting, make a resolution to go for a 15-minute walk at lunch or to get up and walk for 5 minutes every hour.

- 2. Find a physical activity you enjoy**

Every New Year, though

most people start strong and motivated, the majority don’t make their new routine into a lasting habit. To increase the chances of making your fitness resolutions stick, choose an activity based on enjoyment and have it fit into your schedule. For example, taking a half-hour walk, jogging, or bike ride before work, or swimming at the pool that’s on your way home, are simple and sustainable exercise resolutions. Then, set an attainable goal, such as planning to walk a few specific days per week instead of aiming for every day. By making a more realistic goal, one can enhance the chances of making your new routine last, especially if you’re new to working out.

- 3. Eat more whole foods**

One of the easiest and most sustainable ways to improve overall health is to eat more whole foods. Whole foods, including vegetables, fruits, nuts, seeds, whole grains, and fish, contain a plethora of nutrients that your body needs to function at an optimal level. Research shows that following a whole-foods-based diet may significantly reduce heart disease risk factors, body weight, and blood sugar levels, as well as decrease your risk of certain diseases, such as type 2 diabetes.

Adding more whole foods to your diet can be done slowly and consistently. For example, if you’re not used to eating vegetables, start by adding one serving of your favourite veggie to your diet every day.

At our TerryWhite Chemmart stores, we have staff that are trained to help you with your health goals.

Whether to lose weight, quit smoking or even if you struggle to take your medications regularly, we strive to provide a safe and non-judgmental space to assist you in achieving your health goals. With most things, the most challenging step of making change is usually the first one.

So what are you waiting for? Looking forward to seeing you in store!

Leongatha

Korumburra

Inverloch

P: 03 5662 2183

P: 03 5655 1555

P: 03 5674 1652



Wonthaggi's Acting Sergeant Patterson and Constable Bryan happily posed with Santa during the Wonthaggi CFA Santa Run on last Saturday, as Santa handed out gifts to the divisions. C08_0123



A local affair, Darcy Garton, Pete McCall and organiser, Aidan McLaren get stuck into the preparations ahead of NYE on the Hill. C09_0123



The NYE on the Hill Bar Team of Roy Trumble of Kongwak and Gabbie Burns of Inverloch were busy stocking the bar and making final preparations on Thursday. C10_0123



Inverloch's Tehya McMahon and Venus Bay's Ostin Pedley were spotting the set up of the disco balls before heading down to help with the bunting at NYE on the Hill. C11_0123



Audio/Visual techs Rick Marvin of Leongatha and Jacob Sheppard of Newborough took care of the bump in alongside others ahead of the big festival. C12_0123



Keeping cool at the Woolamai Races on New Year's Eve were Amy, Maya, Ivy, Kate and Lesley.



Colleen Hennequin, Shea Eden and Gino Hennequin had a great day at the Woolamai Races on Saturday.



Racehorse trainer Dale Short of Ripplebrook with Kathy Brown of Pakenham at the Woolamai Races.



The perfect place to be on New Year's Eve was the Woolamai Races for Michelle Philpotts, Phil Wilkinson and Matt Wilson of San Remo.



Pictures of you and your friends at the Wonthaggi CFA Santa Run, NYE on the Hill, Inverloch farmers market and Woolamai Races.



Steven Laurence (Wonthaggi) and Garry Quilty (Inverloch) of EventOps detangled bunting as they helped set up The Hill. C14_0123



It was local business galore for bump in as Cowes electrical contractors James Thurgood and David Zamfirescu took care of all things electrical at The Hills. C13_0123



Lions Club of Inverloch and District members Carole, Dawn and Terry were busy cooking the barbecue at the club's farmers' market last Wednesday. Ns01Snap_0123



Jason of Townsend Nursey and Garry, who sells decorative pieces for gardens, had a great time at Inverloch Community Farmers Market. Ns02Snap_0123



Anette and Daryl of Steffen Fine Foods made sure to grab a copy of last week's Sentinel-Times while selling their delicious treats at the farmers' market. Ns03Snap_0123



Milan Paskas of Avocet Box Guitars makes incredible instruments by hand from locally sourced timbers. Ns04Snap_0123



At the Woolamai Races on New Year's Eve were Judy Stone, Anthony Hurlick, Leanne and Phillipe du Plessis.



Across from Drouin for the Woolamai Races were Cheryl Stephens, Peter Stephens and Patty Manley.

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888



The upcoming swap meet in Korumburra is sure to prove popular.

Roaring return for iconic car show

CAR enthusiasts and bric-a-brac lovers will flock to the Korumburra Showground on Sunday January 8 for the South Gippsland branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club's popular swap meet and vehicle display.

While the event was established 38 years ago, it's the first time it will run since 2019.

Its much-anticipated return and the cancellation of a number of other swap meets late last year due to floods is likely to boost attendance numbers, with thousands usually expected.

Stall holders will be selling a wide range of items, including car parts, records and tools.

Even some cars will be sold on the day.

Gippsland Historical Automobile Club members will display their vehicles for attendees' enjoyment, but the day won't operate to a Show 'N Shine format, with no judging involved.

Local service clubs stand to benefit, with three of them bolstering the available catering options.

Korumburra Lions Club will sell hamburgers, sausages and veggie burgers, while the town's Rotary Club takes charge of supplying doughnuts and cold drinks, and the Leongatha Lions will be serving hot chips.

Korumburra Lions Club president Roger Powell welcomed the event's return, saying it is an important fundraiser.

"It represents up to 25 percent of our annual income," he said.

All 31 of the club's members will be pitching in to help, in conjunction with family and friends.

Gippsland Historical Automobile Club members will also be hard at work.

Club member and swap meet organiser Matt Sherry is delighted with a positive early weather forecast for the day but said only gale force winds would prevent the swap meet going ahead.

Matt said those who come along will have the perfect opportunity to discover that hard-to-locate car part they've been searching for.

"Or they'll find a new project," he said.

The most enthusiastic buyers will be there bright and early, with gates opening at 6am.

Stall holders can set up from lunchtime on Saturday and stay onsite overnight.

While obviously a huge event for the car club, Matt said the swap meet is important for the whole town.

"It brings a lot of people into Korumburra," he said, which is good news for local businesses.

Korumburra Swap Meet details:

When: Sunday January 8 from 6am until 1pm

Where: Korumburra Showground.

How much: Stalls cost just \$10 to operate, with general admission \$5 and children free.



The team of Harvest Centre volunteers are proud to help find new homes for unwanted items – saving landfill in the process. C05_0123

A free shop after Christmas

THE BEST things in life are free – that's the motto at Wonthaggi Harvest Centre where the team of volunteers are back with a special January edition of their Free Pop-Up Shop.

After overwhelming success last month, the volunteers are looking for donations and recipients to join them on Sunday, January 8, from 9am to 1pm.

Have you cleared out your cupboards over the Christmas and New Year's period? Maybe you have utilised the KonMari Method and have items that no longer bring you joy but that don't belong in landfill.

Donate your unwanted items, pick up something new, or just have a browse; everything is free



There is something for everyone at the Harvest Centre. C06_0123

at the Harvest Centre Pop Up Shop.

Books, DVD's, clothing, blankets, soft toys, knitted goods, linen, bric-a-brac, (no electrical) pop on down on Sunday behind Rotary's Apex Market.

"The free shop is a great chance to meet new people, giveaway your

unwanted items and find new ones," Jessica Harrison said.

Donations can be dropped off on Wednesday at the Harvest Centre or Sunday morning.

Whether rain, hail or shine, pop on your sunnies or boots and head down to this all-weather event.

Have you scheduled your summer markets?

THE Fresh Summer Produce Market at Fish Creek is an opportunity for people to buy, swap and sell their produce.

Open from 8-10am every Saturday at the Old Tennis Courts, opposite the Post Office, a new market will be had presented by Buckley Park Community Farm's Margaret explained.

"We will have a few larger producers coming to sell, but we are really encouraging backyard growers to bring excess. We are also having

encouraging people to grow their own food and more to make sure everyone in the community can afford to eat good food," Buckley Park Community Farm's Margaret explained.

"The free shop is a great chance to meet new people, giveaway your

one different community group on hand each week to help raise monies. For example, if I have three extra zucchinis and I don't want to hang around, I can give it to them, they can sell it and make a little bit extra for their cause."

The Fresh summer Produce Market kicks off this Saturday (January 7) and runs weekly until March 25.

WONTHAGGI BINGO



Workmen's Club Thursday nights



Eyes down at 8pm

Raffles, Door prizes, Lucky number jackpot

3mFM Bingo... Now both Wednesday & Thursday

30 Games! Volunteers needed to help make our Bingo even better!

WONTHAGGI UNION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

What's On?

See all our cinema session times and pre-book tickets via our website.
www.wonthaggiartscentre.com.au

Summer Cinema!



Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile [G]

Wed 4 Jan 12.15pm
5.00pm

Thur 5 Jan 10.00am
3.00pm

Fri 6 Jan 12.45pm
5.15pm

Sat 7 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Sun 8 Jan 1.15pm
6.15pm

Tue 10 Jan 10.00am
3.00pm

Wed 11 Jan 12.45pm
6.15pm

Thur 12 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Fri 13 Jan 12.15pm
4.45pm

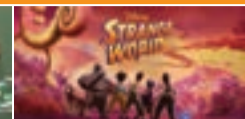
Sat 14 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Sun 15 Jan 12.15pm
4.45pm

Tue 17 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Wed 18 Jan 12.15pm
4.45pm

Thur 19 Jan 10.00am
Continues to January 25



Strange World [PG]

Wed 4 Jan 10.00am

Thur 5 Jan 5.15pm

Fri 6 Jan 3.00pm

Sat 7 Jan 12.15pm

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish [PG]

Thur 12 Jan 12.15pm
4.45pm

Fri 13 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Sat 14 Jan 12.15pm
4.45pm

Sun 15 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Tue 17 Jan 12.15pm
4.45pm

Wed 18 Jan 10.00am
2.30pm

Thur 19 Jan 12.15pm
5.00pm

Continues to January 29

The Woman King [M]

Thur 5 Jan 7.30pm

Sat 7 Jan 4.45pm

Wed 11 Jan 10.00am



The Railway Children

Return [PG]

Playing from January 20



Armageddon Time [M]

Wed 4 Jan 2.30pm



Black Adam [M]

Thur 5 Jan 12.15pm

Fri 6 Jan 7.30pm

Sun 8 Jan 8.30pm

Tue 10 Jan 5.15pm



Avatar: The Way of Water [M]

Thur 12 Jan 7.00pm

Fri 13 Jan 7.00pm

Sat 14 Jan 7.00pm

Sun 15 Jan 7.00pm

Tue 17 Jan 7.00pm

Wed 18 Jan 7.00pm

Thur 19 Jan 7.15pm

Continues to January 29



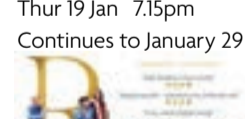
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever [M]

Sat 7 Jan 7.30pm

Sun 8 Jan 10.00am

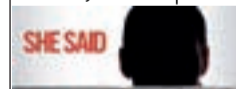
Tue 10 Jan 7.45pm

Wed 11 Jan 3.00pm



The Lost King [M]

Playing from January 19



She Said [M]

Wed 4 Jan 7.30pm

Fri 6 Jan 10.00am

Sun 8 Jan 3.30pm

Tue 10 Jan 12.15pm

Wed 11 Jan 8.30pm



The Fabelmans [M]

Playing from January 21

BOLD GREEN = Open Captions Session

Find the full calendar of events and sessions on our website



Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre

96 Graham St, Wonthaggi 3995

phone: 03 5671 2470 find us on Facebook



Coastal views and on the edge of town

OFTEN sought but very rarely found, this charming property with sweeping views of the Kilcunda coast and trestle bridge will suit those wanting space, privacy and potential future growth.

The property is set on 18 acres (approx.) with a creek frontage and water reserve

crown lease, which adds at least another five acres of grazing.

A well maintained two-bedroom brick home has elevated coastal views with open plan living and established gardens.

Adding to the property's appeal is farm shedding and

stock handling facilities. First time offered in 60 years, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to secure a premium coastal acreage property.

Inspection by appointment. Terms 10 per cent with up to 90 days settlement.

Auction on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 12pm on site.

2 1 2 18 acres

85 Ridgeway Road, **Kilcunda**
Auction Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 12pm on site
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Greg Price 0419 337 441

Country living on 10 acres

IF YOU'RE looking for a lifestyle change then this spectacular 10-acre farmlet with its rambling homestead could be just what you're looking for.

Located just on the edge of the Nyora township and surrounded by farmland, the property offers the new owner a private setting boasting views across the valley to Westernport Bay and beyond.

An ideal property for the horse enthusiast or hobby farmer, the property is well fenced and includes various shedding. The home features 3 bedrooms, 2 living areas, kitchen/dining, verandah to 3 sides and an undercover entertaining area for those family barbecues.

Although ready to move into tomorrow, there is plenty of room to add your own personal touches.










So, whether you are looking for a genuine country property to bring your kids up on, room for your animals to roam or you need space to park your trucks and machinery, this property could be for you.

To fully appreciate all this property has to offer book an inspection with us today.



3 1 3 10 acres

1270 McDonalds Track, **Nyora**
For Sale \$1,095,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898
Christie Nelson 0407 812 904

<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>93 Red Rocks Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Northerly Aspect under covered deck areaClose to Red Rocks beach3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car<div>\$800,000-\$820,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>13 Swanson Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Neat 3 bdrm home with great LU sheddingBIR's, tiled bathroomSecure yard, room for van or boat<div>\$439,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div></div> <div>Cairo Place</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 car7 brand new nomesClose to the shops<div>\$628,000-\$658,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>ANOTHER WANTED</div></div> <div>1/18 Drysdale Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Cosy period cottage, ace spot3 bedroom PLUS bungalowWalk everywhere<div>UNDER CONTRACT</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>340 Settlement Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Perfectly positionedGreat investment opportunity3 bed, 2 bath, open living, double carport<div>\$749,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>NYORA</div> <div></div> <div>1270 McDonalds Track</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">3 bedroom house on 10 acres2 living areas, covered outdoor areaShedding & views to Westernport Bay<div>\$1,095,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div></div> <div>7 Gardiner Way</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 carDouble storey home737m² corner block<div>\$660,000-\$720,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>ANOTHER WANTED</div></div> <div>7 Stewart Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Great start ! Excellent spaceFamily home on massive blockExcellent subdivision potential<div>SOLD</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>SURF BEACH</div> <div></div> <div>15 Alvina Crescent</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Close to popular Surf BeachPrivate front yard3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 2 car<div>\$760,000-\$800,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>112 Isabella Boulevard</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Stunning, nearly new 3 bdrm, 2 bath homeOutdoor ent. area, room for van or boatStylish design with quality finishes<div>\$825,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>BASS</div> <div></div> <div>30 Bass Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 6 car1 acreThe ultimate lifestyle property<div>\$750,000-\$790,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>SOUTH DUDLEY</div> <div><div>ANOTHER WANTED</div></div> <div>4/1 Carl Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Beautiful modern townhouse4BR, spacious living zonePrivacy plus !<div>UNDER CONTRACT</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>SUNSET STRIP</div> <div></div> <div>104 Back Beach Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Close to Newhaven College & Smiths BeachPermanent or holiday living3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 living, 2 car<div>\$820,000-\$860,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>45 Mine Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Renovated 3 bedroom cottageElevated position, walk to shopsRear lane access, dble carport<div>\$462,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>BASS</div> <div></div> <div>70-72 Nolan Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">3 houses, 4 titles336 acres, Bass River frontagePrime cattle country<div>Contact Agent</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>ANOTHER WANTED</div></div> <div>16 Wallace Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">As good as new family home3 bedroom and study, North facingExcellent garaging, rear lane<div>SOLD</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>

COWES

5952 2633

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441

Brian Silver 0407 347 509

Chase Waters 0423 272 819

Maree Malloy 0408 316 715

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Christie Nelson 0407 812 904

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

GRANTVILLE

5678 8433

1505 Bass Highway

Greg Kane 0477 020 267

Nathan Cleeland 0497 114 568

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Dan Huther 0418 334 801

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508

983443V27



QUIZ: Who wants to be a Squillionaire?

WHAT'S COMING UP IN 2023

1. **[\$100]** In 2023, which of these iconic monuments celebrates its 50th birthday? A. The Eiffel Tower in Paris. B. The Lotus Temple in New Delhi. C. The Guggenheim in New York. D. Sydney Opera House.
2. **[\$200]** Which singer is doing his last ever world tour in 2023? A. Elton John. B. Paul McCartney. C. Rod Stewart. D. Cliff Richard.
3. **[\$300]** The Women's Netball World Cup is taking place in Cape Town, South Africa, this year. Who are the current world champions? A. Australia. B. England. C. New Zealand. D. South Africa.
4. **[\$500]** Which country is the 2023 Rugby World Cup being held in this year? A. England. B. France. C. Ireland. D. Italy.
5. **[\$1000]** Where is the 2023 Eurovision Song Contest being held this year? A. Kyiv. B. Liverpool. C. London. D. Glasgow.
6. **[\$2000]** In November this year the planet will reach a new milestone population peak of how many? A. 7 billion. B. 8 billion. C. 9 billion. D. 10 billion.
7. **[\$4000]** 2023 is the year of which animal according to the Chinese Zodiac? A. Monkey. B. Snake. C. Tiger. D. Rabbit.
8. **[\$8000]** The 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup is being held in Australia and New Zealand. Who are the current world champions? A. England. B. France. C. United States. D. Brazil.
9. **[\$16,000]** Which Australian state has an election in 2023? A. NSW. B. NT. C. Tasmania. D. SA.
10. **[\$32,000]** Where will King Charles be coronated? A. Buckingham Palace. B. St Paul's Cathedral. C. Westminster Abbey. D. Windsor Castle.
11. **[\$64,000]** Which of these famous people doesn't turn 50 this year? A. Tori Spelling. B. Heidi Klum. C. Pat Rafter. D. James Hird.
12. **[\$125,000]** When will the first ball be bowled in the next Ashes Test? A. June 2, 2023. B. June 16, 2023. C. July 6, 2023. D. July 19, 2023.
13. **[\$250,000]** Which of these famous Australian companies celebrates its 100th birthday this year? A. News Corp. B. Repco. C. Woolworths Supermarkets. D. Cadbury Chocolates.
14. **[\$500,000]** "Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning (Part One)" is being released this year. How old will Tom Cruise be when it's released on July 14? A. 58. B. 59. C. 60. D. 61.
15. **[\$1,000,000]** When will King Charles be crowned? A. Friday, April 21. B. Saturday, May 6. C. Friday, September 8. D. Tuesday, November 14.

CROSSWORD

Number 40 - by 'Johnno2' of Cape Paterson

CRYPTIC CLUES

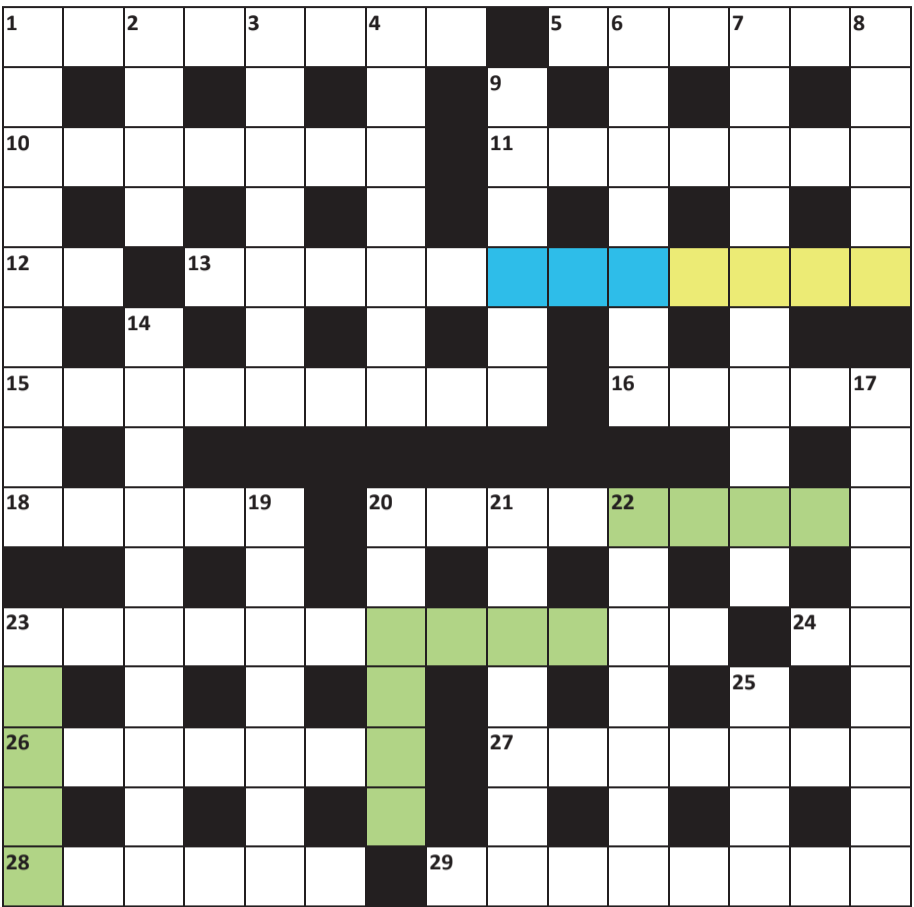
[Note: Blue and yellow make green, so that's those bits of 20- and 23-across and 20- and 23-down clued! The rest of each of those four is clued as normal. All other clues are fully clued as normal, including 13-across.]

ACROSS

- 1 Smiled affectedly at newspaperman's card? (8)
- 5 Can be consumed, can be idle (6)
- 10 Guarantee Plus the First is in Rome (7)
- 11 In now: 'Drop-top' car with 'drive' (top's in back) (7)
- 12 See 24-across
- 13 OUT: 'Any 'E'? 'Yep!' 'Phwar!' IN: This safer, timely pep-up! (5,3,4)
- 15 Crossed folksinger Mary and TV Mister... (9)
- 16 ...Bean - bake an odd cake! (5)
- 18 Spokes wheels a recent first with 502 (5)
- 20 Drawn down by Left leadership (9)
- 23 Occasionally streamed, packaged explicit material is in suspension (9,3)
- 24 and 12-across Sellers famously split and continue (2,2)
- 26 Very upset mate ill (3-4)
- 27 Workers left time to swap lounges (7)
- 28 There, Mary, on Derwent Bridge (6)
- 29 Incidentally, Spooner's querying opening (2,3,3)

DOWN

- 1 Backer of dock in pension (9)
- 2 and 25-down Top Cat's and Sylvester's show of appreciation for Oz vamp? (4,4)
- 3 Music publisher takes charge in ME reign (7)
- 4 Releases core Brexit themes, adopting original strategies (7)
- 6 Nasty place after sunset - 'lurkers' in it, we bet!? (4,3)
- 7 Half-bullish part of speech half annoys hooligans (6,4)
- 8 A Left leader, revolutionary of a greater age (5)
- 9 Sun-coloured, golden naturally, across back!? (6)
- 14 Heard Aussie hopper, Irish head, and African herb (5,5)
- 17 Heavily backing first-ranked Australian pair on umpires' liability cases (9)
- 19 On oath, lies vexed 'is worship (7)
- 20 Promotional appeal (6)
- 21 Intermittent and retrogressive, yet plea by court rights fee (7)
- 22 'Tagging': 'Niggle, hurt and win'!? (3-4)
- 23 Watery junction (5)
- 25 See 2-down



Answers in next edition of The Sentinel Times

STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Smiled affectedly (8)
- 5 Can be consumed, eaten (6)
- 10 Guarantee, pledge (7)
- 11 Came, (is) in (7)
- 12 See 24-across
- 13 A timely wish! (5,3,4)
- 15 Crossed, went over (9)
- 16 Jewish bread-cake (5)
- 18 Spokes, of a circle (5)
- 20 Drawn, represented (9)
- 23 Suspension, a finish for the time being (9,3)
- 24 and 12-across Continue (2,2)
- 26 Very, as used with 'best', 'favourite', etc (3-4)
- 27 Lounges, lingers (7)
- 28 (Over) there (6)
- 29 Incidentally (2,3,3)

DOWN

- 1 Backer, follower (9)
- 2 and 25-down Australian burlesque artist/vamp (4,4)
- 3 Middle Eastern ruler/reign (7)
- 4 Releases, excuses from (7)
- 6 Nasty part of internet (4,3)
- 7 UK hooligans (6,4)
- 8 Of a greater age (5)
- 9 Coloured by sun (6)
- 14 An African herb (5,5)
- 17 Heavily, with difficulty (9)
- 19 Worship, adore (7)
- 20 Appeal, as to a deity (6)
- 21 Rights fee (7)
- 22 Tagging (football role) (3-4)
- 23 Watery, weepy (5)
- 25 See 2-down

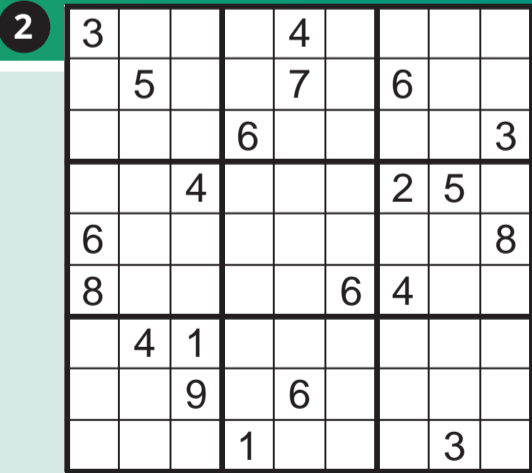
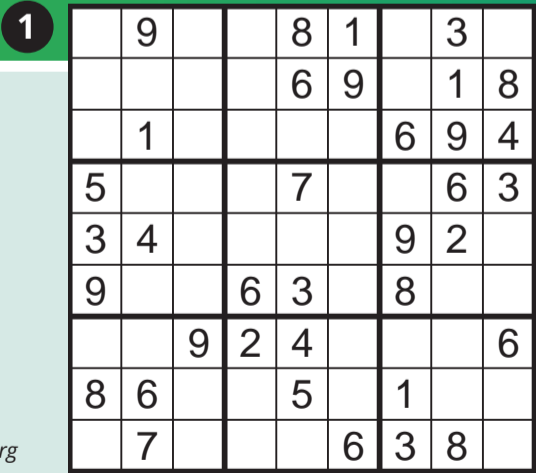
SUDOKU

- 1 **LEVEL: Moderate**
- 2 **LEVEL: Very Hard**

Instructions:

Only the numbers from 1 through to 9 can be used. Each 3x3 box, vertical column and horizontal row can only contain each number from 1 to 9 once

Sourced from: www.edu-games.org

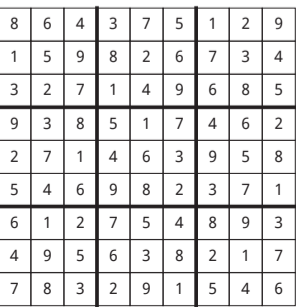


SOLUTIONS: Dec. 28, 2022

Crossword:



Sudoku:



Spot the Difference:



Word wheel: 4 letter words: BELS, BOOS, BOSH, ELKS, FOBS, FOES, HOBBS, HOES, HOSE, LOBS, LOOS, LOSE, OOHs, SELF, SHOE, SHOO, SLOB, SLOE, SOLE, SOLO **5 letter words:** BOOKS, FLESH, FLOES, FOLKS, FOOLS, HOBOS, HOLES, HOOKS, LOBES, LOOKS, LOOSE, OBOES, SHELF, SHOOK **6 letter words:** BLOKES **9 Letter word:** BOOKSHELF

Magic Squares:

8	6	4	18	9	5	4	18
9	3	7	19	2	1	3	6
2	1	5	8	7	6	8	21
19	10	16	16	18	12	15	18



Mirboo North local re-elected to VFF

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has announced the outcome of its elections for VFF president and vice-president, as well as a number of VFF commodity group positions.

VFF acting returning officer Brendan Tatham congratulated all successful incumbent office bearers as the future leaders of Victoria's peak agricultural advocacy body.

"VFF members have re-elected Emma Germano as president and Danyel Cucinotta as vice-president.

"I congratulate both Emma and Danyel and look forward to working with them and the wider VFF team to help deliver for farmers and regional Victorians in the coming years.

"The VFF would like to acknowledge and thank all candidates for the positions and encourages them to continue to contribute to the VFF and the farming community into the future.

"The VFF also thanks all outgoing office bearers for their contributions over the years



Emma Germano has been re-elected as president of the Victorian Farmers Federation.

and helping to facilitate succession in the VFF to the next generation of VFF leaders," Mr Tatham said.

Elections were also held for the below contested positions and the VFF congratulates the below successful incumbent office bearers:

VFF United Dairyfarmers of Victoria- President: Mark

Billing

VFF Livestock Commodity Council- Councillor (Additional Position): Bradley Venning

The VFF would also like to announce the following uncontested representative positions:

Livestock Commodity: VFF Livestock President: Scott Young

VFF Livestock Vice-President: Peter Star: Peter has also been appointed to be the VFF Board Livestock representative.

North East Region Councillor: Natasha Lobban
Corangamite Region Councillor: Lachlan Barclay
East Gippsland Region Councillor: Trent Anderson

Uplifting the voices of Victoria's rural women

RURAL women across the state can now apply for the 2023 Rural Women's Network Leadership and Mentoring Programs.

Both programs will encourage and empower participants to have an active voice and role in the agriculture sector.

- The 2023 Leadership Program will provide women with support to participate in training and study that accelerates their development as leaders. Participants will also work closely as a group to explore issues impacting rural women, learn from subject matter experts, and connect with other rural women from across Victoria.

- The 2023 Mentoring Program will pair rural women together for a peer-to-peer exchange of skills and experience. Working with skilled facilitators, participants will identify individual, career or business goals and work to implement change with the support and accountability of their mentoring partner.

Since 2017, the Victorian Rural Women's Network has supported 44 women to access best practice leadership development training.

The Network was established in 1986 as a forum for women to share skills, resources and information for collective benefit.

In May this year, the Victorian Government committed a further \$1.38 million so the Network can continue delivering programs.

Applications for both programs close 5pm on February 13, 2023. For more information and to apply for either program, visit the Agriculture Victoria website.

Look after yourselves to be able to look after your farm

HAVE you been taking care of yourself? During an emergency, people tend to exist in a survival state to get through the incident, using up considerable emotional reserves.

If you've been working hard for long periods, missing meals and sleep, take some time to take care of yourself.

Recognise the signs of stress and reach out for support if you need it.

If at any time you are worried about your mental health or the mental health of a loved one, call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or contact:

- your doctor, local community health centre

- a counsellor or psychologist
- Parentline 13 22 89 or the Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
- Nurse-On-Call 1300 60 60 24 - for expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days)
- Australian Psychological Society Referral Service 1800 333 497

For a comprehensive list of health support agencies, further information and resources relating to trauma and emergency events visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/what-to-do-after-a-flood/check-your-health-and-wellbeing

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WARRAGUL		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jason Fry	0407 295 909	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599

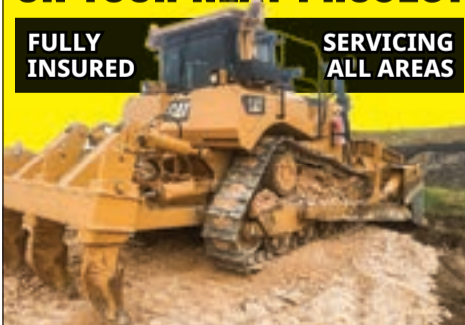
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Christie Nelson	0407 812 904	Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244		
		Emily Clifford	0422 622 299	COWES	
WONTHAGGI		WARRAGUL		Greg Price	0419 337 441
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
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Cal Nation	0439 334 163	PAKENHAM		Brian Silver	0407 347 509
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In May 2022, Bass Coast Health staff waved good-bye to the former drive-through COVID testing site at the previous campus of Wonthaggi Secondary College.

It's RATs from now on

PCR testing sites at Bass Coast Health (BCH) have ceased as of last Friday.

This is in line with national changes to COVID testing arrangements and follows reduced demand, according to BCH.

All of Victoria's remaining PCR testing sites closed as of December 31, 2022, and will no longer distribute Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs).

BCH CEO Jan Child said the closure of the PCR testing service was the end of an era in the pandemic locally.

"We can all remember back to this time last year when queues for PCR testing at the former Wonthaggi Secondary

College site were long, as PCR testing was the only option for COVID testing at that stage," she said.

"Our staff worked long, hard hours in personal protective equipment in hot conditions to help minimise the impact of the COVID pandemic locally, helping to detect COVID before infected people moved within our community, unaware they were spreading the virus."

"By the time our BCH COVID testing teams concluded in May this year, they had conducted 68,554 COVID-19 tests at Wonthaggi, Cowes and pop-up sites at Bass and San Remo.

"Now we have Rapid Antigen Tests and these tests are the prime method of testing people with COVID symptoms."

From January 1, 2023, if you need a PCR test, you will need to visit a GP respiratory clinic or have a GP referral to a private pathology provider.

Free Rapid Antigen Tests will be distributed by Bass Coast Shire Council at its Customer Service Centres at Wonthaggi, Cowes and Grantville, and Visitor Information Centres at Inverloch and Newhaven.

RATs are also available at supermarkets, pharmacies and other retailers.

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DEATHS

ALLOTT, Emily Michelle:

Passed away peacefully at home.

Loved and loving mother of Charlotte (dec.), Olivia (dec.), Sylvia, and Evelyn.

Adored partner of Adam.

Cherished daughter of Deb and Craig, amazing sister of Troy, Mitchell, and Scott. Loving granddaughter of Ab (dec.) and Joan, Alex and Bev.

Our hearts are broken.

Free from pain and now at peace with her Angels, Charlotte and Olivia.

Taken too early, you will be sadly missed.

Now in a place with no pain.

Rest easy.

Sister of Troy and Julia.

Loved aunt of Max, Millie, Kit, Taddy, and Monty.

My beautiful, strong, determined, forthright, independent, passionate, loving friend.

I'm so glad you are now free of the pain and suffering. You fought so hard, and I am so proud of you. There are no words that can describe how missed you will be; I miss you already.

I love you endlessly.

-- Lucy Desmyth.

DEATHS

BROWN, Margaret:

You were our Mum and Nan, a good friend to many, a community minded lady that always found the best in people even when they couldn't find it themselves.

Mum, you worked so hard all your life, we are going to miss that cheeky smile and those eyes that sparkled. You did your family proud, but most of all you did yourself proud, you took one day at a time and you stayed strong and determined.

So now those sparkly eyes have closed and that grin we will only see in our memories, we will stay strong and determined and take one day at a time. Forever loved, your Pete and your Lisa, your 4 grandchildren and their partners xxx

Nan,

I'm so incredibly grateful for the time, we had together. Thank you for always showing us unconditional love, I'm going to miss you so much.

May you rest easily with Pop and Uncle Kev.

Love Sam and Jordan xxx

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12.30PM MONDAYS

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DEATHS

BROWN, Margaret:

The Wonthaggi Workmen's Club Family pass on our sincere condolences to the Brown family on the passing of Margaret.

Her infectious smile, cheeky grin and thirst for a stiff sarsaparilla is missed but not forgotten.

Margaret's many charitable contributions in the community made a difference for so many over such a long period, her drive, positivity, and friendship cherished by those who knew this wonderful lady.

Rest in Peace Margaret (Mum).

DEATHS

ELS, Timothy:

Died December 24, 2022.

Tragically taken from us.

Loved and loving husband of Rachel.

Much loved son of Gert and Liz.

Loving brother of Paul and Anthony.

Loved stepson of Michelle and loved stepbrother of Amber, Benita, Jake, and Hannah.

It is with great sadness that our family lost our Timothy.

The most gentle and caring husband. Dedicated and caring business partner. Fun loving and spirited son and brother.

Always positive, nothing too much trouble, ready to assist with a smile and kind word.

Let us honour Timothy's philosophy of giving back and paying it forward.

DEATHS

HAMILTON, Joy Beverley:

24.05.1937 - 27.12.2022.

Of Bairnsdale, formerly of Wonthaggi.

Recently celebrated 65 years of marriage.

Cherished wife of Ron. Much loved Mum of Russell (dec.), Alan, Judy and Daryl, and Michelle. Adored Nan of Lenyssa, Deabian, Shane, Kelly and Matthew; Robert and Michael; Emily and Joshua; and 16 great grandchildren.

DEATHS

HUGHES, Ian Bruce:

Passed away peacefully on December 30, 2022.

Loved husband of Dorothy (dec.).

Loved and loving father of Raymond, Robert, Stephen (dec.), Jennifer, David, and their families.

We will miss you.

DEATHS

HUGHES, Ian Bruce:

Loved eldest brother of Margaret, Colin, and family.

Now safe with his loved ones.

DEATHS

JONES, Evan James:

Passed away suddenly at home aged 73 years.

Dearly loved father of Sarah and Meryl, and Pop of Aidan and Archer.

Loved father-in-law of Julian and friend to Nick.

Much loved brother of Meryl, John, and Glenys and their families.

Forever in our hearts.

For funeral details see Handley Funeral Services, Leongatha.

DEATHS

JONES, Evan:

Past players of the Woodleigh Kernot Cricket Club acknowledge the passing of their Life Member and teammate Evan Jones. Evan is remembered as a lifelong supporter, player and administrator of the cricket club, local cricket, and sport in general.

Great memories.

DEATHS

METCALFE, Eric George:

Passed away Peacefully at Koorooman House Leongatha, aged 90.

Dearly loved and loving husband of Hazel for 65 wonderful years.

Father to Alan and David.

Will be Sadly Missed.

Private Service.

DEATHS

SLATTERY, Enid (Nene) Mary:

07.08.1926 - 30.12.2022.

Passed away in Camperdown after a long and full life.

Beloved wife of Ron (dec.), loved mother of Ron (dec.), Pamela, Diane, Christine, Peter, and Kenneth. Grandmother of 14 and Great Grandmother of 21.

You can remember her and only that she is gone,

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She would want you to smile, love and go on.

At rest with her beloved husband Ron.

A memorial will be held in Korumburra on February 23, 2023.

FUNERALS

ELS:

The Funeral Service for Timothy George Els will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Friday, January 6, 2023, commencing at 11am.

A Private Cremation will follow.

For livestreaming details go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

FUNERALS

HAMILTON:

The funeral service of Mrs Joy Beverley Hamilton of Bairnsdale, formerly of Wonthaggi, will be held at Our Chapel, 613 Main Street, Bairnsdale, on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 11am.

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Joy's funeral service will be streamed online. Please see Joy's funeral notice at stephenbaggs.com.au for a link to the livestream.

Stephen Baggs Funeral Directors Bairnsdale 5153 2150

FUNERALS

HUGHES:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Ian Bruce Hughes will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi **TOMORROW** Thursday, January 5, 2023, commencing at 2pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.

Ian's service will be livestreamed, go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au for the link.

IN MEMORIAM

ALGER, Anne:

27.07.1945 - 03.01.2022.

In loving memory of our beautiful Annie, Mum, and Nan.

Our first year without you has been the hardest thing we have done.

Love and miss you every day.

Loved forever.

-- Stan, Craig, Debbie, and Tracey.

IN MEMORIAM

WATCHORN, Gwenda:

December 29, 2011.

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-- Terry.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



WESTERNPORT FIELD & GAME NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Members
Westernport Field and Game Annual
General Meeting will be held on:
Saturday, February 18, 2023
at 4pm
1 McFees Road Rhyll
Members are encouraged to attend.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Chef

THE CAPE TAVERN - Full time

The Cape Tavern is looking for
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Sentinel-Times

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Truck and Dog Operator Required

We are looking for an experienced operator to join our team. The role has potential to be full time, part time or flexible hours, with seasonal work available. Competitive rates/package for the right candidate. Based in Tarwin Lower.

Contact Dave on 0438 056 987

LB0707



Administrative Assistant (full time)

Bass Coast Eye Centre is an Ophthalmology clinic who have a vacancy for a full time medical administrative assistant in Wonthaggi. This is a senior position within our firm.

You will report directly to the office manager and managing director in addition to assisting all doctors and admin staff.

You will be responsible to manage and perform a variety of tasks daily with confidentiality and efficiency.

You will need to be able to multitask and prioritise your work agenda.

You will be expected to be able to work autonomously and be a helpful and courteous team member.

The successful applicant will need to have previous administrative experience and be happy to work in a friendly, fast-paced practice.

Applications close

Monday, January 9 2023 and only those short listed will be contacted.

Please email your application to: jessieb@inet.net.au

LB0690

Water Treatment Plant Operator

South Gippsland Water (SGW) are currently seeking an enthusiastic, highly motivated person to join us as a Water Treatment Plant Operator. The key requirements of the role are:

- Ensure the safe and efficient operation of the assigned water treatment plants and associated assets.
- Ensure required corrective actions, plant improvements and plant operations are performed in a safe and timely manner.
- Contribute to continuous improvement of Water Treatment and Quality Department processes, systems and communications.
- Develop and maintain professional relationships with team members and key stakeholders

- Permanent/ Full Time
- SGW Western Region, Victoria
- Flexible Work Arrangements Available
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band – Level 1 T4B – Level 3 T6C (\$65,996.11 - \$84,230.26)
- This role is being advertised as a Level 1 (minimum entry) to Level 3 Water Treatment Plant Operator subject to experience and qualifications. Please contact us to request a Level 2 or Level 3 position description.

At SGW diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. We strive for a workplace that is equitable and inclusive. We welcome diversity in applicants.

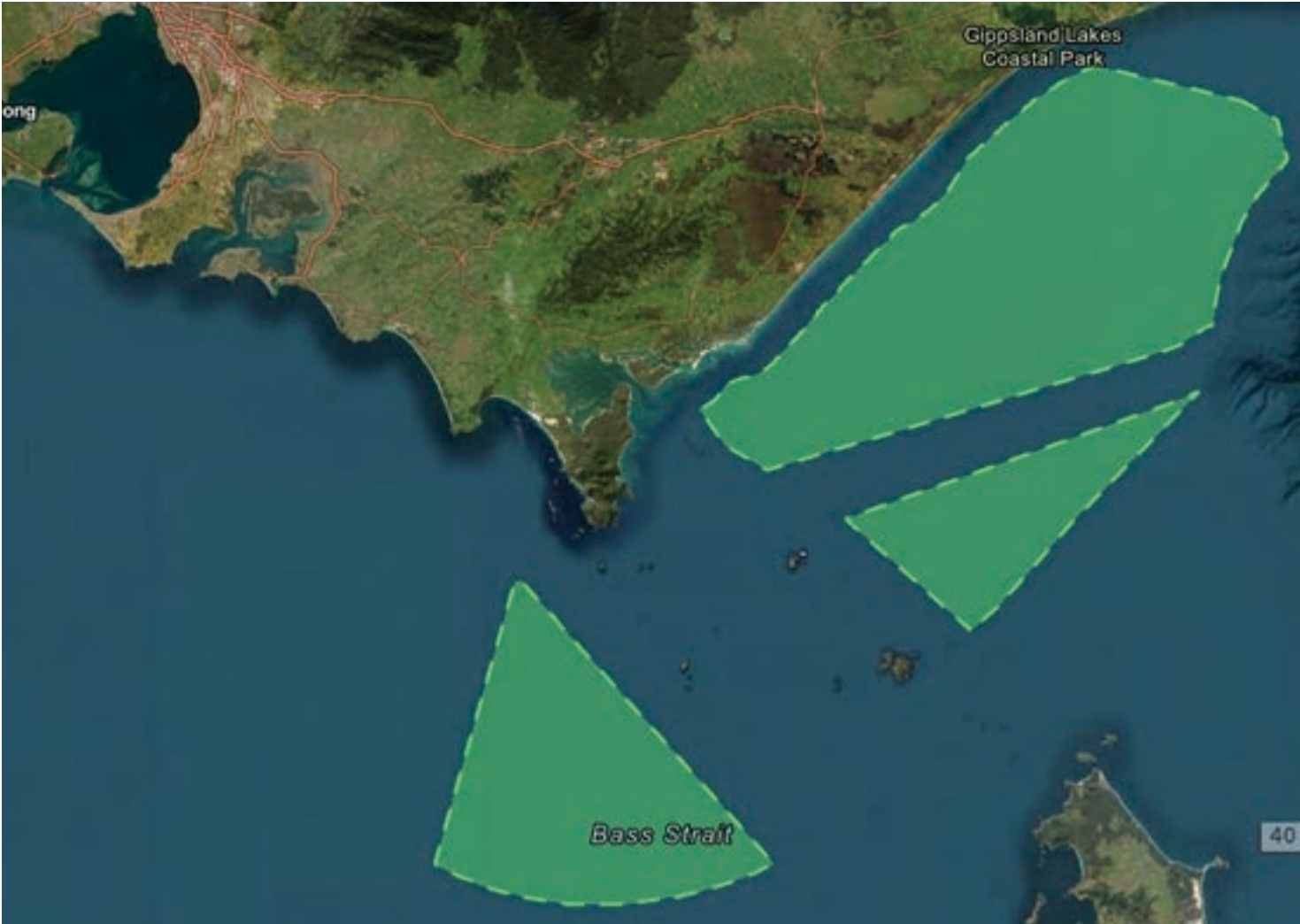
Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply.

All SGW employees and workplace participants must have received, at minimum, their first and second doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with SGW COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements Policy. Evidence requirements will be collected or viewed and may be stored strictly in accordance with SGW's Privacy Policy.

Applications Close Friday, January 6, 2023 at 9am



LB0684



The new map of development zones, formally declared for offshore wind turbines, leaves out proposed areas off Bass Coast and South Gippsland, for now.

SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Bass Coast welcomes '10km turbine buffer'

THE Bass Coast Shire has welcomed the formal announcement by the Federal Government that eastern Bass Strait will become Australia's first official offshore wind zone.

However, while welcoming the deletion of the zones closest to the Bass Coast shoreline, they've stopped short of calling on the government to rule out all proposed zones west of Wilson's Promontory.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan, said that Council shared the Federal and State Government's commitment to renewable energy, offering its in-principle support "plus gratitude for listening to the passionate voices of the Bass Coast community on the plans".

Council had provided feedback to the Federal Government in October that the initial offshore windfarm was too close to shore and welcomed the changes announced today, including a 10km buffer zone to reduce the visual impact, size reduction and eastern location.

Council does warn however that rigorous impact assessments, community consultation plus strict environmental protections must still be included.

"Climate change is the biggest threat to our planet and humankind," Cr Whelan said.

"We fully appreciate that the Victorian coastline has significant potential for world-leading offshore wind facilities, plus the considerable benefits this brings, including jobs and infrastructure investment in the region."

He said the coastlines of Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Wellington, and East Gippsland Shires provide strong, consistent winds, proximity to electricity markets as well as connection to the existing grid and associated industry.

But that opportunity needs to be balanced with other considerations.

"Today's declared area covers about 15,000 square kilometres offshore from Gippsland, from Lakes Entrance in the east to south of Wilsons Promontory in the west. The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have stated they will consider the Gippsland coast west of Wilsons Prom over the coming year, including further consultation with Traditional Owners and community feedback on environmental risks.

"We urge for strong custodianship of marine ecosystems – with no harm to fisheries, marine mammals, endangered species like the southern right whale, and important habitats. We also insist these plans must consider our visitor dependent economy."

Qualify chosen to grow the aquatics workforce

AQUATICS and Recreation Victoria (ARV) have engaged a regional training and employment specialist to support the Next Wave program, which is funding employers to train, support, employ and retain job seekers across regional Victoria.

'Qualify' provides tailored support to jobseekers in regional and remote communities to assist them in securing rewarding sustainable employment.

The organisation is passionate about delivering practical, individualised

training and employment support to help people achieve real outcomes.

Qualify's partnership with ARV is supported by a \$5.7 million Victorian Government investment to deliver worker training and support, including First Aid and CPR, lifeguard training and certified qualifications in swim teaching and water safety.

Jobseekers are strongly encouraged to apply for the Next Wave program by contacting Qualify Project Co-ordinator Daniel Hegarty on 0487 418 455.

Visit our website: www.sgst.com.au



Peter (fourth from left, front) was part of the winning OMK team in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association A Grade 2012/13.

A lifetime of commitment to cricket and community

COUNTRY Victoria has produced some excellent cricketers a Herald Sun report stated in a recent review entitled the Best Country Cricketers since 2000.

Wonthaggi didn't make the list once but three times with one of the best one-day all-rounders, Ian Harvey featuring at number four and our very own Ryan Thomas, Gavin Britt and Peter Dell also making the cut.

Nerrena's Tim Wightman also made the list for Leongatha alongside Amila Ratnaike and Sahana Perera.

For Wonthaggi born Peter Dell, his statistics to the end of 2021/22 are pretty impressive, especially considering they only apply from his time at Outtrim Moyarra Kongwak (OMK), his stats from the earlier days at the Workmen's requiring a little more digging through the archives.

A life member of OMK and committee member for 20 plus years, Peter has 400 games, six years senior coach, four years Captain of A Grade, two years Captain of B Grade, four best club person awards, four most dedicated awards, three A Grade premierships, one A Grade T20 premiership, 1 B Grade premiership, four LDCA A Grade Bowling average awards, 14 OMK A Grade Bowling average awards, one LDCA B Grade Bowling Average award, one LDCA B Grade cricketer of the year award, five OMK A Grade cricketer of the year awards, one OMK B Grade cricketer of the year award and two LDCA umpires awards to his name, whilst being a member of LDCA best side 1994-2019, a member of LDCA Gippsland Cricket League Premiership 1994-95 and member of LDCA Melbourne Country Week Div. 4 winning side.

A bowler, Peter has 5062 overs and 1442 maidens to his name in A grade with 753 wickets at an average of 15.7



Outtrim-Wonthaggi junior cricket grand finalists – Wonthaggi Club defeated Kilcunda Bass 4/142 to 9/137.

and best bowling of 7/75 with three hat tricks and five wickets in an innings – 22 times.

But how did it all start for the tight bowling veteran paceman.

"It was the 83/84 season," Peter recalled.

"I went and watched my brother play the U16s; they were short, so I ended up playing. I remember I made 10 not out the first game. I played the rest of the year pretty much. I was 10 years old.

"That year we won the premiership and I think we won the next five."

Peter continued for 10 years before moving in 93/94 to Leongatha & District Cricket Association.

"Leongatha was always the stronger league and I wanted to play district cricket. The plan was to go there for the season and then to Melbourne.

"The following year I went to Northcote Cricket Club. I did enjoy it, but it was totally different cricket. It was all about people wanting to get further and further up the tree and there was no post game atmosphere – they had their water and went home.

"I had a slight injury at the time that made it hard and travelling to and from Mel-

bourne (from Wonthaggi). I loved the cricket because it was a higher standard, but I didn't enjoy everything else that went with it.

"Plus, I was probably at the wrong club, I was a bowler and the club had four or five bowlers in the state squad.

"I came back and have been at OMK ever since..."

Home before Christmas for the 94/95 season, Peter jumped back into local district cricket.

Once an all-rounder, today he is coach and bowler.

"I enjoy coaching – I look at a club level but go one-on-one. I find it easier than talking to everyone at the same time.

"I love playing with mates, the teamwork, and we get on really well with the opposition.

"My most memorable game would be the A Grade Grand Final 2012/13 – we won on the last ball. 180 overs..."

As for Peter's best game.

"It would have to be back at the Workmen's Club against Kilcunda Bass. I took five wickets in the first innings and eight in the second."

An avid cricketer, Peter is also known locally, amongst the footy clubs having played for Wonthaggi Blues, Bena and Korumburra-Bena and Wonthaggi Golf Club, not to

mention Wonthaggi Fire Brigade where he has held Captain and Lieutenant roles.

"I joined as a junior – I was 13 or 14. My brother (Andrew) joined, and dad re-joined because he was driving Andrew to the station, then mum got roped into it.

"All because the bloke across the road (a life member) was part of the brigade."

Over 35 years of service, Peter has held multiple roles in the brigade.

"I love helping the community – my speciality has changed over the years from bushfires (when I didn't have as many skills) to structure. Now I am more interested in Hazmat and Safety, and behind the scenes organisation with Bass Coast Group.

"I remember driving down the main highway for the Black Christmas fires, 30 trucks in convoy with a police escort – cars lining the highway tooting their horns."

A team player, Peter is looking forward to the remainder of the season.

"Seeing the improvement in our younger players. Last year we finished last, this year we are pushing towards the finals berth.

"Into the future, personally playing in the Over 50s – that is once I stop playing A Grade cricket. There is probably more of a scope to play representative cricket there..."

OMK are always open to new players with a family orientated atmosphere and combination of players having 200, 300 and 400 games individually under their belts.

The club will also be back with their Pink Stumps Day event, which last year raised over \$70,000 for the McGrath Foundation. Often selling out before tickets go on sale, this year's event will be on February 18 with a waitlist also available. For more information visit the OMK Cricket Club Pink Stumps Day Facebook page.

It's tennis tourney time

IT'S on again, the 23rd annual Leongatha and 5th annual Korumburra tennis tournaments with fun, lots of matches guaranteed and an assurance that you will improve along with the chance to win a trophy too!

It kicks off at Korumburra on Wednesday, January 4 and Thursday January 5 with Leongatha to follow on Saturday and Sunday, January 7 and 8.

Flyer and entry form www.southgippslandtenniscoaching.com

"We run these tournaments for you to improve your tennis and to enjoy the game and meet others, and we hope to see many locals participating," said organiser Matt Pocklington.

"Don't be scared of the word 'tournament', it's a great experience. You'll get plenty of matches and there's sections for all ages plus a family doubles event at the Leongatha tournament," he said.



Inverloch local Teerawhat enjoyed a family cricket match at Flat Rocks.

Our beaches really turned it on

A BURST of summer weather, right on cue for the busy Christmas-New Year holiday, saw massive crowds flocking to the popular beaches and coastal towns in Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Day-trippers from the Gippsland region and south-east Melbourne swelled numbers even further with a range of activities heavily patronised from surfing, swimming, fishing and jet-skiing to biking, coffee drinking and gallery visiting.

Offshore winds and decent swell combined to produce ideal surfing conditions, especially on New Year's Day, allowing surfers to take off into the New Year in the best possible style.



Taking a dip was a popular option but swimmers are urged to go to patrolled beaches and swim between the flags



Around The Bay

AS The Christmas decorations come down for another year and we all get a little older there are only 360 odd days until Christmas 2023, let's hope that we all make it there.

Fishing can be as cheap or as expensive as you want, and the more you spend doesn't always mean the more you will catch.

If you want to change over just drop in and see us and we can help you out, sitting around waiting for prices to come down, doing nothing isn't that good for your health, walking the beaches, sitting on a jetty can be a huge benefit, especially to your mental health.

This time of the year with so many visitors, we get asked a lot about the fishing around here and if it's any good and it's not until you sit back and look at the list of fish caught during the season that the answer becomes obvious.

While every species isn't for everyone, and it does go up and down a bit you have to acknowledge the variety that is possible and why it attracts so many to fish here.

Most of the bigger snapper have gone and we aren't seeing a lot over the 40cm mark but still plenty of good pan sized pinkies, the corals area has been the best.

Whiting just continue to be very good and plenty of mid 40cm ones still being caught, even the smaller ones in great condition.

There has also been plenty of baitfish around the bay with some big salmon amongst them.

Also swimming with the salmon has been kingfish with a handful reported from Newhaven jetty and in Cleeland Bight.

Gummies have gone a bit quieter, except offshore, and also a lot smaller as well with 100s of pups around. We have seen several good catches of flathead through the bay, ones you can actually take home and over the weekend schools of couta and pike.

Jetties have fished ok

With Jim's Bait and Tackle

with the typical tangles and frustrations with people new to fishing in the current but we have seen some quality.

All jetties have produced at some stage over the last week and when you talk about quality it doesn't come much better than kingfish from Newhaven jetty.

We get odd reports of kings from the jetties but all of them are really accidental catches, makes you wonder what could be possible if someone actually started fishing for them. Good sized pinkies to around 3kg and some big trevally. Calamari, whiting, salmon and flathead make up the rest of the reported catches.

Offshore is a little out of control with some quality fish being caught, tuna and kings the most chased over the last week with gummies not far behind.

Gummies have all come from near the Powlett, while we are seeing tuna from Lip Trap to The Shank. Kings from two spots, Coal Point and Pyramid Rock. While most of the tuna have been small, some more stripey size than bluefin we have seen them up to 40kg and was told of a 96kg weighed at Hastings on Sunday, so if you are heading out, take everything with you.

We now have full stock of the Kool Bag fish bags back in and if you haven't used one, even in the bay for gummies and smaller fish just ask someone who has.

We will be opening at 6am all this week and will update our hours on our socials if we were to change them.

We have an instore competition running all January, simply count the total number of one species on our photo wall and go into the draw for some JBT merch clothing and Eva-kool drink cups.

You can enter as many times as you like, and the winner will be the first correct entry drawn out of the barrel.

Making a difference in their community

THE Rotary Club of Wonthaggi is celebrating community in January and what it is to be Australian living in a regional community.

Arnie Marion is the captain of the Wonthaggi Fire Brigade (CFA) and Nicky Chung is the president of the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi.

Neither were born and bred in Wonthaggi, or Australia even, but they are both very proud community members of the Bass Coast, and very proud to be Australians.

Arnie and Nicky will be the MCs for a free community breakfast being held on Saturday, January 21, at the Wonthaggi Club, from 8.30am to "Reflect, Respect, Celebrate Australia's diversity and inclusion in our community".

There will be a full buffet to enjoy. Community members are able to register their attendance by emailing rotaryclubwonthaggi@gmail.com. The event will cater for up to 120 attendees. All are welcome to come to celebrate the unity amongst the clubs, services and people in the region. There will be a range of inspiring guest speakers from across the clubs and services.

Coinciding with the community



Arnie Marion, captain of the Wonthaggi Fire Brigade, and Nicky Chung, president of the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi.

breakfast, there is a photo competition for all Bass Coast and South Gippsland residents to enter, with the same theme, "Reflect, Respect, Celebrate Australia's diversity and inclusion in our community".

The first prize winner will receive a \$300 cash prize, and the runner up will receive \$100.

There is a special children's category for 12 years and under with a \$100 cash prize. Entries should be emailed to rotaryclubwonthaggi@gmail.com by Monday, January 16, with a caption of 25 words or less.

Winners will be announced at the Australia Day Citizens Award Ceremony on Thursday, January 26, from 7.30am at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, Graham Street.

The photo competition is limited to one entry per person, and by entering, the participant gives permission for the photo to be used for promotional purposes.

Corinella shared path slated for March finish date

THE long-awaited \$2.8M Guy Road shared pathway is not expected to be completed until March 2023 after significant delays.

The project had started in August 2021, but was delayed due to the discovery of Aboriginal artefacts with subsequent 'complex Cultural Heritage' assessments undertaken.

Construction then rebegan in mid-2022.

The project creates a six-kilometre-long, 2.5-metre-wide shared cycling and that runs in a westerly direction from the Bass Valley Primary School, along Corinella Road before turning north at Cemetery Road and following unused Road Reserve to Guy Road, continuing west along unused Road Reserve to Tenby Point.

Once at Tenby Point, it follows the northern edge of Guy Road west, to connect to Jamieson Street.

From Jamieson Street to Balcombe Street, the path follows the south side road reserve of Smythe Street in Corinella.

The Pathway will connect to central Corinella where the general



The significantly delayed Guy Road shared pathway is expected to be completed in March 2023.

store, Community Centre, Community Hall and Harold Hughes Reserve are located.

According to the December edition of 'Waterline News', although the boardwalk areas were created to protect the ephemeral wetlands and ecosystems that edge the path, local residents have expressed concerns that the natural water flows and some of the wetlands appear to have been filled in during construction.

"The council asserts that this is not the case and contractors will ensure that this does not happen,"

the Waterline News stated.

"Another concern is weeds growing through the boardwalks. Council plans to spray them on a regular basis.

"Locals worry that this spray will further affect the wetlands and the fauna that already struggles to survive along this increasingly busy thoroughfare.

"People are also concerned about the number of driveways that cross this path."

For more information on the project, visit engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/guyroad



OPEN DAY

Anderson Inlet Angling Club

Come and join us at our club rooms

Sunday, January 8

A Family Fun Day from 9am to 3pm

- Sausage Sizzle-BBQ/Soft Drinks
- Face-Painting (From 10am)
- Balloon Artist (From 10am)
- Games for kids and adults
- Trash & Treasure stall
- Annual Raffle Drawn at 1.00pm
- Spinning Wheel

- Fancy Dress Dog Parade (register your dog for the parade before 11.30am) Parade and Judging from 12 noon
- Information about us and other activities at the club rooms. Exhibition from Inverloch Historical Society

88 The Esplanade, Inverloch | inverloch-angling-club.rbh49.com

TIDE GUIDE

Add Waratah Bay 13 minutes, Cowes +28, Inverloch +30, Newhaven +1.03, Corinella +1.08, Port Welshpool +1.28, Tarwin Lower jetty +3 hours.

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au

FRIDAY January 6	SATURDAY January 7	SUNDAY January 8	MONDAY January 9	TUESDAY January 10
12.36am 1.46m	1.29am 1.50m	2.15am 1.54m	2.54am 1.56m	3.29am 1.58m
5.45am 0.89m	6.48am 0.85m	7.40am 0.80m	8.25am 0.74m	9.06am 0.68m
11.45am 1.25m	12.41pm 1.25m	1.30pm 1.28m	2.16pm 1.30m	2.59pm 1.33m
6.06pm 0.35m	6.58pm 0.33m	7.45pm 0.31m	8.27pm 0.30m	9.06pm 0.30m

Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun

By Julia Groves

THE holiday spirit was seen on the morning of December 24 at the Christmas Eve parkrun.

With many locals and visitors to the area enjoying Mirboo North at its finest, it almost felt like rain and people appeared in Christmas inspired activewear and accessories.

We had some fantastic banter about speedy times from some regular runners, and many of the newest regulars kept on crashing their personal bests!

Well done to Doreen, Alan and Marissa.

The week also saw Mick Bolding complete his 150th parkrun event (a popular unofficial milestone amongst the regular participants).

Many thanks to this week's volunteers who help us keep parkrun free; Libby Belton, Chris Bickhoff, Lynne Bickhoff, Henry Collins, Stephanie Collins, Julia Groves and Katrina Palmer.

So why not sign up at parkrun.com.au and meet us at the picnic table near the scout hall.



Parkrun participants await the beginning of the run at the starting line.



Whether running or walking, Parkrun is enjoyable for all!



Inverloch bowls winners Jeff Curwood, Bruce Corrigan and John Hallas.

Inverloch Bowls

THURSDAY Social Bowls saw a dedicated dozen bowlers front up to play two games of three bowls Triples.

Runners Up on one were Diane Hallas, Di Selby and Bill Selby.

Winners for the day with 2 wins and 34 points were Bruce Corrigan (skip), Jeff Curwood and John Hallas.

Phillip Island Bridge Club results

MONDAY, December 19, was the club Christmas party. There was plenty of Christmas cheer with a lovely lunch, drinks and of course bridge. Contributions to the raffle were so generous that there were three prizes. Molly Downing won first prize, Leng Haggith second, and third was Greg Nicholson. Four hundred dollars was raised for 3D Hands. The president will present the cheque to 3D hands in the New Year.

On to bridge results. There were seven and a half tables at play. Greg Nicholson and Deb Anglim got the top percentage of 59.03 for North/South, followed by Clare and Jim Murphy on 55.56%. Third place getters were Lois Dywer and Anne Gibson on 52.98%

Winners and grinners for East/West were Shirley Stewart and John Farr on 61.90%. Next in line were Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles on 53.27%. Visitors Julie Perriam and Susan Edwards finished third on 51.49%.

Wednesday, December 21, was a quiet day with people involved with Christmas activities. Paul Waylen and Karen Klym won the day on 59%. Miranda sage and Molly Downing came second on 57% followed by Bron Sund and Leng Haggith on 53%.

Westernport Field and Game December clay target shoot

WESTERNPORT Field & Game held their monthly shoot on December 18, with 118 shooters attending.

Two rounds of 38/37 were shot. Congratulations to Jarryd Passarin for shooting a perfect 25.

The day was sponsored by the Club.

Overall scores: High Gun, Jarryd Passarin with a score of 68.

Our next shoot is the Stan McFee / Club Championship weekend on January 14-15, 2023, consisting of 100 targets on Saturday and 75 targets on Sunday with nominations commencing at 8:30am.

Self-nominations will be available through MCMS before the event.

Check out our Facebook page for further details. Clay target shooting is suitable for all genders, ages and fitness levels with juniors shooting for free.

GOLF | SPORT

KORUMBURRA

Ladies

ON WEDNESDAY, December 13, we had a very enjoyable game with the 'Christmas Special.'

Thanks to Merrissa for creating a 'new' version of golf for each of the eighteen holes.

Apart from many shortened holes there were extra 'free' throws or other novelty ideas included. Obviously, this round had outstanding scores but was not handicapped as it was outside the usual golf rules.

Barb Walker won A Grade with a fine 47 pts after a c/b with Judy Webb.

B Grade was won by Lorraine Knox, 51pts and Trudy Olden was runner-up, 50 pts.

BDTL went to Lynne Schwenesen, 49 pts and Kath Welsh and Diarne Maskell, both with 46 pts. NTP went to Merrissa Cosson, 1st, Shelley Snooks, 10th and Judy Webb, 13th.

On Saturday, December 17, Kerri Besley (23) won A Grade, 40 pts and Merrissa Cosson (15) was runner-up, 38 pts.

Julie Hillberg (26) was the B Grade winner, 36 pts after a c/b with Jennie Loughnan (52).

NTPs went to Trudy Olden, 1st, Johanna van den Heiligenberg, 10th and Aliesha Wrigley, 13th.

There were many terrific scores on Wednesday, December 20.

Chris Rickard (28) won A Grade, 42 pts and runner-up was Judy Webb (23), 38 pts after a c/b.

Trudi Mantell (30) had a great score with 46 pts to win B Grade and Jennie Loughnan was runner-up, 41 pts.

BDTL went to Trudy Olden, 40 pts and Diarne Maskell and Lyn Perks, both with 39 pts.

NTPs were Chris Rickard, 1st, Sarah-Jane Curtis (Peninsula Kingswood), 7th, Lyn Perks, 10th, Barb Twite, 13th.

On Saturday, December 24, Kerri Besley (23) had a lovely 44 pts to win on the day after a c/b with Jenny Blackmore (32). Trudy Mantell (31) won a BDTL with 40 pts.

Aliesha Wrigley was NTP on the 1st and 13th and Kerri was closest on the 10th.

Due to the holidays, there have been opportunities for many to play on extra days. On Boxing Day, Aliesha Wrigley (23) and Diarne Maskell (38) won BDTL, both having 39 pts after a 3-way c/b and Aliesha was NTP on the 13th. On Tuesday, December 27, Diarne Maskell (37) won B Grade with 43 pts. Shelley Snooks (20) was a placegetter with 38 pts and was NTP on the 13th. Thursday, December 29.

Trudy Olden (39) won B Grade with 46 fabulous pts. Among the placegetters were Shelley Snooks (19) 42 pts, Diarne Maskell (33) and Trudy Mantell (27), both 40 pts and Deb Wrigley (28), 39 pts.

Twilight golf resumes again on Thursday, January 5.

LEONGATHA

ON Tuesday, December 27, we had 80 members/guests play in a Stableford Round.

A-Grade Winner: Tony Hicks with a score of 39 points

A-Grade Runner-Up: Michael Westaway with a score of 37 points

B-Grade Winner: Liz Hodge with 35 points

B-Grade Runner-Up: Peter Hart with 34 points on a countback

C-Grade Winner: Rita de Bondt with 40 points on a countback

C-Grade Runner-Up: Peter Harrison with 40 points

D-Grade Winner: Bob Smith with 38 points

D-Grade Runner-Up: Michael Snoxell with 36 points

On Thursday, December 29, we had an outstanding turnout with 116 members/guests play in the Stableford event.

A-Grade Winner: Richard Comerford with a score of 40 points

A-Grade Runner-Up: Garth Euvrard with a score of 38 points

B-Grade Winner: Max Scott with 39 points

B-Grade Runner-Up: David Newman with 38 points

C-Grade Winner: Peter Hartigan with 38 points

C-Grade Runner-Up: Mick Reinhard with 36 points on a

countback

D-Grade Winner: Henry Sedelies with 40 points

D-Grade Runner-Up: Christopher Fraser with 38 points

On Saturday, December 31, another great turnout with a field of 111 members/guests playing in the New Year's Eve Stableford round.

A-Grade Winner: Russell Williams with a score of 38 points

A-Grade Runner-Up: Matthew Bowey with a score of 36 points on a countback

B-Grade Winner: Ron Findlay with 40 points

B-Grade Runner-Up: Ian Murchie with 39 points on a countback

C-Grade Winner: David Knight with 39 points

C-Grade Runner-Up: Nigel Corcoran with 37 points

D-Grade Winner: Lianne Adamson with 45 points on a countback

D-Grade Runner-Up: Kent Hams with 45 points on a countback

The Leongatha Golf Club staff and members sends New Year's greetings to all readers of the Sentinel.

MIRBOO NORTH

THURSDAY, December 29, Stableford.

A Grade: A Collins (13) 41pts

B Grade: J Kus, (18) 38pts

DTL: P Smart 40, B Kearns, S Beitz, M Payne, S Mc Kenzie 36pts c/b.

NTP: 6th, Tim Traill, 16th A Liebe.

Birdies: 4th D Beyer, R Scurlock, 6th, J Mc Farlane, Tim Traill, 16th A Liebe.

Saturday, December 31, Stableford.

A Grade: S Mc Innes, (3) 37pts

B Grade: N Whichello (18) 40pts

C Grade: C Le Page (27) 36pts c/b

DTL: D Jerram 39, N Rutledge 37, R Hoskin, W Reynolds, A Soplakow, S Beitz 36 c/b.

NTP: 4th T Bradshaw, 6th T Bradshaw, 13th D Jerram, 16th T Bradshaw

Birdies: S Mc Innes, P Woodall, 6th S Mc Innes.



In another close finish at Woolamai on Saturday, Caitlin King gets Eevavessance home from the fast-finishing Silent Charge on the inside.



It was a delighted Tyson Barton who produced a breakthrough double at Woolamai on Saturday, including Mulaa Man in Race Four for Bairnsdale trainer Jackson Pallot.

Tributes a feature of New Year's Eve racing

THE majestic elm trees spread their arms in welcome, a light north-easterly breeze wafted in, the sun was shining, the beer was cold... and the action on the famous picnic racing track was close and exciting.

It was simply a perfect day for the Woolamai Races last Saturday and the ideal venue to start your New Year's Eve celebrations.

A feature of the day on the track was the treble of race wins by Woolamai regular Melinda McDonald, all of them tight finishes, on Rue Lepic in Race One, Dustin Dhahran in Race Five and See It All in the last, Race seven.

And the day also featured the breakthrough win by jockey Tyson Barton who admitted afterwards that despite riding at Woolamai 15 to 20 times he'd never posted a victory.

All that changed when he just got the better of Melinda on Relyonbella in Race Two to boot home Main Beach by half a length and then he promptly backed that up with his second race win at Woolamai, on Mulaa Man for trainer Jackson Pallot of Bairnsdale.

"I only picked that ride up last night, so pretty happy," said Barton in the winners' circle after.

"I've had winners at most of the



It was a family affair in Race 5 for the owners the Harper family, including Sean, Leo, Lillia, Liam and Lenny when their horse 'Dustin Dhahran' saluted for jockey Melinda McDonald and trainer Bob Beecroft.

picnic tracks but for some reason, I haven't had much luck at Woolamai. That's changed.

"Yes, the track's good. A bit of give in it for the horses and everyone gets a crack at it," said the Kilmore rider.

Woolamai's second race meeting for the season featured a number of tribute and memorial races including the fourth running of the Mickey Gordon Island Dash for the award-winning Age journalist who died while taking part in the

Cowes Classic in February 2018. A resident of Woolamai, he dabbled in racehorse ownership, loved the local course at Woolamai and also surfing on nearby Phillip Island.

Race Four was the Rodney McAlister Memorial over 2008 metres in memory of the Woolamai and District Racing Club's longest-serving committeeman who passed away a few days before the 2020 running of the Woolamai Cup.

Rod devoted 50 years to the service of the racing club and recre-

ation reserve committees.

And the tears flowed for local Bass resident and regular race-course reveller Rhonda Evans who passed away suddenly in late November.

A well-known employee at Woolworths in Wonthaggi, she was a tennis fanatic, both on the local scene and annually at Victorian Country Week, being honoured by her friends last Saturday in fitting style with the running of the Rhonda 'Our Champagne Lady'

Trophy race, won in thrilling fashion by Melinda McDonald.

Speaking at the presentations, tennis partner and racing friend Leanne du Plessis said Rhonda was a loved friend who would be very sadly missed.

In fact, the race day had a bit of everything with popular jockey Caitlin King scoring a breakthrough win on Eevavessance for Ensay trainer Rob Gillahan and the connections, after 20 unsuccessful tries at mainly mountain race-tracks from Tumut and Cooma to Swifts Creek and Woolamai.

King saluted the crowd as she brought Eevavessance back to scale, acknowledging she was lucky enough to hold off the fast-finishing Silent Charge after stealing a break on the field in the straight.

"She's just lasted but that's all she's got to do," said Caitlin, also noting the mare was quite a character to ride.

Woolamai now turns its attention to the next summer holiday meeting on Saturday, January 14 followed by the Woolamai Cup meeting on Saturday, January 28 and the 'Riding for the Disabled' activities that will be a feature of the Saturday, February 18 meeting.

Makbeel easy winner of 'Sentinel-Times' maiden at Stony

IT WAS a fabulous day for racing at Stony Creek on Tuesday, January 3 and the racing club had it all going on with fashions on the field, food trucks, kids' activities including face painting and full fields on an eight-race card.

Highlights included Rock Melody's all the way win in the Pink Roses Maiden Plate, holding off the red-hot favourite Star Magic.

And a much tighter go for honours in the third race when Oreo Twist ridden by Jake Noonan who held off Miss Russia ridden by Brian Higgins.

In the fourth race of the day, the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times Maiden Plate it was the easiest of wins for Makbeel ridden by Carleen Hefel who got out in front, avoided some of the trouble when one of the horses dropped back midfield and saluted by five lengths.

The day continued in that vein with a big happy holiday crowd in attendance for Stony Creek's second meeting of the year.

The next Stony Creek meeting will be on Tuesday, January 31.



Makbeel and jockey Carleen Hefel makes easy work of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times Maiden Plate.

Successful day at Stony Creek despite the heat

STONY Creek racing kicked off in oppressive heat on Tuesday December 27, with a full race program completed despite the challenging conditions.

Well-known jockey Craig Newitt had a fine day, riding three winners, while trainers Ken and Kasey Keys enjoyed a couple of wins.

Stony Creek Racing Club CEO Adam Olszanski was pleased with the success of the event, particularly the positive feedback he received from jockeys and trainers about the condition of the track.

"The track raced well and was green and lush from a wet Spring," he said.

It was rated a good 4.

Unsurprisingly, the relentless sunshine reduced the anticipated crowd.

"We ended up having the most marquee and reserved table bookings for this meeting that we can remember and that gave us the impression it would also translate well for general admission," Olszanski said of the club's initial expectations.

"Those people who committed with marquees and reserved tables came, but we didn't get the numbers through the gates we were hoping for with general admission."

He estimates the crowd was



It was a full day of racing action at Stony Creek on December 27, with the dry heat of the day enabling action to continue.

in the vicinity of 1,200 people, with hopes for 2,000 had the weather been milder.

"It was still a good day for those who did brave the very warm conditions, and there were plenty of kids activities," Olszanski said, noting shade was available.

While there were fears Racing Victoria's hot weather policy may have to be invoked, that proved unnecessary.

Olszanski said wet bulb technology is used to measure humidity, and the relatively dry nature of Tuesday's heat allowed all races to be held.

"Fortunately, with a light breeze and not being a really muggy day, horses and jockeys got through and there

weren't any issues following any of the races," Olszanski said.

However, some attendees struggled with the tough conditions.

On track, half the day was exclusively for maidens, horses that hadn't yet won a race, with the last few races devoted to "restricted country-class horses".

Olszanski feels a couple of the later winners may prove to be above that grade.

One of those is the Keys-trained Zoutellus, which won by a substantial distance in race 7, with Newitt onboard.

"That was one of the high-light wins, but we saw some good competitive racing all

day," Olszanski said.

Another noteworthy moment was the success of trainer Rory Hunter in race 3, with his first ever runner since acquiring his own training licence, Songaa, triumphing.

There were a couple of Gippsland connections in the eighth and final race.

Moe trainer Darryl Blackshaw almost won it with Little Brother, which ran a narrow second; he finished ahead of Delightful Hustler overseen by former Stony Creek trainer Christine Sexton, now based in Moe.

However, it was the Keys-Newitt combination that came to the fore again, with Poleaxed the winner by a nose.



Well known local identity Brett Tessari is taking on a new role in the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition.

Tessari stands down from Gippsland League

By Aiden Box

GIPPSLAND League chair Brett Tessari has stepped down from his role to become the Operations Manager (OM) of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition (WGFNC).

Tessari spoke exclusively to the Sentinel-Times last week about the latest venture and his feelings towards the new role.

"It's going to be a massive challenge for me, I have an idea of what needs to be done but normally I've always been in the role where if something needs to be done, I make a phone call and someone does it," he said.

"To be the one that people are going to ring and expect something done is going to be completely new for me so it's going to be interesting."

"I can't wait."

Tessari's taking on the huge role of operations manager meant he had to say goodbye to the Gippsland League.

"Obviously I couldn't stay on my role at the Gippsland League, so I stood down," he said.

The new OM was also confident in where the WGFNC is at and the direction its clubs are heading.

"I'm really looking forward to it, I think they're in a great position," he said.

Tessari will begin his new role next week in an exciting time for the WGFNC, more to come.

LDCA cricket umpires' reunion

THE Leongatha Cricket Umpires Association (LCUA), formed before the 1989-90 season with Lance Lancaster as president and Chris Wilson as secretary/treasurer, will be holding a reunion on January 15, 2023, at the Leongatha Town Cricket Rooms (Scorpion Park) starting at 12:30pm.

The reunion will run in conjunction with the LDCA hosting their GCL match LDCA against Bairnsdale and finish around 3pm.

You can call in stay an hour or stay for the afternoon and light snacks will be provided during the afternoon, there's no charge for attendance and there will be no presentations.

This is an opportunity for past umpires over the last 34 years of LDCA Cricket to meet and renew friendships, discuss the best batsmen and bowlers and peruse our historic records.

Over the years a lot of umpires that have contributed to Leongatha Cricket, please note any umpires prior to 1989 are also most welcome it's likely the number would be around 200 umpires.

If you know of an ex-umpire, please pass on the invitation and contact the following if you are attending - Geoff Wyatt email wyatt@waterfront.net.au 0413 081136.

Billy Thomas billybombers@outlook.com 0409 572329, or Graham Wightman wightman@vic.australis.com.au 0407 353 470 to give an idea of numbers to cater for.

Inverloch Tennis Club crowns winners

INVERLOCH Tennis Club's (ITC) 2022 Open Club championships kicked off recently with a great turnout of 24 members participating in the men's and women's singles events.

The winners were as follows:

The men's winner was Ben Clements, runner-up was Sam Robson and consolation winner was Brendan Hislop.

The women's Winner - Penny Galbraith, Runner-up - Alexis Van Oss and consolation winner Sharon Clements.

The club would like to give their thanks to Matt Leffler for organising tournament.

Also, back on December 21, with a hint of not-too-distant sleigh bells whispering through the trees of Thompsons reserve, the ITC held the grand-final of their latest night doubles competition.

Arriving at the climax of the season was Ben Morgan's team 12 (Ben Morgan, Wes Morgan, Anita McMillan and Penny Gailbraith) and Connor Sim's team five (Conner Sim, Zack Thorowgood, Luke Haustorfer and Alex Prins).

The two teams were underpinned by players returning to the game from absences of 20 and 15 years respectively (Prins and the fleet-footed Gailbraith).



Ben Clements, Sam Robson, Penny Galbraith, Sharon Clements and Alexis Van Oss pose with their winning certificates.

Both had spent the season regaining the form of their younger years, promising a close contest over the four sets, played out to eight games.

And so it proved to be, with Ben Morgan and his son Wes prevailing 8-4 over the young combination of Sim and Thorowgood, who had been steadily reeled in, and then surpassed, after a lightning start.

But on the other court the much-anticipated battle of the competition's dominant three and four combinations proved to be the epitome of the score not reflecting the play.

Haustorfer and Prins managing to slip away from a hard-fought early contest be-

fore Haustorfer was obliged to serve out a marathon final game to take a lopsided set, 8-2.

So, all was to play for in the final sets, with only two games separating the contestants.

But things soon looked ominous for team 12 as Thorowgood's first serve started to come on song, supported by Prins' fast improving net game.

Morgan and Galbraith were not so easily finished off, however, their fine play threatening a late comeback before Thorowgood and Prins managed to close it out with an 8-4 win.

While on the other court the lead see-sawed to 5-5 before Sim and Haustorfer

settled to the task at hand, prevailing 8-5.

The final score saw Team five (3 sets, 28 games) defeating team 12 (1 set, 19 games), taking out the coveted coffee mugs in a contest that was far tighter than the scoreboard might suggest.

Congratulations the winners and runners up.

The next season commences in February 2023, and the club is looking to grow this much - enjoyed competition by recruiting former players, along with beginners and regular players new to the district.

Please contact the club on 0418 583 090 if you are interested in signing up for a place on a regular team, or for the fill-in list.



Two keen nippers head into the water with their boards. B05_0123

Inverloch Nippers back in action

From page 36

“As they get older, it is understanding that unless you are properly equipped and skilled, calling for help is still the best and safest way to help.”

Surf lifesaving also offers opportunities for individuals to develop skills that are not necessarily specific to being a volunteer patroller.

Club members are eligible to participate in a variety of free training opportunities, including leadership programs as McKenzie explained.

“The great thing about life saving, that isn’t particularly obvious from the outside, is there are some really great leadership pathways with LSV (Life Saving Victoria) offering leadership development camps and programs from very junior ages up to seniors,” she said.

“Two of our members recently received LSV Governance Scholarships which will provide them with governance and board member development through the Governance Institute of Australia.

“This is a great example of one of the opportunities offered through life saving that are not obvious when you’re looking at a big group of kids on a beach.”

McKenzie encouraged anyone who wants to get involved to do so – and stressed new members are always welcome.

Nippers registrations have closed for the current season but are taken in October/November each year.

Nippers and surf lifesaving is a terrific way to get out and enjoy the summer, but neither could happen without plenty of help from the community and McKenzie finished by giving her thanks.

“We’ve got lots of volunteers which makes a massive difference to how well the season can go, so I’d love to thank all of our volunteers, there’s a lot of organising that goes into it,” she said.

“We rely on parents, our older kids who stay involved through water safety, and a raft of other volunteers.

“I would also like to thank our sponsors, the club doesn’t run itself financially - we rely on donations and sponsorship, so I’d like to thank all those people who contribute.”

The Club’s ‘Deck Bar’ will be open daily from 4pm until January 29 and with the kiosk also open daily from 7am until 3pm.

If you would like to find out more about the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, you can visit the website www.islsc.org.au.

NEXT WEEKEND’S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 9 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

A GRADE, Division 1

Koonwarra L/RSL v Imperials
KOONWARRA - Ian Thorn
Nerrena v Club
LEONGATHA TURF - Steve McNamara
OMK v Town
OUTTRIM - Shane Moore
Phillip Island v Inverloch
COWES - Glenn Plymin

A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v Phillip Island
NYORA - Ashley Stride
MDU v Kilcunda-Bass
MEENIYAN - Terry Rogers
Glen Alvie v Korumburra
WONTHAGGI TURF - Graham Wightman
Wonthaggi v Foster
McMAHONS - John Schelling

Troubling Christmas period for water rescues

THE weather hit full force over the Christmas long weekend and with record temperatures, so too several people found themselves in trouble. Reports from around the coast:

Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club

Venus Bay SLSC members were involved in two notable incidents during the Christmas and pre-Christmas period.

December 15 – Two surf-ski paddlers got into difficulty at the mouth of Andersons Inlet. The pair were separated from their surf skis which resulted in one male swimming to shore at Inverloch whilst his friend swam to shore at Point Smythe.

The alarm was raised at around 9pm and the combined efforts of VicPol, Ambulance Victoria, local CFA, Inverloch SLSC and Venus Bay SLSC members resulted in the safe retrieval of both paddlers who were assessed by the local CERT team and AV.

December 23 – Members of VBSLSC assisted CERT and AV crews to retrieve two swimmers that had suffered suspected water inhalation and exposure to cold, after getting into difficulties in the surf at No.1 Beach at approximately 6.30pm.

Although the swimmers had managed to return to shore, they were transported to hospital for observations to rule out any respiratory injuries from aspirating sea water.



With the 2022 festive season ending in tragedy with four fatal drownings and hundreds of rescues, people are being urged to prioritise safety around water in a bid to prevent further tragedy.

Subsequently, patrolled Beach (No.1) at Venus Bay has seen surf life savers as well as lifeguards perform 601 preventative actions (i.e. directing swimmers back between the flags, advising of local rips and hazards) along with assisting with four minor first aid incidents. With the long awaited and welcome return to summer conditions, 4595 people have attended the patrolled beach at Venus Bay during the period December 23-28.

Three members of the public, including a child, were hospitalised over the New Year’s period for water related incidents.

Members of the public are reminded to:

- Swim between the red and yellow flags

- Read the safety signs
- Ask a lifeguard for safety advice
- Swim with a friend; and
- If you need help, stay calm and attract attention

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club

Woolamai Beach SLSC is urging beachgoers to be vigilant and remember to swim between the flags at patrolled locations during patrolled times.

The warning comes as Woolamai Beach counts multiple minor rescues this season, particularly at Smiths Beach.

“Our patrols started November 26 and have been in full force seven days a week since Christmas Day,” Woolamai Beach SLSC Lifesaving Services Director, Campbell Smart

said.

“A larger population are visiting Smiths Beach because it is a safer, more family orientated beach, and fortunately most rescues are close to the flags.

“Due to COVID we are seeing more inexperienced swimmers. We are hyper vigilant of identifying people heading into the water outside the flagged areas, often into dangerous locations, and directing them to safer swimming locations where we are, so if something does happen, we can access them quickly.”

On December 27, Woolamai Beach alongside other emergency services responded to a male in distress at Cape Woolamai, near ANZAC’s just after 8pm. Fortunately a nearby surfer responded and pulled the rattled beachgoer to shore before services arrived.

“We are also running extended hours during warmer days, and the 27th was one of them whereby we had patrols operating until 7pm.

“Our message is straightforward – stay safe around water and swim between the flags during patrolled hours.

“With the warmer weather also arriving people need to stay on top of how they feel, ensure they drink plenty of water and do not consume alcohol.”

For patrolled beaches, times and days (updated as applicable) for Phillip Island visit @woolamaibeachslsc on Facebook.

Hundreds of Nippers descend on Woolamai Beach



Under 10 Nippers mastering board paddling at Cleeland Bight Beach.

WOOLAMAI Beach SLSC Nippers kicked off on Thursday December 29, 2022, on Phillip Island.

With around 350 children enrolled in the Nippers program, it runs across seven days concluding on Thursday, January 5, 2023.

The hugely popular summer intensive program teaches children aged 6–13 years surf education, lifesaving skills and fitness, in a safe and fun environment.

“Surf Life Saving is a great activity for growing a child’s confidence, knowledge and skills in the beach environment, not only do the Nippers have fun and meet new friends, but they also become part of an iconic organisation that has served the Australian community for over 100 years,” Nippers director Tanya

Pinnock said.

To ensure Nippers experience different types of surf, the under seven-11 age groups participate in Nippers at Cleeland Bight Beach in Cape Woolamai, whilst the under 12 and 13-year-old Nippers enjoy the challenging conditions on offer at Smiths Beach, as they learn to read and navigate heavy surf conditions.

Back this year at Cleeland Bight is the ever-popular Nippers barbecue.

“We’ve got around 100 volunteers assisting with the program, and approximately 50 trained lifesavers providing water safety for our Nippers, which is terrific to see,” said Pinnock.

If you are interested to learn more about Nippers, head to the club’s website: <https://www.woolamaibeach.org.au/nippers>.

Victorian Junior Surfing Team finishes third overall

THE VICTORIAN Junior Surfing Team presented by Surf Better Now has finished in third place overall at the Woolworths Australian Junior Surfing Titles at North Stradbroke Island in December.

The seven-day event is held each year bringing together the top surfers from across the country to compete in individual, team and schools divisions.

Although there were no individual Australian Titles won by Victorians in 2022, the Victorian team walked away from the event with a win in the Teams division.

“It was certainly refreshing to be back in the mix with Australia’s best junior surfers after an interrupted few years,” said Surfing Victoria High Performance Coaching Director Cahill Bell-Warren.

“Our overall third position

in the State Championship is a fair summary of our performances throughout the week.”

“We were challenged from pillar to post with weather and waves, I’m really proud of the way the team unit stuck together and supported each other without fail.”

In the AllStars schools divisions, Victoria placed 3rd in the Under 16 Boys, 4th in the Under 16 and Under 19 Girls,

and 4th in the Under 19 Boys.

In the MR Shield schools divisions Surf Coast Secondary College placed 2nd in the Under 19 Girls, Dromana College finished 2nd in the Under 16 Girls, St Ignatius College Bellarine finished 4th in the Under 19 and Foster Secondary College finished 4th in the Under 16 Boys.

Full results from the event can be found at australianjuniorsurfingtitles.com

AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan comments on Brownlow betting scandal



AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan.

AFL CEO Gillon McLachlan has commented on the Brownlow betting scandal that swept through the league in November.

League umpire Michael Pell was one of four men arrested last month linked to suspicious betting activity on the 2022 Brownlow Medal.

Victoria Police have widened their investigation into Pell, also looking into the 2021 season as well.

It has been alleged that bets were laid on more than 10 matches the young

By Nic Negrepontis

umpire helmed.

McLachlan said "human failures" have let the industry down in this instance.

"I'm not saying I wasn't surprised, maybe shocked by what was alleged to have happened. But in the broader sense, I'm incredibly proud of our industry," McLachlan said at a sponsorship announcement on Thursday.

"I'm proud of our players, our female and male athletes, I'm proud of our clubs,

I'm proud of my team unbelievably.

"I'm accepting of human failures. People make mistakes. (The AFL has) the best systems and process and culture, we do everything we can to avoid that knowing that in life, these things happen."

McLachlan ruled out changes to the way the Brownlow is run.

"The Brownlow voting will stay exactly the same," McLachlan added.

"All the suggestions I've heard, it's not that they're

not worthy, but they wouldn't have dealt with this issue.

"In the end, the allegations go to the personal integrity of an individual.

"At some point, right through every system, someone has to make a decision when they have information that, if they're compromised, can lead to issues like we've allegedly got here."

McLachlan will remain in the AFL's top job until Round 5 of the 2023 season, extending his stay after previously saying 2022 would be his last year.

How late draft interest forced unlikely prospect to alter schoolies plans

By Lachlan Geleit

MELBOURNE draftee Oliver Sestan wasn't expecting to end up on an AFL list after missing out on selection for the Oakleigh Chargers last NAB League season.

Overlooked by traditional pathways, the Xavier College product decided to take his game to the country as he suited up for Mansfield in the local under-18 competition.

While he played just six games for the Eagles, they turned out to be invaluable for Sestan who made a name for himself in the Goulburn Valley, even booting 24 goals in a single game against Tatura.

Those performances for club and school helped put him on the radar of clubs and Sestan says he first learned of the Demons' interest late in the piece.

"I had a training session with Connors Sports about a week and a half before the draft with a bunch of other boys that got drafted," Sestan told SEN Afternoons.

"There was probably about 15 or 20 other boys there that got picked up.

"The next day I got a call from my manager that Melbourne were interested, because all of the club recruiters were there.

"I had a meeting with them that week."

Given how late the interest was in the forward, Sestan said he had to make late changes to his schoolies plans to ensure he'd be at home for the Rookie Draft.

"I had to change my flights back from schoolies," Sestan said.

"It sort of all just happened I guess.

"I still didn't know on the night, I was just waiting there watching with mum and I was lucky enough to have my name called out.

"I was up there for four days still, so I had a good stint up there (at schoolies)."

Taken via pick No. 28 in that Rookie Draft, Sestan says he expects to play up forward at the next level and gave Demons fans an idea of what to expect.

"I play sort of as a general forward," Sestan explained.

"I sort of use my power and my goal sense to find ways to put the ball through the goals I guess.

"I'm a medium size forward that likes to get up the ground more."

Sestan joins the Demons alongside fellow 2022 draftees Matthew Jefferson, Jed Adams and Will Verrall along with Category B rookie Kyah Farris-White.

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The waves were crashing in Inverloch last Thursday as the nippers got amongst it. B06_0123

Invy Nippers back in action

By Aiden Box

INVERLOCH Surf Life Saving Club's 'Nippers' program is back and in full swing at Inverloch Surf Beach, with plenty of youngsters getting amongst the sand and waves and having tons of fun.

With over 200 registered nippers taking to the surf, the program is thriving, and Inverloch SLSC community relations director Ione McKenzie spoke to the Sentinel-Times last week with pride when explaining just what goes on.

"We have 225 children participating in our nippers program this season and nippers is a water safety program for juniors, with age groups ranging from under six to under 13," she said.

"Children learn all different types of safety skills so that they know where and when it's safe to go into the water and the program builds their skills over time.

"When they're little they start with running around on the

sand and having fun on the beach; learning about being safe at the beach; sun safety and being aware of the natural environment.

"Each year they build on their skillset, learning to use boards and rescue tubes, in preparation to become lifesavers... if that is what they would like to do."

The Inverloch SLSC also has 50 teens and young adults supporting the nippers by participating as water safety, many of these young people have graduated from nippers and are now qualified life savers.

"We really appreciate the involvement of our water safety team, not only is it a requirement to have them in the water looking out for the nippers, but it is also fantastic to see our former nippers staying involved in lifesaving and helping to develop the skills of our future patrolers," McKenzie said.

The program began last Wednesday, December 28, and

will run until January 6, with a Bass Coast Nippers Carnival being held at Cape Paterson SLSC on the January 7 at 9am.

McKenzie explained the importance of the program and why it's so great for the many kids who get involved.

"It's particularly important now with lots of kids having missed two years of swimming lessons and having lost some confidence and fitness in the aquatic environment," she said.

"The nippers build the skills and confidence they need to be safe in the water and learn to understand conditions, and their own strengths and limitations within different conditions."

The program also teaches children how to render assistance based on their own skillset, as McKenzie touched on.

"It is super important for people to understand how to best help someone in trouble, for juniors that is knowing who to call for help, and what they need to tell the person who answers," she said.

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Under 13s nipper Neve smiles after her swim in the Inverloch surf. B04_0123

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