

Sentinel-Times

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024

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Insufficient GPs closes Grantville

IT'S been a staple of the community for years, since 2013 in fact, before a supermarket Grantville has had their own GP clinic, but in a shock for waterline residents Wonthaggi Medical Group have announced the closure of their clinic at 2/1524 Bass Highway on January 19.

In a recent announcement, Business Manager Cameron Pepper noted that the reducing number of GPs available in the area – and in regional areas throughout Australia generally – has forced their hand.

"We have had a lot of difficulty securing doctors to work out of the Grantville clinic, and without the GPs, a GP clinic cannot operate," Cameron explained.

"The rate of medical graduates choosing General Practice as their speciality coming out of school has dropped from around 50-60 per cent in the "good old days" to less than 20 per cent now.

"This means there simply aren't enough doctors to go around."

Wonthaggi Medical Group is not alone with an approximate calculation of doctors from Phillip Island to Yarram sitting at 105, including part-time doctors.

With the last census information placing the population in the same coverage areas at approximately 75,661 that is a staggering 720 people per doctor.

Clinics across South Gippsland, Bass Coast and Wellington shires have at times closed their doors due to staff shortages, namely when doctors themselves are unwell, and with many more clinics tinkering on the edge, local clinics being closed whether for a day or longer will not be a thing of the past.

"You only need to look at the problems facing other Bass Coast medical providers – they too are having enormous trouble attracting the doctors to be able to service their patients."

The announcement comes a month after new analysis from the Australian Medical Association confirmed Australia is facing a shortage of more than 10,600 GPs by 2031.

Continued page 5

Great First Home Buyers

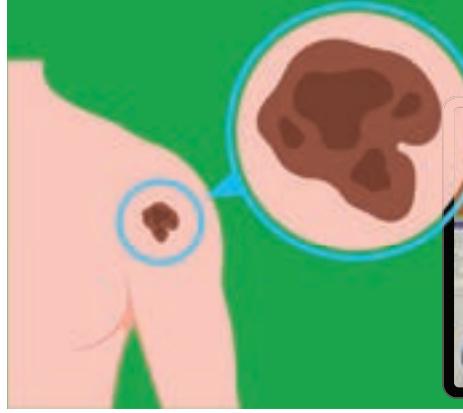


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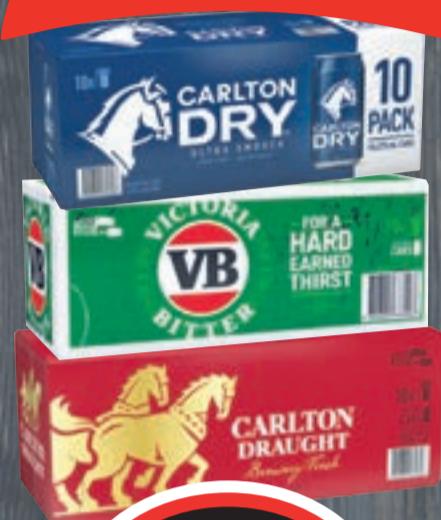
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Boxing Day flash flooding hits Welshpool businesses

BUSINESSES in the main street of Welshpool and nearby homes were inundated by flood waters on Boxing Day.

In an event that hasn't been seen since the early 1900's, a deluge of rain on the morning after Christmas rapidly turned the main street on the South Gippsland Highway into a river.

Welshpool Supermarket, Shell Service Station, Welshpool Hotel and Motel, Welshpool Outdoors and Welshpool Post Office were some of the hardest hit businesses on the street.

Narelle Lagercren, owner of Welshpool Supermarket was at home when the flooding occurred, with very little warning.

"It was really, really heavy rain. I went outside just to have a look at the rain and I could see that there was water going over roads everywhere, but it wasn't really that bad."

Returning inside for fifteen to twenty minutes before going back out Narelle realised how quickly the water was rising.

"I went outside and there was water running through our property."

Their shed became flooded, damaging music equipment and a few other items.

While at the supermarket, the floor was flooded and damaged, but fortunately not much stock was lost, due to being higher on the shelves.

Emergency Services responded quite quickly, according to Narelle.

"The SES were great. So were the local fire brigades. The police were fantastic as well, they were here all day directing traffic."

The supermarket was able to open for trading on Thursday, but the floors are not yet dry and the clean-up continues.

"Other businesses in town have (lost a lot of stock). I was actually quite lucky that not much water went through at all," Narelle said.

Skye Dubignon had reopened the Welshpool Hotel and Motel only five weeks ago and was taking her first day off in months when she woke to pictures and videos of the flooding that had been sent to her.

She was flooded in at her Toora home and couldn't reach Welshpool until later that afternoon when the water had receded.

"The whole pub was just a big mud pit. Literally just everything was washed through, is the best way to say it. It went all through

the carpets, through the property, it basically came in one end and has gone straight out the other end and just left mud everywhere."

Skye worked tirelessly in the days that followed, cleaning out the mud and running fans and machines trying to dry the carpets and floors, and get the smell out.

"There's so much water and it's just so wet," she said.

Skye was waiting for an insurance assessment last week but would be open in time for New Years Eve, as a band was booked and a \$5 cover charge on the night was being donated to the local CFA.

Skye mentioned that the support from other community members was gratefully received.

"I've even had people come out and help clean up outside and help to get rid of the mud as much as we can and things like that. Everyone has been fantastic as always."

Cath and Alan O'Neill, owners of the Welshpool Post Office, were taking a short holiday in Lakes Entrance when the weather hit. Keeping an eye on the water via the cameras at the property, they noticed it was rising.

"We just rang some locals up near the op shop and said can you check on our property and within 10 minutes of them taking our call, that's how quick it came up, it was just that quick, he was knee deep by the time he got down to the front of the post office."

The O'Neill's have owned the Post Office for the past eight years and their residence is at the back of their business.

"It was a long three hours' drive for us because we were watching everything on our cameras, and it wasn't good. It was the first time we've ever had water in the business and we're attached in the house. There's a lot of damage in the house as well," Cath explained.

The couple have had to pull up flooring in their home and business and lost some stock in the flood.

"We were just madly drying out floors and did what everyone else did and just ripped everything out."

They managed to open for trading the next day so locals could come and collect their mail and parcels, despite the unprecedented event.

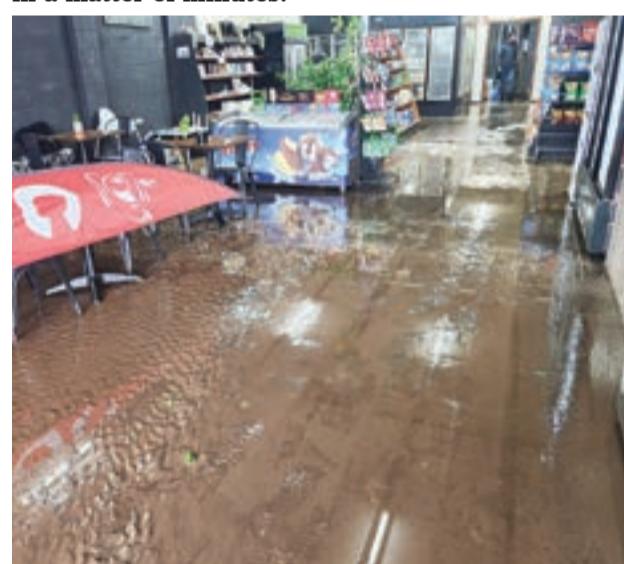
"We've got locals that have been here their whole lives just saying they've never seen anything like it," said Cath.



Welshpool Hotel owner Skye Dubignon has been delighted with the support of friends such as Kristy Robertson and other community members. A03_0124



Water rose and inundated the Welshpool Post Office and other businesses in the main street of Welshpool in a matter of minutes.



The muddy mess left behind at the Welshpool Supermarket from the flash flood on Boxing Day.

Community throws itself into Welshpool flood recovery effort

NEW Welshpool Hotel Motel owner Skye Dubignon was in good spirits on Saturday, excited to be set for reopening on New Year's Eve after a huge cleanup.

With Skye taking over the business three months ago, the flood hit only five weeks after it reopened following an eight-week refurbishment after the change of ownership.

Anthony and Denise Bravington, who run Bravtec Cleaning Solutions in Foster, are among those who pitched in to help, pumping out water at the Hotel Motel and other Welshpool businesses.

"We couldn't have got the mud out of here without them," Skye said.

"We pumped the music up and did what we needed."

There was an additional setback with the carpet proving beyond salvation despite having been successfully cleared of mud, mould setting in on its underside. The job of ripping up the carpet ran until 2am on Saturday.

"It could have been worse; I feel for the likes of Eddie," Skye said of the operator of Welshpool Outdoors, next door, with the store having windows smashed by water pressure.

Skye echoed the sentiments expressed by Welshpool Outdoors online in relation to all who contributed. She praised the efforts of CFA members who took to the street to help with the cleaning operation and the police who ensured safety, as well as the assistance from South Gippsland Shire Council which provided bins for rubbish removal.

Shire supports flooded communities

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council's Infrastructure Maintenance team has been working to clear and stabilise council roads impacted by the substantial rainfall on Boxing Day when Toora, Welshpool and Port Welshpool were hit by flooding.

Silcocks Hill Road and Hazel Park Road were most severely damaged, with the former now reopened but the latter remaining closed.

Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien highlighted the damage to Hazel Park Road, north of Toora, in a Facebook post.

"Now that's a pothole," he declared, accompanied by a photo of the massive sinkhole.

Heavy rain also caused trees to topple, council crews being deployed to address that situation.

Houses and businesses in Toora, Welshpool, Port Welshpool and Hedley areas were hit by flooding, with council's Emergency Management and Economic Development team since speaking with many of the most impacted residents and business operators, something that will continue over coming days.

Council, with generous support from local businesses including Qube and JJ Waste Services, has also helped coordinate additional waste removal and has been working closely with Victoria Police and the SES.

Melina Bath MP
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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



WED | Jan 3
Possible storm.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h
16° 25°



THUR | Jan 4
Possible shower.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: E-SE 15-20km/h
15° 23°



FRI | Jan 5
Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: E 20-30km/h
14° 25°



SAT | Jan 6
Sunny.
Wind AM: E-SE 15-25km/h
Wind PM: E-SE 15-25km/h
14° 26°



SUN | Jan 7
Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: E 15-20km/h
Wind PM: E 15-20km/h
15° 27°



MON | Jan 8
Shower or two.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: S-SE 15-20km/h
17° 25°

Bass Coast Health honours its history

BASS Coast Health (BCH) is paying tribute to those who were instrumental in establishing Wonthaggi Hospital, commencing a project highlighting its rich history from its origins as a tent hospital over 100 years ago to the \$115m state-of-the-art hospital that exists today.

At its AGM last month, BCH unveiled seven glass panels featuring the photos and stories of local identities.

The panels were unveiled in the corridor linking the old and new hospitals, with a ceremony that included family members of those people recognised on the honour boards.

"When we built the new hospital, we wanted to make sure we preserved the memory of the old buildings and the old hospital that had served the community so well over the years," former BCH Board Chair Don Paproth said.

"We also wanted to preserve the memory of these local individuals and pay tribute to their significant legacy, and we wouldn't have this new hospital today if our forefathers had not worked so hard to create the hospital that has grown so much over the years."

Don said the hospital's growth resulted from a strong vision, hard work and the tenacity of wonderful local identities.

"Wonthaggi Hospital has and always will be a strong and vibrant community hospital," current Board Chair Ian Thompson said.

"It continues to be strongly supported by the community that it serves, and we welcome those people who donate their time, and funds, locally, to assist us purchasing new equipment and growing additional services.

"It is fitting that we acknowledge the extraordinary work of our predecessors, and the honour boards will continue to be expanded as we tell more



John Owens (third from left) with his honour board and family, from left, Leigh Owens, Carolyn Copeland, Margaret Owens, John Owens, Joanne Hakansson and Richard Stone.

stories about the individuals and events that helped create Bass Coast Health, and it's a privilege to honour our history."

A special part of the day was the presence of John Owens who served on the board for 35 years.

He joined the Board of Management of the Wonthaggi and District Hospital when there were concerns over its future due to the closure of the State Coal Mine, difficulties in attracting health professionals and changes in health funding with the introduction of Medicare.

John's tireless work resulted in remarkable growth in services, and improvements to the hospital buildings and equipment.

He was honoured to receive recognition for his long

service to Wonthaggi Hospital. Six other panels were unveiled acknowledging the contribution of:

Agnes Chambers, who persuaded women's groups to join her in raising money for a Maternity Wing which now bears her name.

Bill Stirton, who served on the Committee of Management/Board of Directors of Wonthaggi Hospital for 28 years from 1950-1978.

Dr Lancelot Sleeman, who embodied the spirit and the soul of Wonthaggi after arriving in the town as a 25-year-old when the mines first started in 1910, beginning a remarkable 57 years of service.

Sleeman Wing at Wonthaggi Hospital, now occupied by BCH's Learning and Development team, is named in Dr Sleeman's honour.

James Healy Davey, who moved to Wonthaggi in 1910 with his wife Kate Gillespie and started their family of nine children, two of whom trained as nurses at the Wonthaggi Hospital he helped establish. He was a fundraiser, visionary, a pioneer, an agitator and a family man.

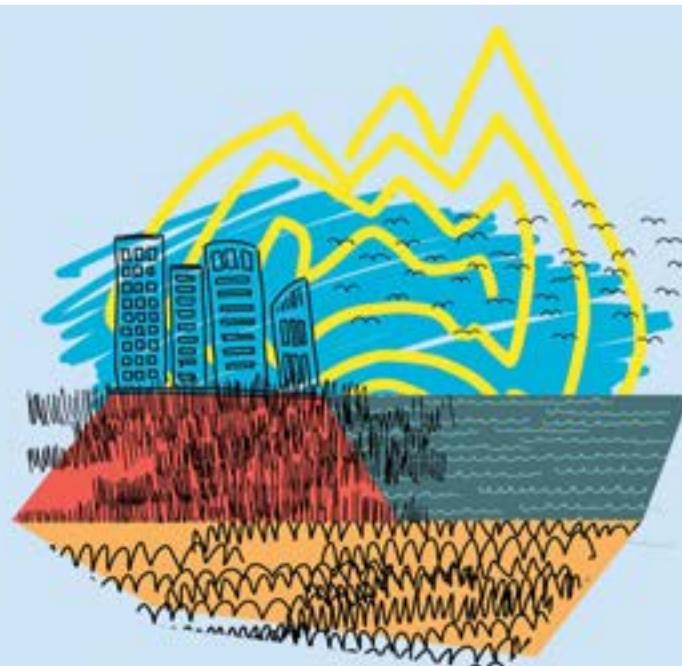
Mary Kathleen (Min) Gillespie, who joined the staff of the Wonthaggi and District Hospital as a trainee nurse in 1923 and over her career, gave 32 years' service of her 38-year career to the hospital.

Percy Brew, who was a successful builder in Wonthaggi, building Rose Lodge among many other houses and projects in the district. He was a Hospital Board Member for several years, fundraiser and bequeathed \$518,000 to the health service.

STEP UP TO

2024

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Why regional values are lagging city growth

CoreLogic's national Home Value Index (HVI) rose 8.1 per cent in 2023, a significant turnaround from the 4.9 per cent drop seen in 2022, but well below the 24.5 per cent surge recorded in 2021. December's 0.4 per cent increase saw 2023 finish with a relatively soft monthly rise in home values.

"This was the smallest gain in our national monthly HVI since values started rising in February," said Tim Lawless, CoreLogic's research director.

"After monthly growth in home values peaked in May at 1.3 per cent, a rate hike in June and another in November, along with persistent cost of living pressures, worsening affordability challenges, rising advertised stock levels and low consumer sentiment, have progressively taken some heat out of the market through the second half of the year."

Despite the annual 8.1 per cent increase, the year was punctuated by diversity, with the annual change in housing values ranging from a 15.2 per cent surge in Perth to a minus 1.6 per cent fall across regional Victoria.

Across the combined capital cities index, dwelling values were up 9.3 per cent in 2023, more than double the 4.4 per cent rise recorded across the combined regional index.

"Stronger conditions across capital city markets is a reversal of the early COVID trend which saw regional markets experience higher demand amid strong internal migration. Regional migration trends have mostly normalised through 2023, and the significant capital gains recorded through 2020 to 2022 has meant many regional markets have become less affordable," Mr Lawless said.

Mick Hanly of Ray White in Leongatha said the assessment by CoreLogic was typical of the local real estate scene.

"Yes, that would be fairly accurate. We have seen prices flatten out over the past 12 months," he said this week.

"But what we have seen in recent months is more interest in blocks of land which is a good sign for the economy I believe."

Mr Hanly said there was also a good selection of residential properties on the market at the moment but also concurred with CoreLogic that the drift of people from the city to the country had now normalised as the COVID impact receded.

Truckies mark Foster Hill as a dangerous stretch of road

THE POOR condition of the South Gippsland Highway together with reduced speed limits along sections is causing safety issues and increased costs for heavy vehicle operators and freight carriers.

The South Gippsland Highway is part of the Victorian High Productivity Freight Network and has been rated to carry up to 85 tonne on the roads, but this has become unfeasible according to Mike Munday, CEO of Peter Stoitse Transport (PST).

PTS specialises in general freight and bulk liquid transport and their primary route is from the Yarram area through Welshpool and Foster towards Leongatha.

One stretch of this essential freight route in particular is becoming increasingly dangerous for truckies and motorists around them and is the Foster Hill.

The road surface on the hill has degraded over the years, exposing the tar and leaving very little pebble on the surface.

"The tyres on the trucks have trouble gripping, we've often had many trucks and vehicles slipping as they try to climb the hill because they just don't have anything to grip onto," stated Mike.

"That's aside from any kind of potholes or the edges of the road deteriorated, not having enough pebbles on the road, just turns it into a skating rink."

The current solution to remedying the effect of deteriorated and deteriorating roads is to reduce the speed limit to 60 km/h, this is compounding the issue for truck drivers, as heavy vehicles momentum is part of their ability to get up the steep hills.

"Now we're slowing them right down and really taxing the engines a lot more," explained Mike.

It costs PTS significant amounts of money in vehicle repairs because vehicles have been damaged from the poor road conditions, as well as by slipping when going up Foster Hill.

"While we're advocates for safety, and we believe in everybody being safe, we just don't believe that reducing the speed



Danny O'Brien Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety said money needs to be spent on roads not road signs, as poor conditions, slippery surfaces and reduced speed limits are creating a dangerous hazard for truckies on Foster Hill.

limits is either a long term or effective solution."

A number of the truck drivers have noted that the signs are on posts and are not temporary, indicating that speed reductions do not appear to be a temporary solution.

PST have made a number of reports to VicRoads who have assessed the road and agree there's a problem, but to the frustration of PST and their drivers, no plans are in place to address the issues.

PST have also taken the issue to Danny O'Brien, The Nationals State Member for Gippsland South and the Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

"I first raised this stretch of road with the Minister more than six months ago in response to complaints from

truckies because the road surface is so worn, it is described as polished, and on the way trucks are having trouble maintaining traction, which is a recipe for disaster," said Mr O'Brien.

"Sadly, the government has done nothing about resealing this section. No doubt after 45 per cent cuts to road maintenance funding since 2020, this is just one example of the appalling state of our roads, which is not only an inconvenience, but very costly for businesses, motorists and a very real road safety hazard."

Mike commented that it's not just Foster Hill that is giving the company headaches, it's everywhere, and plans need to be in place so they can have some reassurance that these essential freight routes will

eventually improve.

"There's so many different places where the roads are not adequate for transportation, as well as public transport. There's tons of issues across all of rural Victoria, not just in South Gippsland," said Mike.

"It also creates a really dangerous situation for everybody on the road. Because there doesn't seem to be a resolution to it."

Mr O'Brien commented that the Minister said work would be undertaken on the South Gippsland Highway, but this is yet to eventuate.

"At the same time, there are now multiple, reduced speed limits due to the poor state of the road. She needs to stop spending money on speed signs and spend it on actually getting the roads fixed."

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Slow down and be road wise, don't become a number

BASS Coast Highway Patrol are urging motorists to slow down, drive to the conditions of the road and have patience with the summer holiday influx and wild weather continuously changing road surfaces.

The warning comes as heavy and continual rain has further damaged roads with a number closed to sinkholes and landslips.

Last week a colossal sinkhole manifested itself on Hazel Park Road, located north of Toora.

The incident unfolded when a milk truck driver, traversing the area, pulled his truck up mere centimetres from the initial signs of a smaller hole in the road.

Promptly alerting authorities, the driver wisely reversed and in a surreal and unsettling turn of events, the road continued to disintegrate, succumbing to the insatiable appetite of the growing sinkhole. The gaping void, now significantly expanded, serves as a chilling reminder of the unpredictable road conditions drivers can come across.

Recent crashes at Pound Creek and Venus Bay serve as additional reminders for drivers to leave a safe distance from the vehicles in front of them (three second rule) and remain focused, with both accidents completely avoidable.

Two police operations are



This monstrous cavity opened up on Hazel Park Road following a massive Boxing Day deluge.

underway in the region with Operation Roadwise, a state-wide initiative with a simple message – if you do the wrong thing on our roads, Victoria Police will hold you to account; and Operation Desacelerar.

A yearly occurrence Operation Roadwise had police focusing on speed, impaired driving, fatigue, distraction and vulnerable road users during the Christmas and New Years period.

Victorians were also tested

for alcohol and drugs.

"We are urging all motorists to take extra care during this high-risk period – slow down, put the phone down and avoid distractions whilst driving, and never drink or take drugs and get behind the wheel," Bass Coast Highway Patrol stated.

In the first 12 days, Bass Coast Highway Patrol alone performed 1084 PBT's with 196 tickets issued, 188 drug tests undertaken and four positive drug results. In a

positive step, there were no drink driving offences recorded.

By New Year's Day 3826 PBT's were conducted with 129 drivers drug tested and 10 drink or drug drivers apprehended. Speeders accounted for 158 tickets with six impounds, whilst 15 unlicensed or disqualified drivers were caught and 35 unregistered vehicles.

A prolonged undertaking, Operation Desacelerar (Spanish for 'to slow down') is specifically targeting speed related offences from November 4 to February 22 with TAC funding the initiative.

Since hitting the roads on November 4, Operation Desacelerar's eight deployments have ticketed 139 offences, averaging 18-19 offences on each occasion on high-risk roads in Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

To midnight December 31, 296 lives have been lost on the roads this year, a staggering increase of 23.8 per cent to date on 2022.

If the stark road toll doesn't change your driving habits, and the messages from emergency services get passed over, if there is only one note taken that could save the lives of your passengers, other road users and yourself then be prepared for the unexpected – because it only takes a second for your life to change.

Why they stay when they join BCH

BASS Coast Health consistently has 50 vacancies across its workforce, from doctors to chefs but by adopting a range of initiatives they've been able to grow the workforce as services have expanded.

One of the benefits of being close to the beach however, not to mention the new facilities, is that BCH has a high retention rate amongst new recruits.

"Recruitment is an ongoing challenge for BCH, as it is for every health service. We are continually on the lookout for new doctors, nurses, allied health, chefs, cleaners and other staff who help us provide a high standard of public healthcare to our community," BCH CEO Jan Child said. "Our vacancy rates vary over time but we have had a consistent number of around 50 plus vacancies across all our workforce groups over the past few years, despite our services having grown dramatically over this period.

"We have invested in growing our own as a first strategy – we are a teaching hospital aimed at providing the most positive learning environment so that junior staff want to come back and work here as senior staff.

"We have terrific collaboration with Fed Uni and Monash Rural schools to assist us in this regard.

"We have invested heavily in International recruitment, having sent some of our senior staff overseas to different job fairs.

"We're fortunate to be commuting distance to the south-eastern suburbs of Melbourne which means we have a large pool of casual staff. It also helps that we're in a stunning location that combines the best of coastal and country living, which appeals to new staff seeking a lifestyle change for themselves and their families.

"Government support for scholarships and initiatives have also assisted us greatly.

"We also enjoy extraordinary support from Alfred Health and Monash Health, who assist us with our medical specialist staffing."

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Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner commemorative event

THE Bass Coast Reconciliation Network extends an invitation to the community to come together to commemorate the lives of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner, two Tasmanian Aboriginal men who were tragically hanged in Melbourne in 1842.

This annual event serves as a solemn remembrance and acknowledgment of the injustices faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during colonisation.

Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were convicted for the alleged murder of two whale hunters in the Western Port area and subsequently became the first individuals publicly hanged in Melbourne. Originally labelled 'bloodthirsty outlaws,' they are now rightfully recognised as freedom fighters who resisted colonial occupation.

The commemorative event will take place at Wonthaggi's Wishart Reserve on Saturday, January 20 between 10am-12pm. The ceremony will offer an opportunity for the community to gather and honour the memory of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner, and will include a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, guest speakers, and a collective remembrance. All community members are welcome to attend.

Mary Mutsaers, a representative of the Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group said, "The Bass Coast/South Gippsland Reconciliation Group is honoured to be part of the 2024 Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner commemoration. From a small beginning, this moving commemoration



Darrell, Nikeah, Tjarai, Eric and Jungala, members of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, hosted last year's Welcome to Country. C12_0423

has grown into an annual event attended by over 200 people. By gathering together, we acknowledge our commitment to truth-telling and justice for all."

Uncle Anthony Egan, Elder Bunurong, shared poignant reflections on the historical injustice, "Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were the first people to be hanged by the Government in the District of Port Phillip in 1842. This injustice of wrongful treatment toward our Aboriginal Clansman leading to their deaths was abhorrent. Such complexity of the times; these freedom fighters were doing what all did, which was to

protect the Peoples of our Nations. We, therefore, honour and pay respect to them on the 20th January each year and acknowledge all who suffered. Now with ancestors in peace."

Kate Adams, a representative of the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network, highlighted the network's commitment to creating a culturally safe space.

"The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network is proud to support this annual event. We want to provide a culturally safe space for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the broader community to come together to acknowledge and

remember this horrific act in our state's history. Truth-telling is an important step towards reconciliation, and this is an opportunity for non-Indigenous people to listen, learn, and reflect."

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network comprises members from various organisations, including Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Myli – My Community Library, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, South Gippsland Water, Bunurong Land Council, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group, and Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander Community members. The collaborative efforts of these organisations and community aim to acknowledge and celebrate this important date of historical significance.

To learn more about Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner and their significant role in our history, visit melbourne.vic.gov.au/about-melbourne/melbourne-profile/aboriginal-culture/Pages/tunnerminnerwait-and-maulboyheenner.aspx

For additional information about the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network, please visit bass-coast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation.

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No plan to extend lifejacket trial

By Michael Giles

THE official word from the Office of the Minister for Outdoor Recreation, the Hon Steve Dimopoulos, about what happens when the mandatory lifejacket trial for rock fishers concludes on February 29 is far from reassuring.

Especially given the dangers that exist at the state's 10 most dangerous rock fishing sites, including the treacherous Punchbowl Rocks at San Remo.

Here's what the Minister's office had to say when asked what happens next when the two-year trial on mandatory lifejackets at the state's 10 high-risk locations concludes on February 29 this year.

"On 1 March 2022, the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) began a two-year trial of mandating the use of lifejackets for fishers at 10 high-risk locations around Victoria.

"As part of the trial the VFA developed educational material in several languages to ensure fishers were aware of the new rules and which lifejackets complied with Australian Standard (AS 4758).

"The trial will conclude on 29 February, 2024, at which point data from the trial will be reviewed and the future of the rules will be considered.

"For more information on the 10 locations and how you can stay safe when rock fishing anywhere in Victoria, head to vfa.vic.gov.au/rock-fishing."

So, they'll look into it!

It has been reported by first responders that a fisherman who was swept off Punchbowl Rocks on Monday, November 13, 2023 would not have survived the hours he spent in the water if he wasn't wearing a lifejacket.

How many others have been similarly saved is not known, but saving even one life has made the trial spectacularly successful and it's simply not good enough to say "the data from the trial will be reviewed".

The government needs to come out now and announce an extension to the mandatory setting, then move to legislate that lifejackets must be worn by rock fishers, at least at the following "high-risk" locations:

1. Rock platform near blowholes carpark at Cape Bridgewater
2. Artillery Rocks, west of Lorne
3. The rock platform opposite Sheoak Falls, south of Lorne
4. Sorrento Back Beach rocks
5. No. 16 beach at Rye back beach
6. Cape Schanck lighthouse rocks
7. Bushrangers Bay rocks, east of Cape Schanck
8. Pyramid Rocks, Phillip Island
9. Rocks at the southern end of Potters Hill Road, San Remo
10. Punchbowl Rocks near San Remo



With a team of fresh faces, 2024 marks a new beginning for Leongatha, as Sergeant Clinton Goff focuses on community-oriented policing.

Watch out, there's a new sergeant in town

CLINTON Goff is the new sergeant in Leongatha, and whilst word spreads fast, Sergeant Goff is looking for a fresh start for the town.

"I grew up here, I went to Leongatha High School, and I've since raised my family here. For more than 35 years I've called it home," the Sergeant smiled.

"I've loved working in Highway Patrol, but it was time for a change."

Hanging up his leathers, there's no denying it will not only be a change in pace but change in duties.

"I've traded one helmet for another," he laughs holding up a new bicycle helmet and bike patrol shirt. A far cry from the black leathers he has donned for over 12 months on the BMW motorcycle.

And whilst the bloke in blue may present an intimidating sight, his friendly smile makes him an approachable figure, as he heads out and about in the community with some new faces.

"There are eight members as part of the Leongatha team now – more than half the crew are fresh into the role.

"With new faces joining the region, including some who also grew up down here, 2024 is a time to start fresh and to go again."

And Clint's old-school policing style may just be what the community is crying out for.

"I'm very focused on community orientated policing – popping into businesses, visiting and being a part of the schools, operating foot patrols up the main street so people can approach and talk to us, getting to know the community and having the face-to-face rapport that is so important in regional communities.

"Especially with primary schools, I find getting involved with the young kids – actively participating and connecting establishes a familiarity that encourages them to talk openly and freely. Then when you're out and about, and they're out and about, late at night and they shouldn't be, they're less likely to cause trouble."

Appointed to Wonthaggi Police Station straight out of the Academy in 2013 was a rare feat, but it lasted only two years before Clint transferred to Baw Baw Highway Patrol in 2015 – his eye was always set to Highway.

"I was a funeral director prior to this at Handley's in Leongatha.

"I got to meet a lot of the guys at serious injury and fatal collisions, and at the

time, I wanted to be on the other side. I wanted to help stop it from happening instead of showing up after it happened.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed being a part of Highway for the past eight years, and since 2017 as part of the Bass Coast team – I've loved it, but it's definitely time for a change."

Having experience in Acting Sergeant roles across Baw Baw, Latrobe Valley and Bass Coast, the opportunity at Leongatha was too good to pass up.

"We will have full numbers at Leongatha and that means we are intending to have the watchhouse open more regularly, however, I do want to remind the community that even if it's not open it doesn't mean we're not around. Proactive policing is about being out-and-about, preventing crimes (rather than sitting in an office), walking on foot and having a visible presence."

And whilst Clint will always be passionate about advocating for better, safer roads and pushing behind the scenes for roads to be repaired and fixed, he is definitely looking forwards to getting stuck into his new role at Leongatha.

"I'm excited for the opportunity – I cannot wait!"

Mayor's Message



Cr Clare Williams

HELLO South Gippsland.

I hope that everyone has had a restful Christmas with loved ones. I'm really excited about the year ahead which is already shaping up to be busy and productive.

This year at Council we anticipate the implementation of the Coastal Strategy adopted in 2023, and we look forward to receiving more community feedback on the second draft of the General Local Law which is currently on exhibition.

The Coal Creek discussion paper will also be open for feedback from 22 January until 31 March.

We have an exciting Australia Day Photography Competition currently open with entries set to close Wednesday 17 January and winners announced Friday 26 January. Australia Day Award nominees will also be recognised at an Awards Ceremony at Meeniyian Hall on Wednesday 17 January.

We encourage the community to support local businesses and markets by shopping locally. Explore the beauty of South Gippsland at local cafés, restaurants, bars, wineries, breweries and accommodation. We also have a variety of wonderful walking tracks and scenic drives including:

- Agnes Falls;
- Cape Liptrap Coastal Park and Lighthouse;
- Great Southern Rail Trail and;
- A variety of Wilsons Promontory walks.

If you're looking for a different way to contribute to our region this year, you might also like to consider joining a local community group or volunteering. We are fortunate to have a high rate of volunteerism in South Gippsland and more feet are always needed on the ground.

I eagerly anticipate the year ahead, working with my fellow Councillors and the Council organisation, and supporting the community through local events, new initiatives, and navigating economic and environmental challenges. I'm excited to see the positive changes we can make this year.

Happy New Year to everyone in South Gippsland. I look forward to working with you, and for you in 2024.

Tom McIntosh MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



@ tom.mcintosh@parliament.vic.gov.au

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Energy concessions scrapped as bills skyrocket

AS MANY Gippslanders continue to struggle with the rising cost of energy bills, the State Government scrapped three energy concession schemes just weeks prior to Christmas.

The Government has removed the controlled-load electricity concession, the property charge concession and the electricity transfer fee waiver at a time when household power prices have risen 25 per cent.

"The controlled-load electricity concession was a 13 per cent discount off controlled load electricity bills for eligible energy account holders, while the property charge concession rewarded low energy users by reducing supply charges when the cost of electricity used was less than the supply charge for that bill.

"This decision, which will impact the energy bills of more than 250,000 Victorian households, is a clear indication that Gippsland households will continue to pay the price for the Government's inability to manage money," said Danny O'Brien, The Nationals Member for Gippsland South.

"It comes as Labor's record debt continues to grow, with the latest forecast that it will hit \$177.8 billion within a few years."

Mr O'Brien said it was disappointing that the Government had made this decision in spite of a recent report from the Essential Services Commission (ESC) highlighting that many Victorian households are struggling to keep-up with rising energy costs.

"The most recent report from the ESC advised that the number of Victorians requesting assistance from their energy retailer to manage their bills increased by five per cent for electricity and 13 per cent for gas from the same time last year.

"This report tells us that households are struggling and need more help, not less. I don't think taxpayer funded concessions and subsidies are a long-term solution, but while Labor has messed up energy policy so badly, it does need to help those struggling with their bills."

The same ESC report detailed that energy retailers issued 7000 more disconnection warning notices to customers who were behind on payments than in the same period last year.

The cost of living 150 years ago

GIPPSLANDERS are doing it tough, facing high costs of housing, food, fuel and services, and with economists predicting a one in three chance of a recession in 2024, it may still get worse.

When put in comparison to the hardships and challenges faced by the Early Settlers of Gippsland, some of the sting of this current economic situation is reduced and brought into perspective.

An excerpt taken from the book, *The Land of the Lyre Bird*, written by William C. Thomas, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Thomas of Lyre Bird Mound Koonwarra, details his journey in 1870 to save a life.

While the adversities faced are starkly different to now, the kindness and generosity of strangers is one of the things that seems not to have changed:

150 miles on horseback in 24 hours to get medication for a fellow settler.

Just one other incident of



Early Settlers of South Gippsland (pictured here at an early homestead near Bena) faced hardships, almost unfathomable today, just 150 years later.

hardship and isolation. On this occasion I received a letter from the husband asking me if I could go for a doctor for his wife, who was dying.

He sent a letter to the doctor, giving full details of the case. It meant a ride of 75 miles to Dandenong (from Koonwarra) and 75 miles return.

It was 6.30am when I received the message, and at 7am I started. Riding my own horse for 25 miles, I rode to

a hotel, stated my errand and was given another horse.

Travelling for another 17 miles, I spoke to a farmer (Mr Brett), and he placed at my disposal a very fine horse; it was fortunate for me, as the next 21 miles of road was more or less under water.

The last place I pulled up for a horse was three miles from Cranbourne. A Mrs Poole kindly let me have a horse for the last 12 miles.

I reached Dandenong at 6.30pm, and on giving the detail letter to Dr Moore he told me the person was dead, and it was useless putting myself about.

I then asked him to prescribe as if she was not dead, and I would chance the results by returning through the night.

He called me a fool, but after getting the chemist to mix the medicine I started on my return trip at 7pm, picking up the different horses through the night, and reached the home of the settler at 7 am, doing the 150 miles in 24 hours, including stoppages.

The wife was just alive, but on giving her the medicine she gradually improved, and is now one of the healthiest women in Melbourne.

I look back with a great pleasure to the old days of pioneering in Gippsland and am heartily glad to meet those who worked and won, as well as those who worked and lost, in the desperate struggle we had in the seventies. (1870s).

A great year at Wonthaggi North Primary School



Chayce, Tyler, Taylor, Jake, Xavier, Jemma, Tiala and Zara all enjoyed a recent WNPS excursion to Wonthaggi PS recently for the Bike Education Challenge.

and lunchtimes.

School leaders stepped up this year, running the weekly school assembly and presenting the Certificate of Achievement awards to students for representing the WNPS school values. New school leaders for 2024 were announced at the final assembly on Monday.

December 18.

The Bookaneer Book Fair and Bookweek Dress Up Day were just two of the main activities run through the WNPS library with the Book Fair raising valuable funds for the school.

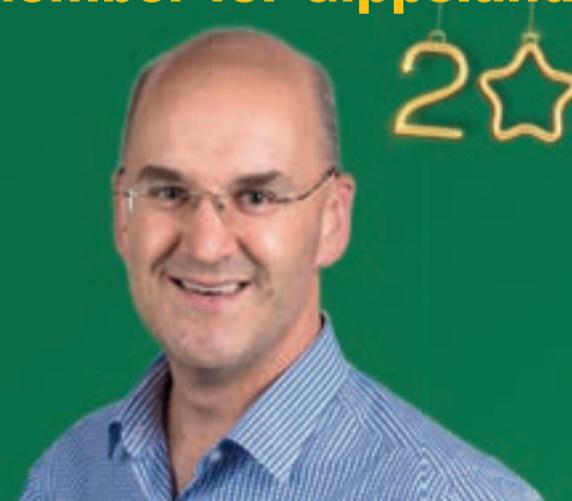
WNPS staff, Mrs Kathy Jones said. "It has warmed my heart

seeing the many opportunities all students, staff and community have been able to be part of in 2023."

Other exciting news for 2024 includes the new kindergarten which will be built on site at WNPS and other school beautification projects to be announced.

Danny O'BRIEN MP

State Member for Gippsland South



2024

Wishing you a Happy New Year

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NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



JA22055

A community gem in Amy

By Jordan Crugnale

FOR the fourth year running, I have put a call out to our community to let me know about that special someone who has shown their true community colours in 2023. There were no rules, categories, or age limits. They just had to live or work in the State District of Bass.

Unsurprisingly, the response has been overwhelming with an inundation of beautiful stories of people whose generosity of spirit, selflessness, acts of kindness, made my heart sing too. They filled me with pride and again exemplified the very best of us.

Amazing community members in our kinders, schools, clubs, op-shops, service stations, café's, libraries, local organisations and businesses all leaving an indelible imprint of positivity, exceptional service and thoughtfulness that is so worth celebrating. They all filled me with pride and again exemplified the very best of us.

A community member delighted in telling me a slither of your story, accomplishments so far, and your eagerness to bring change for the better and joy to those around you.

It is hard to believe that you are only eleven years of age!

Your courage and tenacity in navigating your own vision impairment and the love, care and support you demonstrate at home

for your two siblings who have Autism and ADHD, is testament to the remarkable young person that you are.

Despite your own health challenges, you found a passion for swimming and coupled with the support of the community you have made a real difference in the lives of other sick kids and their families. Your contribution to the Starlight foundation Super Swim Challenge, swimming 25 kilometres and raising over \$10,000 for a charity so close to your heart, and as a kid helping other sick kids is simply inspirational. So many hearts are singing.

I loved hearing that you have already registered for the Super Swim Challenge in 2024!

Along with this, your participation in the 10 kilometre hike on top of Mount Buller raising awareness for Autism this year and the photos I have seen are simply sensational!

"We are so proud of Amy; she should be really proud of herself".

"Amy's participation in the challenge highlighted her natural ability to care for others".

You are an absolute Community Gem.

Thank you for being you and having our community at the heart of everything you do.



The Community Gem 2024 has been awarded to Amy Hodson in recognition of her exemplary contributions to her community and fundraising.

Bright, new, youthful leadership for CWA Wonthaggi

TWO YOUNG progressive women with hot pink hair are blowing up the notion that the Country Women's Association is only for grey haired retirees who like to bake.

Taking on prominent roles within the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women, Heidi Vanzet, President, and Caroline Grainger, Secretary, are energetic, enthusiastic and passionate about their community.

Both are relatively new members and formed a quick friendship through the CWA but felt that change was needed.

"It was either, do we leave and make a different social group starting from scratch, or do we step up and make the changes we want to see?" said Caroline.

Encouragement and support came from other members, who were excited about the potential of fresh, youthful leadership.

"We've had one or two members who are just beautiful and really take you under their wing; they'd say, have you thought about it, because I reckon, you'd be fantastic," said Heidi.



Caroline Grainger and Heidi Vanzet of the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women are bringing a new energy to the group. ob01_0124

"We stepped up. It was the right thing to do," explained Caroline.

Inspired by the values of the Go Girls Foundation who seek to empower women, Heidi and Caroline aim to grow a group of women who want to give back and connect to their community.

A safe, welcoming and supportive organisation that encourages the exploration of ideas and contributions from all women is another aim of the ladies.

"There's already really good things there. We want to make that bigger and get more women in and break that social isolation in Wonthaggi," said Caroline.

"We've got people who bake, people who craft, people who don't do either, and all of them are amazing and essential for what we do."

Creating a social members section for women to be inspired, forge connections and form a solid network for themselves is

also high on the agenda.

"A couple of years ago we didn't know each other existed and now we have these amazing friendships," said Caroline.

"CWA's history is helping women and families, because that's how you are doing the most good. You help the woman and she helps everyone around her," explained Heidi.

With 17 members and two perspective members, making time to socialise before monthly meetings and keeping formal meetings to schedule – to retain members, is a change that will be made.

Guest speakers, including motivational and educational presenters and authors are already lined up for the year, with Sally Conning a transgender elder speaking to an enthralled CWA audience last year.

The inspired pair also plan to collaborate with different local community organisations to find other ways to support women and families in the area.

For more information visit facebook.com/cwawonthaggi or email cwaofvic.wonthaggi@gmail.com.

Expression of interest

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network is inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists to submit logo design concepts that capture the cultural essence of the Bass Coast region.

We are seeking an engaging logo that reflects the rich cultural heritage of Bass Coast.

This opportunity is open to Bunurong, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People living on Bunurong Country.

Full details and to apply, please visit our website. Applications close 31 January 2024.



BCRN seeks new logo to promote reconciliation and recognition efforts

COMPRISED of members from various organisations, the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network (BCRN) actively engages with support organisations and community groups to champion reconciliation, positive social change, and empowerment in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The BCRN is calling on suitably experienced Bunurong, and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists who live on Bunurong Country, to submit designs representing the cultural essence of the Bass Coast region. The chosen design will be used digitally across all BCRN materials, reflecting the network's commitment to reconciliation and recognition.

The BCRN has worked on several collaborative art projects and is excited to offer another great opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait artists to create a central symbol that will further advance the message of reconciliation in the Bass Coast.

Applications will close at 2pm on Wednesday, January 3, and the outcome will be announced in mid-February 2024. The artwork will need to be delivered by the end of March 2024.

A selection panel, consisting of the Chair of the BCRN, an independent representative from the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community, and a local artist, will evaluate submissions based on criteria like cultural sensitivity, connection to the community, and adherence to project timelines.

"Working collectively, the Network is able to broaden our reach and have greater impact and we're pleased to be able to provide great opportunities such as the logo design to First Nations artists," BCRN Co-Chair, Kate Adams said.

To find out more, interested artists can contact Geoff Russell at communications@westernportwater.com.au or 0413 009 636.

To view the EOI document, including all key dates, section criteria, and information on copy-write and commissioning, please visit westernportwater.com.au/our-community/reconciliation/.

For additional information about the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network, please visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation.



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The Pearl Decanter, French acrylic on fine canvas



*Zulu in her gallery.
Photo by Christian Heffernan*

Inspiration!

The secret that all artists keep!

FUNNY thing is, many people really think finding inspiration is difficult or some special gift for only a few.

There is no secret to finding inspiration for the next painting, piece of music, craft project or any new idea.

Hints that form new ideas are everywhere. They surround us in everything we see, hear, eat, drink, touch.

Talking with Zulu (Heather Towns) she said, "For instance I might touch something and think, wow that's soft, a painting in that 'soft' feeling would be great to do...what can I paint that looks like that feels. Looking around I see clouds, I see a baby, I see peaches. Any of these subjects are a possible painting. I now just have to decide what do I feel like painting."

Everyone can draw, good or bad, it really doesn't matter. Many budding artists can draw from their minds eye. However we can all take a photo or draw from still life. As soon as these thoughts start running through your head a new painting or art piece is forming.

Inspiration - It really is that simple.

Naturally the more you see and experience in life, all adds to the vocabulary of your work.

In September last year Zulu spent three weeks in Japan. "It was wonderful and the trip inspired me in so many directions I can hardly keep still.

It's like having a brain explosion. But the remaining feeling and inspiration I got from Japan, which I think will guide my next body of work, is restraint, and balance. Not cherry blossoms, sushi, temples or gardens."

Living near the beach is always an inspiration, but for Zulu rather than paintings of the sea, she wants to do more abstract works, reflecting the feelings of the sea air, the power of the waves and the harsh stripping of the sand in the stormy weather. Painting the energy rather than the view.

She explains her love of colour and especially the muted colours when the horizon disappears completely as everything is a beautiful soft, white-ish grey, the sea and the sky, her version of infinity. However a white-ish grey canvas with no horizon is not what people want to hang on their walls."

Zulu is highly regarded for her obsession with glass. "Working with glass subjects supplies me with never ending inspiration. I love the way everything bends in strange directions and magical stripes of colour jump onto surfaces. The unexpected reflections surprise me each time and I love transferring those abstract shapes together to create amazing patterns and unexpected colours."

Naturally our discussion heads to the next question about when is inspiration difficult or just disappears? Quickly Zulu says, "What sucks inspiration out of any creative soul is negativity. Being around situations that are demanding and controlling will always make the pursuit of inspiration difficult. However don't give up, carry a sketch book or use your phone and scribble down ideas or thoughts on colour. Or take photos of things that look interesting.

You will never say...I don't know what to paint. You will say, I wish I had more time I have so much I want to do.

With a huge smile Zulu says, "If I live to be 200 years old, I don't think I will ever finish my work or run out of ideas. I am sure my hands and eyes will not last long enough. So no excuses, get started. Have fun, make a mess and relax, it doesn't have to be a masterpiece it just needs to be yours.

Zulu's working studio/Gallery in Cape Paterson will be open daily 12-5pm until January 26, 2024. If you want some 'inspiration' come visit.

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Luke Soussa and Cassie Stoppa took their new venture Phillip Island Chicory to market last Saturday at a busy Churchill Island and found a warm reception from Farmers Market patrons.

It's back to the future for Phillip Island Chicory

A FEATURE of the Phillip Island landscape for almost 150 years, the island's historic chicory kilns have recently been given a modern-day reference, quite literally rooted in the industry's long tradition.

Taking up the challenge to extend Phillip Island's connection with chicory growth, roasting and drinking are Luke Soussa and Cassie Stoppa, the latter coming from a family which grew chicory in its heyday of the 40s and 50s.

Last Saturday the pair were out at the Churchill Market talking to visitors about the product and its heritage.

"I've got a background in agriculture and through Cassie's connection with chicory growing on the island, we decided to give it a try," said Luke Soussa last weekend.

"I'm pretty passionate about the agriculture sector in Bass Coast getting the recognition it deserves, especially when you consider farming occupies 70 per cent of the land area.

"We're a big tourism shire

but agriculture still has a very important role to play and should be supported."

Luke and Cassie spent much of the day at the market talking about the tradition around chicory growing, and the story about how it came to prominence during the First World War when coffee was hard to come by.

Chicory was first grown on Phillip Island in 1870.

The first chicory kiln was built on Phillip Island in 1878 with the drying process responsible for consuming large quantities of firewood, and being responsible for large swathes of tree clearing.

By the late twentieth century, Phillip Island was producing more than half of Australia's national Chicory crop.

Chicory farming on Phillip Island declined rapidly in the mid 1970's and there was only one operating kiln left on the island.

The last crop of chicory was grown at Rhyll in 1987.

There were also tastings provided by Cassie and Luke from Phillip Island Chicory, which brought

back the crop on a small scale in 2022.

"We're just about to harvest our own seed crop which will enable us to expand to half-an-acre next season."

The roasting process transforms the bitter taste of the chicory root, producing an aroma not unlike coffee, but a taste that is unique to chicory, kind of a toasty, nutty flavour with suggestions of burned sugar.

The roasted chicory can be drunk black or with milk and honey to taste or combined with coffee.

On Saturday, Luke served the hot chicory, strained through filter paper, for interested customers.

The historic connection with the product locally looks certain to add something to agritourism on the island where diversification is encouraged by both sectors in a rapidly growing visitor economy.

If you want to know more, or would like to buy some roasted chicory, go to the Phillip Island Chicory website at phillipislandchicory.com.au

New worship Centre opened in Korumburra

THE Southern Hills Church's new Worship Centre is located at 85 Commercial Street, and was officially opened by Pastor Shannon Riley, the Australian Christian Churches Gippsland Regional Leader. Pastor Rob Davey welcomed special guests, on the day, including past pastor's, Pastors Don and Julie Gall, Pastor Vic and Dianne Butera, the Assistant Mayor, Nathan Hersey, representatives of local churches, and past members of the church.

Besides conducting weekly programs, the public is welcome to drop in on Tuesday morning for a coffee and a chat. For further information please view our website www.southernhills.org.au



Public drop in Tuesday morning or participate in weekly programs.

Award-winning heart health checks coming to Anderson Inlet Angling Club

FROM Tuesday, January 9 to Thursday, January 11 free 15-minute heart health checks will be offered at Anderson Inlet Angling Club, Inverloch by a qualified health professional thanks to a partnership between Latrobe Health Services, Shane Warne Legacy, Wesfarmers Health and SiSU Health.

In 2024 the partners will work together aiming to provide 500,000 free heart health tests to Australians in an attempt to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease and save lives.

Latrobe Health Services CEO, Ian Whitehead, said that regional communities have some of the poorest cardiovascular health outcomes in Australia.

"This initiative is one way to help our members, and community check if they are at risk," said Mr Whitehead.

"We're passionate about supporting better health. Regional communities have some of the worst heart health outcomes in Australia, so if you're aged between 18 and 50, we really encourage you to participate in the heart health screenings."

The heart health checks are free and will run from 9am to 4pm Tuesday to Thursday. No booking is required. Key heart health indicators checked during the screening include blood pressure, heart rate, body composition, diabetes risk and non-fasting cholesterol levels.



The friendly Latrobe Health team would love to check your heart health and help review your health cover.

"Results are provided immediately following the test, with the health professional providing key insights on the results, advice on how to keep your heart healthy, and informing participants on how to follow up with your GP if further action is required," Mr Whitehead said.

Coronary heart disease remains the dominant cause of death among Australians with worse outcomes experienced in regional and rural areas.

It is important to get heart health check-ups to give you the best chance of receiving the right treatment and possibly diagnosing underlying medical conditions.

Latrobe Health Services is a not-for-profit, for purpose private health insurer.

For more information about Latrobe Health Services free heart health checks visit latrobehealth.com.au/healthyhearts.

To review your private health

insurance cover or for new cover enquiries call Latrobe Health Services on 1300 362 144 or visit latrobehealth.com.au.

If you're interested in our health checks coming to your workplace or community event, please contact marketing@lhs.com.au

Should you have any concerns about your heart health or any other health concerns, please seek the advice of your trusted healthcare professional.

Get your FREE 15 minute heart health check at Anderson Inlet Angling Club, Inverloch

From Tuesday, 9 to Thursday, 11 January from 9am-4pm.

A qualified pharmacist will check key heart health indicators including:

- Diabetes risk
- Blood pressure
- Heart rate
- Body composition
- Non-fasting cholesterol levels



Receive your results immediately with advice on next steps.

Visit www.latrobehealth.com.au/healthyhearts for more information.

Proudly brought to you by

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Shane Warne Legacy
Heart Test Partner

*Heart health checks are available to people aged 18 years and older.

Find out more here



Make a stop at the Poowong Hotel

WHILST enjoying a leisurely drive around the hills of South Gippsland, why not stop in and check out the Poowong Hotel?

Offering the best of a country-style pub atmosphere, the Poowong Hotel is a favourite among many.

Nestled within dairy country, the quaint aesthetics of the Poowong Hotel set the scene for a real country experience.

With friendly service that is loved by the locals, it's a city escape not to be missed.

Seating up to 100 people and showcasing a crowd-pleasing menu, the Poowong Hotel is the perfect place to enjoy a meal with family and friends, celebrate an occasion or take in the strong community vibe.

The hotel serves lunch and dinner and provides vegetarian-friendly options.

Chef's specials are also on offer to tantalise the tastebuds and takeaway options are available for diners on the go.

A meat tray raffle is a fixture in the hotel every Friday afternoon.

The venue is pet-friendly, but dogs must remain on a leash.

There is no better place to wind down and enjoy great company after exploring the delights of the local area.

Wherever you're on the way to this summer, a meal at the Poowong Hotel is well worth the detour.

\$25 UNLIMITED BOWLING, LAZER TAG & TABLE TENNIS



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EVERY NIGHT THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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Inverloch CFA Captain Shane Frogley with Michael Guest and Hayden Tipping were some of the volunteer firefighters at Inverloch Family Fireworks on Sunday. C06_0124



Nala, Letesha Foote, Phil Foote and Michael Mara await the family fireworks at Inverloch. C07_0124



Liam, Zavier, Zarli, Phoenix and Ryan from Bunyip and Langwarrin are glowing in the dark as the sun sets ready for the fireworks. C10_0124



Aoide, Maia and Ariana are moments away from watching the start of the fireworks display at Inverloch. C14_0124



Visiting officers First Constable Donoghue and Senior Constable Kamphuis from Moe (Latrobe Valley PSA) joined in New Year's Eve festivities watching the fireworks and keeping an eye on the crowd. C08_0124



Fireworks: The people have spoken!

IF EVER the Bass Coast Shire Council wanted an endorsement that they are doing the right thing putting on New Year's Eve fireworks displays at Cowes, Inverloch and Coronet Bay, they only had to see the massive turnout for these events.

At Inverloch and Cowes in particular, record crowds were reported.

But the shire is still determined to review whether it will fund fireworks in the years to come.

"As part of the annual Christmas and New Years Eve celebrations in the future, Bass Coast Shire Council is seeking feedback on fireworks. Your feedback will help to influence how

we celebrate the festive season for 2025 and beyond," said the council on its Engage Bass Coast website.

"In 2022, we committed to hold fireworks displays as part of the Cowes Christmas Carols and New Year's Eve celebrations in Inverloch, Coronet Bay and Cowes for three years up until 2024. We're evaluating the impact and benefits of these events on our community to shape what celebrations will look like in the future."

Local traders say the fireworks do a great job of helping manage expectations of NYE revelers and speaking on ABC Radio last week, Andrew Howard of Howard & Sons Pyrotechnics

Displays Pty Ltd agrees.

"People are looking for an event that caps off the year for them and fireworks are actually a very cost-effective entertainment for a big crowd," said Mr Howard.

"After they've seen the fireworks, many of them are quite happy to head home," he said.

There was still a smattering of illegal fireworks at Cowes on New Year's Eve but what that would be like without a public display is anyone's guess.

To have your say on whether Bass Coast should continue to stage NYE fireworks go to engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/eoy-celebrations. The survey closes on January 31, 2024.

Wonthaggi Toyota

WE BUY
CARS!



USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2017 Hyundai Accent Sport

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

77,790kms, 6 speed sports auto hatch
SN: W101619



2017 Nissan
Juke Ti-S F15 Series 2

20,990 DRIVE AWAY

107,554kms, CVT auto AWD SUV
SN: W101658



2018 Volkswagen Passat
132TSI Comfortline

24,990 DRIVE AWAY

107,566kms, 7 speed auto wagon
SN: W101530



2014 Holden Calais VF

20,990 DRIVE AWAY

117,413kms, 6 speed sports auto
sedan SN: W101682



2013 Volkswagen Polo
77TSI Comfortline 6R

11,990 DRIVE AWAY

126,934kms, 6 speed manual hatch
SN: W101086



2012 Holden
Commodore Z Series VE

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

146,930kms, 6 speed sports auto
wagon SN: W101690



2018 Nissan X-Trail
ST-L N-Sport T32

29,990 DRIVE AWAY

78,773kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W101547



2021 Toyota Kluger Grande

77,990 DRIVE AWAY

45,189kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV
BON 913

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2019 Landrover
Discovery Sport TD4

33,990 DRIVE AWAY

68,257kms, 9 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101118



2021 Toyota Kluger GXL Hybrid

60,990 DRIVE AWAY

38,727kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
SUV SN: L101117



2018 Nissan Navara ST
D23 Series 3

26,990 DRIVE AWAY

91,909kms, 6 speed CVT manual
dual cab ute SN: L101100



2021 Nissan
Qashqai ST-L J11 Series 3

28,990 DRIVE AWAY

72,116kms, CVT auto SUV
SN: L101114



2022 Ford Transit
Custom 340S VN

51,990 DRIVE AWAY

19,338kms, 6 speed manual CVT
van SN: 101070



2019 Toyota
Corolla Ascent Sport

26,990 DRIVE AWAY

23,319kms, 10 speed CVT auto
hatch SN: L101089



2020 Ford Ranger
Wildtrak PX Mk III

52,990 DRIVE AWAY

75,539kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab SN: L101113



2023 Ford Ranger XLT
63,990 DRIVE AWAY

15,391kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab CID 687

Wonthaggi Toyota

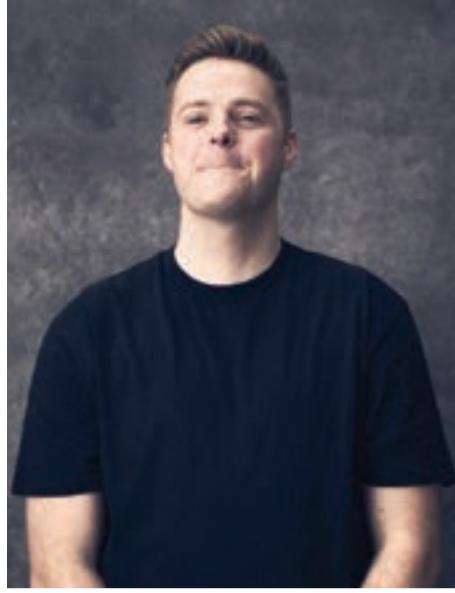
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Wonthaggi VIC 3995
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LMCT 8179
wonthaggitoyota.com.au

Leongatha Toyota

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



OH WHAT A FEELING



Tom Ballard is ready to deliver his contemporary comedy to town as part of the Fish Creek Carnival.

Tom Ballard's stand up set for Fish Creek Memorial Hall

TOM Ballard brings his stand up comedy to the Fish Creek Carnival on January 3 and 4, performing at the Fish Creek Memorial Hall, having loved the experience of attending the carnival previously to see his acrobat partner in action.

"It'll be a mix of old and new, talking about the state of the world and my life and I'm really looking forward to it," he said of his upcoming shows.

Although some aspects of the Fish Creek Carnival cater to kids, 'Tom Ballard Live' isn't in that bracket.

"This is definitely not a family show and I'm going to be doing stand up comedy, which will involve a lot of rude words and some adult themes," Tom said.

Politics and recent news will be in the spotlight and he'll be looking back at the year that was, with issues such as the Voice Referendum expected to get a mention. Tom shocked by the comprehensive nature of the no vote.

He has a knack for finding humorous aspects to serious subjects such as the housing crisis.

"Everyone's welcome as long as they can pay the cover fee," Tom said.

While he doesn't hold back in expressing personal opinions during his shows, he stressed he's not attacking those with different views, even if some get that impression.

Things that annoy him and matters he perceives to be wrong in the world often form the basis for his jokes.

"Hopefully, through the process of talking about it and having a bit of a laugh we can feel a bit better and understand where people are coming from," Tom said.

While still preparing on Friday for his Fish Creek shows, Tom promised the finished product will be "really good".

In almost every show something doesn't go as expected or someone makes a surprise comment, Tom considering that to be part of the joy of live performance.

His desire for attention and love of theatre and public speaking competitions sparked his entry into stand up comedy at the tender age of 14 through a Melbourne Comedy Festival competition called 'Class Clowns'.

"My jokes were terrible but I had a level of confidence that saw me get through to the final of that competition and I got addicted that way," Tom said.

He touched on his invitation to perform at Fish Creek.

"The people at Fish Creek kindly asked me if I wanted to do a couple of stand up shows and I said 'Sure, why not, I'm huge in Fish Creek', Tom said with a touch of humour.

Those keen to prove him right and have a great night in the process can buy tickets by visiting fishcreekcarnival.com and clicking on 'Tom Ballard', with tickets costing \$35 and Tom's shows each beginning at 7.30pm and running for an hour.

Leongatha Art Show grows again

THE 47th Leongatha Rotary Club Art and Photography Show will feature a record 617 works entered by over 300 artists from across Gippsland, Melbourne and regional Victoria, the event running from Saturday January 13 until Saturday February 3 between 10am and 4pm each day at Leongatha's Memorial Hall.

The works cover 14 entry categories, including watercolour, oils, acrylic and pastel, along with several photographic sections, a 3D category, and youth and all abilities entries.

Esteemed Phillip Island based artist David K. Taylor, renowned for his watercolours and his teaching of that medium, is the 2024 judge, his work represented in numerous public and private collections and exhibited widely in Australia and overseas.

He is an experienced judge nationally and internationally, something that will undoubtedly assist in meeting the judging challenge presented by such a broad range of mediums.

Generous corporate and private sponsorship enables the event to offer over \$9200 in prizes and awards.

Last year's 'Best in Show' winner Meg Viney's triumphant entry 'Water, Water Everywhere' is a sculpted material vase, illustrating that while paintings and drawings are a big part of the Art and Photography Show there are other impressive exhibits.

Watercolours account for the largest number of this year's entries, with 113, edging out the acrylic section that has attracted 99 art pieces and the Youth Under 13 category that will feature 96 works.

Organisers are delighted with the overall response from the community and are



David Panther, Michael Hogan and Bob Hickman are counting down the days until the Leongatha Rotary Club Art & Photography Show, which runs from January 13 until February 3. A02_0124

particularly impressed with the enthusiasm shown by young locals when encouraged to display their creativity.

Leongatha schools were provided with canvases to promote student entries, with some young people also entering works privately.

Yooralla and South Gippsland Specialist School were among organisations to receive canvases, with All Abilities entries hitting healthy numbers.

Leongatha Rotarians Bob Hickman and Lynn Fisher will again tackle the mammoth task of displaying all works to best advantage, with most entries set to be hand-delivered to the Memorial Hall between 9am and 3pm on Tuesday January 9, others coming via mail or a courier service.

Leongatha Rotary Club's Michael Hogan has taken on

a couple of important jobs, looking after the administration of the art show and sorting out display hooks.

He's also entered photos from his European trip and a whimsical photo montage.

"It's a big thing for us every year," Michael said of the Art and Photography Show, noting it is a major fundraiser for Leongatha Rotary Club helping it contribute to worthy causes locally and further afield.

Michael said that last year one in five attendees at the show was from the Melbourne metropolitan area with others coming from around Victoria, interstate and overseas, demonstrating the event's broad appeal.

Drawing people to Leongatha and benefiting the town and its businesses are important aspects of what is one of Gippsland's largest art shows

in terms of entries and its duration.

"Let's make this an event that can be part of the holiday season," Michael said of the philosophy of art show organisers to make a positive impact in Leongatha and surrounds.

Considerable work goes into promoting the show and ensuring a plentiful supply of high-quality artworks, with previous contributing artists contacted each year to encourage them to enter again and the show advertised through galleries and shops.

All exhibited artworks are available for purchase, proceeds from art sale commissions, entry fees and raffle ticket sales aiding the Rotary Club of Leongatha's contribution to local, national and international projects, aligning with Rotary International's philanthropic initiatives.

Uplifting carnival workshop in Fish Creek Town Park



Liv Maplestone works on her aerial manoeuvres under the supervision of Karina Schiller. A05_0124

AN ENTHUSIASTIC troupe of young participants may be ready to run away to the circus after being swept up in the excitement of the Fish Creek Carnival Aerial Workshop in Fish Creek Town Park on Saturday.

Participants eased into the session, learning some hula hoop tricks from instructor Sal Frances that included skipping through the hoop and practising a sequence that began with lifting the hoop off the ground by foot and ended by twirling the hoop around the body in traditional style.

It was then time for aerials, with experienced acrobat and former gymnast Karina Schiller taking charge and ensuring the safety of those learning.

Aerials began on suspended 'silks', stretchy material that enables people to assume a range of positions, Karina beginning with the most basic skills before gradually increasing the level of difficulty.

The same applied when class members moved onto the trapeze, with participants learning spinning and other moves such as forming a 'bird's nest' that entailed putting your hands on the bar, your feet above your

head and manoeuvring into an impressive position.

All looked to be enjoying the experience as Karina offered encouragement and provided close supervision.

"We want to create a space where people feel safe to come and try something new," Karina said of the introductory circus session.

While rain held off for the workshop, there was a decent breeze but that didn't present a problem for those taking part, with Karina saying, "we work with it".

Although people are learning new skills, they don't do anything outside their skill level.

Melburnians Liv and Molly Maplestone were excited to be part of the action, with Molly having done some gymnastics and Liv having experience cheerleading, the pair entering the aerial workshop with confidence.

Karina has been an acrobat for the past 10 years, having attended the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) following her time as a gymnast.

While she enjoyed coaching gymnastics, she wanted to remain involved herself and had seen NICA performers as a teenager, something that inspired her to pursue the path of becoming an acrobat.



A jam-packed Saturday at the Show

THE Bass Coast Summer Show will kick off this Saturday, January 6 with free gate admission for children 12 years and under courtesy of the Show Society.

Organisers are welcoming exhibitors to be part of the competition in farm and garden produce with scarecrows and decorated gum boot to be judged on Friday morning.

Amateur photography, plus a backyard chook display and information for those interested in that hobby.

The Wonthaggi Garden Supplies amateur photography and Inverloch Garden Supplies Farm and Garden produce entries are free for all classes, with a children's 12 and under category available for both exhibitions. Organisers are looking forward to hosting the 2024 Show Shed. Hoping that gardeners and photographers will embrace going back into the competition section again this year.

All amateur photography classes will be judged on Thursday morning by Kilcunda local Paul Riviere with a \$50 cash prize and best Rosette for the judge's choice.

The annual show is a family friendly event at \$5 entry for adults and free entry for children 12 years and under.

As for Saturday's festivities:

The grounds of the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve will host Barn Babies Mobile Farm, Sandy Creek Clydesdales and a blacksmith display, roving stilt fairy with bubbles and busker Sage Marie will be playing around the ground.

There will also be pony rides for the children.

Entertainment at the Grandstand will be headed by Imogen Price, playing and singing sets throughout the Show, with the circus workshop and a free face painting artist also on hand.

Visitors are encouraged to spend the afternoon enjoying the selection of food and beverages available from vendors and at the grandstand.

Turning up the competition on last year's event a full equestrian program including driven horses and ponies with carriages will be displaying their talent, whilst the carnival will include rides, novelties, fairy floss and amusements, and lots of show bags.

Motor enthusiasts can stroll the grounds viewing the Ute and 4x4 Show organised and hosted by Jarrod Witherow of Leongatha.

There will be a great turnup from the Harry Ferguson Club of old tractors and equipment with demos through the day...Did you know small bales of hay were held together by wire and not hay band?

The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club will be nearby in front of the grandstand. And there might be a couple of surprises with some big horsepower present.

The show will also host an emergency information and vehicle display from SES, CFA Ambulance Victoria and Vicpol plus Bass Coast Health educating bystanders on their contribution to a safer community.

The committee would like to thank the sponsors for their generosity to the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show as well as support from Wonthaggi branch RSL, Wonthaggi Evening View Club, Wonthaggi Angling Club, Wonthaggi Rotary Club, and Inverloch CWA.

Back to the Show Shed competitionsEntry forms for show shed exhibitors should be emailed to basscoastagsshow@hotmail.com

Follow the events page on Facebook – Bass Coast – Wonthaggi Summer Show.



Bass Coast Agricultural Show Wonthaggi

Saturday January 6th 2024 ~9am onwards

THE SHOW SHED

- Garden & Farm Produce Competition
- Scarecrows Competition
- Decorated Gumboots Competition
- Amateur Photography Competition
- Backyard Chooks & Much More

- Horses, Donkeys
- Animals Nursery
- Street Theatre
- Stilts, Clowns, Balloons
- Tractors & Old Fashioned Equipment
- Utes & 4X4
- Carnival Side Shows
- Show Bags, Show Food



Follow us on facebook:
Bass Coast - Wonthaggi Summer Show

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

No more Australia Day politics, please

AS PER usual at this time of the year, there have been reports in the media about the level of support from local councils for citizenship ceremonies to be held on Australia Day.

In fact, the media has reported that 81 of the 537 councils across Australia have opted not to include citizenship ceremonies in their celebrations of Australia's national day this year.

Some are threatening to scrap Australia Day altogether.

And we've even seen the Australian High Commissioner to the UK, the former Trade, Defence and Foreign Minister the Hon Stephen Smith becoming embroiled in it by deciding not to celebrate on January 26 this year.

One of the reports listed Bass Coast among the recalcitrant, although this has now been refuted by the council's administration.

"There are some stories floating around this morning and Bass Coast Shire Council is listed as not going ahead with the Australia Day ceremony this year. This is incorrect. We will be holding a ceremony as usual at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club on January 26."

Good news.

The shire also states on its website: "We host several citizenship ceremonies during the year. These are held on Australia Day (26 January) and two more times per year."

Hopefully that will be the case again this year, but we could do without the grandstanding by the former mayor Cr Michael Whelan that marred the occasion last year... and hopefully someone remembers to bring along a recording of the national anthem!

A decision on whether Australia celebrates its national day on January 26 or some other day is not an issue for the Bass Coast Shire Council and those councillors who wish to prosecute a particular view should not be using the council platform provided to them by the local community for other purposes to do so.

It's just another example, during this present regime, of councillors not being prepared to "stay in their lane" and concentrate on the myriad of local issues facing Bass Coast at the moment, chief among them being town planning and the lack of attention to the residential environment.

The abandonment of the \$35 million Surf Beach Sunderland Bay road and drainage improvement scheme was likely a symptom of councillors taking their eye off the ball to concentrate on such issues as the Voice to Parliament referendum, climate change and their own politic agendas.

At least in these last 10 months, before they face the voters again, they should be getting back to the core business of council.

Investment madness

THESE current Bass Coast Councillors are starting to look like a bunch of virtue signalling wasters. I expected better; certainly, you'd think that at least some of them have had enough strength of character to avoid being sucked into vortex and climate catastrophism!

I would have thought that in the current financial situation, every dollar of rate payer's money is critical, hence if you have \$35 million to invest, you do so with the entity that will provide the best and safest return on your investment. What individual councillors do with their own money is a matter entirely for them but their own moral virtues should not come into the equation when investing ratepayers/Shire revenue.

Should their vote result in an inferior investment return, then perhaps the shortfall should be garnished from their council stipend under the guise of



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

Vox Pop

What is your New Year's resolutions for 2024?

Cr Clare le Serve

Bass Coast Mayor
"Being a realist, I hope to be able to remain positive and optimistic for the future. Creating an opportunity to work with the community and be active in what I do. A walk a day! To help clear the mind."



Cr Clare Williams

South Gippsland Mayor
"Like every year to keep sticking to life's plan of always to say yes to an opportunity and to always be ready for growth and adventure."



Cr Rochelle Halstead

BC Deputy Mayor
"As a Councillor my determination to bring to the forefront the unheard voices of the majority is my focus. The numbers in this council are clearly split along political lines... But I have a voice in the chamber, and I intend to use it."



Cr Nathan Hersey

SG Deputy Mayor
"To have a family trip away in our caravan. We brought it during the pandemic and still haven't had a decent trip away."



Helping old friends to stay in touch

TWO OLD friends living in separate Gippsland Southern Health Service aged care facilities have found a new way to reconnect.

Although both aged 90, Margaret Myors and Anne Fowles have started using iPads to stay in touch, not just with each other but with family around Australia and even with people from overseas.

A resident of Hillside Lodge for nearly two years, Mrs Myors is new to technology.

"My husband had used modern technology, but I had nothing to do with it," she said.

She has a loan of an iPad for three months and is making good use of it.

"I use it to do FaceTime with my family and to listen to songs and the ABC," she said.

"I have children living locally but I have nine grandkids and they're all over the place."

Margaret and Anne were friends "out in the real world" as members of Probus.

"It's nice to catch up - I can tell her what's going on down here and she can tell me what's happening up there," she said.

Being able to master the technology gives Mrs Myors a sense of pride.

"My son wanted me to try it

after my husband John passed away but I didn't think I could use it. Now I have."

The technology has been introduced by volunteer Craig Panagiris who loans iPads to residents and mentors them on how to use them.

"I am supporting older people to use technology, mostly to help them maintain social connections but also to connect with services," Mr Panagiris said.

"When I first met with Margaret, she didn't have a lot of confidence but I assured her it wouldn't be a problem if it didn't work.

"It's good for social connection outcomes, Face Timing her adult grandchildren around Australia and other relatives.

"Margaret knew Anne, who has her own iPad, from when they were buddies at the local Probus club so we arranged for them to have a chat for about half an hour.

"Now they can do it whenever they like.

"It's important to realise your potential whether you're nine or 90 and I want to make sure older people continue to be socially connected," Mr Panagiris said.



Mrs Myors, aged 90, stays in touch with friend Anne Fowles through her iPad.

Large crowds attend Island Foreshore market

THERE was plenty of holiday activity to keep Phillip Island visitors happy over a bumper New Year's Eve long weekend.

And ultimately, the sun came out and played its part as well for those desperate to go to the beach for a swim.

The Churchill Market and the Island Foreshore Market were among the best attended events last weekend, but with more to follow this coming weekend including Ocean Sounds on Saturday, January 6.

The next Island Foreshore Market will be held along The Esplanade in Cowes on Saturday, January 6 from 2pm to 9pm.

RIGHT: Christina Clayton of Melbourne and her little pooch 'Monkey', enjoyed their visit to the Cowes Foreshore Market.



Education officer at the Bass Coast Shire Council Shana Bremner chats with visitors to the Island Foreshore Market about rubbish bins and dog recreation areas.

Protect yourself to avoid sunburn-related emergency visits

BETWEEN November and February, we are 11.5 times more likely to require emergency assistance because of sunburn compared to the rest of the year.

While many of us have fond memories enjoying the great outdoors last summer, new data from Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset shows that last year 274 Victorians ended up in the emergency department with severe sunburn.

Since records started in July 2004, more than 5000 people have presented to Victorian emergency departments with a diagnosis of sunburn.

Head of SunSmart, Emma Glassenbury, says considering sunburn and damage from ultraviolet (UV) radiation is preventable, this alarming number represents an unnecessary risk increasing people's likelihood of developing skin cancer, and an unnecessary

burden on the state's health system.

"Between November and February, the UV index in Victoria will consistently reach high and extreme levels. In some parts of our beautiful state, UV levels are strong enough to cause sunburn in as little as 11 minutes without sun protection.

"This is our peak period for sunburn, which is an immediate result of UV damage causing pain and trauma to the skin that can increase your risk of developing skin cancer later in life," Ms Glassenbury says.

Daily routines can change over summer as people typically spend more time outdoors. With warmer, drier conditions forecast this year, SunSmart is encouraging Victorians to cover up when the UV is three or above to avoid a trip to the emergency department.



Last year 274 Victorians ended up in the emergency department with severe sunburn - cover up this summer to avoid sunburn.

New Chair for Gippsland Primary Health Network

MR NATHAN Voll is the new Chair of Gippsland Primary Health Network, taking over from Therese Tierney who has held the position for four years.

Mr Voll has been the Deputy Chair for the past 12 months.

He has considerable governance experience in the healthcare sector having served on the Board of Latrobe Health Insurance since 2011 and as a Director of West Gippsland Healthcare Group for six years.

Currently the Regional Finance Manager for South Eastern Victoria with the Department of Education and Training, Mr Voll has more than 20 years' experience in the private and public sector in executive positions, management, consulting and finance/accounting.

After his appointment at a Gippsland PHN Board meeting on Wednesday December 13, Mr Voll thanked outgoing chair, Ms Tierney, for her leadership, commitment, and widely recognised contribution to primary care, and more broadly, to the health sector in Gippsland. Having been reappointed at the recent AGM for three years, she will continue as a Board Director.

The new Deputy Chair is Dr Letitia Clark, a GP and Chief Medical Officer at West Gippsland Healthcare Group. Dr Clark's clinical work is a combination of hospital anaesthetics and general practice with a focus on providing quality acute care within rural communities.

Board Director, Julie Rogalski, retired from the Gippsland PHN Board after serving as a Director for the past nine years. She will be replaced by new Director, Vicki Doherty, currently the Executive Director of the Australasian Menopause Society (AMS).

Ms Doherty has more than 20 years' experience in the public, not-for-profit and government sectors. Prior to working at AMS, Ms Doherty led the implementation of the Victorian

Government's Palliative Care Policy in Gippsland across the primary, acute and community health sectors.



Riding for fun at Stony Creek

Enjoying all the fun of the fair at the Stony Creek Races last Friday was Jimmy O'Callaghan of Toora trying out the popular pony rides, part of an array of fun activities for the kids.

15 Minutes of History sessions in Wonthaggi

FASCINATING glimpses into the past will be shared with community members and visitors during a series of sessions run by Wonthaggi & District Historical Society everyday from January 6 until January 20.

The '15 Minutes of History' presentations all begin at 11.30am.

"We want to take history to the public and we try and engage the community so they can learn a little bit that's unique about Wonthaggi," the Society's president Fay Quilford said.

The opening session focuses on the short-lived Wonthaggi Shuttlecock Factory in McBride Avenue, with Jack Moyle the speaker, his family having owned a business not far from the factory.

Another session highlights Wonthaggi's hottest local band of the 1960s, 'The Apple', a topic that Fay said created a lot of excitement among the Historical Society members when discussed recently.

Mark Cauchi, who wrote a detailed book about Kilcunda railway history, will speak about fascinating details such as the fact the local railway station occupied three different locations over time, and the town's famous trestle bridge.

His book is available to buy at the Railway Museum, Apex Park in Murray Street Wonthaggi, the scene of all the '15 Minutes of History' presentations.

The Miners' Women's Auxiliary will be the final topic.

All sessions are free, with donations welcome.

'15 Minutes of History' Sessions are:

- Saturday Jan 6 - Wonthaggi Shuttlecock Factory
- Sunday Jan 7 - Kilcunda railway history
- Monday Jan 8 - Kugerungmome / Powlett River Water Catchment Project history
- Tuesday Jan 9 - 'The Corner' in history and song
- Wednesday Jan 10 - Wonthaggi SES - Cliffhangers
- Thursday Jan 11 - From Merrin Crescent horse paddock to Melbourne Show judge
- Friday Jan 12 - The Hospital Garden Party
- Saturday Jan 13 - Eagles Nest - huts to eviction
- Sunday Jan 14 - 'The Apple' - Wonthaggi's hottest local band in the 60s
- Monday Jan 15 - Mabilia family and Kilcunda coal
- Tuesday Jan 16 - Wonthaggi State School Pool - unique in its time
- Wednesday Jan 17 - Wonthaggi's underground network - Powlett Coalfield
- Thursday Jan 18 - At home with the Powlett Express
- Friday Jan 19 - From USA to Bass Coast Chorale
- Saturday Jan 20 - The Miners' Women's Auxiliary

Global agreement the death knell for coal, oil and gas

A HISTORIC agreement was declared at the COP28 United Nations climate talks where countries collectively agreed on the need to rapidly shift away from fossil fuels.

At the conclusion of the climate summit in Dubai late last year, countries agreed to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030, and shift away from using fossil fuels like coal and gas in energy systems.

This was a hard fought win that follows many years of determined advocacy by Pacific Island nations and other frontline communities. Australian Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen with the Australian delegation played an important role in finding a workable agreement.

Climate Council Senior Researcher Dr Wesley Morgan said: "Australia remains the world's third-largest fossil fuel exporter - exporting nearly three times the fossil fuels than talk hosts the United Arab Emirates does - and has dozens of new coal, oil and gas projects in the approvals pipeline.

"The science has been clear for some time - we need to stop pollution at its source. Every step we take to cut pollution across electricity, transport and industry helps secure all of our futures."

Watercolour talents combine in Fish Creek

FISH Creek local Gillian Carpenter and Euroa and Melbourne based Bruce Hargrave are displaying their watercolour paintings in a joint exhibition, 'Summer Palette', at the Hub in Fish Creek, with the official launch having been held on Saturday.

Both are members of the Victorian Watercolour Society, with the pair meeting at a 'Paint Out' held by the organisation.

Gillian invited Bruce to exhibit with her after he visited her farm studio.

"It gets boring to have a single person all the time and it's nice to have a contrast," Gillian said.

Bruce and Gillian chatted to the Sentinel-Times about their individual approaches to producing watercolour works.

"My process is about being involved in whatever location I'm in," Gillian said.

While focusing on landscapes and seascapes, she is increasingly finding new ways of doing so.

"My approach is experimental to some degree, particularly in the last couple of years, with materials as well as subject matter," Gillian said.

Using Yupo paper, a synthetic watercolour paper resembling photographic paper and reminiscent of painting on glass, for some of her art pieces produces brilliant colours and is an example of her willingness to strive for variety.

Bruce sticks to traditional watercolour paper and describes himself as a realist and an impressionist.

"I look at the ancient masters and think a lot of those guys got it pretty right," he said of his approach to watercolours.

"I see it like gardening, cooking and music, a continuum of



Bruce Hargrave and Gillian Carpenter display some of their watercolours at the launch of their joint exhibition in Fish Creek. A13_0124

hopeless to brilliant and you're somewhere along that channel having a go, and watercolour is such a challenge," he said, explaining it is difficult to rectify mistakes and adding he has many paintings on the backs of others.

While he has now built considerable experience as a painter, Bruce only took up the artform in 2006, starting with a simple country church after being given a book on watercolour painting.

"My mind was transported somewhere else for three hours and it was a good place and that feeling has never left," Bruce said.

He enjoys working in environ-

ments he is not familiar with and loves to capture images local to the places he visits.

"Things hit me as I came into town," he said of the Fish Creek visit that inspired some of his works in the current exhibition, others highlighting different parts of South Gippsland.

Gillian began entering her paintings in various Rotary art shows in 1994, having since held 13 solo exhibitions as well as taking part in group exhibitions, and she won the Victorian Artists Society's Eastbourne prize in 2018.

Bruce, who also has a love of cycling, held his first solo exhibition 'Freewheeling' in 2010 and has now featured in

10 solo exhibitions.

He also regularly participates in group exhibitions, having earned honours such as 'Most Popular Local Artist' (Strathbogie Summer Festival, 2012), 'Canson Award' for best watercolour (Mentone Mordialloc Art Group, 2013) and 'Best Painting Overall' (Ruffy Artfest, 2014).

Playing several instruments and singing, Bruce was called on to perform at the official opening of the Fish Creek exhibition, playing guitar and sharing his lyrics about the frustrations of lengthy phone calls that invariably fail to resolve the issue at hand but end with "have a nice day".

The art of entertaining a big Island crowd

PROLIFIC Melbourne cartoonist and caricaturist Victor Castro can draw up to 25 lifelike facial pictures an hour and he sent away dozens of happy customers from the Cowes Twilight Foreshore Market on Saturday of the New Years Eve long weekend.

With the weather still cool, but turning fine, one of the biggest crowds seen at a Cowes Foreshore Market stayed away from the beaches and turned out for some evening activity.

And with plenty of food, craft and fun on offer, they strolled the Cowes Esplanade or watched the action from vantage points at the North Pier Hotel at one end or the Hotel Phillip Island at the other.

Among them were the Parrots of Healesville with youngsters Knox, Amber and April getting a unique souvenir of their visit to Phillip Island, a drawing by caricaturist Victor Castro.

It was all part of a massively busy weekend on Phillip Island, with the main roads busy but moving all weekend, cafes and restaurants experiencing queues at peak times and accommodation packed.

The only thing missing was some real beach weather but that arrived on New Year's Eve, warm enough for a swim and the skies clear into the evening as everyone came out for the fireworks.



Melbourne caricaturist Victor Castro turns out one of dozens of drawings for patrons at the Cowes Foreshore Market on Saturday evening of a busy New Year's Eve Weekend, to the delight of Healesville visitors Knox, April and Amber Parrott.

A strong season ahead for Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club

INVERLOCH Surf Life Saving Club has kickstarted its season 900 members strong.

Membership is up by 100, with families and individuals reaping the benefits of the club.

Beach numbers were low ahead of Christmas and conditions have been mild.

Club members anticipate an increase in beachgoers post-Christmas when the summer weather finally hits.

The club has undergone some positive changes lately, with a lot of maintenance and repair works.

"Our sponsors have been instrumental in allowing us to achieve these things," club president Glenn Arnold said.

"We also have new clothes and equipment, which we were able to purchase through a combination of sponsorship and grants."

Arnold also commended Bass Coast Shire Council for planting fresh grass at the clubhouse.

"It has been great for the Nipper program. We held a barbecue and a cupcake sale, and it was great to see the Nippers and families being able to use that area.

"It's a testament to council for delivering this project ahead of schedule."

The club has an exciting month ahead, starting with its 25th anniversary celebration on January 6.

Tickets are on sale and can be purchased on Facebook or via QR codes around the club.

The tickets are set at a family friendly price of \$35 per person, or \$15 for children under 13, and the event will include live entertainment from Hot Tub Time Machine.



Junior club captain James Harman, patroller Sam Dimopoulos and club president Glenn Arnold.

Nippers began recently, with 260 children taking part.

SRC training is underway, running concurrently with the Nippers, and the annual Bronze Camp was recently completed.

IRB training will also be available for members.

Although Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club has not been involved in any rescues so far, the weather is warming up, and members are calling on the public to continue swimming between the flags and staying in safe, patrolled areas.

The season has already brought excellent attendance to the club and kiosk, and the club looks forward to welcoming more locals and visitors during 2024.



Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club president Glenn Arnold and Harry Fryar are geared up for the season.

Wonthaggi patrollers launch into summer season

WONTHAGGI Life Saving Club has enjoyed a fantastic start to the 2023/24 season.

Nippers began last week with more than 100 children participating, and will continue on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through to Australia Day.

Beach conditions have been great, despite the average weather.

President Mark Scott said visitors have been responsible on the beach, and whilst patrollers have been busy administering first aid, there have been no rescues so far.

"Beach numbers have been good. Fishing has been going well and there has been a lot of attendance at the rock pool. It's great to see people out enjoying themselves," he said.

Scott thanked the local community for continuing to support the club.

Donations from the public have allowed the club to purchase a second beach wheelchair.

The new wheelchair is able to go into the water, allowing inclusivity on the beach.

The club has a lot to look forward to with a full calendar coming up in January.

Hoy started yesterday (Tuesday, January 2), and will take

place on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Played like Bingo with cards, Hoy has become a family favourite event at the club with door prizes to be won.

The nights kick off at 7pm and run through to 9pm, with a \$5 entry fee.

The Club Championship is set to be held on January 13, followed by a Bronze Camp on January 14.

A fun competition for members, the Club Championship features Nippers through to Masters.

Registration will be at 9.30am for a 10am, and the day will finish with a barbecue and a medal presentation.

The Bronze Medallion and SRC course will focus on basic patrolling and sea awareness knowledge for participants.

These assessments take place over 39.25 and 21.5 hours respectively.

Movie nights will also start on Friday nights.

The coffee shop is open from early to late every day and has been well attended so far.

For the time being, the club will be operating in its temporary facility as permits and designs for the main clubhouse are finalised.



The Nippers program launched at the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club recently.



Wonthaggi Life Saving Club's Nippers program will run through to the Australia Day weekend.



Deputy Commodore of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at Port Welshpool Peter Pryce-Lewis with Linda and Maggie.

Coast guard call for more volunteers

THEY are involved in 40-50 rescues annually, in Corner Inlet and the waters east of Wilsons Promontory, including callouts most weekends to tow in stricken craft.

We couldn't do without the branch of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at Port Welshpool and they can't do without volunteers.

"We've got 25 to 30 active members but we could do with some younger members and also with more women," said Deputy Commodore at Port Welshpool Peter Pryce-Lewis last week.

Together with a dozen of his fellow members, he was out spreading the word at the Stony Creek races, where they have committed to helping feed the masses at all five race meetings this year.

"We thought it was a good opportunity to get out there and spread the word about what we do and hopefully to raise some money for fuel and equipment."

As anyone who runs a boat will tell you, they have a voracious appetite for fuel and while they do get government funding, it is never enough to run the former police boat, which is their main rescue craft and the rigid inflatable 401 which they also use.

"There was a damaged yacht in a Sealers Cove before Christmas that some went out to from Barry Beach, because it was too rough, but we're often called out for that sort of thing. Mostly for breakdowns though, to tow people back in," said Peter.

"One of the other important things we do is interface training with Ambulance Victoria. We're the only place where they can practice their helicopter to boat rescues, lowering medics down to a boat or ship and retrieving a stretcher as required."

"We do receive support for that but we always need to do our own fundraising as well."

"We'd love a new boat at some stage in the future but I reckon that's still five to 10 years off."

If you are interested in joining Australian Volunteer Coast Guard at Port Welshpool contact them on 0428 366 467 or visit their website at coastguard.com.au/flotilla/vf20-port-welshpool

Marketta Festival returns to Venus Bay

MARKETTA Festival hits Venus Bay this Thursday March 4, featuring a variety of food trucks, a gin bar and live music, and raising valuable funds for Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club (VBSLSC).

Action gets underway at 5pm.

The gin bar and music will be located inside the Life Saving Club.

Matt Rigby delivers soft vocals at 5pm, Neen's easy listening songs start at 6pm, with Indie rock from Cycad commencing at 7.30pm, Skamp Vera's rock at 8.30pm and Jana Hanak's gentle pop from 9.15pm.

"There's lots of market stalls," club president Kim Gee said, with those including craft and clothing.

The club is selling dumplings to fund its Inflatable Rubber Boat racing team, serving up a range of tasty flavours.

Sri Lankan and Vietnamese cuisine, calamari and arancini are among the savoury offerings.

There'll be plenty for those desiring sweet treats, with a cake stall, donuts, ice cream and slushy up for grabs.

In addition to money raised through the Marketta Festival, VBSLSC is also conducting an online silent auction for which it has set a target of generating at least \$15,000, with a vast range of products and services available from the local region and further afield. Visit 32auctions.com/VBSLSC23 to browse and bid.

Pelicans in Westernport

THE WESTERPORT Pelican Study Group (WPSG) began unofficially about fifteen years ago with a group of community members who had an interest in pelicans.

It's continued evolution was sparked by one incident in particular.

The group rescued a pelican found with hooks in both legs, caught in fishing line and unable to fly; it needed treatment and rehabilitation.

During its rehabilitation a member of WPSG, Gary Matthews, discovered the bird had consumed prawns prior to the rescue.

He knew prawns weren't found in San Remo waters.

"The question came up: how far do they fly? Where do they forage for their food? It's like a can of worms you open up," Gary said.

The WPSG was officially formed and members began amassing information and data on pelicans in Western Port Bay, hoping to get a research student on board to help further their exploration.

This was to no avail and after five years, Gary obtained his A Class licence so he could instruct and show others how to band different varieties of birds.

The group also managed to get assistance and information from an Associate Professor at Adelaide University in South Australia who they met with a number of times.

They obtained an ethics permit and green and white coloured bands to place on the birds, with the project finally kicking off officially in 2018.

Their first banded bird was number 451, a juvenile male at the time, who now shows up in the area once or twice a year and isn't seen the rest of the time.

There are about 300 pelicans out in the field with bands on.

WPSG began tracking the flight activity of the pelicans through devices and associated software bought with grant assistance from the Bendigo Community Bank.

They can now follow the pelicans in real time via an app.

Many discoveries about pelican activity have been made by WPSG.

The birds eat at night because fish coming to the surface in the dark makes easy plucking.

They'll then spend daylight hours roosting at Fishers Wetlands, near Churchill Island.

When female pelicans have young, they develop a breeding plumage and grow a pouch underneath their bill that turns pink with blue lines running through it.

The young start off eating small schooling fish and as they get older, they gradually catch bigger and bigger fish.

When ready to leave the nest, juvenile pelicans often travel long distances, seemingly exploring and looking for their own territory.

Juveniles banded in Western Port have been found as far north as Port Stephens in NSW and appear to travel both inland and along the coast.

Adult pelicans choose a place to inhabit and then don't travel very far from their chosen home, like the juveniles do, explained Gary.

All the information collected is shared with and handed on to Birdlife and Australian Bird and Bat Banding Scheme.

Community members are welcome to help collect data by noting the colour of a band, number if possible as well as date, time and location information and putting it on the Westernport Pelican Study Groups Facebook page.

Road users on alert for wildlife

WILDLIFE Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks are working alongside Bass Coast Shire Council and the Department of Transport and Planning to reduce the wildlife road toll on Phillip Island.

The organisations came together after community members and wildlife rescuers on the Island flagged a substantial increase in the number of native animals injured and killed on Phillip Island's roads.

Over the Easter period, Wildlife Victoria deployed a specialised rescue unit to the Island to gain a better understanding of the wildlife road toll.

In just seven days, the team attended to 105 animals across 19 different species.

Of the 105 cases, only 21 had been called into Wildlife Victoria.

The first step in the animal road toll reduction plan includes increased wildlife warning signs, which will all be installed prior to the busy summer period.

"Phillip Island is home to some of Victoria's unique and wonderful wildlife, penguins, endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoots and threatened birdlife. We are extremely lucky to live on an island haven with native wildlife and grateful that our collaborative efforts can contribute to motorist awareness," Phillip Island Nature Parks conservations manager Jessica McKelson said.

"It is everybody's responsibility to help protect and care for our local wildlife, particularly in peak holiday periods when more visitors travel to Phillip Island to enjoy our beautiful landscapes and natural wonders, and there is more traffic on our roads.

"We encourage the community to slow down on our roads, particularly at dawn or dusk when animals are active."

Phillip Island Nature Parks and council have coordinated road signage to warn local and visiting motorists about the endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot hotspots, which is



Motorists are urged to stay vigilant and watch out for wildlife on Phillip Island's roads. Photo: Phillip Island Nature Parks.



The Eastern Barred Bandicoot is one of the species to be wary of near roads on Phillip Island. Photo: Phillip Island Nature Parks.

based on information provided by the community through the Citizen Science app.

Since the release of Eastern Barred Bandicoots on Summerland Peninsula in 2017, the species has gradually spread across the Island, with populations now becoming more visible on the Summerland Peninsula, Newhaven, Ventnor and Cape Woolamai.

As the bandicoot population grows, it has led to an increase in the endangered marsupials being hit and killed by cars.

With these signs, the community can be educated on where to exercise caution.

"Each year, Bass Coast

attracts more than three million visitors to our beautiful part of the world – and that number is only expected to grow," mayor Cr Clare Le Serve said.

"Caring for our environment and our wildlife is a community obligation. We encourage our residents and visitors to be our eyes and ears on Phillip Island to ensure wildlife experts can respond as quickly as possible to sick, injured or orphaned animals."

The new signs will include a call to action for motorists to call Wildlife Victoria's 24/7 emergency response service on 8400 7300 to report any incidents of sick, injured,

orphaned or deceased wildlife.

Conservationists and wildlife experts are urging motorists, community members and visitors to be extra vigilant and take their time on Phillip Island roads to reduce the number of road trauma incidents involving wildlife, particularly at dawn or dusk when they are most active.

"We understand accidents happen," Wildlife Victoria CEO Lisa Palma said.

"All we ask is they when they do, drivers call Wildlife Victoria to report them. Our Emergency Response Service is staffed by a team of highly experienced operators 24 hours a day, seven days a week, who can provide advice and, when required, dispatch a volunteer rescuer. You might just save a life."

Department of Transport and Planning regional director Beth Liley encouraged road users to be vigilant.

"Travel at safe speeds, leave plenty of space between them and the car in front and take extra care in signposted areas where wildlife may be more active," she said.

Wildlife Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Parks will continue to work alongside council and the Department of Transport and Planning to roll out additional mitigation strategies such as speed limit reviews, wildlife messaging for major events, and increased community and tourist engagement.

Call for citizen scientists to record Growling Grass Frog at Prom



Parks Victoria is calling on citizen scientists to help capture the distinct calls of frogs at Wilsons Promontory National Park this summer. Raniformis captured by Jeremy Tscharke, Parks Vic.

Developed by the Australian Museum, this simple-to-use smartphone app makes it easy for everyday people to help conservation of threatened frog species. Whether a potential call is recorded from a hiking trail, tent or picnic spot, FrogID will identify it by using a network of experts, with in-built GPS confirming its exact location.

The vast terrain of the Prom presents an exciting opportunity

to uncover the secrets of the Growling Grass Frog or find new populations of threatened species living at the most southerly point of mainland Australia.

Frogs can be strong indicators of ecosystem health. The development of a database and input of valuable data by volunteers via FrogID will help Parks Victoria rangers and ecologists better target conservation efforts, adapt current management plans and respond to potential or upcoming threats to nature.

This initiative is being delivered as part of Parks Victoria's Prom Sanctuary project, which will transform the much-loved national park into Victoria's largest conservation sanctuary, a climate refuge where nature is cared for and native animals and plants thrive.

"Citizen science is a powerful tool and every frog call recorded will help build a clearer picture of frog populations and their chosen refuges at Wilsons Promontory National Park," said Dr Mark Norman, Parks Victoria Chief Scientist Conservation and Climate Action.

"We're really keen for summer holiday goers and the local community to use FrogID to help local rangers cover this beautifully vast landscape.

"Their contributions will help us understand where to target our conservation efforts. From fighting Chytrid fungus, to increasing feral animal control and vegetation management around waterways, public help will support our most vulnerable species as another key component of the globally significant Prom Sanctuary project."

Celebrating 100 years from Cassola Vincenza to Wonthaggi

MRS Agnese Natalina Crestani celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at her home recently. Among them were here four children Colin, Anita, Frances and John, as well as her extended family of nine grandchildren and 11 of her 17 great grandchildren.

Born on December 23, 1923, in Cassola Vincenza, a small northern Italian town, not far from Venice, Agnese would grow up surrounded by World War II.

Recalling her early life in Italy Agnese remembers one occasion on her way home from work, she hid under a bridge – the Americans were bombarding nearby, destroying bridges so that the Germans wouldn't pass through to other parts of Italy. The next day that same bridge was blown up, so she was happy to be alive.

On another occasion Agnese can recall looking out the window at her home only to see a German soldier pointing a gun to shoot at her but a smile and a hand wave from her, the soldier smiled and decided not



Born two days before Christmas and growing up during the War, Agnese has many tales to tell after recently celebrating her 100th birthday.

to shoot and went on his way; she was happy to be spared her life again.

Life was very hard during her growing up years as there was no government assistance, and everyone had to fend for themselves working on the land, and food was scarce.

The weather in Italy during winter was very harsh with

snow two-three feet deep, and going to work, which was four kilometres away, was very difficult at times on a bicycle, with slippery roads, Agnese would often have many falls along the way.

In late 1951 she arrived in Australia with a very young Colin after a month-long journey by ship to start a new life.

Her husband who had arrived six months earlier, had been working in the Coal Mines so that he could send the money for their trip and prepare accommodation.

Life was a lot better in Australia, especially the weather. There was no television, fridges or other modern electrical appliances of today at that time, so early nights to bed it was.

Later to help save enough money to buy their home, Agnese would keep boarders, sometimes up to six of them. It wasn't long before they were able to buy their home, however as the children came along the boarders had to go.

Caring for her family, cooking, washing by copper means, sewing and mending the family's clothes and other household work, Agnese had the privilege of watching her children grow up, which brought much happiness.

Asked for her secret to longevity: good food, good health, and good genes.

Hoping to see her for many more years with good health.

Cast and crew from Leongatha Lyric Theatre celebrated

LEONGATHA Lyric Theatre celebrated its highly successful production The Producers at the recent Gippsland Associated Theatre awards night.

Winning a total of eight varying awards for both cast and crew, it was an outstanding night for the theatre company.

Leongatha Lyric Theatre (LLT) proudly shared the event with other local theatre companies, which were also acknowledged for their successes and theatrical achievements.

LLT prides itself on the high number of volunteers that contribute to make a major production such as The Producers happen.

From the performers to set building and front of house staff, LLT recognise that collectively everyone who

participates are winners.

Some of the eight awards were for Most Outstanding Choreographer, Support Actor, and Set and Costume Designer.

Colin Mitchell and Zac Kraus not only won the Design and Technical Achievement award at the Gippsland Associated Theatre (GAT) awards, but they also won the same award with the Music Theatre Guilds Victoria, highlighting LLT's commitment to bringing state of the art shows to the community.

Taine Lowe received the GAT award for Most Outstanding Youth Performer for his role as Carmen Ghia, as well as winning the Junior Performer award at the Guilds.

Taine is a fairly new member to the Lyric family but has

highlighted the importance of young people in theatre.

He also received the prestigious Geoff Perrett Rising Star Award, presented annually at the annual general meeting, which goes to a youth member who has shown great talent, commitment and tenacity for theatre.

LLT looks forward to another year ahead with its upcoming production Into the Woods.

"There's a great theatre buzz in our community at the moment and we want to keep the momentum going," committee president Bron Beach said.

"We also have a great Youth Committee, which is working hard to engage our youth through workshops and other small productions. It's truly an exciting time for us."



Taine Lowe receiving the Geoff Perrett Rising Star Award from Don Perrett.

Community College Gippsland Leongatha to be revamped



Community College Gippsland's Leongatha campus is looking forward to its new classrooms and facilities.

THE Community College Gippsland Leongatha campus is in a phase of exciting transformation.

Major development works are underway to revamp its classrooms and facilities.

Recently, the campus witnessed a remarkable sight as large vehicles and cranes navigated through its premises, transporting and strategically placing newly constructed modular classrooms within the courtyard.

"The installation of these modular classrooms marks a significant milestone in our campus redevelopment," Community College Gippsland (CCG) CEO Dale Gemmell said.

"This will provide attractive and state of the art classrooms that will foster a modern learning environment for our students."

These new buildings are not just aesthetically pleasing, they're constructed using

eco-friendly materials, prioritising sustainability while ensuring durability and energy efficiency.

This move aligns with the college's commitment to reducing its environmental impact and fostering a more

sustainable future.

As the project progresses,

the next phase will involve the demolition of some of the existing structures that are no longer fit for purpose.

This was also a condition of CCG being able to extend its

lease of the site for a further 20 years.

This phase aims to clear the way for the creation of innovative spaces tailored to meet the evolving needs of CCG's educational programs, ensuring CCG can meet the educational needs of our students for a long time to come.

The entire undertaking signifies a step forward for CCG Leongatha campus, promising a revitalised educational landscape that prioritises both the comfort of its students and environmental stewardship.

The project was supported by the Victorian Government.

Stay tuned for further updates as the campus transformation continues to unfold, creating a brighter future for generations of learners at CCG ECG Secondary College.

For further information, contact CCG via 5622 6000 or info@ccg.asn.au.

Keeping the Amazon project afloat

THE EVERCHANGING tides and shifting sands of the surf beach in Inverloch periodically expose and hide the treasured remnants of the Amazon.

It has been 160 years since the ship beached on the sand, but only five years since the first ever archaeological survey on the remains of the ship was conducted.

Heritage Victoria, along with 12 international students and staff from Flinders University, South Australia and one amateur student carried out the survey.

This produced a lot of local interest, particularly amongst the regular beach walkers.

Shortly after the survey was completed, a few local residents were discussing the wreck and after saying "someone should do something about this," they realised that they were the very people who should. Subsequently, the Amazon 1863 Project was born.

With little knowledge on how to begin and what direction to take, the Amazon Project rose up and grew and with a lot of tenacity.

The committee advocated to local councils, government departments, businesses and locals to ensure the physical preservation of the wreck and to educate the public about the history behind the relic.

A lot has been done by the Amazon committee in the way of education and fundraising, mainly through exhibitions, grants, donations and memberships.

Only having various parts of the ship to work with and only getting glimpses of it when the sands decide, has made it difficult to keep membership interest alive.

Those who are members and remain members during times when the ship is buried is testimony of their dedication to the ship and the project.

The Amazon Committee greatly appreciates those who are still members as it is these fees and interest that keep the project alive.

To those who are interested in the project and who are not members, the Amazon Committee would welcome them aboard, as their contribution will aid the continuation as well as the preservation of the wreck and her story. Anyone wishing to support or join the Amazon 1863 Project can contact secretary@amazon1863.org.au or call Karyn 0423 682 580.

• FAITH FACTOR

Christmas continues

By Pastor Jeff Robertson, Connections Church Inverloch + Foster, Australian Christian Churches

NOW we have entered a new year, it's time to pack up the Christmas decorations as we enter the next season. Sometimes there's a tinge of sadness as the celebrations finish up, but I want to encourage you that the Christmas message is for all year round. When we talk about peace and hope and joy, it's not just for a few days each year.

The fact that the arrival of a baby in Bethlehem 2000 years ago is still celebrated today, is a reminder that we have an ongoing reason to hope. Jesus' birth wasn't just significant as a one-off event, but also because of the life he lived, the message he proclaimed, his deeds both miraculous and compassionate, and the lives he touched. The Bible tells us that "In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5)

When those wise men followed the light of the star, they took months to actually arrive where Jesus was. They continued to follow the light until they found Jesus. And the peace and hope and joy of Christmas aren't found in enjoying a holiday with some parties. They're found in Jesus, the Saviour. His life and light are something that we can look to all year round.

As this year comes to an end, and a new one begins, why not make it a year of seeking the One who changes us from the inside, through His love, and brings peace that is far greater than anything that can be found in earthly things. May your Christmas celebration continue throughout the coming year!

Events calendar

January 6

- Koonwarra Farmers Market 8am-1pm
- Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show 9am onwards
- Kids movie session at Mirboo North Library 10am-12pm
- 15 Minutes of History: Wonthaggi Shuttlecock Factory at Railway Museum, Apex Park 11.30am
- Nick Barker & The Fading Lights: Album Launch at The Archies Creek Hotel doors open 2.30pm
- Island Foreshore Market 3pm-9pm
- Celebrating 25 years of Inverloch SLSC at the Clubhouse 6pm-11pm
- 820 Door Jams at Westernport Hotel 9pm

January 7

- Jumbunna Bush Market 9am-1pm
- 15 Minutes of History: Kilcunda Railway History at Railway Museum 11.30am
- The Black Sorrows at The Archies Creek Hotel doors open 2.30pm

January 8

- Pretend Ice-Cream Craft Making at Inverloch Library 10am-11am
- Foil Art - Summer School Holiday Program at Wonthaggi Library 11am-12pm
- 15 Minutes of History: Kugarungmome/Powlett River Water Catchment Project History at Railway Museum 11.30am

January 9

- Big Bluey Bash at Leongatha Library 10.30am
- Stony Creek Races Summer Series: Pink Roses Race Day gates from 11am
- 15 Minutes of History: "The Corner" at Railway Museum 11.30am
- Family Card Fun Night at Wonthaggi Surf Life Saving Club 7.30pm-9.30pm

Daily

- Island Summer Carnival, corner of Thompson and Ventnor Road, Cowes open from 6pm until late
- Summer Palette, Artwork Studio Gallery at the Hub, 27 Falls Road, Fish Creek. December 27 to January 14.
- PICES summer 2024 Pop Up Exhibition, Berninnett, Cowes. January 3 to January 29.
- Golden Summer, ArtSpace, The Centennial Centre, 1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi. December 12 to January 22.

Unearthing a vintage bicycle gem



Max Grigg's meticulous restoration transformed a once-abandoned vintage bicycle to a BP-green riding machine.

IT'S long been a fortunate thing for our history that "one person's trash is another person's treasure".

Max Grigg, a passionate restorer of items from our past, found one such treasure when his son bought a property in the Riverina of New South Wales. Under a tree, abandoned and quietly rusting away, he spied an old and very unique bicycle.

Bringing it home, he began a restoration that revealed a bicycle, possibly circa 1950s or 60s, that would have given many hours of pleasure for a child with even a sidestep for one lucky passenger.

The chariot frame had to be cut from the bike so the restoration could begin. The steering and pedals were completely seized and there was surface rust all over.

The holes in the perforated mesh forming the base of the chariot were blocked with thick paint from a previous brush job. Max began clearing the holes with a pointed scriber but with many hundreds to clean he soon cast around for another method. A small drill provided a much better option, but it still took many hours.

Holes in the wheel rims had rusted so the wheel spokes were dismantled. Replacing the spokes proved to be a real puzzle and eventually Max had to admit defeat and send the wheels and original spokes away to be reunited.

Next the axles, pedals and steering shaft all needed new bearings before the chariot was once more welded to the frame.

With the bicycle starting to take shape again it was primed, and a family debate took place on the important question of choosing a paint colour. BP-green won out for the topcoat.

New tyres and tubes were fitted before the finishing touches, a new seat and handle grips.

The restoration process was for Max both fun and a challenge. The project was a window to the country children who must have spent many happy hours whizzing around the farm and a nod to the probable fond parent or grandparent who dreamed up such an original bicycle. Or is it a tricycle?

The South Gippsland branch of Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc. presents

39th Annual SWAP MEET

Sunday, January 14, 2024

Korumburra Showgrounds

Vintage & Classic Car Display

Grounds closed 10pm Saturday till 6am Sunday

- AUTO • MOTORCYCLE • STATIONARY ENGINES
- FARM MACHINERY • ANTIQUE • ANYTHING MECHANICAL

ADMISSION: \$5 per person • Under 16 FREE

Sites \$15 per site plus \$5 per person. Sites allocated on arrival. No prior bookings

BRIC-A-BRAC • CAR BOOKS • LIGHT REFRESHMENTS plus more from 6am in the pavilion

Inquiries • 0400 572 505

No animal sales. No dogs permitted entry.

WONTHAGGI

South Coast FM 88.1 89.1 89.5

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm

THURSDAY 8pm - 10pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo
★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★ LUCKY NUMBER JACKPOT

Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to news@sgst.com.au

It won't cost a cent to see them in print!

Sentinel-Times



An energetic young cast is ready for Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's production of Disney High School Musical Jnr.

Disney High School Musical Jnr ready to hit Wonthaggi

WHILE Wednesday's opening night tickets for Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's (WTG) Disney High School Musical Jnr have all been snapped up, seats for other performances are still available, with those shows running from Thursday January 4 until Sunday January 7.

The young cast numbers 22, with its members aged between 13 and 18 and coming from a variety of Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire locations.

First time director, but experienced performer with WTG, Jaz Hendry outlined the production's appeal.

"It's got a lot of energy to it; people will know the Disney movie and it's got all the hits from there as well as a new song," she said, adding it's a chance to get out and have a sing and a dance during the holidays.

The new song, 'Counting on You', was written for the stage show.

Director Jaz spoke about the two main leads featuring in WTG's January production.

Korumburra's Coby Fowles, who is about to start Year 12, plays Troy Bolton, having previously performed as the young Peter Allen in WTG's Boy from Oz and having

featured in numerous shows with Leongatha Lyric Theatre.

Inverloch's Nissa Campbell Walker plays Gabriella, previously appearing as little Cosette in WTG's 2019 production of Les Misérables, and having taken part in many shows at her school Newhaven College.

After spending a lot of time on stage during WTG shows, Jaz is enjoying the experience of directing.

"It's been nice to look at a production in a different way and to do all the backstage and the organising," she said.

Jaz's mum Karen Milkins-Hendry has provided guidance,

having directed many shows for WTG, with other members of the team also supportive of Jaz and ensuring a smooth transition into directing.

Working with local youth has added to the enjoyment for Jaz and she said the hour-long junior production is an ideal introduction as a director.

By Thursday, around 65 percent of tickets for the season had already sold.

Tickets are available through trybooking.com by searching 'Wonthaggi Theatrical Group', with the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre the venue.

Oz Day at the Daly is back again this Australia Day

THE Dalyston Football Netball Club is very pleased to announce that the Oz Day at the Daly family festival is on again in 2024.

The club is very grateful to again receive support from the National Australia Day Council to continue the event though the level of funding is significantly less than in previous years. DFNC is very proud of the high standard of its previous Oz Day festivals and is committed to maintaining that quality for the 2024 event.

The Dalyston Recreation Reserve will come to life as it hosts another great family day on January 26 where the community can reflect, respect and celebrate.

Now in its fourth year this event showcases quality local talent and creates an affordable, safe day out for families from throughout Bass Coast. The program from the previous events has been expanded with some new



Kids on stage at the 2023 festival with this year's festival again focusing on new and emerging local talent.

activities and another amazing fireworks display planned to finish off the night.

Once again there will be carnival rides, face painter and other kid's activities together with live bands and a super screen.

Dalyston Football Netball Club President Dave Bell is rapt with the fantastic community days the previous festivals created and the great feedback received.

"I loved the sight of the Dalyston families walking

through the gates and as the town continues to grow, we expect Oz Day to continue to grow with it. The carloads of families that made the trip out really appreciated the entertainment, the relaxed atmosphere and room to move on the oval. We are proud of the role the Dalyston Football Netball Club plays in bringing the community together and events such as Oz Day at the Daly builds and strengthens this connection".

A key consideration when selecting the bands is to engage local groups and if possible young emerging performers. The quality of local talent is outstanding, and this event continues to give great exposure to these performers.

The line-up is still being finalised so stay tuned for more information.

Oz Day at the Daly is a ticketed event and tickets are now available through Try Booking via trybooking.com/COEQO



French Onion Tart

By Meg Viney



THIS was one of the first recipes I learned when I was being trained by Mme de Stoop. Reliable and beautiful.

If you do not have a TX (Thermomix) just use your own hand methods.

Pastry

About 100 g butter plus double amount flour then a pinch of salt

Make into 'breadcrumbs' then add about 1 tablespoons vinegar to make soft dough. Remove and pat into a ball. If you have time, rest an hour – if not it matters not.

Filling

- 2 medium or one large onion
- Salt, sugar, white pepper, freshly grated nutmeg
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup cream
- 120 gm Maasdam or Swiss cheese, chopped into one centimetre cubes

Chop 2 medium onions a second or two in TX with pinch of salt and drizzle of oil.

Melt 30 gm butter cook onions long and slow, lid on, for at least 10 mins with a pinch of sugar to help caramelise.

Beat 4 eggs in TX and then a cup of cream to bring to a foamy mix – a minute.

Chop 120 gm Maasdam cheese.

Add all ingredients with a pinch of white pepper and a little grated nutmeg.

Roll out pastry between glad wrap and press into buttered dish.

Preheat oven to 190, pour in filling and bake about 35 mins until firmest and golden.

Serve warm.

QUICHE LORRAINE would have some cooked bacon in the base of the dish, but can add other things you like. If so, line pastry to top of dish.

Gillian Carpenter and Bruce Hargrave welcome you to their joint exhibition:

Summer Palette

An exhibition of Australian works as seen through the eyes of 2 well known watercolour artists.

ArtworkStudio Gallery at The Hub

27 Falls Road, Fish Creek 3959

Wednesday December 27, 2023

- Sunday January 14, 2024

Daily 10.30am - 4pm

Launch Saturday December 30

at 2.30pm

Enquiries 0400 414 547 or 0411 754 450



Inverloch Bowls Club greenskeeper Graham Turton with his grandson Caleb enjoyed a few rounds on the rink. C01_0224



Brothers Paul, Shaun and Simon Answerth joined family in a round at Inverloch Bowls after travelling from across Australia and Canada. C03_0224



Inverloch Bowls volunteers and members Gerry Carour, Pam Thomason and Michael Raman were on hand helping participants learn the craft of lawn bowls. C04_0224



Inverloch Bowls Club President Terry Seaward with members Joyce Arnold and Terry Orford helped put on a spectacular event on New Year's Eve ahead of the fireworks. C05_0224



Sisters Freya and Greta collect donations for Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club on New Year's Eve. A14_0124



Emily Waghorne, Louie the greyhound and Stephanie Reid enjoy a sunny New Year's Eve walk in Inverloch. A15_0124



Jan Longo and her grandson Luke Shaw have fun in the sun at Inverloch with canine family member Zoe on New Year's Eve. A16_0124



Damien and Ethan Arundel of Melbourne are set to hit the water on New Year's Eve. A17_0124



April Arundel and Travis Houlden relax in Inverloch on New Year's Eve. A18_0124

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Inverloch Barefoot Bowls on NYE, Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club and beach, Summer Palette art exhibition in Fish Creek and Churchill Farmers Market.



Bev Jungwirth, Wendy Gregson, Fred Jungwirth and Cathie Agg explore the Summer Palette art exhibition in Fish Creek, with Wendy from Inverloch and the others from Euroa. A12_0124



Valmai Todd and Lindsay Smith of Inverloch enjoy the launch of the Summer Palette art exhibition in Fish Creek. A08_0124



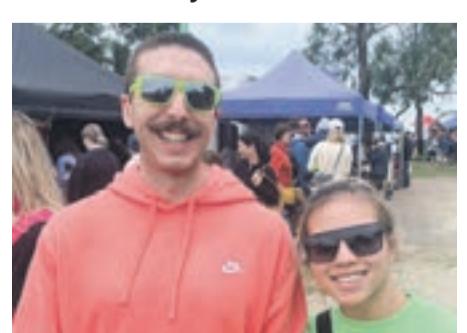
Rebecca Jones and Sue Whyte are impressed with the joint exhibition of their friend Gillian Carpenter and Bruce Hargrave, Rebecca enjoying Bruce's fun approach and Gillian's peaceful beauty and ability to capture the light. A11_0124



Maureen and James Marks spoke about the painters at the Summer Palette art exhibition in Fish Creek, with James officially opening the show. A10_0124



Tim Macumber of Millstream Flowers brought his produce across from Neerim South to the Churchill Market on Saturday.



Hot chips on a cool day at the Churchill Market on Phillip Island was just the thing for visitors Judd Francisca and Chloe Dam.



Greg Coolidge of Leongatha had an array of plants for sale at a very busy Churchill Farmers Market last Saturday with the proteas most popular.



It's ice creams all round for Han, Joshua and Grace Lim at the Churchill Farmers Market last Saturday.



CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

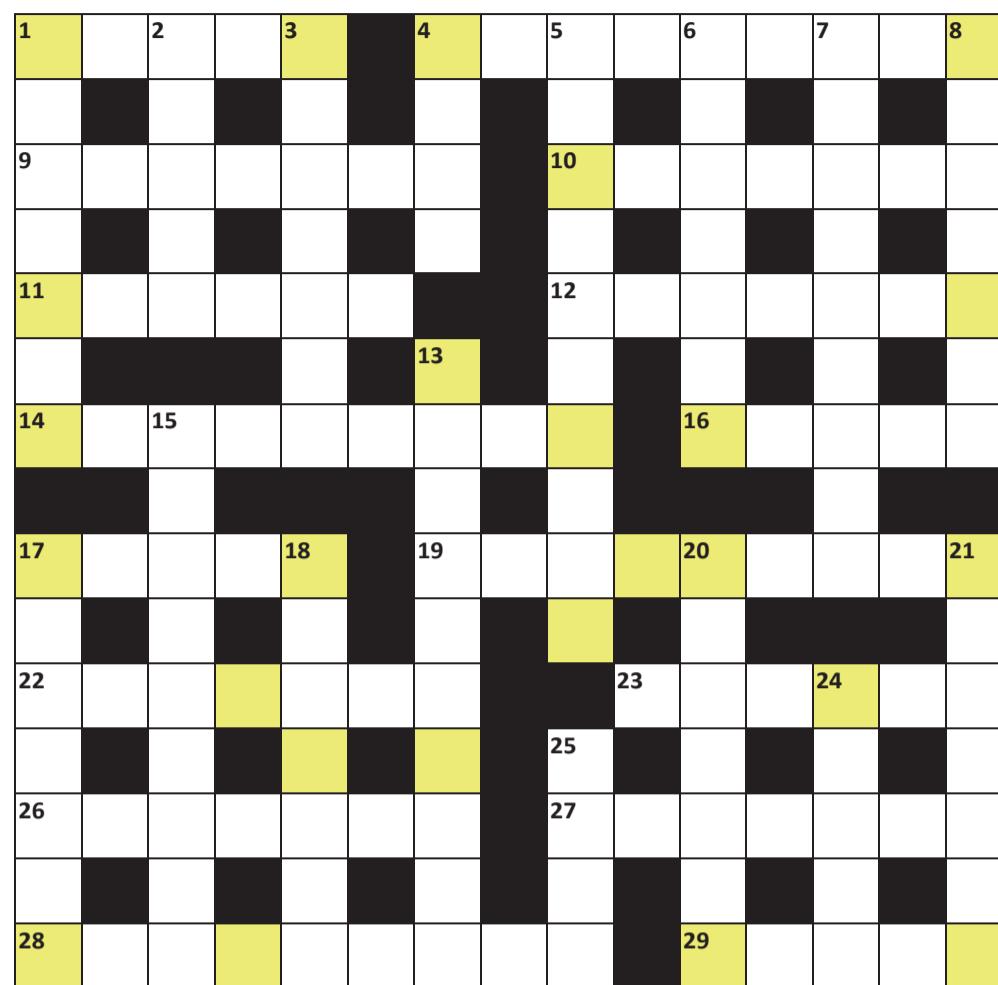
[Note: The several 11-across-sunny squares are *not* clued, but the *definitions* in their clues are of the *whole* answer. So, for example, in the 1-across clue, the definition is of the 5-letter word but the wordplay only clues letters 2, 3 and 4.]

ACROSS

- Canvas Heads, using polling centres (5)
- Crazy fab tour in waves, racing craft (9)
- It's for if I cease holding mouth (7)
- Time in attack by the French, realises Washington's big centre (7)
- One uncertain when days are longest? (6)
- Caribbean location, without the odd beach, and with a vacant marina (7)
- One's best times, like in Paris, heart tiddly, head addled, first yearnings (5,4)
- Top metal fabric (5)
- Keepers' feats from 1st against 5th (5)
- Plasters diner walls, being brisk first off (9)
- Retain bubbly wine (7)
- Simultaneous dis-charge? (6)
- Scruffy punk met reinvented... (7)
- ...pair: a 'nu' woman bearing one kid (7)
- 'Skinwear' for 11-across. From weird Uncle Ernie; no lie! (9)
- Dips; hot, free! Fancy! (5)

DOWN

- Horror author outlines *American Wives* (7)
- Group of words, like 'dumbbell', with 'muttonhead', taken up over time (5)
- Salary, going from one extreme to the other (7)
- Fin Week's* extreme, for example (4)



- Bloomers for His Excellency, beneath dressing gown - British to the end, you say! (10)
- Sandy coasts, putting brave face on severe back pain (7)
- Robot car, going after classification time (9)
- Any of 1-down' boys: a twerp now and then; loony even! (7)
- Deal can't disrupt beach construction (10)
- A keepsake to behold? Say no, Doll! (4,5)
- Pushes for brand management reveal (7)
- Mice I worry about are enormous (7)
- Eyewear for 11-across, returning in style in Numurkah? (7)
- Footwear for 11-across also, all toe and heel (7)
- Ascetic with Tamil essence? (5)
- Light back rub? No? (4)

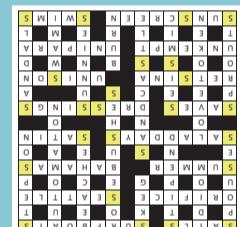
STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

- Canvas, on yachts (5)
- Wave racing craft (9)
- Mouth, opening (7)
- City in Washington, USA (7)
- Season when days are longest (6)
- Caribbean location (without 'The') (7)
- One's best times, usually when younger (5,4)
- Type of fabric (5)
- Goalkeepers' feats; also rescues (5)
- Plasters, bandages (9)
- Greek white wine (7)
- Simultaneous, in singing (6)
- Scruffy, not looked after (7)
- Woman having borne only one child (7)
- 11-across (typically) skin protection (9)
- Dips taken in sea or pool (5)

- Wives (or husbands) (7)
- Group of words, understood for other than their strict sense (5)
- Salary, allowance (7)
- Fin, of a surfboard (4)
- Blooming, thorny shrubs (10)
- Sandy (or stony) parts of coast (7)
- Robot (9)
- Boy child of one's 1-down (7)
- Beach construction (10)
- A keepsake given to sweetheart (4,5)
- Pushes, buds (7)
- Of enormous proportions (7)
- 11-across (typically) eyewear, colloquially (7)
- 11-across (typically) footwear (7)
- Hindu ascetic (5)
- Light, set fire to (4)

SOLUTION

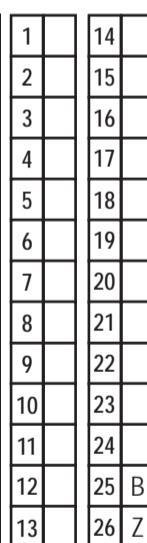
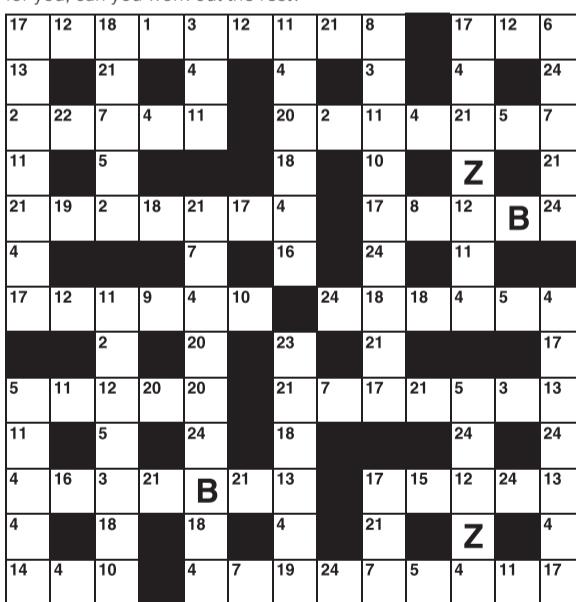


2912 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

CODEWORD

No. 158

Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

No. 208

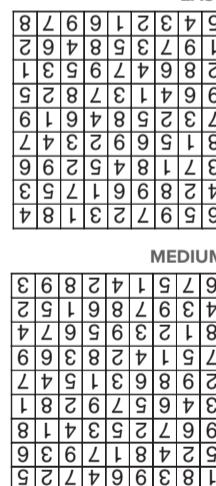
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



EASY



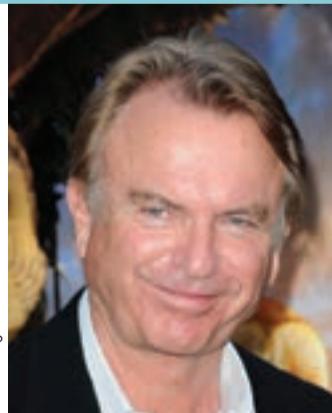
MEDIUM



CODEWORD: 1 = P, 2 = O, 3 = H, 4 = E, 5 = G, 6 = M, 7 = N, 8 = C, 9 = V, 10 = Y, 11 = R, 12 = U, 13 = T, 14 = K, 15 = Q, 16 = X, 17 = S.

QUICK QUIZ

- Actor Sam Neill (pictured) was born in which country?
- What were the first names of the musical partnership Gilbert and Sullivan?
- In what year did the Napoleonic Wars end: a) 1805, b) 1815 or c) 1825?
- What colour is eosin?
- Tenerife is the largest island of which set of islands?
- What is phlebotomy?
- Which US writer published *The Raven* in 1845?
- What confectionery was banned by Singapore's government in 1992?
- Who played Ray's older brother in *Everybody Loves Raymond*?
- The name of what plant, used as a herb and a spice, comes from the Latin word for 'Greek hay'?



WORD SEARCH

No. 118



Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

ANISE	FOXGLOVE	OREGANO
ARALIA	GARLIC	PARSLEY
ARNICA	HEMP	ROSEHIP
BASIL	HOLLY	SAGE
BORAGE	LAUREL	SALVIA
BURNET	LAVENDER	SAVORY
CALENDULA	LEMONGRASS	STEVIA
CHAMOMILE	LOVAGE	TANSY
CHIVES	MILK THISTLE	THYME
COTULA	MINT	VALERIAN
DILL	MUGWORT	YARROW
EPAZOTE	NETTLE	

SECRET MESSAGE: The basis of natural medicine



FOR SALE

BUFFALO 3 1 2 6.4 Acres
Small Acreage in Quiet Location
• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom country style home.
• Set on approx 6.4 acres.
• Lovely gardens, fruit trees and 2 dams.
\$850,000



FOR SALE

FISH CREEK 5 4 4 8.2 Acres
'Arnold House'
• Architecturally designed home on 8.2 acres.
• Kitchen with high quality fittings & appliances.
• Approx. 8 paddocks, shedding & fitout for horses.
Contact Agent



FOR SALE

KORUMBURRA 3 2 2 756m²
Impressive Home
• Spacious entry, high ceilings, loads of storage.
• 3 BRs, 2 bathrooms, large open plan living area.
• Large double garage and near new shed.
\$799,000 - \$825,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 1 1 518m²
Presentation & Position
• Perfectly presented 3 bed, 1 bath home.
• Short walk to all town amenities.
• Fantastic sun soaked decking area.
\$550,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2 2,094m²
Spectacular Family Home
• Turnkey home perfect for families on 2,094m².
• Master bedroom with walk in robe & ensuite.
• Peaceful location & large 3 bay shed.
\$1,200,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2 780m²
Contemporary Living With Quality & Style
• Stunning architecturally designed home.
• Chefs kitchen equipped with quality appliances.
• Beautiful views, private backyard & gardens.
\$1,100,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 2 1,026m²
Huge Family Home on Large Block
• 4 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom home on 1,026m².
• Spacious timber kitchen with electric cooking.
• Great location close to schools.
\$645,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 1 2 541m²
Gorgeous Home on Floraston Drive
• Gorgeous family home full of charm & character.
• Spacious kitchen with walk in pantry.
• Master bedroom with walk in robe.
\$695,000 - \$710,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 3 733m²
Family Home in Heart of School Precinct
• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom double storey BV home.
• Light, bright & modern.
• Fantastic outdoor area.
\$645,000 - \$675,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 2 908m²
Charming Family Home
• Neat & Modern home on approx. 908m² block.
• Well equipped kitchen, and open plan living.
• Stunning backyard with great alfresco area.
\$765,000 - \$785,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 2 1 1 650m²
Attention Downsizers
• Immaculate home on 650m² flat block.
• Generous sized bedrooms with BIR.
• Spacious kitchen with loads of good storage.
\$525,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 5 3 4 1,041m²
Large Family Home
• Stunning 5 BR, 3 Bathroom home, 1,041m² block.
• Outdoor alfresco and spacious fenced backyard.
• 7m x 10m lock-up shed with separate toilet.
\$890,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 1 2 504m²
Stunning Period Style Home
• Gorgeous period home with original features.
• Exquisite kitchen featuring quality appliances.
• Great shedding and rear lane access.
\$750,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 6 7.4 Acres
Extraordinary Oasis on approx. 7.4 Acres
• Ranking amongst the most elite properties to hit the market in Leongatha this year.
• Luxury home, shedding & privacy!
\$1,695,000 - \$1,795,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 2 2 790m²
Beautiful Family Home in Leongatha
• Spacious brick veneer home on 790m² block.
• Master featuring a WIR and generous ensuite.
• Modern kitchen with Caesarstone benchtops.
\$720,000



FOR SALE

LOCH 4 2 8 2.47 Acres
Woodlands' - Perfection on 2.47 Acres
• Immaculately presented brick veneer home.
• Spacious master bedroom with WIR and ensuite.
• 21m x 7m lockup shed with concrete and power.
\$1,495,000

We get results!



BARRY REDMOND

Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



KELLIE THOMAS

Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



MATT REDMOND

Licensed Estate Agent
0418 357 341



MONIQUE WIGHTMAN

Marketing Manager & Office Admin



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE

MARDAN

3 2 2 2 23 Acres

Beautiful Bringa

- Sandstone residence on approx. 23 acres.
- Contemporary kitchen, WI pantry, breakfast bar.
- Separate studio, 4 bay shed and great views.

\$1,550,000

MEENIYAN

3 2 6 4.6 Acres

Brand New Home

- Newly built 3 BR, 2 bathroom home on 4.5 acres.
- Designer kitchen with walk-in butlers pantry.
- Lock-up 20m x 9m shed, concrete, power.

\$1,399,000

MEENIYAN

3 2 7 16 Acres

Luxury in Meeniyian

- Immaculate 3 BR, 2 bathroom home.
- Approx. 16 acres, subdivision potential (STCA).
- Lock up 10mx15m shed, power & bathroom.

\$1,490,000 - \$1,590,000

MEENIYAN

3 2 4 3 Acres

Presented Perfectly on 3 Acres

- Lovely 3 BR, 2 bathroom weatherboard home.
- Single LU garage, bungalow and outdoor toilet.
- 14 x 9m lockable shed with power.

\$849,000



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE

MEENIYAN

3 1 2 2 562m²

Unique Opportunity

- Fantastic townhouse set on approx. 562m².
- Open plan kitchen/dining/living areas.
- Great location and zoned commercial land.

\$595,000

INVERLOCH

4 4 2 836m²

"Cascades" A Tropical Retreat in Inverloch

- Luxury 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom custom home.
- Resort style swimming pool & tropical setting.
- Located in the heart of town.

\$3,400,000

MEENIYAN

4 1 2 2.5 Acres

Perfect 2.5 Acres

- Located 2 minutes from the village of Meeniyian.
- 4 bedrooms, 1 bathroom.
- Beautiful & surrounded by farmland.

\$795,000 - \$820,000

NERRENA

4 2 2 2 2.5 Acres

Lifestyle Dream on 2.5 Acres

- 4 BR, 2 bathroom home with sweeping verandas.
- Stunning rural outlook with shedding, chook house, enclosure for berries and lovely gardens.

\$925,000 - \$950,000



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE

RUBY

3 2 2 2 10.79 Acres

Lifestyle and Location on Acreage

- Fantastic lifestyle property on approx. 10 acres.
- Great sized country style kitchen with storage.
- Excellent shedding, fencing & gardens.

\$1,050,000

STONY CREEK

3 2 4 1,812m²

Lovely Family Home

- Beautiful family home on flat 1,812m² block.
- Kitchen with large island & quality appliances.
- Master with a spacious Ensuite with spa bath.

\$699,000

TARWIN LOWER

4 2 2 2 4.95 Acres

Spectacular & Stunning on 4.95 Acres

- Beautiful turnkey family home.
- Master bedroom with ensuite & walk in robe.
- Fully appointed modern kitchen with WI pantry.

\$1,400,000

HALLSTON

4 2 4 14.49 Acres

Yileen Berry Farm

- 'Yileen Berry Farm' mudbrick country style home.
- Additional 2 story guest house studio.
- River frontage, grazing land & berry patch.

\$925,000



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE



FOR SALE

ARAWATA

3 1 2 1 800m²

Charming Country Hamlet

- Gorgeous triple fronted mid-century style home.
- 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 living area.
- Approx. 800m² with beautiful rural views.

\$595,000

LEONGATHA

3 2 2 2 797m²

Stunning Home!

- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms set on approx. 797m².
- Quality built by a reputable local builder.
- Solar system, double carport & additional parking.

\$795,000

POUND CREEK

3 2 4 41 Acres

Off Grid Luxury Living

- Stunning family home on approx. 40 acres.
- Large modern kitchen with WI butlers pantry.
- Amenities inc. fencing, shedding & water supply.

\$1,850,000 - \$1,950,000

MARDAN

4 2 4 114.13 Acres

Serene Countryside Haven

- Exquisite 3 year old home in an elevated setting.
- On approx. 114.13 acres of undulating land.
- Disused dairy/workshop, fencing & shedding.

\$2,300,000

We get results!



BARRY REDMOND
Director / Estate Agent
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KELLIE THOMAS
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



MATT REDMOND
Licensed Estate Agent
0418 357 341



MONIQUE WIGHTMAN
Marketing Manager & Office Admin



3 | 2 | 2 738m²

300 Coghlan Road, **Silverleaves**

For Sale \$1,240,000

Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Cowes Office 5952 2633

Golf course views – relaxed beachside living

FIRST time offered in many years is this traditional style custom built Federation home overlooking the ninth fairway of the Cowes Golf Course, and just a short stroll to the beautiful north-facing beach of Silverleaves. Here you will find this grand style home nestled amongst established gardens and native trees.

Designed to accommodate a big family, this large north-facing home offers open-plan living with nine-foot ceilings. As you walk through the entrance you are greeted with a light bright sunny living space and formal dining area with bay windows showcasing the uninterrupted views of the golfers playing the ninth hole. The open fireplace with a period timber mantel piece is a real showcase.

The second living area offers a huge light filled north facing living, dining area and fully appointed kitchen with American oak solid timber cabinetry with stone benchtops and black glass splashback. A Coonara wood-fired heater and split system is a welcome touch and complements this living area.

The expansive master bedroom is situated at the back of the house for privacy and offers a full ensuite. The remaining two bedrooms,

all generously sized, have built-in robes and a modern family bathroom services this area. Plantation shutters throughout with carpet and new vinyl plank flooring give you a modern feel.

This traditional Federation style home features ornate cornice, ceiling roses, dado rails and fretwork.

The traditional exterior brickwork consists of soldier course bricks above the windows, bullnose bricks on the window ledges as well as corner and plinth bricks. The double garage, with plenty of storage and a workbench, is located at the front for ease of access.

This home offers the ultimate beachside lifestyle with its close proximity to the beach. The popular Silverleaves General Store is a five-minute walk away and the cafes and shops of Cowes are just a short stroll along the beach or along the newly completed beach track. All that the Island has to offer is within easy reach.

An exciting opportunity awaits to also purchase the adjoining block of land with a huge double garage to accommodate a boat and/or caravan.

Call Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection.... You will not be disappointed!

High side of the street

HAVING just had a hefty price drop this quality four-bedroom brick home commands a prominent position in Leongatha and is ready for the family to move straight in.

Built to high standards the prominent feature is the large bay window which dominates the entry with sweeping easterly views over Leongatha and surrounding hills.

Added to this is a functional layout, two living areas and two bathrooms; giving space to a growing family.

As you approach the home you have a wide stone driveway giving access to a double carport. A low maintenance garden surrounds the home which features some large tree ferns on the south side, a split-level rear garden with large garden shed and a paved outdoor area ideal to throw some hoops or pop out the outdoor table and barbecue as you face the sunny north/east aspect!

The front entry porch of the home leads into a massive lounge while adjacent is the functional kitchen/dining area with the bonus of a second living area.

The kitchen features quality timber cabinetry, pantry space, electric oven and hotplates, and long laminate benches for meal preparation.

Along the passageway an uncomplicated layout sees three bedrooms along the left side all with built in robes. These three bedrooms are serviced by a central family bathroom with separate toilet.

At the end of the passage on the right is the master bedroom with walk-in robe and ensuite featuring a shower over a large spa bath.

A large laundry with space for extra storage leads to the clothesline.

There are seven cupboards in the hallway providing lots of space for storage.

A fairly recent addition to the home is a Daikin ducted split system which can be zoned throughout.

Get in quickly as the price drop makes this an attractive proposition.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iconic Leongatha Residence 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 living area Stunning residence on 3445m² allotment <p>\$1,550,000 - \$1,650,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 bed, 2 bath, near new brick home Open plan kitchen, meals & living Rear yard access <p>\$599,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home Double garage & covered alfresco area Centrally located in town <p>\$695,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large 800m² block 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 4 car garage Open plan living <p>\$779,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>
LEONGATHA	KORUMBURRA	GRANTVILLE	WONTHAGGI
7 Koonwarra Road	18 William Street	25 Brazier Street	2/145 McKenzie Street
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 bedroom unit – No Body Corp 2 toilets, lock up garage Double glazing, yard + more <p>\$515,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 bedroom/ 2 bathroom Outdoor Entertaining Views <p>\$599,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable Brick Family Home 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, LU Garage Walk to shops and bus <p>\$620,000 - \$640,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom Close to town Quite rear block <p>\$499,000 Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>
LEONGATHA	KORUMBURRA	CORINELLA	WONTHAGGI
7 Royal Place	27 Radovick Street	149 Corinella Road	45 Silvereye Circuit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 bedroom 2 bathroom 2 car garage + extra parking Beautiful country home with views <p>\$760,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centre of town 1,160m² block Shedding <p>\$775,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovated home on 3000sqm (approx.) Fully fenced rural lifestyle property 3 BRs, 2 bath, large shed with concrete floor <p>\$795,000 - \$840,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom Close to town Plenty of character <p>Contact Agent Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>
LEONGATHA	KORUMBURRA	KILCUNDA	WONTHAGGI
3/15 Allison Street	132 Isabella Boulevard	27 Kilcunda Ridge Road	50 Broome Crescent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 bedroom 1 bathroom Private with lock up garage Close to CBD, locally built <p>\$530,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ready to build - 738m² Plans available Soil test completed <p>\$225,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Home, Holiday Home or Air BnB Classic beach house on 767sqm (approx.) Easy walk to beach, café and rail trail <p>\$640,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character and charm 1/4 acre allotment Plenty of shedding <p>Contact Agent Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>

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GRANTVILLE
5678 8433
1505 Bass Highway

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



Controlling soil erosion on farm roads and driveways

RECENT storms have caused soil erosion on farm roads, tracks and driveways across Victoria. Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer, Clem Sturmels, said the key to controlling this damage is drainage.

"Good surface drainage, wide stable table drains and closely spaced run-offs to direct the water away from the roadway are vital. Additionally, the roadway needs to have stable, well drained foundations and a hard-wearing gravel, concrete or bitumen surface," said Mr Sturmels.

He said Class 1 or Class 2 materials, a mix of quarry dust and larger aggregate, makes for a very stable and hard-wearing surface without the need for a surface seal.

"Roadways can be constructed on quite steep slopes using



Good drainage and well built roads are key in controlling soil erosion caused by downpours.

these techniques. A well-built road should only require occasional grading and a top dressing with gravel every few years.

"Roadways cut into the side of a hill will need regular culverts or other forms of cross drainage. A simple speed hump or roll-over is a cheap and easy way to divert water.

"Wherever possible, roads, tracks and driveways should follow ridgelines to minimise the need for cross drainage."

Mr Sturmels suggested the best way to create good surface drainage is by crowning up the centre of the roadway. The crown needs to be high enough to rapidly shed water away from the centre of the road.

An alternative method, commonly used on bush tracks, is to slope the road surface into, or away from the side of a hill.

Roadside table drains should have a flat base to spread and slow the speed of the water and ideally will have a good cover of grass to protect them from erosion.

"A well-established grass table drain can safely carry a similar flow of water to a typical rock lined drain," he said.

"If using a rock lined drain, it's important to make it wide and deep enough to carry the anticipated flow."

"Run-offs or cut-off drains are used to take water from the table drain to a safe disposal area. They should be spaced 50 - 100 metres apart on gently sloping roadways but only 15 - 20 metres apart on steep roads, tracks and driveways."

Dairy Australia welcome new directors

DAIRY Australia members elected four directors at the 2023 annual general meeting and the board reappointed James Mann as chair for a fourth year.

Two of the four vacant positions were for directors with milk producer skills, one for a director with agribusiness, innovation and adoption skills, and another for a director with dairy supply chain and product promotion skills.

The directors elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) were Paul Bennett (agribusiness, innovation and adoption skills), Paul van Heerwaarden (dairy supply chain and product promotion skills), Karen

Moroney (milk producer skills) and Paul Roderick (milk producer skills).

Mr Mann addressed the hybrid meeting from Moama, New South Wales, and congratulated the new directors on their appointments.

"Congratulations to our new directors Paul Bennett and Karen Moroney, and welcome back to Paul Roderick and Paul van Heerwaarden," he said.

"Also, a sincere thanks to retiring directors Roseanne Healy and Tania Luckin – you both contributed a great deal to the strategic direction of our industry over many years. I'm also grateful to Tania and her

dedication while deputy chair."

Paul Bennett is from Tasmania and is chair of family-owned and award-winning Ashgrove Cheese. He was previously the chair of DairyTas, is a dairy and beef farmer, and is involved in many community and youth organisations.

Paul van Heerwaarden's family farming background led him to a career path in agribusiness including six years as CEO of Bega Cheese Ltd. He has served on a number of company and joint venture boards including several years as a member director of Dairy Innovation Australia Ltd.

Karen Moroney is a farmer

from Eskdale in North-East Victoria and is a former chair of Murray Dairy. She is also a director of AgBiz Assist and president of the Mitta Valley Landcare Group.

First appointed to the Dairy Australia Board in November 2020, Paul Roderick has operated his family dairy farm at Harrisville, South-East Queensland for the last 30 years. He was previously chair of Subtropical Dairy and had a role in setting up the Young Dairy Network in Queensland.

A recording of the event is available on the Dairy Australia website dairyaustralia.com.au/agm.

Greater protection of farmer rights needed under new transmission code

THE VICTORIAN Farmers Federation (VFF) is concerned not enough is being done to protect the rights of landholders when it comes to the development and operation of transmission lines across farmland.

VFF President Emma Germano said the Essential Service Commission's (ESC) newly released Land Access Code of Practice falls short of offering farmers the protections they need.

"Whilst the code is a positive step forward, it will not apply to existing transmission lines and we are concerned that it will not apply to new transmission lines once they have an easement in place."

"The need for biosecurity to be protected has been acknowledged in the code and transmission companies will be required to consult with landholders about farm biosecurity management plans and practices before entering their land."

"Some transmission companies attempted to water down these biosecurity requirements. We are pleased that the ESC has taken advice from the VFF and Agriculture Victoria."

Ms Germano said work to create a stronger framework was underway.

Grantville farm first to trial egg process

GRANTVILLE farm Freeranger Eggs is about to start trialling a supplementary feed additive processed from Blue Lipped freeze-dried mussels.

This could boost the nutritional value of eggs, particularly levels of omega-three fatty acids.

Freeranger Eggs has Isa Brown chickens on its 80-hectare farm run by Anne and Phil Westwood.

The supplement is provided by Pets Healthrus in Geelong after the mussel waste is processed by Forager Foods in Tasmania.

Preliminary work on utilising mussel waste has been undertaken in New Zealand by the Government's Callaghan Innovation Agency but Freeranger Eggs is the first in Australia to try the process.

Genuine free-range eggs from hens with unlimited access to pasture already have twice the omega-three levels of cage or barn laid eggs, as well as seven times the beta carotene, three times the vitamins E and A.

The supplement adds essential calcium, nutrients and protein to the hen's diet.

Free-range eggs are higher in protein and contain less saturated fats because of their unlimited access to green pasture.

"There may well be other benefits from the mussel feed," Anne said.

"We provide our hens with a nutritionally balanced diet formulated for us by Reid Stockfeeds so we are limiting the addition of the supplement to a maximum of eight per cent by volume."

Phil said the limited use was not expected to result in a fishy taint from the additional omega-three.

"We monitor egg quality constantly and if any change is detected, the trial will be halted immediately," he said.

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Kaleb Jans	Alan Bolding	0487 155 471	Dale Atherton	0419 723 255	0428 888 300
WARRAGUL		David Setches - Livestock Manager	Glen Barwick	0409 443 473	0408 975 476
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager		0418 595 265	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877	0420 306 599
Terry Ahearn		0438 562 816	Tim Gibson		
Jordan Sim		0448 058 435			
Mark Malacarne		0418 654 590			
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		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244		
		Emily Clifford	0422 622 299		
		Tony Giles	0407 528 192		
WONTHAGGI					
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508				
Dan Huther	0418 334 801				
Cal Nation	0439 334 163				
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783				
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Brian Silver	0407 347 509				
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Fairness sought in Native Title matters

LEADER of the Nationals and Shadow Agriculture Minister David Littleproud has warned farmers face greater costs, more complexities and lengthy delays if Labor's push to abolish Commonwealth-funded legal advice for landholders if native title claims is passed.

The Native Title Respondent Scheme provided financial support to pastoralists and other landowners for native title claims.

Established by the former Howard Government, the scheme ensured both the claimant and respondent had fair and equal assistance to legal representation.

While Labor axed the scheme in their previous budget, cutting \$6.4 million over four years and \$1.8

million per year ongoing, it now also wants to remove the legislative basis for the scheme.

"Labor's ideology doesn't match with the practical reality and the need to assist farmers and pastoralists when it comes to native title claims," Mr Littleproud said.

"The scheme allowed for legal costs to be reduced and proceedings streamlined, removing the need for numerous lawyers and parties involved, while also reducing the complexity of claims and time delays.

"To tip the scheme away will cost farmers money, time and effort. It will place an enormous burden on farmers and leave them very much alone in native title claims."

Repealing section 213A of the

Native Title Act will still allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to seek funding to support their involvement in native title matters under the Special Circumstance Scheme.

It means the claimant would be able to seek to have their costs covered, while the respondent would have to self-fund their argument.

"This sort of them versus us mentality is un-Australian and unfair. Australians voted 'no' in the referendum this year for a Voice to Parliament because they rejected the notion of division. Labor continues to seek to divide us, rather than unite all Australians. I call on Labor to use common sense and fairness when it comes to native title," Mr Littleproud said.



Leader of the Nationals and Shadow Agriculture Minister David Littleproud warned farmers could be impacted if native title claims is passed.

Nature Parks Board Update – December 2023

THE Phillip Island Nature Parks' Board met on December 5 on Phillip Island at the Penguin Parade Visitor Centre for its final meeting for 2023. The Board hosted an afternoon tea with the Nature Parks extended leadership team, wishing them well for the upcoming holiday period.

In October, the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer were delighted to host the Minister for Environment and Tourism. The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP received a behind the scenes tour of the Koala Conservation Reserve by Senior Ranger, Daniel Kallstrom and enjoyed the nightly penguin waddle at the Penguin Parade.

Below are highlights from the December 2023 Board meeting:

Visitation

The Board was pleased to see the organisation heading into peak period in a strong position, with visitation continuing to rebound, particularly China, which once again became the number one international visitor market at the Penguin Parade! Despite positive visitation trends, the Board received an update on the organisation's visitation risk and noted its comfort in Management's approach to visitation growth.

Strategic planning

The Board held its annual Strategic Planning Day, in October, and was briefed on the San Remo and Phillip Island Destination Management Plan. The Board used this day to reflect on the Nature Parks' strategic planning framework and considered the organisation's future strategy.

The Board endorsed the proposed planning framework for the next strategic plan and looks forward to working with Management, key stakeholders and the broader community across the next nine months developing the organisation's future strategic pathway and plan.

Penguin parade boardwalks redevelopment

Stage one of the Penguin Parade Boardwalks Redevelopment project commenced in 2022 with \$5 million in funding secured from the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund. This project, which will improve visitor experience with the development of a new access pathway to the Penguin Parade viewing stands is one step closer, with the preferred construction contractor short-listed following a competitive tender process and endorsed by the Board.

Board governance

Each month the Board monitors the Nature Parks' key policies and risks, and this month it received an update on the organisation's information, communication, and technology (ICT) risk and



aligning policy, and the risk management and compliance policy, along with its accompanying procedures were endorsed.

The Board received a briefing on the Animal Ethics Committee and its activities for 2023 from Chair, Dr Jenny Hibble. The Board thanked Jenny and the other committee members who volunteer their time on the Animal Ethics Committee, ensuring that animal welfare standards are upheld to the highest of standards at the Nature Parks.

Wildlife update

The Board noted how the Nature Parks' Threatened Species program was progressing, receiving an update on the status of two bush stone-curlews housed in aviaries at the Koala Conservation Reserve and progress plans for the reintroduction of this critically endangered species to Phillip Island (Millowl). The Board was highly supportive of the reintroduction program progressing to the next stages following stakeholder engagement, further genetic investigations, and permit approvals.

In addition to threatened species, the Board received an update on the Nature Parks Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre. The General Manager - Conservation reported on the current regulatory environment for rehabilitation of wildlife species.

The Board meeting was followed by the final meetings of the Reconciliation Advisory Committee and the Community and Environment Advisory Committee for 2023. The Board thanked the community representatives who contribute to each of these forums as they provide a critical conduit to community activity and help to inform the Nature Parks' strategies and plans into the future.

VLE - LEONGATHA

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HEIFERS & CALVES

A/c Willawa Grazing, Foster (NUTRIEN)

Annual Draft, Feature Line of VB heifers & calves

7 X 7 Angus/Friesian X, 3 yo

18 X 18 Angus/Friesian X, 2.5 yo

36 X 36 Angus/Friesian X, 2 yo

All heifers by McIndoe & Hazelwood Stud Angus Bulls, with Uluawatu & Sharoy Park blood, Limo CAF, 1-3 mths, not rejoined, quality outfits, proven vealer mothers

A/c JD & EA Keogh, Stony Creek (NUTRIEN)

Annual Draft

24 X 24 Angus Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo with 4 week Billy Creek Limo CAF, treated with Ultravac Scour Shield

A/c Mindarra Park (NUTRIEN)

15 X 15 Angus Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo, with Nov Drop Limo CAF, calves treated 2 X B12, 5in1 & Multimin Inj. Heifers Vacc X 2 with Rotavec Corona & Drenched with Coopers Trifecta, magnificent quality outfits

A/c P & K Eden, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)

9 X 9 Angus/Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo
Bucket Reared with Angus CAF 4-6 weeks

JOINED HEIFERS

A/c JP O'Loughlin, Berrys Creek (SEJ)

"Annual Draft "

86 Angus/Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo. PTIC to stud Limo Bulls to commence calving Jan 22nd for 10 weeks only, bucket reared.

6 Speckle Park/Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo, PTIC to stud Limo Bulls to commence calving Jan 22nd for 10 weeks only, bucket reared.

A/c JD & EA Keogh, Stony Creek (NUTRIEN)

Annual Draft

24 Angus/Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo, Springing to Billy Creek Limo Bulls, to commence calving Jan 12th for 8 weeks, Ultra Vax, 2x Scour Shield, VQ

A/c PLGF Farms (ELDERS)

20 Angus Friesian X & Hereford Friesian X heifers, Springing to Limo Bull to commence calving Jan 1st

A/c Glen Alvie Dairies (ELDERS)

20 AA/FF x heifers 2 yo, PTIC, Joined to AI Angus sire followed by Bowman Angus bull for 8 weeks

A/c Lavinia Park (ELDERS)

20 Angus Friesian X heifers, Springing to Black Limo & Angus Bull

A/c C & M Amor, Kardella (NUTRIEN)

Annual Draft

12 Angus Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo, bucket reared, PTIC To commence calving Feb 2nd onwards to Limo Bull



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All for a good cause

Wonthaggi Ladies Evening VIEW Club sold raffle tickets during the month of December. The proceeds went to the seven students the club's sponsor through the Learning for Life program. VIEW Clubs of Australia are a valued part of The Smith Family supporting Learning for Life Students with their education. New members are always welcome. Contact president Carmel on 0418 781 544 for more information.

Employing new ways to end gendered violence at work

THE STATE Government is backing initiatives to support respectful workplaces and combatting gendered violence in health care, education and local government.

Four new programs will reach up to 60,000 workers with grants totalling \$3 million to be delivered through WorkSafe's WorkWell Respect Fund.

The fund supports evidence-based projects to create industry-wide change. Each program will ensure workplace policy, procedures, training and resources are fit for purpose to reduce harm from workplace gendered violence.

The initiatives will be developed and run by Gippsland Women's Health, the Health and Community Services Union, Your Community Health and Women's Health

in the South East and delivered to organisations across a range of industries and sectors.

WorkSafe will also work with the Sir Zelman Cowen Centre at Victoria University to establish a WorkWell Respect Network, which will bring workplaces together through events and learning opportunities to share knowledge to better prevent and respond to gendered violence at work.

Work-related gendered violence includes any behaviour that affects the health and safety of someone because of their gender or sexual orientation, or because they don't conform to gender stereotypes.

It can include sexual harassment, stalking, verbal abuse, unwelcome comments or gestures, and even threats or physical violence. It can involve colleagues,

supervisors, clients and customers.

A 2022 Australian Human Rights Commission survey found that one in three people had experienced workplace sexual harassment in the previous five years, and one in five in the past year.

The WorkWell Respect Fund and the WorkWell Respect Network respond directly to a recommendation of the Ministerial Taskforce on Workplace Sexual Harassment to expand WorkWell to include dedicated actions for preventing work-related gendered violence and workplace sexual harassment.

"Everyone should feel safe and respected in their workplace, regardless of their gender. That's non-negotiable," said Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson.

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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

DEATHS

DODSON, Albert John (John):

Passed away peacefully on December 21, 2023. Aged 86.

Beloved husband of Pat. Dearly loved father of Merrill, Sandra, Kim, and Cameron.

Loving grandad of 14, great-grandfather of 2.

Forever in our hearts.

DEATHS

HOY (nee Watson), Joy Ellen Catherine:

09.11.1932 - 24.12.2023.

Aged 91 Years. Dearly loved wife of William (dec.).

Dearly loved by Cathy and Adrian, Jen and John, David and Sally, John and Sandra.

Loved by her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Elder daughter of Richard and Alice Watson (both dec.), and sister to Elizabeth (dec.).

The Lord Bless You and Keep You.

POCKLINGTON, Verna Francis:

15.09.1932 - 24.12.2023.

Passed away peacefully at home aged 91 years.

Loving wife of Eric (dec.).

Loving mum of Eric, Glenda, and Colin (dec.).

Mother-in-law of Rose, Brett, and Helen. Nanna and great nanna of many.

Loved and cherished always.

For Funeral information please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

FUNERALS

DODSON:

A Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr Albert John (John) Dodson will be held in our Leongatha Chapel, 24 Anderson Street, Leongatha on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 11am.

Private Cremation.

Handley
FUNERAL SERVICES
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

DUNN:

The Funeral Service and Committal for Cremation for Mrs. Del Anne Dunn will be held at Handley Funeral Services Chapel, 24 Anderson Street Leongatha on Friday, January 5, 2024 commencing at 10.30 am.

Handley
FUNERAL SERVICES
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

IN MEMORIAM

ALGER, Anne:

27.07.1945 - 03.01.2022. In loving memory of our beautiful Annie, Mum, and Nan.

Two long years have passed.

We love and miss you every day.

Stan, Craig, Debbie, and Tracey.

IN MEMORIAM

CAUGHEY, Spencer:

29.09.1973 - 04.01.2023.

In loving memory of dear Spencer.

The sky looks different when you have someone you love up there ♡

Your loving mother Judy, Angela, Bentley and families.

WATCHORN, Gwenda Mary:

29.12.2011.

My beautiful girl.

Twelve years since you went away, and I miss you every day.

I will love you till the 12th of never.
-- Terry.

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

OPRAY, Hec:

Many thanks to everyone who sent cards, flowers, messages and supported our family on the passing of our dad Hec.

We were so fortunate to have had such great parents for so long.

Mum and Dad together again.

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5.7 metres open, ducktail stern, spray hood, diesel 2gm20, Very good condition. Port Franklin \$4000. 0425 714 354.

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KORUMBURRA: Mine Road Op Shop furniture sale in the Anglican Parish Hall, 5 Bridge Road, January 5 - January 10, 2024. 10am - 2.30pm. Come and make an offer!

WONTHAGGI: 30 Storey Street, Saturday January 6, 2024, 9am.

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Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

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All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

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PUBLIC NOTICES



CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education. To donate, go to gofund.me/b6e777cb, or search gofundme.com for "Caring for Sams Children".

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.

LEONGATHA Secondary College

College Timetabler

Leongatha Secondary College have advertised an Education Support position to join our team as College Timetabler & Data Analyst.

This ES1-3 role is responsible for preparing and implementing the college's timetable to reflect the curriculum directions and priorities of the school, and for assisting in the smooth running of the school.

The role is part time, with a 0.5FTE time fraction (19hrs/week). Fixed term contract commences 29/01/2024 for the 2024 school year.

Refer to College website www.leonsec.vic.edu.au for full details and role description.

Applications can be made via DET Recruitment Online, College Timetabler & Data Analyst Job Vacancy ID 1392444.

Applications close January 10, 2024.

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Multiple Positions Vacant

We are currently seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals to join our organisation in the following opportunities:

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The Key requirements of the role are:

- Experience in administration roles
- Knowledge of health, safety and training processes
- Competent in Microsoft office
- Flexible and adaptive to new tasks and software systems
- Proven ability to solve problems within role authority
- Permanent Part-Time
- Starting Location: By negotiation, predominately working from home is available
- Flexible Work Arrangements Available
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 4

Learning and Organisation

Development Senior Officer

The Key requirements of the role are:

- Demonstrated experience with the application of organisational development and/or learning and development theoretical frameworks and practice.
- Demonstrated experience in the design, application and management of learning and development programs across a diverse workforce.
- Demonstrated experience in learning management/HR systems and software.
- Strong written and verbal communications skills, with the ability to present, connect and influence at all levels.
- Permanent Part-Time
- Starting Location Foster, Victoria
- Flexible Work Arrangements Available
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 7

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.sewater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply.

Applications Close
Sunday January 7, 2024 at 5pm

Maintenance Trainee

South Gippsland Water (SGW) are currently seeking an enthusiastic person to join us as a Maintenance Trainee. The key requirements of the role are:

- A willingness to complete Certificate III in Water Industry Operations (Network).
- The ability to work effectively in a team environment.
- An interest in working outdoors and ability to learn use of a range of tools, plant and equipment.
- Ability to learn and apply safe work practices
- An ability to work collaboratively as part of a team to achieve customer outcomes.
- Fixed Term (2 Years) Full Time
- Starting Location: Various including Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Korumburra and Toora
- Flexible Working Arrangements Available
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Applications Close Monday January 8, 2024 at 9am

1300 851 636 | www.sewater.com.au

Mid Gippsland prepare for opening showdow

IT will be a highly anticipated return of the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League, as round one will feature the grand final clash between Seniors rivals Fish Creek and Newborough. The 2024 fixture was released at the end of December.

Fish Creek will take on Newborough at home in the opening round showdown, looking to retain its winning streak over the Bulldogs.

"Newborough has always been a cut above and now Fish Creek has come into the league as its challenger," league president Gary Matthews said.

Over on the netball court, the A Grade grand finalists Yinnar and Toora will also go head to head in round one, in a game to be played at Yinnar.

Round one will kick off on April 13, with the final game of the home and away season scheduled for August 17 after 18 rounds. The grand final is set to be played on September 14.

Matthews said quite a few teams have recruited well during the offseason and the league hopes to see more clubs in the mix to win the flag.

"It was a fairly even competition last year, with a few clubs vying for a spot in the top six," he said.

"We only had one blow out during the finals, with Fish Creek defeating Thorpdale in the preliminary final at Foster. Thorpdale had a few injuries and Fish Creek took the opportunity to flex its muscles. Other than that, there were only small winning margins during the finals, which shows the quality of competition."

Thorpdale will have the opportunity to rectify its preliminary final loss when it takes on Fish Creek at home in round seven.

Local supporters will be looking forward to the derby between Fish Creek and MDU on the King's Birthday Weekend on June 8.

Seadays Festival this weekend in Port Welshpool

SEADAYS Festival brings a weekend full of nautical-themed entertainment to Port Welshpool on January 6 and 7.

The event, organised by the Port Welshpool Working Group, is always popular with visitors, with the group's secretary Alma Mattingley encouraging local people to experience the festival as well.

Local marine life from the waters of Corner Inlet will be on display in touch tanks at the town's Old Ferry Terminal.

Noted underwater photographer Robert Gardiner will be showing photos and videos of life under the waves.

'Come Try Fishing' are running 10am and 2pm sessions each day, giving children aged 5-15 years a 'reel' fishing experience and tuition from local fishing experts, with bookings required by visiting the [seadays-festival.com.au](http://www.seadays-festival.com.au) website.

Fishing costs just \$2, the fee payable to volunteers at the entrance to the Old Ferry Terminal.

Black Snake Productions, an addition to this year's festival will have cute and cuddly animals on display along with reptiles.

The Port Welshpool Maritime Museum in Turnbull Street is serving Devonshire Teas throughout the weekend.

The museum is set to run guided tours of fishing artifacts each day.

Local author and historian Cheryl Glarey will speak at the museum at 11am on Saturday on the history of Wilsons Promontory.

There'll be plenty more going on at Seadays Festival, with facepainting, the Welshpool CFA, experts from festival sponsor Star of the South Wind Farm, and the Port Welshpool Coast Guard on hand to offer boat advice.

Welshpool Horticultural Society will have a floral display and pot plants for sale.

The festival is open from 9.30am until 3.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, with a favourable weather forecast at the time of writing. Admission costs \$5 per adult, with children 15-and-under free.

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The successful applicants must enjoy people, be experienced drivers and hold an appropriate Drivers licence. The Taxi Driver Accreditation and WAV endorsement can be sourced easily.

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Ideally applicants will have a background in agriculture retail sales, strong customer service focus with excellent phone manner. Casual working environment, but fast paced with flexible full time working hours on offer. Rostered Saturday Mornings a definite pre-requisite.

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Tightlines



In the warmer weather, Steve and Chloe found getting wet for a feed of abalone was a great way to keep cool.



Children are having a great time out fishing over the holidays and calamari are a great way to get them started.

Around the Bay

By Jim's Bait and Tackle

FOR those unsure, yes, it is summer and almost the middle of summer to be exact, not that you would know with the weather.

There are people everywhere, many of them visitors, but unfortunately the weather hasn't been kind to them and for many days.

The frustrating side of the weather for those with boats is the few 10-minute periods you have been able to fish where you wanted to have shown a variety of fish in the bay, tuna have shown up already, a couple of kingfish and all they can do is look at the photos and plan.

With not many chances to head offshore, now is the perfect time to plan for that period when things will change, and it gets a little hectic.

Now is also the time to bring your reels in for new line or to have your doubles re-tied and leaders set up.

All too often, people bring them in as they are heading offshore and a lot of the time, we just don't have the time to set them up because fine conditions also mean we are busy.

If you are thinking of re-spooling, setting up ready, re-hooking your lures, any of that drop it all off now and everything will be ready for your trip offshore.

In the bay, several have found a feed of fish but not bags of them with conditions preventing you from getting to where you want to fish.

The reports are very mixed as well with all sizes and types of fish being reported.

With the conditions we are having you do need to do a bit of moving around to find a fishable spot and there are some.

If you are new to the area, the thing you need to learn in Western Port is wind and tide.

Learn and understand these and you will understand the areas you can fish more comfortably.

Once you do find an area work it to find what you are chasing, especially with the whiting.

Snapper and gummies can be a little different and you will be a bit more exposed, you probably need to find a spot that tide and wind are as good as you can get.

The big snapper reports have

slowed considerably, and there are a lot of much smaller pinkies around but there is some quality with them.

There is the very small piranha ones which will steal plenty of bait but persevere and possibly go bigger in your hooks and baits.

Tuna are here, it's the getting to them that's the problem.

Offshore hasn't been pleasant and it is frustrating, but they will be here for some time, so patience is the key.

Be ready from the time you leave the ramp, so when you set up your gear the night before rig one ready to go.

We have had reports of tuna schools just in the eastern entrance and on the western side up as far as Ventnor.

If you do find them close drop a lure or two, might save you a tank full of fuel travelling the ocean looking for them and they won't be any bigger further out.

Whiting reports are really mixed with some finding only very small ones and struggling for a good amount of take home while others can't get away from 40cm fish.

There is absolutely no reason as to why, where or when and sometimes it's simply that you were there 10 minutes too early or late with reports of both size and varying quantity from all but the exact same spot but from different anglers.

Try all the usual spots and if they are very busy maybe head to somewhere quieter and find a new spot.

There are hundreds of places to catch whiting in this bay and most places you find weed with a sandy edge you will generally find whiting and possibly calamari.

This weather should start to settle soon and head towards a north easterly pattern which then opens up the offshore fishery. The tuna are already here with several being caught in close and a couple of locals have headed out for a very quick flatty bash and found a feed in far less than ideal bottom bashing conditions.

Reports from offshore will ramp up once the weather comes good and I would expect that mako and kingfish to join the list with many other species that will be caught.

SPORTS



Vortex team rider Sam Patterson.

An ever-growing surf culture

THE surfing culture is continually growing across the coastal towns of Bass Coast and the renowned Phillip Island Board Riders Club (PIBC) is an attraction for young surfers, including 16-year-old Vortex team surfer, Sam Patterson.

Sam found a passion for surfing at 11-years-old, after being positively influenced by his father who was a local surfer.

Growing up in Inverloch Sam's surfing quickly

progressed, he bought his first custom 5'6 23L board at the local Vortex that then led him to a sponsorship three years later.

Now surfing competitively with PIBC in the Under 18's, Sam values the culture of the club and enjoys both surfing with friends and the competition heats. He now rides a 5'11, 28L Vortex custom board and is 'stoked' by the quality and craftsmanship that Vortex delivers.

"I've had four boards since

getting my first-ever brand-new board from Vortex and they've just been getting better and better with more fine tuning," said Sam.

"I give Vortex my dimensions, explain what I'm after and they put their spin on it and it's always a great board."

Only joining the PIBC 12 months ago, Sam is looking forward to a future in competition surfing with the support from Vortex - a local brand that is set apart with their knowledge and guidance.



Inverloch welcomed 25 first timers to parkrun on Christmas Day.

Inverloch parkrunners celebrate Christmas

FOR many, Christmas means presents, food and family.

For the parkrun community, it means an extra chance to scan that parkrun barcode.

It was a merry parkrun for the 125 athletes who walked, ran, and skipped their five kilometre on Christmas Day.

The Inverloch crew welcomed 25 first timers, including Ethan McCormack, Ian McCormack, Hamish

Baker, Eric Norris and Ron Torres who completed their first ever parkrun.

The windy conditions made it a little tougher out on course, but that didn't stop Tim Cotter, Janis Fischer, Claire Scott, Dimitri Van Oss, Marie Womersley and Yick Foong Lee racing their way to personal best times.

There were no major milestones at the Christmas event, but there are a few runners who are closing in on those

important celebrations.

The event would not have been possible without the brilliant volunteers including Nathan Castle, Derek Couper, Kirk De Marchi, Chantel Hosking, Alycia Marotta, Daniel O'Connell, Jacqui O'Connell, Tony O'Connell, Sandra Scarfe and Debra Wachtorn.

If you would like to volunteer at future events, head to the Inverloch parkrun website to check the roster.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
January 3	January 4	January 5	January 6	January 7	January 8	January 9
5.35am 11.30am 5.35pm 11.24pm	6.04am 12.04pm 6.18pm	12.00am 0.57m 6.35am 1.47m 12.39pm 0.49m 7.07pm 1.30m	0.66m 7.08am 1.42m 1.15pm 0.46m 8.03pm 1.30m	1.21am 0.76m 7.45am 1.37m 1.54pm 0.44m 9.05pm 1.31m	0.85m 8.29am 1.32m 2.38pm 0.42m 10.10pm 1.34m	0.93m 9.20am 1.28m 3.32pm 0.39m 11.17pm 1.39m

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KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, December 19.

Stableford: 44 players.

A Grade: Iain Riddell (19) 43 points.

B Grade: Don Hislop (29) 38 points.

NTPs: first Chris McConnell, seventh Lenny White, 10th Neville Clements and 13th Daniel Gregory.

Thursday, December 21:

Stableford: 26 players.

Winner: Max Donohue (33) 41.

NTPs: first Greg Wilson, seventh Roy Fleming, 10th Tim Fowles and 13th Tim Fowles.

Saturday, December 23: Stableford: 62 players. Sponsor: Coca Cola.

A Grade: Malcolm Garnham (13) 44 points.

B Grade: Blayke Spokes (19) 40 points.

NTPs: first Billy Wrigley, seventh Donald Van Rooye, 10th Wally Hopkins and 13th Mat Wrigley.

Tuesday, December 26:

Stableford: 14 players.

Winner: Rooster Dunn (36) 47 points.

NTPs: first Rooster Dunn, seventh Shayne Harland, 10th Blake Cosson and 13th Greg Wilson.

Thursday, December 28: Stableford: 36 players.

A Grade: Shayne Harland (6) 40 points.

B Grade: Jake Wrigley (20) 39 points.

NTPs: first Shayne Harland, 10th Chris McConnell and 13th Billy Wrigley.

Saturday, December 30: Modified Stableford: 58 players. Sponsor: Monacellars.

Winners: Rob Gallagher, Chris Gallagher, Jake Cochrane and Shayne Harland 108 points.

NTPs: first Tim O'Neill, seventh Ben Fitzpatrick, 10th Paul Dixon and 13th Peter Hislop.

Ladies

RESULTS for the past two weeks:

There was terrific weather for the golfers on Wednesday, December 20, with some great scores recorded.

Lynette McIvor (22) won A Grade with 41 points.

Deb Wrigley (28) was runner up 36 points.

The B Grade winner was Maree Wittingslow (48), 39 points and Dianne Maskell (33) was not far behind, 38 points.

BDTL winners were Trudi Mantell (25), Jenny Blackmore (27) and Lorraine Knox (42), all with 35 points.

Lyn Leppin was NTP on the 13th green.

On Saturday, December 23, Aliesha Wrigley (22) won with 40 points and Julie Hillberg (25) was runner up, 39 points. BDTL went to Trudy Olden (31), 38 points and Deb Wrigley (28), 37 points.

NTPs were Trudi Mantell first, Shelley Snooks 10th and Merrissa Cosson 13th.

Last Wednesday, December 27, Sherrin Solly (22) won with 39 points and Deb Wrigley (27) was runner up, 36 points. BDTL went to Lorraine Knox (41), 35 points.

NTPs were Trudi Mantell first and Shelley Snooks 13th.

On Saturday, Trudy Olden (30) won with 35 points after a c/b with Sherrin Solly (21).

BDTL winners were Aliesha Wrigley (21) and Julie Hillberg (25), both with 34 points.

NTPs went to Judy Webb first, Kerri Besley 10th and Chris Rickard 13th.



Winners of the Modified Ambrose on Saturday were Shayne Harland, Rob Gallagher, Jake Cochrane and Chris Gallagher at Korumburra Golf Club.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, December 19: Stableford.

Sixty-six members/guests played in Tuesday's Stableford round, with great scoring on a delightful day on the course, using the newly refurbished first hole green for the first time.

A Grade winner: Josh De Groot (12) with 37 points on a countback.

A Grade runner up: John Ryan (10) with 37 points.

B Grade winner: Philip Edwards (21) with 43 points.

B Grade runner up: George Hendry (23) with 37 points.

C Grade winner: Hugh Goodman (26) with 38 points.

C Grade runner up: Neil Mackenzie (30) with 37 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Josh De Groot at 1.3m. NTP 14th: Keith Godridge at 2.91m. NTP 16th: Ken Lay at 1.86m.

Extra Balls Comp prizes went to Ian Miller, Michael Wrigley, Craig Hutchinson and Trevor Moss.

Thursday, December 21: Stableford.

Another excellent field of 92 members/guests played in this Stableford event.

A Grade winner: Alan Starkey (13) with 41 points.

A Grade runner up: Barry Attwood (14) with 38 points.

B Grade winner: Steve Foster (16) with 39 points.

B Grade runner up: John French (19) with 37 points.

C Grade winner: David Child (23) with 39 points.

C Grade runner up: David Vorwerg (22) with 37 points.

D Grade winner: Ian Trease (25) with 41 points.

D Grade runner up: Bob Smith (35) with 38 points.

Congratulations to Craig Hutchinson for an eagle on the third.

NTP 14th: Jeffrey James at 1.60m.

Saturday, December 23: Stableford.

A good field of 95 members/guests played in sublime conditions with some great scores for Saturday's Stableford event.

A Grade winner: Daniel Carcour (12) with a score of 41 points.

A Grade runner up: Anthony Sparkes (12) with a score of 40 points.

B Grade winner: Thomas Williamson (15) with a score of 40 points.

B Grade runner up: Simon Deery (16) with a score of 39 points.

C Grade winner: Peter Read (21)

with a score of 39 points.

C Grade runner up: Jon Smith (20) with a score of 37 points.

D Grade winner: Timothy Hogan (25) with a score of 40 points.

D Grade runner up: Rene Zeller (24) with a score of 39 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Daniel Carcour. NTP 14th: Glenn Marshall at 1.78m. NTP 16th: Phil Strike at .43m.

Congratulations to Daniel Carcour for your eagle on the third.

Extra Balls Comp prizes went to Anne Gibson, Russell Williams, Jason Dennerley and William Norden.

Tuesday, December 26: Boxing Day event.

This event was cancelled due to rain and wind.

Thursday, December 28: Stableford.

Another excellent field of 103 members/guests enjoyed outstanding results in this Stableford event.

A Grade winner: Russell Williams (6) with a score of 42 points.

A Grade runner up: Barry Attwood (14) with a score of 40 points on a countback.

B Grade winner: Gary McGrath (19) with a score of 38 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Conor Hosking (22) with a score of 41 points on a countback.

C Grade runner up: Peter Read (21) with a score of 41 points.

D Grade winner: Fred Debono (26) with a score of 38 points on a countback.

D Grade runner up: Robert Jenkins (27) with a score of 38 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Tim Shackleton at 1.20m. NTP 14th: Russell Williams at 4.07m. NTP 16th: Barry Attwood at 1.37m.

Extra Balls comp prizes went to Bryan Roylance, Paul Luck, Patrick Mitchell, George Hendry and Daniel Carcour.

Saturday Stableford Event 31/12/2023

It is great to welcome holiday guests to LGC expanding the field to a brilliant 137 members/guests who played in Saturday's Stableford event.

A Grade winner: Paul Prendergast (12) with a score of 38 points.

A Grade runner up: Rod Hopcraft (12) with a score of 37 points.

B Grade winner: Daniel Yeap (18) with a score of 43 points.

B Grade runner up: Chris Indian (17) with a score of 40 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Peter Read (21)

with a score of 39 points.

C Grade runner up: Ken Lay (19) with a score of 41 points.

D Grade winner: William Fuller (31) with a score of 46 points.

D Grade runner up: Mick Rienhard (23) with a score of 39 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Peter Clingin. NTP 14th: Matthew Hildebrand at 2.40m. NTP 16th: Andrew Henley at .32m.

Extra Balls Comp prizes went to Ian Debenham, Nick Shaw, Andy Bassett, Michael Fuller, Barry Stevens, Peter Clingin, Liam Pearce and Gary McGrath.

MIRBOO NORTH

THURSDAY, December 21: Stableford.

A Grade: Tim Traill (6) 38 points.

B Grade: Tom Traill (20) 33points.

DTL: T. Whitelaw 36, T. Bradshaw and R. Matthews 34 c/b.

NTP: fourth N. Rutledge, sixth M. Woodall, 13th M. Woodall and 16th P. Woodall.

Birdies: sixth P. Woodall, M. Woodall and 16th P. Woodall.

Saturday, December 23: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Bradshaw (11) 39 points.

B Grade: C. McKay (29) 40 points.

DTL: P. Draper, A. Liebe 38, J. Smeriglio, B. Bradshaw and E. Woodall, 37 c/b.

NTP: fourth N. Bracecamp, sixth S. Hill-Smith, 13th S. Duff, 16th and P. Draper.

Birdies: fourth C. Le Page, sixth B. Bradshaw and E. Woodall, and 13th S. Duff.

Thursday, December 28: Stableford.

A Grade: L. Visser (10) 44 points.

B Grade: A. Liebe (14) 37 points.

C Grade: S. Mc Kenzie (28) 38 points.

DTL: R. Matthews 38, P. Woodall. B. Bradshaw, G. Renwick 37, J. Hughes and M. Thompson 36.

NTP: fourth P. Woodall, sixth B. Estrada, 13th P. Draper and 16th B. Bradshaw.

Birdies: fourth C. James, sixth P. Woodall, R. Matthews, M. Thompson and T. Whitelaw, and 13th M. Thompson, T. Bradshaw and P. Draper.

Saturday, December 30: two-person multiplier – Stableford.

Winner: J. Robbins and R. Robbins 88 points.

Runner up: A. Liebe and N. Casboult 80 points.

DTL: G. Shandley and

D. Jerram 73, T. Bradshaw, and B. Bradshaw 72, Tim Traill and N. Bickerton 68.

NTP: fourth J. Robbins, sixth J. Smeriglio, 13th M. McKay and 16th T. Baker.

Birdies: fourth A. Liebe and 16th N. Casboult.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: December 21, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 39.

Runner up: Glenn Hewlett 38. BDTL to 34 C/B.

Ball sweep: Malcolm Stevenson 37, Philip McCrimmon 36, Jim McEachern 36, Jonathon Wade 35 and Glen Turner 34 C/B.

Results: December 21, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Bob Cornelis 21.

BDTL to 19.

Ball sweep: Blake Cornelis 20. Secondo Tiziani 19 and Paul Cornelis 19.

Results: December 23, Stroke 18-hole.

Winner: A: Dean Winning 67. B: Aaron Yann 65. C: Shaun Stirton 64.

BDTL to 69.

Ball sweep: Graeme Campbell 66, Craig Harvey 67, Julian Wintle 67, Luke Borne 67, Jim Jordan 68, Mark Tiziani 68, Bill Blanch 68, Glen Turner 69, Scott Williams 69 and Alan Wright 69.

Eagles: Shane Osborne 11th and Ross Lovett first.

NTP: Peter Liddle fourth, Mick Bourke propin eighth, Raymond Newton 13th and Frank Huber money 17th.

Results: December 28, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Andrew McAllister 44.

Runner up: Darren Brown 43. BDTL to 37 C/B.

Ball sweep: Jonathon Wade 41, Ross Lovett 40, Ben Walsh 40, Bruce Betts 40, Paul Walsh 39 and Jim McEachern 37 C/B.

Results: December 28, SR. 36.

Competition: Stableford back nine-holes.

Winner: Willy Williams 22.

BDTL to 20.

Ball sweep: Ray Hender 20 and Norm Burns 20.

Results: December 30, Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: A: Mark Tiziani 37. B: Graeme Crawford 38. C: Phillip Studham 42.

BDTL to 37 C/B.

Ball sweep: Glen Rielly 38, Steven Laing 38, John Walsh 38, Kevin Loughran 38, Mat Dawson 38, Inoke Baudromo 37, Dio Apostolopoulos 37, Miles Foster 37, Michael Scott 37 and Gary Lock 37 C/B.

NTP: second Peter Dell, Michael Scott fourth, Simon O'Halloran propin eighth, Shaun Stirton 13th and Craig Charles 17th money hole.

LEONGATHA

ROUND eight of the Midweek Pennant Division 1 competition was played against a side from Phillip Island.

Leongatha was special on the day by winning on all three rinks with an overall result of 75/46 shots.

Last Wednesday, the Leongatha Bowls Club staged the Monthly Triples event played in very windy conditions which made it difficult for bowling.

Unfortunately, entries were reduced for various reasons and 14 teams was all that could be attracted to the club.

The winners of the event with four wins plus 32 shots were a team from Korumburra skipped by Peter Sparke. A local team skipped by Bruce Douglas recorded a score of three wins plus 12 shots came in second.

Considerable voluntary work is required to run these events and hopefully maximisation of entries can be achieved by proper planning so that the schedule for Club Monthly Triples across the region don't clash. The club will have a break over the Christmas and New Year celebration and the first major event in the New Year will be the Open Pairs on January 14.

Midweek Pennant restarts on January 16 and the Saturday Pennant will restart with Round 10 on January 20.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another busy week at the club, with Christmas break ups enabling lots of people to have the chance to enjoy the game of bowls.

During the week, the final of the Ladies' Singles was played between Jan Jeeves and Denise Silver.

As you know, with the first to 25, there are lots of ups and downs and swings during the match, the match was played in the best spirit of the game. Jan was able to just shade Denise to take the title for this year.

Wednesday saw a good number of bowlers, 30 in fact, grace the greens on a fine day with a breeze from east. The winners on the day were a team of three being Trevor Teer, Wayne Mattock and Sid Gostling with a score of two wins and 32 points.

Saturday, once again, saw a good number of bowlers on a fine sunny day.

There were two teams that were two game winners with the runners up being Allan Lowe, Peter McBain and Allan Ireland with a score two wins and 32 points.

The winners were a team of four and they were Peter Miller, Frank Cimino, Wendy Donohue and Frank Tagell with a score of two wins and 33 points.

With it being the last week of the year at the club, it was good to have a little spell after the pre-Christmas break ups at the club.

Wednesday social bowls went well, with 24 bowlers in teams of three bowl triples, which is a good chance to get it right.

There was only one team that were two game winners, being Wayne Mattock, Allan Ireland and Rob Dennis with a score of two wins and 33 points.

Saturday saw a fine, but overcast day, with a breeze to greet 36 bowlers.

The format for the day was two bowl triples over two games of 12 ends.

There were two teams that were two game winners, with the runners up being Glen Birt, Veronica Griffiths and Frank Tagell with a score of two wins and 33 points.

The winners were Syd Gostling, Bryan Donohue and Rob Allan with a score of two wins and 34 points.

Bowls this week: Wednesday Turkey Triples Day and on Saturday and Sunday the Champion of Champions will be played at Wonthaggi.

STH STRZLECKI PAIRS

PLAYED over two days at Inverloch BC. Men's final Phillip Island vs Tarwin Lower.

Ladies final Foster vs Tarwin Lower.

Winners were Daryl White & Patrick Ryan PI and Maureen Taylor & Bev Tyers Foster.

American Ace wins at Nyora

By Dean Thompson –
DMT Sports Media
for Nyora Raceway Inc.

NYORA Raceway brought in Christmas with a bang on Saturday, December 23, with American Sprintcar Ace Chase Randall, Santa Claus, fireworks and an outstanding local competitor Sedan showing, giving fans plenty to smile about.

Chase Randall showed fans his skills on the tight and tricky Nyora Raceway, winning the Battle at the Bullring feature event.

Other winners included Kacey Ingram in Standard Saloons, Ally Morrison in Ladies Standard Saloons, Hunter Carey in Junior Standard Saloons, Xander Baxter in Junior 1200cc Sedans, and Cameron Dike in Sports Sedans.

Each Sprintcar competitor had the opportunity to compete in two heats each before starting the feature event from where they qualified.

Bacchus Marsh racer Steven Horton and Randall shared victory in round one, whilst in round two Randall and Adam Greenwood were victorious.

After a track preparation at interval, teams had to take some calculated estimations as to the set ups of their cars and it proved to be vitally important to be in the top five qualifiers at the start of the final.

At a quick pace and green to chequered non-stop, the Sprintcars flew around Nyora with the leaders passing through some of the traffic late in the race.

Randall got out to a large advantage before Greenwood from Sale reeled him in lap after lap to finish in second right there with Randall at the end.

Nigel Laity, the class state champion, finished third with Steve Horton and Koby Noonan rounding out the top five.

Sport Sedans were able to get a hit out on track before the big feature coming up on January 13.

Some of the drivers were having the run to check out their cars before heading to Queensland for some major racing to start off the new year.

Cameron Dike and Scott Angus looked the strongest in the field after heat races, whilst Pakenham's Damien Miller had dramas during heat racing, including a heat one crash into the turn three and four wall whilst leading that set him back.

Cameron Dike took a win in heat one, Angus in heat two before Dike again won the third heat race.

Cameron Dike assumed control of the race lead in the final with Angus behind him.

Miller made his way forward quickly and got into a battle with John Dike.

Miller and Dike tangled on the front straight and, according to the stewards, Dike went flying across the infield and a penalty needed to be dished out.

A race exclusion was received by Miller.

At the end of 15 laps, Cameron Dike claimed the win.



Winner of Sprintcars was American Chase Randall at Nyora Raceway. Photo: Louise Norman - Napier Photography.



Winner of Sports Sedans Cameron Dike. Photo: Steve Mitchell - Image Worx.

John Dike passed Angus and took second with Inverloch's Baidan Webster in fourth and Ray Gould rounding out the top five.

Kacey Ingram from Warra-gul was the star in the Standard Saloon competition.

Whilst Andrew Miles and Harry Cecil were in amongst the action throughout the qualifying racing, it was Ingram's night.

Miles won heat one of six with Jack Braz the winner in the next.

Ingram and Mark Miles won races in round two, with Ingram and Poowong's Harry Cecil winners in round three.

In the feature event, despite the heavy pressure from Andrew Miles who had won the recent Stephen Douglas 44 Memorial, Ingram was able to maintain his position at the front of the field to go on and win from Miles, Harry Cecil, Mark Miles and Owen Cecil.

The Ladies Standard Saloon action across three heats saw terrific battles between Ally Morrison, Bronwyn Miles, Bree Walker and Caroline Allen.

Morrison took out a win in the first qualifier with Walker winning the next two and earning a pole position

feature race start.

Walker started the race at the front with Miles before Miles would take the race lead.

Morrison moved herself into second after getting past Walker, and in the closing stages of the race, the pressure was on Miles with Morrison right behind.

A wobble coming out of turn four for Miles was all Morrison needed as she ripped past and into the lead and the eventual victory.

Miles second, Walker finished third with Allen and Michelle Geroge rounding out the top five.

Junior competitors in the Victorian Speedway Council 1200cc class had a strong showing of 13 drivers with the Victorian champion Bryce Leek winning all three of the qualifying heat races despite challenges from Riley Taylor the Victoria three ranked racer and Xander Baxter the number two ranked driver.

Leek in the feature event led the field early with Taylor quickly moving through the field from the third row and into the mix.

Late in the race, Baxter, who had been on the tail of Leek all the way, made a move to

the lead of the race and Leek could not recover in the remaining laps.

Baxter went to the line ahead of Leek, Taylor, Andrew Mitchell and Dayne Murdoch.

Rounding out the action was the Junior Standard Saloon racing with three different winners across the heats.

Hunter Carey from Melbourne's Southeast won the first heat with River Paterson the second and Cooper Joynson from Bunyip the third and final winner.

Starting from pole position, Carey jumped to the lead with Chase Ingram giving him some hurry up.

Paterson took position in third with Joynson hanging on for the ride behind.

Over 15 laps, Carey maintained his small margin in front of Ingram and at the finish line Carey took victory over Ingram, Paterson, Joynson and Ella Sheedy.

Nyora Raceway returns on January 13 with a Sports Sedan two thousand to win feature event, Grand Prix Midgets for a series round, Lightning Sprints, Speedway Sedan Australian Juniors, Ladies Standard Saloons and Outlaw Karts amongst the action.

Dell bowls for Victoria at National Championships

OMK Cricket Club legend Peter Dell recently represented Victoria in the Over 50s National Championship.

Dell played a pivotal role in taking Victoria's Division 1 side to the finals, falling short to Queensland on the fourth day of the carnival.

Opening the bowling attack, he was the leading wicket taker for Victoria, and finished fifth overall.

He took eight wickets at 14.25 and made 30 runs with a top score of 24 not out.

The championship took place across Melbourne's southeastern suburbs, culminating in the final played at Junction Oval.

The carnival was initially delayed due to a wash out, which saw all games played out over four days straight.

Victoria went up against Western Australia in its first match and won convincingly.

Victoria batted first and ended the innings 7/172.

The score was defended when Western Australia was bowled out for 153.

Dell claimed 4/19 off nine.

Victoria secured another win after playing ACT.

ACT batted first and made 167.

Victoria passed it with only three wickets down.

Dell continued his run, taking 4/14 off seven.

The Wednesday match saw

Victoria face off against New South Wales, which would go down to the wire.

New South Wales accumulated 150 runs, and quickly claimed eight Victorian wickets.

However, the effort wasn't enough to secure the match.

Sitting on 8/114, Dell and a teammate Alex Jesensek combined well at the end of the innings to make 24 and 17 respectively, not out.

The additional 38 runs within the last five overs pushed Victoria into the finals.

The final clash against Queensland saw a fatal early mistake that cost Victoria the win.

Queensland vice captain Chris Holding was bowled for a duck, which saw the entry of Andrew Kratzmann.

Kratzmann was dropped on a duck and continued on to make an impressive 128 runs.

Victoria held its own, making a respectable 227, but fell 12 runs short. Queensland successfully defended its total of 238.

Dell said the carnival was a great experience overall.

Training for the state side began in June, following a successful nomination process.

"I was encouraged to nominate by a couple of teammates – including a former teammate who is now the secretary of Victorian Veterans

Cricket. He emailed me and made sure I nominated," Dell said.

The process is similar for the Australian side, which Dell now intends to nominate for.

"There are three tours. One is in March to New Zealand, but I haven't put my hand up for that one because of local cricket finals," he said.

"They are going to England in June and October is the World Cup in Sri Lanka, so I'll nominate for those."

Dell has been a stalwart at OMK Cricket Club for 30 years.

He has played more than 400 games and taken more than 750 wickets, earning him many accolades on the cricket field.

He is currently the senior coach, serves on the committee, maintains the ground and has been voted Best Club Person for his contributions.

OMK has had a solid start to the 2023/24 season with A Grade sitting third, and both B Grade sides on top of the ladder.

Dell has also played an occasional game for the South Gippsland Kookaburras.

"It's been really good because it's guys that I've played with throughout my career," he said.

The Kookaburras play in the Veterans Cricket Victoria Over 50's Competition and are also on top of the ladder.



OMK Cricket Club's Peter Dell competed on the Victoria team at the Over 50s National Championship recently.

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 9
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

A GRADE, Division 1

Town v Phillip Island

Scorpion Park 1

Graham Wightman

OMK v Imperials

Outtrim

Ian Salmon

Korumburra v Inverloch

Korumburra Turf

Ashleigh Stride

Club v Nerrena

Wonthaggi Turf

Ken Scrimshaw

A Grade, Division 2

Nerrena v Glen Alvie

Nerrena

Les White

Nyora v Kilcunda-Bass

Nyora

Geoff Parkinson

Koonwarra L/RSL v Foster

Koonwarra L/RSL

John Schelling

Club v MDU

McMahon

Brad Phillips

B GRADE, Division 1 T20

MDU v Koonwarra L/RSL

Meenian

Michael Ryan

Inverloch v Korumburra

Inverloch Turf

Neil Graham

Imperials v OMK

East Campus

TBA

Phillip Island v Town

Newhaven

TBA

B GRADE, Division 2 T20

Foster v Korumburra

Foster GC

TBA

OMK v Club

Digger Park

Dan McGuirk

Kilcunda-Bass v Nerrena

Bass 1

Geoff Wyatt & Oscar Tuchtan

Glen Alvie v Phillip Island

Glen Alvie

Michael Heenan

C GRADE

No games this week.

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective

umpires can contact

Jason O'Reilly 0439 688 575

or Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136



Come join them at a tennis tournament this summer. See details at southgippslandtenniscoaching.com/tournaments

It's tennis tournament time!

IT'S that time of the year again, and with no sign of beach weather yet this summer, local tennis tournaments at Korumburra January 4 & 5 and at Leongatha January 7 & 8 could be just the ticket for active youngsters.

And there's still time to enter, see the tournament flyer and entry form at southgippslandtenniscoaching.com/tournaments

"Our tournaments are fun, with lots of matches guaranteed and you will improve," according to tournament coordinator Matt Pocklington, head coach of South Gippsland Tennis Coaching.

"We run these tournaments for you and we hope to see as many locals as possible participating."

"And don't let the word

'tournament' worry you, it's actually a great experience and we also offer a fun family doubles event at the Leongatha tournament, so bring your mum, dad, sister or brother along."

"On top of that, we are running an all-inclusive tennis camp from January 3 to 8 which includes both tournaments and so much more. Please inquire for more information."

There are eight tournaments in the Gippsland summer of tournament series, as follows:

- January 3 & 4: Korumburra Tennis Club
- January 6 & 7: Leongatha Tennis Club
- January 11 & 12: Beaconsfield Tennis Club

- January 13: Warragul Tennis Club
- January 14: Westernport Tennis Club (San Remo)
- January 17: Wonthaggi Tennis Club
- January 18 & 19: Beaconsfield Tennis Club
- January 26-28: Bunyip Tennis Club

The Korinna District Tennis Association will hold its tournament on Saturday, February 17. The venues will probably be Inverloch and Wonthaggi. This is open to all juniors who are members of the Saturday morning competition with the KDTA only.

Contact Matt Pocklington (coach and coordinator) on 0402 736 693 for further information.



Head coach of South Gippsland Tennis Coaching, Matt Pocklington, is encouraging all junior tennis players, local and visiting, to take part in the junior tournament series now underway, coming to Korumburra and Leongatha this week.

Local cricket

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



www.sgst.com.au



The Thorson family of Dumbalk North, including Glenn, Andrea and Kasey took the opportunity earlier this year to travel across to the USA to support son Brett in his career playing with the University of Georgia.



Dumbalk North's Brett Thorson was only required to kick one punt in the Orange Bowl rout by his Georgia Bulldogs at the weekend, but it was a beauty at 48 yards.

Punchlines and punts: How Brett Thorson is making his mark in America

DUMBALK North's Brett Thorson received national coverage again in America on Sunday this week, although this time it wasn't for more punting heroics with his high-ranking NCAA College Football Team, the University of Georgia.

While Georgia missed the National semi-finals last year, on the back of a narrow loss to arch-rivals Alabama, 27-24 in the 2023 SEC Championship Game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia on December 2, 2023, they did appear in the time-honoured Orange Bowl season finale against Florida State at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida on Saturday, December 30 (their time).

Many will remember, back in November 2022, when Thorson scored world-wide coverage for the 10th longest punt in College football history, a strike that ran 75 yards, but spectacularly rolled out at the one-yard line, and was dubbed as the "most perfect kick in College history".

This time, however, it was Thorson's fingers rather than his boot that did the talking, with his reaction to the news that star Georgia quarterback, Carson Beck, had resigned with the Bulldogs

to play his senior year next year, despite offers rolling in from the NFL.

Letting out a popular Aussie expletive, Thorson asked jokingly "Does anyone have the link to the transfer portal".

Thorson, who punted just 31 times for a 43.7-yard average this season, and no returns, has waged a humorous feud with his quarterback in recent times over the fact that Beck is so good, the talented kicker doesn't see enough on-field action.

It's something that goes with the territory on a team that has been on a run of 50 wins from 54 matches in recent years, including back-to-back national championships, one of which, last year's, Thorson played a key role in.

But his limited game time continued to be a feature of last weekend's Orange Bowl game, when Georgia put on a record-breaking score of 63-3, for a history-making margin of 60 points, allowing Thorson to take the field only once, when he pealed off a 48-yard shot late in the fourth quarter as the Bulldogs swapped players off the sidelines in an effort to give everyone some game time in what was a rout against a depleted Florida.

The timing of these December 'bowl' games has been seen as unfortunate in recent years, rated as little more than exhibition games at the end of the real season when the top players are looking to get drafted and college interest has already turned to recruiting.

However, having ended the regular season on a sour note, with Alabama snapping the Bulldogs' 29-game winning streak, and controversially assuming their place in the top four playoffs, Georgia wanted to end on a positive and they certainly did that.

Having been named on the 2023 Ray Guy Award Watch List for punting glory this year, Thorson will continue on with Georgia in search of redemption next year. Georgia has won the second-most number of college championships in the competition's history.

Taking a keen interest in the Orange Bowl game back home on their Dumbalk North dairy farm were parents Glenn 'Jacko' Thorson and Andrea Thorson, unable to get across for the big game after Glenn had an operation on his shoulder recently.

"Yeah, it was a bit of a blow out but there's a tremendous amount of

interest in college football over there," said Glenn at the weekend.

"We went over in October and saw three games, two at Sanford Stadium in Athens where there was a crowd of more than 90,000 both times and also in Tennessee where they packed in more than 102,000.

"So, it's quite an experience.

"They don't have the country sport like we do here, so the college football attracts a huge amount of interest."

Glenn said Brett will likely get another two seasons in college football, after being granted an additional year due to the pandemic impact, and has been assured of at least one of those years, on scholarship at Georgia where he is studying a Communications Degree.

Fitting then, that he should gain notoriety on social media.

The dream for Brett is clearly an NFL career but with clubs typically taking only three or four new kickers annually, it's a tough ask.

Maybe a career in communications will ultimately be how it plays out for Brett but with a national championship ring on his finger, he's already in exclusive company back here in Australia.

Stony Creek gets season off to a sensational start



Jockey Rhys McLeod bookended his six rides with a win in the first on maiden stayer Sisu and backed up with Any Zouwilldo in the sixth.



The Gallagher family from Los Angeles, formerly South Gippsland, Flynn, Simon, Allie and Zoe took time out of a visit back home to attend the Stony Creek races where father Ralph was previously CEO.



It was all hands on deck at the Stony Creek races last Friday, Tarnya Wilson and Hayley Young helping to raise money for the Meeniyian CFA.



Jockey Rhys McLeod rode a double at Stony Creek on Friday.



Meeniyian Fire Brigade members Charlie Young and Geoff Cooling took around the crayfish raffle at Stony Creek, raising money for two sets of breathing apparatus and a light-weight tanker.

Barefoot and bowlin' in Invy draws willing participants



Vishmi, Maddie, Freya, Georgia and Bridget tried their hand at Barefoot Bowls on New Years Eve at Inverloch. CO2_0124

out the sport – have a few laughs and fun, and the weather wasn't even in our favour."

Bring out the inner Jack Simpson, enjoy some laughs and a couple

of drinks as you enjoy the relaxed social game. Perfect for all skill levels, barefoot bowls combines a streak of competition with a laid-back vibe.

A casual and enjoyable

lawn bowling activity participants can opt to go barefoot or keep flat soled shoes on as they send the ball down the rink with bowls provided by the club.

With improving weather on the cards for the remainder of the week, this writer definitely recommends popping down for a few games – having thoroughly enjoyed a night with family and friends on New Years Eve.

If travelling solo do not fret, the friendly volunteers will pair you up with another group or jump on a rink for a few matches.

\$10 per person with eftpos available.



Sleeping Tiger was waking up on the outside to take on Maggie Rocks on the inside of the straight. ob12_0124

Country racing at its best at Woolamai

PUNTERS placed their bets under the majestic old elms at the Woolamai racetrack on Saturday afternoon, hoping for a win or two.

Grey skies and a slight breeze hinted at rain, but it stayed dry and mild for racegoers for the best part of the day.

Picnic rugs spread out and picnic chairs lined up like horses at the gate, with cheese, salami, wine and beer close at hand.

Hopeful punters were lined up at the fence and even more were lined up at the bookies.

The air was buzzing with casual chatter and happy banter and friends and family were enjoying the relaxed atmosphere - country racing at its finest.

Six races were run with one of two memorial races jumping at 1pm.

The Micky Gordon Island Dash, the fifth time this race has been run, is in memoriam of Michael Gordon who passed away in 2018 and was a keen race goer and owner of horse Island Dash.

Speedy Edie (8) lived up to his

name to take out first place against four others, with Nathan Dunn as trainer and Shaun Cooper as jockey. Our Dawn (7) took out second place and third went to Gone Ahead (3).

It was a tight contest for the second race with Sleeping Tiger (3) and Maggie Rocks (10) neck and neck the entire field; Sleeping Tiger roared in and won by a nose, ridden by Debbie Weymouth with trainer being Rebecca Weymouth. Barringer (1) came in third for this memoriam race for long serving committee member of the Woolamai Racing Club, Rodney McAllister.

Three horses took to the field in the third race with Mannerist (2) winning by a country mile against Yankee Banner (4) and Bonza Boots (1). Mannerist was ridden by Leigh Taylor and trainer was C & C Vidotto.

Ladies on the fence took a few seconds to realise they'd placed the right bet, before yelling "We won! We won!"

Needa Bigger Boat (7) came home to beat Hesontherun (3) and Pieropan

(2) in the fourth race sponsored by Ramp It Up - their second year sponsoring the club. Needa Bigger Boat's trainer was John Gilligan and was ridden by Raymond Douglas.

Strong Lady (5) proved her strength in the fifth race taking out the win and ridden by Shaun Cooper and trainer was Don Dwyer. In second place was Sky Warrior (3) and in third Strikeout (6).

This race was run in honour of Robert Carmichael, President of Woolamai Racing Club for 15 years and who was involved in the amalgamation of Wonthaggi, Phillip Island and Woolamai Race Clubs in 1996.

In the sixth and final race of the day jockey Shaun Cooper clocked up his third win on Red Stiletto (4) for trainer Monica Cid. Hawkestone (2) came in second and Continuation (1) ran third.

A highly successful day of racing for Shaun and for many other happy punters and for those that lost, it was a fun and exciting day spent with family and friends at a great country event.



Mannerist led the field in the third race of the day. ob15_0124



Woolamai locals Tim Campwell with Harvey Oats and Liz Oats came across to the racetrack to engage in some banter and place a few bets. ob08_0124



Mary and Lance Collins with Paul Daws and Jim Keely catching up over a few beers and bets at the Woolamai Races. ob05_0124



Stephen Ellis, Bruce Atkins and Barry McGowan weren't having much luck on the horses but were having fun and that was the important thing they said. ob07_0124



Jake Kuyper, Ryan Cornell, Grunter, Josh Lethbridge, Blake Cornell and Joel Biancon discussing who was going to be the next big winner at the Woolamai races. ob04_0124



Robert Stynes, James Lucas, Robert Paulson, Bruno Caputo, Haley Kazar and Steph Pabey were having a lucky day betting on a few winning horses. ob06_0124



Inside barriers appeared to be an advantage at Stony Creek at the club's first meeting of the season last Friday, with jockey Theo Ladd and Eloped out of barrier 2 narrowly saluting in Race 7, one of several exciting finishes on the day.

Stony Creek gets season off to a sensational start

FOUR things stood out about a terrific day of racing at Stony Creek last Friday, December 29; the size of the crowd, the riding of top Melbourne hoop Rhys McLeod, the value of an inside barrier and what an enjoyable day it was.

From the facepainting and pony rides for the kids, to the array of food, drink and entertainment for the adults, the ideal weather and the action on the track; it was the complete package for a holiday event.

Out of barrier 2 in Race 1, the 2100 metre Maiden Plate, Rhys McLeod found the front early on Sisu and was untroubled in the run to the line to win by four lengths from the chasing pack headed by Redskin Jimmy.

It was the four-year-old gelding's first win for Sale connections including Raoul Roylance formerly of Welshpool, in nine

outings but gave an indication of his improvement with a third last time out at Traralgon.

It started a decent day out for McLeod, who bookended his six rides, on the eight-race card, with wins on Sisu in the first and Any Zouwilldo in the Meeniyan Hotel Handicap, going 1st, 3rd, 6th, 2nd, 6th and 1st on the day before backing with a win at Moonee Valley on Miss Tarzy on Saturday.

Anyzouwilldo is trained by Cranbourne father-daughter partnership Ken and Kasey Keys, who are ardent supporters of the Stony Creek Racing Club and enjoy regular success at the South Gippsland track.

With some wet weather over the Christmas period the track was rated 'Heavy' early in the week, but was in tip-top condition for horses that favoured an improving soft track on Friday.

The eight-race card drew strong

fields from across the region. Arguably the most impressive winner of the day was Pia Mia, who was victorious in the fourth race. The Ciaron Maher and David Eustace trained filly took the lead early in the straight and dashed clear of her rivals to record a five-length win.

And in the most exciting finish of the day, Jackie Beriman on the cleverly-named 'Houso' held off the fast-finishing grey, Villain-esque, also ridden by another female jockey, Lauren Burke, to win the fifth race by the barest of margins. The four-year-old gelding Houso is by Rich Enuff out of House Mistress.

The win by Theodore Ladd on the Jack Laing trained Eloped in Race 7, another of the winners from an inside barrier (2) was another thrilling effort, holding off a dashing run to the post by Nightsun for the Robbie Griffiths

team, another strong supporter of Stony Creek racing.

With a gate of over 2000 patrons Chief Executive Officer, Adam Olszanski said the club was thrilled with the attendance and had been working hard to upgrade the raceday experience for all at Stony Creek, with a variety of live music, food vans and children's activities on offer.

"The Funky Farm wildlife shows, Kelly Sports supervised activities, Little Ryders pony rides and Airy Fairy facepainting were also a big hit, and the number of families coming through the gate continues to be on the increase due to these initiatives," Mr Olszanski said.

"Other new improvements include 10 new hardwood picnic tables in the general admission area, more big screen TVs and a mobile TV wall in the betting ring and improved owners' access to

the mounting yard, completed in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

With a great first meeting to kick off the season, Stony Creek is looking forward to the remaining four race meetings on the following dates:

- Tuesday, January 9 - Pink Roses Day
- Thursday, January 18 - School Holidays Race Day
- Tuesday, February 6 - Publicans Day
- Sunday, March 10 Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day

For more information on packages available and transport options visit stonycreek.com.au or email enquiries@scrc.com.au or phone 5664 0099. Tickets: Adults \$15 (Cup Day \$20), kids are always free. Tickets are available at the gate or online via stonycreek.com.au.

More photos on page 42.

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