

Sentinel-Times

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Some of Sunday's attendees and speakers unite in a powerful statement at the rally's conclusion, as they demand decisive action. A15_0125

ACTION NOW

Inverloch community demands coastal action

INVERLOCH'S community is up for a fight to get real solutions to tackle coastal erosion and the threat of inundation, turning out in force at a rally near the town's surf life saving club despite Sunday's blistering conditions, attendees hearing support for the cause from speakers including new State opposition leader Brad Battin.

The inundation threat to the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, houses and the road to Cape Paterson were key concerns raised, with the message delivered loud and clear that those present do not accept the approach of adaptation and

By Andrew Paloczi

retreat and want decisive action from the State Government.

Hard engineering solutions are being called for, with speakers urging the required funding to be made available and driving home the message that to do nothing or take ineffective and financially wasteful measures will ultimately cost more than investing in what is needed.

Mr Battin argued that the local surf life saving club could be saved from the threat of inundation for just a few million dollars, declaring the building

would cost \$10 to \$15 million to replace if action isn't taken, leading to its loss.

He urged the State Government to put in place a long-term solution, questioning why such action has occurred in Apollo Bay but not Inverloch.

"We have said to the government, 'We can't wait for the next election,'" Mr Battin declared, saying the threat is too great and adding that if action isn't taken, the opposition will ensure the Inverloch situation is an issue at the next State election, promising to keep visiting the town and demanding action on behalf of its community.

Earlier in the rally, chairman of the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group Paul Cross was adamant the community won't accept a retreat and adapt approach to erosion and inundation, noting there have been four years of talk and no result.

He said 120 metres of foreshore has been lost over 12 years and nothing has been done, with the tide coming in and washing away replacement sand.

"We're just throwing money away," he said of that approach, stressing hard engineering is required.

Continued page 3

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Gaynor Cross and Kevin Griffin make their point in Inverloch. A02_0125



Ray and Glenys Edwards of the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group have no intention of running away from a challenge. A03_0125

Inverloch community demands coastal action

From page 1

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead urged the State Government to come to the party and do something on the ground to keep the life saving club operational, while locally raised Olympian Drew Ginn described the situation as "a crisis".

Conceding the ocean and beach are always changing, he added "To not do something about something so important to us all as a community is a travesty."

Mr Ginn noted the surf life saving club building was completed in 2011, reflecting on all the club offers through its training, Nippers program and other initiatives, and raising the prospect of fatalities without lifesavers to watch over people.

He also spoke of the threat to houses and the coastal road to Cape Paterson, questioning why anyone would allow that to happen and imploring the government to do something about it, then leading a "Save the beach" chant.

Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club president Glenn Arnold confirmed the immediate risk to the facility from inundation, stressing the extensive community involvement the club has and the fact its building is used by a range of other organisations.

Glenn Morris of Inverloch Tourism Association, who is also a civil engineer, along with other speakers noted the \$3.3 million of funding provided by the Federal Government towards addressing the Inverloch situation, declaring it is less than half of what is needed and asking all levels of government to commit



New Victorian opposition leader Brad Battin demands the State Government implements a solution to the inundation threat facing Inverloch. A14_0125

to adequate funding.

He spoke of the Cape to Cape Resilience Plan and the pathway it presents for the future of Inverloch.

"The key pathway they talk about is to protect Inverloch Surf Beach by dune reconstruction before inevitable retreat," he said.

"We have real concerns about that approach that we've already expressed collectively with other community groups," Mr Morris said.

He stressed an engineering review needs to be undertaken to consider all hard engineering options, not just seawalls, with options such as a groyne or a submerged artificial reef, Mr Morris highlighting successful approaches taken elsewhere.

"The report says that the economic loss to the State and the

community if nothing is done on the beach is \$7.2 million per annum," Mr Morris said, adding "That justifies a significant amount of money being spent to deal with the problem at Inverloch (with) a long-term solution."

Speakers were introduced by former State opposition leader Alan Brown who demanded immediate action.

"That \$3.3 million (Federal funding) should be used now, starting next month, February, to put up a proper permanent protective barrier around this clubhouse and put (in place) a protective rock wall to stop that road being lost," he said, adding "The time for action is now!"

Mr Brown earlier explained that should houses be lost to inundation, insurance won't cover them.

Unsurprisingly, those present



Chairman of the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group Paul Cross makes his point. A08_0125

mation in the locality of the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Clubhouse and shoreline where necessary, to permanently protect the roads.

Mr Brown called the result stunning and said it reflected the view of the wider community as well and he thanked the crowd for their support.

"This outcome ends for all time, any suggestion that the local community is prepared to support any policy of retreat," he said.

The community have now made their view known loud and clear and they want immediate action to permanently protect the Inverloch foreshore, the Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse and the abutting roads and they want works commenced next month. After the coming winter's high tides and violent storms, when even more severe damage will be done, is too late" he said.

"The time for action is now. No more committees, no reference groups, no more kicking the can down the road" he said.

Mr Brown said that if the temperature on the day had not been 38 degrees, many more people would have turned out to support their community.

"Without doubt, had the day not been excessively hot, well over 1000 people would have attended the rally."

"The will of the people is now crystal clear, they want the erosion crisis permanently addressed and they want immediate action now."

He said people should follow the Inverloch Action Group Facebook page to be kept informed of developments.

RUSSELL BROADBENT
Federal Member for Monash

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IN BRIEF

Traffic chaos at Newhaven

AS SEBASTIAN Cant in The Flying Fox would say, "It's cactus out there!"

Traffic was at a standstill in both directions on Sunday around 12.20pm for an hour in Newhaven outside the Visitor Information Centre after a 49-year-old driver of a Lexus 4WD from Donvale had a medical episode and veered from the westbound lane into the eastbound traffic.

It's understood the driver collided head on with a 19-year-old female driver from Cape Woolamai travelling in a Subaru, with the young female driver then subsequently struck from behind by a vehicle containing a family who were visiting from Balwyn North.

The female driver travelled via road ambulance to Wonthaggi where she was treated for minor injuries.

The medical episode was treated on scene with no further parties requiring medical attention.

It's understood a medical review will be submitted for the driver from Donvale.

Whilst some caught up in the traffic were impatient, police praised the patience of other motorists.

Three day impaired driver blitz

NOT only have drivers become complacent driving through Grantville's new 60 zone but driving whilst intoxicated or under the influence has also been of concern on our roads.

Over the New Year period, Bass Coast police caught multiple drivers for drink driving, with one driver also caught for driving under the influence of drugs.

A female driver in her late 40s from Warragul had her car impounded and licence suspended when she was caught with a BAC reading of 0.129 in Grantville on December 30.

Two more drivers were caught drink driving with one male in his 30s recording 0.068 mid-morning. The driver was shocked having stopped drinking at 2am earlier that day.

"It's often the following day that drivers need to be aware of," local police stated.

"You may have stopped drinking, but alcohol can and is still in your system. The safest option is not to get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle after drinking."

The booze bus was in Grantville on December 30, followed by Kilcunda on New Year's Eve and Wonthaggi on January 1.

Fatal crash in Mount Eccles

POLICE are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal crash in Mount Eccles on Saturday evening.

Emergency services were called to the intersection of Mount Eccles Road and Wild Dog Valley Road about 9.20pm on January 4 after reports a car had left the road and gone down an embankment.

Police searched the car and the 33-year-old female driver from South Gippsland and only occupant of the vehicle was located deceased.

The exact circumstances surrounding the crash are yet to be determined and investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed the collision, has CCTV, dashcam footage or any other information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au.

Lesson learnt as jet ski recovered

AN 18-YEAR-OLD has learnt a tough lesson after a massive search and rescue operation was launched after volunteers from Inverloch SES water rescue noticed a jetski adrift

on Sunday morning.

Inverloch volunteers, who were out on a training exercise when they spotted the floating craft, raised the alarm and were joined by Waratah Beach SLSC, the Life Saving Victoria Helicopter and Police Air Wing in a search off the coast of Waratah Bay.

Whilst police from Foster, Leongatha, Wonthaggi, Mirboo North and Inverloch joined the search on land in the carparks along Sandy Point, Walkerville, Waratah Bay and Shallow Inlet.

It's understood the young man abandoned the jet ski the night prior due to ocean conditions and a mechanical issue, making it to shore, but not telling his father.

Spotting the jet ski on an Eyewatch post on Sunday around 4.30pm, the owner contacted police and confirmed no persons were missing at sea.

Collision on South Gippsland Highway

POLICE are seeking information regarding a collision which occurred on Monday, December 30 on the South Gippsland Highway.

Police have been told that at about 3pm, a white Toyota Camry and a white Nissan Pathfinder collided somewhere between Korumburra and Leongatha.

If you have any information regarding this matter, including dashcam of the collision or of the actual highway between Korumburra and Leongatha at this time, please contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at: crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime.

Learner loses mum's Magna

AN 18-YEAR-OLD Warragul man will face court after being detected driving on a suspended learner permit.

The male was spotted travelling on Murray Street in

Wonthaggi on December 30 in the afternoon when he was intercepted by police.

He stated the car belonged to his mum, but as she doesn't have a driver licence either, the vehicle was impounded, at a cost of \$1275.

The driver will be summoned to court on a later date.

Inverloch CFA property damaged

INVESTIGATIONS are still ongoing into the Inverloch CFA's damaged LED screen.

The screen, which displays important safety community, was vandalised around December 29 and is now on the local fire brigade to fix with the screen valued around \$10,000.

A GoFundMe page has been established with \$1805 raised at time of print, including funds raised by junior members of the community hosting a lemonade stand.

Switchboard fire

A SWITCHBOARD fire early Friday on the roof of Foodworks Inverloch has damaged the main switchboard for the fridge/freezers with the supermarket since running cold stock in standing fridges/freezers.

Although the fire was quickly brought under control by local firefighters, a new switchboard is required.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation by ESV.

The locally owned supermarket is still open.

Boxing Day BBQ Fire

LOCAL firefighters are urging people to be vigilant and check conditions and restrictions before you light after a portable BBQ was lit near an Inverloch beach by visitors on Boxing Day.

A total fire ban day, local firefighters were called on to extinguish the BBQ.

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300 voices call for 'urgent' Silverleaves' funding

UNLESS the State Government acts now to fund a plan, already prepared by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), for temporary geotextile bag walls to be erected on the foreshore at Silverleaves, homes along Woodland Avenue and Silverleaves Avenue will be severely impacted by the high tides and storm surges of this coming autumn.

In support of this urgent call for funding, and for the government to engage in meaningful discussion with the community about permanent solutions, 300 people turned out at a protest meeting at Silverleaves on Monday morning this week, an impressive number considering the wet weather.

Leading the protest were Woodland Avenue resident Natalie Gray, one of those with a property in the firing line, and Eastern Victoria MP Melina Bath, the Shadow Minister for Regional Development.

She was joined by other parliamentary colleagues including the Nationals' water spokesman Tim McCurdy, the Liberals' Shadow Minister for Ports and Freight, Boating and Fishing Roma Britnell and Eastern Victoria MP Renee Heath.

If the State Government wants to allow the first line of homes along the foreshore at Silverleaves to fall into



Between 250 and 300 people turned out at Silverleaves on Monday to support a call for a system of geotextile bags to support the rock wall.

Western Port Bay this autumn, they should continue to do nothing," said Melina Bath.

"But if they want to take action, which is what the community is calling for today, they need to immediately fund a plan of works, already fully researched and submitted for funding by DEECA, for a system of geotextile bags to be introduced as a medium-term response to coastal erosion while a more permanent solution is arrived at.

The State Government has already been provided with the plan by DEECA and while they might talk about shared responsibility with the Federal

Government, it's on Crown Land and overwhelmingly the responsibility of the State Government.

"Unless this is funded as a matter of urgency, and work started as soon as possible, we are going to have the situation where people's Hills Hoists and verandas will be falling into the sea when the high tides and storm surges hit in autumn this year.

"There's no time to waste. There is a plan that can be funded, and the government needs to commit to funding it right now."

As well as agreeing to sponsor a public petition to parliament to that effect, Ms Bath has also called on the Labor

Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, to get on board.

Ms Crugnale has been contacted for a response.

DEECA confirmed in its 'Silverleaves Coastal Adaptation Project Update #2' (October 2024) that it had developed designs and costings "for short-term works to protect the highly impacted terminal scour area at the end of the rock revetment" featuring the preferred option for a geotextile revetment "that can be modified, relocated or removed in the future to align with final adaptation options" and that these plans had been submitted to government for funding.

"We are continuing to seek funding for the revetment through grants and budget bids and we will keep the community updated as things progress."

That was in October, but the government is yet to make a financial commitment.

"With 250 to 300 people turning out on the beach on a day like this, I think the message to the government should be loud and clear," Ms Bath said. "The government has known for years that this was coming but now the situation is at crisis point."

As well as Monday's protest meeting, the community will be launching a petition this week, calling for the geotextile bag initiative to be funded immediately.

POLICE BRIEFS



Car crashes through Wonthaggi shop window

THERE was high drama in Wonthaggi on Saturday morning January 4 when a car mounted the kerb in McBride Avenue and drove through a shop window.

It has been reported that an elderly driver hit the accelerator instead of the brake in the driving mishap at around 10.45am.

No one was physically injured, including the driver or passersby who saw the incident, although the driver was reportedly in a state of shock.

Being a commercial premises and not retail shop, there was no one working inside at the time.

The affected premises is a commercial shop at 71-73 McBride Avenue occupied by Raso Consulting Surveyors.

Police, SES, fire brigade and Ambulance Victoria attended with emergency services quickly on the scene, having already turned out to support their public displays at the Wonthaggi Show.

Police praised emergency services for their prompt response.

McBride Avenue was closed to traffic for approximately half an hour.

Keeping the community safer with Gate Keeper

VICTORIA Police conducted Operation Gate Keeper at Wilson Prom over the weekend focusing on education around road and marine safety.

The operation was a multi-agency approach and had members from Water Police, Fisheries and Parks Victoria.

As well as conducting PBT sites, Police held bicycle education courses at Tidal River that were attended by over 90 children and Fisheries conducted numerous inspections.

Over 780 people were spoken to by police on the range of education and information with over 600 vehicles checked and over 500 breath tests conducted.

Over 300 licence checks took place along with 20 drug tests.

Over 30 warning were issued with three penalty notices.

Mystery winning ticketholder in Wonthaggi



It's the fourth time Robyn and Gio have sold a division one winning ticket for the yearly mega draw! C01_0125

SOMEONE is \$2million richer after landing the division one winning entry to Saturday night's TattsLotto at Lucky Lotto Wonthaggi Plaza.

The Wonthaggi entry was one of 14 division one winning entries nationally in TattsLotto draw 4535 on Saturday, January 4, with each division one winning entry winning \$2,142,857.15.

The winning entry is unregistered, so The Lott don't know who the ticketholder is and whether they know they're a multi-millionaire or not.

It's the fifth division one winning ticket sold by Lucky Lotto's Robyn and Gio in 11 years.

"It's the fourth division one win for that particular mega draw," Robyn smiled, with the last winner claiming the New Year Eve's prize in 2022.

The pair were with friends on Saturday night discussing the draw when the email came through that they'd sold a winning ticket.

"Due to privacy we are not told who the winners are, we only find out if they tell us – and we know three of the last four have been local. But so far this ticket is still unclaimed."

The Lott spokesperson Matt Hart said he hoped Wonthaggi's latest division one winner checked their winning ticket and came forward soon.

"Someone is most likely walking around the region completely oblivious to the fact they've won more than \$2 million in TattsLotto," he said. "Imagine how your plans for 2025 might change with a multi-million-dollar prize in your bank account."

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South

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It's still about roads, rates, rubbish

NEWS that the State Government has capped the increase in council rates, for the 2025-26 financial year, to a maximum of three per cent has been cautiously welcomed by avid Bass Coast Shire Council watcher Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai.

But he's concerned the local council might again move to shore up its finances by increasing the garbage charge beyond a sector-leading \$575.21 annually.

"Just walking around the streets this morning, and there are a lot of people who've put their red bins out expecting them to be collected this week, which they're not scheduled to be," said Mr Jolly this week.

"The new council has got to look at this and change the pick-up arrangements so that the red bin is collected every week over the holidays, from the last collection in December through to the end of January and make the green bin pick-up fortnightly through that period."

Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos announced the rate cap of three per cent for the next financial year under the Labor Government's Fair Go Rates System on December 23.

The Government said it had accepted the recommendation of the Essential Services Commission regarding the cap, which is equal to the forecast Consumer Price Index for 2025-26.

Previous regimes of the Bass Coast and South Gippsland councils have expressed their opposition to the rate cap strategy, saying costs to local government were running well ahead of inflation.

Bass Coast CEO Greg Box said in September that road maintenance was at risk and South Gippsland CEO Kerryn Ellis nominated property maintenance.

Their peak body, the Municipal Association of Victoria has also opposed continuing with the rate cap strategy.

"Using CPI to inform the rate cap simply doesn't work for councils. It's not a true reflection of the increased costs our sector faces in construction, materials, staff wages, and services," said MAV President Cr Jennifer Anderson, noting the MAV was working on a more accurate Local Government Cost Index for Victoria.

Mr Jolly said ratepayers were already being slugged with increases to the Fire Services Levy and a new tax on property, the Vacant Residential Land Tax (VRLT) and it was time council cut its cloth accordingly.

"The first thing the new council should do is cutting \$1/2 million from its wages' bill and publishing the real cost of building and operating Berninnett."

Shock and anger as Gurdies fire devastates local community

STORIES of heroism and resilience have emerged from those who faced the devastating Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve fire days before Christmas.

Firefighters who bravely defended homes and property for days along Gurdies-St Helier Road have been praised by grateful homeowners.

At the height of the fire Bruce Preston from the Gurdies Winery went door-to-door to evacuate elderly neighbours paralysed with fear.

Conservationists mourning the loss of rare orchids and wildlife have been relieved to see mobs of kangaroos and birds finding safe refuge in the southern section of the park.

The Save Western Port Woodlands group estimates around 192 hectares was burnt including around 125 hectares in the northern section of The Gurdies reserve and a small area of the nearby Hurdy Gurdy Nature Conservation Reserve.

Rob Parsons and Janice Orchard, who live just 600 metres from the reserve, first noticed smoke on December 19 but were confident the fire was under control.

"We keep our grass relatively short and the gutters clean," said Rob.

A wind change the next day changed everything.

"We could see flames," recalled Rob. "The wind was blowing straight towards us."

Janice Orchard said they were ready to leave.

"We had our documents and photos packed in the car."

Around 4pm the wind changed in the direction of Gurdies-St Helier Road.

Two fire units were assigned to each of the homes closest to the reserve.

"Some neighbours lost fences, but they can be repaired," said Rob.

Mr Parsons can recall an eerie silence just before the fire.

"It was the strangest thing, dead silence. The birds had gone, and the frogs stopped croaking. One resident who lives nearby was ready to leave but froze with fear."

A passerby, seeing someone still in the house shouted out.

"You've got to leave; you've got to get out."

The homeowner was helped from their home with their dog," said Ms Orchard.

The house was saved but the garden was blackened.



Rob Parsons and Janice Orchard from The Gurdies. B27_0125

Rob Parsons said none of the things that needed to be done had been done.

"They just let it go – there was no fire break between the reserve and private properties. Now, because of the fire, bulldozers have gone in to cut a break. It's absolutely black. Full recovery will take years."

The conservation park needs to have cool burns according to Mr Parsons.

"I've lived here for 12 years, and this is the second fire in exactly the same spot."

Wendy Heaney and Bruce Preston from the Gurdies Winery on Gurdies-St Helier Road had thirty hectares of vineyard right in the path of the fire.

"The vines are now in the fruiting stage with grapes the size of peas."

Smoke taint is now a possibility but will depend on testing.

"We hope it was early enough with no lingering smoke," said Bruce.

Mr Preston lost count of the number of CFA units arriving at his property.

"Disbelief," is how he described it.

"They were in attendance for over a week. We are very grateful for their efforts. Community support has been overwhelming."

Bruce Preston's major concern now is his dehydrated merlot vines closest to the road.

"Every vintage is different depending on the rainfall."

"Not having irrigated vines is what makes the winery unique. We leave it up to nature."

Bruce's response to the fire?

"An act of God, what can you do? It's how the gums and the bush regenerate."

"Would have been good to have some low-intensity burns but the issue is bigger than us."

Seeking shelter with the Evans was a lone wallaby and a very startled ringtail possum.

"We sprayed ourselves with water," said Peter.

"My husband and I were quite calm but everyone else was on

tenterhooks," said Carol.

The grandchildren have now returned, and the pool has been refilled.

"We're very grateful and very lucky to still have both our homes standing and a shed," said Carol. "We lost a few outbuildings and cars undergoing restoration including a nice Commodore ute which was burned."

"The conservation park hasn't been maintained. I've never seen a cool burn in the park."

"The walking tracks were all overgrown," said Carol.

"People need to be warned not to re-enter the park because branches are still hung up in the trees and quite dangerous."

"You can also fall into ash hollows in the ground."

No stock was lost although Parks Victoria has been patrolling for injured wildlife.

"We haven't seen a koala since the fire," said Peter.

"Once we get rain everything will start to shoot. Three or four of our trees were old-growth trees and they were saved. We're resilient."

The Save Western Port Woodlands group has invited the community to come together at the Dunbabbin Road Picnic Area in The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve at 10am on Saturday, January 11 for a ritual of loss and renewal.

Catherine Watson says it will be a chance to express feelings, to find comfort in being together in this special place and to look to new life in The Gurdies.

"Despite the losses, there is much to be thankful for," said Ms Watson. "The volunteer CFA firefighters who saved homes, sheds and livestock, Forest Fire Management firefighters who stopped the fire from spreading into the southern section of The Gurdies Reserve and the fact that no human lives or homes were lost."

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead has requested a briefing on the Fire Prevention Plan for The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve.

"It is important that we create and protect these conservation sites but it is also critical they are managed well to ensure the safety of those who reside nearby," said Mayor Halstead.

The Save Western Port Woodlands group has advised that the Dunbabbin Road picnic area is accessible and has space for a gathering, however, re-entering The Gurdies Reserve may be confronting for many people.

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Ritual for loss and renewal after Gurdies fire

THE Save Western Port Woodlands group hopes a community ritual for loss and renewal at the Dunbabin Road Picnic Area in the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve at 10am on Saturday, January 11 will bring the community together after the recent fire.

Catherine Watson says the fire pretty much burned through the northern section of The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve taking half the reserve which includes a sand mine.

Under the condition of the lease, the sand mine is currently being returned to what it was before mining, according to Ms Watson.

"There will be no mining operations in the future just rehabilitation," said Ms Watson.

The old school trail which was extensively damaged in the fire was one of Catherine Watson's favourite walks extending from the old school grounds on Gurdies-St Helier Road through the northern section of the park, down through a ferny glade and across a creek to the other side.

"You could often see a mob of kangaroos," said Ms Watson.

"There is so little left. All the trees in the northern section are burned.

"Many will come back but



Devastation after fire rips through The Gurdies.

the understorey will take a long time to recover.

"How it did not jump the creek I do not know."

Kangaroos have since been seen in the southern area as well as wrens, kookaburras and magpies.

"The fire bewildered the birds," said Ms Watson.

"There has been some shooting to relieve the suffering of injured animals however there is water for animals and the creek is still running.

"Because our reserves are very small uninjured wildlife will be able to move."

The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve is the third biggest reserve in the group which includes Adams Creek,

Hurdy Gurdy Reserve, The Gurdies Grantville Bushland and seven to eight reserves in the Western Port woodlands of varying sizes.

Ms Watson said there have not been controlled burns in the northern section of the reserve for several years because of residential development.

"The reserves are Crown Land managed by Parks Victoria.

"Bass Coast Shire Council has a small offset reserve on the corner of the Bass Highway and Gurdies-St Helier Road a part of which is bushland," said Ms Watson.

"We all know Parks Victoria has been underfunded for decades.

"We would like more staff to be available for the clearing of trails and weed management.

"We live with bushfires.

"Most Australian plants and the bush require fire to regenerate."

Save Western Port Woodlands says it has campaigned for five years to stop the expansion of sand mining in the woodlands.

"There is so much to be grateful for," said Catherine.

"Volunteer firefighters saved so many homes."

The ritual for loss and renewal will be held at 10am on Saturday at the Dunbabin Road picnic area.

"Everybody is welcome," said Ms Watson.

"The woodlands community, The Gurdies community and people who just love the woodlands."

Ms Watson said there is now the opportunity after the fire and storm damage to reform the walking tracks.

"Green shoots are already appearing after a couple of days of rain.

"It will be great to see the trees and plants grow again and to see what comes back and how it comes back.

"We hope some of the rare orchids will return to the area."

For more information on the Save Western Port Woodlands group go to savewesternportwoodlands.org.

Band shows its support for Noah's Gift

AN INCREDIBLE \$4550.16 was raised on behalf of local charity Noah's Gift recently.

Local band Cease and Desist held a performance evening at The Clubhouse in Wonthaggi, with all proceeds going towards Noah's Gift. This is the second time the concert has been held and the community brought the same supportive energy and giving nature as last year.

"It was a really good turnout. It was nice to see our friends, family and locals coming along. Cease and Desist has its own following so that brought in numbers too," Noah's Gift founder Emma Jones said.

"We didn't expect this final total, and we are very grateful. This night was all about having fun and anything that could be given would make a difference."

As well as excellent music, there were raffle prizes to be won, including two Christmas-themed hampers. Twelve raffle prizes were on offer, generously donated by local businesses and community groups.

There was also a 'guess the number of jellybeans' competition for the younger crowd earlier in the night.

The money will be added to other funds raised by Noah's Gift initiatives, including Tracey Jones' effort to sell beautiful, knitted beanies. All funds will be given to the Royal Children's Hospital's cardiology department. Like last year, Emma hopes the money will be put towards cord blood therapy treatments.

"We are so grateful for the support of the community. We appreciate all donations – in the scheme of things they can become quite significant."

Cease and Desist's Darren Parker said the band plans to host its third performance evening for Noah's Gift next year, looking to make it an annual event.

"It was a great night for a great cause. The Plumb and Jones families do a great job with Noah's Gift and the band is rapt that it is able to support them and help raise money," he said. "We want to thank the Clubhouse and the sponsors for supporting us, and we are looking forward to doing it again next year."

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BY THE WATER THIS SUMMER



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Take action to prevent road tragedy

DESPITE the chaos and turmoil that followed a split second which nearly claimed Damian Sumner's life, Damian has rebuilt his world and now shares his journey to encourage others.

In the Bass Coast area last year 42 people required hospitalisation due to road trauma. The number of people affected by road trauma and fatalities is even higher in rural areas.

Behind every road toll statistic is a story – a family, a community, and a circle of loved ones left to cope with a devastating loss. For every life lost, nearly 20 others suffer life-changing injuries, such as quadriplegia or acquired brain injuries.

Amber Community's Wonthaggi Facilitator (who also calls the Bass Coast home) Khai Cooke, highlighted a chilling fact: 95 per cent of car crashes are caused by human choices.

"The choices that lead to fatalities and injuries are often small, everyday decisions – speeding by just a few kilometres over the limit, having one last drink before driving, texting while behind the wheel, or continuing to drive when drowsy," said Khai.

"People never think it will happen to them. Yet nearly 300 Victorians are killed and more than 5000 are injured on our roads every year."

While infrastructure improvements, like fixing potholes, are important, Khai believes the key to reducing road trauma lies in having open and honest conversations about driving behaviours.

"Talking about safer driving – slowing down, avoiding distractions, taking breaks when tired, and adjusting to road conditions – can make all the difference."

Amber Community's approach to preventing road trauma is straightforward: having open, honest conversations about our driving choices can save lives. Through their seminars, they encourage people to reflect on their own behaviours and make safer choices on the road. Khai believes that 95 per cent of road deaths and injuries could be prevented if we all took a moment to consider the impact of our decisions behind the wheel. Road trauma isn't inevitable – it's preventable.

If you or someone you love has been affected by road trauma and you want to be an agent of change just like Damian, reach out to Amber Community today. Amber Community also offers counselling services for those impacted by road trauma, and are also available to run educational seminars. The next Road Trauma Awareness Seminar in Wonthaggi will take place on Saturday, January 18 from 12.45pm – 3.30pm.

For more information on how you can get involved or to book a bi-monthly Wonthaggi seminar, visit ambercommunity.org.au.

You can't sugarcoat road trauma

DAMIAN Sumner knows more than most the impact of road trauma, and the life-altering experience that comes with it.

Whilst riding his motorcycle (safely and with all the precautions) along South Gippsland Highway in 2008, two days out from the MotoGP, Damian's life changed when a vehicle pulled out from Sybella Avenue in Koo Wee Rup and failed to give way.

Returning home to Cowes at the time, Damian was left with months of surgeries and years of rehabilitation for a crash that can only be described as catastrophic.

"I am extremely grateful to be where I am at," Damian explained, noting some people describe his survival and recovery as a miracle.

"People can't tell (by looking at me), but internally there is lots of titanium. We are lucky to have the medical system we have – they operated and put me back together."

Sixteen years on, walking is still a challenge for the Grantville resident. Some days are easier than others, but he's walking after spending time in a wheelchair; others are not so lucky.

"I can use my arms; I don't have any spinal injuries and I was relatively young.

"But I was climbing mountains before it happened."

Before the crash, Damian lived an active life. He worked as an intern with Outward Bound Australia following his transition from the Army, where he served as a Unit Adventurous Training Leader. His time in the military saw him deployed overseas with Rifle Company Butterworth in Malaysia and on missions to East Timor and Iraq.

Today, Damian is a School Crossing Supervisor in Lang Lang and an active veteran, involved with the Bass Friends of the RSL. He also volunteers at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM),



Catastrophic motorcycle crash survivor Damian Sumner will tell his story in Wonthaggi on January 18. No matter how safe you think you are on the roads, you can't control the actions of others. B23_0125

formerly at the front desk and now taking guided tours with school groups.

"It keeps me in touch (with my military background). I didn't serve in Vietnam, but much of it is the same equipment we used.

"I've had many different jobs since recovering and leaving the army, but it is difficult to fit in. You can't take the military out of you, that's why the crossing suits me – this is your job, go and do this. I've been doing it for the last five-six years."

Although positive and accepting, life for Damian will never be the same.

One of the greatest challenges Damian now faces is getting back behind the wheel of a vehicle.

"Before the accident, I drove lots – multiple times during my military career between Melbourne and Queensland. Last year, I drove to Adelaide and back by myself. It was the longest trip since the accident, and there was lots of anxiety.

"I don't like getting in the car to Melbourne.

"I see that it is not safe, and I don't feel safe."

Damian also highlighted the unsung heroes – the support team who are often

overlooked and undervalued.

"I had a wonderful support network in my family and friends. My wife, we were married after (the crash), stood by me the whole time, she's very supportive and I am very blessed to have her; we cannot underestimate the silent victims."

The silent victims of road trauma – the family, the friends, the first responders, the communities, the witnesses. Those who also live with the after-effects.

Sharing his experience and volunteering through Amber Community, Damian hopes he will save one life.

"I'm not in it for me. It's purely to make a difference."

"The biggest part of the problem is that people think it is their god-given right to be behind the wheel of a vehicle. Most people haven't had experience with road trauma.

"I come across different people (in the seminars through Amber Community) and most are quite surprised by my story.

"Significant trauma survivors often speak with slurs or have significant facial injuries (or movement disabilities). People cannot tell. I appreciate all the medical team who did what they did to get me through, but I didn't come out unscathed."

Drugs and alcohol, distracted drivers, fatigue, animals crossing the roads, poor quality and deteriorating roads, the weather. You may be able to control your actions and choices before you step behind the wheel of a vehicle, but you cannot control those of the millions of drivers around Australia.

"I made the decision that day to ride that bike, it comes down to choices.

"But whatever you think you do (to stay safe on the road) is not enough to keep you safe.

"You can't sugarcoat road trauma."

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Teenage lifesaver rescues two girls at Venus Bay

JUST one week after qualifying as a lifesaver 14-year-old Tom Walsh has rescued two girls from an unpatrolled beach at Venus Bay single-handedly.

Grabbing a newly installed public rescue tube from Number Five Beach Tom fought strong currents and heavy surf to reach the two girls one at a time washed out behind the main break.

"I was so relieved," said 15-year-old Charlotte Baker. "I don't know how he did it."

Charlotte and her friend Nikita had decided to go into the water unsupervised.

"It seemed like fun at first," said Charlotte.

"I could feel the pull of the water from each wave. I was out of my depth, and I knew we were in trouble."

"I am not a strong swimmer and couldn't feel the sand anymore."

"I panicked," admitted Charlotte.

Swimming with his cousins early on New Year's Eve Tom heard the girls' screams.

Grabbing a surf lifesaving rescue tube from the newly installed Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) station at the base of the beach walkway Tom did what he was trained to do by first pressing the emergency call button to call triple zero.

Only recently qualified as a



Lifesaver Tom Walsh rescued Charlotte Baker from the surf at Venus Bay. B02_0125

lifesaver, and with just a single patrol weekend under his belt, Tom dived into the surf with the rescue tube slung across his shoulders and swam out through the surf towards Nikita and Charlotte.

Watching from the beach Tom's younger brother Ben could not believe it. "I looked out to see Tom in the water starting to swim."

The first thing Charlotte saw

was the yellow rescue tube.

"I didn't know he was a lifesaver," said Charlotte.

"He was such a strong swimmer."

Supporting Charlotte onto the beach Tom swam out again to rescue Charlotte's friend Nikita.

"Both girls had been pushed out to the back of the waves," said Tom.

Responding to the triple zero

call lifesavers from the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club arrived within ten minutes.

"The girls were still in shock but otherwise safe," said Tom.

Charlotte's father David Baker was clearly emotional recalling the day's events.

"As soon as I saw Tom I could see the boy could do what he had to do."

"I have my daughter in 2025 and for that, I am indebted to him for life."

Tom's father praised his son and the Venus Bay Lifesaving Club.

"I'm very proud of what he did."

"He knew what to do and had the equipment at the beach."

"The club and all the volunteers at the club contributed to that."

Venus Bay was chosen to trial the Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) stations after extensive community consultation identified the town's beaches as high risk.

The effectiveness of PRE stations will be evaluated during a three-year trial to assess the potential use of such equipment in other high-risk drowning areas across Victoria.

To date the PRE that was installed on Sunday, December 22, immediately prior to Christmas, has already contributed to the life-saving rescues of six people at Venus Bay beaches.

Four rescued from surf at Venus Bay

AT APPROXIMATELY 12.20pm on Christmas Day two children were using boogie boards at Venus Bay's Fifth Beach, when one of them was caught in a rip.

One of the children made it to the shore, at which time two adults went to assist the child in the water. The two adults became caught, which resulted in the child and two adults clinging to the boogie board in rough surf, with all struggling to stay afloat.

A passerby then entered the surf to assist, however this person also became stuck in the rough surf, and struggled to stay afloat.

Emergency services were called, with police from the Wonthaggi Police Station, the Foster Police Station, the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit and Police Air Wing attending, with paramedics from Ambulance Victoria and the Air Ambulance and volunteer surf lifesavers from Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club.

A volunteer surf lifesaver initially rescued the child, then returned to the surf and rescued the two adults, and then further volunteer surf lifesavers rescued the passerby.

As this was happening, the police helicopter ('POLAIR30') and air ambulance ('HEMS01') were overhead, having travelled from Melbourne, and were preparing to winch the people from the surf, however this was fortunately not required.

The Life Saving Victoria Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter was also enroute to assist.

Local police and emergency services are reminding people to be aware of the water dangers and download the Beachsafe App, which provides detailed information from patrol status, facilities and hazards to weather, swell and tide. The app can be downloaded from beachsafe.org.au/apps.

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**South Gippsland
Shire Council**

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Australia Day Awards

Australia Day is fast approaching with many events and activities taking place in our region.

Be sure to come along and celebrate the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards at the Meenyan Hall on Wednesday 15 January from 6.30pm. On the evening, we will celebrate our nominees in each category and announce the winners including Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year.

In addition to the Australia Day Awards, South Gippsland Shire Council is once again running the Australia Day Photo Competition. The theme for this year's competition is 'Australia

Day: South Gippsland - Our Home'. There are cash prizes to be won, so unleash your inner photographer this January and submit your photos.

There are also a number of Australia Day events happening in South Gippsland on Sunday 26 January. An events program will soon be published online so you can plan out your Australia Day.

For more information about the upcoming Awards ceremony, Photography Competition and Australia Day events, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

What's on in South Gippsland?



South Gippsland is buzzing with activities this January.

From vibrant markets and captivating art exhibitions to live music and family-friendly events, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Whether you're looking to explore local crafts, enjoy a day out with the family, or simply soak in the summer vibes, South Gippsland has it all.

To experience the best of summer in this beautiful region, please visit:

visitsouthgippsland.com.au/events

COUNCIL MEETINGS

An additional Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 2.00pm. The meeting will be held virtually. Two items will be considered in this meeting in a closed session.

Details will be available on Council's website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings

To watch the 'open' part of the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Dates for the 2025 Council Meetings have now been scheduled. To view these dates, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting_dates

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a new job? We might have the perfect position for you! Check out our current vacant positions here:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Council is seeking submissions from qualified companies/applicants for the following:

RFT/423 – Korumburra Commercial Street - Hub Pedestrian Link

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 21 January 2024.

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

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Scouts head north for Jamboree

THOUSANDS of Victorian Scouts are on the move to AJ2025!

Over 2000 Victorian Scouts aged 11-15 are heading to Queensland for the 26th Australian Scout Jamboree, a 10-day event hosted in Maryborough that brings together over 10,000 young people and volunteers from across Australia and around the world.

Over 61 coaches transported the Scouts along the Hume Highway for the long journey north over the weekend, an adventure in itself as Scouts bond, share stories, and prepare for the unforgettable experiences ahead.

This massive logistical effort is the beginning of an event packed with challenges, growth opportunities, fun and excitement.

With locals in the mix this is what they had to say:

Will – 1st Inverloch, Scout (13): "I can't wait to get to know my unit better and meet Scouts from other parts of the country. Exploring Maryborough and spending time with friends is going to be awesome!"

Bailey – 1st Inverloch, Venturer (16): "After attending the New Zealand Jamboree as a Scout last year, I'm rapt to be part of AJ2025 as a Venturer. I'm excited to support Scouts in STEM activities, help make everyone's experience positive, and enjoy the warm Queensland weather!"

Mathew – 1st Morwell, Scout (12): "I'm most excited about the variety of activities and the chance to work on my survival skills throughout the Jamboree. It's going to be awesome meeting so many new people!"



Foster local Graeme Alexander had a winning raffle ticket at the Foster RSL Christmas barbecue.

Christmas winners at Foster RSL

FOSTER RSL clubrooms were packed for the drawing of their membership and 100 Club prizes and numerous Christmas raffles.

The major prize the 100 Club draw of \$2000 was won by Cheryl Mellor.

Club membership draws of \$500 each went to lucky members Alex Moon and Ian Rogers.

There were also raffle prize wins for several other lucky people.

A barbecue meal was enjoyed by everyone and the festive atmosphere continued through the evening.

Foster RSL extends its appreciation to all who attended and those who supported the evening in other ways.

The normal opening hours at the club have now resumed after a short Christmas break.

Visitors are welcome and can find the Foster RSL at 46 Main Street, Foster on Thursday and Friday evenings, and Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

AusNet invests \$2.4 million for community energy resilience

THIRTEEN councils, including South Gippsland and Wellington, and community groups will receive close to \$2.4 million, as recipients of AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund Major Grants.

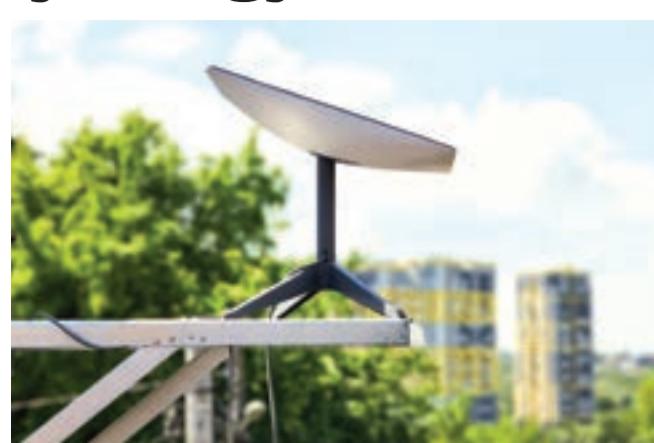
Executive General Manager Distribution, Andrew Linnie said the Energy Resilience Community Fund was created by AusNet to fund projects that will build long-term community energy resilience and provide support to communities during the recovery phase of severe weather events.

"These major grant projects will build community energy resilience, delivering important and impactful change to communities across these regions, helping them to stay connected and safe during prolonged outages and emergencies," said Mr Linnie.

The South Gippsland region received a total of \$514,967 for three recipients:

- Kongwak Public Hall received \$94,769 for a generator and Starlink, enabling the hall to operate as an Emergency Relief Centre.
- Mirboo Country Development received \$146,548 to upgrade electrical infrastructure, such as installing changeover switches, which will enable critical businesses to connect to generators.
- The South Gippsland Shire Council received \$273,650 for an emergency community response vehicle, generator trailer and two Starlink units.

In Wellington, Yarram Neighbourhood House received \$270,000 for generators and generator plugs across multiple sites, such as the service station, to ensure that the community and emergency services can access food and fuel during emergencies.



South Gippsland Shire Council and Kongwak Public Hall have received funds that will go towards the purchase of Starlink units to assist in communications during outages. Photo: Evgeny Opanasenko, Unsplash.

The other nine recipients are:

- Baw Baw Shire Council received \$75,053 to upgrade five remote community halls so they can connect to mobile generators.
- Casey City Council received \$63,372 to upgrade three sporting pavilions with shower and power hubs, so they can connect to mobile generators and operate as Emergency Relief Centres.
- Mansfield Shire Council received \$78,647 for generator, solar and battery systems at the Community Hall and Woods Point Museum so they can operate as Emergency Relief Centres.

Nillumbik Shire Council's Community Hub received \$265,000 to fund a new generator, battery and switchboard, expand their solar PV and provide plug-in points for mobile generators.

Strathbogie Shire Council received \$130,190 for a 160kVA generator and the infrastructure required for a shower and power hub and meeting rooms, for an Emergency Relief Centre.

The Wellington Shire region received a total of \$978,285 for Yarram Neighbourhood House and

the following three recipients:

- Cowwarr Football Netball Club received \$160,000 for a solar upgrade, battery and three phase inverter, enabling the club to operate as an Emergency Relief Centre.
- Seaspray Surf Lifesaving Club received \$302,385 for a solar PV and battery energy storage system.
- Wellington Shire Council received \$246,000 to integrate emergency power across multiple sites in Sale and Yarram. The funding will go towards generators for each site and upgrading switchboards and infrastructure.

In the Yarra Ranges Shire, the Millgrove Residents Action Group received \$277,115 for solar PV, battery storage and an inverter for community infrastructure at the Millwarra Primary School and Millwarra Community Hall.

AusNet established the \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund following the storms in February last year, to support projects across AusNet's electricity distribution network in eastern and north-eastern Victoria, and Melbourne's north and east.

Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly meeting

COMMUNITY members in South Gippsland Shire Council's Strzelecki Ward have the chance to learn about a new organisation purporting to give them a stronger voice, with the Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly holding a meeting at the Korumburra Scout Hall on Sunday, January 19.

The initiative is being led by former councillor Andrew McEwen who served in Strzelecki Ward from the time he was elected in 2012 until South Gippsland Shire councillors were dismissed in 2019 ahead of a period of administration running until the conclusion of the 2021 council election process.

"People are tired of the old structure of local government and increasingly untrusting of its approach," it is stated in a letter sent to the *Sentinel-Times*.

It is argued that "Restoring trust and building a stronger voice for our shire

requires a new attitude by council to the community and a new partnership where we genuinely work together," the new Citizens Assembly being put forward as offering an opportunity for council to work collaboratively with its community.

Advocating for affordable rates, an open and transparent council and capital works across Strzelecki Ward's towns and villages are among the Assembly's stated objectives.

Key issue areas identified are infrastructure, affordable rates, business development, planning and housing, and tourism and hospitality.

Strzelecki Ward Councillor Nathan Hersey responded to an email from Andrew McEwen about the establishment of the Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly, making it clear he is always happy to hear the views of community members and actively seeks opportunities

to engage.

Cr Hersey stressed the objectives outlined in Andrew's letter are actions he is already undertaking directly through strong engagement with members of the community.

"I encourage and welcome input on council plans, policies, vision, budget and so much more," Cr Hersey said, noting that "community engagement and trust in council has increased significantly over the past three years."

He is a strident advocate for community input, never missing the chance to remind people to have their say.

Cr Hersey apologised that he won't be able to attend the meeting regarding the Citizens Assembly, explaining he will be at a celebration for a local resident at the time.

The January 19 meeting is scheduled to run from 2-4pm at 39 Queen Street, Korumburra.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling

HELLO South Gippsland.

Happy New Year to you all. I hope the year ahead is a safe, prosperous, and enjoyable one.

Australia Day Awards and Photo Competition

Council is pleased to be hosting the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards again this year. The awards provide an opportunity to celebrate the people that help make South Gippsland special. Have a read of their many achievements and head along to the celebratory event at the Meeniyan Hall on Wednesday 15 January at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome. The nominees will also be celebrated at Australia Day events to be held across South Gippsland on 26 January.

Also happening now is Council's Australia Day Photography Competition. This year's theme is 'Australia Day: South Gippsland - Our Home' with entries open until Wednesday 15 January and winners announced on Sunday 26 January. There are two prize categories this year - an open category with a \$500 prize and a junior category (15 and under) with a \$300 prize. The Australia Day Photography Competition is funded by the National Australia Day Council. For more information, go to: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition.

VPELA Kathy Mitchell Award

In positive news for Council, Tahnae McCormack (Statutory Planning Officer) was recently awarded the prestigious Kathy Mitchell Award by the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association. Council staff cop a bit of flak sometimes, but the reality is we are fortunate to have some incredibly talented people working at Council and it's great to see recognition like this. Congratulations to Tahnae on a job well done.

Community Leadership Program

Applications for the 2025 South Coast Community Leadership Program are open until Sunday 2 February. Delivered by Council in partnership Bass Coast Shire Council, the free Program provides an opportunity for participants build their leadership skills, explore new ways of leading and connect with like-minded local people. For more information, please go to: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership

New Bin Calendar

A new year means a new Garbage and Recycling Calendar is now available.

Find out which bins are due out when by either downloading the calendar via Council's website or picking a hard copy up at Council's offices between 10.00am and 2.00pm in Leongatha (Monday and Wednesday) or Korumburra (Tuesday and Thursday). Copies can also be collected from the Visitor Information Centre in Foster.

I hope you have a wonderful week.



Stroke patient Errol Bradford with Bass Coast Health Stroke Coordinator Ella Roos and the certificate BCH received for providing data for 500 episodes of care for stroke. Errol is a patient at Wonthaggi Hospital's Armitage House Sub-Acute Ward.

BCH's stroke data helps build better care across Australia

BASS Coast Health (BCH) has been recognised for contributing to the enhancement of stroke care across Australia.

BCH recently received a certificate of achievement for outstanding contribution to the Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR) after reaching the milestone of providing data for 500 episodes of care for stroke.

It's an achievement BCH Stroke Coordinator Ella Roos is rightly happy to celebrate.

"The AuSCR collects information from hospitals around Australia about the care patients receive in hospital and their subsequent recovery after a stroke," she said.

"This data helps to monitor national stroke care and progress toward stroke targets. BCH uses this data to benchmark against other health services and guide

service development to ensure our local population is receiving quality and timely stroke care."

Errol Bradford has been receiving care at BCH after experiencing a stroke that affected the left side of his body. Given he's left-handed, life has been challenging for him since.

Errol appreciates the care BCH has provided to him through its Stroke Pathway Project.

He was first admitted to Kodowlinun Acute Ward at Wonthaggi Hospital, and is now working with Ella, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists in Armitage House Sub-Acute Ward.

"They've been giving me wonderful care here," he said.

"The Physiotherapists have been trying to restore my mobility as best as I can and the Occupational Therapists have been working on my arm and hand strength."

New Year's baby born in Leongatha

EMMA Beaton and Josh Muma had the happiest possible New Year's Day when they welcomed new daughter Rosalie to the world.

A younger sister for Neve Beaton, 2, Rosalie Muma was born at 5.30pm on January 1, 2025 at Gippsland Southern Health Service's Leongatha hospital.

For Emma and Josh, a New Year's baby wasn't unexpected.

"I was due on January 1 and she arrived on the day; which is exactly what happened with Neve," Emma said.

"We had a prediction early on that we'd be on time, just like last time, so it wasn't a New Year's surprise."

Josh is originally from Canada and Emma from Toongabbie and they now live in Traralgon, with Emma working as a GP at the Heyfield Hospital.

The family rented a holiday home at Inverloch for the summer and decided to have their baby at Leongatha.

They were exceptionally happy with the outcome.

"The hospital was fantastic," Emma said.

"From the very first appointment with the midwife and doctor everything was lovely with a charming small hospital feel. We were very closely cared for and monitored and it was all about what I wanted."

"As a GP, I can say that Leongatha is a beautiful hospital."

Gippsland Southern Health



Emma Beaton and Josh Muma welcomed their daughter Rosalie on New Year's Day at Leongatha hospital.

Services is aiming to grow its maternity services and is encouraging more local women to use the facilities.

Director of Nursing and Midwifery at Leongatha, Kylie Ashton, says the family-friendly GSHS facilities offer many advantages.

"We're dedicated to providing exceptional maternity care, blending advanced facilities with specialised, compassionate staff to offer a family-centred approach throughout your pregnancy, birthing, and early

parenting journey," Ms Ashton said.

The hospital has two birthing suites with ensuites and therapeutic water baths for labour, ensuring both comfort and safety, and there is nearby theatre access for caesareans and anaesthetic support for epidurals. GSHS's postnatal rooms are equipped with large ensuites, corner baths, and inbuilt baby baths.

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact GSHS on 5667 5555.

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Boy & Bear dive into the waves of sound

OCEAN Sounds festival is returning to the island for their eighth show this Saturday (January 11) and there are less than 100 tickets remaining! The artists are on their way and the stage is being built.

For the first time ever, there will be not one, not two, but three incredible festival headliners, including Birds of Tokyo, Boy & Bear, and The Cat Empire, together they have achieved 30 ARIA nominations, 36 Triple J Hottest 100 entries and over 700 million streams.

Boy & Bear are an Australian indie folk band that formed in Sydney; just a group of musicians studying a Bachelor of Creative Arts – all with a passion to make good music.

Consisting of David Hosking (vocals and guitar), Killian Gavin (vocals and guitar), Tim Hart (drums and vocals), Jonathan Hart (vocals, banjo, mandolin and keyboards), and David Symes (bass), Boy & Bear have attained a level of staying power that most artists could only dream of; and all whilst maintaining their authentic vision and driving love for their craft.

In a recent interview with the Sentinel-Times, Tim shared that the band's songwriting process is collaborative with David Hosking the main lyricist.

"Our main sort of lyric and melody writer is Dave, but we're all songwriters, so the process is collaborative, which can be complete chaos in the writing room at times, when you have five different songwriters, always strong opinions on where a song should go and how it should sound. But it's been



Indi Folk band Boy & Bear are headlining Ocean Sounds 2025. Photo: S. Huddleston.

really productive for us, and it's sort of shifted over the years," said Tim.

"I think on the first EP, often Dave would bring a song, it would be almost structurally and lyrically complete. And these days, it really isn't like that at all. Sometimes we get one where Dave says 'Hey, I've got this song' and other times it's other people bringing bits and pieces, skeletons of songs, and then we clash it out in the studio. So, it is a very collaborative process."

Tim explained that the great thing about Dave's writing is just like his favourite author Haruki Murakami, he blends a great balance of real life and fantasy.

and you don't know where you exist within the narrative.

"I feel like Dave does a really great job of bringing that to songwriting, and so thematically, it's shifted over the years," said Tim.

"When you think over the 16 years, you go through a lot in life, so in a way, our writing is a little bit like part diary entry, part confessional."

Achieving early career support from Triple J after winning an unearthed competition Boy & Bear swiftly catapulted onto the world stage releasing their double-platinum debut album Moonfire in 2011, which went on to snag five coveted ARIA

award wins. 2013's Harlequin Dream and 2015's Limit of Love strengthened Boy & Bear's expansive presence, with both albums charting at #1, and Harlequin Dream marking the group's second studio album to go Platinum.

From 2019's Suck on Light to 2023's self-titled full length (both top 10 albums), Boy & Bear have continued to evolve and grow, gaining more and more fans from across the globe.

In addition to their five consecutive top 10 albums and over 250 million streams, Boy & Bear's live show is a uniquely compelling experience and has earned the band a glowing

reputation as one of Australia's most outstanding live acts.

The band is excited to return to Phillip Island again for Ocean Sounds and looks forward to sharing the stage with incredible talent.

"To the musicians that we are sharing the stage with – the fact that they are there is a massive tick, because Ocean Sounds lineups are always incredible," said Tim.

"For any aspiring musicians, I would say two things, number one, back yourself, and the second is to be authentic. I'm a massive fan of music, and the music that I connect to the most is authentic."

"In our shows we want it to be magical. We want you to be immersed in a world. And I think going and seeing a live show and becoming immersed in that atmosphere is just like a way to escape."

Tim shared that Boy & Bear are excited for what's to come in 2025, with a new song coming out in January with a Portuguese artist called Cristovam.

"I know everyone says this, but there are a bunch of exciting things coming for us in 2025, things Boy & Bear have never done before and I'm excited to kick the year off with Ocean Sounds."

Alongside some of Australia's best live acts, Ocean Sounds will also showcase local wines, cheeses and gourmet food vans. Attendees are invited to bring their family, friends, good vibes and to enjoy a memorable experience of quality music in a relaxed, atmospheric and picturesque environment.

STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to [download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beach Safe app](#) and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



beachsafe.org.au

In hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.

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Victoria

RETIRE TO INVERLOCH



NEW 2 BEDROOM 1 BATHROOM HOME WITH LARGE SINGLE GARAGE AND SEPARATE CAR SPACE

This brand new home located at 2 Sarah Court Inverloch, is located in the Premium Residential over 50s Lifestyle Village, Sunny Sand and is priced to sell at \$385,000. Sunny Sand, located at 32-42 Ullathornes Road Inverloch is the perfect retirement option in the popular seaside town of Inverloch.

Unlike the major corporates, this Lifestyle Village is family owned and operated and is renowned as a Village where friendships are made. You can walk to the beach or into the centre of town on a Council maintained walking track which is located next door to the Village. There are various amenities for the use of residents and ample visitor car spaces.

This all electric home, meets the latest requirements for energy efficiency including double glazed windows and is ready to move in to.

PURCHASERS DO NOT PAY STAMP DUTY AND THERE ARE NO INGOING OR OUTGOING FEES.

Being in a secure environment, it is the perfect lock up and leave option for retirees planning to travel.

Open for inspection Saturday, January 11, 2025, 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

All enquiries, please phone 0408 742 724 during business hours

HOLIDAY FUN

What's on at Myli

Movie Days at Leongatha

Today, Tuesday, January 7, 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Leongatha Library

Stories from the Cube

Wednesday, January 8, 10.30am
Manna Gum Community House

Pressed Flower Lanterns

Wednesday, January 8, 10.30am
Phillip Island Library

Summer Stitching

Thursday, January 9, 10.30am
Korumburra Library

Badge Making

Thursday, January 9, 10.30am
Inverloch Library

Paper Dress Up Dolls and Llamas

Thursday, January 9, 11am
Wonthaggi Library

Movie Day

Thursday, January 9, 1.30pm
Leongatha Library

Paper Plate Art

Thursday, January 9, 2pm
Poowong Library

Magic Wand Reading Pointers

Friday, January 10, 10.30am
Inverloch Library

Magic Beach Sand Sensory Play

Friday, January 10, 10.30am
Phillip Island Library

Air Clay Club

Friday, January 10, 2pm
Wonthaggi Library

School Holiday Movies

Saturday, January 11, 10am
Mirboo North Library

Storytime at Korumburra

Monday, January 13, 10am
Korumburra Library

Pot Decorating

Monday, January 13, 10.30am
Inverloch Library

Mt T's Mathematical Marvels

Monday, January 13, 10.30am
Phillip Island Library

Magic Beach Sand Sensory Play

Monday, January 13, 11am
San Remo Library

Summer-Time Rhyme-Time

Monday, January 13, 11am
Korumburra Library

Movie Days

Monday, January 13, 1.30pm
Leongatha Library

Super Hero Fridge Magnet

Tuesday, January 14, 10.30am
Korumburra Library

Baby Rhyme Time

Tuesday, January 14, 10.30am
Inverloch Library

Oddly Satisfying Videos

Tuesday, January 14, 2pm
Wonthaggi Library

Paper Dress Up Dolls and Llamas

Tuesday, January 14, 4.30pm
Waterline Library

Design and Bind Your Own Book

Wednesday, January 15, 10am
Foster Library

Teddy Bear Picnic

Wednesday, January 15, 10.30am
Inverloch Library

Escape the heat and the rain at Magilla's Play Centre and Mini Golf

THE whole family can enjoy wholesome fun, all year round, right in the heart of South Gippsland at Magilla's Play Centre and Korumburra Indoor Mini Golf, which also boasts a golf simulator for those more serious players.

The little ones can explore the fun, colourful, safe play space that has a large obstacle course complete with flying fox, winding slides, tunnels, ladders, a rock-climbing wall and soft-landing mats.

An enclosed baby play area with toys and dolls allows parents to relax and energetic toddlers can cruise around on toy tractors, cars, bikes and trikes.

A party room can be booked for up to 20 kids and the on-site café provides the ultimate variety of hot and cold party food. Parents only need to bring along the cake and for themed celebrations, the decorations.

Tables and chairs in the café allow parents to relax or socialise over a barista-brewed cup of coffee.

Right next door is the indoor mini golf centre,



with two themed nine-hole mini golf courses and a golf simulator that provides a warm, dry place for older kids and adults to have a social hit or to tee off from around the world.

Entering through a rocky mine shaft, a glow-in-the-dark, deep underwater-themed nine-hole course emerges.

Sea creatures glow from the deep sea walls while others float above the course, the

skeleton of a sailor watches from a boat, and glow-in-the-dark carpet and mooring ropes mesmerise and add a surreal, spooky and fantastical experience to the game of golf.

The next nine holes are adorned with an Australiana theme, featuring gumtrees, crocodiles, kangaroos, a large python; and antique objects with a story to tell from old Australia.

This course is one to challenge mini-golf champions and players both young and old will need to bring their A game to complete the course under par.

While the golf simulator offers the opportunity for golfers to have a swing, work on their game or even experience playing on a world-renowned course.

These indoor courses offer a fun, quirky and social activity with something for everyone and provide a good day or night out for families, couples or singles, and for group or corporate events.

It's also a great low-impact activity for the older crew, with an 80 and 85-year-old married couple recently reigniting their competitive spirits while playing a round together.

Set in a great centralised location in South Gippsland, Magilla's Play Centre and Mini Golf is less than an hour's drive from most local townships and a great time out for families and friends, with all abilities access and plenty of parking available.

Sandy Point celebrates 40 years of Kidz Klub

KIDZ KLUB (primary)

WE'RE excited to be coming back to Sandy Point Community Centre in January 2025. Two thousand and twenty-five marks 40 years of Kidz Klub!

To celebrate Kidz Klub hosted a 40th anniversary birthday party yesterday, Monday, January 6 that featured face painting, fairy floss, games, craft and much more!

But the fun doesn't stop there from today (Tuesday, January 7) to Friday, January 10, 2025 our program will run just like previous years from 9.30am – 12.30pm. We hope you will be able to join us. Don't forget to tell all your friends!

Kidz Klub has been running in Sandy Point for the past 39 years. All activities are free



The Sandy Point Kidz Klub's are back this week!

and are specially designed for primary school-aged children. We offer a fun week of Bible stories, games, craft, quizzes, singing and prizes. Kidz Klub is also a great place to meet new friends!

Parents are welcome to leave their children with us, or to stay and have morning tea while the kids enjoy the fun.

To find out more information head to Facebook @ KIDZKLUBatSandyPoint.

genYOUTH (for kids in secondary school)

genYOUTH is a free activity for teenagers held at the Sandy Point Community Centre 7.30pm – 9pm Tuesday, January 7 to Thursday, January 9, 2025. Each night features high energy games, a positive message from the Bible, and – as in previous years – Sandy Point's best supper! Don't forget to tell your friends!

Check out Facebook @ GenyouthAtSandyPoint for more information.

For more details about their event visit the website sandypointkidzklub.org. To contact organisers directly email kksandypoint@gmail.com or phone 5940 0926. All Kidz Klub and genYOUTH activities are conducted in compliance with Victoria's Child Safe Standards.

Go on an Australia Day adventure with South Gippsland Tank Adventures



Have a smashin' good Australia Day with South Gippsland Tank Adventures.

EVER wanted to ride in a 52 tonne Centurion Tank or perhaps a Kanone? Now is your chance with South Gippsland Tank Adventures running a special Australia Day Adventure with discounted rides and all participants going in the draw to win a ride in a centurion while it is squishing a car with simulated firing going on from an MRV.

Kick off your 2025 with a bang with two rides per person in either the MRV, FV432 or the Striker for only \$88 (single) or \$264 (two adults and two children). And once you think you've got the hang of the ride step up into the Centurion (\$150) or Kanone (\$100).

With BBQ food and drinks also available to purchase on

the day, it'll be a journey you won't forget!

Just visiting and heading home before Australia Day? Open by appointment most days and weekends there is plenty of time to book in your own adventure whether travelling solo or with the family.

Following an escorted tour of South Gippsland Tank Adventures collection, inside and out of the armoured vehicles, former Australian Defence Force Leopard Tank Crewman Cameron Stone will take you out on an adventure along the wild bush tracks of Wonyip in either a FV432, Saracen, Striker, Half Track or MRV.

Bookings are essential – visit tankadventures.com.au or call Cameron on 0407 6611 203 for more information and to book.



Building a healthier community in Leongatha

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) has always provided safe high-quality care close to home and a new medical workforce model introduced in April 2024 has made it even better.

As the community is growing, so too is the health service. GSHS now employs doctors to provide dedicated staffing to the Leongatha Urgent Care Centre from 8am-9pm seven days per week and a doctor dedicated to the Leongatha wards from 8am-1pm seven days a week.

This means GSHS is providing more medical coverage than in the past and delivering more accessible care closer to home.

The on-staff doctors are supplemented by specialist outpatient clinics including paediatrics, oncology, surgical, endoscopy, gynaecology, geriatrics, and general physicians in cardiology, respiratory and renal medicine.

The new medical model is receiving overwhelming support from the community, with excellent feedback from patients and staff alike.

Executive Director of Medical Services, Angela Williams, said that employing doctors as part of the hospital structure was designed to make it easier for the community to access good health care.

Some of the doctors are from Leongatha Healthcare and Korumburra Medical Clinic who have provided care to the community for decades, while others have joined the team from Tasmania, Melbourne and the broader Gippsland region.

The new system means there are doctors on staff for the Leongatha Urgent Care Centre, supported by nurses and virtual care overnight, and there are GP rural specialists as co-leads for obstetrics and anaesthetics alongside the specialists providing these services.

The model celebrates rural general healthcare and its success is based on the partnership with doctors who know the local community, blended with new doctors who want to be connected to a community hospital and be part of a multi-disciplinary team.

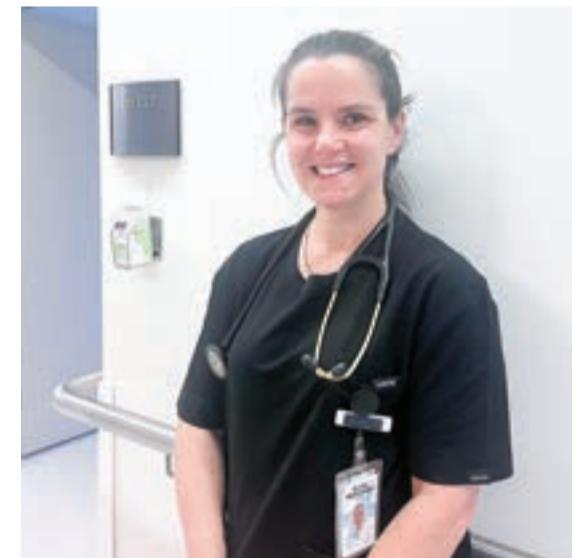
GSHS welcomes a team of incredible community-orientated Doctors such as Hugh and Lesley Chisholm, Elle Woolveridge, Chris Perry, Sue-Ellen Gale, Shane Kamphius, Warwick Pill, Paul Cotton and Veronica Foote, who also has a supervisory role for doctors in training from ACRRM.

The doctors share their time between GSHS, their private clinics and other hospitals, providing variety in their working lives but also continuity of care.

Angela Williams says the new system is good for the health service, the doctors and the community.

"We have more people using our services and our patients have been telling us they have benefitted from the regular daily regular care, particularly from the ward doctor, and knowing there is a doctor on staff at the Urgent Care Centre has been really helpful to our community." The change to the engagement of medical staff means that there is no charge to patients for using the UCC service at Leongatha.

The GSHS Leongatha Hospital workforce consists of 29 medical practitioners, including an Executive Director of Medical Services, eight General Practitioners, two Emergency Physicians (FACEM), a Specialist Obstetrician and Cynaecologist (FRANZCOG), a specialist Anaesthetist (FANZCA), seven visiting GPs or senior medical officers who work across the ward and UCC, nine GP-Anaesthetists, five GP-Obstetricians. GSHS also has several visiting surgeons and specialists that provide services to the local community.



GIPPSLAND SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICE

66 Koonwarra Road, Leongatha



Head to Sandy Point on January 18 for a day of koala information thanks to Prom Coast Ecolink.

Everything koalas at Sandy Point

• *Update from Prom Coast Ecolink*

WE ARE looking forward to getting stuck into nature in 2025! You can find us next at the Wildlife in Sandy Point Koala Info Day on Saturday, January 18 at the Sandy Point Community Centre. Enjoy Kid's Activities from 11-11.30am, Kid's Interactive Session 11.30am-12pm, and Koala Presentation 1.30pm to 3pm. For more details see sandypoint.vic.au/events/everything-koalas-2025

Our Hoddle Range Survey project will be the focus this year. We are working with private landholders around Mt Nicoll to better understand the significance of the flora and fauna in this area. But we also have many events planned, starting with our Walkerville Coastal Geology Beach Walk on Sunday, March 9. Jump on our website (promcoastecolink.org) for more information on this event, to register and to subscribe to our newsletter.

Inspiring healthy choices and environmental action with #ChooseTap

THE South Coast Water Partnership is committed to making tap water the drink of choice across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Together with its nine dedicated partner organisations, the partnership aims to make a meaningful impact on community health and the environment, empowering everyone in South Gippsland and Bass Coast to #ChooseTap.

This summer, the Partnership's #ChooseTap social media campaign will shine a spotlight on new and popular refilling locations, from coastal walks to local cafes and parks. Featuring local faces and places, this digital effort emphasises the convenience, eco-friendly and health benefits of using refillable water bottles, encouraging a cleaner, greener South Coast for residents and visitors.

Formed in 2016, the South Coast Water Partnership unites nine organisations committed to promoting the accessibility of tap water for a healthier community and environment. Partners include South Gippsland and Westernport Water; Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service, and South Gippsland Hospital; Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire Councils; GippSport; and the Gippsland Region Public Health Unit.

"Choosing tap water supports health, reduces plastic waste, and contributes to a sustainable South Coast region we can all be proud of," said Dona Tantirimudalige, Managing Director of Westernport Water.

"Keeping a reusable water bottle or glass of water within reach is an easy way to remind yourself to drink more water throughout the day. Tap water is a simple, effective way to stay hydrated, making it a great choice for both our health and the health of the environment," added Robert Murphy, Managing Director of South Gippsland Water.

The South Coast Water Partnership encourages all community members to support this movement by sharing the message to #ChooseTap, refilling reusable bottles, and tapping into naturally better hydration one refill at a time for a healthier and more sustainable South Coast.

Living smarter and saving more

AS COMMUNITIES Australia-wide grapple with rising energy and living costs, a new study from New Energy Thinking demonstrates the enormous cumulative savings of living in an efficient all-electric "Cape home" compared to an average "dual fuel" new home built in conventional estates around Australia.

The results? Households are saving \$115 per week, or \$293,600 over 25 years on running costs, by living in highly energy-efficient homes that are beautiful and comfortable year-round and switching from an internal combustion engine vehicle to an electric vehicle.

Homes at the 230-lot Cape solar-powered community are on track to saving \$1 million per annum in energy and petrol bills compared to a conventional estate of the same size.

How is this being achieved? Passive solar design.

Homes at The Cape are averaging eight-star energy efficiency, which is a national first. This means the homes have all the elements of good passive solar design, including excellent insulation, shading, double glazing, thermal mass, orientation and cross-flow ventilation. Homes are designed to be "sun catchers" in winter, inviting the winter sun into living areas, whilst in the summertime, the reverse occurs, with shading protecting the home from the hot summer sun.

Cape resident, John Godfrey said, "You don't understand how comfortable a sustainable home is until you actually live in one."

The Cape is Australia's most advanced efficient all-electric community. All homes have solar power, with new systems averaging above 6kW, and homes have state-of-the-art



Passive solar home at The Cape.

efficient all-electric fit out. This includes high-performance induction cooktops for cooking, as well as reverse cycle split systems for heating and cooling, and heat pump hot water.

While the number of households in Australia with electric vehicles sits at under one per cent, more than 30 per cent of homes at The Cape community are paired with electric vehicles, a national first. All homes are wired to allow for ease of electric vehicle charging at home, and many residents charge their cars on surplus solar energy generated from their own rooftops. Household charging is complemented by a community-owned EV fast charger in the visitor's carpark.

Mr Godfrey has adopted the winning formula of an energy-efficient solar-powered home with a home battery, efficient all-electric fit-out and electric

vehicle, and is enjoying the "crazily high" savings. John has seen his energy bills plummet from his previous home paired with an internal combustion engine car in Melbourne, where the combined bills were more than \$6700 per annum, to less than \$500 per annum.

"I love the convenience of plugging in at home, as well as the effortless comfort of the house and the higher performance of the electric vehicle. Our annual energy bills are paltry, and this results in significant money saved in our household budget each year."

The bill-busting homes at The Cape are providing good real-life examples for expert groups such as Rewiring Australia, led by scientist Saul Griffith. In their report "Savings in the Suburbs", Rewire Australia estimate that the implementation of these

initiatives in all eight million Australian homes would result in savings of \$40 billion per annum by 2030.

"Electrification is the technology available now that will reduce your emissions and energy bills at the same time," Saul Griffith said.

"Households will be the heroes of this energy transition and have the most to benefit from an electrified future – healthier homes, better appliances and lower energy bills."

"The Cape community has achieved very high standards in energy efficiency, solar power, clean transport, water efficiency and serious local food production, Brendan Condon, Director, The Cape added.

"The community generates far more clean energy than it produces on an annual basis and has eliminated most energy bills."

Island paradise for rare marsupial off Wilsons Promontory



Researcher Antos and Swamp Antechinus. Photos: Jeremy Tscharke

There is renewed hope for the survival of the Swamp Antechinus thanks to Wilsons Prom.

RESEARCHERS have documented a booming population of the threatened tiny Tasmanian marsupial mouse Swamp Antechinus close to Wilsons Promontory.

Specialist crews from Parks Victoria have conducted a four-day expedition to two islands just off the coast of Wilsons Promontory National Park, providing new hope for the survival of this little-known native predator.

Zoos Victoria recently found a small group of these rare marsupials on the mainland.

Swamp Antechinuses, characterised by cinnamon-coloured fur, large dark eyes and an impressive array of whiskers, may be small enough to fit in the palm of your hand but have razor-sharp teeth.

Isolated by the rising waters of Bass Strait for more than 12,000 years the marsupials on these two islands surprised researchers with a significantly higher capture rate than their mainland counterparts.

Males die before their first birthday dedicating their final days to marathon mating sessions lasting up to 14 hours forsaking sleep and food over two weeks of copulation.

Enlarged testes eventually trigger a stress-induced immune system collapse.

Without adult males, new mothers and their offspring have greater access to food.

Females can store sperm from multiple partners meaning litters often include half-siblings with robust females living long enough to raise litters over at least two seasons.

Researchers spent three nights navigating challenging terrain to lay traps and set up motion-sensing, infrared cameras on the islands skilfully positioning cameras and traps between dense tussock grass and deep seabird burrows.

The traps ensured the safe and temporary capture of Swamp Antechinuses while providing food and vital bedding insulation against the cool and blustery conditions that are common on these remote islands.

Small tissue samples taken

Dr Mark Norman, Chief Scientist Conservation and Climate Action for Parks Victoria said documenting 36 threatened Swamp Antechinuses thriving on islands off Wilsons Promontory National Park is a powerful sign.

"It highlights the Prom's role as an ark offering safe harbour for vulnerable species as the climate changes," said Dr Norman.

"These islands, like life rafts hold unique populations with valuable genetic diversity."

By studying these island populations Dr Norman believes we can unlock the secrets to the resilience of rare mammals and help bring their mainland relatives back from the brink of extinction.

Dr Marissa Parrot, Senior Conservation Biologist for Zoos Victoria said Antechinus are beautiful and amazing animals, but their remarkable reproduction followed by a total male die-off evolved in more predictable environments now leaves them particularly vulnerable to climate change.

"The protected Promontory islands provide insurance against extinction and a brighter future for Swamp Antechinus," said Dr Parrot.

"Researching the genetic health of the island Swamp Antechinuses adds important information to the wider conservation program."

Wonthaggi Toyota

WE BUY
CARS!



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PM REGIONAL TEAM



2016 Toyota Camry Altise
16,990 DRIVE AWAY

187,562kms, 6 speed sports auto
sedan SN: W101954



2020 Volkswagen Tiguan 132TSI Comfortline
29,990 DRIVE AWAY

113,128kms, 7 speed sports auto
SUV SN: W101970



2024 Mitsubishi ASX Exceed
37,990 DRIVE AWAY

2,020kms, CVT auto SUV
SN: W101962



2016 Toyota Hilux WorkMate
22,990 DRIVE AWAY

171,011kms, 6 speed sports auto cab
chassis SN: W101965



2014 Suzuki Alto GL
9,990 DRIVE AWAY

80,716kms, 4 speed auto hatch
SN: W101942



2021 Nissan Qashqai
30,990 DRIVE AWAY

48,996kms, CVT auto SUV
SN: W101947



2021 Kia Carnival S
39,990 DRIVE AWAY

86,154kms, 8 speed sports auto
people mover SN: W101960



2017 Toyota Landcruiser Prado VX
47,990 DRIVE AWAY

165,544kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4
SUV SN: W101958

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2019 Volkswagen Tiguan 132TSI R-Line
33,990 DRIVE AWAY

28,686kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: L101272



2023 Ford F-150 Lariat LWB
134,990 DRIVE AWAY

22kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4
utility DBA 246



2020 Toyota Hiace LWB
33,990 DRIVE AWAY

189,262kms, 6 speed CVT auto van
SN: L101265



2020 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MkIII
40,990 DRIVE AWAY

113,476kms, 10 speed CVT auto
double cab SN: L101185



2021 Hyundai i30
23,990 DRIVE AWAY

50,407kms, 6 speed CVT auto
hatch SN: L101266



2021 Ford Ranger XLT PX Mk III
35,990 DRIVE AWAY

102,320kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4
double cab SN: L101259



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OH WHAT A FEELING



Colin Murray

MIRBOO NORTH



OVER many decades Colin Murray has dedicated so much of his time, energy, care and attention to the Mirboo North community. He is regarded as a calm and collected individual who has the invaluable characteristics to skilfully navigate stressful and traumatic situations with all members of the community.

Colin has acquired these skills through his volunteering efforts, including 15 years of service to the Mirboo North CFA. He is an integral part of the Brigade, always volunteering to be part of the strike teams in the fire season, travelling to various parts of Victoria. His contributions to the CFA are widely appreciated by his counterparts and he has been awarded National Emergency Medals for bushfires in 2019 and 2020.

February 2024 saw Colin's true community spirit and commitment reach new heights. Days after helping his own community with the aftermath of the storm, Colin drove the Mirboo North fire truck in a CFA strike team to the other side of Melbourne to assist with an out-of-control bushfire.

Ian Rasmussen

LEONGATHA



IAN'S extensive contributions to the South Gippsland community are a testament to his unwavering dedication and service. He has been a valuable part of many clubs, organisations and committees including:

- Young Farmers;
- Berrys Creek Hall Committee;
- Leongatha Probus Club;
- Leongatha Horticultural Society;
- Lions Club;
- Leongatha Senior Citizens' Committee; and
- Supporting local clubs, environmental causes and charity initiatives.

Ian's journey began with the Young Farmers, where he first embraced community service. His steadfast support for the Berrys Creek Hall has included organising fundraising events and participating in maintenance efforts, showcasing his commitment to local infrastructure.

As a member of the Leongatha Probus Club since 1999, Ian has been a vital part of the organisation,

taking on numerous leadership roles. His involvement in the Leongatha Horticultural Society has been instrumental in the success of community events like the Rose Show and Daffodil Festival.

Ian's dedication to the Lions Club spans over two decades, where he has held significant positions, including Treasurer and President. His role as Market Manager has revitalised the Lions Community Market, fostering local spirit and supporting businesses.

For over 20 years, Ian has also served on the Leongatha Senior Citizens' Committee, diligently ensuring the group's activities run smoothly. His meticulous work in documenting the club's history for its 50th anniversary reflects his commitment to preserving community heritage.

Ian's willingness to contribute his time and ability to so many organisations on a weekly basis, and his readiness to help wherever needed, exemplifies his selflessness and dedication to community service.

NOMINEES for the 2025 South Gippsland Australia Day awards will be recognised at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, January 15 from 6.30pm, at the Meeniyah Hall.

The achievements of each nominee are outlined below, and the names of the overall winner in each category will also be inscribed on the Australia Day Honour Board in Memorial Hall.

Dianne (Di) Kiddell

MIRBOO NORTH



DIANNE Kiddell is regarded as a quiet achiever in the Mirboo North community. A go-getter who flies under the radar to achieve great things for her town.

In 2004, Dianne served on the original Mirboo North Child Steering Group committee to establish the St Andrew's Child Care Centre which opened in 2006. She continues to serve her role on the Committee as Liaison Officer between the church and the Child Care Centre. The establishment of this centre has been a huge benefit to many families in the area.

For several years, Dianne also coordinated the Community Kitchen which met weekly at the Community Shed in Mirboo North. Here, many young women with disabilities attended the session, adopting a sense of

independence and community. The Community Kitchen enabled women to learn, enjoy cooking, and eat a meal together. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, these sessions haven't returned to Mirboo North.

Since 2015, Dianne has coordinated the Mirboo North Community Bus Service. A job that involves many administrative tasks including bookings, drivers and regular servicing of the bus.

Today, Dianne continues to do her community work through the church, recently acting as Chair of the Pastoral Relations Committee of Presbytery of Gippsland.

Dianne has been pertinent to the growth and development of the Mirboo North community, helping to establish a place for children and women to learn, and people to connect.

John Davies

KORUMBURRA



JOHN first arrived in the Korumburra area in 2000 and was instantly committed to the community, joining the Bena Community Group and later serving as its President. He proposed establishing a Men's Shed and collaborated with Milpara Community House to create one of the first Sheds in the Shire.

John's efforts led to the establishment of the Korumburra Men's Shed. He played a crucial role in securing over \$33,000 in funding for renovations of the old Joinery Building, which officially opened in September 2009. His dedication didn't stop there; he also helped launch the local Farmers Market, dedicating many early Saturday mornings to its success.

As the Men's Shed grew, John facilitated its move to the Old Goods Shed in 2015 and later negotiated a lease for the Old Loco Shed, securing \$80,000 for essential renovations. His successful grant applications have totalled over \$98,000, ensuring the Shed remains a

vibrant hub for the community and a place to promote men's mental health and wellbeing.

John's unwavering passion and leadership have significantly enriched the Korumburra area, making a lasting impact on many lives.

Beyond his work with the Men's Shed, John has been deeply involved in numerous other community activities and he was a founding member and chairman of the Korumburra Round Table. The Round Table has been instrumental in the development of the town. He is a regular volunteer at local events, always willing to lend a helping hand wherever needed.

For over 15 years, John has been an active member of the Milpara Community House committee, serving four years as President and six years as Vice-President.

John's contributions to Korumburra are described by locals as immeasurable. His patience, kindness, humility and unwavering commitment to others exemplify the true spirit of community.



South Gippsland
Shire Council

COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



40th Anniversary Meeniyan Tavern Nights

THE Tavern Nights in Meeniyan have been a cherished tradition for 40 years, celebrating the community's vibrant spirit and providing a platform for local talent. September 14, marked the event's special milestone, showcasing the diverse entertainment that has flourished over the decades.

Originally starting in the early 1980s with a small group of friends sharing songs and poems in the Meeniyan Hall supper room, these gatherings quickly grew in popularity. As the audience expanded, the events moved to the main hall, thanks in part to the efforts of local music enthusiast Eric Mould, who tirelessly sought out performers. Over the years, Tavern Nights have evolved into a well-organised showcase featuring a wide array of acts, from solo instrumentalists to lively dance performances, all performed free of charge.

This year's anniversary event drew 210 attendees, a testament to its enduring appeal. The planning, led by Tanya Wilson and Jane Coker, involved meticulous coordination to ensure a varied lineup and a beautifully decorated venue. The proceeds from these nights not only provide affordable entertainment – typically just \$10 per ticket – but also support the Meeniyan Progress Association's community initiatives.

The Tavern Nights bring together residents and visitors, and offer young performers their first stage experience, nurturing local talent and creating lasting memories. The skills and friendships developed through organising these events have proven invaluable, especially in times of need, such as during recent community challenges.

In essence, the Tavern Nights are more than just a concert.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Congratulations!



South Gippsland Shire Council would like to thank and congratulate all nominees in the 2025 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards.

The awards recognise people in South Gippsland who dedicate their time, skills and energy for the benefit of their local community.

We would like to invite the South Gippsland community to attend the awards ceremony on Wednesday 15 January at the Meeniyan Hall from 6.30pm.

To learn more about this year's nominees, please visit the link below.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay

Marge Arnup

FISH CREEK



MARGE'S community life in Fish Creek began in 1984 when she took on the role of Secretary for the Fish Creek Kindergarten. The following year, she was appointed President and continued this role until 1990. During this period, the kindergarten became incorporated, renewed the playground facilities, added a store-room and provided many events and activities to support community connectedness.

She has supported the Tea Cosy Festival Committee since 2014. Marge has been Chairperson and Festival Director since 2018, presenting four festivals that have engaged Fish Creek and the broader local community. Each festival has been unique and puts the Fish Creek community on the map, attracting visitors from around the world. The unique 2020 COVID E-Cosy Festival also prompted her advocacy for free public Wi-Fi at the Hall, which was installed in 2022.

In 2020, Marge took a more active role in the Fish Creek Community Development Group (FCCDG) when filling in for the Secretary. A role she continues today. Some of the things she has facilitated as a member of the FCCDG include the involvement of RMIT in conducting a wastewater study for Fish Creek, the installation of a water station and the

coordination of how Fish Creek hosted the Great Victorian Bike Ride in December 2023.

Marge is also Secretary of the Fish Creek Hall Committee and an active op-shop volunteer.

She previously served on the Buffalo Hall Committee, especially during the time of the building of the new Hall from 1984 to 1987.

Marge has also been strongly involved in the provision of services for people with disabilities since the 1990s. She was the key driver in the establishment of the South Gippsland Specialist School which opened in 1996, then known as the Baringa Annex. Her advocacy and leadership led the provision of post-school education options, employment services and housing for people with disabilities. These services were previously unavailable in South Gippsland. She was also key in the establishment and delivery of the Basketball for All program, teaching people with disabilities basketball skills, opening opportunities to play mainstream competition.

Marge has also played a key role in the re-ignition of International Women's Day events in the Corner Inlet area and the recording and promotion of many women who are the reason the area has many services and is such a cohesive and strong community today.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Charlotte (Charli) Ogden

LEONGATHA



AT THE age of 19, Charlotte (more commonly known as Charli) has contributed significantly to not just the South Gippsland community, but to the youth of our region.

From 2019 to 2021, Charli represented South Gippsland at the Victorian Youth Congress. In this role, she played a vital part in the co-creation of the Victorian Youth Strategy. The development of this Strategy included community consultation, regular meetings with staff from the Office of Youth and multiple presentations to the Minister for Youth.

In addition to her impressive calibre of work for the Victorian Youth Congress, Charli has also completed training and advocacy work with the Youth Climate Coalition. Her passion for the environment, especially ecosystem regeneration, has driven her to continue learning as she studies a Diploma of Conservation and Ecosystem Management.

Much of Charli's spare time is spent volunteering at 1st Inverloch Scout Group where she is now a Rover and qualified to be a scout leader. Here she shares her enthusiasm as part of the leadership team. Her extensive knowledge of native plants comes in handy when partaking in survival courses such as the Victorian Scout Survival, which is the highest-level course for older youth and adult leaders.

Described as a passionate leader, Charli brings skill, knowledge and dedication to every group and project she is a part of. She plays a vital role in significantly enhancing the outcomes for the youth of South Gippsland and the surrounding areas and is a pivotal player in advocating and working towards a greener future.

In hearing the announcement, Charli admitted she was speechless.

"I was a bit surprised; I didn't know until I was sent it from one of my friends," she smiled. "A huge honour, and not something I was expecting."

Charli hopes her achievements serve as an inspiration, encouraging other young people to step forward.

"It's hugely important to support young people in our community and have people believe in them and what they can achieve. I hope I make our scouts feel that way along with other young people in the community."

"Likewise, with the environmental issues, these things are hugely important to me personally, and the best way to make change is to start small."

And for Charli, it's all about the little individual pieces that make a difference.

"Those who know me – see all the little individual bits (that have led to Young Citizen of the Year), (and I hope others) see how they can do all those bits themselves."



Mirboo North Italian Festa

THE Mirboo North Italian Festa is a vibrant celebration of the Italian heritage that enriches the Mirboo North community and attracts thousands of visitors. This one-day event showcases the dedication of local volunteers who create a high-quality experience filled with Italian food, dance, music, and family-friendly activities like grape stomping and market stalls.

Despite operating on a tight budget, this year's Festa not only provided joy and entertainment but also played a crucial role in supporting the community following the devastating February storm event. Surplus sponsorship funds were directed to assist those affected, demonstrating the event's commitment to the community.

The Festa boosts local businesses as visitors stay and spend in Mirboo North and the greater South Gippsland area, fostering return visits.

The collaborative effort required to run the Festa strengthens community bonds, as residents come together to staff stalls, manage parking and host activities. This teamwork cultivated a sense of friendship and camaraderie that enhanced community resilience.

The true impact of the Festa became evident in the aftermath of the storm. With power and communication disrupted, the connections forged during the event allowed residents to support one another. Many rallied to provide essential supplies and assistance, reducing the need for emergency services and helping those in greater need.

The Mirboo North Italian Festa embodies the spirit of community, resilience, and support. It has become a cornerstone of local identity, proving that the bonds formed through food, friendship and shared experiences can have lasting effects.



Poowong 150th Anniversary

THE 150th-anniversary celebration of the settlement of Poowong was a weekend event that brought the community together in a vibrant display of history and camaraderie. Organised by a dedicated committee of ten over 18 months, the festivities included a variety of activities that catered to all ages and interests.

The celebration kicked off with an old-time dance, setting a joyful tone for the weekend. The following day featured thrilling football and netball games against arch-rival Nyora for the coveted "Demon Cup," drawing significant attendance and local pride. Community hubs like the CFA, Community Garden and Poowong Library opened their doors, inviting visitors to explore and engage with local organisations.

A highlight was the BYO Basket Dinner at the Poowong Public Hall, where the commemorative book, 'Since We Were a Century 1999-2024', was launched, capturing the rich history of the area. The event also included the unveiling of a new community artwork, symbolising the town's heritage. The cutting of the anniversary cake by local 96-year-old Margaret Monk added a heartfelt touch to the celebration.

On the final day, a flag-raising ceremony and a combined church service united the community in remembrance and reflection. The weekend attracted approximately 500 visitors, significantly benefiting local businesses.

This event not only celebrated Poowong's history but also strengthened community ties, showcased local talent and provided a platform for various organisations to collaborate and raise funds for the community. The success of this celebration exemplified the rich spirit of Poowong.



Commemorative Flags Marking Veterans Graves

EACH year, in a heartfelt tribute to our veterans, the cemeteries of Foster, Toora, and Welshpool come alive with colourful flags marking the graves of those who served their country. This annual event, held for a week before and after Anzac Day, honours the sacrifices made by these brave individuals across various conflicts, including World Wars, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

Since its inception in 2015, this initiative has involved extensive research to identify local veteran graves, resulting in over 400 flags being displayed. Many flags are sponsored by family members, while others are provided by the Foster RSL and the Historical Society for those whose families cannot be identified. This act of remembrance not only beautifies the cemeteries but also serves as a tender reminder of the service and sacrifice of these individuals.

Community engagement is a vital aspect of this event. Families return to pay their respects and high school students actively participate in raising and lowering the flags. The event encourages younger generations to connect with their history, as many express pride in seeing their relatives honoured in this way.

The cemetery trusts and local RSLs play a crucial role in organising this event, ensuring its success year after year.

This annual flag-raising ceremony not only commemorates those who served but embodies the spirit of remembrance, unity, and respect for our veterans, reminding us of the sacrifices made for our freedom.



2024 Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival

THE Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival is a bi-annual event that took place last year from May 18 to 26. The nine-day affair was a vibrant celebration of creativity and community spirit, showcasing the unique hospitality of the Fish Creek area. The festival featured a delightful competition for tea cosy designs, attracting nearly 200 entries from across Australia and beyond. Judged by local artist Sarah Parkes, the exhibition drew 6759 visitors, highlighting the event's broad appeal.

The festival was more than just a competition, it included a variety of engaging activities such as high tea events, workshops on crafting and art, and a market day filled with local food and music. Notable highlights included Jazz Night and a Short Film Festival, which celebrated local contributions to horticulture and environmental

improvement. The community came together, with the help of over 80 volunteers who supported the event, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration.

Financially, the festival made a significant impact, raising funds for local organisations, including \$3500 for the Fish Creek Football Netball Club and \$1000 for the Fish Creek CFA.

Local businesses thrived, with a reported 300 per cent increase in sales for some traders during the festival. The total economic benefit to the community was substantial, with \$170,953 spent in local businesses, showcasing the festival's role in boosting the local economy.

This event not only celebrated creativity but also supported local initiatives and attracted visitors from across Australia and internationally putting South Gippsland firmly on the map.



A new year

By Claire Chitty

WELCOME to a new year. Are you hoping for a new start, a reset, determined to change your life for the better? There's never been a perfect time to set new intentions as we step into a number nine year.

Numerologically, 2025 represents completion, transformation and inspiration. It's not a year for the faint hearted. There's going to be change on many levels. Small communities will continue to grow and support one another, leaving behind big corporations. We're already seeing recycling, gifting and exchanging items, plus food swaps becoming more popular. I'm also seeing an increase where people are opting for a simpler life and community networks are valued over material possessions, plus greater connections where we work together to create harmonious and united environments.

And that's where I choose to place my energy by being proactive and empowering others to step up to be the best versions of themselves. From hosting the Orphan's Christmas lunch to reaching out to those in need of company, I believe we all benefit when we contribute in some way. And it doesn't need to be a major fanfare event. Sometimes, the simplest things can have more impact.

One of the upcoming activities in our area includes the Coronet Bay Community Garden, where we're hosting a mosaic making event for children from sea glass cleared from the local debunked garbage dump. The aim is to create stepping stone pavers and lasting artwork whilst creating an enjoyable experience that the children will remember in years to come.

I continue to facilitate the CB Women's Sacred Circles and was fortunate to be gifted a crystal singing bowl by a generous benefactor. Upon discussion with this donor, I asked if the bowl could be raffled as an incentive for women to attend to heal, grow and learn as a group in safe confidential surroundings. The excitement and anticipation generated by filling out the raffle tickets produced a feeling of expectancy which we then used to set intentions for 2025. It was an insightful exercise to witness and provided evidence in just how powerful we can be when we focus our thoughts.

As you start this new year, remember you have the power through your beliefs, mindset and actions to change old ways of being. Your thoughts are like seeds; pay attention to what you want to create, whether it's a new partner, weight loss, implement a fitness regime, instigate a career change or a multitude of other hopes and dreams, it's up to you.

Live with joy, dare to dream and get excited in what can be achieved. Be the change you want to create in the world and together, we can make a powerful positive difference.

What do you want to see manifest in your life?



Angela Tisher, Barry Wenke, Robin Street, Matthew Yates and John Roberts are ready to instruct young fishers. A54_0125

SeaDays Festival delights in Port Welshpool

SEADAYS Festival provided family fun and education throughout a hot weekend in Port Welshpool.

Attendees studied specimens from the sea that were housed in tanks, such as an empty Port Jackson Shark egg sack, a crab and a predatory Moon Snail.

Microscopes provided close inspections of a piece of Volute Snail shell, fine green seaweed and the eggs of a Moon Snail.

Adriana Liberatos of Black Snake Productions introduced people to stunning creatures such as Pepper the Jungle Python, who likes getting up close to your face.

Kathy Whelan from Friends of Agnes Falls was busy promoting the attraction, while Craig Beekhuizen encouraged visitors to explore the Great Southern Rail Trail.

Youngsters created seascape-inspired gardens and other artistic wonders such as small boats under the guidance of members of the Port Welshpool Garden Club.

"We get them to do everything themselves," Ros McPherson said of the freedom allowed.

Outside, kids tried their hand at fishing, a team of volunteers there to help.

One of those volunteers, Robin Street told the new fisher people they might catch snapper or flathead, urging them to hold their fishing line with one hand when it is out of the water to ensure the hook doesn't end up where it shouldn't.

Robin is the flotilla commander of the Port Welshpool Coast Guard, a volunteer-run organisation that helps educate the public about safety measures around

water and comes to the aid of boaters and others in trouble at sea.

He stressed the importance of people ensuring equipment such as life jackets, flares and torches are in good working order, also advising them to have a device such as a Personal Locator Beacon with them when on the water.

Other Coast Guard volunteers, Vic Kotiw and Mark Paulet were outside with a Coast Guard boat, greeting people and chatting about the service the organisation provides.

Port Welshpool Coast Guard has been busy in recent times, performing rescues.

Vic said a lack of preparation is often responsible, with people forgetting to check basics such as the condition of their boat battery or whether there is sufficient fuel.

Gippsland coast care officer for Coastcare Victoria Laura Town-Hopkinson was also stationed outside, the organisation helping people to enjoy nature and understand threats.

She drew attention to initiatives such as 'Summer by the Sea' that is running throughout January, encouraging people to look at the Summer by the Sea website for details of sessions running in Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shires.

Port Welshpool Working Group, which manages the town's hall and campaigns for various local improvements, was also represented at the event.

While everyone had fun, the Sentinel-Times had to move on before discovering whether any fish were caught and released but the young fishing crew will soon learn you can always talk about the one that got away.



Ros McPherson, Faye Taylor and Julie Kee of the Port Welshpool Garden Club are ready to run the craft session at the SeaDays Festival. A52_0125



Adriana Liberatos of Black Snake Productions introduces Jungle Python Pepper. A58_0125



Ivan Lee shows off an empty Port Jackson Shark egg sack. A59_0125



Jesinta and Patrick strive for a catch. A57_0125



Camilla Malonzo of Port Welshpool tries her hand at fishing. A56_0125

Korumburra Swap Meet celebrates 40 years



KORUMBURRA Swap Meet organisers are excited at the prospect of packed Showgrounds on Sunday, January 12 as they celebrate the event's 40th year, again combining a wide range of bric-a-brac, including car parts, with a vintage and classic car display.

Members of the South Gippsland Branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club (GHAC) happily volunteer their time to ensure the Swap Meet's success.

They are supported by representatives of other local community groups who provide

hospitality for exhibitors and attendees while raising funds for their organisations.

Exhibitors are welcome to set up from lunchtime on Saturday, January 11 and stay overnight, with Korumburra Scouts cooking dinner that evening and the event opening to the public at 6am on Sunday morning.

The local Lions and Rotary Clubs will ensure there is plenty of food on offer for those browsing for a bargain and admiring shining automobiles, and there will be a couple of local coffee

vendors present should anyone need a caffeine boost due to the early start.

President of Korumburra Lions Club, Roger Powell said his team will be in action early, selling egg and bacon rolls from 6am, with expectations 800 will be eaten, the club offering hamburgers and veggie burgers as the day progresses, as well as sausages in bread.

Roger noted it is one of the largest swap meets in Gippsland and among the biggest events his club is involved in for the year.

Vice president of the South Gippsland Branch of the GHAC, Barry Ferguson said many people like to show off completed projects while seeking parts for ones they are currently working on, suggesting some juggle up to 10 projects at a time.

"There's always something for everyone at the Swap Meet," he stressed; "it could be something for gardeners, model cars, anything."

Of course, if you're short of a project you might just find one.

Part of the event's intrigue is

the uncertainty about what will be on show.

"We don't know who's bringing what car in; they could come from Melbourne," Barry said.

He'll be proudly displaying his 1974 HQ one-tonner, a stunning blue vehicle with a tilt tray.

As for the Swap Meet, those keen on securing a bargain are advised to be ready when the gates open, with enthusiastic buyers sure to be in position to seize the opportunity.

Photo: G.S.Bruning



HOSTS: Heidi & Dave

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Korumburra Swap Meet celebrates 40 years



Laurie Cooper, member of the South Gippsland branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club, is proud of his 1929 six-cylinder Chevrolet sedan. The car is now worth about \$15,000. Laurie is currently working on another pride and joy... a 1930 Austin 7 sportscar.

Trash or Treasure?

First printed The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, Wednesday, January 4, 1995

MOST of us think of scrap metal as junk... but thousands of others will travel from all over Australia to grab their piece of "junk" from the Korumburra Showgrounds on Sunday.

Car boots will be open and piled high with treasures, while others will display their wares on tarps or in trailers.

Bargain hunters usually rise early to be lined up at the gates of the showgrounds well before 6am, eager to snap a good deal!

The annual swap day is the 11th organised by the South Gippsland branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club.

The day officially starts at 7am, and be-

gins winding up in the early afternoon.

Everything from parts of bikes, trucks and cars, to books, maintenance manuals, badges and pinstriping will be bought, sold, swapped or bartered during the day.

There will also be a display of beautifully restored vintage, classic and veteran cars to provide incentive for enthusiast seeks parts for their own partially restored automobiles.

The swap meet last year attracted thousands hoping to stumble across their treasures... and organisers expect this year's sale will bring in similar numbers.

In the past, hundreds of stall holders have offered their wares to bargain hunters.

Sunday's swap meet looks set to be a shopper's paradise, with about 300 stall holders already lined up.



Photos: G.S.Bruning

Celebrating 40 years

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



Sunday, January 12, 2025

Korumburra Showgrounds

Vintage & Classic Car Display

Grounds closed 10pm Saturday till 6am Sunday

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Korumburra Swap Meet celebrates 40 years



Barry Ferguson's 1974 Holden HQ had a more conservative and rather tired look when he bought it in 2010.



The HQ one-tonner was stripped right back after being bought in 2010.



The tray wasn't always as glamorous as it is now.



The ability to tilt the tray adds to the showmanship of Barry Ferguson's 1974 Holden HQ.

Holden is still king in Ferguson household

BARRY Ferguson's stunning blue 1974 Holden HQ one-tonner is sure to turn heads during this year's Korumburra Swap Meet.

The vice president of the South Gippsland Branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club has owned the car since 2010, having bought it in running condition from Kernot, but in need of internal and external work.

Much of that was undertaken by Barry and his son, the refurbishment taking about 18 months.

"We stripped it back to bare metal and rebuilt it," Barry said, explaining

a friend was responsible for the vehicle's eye-catching spray paint, the previously unregistered vehicle put straight onto club plates when the project was complete.

The colour of the car's original paint was unknown as it had previously been repainted, but photos of the vehicle prior to work being carried out reveal the overall project was an extensive one, with wear and tear evident.

Barry enjoys the way the automatic drives and the opportunity to put the car on show.

Its hardwood-panelled tilt tray

boosts the vehicle's intrigue, its current owner having added that feature purely for show.

The tray is operated by two heavy-duty 18" Stroke 330lbs 12 volt Linear Actuators and Wireless Control Kits.

Barry enjoys taking people by surprise as they study the HQ, operating the tray without them realising he is doing so, tricking them into believing it is activated by a sensor as they get close to it.

The one-tonner has enjoyed success at local shows, winning a couple of trophies.

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24 | TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Korumburra Swap Meet celebrates 40 years

1924 style the pride of 1990s

First printed in South Gippsland Sentinel - Times, Tuesday, March 28, 1995

A 1924 Studebaker is the pride of Leongatha.

And it is one of the joys of photographer Gerard Brunning's life.

For Gerard and tradespeople from Leongatha and Korumburra, the Studebaker Special Six is testimony to one man's dream of re-creating a 1920s dream car and the local skills which made the dream come true.

Between them they have created a car that draws eyes wherever it goes.

Two years ago Gerard purchased the Studebaker and began a ground-up restoration.

Then, eight weeks after putting it on the road, he took it to a Gippsland Historical Car Club Motorkana.

Of the 50 or so cars on display, the Studebaker took out the people's choice award.

More recently, there is little doubt he would have won such an award hands down at the Inverloch Jazz Festival Parade.

People couldn't take their eyes off the gleaming machine, pride of 1920s craftsmanship re-created by 1990s tradesmen.

It goes well, too.

The motor, which along with most of the car, was in sound condition, had an original 30,000 miles on the clock.

Now it cruises the roads at a comfortable 40mph.

"I've given her a short burst at 50 mph," Gerard says, which is probably quicker than it would have travelled on most 1920s roads.

When he purchased the car two years ago, he became only its second registered owner.

After completing the 30,000 miles of its first life, it was put on blocks in a shed and remained there for 40 years.

Then it was sold, and resold, as renovators dreamed of what might be, but were stopped by the recession.

Gerard says he bought it as a project to help with his convalescence from illness.

"I needed something to work on, for 15 minutes or half an hour a day," he says.

He had a fair idea what he



Gerard demonstrates a cigar lighter, 1924 style. The cord stretches far enough for back seat passengers to light up. Light reflects from the mirror-like duco.



A vintage showpiece. Crowds gathered around Gerard and his unique 1924 Studebaker Special Six before, during and after the recent Inverloch Jazz Festival.

was taking on.

Some time ago he did up a horse drawn cart, and with the proceeds of its sale financed the purchase of a 1924 Republic truck.

It, in turn, enabled Gerard to buy the Studebaker.

Now he has a car to be proud of... and he wants to give credit to those who helped him.

"It is important that people be aware of the expertise that is available.

"People immediately think

you must have gone to Melbourne to get a job like this done.

"I'm proud that locals have been able to bring it up to concourse standard."

And he is happy to have a car which should prove a sound investment.

He says the project has come in within budget and well within its re-sale value... which is a relief, as some enthusiasts tend to over-capitalise.

The secret to completing an

affordable job, Gerard says, is to buy right, do a lot of the work yourself and be prepared to wheel and deal.

With the work now complete, there remains the pleasure of driving such a car.

He says for the next 12 months he will "keep it in cotton wool," driving it enough to ensure it doesn't deteriorate, and taking it to shows.

After that, he hopes to do some rallying.

Among those who worked on the care are:

- Laurie Cooper (Cooper Mechanical Repairs, Leongatha) all repairs and electrical wiring;
- Russell Burgess (Gippsland Sandblasting, Korumburra) sandblasting;
- John Kerville (Dinky-Di-Design, Leongatha) upholstery;
- Stokes Auto Electrical, Leongatha, starter motor repair;
- Les Neil (Les Neil Exhaust Centre, Korumburra), rebuilt original exhaust;
- Taranto Glass, Leongatha, Wonthaggi provided windscreen, visor, bevelled glass and rear window;
- B.J. Bearings, Leongatha, Pakenham, Bairnsdale, Morwell, wheel bearings, nuts and bolts;
- Ted Hattam, light machinery and castings.

* Report, photos of finished car by Noel Maud.



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Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

One rate increase doesn't fit all

ONE size doesn't fit all when it comes to the State Government's cap on council rate increases.

But equally, you don't want to put Dracula back in charge of the blood bank either which is why the State Labor Government had to introduce its 'Fair Go Rates System' in the first place in 2016 after local shires continually hammered ratepayers with six per cent plus rate increases annually.

Just before Christmas, the State Government announced that it was retaining its rate cap strategy and allowing a maximum increase of three per cent this coming year, in line with inflation.

While the move has been welcomed by homeowners, it hasn't been well received by local councils or their peak body, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), which has called for a significant review of the rate capping system.

"While it's a slight increase – up from 2.75 per cent in 24/25 – councils will have little relief from the extreme financial pressures they have faced in the last four years," said MAV President Cr Jennifer Anderson.

"Using CPI to inform the rate cap simply doesn't work for councils. It's not a true reflection of the increased costs our sector faces in construction, materials, staff wages, and services."

During the past year, both Kerryn Ellis CEO of South Gippsland and Greg Box CEO of Bass Coast have come out publicly criticising the rate capping policy, Ms Ellis saying the shire would be unable to properly maintain its portfolio of 454 building and structures "ranging from halls to toilet blocks, community centres and aquatic facilities" and Mr Box saying road maintenance was at risk.

He told a parliamentary committee in September that the shire would need to find an additional \$1.6 million annually just to keep roads in their present condition.

But the reality is that South Gippsland is one of the highest rating municipalities in regional Victoria, according to the 'Know Your Council' website, with a comparison of average rates per property as follow: South Gippsland \$2220, Surf Coast \$2250, Baw Baw \$2090, Bass Coast \$1680, and Wellington \$1860.

And, according to the same comparison website, South Gippsland has consistently renewed its assets at a rate of 200 per cent plus over the past four years and could afford to rein that in a bit.

Bass Coast by comparison has struggled to maintain assets at a renewal rate of 67.6 per cent, 138.1 per cent, 107.6 per cent and 120.5 per cent respectively over the past four years.

So, in reality, while Bass Coast makes up some of the difference with a much-higher garbage charge, there may be a case for a step adjustment in Bass Coast Shire Council rates, which have always been comparatively low. But the whole response by the state government, and the federal government for that matter, to properly fund local government needs a major overhaul urgently.

While federal and state governments have access to substantial tax revenue, regional councils, in particular, have only a small number of property owners to hit up when managing an ever-expanding list of responsibilities.

And when other levels of government fail in their land management responsibilities for example, as evidenced by the problems at Inverloch beach, it's left to local government to pick up their pieces.

In the interim however, both local councils need to be developing well-defined efficiency measures as part of the budgetary planning process they are presently engaged in and to consult with the community on their plans in this regard well before the budget is set in stone.



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

Between a rock wall and a hard place

BE CAREFUL what you wish for Inverloch! Yes, a rock wall at the surf beach can save the clubhouse and other structures from the erosion but it comes at a cost; the beach itself will be lost.

Measurements in the Cape-to-Cape Resilience project report show that longshore drift has been moving sand eastwards away from the surf beach at thousands of cubic metres per year for the last several years.

The construction of a rock wall would cut off any supply of sand for replenishment, leading to an inevitable lowering of the beach surface until it becomes a rock platform, or just deep water.

It doesn't seem to make sense to use a rock wall to protect a surf lifesaving clubhouse when it will result in the loss of the actual surf beach!

That's why DEECA has decided to commence beach renourishment in 2025. If enough sand can be brought back to the beach, we'll all be able to continue to enjoy it into the future. Happy New Year.

Mike Cleeland, Surf Beach

Questions and rightful answers

IT IS no surprise that there are now numerous questions from residents at each Bass Coast Shire Council Meeting.

Often the same question worded slightly differently asked at a following council meeting is required to maybe get a reply that approximates to what was asked previously.

Take for example where at the November 2024 council meeting four individual questions were asked regarding Berninnett Passivhaus Certification or to be more exact, failure to gain Passivhaus certification, only for the CEO to provide one answer that did not address any one of the four questions satisfactorily.

Again at the December 2024 meeting a question asked, "The 2023/24 Annual Report page 107 reports "Contributions Non - monetary – Land \$5.875 million". Please provide the names of the individual land addresses for a site visit".

What was confusing about this question? The CEO's response stated there

were 14 properties but supplied addresses for five properties only, but council listed 13 properties in the report not fourteen. Council appears to have a problem understanding the questions and counting.

My schoolteacher many years ago said, "read the question, understand the question then answer the question".

Obviously, the CEO did not have my schoolteacher. Obviously more questions will have to be asked at the next council meeting in an endeavour to extract concise answers. All we want is honest answers to our questions not spin, evasion and gobbledegook.

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

The 'Sentinel-Times' encourages readers to write with issues of interest or concern but letters that have a local reference point will be given priority. Writers are also urged to be brief where possible. Letters may be edited for space and legal reasons, and must be submitted with the author's name and contact details of which only the name and town location will appear.

Vox Pop

What is your New Year's resolution?



Gemma Coulter

"To go travelling more, seeing the world and getting out of my comfort zone."



Heather Douglas

"To stay healthy and for friends and family to do so too."



Geoff Kloot

"Don't have one because I break them all."



Michelle Yeo

"Be healthier."



Haydn Van Steensel

"Be fitter and healthier than last year."



Nick Demetrious

"To shoot under 80 on the golf course and catch a fish."



Kieran Kappas

"To be a good person."



Marie Penney

"Keep healthy and fit."



Toni Rooke

"To get fit."



Visiting from Melbourne, Paris and Belgium Anne-Marie, Carol, Jean-François, Jordan, Finn and Clare at Marketta. B17_0125

Big crowds at Venus Bay's family-friendly Marketta

HUNGRY for a New Year treat thousands attended Marketta in the carpark of the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club.

In its fourth year organiser Simonetta Seri said Marketta is run by the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club to raise money for the club's lifesaving activities and to create a community event for Venus Bay at the height of summer.

The upstairs pop-up gin bar proved popular.

"We tried to source gin that is different from all over Australia and the world," said Ms Seri.

Competing with gin from Daylesford, W.A., London, Scotland and Ireland the featured gin at Marketta this year was an Australian award winner from the Bluff Distillery in New Zealand.

Simonetta Seri sympathised with those who don't like gin and tonic.

"Perhaps it's the tonic water," said Ms Seri.

"Lots of distilleries have beautiful gins that do not need tonic water."

Foodies were well catered for with food stalls from Turkey, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, America and Australia as well as Asian food prepared by club members.

Vietnamese sandwich Banh Mi was a popular choice.

The big crowd was kept well entertained long into the night with music provided by Matt Rigby, local singer Neen and party band Olly and Scuzzi.

"Marketta is a safe, family-friendly event for all ages.

"It is one of the club's major fundraising events for the year."

A free community shuttle bus was provided all day.

"We recognised the need to provide access to the beach for emergency vehicles."

Trivia nights are also conducted by the lifesaving club over January and a silent auction.

For more information on the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club go to vbslsc.org.au.



Heirloom stallholder Lucas Coffey at Marketta in Venus Bay. B11_0125



Matt Rigby performs at the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club Marketta last Thursday evening. B08_0125



Brenda Williams and Anna Curran from Niddrie at the Venus Bay Marketta. B10_0125



Sasha Cunningham and Adele Smith from Thornbury enjoyed their visit to Marketta. B18_0125



Coburg visitors Malcolm Gunn and Monique Kennedy grab a bite to eat. B15_0125



Stewart from Venus Bay enjoyed an evening out at Marketta. B12_0125

LIFE Moments



Adelyn Jean Sartori was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on December 20, 2024, weighing 3.67 kilograms. She is the first child for Alexander Sartori and Hayley Busana of Wonthaggi.

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to news@sgst.com.au

• FAITH FACTOR

New year's resolution

By Ps Sandro Schietroma, Wonthaggi Baptist Church

THIS time of year, is the time when many, many people make new year's resolutions.

The top ten general new year's resolutions:

1. Lose weight
2. Getting organised
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Staying fit and healthy
6. Learn something exciting
7. Quit smoking
8. Help others in their dreams
9. Fall in love
10. Spend more time with family

These are great resolutions, the problem is that statistics show that only around eight per cent of people are successful in sticking to and achieving their new year's resolutions, and in just a matter of months most people give up.

If you want to make any type of resolution in your life and stick to it, you need to make the decision that you truly want to change, and fully commit to trusting in the Lord through the Holy spirit to do that which we may not be able to do on our own as Jesus said "On your own you can do nothing".

Romans 8: 12 Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. 13 For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.

You can resolve to make Jesus first in your life, fully trust Him and rely on Him by the Holy Spirit to guide, lead you and bring the victory over whatever you need help with in your life. Happy New Year.



An impressive ute on display. A23_0125



Volunteers for the Wonthaggi Ute and 4x4 Show. A21_0125



Merv and Alex Neal enjoy the Bass Coast Show. A22_0125

Fun for all at the Bass Coast Summer Agricultural Show

THE BASS Coast Wonthaggi Summer Agricultural Show was enjoyed by those who braved the heat at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Athletic dogs and elegant horses were admired as were craft items and some stunning cars, whether classics or 4x4s and utes.

Locals Diane and Peter Nuttman attend the Show every year and are delighted to see it getting bigger again as the event recovers from the impact of the pandemic.

Dad Tyson and son Murray were checking out Massey Ferguson tractors when the Sentinel-Times ran into them. It was their first time at the Show, but the Tenby Point residents from near Corinella were having fun and seem set to return.

The SG Off Road sponsored Wonthaggi Ute and 4x4 Show continues to prove popular, young Alex Neal of Inverloch spellbound by the automotive splendour as he checked it out with his grandfather Merv who is a

regular at the Bass Coast Show, describing it as a yearly highlight.

Rides were another source of fun, whether taking to the heights on 'Ali Baba' or developing a touch of whiplash on the dodgem cars.

Young Wonthaggi lad Hunter took it in his stride when the bubble he was riding in came unzipped and took on water, perhaps happy to be cooled down on such a scorching day.

Elizabeth Crawford of Bass and her horse Prez competed in the Open Hack section of the Show, the pair having last month taken out the Nationals in Sydney.

She said Prez loves the experience of competing, not phased by the preparation that goes into his stunning appearance.

This includes creating intricate-looking patterns in his coat with a brush, plaiting of his mane and a touch of makeup in the form of baby oil.

There was a strong community vibe to the Show, local police, fire

brigade and SES represented along with the Wonthaggi RSL.

The RSL's Melissa Lucas was delighted to be at the event, meeting with the community and letting people know about initiatives such as the RSL Active program which is supported by RSL Victoria.

The program widens the support network for veterans, potentially smoothing the challenges of transitioning back to civilian life with help from people who have served and understand them.

Along with some traditional crafts, the Show featured dazzling gumboot creations such as the winning pair of painted gumboots by Jensen Plummer-Breen.

There was also some produce on display.

Visitors and community members are sure to have left with happy memories and can no doubt look forward to an even bigger Bass Coast Show next year, albeit hopefully a little cooler.



Gracie, Phoebe and Remy Ricardo of Wonthaggi cool down at the Show. A28_0125



Laekyn, Mac, Iris and Jennifer from Korumburra are ready to search for ice creams on a hot Wonthaggi day. A25_0125



Jack has fun in his bubble. A29_0125



Elizabeth Crawford of Bass on Prez. A34_0125



Ryder brought some Bertie Beetle chocolates for the police, and took a moment to snap a picture with Sergeant Ryan. Photo: Bass Coast Police.



Laurie Faulkner turns Alex into a tiger. A35_0125



Catrice (with Ruby), Gaby (Mac), Emma (Harli) and Shirelle (Zak) take time between flyball contests. A18_0125

Howling Hounds spring into action in Wonthaggi

MEMBERS of the Howling Hounds team, both humans and canines, were enjoying themselves despite the heat at Saturday's Bass Coast Show as they competed in the flyball competition.

Catrice, whose dog Ruby was in action, explained the event is handicapped to make it fair, given the different types of furry competitors, with a rerun if there is an early starter.

Two teams of four dogs each compete in a relay race over two sets of hurdles.

Competing dogs must clear four hurdles, trigger a sensor on a 'box' at the end to collect a tennis ball and make a return run over the hurdles.

The side of the box on which the

ball is placed is determined by each owner based on their dog's ability, similar to left- and right-handed people.

The day offered plenty of action enjoyed by both spectators and dogs, the four-legged athletes making an impressively loud commotion, clearly excited by the chance to compete and interact with canine friends.

The Howling Hounds featured representatives from Ballarat, Hastings and various other localities lumped under the name 'Eastside'.

RIGHT: Zak of the Howling Hounds team flies over a hurdle. A16_0125



Experienced dog Farmer shows puppy Jason the ropes. A47_0125

Beloka Kelpies put on a show in Wonthaggi

BASS Coast Show attendees in Wonthaggi were treated to the sheep-mustering exploits of a couple of dogs from Welshpool's Beloka Kelpies under the guidance of business owner Paul Macphail on Saturday.

Experienced dog Farmer was keen to demonstrate he is the top dog, with puppy Jason wanting to show off what he has learned.

While the youngster got a little too close to the sheep at times and

requires some other refinement, he is well-bred and was praised for holding his position well, albeit Farmer was ready to show him how it's done.

Paul explained that whatever he does, the dog should move in the opposite direction.

He drove home the message that the person has to be a leader for the partnership to work.

"The trouble with kelpies is they think they know more than you do,"

he declared, adding "They need leadership".

While that is especially the case for a sheepdog, Paul often helps suburban owners of working dog breeds to strike the right balance in terms of who is in charge, running classes at his property.

Both the kelpies in action on the weekend, along with the sheep they guided worked impressively on a scorching day.



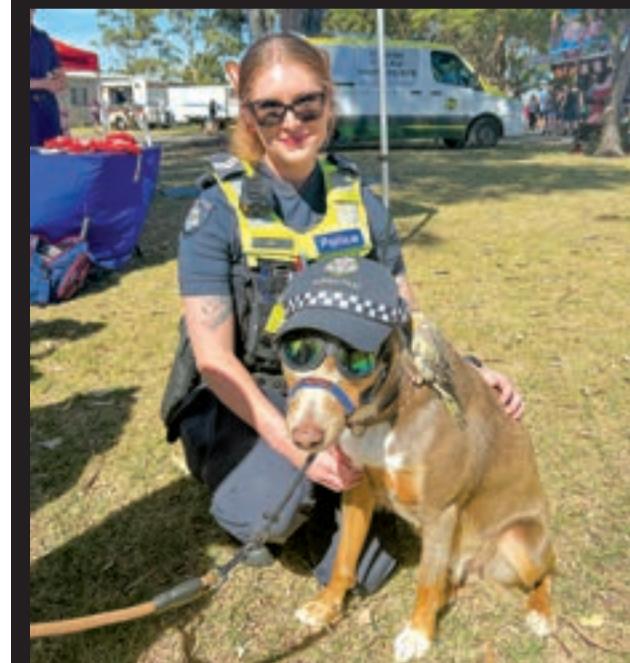
Stilt walker Aki at the Wonthaggi Bass Coast Summer Show. B56_0125



Molly with friend Jensen's 'Best in Show' decorated gumboot. B77_0125



Claire Harris and harness horse Crackerjack. B80_0125



Rocky (the dog) and Buddy (the bird) had a nice time chilling with local police.



Bec Brockett and Tim Best from Venus Bay enjoying Marketta. B03_0125



Wonthaggi's Diane and Peter Nuttman come to the Bass Coast Show every year. A37_0125



Ash Ellis and Justin Smith of Wonthaggi SES helped with the Unit's community engagement at the Show. A38_0125



Jane and Chloe of Melbourne enjoy the Bass Coast Show while on holiday. A39_0125



Teresa Davison and Bill Karrambatsos attended Marketta on Thursday evening. B06_0125



James Martin and Caroline Martin from Venus Bay enjoy an ice cream at Marketta. B09_0125



Venus Bay's Melissa Jardine and McGregor Dixon at Marketta. B13_0125



Sisters Louise, Maureen and Sue Tilley in Venus Bay for Marketta. B14_0125



Ange, James and Lochie from St Leonards in Venus Bay for Marketta. B16_0125

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Venus Bay Marketta, Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Agricultural Show, SeaDays Festival and Stony Creek Races.



Warrnambool's Jet, Lauren and Ayla check out the poultry section at the Bass Coast Show. A41_0125



Lucia and Alex meet a scarecrow at the Show. A42_0125



Jett Basterfield picked up second place for his bull design in the gumboot competition. A43_0125



Dan Conley and Cheryl Suckling of Port Welshpool Working Group are ready to welcome people to the SeaDays Festival. A60_0125



Former Stony Creek Racing Club president Michael Darmanin and current Latrobe Valley Racing Club chairman Frank Bezzina at Stony Creek Racecourse on Saturday. A62_0125



Ted and Glenda Minty of North Wonthaggi take it easy at Stony Creek Racecourse on Saturday, where they attended an 80th birthday celebration. A63_0125



Kathy Whelan from Friends of Agnes Falls enjoys promoting the attraction. A61_0125



Imogen Price ensures Australia Day in Bass Coast finished on the right note at the Oz Day at the Daly celebrations last year, as more local emerging talent are set to line up the stage this year.

2025 Australia Day celebrations bigger and better at Dalyston

THE Dalyston Football Netball Club is very pleased to announce that the Oz Day at the Daly family festival is on again in 2025. The club is very grateful to again receive support from the National Australia Day Council which has helped it to continue to put on a fantastic family-friendly event for the community. DFNC is very proud of the high standard of its previous Oz Day festivals and is committed to maintaining that quality for the 2025 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 fifth year, this event showcases quality local talent and creates an affordable, safe day out for families from throughout Bass Coast. The program from previous events has been expanded with some new activities and another amazing fireworks display planned to finish off the night.

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



The kids enjoy a dodge'em car ride at Oz Day at the Daly which is back bigger and better than ever before!

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," Dave said.

"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 build and

strengthen 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/CYBBX.

Gates open at 4pm on Sunday, January 26 and the day concludes with the 9.30pm fireworks.

The Times and The Tug of War are back for 2025.



Joel Stevenson and Corey Green star as Austen and Lee respectively.

Sam Shepard's True West comes to life

SAM Shepard's True West is a striking example of dark humour, where moments of absurdity and tension are intertwined with biting wit.

The play explores the volatile relationship between two brothers, Austin and Lee, who represent opposing forces: the polished, successful writer and the wild, rebellious drifter. Shepard uses dark humour to expose the raw and painful dynamics of family, identity, and the American Dream.

The humour is often uncomfortable, highlighting the breakdown of social norms and the disintegration of brotherly affection. It is not light-hearted; instead, it arises from the chaos, violence, and psychological unravelling of the characters.

The comedic moments serve to emphasise the tragic undercurrents, where laughter masks deeper questions about failure, masculinity, and self-worth.

Shepard's use of dark humour in True West is not simply for comedic effect but rather as a tool to push the audience to confront the absurdity of human conflict, often leaving them uneasy in the face of the characters' pain and self-doubt.

Tickets are now available at wtg.org.au for WTG's production of True West. Don't miss this extraordinary production, running for six performances only secure your seats for an unforgettable night of theatre!

And tune in next week as we bring you a sneak peek of the show.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group

TRUE WEST

A PLAY BY SAM SHEPARD

January 17-26

WTG Shed, State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi

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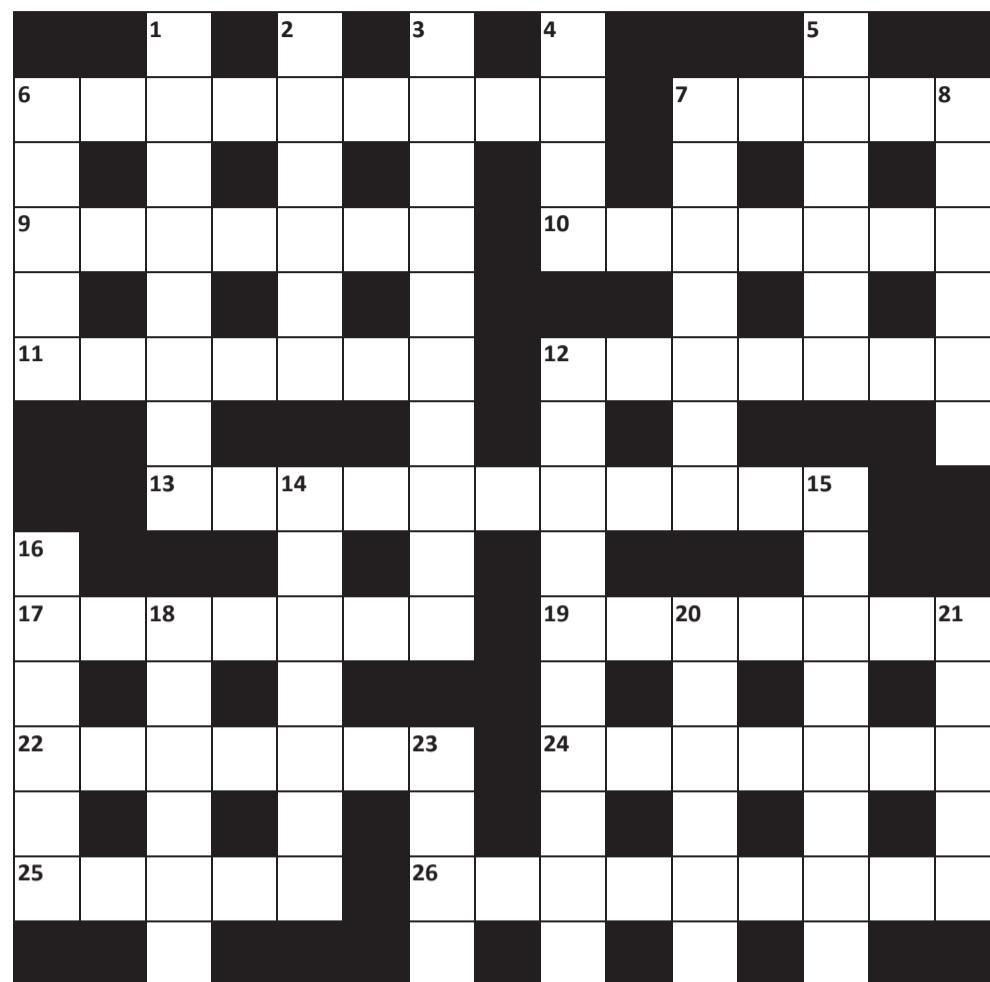
CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

6 3-down 5-down male, turned by the whisper of cash (9)
 7 Open broadcast in French capital (5)
 9 Alien in work, weaving at craft: that's fast! (7)
 10 Royal attendant, timeless messenger (7)
 11 Appearing occasionally in ABBA and KISS - if a 3-down 5-down (7)
 12 5-down, dancing with energy and innocence... (7)
 13 ...can't half lean into Yellow! That's 3-down 5-down! (11)
 17 Pack pony, mostly useful on ice or mountain (7)
 19 Genesis reading: 'And the rib transformed; incarnation again.' (7)
 22 Where you might put ham on fire? (2,1,4)
 24 Gel research? (7)
 25 *Flower Ideas* (it's regularly 'Yellow') (5)
 26 'Almost cursory' describes focus in 3-down 5-down (9)

DOWN

1 Transcendent mountain climb, somewhat on ice (8)
 2 Do slob's nasty pathology (6)
 3 Wiggle is a natural citizen here! (10)
 4 Switched core around: metal for mineral (4)
 5 Purple's finish - buff, six-packed - turned up home grown! (6)
 6 Dennis a gangster? That's dead-end work! (5)
 7 Art movement called 'artificial' and 'semi-visual' by movement's originator (7)
 8 3-down 5-down in care. Or on the loose (6)



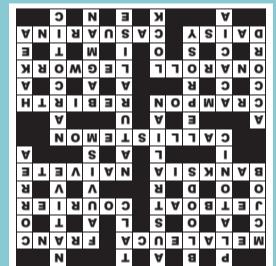
No. 64 - by 'Johnno2' of Cape Paterson

12 Strip, snap, stun, trap, flip and flop - test, adopt (10)
 14 Finally, some positives in lousy skin disease! (7)
 15 Fix shaking a torn ICC (8)
 16 Correspondence in a tragic conclusion, by third letter (or fourth) (6)

18 By two accounts, the best 3-down 5-down (6)
 20 Spooner calls for periodical stoppage, meaning handler of contraband proceeds! (6)
 21 3-down 5-down in *Home and Away* (a 5-down NZ bird) (5)

23 Bond-like (*Octopussy*?) character, kicking heads (4)

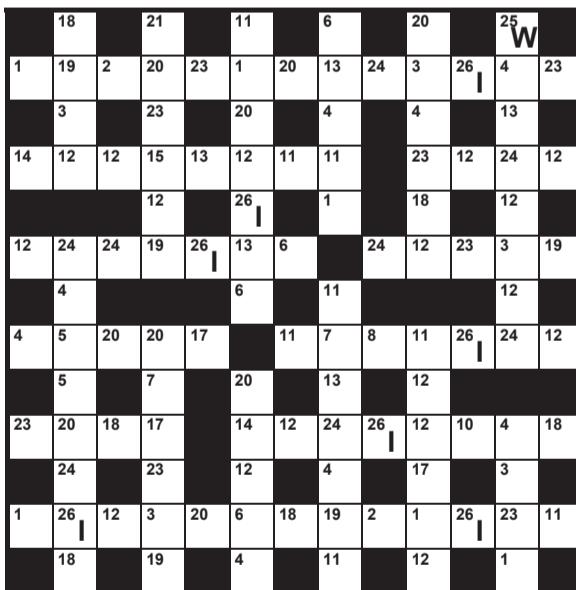
SOLUTION



CODEWORD

No. 220

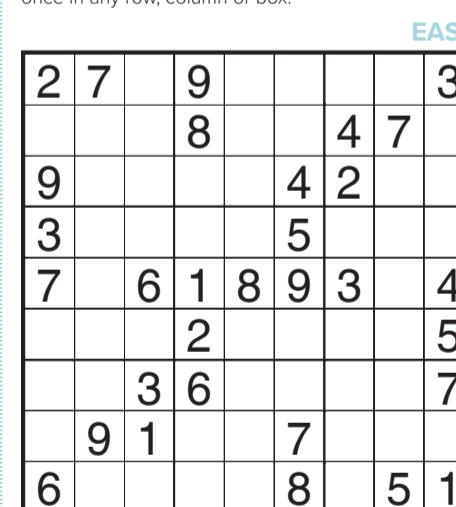
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

No. 260

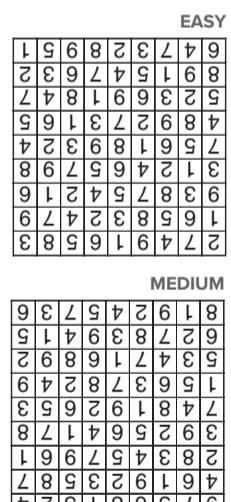
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



EASY



MEDIUM



MEDIUM

2712 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- Does the term albumen refer to the yolk or white of an egg?
- Melanie Brown (pictured) rose to fame as a member of which pop group?
- In which organ is the pleura, a delicate membrane?
- Escargot is a French delicacy of cooked what?
- Actor Nicolas Kim Coppola is better known by what stage name?
- What school of witchcraft and wizardry did Harry Potter attend?
- Which food item is often eaten on Shrove Tuesday?
- Gai Waterhouse is a high-profile Australian: a) mining magnate, b) opera singer or c) horse trainer?
- Who wrote the classic 1859 novel *A Tale of Two Cities*?
- How many points must a player reach to win a game of badminton?



ANSWERS: 1. White, 2. Spice Girls, 3. The Lungs, 4. Snails, 5. Nicolas Cage, 6. Hogwarts, 7. Pancakes

WORD SEARCH

No. 171



ACACIA MIDYIM BERRY
 AUSSIE BOX MULGA
 BANKSIA MURNONG
 BLUEGUM MYRTLE
 BOAB NATURE
 COOLIBAH NOON-FLOWER
 ELKHORN PIGFACE
 EUCALYPTUS QUANDONG
 FAN PALM RIBERRY
 GYMPIE GYMPIE SALTBUCK
 HAKEA SHEOAK
 JARRAH WARATAH
 MACADAMIA WATTLE
 MALLEE

gum trees, with lots of plum trees
 SECRET MESSAGE: Give me a home among the



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HERE is a stunning property located close to Tarwin Lower, but on the way to the pristine coastline of Walkerville. Just under 50 acres, with a quality-built home and loads of infrastructure, along with gorgeous natural habitat and vegetation. You will wake up to the sounds of the amazing birdlife, and capture moments of the wildlife passing through.

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heating, RC/AC, mud room, three-metre ceilings and full verandas around the home with northerly aspects

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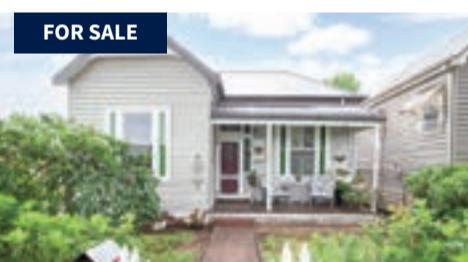
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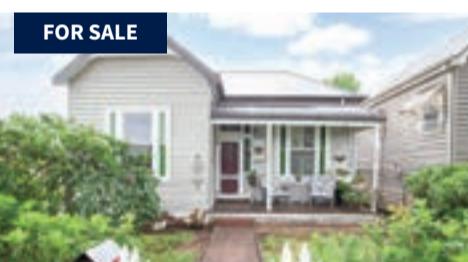
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4 3 10

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LEONGATHA

Stylish home

- Fully renovated interior.
- Stunning kitchen and bathrooms.
- Dble carport, rumpus room and large backyard.

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3 2 2



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A step in the right direction

RSPCA Australia commends the Federal Government and agricultural ministers for the development of a National Statement on Animal Welfare – a step in the right direction toward improving practices and harmonising animal welfare standards across Australia.

RSPCA Australia CEO, Richard Mussell, said the national statement demonstrates a much-needed national commitment to improve animal welfare and trusts it will support meaningful progress in Australia's lagging animal welfare practices and standards.

"The National Statement on Animal Welfare provides an important foundation for governments, industry and animal welfare organisations to collaborate and to generate tangible improvements in the lives of hundreds of millions of animals both in Australia and globally," Mr Mussell said.

"As a science and evidence-based animal welfare organisation, the RSPCA is pleased to see the reference to contemporary animal welfare science and the need for further research in the statement.

"Animal welfare science has long recognised animal sentience, the ability for animals to experience emotions including pain and suffering and pleasure, and the RSPCA hope this understanding will form the basis of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy."

It has been over a decade since the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy lapsed with the Australian Government allocating \$5 million over four years in the 2023-24 Federal Budget to renewing the Animal Welfare Strategy by 2027.



Young people from across Victoria and South Australia descended on Noorat yesterday including these young folk from Gippsland.

Youth Camp introduces young people to dairy industry

MORE than 40 young people from across Victoria and South Australia will get a taste of the dairy industry at a camp at Noorat this week.

The Western District Youth Camp at the Noorat Showgrounds from January 6-8 has attracted a capacity 44 participants aged 8-16 from Gippsland, northern Victoria, south-east South Australia and the local community.

The camp, revived last year after a three-year hiatus, aims to introduce a new generation of young people to the world of dairy cattle.

Organising committee member Bryan Dickson said the 2024 camp was a resounding success and this year's event was also fully subscribed.

Mr Dickson said there would be a strong focus on education and dairy career pathways along with animal husbandry and raising cattle.

There will also be opportunities for participants to learn about showing cattle, culminating in a handling competition on Wednesday.

Representatives from West Vic Dairy, DemoDAIRY Foundation and the Timboon Agriculture Project will talk about potential career opportunities and pathways in the dairy industry.

There will also be talks from people who have shown and judged cattle in competitions around Australia and USA.

The camp has received strong support from the industry, including major sponsors DemoDAIRY Foundation, Genetics Australia and Jefo.

Mr Dickson said support from sponsors was essential for the success of the event to support the future of the dairy industry.

"The basic reason for running the camp is to get young people

interested in dairying and agriculture in general," he said.

"A lot of kids who did agricultural programs at school became dairy farmers because of that exposure, and we want to inspire the next generation to do the same."

"Some kids who attended last year from Melbourne had never been on a farm before or had any involvement with cows and they got a lot out of it. Gone are the days when most people had a relative on a farm that they could visit."

Most of the participants have some farming background but some are being introduced to agriculture for the first time.

Mr Dickson said the camp was fully booked with people on a waiting list.

"It's a good number and we wouldn't be able to take any more, but it shows the level of interest in dairy and agriculture," he said.

Hotter days on the horizon

By Dr Jeff Cave, Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer

AS WE move through summer, heat stress in livestock can become a major issue both for production levels and animal welfare, but there are precautions that you can take.

The ideal temperature range for cattle is between 5 and 25°C, and for adult pigs just 18 to 20°C.

It is important to remember high producing livestock, such as dairy cows, are the animals most sensitive to heat stress. Poultry have been known to perish due to heat stress on very hot days.

As temperatures rise, animals use their energy to cool themselves – this results in reduced production or weight gain. Feed intake is also reduced further increasing these impacts.

High humidity can also play a significant role in heat stress. For any given temperature, the degree of heat stress increases as the relative humidity increases.

Heat stress can significantly impact the production and animal welfare of your stock. Check your livestock daily, looking for any signs of stress during hot weather.

Heat-stressed livestock will seek out shade, drink more, eat less, stand rather than laying down, pant, may produce less milk and can be less fertile.

On hot days, give livestock unlimited access to shade or shelter and good quality, cool drinking water. Make sure you are ready to implement your fire plan.

Avoid moving animals during the hottest part of the day and try to avoid on extreme days.

High-quality feed should be given during the evening when it is cooler, as livestock are more likely to consume it.

If you are not living at a property, arrange for a neighbour to check on animals in your absence.

By making some minor management changes and taking a little extra care of your livestock in extreme hot weather, the effects of heat stress can be substantially reduced delivering better welfare and production outcomes.

For further information please contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinarian or animal health officer.

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Our furry friends at the Wonthaggi Show



Farmer and Jason of Beloka Kelpies are alert during Saturday's Bass Coast Show. A44_0125



A rider participates in Saturday's Show. A32_0125



Flyball dog trials at the Wonthaggi Bass Coast Summer Show. B62_0125

Stock in confinement?

By Dr Hannah Manning, Livestock Industry Development Officer Colac

CATTLE and sheep need specific minerals and vitamins for normal bodily functions. Many of these vitamins and minerals are consumed in green grass which is then stored in the animal's body. However, if green feed is lacking for an extended period, which many farmers are facing in the current dry conditions, animals may use up their reserves of vitamins A and E.

Usually, these vitamins are stored in the liver and through dry periods like summer, these reserves are depleted.

In situations where an animal is confinement fed for an extended period, for more than three months, for example, they may run out of these reserves.

It's easier and has a larger success rate if vitamin levels are maintained with supplements rather than treating the animal once their body has used up their reserves.

Clinical signs of vitamin deficiencies can include weakness, scouring, lameness, ill-thrift and, in severe cases, death.

If farmers are considering containment feeding for an extended period over summer, then it is advised that vitamins are added to the animal's diet from the beginning.

Oral supplementation of vitamins A and E is recommended although not possible for every farm. There are also injectable solutions available, however, being an oily injection it can be painful, so care should be taken.

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12 Charolais steers
10 Hereford steers
22-24 mths VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
A/c Northside Pastoral, Inverloch (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Charolais/Limo steers, 18 mths, vendor bred, GF, ABF, NE Accred
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DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS
ALLEN, Norman Douglas 'Norm': 23.01.1950 - 26.12.2024. Loved husband of Jeannie (dec.). Loving dad, stepdad and father-in-law to Tina and Jon, David and Michelle, and Keith. Loved pop to Ryan, Aaron, Bryce, and Arelia. Loved and remembered always. Loved stepdad/mate, father-in-law and pop to Dave, Michelle and Ryan. Reunited with mum/Jeannie. Remembered always. Fondly remembered brother-in-law and uncle to Marie and Graeme, Jo and Steve, Glenn and Lisa, Ella and Maya. Reunited with his beloved Jeannie. Resting peacefully together. Beloved brother-in-law and uncle of Robert and Mary, Jason, Craig and families.	BOAG, Alan Graham (Jack): 14.08.1942 - 26.12.2024. Son of Alan (Pappy) and Eileen (both dec.). Much loved husband of Margaret. Best dad ever of Raelene and Suzi and Glenn. Super pa of Ethan, Evie, Mitchell and Lisse. He was my love and my life, and my best friend for almost 57 years. The most patient and caring man in the world. Gone too soon and too suddenly, no time for goodbyes. Au Revoir My Love -until we meet again - don't walk to fast. Marg.	BOAG, Alan Graham (Jack): Pa, Our first friend, our biggest supporter, our home was beside him. Led by his hand we followed, as he pottered through the yard and shed. He kept a pantry stocked with home grown spuds and smirked when offering the fullest strawberries. He'd send you home with a bag of passionfruit and wrap you in the warmest hug. Thank you for always having a hand we could hold. We love you very much Pa. --Ethan, Evie, Mitchell and Lisse.	DEMPSTER, Philip: Passed away on December 23, 2024, aged 71. Beloved husband of Anne. Proud father of Frances and Mary. Adored grandpa.	HARPER (nee Fowles), Margaret Catherine: Passed away peacefully on December 29, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Devoted wife of William (dec.). Adored mother and mother-in-law of Paul and Alma, Janine and Chris, Greg and Shelley.	HARPER, Margaret (Marg): Passed away peacefully 29.12.2024. Thank you, Marg for your kind caring support and loving friendship, you will be forever loved and never forgotten. Much loved friend of Virginia, Joan, Ken, Nathan and Bec.	HAY, John Henry: Passed away 27.12.2024. Aged 84 years. Dearly loved brother of Betty, brother-in-law of Jack (dec.), loved uncle of Robin and Heather, Wayne, Philip and Heather, Liz and Trevor, and families. Loving daughter of James and Catherine Fowles (both dec.), sister of Mary, Brian, Kevin (all dec.), and Leo (Tony). Reunited with her loving husband Bill. The loss is immeasurable but so is the love left behind.	MILES, Ruth: Passed away peacefully on December 31, 2024. Aged 92 years. Loving daughter of James and Alice Ayres (both dec.). Loved sister of Tim, Bert, Mick, Keith, Cath, Eddy (her twin), Colin (all dec.) and Dawn. Loved and loving wife of Ted (dec.). Beautiful mum and mother-in-law of Glenda (dec.), Greg and Joy, Alan, Leann and Tony. Adored Nanna Ruth/Granny to her 10 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren.
BANKS, Neale Thomas: After a long illness passed away on December 29, 2024, aged 62. Loved and loving son of Bernie (dec.) and Nina. Loved and respected brother of Gavan and Trevor. Brother-in-law of Lauren. Uncle of Thomas and Sophie.	BOAG, Alan (Jack): 14.08.42 -26.12.2024. Much loved brother of Patti (Sis). Great mate of Geoff. Loved uncle to Karen, Julie and Darren, Tom, Will, Josh, Moni, Jessii and Liam. The most kind and beautiful man you could have known. Will miss you heaps Jack. Rest Peacefully. A private family burial has been held for Jack.	DEMPSTER, Phil: In loving memory of Phil. It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and volunteer, Phil Dempster. Phil was a cherished member of our Lifeline Wonthaggi team, where his kindness, dedication, and support made a lasting impact on all.	HARPER, Margaret Catherine: His presence will be deeply missed by our volunteers, staff and the entire Lifeline Gippsland community. His contributions to our mission will never be forgotten. We extend our condolences to Phil's family during this difficult time. Thank you, Phil, for your years of service and commitment to Lifeline Gippsland. With deepest sympathy, The Lifeline Gippsland Team.	McINTOSH (nee Faull), Trudi Dianne: 09.09.1961 - 29.12.2024. <i>Passed away as the result of a tragic accident at Toolleen.</i> Much loved and cherished sister and sister-in-law of Tony and Fay, adored aunty of Jan and David, Kerrie and Andrew, Cathy and Andrew, Murray and Genine and their families. God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts. R.I.P Marg.xx	HARPER, Margaret: A much loved and caring sister and sister-in-law of Brian (dec.) and Betty. Loved aunt of our boys and family. --R.I.P.	PARRY, Jan Elizabeth: 05.12.1953 - 28.12.2024. Passed away at Armitage House Wonthaggi, surrounded by her loving family. Cherished wife of Bob (Robert). Loving mother of Roger, Scott, and Andrew, mother-in-law to Cammy and Yui. Loving grandmother to Shaye, Sharee, Brad and Dylan. Daughter of Bevan and Gwen Fist. Sister to Judith (dec.), Heather, David, Phillip, Leigh, Warren, Adrian, and Nigel. Will be sadly missed by family and community.	REID (nee Brooks), Gayle Dawn: 03.03.1960 - 01.01.2025. Much loved wife of Stephen. Beloved youngest child of Allan Brooks (dec.) and Gloria. Loved sister of John, Peter (dec.) and Helen. After a long and courageous battle well fought, never complaining, always saying "I'm fine", Gayle's battle was too great. Gayle will be sadly missed by all who knew, loved and respected her. Now safe in the arms of her dad and brother Peter, who was waiting to hold her once again. In our Hearts Forever. -- Mum, John and Helen xoxo
Handley & Anderson Locally owned and operated by Scott & Sharon Anderson 5672 1074 Caring and personal 24 hour Service Main office Wonthaggi 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi (P.O Box 35) Cowes office (by appointment) 15 Warley Avenue, Cowes 5952 5171 Email: info@handyfunerals.com.au www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au A.F.D.A.	Harwood Funerals Family owned and locally based Funeral Directors. We bring 25 years experience to families in Traralgon, Morwell, Churchill, Moe, Trafalgar, Korumburra and surrounding areas. THE CHOICE IS YOURS Practical, sensible and affordable. We offer both at-need and pre-paid funerals. Dignity and Respect, always. CREMATION PACKAGES FROM \$3,300 www.harwoodfunerals.com.au For 24/7 support 0405 669 532	MILKINS FUNERALS Inc. Wonthaggi Funeral Services. Est 1973. ~ Servicing all districts ~ ~ Chapel facilities available ~ For prompt and personalised service phone WONTHAGGI 5672 3123 PHILLIP ISLAND 5952 3485 PRE-ARRANGED AND PRE-PAID FACILITIES AVAILABLE Office - 102 Graham Street, Wonthaggi A.F.D.A.	BARRY WAKLEY SCULPTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS "Memorials of Distinction" Solid Granite monuments in many colors and designs to suit any budget. Letter cutting and renovation. 18 Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi 5657 3341 info@barrywakleysculptor.com.au	Keenan Memorials Pty Ltd Servicing South Gippsland & Bass Coast Just as we have in Gippsland for over 65 years • Granite Memorials • Renovations & Additions • Plaques & Accessories On-site and in-home appointments Pensioner discounts Jamie 0402 850 603 Lou 0400 076 736 Office 5134 2885 keenanmemorials@gmail.com www.keenanmemorials.com.au Let Us Create That Final Gift	PARRY, Jan: The Milpara Community was saddened to hear of the death of Jan Parry. Jan was a founding member and strong supporter of Milpara Community House. She will be remembered always. We pass on commiserations to her family. --Milpara Community House Korumburra.	PARRY, Jan: The Korumburra A and P Society are deeply saddened by the passing of Jan, a long-time supporter of our Annual Korumburra Show and a kind, caring and dedicated member of our Korumburra Community. Our thoughts go out to Bob, Roger, Scott, Andrew and their families.	CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS Call 5672 1888 to place a notice

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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

DEATHS

RIP, Herman:
Passed away
December 22, 2024.

Aged 77.
Devoted partner of
Maureen.

Friend to Terry and
Evelyn, Colleen, Mark
(dec.), Lee and Dom,
Penn, Adrian and
families.

TREASE, Maureen:
Passed away
December 23, 2024.

Aged 73.
Devoted partner of
Herman (dec.).

Loving sister, sister-in-
law and Aunt of Terry
and Evelyn, Colleen,
Mark (dec.), Lee and
Dom, Penn, Adrian
and families.

Passing hours apart.

Together Forever.

**RITCHIE (nee Wyatt),
Susan Dianne:**

Suddenly taken
from us on
December 25, 2024.

Aged 72 years.

Loved mum of Alastair
and Cameron.
Adored mama of
Ashlyn and Isabella.
Beloved sister to
Kelvin, Geoff, Lyle,
Leonie and families.

*Forever in our
Hearts.*

Susan's service was
held on January 3,
2025, for live-stream
recording go to
www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

**RITCHIE,
Susan Dianne:**

Much loved cousin of
Adelyn (Joy) and
Trevor Parks (dec.).

David and Coz Parks,
Claire, Emma
and Angus.
Andrea and Stuart
Curtis, India and
Archer.

Always loving, always
kind, what beautiful
memories you have left
behind.

Much loved cousin
of Kathleen and
Clarry Nash.
Warwick and Asten,
Tony, Jaide and Tyson.

Always loved,
always remembered.

**RITCHIE
(nee Wyatt), Susan:**

Our very much-loved
cousin and best friend.

Will be greatly
missed by us all.
Always very kind
and thoughtful.

Taken too soon.
Rest peacefully Susan.
XX

--Peter, Fay Cook
and family.

DEATHS

**RITCHIE (nee Wyatt),
Susan Dianne:**
12.01.1952 - 25.12.2024.
At Traralgon.

Loved sister of Kelvin
and sister-in-law to
Noella.

Loved aunt to Sharon
and family.

Janine, Shannon and
family and Rodney.

A loved and caring lady
taken so suddenly and
too soon.

God Bless you Susie.
R.I.P.

**RITCHIE (nee Wyatt),
Susan Dianne:**

One of life's beautiful
people gone too soon.

You will be missed by
so many.

*Forever in our
thoughts.*

--Shannon, Janine,
Jordan and Liam.

RITCHIE, Susan:

The Korumburra
A and P Society are
deeply saddened by
the passing of our
committee
member, Susan.

Susan has been a
valued and highly
respected member of
the A and P Society
and Amenities
Complex. Her
dedication has been
unfaltering and she will
be sadly missed.

Our thoughts go out to
Alastair, Cameron and
families.

RITCHIE, Susan:

The committee of the
Korumburra Show
Grounds Amenities
Complex, extend to
Susan's family, our
deepest sympathy.

The times that were
shared, as a past
president, and a
tireless worker were
greatly appreciated.

**SCOTT, Stuart
William:**

17.10.1938 - 24.12.2024.

Dearly loved husband
of Joan for 64 years.

Loving father and
father-in-law of Chris,
Jan and David,
Russ (dec.) and Mandy
and Paul, Peter
and Jen.

Adored gramps to Will,
Kate, Lewie; Anna,
Sarah, Ben;

Tom, Samantha,
Claire, James; Sophie,
Lachlan, Kathryn,
Chelsea and partners.

Great gramps to 11
great grandchildren.

Dearly loved.
*Forever in
our hearts.*

DEATHS

SCOTT, Stuart:
Our deepest sympathy
to Joan, Chris, Jan,
Mandy, Peter and
families.

Fondly remembered
brother-in-law of
Murray, Bronwyn
and family.

**SCOTT,
Stuart:**

Fond brother-in-law of
Jim and Marie Wilson,
uncle to Susan, Nerida,
Robyn, Gaynor and
families.

Our love to Joan and
family.

A life well lived.

**SCOTT,
Stuart William:**

17 October 1938 -
24 December 2024.

A very loyal, true and
trusted Matthews
family friend for over
70 years.

Our wedding day best
man and vice versa.

A much-respected
sporting teammate of
Elwyn in football with
Glen Alvie for almost
200 senior games, a
best and fairest,
president and life
member also in cricket
which included an A
Grade Premiership
celebrated with
Outtrim-Kongwak in
1976-77, (such joy) and
other representative
teams including
country week for
11 years.

Not always blessed
with great health, never
complaining, Stuart
was mentally and
physically the strongest
and toughest person
we have ever known,
an inspiration to all in
handling health and
other adversity.

We will miss you
Stuart, but have many
wonderful memories
of time shared with
Joan and yourself and
other mutual friends.

R.I.P dear friend no
more suffering.

Much love and best
wishes always to Joan
and family.

--From Elwyn, Jean
and family.

**SCOTT,
Stuart William:**

Fond memories of
many good times
shared during a long
friendship.

Our thoughts are with
Joan and family.

--Bill and Betty.

DEATHS

**SCOTT, Stuart
(Stuie):**

A great
conversationalist
always, and a great
friend always.
--Peter Thorn.

**SUMNER
Christine Lillian:**

02-10-1955 - 30.12.2024.
My beautiful daughter
was taken from me far
too soon. I will miss my
daily calls.

I will love you forever.
--Love Mum
(Thomas/Gibaud).

**YEOMAN, Dorothy
Dawn (Dot):**

14.12.1937- 03.01.2025.
Loving wife to Cyril
John Yeoman.

Mother to Dawn, Janet
(dec.), Steven,
Annmarie and
Rodney.

Grandmother, great
grandmother,
taken too soon.
Our memories will be
cherished.

YEOMAN, Dot:

Beloved nan.
Gone but never
forgotten.

Always loving, always
kind, what beautiful
memories you have
left behind.

--Love Jess and Ryder.

FUNERALS

DEMPSTER:

The Funeral Service for
Mr. Philip Joseph
Dempster will be held
at Handley and
Anderson Chapel, 3085
Loch-Wonthaggi Road,
Wonthaggi on Thursday
January 9, 2024,
commencing
at 11am.

A private cremation
will follow.

Phil's service will be
live streamed. Please
go to www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au
for details.

**Handley Anderson
Wonthaggi 5672 1074**

HARPER:

A Funeral Mass for the
Repose of the Soul for
Mrs Margaret Catherine
Harper will be offered
at St. Joseph's Catholic
Church, Guys Road,
Korumburra on
Thursday January 9,
2025, commencing
1pm.

At the conclusion of
Mass, the Funeral will
leave for the
Korumburra Cemetery.

Rosary will be recited
in the above Church on
Wednesday evening
January 8, 2025,
commencing 7pm.

In lieu of flowers
donations may be
made to Cancer
Council, Victoria.

This Service will be
livestreamed, please
visit www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

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McINTOSH (Faull):

A Service to celebrate
the life of Trudi Dianne
McIntosh will be held at
the Nielsen Funeral
Chapel, Korumburra,
Rd, Warragul on
Monday January 20,
2025, at 11am.

The Service will also
be live-streamed. To
view Trudi's Service
please visit: www.nielsenfunerals.com.au

A Private Cremation
will follow.

Nielsen
Warragul & Drouin
5623 2771

MILES:

The Funeral Service
for Mrs. Ruth Miles
will be held at St.
Peter's Anglican
Church, Bruce Street,
Leongatha
Tuesday January 14,
2025, commencing
at 11am.

At the conclusion of the
service the funeral will
leave for the
Leongatha Cemetery.

Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

FUNERALS

PARRY:

A Funeral Service to
Celebrate the Life of
Mrs. Jan Elizabeth
Parry will be held at the
Amenities Complex,
(Korumburra
Showgrounds), South
Gippsland H'Way,
Korumburra on Friday
January 10, 2024,
commencing 1.30pm.

At the conclusion of the
Service a Private
Burial will be held.

At Jan's Request, in
lieu of flowers,
donations to Milpara
Community House
Food Bank would be
appreciated. Jan was a
passionate founder of
the Milpara Community
Food Bank.

This Service will be
livestreamed, please
visit www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

SCOTT:

A Celebration of Life
for Mr. Stuart William
Scott will be held at the
Inverloch RACV
Resort, 70 Cape
Paterson-Inverloch
Road, Inverloch on
TODAY, TUESDAY
January 7, 2025,
please arrive by 2pm
for a 2.30pm start.

A Private family burial
will precede this
service.

For live-streaming go
to www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

**Handley Anderson
Wonthaggi 5672 1074**

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IN MEMORIAM

CHURCHILL, Merv:
27.05.1937 - 07.01.2000.
--25 years--
SIMPLY THE BEST.
Thelma and families.

THANKS

TO ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES:
CFA, SES, Parks Vic, Forest Fire Management, Police and all volunteers who kept us all safe and protected during and after The Gurdies Bushfire.

You are all such amazing and selfless people, we thank each and every one of you for your efforts, hard work and long hours.

Special thanks to the young SES volunteer who was endeavoring to convince us to evacuate .. GO NOW!!

We did make it!

Apologies for being so difficult, during such a torrid time... making your job more difficult .. Old people!!

The fire is now safe, but your work continues.

Well done!!! Everybody!!

Wishing you all a safe and Happy New Year.

God Bless!
Thank you again
Ron and Elaine Tupper.

FOR SALE

HAY:
Small squares, this season, good quality, \$12 per bale, free delivery. Phone 5657 3291.

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COWES:
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WONTHAGGI:
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57 Seats.

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SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ready to Make Changes?

Jason Crestani, your local Psychologist!
Over 28 years experience Local resident. Sees children & adults too NDIS and Medicare ASD, IQ & ADHD Assessments

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Thompson Ave. Cowes

Saturday, Jan. 11 9am - 2pm

Stall holders wanted - craft only
Inquiries: Monica 0412 710 276

ADULT SERVICES

ESCORT LINDA

Mature Gorgeous Naughty n Nice

From 12pm-10pm In/Out calls

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Meter Reader

(Full time - Ongoing, Band 2)

Responsible for undertaking meter reading in accordance with designated routes, uploading meter reads, inspecting meters for damage, restricting water supply at the meter as required, monitoring for abnormal usage and leaks, and interacting with customers in a friendly, courteous and professional manner.

Applications close 14 Jan 2025

For application details go to www.westernportwater.com.au



Heading out on the water, slow down

JET skiers who speed in five-knot zones or get too close to swimmers are the focus of this summer's Cool Your Jets: Stay in Control safety education program.

The Safe Transport Victoria program encourages jet skiers to have fun while following waterway rules and will reach jet skiers through social and digital media, as well as in-person engagement events at Safety Beach (Port Phillip Bay) and Bonnie Doon (Lake Eildon) in January 2025.

The Cool Your Jets: Stay in Control key safety reminders include:

- Ride within the speed limits in five-knot zones near beaches and inland waterways.
- Slow to five-knots within 50 metres of swimmers, boats, other jet skis, and marine animals.
- Always wear the appropriate lifejacket.
- Ensure their jet ski, safety gear and lifejacket are well maintained.
- Be aware of their speed – if there is a wake, they are exceeding five-knots.

To reinforce these messages, the program is supported by targeted compliance and enforcement activities at major waterways and busy locations during peak periods.

In partnership with Victoria Police, Safe Transport Victoria will again conduct waterway patrols to target unsafe and illegal behaviour this summer, particularly around swimming areas. Jet ski users who break the law will be caught and face significant penalties. In 2023-24, 388 infringements were issued to jet skiers.

Boaters and jet skiers must be familiar with the rules for the waterways they use and are encouraged to pay close attention to waterway signage.

For more information on recreational boating and the Cool Your Jets: Stay in Control program, visit the Safe Transport Victoria website at safetransport.vic.gov.au/cool-your-jets/

Jet skiers can use the Boating Vic website at boating.vic.gov.au to plan their day on the water, including viewing boat ramp information and checking ramp cameras to see how busy their favourite ramp is.

Boaters can also download the DECKEE app from deckee.com to see the required waterway rules, speed limits, and essential safety equipment based on the user's location, allowing them to navigate with confidence.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Casual Bus Driver

Wilson Bus Lines are seeking a casual driver from our Inverloch depot for school route and public run.

Successful applicant will need the following:

- HR licence
- Working with children
- Driver accredited

Applications and resumes should be sent to gwilson@hotkey.net.au

Chef

The Ocean View Hotel (Killy Pub) is looking for an experienced Chef to join our Head Chef and Kitchen Team ASAP!

Flexibility across a seven-day roster between the hours of 11am and 10pm.

Reliability for night and weekend shifts is a must.

If you have experience in a fast-paced kitchen environment and you're ready to bring your culinary creativity to our team, we want to hear from you!

The position provides opportunities for growth and year-round employment.

Immediate start for the right candidate.

Please send your resume and a brief introduction to: oceanviewhotel@mail.com



BOARD MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Gippsland is a not for profit organisation providing free, confidential and independent planning and support services to farming enterprises and small rural businesses across south-eastern Victoria.

Our Board is seeking expressions of interest for a new member to commence in February 2025.

Further details for this position are available on our website www.ruralfinancialcounselling.org.au. All enquiries should be directed to support@rfcs.gippsland.org.au OR phone 1300 045 747.

Qualified Carpenter Wanted

We are seeking an energetic, passionate, trustworthy, qualified carpenter for a permanent full time (Monday-Friday) subcontractor position within a small family run business.

Must have own transport and tools, and be willing travel up to 1 hour from our base at Wonthaggi.

Hourly rate offered to be based on experience level.

We offer a diverse range of working opportunities ranging from small scale renovation work through to large new homes, from set out to handover the ideal candidate will have the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of our builds. The candidate shall also mentor and teach apprentices the trade.

Flexible work hours available if requested, please call Brad on 0428 496 266 to discuss further.



First Year Carpentry Apprenticeship

We are seeking an energetic, passionate, trustworthy, first year apprentice for a permanent full time (Monday-Friday) position within a small family run business.

We offer a diverse range of working opportunities ranging from small scale renovation work through to large new homes, from set out to handover the ideal candidate will have the opportunity to be involved in every aspect of our builds.

Please call Brad on 0428 496 266 to discuss further.

Visit our website: www.sgst.com.au



Bowen Gough with Emily, Bel, Miah and Claudia. Two of the girls won the same swimming trophy as Bowen at Inverloch Kongwak Primary School

Records broken and medals cleared for SGB swimmers

IT WAS a massive end of year for the experienced swimmers from South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club. While many of their contemporaries from school were relaxing after a busy year, 34 swimmers were giving it their all, competing at the Victorian Mattioli Championships at MSAC between December 14-18. Many of the swimmers competed in seven or eight events and some finals, making it a hectic five days.

It was a busy weekend, with a total 1589 swimmers competing at the event, with competitors not only from Victoria, but also coming from interstate and overseas, however this did not hinder the SGB swimmers who gave it their best and held their own, coming in 12th position in the team standings.

This is even more impressive when you consider many of the larger clubs had relays which helped their team point score. While SGB didn't, the coaches recognised it was a busy time for families and they could return home instead of hanging around for the evening session.

Coach Dylan was thrilled with their results.

"They all swam so well, pretty much on PB times and there was no one who had real disaster swims or efforts. There were a number who, despite all the racing they had done, lifted on the big stage and still took a few seconds off their best time. We had a third of the swimmers making finals and then a quarter of our swimmers coming home with a medal."

Archie Smyth broke the Country record in the 12-year-olds 100m Backstroke, with a new time of

1:03:57, breaking the old record by two seconds.

Another highlight of the event was the chance for the swimmers to meet and talk to several Olympians and seek advice, with many of the Dolphins there to chat to the young swimmers.

For the SGB swimmers, the one they all wanted to talk to was former SGB swimmer and Dolphin, now Performance Pathways Coordinator, Bowen Gough, who took time to chat and pose for photos with the young swimmers.

The event has races ranging from 50m to 1500m events, with SGB swimmers racing in all distances. The event was live streamed with families, friends and other squad members cheering on at home over the five days. The commentators were very positive in their comments about the SGB swimmers and what they and their coaches have achieved.

The swimmers have a short break over the Christmas period, with two major championships – the State Sprints at MSAC and the Country Championships in Mildura coming up in January.

Results:

Max Brocklesby 15yrs: 9th 800m Freestyle

Gemma Cook 12yrs: 3rd 50 Backstroke, 2nd 50 Breaststroke, 1st 200m Freestyle, 1st 100m Backstroke, 1st 50m Freestyle, 2nd 200m IM, 2nd 50m Butterfly

Claudia Croatto 15: 4th 100 Breaststroke, 3rd 200m Breaststroke, 10th 50m Freestyle, 10th 200m IM

Emily Croatto 12: 11th 200m IM,

3rd 200m Breaststroke

Sienna Hunt 14: 6th 200m Butterfly

Levi Jarrett 12: 2nd 50 Backstroke, 2nd 50 Breaststroke, 2nd 100m Breaststroke, 2nd 100m Backstroke, 2nd 50m Freestyle, 2nd 200m IM, 2nd 100m Freestyle

Mostyn Lumsden: 10th 200m Butterfly

Rahni Matheson 16: 2nd 100 Breaststroke, 11th 50m Freestyle, 5th 100m Backstroke

Hugh Munro 16: 8th 200m Backstroke, 13th 400m IM

Georgia Perry 13: 3rd 50m Freestyle

Miah Roberts 15: 3rd 100m Backstroke, 4th 200m Backstroke, 5th 400m IM

Archie Smyth 12: 1st 200 Backstroke, 1st Backstroke, 1st 50m Freestyle, 5th 200m Freestyle, 7th 200m IM

Zac Sherar 16: 4th 800 Freestyle, 11th 100m Breaststroke, 9th 100m Freestyle, 6th 200m Freestyle, 3rd 400m Freestyle

The team:

Rebecca Barclay, Max Brocklesby, Rex Brocklesby, Asha Chalmers, Nyah Chapman, Gemma Cook, Claudia Croatto, Emily Croatto, Isabel Croatto, Molly Dettbarn, Billy Fisher, Maggie Fisher, Cormac Flynn, Josh Hunt, Sienna Hunt, Holly Hurst, Levi Jarrett, Hannah Lucas, Mostyn Lumsden, Isabella Lynch, Rahni Matheson, Tayah Matheson, Neka McKenzie, Hugh Munro, Georgia Perry, Miah Roberts, Jemma Rump, Zac Sherar, Will Simmons, Aidan Smyth, Archie Smyth, Lara Smyth, Jarrah Tagell and Jeda Tagell.



Dylan (right) and the multi class medalists Gemma, Levi and Georgia.



Archie celebrates with his family, Aidan and Lara who swam and Darby who cheered loudly for them.



Levi and Zac celebrate their medals



Miah celebrates her bronze medal.



Archie celebrates his wins.

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

TUESDAY	January 7
5.56am	1.61m
11.48am	0.39m
6.18pm	1.46m
11.54pm	0.49m

WEDNESDAY	January 8
6.31am	1.57m
12.32pm	0.33m
7.18pm	1.45m

THURSDAY	January 9
12.42am	0.61m
7.11am	1.52m
1.18pm	0.29m
8.25pm	1.45m

FRIDAY	January 10
1.32am	0.72m
7.55am	1.46m
2.08pm	0.27m
9.33pm	1.45m

SATURDAY	January 11
2.28am	0.82m
8.47am	1.40m
3.04pm	0.28m
10.42pm	1.47m

SUNDAY	January 12
3.32am	0.90m
9.48am	1.35m
4.12pm	0.29m
11.49pm	1.49m

MONDAY	January 13
4.49am	0.92m
11.00am	1.32m
5.26pm	0.28m
11.49pm	1.49m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



Foster Club Champions Judy Prain and Ian McLeod headed to Wonthaggi over the weekend for the Champions of Champions event.



Handley Funeral Services Turkey Triple winners Daniel Zaffarese, Alan Spooner, Gary Drinken (Sponsor) and Bart Zaffarese.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club Turkey Triples Winners Toney Toler, Fred Kellow and Allan Ireland.



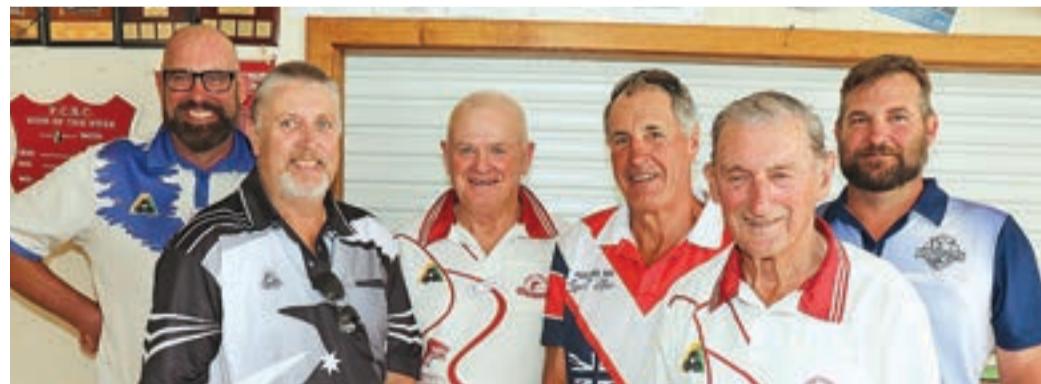
Edneys Invitational Triples winners Brett Garrow, Ray Lecher, Alan Spooner, Daryl McGannon (Sponsor).



Second place at Edneys Invitational Triples at Fish Creek Brian and Jenny Roffey, Daryl McGannon (Sponsor) and Rob Mortlock.



Fish Creek Invitational 4's first place, from left, Jim Lye, Annie Lye, Dave Collier, Syndon Bontorno, Bokka OKeefe and Andy Kerr (Sponsors).



Second place Fish Creek Invitational, from left, Scott Jennings, R Reston, Bokka O'Keefe (Sponsor), R MacKie, Andy Kerr (Sponsor) and Rob Jennings.



Third place at Fish Creek Invitational 4's, from left, Tom Zaf, James Cashmore, Bokka O'Keefe (Sponsor), Glen Cook, Andrew Sproul, Andy Kerr (Sponsor).

January 4: Fish Creek Invitational 4's

A GREAT day of bowls on January 4 at Fish Creek, sponsored by Fish Creek Quarries and Foster Gravel and Garden Centre. A full green thanks to those who made up the field, including a special mention to those that travelled from afar, including Alan Jones from Wales.

A close finish with third place going to the Chadstone Team of Andrew Sproul, James Cashmont, Glen Cook and Tom Zaf who snook in on a countback.

Second place also on a countback went to the Thorpdale boys including Scott Jenning, R Jennings, R MacKie and R Reston.

The winners today were the Tarwin Team of Syndon Bontorno, Annie Lye, Jimmy Lye and Dave Collier.

A fully catered day with a wonderful meal supplied by Brett Sinclair's team.

We wish Lindsay Williams a speedy recovery from his current stay in hospital, and sincerely thank the Williams family for their ongoing support.

January 5: Edneys Sponsored Invitational Triples

On Sunday January 5, Fish Creek held their annual Edneys Invitational Triples Day. A full field again enjoyed a well prepared green, fine weather and good company. Unfortunately, only two games were played due to the heat, but it was a popular decision to stop.

Third place went to Bart Zaffarese, Lucy and Dino Vinocchi.

Second place to Brian and Jenny Roffey and Rob Mortlock.

First place to Brett Garrow, Ray Lecher and Alan Spooner.

Thanks again to Darryl McGannon and Edneys for their ongoing sponsorship, it is very much appreciated.

FISH CREEK

ON MONDAY December 23, the Handley Funeral Services sponsored Turkey Triples was held at Fish Creek Bowls Club.

A full field enjoyed reasonably good weather, great green, and good company.

The winners for the day were Toora's team of Alan Spooner, Bart Zaraffese and son Daniel. Runners-up were Korumburra's team of Roger Bellmond, Keith March and Peter Hearn. Best Last Game went to Bill and Ron Symmons and Rob McLoughlin.

Thanks to the club members who helped fill in, Hocko for doing a great job filling the field and organising the day. This was the last Turkey Triples for the year.

FOSTER

HAPPY New Year to one and all! As we think about getting back into it all after our short Christmas break, Mid-week Pennant starts back on Tuesday, January 14 and Saturday Pennant on January 18. Lots of Club games also

to be played.

Congratulations once again to our Club Champions, Judy Prain and Ian McLeod. They were heading to Wonthaggi to battle out the Champion of Champions event for Strzelecki South on Saturday, January 4. We wished them good bowling! You will have to check how they went on our Facebook page or in the next edition of the Sentinel Times if it's big news!

We have our January Triples on Thursday, January 9. And coming up on January 30 is our Three-Bowl Triples Day. Sponsored by Bendigo Bank. Plenty of time to get your team in!

We have another Jack Attack competition starting on Wednesday, January 15. Lots of fun for everyone. For more information phone Bev 0408 369 298.

We are also very excited and pleased to announce that Foster Bowls Club has been successful in securing \$10,000 funding through the Gippsland Shire Council's Community Grants Program for our project, 'Keeping our Active Community Asset Updated'. Which entails replacing our back green.

We are still on a fundraising drive as we are not quite there yet with funds. We have a project page set up on the ASF fundraising site. Follow the link for a safe, secure platform for donations that are fully tax deductible. And we will thank you all for your support. asf.org.au/projects/foster-bowls-club-updating-our-active-community-asset

WONTHAGGI

WE WELCOME the start of a new year. The last of the social bowls events for 2024 saw a good number of bowlers grace the greens.

Teams of three were the order of the day, with three bowls triples. There was only one team that were two game winners. That team was Colin Omerod, Ken Webb and John Migliorisi. The day turned out to be special for Colin, as it was his birthday, with the room singing him happy birthday.

The triples date was changed because of New Years Day. That didn't deter bowlers as we had both greens full on a perfect day for bowls.

Once again, the depth in the teams made every game a battle. There was only one team that was a four-game winner. That team was Toney Toler, Fred Kellow and Allan Ireland. The runners-up were Ron Burge, Ross Gabb and Mick Coram with a score of three wins and a draw. The best game went to the team of Bryan Donohue, Mike Yeats and Jan Jeeves with a score of plus 17 shots up. The Naba award went to the Michael Frost team. They each received a cap from the Wonthaggi Club.

Saturday saw Wonthaggi host the Champion of Champions. The event was played over two days including Sunday. Warm to hot conditions greeted the bowlers with little to no wind. The event went off well with good support for all teams.

Bowls this week: Wednesday social bowls at 1pm. Saturday social bowls at 1pm. and don't forget Friday night. Look at our Facebook page for details of our dinner next week. Pangers and Jan were happy meat tray winners this week.

Have a good week and good bowling.



Korumburra winners of Saturday's Modified Stableford (Irish Team Stableford)
David Sorrell, Doc Dixon and Paul Dixon.



Meeniyan Club winners Jack Jacobsen, Michael Thomas, Peter Jacobsen, Brett McKnight and Neil Hamilton (sponsor).

Join the Longest Day Challenge at Korumburra Golf Club

MARK your calendars for Friday, January 19, as Korumburra Golf Club proudly hosts The Longest Day, a fundraiser supporting the Cancer Council.

This special event invites golfers from all clubs to come together for a full day of golf while raising vital funds for cancer research and support services. Players will choose either 36, 54 or 82 holes to complete on the day.

- A minimum donation of \$30 serves as your participation fee for the day.

- No need to create a fund-raising page if you prefer not to - your donation directly supports the cause.

- Visit The Longest Day - Korumburra Golf Club Team at longestday.org.au/fundraisers/korumburragolfclubteam to make your donation.

- Fill out this quick registration form: (<https://forms.gle/mbea6FE7zj6bitAEA>).

Your participation and support can make a difference in the fight against cancer. Come join us for a day of golf and goodwill - it's a challenge worth taking!

If you wish to simply donate or contribute to the raffle, please contact Aliesha Wrigley on aliesha.wrigley4@gmail.com.

KORUMBURRA

WEEKLY Men's Winners
Tuesday, December 24. Stableford: 52 Players

A Grade: Shane Sartori (9) 43 Points
B Grade: Ben Grabham (29) 45 Points

NTP's: First Ben Grabham, seventh Billy Wrigley, 10th Blayne Spokes and 10th Neil Spargo

Thursday, December 26: No competition.

Saturday, December 28. Modified Stableford (Irish Team Stableford): 55 Players. Sponsor: Al Twite

Winners: David Sorrell, Doc Dixon, Stooge Muir and Paul Dixon 117

NTP's: First Andy Millar, seventh John Payne, 10th Wayne Knights and 13th David Sorrell.

Tuesday, December 31: Stabl-

eford: 51 Players

A Grade: Zac Scholte (16) 41 C/B

B Grade: Tim Morgan (20) 41 C/B

NTP's: First Shayne Harland, seventh Tim Morgan, 10th Don Olden and 10th Paul Turton

Thursday, January 2

A Grade: Ross Besley (16) 41 C/B

B Grade: Blake Cossen (18) 43 Points

NTP's: First Ross Besley, seventh Michael Thomas, 10th Steve Duffield and 10th Ross Besley.

Saturday, January 4: Monthly Medal: 51 Players

Sponsor: Laurie and Sandra Webster

Monthly Medal Winner: Don Olden (27) 66 Nett C/B

A Grade: Neil Spargo (14) 68 Nett

B Grade: Don Olden (27) 66 Nett C/B

Scratch Winner: Mat Wrigley (1) 71

NTP's: First Steve Rose, Tristan Francis, 10th Peter Van Agtmael and 13th John Solly.

MEENIYAN

SUNDAY the golf club held its annual Hammo's power pod day. A big thanks to Neil Hamilton, Andrew Hamilton, Roy Beaumont and their families for their generous continued sponsorship of this event.

We had 108 players which we thank for braving the heat and making it a successful day.

The men's and overall winners for the day were Michael Thomas, Jack Jacobsen, Peter Jacobsen and Brett McKnight with a score of 52nett.

Men's Rup were Craig Buckland, Michael Darmanin, Cal McCaughan and Richard Luykx with 55.75nett.

The Mixed winners were Dot Christie, Craig Christie, Louise Vuillermin and Sibi Burggraaff with 57.625.

Mixed rup were Brian Erving, Pam Erving, Michael Steele and Trish Steele with 57.875.

NTPs: Second Matt Pearce and Faye Lepage, eighth Nick Shaw and Jan McNamara, 11th Cal McCaughan, 14th Steve McIness and Susan Straw

Longest drive with the power pod went to Chris Buckland and B.J. Angwin

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, December 24, Stableford.

A Grade, S Bickerton (12) 43pts

B Grade, N Whichello (16) 38pts

C Grade, C James (21) 40pts

DTL: M Snell, T Whitelaw 39, B Skinner 38, G Renwick, S Woodall 37 c/b

NTP: Fourth J Robbins, sixth J Robbins, 13th T Traill, 16th B Skinner.

Birdies: Fourth T Whitelaw, J Mc Farlane, sixth C James, Josh Taylor, J Robbins, 16th B Skinner

Saturday, December 28, Stableford.

A Grade, S Woodall (7) 38pts

B Grade J Kus (18) 42pts c/b

C Grade, D Evans (19) 40pts c/b

DTL: S Hill-Smith 42, A Leibe 40, J Robbins 39, J Kidd, S Evison 37 c/b

NTP: Fourth R Scurlock, sixth S Woodall, 13th D Evans, 16th M Woodall

Birdies: Fourth R Scurlock, P Smart, P Draper, sixth J Kus, 13th D Evans

Eagles, G Shandley 15th,

Tuesday, December 31. Stableford.

A Grade, N Rutledge (11) 40pts

B Grade, N Whichello (15) 41pts

C Grade, C James, (20) 40pts

DTL: G Harvey 39, P Woodall, P Draper 38, D Taylor, A Liebe 37 c/b.

NTP: Fourth T Leggo, sixth M Thompson, 13th D Evans, 16th N Whichello.

Birdies: Sixth M Thompson, S Woodall, D Evans.

Eagles: P Draper 17th hole.

Saturday, January 4. Stroke.

A Grade, S Mills, (12) 69 nett

B Grade, N Casboult (24) 67nett

DTL: S Evison 69, C James, R Matthews, 71, A liebe 72 c/b.

NTP: Fourth A Liebe, sixth Tim Traill, 13th N Casboult, 16th J Kidd.

Birdies: Sixth Tim Traill, 16th B Bradshaw

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY Stableford Event: December 31

Tuesday's Stableford round had an excellent field of 97 members/guests take to the course selecting either blue or yellow tees.

Overall winner: was Jim Cresp (23) with the high score of the day with 43 points

A Grade winner: Christopher Leaver (9) with a score of 40 points

A Grade runner-up: Warren Stewart (10) with a score of 39 points

B Grade winner: Wayne Keen (17) with a score of 39 points

B Grade runner-up: Mark

Lindsay (18) with a score of 37 points on a countback

C Grade winner: Shane Hardinge (22) from the Cowes Golf Club with a score of 38 points

C Grade runner-up: Ian Blencowe (21) with a score of 37 points on a countback

D Grade winner: Jim Cresp (23) with a score of 43 points

D Grade runner-up: Bill Clason (21) from Future Golf with a score of 42 points

NTP: Fifth second shot: Craig Hutchinson, 14th: Christopher Leaver, 16th: Phil Strike

Thursday Stableford Event January 2

Thursday's event was a Stableford round with a great holiday field of 93 members/guests taking to the course, teeing off either the blue or yellow tees and scoring some outstanding results.

Overall winner: was Ari Akritidis (26) with the high score of the day with 43 points

A Grade winner: Rebecca Thomas (9) with a score of 42 points

A Grade runner-up: Jeremy de Silva (8) with a score of 38 points on a countback

B Grade winner: Peter Clingin (17) with a score of 42 points

B Grade runner-up: Paul Richardson (16) with a score of 39 points on a countback

C Grade winner: Joe Lowell (22) with a score of 36 points

C Grade runner-up: Trevor Steer (21) with a score of 34 points on a countback

D Grade winner: Ari Akritidis (26) with a score of 43 points

D Grade runner-up: Paul Luck (24) with a score of 42 points

NTP: Fifth second shot: John Feddersen at 2.60m, 14th: Craig Hams at 1.13m, 16th: David Child at 1.86m

Saturday Stableford Event January 4

Saturday's Stableford event was a very warm first weekend of the New Year golf day with 111 members/guests on the course with high scores continuing to be recorded.

Overall Winner: Mitchell Gin (17) with the high score of the day of 42 on a countback

A Grade winner: Craig Hutchinson (8) with a score of 38

A Grade runner-up: Tom Hanley (8) with a score of 36 on a countback

B Grade winner: Chris Hilton (16) with a score of 37 on a countback

B Grade runner-up: Patrick Mitchell (15) with a score of 37

C Grade winner: Mitchell Gin (17) with a score of 42 on a countback

C Grade runner-up: Tyrone Zukovskis (18) with a score of 42

D Grade winner: Michelle Roberts (26) with a score of 39 on a countback

D Grade runner-up: Henry Seidelies (37) with a score of 39

NTP: Fifth second shot: Jason Dennerley, 14th: John French, 16th: Neil Gray

WONTAGGI

MEN'S Results: December 28. Par S.R 71

A Grade Julian Wintle +4

B Grade Ross Yann +5

C Grade Frank Loughran +8

B D T L to +2 C/B

Ball Sweep Andrew Hooton-Shandley +5, Warwick Judkins +5, Inoke Baudromo +5, Luke Hornstra +4, Daniel Crellin +4, Brendon Stapleton +3, Phillip Studham +3, Messy Chand +3, Trent Hamilton +3, Cooper Lindsay +3, Blake Cornelis +2, Stewart Beaumont +2 C/B

Eagles: Ross Yann and Keith Ridout seventh, Julian Wintle 11th

NTPs: Daniel Crellin second, Geoff Huther fourth

Sam Horvath Pro pin 8th, Inoke Baudromo 13th

Julian Wintle money hole 17th

Men's Results: January 2: Stableford 18 Hole. SR. 71

Winner: Andrew Cox 40

Runner-Up Gary Youlten 39

Ball Sweep: Colin Banks 37, Stephen Kane 37, Harrison Jays 37 and Philip McCrimmon 36.

Stableford front nine hole. SR. 34.5

Winner: Willy Williams 20

Ball Sweep: Bob Cornelis 20, Ken Cuman 19 and Peter Sullivan 19

Men's January 4: Stroke Monthly Medal and putting. S.R 72

Medal Of Medallists 2024: Doug Putt 63.

Mthly Medal: Tom Miller 62 C/B

A Grade: Allan McLean 67

B Grade: Doug Putt 63

C Grade: Glen Rielly 62

BDL to 71 C/B

Ball Sweep: Ross Yann 68, Miles Foster 68, Ben Martin 68, Peter Brewster 68, Craig Charles 69, Peter Liddle 70, Michael Scott 70, Garry Bates 70, Ian Baker 70, Geoff Proud 70, Neil Waters 70 and Norm Burne 71 C/B

NTPs: Ben Clark second, Michael Scott fourth, Blake Cornelis propin 8th and Mark Tiziani 13th

Allan McLean: money hole 17th

Allan McLean: Putting 24 puts.

Gippsland Goannas Over 70's

AT THE Village Green in Toongabbie the Goannas Over-70's won the toss and batted.

Ian Gibson and Warren Dummett started out with a huge Jim Gelch throw catching Dummett out of his ground in the third over.

Donald Cameron joined Gibbo, and the score progressed as first Gibson for 12, and then Cameron for 21 retired after 30 balls.

Neil Meredith, 42 from 27 also retired as Garry Rose and Rob Francis took the score to 1/91 at the 20 over mark.

Gordon Cowling and Ian Southall took the new ball for the Goannas as VicCountry started their innings.

Rose took an excellent catch in the first over from Cowling's bowling to shock Wodonga's Jacobson.

Meredith and Kel Bond came into the attack as Moama's Gelch, David Wilson from Echuca and Brian Harrington from Benalla all retired for 27, 12 and 34 respectively.

Bond had Vic1 player Denis Brown lbw in the 15th over and Vic Country were 2/95 after Francis and Andrew Smith bowled the last five overs before the break, again honours were even at the halfway mark.

Rose was bowled for 11 in the 24th over, Phill Higgins stumped, and Southall bowled in the next over as the Goannas slumped to 4/103.

When Francis retired hurt as the temperature climbed Cowling joined Bob Duljas.

After 28 overs the Goannas were 4/110 when the temperature was recorded reaching 38 degrees and the players left the ground with a 'no result' being the official result.

Lunch and presentations were held back in the pavilion as the four teams mingled and the Vic Country team manager reported on the ill health of two of their long-term members who the Goannas have enjoyed playing with at the Nationals and against over the past thirteen years.

We certainly hope that two gentlemen of the game Wavell MacPherson from Brim and Bendigo's Max Scholes get through their current crises.

The Goannas Over-60 team will play an away game against the Mornington Peninsula vets next weekend, while the Over-70's will next play at Glen Waverley on January 21.

The Over-50's play at Geelong on January 19.

Practice will continue for all teams at the nets at Duncan Cameron Reserve in Traralgon on Wednesdays from 4.30pm.

South Gippsland Bridge

December 27 at Inverloch Angling Club North/South master point winners

First Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 58.21

First John French and Debbie Anglim 58.21

Third Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 56.43

East/West winners

First Faye Rowlands and John Currier with a whopping 71.57 per cent average board score

Second Doug McIntosh and Anne Gibson 55.75

Third Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka 50.83

Third Marie Sands and Bronwyn Sund 50.83

January 3 at Inverloch Angling Club: Seven tables competing

North/South Pairs

First Alan Johnston and Clive Hope with a fine 69.05 per cent board average

Second Maureen Stiles and Penny Loughran 57.04

Third Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 50.19

East/West Pairs

First Faye Rowlands and John Currier 64.88

Second Ken Mc Kenzie and John French 61.66

Third Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 48.21

Poowong Basketball Skills Camp

RILEY Parkinson, who has played college basketball in the United States, is running a Skills Camp in Poowong on Friday, January 10, with Poowong and District Amateur Basketball Association excited to offer the opportunity to its current and potential players.

There will be two sessions for juniors divided into age groups, followed by one for adults if there is sufficient interest, with all skill levels catered for in the mixed-gender skills sessions.

Riley, from Whittlesea, is comfortable coaching beginners through to NBA prospects, and running skills sessions through his business ParkoBall.

"He's had some great results and he's really enthusiastic and great with the kids," Poowong & District Amateur Basketball Association committee member Sarah Jackson said.

She explained that while not a large club, Poowong offers a friendly atmosphere.

The skills sessions are intended to promote the Panthers and boost junior numbers, with participants receiving a \$30 discount on registration for Poowong's junior teams.

"We've had the Under nines going for a couple of years now," Sarah said, adding that pre-COVID there were teams for Under 10s and Under 12s.

A mixed gender combined Under 10 and Under 11 side has been introduced for the upcoming season, offering a pathway for those coming out of Under nines to remain at the club.

Sarah stressed the Panthers have done their best to ensure the Skills Camp is affordable.

"The club is absorbing (some of) the cost to give our kids a chance to get better skills," Sarah said, noting Skills Camps are often in the vicinity of \$60 to \$90, with the Poowong sessions just \$40.

The club's domestic fees are normally \$80 plus Basketball Victoria Fees, with the club portion of that charge reduced to only \$50 for juniors who participate in the Skills Camp.



Riley Parkinson looks forward to running skills sessions for basketballers in Poowong.

Poowong Basketball Skills Camp Details:

When: Friday, January 10
10am-12.30pm (ages 7-12)
1pm-3.30pm (ages 13-16)

4pm-5pm (adults) subject to sufficient interest

How: Register through playhq.com/basketball-victoria/register/59f657

Those interested in the adult skills session are encouraged to email secretary@poowongbba.org.au

Where: Poowong & District Sports Centre, Court 1

Cost: The skills sessions cost \$40.

What to bring: Participants are asked to bring their own basketball and a drink bottle.



Members of the Inverloch Swimmers following their morning swim.

Swimming Sundays at Inverloch

SWIMMING at the Inverloch surf beach has always been a popular summertime activity. Now starting Sunday, January 12, the Inverloch Swimmers – the town's social swimming group – and the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club are joining forces to promote swimmers of all levels to come along for a supported morning swim, while the club's volunteer lifesavers patrol the beach.

Swimmers can complete various distances, from 200 metres to 2000 metres,

based on level of comfort. The swim itself is typically between two buoys spaced a short distance apart at the back of the beach's breaking waves. Participants are encouraged to stick around post-swim for a coffee or cold drink at the Surf Club's kiosk.

Join us for our supported Sunday swims, every Sunday in January and February starting at 10am from the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club on Surf Parade.

Grand Ridge Rail Trail Parkrun

Event #224 – January 4, 2025

WHAT a fantastic way to kick off the first Parkrun of 2025!

We had 27 participants join us this morning braving the very warm weather to run, jog, and walk the beautiful Grand Ridge Rail Trail. A big thank you to everyone who showed up with such great energy despite the heat!

Highlights of the Day:

• Sarah Lewis was the fastest overall, putting in an amazing performance – congratulations, Sarah!

• A huge shoutout to Damien Turner, who was the fastest male today and smashed his personal best (PB)! Incredible effort, Damien!

It's always inspiring to see our community come together, supporting and encouraging each other every step of the way.

Thank you to our volunteers for making this event possible and to everyone who participated. We're excited to see you all again next Saturday for another great morning on the trail.

Gippsland Goannas Over 60's

THE first game following the festive season break was a double-header for the Gippsland Goannas veteran cricketers.

The Vic Country teams with players coming from anywhere between Horsham, Maryborough and Wodonga arrived in Traralgon on Saturday to meet the Goannas for a social event at the Traralgon Bowls Club.

It was decided early in the week to go ahead with the fixture despite the forecast hot weather, but the games were to start at 9am and each team would in turn bat 20 overs swapping over mid-innings so that no team would bowl 40 overs straight in the heat.

The Over-60 teams played on the turf wicket at the Toongabbie Rec Reserve, while the Over-70 teams played at 'The Village Green', a very attractive ground with a synthetic wicket adjacent to the Toongabbie Mechanics Institute.

The visitors won the toss in the Over 60's game and inserted the Goannas.

Ray Smith and Ken Bailey strode to the crease and the latter was bowled first ball.

Smith was caught in the fifth over for six as Col Carmody and Ian Freshwater came together.

It was 3/35 in the eighth over when Carmody was caught for 25 from 25 balls, and 4/45 in the 12th over when Freshy was out for 12.

Rino Metlikovec, 16, and Ray Floyd, 18 steadied the innings both retiring after 30 balls with Jim Armstrong and Graeme Ingle taking the score to 4/84 when the sides swapped innings for the first time.

Peter Anton and Murray Moore opened the bowling with Anton bowling Tony Balcombe for eight in the third over, Moore bowled three maidens in his four over spell.

Freshwater and Metlikovec bowled the next 8 overs, and the second wicket fell in the 13th over with the score on 60.

Ingle and Armstrong each took a wicket as VicCountry finished the first half of their innings at 4/87.

Honours were quite even at the halfway mark.

On resuming the Goannas innings, Armstrong was stumped for 14 and the score was 5/91 in over 22.

Derek Morris went cheaply next over with Anton and Ingle building the score to 120 in over 28 when Anton was out for 12.

Chris deVent followed quickly, Ingle was caught for 20, Moore for 8 and Andy Slevin was two not out when the 10th wicket fell in the 34th over.

The final score for the Goannas was 143.

It was 'Game on' as VicCountry returned to the batting crease with Floyd and deVent coming into the attack.

Floyd struck in the 25th over, VicCountry was 5/125.

Slevin took two wickets in his first over and Ken Bailey struck as the score became 8/124 after 27 overs, unfortunately, these two and Morris and Carmody could not extract the last few bats, and Vic Country passed the Goannas total in the 36th over.

Pro surfing back at Phillip Island

THE Phillip Island Surfing Pro, attracting competitors from more than 10 countries in the Asia and Oceania region will run at Cape Woolamai from March 17 to 22, 2025.

Part of the qualifying process for those hoping to book a spot in the 2025 Challenger Series, the ultimate battleground for surfers vying for a place on the World Surfing Championship Tour in 2026, it's set to be a high-class event.

The program will also include the 2025 Australia/Oceania Pro Junior series, with more than 100 of the region's best 20-and-under talent competing in the Phillip Island Pro Junior during the same week.

The events are supported by the State Government's Regional Events Fund, delivered by Visit Victoria, and the Bass Coast Shire Council.

A whirlwind finish on the Coast

SATURDAY, December 28 saw the fourth running of the Woolamai Whirlwind over the unique 888 metres. The race lived up to its title with Spirit Maker mowing down last season's winner Dr Coto to win by 1.25 lengths to give Mornington trainer Nicole Dickson and jockey Shaun Cooper their first wins in Victoria's shortest race.

The first was won by the Kevin Corstens trained Human Shield, despite wobbling around in the straight, heavyweight jockey Tyson Barton was able to control him to hit the line in good order.

Barton then swapped roles to train the winner of race four in Kahungunu and give himself a two way double.

The second saw the Slater contingent from Colac visit Woolamai for the fifth time in 2024 for a second win with Here's to Jane, giving NSW jockey Sebastian "Perc" Galea his first winner at Woolamai.

Leading trainer and jockey combination Troy Kilgower and Grant Seccombe consolidated their positions at the top of the ladders with Sheer Grunt breaking her maiden in the 2008 metres staying event just edging out the Rob Blacker trained Zefino which came down from two outings on professional circuits.

The last over the virtual "metric mile" saw an emphatic three length win by Shez Steaming trained at Pakenham by Reece Goodwin and ridden by Madison Morris, who combines personal training for jockeys with picnic race riding.

The next meeting at Woolamai is on January 11 featuring a kids day out with fun and games, face painting and plenty to keep the kids occupied under the famous elm trees. The club says just roll up or buy tickets and group packages via the club website: woolamairaces.com.au.



It was a great day of racing at Woolamai on Saturday, December 28 with honours shared between six different trainers and jockeys across the six races but with Sebastian Galea home in one of the tightest results, riding Here's To Jane in the second race. It's on again at Woolamai this Saturday, January 11 with 'Kids Day Out' featuring Kelly Sports on Course and free Country Racing backpacks for the youngsters. Photo by Neil Murray.

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Screaming Sidecars set to thrill as three wheeled racing returns to the Island.

Sidecar racing returns to the Island

By Peter Cleeland

THE iconic Preston Motorcycle Club is promoting an action packed events program at the Phillip Island Auto Racing Circuit on the Australia Day long weekend from January 24-26, 2025.

Club President, Lauren Weaver and her team have put together an exciting program featuring: Round One of the 2025 Pirelli Motul Victorian Road Racing Championships and Round One of the Australian Sidecar Championships as the main events. A jam-packed undercard of support events including the Roaring Sporties Australia National Challenge, Harvey Wiltshire Superbike and Hughie Hoare Supersport challenges and Championship Classes featuring Superbike, Supersport, Supersport 300, Junior Moto3, Junior 150 Production and Junior 85GP.

The Preston Motorcycle Club has had a long and colourful history and association with the Island circuit and is looking to develop the Australia Day long weekend racing program into a successful and popular annual event. The exciting return of three wheeled sidecars being wrestled around the best racing circuit in the world by driver and passenger will delight spectators. The Roaring Sporties class will feature a festival of noise for the ears as 30 Harley Davidsons blast off the grid when the lights go out. With Australian and World Superbike Championship meetings scheduled in the next month the word on the street is a number of riders will turn up to take advantage of extra on track testing sessions.

Plus, the Club are thrilled to welcome back the Formula Sport and Limited Sport classes with a few tweaks to keep things exciting! A Junior Moto3 class will run within the Supersport 300 events, while Limited Sport now includes Formula 400cc and Supermono bikes over 500cc.

Phillip Island Auto Racing Circuit, Australia Day long weekend, where the roar of engines and the thrill of competition collide to create an unforgettable season opener.

Celebrating 120 Years of the Royal Life Saving Society in Victoria

LIFE Saving Victoria (LSV) is proud to acknowledge the 120th anniversary of the Royal Life Saving Society Victoria Branch.

RLSSV forged its first club affiliation with the Pioneer Swimming and Life Saving Club at Melbourne City Baths in December 1904.

The organisation was created as a branch of the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS), which was founded in the UK in 1891 to reduce drownings through water safety education and rescue training.

Victoria was the second Australian state to form an RLSS branch, after NSW in 1894, with branches later created in every state and territory.

The society has primarily focused on safety in inland waterways and "stillwater environments" such as pools, lakes and rivers. RLSS branches held full responsibility for these areas since entering an agreement in 1924 with Surf Life Saving Australia, which assumed control of water safety in coastal settings.

The Royal Life Saving Society Victoria and Surf Life Saving Victoria branches were brought together in 2002 to establish Life Saving Victoria, a single peak body charged with focusing and strengthening water safety efforts in all environments across the state.

LSV now has 57 lifesaving clubs operating across Victoria with more than 44,000 volunteer members.

Life Saving Victoria CEO Cath Greaves said the anniversary was a significant one

for everyone in the lifesaving movement and water safety.

"The Royal Life Saving Society Victoria Branch sits at the very foundation of the lifesaving movement here in Victoria, and is a core part of LSV's history," Ms. Greaves said.

"We are proud and honoured to continue the legacy and carry out the vital work that RLSS Victoria was set up for more than a century ago to save lives and empower communities to safely enjoy water."

Westpac chopper stops in on newest recruits

WARATAH Beach Surf Life Saving Club nippers were visited by the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter on Friday, January 3.

Photo: Grant MacIntyre.



Riding for Disabled on show at Woolamai Races



Greg Price, Sally Frances, Dianne Barnes, Bruce Spiden.

THE Woolamai race committee recognised the achievements of the Riding for Disabled Woolamai group at the end-of-the-year whirlwind races, held last week.

Local doyen of equestrian sport, Sally Frances OAM and para-Olympian, Dianne Barnes were interviewed trackside.

Both women have a remarkable record in equestrian sport.

Sally received an OAM in 2019 for her services to Horse Sports and people with a disability. She has attended no less than six Paralympics. In 2012, she led the Australian team at the London Paralympics, where one of her riders won a gold medal.

Dianne was an accomplished rider, competing not only as a jockey but also as a top-show rider. She has an enviable record in the ring at Royal Shows around the country, taking out National Hack of the Year. She was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and dystonia and then focused her efforts on

Para-dressage. Dianne is now focused on preparing to compete at the world championships in Aachen, Germany in 2026.

Riding for the Disabled was set up at Woolamai racetrack two years ago. A wonderful group have been gradually built up and additional programs will be offered to those with a disability who would prefer to do groundwork.

Bruce Spiden, President of Woolamai RDA has recognised the wonderful support of the racecourse and Sally Frances to establish the group stating, "We are now in a position with a great volunteer group and excellent coaches to work on a number of areas to build up the group's activities. We really want to encourage more people with a disability to come and join in the activities, along with more volunteers."

For those interested in becoming involved, Bruce can be contacted on 0419 372 581 or by email at: rdawoolamai@gmail.com.

Patrons enjoy Stony Creek racing despite the heat



Diamatti wins the Evans Petroleum Handicap in Race 6. A78_0125



Casey Conlan, Mia Maguire, Sophie Norman and Chloe Fox enjoy a day at Stony Creek Racecourse while staying at Sandy Point. A64_0125



Confetti Garden takes the win in Race 3, the Middle Korumburra Hotel Maiden Plate, beating Magic Princess and Winning Toast. A69_0125



Davo, Amelia, George and Tanya escape the heat under a tree at Stony Creek. A74_0125



Horses head down the straight for the first time shortly after the start of Race 2. A65_0125



Justin and Mark of Moonee Ponds are ready for cooling watermelon slushies. A73_0125



Stony Creek Racing Club Committee Members Stephen Bradford, Jye Davey, Tony Cantwell and Sarah Bourke (right) join Go Girls Rita Bromley and CEO Michelle Dobson at Saturday's Evans Petroleum Race Day. A67_0125



Sandra, Harry and Cooper join Maddy from Kelly Sports. A72_0125



The leaders head down the straight in Race 5 sponsored by IGA Meenyan. A77_0125

Patrons enjoy Stony Creek racing despite the heat

SATURDAY'S racing at Stony Creek was a success despite challenging hot conditions as the mercury hovered in the high thirties, the Racing Club's CEO Jason Benbow happy with the 600 people who came through the gate on a day many would have headed for the beach.

Industry personnel brought the number at the track to about 800.

The 'Evans Petroleum Saturday Racers' program was completed, the track initially rated a Good 4, eventually firming to a Good 3 in the scorching weather, Benbow praising the excellent work curator Michael Templeton did to have the surface in excellent order on just a six-day turnaround.

The new irrigation system continues to help achieve consistency across the

entirety of the track, Benbow highlighting the safety benefits and industry confidence that promotes.

While many people chose to head somewhere cooler, with a number of racing day package bookings cancelled, Benbow was confident those who came to the races were glad they did.

"People are really enjoying themselves," he said.

Reece Goodwin trained Diamatti took out the Evans Petroleum handicap Race 6 over 1100m, with Koby Jennings onboard, winning from Master of Chant and Highland Dream.

Among the crowd was a contingent of representatives and supporters of the Go Girls Foundation, Stony Creek Racing Club helping support the organisation

through its Community Fund.

Go Girls Foundation assists women in South Gippsland who have experienced social isolation, domestic violence, homelessness and mental health issues.

The Stony Creek racing season commenced on Saturday, December 30, the first two meetings having again demonstrated the club's family-friendly atmosphere, with more action to come on Sunday, January 12 when the School Holiday race meeting is held, gates opening at 12pm.

Attendees will enjoy live music by Rick Gauci, and the Influence Clothing Fashions on the Field will take centre stage, along with all the day's exciting racing.



Poppy, Chloe and Winnie Mitchell enjoy a day's racing while staying in Yanakie. A76_0125

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