

Sentinel-Times

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

How AusNet's bushfire technology failed traders

THERE was nothing wrong with AusNet's infrastructure on Monday when upwards of 5000 customers, mostly between Wonthaggi and Cape Woolamai, lost power for almost seven hours at the height of the Australia Day long weekend.

On Total Fire Ban days, AusNet's bushfire mitigation technology operates on its highest setting so when numerous lightning strikes hit the area around 8.30am on Monday morning, power to almost half of the Bass Coast Shire and parts of South Gippsland was shut down.

While AusNet warned of just such a possibility on its Facebook page last Friday, its risk reduction measures robbed dozens of businesses from trading on one of the most lucrative days of the year.

Many traders, like the Burnt Toast Café at Cape Woolamai, still had to pay staff penalty rates while they closed up for the day.

"Loss of trade was huge, for sure," said a spokesperson for Burnt Toast.

The story at the Sanny Bakehouse in San Remo was similar.

"We had to close down our coffees from 8.30am and while we kept going with pies and food until 11.30am, we lost all of our lunch and afternoon trade on the last day of the holidays," said Annalise Olden at the Sanny Bakehouse.

"On days like that, people come up from the beach at lunchtime and in the afternoon looking for food. It's traditionally one of our best days of the year.

"What, so nothing was wrong with the power? That's terrible," she said.

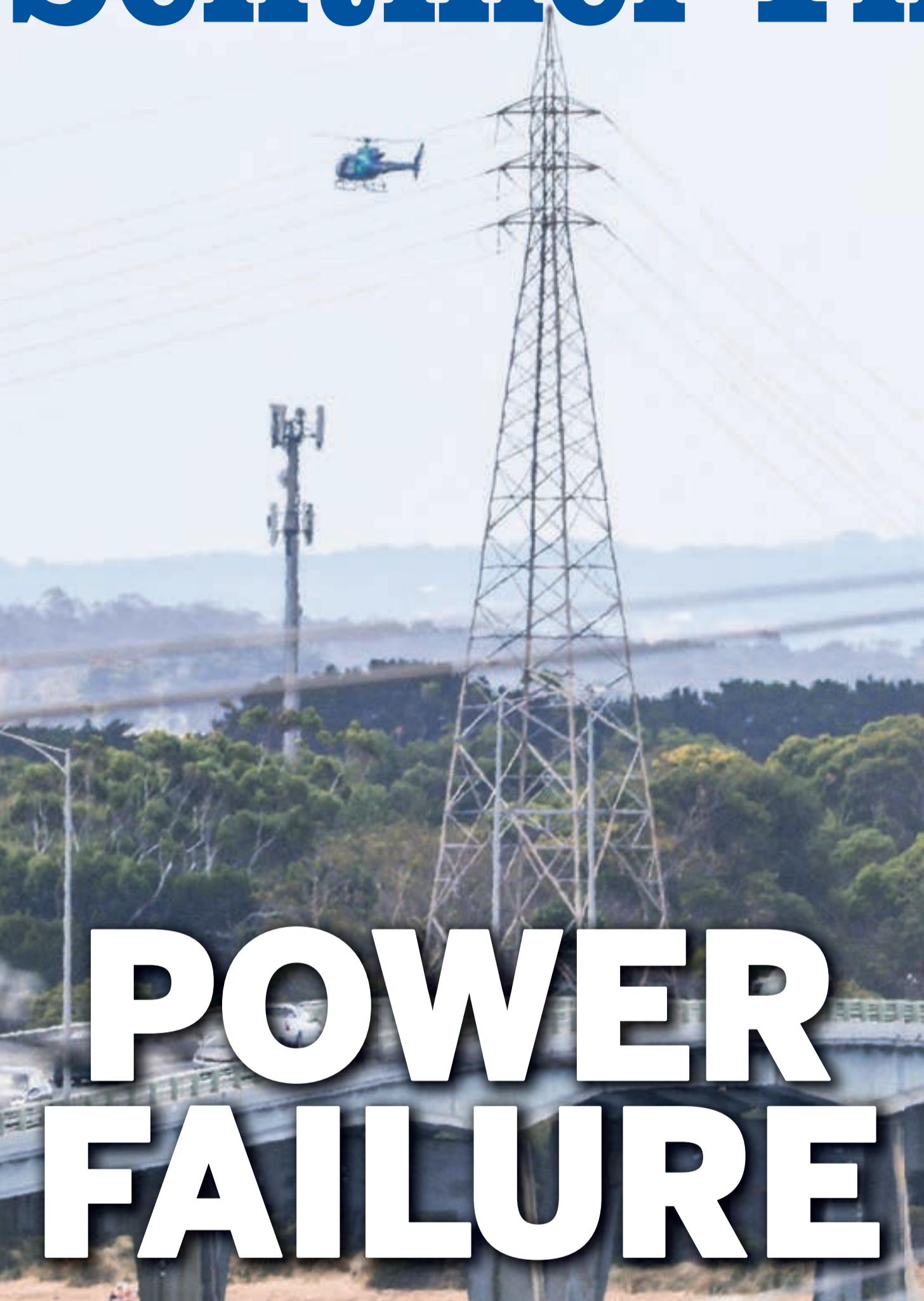
A spokesperson for AusNet, General Manager Corporate Affairs Karen Winsbury confirmed on Gippsland ABC radio this week that two power feeders at the Wonthaggi North substation shut down as a result of the heightened sensitivity settings requiring the whole system to be checked for faults before power could be restored.

Speaking to the Sentinel-Times as late as 3.15pm on Monday, Ms Winsbury could still not say for sure what triggered the outage, but that lightning strikes were the likely cause.

There was an eerie quiet up and down Marine Parade in San Remo on the final day of the school holidays, despite the beach weather and record crowds in the area, without the usual hubbub around the two pubs, with cafés closed and doors open to dark retail shops.

Continued page 3

POWER FAILURE



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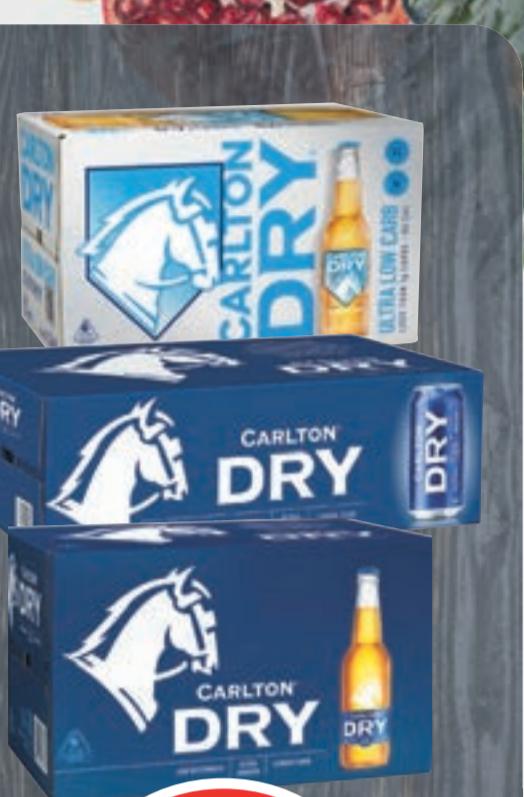
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A lifetime of achievement recognised in 2025 Australia Day Honours

INVERLOCH resident and former Mirboo North High School student Gaye Lorraine Hamilton has been made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the General Division for significant service to tertiary education and to the community.

A former board member of the Western Bulldogs and Co-Chancellor of Victoria University Ms Gaye Hamilton AM grew up on a dairy farm at Mardan.

Formerly a director of the Footscray Football Club and Chair of the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation Ms Hamilton has for the past three years been Secretary of the Inverloch Jazz Festival.

"Blown away with surprise," was how Gaye Hamilton AM described her Australia Day Honour. "I'm incredibly honoured. It's not something you expect."

Ms Hamilton's parents were sharefarmers on a dairy farm at Mardan where Ms Hamilton first went to school completing her secondary education at Mirboo North High School.

Director and CEO of the Werribee Zoo and Scienceworks in Spotswood Ms Hamilton forged a close relationship with the Western Bulldogs Football Club.

"From research we did at the zoo we found that when the Bulldogs won, the local economy spiked and visits to the doctor went down," said Ms Hamilton.

"People felt good about themselves. Winning was not everything but it's really important to an elite sporting club."

Gaye Hamilton AM was made a director of the Footscray Football Club.

Trained as a teacher, Ms Hamilton joined Melbourne



Gaye Lorraine Hamilton has been awarded an Order of Australia (AM) in this year's Australia Day Honours List.

B15_0425

Zoo in 1985.

"Best classroom you'd ever have."

Ms Hamilton said she learned a lot from role models at the zoo including Patricia Feilman who was integral to the commissioning of Melbourne Zoo's butterfly house and bringing giant pandas from China.

Made inaugural Director of Werribee Zoo in the 90s Ms Hamilton said people would come to the Werribee Open Range Zoo and have a good day out.

"They could have safaris through African, Asian and Australian grasslands. Conservation was first and foremost."

She became Co-Chancellor of Victoria University during COVID when the pandemic completely shut down the university's on-campus activities.

"Victoria University would find a place for any student who wanted to make the effort," said Ms Hamilton.

"I'm not a gardener," said Ms Hamilton.

"Perhaps a volunteer educator in Zimbabwe. I also

"We would find a pathway through University or TAFE. That's the advantage of a dual-sector university."

Making way for former Premier Steve Bracks AC to take on the role of Chancellor of Victoria University in 2021, Gaye Hamilton AM retired with her husband Roy Hamilton to Inverloch where she accepted the role of Secretary of the Inverloch Jazz Festival.

"It was the first winter festival in 2022," said Ms Hamilton.

"2022 was good, 2023 and 2024 were fantastic. It proved you can have a jazz festival in the middle of winter in Inverloch. It was a team effort."

Finishing three years as Secretary of the Jazz Festival Gaye Hamilton AM is looking for something other than the garden.

"I'm not a gardener," said Ms Hamilton.

"Perhaps a volunteer educator in Zimbabwe. I also

want to learn how to play bridge."

Open to the prospect of travel Ms Hamilton said she had been so lucky.

"Presiding over graduations is the most fun."

"Pomp and circumstance is important for students to have respect for how important getting their qualification is."

"I've been really fortunate. The biggest honour is to have someone put in the time and effort for the nomination."

Gaye Hamilton's husband Roy grew up in Wonthaggi and would spend Christmas to Easter camping on the family block at Inverloch.

"He was also a teacher, and I miss him greatly," said Gaye.

Gaye Hamilton's Order of Australia will be presented at Government House in Melbourne recognising her work as former Director of the State Sports Centres Trust, Western Chancery, People and Parks Foundation, Co-Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and former Council Member of Victoria University.

Director of Operations Museums Victoria, Director and Chief Executive Officer Scienceworks Museum, Director and Chief Executive Officer Werribee Open Range Zoo, former Assistant Director Melbourne Zoo, teacher at Gladstone Park High School, and Maths, Science and Biology teacher at Braybrook High School.

Gaye Hamilton AM won a community award for her work with the Western Bulldogs and was awarded Victorian Senior Australian of the Year in 2022 and Telstra Businesswoman of the Year in 2003.

Power failure: How AusNet's bushfire technology failed traders

From page 1

The exception was the Beachside Bakehouse, on the corner of Bergin Grove, where they did a roaring trade all day thanks to the bakery's backup generator.

Power was restored to the area at about 3.20pm leaving the local pubs scrambling to get dinner service up in time to salvage some of the loss.

"Massive impact. Can't talk now," was how one of the publicans described the fallout.

The outage impacted parts of Newhaven, San Remo, Dalston, Wonthaggi, Anderson, Surf Beach, Cape Woolamai, Churchill Island, and Kilcunda (upwards of 4205 homes according to Ausnet).

Other areas included Kongwak, West Creek, Glen Alvie, Lance Creek, Rylanston, Archies Creek, Woolamai, North Wonthaggi, St Clair Wattle Bank, Outtrim, and Krowera.

While San Remo traders finally got going again, a completely separate incident robbed Inverloch cafés and pubs from finishing their weekend on a high when power went out right on dinner time, at 5.30pm and wasn't restored until 7.55pm.

According to Inverloch Tourism Association President Glenn Morris a large section of the town, including most of the CBD was out after a branch brought down powerlines in Williams Street.

Even after most people were back on by 8pm, dozens of AusNet customers in Bass Coast and South Gippsland were still waiting for power after almost 12 hours, including the following: Newhaven 29, Bass/Glen Forbes 31, Surf Beach/Newhaven 6, Leongatha South, Koonwarra and Pound Creek 97.

AusNet has been contacted for details about possible compensation arrangements.

AusNet response

AUSNET has responded to Monday's Bass Coast power outage as follows:

"5200 customers lost power after 8am on Monday, mostly impacting parts of Wonthaggi, San Remo, Cape Woolamai and Newhaven. While the cause of the outage couldn't be determined, it was most likely as a result of a lightning strike.

"The electricity network in this area is protected with bushfire mitigation technology - Rapid Earth Fault Current Limiters (REFCLs). Due to the high fire danger on the day, this technology was set on its most sensitive setting to protect the community, which increases the chances of outages. It also means it can take longer to restore power.

"A helicopter was deployed in addition to ground crews to assess the situation.

"AusNet customers had their power restored progressively during the day, with all back on by late afternoon.

"Compensation may be applicable, depending on the total amount of time customers have been without power during the financial year. If applicable, it will be automatically credited to electricity bills."

For further information search compensation and service standards on the AusNet website at ausnetservices.com.au.

South Gippsland photography winners announced

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council's Australia Day Photography Competition again proved popular with 114 entries received, Ava Privitera taking out the Best Image for those aged under 15, while Craig Anderson's photo triumphed in the open section.

Many of the entries reflected the theme 'Australia Day: South Gippsland - Our home'.

Ava's shot was titled 'Inverloch Heights Jersey Grazing in South Gippsland', while 'Foggy Arawata Morning' was

Craig's winning effort.

"I am amazed by the talent showcased in this year's photography competition," Mayor John Schelling said, congratulating Craig and Ava for their winning images.

A video announcing the winners, and showcasing entries, can be viewed at southgippsland.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay.

RIGHT: Craig Anderson's 'Foggy Arawata Morning' was the open section winner.



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CONTACT

WONTHAGGI OFFICE: HOURS: PHONE:	47 McBride, Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm (03) 5672 1888
LEONGATHA OFFICE: EMAIL:	36 McCartin Street, Leongatha, VIC, 3953 EDITORIAL & LETTERS news@sgst.com.au
MANAGING DIRECTOR: OPERATIONS MANAGER: ADVERTISING MANAGER: EDITOR: JOURNALISTS:	Michael Giles michael@sgst.com.au Jim Akers jim@sgst.com.au Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au Chloe Kent Andrew Paloczi Bruce Wardley Courtney O'Brien Nicole May Tayla Kershaw

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*Please note changes occur as a result of public holidays.

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND



WED | Jan 29

Cloudy.

Wind AM: S 15-20km/h
Wind PM: S-SW 15-25km/h

13° 21°



THUR | Jan 30

Cloudy.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h

13° 22°



FRI | Jan 31

Cloudy.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

13° 24°



SAT | Feb 1

Sunny.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h

13° 26°



SUN | Feb 2

Sunny.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

15° 32°



MON | Feb 3

Sunny.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: S 15-20km/h

18° 31°

IN BRIEF

School speed zones as students return

SCHOOLS are back this week with motorists reminded that school speed zones will be in operation from 8am to 9.30am and from 2.30pm to 4pm on weekdays from Wednesday, January 29 until the end of term one on Friday, March 4.

A stormproof soiree

COME along and enjoy the celebrations of the official opening of the Mirboo North Pool and the resilience of the community after last year's storm event at the Storm Proof Soiree.

Local band Borderline will be there to entertain and attendees can be challenged by local resident Nessie, the pool float.

There will be a 'Blessing of the Pool' ceremony performed by local chaplains at 5pm.

GippSports will be providing activities for all the family and the CFA fire truck will be on hand for the children to see. A children's artist will be providing some beautiful artwork. A free BBQ will also be provided and entry is free.

The Storm Proof Soiree will be held on Saturday, February 15 from 4.30pm to 8.30pm at the Mirboo North pool.

Youth Disco coming to Mirboo North

DO YOU know a young person between the ages of 12 and 18? If so, be sure to tell them about the upcoming Glow in the Dark Youth Disco. The disco has been organised by South Gippsland's Youth Council and promises to be a fun-filled evening for all young people to enjoy.

"I am very impressed with the amount of work that has gone into the upcoming Youth Disco. South Gippsland's Youth Council have done a fantastic job organising what will be a fun and enjoyable experience for our local youth," South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor John Schelling said.

"I suggest our young people put on their dancing shoes and head over to the Mirboo North Shire

Hall for an unforgettable party."

The disco will be held at the Mirboo North Shire Hall on Friday, February 7, from 6pm to 9pm. There will be a variety of free food trucks, music, dancing and other activities all for just a gold coin donation.

The Youth Council team has also arranged for a bus service to pick up and drop off attendees from Wonthaggi and Toora, stopping at all towns in between. The bus fare is \$5 return. For bus times, to register and for more information, visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/youth.

Mirboo North storm stories

MIRBOO North locals are in the early stages of a project that seeks to gather and collate stories from people's experiences of the storm event that occurred in February 2024.

The project will encompass multimedia forms, from interviews with people on the radio or privately to documenting other's stories or people are also invited to provide their own written records. The end result will be a collation of the stories primarily for the town to capture as a historical record.

For people who are interested in being involved get in touch with Katrina by emailing paris1959@hotmail.com or calling 0419 155 504.

Faraday kidnapping the subject of author visits

THE October 1972 kidnapping of children and their teacher from Faraday's local school will be recalled as Robyn Howarth visits Myli Libraries to share her personal account, as author of 'Faraday: A Community Rediscovered'.

Known as the 'crime of the century', the kidnapping was carried out by two armed men.

In her book, Robyn reflects on the emotional toll, childhood trauma, and the impact of the media frenzy that followed.

Those interested in local history, true crime, and personal accounts of resilience are

encouraged to attend one of Robyn's sessions, hear from the author and have the opportunity to buy a signed copy of her book.

Event Dates and Locations:

- Foster Library – Tuesday, February 4 at 10.30 am.
- Mirboo North Library – Tuesday, February 4 at 2.30 pm.
- Phillip Island Library – Thursday, February 6 at 2pm.

Mystery surrounds Prom bridge closure

THE popular Tidal River Footbridge, connecting visitors to the iconic Squeaky Beach Walk, is closed. It was closed sometime prior to the Melbourne Cup Weekend last year but has only become a public issue over the summer holidays.

The reason given for the closure is reported on the Parks Victoria website under 'Change of Conditions – Notices Affecting Multiple Sites' as follows: "Tidal River Footbridge is closed due to safety concerns following an engineering assessment. Pillar Point and Tidal Overlook Walking Tracks can be accessed from Lilly Pilly Gully Carpark and Squeaky Beach. Apologies for any inconvenience."

However, no details have been provided about the nature of the "safety concerns" and whether there is some structural issue with the bridge or it's simply a risk-averse measure by Parks Vic.

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath believes the community has a right to know more.

"If there is a structural problem with the bridge it needs to be properly assessed by the government and fixed immediately," said Ms Bath, a passionate Prom supporter and regular visitor.

"Wilsons Promontory is Victoria's most popular national park and people visit the Prom to go on walks to Squeaky Beach and Pillar Point, and if these can't be accessed because there's something wrong with the bridge, it needs to be fixed," she said.

It has, however, been reported that the bridge was closed ahead of the busy holiday season after

a reassessment of the risks associated with visitors jumping off the bridge into Tidal River.

More details on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au

Only two councillors received donations

ONLY two of the candidates, who were successfully elected last November in the Bass Coast Shire Council elections, Cr Mat Morgan and Cr Ron Bauer, have acknowledged receiving donations towards the cost of their campaigns.

The others, according to Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, either received less than \$500 from a third party or paid for their own campaigns.

"In my case, I paid for my own campaign, so I had no donations to declare, and to the best of my knowledge, all candidates have submitted an Election Campaign Donation Return in accordance with the Local Government Act," said Cr Halstead.

Mat Morgan acknowledged receiving \$3000 from a supporter (Peter N McKenzie) while contributing \$3000 himself. Ron Bauer acknowledged receiving "auction board" signs from CC Signs (value \$800) and Alex Scott Real Estate (value \$4000), plus a donation of \$1300 from M Doig.

Unsuccessful candidates Prudence Scholtes (\$760 from Kevin Griffin for printing and postage) and former councilor Leticia Laing (\$1300 Amaryll Perlezz and \$500 Sharon Green) also declared donations above \$500 as required by Section 306 of the act.

South Gippsland election candidates have similarly made declarations about any election campaign donations with only Rosemary Cousin acknowledging a donation from the Australian Greens Party (Vic) of \$1318.02.

All other candidates, successful and unsuccessful, are listed on the shire's website as completing declarations but claiming they received nil donations.

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Local farmers donate hay for drought-ravaged South Australia

FARMERS experiencing one of the worst droughts in living memory in the mid-north of South Australia have received much-needed feed for their starving livestock donated by Woolamai farmers Paul and Andrew Kent.

"We run beef and dairy and have a silage and hay contracting business," said Paul.

Lacklustre rainfall over the past seven months has led to severe drought conditions across large areas of SA and western Victoria prompting a call for donated hay by farm relief organisation Need for Feed.

"We've been donating to Need for Feed for quite a few years," said Paul.

Fourth-generation farmers on 260 hectares of prime grazing land overlooking the Powlett River Paul's brother Andrew runs the hay and silage contracting business.

"Sometimes we get paid in hay bales which allows us to either sell or donate the hay."

"You apply online if you have hay and they get back to you when they have a truck."

Within days of the Kent brothers offering their hay to Need for Feed, volunteer driver Creighton Dickie of CKD Transport Services arrived at their property in Woolamai with a semi-trailer capable of taking 34 big round bales. Valued at between \$80 and \$100 a bale the hay is first-class rye and clover pasture.

"We don't expect anything in return," said Paul.

Paul thanked neighbours Pat and Megan for providing hay from their small farm and Ashley and Jessica for also helping out.

Donating his time to Need for



Woolamai farmer Paul Kent and volunteer driver Creighton Dickie with 17 tonnes of donated hay for drought-stricken SA. B11_0425

Feed as a driver on long weekends Creighton Dickie said parts of South Australia such as Jamestown and Morgan are in severe drought.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, many cropping regions in SA and Victoria have received less than 60 per cent of their average rainfall.

"Bass Coast is also drier than normal," said Andrew.

"We've only had 645mm of rain this year compared to 1100mm in a normal year."

The South Australian State Government has announced a significant \$18 million investment to support farming communities enduring drought.

The support package

included freight support for donated fodder of \$2 million to assist charities with transportation costs ensuring fodder reaches drought-affected farmers feeding livestock.

The Victorian Government has also announced a \$13 million package to support farming communities affected by the drought in south-west Victoria.

Need for Feed was established almost twenty years ago in response to what was then one of the driest periods on record.

From humble beginnings, the Lions Club Need for Feed project has now grown to be recognised as the leading provider of emergency fodder at a state and national level.

"Farmers are really grateful," said Creighton.

"They don't want to sell stock they may need for future breeding. Many try to hide their emotions. They are desperate."

"One farmer even came out at Christmas with a hamper and a leg of lamb."

Farmers receive care packages as well as the donated hay.

"Farm dogs also get a special treat."

Loaded up with hay Creighton and his semi-trailer left the Kent's property bound for South Australia unaware of exactly where the hay bales would be sent. For more information on Need for Feed or to donate fodder go to needforfeed.org.

That's why brigades practice

TRAINING for the exact scenario that occurred at Port Welshpool last Wednesday, January 22, when a recreational fishing boat caught fire and ultimately burnt to the waterline, likely saved the Port Welshpool jetty and other boats.

Brigades from Toora, Welshpool, Hedley and Leongatha (Hazmat) answered the alarm at about 2.13pm with reports that an unoccupied boat was on fire at the Port Welshpool Jetty.

"This was a combined brigade effort and we had trained for this exact situation a few months ago," said a

spokesperson for the Toora Fire Brigade, Ray Argento.

"Unfortunately, we couldn't save the vessel itself, but we were able to keep the other assets safe from damage. No one was on board at the time of the fire," he said.

Mr Argento said local brigades and Gippsland Ports had experience with the complex nature of the on-water fire just a few months earlier and the response, which included towing the burning boat away from other assets, went off like clockwork.

More details on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au



A recreational fishing boat burnt to the waterline at Port Welshpool last Wednesday but training and quick thinking by local fire brigades stopped the blaze spreading to the jetty and other boats.

IN BRIEF

CFA locks down on McDonalds Track fire

A CONCERNING fire, which burnt five hectares of farmland on McDonalds Track, east of Lang Lang on Sunday afternoon, January 26, attracted the efforts of up to 15 brigades on the day, overnight and into the danger day on Monday.

Captain of the Lang Lang Fire Brigade Marck McCormack could not have been more praiseworthy of the support his brigade received from CFA units in the surrounding area or the efforts of the farmer.

"He was brilliant. Did everything right reporting it and supporting us with water," said Captain McCormack.

"Ignited with a spark from farming equipment we believe. Out in the open, a couple of paddocks away from the bush with the wind in our favour on Sunday," he said.

But conditions changed on Monday, underscoring the importance of blacking out work on Sunday, overnight and into Monday.

Among the brigades which attended were Tooradin, Kernot, Bayles, Loch, Koo Wee Rup, Heath Hill, Tynong, Bass, Poowong, Nar Nar Goon, Lang Lang, plus additional crews overnight.

Boolarra CFA member receives Australian fire service medals

CFA Firefighter Diana Billingsley (Di) was recognised in this year's Australia Day Honours, receiving an Australian Fire Service Medal, for her 24 years of dedicated service to CFA and her community.

Di joined the Boolarra Fire Brigade as one of the first female members in 1998 after the brigade put a call out looking for people who were available to respond to callouts during the day. She is known for being a proactive, solution-focused and empathetic member.

Vandals delay Australia day

DUE to vandalism on Saturday night, the Mirboo North Hotel posted on its Facebook page at the weekend that it would not be opening for breakfast on Sunday as anticipated but was back up and running by 10am.

Patrons nonetheless reported on "a superb, relaxing way to enjoy Australia Day, outside in the beer garden" later in the day listening to 'Psychedelic Fugitives' live.

Ablett day at Cowes

SAVE the date, Wednesday, April 23, especially former Geelong fans, when Gary Ablett Jnr will be the special guest of the Phillip Island Golf Club.

Ablett, played 357 AFL games for Geelong (247) and Gold Coast (110).

It's an event for all ages, starting at 7pm, with a live interview and audience Q and A, photo opportunities and merchandise.

Tickets are available through the Eventbrite ticketing page.

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Tree vandals at work in Wonthaggi

THE vandalism of ten young saplings in a quiet Wonthaggi street has angered local residents and Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead.

The newly planted trees in Wenthurst Road were inexplicably snapped off at the base.

"Some have been destroyed, and others have been flattened," said a nearby resident.

"They were pretty trees."

"It's absolutely disgusting to see the trees damaged," said the elderly resident who had a stern warning for would-be tree vandals.

"I would speak to them very heavily if I caught them in the act," she said.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead is equally dismayed.

"The vandalism of young saplings in Wonthaggi is not only disheartening but has significant consequences for our community.

"Each advanced street tree represents a minimum investment of \$150 to procure, plant, stake, and mulch, not to mention the ongoing resources required to ensure the trees thrive during their establishment period.

"When trees are vandalised, it's not just Council's money, time, and labour that are wasted, it damages valuable community assets and delays the benefits these trees bring to our streets," said Mayor Halstead.

"Trees are critical to creating cooler, greener streets and their loss diminishes the beauty and liveability of our towns."

Bass Coast Shire's Urban Forest Strategy has set a target of achieving 40 per cent canopy coverage by 2040.

"This kind of vandalism sets us all back," said Mayor Rochelle Halstead.

"Council remains committed to protecting and growing our street trees and encourages everyone to support these efforts by respecting and valuing the trees planted in our community."

Bass Coast has substantial coverage of evergreen trees in local streets with plans to plant thousands more at a rate of around five hundred trees a year.

Planting trees offers countless benefits to the community according to the Bass Coast Urban Forest Plan which emphasises the selection of the right species for the right location, whether it be indigenous, native, or exotic.

Exasperated the nearby resident had one last word for the reckless vandals.

"Get a life."

Tree vandalism or damage or injury to trees on public land is considered unlawful destruction and can include poisoning, ringbarking, pruning or removal of the trees.

Anyone with information about tree vandalism is encouraged to contact Bass Coast Council on 1300 BCOAST (226 278).



Twenty-four proud residents were awarded their Australian citizenship on January 26 at the Wonthaggi Workmens Club. Ns17_0425

Australia their home forever

TWENTY-FOUR locals can now call Australia and Bass Coast their home permanently after proudly receiving their citizenship on Australia Day.

Held at the Wonthaggi Workmens Club, residents from Nepal, Italy, the Philippines,

Myanmar, Nepal, Poland and many more are now proud Australian citizens.

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead led the proceedings highlighting the day marked the new citizens' formal membership to the

Australian community.

"On the Bass Coast, we are always hoping to make our community a better place to live, work and play," she said.

"We now look to you as Australians to help us ensure our history, our traditions and our

cultures are respected and our values upheld."

Melina Bath MP was also in attendance as well as Deputy Mayor Brett Tessari.

See our Australia Day coverage on pages 22-26.

Inverloch Surf Club 'too close' to natural hazard zone

WHENEVER there's talk about beach erosion and the impact of climate change, Inverloch's woes get an airing.

Last Thursday, January 23, the popular local surf beach received prominence on ABC Melbourne when Raf Epstein interviewed coastal geomorphologist from the University of Melbourne, Professor David Kennedy, co-lead of the Victorian Coastal Monitoring Program.

His comments were followed up in an extensive article in Saturday's The Age newspaper by Bianca Hall entitled 'Managed retreat: Should Australians withdraw from our beloved coastlines'.

Asked to highlight the coastal erosion hotspots in Victoria, Professor Kennedy ignored the much-publicised problems at McCrae on the Mornington Peninsula and nominated Port Fairy and Inverloch.

Inverloch's problems we're familiar with, Port Fairy's not so much.

But apart from the complication of two old tip sites in the dunes, their problems and pos-

sible solutions are similar, including dune restoration and stabilisation, and a variety of so-called hard engineering options including timber pile fences, rock or geotube berm barriers, groynes, breakwaters and rock walls.

However, unlike Inverloch, they're not considering retreat.

While Professor Kennedy said the problems at Inverloch largely emanated from natural causes, he was pretty direct about the future of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club.

He doubled down in The Age about residential retreat locally.

"For Inverloch, however, it's one of the spots where we can't actually point the finger on a particular planning decision, apart from the fact that the surf club is built too close to the coast. It's a lot more about natural processes moving things around," said Professor Kennedy of the impact on the beach and sand dunes.

"Is the surf club in the wrong place at Inverloch?" asked Raf Epstein.

"Yes, when you look where the rest of the houses are, they're

all back behind Surf Parade, whereas the surf club is right, well, it's now right at the dunes. It was a bit further back originally, but you always build your surf clubs close to the beach anyway, because they're there to save lives."

"Are we making things worse with planning decisions?" asked Raf.

"In a lot of cases, we are. I mean, we've got climate change, sea levels rising, storms are changing the dynamics of that, but a lot of the erosion problems we see are hangovers from poor development decisions going back 150 years, which were done with good intentions. But even today, we're still building in the current hazard zone at a great rate of knots," said Professor Kennedy.

Local councils, he said, had inherited the tough job of trying to deal with it.

"Of course, when the hazard zones go out, everyone immediately zooms down to their property. I think the councils are then stuck in a hard place," he said, noting they had to bear

the brunt of decisions to retreat from these areas.

Speaking to The Age, Professor said Australians' love affair with beachfront developments had to change.

"We're going to have to look at managed retreat," he said.

"We can't keep building in the current hazard zone, let alone the future one. And we're building more and more stuff in the current hazard zone."

President of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club, Glenn Arnold, said the club didn't have a position on retreat, which they saw as an absolute last resort.

"Where would we go? What would we do with our stuff?" he said.

"There are an enormous number of options for us before we get to that which need to be acted on."

Meetings this week and next will consider what action needs to be taken ahead of the high tides and possible storm surges at Easter.

It may be the surf club will have to develop an emergency plan.

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Tourist numbers surge across South Gippsland

A SURGE in tourism across South Gippsland and the Bass Coast has resulted in the highest visitor numbers to the region since COVID.

Visitor numbers have well exceeded seven hundred over summer for the Foster Visitors Information Centre and the Big4 Ingenia Holiday Park at Inverloch has been booked out since Boxing Day without a single cancellation.

"It's been chaos but beautiful," said Big4 Ingenia Assistant Park Manager Kathleen Ferguson.

The popular Inverloch holiday park has been at 100 per cent capacity with no vacancies from Boxing Day to the Australia Day weekend.

"Big4 Ingenia Holiday Park Inverloch has 220 sites and 62 cabins accommodating up to 3000 people in the peak of the season," said Ms Ferguson. "This year has been a very strong summer with no noticeable effect from free camping at National Park campgrounds. People love Inverloch."

Many families have been coming to the same campsite for many years.

"One camper has been coming to Inverloch for 60 years," said Kathleen.

The Harman, Knox and Jensen families from Dandenong have been coming to the same camping ground for 30 years.

"We bring our grandchildren



Sarah, Robbo, Judy and John have been coming to Inverloch for 20 years. B03_0425

now. We're booked for next year, we've never cancelled."

"It's been good," said the Alger family who have been coming to Inverloch for 20 years. "No rain this year."

Sarah, Robbo, Judy and John from St Kilda, Patterson Lakes and Phillip Island described their summer holiday at Inverloch as relaxing and friendly.

"Great fun, great food and a great location. A beautiful part of the world."

"We always re-book the same site," added Jodie, a regular visitor from Melbourne.

Bec, Mark, Shelley, Rachel and Adam from Newport and Korumburra met while travelling around Australia and reunited

at Inverloch.

"We've been coming to Inverloch for 18 years," said Shelley.

"We've never cancelled, even during COVID. We love it, it's relaxed and chilled."

Foster Visitor Centre volunteer Sue Miles says Wilsons Promontory National Park remains the number one tourist destination for South Gippsland.

"Many visitors want to know what there is for kids," said Sue.

"Spot the Wildlife brochures are available from the Foster Visitors Centre. The kids love it."

Foster Tourist Information Officer Louise Matthews said Agnes Falls is always popular with significant improvements undertaken by the Friends of Agnes

Falls community group.

"A lot of work has been done to improve walking tracks in the reserve," said Ms Matthews. "People also want information about the Great Southern Rail Trail."

Local wine, cider and food are attracting large numbers of visitors.

"The view from Gurneys' Cidery on the Fish Creek Foster Road is stunning," said Louise.

"Take an underground tour of the cellar. A lot of effort has also been put into Port Welshpool."

The historic Port Welshpool Long Jetty is eight hundred metres long.

"Once it was a kilometre long," said Ms Matthews.

Doors set to open for College

CORNER Inlet College is opening its doors.

Located on the edge of Corner Inlet Marine National Park, the new school community includes families from the Yarram, Mirboo North, and Leongatha region. A bus service ensures safe and reliable transport for students.

Corner Inlet College staff are committed to nurturing the whole child. While academic excellence is a priority, the school also takes a progressive approach by integrating nature-based learning, digital technologies, music, and dance into the curriculum.

School founder, Jen Young, has designed the learning program to foster creativity, resilience, and a deep connection with the natural world, ensuring students thrive both academically and personally.

With a strong focus on building community and supporting individual growth, the school is a dynamic environment where students can flourish.

As the 2025 school year begins, excitement is high for the families who are eager to experience the innovative programs Corner Inlet College will bring to the region. This marks the beginning of a new educational landscape for South Gippsland students.

Enrolment information sessions and school tours will be held throughout the year. Find out more and get in contact by visiting cornerinletcollege.org.

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Local contractor wins contract

ESSO-Australia has awarded local supplier CMA Contracting a multi-million dollar contract to dismantle and recycle up to twelve offshore oil and gas platforms from the Gippsland Basin.

A key division of the Delta Group, one of the largest diversified contractors of its type in the world, CMA Contracting will work from the Barry Beach Marine Terminal near Port Welshpool.

"We draw on 30 years of experience to offer unparalleled contracting and consultancy expertise for high risk, technically challenging, large scale and high profile industrial projects," said CMA Delta.

"Our capabilities and triple-certified management systems have been proven across multiple disciplines in some of the world's most challenging industrial environments and our safety record is second to none."

CMA Contracting and the Delta Group are local to the Gippsland region and have executed work across Bass Coast, Baw Baw Shire, Wellington Shire, South Gippsland Shire, and the Latrobe Valley.

"This is an important milestone for our decommissioning efforts in the Bass Strait and we're excited to award this large-scale dismantling and recycling project to CMA Contracting, a local Gippsland supplier with a largely home-grown workforce," said a spokesperson for Esso.

"The process of safely decommissioning our offshore facilities is very complex and requires many years of planning.

"Awarding this contract to CMA is a key step in preparing for the eventual decommissioning of several of our facilities and CMA Contracting brings the strong set of capabilities and experience needed to complete this work safely."

CMA has fostered long-standing, commercially focused and harmonious relationships across the Australian industrial sector and developed flexible IR strategies to satisfy site, project and client-specific requirements.

"We can exploit the scale and systems of Delta Group to value-engineer complex early works programmes for public and private sector clients and to synchronise our services, personnel and plant to meet the demands of any project in any location."

CMA said that as a subsidiary of the Delta Group, it has unrivalled financial capacity to cover the significant risks associated with large-scale industrial scale projects as well as to deploy capital in new or highly specialised plant and equipment.

"We pride ourselves on having the right people operating the right plant to deliver each and every project on time, on budget and without incident," said CMA Delta.

Auction with a view to Inverloch's future

A LARGE, centrally located commercial property has hit the market in Inverloch which the town's most experienced real estate agent, Kevin McMahon, has described as one of the best he's seen in many years.

With a combined area of 1280 sqm and zoned Commercial 1, the property is located at 6-8 Ramsey Boulevard and 4 Beaton Place, Inverloch, just a few doors down from the Esplanade Hotel, facing the Inverloch foreshore.

"You're nearly next door to the pub and just over the road from the beach and while you don't have to build it, the concept plan produced by renowned architects ClarkeHopkinsClarke is not overdone, very much in keeping with the character of the town, while at the same time, tastefully improving the amenity of the commercial area," said Mr McMahon.

"You've also got a good holding income there with the existing tenants until the time is right to develop," he said.

Mr McMahon, together with his daughter Fiona, representing Ray White Inverloch, is looking to sell the property at auction on Friday, February 28, on site at 1pm, in conjunction with Raoul Holderhead of commercial property experts Burgess Rawson.

Mr Holderhead agrees with Kevin McMahon's assessment.

"Obviously the position is perfect, zoned commercial, on the beach side, right in the centre of town," said Raoul Holderhead this week.

"You've got three clear street frontages and access to a fourth via the side lane making it what you'd say is very much developer friendly."

ClarkeHopkinsClarke have produced a concept design calling for three shops and a dozen or so apartments which gives you an idea of what might be possible there in the future, subject to council approval, but you've also got a number of existing tenants who are happy to stay right where they are.

"It's probably the last piece of the puzzle where the centre of Inverloch is concerned," he said.

A regular Inverloch visitor and former resident, Mr Holderhead said that while Inverloch was a popular holiday destination, with people attracted to the town's beautiful, safe surf beach in particular, most enjoyed the fact that it managed to maintain its village feel.

"It's a popular place with residents and visitors and always will be, being this close to Melbourne, but restrictions on the



A concept plan produced by renowned architects ClarkeHopkinsClarke calls for a modest retail development of three shops and 14 apartments, some expected to have commanding views of Anderson Inlet and beyond.



A large, commercially zoned property in Inverloch is scheduled to be auctioned on site in the centre of town on Friday, February 28.

expansion of the town boundary mean it will retain the small-town character we love.

"If you want expansion you can go to Phillip Island or down to Ocean Grove where it's basically part of Geelong now."

Summarising what's on offer, Burgess Rawson and Ray White Inverloch have provided the following details about the property at 6-8 Ramsey Boulevard and 4 Beaton Place, Inverloch.

- Combined 1280 sqm 'Commercial 1' site (across two titles), to be sold in one line
- Zoning allows for a three-level development with parking (STCA)

• Indicative concept by renowned architects ClarkeHopkinsClarke (STCA) proposes three ground floor retail shops, plus 20 secure onsite car spaces and 14 apartments across the upper levels

- Important street frontage and retail exposure of 101 metres
- Position perfect, close to the Esplanade Hotel, with huge foot traffic, and opposite proposed three level 'Inverloch Marine site' development
- Central amongst numerous council car parks, all within close proximity
- Includes established tenants

on short-term leases - Offshore Surf School, The Beach Box Café and Fisk Beauty, plus Vendor owned Laundromat (Holding net income circa \$100,000pa)

- Inverloch: year-round tourist mecca, 86 kilometres from metro Melbourne, permanent catchment of 6800, swelling to about 25,000 over the summer months
- Potential 50 per cent stamp duty savings
- Buy now, develop later

The auction will be staged on site at 1pm on Friday, February 28 (unless sold prior). See advert for contact details.

 Burgess Rawson

 Ray White

Proposed 3 Level Mixed Use Development Site (STCA) Includes Retail, 14 Apartments with Ocean Views

Inverloch VIC, 6-8 Ramsey Blvd and 4 Beaton Place (cnr Scarborough St)

- + Combined 1,280sqm* 'Commercial 1' site (over two titles) with 101m* frontage
- + Zoning allows for a 3 level development (STCA)
- + Position perfect close to Esplanade Hotel, opposite foreshore & amenities
- + Includes established retail tenants on short term leases providing holding income
- + Indicative concept by architects ClarkeHopkinsClarke propose (STCA): 3 retail shops, 14 apartments & 20 car spaces
- + Inverloch: year round tourist mecca, permanent catchment 6,800 swelling to circa 25,000 over summer months
- + Income circa: \$101,000 pa* + GST

For Sale by On Site Auction

1pm AEDT Friday 28 February 2025 (If not sold prior)

*Approx

Kevin McMahon Fiona McMahon
0418 512 072 0417 743 355



Potential 50% Stamp Duty Saving

He chose to stay, but won't do that again

A GURDIES local, who watched the fire arrive at his doorstep, is urging everyone to listen to the advice of authorities and leave early when it comes to bushfires.

Glenn Skrobala was at his home in The Gurdies on December 20, 2024 when the large bushfire burning in The Gurdies started to unexpectedly head towards his home and property.

People were advised to evacuate the area, but despite having a bag packed ready to go Glenn decided to stay, a decision he says he now regrets.

"My initial thought was to stay and defend the property and I probably regret that now seeing how severe it was and how fast it came I don't think I would be doing that again," Glenn said.

"I thought I was well and truly capable having been in other high-pressure situations and handled them well, but this was totally different.

"I was just exhausted. I can work all day outside, but seven minutes of that I had well and truly had enough.

It was at that point Corinella CFA captain David Cox and Kernot-Grantville CFA Lieutenant Andrew Blackney were driving past, as part of the fire response at the time.

Despite not having a truck David saw Glenn standing in



Glenn and Corinella CFA Captain David reflect on the fire, which Glenn now says he wished he had left rather than stay and defend.

his property "looking panicked" and swooped in to help.

"We could see Glenn just standing out there by himself, we could see the panic starting to come and I said 'we have to go and help him'.

"Anyone out there that day would have done the same thing. It's just our instinct."

David approached Glenn and using Glenn's fire pump and hose got to work fighting off spot fires and defending the property.

Glenn said watching David work was incredible and it really opened his eyes to how much skill is involved in fighting a fire.

"I never would have thought

to do the things that he was doing," Glenn said.

"I have never experienced a bush fire before and I was just so overwhelmed by how incredibly trained David and the CFA were and when the situation changes how quickly they react to it.

"I really do believe he [David] stopped it from not only engulfing our place but all of our neighbours.

"I don't really have words to describe how grateful we are."

A short time later the Glen Alvie brigade was able to get some appliances into Glenn's property and completely tackle the fire.

Both Glenn and David said this incident highlighted the

importance of listening to advice and leaving early.

"We would rather people are not there it does hinder our firefighting abilities," David said

"Things can be replaced but imagine never getting to hug your loved ones again, imagine never being able to see them again."

Glenn said he was extremely grateful for the work of David and the other firefighters that day.

"Don't stay, it's not worth it," he said.

"I chose to stay, and I won't be doing that again."

"Take off and you can hope for the best but at least you will be safe."

Tips for leaving early:

- On a Catastrophic day, leaving high-risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the morning is the safest option.
- You can go to family or friends in a low-fire-risk area, a shopping complex, library or another community building in a low-risk area.
- Plan your route and ensure your car has enough petrol so you don't need to stop.
- Read more about leaving early at cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/leave-early.



Frank takes a break from people, albeit not in a gum tree. A01_0425

No apprenticeship for Koala Frank

A KOALA walked into the workshop; no seriously!

Koala 'Frank' stopped in for a job as a mechanic in the service section of the combined Ford and Mitsubishi dealership in Leongatha.

That was after pondering his career move while stationed in the middle of the road.

While he's the first koala to check out the workshop, animal visits occur quite often, including a kitten having to be removed from a dashboard and a possum from a box of parts. Animal lover Alix Veale, who is starting the second year of his apprenticeship, has become the go-to person in such situations.

The team decided Frank was the right name for the furry vehicle enthusiast, but unable to take on another apprentice encouraged a move back into the outdoors.

It is presumed Frank went on a wander from the nearby Great Southern Rail Trail.

However, after leaving the dealership he crossed the small street he entered from, climbing up a tree over the road from Smith's Hardware.

Wildlife Victoria was contacted, a volunteer arriving to relocate the koala to a safer spot away from traffic, having attended five or six koala callouts in the last couple of weeks.

She observed that more koalas are coming into town on hot days, noting they will normally come down and head to a suitable tree but the risk on this occasion was too great.

While Frank sniffed the leaves in his new surroundings, he established it wasn't a gum tree.

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South Gippsland

South Gippsland Shire Council News

ArtCubes in Venus Bay

Following a successful stint in Foster, the ArtCubes have now relocated to Venus Bay. The three portable creative spaces can be found at 143 Jupiter Road until Monday 28 April.

Throughout their stay, the ArtCubes will host a series of artist-in-residence programs, showcasing a diverse range of mediums and artistic expressions.

Kicking off their stay in Venus Bay, artist Sonia Zalucki, Terrie Thompson and Amanda Diamond, will be exhibiting their work until Friday 16 February.

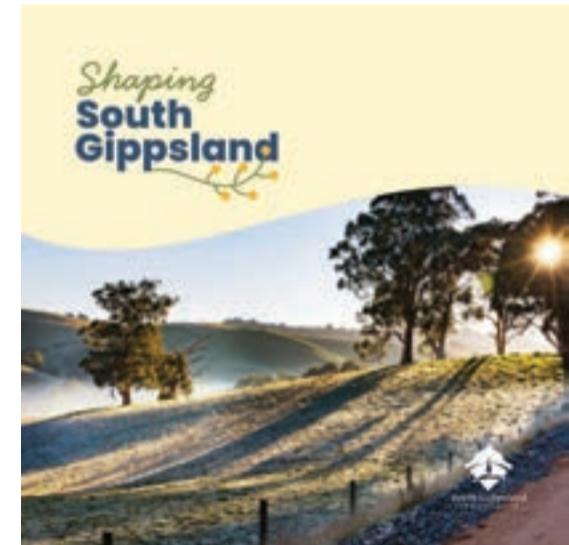
The ArtCubes are guaranteed to be brimming with imagination and

creativity, from projects inspired by consumer waste to exploring the local fauna and natural landscapes.

In addition to the exhibit of works, there will also be a number of workshops and chances to be part of the artistic expression from within the Cubes.

A lineup of more local talent is to be released soon.

For information about the artists, workshops and other activities happening in the ArtCubes while they stay in Venus Bay, please visit: <https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au/artcubes>



Help us shape the future of South Gippsland by providing feedback for the South Gippsland Shire Council Plan and the 2040 Community Vision.

Your input will help develop key Council documents and ensure they meet our community's needs.

Chat to us in person at one of the local events or Councillor pop-up sessions, or share your thoughts online. To view session dates and times and to leave your feedback, please visit, www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 February 2025 at 2.00pm.

Details will be available on Council's website:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

To watch the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

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

COMMUNITY GRANTS

South Gippsland Shire Council's second round of Community Grants are now open.

Community Grants are an opportunity for Council to give back to local clubs and community groups who give so much to others.

Grants can be used for both minor and major projects and equipment, planning and developing reports, and festivals and events.

For more information and to apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/434 – KiRC Civil Drainage Works Project

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 18 February 2024.

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

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Kerryn Ellis reflects positively on time as South Gippsland CEO

READY for the next challenge, departing South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis is delighted to have spent almost five years in her current role, and there are sure to be emotional scenes when she finishes on Friday, February 7.

With a background in compliance and integrity that includes having been Director of Corporate Services at IBAC, Kerryn is well prepared for her new responsibility as Executive Director of Corporate Services for the Victorian Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's office is one of Victoria's integrity agencies, supporting fair decision-making in public agencies including councils and State Government entities.

"My role will be to lead the corporate functions, so finance, people and culture, governance and risk and IT," Kerryn said, explaining she'll also be part of the executive team conducting outreach and liaison across local government in Victoria.

Her involvement with local government stretches back to 1997 when she began a council customer service role while at university, a position that gave her a good understanding of the breadth of services councils provide, along with an appetite for supporting local communities.

That encouraged her to focus on a career in the sector and she has continued her involvement with local government or related roles since.

Beginning her time at South Gippsland Shire Council in March 2020, Kerryn had little time to settle into the position of CEO before having to adapt to the turbulent Pandemic period.



Kerryn Ellis has enjoyed her time as CEO of South Gippsland Shire Council and is delighted with what has been achieved.

"I pretty much spent the next two years rebuilding the organisation from my dining room table," she said.

Reflecting on the many challenges, she is pleased council took the opportunity that arose to rethink how everyone works and build a new organisational culture, also adopting a different approach to working with the community.

Improvements included the reimagining of council's Leongatha office, transforming a previous rabbit warren of tiny spaces into an efficient and effective modern working environment, ensuring much-improved facilities for staff and customers.

From the outset, Kerryn also adjusted to working with administrators, the council having been dismissed in mid-2019, and she was pleased to find those administrators committed to rebuilding democracy.

That eventuated in 2021 with the election of an ultimately successful councillor group.

Reflecting on her time as CEO, Kerryn is proud of council's achievements, the delivery of some of the biggest capital works projects in South Gippsland Shire's history standing out.

That includes the extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail, Foster Stadium works, the creation of the Leongatha Early Learning Centre, and the near complete Meeniyan Hub.

Council's emergency response following the February 2024 storm disaster that hit Mirboo North particularly hard is a source of pride for all involved.

The current motivation levels of council staff is another satisfying improvement for Kerryn to reflect on, with impressive staff retention.

The trust South Gippsland Shire Council has earned since a return to democracy is a significant achievement, Kerryn recalling what she experienced initially.

"When I started here, our reputation wasn't great, having had a council dismissed; it was difficult to attract grant funding and we weren't a trusted partner," she said, proceeding to detail the transformation since.

"I'm proud to say now we punch well above our weight in terms of attracting grant funding, have a strong advocacy voice with State and Federal Governments and work well with our partner agencies across South Gippsland and Gippsland," Kerryn said.

"That means we can get things done for our community."

While she felt the time was right for a move, the departing CEO was determined to stay on for the extensive induction process undertaken by the new councillor group elected late last year, something she is pleased to have accomplished.

Kerryn is upbeat about the group and what it will deliver for those in the shire over the four-year councillor term.

She has worked closely with Allison Jones, council's Director of Performance and Innovation who will be acting CEO for six months while the search for an ongoing CEO proceeds.

The magnitude of that task is underlined by the fact another current member of the council, Tony Peterson, is then set to step into the acting CEO role for the following six months.

It's certain Kerryn has left big shoes to fill.

Grants continue to make invaluable difference to Mirboo North

THE Mirboo North and District Community Foundation distributed about \$30,000 in community grants last year, from one of their longest-running programs.

These grants continue to enable local community members, many of them volunteers, to put their time and energy into projects that bring a whole range of valuable things to the community.

"We had a lovely range of grants that came through from the playgroup to the Historical Society who needed some equipment to trauma kits for the fire engines in our local CFA," said Ruth Rogan Executive Officer of the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation (MNDCF).

"We wouldn't be able to make these good things happen without the volunteers applying and rolling out their projects and thinking about what the community might need or what their group might need. So, we're always incredibly grateful to the volunteers who put their energy into doing all of that."

Community foundations are locally led and designed to invest in community development, build capacity and adapt solutions.



Ruth Rogan, EO of the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation is geared up for a busy year ahead and believes now is an opportune time for other towns to also set up their own community foundations. ob01_0425

They are effective because communities have first-hand knowledge of the issues affecting them and a network of relationships built on trust. They also harness local resources to create transformative change from the bottom up.

Ruth explained that now is a particularly opportune time for other towns in the area to set up their own community foundations, particularly with the grants being offered by bodies like the green energy providers that are moving into the region as well as through government and

philanthropic grants.

One way to do this, Ruth suggested, is to keep a principal sum of money in an account to accrue interest over time and then use the interest only to provide community funding.

MNDCF has been operating since 2010 and will continue, this year, to receive applications and provide funding to groups, through both their annual community grants program and the recovery grants program.

The recovery grants program was set up after the

storm last February to support short and medium-term recovery, with MNDCF receiving almost \$95,000 in donations; \$50,000 of which has gone back into community-led recovery projects.

Most recently, MNDCF partnered with the Community Bank Mirboo North and District to put \$8000 towards ensuring impacted community members could access the swimming pool with half-price family passes available for the season.

"It's so important, this summer, in particular, to have opportunities for connection and recreation and enjoyment, essentially, after a pretty tough year," explained Ruth.

Almost a year since the storm, some residents are only now returning to their homes or finishing repairs, and while it's not a significant number, the impacts are still evident and felt, with people at different stages.

"There's definitely those whose recovery is ongoing, and for others having community assets like the pool and the golf course and the rec' reserve come back online is a big plus and gives us positivity in the community," explained Ruth.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



HELLO South Gippsland.

It was great to be out-and-about on the weekend seeing the wonderful celebrations for Australia Day. These events are run by volunteer groups who spend months planning so we can all enjoy some unique activities. Thank you to everyone who was involved in pulling these events together this year.

It was sad to see an event not go ahead in Leongatha, despite the organisers trying hard to get someone to take over the event. This highlights the very real issue we may be facing in the future if more of us don't put our hands up to volunteer and spread the workload. However, I have my fingers crossed that this event can come back next year.

Shaping South Gippsland engagement

Councillors are now back on deck, with briefings recommencing and a Council Meeting set for 19 February at 2.00pm. We all look forward to catching up with our community throughout the engagement for Shaping South Gippsland.

As I mentioned last week, we are seeking feedback from our community that will inform the development of the Council Plan 2025 – 2029 and help us understand if we need to make any changes to the Community Vision 2040.

Councillors will be out every weekend from now until the end of February at a range of events and at pop-ups in towns across South Gippsland to ensure we hear from as many people as possible.

To find an event near you or complete the survey, please visit: www.shaping-southgippsland.com.au

Coal Creek Summer Session

Are you looking for a family-friendly event in South Gippsland? Look no further than Summer Session at Coal Creek.

Happening on Saturday, February 1 from 4pm to 8pm, enjoy a night of music, dancing, food, drinks, and kids' entertainment in this beautiful heritage setting.

Summer Session is a free event, so go along and simply enjoy the atmosphere.

To book your ticket, please visit: www.trybooking.com/CYAJU

ArtCubes

The colourful ArtCubes were on the move last week, making the trip from Foster to Venus Bay.

The Cubes have a jam-packed three months ahead, with an impressive line-up of groups taking their opportunity to showcase their work in one of the Cubes.

For a full program and for more information, please visit: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au/artcubes

Grand Ridge Rail Trail Closure

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail will be closed between Darlimurla and Boolarra for track works from Tuesday, January 28 until Friday, January 31.

If you are looking to get out on one of our fantastic trails during that time, why not pick a spot on the Great Southern Rail Trail? You can canvas your adventure on the new website: www.gsr.com.au

New Project for Leongatha Community Garden

Community gardens are a terrific space for green thumbs to come together and make something beautiful.

The Leongatha Community Garden is currently planning for a new project – The Commons. It will be a horticulture farm with spaces for workshops, social gatherings and education programs.

If you would like to find out more about the project, please follow Leongatha Community Garden on social media or visit their website: www.gathacg.com

Mary Aldred hears local RSL response to Royal Commission

VETERANS' issues rate highly for Mary Aldred, the candidate for the Federal Seat of Monash visiting Inverloch RSL on Monday, last week, to hear from representatives of that Sub Branch as well as those of Phillip Island and Wonthaggi.

While the conversation centred on the findings of 'The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide', she heard moving personal stories from those present.

Inverloch RSL president Ross Gabb highlighted the challenge for those shifting from the military to civilian life and the lack of support that currently exists.

"Transition is so important; it's the number one (priority)," he said, Mary hearing attendees' stories of the lack of assistance provided for veterans stepping out of what is a highly regulated environment and suddenly left to fend for themselves.

Wonthaggi RSL vice president Kevin Walsh, who rose to the rank of Major during his service, explained that some behaviours that are advantageous in the military are counterproductive outside of it.

However, veterans have many transferable skills to offer employers if given the support required to make the shift into civilian life.

Ross stressed that transition needs to start at least six months before someone leaves service.

Lack of knowledge of available services for veterans and the lengthy process of Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) claims were among the experiences Mary heard, with some claims taking years.



Dan Lucas (Wonthaggi RSL president), Ross Gabb (Inverloch RSL president), Mary Aldred (candidate for Monash), Bob Woods (Phillip Island RSL secretary), Lindsay Guerin (Inverloch RSL secretary), John Langford (Inverloch RSL treasurer), Julie de Bondt (Inverloch RSL welfare officer), Toni Cornelius (Wonthaggi RSL secretary) and Kevin Walsh (Wonthaggi RSL vice president). A05_0425

She was adamant the process needs to improve, stressing the percentage of fraudulent claims is negligible.

A recommendation from the Royal Commission that the DVA pays medical service providers in a more timely fashion for approved treatment for veterans prompted Ross to share a personal experience to underline the importance of that happening.

He spoke of having surgery postponed as the DVA was yet to meet some earlier medical costs.

The impact of veterans' service and lack of appropriate supports can also have a major effect on their families.

Julie de Bondt who is the welfare officer at Inverloch RSL was motivated to join the organisation by the ramifications of her late father's military service.

Mary was also encouraged to provide feedback to those in the Coalition regarding concerns

about the rejection of part of Recommendation 90 that stemmed from the Royal Commission.

The portion of that recommendation not supported by the Federal Government was "to remove the service differential as it relates to permanent impairment compensation".

The service differential is a long-standing feature of Australia's support for veterans that sees higher levels of compensation provided for injuries or illnesses incurred in operational-type service.

Inverloch RSL secretary Lindsay Guerin said the DVA and the former Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell have previously expressed the view the service differential is unfair and elaborated on what that approach means in real terms.

"Injuries that you could incur in a peacetime environment don't get the same level of cover

as the operational wartime service; you could be training to go overseas and have a vehicle roll-over," Lindsay said.

He pointed out that if you suffer a permanent impairment, it makes no difference where or how it happened.

Mary noted the Coalition instigated The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, stressing the importance of learning from and acting on its findings, having spoken of the need to support those the nation has sent into harm's way.

Veterans seeking assistance are encouraged to contact their local RSL or reach out to other support services directly.

Lifeline Australia offers free crisis support and suicide prevention at any time and can be contacted on 13 11 14.

Available veteran support services include:

Open Arms – Mental health support for Army, Navy and Air

Force personnel, veterans and their families. Call 1800 011 046 for free and confidential support, available any time, offering individual, couple and family counselling.

Open Arms offers suicide prevention workshops.

Self-help tools are also available to assist with building resilience.

Veteran Central – The place for Victorian veterans to interact with ex-service organisations and get the support they need to maintain their wellbeing. Call 1300 645 838 with expert staff linking you to appropriate available supports. The service is available to any veteran and their family members.

Other services – Other available services for veterans include Compensation Support, Veterans' Employment Program, and Financial Welfare.

Visit rslvic.com.au/veteran-support or your local RSL for further information.

NO ONE'S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it's safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the life jacket when you're out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one's unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

RETHINK
TAKING RISKS
AROUND
WATER



Helping Victorian businesses grow with grants of up to \$500,000

VICTORIAN farmers and food and drink producers seeking financial support can now apply for grants of up to \$500,000 to help them transform their business, deliver market-leading products and drive sustainable operations.

The Coles Nurture Fund has helped more than 100 Aussie farmers and food and drink producers drive innovation and sustainability, with \$36 million already awarded for innovative projects including the development of new products while reducing food waste, a zero-waste organic mushrooms farm and a net-zero battery-powered brewery.

Corinella-based blueberry grower, White Cloud Farms, was awarded \$400,000 last year to extend the supply of popular Eureka blueberries for longer in the year by creating a growing system that uses a closed loop water reserve, superior cropping microclimates and modified atmosphere storage, supporting both the crop and the land.

White Cloud Farms Owner Scott Carter said he was excited about what being a Coles Nurture Fund recipient meant for the supply of his berries, his farm and his family.

"There are three parts to our vision for White Cloud Farms. The first and most important is the installation of a Priva Irrigation and Climate System which is a world-class system to ensure smarter water usage. This includes a new drainage system which will allow us to capture nutrient-rich water from our plants and use it for growth in other areas on the farm," Scott said.

"The second element is a purpose-built cool room to store the berries at the ideal temperature before transport, ensuring quality is maintained, and finally, establishing 0.75 hectares of netting and 0.25 hectares of tunnels to allow micro-climate trials which will encourage the plants to fruit later in the season.

"With the support of the Coles Nurture Fund, we can make it happen. My wife Allison and I are incredibly grateful to Coles, and we want to set an example to our girls and other farmers that biodiversity and sustainability are achievable, and hard work is



Scott Carter and his family at White Cloud Farms in Corinella.

the secret ingredient."

Coles Chief Commercial and Sustainability Officer Anna Croft said Coles was proud to help cultivate lasting change within the industry for the benefit of Victorian businesses and customers.

"Many of our Victorian producers are small to medium family-owned businesses who take great pride in delivering outstanding products for our customers, and they might have a great idea but not the financial support to get it off the ground, which is why we want to support them through the Coles Nurture Fund," she said.

"We welcome any ideas that help transform infrastructure, reduce waste, become more energy efficient and install new equipment to support greater volumes of Aussie produce."

Coles is encouraging applications from all businesses that meet the eligibility criteria, regardless of whether they are a current Coles supplier. To be eligible for a grant of up to \$500,000:

- Businesses must demonstrate that they are seeking funding for a project which is unique, drives innovation and provides outstanding sustainability benefits.

- Applicants must generate less than \$25 million in annual revenue and employ 50 or fewer full-time employees.

Applications close at 5pm AEDT on Friday, February 14, 2025.

Other businesses that have benefitted include Diggers Rest-based farm Bulla Mushrooms which was awarded a \$490,000 grant last year to create a zero-waste mushroom facility.

The facility will capture excess mushrooms grown on the farm and turn them into dehydrated, high-quality products that would otherwise be imported from overseas.

The project will also enable Bulla Mushrooms to install a solar and small-scale wind farm to power the facility, helping to reduce emissions.

Bulla Mushrooms Managing Director Georgia Beattie said

the Coles Nurture Fund grant has the potential to change her business model forever once the facility is up and running.

"With no dried mushrooms currently produced in Australia, there's a big opportunity for us to fill this gap and ultimately divert our mushrooms grown outside of spec from going to waste. This will be a game changer for us because once the mushrooms are dry, we will be able to hold stock for longer," Georgie said.

"I thought I'd be saving up to bring this project to life over a 10-year period, but the Coles Nurture Fund grant has enabled me to bring it forward and I'm excited to see my vision come to fruition sooner."

"Dried mushrooms have a 12-month shelf life, are a great source of vitamin D and maintain the same nutritional profile as fresh mushrooms, making them a sustainable alternative to keep in the pantry."

For more information or to apply to the Coles Nurture Fund, visit coles.com.au/nurturefund.



Independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard helped out at local beef and dairy farms last week in an effort to better understand the industry and how farmers can be better supported. ob02_0425

Deb on the farm to understand the industry

VISITING local beef and dairy farms last week to experience and understand first-hand what issues farmers in the region are facing, was Deb Leonard, Independent Candidate for Monash.

Ms Leonard wasn't afraid to get in and have a go, putting on her gumboots to weigh beef cattle and drench them before heading off to a nearby farm to help milk some of the 460 cows.

"I just think there's a lot of politicians making policies and a lot of them don't take the time to speak to the people," said Ms Leonard who has a desire to understand the farming world and doesn't simply want to pay lip service to it.

There are about 1100 farms in Gippsland which produce about two billion litres of milk per year, accounting for 21 per cent of Australia's milk production and 34 per cent of Victoria's milk production output, and Ms Leonard wants to understand this huge industry that is part of her electorate.

"I've had this opportunity today, to come out and speak to people on a working beef farm and dairy farm and see how it all works, which I think is really important. Especially to understand the challenges that farmers face," explained Ms Leonard.

"Challenges with roads and getting product to market, and they're facing workforce shortages. There's not enough young people coming through into the industry which means it's tough to find workers and housing's obviously an issue that plays into that as well."

Ms Leonard has enjoyed following and seeing the advances in technology in farming over the years and how it has helped to make farming more productive, profitable and sustainable.

"There's so much new technology and evidence coming out that regenerative farming is more productive and can produce higher profits; it's a growing realisation that carbon-neutral farming offers a profitable approach to sustainable agriculture," said Ms Leonard.

"I really want to understand that, so that we can support the farming industry to be more profitable and continue providing food into the future."

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What exciting new skills do you want to learn?

ARE you eager to improve your skills or change your career path but don't know where to start? Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) offers a variety of courses designed to help you meet your educational goals and prepare for further studies or a new job. Through hands-on training and practical experience, BCAL creates an inclusive and welcoming environment with small, in-person classes.

If you have a passion for hair and beauty, you can launch your career in this exciting and growing industry with the Certificate II in Salon Assistant (Hair). This program will equip you with fundamental skills and knowledge crucial for hairdressing. These include effective communication with clients and salon staff, preparing clients for services, shampooing techniques, basic hair drying and styling, as well as product knowledge in a salon environment.

"The course was a great learning opportunity for me as it broadened my knowledge on hair. The theory work was easy to understand. I enjoyed the practical work a lot. It was fun to practice on my classmates and style their hair and also other clients who came in," shared a former student.

Another course offered by BCAL is the Certificate III in Horticulture, which encompasses much more than just gardening skills. This qualification opens opportunities in garden design, plant selection, and providing advice on plants, including pest and disease management.

Mark Sheargold, a qualified horticulturist with over 15 years' experience in the field, will instruct this vocationally focused course. Qualifications in horticulture can lead to a rewarding career in Landscape maintenance, design, construction, nursery work, or plant propagation.

Mark says, "Horticulture is much more than just a trade, it's also an enjoyable field, working outdoors and connecting with nature."

At BCAL, students participate in a comprehensive curriculum which includes plant propagation, cultivation of both produce and ornamental plants, and effective pruning techniques. The program also emphasises environmentally sustainable horticultural practices. The facility boasts a spacious outdoor classroom featuring a greenhouse and raised garden beds where students grow produce and plants.

The Certificate II in Hospitality serves as an excellent starting point for a career in this field, providing you with essential practical knowledge. This qualification offers comprehensive training in various operational skills, including basic food and beverage service, food safety hygiene practices, processing financial transactions, and accommodation service techniques.

The course will be led by Harriet Pellizzer, who brings 12 years of experience in hospitality training and has owned three businesses in Melbourne.

For more information on all BCAL's courses, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

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How many different ways can you grow your own food?



Discover the beauty and innovation of gardening at the Bass Coast Edible Gardens Weekend. From permaculture and bush tucker plantings to wicking beds and espaliered fruit trees, explore 16 incredible gardens showcasing diverse techniques. Don't miss this inspiring event, February 8-9.

WELL, at this year's Bass Coast Edible Gardens Weekend, visitors can view any number of gardening techniques, such as permaculture, Indigenous (bush tucker) plantings, wicking beds, espaliering, planting by the moon, growing foods in pots and verge (nature strips) gardening. Add to that chickens and bees!

The rich diversity of gardens and gardening are once again on display on the weekend of February 8 and 9.

"We are very pleased to present 16 fabulous gardens this year, spread across Bass Coast", said Sharon Willcox, the Gardens coordinator.

There are three 'community' gardens – including a garden in the State Coal Mine Heritage precinct and an innovative approach at the Inverloch Coast Care Community – and 13 private gardens of all shapes and sizes.

"All 16 gardens are a testament to the diversity we work hard to achieve", said Sharon.

"Visit our website (basscoastediblegardens.com) to get a sneak peek at each garden and then buy your ticket online."

Maddy Harford, joint coordinator, said they were committed to keeping access affordable and have maintained ticket prices at the same level for the third year in a row: \$25 for all gardens all weekend or \$5 for individual gardens.

"You can buy tickets online or at the garden gates (cash)."

If you would like a free ticket to all gardens all weekend, we are still looking for volunteers to assist the gardeners by checking tickets and directing visitors at each garden.

Bass Coast Edible Gardens is a major fundraiser for Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL), which delivers a range of horticulture programs, among many other courses.

"We are also generously supported by Bass Coast Shire Council, Bunnings, Townsend Nursery, A Country Gardener and Wonthaggi Garden Supplies."

the director proving helpful.

Lisa reflected on the fact both Xavier and Chloe's journey started from humble beginnings in a country town and they're now off seeing the world.

Chloe's time on ships has taken her to Asia, Europe and North and South America, with Alaska now on the agenda.

Xavier who made the move to London 18 months ago has fond memories of LPD, describing it as a place of growth that allows people to pursue their dance journey however they wish and offers ample opportunities.

Those opportunities have evolved since his and Chloe's time as LPD students, the studio now staging musicals, the productions including everyone regardless of whether they have professional aspirations.

As well as his theatrical involvement, Xavier is teaching at London's Pineapple Dance Studios helping prepare performers for the West End.

Email info@lpd5678.com or visit lpd5678.com to learn more.



Xavier Pellin and Chloe Adkins are enjoying rewarding professional performance careers having developed their skills with Lisa Pellin Dancers. A02_0425

Demonstrating the performance flexibility LPD fostered, she'll be returning to sea as a singer.

"I did every class Lisa offered, singing, dancing and acrobatics," Chloe said, also remarking on the variety she experienced from a mix of "phenomenal teachers".

Lisa loves bringing past students such as Chloe and Xavier

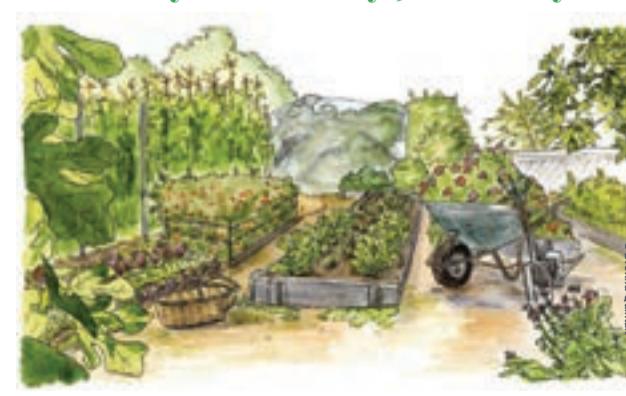
in to teach, along with various industry professionals.

Describing LPD as a community-based studio, Chloe highlighted its family vibe as did Xavier.

After 13 years with LPD, having begun at age three, Chloe headed to Melbourne to study musical theatre at the Patrick School of the Arts, Lisa's positive relationship with

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\$5 per garden or \$25 for all gardens. Buy tickets at basscoastediblegardens.com



Bass Coast Adult Learning



Melanoma survivor urges others to check for skin cancer

A WOMAN who never thought she would get a melanoma at her age is urging the community to inspect their bodies for skin cancer.

Sharyl Brockett, a Social Worker at Bass Coast Health (BCH), endured two surgeries in 2019 to remove a deep melanoma from her face after presenting to her General Practitioner with concerns about what she thought was just a bruise near her eye.

Her plea comes this Check for Spots Day on January 30, driven by The Alfred Hospital, in memory of 25-year-old Morgan Mansell, who sadly lost her life after a short battle with the mostly preventable disease.

Established by Morgan's parents Peter and Julie, Check for Spots Day is held annually on January 30 to coincide with Morgan's birthday and the end of the summer holidays.

People are asked to look out for significant change in size, shape or colour, and moles that don't look like the ones around them.

Other key things to look out for are asymmetry, irregular edges, uneven colour and moles that are larger than six mm in diameter or that are new and growing.

If you're concerned about any of those characteristics, arrange to see your General Practitioner. If you find a spot early, the chance of it progressing or spreading is much lower, and can be reduced to zero.



Melanoma survivor Sharyl Brockett, with her guide dog Daisy, is urging people to have their skin checked for the early detection of melanoma and other skin cancers.

"If you see something unusual on your skin, get it checked straight away. It's possible to get a melanoma even when you're 25," Sharyl said.

"That's why I encourage people to join too, and to also wear sunscreen, a hat, long-sleeved clothing and get their skin checked at least once a year, especially if they're always out in the sun."

Sharyl was "devastated" when she found out she had a melanoma.

"I never imagined that it would happen to me. I had a small bruise below my eye and it would not go away. I got it checked out and my GP said it

was a melanoma," she said.

"I was in total shock because to me melanoma is something that older people get. My melanoma was deep underneath the surface and took two surgeries a week apart to remove.

"I looked awful after the surgeries, like I had been in a bad car crash, but the surgeries saved my life. Looking back, I was out and about in the sun a lot as a kid, and always enjoyed walking and running."

Bass Coast Health is taking part in a clinical trial to develop more efficient and effective screening for the early detection of melanoma, rather than relying on mole mapping

undertaken by the human eye.

The Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID) trial uses the VECTRA machine, a whole-body scanner that consists of 92 cameras which simultaneously capture images to construct a digital 3D avatar of a person, providing a detailed record of all skin lesions. More than 300 participants have joined the trial at Wonthaggi Hospital since it opened in August 2023.

BCH is taking part in the trial through the Australian Cancer Research Foundation and Monash University and is supported by the TrialHub program. TrialHub is funded by the Australian Government, and leverages The Alfred Hospital's clinical trial expertise to provide financial support, as well as on-the-ground workforce upskilling and education, clinical trial operational and governance guidance, clinical trial awareness and help with the identification of clinical trials suitable to each health service.

BCH is one of the trial sites due to the high incidence of skin cancer in the community given our farming and coastal lifestyles. Having access to such trials locally is important to help inform the development of treatment and services.

For more information about skin checks and Check for Spots Day, go to: alfredhealth.org.au/services/victorian-melanoma-service/check-for-spots-day



Paul Greenhalgh (SGH) and Scott Dowel (MDC) signing the works contract Wednesday 22 January 2025

Acute Ward rooms refurbishment

THANKS to a significant bequest received from the estate of the late Mr Jeffrey Cox, five rooms located in the Acute Ward at the South Gippsland Hospital will have a major overhaul, with works commencing next month.

Local builders MDC have been tasked with refurbishing rooms six to ten, which run parallel to Jones Street. The rooms will have the doorways widened to have cat and kitten style doors installed, matching rooms one to five, ensuring easier access for patients, visitors and staff.

Furthermore, each room will have the flooring replaced, new lighting installed, a fresh coat of paint and new bedside tables and cupboards.

"We are pleased to be able to refresh over half of our inpatient rooms to improve the experience for our patients and staff," said South Gippsland Hospital CEO, Paul Greenhalgh.

"With new televisions donated by Joan Newman late last year, we are thrilled that our rooms will have a much more modern feel about them.

"We expect the project to take about two months given some of the challenges of the demolition work to be undertaken due to the brickwork involved. This will mean a reduced capacity to our ward for the period of the project unfortunately, and we apologise for the inconvenience this will cause."

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South

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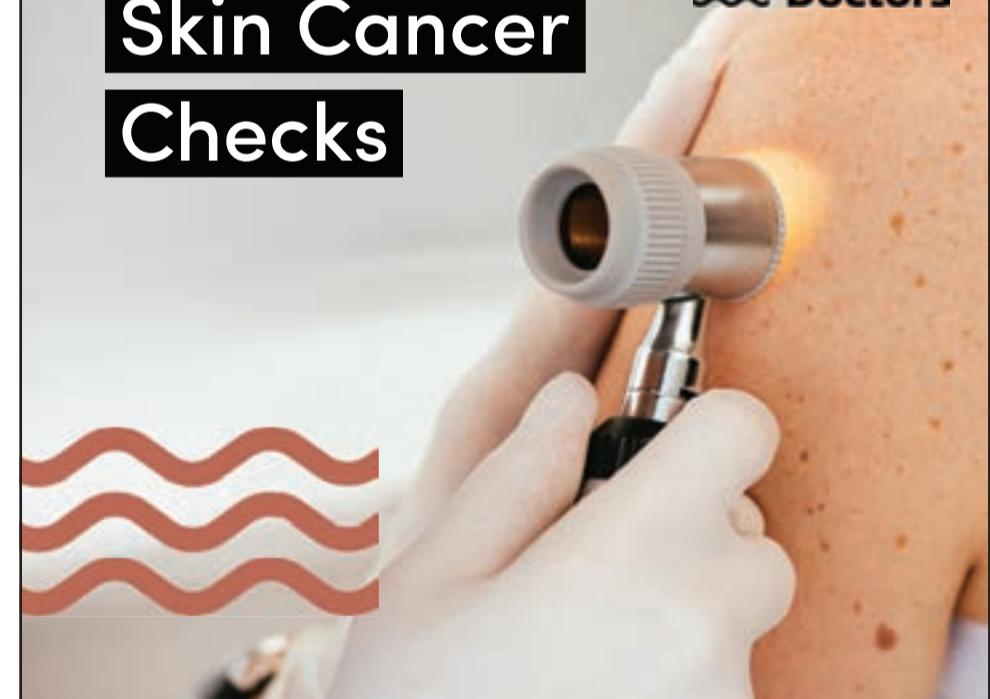
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Discover Myli's Hidden Gems

AT MYLI – My Community Library, we offer more than just books. With over 15 free online resources available to Myli members, it's easy to forget some of the options available. Here's an insight into some of the hidden gems available:

LinkedIn Learning

LinkedIn Learning is a leading online platform offering a wide range of courses to bridge the gap between desired careers and necessary skills. With over 16,000 courses available, spanning areas like business, technology, languages, music, art, and photography, there's a wealth of knowledge waiting to be explored.

uLibrary

Discover a range of audiobooks on uLibrary! Whether you're seeking to expand your horizons or simply escape into a good book, uLibrary offers a seamless and immersive audiobook experience that can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere.

Busy Code

Busy Code is an exciting introduction to coding for kids aged six to 13. Through interactive activities, they'll learn how to create, run, and debug simple programs. Busy Code features two engaging components: Code Disco and Beard Man's Adventures, designed to make learning fun and accessible.

LOTE4Kids

Designed to support children in learning and engaging with languages other than English (LOTE), LOTE4Kids encourages children to enjoy books and learn language through storytelling. Myli members can choose from over 4500 audio-picture books in over 70 languages, together with English translations. New books and languages are added every month!

Mango Languages

Language learning isn't just for the kids! Whether you're a beginner or looking to enhance your language proficiency, Mango Languages offers an engaging and enjoyable learning experience. Mango covers an impressive range of languages, with over 70 options to choose from.

Britannica Online

Britannica Online is the Encyclopedia Britannica brand you knew growing up, made available, kept up to date, and now online to meet modern-day needs. It offers safe, up-to-date resources including articles, journals, multimedia, and more for research at all levels.

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Get crafty for the Korumburra show

THE 129th annual Korumburra Show is coming up in February and organisers are calling for creators young and old to get on board with their handmade crafts.

There are a number of categories that can be entered, and the show stewards look to feature new and different exhibits each year, to keep it interesting and novel.

"It will be really good if we could get some new people, even if they can't make anything new, but if they might have something that they've made during the year," said Rhonda Brooks, Chief Steward for the show.

This year, there is a woodworkers and woodcarvers section with the George Fox Memorial prize.

A leather category, with handmade stock whips being entered and a great hit (pardon the pun) for a few years.

Wall hangings made from any medium and a new category exists for a wine glass charm – to put on your glass while at those wild parties.

There is the gift-wrapped parcel category and beaded articles is another, with exquisite and intricate pieces exhibited in the past.

Handicrafts with paper, such as book folding



Woodworking and woodcarving is a category for this year's Korumburra Show as well as leather, wall hangings, handicrafts with paper and many more.

embellishments, origami, handmade flowers, scrapbooking and handmade cards is another.

Pinatas, Christmas decorations, or two handmade coasters made from any medium will also keep exhibits interesting.

There is an open section for any other totally handcrafted article and an open section for a handcrafted item using machine components.

Groups of four who make, bake or grow something can also enter.

A section for juniors, those 16 years and under exists, with

13 different craft categories kids can do at home with up-cycled or few items, including sock puppets, handmade flowers, origami, decorated eggs, handmade cards, pom poms, paper mâché heads, decorated picture frames and lego (no kits) with a farm theme.

As well as an open category for any craft article and a section for novice crafters, who may not have entered into the show before.

"The best thing about this with the kids is that they come in and they see their things there, and whether they've got a prize or not, they see them



Exhibit your handmade crafts in this year's Korumburra show, with a huge range of categories to enter.

on the bench and if they've got a prize, their little eyes light up and they just love it," said Rhonda.

All entries need to be brought to the exhibition pavilion on Friday, February 7, between nine o'clock and noon.

Exhibitors also need to fill out the online entry form, it's free for kids and 50 cents for adults to enter. There are also small monetary prizes for winning exhibits. Find the entry form at korumburashowgrounds.com.au/showschedules. See more details about the upcoming show in our February 4 edition.

A whale of a time, ArtCubes welcomed in Venus Bay



Terrie Thompson holds one of her denim whales. A10_0425

it just goes in the rag bag," she said of the large haul of denim items at the Community Centre.

The whales each have their own character, are named and have a unique story to tell.

During her residency, Terrie will explore the connection between what we wear and the impact it has on our oceans.

Amanda Diamond now spends much of her time in

Morocco but is currently back in Venus Bay.

Her still-life works incorporate South Gippsland's flora with African fabric backdrops.

She is also offering the chance for people to come and create their own paintings, choosing flowers and fabric that inspire them, with Amanda providing guidance.

Sonia Zalucki from the

Venus Bay Community Centre Op Shop is running a pop-up shop featuring clothes along with items showing her artistic creativity such as quilts and gin bottles containing attractive lights. Her skills range from clothing design and knitting to ceramics and lino printing.

The ArtCubes came to Venus Bay after a successful stint in Foster.

Located at 143 Jupiter Boulevard, the cubes promise to bring additional excitement and creativity to the coast this summer.

The exhibits of Sonia, Terrie and Amanda will feature until Sunday, February 16, with a fresh crop of creatives then moving into the cubes which be in town until April.

A lineup of other artists exhibiting in the ArtCubes is to be announced.

Workshops and opportunities for the community to get involved are also available. For more information visit southgippsland.com.au/artcubes.

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Coal Creek offers volunteer opportunities

THE Friends of Coal Creek are looking for more volunteers to help out with a number of exciting projects and events that are happening at the historic park and museum.

Phil Fowler, Vice President of the Friends of Coal Creek (FOCC) has been volunteering for about two years and brings his carpentry skills to the site helping to upgrade the historical buildings and train carriages.

"At the moment, I'm working on repairing the slab hut. I'm rebuilding the verandah," explained Phil.

"I'm also doing work on one of the old train carriages."

With only two full-time employed maintenance staff in a place as big as Coal Creek, Phil said they would welcome a bit more help to maintain the great community asset, and there's always mowing or whipper snipping to be done.

Along with maintenance, upgrades and gardening, FOCC and volunteers help out during events such as Halloween, live music nights or festivals such as the Gippsland Pride Festival, which was held over the weekend.

"We all pitch in and do everything there and the ones that have got skills teach the ones who haven't," said Phil.

There are also volunteer roles such as conducting tours and demonstrations, dressing up in historical costume and running some of the historical stores, such as the

blacksmiths, the print shop and the drapery.

Phil comments that their volunteers come from all walks of life from pastry cooks to old telecom technicians and it's not just the work they enjoy, but also the social interaction.

"It's the comradeship as well and working with other people who are enjoying it. Most of us are retired, some of us aren't, some still work part-time or work somewhere else, and in their free time they come and do a bit of work at Coal Creek."

FOCC also plan on having regular meetings to see what projects need to be done next and which ones they'd like to work on.

For some of the roles at Coal Creek volunteers are required to go through the South Gippsland Shire Council processes and it's not necessary to be part of FOCC, for others, it's as simple as joining the Friends of Coal Creek.

"It's a pleasant place to work. There's some really nice people there and I think we're all in the same boat - we'd like to give back to the community a little bit and we want to see the place thrive because it is the gateway to South Gippsland," added Phil.

Volunteers are not required to commit to a set amount of hours, they are welcome to do as much or as little as they like. To apply to be a volunteer at Coal Creek go to southgippsland.vic.gov.au/volunteers.



Volunteers are needed at Coal Creek for many different roles including dressing up and running the historical stores.

• OBITUARY



VALERIE Anne Kennedy has recently been remembered by family and friends as a compassionate, loving, quiet and generous person, who cared deeply for her family and for her community.

Moving around the state quite a lot while growing up, as her father was a school teacher, Val completed Year 11 in Yarram and worked at the Commonwealth Bank before moving to Korumburra to work at the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney.

At the time, Val's parents and younger sister, Joan, had settled in Poowong.

One weekend Val travelled to see them and attended a dance at the Poowong Hall, where she met John Kennedy.

The pair were married on April 8, 1961, in the old Presbyterian Church in Loch and settled in Victoria Road, Loch, later having three children John (dec), Graeme and Julie.

Valerie Anne Kennedy

Valerie Anne Kennedy has been remembered for caring deeply for her family and her community.

Val was always very involved in her local community and was active on many committees, and at one time was the treasurer for five different committees.

Notably, Val was a dedicated member of the Loch Fire Brigade, joining in 1971. She was the communications officer from 1980 until 2006 and the brigade treasurer from 2002 to 2018.

In 2014, Val was awarded her 40-year medal and was honoured with becoming a CFA Life Member and received her 50-year service award in 2022.

"This meant that every Sunday morning, Mum and Dad would be in the office checking that the radios were working in all five trucks and vehicles around the district. If there was a fire around the district, the brigade would have to report it to the Leongatha crew. So, mum's reliable voice was well known by everyone in the

district," recounted Val's son, Graeme Kennedy.

Simon Bloink, from the CFA, worked closely with Val and also spoke at her funeral.

"Every time I rang Val for information about a fire call, she was always warm and welcoming, and every phone call ended with an invitation to the Kennedy household for a cup of tea, which I took up on numerous occasions. During those times we'd talk about whatever the hot topic in CFA was at that time, and we'd work through that, and we'd solve the problem. Only if that was reality," recounted Simon.

A small plaque was presented to the family from the CFA to symbolise memories of Val and in recognition of her 50 years of service to the CFA.

Val was also known for her natural talent as a musician, playing the piano from the age of nine and going on to play the organ for the Loch and District

Uniting Church for 70 years.

"I remember her playing here when we were young. So, if you had a wedding, christening, or came to the service at this church, you were blessed with Mum playing a few hymns for you," said Graeme.

Val shared this love of music with her three granddaughters, Simone, Tyler and Ruby who she taught to play, and later in life was thrilled to play the piano for the residents of Carinya.

Being a gifted sportswoman was another string to Val's bow. She won tennis championships and was recruited by the Korumburra badminton for her ability to wield a racket. She also enjoyed playing hockey and later on lawn bowls.

"Apparently, the golf was left for Auntie Joan," said Val's daughter Julie.

Valerie Anne Kennedy was born on May 15, 1937, at Edenhope, the eldest daughter of Ern and Win Quinn.

Improving family support services for Gippsland

QUANTUM Support Services has announced it will join the MCM Group in February under a new collaboration model.

Quantum Chief Executive Officer Natalie McDonald said Quantum had collaborated with MCM in the past and recognised both organisations complemented each other.

"Becoming part of the MCM group will offer possibilities of growth and expansion in Gippsland and regional Victoria. Quantum has a strong reputation for providing excellent services within Gippsland, while MCM brings experience in youth housing and education," Ms McDonald said.

Quantum has supported the Gippsland community for more than 30 years and is seen as a leading provider of family violence, homelessness and family support services in the region.

MCM is Victoria's first and oldest community services organisation, established in 1854. MCM is a leading for-purpose provider, offering a diverse range of services, including family, housing, education and youth support, as well as disability and palliative care.

• FAITH FACTOR

What's new this year?

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

SCHOOLS are heading back, the holiday makers are heading home, and the new year is well underway!

But after the holiday season comes "back to the routine", and possibly a feeling that the new year is just a repeat of the same old year on replay.

While routine plays an important part in our lives, there's something inside us that cries out for a greater purpose and significance. We crave for fulfilment in life. And in the search for that meaning, we can find many things that promise much but deliver little and still leave us hungry for more.

One time Jesus was talking to a woman who had to keep fetching water from a well. He said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14)

Jesus wasn't offering hollow religion, but something fulfilling, life-giving, and ongoing. When Jesus called people to follow Him, He wasn't offering a set of rules to live by, but a spring of life that connects us to God, bringing peace and fulfilment like nothing else can.

And He offers us that same refreshing, living water today.

Don't get bogged down by the day-to-day routine of this year, but find a life of significance, hope, and joy in Jesus – by inviting Him into our world, and truly having a new year of life.

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Professor Sonia Grover, Paediatric Gynaecologist at the Royal Children's Hospital, is providing expert healthcare to young people from across the Bass Coast at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Professor Sonia cares for young people in their time of need

A LEADER in the field of paediatric and adolescent gynaecology is caring for patients with gynaecological concerns right here on the Bass Coast.

Professor Sonia Grover – the Director of Gynaecology at the Royal Children's Hospital – provides care to infants, children and adolescents with a variety of problems, from skin irritation and pain, to genital appearance, heavy or painful periods and more.

She also helps with unusual symptoms that specifically occur around period time, from increased asthma, to diarrhoea, epilepsy and even anaphylaxis.

"I understand that adolescence can be a challenging time in a person's life, especially with the physical and mental changes that it brings, and that teenagers can feel uncomfortable discussing medical matters," Sonia said.

"I provide empathetic, experienced and contemporary care to young people so that they may return to enjoying fulfilling and healthy lives as soon as possible."

Sonia established paediatric and adolescent gynaecology at the Royal Children's Hospital over 30 years ago, growing it from a tiny service to a very busy one providing advice, care and training to not just Victorians but also patients from Australia-wide and overseas.

"There are no regional centres in Victoria providing this care, and in some states and territories in Australia, this service is still limited to a small clinic monthly only in the capital city," Sonia said.

"I'm proud to be providing this service to the young people of the Bass Coast, having been consulting from the Phillip Island Health Hub at Cowes for two years now, and operating at Wonthaggi Hospital. This service enables people to be seen closer to their homes, which eases the stress and cost of travelling.

"There's such high demand for the gynaecological services at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) so I have been delighted to be able to redirect referrals to BCH, reduce the pressure on RCH clinics and provide a more convenient service for local patients and their families."

Sonia's breadth of experience helps to inform her personal approach to care.

"I've long been involved in the care of young women with disabilities and the challenges they face with menstrual issues," she said.

"I'm also involved in the care of young and adult people with gender dysphoria in Melbourne and am only too happy to see them at Bass Coast Health."

As a general gynaecologist and pain medicine specialist, Sonia also consults adults, drawing on her specific interest and research work in pelvic pain, as well as bleeding disorders.

To consult Prof Grover, please ask your GP to send a referral to Bass Coast Health's Access intake team on access@basscoasthealth.org.au.

Make a sustainable start to the school year

AS THE new school year kicks off, Sustainability Victoria is inviting schools in South Gippsland and Bass Coast to join ResourceSmart Schools, an award-winning program that supports schools to embed sustainability across school facilities, the curriculum and community, while reducing resource use and saving money.

Since 2008, more than 1600 schools have participated in the ResourceSmart Schools program. Together, they have saved more than \$68 million on bills, diverted 170,000 cubic metres of waste from landfill, planted more than five million trees, saved 1.9 million kilolitres of water, and saved more than 110,000 tonnes of CO₂e greenhouse gas emissions.

Poowong Consolidated School is a local ResourceSmart school that has made excellent progress in the areas of waste, biodiversity and embedding sustainability into school operations through policies and procedures. A finalist in two categories of the 2024 ResourceSmart Schools Awards, Poowong Primary School also stands out for parent and community



Local schools are encouraged to kick off the school year with sustainability at the core.

involvement as well as student leadership for sustainability.

Bass Valley Primary School is another local school that's had a long history with the ResourceSmart Schools program. It's utilised the free resources and facilitator support available to gather ideas and enhance its sustainability initiatives and teaching.

Paul Murfitt, Director Regions & Community Action, Sustainability Victoria, says schools

that join the ResourceSmart Schools program will learn, practice and share ways to integrate sustainability across school operations through the support of an online portal and a ResourceSmart Schools Facilitator.

"This free program recognises and rewards schools through sustainability certification. Stars are obtained through completion of modules and meeting benchmarks for

that join the ResourceSmart Schools program will learn, practice and share ways to integrate sustainability across school operations through the support of an online portal and a ResourceSmart Schools Facilitator.

"This free program recognises and rewards schools through sustainability certification. Stars are obtained through completion of modules and meeting benchmarks for

resource use and are valid for four years. Schools can progress from one Star up to five Stars and move towards becoming a Leadership School," said Mr Murfitt.

Each year, participating schools can enter the ResourceSmart Schools Awards – the state's largest celebration for primary and secondary school students, teachers and school volunteers taking remarkable sustainability action.

"The ResourceSmart Schools Awards are an opportunity to acknowledge sustainability legends, amplify success and reflect on the sheer amount of work being done by Victorian schools in sustainability," said Mr Murfitt.

"I encourage all schools to showcase the environmental work they're doing, no matter how small. Together, we can build a future we need."

Not a ResourceSmart School? Simply contact the Sustainability Victoria ResourceSmart Schools team at resourcesmartawards@sustainability.vic.gov.au.

For more information visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/our-work/resourcesmart-schools.

Tarwin Lower Market a success despite Monday's heat



Sylvia Melsen displays her nature-inspired crochet creations. A28_0425

TARWIN Lower was a hive of activity on Monday's Australia Day public holiday as people enjoyed its vibrant market in hot conditions.

While a few stallholders cancelled their appearance due to the forecast heat, some others came on board and there were plenty of regular operators present ensuring locals and visitors had an interesting selection available.

Craft items, fruit and veggies, Fish Creek doughnuts, jewellery and other goods were up for grabs, the relaxed vibe boosted by Graeme Riddell's mix of songs, his ukelele featuring prominently.

Inside the hall, Crochet by Sylvia showcased the wildlife creations of Venus Bay's Sylvia Melsen which ranged from a giraffe to sea creatures that even included a blobfish.

"They have something

special, sea creatures, and people like them," she said.

The new president of Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Committee of Management, Marg de Wolff said the market is going from strength to strength, noting the fact it is held on public holiday Mondays offers a point of difference from other markets.

Money raised through the market helps meet the costs of refurbishing and maintaining the hall that has recently undergone improvements including restumping and replacement of weatherboards where needed.

Market Day Coordinator Phil Scott declared himself "very happy with the turnout".

Those wanting a little respite from the sun's rays retreated indoors, many taking the opportunity to have a cup of tea and scones.



Gippsland Pride President Caitlin Grigsby (left), Vice President Kylie Dubrich-McLoughlin and life member Sean McLoughlin. Ns18_0425

Coal Creek shines with Pride!

COAL Creek was the location for the Gippsland Pride Festival, which was hailed a resounding success on Saturday.

Gippsland Pride (Gippsland's LGBTQIA+ charity) hosted the festival on January 25 which featured a range of events from live entertainment, support organisations, food trucks and more.

The event also brought together health and emergency services such as local police, SES, Forest Fire Management and Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault.

President Caitlin Grigsby highlighted they had run a smaller festival in Latrobe City previously but had never attempted a festival of this size.

"Gippsland Pride covers six regions in Gippsland and all of our committee members are everywhere from the Lakes to

Orbost and as far as Berwick," she said.

"What we did every other year was use Midsumma to have something in every region, and it was quite fatiguing in communities.

"We've wanted to try this and then going forward, we'll do something monthly in each of the regions to break it up for people."

Caitlin highlighted the day was about creating something that felt safe and celebratory.

"We have had so much support and it feels like such a vibe in there because we're working with a venue (Coal Creek) that wants to activate, and they've been nothing but supportive."

She highlighted they were blown away by ticket sales and by 1pm on the day, they'd already had 400 visitors through the doors.

Shaping South Gippsland

Help shape the future of South Gippsland by providing feedback that will be used to develop key Council documents

Council Plan 2025 – 2029

South Gippsland Shire Council is creating a new four-year Council Plan that will span 2025 – 2029. The Plan is one of Council's most important documents as it drives Council direction and the initiatives that will be delivered over that period. We want your feedback to ensure it meets the needs of our community.

2040 Community Vision

Council is also seeking feedback on the 2040 Community Vision, to check that the aspirations it contains are still in-line with those of our community. The Vision was created in 2021 so it is still relatively new, but it is important that it gets reviewed regularly.

We want to hear from as many people as possible. To do this, Council is embarking on a Shire-wide engagement campaign that will feature a variety of opportunities to have your say. The engagement period will run from 26 January to the end of February. After this, feedback will be collated and the draft plans will be developed before they are released for another round of community consultation.

Make your voice heard by:

- Having your say online at www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au
- Visiting us at a local event
- Joining us at a Councillor pop-up
- Picking up a hard copy survey from many outlets across South Gippsland



Scan the QR code for more information.



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Event Attendance

Sunday 26 January		
Australia Day - Meenyan	Meenyan Hall, Whitelaw Street	9.00am to 11.00am
Australia Day - Tarwin Lower	Long Table, River Drive	1.00pm to 2.00pm
Saturday 1 February		
Coal Creek Summer Session	Coal Creek, Silkstone Road	4.00pm to 6.00pm
Saturday 8 February		
Korumburra Agricultural Show	Korumburra Showgrounds, Sanders Street	9.00am to 12.00pm
Sunday 9 February		
Stony Creek Publicans Day	Stony Creek Racecourse	12.00pm to 2.00pm
Sunday 16 February		
Rail Trail Community Market	Leongatha Rail Precinct, Bennett Lane	9.00am to 11.00am
Friday 21 February		
Loch Bowls Club	24 Smith Street	5.00pm to 7.00pm
Saturday 22 February		
Foster Show	Foster Showgrounds, Station Road	9:00am to 12.00pm
Saturday 23 February		
Toora Pear Party	Toora Pear Orchard, 18A Mill Street	10.00am to 12.00pm

Councillor Pop-Ups

Sunday 2 February		
Venus Bay	Jupiter Park Playground, Jupiter Boulevard	10.00am to 11.00am
Sandy Point	Foreshore, Beach Parade (opposite shops)	12.00pm to 1.00pm

Sunday 15 February		
Koonwarra	Great Southern Rail Trail (near toilet)	8.30am to 9.30am
Dumbalk	Memorial Park, Nerrena Road	10.00am to 11.00am
Mirboo North	Baromi Park, Ridgway (opposite Town Hall)	11.30am to 12.30pm

Sunday 23 February		
Kongwak	Pioneer Park, William Street	10.00am to 11.00am
Nyora	Mitchell Street Playground	11.30am to 12.30pm
Poowong	Drouin Road (BBQ Shelter)	1.00pm to 2.00pm

Friday 28 February		
Port Welshpool	Old Ferry Terminal	10.00am to 12.00pm



Shaping
South
Gippsland

BCAL hits the ground running this year with brand new courses in Employability Skills, Childcare, and Aged Care traineeships – and that's just in the first week!

The popular Practical Music course starts again next week. All abilities are welcome whether you're a legend in your own bedroom or just like to sing a bit. Also starting next week is the Computer Basics course which is a friendly introduction to all things digital.

Beyond the short courses, the Certificate II course in Hairdressing and Certificate III in Horticulture are starting soon. See the main article elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Plus, a new date for Responsible Service of Alcohol has just been announced – Thursday, February 20 at 9.30am.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115.

Wonthaggi Community Garden

It's tomato time and a quick audit of this season's community garden crop tells a tale of growing styles – natural versus formal, unpredictable weather and the growers' choice.

One new member has impressed with two plots of tall tomatoes growing on sculptural supports made of wire spirals. By contrast, a couple of volunteers decided to give a tray of donated mystery seedlings free range. The result? A jungle, where the birds and bugs are enjoying a deliciously sweet, large pear-shaped fruit.

If you would like to know more about the community garden visit on a Thursday between 10 and noon, contact BCAL on 5672 3115, or email tgordon@westnet.com.au for information about getting involved.

Wonthaggi Woodcrafters

A new year starts, and so does a brand-new group at the Woodies. This one will focus on jewellery making. The group had its first planning meeting last Friday and begins creating this week. For more information, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or pop in to the workshop.

Milpara Community House Programs

THIS is our first week of Term 1 for 2025, and our regular classes and social groups are excitedly restarting. We would like to extend an invitation to everyone to have a look at our term program and come and join in some of the many friendly and informative activities at the Korumbarra Community Hub.

We encourage you to book into the activities to ensure you get a spot, and we know how many to expect. Unfortunately, some courses will not be able to run unless we have enough early bookings.

Looking to build your digital skills? Whether it is learning the basics of computers, learning how to master your phone/tablet, or finding out how to stay safe online, we have a course to suit you. We also have several free technology information sessions through the months of February and March.

Looking to improve your writing skills or spoken language? We have classes in English as a Second language, as well as Story Writing Courses, both online and in person.

Vale Jan Parry.

Jan was always a staunch supporter and ally of Milpara Community House, involved from the very beginning as one of its main founders. Jan could see how a community organisation such as Milpara could have long-lasting benefits to the community and area she loved. We are honoured Jan has chosen Milpara's Emergency Foodbank to receive donations on her behalf, in lieu of flowers. Thank you to those who have carried out Jan's wishes, we have received a significant number of donations.

YOUR SAY

Email your letters to news@sgst.com.au

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

All signed up for school progress

WHAT we don't want to hear from the State Government, as kids get set to return to school this week, is how many families have accessed their School Saving Bonus.

As much as 'cost of living' is being touted as the number one election issue, the \$400 payment they're offering is little more than window dressing compared to what is the disturbingly obvious top issue for public education in this state – the teacher shortage and the number of mid-term teachers considering an early exit.

Just prior to the Australia Day long weekend, came the announcement that the Albanese and Allan governments finally reached an agreement to lift Victorian public school funding to 100 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard.

It's an agreement that's at least 12 months late.

What it means is that while the Federal Government has committed to paying 25 per cent of the funding for school program delivery here, up from 20 per cent, the State Government will also commit their full 75 per cent to school budgets, without the opportunity of slicing off four per cent of public school funding for indirect costs such as capital depreciation.

This accounting initiative, reportedly introduced by a former Victorian Coalition Government, will see millions of dollars returned to teacher recruitment and school programs.

Overall, the 'full funding' change will generate \$2.5 billion in additional Commonwealth funding to Victorian public schools over the next 10 years, and as long as they don't waste it, the funding is expected to support initiatives "that improve the attraction and retention of teachers" among other things.

And having identified the teacher shortage and retention problems, the community must be kept informed about the progress being made in this regard.

The additional funding also comes with a key focus on "helping students catch up, keep up and finish school" including via new reading and numeracy programs starting in Year 1 this year.

Again, we want to see a step improvement as a result, aware that Victoria is continuing to fall behind the world's top performers in STEM participation and achievement.

The bottom line is that kids who attend public schools deserve the same teaching standards, programs and opportunities as kids who attend private schools.

And, the sooner everyone acknowledges the fundamental importance of engagement and positive outcomes at school in all other aspects of life the better.

Not forgetting that parents retain an active responsibility for their child's education.

All we want to see each year after all is improvement, from the kids and also from the authorities, and on that score we've got to give the Albanese and Allen a solid B+ for making a good start.

All the best for a great school year in 2025!



Worth waving the flag on Australia Day

FOR the second year in a row, I spent most of Australia Day at the Grantville traffic lights on Bass Highway waving the Australian flag to motorists out of patriotic pride in my country, in the face of what is now a systematic attack on its colonial migrant and settler roots, by an ideological minority that was decisively rejected during the so-called Voice referendum.

In doing this, I acknowledge that modern migrants built this land, from bands to nationhood, wilderness to domestication, wanderment to settlement, subsistence to food bowl, scraping to mining, just enough to mass production, memorisation to knowledge system and, superstition to science.

My British ancestors left us modern economic infrastructure, the rule of law, civil rights and democratic governance. They raised a beacon born of hope, now the envy of the world for all who enter here, bent on economic participation, the exercise of citizenship, ambition and honest toil.

We are forever in their debt for their sacrifice and hardships that they endured making our beautiful country possible.

Aborigines are invited to this now great multicultural experiment in the Far South Pacific. They lost their old world but have much more to gain in the one in front of them, which is why people from terrible places and broken worlds die trying to get here.

Who wants to go back to hunting and gathering? Anybody? Would the Chinese, the Hindu and Muslim principalities of South East Asia, the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, Maori or Japanese Imperial Army have made better colonial masters than my ancestors? I don't think so.

Christopher Nagle, Grantville

LIFE Moments

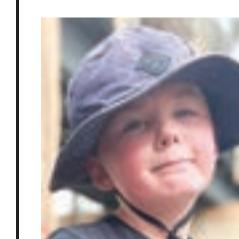


BODHI Luca Vishniakov was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on December 29, 2024, weighing 3.51kg. Bodhi is a son for Nathan Vishniakov and Jasmine Cooper of Cowes, and a brother for Jeremy, 10, and Riley, 4.

Send your photos to news@sgst.com.au

Vox Pop

What are you most looking forward to in the year ahead?



Tate Steward

"I am looking forward to catching up with all my mates and doing the Ride to Rhyll day with school."



Arlo Donohue

"I am looking forward to graduating grade 6."



Sophie Tucker

"I'm looking forward to going into Grade 5, having a new teacher and seeing all my friends."



Darby Smyth

"At school I'm looking forward to seeing my new classroom, hanging out with mates and school sports carnivals."

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.

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24,990 DRIVE AWAY

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2023 Mitsubishi Outlander Aspire ZM
41,990 DRIVE AWAY

23,457kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV SN: W101989



TOOL
BOXES

2016 Toyota Hilux WorkMate
22,990 DRIVE AWAY

170,011kms, 6 speed sports auto cab chassis SN: W101965



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2018 Hyundai Kona Active
14,990 DRIVE AWAY

232,564kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W101987



PRICE
DROP

2017 Hyundai i30 SR
19,990 DRIVE AWAY

94,770kms, 7 speed sports auto hatch SN: W1014770



2016 Holden Commodore Evoke VF Series II
20,990 DRIVE AWAY

165,520kms, 6 speed sports auto wagon SN: W101645



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Holden Trax LTZ TJ
18,990 DRIVE AWAY

75,863kms, 6 speed auto SUV SN: W101971



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2011 Holden Cruze CD JH Series II
5,990 DRIVE AWAY

259,834kms, 6 speed sports auto sedan SN: W101737

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Volkswagen Tiguan 132TSI R-Line

33,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2022 Hyundai i30 N Premium

48,990 DRIVE AWAY

9,164kms, 8 speed CVT auto hatch SN: L101284



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2020 Toyota Hiace LWB

33,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Toyota Fortuner GXL

43,990 DRIVE AWAY

88,620kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN:L101228



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2021 Hyundai i30

23,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



HYBRID

2019 Toyota Camry Ascent

31,990 DRIVE AWAY

62,570kms, 6 speed CVT auto sedan SN:L101194



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2019 Toyota Kluger GX

32,990 DRIVE AWAY

88,391kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101276



FINANCE
AVAILABLE

2023 Ford Ranger Raptor

84,990 DRIVE AWAY

23,279kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab CWK 353

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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



OH WHAT A FEELING

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



• WELSHPOOL

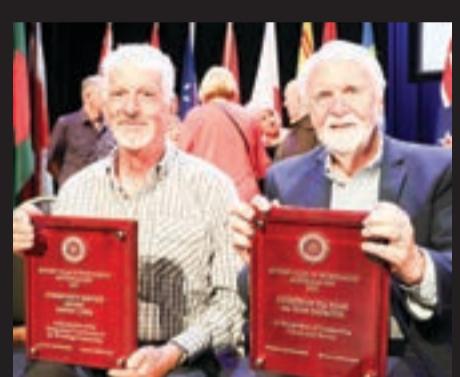
ANOTHER great Australia Day celebration in Welshpool. Run by the Welshpool Recreation Reserve committee members with the support of the South Gippsland Shire Council.

Madelaine Mason of the committee said there was a great turn out. "Thank you to everyone who came along and celebrated the day with us. We appreciate the continued support."

• KONGWAK

OVER 100 guests gathered in Kongwak for an Australia Day breakfast where Peter Bland, an adventurer from Wattle Bank, gave a colourful talk on his travels around the world and his passion for growing mushrooms.

The morning was a celebration of Australia Day with the community joining in singing the National Anthem, whilst Peter raised the Australian Flag.



High school compatriots Danny Luna and Don Paproth. C02_0425



Mayor Halstead celebrates with Business Award winners Marcus and Lisa of Dirty Three Wines. C04_0425



Rotary Club members were busy behind the cooker for the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi Australia Day breakfast. Wonthaggi President Leah Montebello, District Governor Colin Byron and Mary O'Connor. C11_0425



Bass Coast Shire Councillors Tracey Bell, Mayor Rochelle Halstead and Deputy Mayor and Rotarian Brett Tessari. C12_0425

More photos from Australia events online at sgst.com.au

New Aussies in South Gippsland Shire



Russell Broadbent with new South Gippsland Australian citizens Kyle De Graaf, Julia Almond, Mai Dang, Lan Le, Rocel Sheker and Konkanok Homon. A14_0425

mother and brother at an early age. She enjoys the South Gippsland countryside, finding it a refreshing change from the crowded city she was used to, but it is the kindness of the people that stands out the most.

Mai Dang arrived from Vietnam in 2017 to visit her sister's family, meeting her now husband Richard during the trip. Having previously lived in a fast-paced city, she was drawn to the slower pace of life in South Gippsland.

Kyle De Graaf ventured

from New Zealand in search of better work opportunities and new adventures.

Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan ran the conferees through their pledges, each new Aussie then being presented with a native plant and their citizenship certificate.

In the lead-up to formalities, Member for Monash Russell Broadbent told the group Australia is one of just eight truly democratic countries in the world. He spoke of a particular Aussie quirk.

"We like to think, 'She'll be right mate,'" he said, before noting something that currently isn't right.

Russell spoke of being heartbroken over planned demonstrations against Australia Day, asking a poignant question. "Why are we always looking back and fighting about our past when we have this great opportunity to plan our future?"

He congratulated the new citizens, clearly believing that despite some recent turbulence Australia is still a great choice.

Paproth honoured as Citizen of the Year as locals celebrated



Rotary Club of Wonthaggi Australia Day awardees, from left, back, Brother Daryl Moresco (Ambassador), Rotarian and event coordinator Elio Piasente, Peter Dell (Sports), Marcus Satchell (Business), Mayor Rochelle Halstead, Alan Bolding (Community), Rotary President Leah Montebello, front, Danny Luna (Community), Lisa Sartori (Business), Don Paproth (Citizen of the Year), Barbara Luke (Community) and Robyn Bolding (Community). C01_0425

by performances from singer Deanne Battaglia, which had Mr Luna's grandson boppin' in his seat before the awards were announced.

Community Sports Award recipient Peter Dell was recognised for his outstanding leadership, achievements and commitment to cricket and of particular note, wearing the baggy green cap representing Australia last year.

Barbara Luke received the Community Award as a tireless community worker who has made a significant contribution to the lives of others in the many different committees and organisations she has been a part of.

Community Award recipients Alan and Robyn Bolding were recognised for their life-long

service and commitment to the Wonthaggi community.

Rotarian Bill Street presented Dirty Three Wines owners Lisa Sartori and Marcus Satchell with the Business Award in recognition of the growth and success of a well-known local business.

It was then time for District Foundation Chair Mark Humphries to present the Citizen of the Year Award to Mr Paproth.

Of note, Mr Humphries highlighted Mr Paproth's dedication as Chair of Bass Coast Health for seven years, during which time Bass Coast Health underwent a significant transformation, including one of Mr Paproth's proudest achievements, the creation of the Cancer Centre. Mark also recognised Mr Paproth's early life and passion

for football. Which according to the man himself, made him feel like a bit of a fraud standing on the stage.

"There's four people in the room who know the truth (about my football days). I wasn't very good. As a matter of fact, I was really bad and to be mentioned in the same room as John Walsh is astonishing."

Mr Paproth also noted the transformation of Wonthaggi Hospital was due to Jan Child, not himself, and whilst he couldn't speak more highly of Ms Child, it would be remiss for one to think he didn't contribute significantly through his hard work and dedication to BCH, even if he wasn't claiming it.

Read the full story at sgst.com.au.



Dalyston rounds out Oz Day with a bang

AUSTRALIA Day was rounded out in relaxed style at the Oz Day at Daly event, now in its fifth year, featuring three local bands and musicians, games for the kids, plenty of food and drink catered for by the Dalyston Football Netball Club and of course, the fireworks at night.

And the weather could not have been better with the breeze even moderating as the night got closer, setting up ideal conditions for the fireworks which rounded out a very busy Australia Day across the region.

"There's been a lot on today but this is good. We've had a successful day," said Dalyston FNC Vice President Andy Thomas.

Phillip Island musicians Imogen Price and Mark and Dave of The Times duo book-ended a big performance by newcomers Bass Coast blues-surf outfit Ozone Street which kept revellers entertained on the expansive green Dalyston oval.

Kids' amusements, including Walk on Water, Pop-a-Duck, Laughing Clowns, an old-fashioned shooting gallery and aerial trampolines, absorbed plenty of energy before everyone settled down for the sound and light show that concluded an eventful Australia Day.



There was a big crowd in at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve for Oz Day at Daly.



Phillip Island singer-songwriter Imogen Price kicked the day at Dalyston off in style with an hour-long set of covers and original tunes as the crowd built up.

Diversity and inclusion celebrated at Australia Day in Inverloch

AUSTRALIA Day is a time for all Australians to reflect, respect and celebrate according to Inverloch RSL President Ross Gabb.

Delivering the keynote speech for Australia Day at The Glade Mr Gabb explained what it means to be Australian.

"It is different for everyone," he said.

Mr Gabb acknowledged past and present armed forces personnel who had dedicated their service to the country, some paying the ultimate price protecting Australia.

"There are many challenges," said Mr Gabb.

"We do not agree on everything however, we do work hard, look out for each other and are not afraid to take on the big challenges.

"We are stronger when we listen and learn from each other and recognise and acknowledge our different experiences and different cultures.

"We have all learnt from the many communities across Australia impacted by flood, fire and drought, and how important neighbours are when the chips are down."

Mr Gabb said we continue to learn from each Australia Day honours list about the remarkable breadth of service and the incredible range of backgrounds of the people in our community who go above and beyond, and who inspire.

"Celebrating doesn't mean universal agreement or pretending that everything is perfect," he said.

Mr Gabb said we celebrate the good in our past while acknowledging our past isn't perfect, we celebrate our present and continue to take on the big challenges, and most of all celebrate our future and our potential.

"Australia is not a finished product, but we are a good people," said Mr Gabb.

"We are a clever country and a country to be proud of."



Kellie and Adrian from the Inverloch RSL handed out flags at the Inverloch Farmers Market. B20_0425



Inverloch RSL President Ross Gabb presented the Australia Day address at The Glade. B22_0425



Former President of Woorayl Shire and 25-year member of Inverloch Lions Terry Hall cooks sausages for Australia Day at The Glade. B19_0425



Maddy with MC Russell Mathews.

• GLEN ALVIE

THE Glen Alvie Community celebrated Australia Day at their Community Centre on Sunday. Glen Alvie have long been enthusiastic about celebrating Australia Day and once again the Community support suggests that this event still has the strong support it has enjoyed in the past.

The day started with the flag-raising ceremony with both the Australian along with the Victorian flags being raised by Madeline Stuchbery.

As the flags stretched to their full extent on the breeze the community with strong voices joined together to sing the National Anthem.

The Committee made a conscious decision some time ago to invite guest speakers who had a connection to the area and share their achievements with the Glen Alvie Community. This year it was renowned journalist Madeleine Stuchbery. The Stuchbery family has a very strong connection to the Glen Alvie area, so choosing Madeline was an easy choice.

She has spent the past decade working in journalism, from newspapers such as The Weekly Times and Leader News, to community radio stations and independent lifestyle magazines. In 2023 she was awarded the News Awards prize for investigative journalism for her take on Australian manufacturing issues, and in 2024 was awarded the Rural Press Club of Victoria award for reporting on gender equity in agribusiness.

In 2019, she ventured to China as part of the Melbourne Press Club's journalist exchange, covering topics ranging from trade to geopolitics. She has been fortunate to participate in mentorship programs with industry leaders like Katrina Strickland and Ellena Savage, honing her craft in creative non-fiction and long-form storytelling.

Her passion for audio storytelling led her to programs like Audiocraft, along with training at the Arts Centre Melbourne. She also secured funding to produce radio documentaries broadcast nationwide.

In 2024 she completed her Master of Arts Writing and Literature at Deakin University, with a focus on creative non-fiction and long-form writing.

She is currently a board member with the Rural Press Club Victoria, and is on a number of Melbourne Press Club sub-committees.

A renowned reporter for The Weekly Times, Madeleine told us that she has a focus on commodities, people, food, farming, and country life. She is passionate about closing the gap between the city and the country. She has worked her way up through the ranks beginning her career with our own South Gippsland Sentinel-Times.

Madeleine has already achieved so much in a short period of time and the Glen Alvie community is proud of her along with her achievements, although none was more proud than her mum Jenny.

The day was concluded with a traditional morning tea provided by the Glen Alvie ladies of jam scones with cream, lamingtons, and Anzac biscuits, all enjoyed with the old-fashioned chit chat, what a great way to celebrate our National Day.



Daryl Smith, Malcolm Manks, Bonnie and Donald Ross with purebred Jersey Estelle.



Ron Barnacle and his grey Fergy tractor.

• WOODLEIGH

IT WAS the year of the cow at the Woodleigh Hall Australia Day breakfast. Brookbora Askin Estelle, the 13th purebred Jersey cow owned by the Ross family from Heath Hill took pride of place and was patted, photographed and hand milked "till the cows came home."

Old Woodleigh farmers Will Hunter and Blanche Chambers-Lester spoke of their years milking on family dairy farms, early morning starts and old walk-through sheds.

One hundred locals attended, reminiscing about separators, stock agents and milk cans on the road while enjoying breakfast in the century-old, renovated hall... the last remaining public building in Woodleigh.

Kids played on hay bales and had rides on the Grey Fergy tractor.

The gumboot throw was fiercely contested, and the dusty cricket pitch proved a batsman's nightmare.

Jen hit the bullseye in the archery demonstration and Dave and the crowd sang the National Anthem under the new flagpole.

Lamingtons were served with a cuppa, and the lucky door prize was lamb chops and lamingtons.



• VENUS BAY

The Venus Bay community gathered for the screening of Magic Beach; a newly released film based on Alison Lester's famous book.



Making the magic happen on the day were Leroy, Marcel, Rob, Victor and Marianne. Ns10_0425

Lobsters galore in Kilcunda

THOUSANDS of locals and visitors attended the Kilcunda Lobster Festival which saw all their lobsters sell out.

The event was held on January 26 and featured food trucks, live music, the famous lobster spinning wheel as well as a skate park competition.

And, with the Bass Highway now upgraded along Kilcunda, accessing the festival was made much safer and easier for traffic management.

Kilcunda Community Association president Marcel van den Bronk was overjoyed with the festival's success.

"It's been great to get

involved with the community, the census says the population of Kilcunda is only 300 but we'd have over 100 volunteers here today," he said.

"Some put in a lot of hours and everybody pulls together."

Marcel noted organising this year's event had come together seamlessly, with lots of support from various businesses and organisations.

"It's also a fundraiser for the community association; all the sales go back into the community so we use that to maintain the hall or run other activities throughout the year."



There were some incredible talents for the skate park competition. Ns16_0425



Jodie, Kim, Ben, Kellie, Di and Brad from Venus Bay at the Tarwin Lower duck races. B46_0425



A photo finish in the 2025 Australia Day duck derby.



Michelle Butler from Leongatha at the Australia Day Tarwin Lower duck races. B30_0425

Feathers fly at Tarwin Lower Day duck derby and long table BBQ

FLOATING to a photo finish in the Australia Day duck derby at Tarwin Lower, South Gippsland Shire Deputy Mayor Cr Sarah Gilligan could not be happier handing first prize to two local boys.

Organised by the Tarwin District Auto and Machinery Club, the Australia Day duck derby and long table BBQ was a fundraiser for the Tarwin Sharks Netball Club hopefully to help

build new change rooms.

Auto and Machinery Club President Graham Kennedy said Australia Day duck racing at Tarwin Lower is always a fun event, which just keeps getting bigger each year.

The traditional long-table BBQ lunch on the banks of the Tarwin River provides a perfect setting for the duck racing which starts promptly at 1pm.

"We put the ducks in the water and wait to see who wins," said Mr Kennedy.

No ducks are harmed in the racing with the ducks resembling the bathtub variety.

Two hundred duck punters lined the banks of the Tarwin River for this year's event.

"It's good to see people from the local community out having a good time," said Mr Kennedy.

The Tarwin District Auto and Machinery Club has raised \$40,000 for local charities.

Salads, sausages and burgers at the long table, the chance of picking a winning duck with classic and veteran vehicles on display, what more could you ask for on Australia Day?

You can find the Tarwin District Auto and Machinery Club on Facebook.



Colin Murray and Di Kiddell (Joint Mirboo North Citizens of the Year), pictured with Mary Smeriglio, Rosie Romano, Adele Giardina, Paula Calafiore, and Lorella Calafiore from the Mirboo North Italian Festa Committee, Mirboo North Event of the Year.



Richard Powell raises the Australian flag to commence celebrations of the national day in Meenyan. A16_0425

Australia Day at Mirboo North

MIRBOO Country Development Inc. hosted the Australia Day Event in Mirboo North held at the Baromi Centre at 10.30am.

Joint winners were announced this year for the "Citizen of the Year Award", presented to Dianne (Di) Kiddell and Colin Murray. Both recipients have been tireless volunteers within the community over many years.

Di with her work on the original steering committee

to set up St Andrew's Child Care Centre which opened in 2006 and her efforts in setting up the Community Kitchen which operated over many years in Mirboo North until COVID hit. She continues her work with coordinating the community bus service for the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation and her involvement with the Pastoral Relations Committee of Presbytery of Gippsland.

Colin has committed to serving with the CFA for the last 15 years, not only for the local community but being part of a strike team from Mirboo North travelling to various parts of Victoria during the fire season.

In addition to his work with the CFA, Colin is an active non-uniform volunteer with the Mirboo North Scout Group which he first joined in the 60's. He is responsible for the Scout Hall maintenance,

attends Cuboree Camps and offers a helping hand with the Scout's BBQs, and works with the youth within the group.

Mirboo North Italian Festa won the Event of the Year.

Brian McDermott and Tony Ebeyer from the Mirboo North CFA were guest speakers at the event where they recognised the value of volunteers to the CFA. Morning tea was served after the announcements, provided by the Mirboo North Cricket Club.

• MEENIYAN

AUSTRALIA Day brought South Gippslanders together in celebration at Meenyan Town Hall on Sunday morning.

The Australian flag was raised at the cenotaph before proceedings commenced inside where the positive mood was set by a stirring rendition of 'Advance Australia Fair' performed by the Black Notes, local identity Tarnya Wilson the singer.

Six community members became Australian Citizens, hearing from Member for Monash Russell Broadbent on his pride in the nation and from local Avril van Wamel about her experience since arriving as a 10 Pound Pom 60 years ago.

Avril, who contributes to the community through her voluntary efforts with the Meenyan Progress Association, the local art gallery, bowls club and op shop and the Red Cross, said the country of your birth is your heritage, but Australia is the country that brings us all together.

She recalled arriving with notions of Aussies being sheep farmers, life savers or good-looking tennis players, knowing a little of Aboriginal people but not their history or struggles.

Avril spoke of her family link to Australia, her father having helped load the components of Captain Cook's Cottage onto a ship in Hull for its journey to Melbourne.

While it took her time to get used to Australian quirks such as adding a 'y' to the end of many words and the strange game of Aussie Rules, Avril ultimately became an Australian citizen in 1976.

"We are living in the best country in the world, and I really believe we are living in the best part of it," she told Sunday's audience.

South Gippsland Shire Council Citizen of the Year Ian Rasmussen spoke, getting emotional when he acknowledged wife Dawn, crediting her fantastic support for enabling him to achieve what he has.

Tarnya Wilson and June Powell represented all who helped get the 40th anniversary celebration of Meenyan Tavern Nights together, the occasion being the shire's Event of the Year.

Young Citizen of the Year, Charlotte 'Charli' Ogden was also acknowledged although unable to be present, all the awards having been presented at a ceremony earlier in the month.

People joined the Black Notes in singing 'We Are Australian', the group having performed 'I Still Call Australia Home' and 'Waltzing Matilda'.

With formalities complete, attendees moved outside, chatting and enjoying the hospitality of the local fire brigade and CWA.



Jim Inness of Rhyll rolled out his beloved 1953 Ford Crestline Victoria V8 for the 'Gathering of Neighbours' on Australia Day at Rhyll.



There was no mistaking Robert Pascoe's support for the Australia Day event at Rhyll on Sunday, enjoying the music by band Split Shot with Christine Pascoe and Pam Phillips.

Aussie colours flying at Rhyll gathering

THERE was no flag raising, no singing of the national anthem and no community awards but there was no mistaking the fact that the 'Gathering of Neighbours' at Rhyll on Sunday was an Australia Day celebration all the same.

The Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo had the Aussie flag flying proudly at their free sausage sizzle tent and there were plenty of Aussie-theme t-shirts, flags, hats and other nods to our

national day as the people streamed in to hear music, stop off at the food trucks, get their face painted or inspect the line-up of historic cars.

Here too there was a salute to Australianiana with a classic FJ Holden, an old HR sedan and a Sandman panel van among the historic and luxury cars on display.

Jim Inness of Rhyll rolled out his fully imported 1953 Ford Crestline Victoria for

the event, a two-door cruiser with a 239 cubic inch V8.

"It's a three-speed V8 with overdrive so it just purrs, even today, when you're sitting on a 100km/h. You've got to be able to enjoy life," he said.

One of the organisers Judy Lawrence was delighted with the turnout.

"It's been a fabulous day with a relaxed vibe, an opportunity for the community to get together with an open

invite to visitors as well," she said.

"They've enjoyed the music, the kids' activities and of course, the free sausage sizzle."

Sponsored by the National Australia Day Council, the event which is the third community get-together at Rhyll on Australia Day, was organised by the Phillip Island and District Historical Society and the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo.



Prue Fleming was presented with her award by Danny O'Brien and Dr Laurie Wharfe.

• CORNER INLET

OVER 100 people enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment, afternoon tea and recognition of voluntary service to the Corner Inlet Community in Foster on Australia Day. Hosted by the Foster & District Historical Society and sponsored by Foster Foodworks. Fresh fruit and two lamington cakes were just part of the Aussie Day fare which was different due to the service clubs being involved in the Foster Craft market during the morning.

Danny O'Brien attended the event and presented the Community Event of the Year award to Nola Taylor and Meg Rogers, alongside Dr Laurie Wharfe. Prue Fleming was also presented with an award. Prue has been a member of this society for over 40 years and a very active volunteer on her retirement. She has been involved with many projects at the Museum; setting up exhibitions, digitisation workshops, working bees, plus regular duty of the front desk to welcome visitors to the town, imparting the history of Foster and helping with enquiries from descendants.

The Foster & District Historical Society, Foster and Toora/Welshpool RSLs, in conjunction with the Cemetery Trusts of the Foster, Toora and Welshpool cemeteries commemorate and recognise the sacrifice made by local people who have served their country in conflicts. Each year, a week prior to ANZAC day, flags are placed on the graves of those interred in the local cemeteries. There are now 480 flags placed across the three cemeteries with 2025 marking the eighth year.

• POUND CREEK

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Brass Band played all the traditional favourites with gusto at the 45th annual Australia Day celebrations at the Pound Creek fire station with good reason. Accepting her life membership after thirty years with the band was Principal Horn Stacey Sargent and her three children Aria, Isabelle and Patrick.

Conductor and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music freshman Noah Robertson led the band with 'I Still Call Australia Home', 'Waltzing Matilda' and, of course, the National Anthem during the flag-raising ceremony.

Pound Creek Brigade Captain Ivan Smith acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land and paid respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

"We live our values, work as a team with integrity and respect those around us," said Mr Smith.

"Brigade members today are from diverse backgrounds, but we have survived and prospered because of the generous support from all community members," said Mr Smith.

Guest speaker for Australia Day was Dr Terrence Shannon OAM.

An employee of American multinational Mars Inc., Dr Shannon said he was often mistaken for an American.

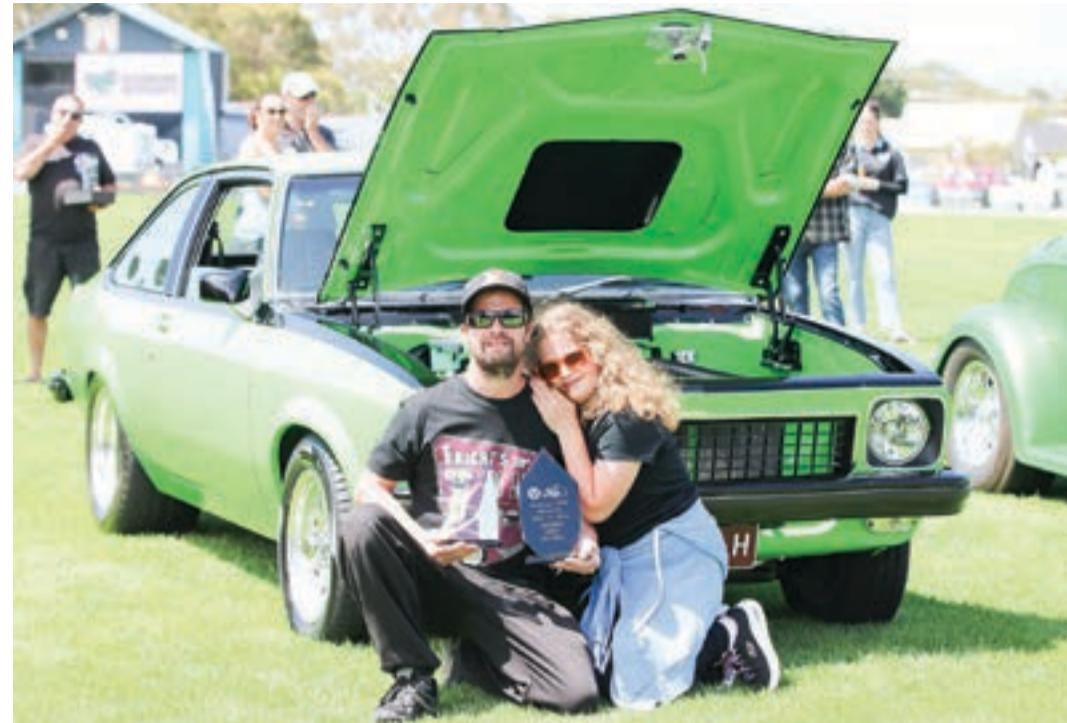
"No, I'm not American," he would say. "I am an Australian."

Dr Shannon recalled the horror of Ash Wednesday.

"I was invited to Los Angeles after Ash Wednesday to meet the L.A. firefighting teams. They donated a day's pay to the families of Victorian firefighters who lost their lives in the Ash Wednesday fires."

Dr Shannon also prepared three poems for Pound Creek including 'My Country', rewritten by Dr Shannon as 'My Pound Creek' and 'I Don't Care' by Jon Yttri.

Classics shine at Wonthaggi Rec



Tim of Cowes, pictured with Emma, won the Best Engine Bay and President's Choice for his 1978 Torana A9X. C15_0425



Best Pre-1950 Vintage went to the Ford Fairlane Victoria owned by Karl of Inverloch. C16_0425

Community members assemble at Coleman Park



Russell Broadbent, Cr Bron Beach, Jenni Kerrie, John Davies, Terry Kelly, MP Melina Bath, Noelene Cosson, Shirley Cowling, and Cr Nathan Hersey at Coleman Park on Australia Day.

I came from the dreamtime from the dusty red soil plains

I am, the ancient heart, the keeper of the flame

I stood upon the rocky shores I watched the tall ships come For 40 thousand years I'd been the 1st Australian

I came upon the prison ship bowed down by iron chains

I cleared the land, endured the lash and waited for the rains

I'm a settler

I'm a farmer's wife on a dry and barren run

A convict, then a free man,

I became Australian.

Jenni then went on to read

the 1908 Poem by Dorthea Mackellar – Core of the Heart/ My Country.

Cr Bron Beach spoke on the contribution of Korumburra's South Gippsland Citizen of The Year nominee, John Davies and his impact on the community. John mentioned he was born in England and came to Australia almost 50 years ago – initially staying three years. When the three years was up, he returned "home" for a short period after missing England, but before long, John wanted to return to his newfound home in Australia.

The crowd then enjoyed music, singing and banter from Terry Lay and Christine Ross whilst indulging in the Lions Club sausages, Koringal ladies various Australian-shaped biscuits and Kelly's Bakery lamingtons; all of which were well received.

Simonne the face painter was kept busy creating some lovely faces on the children and the Italian Social Club was on hand to show the crowd how to play bocce.

All in all, a very socially enjoyable two hours in beautiful weather at Coleman Park.

Korumburra Stamp Fair

A WIDE selection of stamps, coins and some cards will be on display and for purchase at the upcoming Korumburra Stamp Club's Annual Fair.

The fair is being held on Saturday, February 8 at the Anglican Hall in Bridge Street Korumburra between 9am and 3pm.

A number of local and city dealers will be set up across about 22 tables with a wide range of semi-unique and semi-rare stamps to browse.

"Most of what they will bring is what I'd call intermediate stamps, ranging in price from a few cents through to \$400 or \$500," explained Korumburra Stamp Club President Peter Treadwell.

"A lot of people, a lot of the collectors around will be looking to complete sets."

Peter explains that stamp sets can range from countries to themes that are literally unlimited and when countries put out postage stamps there are a lot of different themes, and if you can think of it, there will be a stamp for it.

With 70 years of collecting under his belt, Peter has over 50 books full of stamps, each its own collection.

The most serious of these is that of one stamp Peter has collected from every country and agency that have put them out for postal use and he has a good national collection too.

"I have at least one copy of every stamp that Australia has purchased, with the exception of the states. I have a couple of collections of the states, but nothing that is anywhere near complete, like I have Australia and I stopped collecting Australia in 2022," explained Peter.

"It's just gotten too expensive."

There will be the opportunity for coin collectors to acquire the odd coin or three to add to their collections as well.

There are four other stamp clubs in the region and the fair is also a chance for members to catch up with those in clubs from the Latrobe Valley, Warragul, Bairnsdale and Andersons Inlet.

This March, Andersons Inlet Stamp Club will be holding their fair on Saturday, March 8 in the Uniting Church on William Street.

Free evaluations and advice are available at the fair and entry is also free.

Inverloch welcomes Roger Clark Quartet

INVERLOCH Jazz Club are excited about starting the year with one of the Inverloch Jazz Festival's favourite groups. The performance will be at the Inverloch RSL from 2pm - 4.30pm on February 2.

Roger Clark has been entertaining us on saxophone for the last 30 years and will be accompanied by his son, Rory on piano, Mike Zuitenis on bass and the legendary singing drummer, Larry Kean.

We have had the pleasure of seeing these musicians in a number of bands of different formats at jazz festivals from Merimbula to Port Fairy.

As part of the vibrant Melbourne scene, Roger ran the highly successful "Dizzys Jazz Club" in Richmond. This certainly played an important part in Rory's love of music and resulted in him producing several solo CDs.

The style of music will be a variety of mainstream jazz standards with some modern and Latin in the mix and vocals by Rory and Larry.

This will be a great afternoon of entertainment.

Visitors welcome \$18. Cash only. Enquiries Marg 0438 420 770.

Bharathanatyam meets Ballet – A fusion of two timeless traditions

AS A dancer, and a choreographer, in every performance a story is told, and in the interest of blending ballet and Bharathanatyam, Deepa Mani and Sheena Chundee are sharing their project, TOUCH, which first premiered in 2023, addressing themes of isolation, prejudice, and racism.

Deepa, trained in Bharathanatyam and contemporary dance, and Sheena, a former Royal Ballet ballerina, first met in person in 2018 after Deepa was fascinated to hear of a woman of colour train with The Royal Ballet School.

"I initially thought this was quite contrary to what we've seen in the ages, with only Caucasians actually going through this kind of training," said Deepa.

"It sparked an idea of collaboration between Bharathanatyam and ballet, and it was at this point that I realised that there were a lot of differences, but there were a lot of similarities."

Sheena said during their first face-to-face meeting, the two spoke of their traditional upbringings in terms of dance, and then the actual aesthetics of training, the steps being similar, and the movement and use of the body versus how that fits into society, and what society expects to see from two dancers that look a certain way.

TOUCH is a powerful blend of classical dance forms, two women from vastly different backgrounds, creating this groundbreaking performance that invites the audience into an evolving conversation about cultural inclusivity in the arts.

Throughout TOUCH, Deepa and Sheena share the stage with Jasmine Lim and together they want the younger generation to understand the unconscious



Deepa and Sheena in TOUCH; a powerful fusion of Bharathanatyam and Ballet.

biases that shape their perceptions of dance.

"I think it was very important to start showcasing Bharathanatyam, which is looked at as a very traditional form," Deepa explained.

"Merging with ballet, we can show the contemporary nature of the art form coming through across both genres."

For Deepa, the idea of merging Bharathanatyam with ballet speaks to her own experience as an artist. Her training began in India and continued evolving in the United States, where her contemporary journey started back in 2005.

"And I've been collaborating with artists ever since," she said.

Sheena's background in the Royal Ballet's competitive environment accentuates the personal histories that fuel the work. Both artists are deeply committed to dismantling stereotypes within the dance world

and demonstrating that these genres can coexist, celebrate diversity, and tell powerful stories together.

Sheena's own path, from a young ballet student in London to a professional with the Royal Ballet and eventually founding her own arts organisation, Rebel Stepz Arts, in Malvern, is a testament to her desire to create spaces for diversity in the arts. Her work with Rebel Stepz Arts has expanded across Australia, offering arts programs that promote inclusivity.

While Deepa's own studio Chandralaya School of Dance teaches Bharathanatyam and contemporary dance. Their collaboration in TOUCH acts as a physical manifestation of these values, using the stage as a bridge for conversation about race, identity, and acceptance.

"I think this is quite powerful for anybody practising or observing," said Deepa.

By fusing these two rich art forms, TOUCH challenges conventional thinking in the world of dance, encouraging audiences to see beyond the surface and consider the stories that dance can tell — stories that are inclusive, diverse, and transformative.

The performance proves that art has the power to transcend boundaries, bringing people from all backgrounds together through a shared language of movement.

After presenting their story at Showcase Victoria, both Deepa and Sheena were humbled to hear that there was space for their work within the regional venues, where they could share their story with the wider community.

TOUCH will showcase at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre on Saturday, February 22 and at the Forge Theatre in East Gippsland on Sunday, February 23.

Lucy Farrell, Hat Fitz and Cara to star at Small Halls 2025



High-energy husband and wife duo Hat Fitz and Cara. Fitzy's weathered vocals and soaring, blues-soaked guitar combined with Cara's pounding drums and soulful voice show both of these multi-instrumentalists at the peak of their creative power.

bewitching clarity; Kent-born, Canada-based Lucy Farrell's voice is made elegant with sparse, careful accompaniment on tenor guitar and occasionally viola, carving out a unique niche for an artist at the forefront of contemporary English folk music.

Immersed in folk culture and traditions from birth via her Morris-dancing

Wenlock Abbey was released through Hudson Records in April 2023.

All while high-energy duo Hat Fitz and Cara are among Australia's most talented roots music artists. The husband-and-wife team have clocked up 14 years of worldwide touring, festival performances and album releases from their base of operations in the hinterland of South East Queensland's Sunshine Coast and are showing no signs of slowing down.

While the singer/songwriters are both multi-instrumentalists, it's Fitzy's weathered vocals and soaring blues-soaked guitar combined with Cara's pounding drums and soulful voice that show them at the peak of their creative power.

Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2025 starts on March 5 at the Ballan Neighbourhood Centre, before heading to Port Fairy Folk Festival and 16 other communities across Victoria, including Tarwin Lower on March 28, followed by Mirboo North on March 29. Tickets on sale now at festivalofsmallhalls.com.

Engines rev into Lang Lang next month

FOR over a decade, the second Sunday of February has seen Lang Lang's quiet streets roar to life with the unmistakable hum of engines and the gleam of polished chrome at the Lang Lang Show 'n' Shine and Swap Meet.

Held at the recreation reserve, this annual motoring extravaganza draws gearheads and enthusiasts alike.

What began as a humble car show organised by the local Rotary club has shifted gears over the years. Now, it not only features dazzling displays of classic cars but also includes an active Swap Meet where enthusiasts can haggle over hard-to-find parts, and, for a dash of extra adrenaline, racing events for souped-up lawnmowers.

The centrepiece of the event remains the judged car competition, limited to around 100 vehicles vying across 12 categories. From vintage beauties to high-performance muscle, these cars bring both style and horsepower to the field.

Judging categories this year include: People's Choice Award, Classic 1900-1948, Custom 1900-1948, Classic 1949-1966, Custom 1949-



Shiny classics and spectacular engines – Lang Lang Show 'n' Shine will not disappoint.

1966, Classic 1967-1984, Custom 1967-1984, Classic 1985-2002, Custom 1985-2002, Classic 2003-Current, Custom 2003-Current and Car Club Award.

Entrants come from far and wide, with the farthest trophy winner to date making the trip all the way from northern Victoria. For those who don't compete, the oval will still be packed with a stunning showcase of classic cars for every taste.

Meanwhile, over at the dirt track, lawnmower racing has become an unmissable spectacle.

Don't let the humble exterior of these machines fool you – beneath the hood, these racers pack serious power.

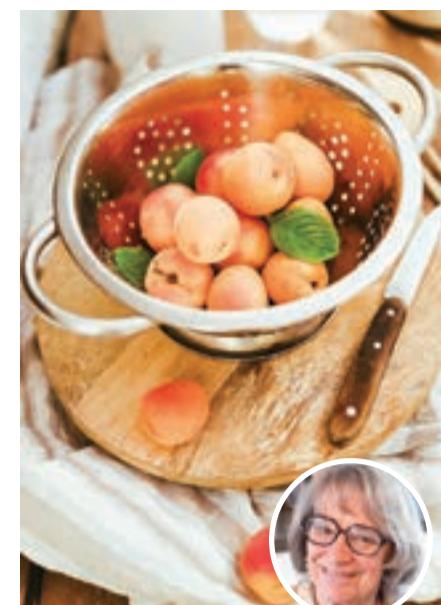
Stripped of their cutting blades and transformed with custom-built chassis and motorbike engines up to 450cc, these modified beasts are made for speed and are far from an old Rover Rancher. Drivers range from six-year-olds to retirees in their seventies, with many families sharing their mean machines over the course of the day.

The action kicks off early, with the reserve on the corner

of Westernport Highway and McDonalds Track opening at 6am for eager Swap Meet attendees and 7am for Show Car arrivals.

Whether you're hunting for a rare part, marvelling at immaculate restorations, or soaking up the thrills of racing, there's something for every petrolhead on Sunday, February 9.

Light refreshments will be available throughout the day, and all proceeds go to support Rotary projects. So, mark your calendar and get ready to rev your engines – Lang Lang is calling!



Nectarine or Apricot Chutney

By Meg Viney

NOT too sweet and utterly delicious on cold meat, cheeses or with curries.

This is the time of year when excess fruit needs to be used, and slightly bruised fruit are fine if you cut off the bruised parts.

For one kilogram you will need:

- 1 kg apricots or nectarines
- 1 cup sultanas
- ½ cup preserved lemon (can use fresh lemon peel, chopped)
- 1 cup cider vinegar
- ½ cup sugar
- some garlic if you like – 1 to 2 cloves, crushed
- 6 chillies or 1 ½ tsp finely chopped from a jar
- 1 ½ tsp cumin
- 1 tsp cardamom
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 cup water

Method

In a large heavy pot, chop the fruit roughly off the stone.

Add the remaining ingredients and cook covered over a low heat for an hour or until tender.

Raise the heat to medium and cook until thickened, stirring occasionally so it does not stick.

Decant into clean, warm jars and place the lids on immediately.

They will pop down to seal as they cool and can be kept in the pantry.

Refrigerate once opened.

• Photo: Kate Laine, Unsplash.

Southern Sons 2025 tour due to hit Wonthaggi

SOUTHERN Sons, the iconic band from the 1990s are returning to their roots and revisiting the songs that kickstarted their music careers, bringing music lovers a nostalgic journey through their timeless hits.

As part of their 35th Anniversary Tour, original members Jack Jones, Geoff Cain, and Peter 'Reggie' Bowman will come together to deliver an unforgettable experience, featuring chart-topping classics that include "Hold Me In Your Arms", "Heart in Danger," "Always & Ever" and many more. Hitting Wonthaggi on Saturday, February 8.

Lead vocalist Jack Jones expresses his excitement, saying, "I'm proud of everything I've done, but Southern Sons is where it all started for me. The band represents a remarkable time in my life."

Southern Sons' debut self-titled album received an ARIA nomination and soared to the top of the charts, captivating

audiences with hits like "Heart in Danger," "Hold Me In Your Arms," "Always and Ever," and "Waiting For That Train."

The release of their first single, "Heart in Danger," in 1990 solidified their position as a formidable force in the music scene, dominating charts for years to come.

Their 1992 album, "Nothing But The Truth," continued their streak of success, featuring singles such as "Lead Me To Water" and "You Were There."

Additionally, three Southern Sons tracks were included in the acclaimed 1993 Sydney Dance Company production of "Beauty & The Beast."

The band's third and final studio album, "Zone," released in 1996, showcased a guest appearance by Men At Work's Colin Hay on the lead single, "Don't Tell Me What's Right."

Tickets are now on sale for all shows via southernsonsofficial.com.au/#tour-dates.



Australian rock icons Southern Sons are back on the road, hitting Wonthaggi on Saturday, February 8.

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

Lang Lang Show N' Shine
and Swap Meet

Sunday, February 9, 2025 @ the Lang Lang Showgrounds

Gates open Public - 7am Entrants - 6am

KIDS RIDES & ATTRACTIONS
LAWN MOWER RACING

FREE ON-SITE PARKING

Public Entry \$10 per person
(Children under 16 Free)

Entrants: \$10 per person
Entrants (Judged): \$15 per car incl. Driver
For More information. 0429 199 643

Swap meet stalls: \$25
includes insurance (6mt x 6mt site approx)

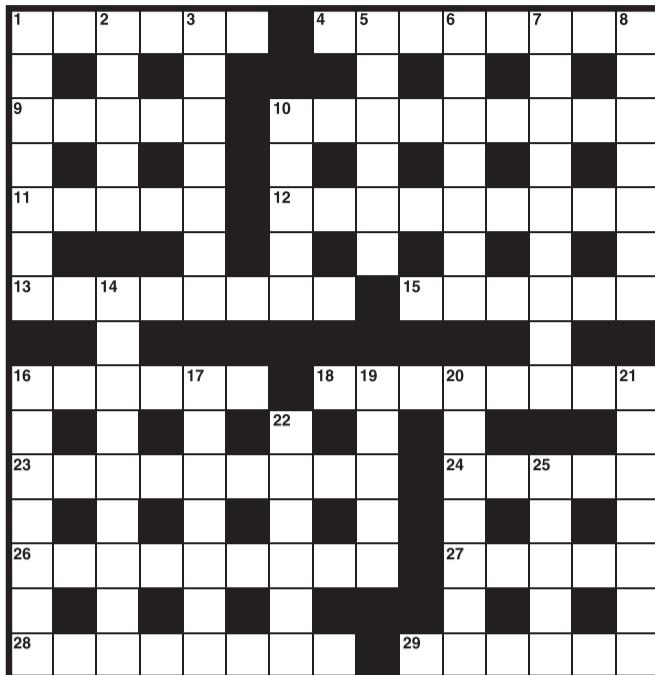
Trade stalls: from \$40
see website for details

BURSON AUTO PARTS
SHANNONS

More info at: www.langlangshowshine.com



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Australian tree that bears yellow flowers (6)
4. Not representative of a type or group (8)
9. Notions (5)
10. Destined (9)

11. Zest (5)
12. Offering (9)
13. Dodge (8)
15. Resident doctor (6)
16. Oppose (6)
18. Omission represented by three periods (8)

9-LETTER

No. 265

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

Today's Aim:

8 words: Good

12 words: Very good

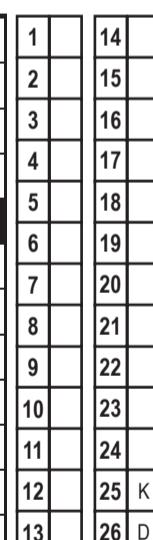
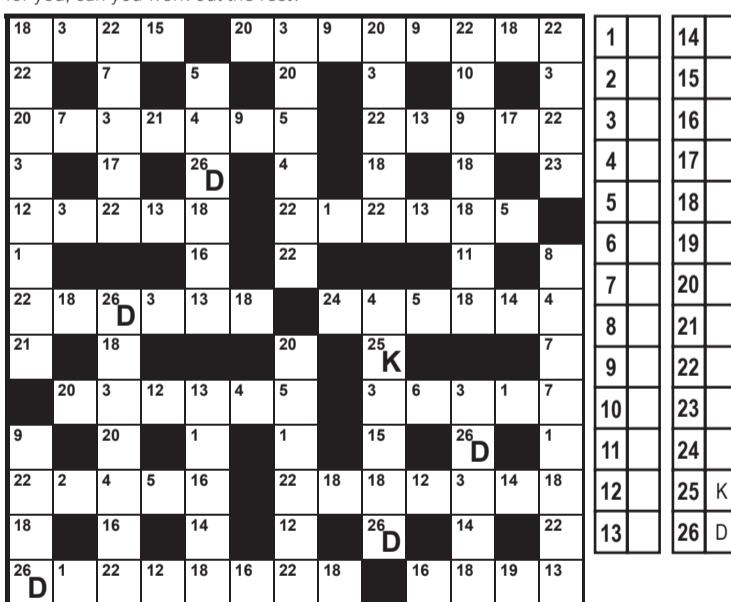
17 words: Excellent



CODEWORD

No. 255

Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



QUICK QUIZ

- The prancing horse is the logo for which prestige car company?
- Brass is an alloy of which two metals?
- Who wrote the classic children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*?
- Name the British monarch that abdicated from the throne in 1936.
- Christoph Waltz (pictured) won an Oscar for his portrayal of Dr. King Schultz in which 2012 film?
- Which Dutch artist painted *The Night Watch*?
- Is Mavis Staples a famous a) basketball player, b) singer or c) cinematographer?
- Phoenix dactylifera is a palm species that produces which fruit?
- In the title of the television series, what does the acronym *M*A*S*H* stand for?
- Who is the major hero of the Irish Ulster Cycle mythology?



ANSWERS: 1. Ferrari; 2. Copper and zinc; 3. Eric Carle; 4. Edward VIII; 5. Dangan Unchained; 6. Rembrandt van Rijn; 7. singer; 8. Dates; 9. Mobile Army Surgical Hospital; 10. Christopher Lee; 11. Gulliver; 12. King Kong; 13. Gremlins; 14. Jason; 15. Tar Man; 16. Sith; 17. Star Wars; 18. Star Trek; 19. Star Wars; 20. Star Trek; 21. Star Trek; 22. Star Trek; 23. Star Trek; 24. Star Trek; 25. Star Trek; 26. Star Trek.

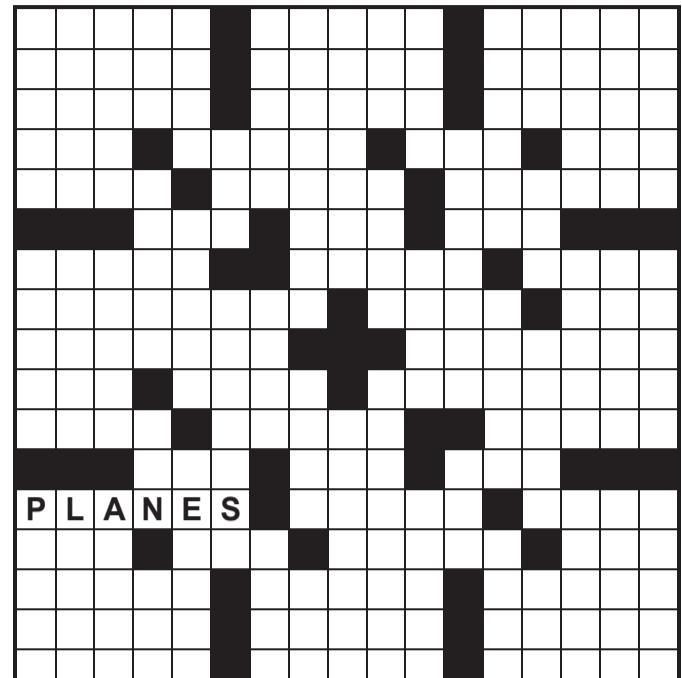
No. 265

WORDFIT

3 LETTERS REST
AID
BUN
EEL
EGG
END
ERA
ERR
IRE
ORE
POT
RAT
RPM
SEE
SKY
TEA
TEE
TIN
TOE
URN
USE
UTE
WAY
WED
YAM

5 LETTERS

ADORE
ALLAY
ALONE
ALOUD
ARENA
ARISE
ARROW
ATONE
BANGS
BEANS
BERET
BONDS
CANOE
DOTES
ERRED
ERROR
ETHER
HERON
IMAGE
IRONS
DESK
EARL
EBBS
ENDS
ERRS
GAME
IDEA
NAVY
RACE



4 LETTERS

KYLIE
LEADS
LEAVE
LEPER
LIBEL
LITHE
OGRES
PALES
RACE

7 LETTERS

PLACE
PREEN
RABBI
RATED
SEEDS
SHELL
SIGNS
SLIDE
SMUTS
SPATE
STEMS
STOWS
PASTS

SOLUTION

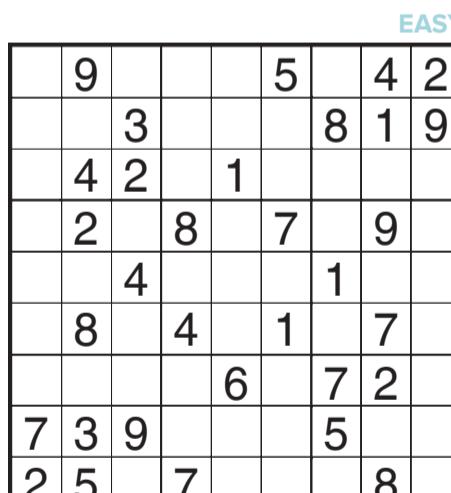
8 LETTERS

ARREARS
EMANATES
PERILOUS
REPRIEVE
RETURNED
PANACEA
TEREST
LAWYER
NEWEST
PLANES
REUSES
SWEET

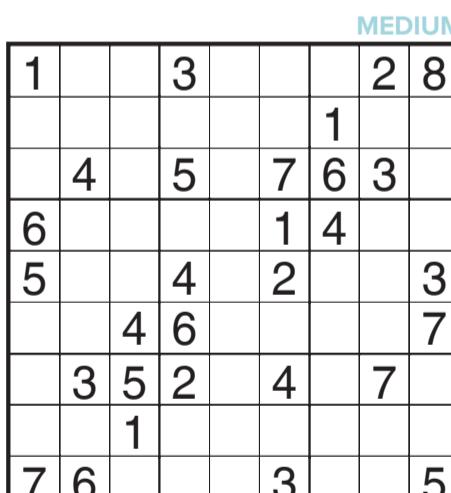
SUDOKU

No. 264

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 3x3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

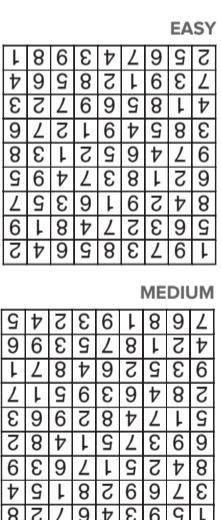


EASY



2401 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



WORD SEARCH

No. 175



Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

ALIEN	GNOMES	MINOTAUR
BANE	GOBLINS	MUMMY
BASILISK	GREMLIN	NESSIE
CENTAUR	GROVER	SITH
CHAMP	HYDRA	TALOS
CHIMERA	JASON	TAR MAN
DEMON	JAWS	THE BLOB
ELMO	KELPIE	THE FLY
FRANKENSTEIN	KING KONG	TROLLS
GHOSTS	LEPRECHAUN	WOLFMAN
GOHUL	MEGALODON	YETI

SECRET MESSAGE: Something evil and deadly lurks in the dark



Your country escape on small acreage

WELCOME to Minbalup, a stunning country retreat nestled on approximately 4.5 acres of beautiful land, just a five-minute drive from the town centre of Leongatha.

This thoughtfully designed home, created by the owner, showcases exceptional craftsmanship with stone hand-picked from Castlemaine. As you approach the property, you are greeted by an impressive entry defined by stone pillars and large wire gates, leading you down a palm-lined driveway that sets the tone for the tranquillity that awaits.

Step inside to discover a spacious open-plan living area that seamlessly combines the kitchen, dining, and living spaces, bathed in natural light thanks to the large picture windows that frame breathtaking views of the front paddock. This picturesque setting features a charming dam decorated with waterlilies, complemented by a bridge and jetty that enhance the peaceful environment.

In the heart of the home, the kitchen features elegant Blackwood timber cabinetry, a dark stone bench, electric cooking, ample bench space, and a roomy walk-in pantry for all your culinary needs. The outdoor entertaining

area which adjoins the dining space beckons for gatherings with family and friends, providing the perfect space for al fresco dining overlooking the backyard.

This well-appointed home boasts a formal entry that leads to three generous bedrooms plus a study or fourth bedroom, which includes a master suite complete with a walk-in robe and ensuite. Each bedroom is fitted with built-in robes and carpet, while the rest of the home showcases polished floorboards for easy maintenance.

Additional highlights of the property:

- Reverse cycle air conditioning in the living room ensures year-round comfort.
- A family bathroom featuring a bath, vanity and corner shower accommodating family needs.
- An office or fourth bedroom offering versatility for growing families or those working from home.
- Convenience of an electric hot water service and NBN connectivity.

Outside, the property is a true paradise for nature lovers and those seeking privacy. With separately fenced paddocks, a chook run, a greenhouse, and established

fruit trees, there's plenty of space for kids and pets to roam freely. The expansive grounds are perfect for gardening enthusiasts and provide a peaceful escape. Parking is abundant with a four-car carport attached to the house and a massive lock-up shed, catering to all your storage needs. A water tank and solar panels enhance the property's sustainability.

Minbalup is not just a home; it's a lifestyle. Ideal for growing families, downsizers from larger properties and/or farms, or anyone looking to escape to the countryside without sacrificing proximity to town amenities. For more information and to arrange a private inspection, please contact the friendly Alex Scott & Staff sales team today.

4 2 6 1.85ha

233 Racecourse Road,
Leongatha South
For Sale \$1,150,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

87 Shingler Road, Inverloch

For Sale:
\$1.4 million, offers invited

- 6.3 acres • Atrium style residence
- Elevated location, magnificent water views
- Shedding and carport, well fenced
- "Off grid" solar and batteries with backup generator
- Natural bush and easy to maintain garden

Inspection strictly appointment only



Phelan & Henderson & Co

For further information contact Simon Henderson 0428 740 750

Shifting trends in regional Victoria's real estate market

THE real estate market in regional Victoria has gone through a period of substantial change, with significant price fluctuations and evolving buyer behaviour.

Between 2020 and late 2023, house prices surged by as much as 35-40 per cent in many regional areas. However, by November 2023, the market began to soften, resulting in a price correction of 10-15 per cent.

Andrew Newton, Branch Manager and Licensed Estate Agent of Alex Scott & Staff said overall, house prices have still risen around 25 per cent since the pandemic began.

Despite this price correction, buyer activity has remained relatively steady, with a noticeable uptick in turnover beginning in August 2024.

"It is still moving along ok in the 'median' priced residential properties and quality dairy/beef farms," said Andrew.

"The main factor holding buyers back has been the uncertainty in interest rates, hopefully, we see some relief in that in the coming three to six months which will help in turnover."

While the recent softening of prices might seem like a potential opportunity for first-time buyers, challenges persist. The dream of owning a new house or land package remains elusive for many, especially as interest rates continue to rise. That said, there are still affordable options for those willing to consider properties below the median price.

"There are still some great opportunities out there for first-home buyers if they are prepared to buy within their means. We have a few homes that are \$100,000 - \$150,000 below the median price that are struggling to get interest, so they are out there!"

As the market adjusts, properties priced between \$450,000 and \$595,000 are seeing heightened interest. Additionally, properties above this price range, when reasonably priced, are also attracting buyers. This suggests that while there is some resistance to higher-priced properties, well-priced homes in certain segments are still in demand.

68 Barry Road, Agnes

Auction:
Sat, Feb. 8 at 10.30am onsite

166 acres (approx.)
of lush river flats

- 2 Titles
- Long frontage to Agnes River
- Steel cattle yards, race and crush
- 5 paddocks, central lane
- Heavy soils, ideal for fattening cattle
- Town water connected



Phelan & Henderson & Co

For further information contact Simon Henderson 0428 740 750



2 | 1 | 2 52ha

130 Coulters Road, **Mardan**
For Sale \$1,720,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
 Irene Walker 0429 045 632

Prime breeding/fattening haven

A HIGHLY productive rural property, set in the renowned blue-gum grazing country of South Gippsland is on offer through SEJ. A property providing water security with natural springs combining to form the 'Toomeys Creek', that meanders through the valley.

The undulating heavy carrying hill country of approximately 130 acres with its neat cottage home, shedding and stock yards surrounded by established blue-gums, oaks, golden elms, and peppercorn trees, makes for a soulful and highly productive grazing property in a tightly held and secure high rainfall region.

Features of the property include:

- Total land area: 52.65 hectares* (130 acres*) on one title
- Updated fully appointed two-bedroom weatherboard cottage
- Natural springs through two sections of the property, providing permanent year-round water.
- In addition to the springs and dams, there are stock troughs and reliable 1025mm (40inch) annual rainfall.
- Excellent support infrastructure including machinery shedding, hay, workshop, sundry shedding and heavy-duty cattle yards
- Fenced into 14 paddocks

including stock lane for ease of stock management.

- Highly productive grey and red soil profiles
- Consistent fertiliser history and weed control a priority making for clean and productive pastures.
- Excellent tree shelter including stands of the magnificent local blue-gums
- This property has provided the vendors with many years of productive enjoyment, fattening cattle, providing a great lifestyle balance into retirement.
- Now is the time to hand the baton over for an opportunity for the next custodian to enjoy these highly productive, peaceful pastured paddocks, here in Mardan, South Gippsland.

Ideally located just 15 minutes to Leongatha, for all your shopping needs, 20 minutes to the premiere selling centre - Victorian Livestock exchange at Koonwarra or 12 minutes to Mirboo North and 40 minutes into the Latrobe Valley/Traralgon and two hours to Melbourne CBD*.

For further information and to arrange a personal inspection, please contact Irene Walker at SEJ Real Estate 0429 045 632.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligence-checklist

*Denotes approximately



Your local
 Real Estate &
 Livestock Specialists
www.sej.com.au

ANDREA ADAMS
 0429 822 801
aadams@sej.com.au
 FOSTER
 Ph 5682 2800



IRENE WALKER
 0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au
 LEONGATHA
 Ph 5662 4033



FOSTER



- Luxury residence, aprx. 2.47 acres
- 8 minutes to Foster township
- Fenced paddock for stock or pony
- Double auto garage, additional workshop

\$1,185,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA SOUTH



- Experience the best of Coast & Country living on 27 HA/ 68 AC (approx.)
- Situated just 15 min. from Leongatha & the beaches of Inverloch
- Exceptionally built 3 bed, 2 bath, open plan living, second living & sunroom
- 9ft ceilings, double glazed windows, solar, spotted gum hardwood floors
- Excellent shedding, spring fed dam (s) well fenced, stock yards

\$1,650,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

AGNES



- Updated home on aprx. 23 acres
- Views over countryside to Prom
- 4 BRs, 2 modern bathrooms
- Fenced paddocks, ample shedding, disused dairy

\$885,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FOSTER



- Home, commercial kitchen, shop, sheds & more!
- Renovated and extended residence
- Views to Corner Inlet and the Prom
- 5 acres approx.- fenced paddocks

\$790,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FISH CREEK



- Walk to primary school and shops, set on 1843m² block with views
- Open plan, modern kitchen, butler's pantry, entertaining deck
- 5 fitted bedrooms, including master with W.I.R & ensuite
- Downstairs workshop, storage or studio space & est. gardens

\$885,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

SANDY POINT



- Fully fenced block approx. 1075m²
- BBQ area, lush garden setting
- 3 fitted bedrooms, master with WIR & powder room
- Garage with kitchenette and bath

\$860,000-910,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



Your very own private dual living bush retreat

SITUATED on approximately 2.5 acres and surrounded by bush is this gorgeous builder's own home, which has been designed to fit right in with the surrounding landscape. A lovely cottage also exists, giving you dual living, family visits or a great Airbnb opportunity (STCA). In addition is an extremely rare share ownership of approximately 22 acres of bush reserve which is also included with the property.

The main house has three bedrooms and the master bedroom consists of an ensuite, walk-in robe and access to the private deck. Enjoy the tranquil views every morning!

The other two bedrooms have built-in robes. The spacious main bathroom has a bath, shower, vanity and toilet.

The generous kitchen has a gorgeous red gum bench top, electric oven, gas cooktop, dishwasher and walk-in pantry. The kitchen adjoins the open plan living area with a feature wall crafted from Morwell River rocks. You will be comfortable all year round with a wood heater and split system reverse cycle.

The secluded bush surrounds can be enjoyed on the large deck that is partially undercover, this area is perfect for entertaining. Shedding includes studio/office with full bathroom facilities and a workshop. Other shedding comprises of a pottery shed, four carports plus a garden shed. Water supply is guaranteed via four water storage tanks totalling 120,000 litres, established gardens surroundings with abundance of fruit trees.

What a sensational property located in the popular Bunderra Drive. With working from home being so easy why wouldn't you escape the city/towns to your own private bush retreat.

Be quick as properties of this nature are not staying on the market for long.

Located only 15 minutes to Mirboo North, 17 minutes to Churchill, 25 minutes to Morwell, 30 minutes to Leongatha, and two hours to Melbourne. Contact Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligence-checklist



5 | 3 | 5 2.5 acres

45 Bunderra Drive, Boolarra

For Sale \$910,000

Agent Elders

Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

eldersrealestate.com.au



Leongatha 705m²

Charming Home

- 3-bed, 2-bath home, colonial style kitchen
- Front lounge has a gas log heater
- Fully fenced, low maintenance garden

Web ID: 300P6183

\$599,000



Sandy Point

Vacant Block in Prime Location

- Vacant block in coastal town
- Create your dream home
- Prime location across from beach

Web ID: 300P134384

\$710,000



Buffalo

Ivy Park

- Fattens approx. 400-500 steers
- 14 paddocks plus treed shelter
- Crush, Stock Yards & LU shed

Web ID: 300P166300

\$6.83 - \$7.5m



Mardan

Amazing Rural Views

- 2-bed, 2-bath home
- Open plan living
- Undercover entertaining area

Web ID: 300P134454

\$910,000



BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487



SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796



HELEN ARRESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523



NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



Central modern Corinella family home awaits



31 Smythe Street



4 | 2 | 2 499m²

31 Smythe Street, **Corinella**
Price Reduced \$675,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Angus Hall 0466 326 487

THIS beautifully designed four-bedroom, two-bathroom smart-wired brick home offers the perfect blend of modern living and stylish comfort. Located in the highly desirable Corinella, this property is an entertainer's dream, featuring spacious interiors and a seamless connection to outdoor living.

At the heart of the home is a contemporary kitchen featuring a spacious 900mm gas cooktop and oven, a modern dishwasher, and a walk-in pantry, all finished to a high standard. Beautiful timber flooring flows through the main living areas, while the bedrooms offer soft carpeting underfoot. The master bedroom, complete with a walk-in robe and ensuite, along with the lounge, are both climate-controlled with split system air conditioning, ensuring comfort throughout the year.

A dedicated study or media space provides flexibility for work or leisure. The living area opens up to a large, undercover outdoor space through concertina doors, perfect for entertaining guests or enjoying a quiet evening with the family.

Additional features include Rinnai instant hot water, smart wiring throughout, and a well-proportioned layout that maximises space and functionality.

This home is ideally located just seven minutes from the dual highway, providing easy access to both Phillip Island in the south and Melbourne in the north. The local primary school is only a five-minute drive away, and the renowned Fig in the Bay café is conveniently nearby.

For those who enjoy fishing, the local boat ramp and fishing spot are just a straightforward drive down Smythe Street. It's perfect for families seeking a modern, connected lifestyle in a peaceful setting.

*You may be eligible for the Victorian Homebuyer Fund. Please refer to the Victorian Govt Website for further information and please seek independent advice to see if you qualify.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.

Spacious family home

WELCOME to 9 Mair Crescent, a genuine family home in the heart of Korumburra, within walking distance to schools and shops. This large brick residence boasts four bedrooms with robes, including a master with an ensuite and walk-in robe, making it perfect for growing families. With a study room ideal for remote work, study or fifth bedroom, and loads of built-in cupboards throughout, this property caters to all your needs.

The ducted heating and reverse cycle heating and air conditioning ensure year-round comfort or relax by the wood heater in the main lounge on cooler evenings. The kitchen is equipped with a brand-new electric oven plus a dishwasher and plenty of cupboard space, making meal prep a breeze. A formal dining area plus a family meals area gives you options at dinner time.

The rear undercover deck is perfect for BBQs and entertaining outdoors.

Outside, the fully fenced rear yard assures the pets and kids are safe. Additionally, the under-house workshop provides ample space for hobbies, storage, or a workshop, and the carport offers convenient parking with easy access to the rear of the home. Don't miss this opportunity to own a beautifully presented home that offers everything for a family at an affordable price in a desirable location.

Arrange an inspection today, contact Scott McKenzie - 0427 552 898.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.



4 | 2 | 2

9 Mair Crescent, **Korumburra**
For Sale \$550,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898



LEONGATHA



30 Avery Lane

- Private lakeside retreat on the towns edge
- Custom designed home 3 bed 2 bath 7 car
- 5.5ac aprx. low maintenance with huge lake

\$1,450,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



9 Mair Crescent

- Spacious family home
- 4/5 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Under house workshop

\$550,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



82 Grantville-Glen Alvie Road

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, with carport
- Charming 3 bedroom home
- Tranquil location

\$549,000 - \$569,000

Contact: Grantville Office

SOUTH DUDLEY



10 Carl Street

- Open plan living
- 3 spacious bedrooms
- Great undercover outdoor area

\$490,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

MIRBOO NORTH



BENA



3 Gilfedder Terrace

- 5ac aprx. lifestyle prop, 3 bed 2 bath 5 car
- Beautifuly maintained with garden
- Shedding, separate paddocks and more

\$1,080,000 - \$1,150,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

CORINELLA



1 Kilburn Street

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, with carport
- Alluring Family Home
- Investment potential - room to grow

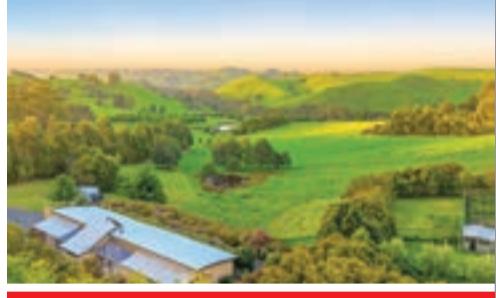
\$633,000

Contact: Grantville Office

DALYSTON



KARDELLA SOUTH



KORUMBURRA



KOO WEE RUP



NORTH WONTAGGI



45 James Road

- Architectural excellence, sustainable luxury
- 14.97 acres with panoramic views
- Too many extras to list, must inspect

\$1,650,000-\$1,750,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

12 Queen Street

- Prime position, vacant possession
- Flat 876m² block
- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom

\$515,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

1/35B Moody Street

- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, single garage
- Perfectly positioned
- Situated in the heart of Koo Wee Rup

\$485,000

Contact: Grantville Office

1 George Street

- 2 spacious bedrooms
- Low maintenance
- Perfect for retiree or first home

\$429,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

TOORA



KORUMBURRA



CORINELLA



WONTAGGI



260 Grip Road

- WB 3 bed 1 bath home full of character
- Approx. 9 acres with 2 dams, 3 paddocks
- Shedding, cattle yards and stock race

\$659,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

11 Riflebutts Road

- Spacious family home
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Corner block

\$635,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

84 Smythe Street

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- A stones throw away from the bay!

\$525,000 - \$539,000

Contact: Grantville Office

15 Mckenzie Street

- Close to school and shopping
- 3 bedrooms
- Rear lane access

\$470,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299

Tony Giles 0407 528 192

Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

GRANTVILLE

5678 8433

1505 Bass Highway

Angus Hall 0466 326 487

WONTAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508

Beef Week benefits

WHILE at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale to buy Angus cattle for their Loch property, Noelene and Geoff King also breed Charolais in Almurga and chatted to the Sentinel-Times about the importance of Beef Week.

Combined with agricultural shows, it proved a fantastic tool for promoting their animals to potential buyers.

"People came to Beef Week who'd seen our cattle at the local shows," Noelene said, explaining that enabled visitors to observe the herd in the paddock, helping make an informed purchasing decision.

They could see the heifers and bulls from which young cattle they were interested in were bred and observe the behaviour of the animals and whether they had the desired quiet nature and would be easily managed.

"You only take a snapshot of your herd to a show, so by coming to Beef Week you get the opportunity to look at the whole herd," Noelene said.

The week enables people to look at as many as 10 herds in a day.

"Say your interest is in Angus, then you can go and look at a lot of Angus bulls and make your decision before you choose which sale you're going to go to," Noelene explained, highlighting the importance of doing your homework.

While Beef Week was originally largely focused on bulls, heifers now also feature prominently and the 'Heifer Challenge' has returned this year, something that was originally instigated when Noelene was with the Royal Agricultural Society.

People who have entered Beef Week get the opportunity to put 10 heifers into a yard, with a judge assessing the cattle.

"You're showing a type," Noelene said, enabling stud operators to demonstrate high quality and consistency in breeding.

"Beef Week is a great asset for the stud and commercial industry," she stressed, noting the social aspect is important too, fostering friendships between those in the beef production sector.

While preparing for Beef Week takes work, it is well worth the effort, and although it has been around a decade since Geoff and Noelene featured their stud in the event, they are still reaping the benefits.

Celebrating 75 years of Tarwin Poll Herefords

THIS year marks 75 years since the inception of the Tarwin Poll Hereford Stud at Meenihan following the request of local agents for sons of the founding sire Studlea Playmate.

Over this time the Meikle family have seen many notable changes in the beef industry in Gippsland and beyond.

In the early days, it was the show ring that was used to promote and compare their cattle locally when Poll Herefords were considered a novelty.

Now the stud is taking steps into the world of online sales, in partnership with the Gippsland Performance Herefords group. On the way, the herd has moved into performance recording and DNA testing.

This is a performance-recorded herd, the cattle are regularly weighed and the results are submitted to Breedplan for assessment. Females accepted into the herd are DNA tested as are sires brought in and the Tarwin sale bulls.



Celebrating 75 years of excellence, Tarwin Poll Hereford Stud is looking forward to showcasing their legacy and future innovations.

"We are always trying to get the balance right between measuring the performance of our cattle and having them looking right for beef cattle. As well as using the most appropriate technologies available to us," Stud man-

ager David Meikle said.

"We recognise the need for our cattle to be structurally sound with eye appeal."

The stud regularly enters the Lardner Steer trials in an effort to gain further insight into how

their cattle perform.

The female herd is managed along commercial lines, with each breeding female required to produce a calf each year under paddock conditions. Sire selection is undertaken with an eye on positive management traits such as calving ease. This year will see sons of Wirruna Nolan, Tarcombe Homeland and Hunter Lakes Regal offered for sale. All bulls have proven themselves as stalwart sires for the stud.

On display for the day will be Tarwin sale bulls for 2025, cows with bull calves at foot and heifers to be offered for sale.

Light refreshments will be available and the Meikle family welcomes the opportunity to catch up with past clients and visitors new to the stud.

"We enjoy the chance to get feedback from past clients and fellow beef producers as to their requirements as well as catching up with fellow breeders," David Meikle commented.

Rare English Longhorns can be seen during Beef Week

THE ENGLISH Longhorn almost came to extinction in the late 1950s in their native UK, but over time, the taste and texture of the cow's meat has led to a resurgence in the breed.

While they still remain very rare in Australia, Greg and Vicki Templeton of Bald Hill English Longhorn Stud in Nar Nar Goon, are looking to change this.

After having a good experience eating the meat, which has been called better than wagyu, by chef Heston Blumenthal, the pair began breeding their own English Longhorns in 2020.

"It's the taste of the aftertaste you get when you eat it and it's soft and has got a nice bit of marbling, but not overly marbled," explained Greg.

"We decided to source some purebred stock, which we found in New South Wales and we're slowly starting to breed up our herd from there."

The stud farmers have now got 10 cows and 15 heifers and have sold three bulls to other farmers who are interested in grading up from other breeds.

While the English Longhorn is renowned for its exquisite meat, it was also originally bred in the



Greg and Vicki Templeton breed English Longhorns, rare in Australia and known for the exquisite taste and texture of their meat. Photo: Bryce Eishold

1740s for its milk, and its horns, which were crafted into cutlery and used as crockery.

Being a solid and strong yet placid breed, they were also used as draft animals and additionally don't often have birthing troubles because of their large birthing canals.

Greg explains that with over 500 breeders now in the UK, there is a regular supply of beef which has led to a loyal clientele of people wishing to only eat English Longhorn beef and high-end chefs seeking it for their restaurants.

While the Bald Hill farmers would in the future consider providing their Longhorn beef to chefs, they believe it may be a few years off yet.

"We've watched other enterprises that do that. You've got to first get a constant supply of animals for them to slaughter before it becomes feasible and they want to stock the line of beef," said Greg.

During Stock & Land's Beef Week, Bald Hill Longhorn Stud will open up their gates on Sunday, February 2, for interested

breeders and others who will get to "see these rare, exquisite looking cattle."

"We'll have a couple of young bulls to sell, and we've imported semen from England, and they may wish to buy some of that," explained Greg.

Both Greg and Vicki will be on hand to chat about their experience with the rare breed and heifers, calves and a couple of young bulls will be on display; as well as a newly built cattle handling facility, which may be of interest to people as well.

Tarwin PTH POLL HEREFORDS

The Meikle Family extend a warm invitation to local people to inspect their Tarwin Poll Hereford Stud.

Beef Week Day 5
Sunday, February 2, 2025
Open 8.30am - 5.30pm



Hunter Lakes Regal R017

Location: Parrys Road, (3 kms from Meenihan) on Meenihan-Dumbalk Rd. (Signs will be posted)

ENQUIRIES: David Meikle 5664 7556 M: 0429 800 756

E: meikledd@dcsi.net.au W: <https://tarwinpollherefords.com.au/>



Make sure you have Raedean and Georgia's Reds on your list

ANNETTE, Noel and Georgia hope you can put Raedean and Georgia's Reds on your list of studs to visit.

With our focus on economic traits, we cull heavily for undesirable traits to keep improving our herd. A docile temperament is extremely important to us along with structural correctness, good feet and udders.

You will be able to walk through all our cattle on display and Georgia will be excited to introduce you to her stud cattle.

We will have our spring herd on display along with some embryo calves out of our award-winning cow Hillandale Red Jude J18 x Red MRLA Respect 42G.

Raedean teamed up with

GK Red Angus, Dalby Queensland and brought in a small quantity of the Respect semen, you will be able to see the only progeny in southern Australia by this new sire.

We are continually striving to improve and introduce new bloodlines into our herd such as from MRLA, U2, Bandeeka, Tronar and GK and our most recent purchase was our new herd sire RA Thor T11.

We welcome you to inspect our Red Angus herd and select your new sire from our high performing functional female herd.

RIGHT: Georgia VanRysbergen with her heifer GR Ultra Scarlett.



John Langley of South Kolora leaves a solid legacy

JOHN Langley of South Kolora has been breeding Hereford's for over 50 years, in a journey that has developed the herd to an outstanding line of genetics.

The farm was purchased by John in 1978, who sadly passed away recently, but left behind a legacy of being a trusted farmer who bred high-quality Hereford cattle.

Coming off a big cattle farm of 30,000 acres in New South Wales, John and his wife Marg downsized to the 1350-acre property in Inverloch, continuing to breed Hereford cattle there.

"Farming was his whole life," said Scott Andersen, who has been working on South Kolora since 2011 and helped John develop the herd to what it is today.

"When I started working here, we realised that horned cattle were going out, no one was buying horned bulls. So, we transitioned to a Poll Hereford operation and we used all the best AI genetics to change over from horned cattle to fully Poll Herefords, which was well worth it."

"Campbell Scott and myself manage the farm and we sell between 20 and 30 Poll Hereford



South Kolora's Poll Herefords will be on display and for sale during Beef Week and have outstanding genetics with low birthweights, good structure, sound feet and excellent growth weights.

bulls a year, and then we run bullocks and commercial Hereford cows and calves as well," explained Scott.

The good heavy pastures of coastal South Gippsland have been ideal for fattening and growing the cattle and the team invested heavily in resowing pastures, and quality fertiliser to keep improving the farm and the cattle.

"The Poll Herefords have an

excellent temperament, good structure, they have a low birth weight so are easy calving and have excellent feet," explained Scott.

The well-bred stock of South Kolora has led to a number of repeat clients.

"We have a lot of clients that just ring up and say, send us another six of those bulls, they don't even come down here, they just trust us. They've

bought lots of bulls previously and they know that they perform, so they just keep buying them," said Scott.

"Some of those clients would have bought 30 bulls off us, over the last five or six years."

During Stock & Lands Beef Week, South Kolora will have their gates open on Sunday, February 2, with a selection of their Poll Herefords on display and for sale.

'Pick of the pair' set to break records

LINDA Jefferis has been working hard over the years by hosting The Biggest Morning Tea for the Cancer Council Australia. It was last May when she hosted her Morning Tea, which broke all her previous records for the amount raised.

With a throwaway comment of "How am I going to top this" when chatting to friend Fiona Glover, that Fiona got thinking and said, "I think I have an idea".

After a catch-up over coffee, Fiona put her idea to Linda, offering a top Wattlewood Angus Heifer to be auctioned off at the 2025 Wattlewood Angus Bull Sale on Friday, March 7, where all proceeds will be donated to the cause.

From this simple idea, big things have grown.

Fiona and her husband John drafted out a 'pair of heifers' that also just happen to be the top of the autumn 2024 drop, and outside donors have since jumped in to help with Angus Australia supporting the package by adding an Angus Australia membership, registration and genotyping of this heifers first calf along with some Angus Australia merchandise.

ABS Genus have pledged a \$200 semen voucher for the purchaser to select the sire of their choice for the heifer and Daryl Holder of The Cattle Shop has added a halter, leads and a comb to what is now considered a real starter pack for a budding young cattle enthusiast wanting to make a start in the industry, or just a breeder who are looking to add a quality female to their herd.

The heifers have been halter broken and will be heading off to a few local shows with some young cattle handlers learning and gaining confidence around these beautiful animals and also to advertise the donation to the charity.

Over the years, Linda has raised over \$60,000 through her morning teas, holding raffles and selling her handmade jewellery and homewares, not only raising much-needed funds for this great charity but making the community more aware of what the Cancer Council do with their research, education, awareness and also prevention.

"Unfortunately, there wouldn't be too many people out there that haven't been touched by cancer either directly or indirectly" Linda said.

"Hosting the Biggest Morning Tea was a no-brainer as a way I could do something to help."

If you would like to learn more about the Wattlewood Angus 'pick of the pair' of heifers available, please call Fiona on 0416 216 951.

The lovely heifers will be on display at the Wattlewood Angus Beef Week Open Day and Bull Sale Preview on Sunday, February 2, before going up for auction at Wattlewood, Lang Lang and on AuctionsPlus on Friday, March 7 at 12 noon.

**FOCUSED
ON
ECONOMIC
TRAITS**

OPEN DAY SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2025

Red Angus Bulls and Females for Sale - Visitors Welcome

Raedean Reds

Red Angus

Annette Walker & Noel Gnaden
0407 346 488
61 Grays Rd, Buln Buln, 3821
raedean@smartchat.net.au

www.raedean.com.au



Lot 1 Docility and fertility along with EMA and beef yield is what Wattlewood U Bolt U14 is all about.



Lot 7 Wattlewood Uniform U44 is a super quiet bull with soundness and balance.

Bulls ready and waiting for action at Wattlewood Angus

ON SATURDAY, February 2, John and Fiona Glover are again looking forward to welcoming old and new friends and clients to the 2025 Wattlewood Angus Beef Week Open Day and Bull Sale Preview.

The Wattlewood team have been working towards preparing a strong line up of 35 bulls for visitors to view in preparation for the 2025 Wattlewood Angus Bull Sale on Friday, March 7 at 12 noon.

After the closure of the VLE Pakenham sale yards, the Elders – Delaney and SEJ agents have come up with a new day and date

to suit all parties with their clients in mind.

Once again, the bulls are naturally quiet, have been genotyped, semen tested and are Immune Ready compliant being P.I. Negative and having been vaccinated with all the required vaccines (7in1, Pestigard, VibroVax and Rhinogard), making them 'ready to work'.

Fiona, an artificial insemination technician, jokes, "the bulls are frustrated at Wattlewood and are probably looking forward to the sale too and ending up with a paddock full of cows or heifers".

Another highlight for the stud this coming sale, is the offering of 'the pick of the Pair' where two top of the drop yearling heifers will be put up at the auction and all proceeds will go to The Biggest Morning Tea for Cancer Council Australia.

The successful bidder on the heifers is able to select the heifer of their choice that has also had all her health checks done and is phenotypically an outstanding heifer with terrific pedigree, EBV's and genomic data.

"We are excited to be able to

support The Biggest Morning Tea and all the work they do in cancer awareness, prevention and research to of course help find reliable early detection methods, and ultimately curing this horrible disease that effects too many friends and family".

With the heifers comes a great starter package for a budding young stud breeder or for the astute cattle producer alike. The Angus Society has donated a membership, a registration for the heifers first calf, a genomic test as well as some great merchandise,

while ABS has donated a \$200 semen voucher to join the heifer, and The Cattle Shop has donated a halter, nose lead and a comb, should the purchaser choose to continue her show career in the future.

The Wattlewood Team will have the kettle hot with their good, old-fashioned hospitality and be ready to have a chat about their genetics and their program with their visitors on the day. Can't make it on February 2, just give Fiona a call on 0416 216 951 to arrange a day that does suit.

WATTLEWOOD ANGUS

ticking all the boxes



Lot 2 Wattlewood Undeterred U17 - Top 3% of the Angus breed or better for 8 traits!

- ✓ Herd Book Registered ✓ Semen Tested ✓ Sire Verified
- ✓ Genotyped ✓ P.I. Negative ✓ Naturally quiet
- ✓ Immune Ready (vacc. 7in1, Pestigard, VibroVax & Rhinogard)
- ✓ Free of Known Genetic Defects (by pedigree or testing)

BEEF WEEK OPEN DAY: Sunday, February 2, 2025

ANNUAL BULL SALE: Friday, March 7, 2025

Starting at 12 noon

Address: 'Wattlewood' 75 Heads Road, Lang Lang 3984



Fiona & John Glover: 0416 216 951 E: fiona@wattlewoodangus.com.au

www.wattlewoodstud.com.au



AuctionsPlus

BALD HILL ENGLISH LONGHORN BEEF WEEK DAY 5

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025



Established in 2020. Eating Quality is our driver to breed these beautiful cattle.

BULLS AND IMPORTED UK SEMEN FOR SALE

Event held at:
620
Five Mile Road
Nar Nar Goon
VIC, 3812
9-4pm



Greg Templeton 0419 385 381
Vikki Templeton 0418 576 944
vtempleton@primus.com.au

Gain the \$10,000 Bowman advantage!

WITH the cost of production on the rise and premium pricing to hit Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grids, it is essential for beef producers to incorporate proven science into their programs.

By utilising Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) alone, Gippsland beef breeders could gain up to \$10,000 in the working life of a bull by using Bowman Performance Genetics this year.

A seedstock producer should be providing valuable information, such as an Angus Breeding Index value – which calculates the genetic differences between an animal's net profitability per cow joined, in a typical commercial self-replacing herd using Angus bulls.

Bowman Performance Genetics offers a significant advantage in this field, with up to \$100 \$ABI (Angus Breed Index Value) gain per bull, which equates to \$50 per calf produced (half the index is contributed by the bull) or \$10,000 in the average working life of a bull, assuming he produces 200 calves.

Stud principal, Glenn Bowman says, "We have seen significant advancement in our own 1200 female breeding herd over the last decade, by increasing Breedplan values. Everything we do on-farm is about making things more efficient and



Glenn Bowman assessing cattle at The Ridge, Rosedale.

increasing profit. Calving is a dream, with very few assists; growth rates are increasing, docility and carcass traits are improving, much of which can be put down to utilising simple selection tools such as EBVs".

Mr Bowman went on to explain, "Every registered calf

born has a TSU (Tissue Sampling Unit) DNA taken, which can reveal from a very early age, the lifetime breeding potential of that animal. When processed through the laboratory, we find that this science can sort the "wheat from the chaff", so to speak. Genomic evaluation is

the most significant advancement in EBV analysis to date. It is imperative to utilise this data created, to increase profitability and be at the forefront of cattle breeding."

One of Gippsland's leading beef finishers, Lindsay Marriot, who manages 'Box Plains',

Tarwin Lower, is a big believer in incorporating EBVs, taking steers through the JBS farm assured MSA grading system.

"We have seen a real difference in the cattle that come from EBV performance-focused herds to the point where we won't buy replacement steers unless we know this background information," Mr Marriot said.

"All our cattle are run through Kool Collect software program, which allows us to track the daily weight gains of each individual animal. This is why we keep coming back purchasing Bowman cattle, as we have the knowledge, they not only have superior performance but also grade at the top level."

Mr Bowman pointed out, it's not all about choosing the highest figured animals, there is still a high level of cattlemanship involved – from structural assessment, natural carcass content, pedigree research and identifying female lines with doing ability.

"If we can engineer a bull that not only looks good but has the proven science, you can have the best of both worlds," Mr Bowman explained.

To gain the Bowman advantage, be sure to check out the next Bull Sale on Thursday, March 13, 1pm at 'Crystal Brook' 100 Sawyer Road, Neerim South 3831.

Pakenham Poll Herefords

BEEF WEEK DAY 5

Sunday, February 2, 2025

OPEN 10am-2pm or by appointment

On property at 340 Mont Albert Road, Tynong



FOR SALE Bulls, Females, Heifers, Cows in calf, Cows with calf

Enquiries call **Kathy 0411 098 728** or **Paul 0417 279 039**

SOUTH KOLORA HEREFORDS

OPEN DAY - Sunday, February 2, 2025

Over 50 years of
breeding quality
Herefords.

Poll Hereford heifers and
working age Poll Hereford Bulls
displayed on the day.



For further particulars & inspection contact:
Scott Andersen 0409 785 846 | Campbell Scott 0475 743 008

1100 INVERLOCH-KONGWAK ROAD, INVERLOCH

 **BOWMAN**
PERFORMANCE GENETICS

By Cattlemen For Cattlemen

2025 Autumn Bull Sale
Thursday 13th March, 1pm

80 HBR ANGUS BULLS

Free
Delivery
Across
Victoria



Australia's First Sons

Woodhill Comstock (USA), Top 2% ABI \$Index

Glenn Bowman 0437 172 748
'Crystal Brook' Neerim South, Victoria
bowmangenetics.com

FOCUS - Leading MSA + Breedplan Performance
BREEDING - Internationally sourced genetics
SCIENCE - Entire herd genomic tested



Excellent vealer calves and Shorthorn cattle



It's a family affair at Doben Park Shorthorns with three generations involved in the business.



The Benson family proudly showcases 40+ years of Shorthorn breeding at Doben Park Shorthorns this February.



Proven genetics for hybrid vigor and top-quality vealer calves in Gippsland will be on display at Doben Park Shorthorns.

DOBEN Park Shorthorns is run by Doug and Jo Benson, and their son, Sandy and his wife, Steph alongside their children at Buln Buln East, West Gippsland on 79 hectares across three properties with a further 40 hectares leased.

"This is our fifth year participating in Beef Week. We've been breeding Shorthorn cattle for over 40 years, in the last eight years we've increased our female herd to approximately 140 head."

The largest majority of these are pure bred.

"There are still a few of the original cross bred cows, these cows produce excellent vealer calves.

"We are firm believers in first cross calves to produce excellent vealer calves. This is where the Shorthorn bull excels in cross breeding programs."

The Red or Red and White Shorthorn bull is ideal to cross over an Augus or Angus infused cow to maintain the black calf with extra hybrid vigor.

"This can also be done with the Hereford or Hereford infused cow by using a White or Roan Shorthorn Bull. This cross should give you a predominantly Strawberry or Broken White Face calf.

"The White or Roan bull over the Angus or Angus infused cow should give you a predominantly Steel blue roan or black calf. These calves are sought after in store markets across Gippsland."

Doben Park have a selection of bulls on show. Bulls 17-23 months old Red, Roan, Red and White, and White. These bulls are roan Spry bred bulls.

"While inspecting our cattle check out the Numat anti slip matting installed in our cattle handling area."

For more information ahead of February 2, contact Doug on 0407 343 966 or Sandy 0409 074 291.

DOBEN PARK SHORTHORNS ...The *EASY CARE* breed



The Benson family welcomes you to Beef Week Open Day:
Day 5: Sunday, February 2, 2025

Doben Park
SHORTHORNS
EST. 1977

1387 OLD SALE ROAD BULN BULN
DOUG 0407 343 966 | SANDY 0409 074 291
benson@dcsi.net.au

PROFIT NOW COMES IN COLOUR

shorthornbeef.com.au



Ben Vagg highlights dairy advocacy efforts

LEONGATHA South's Ben Vagg, a founding member of Dairy Farmers Victoria, recently spoke of the organisation's ongoing advocacy efforts in relation to the threat of disease, as well as its calls for Victorian laws related to 'virtual fencing' to be brought into line with other States that allow the technology.

While Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF) continues to work closely with the Federal Government in relation to the threat of 'Foot and Mouth' and 'Lumpy Skin' diseases, Dairy Farmers Victoria is doing likewise with the Victorian Government.

Ben, who is the Dairy Farmers Victoria committee member for South Gippsland said the organisation's engagement with the State Government is focused on government plans and what is intended to happen should the worst-case scenario arise.

He explained that Dairy Farmers Victoria helped Dairy Australia in the development of a matrix outlining feasible actions to be taken in the event of a positive case of either disease in Australia.

Ben stressed there are no cases of Foot and Mouth or Lumpy Skin disease in the nation, but the presence of both in Indonesia makes it clear the issue must be taken seriously.

"You've got to be proactive in these things," Ben said.

On another note, he spoke of the cost savings Victorian farmers could make by reducing the need for permanent and strip fencing and adopting a virtual fencing system controlled by a smartphone app.

However, the technology is not currently allowed to be used in Victoria, with Dairy Farmers Victoria lobbying the State Government for change.



Ben Vagg with some of his herd awaiting milking. A08_0425

With this technology, each animal is given an electric collar that emits sound and vibration cues to tell them where to go, then sends an electric pulse if they ignore the cue.

Ben argues that the shocks delivered by the collars are at a far lower level than what occurs with an electric fence, proceeding to outline the benefits of virtual fencing.

"Think of all the times you don't have to go out and do a strip fence and set the paddock up," he said, with such fences used for requirements such as splitting a paddock in half based on grass levels.

The virtual fencing process allows farmers to program the areas in which they want cattle to graze by simply using a mobile phone.

"There are a lot of quad bike hours on dairy farms burnt putting strip fences up," Ben said.

Australia's first dairy farm 'virtual fence' came into

action in 2023.

The ABC reported at the time that Tasmanian farmer Duncan Macdonald used the technology to get his herd of dairy cows to the milking shed, where they awaited his arrival, eliminating the need to wake up at 3am and round the cattle up in the dark.

Ben is certain that there will be a lot of innovation in the use of virtual herding, should Victorian farmers be granted the opportunity to take advantage of the technology.

The RSPCA backs up Ben's comments in relation to the comparison between virtual fencing collars and electric fences.

"Although the method of delivery of the electric shock is not directly comparable to that of an electric fence, the intensity of the shock delivered by the collar worn by cattle is less than that of an electric fence," the organisation states.

The RSPCA concedes that

"Virtual fencing has the potential to improve livestock pasture and environmental management and reduce labour and costs associated with fixed fences."

However, it states that "The use of electric shocks to train an animal raises significant ethical and animal welfare concerns," providing the theoretical example of an animal unable to learn quickly or at all to associate sound cues with an impending electric pulse.

It argues the invisible nature of a virtual fence compared to a physical electric fence may increase the difficulty for some animals to learn what is required.

Those in favour of the virtual fence technology argue that cattle learn quickly to associate sounds with where they are required to go and that the approach doesn't cause them stress.

Currently, virtual fencing is allowed in Tasmania, Western Australia and Queensland.

MARKET REPORT

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CLAAS Harvest Centre 

Stores ease

By SGSA

AGENTS yarded 4500 head at last Thursday's VLE Leongatha store sale in another excellent quality yarding.

Feedlot orders dominated the buying, taking a large percentage of the heavier cattle but at reduced rates with prices another 10-20 cents easier than the last sale.

With rapidly changing local seasonal conditions and feed drying off, some with water concerns, local grazier competition was weaker along with northern NSW orders more selective. Operating at reduced rates with prices easing 20-30 cents for steers but held somewhere near firm to 10-20 cents easier for the heifers.

Xbred, secondary and dairy types attracted solid competition but generally sold at reduced prices.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025

Steers

G. Murray 15 Angus	679kg	\$3.56	\$2420
Markovic Pty Ltd 17 Hereford	648kg	\$3.23	\$2100
S & B Tumino 16 Angus	606kg	\$3.85	\$2340
M Attenborough 18 Angus	586kg	\$3.68	\$2140
Markovic Pty Ltd 11 Hereford	578kg	\$3.45	\$2000
Tobin F/Trust 16 Angus	576kg	\$3.73	\$2150
S & J Miller 10 Angus	570kg	\$3.61	\$2060
P & C Davis 10 Angus	568kg	\$3.60	\$2050
A Lester 19ang	549kg	\$3.67	\$2020
DR & ML Winter 10 Spk X	541kg	\$3.12	\$1690
R. Lightowler 22 Angus	531kg	\$3.69	\$1960
K Waters 19 Angus	529kg	\$3.63	\$1920
DF & TM Froat 12ang	524kg	\$3.71	\$1950
Bolero Downs 15 Angus	522kg	\$3.63	\$1900
Tracy Hill Dairies 12 Hereford	509kg	\$3.49	\$1780
Gembrae 14 Angus	499kg	\$3.78	\$1890
A Lester 21 Angus	499kg	\$3.71	\$1850
DH Collins 18 Angus	499kg	\$3.68	\$1840
Arcana P/L 14 Angus	496kg	\$3.70	\$1840
Shoreham Farming 24 Angus	493kg	\$3.53	\$1710
R. Humphris & D Smith 20 Ang	492kg	\$3.63	\$1790
Walker Family Trust 20 Angus	472kg	\$3.79	\$1790
DF & TM Froat 11 Angus	466kg	\$3.67	\$1710
N & LK Rayner 15 Angus	457kg	\$3.54	\$1620
JR & MJ O'Sullivan 13 Ang X	456kg	\$3.09	\$1410
EJ & VM White 17 Angus	454kg	\$3.76	\$1710
SR & JA Bland 19 Angus X	462kg	\$3.27	\$1510
Riverslea Ag 17 Angus	447kg	\$3.42	\$1530
RJ.McKenzie 21 BB	444kg	\$3.51	\$1560
AJ & EF Colvin 12 Angus X	443kg	\$3.33	\$1480
SR & JA Bland 18 Angus X	439kg	\$3.21	\$1410
Dk Bowman 14 Angus	421kg	\$3.49	\$1470
Tracy Hill Dairies 17 Angus	417kg	\$3.47	\$1450
Gembrae 16 Angus	415kg	\$3.46	\$1440
GD.Crawford 17 BB	415kg	\$3.39	\$1410
Watermill Pastoral 13 Angus	402kg	\$3.53	\$1420
SR & JA Bland 23 Angus X	401kg	\$3.39	\$1360
Somerleighs Farms 10 Pinz	399kg	\$3.50	\$1400
EJ & VM White 10 Angus	398kg	\$3.87	\$1540
Kingston Park 14 Angus	396kg	\$3.53	\$1400
P. Fleming 20 Angus	393kg	\$3.84	\$1510
AJ, BR, NB Moyle 19 Angus	393kg	\$3.50	\$1380
D & A Klindworth 11 Angus	392kg	\$3.35	\$1320
J. Flegg 15 Angus	389kg	\$3.57	\$1390
DJ & SJ Mitchell 19 Angus	388kg	\$3.48	\$1350
Kerr Ag 24 Angus	384kg	\$3.45	\$1330
Gembrae 17 Angus	380kg	\$3.44	\$1310
A Filsell & E Smith 11 Angus	380kg	\$3.25	\$1240
Claredon Park 12 Angus	379kg	\$3.38	\$1280
Alira Rise 11 Angus	375kg	\$3.62	\$1360

VV0159

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HM1132

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, January 20, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$16 to \$40
Friesian Bulls	\$27 to \$45
Friesian Heifers	\$38 to \$45
Beef Bulls	\$40 to \$140
Beef Heifers	\$28 to \$155
Number of Calves:	42	
Number purchased to rear:	9	

Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA

	FOSTER	WONTHAGGI	PAKENHAM	MELBOURNE LAND
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner Brian Vuillermin	0408 595 174 0429 436 040	0408 595 183
LEONGATHA		Rob Ould - Livestock Manager		
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	David Holden	0428 749 390	
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255	
WARRAGUL		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473	
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877	
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599	
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498	

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CLEARING SALE

**Friday, January 31
at 10.30am**

A/c M & S Burke

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POUND CREEK

Farm Equipment & Building Supplies:

New Holland 2004 TL90 Tractor with FE loader & forks; Burder FE loader bucket; Hydraulic bale spinner; Husqvarna Ride On; Toro Ride on; Silvan spray tank; 2.5 tonne flat bed tandem trailer (reg 16/6/25); small trailer suit ride on; Brushcutter; grass seed spreader; Gentech elec start generator; Jetfire gas heater; Stihl 85/103 chainsaw; Makita Jack Hammer (only used once); Stihl post auger (2 man); Ryobi Drill press; Lock Motiver & Lockface templar; Subaru concrete vibrator; Karcher Steam Cleaner; Bromic pump; Rato petrol water pump with hose; Makita drop saw for cutting steel; elec planer; Honda push mower; Crommelins pump with hose attachment; ass oil drums; 2013 Holden Commodore Station Wagon, 280k (Reg 11/5/25); Ford F250, not reg, not running; mag rims; galv steel racks; galv steel rafters; ass steel lengths; LVL timber planks; wall panelling, mdf & cement sheet; ass timber planks; rolls wire mesh; timber steps; aluminium A frame trestles; shelving; filing cabinets; ass tiles; doors; galv acrow props ass lengths; ass building sundry supplies; laser light panels; foam waffle pods 225mm; Kingspan air-cell insulation blanket; expansion rubber set up 100mm; pink bats; forma tube; tie downs; Kingcrome trolley; extension leads; tool boxes; builders quick set concrete; concrete trowels & screeds; bunting; nail gun; marking paint; ass hand tools; Makita grinding disc; jerry cans; saw stools; skirting boards; sink; ass ladders; ass brooms; rakes; star pickets & caps; gates; shipping container; wire & wire spinning; porta loos; temp fencing with blocks; IBC shuttles; mesh wire; elec fence energiser; barb wire; ass fencing materials; ass poly fittings; solar panel fence energiser; rio bars; sundry items too numerous to mention.

Household Items: chest freezer; ass eskies; golf clubs; recliner lounge suite; Zeigler Brown BBQ (brand new); webber bbq; plastic chairs; Simpson washing machine; wine barrel; exercise equip; Hark upright Smoker.

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Is virtual fencing the next big thing?

VIRTUAL fencing is shaping up to be the next big thing in livestock management, according to a researcher who will present her findings at the Koroit Agricultural Field Day on February 22.

Senior researcher for the Tasmania Institute of Agriculture, Dr Megan Verdon, says momentum for virtual fencing is growing in Victoria but its use is prevented by historic legislation.

Virtual fencing is allowed in Tasmania where more than 20 per cent of farms now use the technology.

"The rules were put in place before anyone thought we could use electrical stimulus to manage cattle," Dr Verdon said. "Now we have this new technology but the laws in some states need to be changed to allow it."

Dr Verdon is being sponsored by the DemoDAIRY Foundation to speak at the Koroit Agricultural Field Day to regional farmers and the Southwest Showcase of Dairy Innovation on February 24-25.

She has been researching virtual fencing for more than eight years but says it's not her role to promote the technology.

"The uptake in Tasmania has been amazing and there is a lot of interest around Australia, but my role is to provide data about the benefits or challenges and



Megan Verdon with calves at Elliot Dairy will be presenting on benefits and challenges of virtual fencing at Koroit Agricultural Field Day.

then leave it up to individual farmers whether or not it's suitable to their system," she said.

"It's the same with the legislators – I'm focussed on providing the data to help them make decisions."

Her research shows that the technology works and the animals are adjusting well to the different management system.

"Our research shows that it's not having a negative impact on their welfare," Dr Verdon said.

"Some benefits are really clear, such as more precise pasture

allocation and nutrition for animals, better land management, protecting waterways and pasture utilisation," Dr Verdon said.

"The technology also has behaviour monitoring abilities with alerts of any abnormal behaviour which could be an early indicator of illness or injury."

Research with farmers has found it can make a profound difference in their lives by freeing up time for more high-value tasks.

"We've had farmers say they've gone on holidays for the first

time because they can trust this technology," Dr Verdon said.

Dr Verdon said she believed "virtual fencing is probably the next revolution in how we manage our grazing livestock".

"I believe it can offer significant advantages in terms of our environmental management, animal monitoring, and in people's lives. But to ensure we achieve all those benefits from the technology, we have to make sure it meets societal perceptions and that it's used in a way that works with the animal."

Strong cattle numbers at Leongatha VLE in January

JANUARY cattle numbers have exceeded the expectations of those in charge at Leongatha VLE in the first summer since the closure of Pakenham.

VLE managing director Brian Paynter declared that this month's Tuesday Prime Sales are averaging well over 3000 head of cattle, with the figure for Thursday Store Sales topping 4000.

"We are really seeing big numbers coming through, a lot of heavier steers on a Tuesday," he said, elaborating that is likely attributable to drier conditions.

That includes the local area, with many South Gippsland cattle coming through Leongatha saleyards recently.

"We are seeing a lot of cattle coming in earlier in the season, so our January's been massive," Brian noted.

Many farmers are selling heavier cattle, getting good value due to strong prices and



VLE Managing Director Brian Paynter is pleased with January's cattle numbers at the Leongatha saleyards.

A05 0425

restocking with feeder cattle to fatten up.

"There is a lot of feed around," Brian observed, describing the current situation as ideal for the VLE.

He credited all stock agents active at the Leongatha saleyards for delivering

"consistently strong yardings".

While it was apparent cattle numbers coming through Leongatha VLE would increase following the Pakenham closure, recent sale activity has surpassed expectations.

"We're one of the strongest, if not the strongest yard, in

Victoria with pricing and we've got good buyer support," the managing director said, pointing out some of the cattle are now coming from further afield to Leongatha, including from Northern Victoria.

"So they are bypassing other yards to bring cattle here," he added.

Those at Leongatha VLE continue to work with the State Government as they strive to obtain Masterplan approval for a major expansion of the saleyards, and are also dealing at a local level with South Gippsland Shire Council.

While Sentinel-Times recently reported on the expansion plans and a saleyard visit from councillors and council staff, the short-term aim is to get approval for roofing over recently added outdoor cattle pens.

The other project hoped for in the not-too-distant future is the planned larger truck wash.

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Online business program to help manage farm risks

AGRICULTURE Victoria is inviting farm business owners and managers to take part in a free online business program.

The innovative program supports farmers to build on their knowledge and strengthen their farm business and be better equipped to manage the risk associated with a variable climate.

The online program, starting in February on Wednesdays,

runs over six weeks and is suitable for livestock, grains, mixed farmers, horticulturalists and apiarists, with past participants rating the program very highly for satisfaction and benefits gained.

The course is designed to help farmers set and achieve their individual business goals and is relevant to those who are new to farming and young farmers, as well as more

experienced farmers," project leader Kit Duncan-Jones said.

The program will be made up of five sessions on key farm management topics, including identifying and managing risks, strategic planning and setting business goals, financial management, budgeting and profitable decision making, managing people on farm, succession planning and farm

safety, climate risk and natural resource management, and business planning.

As part of completing the course, participants will be offered a one-on-one session with an experienced farm management consultant to review their business plan. To register your interest, please complete the short survey at forms.office.com/r/wUGjPY3MvJ.

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

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VLE LEONGATHA STORE SALE 4000 CATTLE 4000

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Kuch Grazing, Darriman (NUTRIEN)
240 Angus steers, 18 mths, Landfall blood, MHR & IBR Vacc, EU & NE Accred
A/c Koonunga Beef, Almurga (SEJ)
180 Angus steers, 28-30 mths
ex P&J Boddy, Woodside, Full Dunoon breeding, ex quality and condition
A/c Koonunga Beef, Kernot (SEJ)
100 Angus steers, 24-30 mths,
30 Angus/Hereford steers, 24-30 mths,
50 Hereford steers, 24-30 mths.
Above steers were purchased from East and South Gippsland sales as weaners. Present in excellent condition
A/c I & R Hengsberger, Dumbalk Nth (NUTRIEN)
160 Angus steers, 14-15 mths, Cluney Range blood, MH Vacc at weaning, IBR MH Vacc 20/1/25, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred
A/c Jasmel Nom, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
70 Angus steers, 16-17 mths, Alpine Angus bloodlines, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred
50 Hereford Shorthorn X steers, 16-17 mths
A/c Buneep Park, Bunyip North (SEJ)
110 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred, Leewood & Sparta bloodlines
A/c Malabar Farms, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
100 Angus & Angus/Hereford steers, 16-17 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred, Weeran & Wirruna bloodlines
A/c Burrabadoo, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
80 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, GF & ABF, Western district bred
A/c Tarqua Past, Ballyrogan (NUTRIEN)
80 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, Francis Angus blood, GF & ABF
A/c E Charlton, Kernot (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 22 mths
35 Angus/Hereford X steers, 16-17 mths
Local district bred
A/c B Savage, Dumbalk (NUTRIEN)
64 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, 1 mark
A/c Koolamurt, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
30 Hereford steers
30 Angus/Hereford steers
18-20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c Thexton Farms, Gormandale (NUTRIEN)
55 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c Merlewood Angus, Mirboo North (NUTRIEN)
50 Ang steers, 16 mths, weaned, 2 X Multimin & 27in1
A/c Wallenbeen, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers, 14-15 mths
A/c Misty Valley Pastoral, Carlisle River (NUTRIEN)
42 Hereford steers, 17-18 mths
A/c S & D Hooper, Leongatha North (SEJ)
40 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c C Sutherland, Ellinbank (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 18 mths, Leewood blood
A/c D & D Staley, Fish Creek (SEJ)
40 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Sired By AI, TBA Brunswick, Murdeduke Kicking & Sharinda Angus bulls, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred
A/c T & S Flint, Denison (NUTRIEN)
35 Angus steers, 18-20 mths
A/c Carolyn Wilde, Yanakie (SEJ)
35 Hereford steers, 20-22 mths

A/c G&J Breedon, Nilma Nth (SEJ)
32 Angus steers, 28-30 mths, VG Quality.
A/c Mon - Diseree, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
30 Angus steers, 18-20 mths
A/c Melaleuca Past, Ruby (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 16-17 mths, NE Accred
A/c Dr Hall, Fish Creek (SEJ)
30 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, Te Mania blood, VB, GF, ABF
A/c Whittaker & Staton, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 14-15 mths
A/c C Stafford, Nayook (SEJ)
25 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, GF & ABF, Western district bred
A/c Mrs C Jeffrey, Driffield (NUTRIEN)
24 Hereford steers, 14-16 mths, Bowman & Ponderosa bloodlines, NE Accred
A/c Minaminkah P/L, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 16 mths, By Leewood Bulls, VB & NE Accred
A/c Wildwood Pastoral, Inverloch (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, GF & AB free, Merlewood blood
A/c Brett Cox, Fernbank (SEJ)
18 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c T&S Cuff, Moyarra (SEJ)
18 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c T & M Neesham, Buffalo (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus steers, 18-20 mths
A/c R & H Harrison, Arawata (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus steers, 16-17 mths
A/c R & J Edwards, Fish Creek (SEJ)
15 Angus steers, 18-20 mths
A/c Bulleondurra, Mirboo North (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c T Hocking, Lucknow (SEJ)
15 Angus steers, 15 mths
A/c Moriarty Transport, Strezlecki (SEJ)
15 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
A/c Burwood Hills P/L, Stradbroke (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus steers, 14-16 mths
A/c P & P Walker, Krowera (NUTRIEN)
14 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, NE Accred, By Black Spur Angus Bulls
A/c SR & MC Beasley, "Emu Park", Lindenow Sth (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Hazeldean blood
A/c D Loughridge, Bena (NUTRIEN)
10 Hereford steers, 18 mths
A/c SP Dunlop, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus steers, 15 mths, By Black Spur Angus Bulls, NE Accred
A/c R & B Broadbent, Heyfield (NUTRIEN)
10 Hereford steers, 15-16 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c R & D Chisholm, Outtrim (NUTRIEN)
9 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, By Wattlewood Stud Bull

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c T, C, & M Hulls, "Narrah Tingha", Leongatha (SEJ) (Annual Draft)
200 Angus heifers, 16-17 mths, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred
A/c ABF Sheridan & Partners, Bengworden (NUTRIEN)
60 Angus heifers, 14-16 mths Lawson/Barwidgee blood

60 Angus heifers, 14-16 mths Hazeldean blood
(Purchased X SR & MC Beasley)
EU & NE Accred
A/c SR & MC Beasley, "Emu Park", Lindenow Sth (NUTRIEN)
110 Angus heifers, NSM, 16-18 mths, Hazeldean blood
A/c Kuch Grazing, Darriman (NUTRIEN)
55 Angus heifers, 14-16 mths, Landfall blood, PTE After short 6 week joining, All fit for joining purposes, EU & NE Accred
A/c Malabar Farms, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)
50 Angus & Angus Hereford heifers, 15-17 mths, By Weeran & Wirruna bloodlines, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
A/c M & G Ashby, Fish Creek (SEJ)
42 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, B12 & Cydectin
A/c A & A Missen, Woodside (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths
A/c Misty Valley Pastoral, Carlisle River (NUTRIEN)
23 Angus heifers, 17-18 mths
A/c NR & KD Hansford, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford heifers, 14-15 mths
A/c R & B Broadbent, Heyfield (NUTRIEN)
15 BB heifers, 15-16 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c Burwood Hills P/L, Stradbroke (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus heifers, 14-16 mths
A/c Mrs C Jeffrey, Driffield (NUTRIEN)
12 Hereford heifers, 14-16 mths, Bowman & Ponderosa bloodlines, NE Accred

WEANERS

A/c DJ & C Webb, Arawata (SEJ)
130 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths. Battersby and Banquet blood, VB, GF, ABF
A/c Crypin P/L, Westbury (NUTRIEN)
96 Angus mixed sex weaners, 12-13 mths, Merlewood & Blackjack blood, VB & GF
A/c GS Conroy, Ballan (NUTRIEN)
90 Angus calves, mixed sex, May/June drop, Langi Kal Kal blood, GF, ABF, Not Weaned
A/c J Flint, Willung (NUTRIEN)
80 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths, Latrobe Park blood
A/c Kings Park, Pound Creek (SEJ)
50 Angus steers
30 Angus heifers
10-11 mths, By Three Oak Angus Bulls, 5 in 1, Multimin & Drenched
A/c EM Summerall "Staplehurst" Wolumla (NUTRIEN)
70 Char/Angus X mixed sex, 12-15 mths, weaned, GF, ABF

A/c T & P P/L, Narracan (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-12 mths, Merlewood blood, VB, GF & VQ
A/c D & S Kimmins, Cape Paterson (SEJ)
20 Angus steers
20 Angus heifers
10-11 mths, Weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Pinora bloodlines
A/c G Dodderico, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths, Latrobe Park blood

A/c M & S Hunt (NUTRIEN)
40 Hereford mixed sex, 10-12 mths, Newcomen blood
A/c T & B Bedggood, Napoleons (NUTRIEN)
40 Charo calves, mixed sex, March/April Drop, Chenu blood, not weaned
A/c M & C Mullane P/L, Ballan (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus heifers, 9-10 mths, Langi Kal Kal blood, weaned, GF & ABF

A/c MP Lee, Stratford (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus mixed sex, 7-8 mths
A/c Cameron Hill Pastoral, Arawata (SEJ)
30 Hereford, Angus & Angus X mixed sex, 10-12 mths, VB, GF ABF, weaned and very quiet
A/c T Walker, Yinnar South (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus X mixed sex, 10-12 mths
A/c T & D Flint, Seaspray (NUTRIEN)
30 Hereford mixed sex, 12-14 mths
A/c J & D Sebalt, Fish Creek (SEJ)
20 Angus mixed sex, 8-10 mths, VB, GF & ABG, Harris Farms blood
A/c D & L White, Fernbank (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
A/c Stoney Pastoral, Dumbalk (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 8-10 mths, weaned, VQ
A/c J & M Savage, Narracan (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford steers, 12-14 mths
A/c K Brislin, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford steers, 12-14 mths
A/c PW O'Mara, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
10 Hereford steers
10 Hereford heifers
10-12 mths
A/c NR & KD Hansford, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)
20 Hereford steers, 8-10 mths
A/c CW Littlejohn, Mirboo North (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus heifers, 12-13 mths
A/c B & A Spiden, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
15 Hereford mixed sex calves, 4-5 mths, yard weaned
A/c D & E Jenkins, Boorool (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus mixed sex, 14 mths
A/c J & R Dal Santo, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
12 Angus mixed sex calves, 7-8 mths
A/c J & L Fiddelaers, Leongatha North (NUTRIEN)
8 Angus steers, 12 mths, Battersby bloodlines, NE Accred

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c McQuestion Farms, Kernot (SEJ)
15 Angus/ Montbeliarde x steers, 18 mths
A/c Jelbart Dairy P/L, Leongatha Sth (NUTRIEN)
25 Fries steers, 16-18 mths

COWS & CALVES

A/c Sampson AG, Wonthaggi (NUTRIEN)
45 Limo X mixed sex calves, 9-10 mths
A/c S Fairbrother, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)
24 Blonde X mixed sex, 8-12 mths
A/c Windmill Acres P/L, Stony Creek (SEJ)
18 x 18 Angus cows, 3-6 yo, with 4 mth Angus CAF, not rejoined
A/c N Eager, Cardinia (SEJ)
12 Angus cows & calves at foot, Calves by Stud Angus Bull, not rejoined
A/c JD & EA Keogh, Stony Creek (NUTRIEN)
5 X 5 Angus Friesian X heifers, 2.5 yo with Limo CAF, 2-3 weeks, VQ

JOINED COWS

A/c P & T Bailey, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus cows, 3.5yo, Pure Merlewood blood, PTIC, LBW Merlewood Bull joined 25/5/24 for 6 weeks, VQ, outstanding young cows



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DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	DEATHS	FUNERALS
<p>ANDERSON, Alan: 'Nigger'</p> <p>Passed away peacefully on January 20, 2025.</p> <p>Loved husband of Olive (dec.). Loving father and father-in-law of Brendan, Kerry and Brian.</p> <p>Cherished Papa of Jae, Ben and Carly.</p> <p>Great Papa of Jack and Lucas.</p> <p>Loved and Remembered Always.</p> <hr/> <p>ANDERSON, Alan:</p> <p>Passed away January 20, 2025. 89 Years.</p> <p>Dear brother-in-law to Heather and Bill.</p> <p>Uncle to Melanie and Michael; Stephen and Linda.</p> <p>Great-uncle to Arabella, Josie, Edie and Lily.</p> <p>A life well lived.</p> <hr/> <p>ANDERSON, Alan (Nigger):</p> <p>A special loyal friend to Stu for many years.</p> <p>Will be sadly missed by Stu, Helen, Sean and Kerryn.</p> <hr/> <p>BEATTIE, William Keltie:</p> <p>09.03.1936 - 25.01.2025.</p> <p>Passed away peacefully at Armitage House.</p> <p>Reunited with his family.</p> <p>Much loved husband of Margaret for 44 years.</p> <p>Thanks for all the good times and memories we created.</p> <p>Treasured always.</p> <p>Your loving wife Margaret.</p> <p>Forever loved.</p> <hr/> <p>Reunited with your family, what a reunion it will be.</p> <p>Loved and supportive uncle of Stephen, Jamie and Rachel, Kelly and Buzz.</p> <p>Great uncle of Jake and Karlee, Jesse, Amelia and Ryder, Brody and Kyle.</p> <hr/> <p>BEATTIE, William Keltie: (Billy Bunter).</p> <p>Loved nephew of the late Adam and Doris Menzies.</p> <p>Fond cousin of Kevin (dec.), Terri (dec.) and family.</p> <p>We cannot bring the old days back when we shared great times together, but the memories made along life's road remain with us forever.</p> <hr/> <p>CLARK, Beverly:</p> <p>Loved mum of Sandra and Peter.</p> <p>Granny of Ash, George, Chloe, Josh and friend of Luke.</p> <p>Died peacefully at home on January Sunday 19, 2025.</p> <p>Mum, all your pain and suffering has now gone.</p> <p>We will cherish all our fond memories and time spent together each Sunday.</p> <p>May you now Rest in Peace.</p> <p>--All our love Sandra and family.</p> <hr/> <p>CLARK, Beverly:</p> <p>Loved mum of Sandra and Peter.</p> <p>Granny of Ash, George, Chloe, Josh and friend of Luke.</p> <p>Died peacefully at home on January Sunday 19, 2025.</p> <p>Mum, all your pain and suffering has now gone.</p> <p>We will cherish all our fond memories and time spent together each Sunday.</p> <p>May you now Rest in Peace.</p> <p>--All our love Sandra and family.</p> <hr/> <p>BREWSTER, Eileen Maree:</p> <p>Passed peacefully surrounded by loving family on January Friday 24, 2025, aged 93 years.</p> <p>Loved wife of Bill (dec.).</p> <p>Loving mother and mother-in-law to Trevor and Judy, Christine and Ian.</p> <p>Adored grandma to Brendan, Aimee, Melissa, Matthew.</p> <p>Great Grand Ma to Acacia.</p> <p>You were someone special, someone good and true, you will never be forgotten, we thought the world of you.</p> <hr/> <p>BURKE, Donald Edward:</p> <p>Passed away peacefully at home on January 20, 2025. Aged 84 years.</p> <p>Loved husband of Faye (dec.).</p> <p>Loving Dad and father-in-law to Caroline and Steven, Elizabeth (dec.) and Stuart, Suzanne and Greg.</p> <p>Adored Poppy to William, Tom, James, Georgie, Keely, Paige, and Nicholas.</p> <p>Beloved brother-in-law to Dawn.</p> <p>Love and laughter.</p> <hr/> <p>CLARK (Gifford) Beverley Ann:</p> <p>13.08.1945 - 19.01.2025.</p> <p>Passed away peacefully with her husband by her side at home. Aged 79 years.</p> <p>Loving wife of Doug for 57 years.</p> <p>Loved mother of Wayne, Darren, Sandra and Donna.</p> <p>Grandma of 12 grandchildren.</p> <p>With a smile you took on everyday knowing one day your illness would catch up to you.</p> <p>Beverley you were the heart and soul of our life together for all those years.</p> <p>I will still love you, but miss you much more. Loving husband Doug.</p> <hr/> <p>CLARK, Beverly:</p> <p>Loved mum of Sandra and Peter.</p> <p>Granny of Ash, George, Chloe, Josh and friend of Luke.</p> <p>Died peacefully at Latrobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon.</p> <p>Mum, all your pain and suffering has now gone.</p> <p>We will cherish all our fond memories and time spent together each Sunday.</p> <p>May you now Rest in Peace.</p> <p>--All our love Sandra and family.</p> <hr/> <p>GRAHAM, David Maxwell:</p> <p>13.06.1944 - 22.01.2025.</p> <p>Loving father of Angela, Croy and Luke.</p> <p>Cherished brother to Val.</p> <p>Adored grumpy to Jasmine, Winni, Imogen and Isabel.</p> <p>Forever in our hearts.</p> <p>Rest peacefully.</p> <hr/> <p>GRAHAM, David (Gunner):</p> <p>13.06.1944 - 22.01.2025.</p> <p>Loving father of Angela, Croy and Luke.</p> <p>Father-in-law to Sarah and Colin.</p> <p>Adored 'Grumpy' to Jasmine, Winni, Imogen and Isabel.</p> <p>Heartfelt thanks to G.P.'s team for their exceptional care, compassion and love.</p> <p>David's 2nd family in his final years.</p> <hr/> <p>GRAHAM, David Maxwell:</p> <p>13.06.1944 - 22.01.2025.</p> <p>Dearly loved brother of Valerie.</p> <p>Brother-in-law to Peter.</p> <p>Uncle to Janene, Carolyn, Rohan, Meagan and families.</p> <p>You have left us with many fond memories.</p> <p>--Loved always.</p> <hr/> <p>HINTON (nee Henty), Esme Esther:</p> <p>01.09.1929 - 21.01.2025.</p> <p>Our dear Mum, Nana and Great Nana has died in Calvary Bethlehem, Caulfield South.</p> <p>Late of Glenhuntly, formerly of Clayfield and Hervey Bay Qld, Poowong and Balwyn.</p> <p>Private cremation.</p> <p>She will have a tomb with a view at Poowong, dreaming of Egypt, pony rides and magpie visits.</p> <p>Everlasting love from her daughters Chris and Sue.</p> <p><i>'It was a long road but I made it.'</i></p> <hr/> <p>LOWENSTEIN, Lincoln Lee:</p> <p>29.12.1972 - 16.01.2025.</p> <p>Late of Wonthaggi.</p> <p>Loved son of Wendy and Harvey (both dec.).</p> <p>Loved brother of Nathan.</p> <p>Sadly passed away at Latrobe Regional Hospital, Traralgon.</p> <p>Lincoln will be sadly missed by his family, friends and support workers.</p> <hr/> <p>SANDERINK, Carren Anne:</p> <p>15.03.1962 - 18.01.2025.</p> <p>Beloved daughter of Peter (dec.) and Pat.</p> <p>Mother of Grant.</p> <p>Sister to Theresa and Julie.</p> <p>Life dealt you a hard road, but you faced it with dignity, and grace, and never complained.</p> <p>We were all so proud of you, and you will be sadly missed and forever in our hearts.</p> <p>Rest in Peace.</p> <hr/> <p>MARTIN, Amanda:</p> <p>Passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family at Leongatha Hospital, on Thursday January 16, 2025, aged 44 years.</p> <p>Loving mother of Courtney.</p> <p>Loving Grandma of Finley.</p> <p>You worked so hard for those you loved, you always did your best, you fought until you could no more, and now you are at rest, sadly missed.</p> <hr/> <p>MILLIGAN, Jennie:</p> <p>Wife of Jim Milligan (dec.).</p> <p>Mother of Carol, Julie and Jane.</p> <p>Nana to Simon, Paul, Peter, Elizabeth, Luke; Gareth; and Zoe.</p> <p>Great Nana to Thomas, Aaron, Craig; Owen, Chloe; Olivia, Matilda; Chad, Jake; and Elsie.</p> <p>Living memories.</p> <p>Privately Cremated.</p> <hr/> <p>MINNS, Lee:</p> <p>Dearly loved sister-in-law of Carol and Paul, beloved aunt of Andrea, Brendan, Anthony, Lauren, Luke and their families.</p> <p>--All our love.</p> <hr/> <p>MOORE, Norma Joan:</p> <p>Rose La Vie, Gary, Warren (dec.), Grant and Robert Moore would like to announce the gentle passing over of our mother, Norma Joan Moore.</p> <p>Aged 93yrs...to GLORY.</p> <p>Beloved wife of Tony Gennacarro (dec.) and Raymond Moore (dec. 1991).</p> <p>This, after a sudden illness, on January 12, 2025, and a 7 day journey, with her daughter and the many nurses, catering and other staff who held Mum and cared for her, as she passed over.</p> <p>With our deepest gratitude to Drs. Renee, Ange Williams, Chisholm and NUM Carole.</p> <hr/> <p>BURKE:</p> <p>The Funeral Service for Mr. Donald Burke will be held at the Wonthaggi Clubhouse (Golf Club), 11 Dr. Sleeman Drive, Wonthaggi, Friday February 7, 2025, commencing at 2pm.</p> <p>A Private Cremation will follow.</p> <hr/> <p>MARTIN:</p> <p>A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs. Amanda Martin will be held at Outtrim Hall, 1051 Outtrim Leongatha Rd, Outtrim on Friday January 31, 2025, commencing at 1.30 pm.</p> <hr/> <p>MINNS:</p> <p>A Funeral Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs. Lee Minns will be held at Korumburra Anglican Church, 3 Queen St, Korumburra, on Wednesday January 29, 2025, commencing at 11am. A Private Cremation to follow.</p> <p>Lee's service will be live streamed. To view the service please go to www.handleyfunerals.com.au</p> <hr/> <p>CLARK:</p> <p>A service for Beverley will be held at the Uniting Church St Arnaud on Thursday January 30, 2025, commencing 12.30pm. The cortège will then leave for the Swanwater West Cemetery.</p> <p>Recording of service @ kellfunerals.com.au</p> <hr/> <p>KELL FUNERALS.</p> <p>ST. ARNAUD.</p> <p>5495 1043.</p> <p>MILKINS FUNERALS</p> <p>Mob:0439 320 099</p>				
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The Funeral Service and interment of ashes for Mr. Alan 'Nigger' Anderson will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Friday January 31, 2025, commencing at 2:30pm.	The Funeral Service for Mr. David Maxwell will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Friday January 31, 2025, commencing at 2:30pm.	The Funeral Service and interment of ashes for Mr. Alan 'Nigger' Anderson will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Friday January 31, 2025, commencing at 2:30pm.	Funeral Prayers for Mr. William (Bill) Beattie will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi, Thursday February 6, 2025, commencing at 2pm.	The Funeral Service for Mr. William (Bill) Beattie will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi on Wednesday February 5, 2025, commencing at 11am.
Handley & Anderson FUNERAL DIRECTORS Serving South Gippsland & Wilsons Promontory	Handley & Anderson Wonthaggi 5672 1074	Handley & Anderson Wonthaggi 5672 1074	Handley & Anderson Wonthaggi 5672 1074	Handley & Anderson Wonthaggi 5672 1074
LOWENSTEIN:	MINNS:	MARTIN:	MINNS:	MINNS:
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Sentinel-Times Classifieds

IN MEMORIAM

ZURMA, GIOVANNI (JOHN):
Passed away January 28, 1985.

January is here with deep regret.
This day of the month we will never forget.
With an aching heart and tears unseen,
We wish your absence was only a dream.
We laugh, we smile, we play our part,
But behind it all we have broken hearts.
Your memory we treasure with thoughts so dear,
We think of you always, Not just once a year.

Your loving son Tony, Tricia,
all the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

--REST IN PEACE.

GARAGE SALES

WONTHAGGI:
Unit 10 - 109
Korumburra Road,
Saturday February 1, 2025.

Please leave cars at the top of complex, in the visitor's car park.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

BASS COAST CAR REMOVALS
We pay you for your unwanted cars, 4x4's & trucks

We can remove farm scrap metal for free. Towing now available.

Call Shane
7 days a week
5678 2002 or
0407 599 616

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:
(a) The cash price of the motor car; and
(b) Whichever of the following is applicable...
• If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or
• If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

WANTED TO BUY

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE:
Good clean household furniture and other goods.
Ph: Andrew 0410 471 387.
Abby's Bargain Centre.

FOR RENT

OFFICE / FACTORY LEONGATHA:
Rear of 32 Yarragon Rd.
Please phone: 0418 583 464.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Lifeline
HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE
13 11 14

To place an advertisement on this page please call 5672 1888



2015 VW GOLF GTI:
Manual, one owner, full VW service history and RWC.
Fantastic to drive.
172,000kms of country miles, never been in an accident.
Reg valid to end Aug.
Give me a call today!
Leongatha.
0408 538 504
\$15,500.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rock n Roll
DANCE LESSONS
Beginners to Advanced
Dakers Centre, Leongatha
Cnr Smith & Watts Street

JOIN US NOW
Recommencing February 6, 2025
Every Thursday night - 7.30pm
NO PARTNER NECESSARY - COST \$10
Inquiries to: John 0418 586 324

SITUATIONS VACANT

WHOLELIFE PHARMACY & HEALTHFOODS

Retail Manager

Full time position, part time considered for the right applicant.

Retail experience or management experience preferred.

Pharmacist

Full time and part time positions available

Applications to
ailu@ourlocalpharmacy.com.au
Mirboo North Wholelife Pharmacy and Healthfoods
46 Ridgway, Mirboo North

Take the plunge.

Customer Service Officer

Fixed term 12 months, band 2.
Full time and part time (0.8 FTE) applications considered.

Join a team who is passionate about providing exceptional customer service to our customers and communities.

Applications close 31 Jan 2025

For application details go to www.westernportwater.com.au

WESTERNPORT WATER

SITUATIONS VACANT



Position Vacant

BUTCHER or MEAT WRAPPER

San Remo IGA is seeking passionate and enthusiastic individuals to join our Meat Room.

The successful applicant must be self motivated and able to work in a team environment.

Permanent Part-time/Full-time positions available to the right candidate.

If this sounds like you or you would like to know more please get in touch!

EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO:

shayne@sanremoiga.com.au

135 Marine Pde, San Remo, VIC 3925
T: (03) 5678 5337

mja ACCOUNTING

Bookkeepers / Office Allrounders

MJA Accounting is seeking full-time Bookkeepers / Office Allrounders to join the team in our Leongatha and Korumburra offices.

Our practice provides taxation, business, superannuation and financial planning advice as well as general accounting and bookkeeping services.

These roles are diverse and will directly service our clients as well as support the overall operation of our practice.

Key responsibilities:

- BAS & IAS preparation
- Assist with tax return preparation
- Bank reconciliations
- Data entry
- Processing payroll and superannuation
- Assist with the preparation of financial reports
- Ensure compliance with financial policies
- Liaising directly with clients, accountants and the ATO
- Document management including digital and physical filing, scanning, archiving and organising client files
- Assist with various administrative tasks throughout the office, supporting the partners, accounting, financial planning and administrative teams.

We are looking for candidates with:

- Bookkeeping or office environment experience
- Attention to detail and an understanding of the importance of accuracy
- Experience and proficiency using Microsoft 365 software
- Familiarity with accounting software such as MYOB or Xero is preferred

These full-time in office roles are available for an immediate start.

A wage commensurate with skills and experience and in accordance with the Clerks-Private Sector Award 2020 will be offered to the successful applicants.

Please forward your resume and short cover letter outlining your experience and skills to practice@mjacpa.com.au by COB Friday, February 7, 2025.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



Phone:
5672 1888



Email:
ads@sgst.com.au



In person:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi
36 McCartin St, Leongatha



Mail:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

Office Hours:
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

Employment

Complete jobs listing online | www.sgst.com.au



Factory Supervisor

Burra Steel is a member of the world leading air movement specialists Fantech Group located in Korumburra. We are proud of our advanced manufacturing capabilities that produce high quality steel and sheetmetal components for commercial and industrial air handling equipment.

Responsibilities include:

- Schedule production processes and oversee workflows to meet delivery timelines and targets.
- Implement lean manufacturing techniques to improve productivity and streamline operations.
- Monitor quality standards and ensure products meet KPIs and delivery performance.
- Generate production reports and forecast completion dates.
- Train, support, and lead team members to ensure effective performance and a positive team culture.
- Lead safety initiatives, ensure compliance with OH&S procedures, and report hazards or incidents promptly.
- Maintain equipment and resolve technical issues to keep operations running smoothly.

In addition to the above, your demonstrated abilities in the following areas will ensure you make our shortlist:

- Prior experience in a supervisory role, preferably with exposure to both sheet metal and welding processes.
- Previous experience in or ability to learn CNC controls.
- Excellent multitasking and time-management skills, with the ability to prioritise tasks effectively.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills to effectively convey ideas and instructions.
- Proficiency in reading, understanding, and utilising engineering and assembly drawings, as well as manufacturing and quality procedures.
- Basic computer skills required, including the ability to effectively use the Company's computer system for stores-related purposes.

Please send your applications to hr@fantech.com.au and feel free to call 03 9554 7882 for further enquiries.

Visit our website:
www.sgst.com.au

Customer Service Officer (Casual x 2 Positions available)

South Gippsland Water (SGW) are currently seeking a skilled person to join us as a Customer Service Officer. The key requirements of the role are:

- Demonstrated experience in a high paced customer service environment, and ability to relate to customers with empathy.
- Basic knowledge and understanding of financial transactions including receipting payments, applying correct charges to customers and balancing financial records.
- Positively contribute to team operations and working relationships.
- Demonstrated ability to prioritise and manage a range of work, ensuring most important tasks are completed in line with the team's timeframes.
- Ability to communicate effectively with a varied audience both verbally and written.
- Demonstrated computer skills with proficiency in MS Word, Excel, Outlook and preferable in a customer billing system.
- Casual
- Starting Location Foster, Victoria
- Flexible Work Arrangements Available
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 4 \$32.67 - \$34.53 per hour + Superannuation + Casual Loading

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

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

Applications Close Monday, February 3, 2025 at 5pm

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Registered Nurse - Perioperative Service

Grade 2

0.42 EFT, part time, fixed term up to Jan 2026.

Job sharing of EFT may be considered.

For more information

<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

V00213

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.

BUNURONG ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

Part time Shop Manager

We are looking for an enthusiastic Shop Manager to run the Bunurong Environment Centre shop in Inverloch. The shop raises money to support environmental projects in our region.

The position is 15½ hours/week to be worked over 3 days. Tasks include management of shop stock using a computerised Point of Sale system, maintaining shop displays, working with shop volunteers and promoting the business.

Email to Annette Read at secretary@sgcs.org.au or phone 0437 433 365 to obtain a position description or discuss the role.

Applications addressing the selection criteria and a CV to secretary@sgcs.org.au by 5pm Friday, February 7.

V00214

Celebrating Corner Inlet on World Wetlands Day

THIS World Wetlands Day, held on Sunday, February 2, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, (the CMA) is proud to celebrate the ongoing commitment to protecting world renowned Corner Inlet Ramsar wetland through its Corner Inlet Connections project.

Wetlands are among the world's most productive environments and countless species of plants and animals depend on them for survival. This year's theme is 'wetlands for our common future – value, protect and inspire'.

"Every day is wetlands day in West Gippsland which is home to over 1500 wetlands including 11 that are listed as nationally important under the Directory of Important Wetlands Australia," said CEO of West Gippsland CMA Martin Fuller.

As well as having cultural significance, wetlands act as the 'kidneys of the catchment' – protecting the environment by capturing and filtering water and acting as a natural sponge to absorb, store and reduce flood levels. They provide essential habitat for wading and migratory birds, threatened species and it is a key function of the CMA to restore and protect wetlands across the region.

Corner Inlet Ramsar wetland is a recognised haven for migratory and resident shorebirds and made up of extensive seagrass meadows, and unique intertidal mudflats and forests of white

mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) – the world's most southerly distribution of this species.

In the first year of the five-year project, the CMA partnered with Parks Victoria, GLaWAC, Trust for Nature and BirdLife Australia to achieve positive results including treating spartina, controlling foxes to protect shorebirds, improving water quality, and safeguarding 136 hectares of saltmarsh including a 25 hectare Trust for Nature covenant protecting the area forever.

In total, weed control covered over the entire site of 67,000 hectares with 530 hectares of pest animal control and water monitoring will help measure results of the efforts across the broader catchment.

BirdLife Australia teams undertook seasonal shorebird counts and monitored the breeding success and health of key species of beach nesting birds such as Hooded Plovers, Pied Oystercatchers and Crested, Caspian and Fairy terns.

"We are proud to be continuing the decades of work in Corner Inlet through understanding the threats we need to address to protect this significant wetland for our common future," concluded Mr Fuller.

This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by West Gippsland CMA, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.



Mary from Mirboo North was really getting into the spirit of the Australian Open. ob04_0425

Victorian road racing champs a blast

By Peter Cleeland

THE picturesque Phillip Island Auto Racing Circuit provided the venue for the commencement of the Victorian Road Racing Championships over the Australia Day long weekend. Preston Motorcycle Club presented a race program of 29 events that included the Australian F1 and F2 Sidecar Championship, the prestigious Hughie Hoare Supersport feature race, the Harvey Wiltshire Superbike event as well as a number of other supporting categories.

Riders were greeted with outstanding weather conditions commencing practice on Thursday and Friday, qualifying on Saturday and the race program kicked off on Saturday afternoon. There was no shortage of talent across the entry list as Aussie Josh Brookes of British Superbike and Isle of Man TT fame, Glen Allerton and Ant West both highly credentialled Australian Superbike riders took up the cudgels.

In the 600 Supersport class, young gun Tom Bramich on the Yamaha YZF R6 and Marcus Hamod on the Honda CBR-RR were setting a cracking pace in practice.

On Saturday afternoon the screaming 600 Supersports contested the Hughie Hoare feature race first up over 10 laps with Canberra-based rider Marianos Nikolis riding a Yamaha YZF-R6 jostling with Tom Bramich and New South Welshman Hayden Nelson on a Kawasaki ZX6-R. The pace from the outset was electric as these three riders broke away from the field and frequently took turns in the lead. At the business end of proceedings, Nikolis with a fastest lap of 1.35.399 seconds was able to assert his superiority to take out the Hughie Hoare from Bramich three seconds back and Nelson a further 10 seconds in arrears.

The Superbike race contested over eight laps was an absolute humdinger between Glenn Allerton, Cameron Dunker and Joshua Brookes. Dunker on the Yamaha YZF-R1 took an early lead from Allerton (Ducati V4R) and Brookes riding a Honda CBR-RR however Cameron could not break away. Allerton seemed to be biding his time waiting for an opportunity to pounce which he did but at the chequered flag, his slim margin was 0.195 seconds from Dunker who had set the fastest lap of the race trying to wrestle back the lead. Joshua Brookes was a further 3.246 seconds back in third.

Queenslanders, Corey and Daniel Turner on the Suzuki GSXR 1000 smashed the opposition to record a 21-second win in the first round of the Australian Sidecar Championship for F1 and F2 carts. Max and Sam Hutchesson from South Australia on a similar machine came in second with Terry Goldie and Matthew Johnston on the Honda LCR 600 filling out third place on the dias a further six seconds back.

A special mention to the Horner duo, Michael and Katherine, who took eighth place in this event on the



Aussie Superbike star Glenn Allerton leads Cameron Dunker through turn four on his way to victory.

Irving Vincent P4 1300, a machine with a magical deep throaty note.

The second Supersport race was an absolute nailbiter with Marianos Nikolis coming home with the chocolates by 0.242 seconds from Tom Bramich and Jake Farnsworth four seconds away in third. This race was an absolute thriller as the two leading contenders were at each other's throats throughout the seven-lap event. While Bramich recorded the fastest lap time Nikolis was more consistent over the race distance.

To start Sunday's jammed-packed program the sidecars jettisoned off the line for their second race of the weekend with the Turner brothers showing an early ascendancy. However, due to a blown motor on lap three the Turners gave way to Victorian pairing Jamie Crass and Lee Menzies on the Suzuki GSXR 1000 who had three seconds on the Hutchesson brothers also on a Suzuki with Goldie and Johnston a further 1.5 seconds back in third.

The top four riders in the Superbike class turned on a rip-snorter of a contest in the second Superbike event on Sunday with Josh Brookes leading out on the Honda only to be hauled in and passed by Glenn Allerton (Ducati), Anthony West (Yamaha) and Cameron Dunker also on a Yamaha. Allerton was clearly showing his supremacy through extensive knowledge of the Island circuit.

Victorian Jack Mahaffy on his Yamaha YZF-R6 took over the lead from Marianos Nikolis with three laps to go and looked to have the second Supersport race of the weekend wrapped up. Bramich also passed Nikolis who was losing grip as his tyres went off.

In an astonishing effort on the last lap of this event, Nikolis re-passed Bramich and set his sights on hunting down Mahaffy only to fail by 0.183 seconds at the chequered flag.

Race three for Sidecars saw Jamie Crass and Lee Menzies from Victoria hold sway by 7.646 seconds from the Hutchesson brothers, while Michael Alton and David Rumble on a Suzuki LCR 600 came in third.

The main race for the weekend, the Harvey Wiltshire Superbike

Feature event for Superbikes was an absolute rib tickler. This event was named after a member of the Preston Motorcycle Club who lost his life in the 1940s and in honour of Harve's memory his widow donated a trophy to be contested. The first event was held in 1951 with Maurie Quincey winning the race. Famous motorcycle riders such as Ken Blake, Ron Toombs, Anthony Gobert and Robbie Phillis have also added their names to be winners list over time.

At the drop of the flag, Josh Brookes led the field away with Allerton, Ant West and Cameron Dunker in hot pursuit. On lap two Allerton's hopes of victory disappeared as he high-sided at turn two and it looked as though Brookes, the perennial bridesmaid might score a victory as he built a slender lead from West and Dunker. But this was never to be as on the final lap Ant West pulled a brilliant passing manoeuvre to oust Brookes by 0.075 seconds from the top step on the podium with Cameron Dunker 0.166 seconds back in third.

Jack Mahaffy scored a brilliant win in the final Supersport race slipping under the guard of Marianos Nikolis at turn five (Siberia) where he threaded his Yamaha through a tiny gap pushing Nikolis wide on the exit of the corner. Nikolis' Yamaha had a bent rim which impeded his progress with handling and grip issues. A 4.66-second gap separated first and second while Hayden Nelson on the Kawasaki ZX6R was a second back in third.

The last Superbike race followed in the same vein as the first three with the closest of racing with Cameron Dunker basically pinching the event from Josh Brookes by 0.152 seconds with Ant West 0.223 seconds away in third.

The Preston Motorcycle Club are to be congratulated on a professionally run, well-organised event that produced safe, thrilling racing at the Island circuit which those spectators who entered for free were privileged to witness. The 2025 World Superbike Championship gets underway on February 18-21 at Phillip Island and spectators are guaranteed a fantastic spectacle of first-class competition.



Matt Kiely (Commodore), Andrew Biram, Owen Kenny and Jono Pullham competed in the Australia Day Race Series at the South Gippsland Yacht Club.

Sailing series marks Australia Day

THE Australia Day race series took place on Anderson Inlet over Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Comprising four races and with a total entry of 23 boats, sailors enjoyed perfect sailing conditions with fresh winds Saturday (20 knots) and up to 15 knots Sunday.

Racing in Division B was particularly competitive with 'Impulse' class visitors testing the skills of the local sailors - Jono is the current State Impulse champion,

Matt is a past champion.

It was a great weekend on the water.

Results:

- A Division (Catamarans): First: Andrew Biram (SGYC). Second: Craig Stewart (SGYC).
- B Division (Dinghies < 125 handicap): First: Matt Kiely (SGYC). Second: Jono Pullham (APYC).
- C Division (Dinghies > 125 handicap): First: Owen Kenny (SGYC). Second: Tanith Ryan (SGYC).



Mathias Twomey, David Morris (club captain), James Harman and Josh Robinson at Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club's annual Club Championships.

Mate vs mate at Club Championships

FRIENDSHIPS were put to the test on Saturday as members of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club competed against each other to determine the annual Club Championships.

The day started with beach events - two-kilometre run, sprints and flags.

The swim and board events saw competitors tackle the water conditions with ease with only small waves present.

Points tallied for placings during the various events determined the winners on the day.

Champions in each age group were:

- U15 boys: Tom Murley.
- U15 girls: Neve Murley.
- U18 male: James Harman.
- U18 female: Milla Laub.
- Open male: Josh Robinson.
- Men's Masters: Kirk De Marchi.
- Female Masters: Lauren Kerr Blair.



Josh Robinson and Nat Jowett battle it out in the flags event.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

WEDNESDAY
January 29

▲	12.37am
▼	1.40m
▲	5.56am
▼	0.96m
▲	11.46am
▼	1.21m
▲	6.07pm
▼	0.37m

THURSDAY
January 30

▲	1.33am
▼	1.46m
▲	7.05am
▼	0.87m
▲	12.59pm
▼	1.25m
▲	7.07pm
▼	0.33m

FRIDAY
January 31

▲	2.22am
▼	1.54m
▲	7.59am
▼	0.76m
▲	2.00pm
▼	1.33m
▲	7.59pm
▼	0.30m

SATURDAY
February 1

▲	3.05am
▼	1.60m
▲	8.45am
▼	0.63m
▲	2.55pm
▼	1.42m
▲	8.46pm
▼	0.29m

SUNDAY
February 2

▲	3.45am
▼	1.64m
▲	9.27am
▼	0.50m
▲	3.45pm
▼	1.50m
▲	9.31pm
▼	0.32m

MONDAY
February 3

▲	4.22am
▼	1.66m
▲	10.10am
▼	0.38m
▲	4.35pm
▼	1.56m
▲	10.17pm
▼	0.37m

TUESDAY
February 4

▲	4.57am
▼	1.65m
▲	10.52am
▼	0.28m
▲	5.25pm
▼	1.59m
▲	11.01pm
▼	0.44m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au

Third for three for SGB success

THE long drive to Mildura did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the South Gippsland Bass swimmers, with 74 swimmers and their families making the trip to compete in the 2025 Victorian Country Championships.

The team, one of the largest in the club's history, held their own in the three-day event, racing against the best of rural Victoria.

The club once again finished third for the third year in a row, causing great excitement among the swimmers. The team went in day three leading third place by 40 points but pride themselves on being day three specialists and ended up extending the margin to 157. SGB were one of three Gippsland Clubs to finish in the top 10.

The excitement continued during presentations, as SGB swimmer Archie Smyth received the Rod Godfrey award for the highest aggregate score for a 13 and under Victorian swimmer.

Archie won four golds in all strokes for the 100 metre events for his age and was second in the IM. He also medalled in the relays.

Australian swimmer Bowen Gough, watching on day one, was amazed at the number of SGB swimmers.

"I remember when we would come to these events with three or four swimmers and now look how many of you there are."

The swimmers raced heats in the morning, returning to compete in the evening's finals and relays, cheered loudly from the stands and sidelines by the rest of the club. There was great excitement on day one as the team started off the final's session winning the first two gold medals in close races.

Swimming outside in the scorching midday sun was a challenge for the swimmers, who are used to training indoors, with temperatures reaching 40C. However, they didn't let it deter them and put in superb efforts, many still managing to get some PBs and national qualifying times.

The team's relays highlighted the depth of swimming within the club, with most A and B teams finishing in the top eight, bringing home points for the club. With swimmers only allowed to compete in four relays each, it showed the swimmers level of skill of at the club, as almost every swimmer was in a relay. Those who were emergencies for the relays were still there to support their teammates.

Coach Sam was impressed with the swimmers.

"They have all been inspirational in their own way, lifting at times when they needed to. I love watching the progression from their early years in the junior squads to now."

Coach Dylan was thrilled with the efforts.

"On day two our B team relays worked so hard to get us points and they earned the team 34 points in their effort. We had some people win medals that never thought they would in relays. Byron, one of multi class swimmers is so proud of his and has been proudly showing it off. There have been so many people give their all, in such hard conditions with the heat and keep on trying, bouncing back after a swim that hasn't gone their way to give it everything in the next event."

Coach Caiden was very happy with everyone's efforts.

"There have been many inspirational swims. I've only had to do one race and that was hard, so to watch everyone do several events and back it up with these great results is really pleasing."

Coach Lorri loved seeing her multi class swimmers do so well.

"This is the first time for them to have so many events, including heats

and finals and to see them do so well is wonderful. Their efforts in the relays and individual events have been spot on and they have had a great time. This is one of my favourite meets of the year and despite the heat I have had a great time."

The squad was joined by many of their families, making the most of the trip and enjoying the local sights. The event, supported by Mildura Council, is seen as more than a swimming event, drawing tourist dollars for the region.

The swimmers have a short break before preparing for several big competitions in the next few weeks.

Results

- Max Brocklesby 15: Open 800m Freestyle 3rd
- Rex Brocklesby, 13: 100m Backstroke 2nd
- Gemma Cook, 13: 3rd 50m Butterfly, 3rd 100m Backstroke, 3rd 50m Breaststroke, 3rd 200m Freestyle, 4th 200m IM, 3rd 50m Freestyle
- Claudia Croatto, 15: Open 200m Breaststroke 1st, 100m Breaststroke 4th, 200m IM 3rd
- Emily Croatto, 12: 200m IM 5th, 100m Freestyle 3rd, 100m Breaststroke 1st, 100m Backstroke 4th
- Maggie Fisher, 13: 100m Freestyle 3rd, 100m Backstroke 4th
- Billy Fisher, 15: 100m Breaststroke 3rd
- Cormac Flynn, 15: 100m Breaststroke 2nd
- Caidan Gill, Open: 50m Freestyle 1st
- Sienna Hunt, 14: Open 200m Butterfly 4th
- Levi Jarrett, 12: 2nd 50m Backstroke, 3rd 50m Breaststroke, 3rd 100m Freestyle, 2nd 100m backstroke, 3rd 50m Backstroke, 2nd 100m Breaststroke
- Mostyn Lumsden, 17: 100m Butterfly 3rd
- Rahni Matheson, 16: 100m Breaststroke 1st, 100m Freestyle 3rd, 200m IM 4th, Open 100m Breaststroke 1st
- Sophie McKenzie, Open: 50m Breaststroke 1st
- Dylan Muir, Open: 50m Backstroke 5th
- Trinity O'Keefe, Open: 50m Breaststroke 3rd
- Josie Richer, 11: 50m Breaststroke 3rd
- Miah Roberts, 15: 100m Backstroke 4th, 200m Backstroke 4th, 200m IM 5th, 400m IM 4th, Open 100m Backstroke 2nd
- Will Simmons, 15: 100m Backstroke 2nd, 100m Freestyle 1st
- Archie Smyth, 12: 200m IM 2nd, 100m Freestyle 1st, 100m Butterfly 1st, 100m Breaststroke 1st, 100m Backstroke 1st

Relays

- Para-able bodied – Freestyle, A team 1st. Medley, B team 3rd
- 12 and Under Girls – Medley, A team 2nd
- 12 and Under Boys – Medley, A team 3rd
- 14 and Under Girls – Freestyle, A team 3rd. Medley, A team 1st, B team 4th
- 14 and Under Boys – Freestyle, A team 6th. Medley, A team 5th
- 16 and Under Girls – Medley, A team 2nd. Freestyle, A team 1st
- 16 and Under Boys – Medley, A team 2nd. Freestyle, A team 3rd
- 17 and Over Girls – Medley, 5th. Freestyle, 5th
- 17 and Over Boys – Medley, 5th. Freestyle, 4th
- Women 4 x 100 – Medley, 4th. Freestyle, A team 5th
- Mens 4 x 100 – Freestyle, A team 3rd
- Mixed 4 x 50 – Medley, A team 2nd. Freestyle, 1st

See full results and additional photos online at sgst.com.au.



The girls 14 and under gold medal winning medley relay team.



The 12 and under A team girls secured second place in the medley relay.



Cormac and Billy celebrate their breaststroke success.



Archie Smyth celebrates winning the Rod Godfrey award for the highest aggregate score for a 13 and under Victorian swimmer.



Mixed medley A team landed second place.



Bronze medal relay members celebrate the Para-able bodies medal with SwimVic President Michelle Harris.

PIBC Specialty twinny event

THE Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) held their Twinny Specialty event on Saturday, January 18. It was a resounding success showcasing a fantastic day of surf, camaraderie, and competition at the second car park of Cape Woolamai.

With waves delivering all day Club Captain Ash Easton and his team were treated to excellent conditions.

Jake President stated, "It was particularly exciting to see a strong turnout of groms, cadets, and juniors embracing the twinny boards, with many riding a twin fin for the very first time."

PIBC would like to send a special thanks to shaper Leigh Johnstone of Desert Ocean Surfboards for generously providing three twin fin boards for the competition, including a brand-new board that had its debut ride at the event. As well as thanks to Beachside Bakehouse for their donations of doughnuts and bread, and to Craig Anderson for his surf photography and Andrew Lindsey for his incredible in-water shots in big Woolies.

PIBC would like to also thank sponsors for the comps' prizes – Tracks Mag, Atoll Travel, Sin Eyewear, and Creatures of Leisure. The day concluded with a post-event presentation hosted by local Cape Woolamai restaurant Bang Bang, which provided a fantastic way to wrap up the fun-filled specialty event.

Results: Open Women's: 1st: Dannielle Baylis, 2nd: Abbey Clarke and 3rd: Scarlett Renne.

Open Men's: 1st: Harry De Roth, 2nd: Ash Easton and 3rd: Blake Green.

Legends (60+): 1st: Mal Gregson, 2nd: William Yusko and 3rd: Andrew Lidsey.

Juniors Male (U18): 1st: Rye Cicero, 2nd: Lachie Eastwood and 3rd: Toby Davies.

Cadets Female (U16): 1st: Evie Lutz, 2nd: Scarlett Rennie and 3rd: Phoenix Stedman.

Cadets Male (U16): 1st: Eddie Maier, 2nd: Ryan McKenzie and 3rd: Denver Preddice-Firth.

Awards:

Most Improved: Phoenix Stedman.

First Time on a Twinny: Denver Preddice-Firth.



Cadets Male (U16) first place Eddie Maier.

Don't be shy get in the pool with water aerobics

AQUATIC group fitness classes have never been more popular.

Water aerobics classes at South Gippsland and Bass Coast swimming pools are filling fast with older adults and younger people looking for cardio workouts that are fun, energetic and social.

Aquatic group fitness classes allow you to take part in a full-body, low-impact workout in a safe and gentle environment.

Led by qualified instructors aquatic group fitness classes run from 45 minutes to an hour and are a great way to keep fit and healthy.

Aqua Movers is a whole-of-body, gentle low-impact conditioning water-based workout offered at the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre using a combination of bodyweight and resistance equipment.

It is ideal for all fitness levels as you can vary the workout to fit your needs to improve overall strength, cardio endurance and mobility.

Aqua Movers is good for those getting back into exercise without placing undue pressure on joints, it is also lots of fun with great music during the workout.

Another motivating and invigorating water exercise class at the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre is Water Workout with an intermediate to high level of intensity.

Designed to motivate, challenge and improve a participant's cardiovascular and muscle endurance Water Workout is suitable for younger people and pre and post-natal women who like to exercise to music.

Whether you're looking for a challenging or low-impact workout, Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre offers aquatic group fitness classes to suit all abilities and ages.

South Gippsland SPLASH located in Roughhead Street Leongatha also offers group fitness classes that are a fantastic way to keep fit and healthy.

Led by qualified instructors SPLASH classes can help you achieve a full-body, gentle workout in a fun and safe environment.



Cassie and friends at the Toora swimming pool for water aerobics. B38 0425

SPLASH also has classes suitable for older adults and those recovering from injury.

Aqua Movers is a low-impact class aimed at maintaining physical function and improving motor skills through movement in water promoting correct posture and alignment while improving self-confidence and cardiovascular fitness.

Aqua Movers at SPLASH is set to music with an emphasis on fun and social interaction.

Aqua Move n Groove brings a completely new meaning to the idea of an invigorating workout offering a fun and challenging body-toning workout with easy-to-follow moves.

Move n Groove at SPLASH will have you giggling and wiggling your way to fitness.

SPLASH Strong Movers incorporates functional movements, minimal impact cardio and light resistance to build all-over body strength and flexibility in older adults (55 and over) with an enjoyable and social atmosphere.

Strong Movers is for all abilities and fitness levels so don't let injury put you off.

Water Running at SPLASH provides specific exercises to improve recovery from sport and activity and is a great class for those who play sports and want to learn how to use water resistance to improve performance and prevent injury.

Water Workout at SPLASH is a fun, safe and non-weight-bearing class suitable for all ages,

fitness levels and abilities accompanied by music in shallow and deep water.

South Gippsland Shire Council and SPLASH are launching Gippy Girls Can on Saturday, March 30 as part of VicHealth's #ThisGirlCanVIC campaign.

The official launch event at South Gippsland Splash will include aqua boards, stand-up paddleboarding, soccer mums, gymnastics for women, boxercise, volleyball, Zumba in the stadium and a free all-day water women's aerobics class.

Water aerobics classes at Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Wentworth Road, Wonthaggi are held Monday to Friday at 8.15am and 9.15am, and Tuesday and Thursday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Aqua classes run at Toora every morning from 9am Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday and two nights at 5.30pm Tuesday and Thursday.

To book group fitness classes at SPLASH go to sgsplash.ymc.org.au/swim/aquatic-group-fitness

Bookings are essential as places can be limited.

Outdoor swimming pools at Foster, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Poowong also offer great swimming over summer, search Facebook for extended operating hours.

For more information about a swimming pool close to you go to southgippsland.vic.gov.au/swimming-pools or wonthaggi.ymc.org.au.

sponsored by Leongatha Optometrists.

For entries, phone Bill or Hocko. Barefoot Bowls is also firing on a Tuesday with everyone having lots of fun.

FOSTER

THE club had a dress-up night for Australia Day last week at Jack Attack.

Quite a few got into the spirit.

Tony Vanin won the best dressed, wearing his surf rescue outfit that he wore some time back – a real winner.

Winners for the night were team Bohnnys, Kristen, Glenn and Kylie, winning Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Foster Cars and Off-road.

The runners-up were the Wheels, Lucas, Joel and Ross winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

Raffle prizes sponsored by the club, Cellarbrations and IGA were shared around.

It was another great night.

The main competition will start next week.

Pennant results for last week were down and up.

Both divisions on Tuesday lost to Inverloch, showing Foster why it is placing second on the ladder.

Saturday Pennant saw both divisions come home with strong victories over Mirboo North in Division 3 and over Leongatha in Division 4 – well done to all, keep going.

Sunday was Australia Day, and everyone was decked out in uniforms pacing the green, playing the second round of the Club's Open Handicap Singles.

A great morning of bowls was followed by a yummy barbecue lunch.

Congratulations to the winners, it was a most enjoyable day all around.

INVERLOCH

MORE than 30 bowlers rocked up on Thursday to play social bowls, along with several visitors.

The hard luck story team was made up of Joy Brown, Paul Davis and Joan McStravick.

Runners-up with 13 points up were Peter Gentsch, Graham Turton and Bruce Corrigan.

Winners for the day with 19 points up was the team of Rodney Grindani, Carol Thorn and Cheryl Abbott.

KORUMBURRA

IT WAS another busy week with Pennant.

In Midweek Pennant, Division 1 hosted Phillip Island and unfortunately went down.

Di Ashton lost 12 shots to 26, Katrina Evans got up 22 shots to 19 and Ben Peachey lost 11 shots to 26.

Division 2 travelled to Phillip Island and came home victors.

Jim Garnham won 24 shots to 10, Lena Harfield won 29 shots to 18 and Judith Nicholl went down 18 shots to 15 – still a good win.

In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 travelled to Wonthaggi.

In the battle of the top sides, Korumburra was the victor.

Robin Provan lost 12 shots to 21, Charlie Edgerton won 23 shots to 14 and Rob Cosson won 22 shots to 11.

Division 3 hosted and only one rink got up.

Phil Ashton won 24 shots to 21, Les Davis went down 25 shots to 12 and Gary Dorling went down 17 shots to 21.

Division 4 travelled to Wonthaggi, all to no avail.

Continued page 52

BREAKAWAY

A GREAT day of bowls was had on Monday, January 20.

The bowlers are enjoying a friendly atmosphere and a great afternoon tea.

The winners were Peter Grenville, Jan Clark and Linda Newman with +26.

Built on laughter and good friendships, the club continues to grow.

Thank you to all who come every day to bowl and support the club.

The winners on Friday were John Stewart, Rhonda Rattenbury and Peter Morgan with a score of +25 – well-done guys.

Even the heat of the day couldn't deter the intrepid bowlers on Monday, January 27.

A great day was had by all who attended.

The winners were Pat Novak and Brian Newman. They won with +13 – well done to all. See you this Friday.

COMMUNITY BANK TURKEY TRIPLES

IT WAS a great day for bowls at Fish Creek on Thursday.

The weather was warm and overcast, low wind speed and very pleasant conditions.

Visitors from near and far had near-perfect green conditions.

The happy atmosphere from all in attendance was a pleasure to see.

There were eight teams with three wins each vying for the trophies.

The winners were Alan Spooner, Bart Zaffarese and Matt Gallagher, second place on a count-back were Bill Symmons, Norm Cooper and Rob Grylls.

Best last game went to the boys from Korumburra, Roger Balmont, Keith March and Peter Hearn, who bounced back after a bad defeat the game before.

The club sincerely thanks the Community Bank Toora, Foster and Welshpool for its ongoing support of the many sporting clubs and organisations around the district.

FISH CREEK

FISH Creek enjoyed a great win from the Division 2 Midweek Pennant team last Tuesday.

The team had been playing good bowls, but it had been a long time since the last win.

Division 2 defeated third-place Inverloch 85 to 39, winning all three rinks.

Saturday Pennant also saw Fish Creek record two very important wins in Divisions 4 and 6, whilst Division 2 won two rinks against Tarwin but lost by five shots overall.

In a very tight ladder, Fish Creek is still sitting third.

Division 4 was home to Tarwin and recorded a terrific win by two shots 66 to 64 despite only winning one rink.

The Heywood/ Angwin rink held the team together again with a 16-shot advantage.

It came down to the last end of the day with Fishy being one down, but Andy Kerr put two on the jack to get the team over the line.

Fish Creek sits fourth, but the ladder is very close between second and sixth.

Division 6 was also home against Tarwin and had a solid win with everyone pulling their weight.

Once again, the ladder is very tight, and Fish Creek is currently third.

On Sunday, February 16, the club has its Invitational Triples

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | 51

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025 | 51



January 20's Breakaway Bowls winners were Peter Grenville, Jan Clark and Linda Newman.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's weekly winners were Elias (Lou) Capsalis (L), Craig Brown (S), Gwen Jeffrey (2) and Max Summers (3).



Robert McLaren, Jim Wilson, Mario Toffolon and Max Sweetnam were the winners of Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Friday.



John Stewart, Rhonda Rattenbury and Peter Morgan enjoyed a win at Breakaway Bowls on Friday.



The best last game went to the Korumburra team of Keith March, Roger Balment and Peter Hearn at the Fish Creek Bowls Club.



The Fish Creek/Foster team of Bill Symmons, Rob Grylls and Norm Cooper was the runner-up in the Fish Creek Turkey Triples.



The winners of the Turkey Triples at Fish Creek were Bart Zaffarese, Alan Spooner and Matt Gallagher from Toora/Port Welshpool.

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Jim Garnham had a good win 26 shots to 12, Jo Lomagno went down 32 shots to 10 and Rob Sund went down 30 shots to 10 – not a good result.

On Sunday, the club celebrated Australia Day with the Les and Jessie Chapman Memorial Day Fours sponsored by Chapman Cartage Contractors.

With 26 teams competing, a great day was had by all.

Winners on the day were Shane O'Loughlin, Ron Burge, Marc Bensch and Neil Green.

Runners up were Bill Symonds, Ian Eddy, and Graeme and Wendy Watkins, with best last game going to Les Davis, Jim and Heather Garnham, and Greg Lewis.

All in attendance enjoyed a great lunch provided by Tracey Pepperell and helpers.

LEONGATHA

THE round 11 Midweek Division 2 Pennant game was played at Wonthaggi Bowls Club.

The contest was a thriller with Leongatha winning overall with a score of 59/57 shots.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Roger Lee skip Wonthaggi was defeated by Dot Shandley Leongatha skip 23/25 shots.

Rodney Beech skip Wonthaggi was defeated by Lynne McIntyre Leongatha skip 17/18 shots.

Peter McBain skip Wonthaggi defeated Rosa James Leongatha skip 19/14 shots.

Round 12 of the weekend Pennant competition was played in pleasant weather conditions and the Division 1 game played at Mirboo North was another thriller with the final result being a draw 55/55 shots.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Josh Taylor skip Mirboo North defeated John Hall Leongatha skip 24/9 shots.

Andrew Soplakow skip Mirboo North was defeated by Anthony Collier Leongatha skip 15/21 shots.

Michael Corum skip Mirboo North was defeated by Jenny Miller Leongatha skip 16/25 shots.

The Leongatha Division 2 side hosted the Loch Bowls Club Division 2 side.

Another thriller resulted with Leongatha getting home with a two-shot majority and an overall score of 50/48 shots.

The excitement evolved with scores level and final rink left to play their last end.

Leongatha's third and skip nailed the win by drawing two shots to jack.

Individual rink scores were as follows:

Rod Jackson skip Leongatha defeated Greg Hodge Loch skip 19/25 shots.

Ron Symmons skip Leongatha was defeated by Pat Kennedy Loch skip 12/22 shots.

Les Wilson skip Leongatha defeated Finlay Luke Loch skip 19/11 shots.

The Leongatha Division 4 side travelled to the Foster Bowls Club to engage with its Division 4 side.

The final result with a score of 69/44 shots in favour of Foster had a negative effect of enhancing Leongatha's position on the ladder and a possible relegation at the end of the season.

Individual rink scores were as follows:

Michael Flanagan skip Foster defeated Alan Moxey Leongatha skip 23/13 shots.

Ian Park skip Foster defeated Lynne McIntyre Leongatha skip 31/12 shots.

Colin Pulham skip Foster was

defeated by John White Leongatha skip 15/19 shots.

The Leongatha Monthly Triples event was played last Wednesday with 26 teams totalling 78 bowlers appearing on the day to enjoy the competition and hospitality.

Please support Southern Smiles Dental who were the major sponsor of the event.

The winners on the scoreboard were the Philip Island trio who have been successful over time and are the measuring stick for the event.

Teams that play against John Newcombe, Peter Forrest and Graham Cornell know that are not in for an easy ride.

Hopefully, the electronic scoreboard will be in operation soon which will reduce the waiting time for the results to be calculated.

Congratulations to Angi Hackett for winning the Strzelecki Region State singles last Sunday at Tarwin.

MIDWEEK

IT WAS another beautiful day as 48 bowlers turned up at Corinella for the weekly challenge.

Overcast and 22 was the prediction for the day so all was right with the world.

The bowlers were met by Pauline and John who signed them in while Peter did the heavy lifting and arranged everyone into teams.

They then went to find the day's champions.

The weather stayed true to form for the morning session, and the bowlers took advantage of it with some great bowling around the green.

The afternoon session proved to be a continuation of the quality bowling, but the temperature definitely started to rise, and the clouds shifted away making a lot of the players somewhat uncomfortable.

However, the day was a total success with some great scores as the cream rose to the top.

The winners on a score of 38 were Elias (Lou) Capsalis (L), Craig Brown (S), Gwen Jeffrey (2) and Max Summers (3).

Runners-up on a score of 35 were Rob Paganoni (S), Allan Weeden (L), Phil Wright (3) and Frank d'Unienville (2).

Best one-game winners on a score of 19 were Jenny Smith (L), Dennis Tomlin (2), Michael Dady (S) and Jaye Allen-Dayle (3).

A big shout out to the great volunteers today including Peter, Pauline and John for all the hard work they do each and every week.

Also thank you to Terry behind the bar and on the green, Gwen and the girls in the kitchen, as well as Phil and Arch.

The club wishes its players success in their respective pennant games over the coming week.

The next meeting will be at San Remo next Thursday to once again fight it out for teams of the week.

In the meantime, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

ONCE again, it's been a busy week at the club.

Tuesday: Division 1 travelled to Corinella on a fine sunny day. All rinks played well, recording a solid win. Final scores: Wonthaggi 70, Corinella 52. Division 2 hosted Leongatha at Wonthaggi.

The match between the top two teams was always going to be a close contest, and it didn't disappoint, going right down to the wire.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 59, Leongatha 57.

This was a great result that kept Wonthaggi in top spot on

the ladder.

Division 3 hosted Tarwin at Wonthaggi. With perfect weather for bowls, all rinks performed well, achieving an impressive win and moving into third place on the ladder.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 67, Tarwin 46.

Tuesday night saw a great turnout for barefoot bowls on a perfect evening to be outdoors.

The lucky team draw was won by the Miners Dispensary.

Wednesday: Twenty-one bowlers graced the greens on a fine, mild day with little to no breeze.

There were no teams with two-game wins, but two teams finished with one win and a draw.

On countback, the winners were Aldo Sartori, John Gilliland, and John Duscher.

Runners up were Frank Tagell, Rob Dennis, and Colin Binch, also with one win and a draw.

Thursday morning social bowls continue to go well, with a good number of bowlers enjoying the game.

Friday the club hosted a fish or calamari night, which was a great success thanks to the efforts of many, led by Amanda.

Bruce Cameron won the members' draw, collecting \$60 for being present.

Saturday: Division 1 hosted Korumburra at Wonthaggi in a battle for the top spot on the ladder.

One rink secured a win, but the other two will need to reset for next week.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 46, Korumburra 57. Division 2 travelled to San Remo with victory on their minds.

On a fine day with a slight breeze – perfect conditions for bowls – all rinks performed well, recording a strong win and moving back into second place on the ladder.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 82, San Remo 49. Division 4 hosted Korumburra at Wonthaggi.

After a loss last week, the team bounced back, with all rinks playing well to achieve a solid victory.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 74, Korumburra 46.

Division 5 also played at home, hosting Inverloch.

It delivered another strong performance, with all rinks contributing to a good win.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 71, Inverloch 59.

Bowls this week: Tuesday: Pennant and barefoot bowls from 5pm. Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm. Thursday: Social bowls at 10am. Friday: Coaching at 10am. Saturday: Pennant.

Upcoming event: Don't forget the Skins Event on March 25.

Put a team together and join the fun. See Fred for details.

WONTHAGGI Indoor

IT WAS another competitive week of bowling with a total of 40 members.

Tuesday's winners with a plus seven, winning both games, were Judy Sweetnam and Lia Smith.

Runners up on a win and a draw on plus one were Pam Russell, Robert McLaren and Philip Fowler.

Friday was another competitive day with only one team winning two games.

On plus seven, they were Robert McLaren, Jim Wilson, Mario Toffolon and Max Sweetnam – well-done boys.

Coming second with plus 10 on a win and a draw were Judy Sweetnam, Pam Russell, Teresa Ireland and Bill Feathers.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, January 14. Stableford: 49 players. A Grade: Rob Gallagher (14) 44 points. B Grade: Brian Brown (37) 40 C/B. NTPs: first Ross Besley, seventh Guy Fields, 10th Allan Perks and 10th Nick Besley.

Thursday, January 16: Stableford: 26 players. A Grade: Guy Fields (6) 38 points. B Grade: Simon Perks (20) 42 points. NTPs: first Shayne Harland, seventh Roy Fleming, 10th Roy Fleming and 13th Guy Fields.

Saturday, January 18: Sponsor: Sports Power. Stableford: 68 players. A Grade: Steve Duffield (21) 37 points. B Grade: Zach Walker (15) 39 points. C Grade: Jack Clink (23) 39 points. NTPs: first Tim O'Neil and Steve Duffield, 10th Tim O'Neil and 13th Barry Kerr.

Tuesday, January 21: Stableford: 47 players. A Grade: Guy Fields (5) 37 C/B. B Grade: Allan Perks (26) 43 C/B. NTPs: first Barry Kerr, seventh Michael Thomas, 10th Billy Wrigley and 10th Steve Duffield.

Thursday, January 23: Stableford: 29 players. A Grade: Ross Besley (15) 40 points. B Grade: Bryce Riddell (20) 46 points. NTPs: first Guy Fields, seventh Robert Goss, 10th Noel Ladgrove and 13th Mick Belvedere.

Saturday, January 25: Sponsor: Tim Morgan and Top Pub. Par: 67 players. A Grade: Malcolm Garnham (12) +4. B Grade: Ian Morris (19) +5. C Grade: Doc Dixon (36) +5. NTPs: first Peter Van Agtmael, second Peter Van Agtmael, 10th Tristan Francis and 13th Chris McConnell.

Ladies

LAST Wednesday, Korumburra had 27 women play a Stableford round with three grades.

The club thanks its grounds staff and volunteers for coming out early and cleaning up the course after the strong winds recently.

Winner of A Grade was Jenny Blackmore (22) with 37 points on a c/b from Shelley Snooks (17). B Grade's winner was Beryl Brown (31) with a nice score of 41 points. Runner up was Lyn Perks (31) 39 points. C Grade's winner was Pam Eyers (41) with 41 points. Runner-up was Lynne Schwennesen (54) with 40 points.

BDL went to Lyn Leppin 39 points c/b, Julie Cole 38 points, and Betty Thomson and Kim Enbom both having 37 points. NTP's went to Lyn Perks on the first and Julie Brannagan on the 10th and 13th greens.

Next week is the Season Opening Day with a three to four-person drop-out Ambrose.

The Thursday Twilight winning pair with 23 points was Tim O'Neill and Colette Pearl on a c/b from Ian and Denise Gibson. NTP on the first was Brae Byrne.

On Saturday, another big field of 20 women played a Par event with some great scores in perfect golfing weather.

A Grade's winner with plus five was Kerri Besley (15). Runner up close behind was Lyn McIvor (20) with plus four. B Grade's winner was Chris Rickard (27) with plus six on a c/b from Trudy Olden (28). BDL went to Julie Hillberg and Shelley Snooks with plus three. NTPs went to Trudy Olden (Kelly's Bakery) on the first, 10th green Sherrin Solly and Shelley Snooks on the 13th.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, January 21: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had a field of 72 members/guests take to the course selecting either blue or yellow tees.

Overall winner: John McLennan (22) with the high score of the day with 40 points.

A Grade winner: Peter Hart (14) with a score of 36 points. A Grade runner up: Josh de Groot (12) with a score of 35 points on a countback. B Grade winner: Nick Shaw (17) with a score of 39 points. B Grade runner up: Will Norden (18) with a score of 36 points. C Grade winner: John McLennan (22) with a score of 40 points. C Grade runner up: Adrian Smith (28) with a score of 36 points. NTP fifth second shot: Bryan Roylance at 1.98m, 14th: Peter Hart at .22m, 16th: Matthew Pearce at .99m.

Thursday, January 23: Stableford.

Thursday's event was a Stableford round with an excellent field of 95 members/guests taking to the course, teeing off either the blue or yellow tees.

Overall winner: Simon Kaiserman (29) with a score of 40 points on a countback.

A Grade winner: Jamie Grenville (12) with a score of 37 points. A Grade runner up: Nicholas Byrne (12) with a score of 36 points. B Grade winner: Peter Clingin (15) with a score of 40 points. B Grade runner up: Martin Fuller (14) with a score of 37 points on a countback. C Grade winner: Bernard Skerys (19) with a score of 39 points. C Grade runner up: Bert Borg (19) with a score of 37 points. D Grade winner: Simon Kaiserman (29) with a score of 40 points on a countback. D Grade runner up: Fred Debono (25) with a score of 40 points.

Great score by Bradley Hines with an eagle on the fifth. NTP fifth second shot: Bradley Hines, 14th: Nicholas Byrne, 16th: Ken Smirk.

Saturday, January 25: Stableford.

Saturday's Stableford round had an outstanding field of 145 members/guests playing in sublime summer conditions.

Overall winner: Bryan Roylance (21) with the high score of the day of 41 points.

A Grade winner: Paul Prendergast (11) from the Cowes Golf Club with a score of 38 points. A Grade runner up: Josh de Groot (12) with a score of 37 points on a countback. B Grade winner: Peter Walsh (14) with a score of 38 points. B Grade runner up: Andrew Henley (14) with a score of 35 points on a countback. C Grade winner: Mel Miles (19) with a score of 40 points. C Grade runner up: Marie Turner (17) with a score of 38 points. D Grade winner: Bryan Roylance (21) with a score of 41 points. D Grade runner up: David Barrack (24) with a score of 40 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Cameron Ritchie, 14th: Simon Deery, 16th: Russell Pentland.

MEENIYAN

ON SUNDAY, January 19, 128 players participated in the annual Drummond Day.

A big thanks goes to sponsor Damien Leggo from Drummond Golf in Traralgon for his ongoing generosity.

The men's winners with a score of 52.375 net were Brett McKnight, Jack Jacobsen, Peter Jacobsen and Will Thorson.

Runner up with 55.125 net was

Paul Robinson, Matt Wilson, Dave Birt and Pete Hollier.

The ladies' winners with a score of 58.875 net were Andrea Thorson, Kasey Thorson, Irene Holm and Dot Christie.

Runner up with 60 net were Susan Straw, Louise Vuillermis, Sue Phillips and Jo Graeme.

The mixed winners with a score of 59 net were Neil Park, Ethan Park, Veronica Park and Heather Poletti.

Runner-up with 61.75 net were Graeme Hoskin, Sue Hoskin, Bruce Knee and Heather McCaughan.

NTPs went to Blake Spokes and Bev Shatten on second, eighth Lloyd McKenzie and Irene Holm, 11th Michael Thomas and Irene Holm, and 14th Dave Birt.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, January 21: Stableford. A Grade: M. Woodall (7) 40 points. B Grade: O. McColl (20) 41 points. DTL: M. Richer 39, B. Bradshaw, M. Snell and G. Shandley 38. NTP: fourth D. Taylor, sixth M. Woodall, 13th T. Whitelaw and 16th R. Gourlay.

Birdies: fourth M. Snell and D. Taylor, sixth M. Woodall and 16th R. Thompson.

Saturday, January 25: Par.

A Grade: M. Snell (6) two up c/b. B Grade: A. Liebe (14) five up. C Grade: N. Baker (21) two up c/b. DTL: J. Coleman three up, J. Robbins, S. Evison and T. Baker two up, and P. Cummaudo one up c/b. NTP: fourth S. Beitz, sixth P. Draper, 13th M. Payne and 16th P. Draper.

Birdies: 13th J. Robbins and M. Payne, and 16th T. Bradshaw.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: January 23, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Andy Horvath 42. Runner up: Colin Banks 41. BDTL to 38 C/B: Martin Cox 39, Sam Dalton 39, Malcolm Stephenson 39 and Ian Johnson 38 C/B.

Results: January 23, SR. 36.

Competition: Stableford 9 hole 10 to 18. Winner: Norman Burne 23. BDTL to 17 C/B: Mark Nicholson 19, Seconde Tiziani 18 and Ian Murrells 17 C/B.

Results: January 25, S.R 71.

Competition: Stableford. A Grade: Steven Brann 39. B Grade: Miles Foster 38. C Grade: Warwick Judkins 43.

Balls down the line to 36 C/B: Cooper Scott 42, Neil Edwards 40, Don Paproth 39, Max Ahearn 38, Ian Baker 38, Michael Scott 38, Grant MacKenzie 37, Simon O'Halloran 37, Jim McEachern 37, Ross Yann 36, Philip Dynes 36 and Stephen Judd 36 C/B.

Eagle: Michael Scott seventh.

NTPs: John Geyer second, Gary Bates fourth, Ian Gilmour Propin eighth, Craig Harvey 13th and Stephen Judd money hole 17th.

Ladies

THE club had a great field of 24 players on a cooler and dry day.

Although there were no forecasted thunderstorms, the fact there are now a few cracks appearing and the boys are so busy watering the course, a good soaking would be the bee's knees.

The girls are still hitting some top scores.

A Grade's winner was Marg Johnson (13) 38 points, and B Grade and round of the day went to Layla Robertson (31) 39 points.

BDL went to Wendy Cross 38, Sharon Patullo 37, Marion Walker 37, Anne Tschiderer 36 and Anne Poulton 36.



Korumburra Golf Club's A Grade women's winner Shelley Snooks with A Grade men's winner Steve Duffield. The sponsor of the event on Saturday was Sports Power.



Korumburra's Wednesday Stableford grade winners were Beryl Brown, Pam Eyers and Jenny Blackmore.



The men's winners of Meeniyan Golf Club's Drummond Day were Brett McKnight, Jack Jacobsen, Peter Jacobsen and Will Thorson, pictured with sponsor Damien Leggo from Drummond Golf.



Drummond Golf's Damien Leggo with the ladies' winners of the Drummond Day Andrea Thorson, Irene Holm and Dot Christie at the Meeniyan Golf Club. Absent: Kasey Thorson.



Neil Park, Ethan Park, Veronica Park and Heather Poletti were the mixed winners of the Drummond Day at the Meeniyan Golf Club. They are pictured with Damien Leggo from Drummond Golf.



Layla Robertson and Marg Johnson after their wins at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.



Korumburra's B Grade winner Ian Morris and daily sponsor Tim Morgan.

Skills displayed during Junior & Open Tennis Classic



Dowel Earthworks Family Doubles winner Lulu and Yoshi Philp with runners-up James and Dylan Jacobs (4-2).



Core 'n Saw Boys 14 and Under Singles runner-up Lachlan Rhodes and winner Charlie Pettifer (8-3).



SG CivilCrete Open Mens Singles runner-up Riley Nave with winner Matthew Pocklington (6-3, 6-4).



Dowel Earthworks Veterans Doubles winners Paul Ramsbottom and Frank Dekker with runners-up Greg Marshman and Glenn Kleeven (8-7).



South Gippsland Tennis Coaching Boys 16 and Under Singles winner Ethan Kleiman and runner-up Charlie Pettifer (6-4).



SG CivilCrete Boys 12 and Under Singles runner-up Declan Russell and winner Felix Hobbs (6-0).



Core 'n Saw Girls 14 and Under Doubles runners-up Ella Skelton and Elodie Witternberg and winners Lulu Philp and Kotone Burgess (8-1).



SG CivilCrete Open Ladies Singles runner-up Elodie Witternberg and winner Elle Skelton (8-4).



South Gippsland Tennis Coaching Girls 16 and Under Singles runner-up Madison Van Den Broek and winner Chloe Fernandez (6-5).



SG CivilCrete 10 and Under Doubles runners-up Tier 2 Ruben Russell and Harley Langstaff with winners Riley Collier and Jarrah Commadeur (6-5).



SG CivilCrete 10 and Under Singles Tier 2 runner-up Lily Van Den Broek and winner Jarrah Commadeur (6-3).



SG CivilCrete 10 and Under Singles Tier 1 runner-up Harry Priddle and winner Darcy Rayson (6-0).



SG CivilCrete 10 and Under Doubles Tier 1 runners-up Olly Ramsbottom and Roy Philp with winners Harry Priddle and Amber Koopmans (6-5).



SG CivilCrete Open Mens Doubles winners Josh and Tim Bloye with runners-up Riley Nave and Max Sheahan (8-2).

THE SKILL, passion and determination of 66 talented players from across the South Gippsland region were showcased during the recent SG CivilCrete Junior and Open Tennis Classic at the Leongatha Tennis Club.

It was an exciting weekend of fierce competition featuring seasoned veterans like Frank Dekker and Paul Ramsbottom and rising stars. There were also intense rallies in both singles and doubles.

In the singles draw, some familiar players dominated, while others emerged as contenders.

There was an array of playing styles, from aggressive baseliners to crafty net players ensuring lots of variety in the matches.

The doubles bracket was equally thrilling, the teamwork and tactical play impressive.

While many expected the top seeds to make their mark, the tournament saw several unexpected breakout performances.

Young players, some competing in their first tournament, stepped up to the challenge.

It was truly fantastic to see 17 girls, ranging from ages 10 to 18, competing in both singles and doubles at this year's tennis tournament.

The diversity in age and skill level really highlighted the growing talent pool in the sport.

What made it even more exciting was that these players came from as far as Melbourne, highlighting the wide-reaching appeal of the event and the dedication of these tennis players.

The energy and enthusiasm of these young players, each bringing their unique style and determination to the court, added to the fun of the tournament.

It was a wonderful reminder of how tennis is empowering young girls and giving them opportunities to shine at every age.

The tournament finished with a dramatic final day, in which the weather played a significant part.

We would like to give a big shoutout and thank you to Warren Littlejohn, Greg Marshman, Joel and Zac Langstaff for preparing the club and courts for the tournament as well as Glenn Kleeven and Greg Marshman for running the barbecue. Frank Dekker and Paul Ramsbottom for doing this year's raffle, Keerah Pocklington for taking care of all our players across the tournament and behind-the-scenes actions, and Matthew Pocklington and Alicia Marshman for doing an amazing job at running this year's tournament.

The 2025 Leongatha Tennis Tournament was an outstanding success, providing a platform for local players to shine and for the community to come together in support of the sport, the event delivering high-class tennis and unforgettable moments.

As the event concluded, players, spectators, and organisers alike were already looking forward to next year's edition.

Again thank you to everyone who entered and was involved in preparing for the tournament.

The event again proved that it is not just about the winners, but about celebrating the spirit of tennis and the joy of competition.

Not pictured: Core 'n Saw 14 and Under Girls Singles: Lulu Philp (Cranbourne) defeated Chloe Fernandez (Melbourne) 6-0.

Sunday afternoon washed-out events: 12s & 16s doubles.

Talent To Burn – Marianos Nikolis

By Peter Cleeland

WAITING for a Java order (coffee) to be delivered at the Victorian Road Racing Championships I got to exchange pleasantries with a rider's mother who had journeyed down from Canberra to watch her son contest the Supersport 600 races at the Island meeting over the Australia Day long weekend.

The lady in question commented on what a beautiful place Phillip Island was and how good the weather had been to the visiting competitors. On parting from the conversation, I requested her son's race number (37A) so I could look out for him.

Fast forward to the first Supersport race at the ready with the 600mm Canon lens and Canon 1DX Mark 3 perched on a mound at turn four. Settling over the lens number 37A was the leading bike to hit the view finder, ahead of a throng of 30 plus ballistic 600s. This was my first introduction to Marianos Nikolis who just happened to win this event and followed up with a second victory later on Saturday afternoon.

Seeking out Marianos to arrange an interview in his pit garage I was greeted with the sight of a remarkable 17-year-old stripped to the waist in his race leathers cooling down after his second triumph. Further investigations in my research into Marianos' career revealed that he had started his apprenticeship as a motorcycle



Marianos (centre) pictured with brother Yianni and mum Sally at the Victorian Road Racing Championships.

road racer at the ripe old age of nine. Prior to graduating to the tarmac, Marianos had started his career on a dirt bike at the ripe old age of four.

By 13 years of age, he was competing in the Asian Cup series under the guidance of manager come mechanic and big brother, Yianni.

Inspired by his hero and role model Valentino Rossi, Marianos started racing in the European Talent Cup in 2023. Taking on a former racer and coach in Spain's Diego Lozano, Marianos credited a lot of his success to his coach's guidance and instruction. Not surprisingly when asked why number 37, Marianos replied it was Diego's number when he raced.

Nearing the end of March

2025 Marianos will be returning to Barcelona, Spain to undertake preparation to compete in the highly prestigious FIM Junior World Championship which is held over seven rounds throughout Spain, Italy and France. Good results in this elite competition could see him moving one step closer to reaching his goal of being offered a ride in Moto3.

With two victories and two second places at the Victorian Road Racing Championships over the weekend plus the Supersport 600 lap record at the Phillip Island track Marianos has "talent to burn".

In fact, on the Thursday prior to the weekend meeting the bike he was to ride did catch fire courtesy of a leaking battery.

Unphased, replacement parts were scrounged and the problem fixed well enough to allow him to blast down the main straight at a lazy 270kmph.

With a high level of commitment to a physical fitness program based on Cardio exercise, Marianos embraces his running, cycling and gym programs with dedication and enthusiasm. In a sport where money speaks all kinds of languages when opening the doors to opportunity in Europe and thousands of would-be challengers never get to the top level Marianos is refreshing, young, highly talented sportsman with a burning ambition to succeed.

Marianos Nikolis – a young man on the move!



Dyson and Kate Turner-Heppell celebrate their nuptials at the weekend. Photo: Bianca Virtue

Congrats Kate and Dyson

FORMER Essendon and Leongatha football star, Dyson Heppell, has married his long-time partner Kate Turner at a weekend ceremony at the Barunah Plains homestead, on the Hamilton Highway, 30 minutes west of Geelong.

Dyson, who reportedly proposed to Kate at Oaks Beach in 2022, finally tied the knot after more than 12 years together.

Local guests enjoyed the celebrations with many of Dyson's former team mates at the Bombers.

Among other interests, Dyson has signed a two-year contract to play for Port Melbourne where he rejoins forces with former coach James Hird, the club's director of coaching.

ALLAMBEE MIRBOO AND DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Section 1 results:

Koonwarra 4.35 defeated Inverloch 4.33; Westernport White 4.41 defeated Korumburra 4.38; Leongatha v Westernport Red – forfeit (Westernport Red).

Ladder: Inverloch 82, Koonwarra 61, Leongatha 53, Westernport White 52, Westernport Red 48, Korumburra 36

Section 2 results:

Outtrim 6.61 defeated Baromi 3.44; Korumburra 6.62 defeated Leongatha 3.41.

Ladder: Outtrim 76, Korumburra 61, Baromi 55, Leongatha 48

A special day of tennis at the Gatha Round mark two.

Fill-ins were a feature in most teams – thank you to all those who put their hand up to help.

Koonwarra can take the crown for being the first team to defeat Inverloch this season.

Westernport White and Korumburra had the closest match of the round, with Westernport winning by just two games. Unfortunately, Westernport Red couldn't field a team and had to forfeit to Leongatha.

Outtrim was the winner over Baromi in Section 2. Making the loss worse for Baromi was an injury to Rhonda, who had to forfeit her three sets.

The association wishes Rhonda a speedy recovery.

Korumburra was the winner against Leongatha.

Thank you to all the clubs for another successful Gatha Round.

It seems these have been a great addition to the draw this year.



The Grand Ridge parkrunners wished Val Smith a very happy birthday.

Impressive times at the Grand Ridge parkrun

By Steve Quirk

when he could smell the finish. Local Shari Aubrey was enjoying it also with the 1300 fewer runners than her usual, Albert Park.

The greatest highlight of the day though was Val Smith's last workout before tackling the walk up to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge to celebrate her birthday with her family.

Enthusiastic run director Etsuko Yasunaga made sure everyone joined in a chorus of Happy Birthday to send her on the way.

Thanks to all the other volunteers who keep the parkrun special.

See you there, as usual, 8am on Saturday.

Leongatha Indoor Netball Association

MONDAY NIGHT NETBALL

Summer / Autumn 2025 Indoor Competition

COMMENCING, FEBRUARY 10

Ladies section Monday nights, single player entry or team entry welcome

Team entries and questions to Mandy leongathaindoornetball@gmail.com

Come and try the Tarwin Sharks...

FAMILY DAY

Saturday, February 1

Tarwin Recreation Reserve from 10.30am

Junior football and netball day

- All junior age groups incl. Auskick and NetSetGo
- Meet and greet our senior football and netball players
- Introduction to the club
- Football and netball drills & skills
- Live show for the little ones at 11am
- Bubble machine, slime drop and slip and slide
- Live music
- Donate or buy pre-loved Sharks merchandise and gear

FREE BBQ GAMES RAFFLES PRIZES

ME0269

WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

INDOOR NIGHT NETBALL SUMMER COMP 2025

FOR FUN AND FITNESS!

Starting Tuesday, February 18

Bass Coast Indoor Stadium
Must be VNA registered
Umpire opportunity
Ladies and girls must be
14 years and older
12 week season,
finals May 27 and June 3

Entries close February 11
via Facebook or text 0419 399 415

Pink Stumps Day at Club

WONTHAGGI Club Cricket Club (WCCC) will be holding their Annual Pink Stumps Ladies Day this Saturday, February 1, at the Butch West Oval.

This is the second year the club has run the fundraising event with all proceeds raised going to the McGrath Foundation in support of breast cancer care.

While the WCCC A1 men's team faces off against Nerrena in their pink caps and with their pink stumps, the ladies can go along, enjoy a drink, delicious food, raffles and entertainment from 1pm.

Talented local musicians Holly and Callum will keep the vibes lively and fun while Britta Bakes will be providing a spread of delicious food.

Special guest speakers will include local lady Cheryl Wilson who will share her own personal journey of having a lived experience of breast cancer, and local breast cancer nurse Taryn Robinson who will be providing education and awareness about breast cancer.

WCCC women's team representative Lily Crump will also be presenting on and promoting women playing cricket.

There will also be a silent auction for a cricket bat personally signed by Marnus Labuschagne.

This is an opportunity to own a piece of cricketing greatness and support a fantastic cause at the same time.

Bids can be made by direct messaging the WCCC Facebook page or via the auction sheet on the day, with the winner announced the same day.

A raffle will also be held for a Thermomix TM6 plus accessories including a blade cover and peel, a Thermomix cutter and a \$350 gift card.

So, gather friends, wear pink with pride, and join the WCCC for an unforgettable afternoon of community, compassion, and cricket.

Tickets include a welcome drink and food, prizes and plenty of other surprises.

Tickets are \$50 from square. link/u/hVvkqBWw.

Donations which go to the McGrath Foundation to support breast cancer care can also be made at bit.ly/3Bx9aQp.

LDCA Women head to finals



LDCA Women head to finals

OUR LDCA girls will head over to Bundalaguah on Sunday, February 2 to take on Sale-Maffra in the final. A team full of potential they are looking forward to the challenge. It's great to see women's cricket thriving in the region. Players are Brit Thomas (Captain) – Koonwarra L/RSL, Gabby Perry (Vice Captain) – Koonwarra L/RSL, Mel Gheller – Koonwarra L/RSL, Nicole Creaser – Inverloch CC, Olivia Allen – Meeniyan Dumbulk United CC, Jess McDonald – Inverloch CC, Jackie Newman – Inverloch CC, Holly Williams – Inverloch CC, Elyse Fisher – Kilcunda-Bass CC, Tiana Gold – Kilcunda-Bass CC, and Millie Gold – Kilcunda-Bass CC.

OMK bowlers set up T20 triumph over Nerrena



Jake Cochrane gets set to deliver for OMK while Nerrena's Timothy Whiteman relaxes at the non-strikers' end. A21_0425



Man of the Match Ethan Lamers watches the ball closely during his innings of 46. A27_0425



OMK keeper Koby Brann takes a bail off but Nerrena's Jack Curtis is firmly in his ground. A22_0425



Nerrena's Tim Clark gets set to bowl early in OMK's innings. A26_0425

LDCA to contest GCL T20 Cameron White Cup

THE Leongatha and District Cricket Association U18 team will take on Warragul in the GCL T20 Cameron White Cup Final on Wednesday, January 29, at Hallora.

With a 5pm start, get along and support the boys.

The game will also be live-streamed on Play HQ.

Good luck to the Leongatha and District Cricket Association boys, who are looking to go back-to-back after defeating the Latrobe Valley last season.

The team includes Captain Tadgh Gannon, Vice captain Aydan Williams, Harry West, Riley Harris, Mitch Croatto, Clayton Quaife, Rhett Hume, Ethan Smith, Tim Niven, Rhys Newman, Isaac Bolge, George McCausland and Klayton McGrath.



Koonwarra L/RSL B2 captain Adam Drury made 38 runs on Saturday. Photo: Jodie Arnup.

Despite this close call, Glen Alvie's captain Darcy Hale scored 24 in his team's B2 match against Imperials. NsB3_0425

Score soars for the Red Caps

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA put on a dominate performance over MDU at the Nerrrena Recreation Reserve on Saturday, led by Damien Symmons and Mitchell Croatto.

Damien Symmons and Tyson Harris opened the batting for Nerrena, with Harris losing his wicket after four runs.

James Kelly and Joel Renden were to follow, dismissed for 18 and six respectively.

This allowed Croatto to step in and the partnership with Symmons made a significant impact to the scoreboard.

Symmons fell agonisingly short of a ton, making 99 runs before he was caught by Troy Sinclair off the bowling of Steve Arnup.

Croatto went on to make 105 not out, finishing the innings with Charlie Dougherty, who made 33 not out.

MDU bowler Daniel Field did what he could to slow Nerrena, taking 4/56.

Callum McCaughan and Arnup were single wicket-takers.

Nerrena ultimately reached 6/303.

MDU will be chasing the impressive score this weekend.

Richardson's 66 keeps Inverloch in the hunt

INVERLOCH stood its ground against top of the ladder Wonthaggi Club.

Club won the toss and chose to bowl first.

Inverloch captain Brett Debono opened the batting and made a handy 29 runs.

Archie Terlich and Jack Rowe contributed 19 and 22 runs respectively, but it was John Richardson who made the difference.

Richardson made 66 not out, sending Inverloch's score to 8/204.

Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar had Club's best bowling figures, claiming 3/31.

Captain Sean Roche was also a multiple-wicket taker.

Club will have its turn at bat this Saturday.



James Jeffery bowled economically for Imperials finishing with 2/38 from his 14 overs. NsB2_0425

Island bowlers crush Cobras for 89

KORUMBURRA is under pressure after being bowled out 10/89 by Phillip Island.

The Cobras travelled to the Cowes Recreation Reserve, where they won the toss and chose to bat.

Trevor Allen opened well, making 39 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Kurt Lane.

The Phillip Island bowlers stepped it up from there, making it difficult for the Cobras to hit the scoreboard.

Darren Scott and Patrick Beadel added 10 runs each.

Archie Williams was Phillip Island's stand-out bowler, taking 3/9, but the efforts were well-shared.

Harry Arceo, Tarryn Allan and Lane claimed two wickets each.

Phillip Island will play out its innings this weekend.

OMK had the bye.

Two wickets were also taken by Ryan White.

Colin and Jordan Knox opened Nyora's account, making 27 and 13 not out before stumps.

Nyora will continue its innings this Saturday.

Brown's 65 lifts Glen Alvie

DESPITE a slow start, Glen Alvie pulled together a comfortable score against the Imperials.

The Imperials quickly dismissed Glen Alvie's first three batsmen, and it was the partnership of Andrew Brown and captain Darcy Hale that put the away team back on course.

Brown made 54 runs before he was bowled by Kristian Gray and Hale made 24 runs before he was caught by Gray off the bowling of Martin Reidy.

Ned Brown made the top score of 65 not out and a further 30 runs were added by Daniel Gilbert. Reidy was the Imperials' top bowler for the day, taking 3/59.

James Jeffery and Gray took two wickets each.

Glen Alvie was bowled out in the 66th over with a score of 10/224.

The Imperials will go in to bat this weekend.

Foster chases 181

FOSTER will be gunning for Kilcunda-Bass' score of 10/181 this Saturday.

Playing at the Foster Cricket Ground over the weekend, Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and chose to bat.

The first four batsmen quickly saw their wickets fall, but Zac Crow and captain Ray Gardiner salvaged the day.

Crow made the top score of 53 runs and Gardiner contributed 23 runs. Ben Rookes added 28 runs late in the innings. Shaun Chaseling had a day out for Foster, claiming 4/34. Kilcunda-Bass was all out by the 62nd over.

Foster started its innings with Jake Pilkington making 12 runs before his wicket fell to Rookes.

Brandon Busuttil and Tim Garvey are set to continue Foster's innings this weekend.

Town had the bye.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Korumburra 89 v Phillip Island

Korumburra 1st INNINGS: T M Allen 39, P Richards 6, Z Barrett 1, N Belvedere 1, D Scott 10, J Foster 0, P Beadel 10, G Edwards 4, L Dole 7, L Gallagher 10, H Jeffries 3*

Bowling: H Arceo 2/17, T Allan 2/25, K Lane 2/25, D Womersley 1/8, A Williams 3/9

Nerrena 6/303 v MDU

Nerrena 1st INNINGS: D Symmons 99, T Harris 4, J Kelly 18, J Renden 6, E Berryman 15, Mitchell Croatto 105*, Michael Croatto 7, C Dougherty 33*

Bowling: A Richardson 0/54, C McCaughan 1/63, D Field 4/56, L Webb 0/15, D Zuidema 0/21, S Arnup 1/30, R Prosser 0/16, T Cocksedge 0/16, J Bright 0/14

Club v Inverloch 8/204

Nerrena 1st INNINGS: B Debono 29, W Stewart 13, W Taberner 5, L Cole 7, A Terlich 19, J Rowe 22, J Richardson 66*, I Seuren 11, J Mottram Carter 12, D Cashin 0*

Bowling: J Williamson 1/42, S Roche 2/38, M A M Nizar 3/31, S Tessari 1/16 H Dobbie 0/40, S Liddle 1/25

OMK - BYE

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Koonwarra L/RSL 231 v Nyora 0/42

Koonwarra L/RSL 1st INNINGS:

G Boxall 27, A Boxall 14, B Heppell 35, W Cashin 12, A Drury 38, N Grimes 35, M Caruana 4, K Thorne 23, N Arnup 5, S Chadwick 0, B Thomas 2*

Bowling: R White 2/48, S Henry 1/24, M Lynch 5/56, T Bernaldo 0/21, J Shields 1/33, L Brock 0/13, D Blackney 1/25

Nyora 1st INNINGS: C Knox 27*, J Knox 13*

Bowling: G Boxall 0/27, N Arnup 0/15

Glen Alvie 224 v Imperials

Glen Alvie 1st INNINGS: G Moore 5, T Bals 9, J Tiziani 1, A Brown 54, D Hale 24, D Tiziani 23, N Brown 65*, D Gilbert 30, W Simmons 0, G Hynes 6, L McRae 0

Bowling: M Reidy 3/59, L Anderson 0/17, J Jeffery 2/38, C Honeysett 1/12, J Ballagh 0/16, K Gray 2/77

Kilcunda Bass 181 v Foster 1/21

Kilcunda Bass 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 11, A McBride 0, D Ferguson 8, G Miller 0, Z Crow 53, R Gardiner 23, A Leighton 9, B Rookes 28, A Bedford 13, J Matser 12, J Papworth 1*

Bowling: Fill-in 2/17, N Henry 0/9, S Chaseling 4/34, B Gay 1/28, J Pilkington 0/21, C Ford 1/24, B Busuttil 0/21, Fill-in 2/15

Foster 1st INNINGS: J Pilkington 12, B Busuttil 0*, T Garvey 0*

Bowling: B Rookes 1/17, A Bedford 0/0, Alister McBride 0/0, A Leighton 0/0

Town - BYE



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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Daniel Mock (Phillip Island) **151** ; James Sheerin (Club) **6/18**

A2: Josh Toner (Foster) **67** ; Lewis Rankin (Inverloch) **8/26**

B1: Mitchell Croatto (Nerrena) **105*** ; Daniel Feild (MDU) **4/56**

B2: Ned Brown (Glen Alvie) **65*** ; Michael Lynch (Nyora) **5/56**

C1: NO GAMES

C2: NO GAMES

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 11 (DAY 2)
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

A GRADE, Division 1

Town v OMK
SCORPION PARK 1
Ashleigh Stride
Korumburra v Phillip Island
KORUMBURRA
Warren Williams
Club v Imperials
WONTHAGGI TURF
Shane Moore
Koonwarra L/RSL v Nerrena
LEONGATHA TURF
Glenn Plymin

A Grade, Division 2

Inverloch v Nyora
INVERLOCH TURF
Ian Salmon
MDU v Foster
MEENIYAN
Brad Phillips
Kilcunda-Bass v Glen Alvie
BASS 1
Ken Scrimshaw

B GRADE, Division 1

Phillip Island v Korumburra
COWES
Steve Williamson
Nerrena v MDU
NERRENA
Michael Thomas
Club v Inverloch
McMAHON
Graham Wightman
OMK - BYE

B GRADE, Division 2

Foster v Kilcunda-Bass
FOSTER GC
John Schelling
Nyora v Koonwarra L/RSL
NYORA
Neil Grabham
Imperials v Glen Alvie
EAST CAMPUS
Geoffrey Parkinson
Town - BYE

ROUND 8 -
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

C GRADE, Division 1

Kilcunda-Bass v OMK
BASS 2 - TBA
Town v Korumburra
SCORPION PARK 2
Geoffrey Parkinson
Phillip Island v Club
RHYLL - TBA
Nerrena - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

Nyora v Glen Alvie
Poowong - TBA
OMK v Inverloch
Outtrim - TBA
Koon L/RSL v MDU
Koonwarra - Tyson Tootel
Phillip Island - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective
umpires can contact
Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136
or Doug Pell 0404 301 333



Gayathra Shehan Amarasinghe Mudalige bowls for the Cobras on their home deck. Ns02_0425

Two tons put the Cobras under pressure

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

WITH two tons recorded, Phillip Island is on its way to a victory against Korumburra.

Playing at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, Phillip Island launched into its winning way with a successful toss, choosing to bat first.

Connor Epifano and Heath Womersley opened the batting.

Korumburra bowler Mustafa Nader managed to dismiss Womersley for a duck, but Epifano had settled in for a long innings.

Brodie Johnston stepped up and made 37 runs before he was caught by Matthew Allen off the bowling of Ben Spicer.

His dismissal saw captain Daniel Mock enter the game.

Epifano and Mock combined well and caused significant damage on the scoreboard.

Epifano cracked triple figures and made 100 runs before he was run out by Nader.

Nader also dismissed Mock LBW, but not before he had made an incredible 151-run haul.

Thomas Niven and Max Royal saw the innings out, making 43 and 11 not out respectively.

Phillip Island came away with an impressive score of 4/346.

Korumburra will be called on to respond this weekend.

Koonwarra faces tight battle

KOONWARRA L/RSL will have to hold its nerve if it hopes to claim the points from top of the table Nerrena.

Nerrena won the toss and chose to field.



Phillip Island opener Connor Epifano scored 100 runs. Ns03_0425

Red Caps bowler Jarrod Hoy quickly dismissed the opening partnership of Anthony Hunt and Mitchell Scrimshaw, but Isuru Darshana stepped in and went on to top score with 39 runs.

Joshua Thomas added 17 runs late in the innings and was also bowled by Hoy.

Hoy had a day out, claiming 4/24, while Timothy Wightman took 3/23.

Koonwarra/LRSL was bowled out 10/113 in the 50th over.

Nerrena opened its account and played 25 overs.

Jack Curtis and Kade Berryman opened but only managed three and eight runs respectively before their dismissal.

Curtis was caught by James Rushton off the bowling of Thomas and Berryman was LBW to Matt Cooke.



Tadhg Gannon and Hayden Funnell made 25 and 16 not out and will continue Nerrena's innings this weekend.

Nerrena is sitting on 2/60.

Imperials strike back after Wonthaggi's wicket woes

THE Imperials looked to be in trouble after they were bowled out 10/94, but Wonthaggi Club also experienced the beginning of a challenging first innings.

Club hosted the Imperials and won the toss, electing to bowl first.

The Imperials suffered a slow start but Timothy Sauvarin – batting fourth in the order – managed to top score with 35 runs.

Club bowler James Sheerin ensured the Imperials had limited scoring opportunities, taking an amazing 6/18.

Fraser West and captain Joel

Brann were also multiple wicket takers.

The Imperials were bowled out after 55 overs.

Club found it just as difficult to hit the scoreboard, scraping together 5/26 after 20 overs.

Only Stewart Beaumont made double figures, reaching 10 not out.

Imperial's Vice-Captain Lachie Wright took 3/12 and Isaac Bolge took 2/9.

Club will continue its innings on Saturday.

OMK poised to pounce

LEONGATHA Town will have to dig deep to hold back OMK.

Leongatha won the toss and went into bat first.

Batting fourth in the order, Madura Madusanka put the first significant score on the board with 20 runs.

Buwaneka Wakishta later added 22 runs, which turned out to be the top score.

Peter Dell led the charge for OMK, claiming 4/41.

Jacob Lamers and Jake Cochrane took two wickets each.

Leongatha Town was bowled out with 10/116.

OMK had time to play 27 overs.

Zavier Lamers opened the batting for the Diggers and made 15 not out.

Ethan Lamers made 21 runs but was caught by Jack Hume off the bowling of Dulaj Lakshitha Mendis Polwaththa Gallage.

Bowlers Rhett and Jack Hume also claimed a wicket each.

OMK will continue its run on Saturday, its score currently sitting at 3/58.

A GRADE

DIVISION 1

Town 116 v OMK 3/58

Town - 1st INNINGS

Ron Abeysinghe c: Z Lamers b: J Lamers	1
Jesse Giardina c: ? b: P Dell	13
Jack Hume run out: P Fermanis	6
Madura Madusanka c: J Cochrane b: R Williams	20
DLMP Gallage st: K Brann b: J Lamers	3
Rhett Hume c: Z Lamers b: P Dell	11
Buwaneka Wakishta c: P Dell b: J Cochrane	22
Birendra De Saram c: K Brann b: P Dell	5
Archie Fixter st: K Brann b: J Cochrane	9
Samuel Clark c: J Lamers b: P Dell	11
Ethan Smith not out	11*
Extras (1w, 3nb)	4
Total 10 / 116 (47.5 Overs)	

Bowling: P Dell 17.5-6-41-4, J Lamers 10-4-21-2 (1w, 1nb), R Williams 10-3-27-1 (2nb), J Cochrane 7-3-10-2, E Lamers 3-0-17-0

OMK - 1st INNINGS

Ryan Williams lbw: R Hume	8
Zavier Lamers not out	15*
Jake Cochrane c: R Abeysinghe b: J Hume	8
Ethan Lamers c: J Hume b: DLMP Gallage	21
Clayton Quaife not out	0*
Extras (1w, 2nb, 3lb)	6
Total 3 / 58 (27 Overs)	

Bowling: J Hume 9-2-23-1, R Hume 6-2-13-1, M Madusanka 2-1-4-0, E Smith 4-0-9-0 (1w), DLMP Gallage 3-2-1-1, B Wakishta 2-1-5-0 (2nb), R Abeysinghe 1-1-0-0

Phillip Island 4/346 v Korumburra

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS

Connor Epifano run out: M Nader	100
Heath Womersley b: M Nader	0
Brodie Johnston c: M Allen b: B Spicer	37
Daniel Mock lbw: M Nader	151
Thomas Niven not out	43*
Max Royal not out	1*
Extras (4w, 1nb, 9lb)	14
Total 4 / 346 (75 Overs)	

Bowling: GSA Mudalige 14-2-55-0, M Nader 15-1-65-2, A Millar 7-0-32-0 (4w, 1nb), B Spicer 26-2-131-1, T Crocker 13-0-54-0

Imperials 94 v Club 5/26

Imperials - 1st INNINGS

Kane Maskell c: F West b: J Brann	6
Campbell Reid c: J Sheerin b: F West	0
Aydan Williams c: J Brann b: J Sheerin	14
Timothy Sauvarin c: J Sheerin b: J Brann	35
Nick Eddy c: R Thomas b: J Sheerin	4
Jack Ginnane c: R Thomas b: J Sheerin	9
Luke Rogers lbw: J Sheerin	9
Lachie Wright c: J Sheerin b: F West	6
Klayton McGrath c&b: J Sheerin	6
Archie Casey c: H West b: J Sheerin	1
Isaac Bolge not out	0*
Extras (1w, 1lb, 2b)	4
Total 10 / 94 (55 Overs)	

Bowling: F West 14-9-16-2 (1w), J Brann 14-7-25-2, M McCall 9-2-22-0, J Sheerin 12-4-18-6, R Thomas 6-1-10-0

Club - 1st INNINGS

Mitch Thomas c: C Reid b: I Bolge	2
Alexander Geyer lbw: L Wright	7
Joel Brann c: N Eddy b: L Wright	0
Harry West c: J Ginnane b: I Bolge	0
Stewart Beaumont not out	10*
Ryan Thomas b: L Wright	1
Gavin Britt not out	2*
Extras (3lb, 1b)	4
Total 5 / 26 (20 Overs)	

Bowling: L Wright 10-5-12-3, I Bolge 8-4-9-2, T Sauvarin 2-1-1-0

Koon L/RSL 113 v Nerrena 2/60

Koonwarra L/RSL - 1st INNINGS

Anthony Hunt b: J Hoy	1
Mitchell Scrimshaw b: J Hoy	4
Isuru Darshana c: J Trease b: T Wightman	39
Kayden Scrimshaw run out: H Funnell	7
Callum Buckland obstructing field	10
James Rushton c: J Trease b: T Wightman	11
Jason Kennedy c: J Hoy b: T Wightman	11
Matt Cooke lbw: J Trease	0
Harry Scrimshaw b: J Hoy	5
Joshua Thomas b: J Hoy	17
Blake Smith not out	4*
Extras (4lb)	4
Total 10 / 113 (49.4 Overs)	

Bowling: J Trease 11-3-18-1, J Hoy 11-4-5-24-4, R Clark 7-3-18-0, A Gannon 4-0-14-0, T Wightman 12-4-23-3, M Clark 4-1-12-0

Nerrena - 1st INNINGS

Jack Curtis c: J Rushton b: J Thomas	3
Kade Berryman lbw: M Cooke	8
Tadgh Gannon not out	25*
Hayden Funnell not out	16*
Extras (4w, 3nb, 1lb)	8
Total 2 / 60 (25 Overs)	

Bowling: J Thomas 5-1-11-1 (2nb), B Smith 2-0-8-0 (4w), M Cooke 6-2-5-1, J Kennedy 7-1-19-0 (1nb), C Buckland 2-0-11-0, J Rushton 3-1-5-0



Foster's Josh Toner top scored with 67 runs. Ns05_4025

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

IT WAS a closely contested battle as ladder leaders Nyora and Inverloch faced off on Saturday.

Nyora travelled to Inverloch's Thompson Reserve, winning the toss and choosing to bat first.

Although Nyora has shown its strength and earned its spot on the top, it was not ready for the threat posed by Inverloch bowler Lewis Rankin.

Rankin was in fine form early, dismissing Henry Dolphin and Scott Peatling for two and 11 runs respectively at stumps and will continue the innings this Saturday.

Inverloch is sitting on a score of 3/32.

Kilcunda-Bass powers to 271

KILCUNDA-BASS put in a dominating effort over Glen Alvie.

Choosing to bat first, Kilcunda-Bass opened well with Cameron Davidson making 21 runs.

Opening batsman Aaron Conron was dismissed early by Matthew Dakin for nine runs, but Brad Wright entered and recorded the top score of 65 runs.

Todd Smith later matched this with another 64 runs.

Captain Matthew Grayson and Jaydan Tragear contributed to the score with 43 and 30 runs respectively.

Dakin had a dominant day for Glen Alvie, claiming 5/66.

to restrict scoreboard opportunities.

Riley Harris made eight runs before he was caught by Myles Cordeux off the bowling of Dolphin.

Kit Rotthier added 13 runs before Reece Cordeux claimed his wicket, having also dismissed Jack Butcher for a golden duck.

Jacob Strickland and Jake Dennerley had made six and three runs respectively at stumps and will continue the innings this Saturday.

Inverloch is sitting on a

score of 3/32.

Lakshan's five-wicket haul

MDU came up against Foster at the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve.

Foster won the toss and chose to bat.

The swift dismissal of Mitchell Jones and Mitchell Allott saw Ollie Rook and Josh Toner take control of the game.

Rook made 55 runs and Toner made 67 runs before they were both dismissed by Sembakuttige Chathura Lakshan.

Lakshan played a strong innings, claiming 5/59.

Jake Palmer was the only other multiple-wicket taker.

After 55 overs, Foster was bowled out 10/169.

MDU opened its account with Mark Le Page leading the way with 32 not out.

Foster bowlers Michael Cooke and Eddie Smith made it difficult for MDU to add much more to its score, but Wayne Prosser finished the day with 18 not out.

With 3/66, MDU will be gunning for Foster's score this weekend.



MDU's Zak Bright bowled four overs in Foster's innings. Ns06_4025

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

Nyora 101 v Inverloch 3/32

Nyora - 1st INNINGS

Henry Dolphin b: L Rankin	2
Scott Peatling b: L Rankin	11
Jake Henry b: L Rankin	0
Jy Hull b: J Dugard	0
Myles Cordeux b: L Rankin	0
Aaron Kaddatz c: R Harris b: L Rankin	8
Benn Hayes c: J Dennerley b: C Newman	20
Aidan Simmons c: ? b: L Rankin	3
Aaron Thompson not out	39*
Reece Cordeux b: L Rankin	6
Mitch Rowe b: L Rankin	1
Extras (2nb, 9lb)	11
Total 10 / 101 (50.4 Overs)	

Bowling: L Rankin 19.4-9-26-8 (1nb), J Dugard 11-5-11-1, T Debono 3-1-9-0, K Rotthier 7-0-16-0 (1nb), C Newman 6-0-15-1, J Strickland 4-0-15-0

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS

Riley Harris c: M Cordeux b: H Dolphin	8
Kit Rotthier c: A Thompson b: R Cordeux	13
Jack Butcher lbw: R Cordeux	0
Jacob Strickland not out	6*
Jake Dennerley not out	3*
Extras (2lb)	2
Total 3 / 32 (24 Overs)	

Bowling: A Kaddatz 9-2-14-0, R Cordeux 10-7-13-2, H Dolphin 3-3-0-1, M Cordeux 2-0-3-0

Foster 169 v MDU 3/66

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OMK players enjoy the moment after winning the T20 Midweek Competition. Back Row: Noel Creed, Dylan McMeekin, Travis Pickering, Peter Dell, Paul Fermanis, Justin Greenwood and Clayton Quaife. Front Row: Ryan Williams, Jake Cochrane, Koby Brann, Ethan Lamers, Jacob Lamers and Zavier Lamers. A20_0425

OMK bowlers set up T20 triumph over Nerrena

OUTTRIM Moyarra Kongwak took charge of its Australia Day T20 contest against Nerrena, winning the Grand Final of the midweek competition by seven wickets with three overs to spare after sending the Redcaps in.

Pleasant conditions in the high twenties were ideal for spectators who relaxed on the hill at Leongatha's Scorpion Park, Digger Ethan Lamers helping guide his side to victory with a knock of 46 off just 33 balls, having earlier conceded less than a run a ball from his three overs.

He and opening partner Ryan Williams (20) helped ensure OMK capitalised on the sterling

work of its bowlers who never allowed Nerrena to get a foothold in the match, making breakthroughs and permitting the Redcaps few big hits on the way to just 6/115.

Seamers Ryan Williams and Peter Dell each captured a couple of wickets for the Diggers for just 21 and 14 runs respectively off their four-over allotments.

OMK players were on their game throughout the Nerrena innings, Paul Fermanis' accurate throw accounting for Hayden Funnell as the Redcaps tried to sneak a two during the last over.

Tadgh Gannon worked hard with the willow to give the

Nerrena bowlers something to defend, finishing with a strike rate of 100 in his unbeaten 32, a well-timed leg glance boundary one of his highlights and another nicely struck four finishing the Redcaps' innings in style.

Opener Jack Curtis was also a solid contributor with the bat for the beaten team, managing 28 off 24 balls.

While OMK was coasting in pursuit of its modest target, the loss of the well-established Ethan Lamers, who was caught and bowled by Tim Wightman, was quickly followed by the departure of Fermanis (14) who skied a loose delivery from

Mitch Clark, the catch snatched by Tadgh Gannon.

However, Digger coach, skipper and keeper Koby Brann and Jake Cochrane batted with composure, ensuring the call of Nerrena supporters on the hill for an OMK collapse didn't come to fruition.

A lovely off drive to the boundary was one of Brann's impressive moments in his tidy unbeaten 18 off just 11 balls, Cochrane finishing on 9 not out.

Wightman led the Nerrena bowling figures with 1/21 off his four overs, Archie Gannon also doing well with 1/19 from three overs, while Clark captured 1/31

off his maximum allotment.

LDCA president John Schelling presented OMK with its shield.

While there is always some conjecture as to whether the midweek competition leads to just a little too much cricket, it would have been a shame to waste such a fine afternoon and the Diggers certainly capped off Australia Day in style.

Anyway, is there such a thing as too much cricket?

Earlier in the day, Nerrena accounted for Nyora at Scorpion Park, while OMK got the better of Korumburra at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve.

More photos on page 56

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