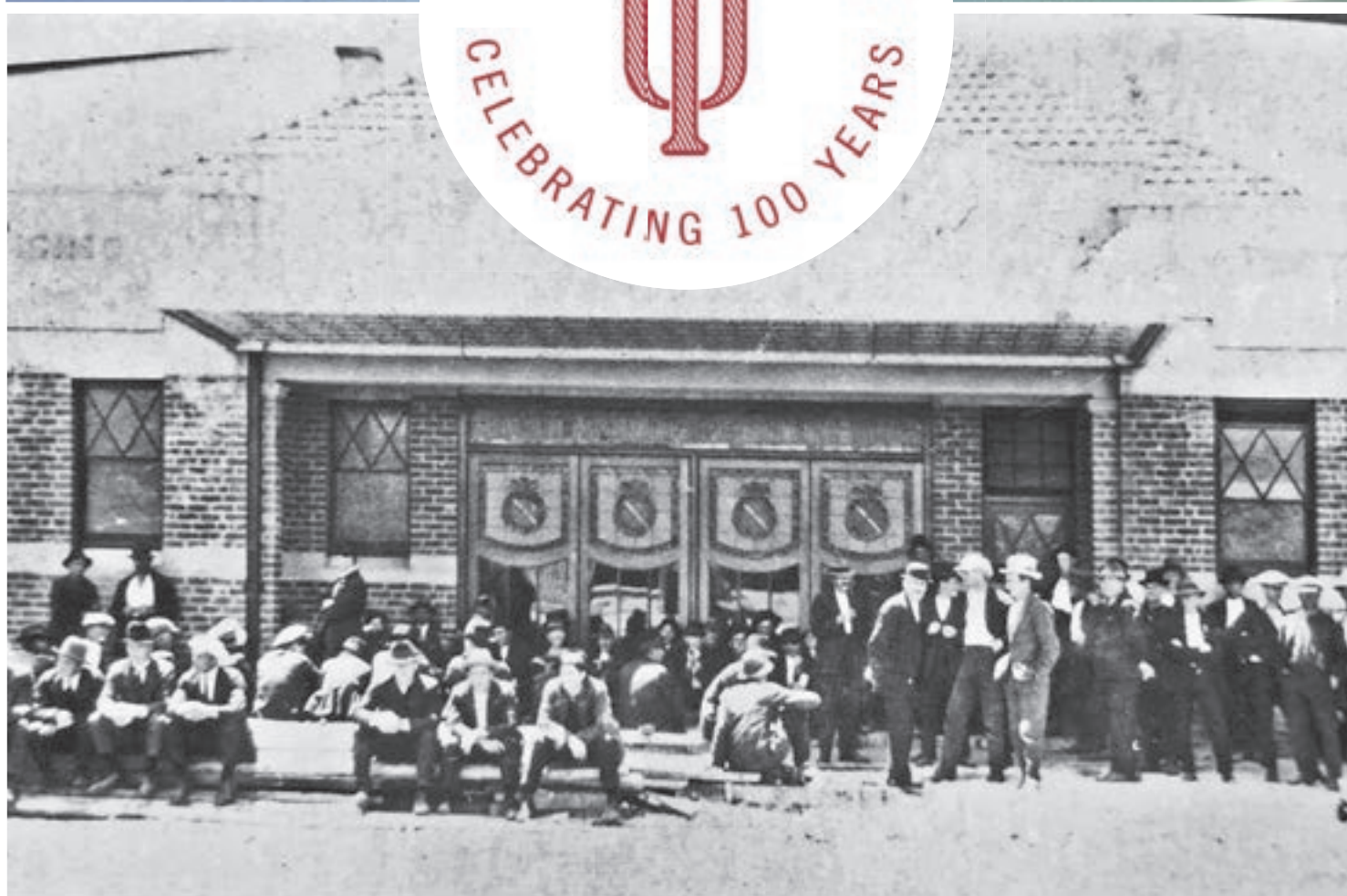
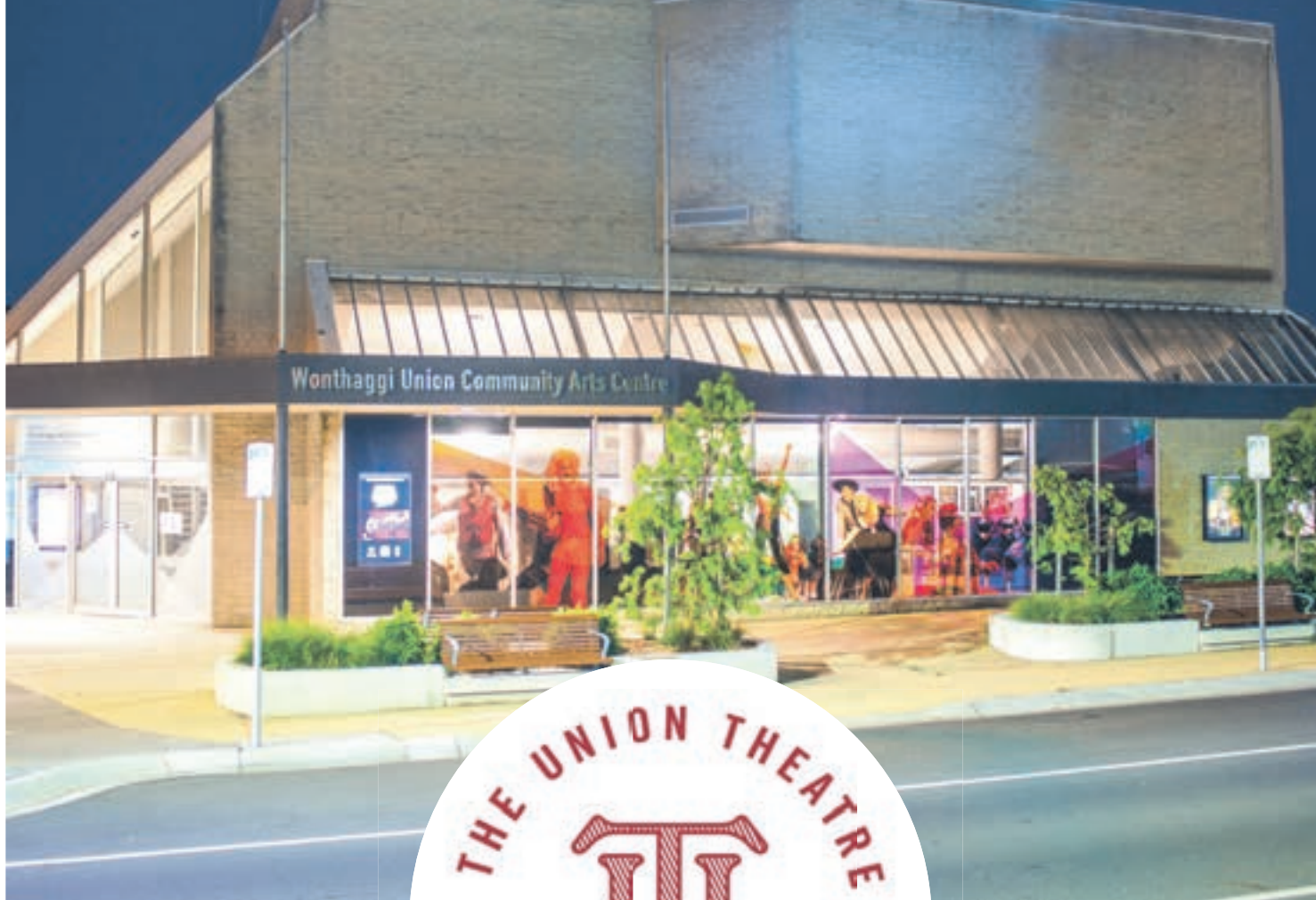


Sentinel-Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025



IT'S ON AT THE UNION THEATRE

A HUGE part of the heart of Wonthaggi over the past 100 years has been its Union Theatre, now the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre.

Having established a town here in 1910, to supply coal for the Victorian Railways, the Wonthaggi Miners Union members were so desperate to have a place for their dancing, socialising, entertainment, including band nights and boxing matches, and their own union meetings that they agreed to have money garnered from their meagre wages in 1914 to start a building fund.

But war and a world-wide flu epidemic delayed its building for 10 years, ultimately opening early in 1925 with the first event being a Social Evening for the Distressed rather than a soirée for the toffs. It set the pattern and the whole community embraced the Union Theatre as its own.

The Union Theatre was the centre of everything including fundraising for the 1300 families whose men had downed tools in March 1934 during a harrowing, five-month strike for pay and conditions. It served the district well for 55 years until it fell into disrepair in the 1970s and burned down in allegedly suspicious circumstances in 1980.

The Wonthaggi Borough Council, with legendary Mayor Cr Jack Clancy at the helm, lobbied the State Government for funding to rebuild. The new theatre opened to suitable fanfare in November 1982 and the rest, as they say, is a history of award-winning musical theatre, rousing band nights, blockbuster films and visiting entertainment that has enriched the lives of everyone in the Bass Coast Shire.

So, 100 years of the Union Theatre is an event worth celebrating and they intend to do just that with a year of events starting with a remastered version of the film 'Strikebound' next Saturday, February 15 with appearances by everyone from John Waters, Anh Do, Bjorn Again, Mark Seymour and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival to follow.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead is encouraging everyone to find out 'What's on at the Union' and to join in celebrating the arts in Wonthaggi and the enduring history of the theatre.

"This milestone is an opportunity to not only look back at the incredible history of the Wonthaggi Union but also to embrace its future," said Cr Rochelle Halstead.

"It's a celebration of the people who have kept this venue alive and thriving across generations."

To find out more about what's on, go to the cultural events page of the Bass Coast Shire Council's website at <https://www.basscoastculturalvenues.com/>



There's something on for everyone! Visit [basscoastculturalvenues.com](https://www.basscoastculturalvenues.com)





CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

This year the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre will be named The Union Theatre to celebrate the centenary of the original building on this site.

The history of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre is inextricably linked with the history and development of the Wonthaggi town and community.

The Union Theatre, opened in 1925 by the Miners Union, stands as a remarkable testament to the spirit of this town. Over the years, it has been more than just a building—it has been a stage for theatre, a hall for music, a forum for debates, a meeting ground not just for workers but the entire community and even a ring for boxing matches!

This year, we have the privilege of paying tribute to that history. Together, we'll celebrate the countless artists, events and milestones that have filled this space with life and meaning.

Come and enjoy the beautiful Union Theatre in Wonthaggi as it celebrates 100 years bringing a range of local and national artists and events throughout the year.

Check out the program on our website, social media or at our venues and customer service desks.

THE UNION THEATRE, WONTHAGGI
96 GRAHAM STREET

WWW.BASSCOASTCULTURALVENUES.COM

IT'S ON AT THE
UNION THEATRE
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The legacy of Wonthaggi

IT'S the heart of Wonthaggi, and for many April 10, 1980 was a night when memories flashed before their eyes, of first dates and union meetings, matinees, Tullio Moresco's torch, CFA masquerade balls, operas and everything in between. It was a night tears flowed.

The original building was gone, destroyed by fire.

But where did it all start and how did one venue come to mean so much to so many people?

It all dates back to our miners.

Wonthaggi miners union members agreed to a 1/- a fortnight levy to build a union hall in 1914, however these plans were placed on hold for 10 years when WWI broke out and the influenza pandemic brought the world to a standstill. Fast forward eight years and a special union meeting voted to transfer £400 to the building fund and increased its credit to £1631.

In June 1924 construction started on the £8000 hall and was expected to take six months – by December it was complete.

The main hall accommodated 850 people, albeit significantly more could fit when authorities were not around.

There was a supper room below the stage and smaller rooms served as men's and women's cloak rooms, a committee room and union office.

Because of a strike the official opening was replaced with a mixed social evening of singing and dancing hosted by the Union Band Committee. As Joe and Lyn Chambers note in "It's On At The Union" it was perhaps fitting 'that the very first events should have been the Social Evenings for the Distressed rather than an "official opening".'

The first large formal occasion was the grand masked ball to raise money for the Queen of Scots in the Fire Brigade queen carnival.

On June 6 the films rolled in and there was no looking back.

The Union Band, now known as the Wonthaggi Citizen's Band, were an integral part of the theatre. As well as performances inside, the Band could often be found outside the theatre playing before shows started, particularly on Saturday nights. As published in multiple sources, for this service the bandsmen would receive free passes to the show.

Many townsfolk can recall memories of attending the famous matinees as a child, more often than not unaccompanied with only a fireman keeping watch over the crowd. However, if things got too out of hand Tullio Moresco would come over and a clip over the ear with his torch was in order.

Shorts or cartoons would be shown first before the main feature.



An early photo of The Union theatre.

There are also many memories of jaffas rolling down aisles, and one story involving Claude and his guinea pigs, which you can read in "It's On At The Union" by Joe and Lyn Chambers, available at the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society.

The Strikes of '34 saw three thousand people pack into The Union and Plaza theatres as all shops and hotels closed in support of the miners, who stopped work on March 6, 1934.

A facelift for the theatre in 1939/40 saw a fresh façade and extension at the front of the second storey.

After the devastating fire, the

new arts centre kicked off with a celebration of singing and dancing all wrapped up in a spectacular show.

From the Prime Minister's visit, and film premiere to Rotary awards, dance concerts, theatrical performances, major school productions, annual band concerts, cinema movies, meetings and a raft of other events, The Union has adapted to the changing entertainment landscape, though always kept its doors open to the people of Wonthaggi.

There are hundreds of thousands of stories that make up The Union, and tell of its legacy as a place for gathering, storytelling, and cultural expression;

the heart of Wonthaggi's cultural identity.

So as we take a journey in celebration of 100 years of "It's On At The Union" and the theatre steps back in time, we want to hear your stories.

What are your favourite memories of The Union? What did you overhear in the audience? What happened backstage? Did you meet your spouse on the steps or perhaps received your first kiss side stage? Did you attend a miners meeting with your dad?

What lasting legacy has The Union had on you?

There's a piece of The Union in all of us. What's your story?



Wonthaggi Miners at 1958 May Day March.

From strikes to fundraisers at The Union

SINCE opening in 1925, the Wonthaggi Miners' Union Theatre has been at the heart of the town's cultural and social significance.

During the 1934-35 mining strike, the theatre played a crucial role in organising protests and rallying community support. It also hosted political speeches and discussions focused on workers' rights, making it a hub for activism as well as entertainment.

Women played a pivotal role in shaping the theatre's history. In the 1930s, local women formed the Miners' Women's Auxiliary to support not only the miners

but also their families, who were struggling through strikes and economic hardship.

The group used the theatre for fundraisers, social gatherings, and charity events, strengthening both the union movement and the community.

Their efforts helped ensure the theatre remained a place of connection and support, especially in tough times.

During the 1934-35 strike, affiliated unions donated money to the Wonthaggi Miners' Union to be distributed among the strikers, a lifeline known as strike pay.

However, distributing strike money was illegal, and

Commonwealth police arrived in Wonthaggi to track it down.

In an act of defiance, one Women's Auxiliary member invited the officers into her home as they searched for the funds. Unbeknownst to them, they were sitting on the very money they were looking for, sewn securely into the couch cushions.

"The Union theatre combines the community. People came from the whole of Wonthaggi, as it is now. I see it as the uniting social centre of the community," said Irene Williams, Secretary of the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society, and herself, the daughter of a miner.

to the Wonthaggi Union Theatre

on reaching the incredible milestone of 100 years!

As a proud part of Wonthaggi for over 100 years ourselves, Miners Dispensary knows how special it is to celebrate such a remarkable achievement. Thank you for being a cornerstone of our town's history and a source of joy for generations.

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CONGRATULATIONS ON CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Jack Clancy, then Mayor of Wonthaggi, played an integral role in the rebuilding of The Wonthaggi Union Theatre

Brian and the team at Clancy's Printing Service are proud of our long standing association with the Union Theatre

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See How They Run starring Jeff Davey, Malcolm Scott and Lynn Counsel by Wonthaggi Theatrical Group. Photo: Wonthaggi & District Historical Society.

That’s theatre folks

THEATRICAL performances have long been the lifeblood interwoven with The Union.

The Leek Club Concert of Easter 1934 included all the musical and dancing talent of the town. A string band, a Melbourne comedian, and the Union Band all took to the stage, and for many the very first performance of the song, “There’s a Part of My Heart in Wonthaggi”.

Composed by Jack O’Hagen ‘the Union Band played the tune and one of the bandsmen, Jack Connelly sang the words.’ As highlighted by Joe and Lyn Chambers in “It’s on at The Union: ‘At one stage he was prompted from the wings by his fourteen-year-old daughter and finally Bill Philpott, the conductor, brought her on stage, and father and daughter sang the last chorus together.’

Operatic voices filled the rafters, each seat filled, in the thirties with performances of A Country Girl and The Runaway Girl by Wonthaggi Musical and Operatic Society.

If only the walls could talk, they would tell millions of stories, the lines spoken, the lines missed, and the memories that stay with each theatregoer.

For many holiday-makers at Cape Paterson and Inverloch, the highlight of their stay was a visit to the Union Theatre to see one of the Theatrical Group’s Pantomimes. These uproarious performances, full of local situation and allusion... will live long in the memories of the children of all ages who were lucky

enough to be at the “Union” on those summer nights’.

Glen Turner, a long-time performer with the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group; once awarded “the person who makes up more lines than anybody else” recounts over 30 years of theatre fondly including the beloved ‘Gilbert and Sullivan’ shows among many at the Wonthaggi Union Arts Centre.

“Wonthaggi (Theatrical Group) started me in (theatre),” Glen explained.

“It was David Sims and Gwen Derrick. Gwen in particular, who was a fabulous mentor to a lot of people in the theatre – she was extraordinary.

“People don’t realise theatre is all about the camaraderie, because you’ve got to rely so much on people when you get on stage. The friendships you make you have forever.”

Performing on stage is a world unto itself.

“It’s more than the music, people coming up to you and saying they saw that show – it’s lovely, it’s very home base.

“Gwen was really important in starting me into a life (of theatre).”

When asked in what ways he believed the arts centre has enriched the Bass Coast area; there was no hesitation in sharing the “extraordinary” impact the theatre has had.

“We’ve had young people, and it’s not even so much that they stay with you, but doing theatre gives them an absolute presence and self-belief, where they



The Cast of A Country Girl presented by St George’s Musical Society on July 23 and 24, 1935. Photo: Wonthaggi & District Historical Society.

can go out on stage and do these things. You watch people grow immensely.

“The other part is where the young people are mentored by the older people in the shows. We’ve got all these people looking after them and keeping an eye on them. That’s the fantastic part of theatre.”

And it wasn’t unknown that Glen’s nerves would get the better of him.

“I used to throw up before every performance,” Glen recalled.

“Mrs Derrick would say, make space and way for the toilet. Don’t block the door, because

Glen will have to go to the toilet before he goes on stage.”

But it would all change the moment the lights were on.

“For years I was thoroughly scared. But when I got on stage, it was just natural to me and I had a great time.”

One of the biggest changes Glen has noticed over the years is the professionalism.

“In the early days we had prompts sitting behind the curtain, yelling at people across stage... It’s all changed. The set building is just extraordinary.

“I’ll never forget I walked (on stage) with a dear mate,

Graham, and I gave the line to him, and he just looked at me and gave me the line back, I’d given him his line and then he started giving me my lines. We upset David Sims that night...”

As for the special stories behind the walls.

“Graham Burke and I would upset each other on stage, no one would know, but we knew what we were doing... You get that (in theatre) when you have complete trust in someone.

“People look after each other on stage. You don’t let anyone hang out to dry. That’s the wonderful thing.”



Congratulations to the Wonthaggi Union Theatre on celebrating 100 years

Formerly known as the Wonthaggi Theatre (1912), Soldiers Theatre and Plaza Theatre (1920)

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140 GRAHAM STREET, WONTHAGGI



The official program for the opening of the new Wonthaggi theatre by Victorian Arts Minister Race Matthews detailing not only the dates for The Wonthaggi Celebration but also performances by the Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra, Chris Miles ballet and a program of films from the Sydney Film Festival.



In this grainy colour photo from the production of The Wonthaggi Celebration by Ken Harper, local identity and stage regular David Sims, joins with more than 100 performers to put on the show which opened the new theatre in 1982.

An auspicious 'celebration' for the new theatre

IN HIS own inimitable style, the late, great Wonthaggi newspaper man Tom Gannon slammed the first production to hit the stage at the new Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on Saturday, November 13, 1982.

His criticism centred mainly on the notable people and events that he thought should have been included in the historic cavalcade by the late Ken Harper, who researched, wrote and directed 'The Wonthaggi Celebration' especially for the opening of the new theatre.

Ironically, if all of the events Tom wanted depicted, including the time a pig in Korumburra colours was released at a football grand final won by Wonthaggi, were in the show it would still be running.

He also complained that the musical director, Kirk Skinner, "mutilated" his hometown song, 'There's a part of my heart in Wonthaggi' in the overture.

But, in the end, Tom expressed his gratitude, as a 57-year resident of the town, on behalf of the

whole community.

"We are indebted to the 104 locals and district people in the presentation."

The fact is that despite its difficult birth, the run of the Wonthaggi Celebration was sold out across 10 performances, including on the official opening night for the theatre.

Former centre manager (1982-2013) Jenny Churchill, a committee member of the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group which put on the show, and a lead performer on the night has vivid recollections of the turmoil involved but ultimately very fond memories of the production.

"After the old theatre burnt down, we kept the group going with regular music hall productions, but we felt it was important for the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group to be the first back on the new stage," said Jenny.

The idea of an original musical based on the history of Wonthaggi was hatched, with emerging Melbourne writer and actor

Ken Harper commissioned to research, write and direct the production, still a work in progress right up until the day it premiered.

"At the final dress rehearsal, the night before we were due to open, they called off a full run of the show at 1 o'clock in the morning, only three quarters of the way through and announced they'd be pulling 10 scenes from the show so it could finish at a reasonable hour.

"When we all left the theatre exhausted that night, we didn't know what would happen the next day.

"One of the scenes they wanted to pull was the 'Petition Scene', commemorating the petition to State Parliament calling for local government in the area, which led to the formation of the Borough of Wonthaggi. If they hadn't run that scene, there wouldn't have been time to get ready for the Dalyston Show scene with its public holiday and special train."

On opening night, those

continuity issues led to a breakdown in performance with the actors unsure who was to go on next, leading to (if you can believe it) a 15-minute hiatus until someone took it upon themselves to go on stage and restart the show... take a bow that person!

But there were many great moments too like the tribute to the 13 who were killed in the 20 Shaft Explosion at Wonthaggi in 1937, featuring the placement of 13 vacant chairs on stage as each of the victims' names were read out.

"You could hear sobbing in the audience and the brother of one of the dead men called out after his brother was named," said Ms Churchill.

"The Gunny Sack Parade, which commemorates the hardship of the five-month coal miners' strike in 1934, when families lined up for a food handout, and 'Farewell to the Powlett' sung by Paddy Lannigan and others were other notable scenes.

"In the end, we all got together

to sing 'There's a part of my heart in Wonthaggi' and the whole audience joined in.

"A few years ago, I tried to get people together to put on a version of the Celebration again, but it didn't happen, which was probably fair enough. It was a moment in time and a fitting production for the opening."

Puppeteer, playwright, theatre worker and dedicated teacher, Kenneth Gordon Harper died in Melbourne on December 9 last year, but he will be forever remembered for the ambitious, premiere production at the Union Arts Centre in 1982.

A number of the people who were involved in the Wonthaggi Celebration went on to appear in the Richard Lowenstein film, Strikebound, about the 1937 strike at the Sunbeam Colliery in Korumburra, which was partly filmed in Wonthaggi.

The successful venture also set the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group on its way to more than 40 years of award-winning productions.

Congratulations to The Union Theatre in Wonthaggi for entertaining Bass Coast and South Gippsland for 100 years!



1910

*We're proud to have been
alongside you, looking after
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Here's to another 100 years
together!*

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basscoasthealth.org.au



2025



Photos: Wonthaggi & District Historical Society and The Sentinel-Times.



Very few things survived The Union fire, but among the items that did include the metal parts of chairs and ashtrays. C04_0625



An original surviving seat number plaque is amongst the relics at Wonthaggi & District Historical Society. The accompanying note: Came across this just before fire when removing 2/3 seats out for wheelchairs. C03_0625



The Last Show

HOME to debates, union meetings, cultural events and even boxing matches, the art-deco Roxy-inspired Union Theatre succumbed to a ferocious fire on April 10, 1980.

As reported in The Sentinel at the time, 'For its final show at midnight last Thursday, Wonthaggi's sole cinema drew a huge crowd.'

And that it did, as residents watched in horror as the town's last link with the mines burnt to the ground, with firefighters miraculously saving nearby buildings and containing the fire to the one site.

'The alarm was given by Trevor Sharples, 17, from his home 200 metres east of the theatre. He had been garfishing.

'The stage section of the 56-year-old double-storey building was first alight.

'The blaze illuminated the main street and embarrassed middle-aged women onlookers, unaccustomed to being seen in dressing gowns by other than their husbands. For modesty, they stood together in groups.'

Ash was carried 200 metres with firefighters attending from Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Kilcunda and Dalyston, and swiftly moving to 'safety when the collapse of the 50-ft rear section was apparent.'

Shielding their faces with their coat collars and turning side on, hosing each other down and even using sheets of cold galvanized iron as shields, firefighters were faced with intense heat from the blaze.

"It was a good save of the adjoining buildings," former Wonthaggi Lieutenant and life member Rod McLean recalls.

"We had to keep the gas bottles that were attached cool.

"We drained the reservoir at Tank Hill; we used that much water. It was intense. The water was vaporising before it even hit the fire."

As stories go, the State Rivers and Water Supply's Wonthaggi turncock Ian Chambers "wondered what had happened" when he checked the 2m. gallon supply basin near his home, the morning after the fire. Gravity-fed, he travelled all around town to find the source of the water leak only to discover 250,000 gallons had been used fighting The Union fire.

Although the exterior was brick, the heavily wooden interior resulted in the fire going up "really well," according to locals.

As Joe and Lyn Chambers note in 'It's On At The Union', 'Loss of the theatre was a tremendous shock for many Wonthaggi people. Tears in the eyes of onlookers that night were not all caused by the smoke. To many who stood and watched, the blaze must have brought memory-flashes of films, concerts, dances, meetings, hopes, triumphs, regrets and rejoicings, each with its own sequence of memories that mirrored a lifetime.'

Arson was ruled out; however, Cr Jack Clancy, the Mayor at the time, confirmed there had been frequent unauthorised entry after a nearby resident noted young people had used the back section in the weeks leading up to the fire.

Envoy Brian Davis of the Salvation Army Wonthaggi treated firefighters still on the job to hot drinks and biscuits at 3 a.m., while a barrel of beer was later donated by owners of properties near The Union, including a sizeable contribution from John Powzyk, who had the hot bread shop next door.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group lost everything in the fire, including their home, according to Mr Joe Chambers.

The townspeople of Wonthaggi would wait two and a half years for the new venue to be proudly built by local building firm, W. S. Purvis and Co (Wally Purvis).

Capturing Wonthaggi's History



Foons Photographics congratulates the Wonthaggi Union Theatre on celebrating 100 years. We are proud of our long association with 'The Union Theatre'



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Congratulations to the Wonthaggi Union Theatre on entering the century club!



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Strikebound reunites a community

"IT WAS pretty crazy," Strikebound Director, Richard Lowenstein recalls of the premiere at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on Saturday, September 3, 1984.

For the 25-year-old graduate of Swinbourne School of Film and Television, it was his first feature-length film.

"I remember Jana Wendt interviewing me for 60 minutes or Channel 10, and I remember the big party outside as Prime Minister Bob Hawke arrived.

"It was all a bit exciting – the publicity people and the distributors had done an incredible job arranging it all – all the cast and crew, it was quite a weekend."

The premiere of Strikebound at Wonthaggi was in complete contrast to that at the Cannes Film Festival. Though shown to a sold-out audience, Richard remembers sleeping on the floor of a friend's hotel room and placing his own posters on lamp poles around town.

"It was a kind of big and small – it wasn't really the type of film Australians were supporting at the time. Everyone wanted the big Australian legend – The Man From Snowy River type films.

"(Strikebound) was a film about the left-wing/communist coal miners in the 1930s, it was an exciting time, but I definitely felt like an indie filmmaker waving the flag (at Cannes). The films that had been pushed out of Australia were your Picnic at Hanging Rock, Breaker Morant – all great projects, but barely a political bone. But it had a great response, especially to the making and directing of the film."

A string of film festivals followed around the world.

The film's production was quite something in its own right – staying around budget, Richard recalls it did go over schedule albeit only slightly.

"It was an amazing collaborative experience because we had a great group of actors and featured extras bonding together.

"I remember we stayed in The Pine Lodge in Inverloch, an incredible old 1920s-era hotel that had been abandoned that we convinced them to put the film crew up in.

"It was that sense of camaraderie between us and the townspeople,

the Storti brothers who were helping us build the mine, the town council, the Historical Society, who all pitched in to help us. Digging the mine and building the little houses on top. I recall a sponsorship deal from a petrol station, who gave us free fuel to pump the water out of the mines. There was very much a sense of community, not only within the filmmakers, cast and crew but townspeople. And my mum was a bit of a local hero back then – so there was a big feeling of connection."

A mining accident during filming didn't deter the men and women from going back underground, even if it required a day away.

"I remember it clearly clicked with the townspeople – they could tell almost immediately that there'd been a mine accident, as the ambulances raced out – a bush telegraph."

According to Richard, the winch house operator walked away without realising the carts were in use.

"I was in one of the front carts and they just started going, we thought it was all fine, but then it got faster and faster and we all tumbled over.

"Everyone up on the ground saw the cables snake out into the air as the rail carts hit and they all thought we might be dead. We all survived a few broken collarbones and things."

One crew member, a camera assistant who was in the front cart and 'flew through the air' left the set.

"He survived, but we didn't know if he was dead or alive for a while, he just went flying into the darkness. We didn't bring down any stone, but we brought down the side pillars and everything on top of us. Luckily a lot of us fell between the tracks and that stopped all the big logs from squishing us. I remember lying there in the darkness and was alright but the main pain was those coming down to rescue us walking on top of us. I remember yelling out 'I'm fine, just don't walk on me'."

The Storti's can be credited with the show going on.

"I remember the Storti's saying to us to just get back down the mine again. You don't want to feel scared, just get down there and get over your fear. I think we



Wendy Lowenstein in Wonthaggi in 1949. It would mark the start of a grand relationship between the Lowenstein family and Wonthaggi. Photos: Lowenstein Private Collection.



Outside The Union at the premiere of Strikebound.

took a day off and then went back down there in our slings and kept going."

Supported throughout by his mum, Wendy.

"She was in the Communist Party when she was very young, in her early 20s and she was sent (to Wonthaggi). There was a big strike after the war and she was sent to help the women's auxiliary; that's when she met Agnes Doig. She helped with the striking miners, bringing food and all that, so she knew a lot of people and kept going back and meeting them.

"In the 70s she started collecting the stories before they were lost and that's when she became an oral historian – she always had a soft spot (for Wonthaggi).

"I remember when I was at film school she would say, 'You know what would make a good film, a story of the Wonthaggi coal miner strike.'"

Opting to go back to a strike during the Great Depression, Richard utilised his mother's recordings, listening to the stories, recorded in the town's own voices.

Transcripts in hand, Richard then went about cutting and

pastoring the work into a story.

"I was new to writing, and here it was all spelled out in these people's words.

"The Australian Film Commission were very supportive in the script writing stage – they saw the content and said this is fantastic, this could be great, and then there was Film Victoria who were also incredibly supportive. These were real stories, politics and real stories of hardship and working class – it was very rare in Australian cinema, so everyone was jumping on it and we were getting immediate enthusiasm."

Typing up a script before Richard knew they had a film up.

"If you don't know something's impossible, you don't worry about it, you just keep moving forward.

"I remember driving to the mine with \$1 million to make the film, and it was just a green paddock, and one of the Storti brothers said, 'There's a mine down there'. I don't know if an independent filmmaker would be able to achieve that right now, but I didn't know it was impossible, so I just kept bashing forwards."

Today the site stands as the

incredible State Coal Mine tourism site.

As for the film's authenticity. "There was a historical police-woman in the form of my mother (on set) stating – 'that's not how it happened... you can't do that', 'yes, I can'. We had a few sparring matches on the scene, but cinema isn't documentary, it isn't the exact truth. When I was developing the script, I was using three or four different strikes to take events out of. The best you can hope for is making a film that you believe is honest to the kind of pain and suffering and struggle people were going through back then. A story that has meaning.


"We were putting real dirt on people's faces, not a little bit of makeup dust. It seemed revolutionary at the time and made people sort of cringe. The clothes were not necessarily the best fitting clothes, if you're poor you don't necessarily get a tailored coat, you might be getting someone's hand-me-downs, so we tried to make sure we were getting a sense of authenticity of things, not necessarily historical facts."

Working alongside fellow film school colleagues, Richard's relationships with cinematographer Andrew de Groot and Lynn-Maree Milburn continues to this day, with all three venturing down for the 100-year celebrations this Saturday.

"It was a tough ask for mainstream audiences (at the time)," Richard explained.


"It's a great story, but it doesn't have the normal guns and plot of a film.

"There was a huge amount of Wonthaggi enthusiasm for the whole project and I just hope the town will remember (the film) – it's not up there with the Mad Max's in people's consciousness."



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I met my future spouse in the foyer back in 1964. It's 61 years ago now and we are off to see Strikebound next week. I also remember as kids we would sneak into the crying room on Saturday matinees.
– Joann Carr

I remember being booted out of the midday matinee's for rolling Jaffas down the aisle, and sadly watching it burn down with my dad.
– Brett Forsyth

I remember my Auntie Carole McRae in Calamity Jane, and going backstage to see her, I was about seven.
– Cheryl Lindsay

Many fond memories, who else knew about the hole in the floor in the mid front section?
– Mary-Anne Vurlow

Being given a dollar to go to the Saturday matinee buy sweets at Candy Land. Loved the Godzilla movies, then back to the netball courts to go home with mum.
– Mark Legg

Great memories – our grandmother used to take one of us girls to watch a movie at the theatre, we all took turns to go with her. Fond memories of staying with Nana for a sleepover after, grandma's feather bed always comes to mind every time I hear that song I think of those days.
– Marilyn Davidson



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Bail laws *out of* balance

By Michael Giles

ON THE same day last week that accusations were flying thick and fast in State Parliament, with allegations about Victoria's "revolving door" bail laws, there was a real-life scenario playing out in the Korumburra Magistrates' Court.

It underscored comments made by former chief magistrate and crown prosecutor, Nick Papas, that bail outcomes are a "soft target" in any law and order debate.

Having executed a search warrant at a South Gippsland address last Thursday morning, February 6, and found the alleged offender trying to escape out a back window, police arrested the local man and brought him before Korumburra Magistrate Stephen Lee later that afternoon.

Charged with persistent breaches of an intervention order, including within 24 hours of being released from jail and placed on a community corrections order for similar offences, police predictably opposed bail.

And despite a comprehensive plea on behalf of his client by Latrobe Valley lawyer Josh Cameron, the ruling by Magistrate Lee was clear – no revolving door.

"He's got breaches of that before, and he goes ahead and breaches it the day after he gets out. What's to stop him going out and breaching the order by calling his wife tonight or tomorrow?" said Magistrate Lee.

Giving evidence in support of the police submission, Detective Senior Constable Knight said that the alleged offender had contacted his former partner hundreds of times by mobile phone and through social media and while most of the contact was functional in nature, there were also threats of self-harm and threats of harm to the AFM and family members. He had also allegedly stalked the affected family member.

Magistrate Lee weighed up an appeal by Mr Cameron in which he said his client had an address to go to, could comply with strict bail conditions, including no access to a mobile phone, and also had appointments booked for mental health and drug and alcohol counselling.

"It would be kicking over the sandcastle that has been built (to help my client)," he said.

But Mr Lee denied the application and remanded the man in custody to reappear at Korumburra later this month.

His decision was in line with changes to the bail laws of October 2023 including "amending the unacceptable risk test so that rather than focusing on the risk of any offending, the focus is on the risk of endangering the safety and welfare of any other person". The changes also give specific direction for bail decision makers to assess the risks of family violence.

Continued page 3

Clear path to scooter safety

Eighty three year old Nancy Joyce of Korumburra is pretty easy going but overgrown gardens blocking the way for pedestrians and scooter users has really got her goat.

PUT yourself behind the controls of a mobility scooter and you immediately get a different perspective on going to the shops.

Nancy Joyce 83 of Korumburra is a relative newcomer to riding a scooter and it's only been since her partner of 64 years, Ron, passed away five months ago, that she's taken an interest in the obstacles and hazards that are an everyday reality for scooter users.

Crossing the road safely is one thing, dogs on the loose can be another and there's also boggy or

overgrown nature strips to navigate.

But the thing that really gets Nancy's goat are the hedges, bushes and plants (including Agapanthus) that expand out over the footpath from domestic gardens blocking the way for pedestrians and scooter users – cut them back people!

"The footpath on Jumbunna Road is nice and wide but it's where the paths are narrower, on the way to the shops, that you have the problem," said Nancy this week.

"I go up to the town most days to get the paper and there's places where the hedges, bushes and even blackberries are creeping out blocking the way. You can sometimes go out on to the grass, but you feel like you might tip over or get bogged. It's not ideal."

Mrs Joyce has made an appeal to Korumburra homeowners and the shire to clear vegetation away from footpaths to make it easier (and safer) for scooter users but it's a plea that other towns and councils could heed as well.

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Wonthaggi pensioner waits for tradesmen to finish the job

IT DOESN'T seem much to ask but Wonthaggi pensioner Julie Dunn is almost at breaking point waiting for a local tradesman to install blinds for her rear deck.

"I've waited five years for a new front gate and it's still not there," said Julie.

"Now I've been waiting five months for deck blinds to be fitted."

Julie Dunn just wants the job finished.

Holding back tears Julie apologised for being emotional.

"When I first moved to Wonthaggi five years ago I needed a front gate."

"I employed a local handyman and paid him a \$1,000 deposit," said Julie.

After several months without a front gate Julie asked for her money back.

"I received \$600 but the tradesman still owes me \$400."

Five years later still no front gate.

Other tradesmen have done considerable work around the property.

"I tried to pull down things myself at first, but it was too much."

An electrician Julie used was a stand-out.

"I was very satisfied," she said.

Coming from a farming background Julie says she offers tradesmen lunch and morning tea and gives them seasonal vegetables from her garden.

"I always pay in cash and on the dot," said Julie.



Wonthaggi pensioner Julie Dunn waiting for local tradesman to finish installing deck blinds. B03_0625

An aged pensioner Julie volunteers for the edible garden scheme.

Julie also grows orchids and donates to the Rose Lodge Opportunity Shop.

When Julie moved into her coalminer's cottage in Wonthaggi the fences were down and the house was unloved.

"There was no garden, just yuccas."

Taking obvious pride in her garden Julie says she has always been a gardener

at heart.

"I came here because of the amenities and the shopping," said Julie.

"It's also close to the beach."

A major project for Julie has been a rear deck overlooking her small garden.

"I purchased blinds to protect the deck from the rain."

Julie paid up front and the blinds arrived.

Five months later the blinds have still not been installed.

"I paid a tradesman \$700,"

said Julie.

"It's very, very emotional."

"All I want is for the blinds to be installed on the veranda deck."

Julie's advice for others is not to be gullible.

"Don't give up."

Describing herself as not normally an emotional person Julie broke down.

"I can't let it go, it's not fair."

Julie is still waiting for her blinds to be installed and a new front gate.

Bail laws out of balance

From page 1

But any decision to deny bail is no small matter, and wasn't without consequences at Korumburra last Thursday.

"I'll be dead before that. I'll kill myself in there," said the accused man of having to wait until late in February.

"I hope that's not the case and all efforts will be taken to see that doesn't occur," said Magistrate Lee.

"I messed up. I don't even remember it. I don't need jail. I need help," said the man as he was being led away in handcuffs by police.

Despite the obvious custody issues it may be that the changes to the bail laws in October 2023 made Magistrate Lee's decision more clear cut.

But it's not always the case, according to Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien who took part in last Thursday's parliamentary debate.

"You only have to pick up the paper every morning... and so often we subsequently find out that the perpetrator of that crime was on bail at the time," said Mr O'Brien.

"People are sick of it. People are coming up to us on this side time and time again. What is wrong with this state that people can continue to offend, get bail and go and do it again? I must add, too, it is not just people. The other people that are coming to us are the police."

Mr O'Brien said there was a particular issue with youth being released on bail, likely in response changes by the government which mandated consideration of certain factors when assessing bail applications for young people.

He referred to the case of the 14-year-old youth from South Gippsland who had allegedly been caught and released 50 times, according to local police.

"The victims are coming up to me in the streets - in a place like Leongatha - and saying how traumatised they are because someone broke into their house, violated their peace and privacy and stole their car... and we literally had one last week saying openly, and it was reported in the media, 'I know I'll get away with it. They can't do anything. They can't touch me'."

The move by the State Opposition to repeal the government's 2023 changes to the bail laws ultimately failed but not before the issue had an impact on the result in the Werribee and Prahran by-elections.

While conceding bail laws were an easy target for politicians, Nick Papas agreed the balance in Victoria has shifted too far towards the interests of those who keep breaking the law.

"How, when and where you draw the line is extremely hard for a magistrate," he said.

Whether our politicians are making it harder still is under active scrutiny, especially after the mixed messages from the Premier Jacinta Allan and her Police Minister Anthony Carabines who appeared to be at odds last week about what to do next.

If aspects of this story case distress contact Lifeline 24 hours-a-day on 13 11 14.

Petition to save Silverleaves tabled in State Parliament

THE 'Save Silverleaves' petition calling on the Allan Labor Government to urgently fund short term works to save beachside homes from the rapidly eroding shoreline has been tabled in State Parliament.

The petition instigated by Silverleaves local Natalie Gray and sponsored by The Nationals' Melina Bath amassed 4,370 signatures in only three weeks qualifying it for future debate.

Ms Bath also called on Labor's Minister for the Environment, Hon Steve Dimopoulos to meet with residents.

"At a recent meeting with the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, DEECA and Bass Coast Council residents were told there's now insufficient time to implement geotextile sandbags before April as recommended by Labor's own report," said Ms Bath.

"The Allan Government has let down the Silverleaves community," said Ms Bath.

"The Silverleaves foreshore has been eroding at an alarming rate and there is every possibility homes will be lost in the absence of

state funding for mitigation.

"Residents are acutely aware of the imminent threat to their properties."

"Many lay in fear at night wondering if their homes will fall victim to the sea."

"They deserve to hear how Labor will protect their estate."

Ms Bath said if the Allan Government ignored the message to fast track short term erosion mitigation works after hundreds of locals turned up to a rally in January then this petition should jolt it into action.

"Given the predicted

disaster happening under Labor's nose it must listen to locals, release emergency funding and act now.

"Any response other than having the recommended geotextile revetment in place before April is unacceptable."

"The Silverleaves community is to be congratulated for its support of this important petition."

"I look forward to representing locals and leading the future debate."

"Labor can't manage money, can't manage coastal erosion and Silverleaves locals are paying the price."

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CONTENTS

Entertainment	33-34
Real Estate	36-39
Puzzles	40
Farming	41-43
Trades & Services	44-45
Classifieds	46-47

FEATURES

Valentine's Day	27
Health & Wellness	28-29

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AC0757-V6

6 Day
Weather
Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND

TUE Feb 11	WED Feb 12	THUR Feb 13	FRI Feb 14	SAT Feb 15	SUN Feb 16
Partly cloudy. Wind AM: E 20-30km/h Wind PM: E 20-30km/h	Sunny. Wind AM: E-NE 15-25km/h Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: N-NW 20-30km/h Wind PM: W 15-20km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: W 15-25km/h Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: SW 20-30km/h Wind PM: SW 20-30km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: SW 20-25km/h Wind PM: S 15-25km/h
17° 30°	18° 32°	20° 33°	16° 24°	13° 21°	11° 21°

IN BRIEF

More on ESSO's
wind down

AFTER more than 50 years delivering energy to Australia from Bass Strait, Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd Australia Pty Ltd, is decommissioning part of the surplus infrastructure.

If you'd like to know more about plans for decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions at the following locations (from 5pm to 7pm):

- Yanakie: Monday, February 17 Yanakie Hall
- Foster: Tuesday, February 18 Foster War Memorial Arts Centre
- Leongatha: Wednesday, February 19 Leongatha Memorial Hall
- Yarram: Tuesday, February 25 Yarram Country Club.

Waratah Bay wind
energy cable connection
prospect to be discussed

OFFSHORE wind energy proponent Gippsland Skies is running community sessions in coming days at which attendees will hear about proposed cable corridors, one of which would connect the energy generation site to Waratah Bay. "The proposed Northern Cable Corridor extends from our proposed Project's Feasibility Licence Area up to Waratah Bay, although it should be noted that currently no VicGrid nominated connection point for offshore wind has been identified in this area," Gippsland Skies states. In contrast, the Proposed Eastern Cable Corridor, which would also connect to the proposed Project's Feasibility Licence Area, would extend to VicGrid's proposed initial connection point for 2GW of offshore wind at Giffard near Seaspray. "Selection of Gippsland Skies' final cable corridor route will ultimately be dependent upon

the outcomes from VicGrid's Victorian Transmission Plan and identification of connection point(s) for offshore wind determined by VicGrid," Gippsland Skies states. Attendees at the community consultation sessions will also learn more about planned marine investigations.

Gippsland Skies Drop-in
Community Consultation
Session details

Foster War Memorial Arts Centre, Saturday February 15 from 9am until 12pm
Sandy Point Community Centre, Saturday February 15 from 1pm until 3pm
Fish Creek Memorial Hall, Thursday February 20 from 4pm to 6pm

Ticket sales record
for little penguins

THEY'RE a marvel of nature and the economy, those little stars of the world-famous Phillip Island Penguin Parade, with Phillip Island Nature Parks reporting they've broken their own record for the number of consecutive 'sold out' days. While the new record is now 23 days-in-a-row, they've sold out 35 days between Christmas and the end of January, said the Penguin Parade officially broke the previous summer record, with 23 sell out nights in a row up until January 11. "With Lunar New Year now underway, we expect our sell out run will continue through until mid-February," said a PINP spokesperson. While domestic daytrips to Phillip Island appear to be up, local accommodation venues say their local bookings are down, although overseas numbers have shown a pleasing uplift, fully recovered and then some after COVID.

Stories of Venus Bay

IN RESPONSE to community interest, traditional custodian Sonia Weston is offering to provide a free information

session about the cultural and indigenous heritage of Venus Bay. All interested community members are warmly invited to come along on Saturday February 15 at 10am. Meet at the Corner Jupiter Blvd and Centre Road. BYO picnic rug or chair, sit under the trees and hear some stories from Sonia.

Second offender
on shooting charges

DETECTIVES from the Armed Crime Squad have laid further charges following a non-fatal shooting in Wonthaggi last month. A 24-year-old Leongatha man was arrested by investigators on January 14 after attempting to evade police. In relation to a separate incident, he was charged at the time with unlicensed driving, negligently deal with proceeds of crime, two counts of traffick drug of dependence, two counts of possess prohibited weapon, possess ammunition without licence, possess cannabis, prohibited person possess firearm and prohibited person possess imitation firearm in relation to a series of separate matters. He has now been further charged with intentionally cause serious injury, intentionally cause injury, conduct endangering life, prohibited person use firearm and possess explosive substance; arising out of the shooting incident at Wonthaggi on Sunday, January 12. He remains in custody and will appear at Korumburra Magistrates' Court on Thursday, February 13. A 28-year-old Wonthaggi man was also charged on January 14 and was remanded to appear at Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court on April 4. Anyone with information on illicit firearm activity is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

Wonthaggi chosen for
online safety program

PROJECT Rockit and the Telstra Foundation are partnering to deliver youth-focused digital wellbeing programs to 30,000 young people across Australia over the next three years.

And students at Bass Coast College will be among the first to benefit from the innovative project.

Schools in targeted regional locations were invited to lodge an Expression of Interest in receiving a fully-funded digital safety and wellbeing program from 2025 to 2027.

And Bass Coast College was successful, being included in the first round in 2025.

In Year 1, the following areas were identified:

- Victoria: Traralgon, Wonthaggi, Robinvale, Mallee
- Tasmania: Launceston, Scottsdale, Devonport, Burnie

A spokesperson for Bass Coast College said the sessions for the college's Year 8 students would start in two weeks' time.

According to Project Rockit, a youth-driven movement against bullying founded by Melbourne sisters Lucy and Rosie Thomas, young people in regional areas often score lower in digital skills and wellbeing compared to their urban peers.

"That's something we can definitely do something about," said Lucy Thomas on ABC Radio in the past week.

In response, Telstra Foundation is investing \$1.5 million in an innovative three-year partnership with Project Rockit to offer schools across 33 regional communities, free access to an impactful, youth-centred digital wellbeing program.

The program will deliver in-person digital citizenship workshops to 30,000 students in regional areas, offer online resources to an additional 250,000 young people, and enhance community digital literacy by engaging 900 parents and carers through online seminars.



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Australian Fur Seal challenges beachgoers at Inverloch

BEACHGOERS at Inverloch quickly discovered a seal's bark can be worse than its bite when a large male Australian Fur Seal beached itself at Norman Point.

The largest of all fur seals and one of the world's rarest seal species the Australian Fur Seal can spend weeks at sea feeding.

Sammy the Inverloch fur seal seemed to have done just that.

Inverloch lifesavers called to ensure Sammy was not injured or in any danger speculated the seal may have over-eaten on plentiful schools of fish in the area.

Beachgoer Chris Ball of Kongwak who sat protecting the seal for over three hours said the seal was probably exhausted.

"A pod of dolphins was in the area earlier in the day and I saw a shark fin" said Chris.

A large Bluethroat Wrasse or parrot fish washed up on the surf beach nearby would indicate a possible feeding frenzy by dolphins and seals.

Adult fur seals can weigh up to 100kg with the male being dark-grey to brown with a paler underside and a mane of coarse hair over the neck and shoulders.

Sammy's large eyes, pointed face, whiskers, forward facing



The rare appearance of an Australian Fur Seal on the Inverloch surf beach creates a stand-off with beachgoers. B21_0625

flippers and very sharp teeth similar to a bear are typical of Australian Fur Seals.

One tourist taking close-up photos of Sammy found fur seals can move very quickly.

Forced to scamper up the beach when Sammy lunged forward, teeth bared barking loudly Ivan of Coburg was obviously shaken.

Australian Fur Seals are very skilful hunters with keen senses and eyesight.

Normally fur seals prefer remote islands, rocky ledges and pebble beaches to rest on but for Sammy Norman Point seemed just fine.

Far from being camera shy Sammy happily lolled around on the beach entertaining beachgoers until early evening.

Chris Ball a carpenter and full-time carer for his mother last saw a seal at Inverloch eighteen months ago.

"He was very good with the

many curious children passing by," said Chris.

Wildlife Victoria advises that it is important for both people and dogs to keep away from Australian Fur Seals.

"When taking your dog for a walk you need to make sure that you keep at least 50 metres away from a seal on land or in the water."

For more information on protected wildlife go to wildlife.vic.gov.au

Labor enters Monash fray

• Sentinel-Times comment

LABOR will be late to the party when they finally name their endorsed candidate to contest the Federal seat of Monash later this week or early next.

Sources have revealed that their candidate will be a former Leongatha-educated, party stalwart but party officials are yet to confirm.

Together with the National Party, also expected to enter the fray in Monash next week, it ensures there will be a 'Melbourne Cup' field of candidates for voters.

The decision by sitting MP, former Liberal-now-independent Russell Broadbent to contest his 14th Federal election means the result will almost certainly go to preferences, but the state results in Werribee and Prahran last weekend indicate there will be a higher conservative vote overall.

At the 2022 election, Russell Broadbent had a win after preferences with 52.9% of the vote as compared to the ALP candidate Jessica O'Donnell's 47.1%.

If the state results last weekend translate to the Federal election, little more than two or three months away, there will be more conservative votes for the Liberals' Mary Aldred and ex-Liberal Russell Broadbent to divided between themselves.

It could come down to which of those two gets the highest first preference vote, and which of them is favoured by the minor parties as to who ultimately goes forward in the count.

Can one of the other candidates for Monash stand against a tide that's clearly going the conservatives' way? That's up to the voters to decide.

Cr Tessari new chair

BASS Coast Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari was chosen to fill the position of deputy chair for the Peri Urban Councils Victoria (PUCV) as a new team was recently elected to head the organisation for the coming year.

The new leadership team will be focusing on advocating for issues impacting peri urban communities ahead of the Victorian and federal budgets and the federal election due by May this year.

Cr Tessari said peri urban councils were facing a period of enormous change.

"Our peri urban councils are on the front line of the next wave of growth in Victoria, but we need government funding for essential infrastructure, such as roads, water and power, to ensure we can meet the accelerated demand for housing," Cr Tessari said.

"These issues will be the focus of our conversations as we meet with state and federal leaders over the coming months," Cr Tessari said.

In its pre-budget submission to both the state and federal governments, PUCV has recommended two funds be set up to support infrastructure planning and development in high-growth peri urban areas.

Back to business as usual at FoodWorks Inverloch

AFTER a devastating fire early in January the locally owned and operated FoodWorks supermarket in Inverloch is all but back to business as normal.

"It was a 30 degree plus day and suddenly the power went out," recalled Store Manager Brendan O'Leary.

A fire in an electrical switchboard shut down all the refrigerators.

The Inverloch fire brigade was on the scene within minutes containing the fire to the plant room while staff frantically tried to empty the refrigerators.

"We only had two shipping containers for frozen and chilled food," said Brendan.

It wasn't enough and some perishable food was lost.

Serving thousands of customers each day during the peak of the holiday season Foodworks staff utilised all the

temporary refrigerator space they could find.

"We had eight portable air-conditioners in place," said Mr O'Leary.

Four weeks later and the store is almost back to business as usual.

"We have received a lot of positive comments from customers," said Brendan.

"Everyone has been telling us what a great job we've done."

Brendan O'Leary has been at the store since it opened in 2002.

Locally owned and operated Foodworks Inverloch employs 90 staff.

"I'd like to thank all the staff for their efforts during this very trying time," said Mr O'Leary.

"Thank you to everyone for your kind words."

"Supermarkets present a lot of challenges and this has been just one of them."



FoodWorks Inverloch Dairy Manager Fiona Wellard and Assistant Manager Abby Butler B17_0625

SUNDAY MORNING
Market

RAIL TRAIL
COMMUNITY MARKET
LEONGATHA
BAKED - MADE - GROWN

16 FEBRUARY
8.30AM - 1PM
3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

RAILWAY PRECINCT LEONGATHA
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You deserve
more, Monash.

Deb Leonard
INDEPENDENT

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha

Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



IN 2025, the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre will revert to its original name, **The Union Theatre**, in celebration of the centenary of the original building on this site. As part of the milestone, a year-long program of events will honour its rich history and enduring significance in Wonthaggi's cultural life under the banner of *'It's On At The Union'*.

For the rest of the year, The Union Theatre will host an extraordinary program of events, historical reflections, and performances to honour this historic venue and the spirit that built it. The celebrations begin this Saturday, February 15, with a screening of *Strikebound* and an exclusive 'In Conversation' with award-winning director Richard Lowenstein. Filmed in Wonthaggi, *Strikebound* tells the story of 1930s mining struggles and was originally launched here with former Prime Minister Bob Hawke in attendance. This event also serves as the official launch of the centenary program.

Community groups, local artists, and performers will bring The Union Theatre to life throughout the year, ensuring it remains a vibrant hub for creativity and connection. With many events expected to sell out quickly, I encourage everyone to subscribe to the newsletter at basscoastculturalvenues.com.

As we celebrate all that The Union Theatre has given to our community, we're also looking ahead to the next 100 years. The Arts in Bass Coast Survey, open until February 16, 2025, invites residents and visitors to share their thoughts on the future of arts and culture in Bass Coast. Visit engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/arts-bass-coast to have your say.

A major highlight of the celebrations will be *'100 Women 100 Stories'*, a special International Women's Day event featuring a community choir of nearly 100 women sharing their stories through song.

The event will also welcome Clare Bowditch, a multi-award-winning musician, alongside six exceptional female musicians. Their music will honour the resilience, strength, and diversity of women's experiences.

Over three days in Wonthaggi, the choir will meet, connect, and rehearse, building toward a powerful final concert. I encourage you to be part of this inspiring celebration on Sunday, March 16. Come and witness the magic of storytelling through music as 100 voices fill The Union Theatre, reminding us of its vital role in bringing our community together.

As Mayor, I feel privileged to celebrate a century of The Union Theatre enriching our lives. Who knows what the next 100 years will bring, but one thing's for sure: in 2025, *It's On at The Union!*

Deputy Federal Opposition Leader visits Phillip Island

FEDERAL Liberal Candidate for Monash Mary Aldred and the Federal Deputy Leader of the Opposition the Hon Sussan Ley MP met with several Phillip Island residents and community groups about local priorities last Wednesday, January 29.

This included meeting with Island Voice committee members Peter Paul and Peter McMahon to discuss the Phillip Island Rec Reserve proposal.

"Phillip Island has a growing population and we need to put our best case forward to secure new sporting, recreation and community facilities based here on the Island," said Ms Aldred.

"As part of a strong Coalition team I am determined to fight for the funding and support Phillip Island needs to provide opportunities for local athletes, and sporting and recreation facilities that all local residents can access," she added.

"I've had many discussions with Mary over a period of time," said Mr McMahon. "Along with Mary talking to the Shire as well, to try and, in our

case, push along with what was the strongest issue the Phillip Island residents had, and that was the development of the recreation reserve.

"The main issue is that council own the land and are refusing to re zone the area, they've come up with a recreational master plan that effectively is saying that no development will take place for another 10 years."

Island Voice are advocating for the residents of Phillip Island, and members Peter McMahon and Peter Paul are working together with the federal candidates so they can endeavour to see action. "Unanimously, everyone who was standing for the Island Ward supported making sure that the recreational site was the number one project that had to be done."

"It's a live issue," said Mr McMahon. "And it's an issue basically, that we have requested, should Mary be successful, that some money be allocated for the expressed purpose of rezoning the land and developing the recreational site."



Federal Deputy Leader of the Opposition the Hon Sussan Ley MP with Mary Aldred, Federal Liberal Candidate for Monash with Peter Paul and Peter McMahon from Island Voice.

Big 24 hours for Island SES after stormcell hits Ventnor

THE INTENSE storm cell, which touched down in a discrete area of Phillip Island on Sunday, February 2, shortly after 5pm, has been described as a "mini cyclone" by affected residents mostly in the Ventnor area on the east side of the island.

The area was battered by 124km/h winds and hail-

stones, up to the size of golf balls.

"We looked back through our records and it's the third busiest 24 hours we've had in recent years," said Phillip Island SES Unit Controller Phil Friedlos.

"We had 45 callouts, mostly involving trees or branches down, and most of them

started coming in over a short space of time.

"It mostly involved clearing trees across roads and driveways, but we did have some branches resting on roofs that caused some property damage. There were also a few places where rain had got in or skylights were damaged. It was pretty intense,"

Mr Friedlos said.

While the storm hit homes hardest, our feathered friends were not immune with Phillip Island Nature Parks forced to cancel the Penguin Parade with visitors receiving a full refund. Earlier visitors sheltered inside the penguin centre until the storm passed.

Will the State Government give a 100th birthday present for the 'Union'?

THERE'S never been a better time for State Government to commit funding to a worthy project than right now, on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre.

Originally opened in February 1925, paid for by a levy on the miners' meagre wages, the original Wonthaggi Union theatre burnt down in 1980 and its successor, opened in 1982, is in need of funding to upgrade the

tired-looking foyer.

In the lead up to the start of birthday celebrations, the Bass Coast Shire Council has renewed its pitch to the government for \$1.6 million, as one of its key advocacy priorities of 2024.

"Bass Coast Shire Council is strongly committed to securing investment for the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre as part of our Advocacy Priorities 2024. We continue to urge the State Government to sup-

port this vital project, which will deliver much-needed upgrades, including modernised restroom facilities, improved accessibility, and creating a dynamic, multi-functional foyer space," said a spokesperson for the shire this week.

"This is a unique opportunity for the government to invest in the local arts sector, honour the rich history of the venue, and enhance the experience for our community. The success of

these upgrades depends on securing grant funding or direct government investment. Our advocacy priorities have been shared with key ministers and candidates, and we look forward to further discussions and opportunities for funding support."

The good news for the State Government is that they have 12 months to find the money while a year of centenary celebrations and events continue at the theatre.



Not sure how to dispose of something?
Visit our website to find out

Visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/whichbin to find out more



Danny O'BRIEN_{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



Loch Resilience Project to be launched for the community's future benefit

THE LOCH Resilience Project is being launched this February, and is a bold, community-led initiative made possible by the Foundation for Regional and Rural Renewal (FRRR) support.

This project is Loch's chance to secure local energy solutions to reduce reliance on the grid, build a reliable local energy supply and emergency community hub and strengthen sustainability, innovation, and economic growth in Loch.

Local input and ideas are needed on lessons learnt from past outages and how to manage them in the future, local energy solutions and funding opportunities and what resilience means for Loch and how the community can build on its strengths.

The grant from FRRR was supported by the Loch Community Development Association (LCDA) and will allow the town to run a workshop facilitated with local group Mycelia and is co-lead by Loch locals, Alona Charuvi, a marine and coastal ecologist, science communicator, and university lecturer, Kate Bennets, an ecologist and experienced community engagement leader, and Craig Fathers, a local café owner.

Mycelia, support and empower communities to learn and work together to co-design a whole of community energy system to solve the impacts they experience during out-



Loch community members and co-leaders of the Loch Resilience Project, Alona Charuvi and Kate Bennets who are excited to get the project off the ground. ob02_0625

ages and natural emergencies. Special guest speaker, Alyson Skinner will present on the evening, providing insights from the Venus Bay Community Resilience and Energy Plan that was facilitated with Mycelia.

"This is something that the community is going to build, everybody is going to have their input. We are going to look at what everyone needs, and Mycelia will help us create a plan out of that," said Ms Charuvi.

The project arose from a need to have appropriate in-

frastructure for the community following the prolonged power outage after last year's storm in January, which left many residents, business owners and farmers disconnected and vulnerable, and which is likely to occur again.

The Loch community alongside many locals are interested in finding a way to create a community hub that will provide internet and phone access, that is not reliant on the main grid in times of prolonged power outages.

Following the initial meet-

ing, workshops with community groups and local business will be held with Mycelia to construct a plan and find funding resources to drive a successful outcome for the Loch community.

The first Loch Resilience Project Meeting will be held on Thursday February 13 from 6:30pm - 8 pm at the Loch Public Hall, 16 Smith St, Loch.

For more information about the project contact Ms Charuvi via lochresilience@gmail.com.

Dancers make a start on Loch world record

THE thunder was long gone and the showers disappeared just in time for another busy Strzelecki Lions Market Day at the Loch Railway Reserve last Sunday.

And organisers believe they managed to inspire not one, but two world records – one dance and one Tai Chi – on the adjoining rail trail by a 'Moovement Mob' of local trail-blazers.

The Strzelecki Lions have laid claim to two records; world record number one, the most people to dance along the Great Southern Rail Trail, that record now set at 14 people, several spectators, a touring cyclist, and a dog, with Judy and Trish keeping the beat with a sound stroller. The Poowong Twinkle Toe Dancers and friends strutted their stuff along a section of rail trail as they glided, strolled and rolled with joy and laughter.

World record number two, the most Tai Chi people along the rail trail (eight plus a family of three and some L-platers). The Tai Chi movers led by Allana, were a gentle contrast – a symphony of relaxed elegance and movement. Children were fascinated and the slightly older were bright eyed.

'Moovement' organiser Sarah Williams explained: "It really is all about moovement. Walking, stretching, exercising, dancing to music and it's always more fun if you can do it with a relaxed group. No pressure, just fun and laughter. Being with and being encouraged by other like-minded people makes it so much easier. Wouldn't it be great if the Moove Moovement grew all along the 125Km rail trail! Be active, live more of your life and get mooving. Dancing with your community is food for your soul."

Strzelecki Lions membership spokesman Noel Gregg is also inviting other community groups to use the historic Loch station building and platform area during the monthly Loch Summer Market Days as a 'platform' for promoting and demonstrating their activities. Noel can be contacted on 0447 398 822.

You can now receive certain healthcare treatments at a local pharmacy, without having to get a prescription first.

The Victorian Government's Community Pharmacist Pilot is making healthcare more accessible. Here are some other treatments you can access.

Speak to our specialist pharmacist today

INVERLOCH
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LEONGATHA
P: 5662 2183

Dedicated to Care

Treatment for shingles

If you have one of the following symptoms, you may have shingles:

- painful blistering rash
- a tingling, burning sensation on the skin.

If you are aged 18 years and older, you may be eligible for treatment.

Treatment for urinary tract infections

If you have any of the following symptoms, you may have a urinary tract infection:

- stinging or burning when passing urine
- feeling the need to pass urine frequently or bladder still feels full after passing urine.

If you are female and aged between 16 - 65 years you may be able to get treatment.

Treatment for a flare up of mild plaque psoriasis

If you are aged 18 years and older, and currently have a flare-up of mild plaque psoriasis, speak to a participating pharmacist to check if you can get a resupply of your cream or ointment.

Resupply of an oral contraceptive pill

If you are aged 16-50 years and currently take an oral contraceptive pill, speak to a participating pharmacist to check if you can get a resupply.

Travel and vaccines

If you are travelling overseas or need a public health vaccine, pharmacists participating in the Pilot can administer a range of travel vaccinations as well as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, typhoid, and tetanus (for people aged 5 years and older).

For more information and to find a local pharmacy providing these services visit: go.vic.gov.au/49C6sFc

These treatments are part of the Community Pharmacist Pilot, funded by the Victorian Government.

Korumburra Women's Shed gets a hand from 'brother shed'

ROWVILLE Men's Shed generously donated a substantial collection of tools to the members of Korumburra Women's Shed who have just received the keys to their new home in the Korumburra railway precinct.

The Rowville men also invited the Korumburra organisation to be their 'sister shed', an informal arrangement the women were pleased to accept.

The relationship between the two organisations sprang up because the father of one of the members of the Korumburra Women's Shed belongs to the Rowville Men's Shed.

Some of the women were invited to the Men's Shed last year, the Rowville men showing them around, offering advice and cooking lunch.

During that visit, the ladies were shown a shipping container in which the men were collecting surplus donated items for them.

The Rowville men recently posted on Facebook about their contribution to the Women's Shed.

"Over a period of time we have accumulated excess tools, machinery and hardware from very generous donations," the Men's Shed stated, adding that those making the donations would be delighted to know the

tools are valued and being used for new projects.

It took three cars and two loaded trailers to deliver the haul to Korumburra Women's Shed.

Items such as a thickener, sliding mitre saw, a drill press, a Triton workbench, a mini fridge and shelving are among the recently delivered haul, with a number of boxes yet to be opened.

Committee member Linda Fisher, who is the Tools Officer, responded to the men's Facebook post, expressing her thanks on behalf of the Women's Shed members.

"Thank you so much guys! Your donation of a 'shed starter kit' is very much appreciated, and we also appreciate your advice on all things shedding," she said.

Speaking to the Sentinel-Times, Linda explained the Rowville men detailed what went into setting up their shed, the women appreciating their helpful advice.

"Hopefully, we can catch up with our 'brother shed' soon as we continue our journey," she said, the women having returned the men's hospitality by providing lunch, cake and biscuits.

Linda also thanked the men for "the yummy biscuits" they provided during their visit to South Gippsland.



Leongatha Rotary Club's David Panther, honourable mention Emma Murphy, Leongatha Secondary College art teacher Celeste Amenta with the artwork of winner Ghun Phokaphol, Luciblooms Memorial Youth Award founder Anne Forbes, honourable mention Elana Abicare and Rotary Leongatha's Bob Hickman.

Luciblooms Award winners announced

LUCIA Berghella was fondly remembered on Australia Day with the awarding of the Luciblooms Memorial Youth Award for junior artists, established last year as part of the Rotary Art and Photography Show in Leongatha, Ghun Phokaphol chosen as the winner.

The Leongatha Secondary College student took out the \$200 prize with her painting 'Paradiso Italiano'.

The Luciblooms Award was created by artist Anne Forbes in memory of her daughter Lucia.

While junior prizes were awarded on the Art Show's opening night by judge Greg Allen, Anne was responsible for choosing the winner of the Luciblooms competition along with a

couple of honourable mentions.

Those other acknowledgments went to Leongatha Primary School student Emma Murphy for her artwork 'Ebony' and Leongatha Secondary College pupil Elana Abicare for her creations 'Dinosaur Teapot and Baby Dinosaur Teacup'.

Lucia passed away in her sleep aged just 13 due to Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), having not been formally diagnosed with epilepsy, and is remembered as fun, energetic and intelligent with a love of painting.

Anne approached Leongatha Rotarian and Koonwarra-based artist Bob Hickman ahead of last year's Art and Photography Show about establishing

the Luciblooms Award and he was taken with the idea.

As well as honouring Lucia, the award is consistent with the increased effort Leongatha Rotary has put into encouraging young artists over recent years by providing free canvases to local schools, something that has boosted junior entries in the Art and Photography Show.

The cause of SUDEP is unknown, driving the need for research and greater awareness of the condition.

The Luciblooms Memorial Youth Award is open to those from primary school age through to 18 years, ensuring Anne had plenty of works to consider when selecting her winners at the Leongatha Memorial Hall.

Expression of Interest for Tidal River General Store at The Prom is now open!

Parks Victoria is seeking a high-quality operator with the vision and capacity to manage and operate the Tidal River General Store, located within Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Discover more about this amazing opportunity



Parks VICTORIA



Hyundai Safe Plate Day

Edneys Hyundai are proud to announce Safe Plate Wednesday.

One-way security screws will be fitted FREE of charge by a qualified Hyundai technician, this will help deter thieves from stealing your number plates. The screws are a one - way type and are unable to be removed once fitted. In Victoria alone last year, there were over 12,000 number plates stolen, over half of these were used for petrol theft.

Edneys Hyundai 1 Roughead Street, Leongatha
Wednesday, February 19 10.30am - 2.30pm
There will be a free Sausage Sizzle



BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL AS THERE WILL BE LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.



VICTORIA POLICE WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE

CONTACT: Service Department Phone: (03) 5662 2327 Email: service@edney.com.au

Korumburra Women's Shed members ready to put their stamp on new home

KORUMBURRA Women's Shed members celebrated their long-awaited move into the former goods shed at the Korumburra railway precinct, Vicki Evans of VicTrack handing the keys to Shed president Jen Belsar on Friday January 31.

While the revamped former home of Korumburra Men's Shed will be a hub of creativity where women also learn practical skills in a friendly environment promoting positive mental health, the first step is to arrange required works on the inside of the building.

VicTrack renovated the structure the women can now call home, a site they initially hoped to be able to move into prior to the middle of last year, but it is currently a shell without internal fittings.

"There is nothing in there, so we have to start from scratch; we have to put in a kitchen," Jen said, describing the interior as "gutted", including removal of the water tank and plumbing.

Organising fundraising events and investigating available grants to assist with the internal works will be a priority.

Once a kitchen and plumbing are installed and the electrics are assessed and connected, the women will set about partitioning the shed and dividing it into the spaces they need, then creating workstations.



Vicki Evans of VicTrack hands the keys to the Korumburra Women's Shed to the group's president Jen Belsar.

Storage for tools also needs to be factored in.

President Jen is relieved the women now have the keys, noting there was competition for the shed, and is taking a positive outlook toward the required internal works.

"We've got lots to do but I think we'll enjoy it because the core of it is us being together and working together," she said, expecting that

setting up and refitting the building will be just as much fun as the creative projects that follow.

Jen previously opened a Women's Shed in the Melbourne suburb of Alphington before relocating to Korumburra, and has since run 'Women on Tools' courses auspiced through Milpara Community House.

Basic carpentry, power tool use and welding will be

among the practical skills women can learn at the Korumburra Women's Shed.

The concept of having a Women's Shed in town was quickly embraced, the organisation attracting substantial interest from local women wanting to be part of the shed community and easily filling its committee positions.

As well as practical skills, art will feature prominently in the Shed, with plenty of artists keen to come and teach there, sharing skills in areas such as pottery and painting.

The Women's Shed is a great way for women to meet and support each other and with the practical skills they gain, increase their independence.

The women intend to have exhibitions, music and other events at the shed, inviting members of the broader community and ensuring everyone feels welcome.

Jen expressed her appreciation of support from community and politicians who wrote to VicTrack encouraging it to grant the Korumburra Women's Shed group a lease for the former goods shed.

Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien, Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath. Member for Monash Russell Broadbent and Cr Nathan Hersey all threw their support behind those at the Korumburra Women's Shed.

Labor's bail backtrack as clear as mud

THERE are calls for clarity over the State Government's bail backtracking after Premier Allan said a review was underway but was contradicted the next day by her Minister for Police.

The Nationals' Melina Bath said the State Government and the courts failed Victorians when it watered down bail laws and the community deserved better protections.

"Soft bail laws don't meet the expectations of our community, many live in fear due to rising crime and anti-social behaviour that's impacting our homes, streets and shopping strips", Ms Bath said.

"It's inconceivable that the Premier announces a review only to have the Minister for Police Hon Anthony Carabine deny it.

"Within 24 hours the State Government's supposed bail review was watered down with Minister Carabine stating he was "tasked to do some work" and "I wouldn't even say that there's particularly a review".

Statistics for eastern Victoria produced by the Crime Statistics Agency highlight the rise in offences and incidents.

In the past ten years criminal incidents in Bass Coast increased 13.85 per cent, Baw Baw 60.15 per cent, South Gippsland 82 per cent, East Gippsland 37.9 per cent, Wellington 14.3 per cent and Cardinia 51.5 per cent.

Ms Bath said too often repeat criminals are let out on bail in Victoria, only to commit far more serious crimes.

"It's an insult to our hardworking police officers who put their lives on the line for our safety to see criminals let back out on the street - enough is enough.

"The Nationals have been campaigning for tougher bail laws - the state needs to strengthen legislation to help keep criminals off our streets.

"Crimes such as motor car theft, residential aggravated burglary, justice procedures and family violence common assault have all surged under the current State Government - and the frightening reality is many of these offences are being committed by repeat offenders on bail."

SWIMMING IS FUN. BUT DROWNING ISN'T.

PACK YOUR SUMMER SMARTS

- ✓ BE AWARE OF STRONG CURRENTS AND ROUGH CONDITIONS
- ✓ KNOW THE CONDITIONS AND KNOW YOUR LIMITS
- ✓ NEVER SWIM ALONE OR IF YOU'RE UNSURE

FIND OUT HOW TO STAY SAFE BY THE WATER THIS SUMMER



South Gippsland Shire Council News

Community Training

Did you know that South Gippsland Shire Council offers free workshops throughout the year for South Gippsland community groups, not-for-profit organisations, clubs and volunteers?

The 2025 South Gippsland Training Calendar (from February to March) is now available on Council’s website.

These sessions provide our local groups and volunteers with the opportunity to develop new skills, brush up on things like good governance and grant application writing, and the chance to network with people from other groups in our Shire.

The upcoming training opportunities include:

Good Group Governance – Learn the basics of good governance in your committee role.

Smarty Grants 101– Upskill and be ready to apply for any grant efficiently and effectively.

Attracting and Supporting Volunteers – Problem solve and workshop ways to plan for and recruit new volunteers.

Head to Council’s website to save dates and reserve a spot at any of our upcoming training sessions.

For more information about each event and to register your place, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining



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

FOOTPATH AND ROAD ASSESSMENTS

South Gippsland Shire Council’s contractors are undertaking Footpath and Road Conditions Assessments across the Shire.

You may observe quad bike style assessment vehicles travelling on public footways around your work, residences and other locations within South Gippsland.

This will take place during February and will take a week to complete. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Council by calling 03 5662 9200 or emailing council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

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

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra
03 5662 9200
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au



Recollections of council amalgamation were heard by current councillors on Wednesday. Back row: Councillors John Kennedy, Steve Finlay, Bron Beach, Nathan Hersey and Scott Rae. Middle Row: mayor John Schelling, councillors Brad Snell, and Clare Williams and deputy mayor Sarah Gilligan. Front Row: Former commissioner Garry Leeson, Danny Luna who served as interim CEO of South Gippsland Shire Council at the start of the amalgamation period and former commissioner Peter Jennings. A03_0625

Council amalgamation recalled with reflections on change

THE CHALLENGES of implementing Jeff Kennett's radical council amalgamation initiative and the community angst that arose at the time were recalled when current South Gippsland Shire councillors and council staff welcomed a trio who played key roles in the process locally.

As part of the overall restructure that entailed dissolving 210 councils throughout Victoria, creating 78 new councils through amalgamation, South Gippsland Shire Council was formed through merging four previously separate council areas.

Each new Local Government Area was headed by commissioners appointed by the State Government.

Peter Jennings and Garry Leeson were commissioners for South Gippsland, along with the late Bruce Warr, and were joined at Wednesday's amalgamation celebration event in the Leongatha Council Chambers by Danny Luna who served as Interim CEO early in the amalgamation process.

It was a chaotic period Danny recalled.

"We had to quickly get together and make sure we could function (as a council) and that meant paying staff,

By Andrew Palocz

and paying bills," Danny said, something that was no small feat given the merger resulted in a payroll numbering 410 people.

One challenge was deciding which systems to adopt, with the four merged councils each having their own computer and rating systems.

Reducing the now bloated staffing numbers was a more testing task.

"We had to substantially reduce that payroll so we lost a lot of good people," Danny said, acknowledging some of the pain and angst remained for a long time, but offsetting that by stressing smaller municipalities such as Mirboo would not have survived as they were.

Peter, who was then a Giffard farmer and Yarram School teacher as well as being on the Alberton Shire Council, was surprised to be chosen as a commissioner after responding to an advertisement in The Weekly Times.

He recalled an induction meeting at Sale for commissioners from across Gippsland, noting there was no manual outlining what the role entailed.

"We did the best we could," Peter said, recalling the introduction of

competitive tendering as one of the toughest changes that sprang out of amalgamations.

"It was quite a brutal process," he said of staff competing for positions.

Garry, who runs Leeson's Logging and Cartage in Rosedale, was instrumental in his role as a commissioner in reconfiguring the engineering and outdoors staff of the new South Gippsland Shire Council, his background with machinery enabling him to assess the existing set up and what efficiencies needed to be introduced.

He reflected on the overall success of amalgamation for towns in South Gippsland Shire.

"Challenging as it was, some areas very much benefited from the amalgamations," he said, albeit not feeling that was the case for Rosedale.

Recent South Gippsland Shire councillor Mohya Davies recalled the angst in her hometown of Foster at the time councils were merged, saying many people locally felt disengaged with the process and the new council, then outlining her view 30 years on.

"We couldn't have survived, the way things are done now, as such a small shire," she said, adding that Foster is now thriving.

Keep spruced-up Korumburra Heated Pool thriving

PATRONS are delighted to be back at Korumburra Heated Swimming Pool after its January resurfacing, but the committee in charge needs more people and their fresh ideas.

"We aren't asking for a lot of your time and there is no need to attend to the day-to-day operation of the pool," treasurer Noelene Cosson stressed.

The community built, owned and run 15 x 7 metre pool opened in 1987 and is still serving locals well.

The committee is after people with the passion to help shape the future of the popular facility.

That is intended to ensure it continues to provide a place for children to learn to swim and locals to socialise, as well as the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a hydrotherapy pool, its temperature maintained at 33 degrees.

All community members are welcome to use the pool, which operates

through a membership style arrangement, and it is available for hire or to attend walk-in rehabilitation and self-help sessions.

The pool runs on a low budget, with hire charges, membership fees, and a small maintenance grant from the South Gippsland Shire Council its only income.

While the committee arrangement has worked well, successfully running the pool for the last 20 years, rising costs and dwindling volunteer numbers have driven the need for new faces.

Pool users and others in the community are encouraged to express their interest in joining the committee, helping a valued local asset to remain open and viable.

Please contact Noelene on 0438 551 605, email korumburraheatedpool@outlook.com or message bank 5655 1681.



The Korumburra Heated Pool is looking good after being resurfaced.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



LAST week, we bid a sad farewell to Kerry Ellis, who has been Chief Executive Officer at South Gippsland Shire Council for five years. Kerry has accomplished a lot here, and our community has benefited from her strong leadership during this time. She has supported all Councillors in whatever they need and provided frank and fearless advice when necessary.

While Council searches for its next permanent Chief Executive Officer, Director Performance and Innovation Allison Jones will be stepping up into the role until May 3 2025. Director Sustainable Infrastructure Tony Peterson will then take over the Acting Chief Executive Officer role until a permanent CEO is appointed.

I look forward to working closely with both Allison and Tony, and continuing to achieve great results for the South Gippsland community.

Community Grants Presentation Night

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Community Grants Presentation Night last Wednesday evening. Sixteen applicants were successful in receiving a grant from Council in Round One of the 2024/25 Program.

The atmosphere on the night was incredible, and I received plenty of extremely positive feedback.

Community Grants are a tangible way that Council can support and celebrate the fantastic work of groups across South Gippsland, so I always enjoy heading along to these events.

Don't forget there is still time to get your project in for Round Two of the Community Grants Program for 2024/25. For all the information you need and to apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Animal Registration Renewals Coming Soon

In the next few weeks, Council will be sending out renewal notices for pet registrations. So, now is the perfect time to make sure your details are correct.

You can update your details with Council by visiting: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/changedetails

To update the details associated with your pet's microchip, please

visit: www.petaddress.com.au Simply enter their microchip number and follow the prompts.

Shaping South Gippsland engagement

Feedback on the Shaping South Gippsland project will be closing at the end of February, so please make sure you make your voice heard either online or at one of the pop-ups.

This weekend, you can find us at the:

- Rail Trail Community Market, Leongatha on Sunday, February 16 between 9am and 11am.

Councillors will also be in the following towns on Saturday, February 15:

- Koonwarra on the Rail Trail near the toilet between 8.30am and 9.30am.
- Dumbalk in Memorial Park (Nerrena Road) between 10am and 11am.
- Mirboo North in Baromi Park (opposite the Town Hall) between 11.30am and 12.30pm.

To see where we'll be 'popping up' next or to complete your online survey, please visit: www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au

Shout-Outs to Councillors

I would like to warmly congratulate Councillor Nathan Hersey on his appointment as Chair of One Gippsland. It is fantastic to see South Gippsland have such a prominent seat at the table on this Gippsland-wide advocacy body.

I would also like to thank Councillor Brad Snell for putting his hand up to be involved with the Youth Council, who ran an extremely successful Youth Disco event last Friday in Mirboo North. It is great to see this group being rekindled and working so hard to share the voices of young people with us.

Meeniyan Area Community Shop

Community Shops, sometimes referred to as Op Shops, can be quite a hub in a community. The Meeniyan Community Shop has been running for the past 18 years and has just ticked over \$1,000,000 in donations to local community groups. What a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations to everyone involved in this great community asset.



Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.



Road emergencies spike in rural Victoria

AMBULANCE Victoria data on rural road emergencies highlights the deteriorating state of regional roads and the parallel spike in serious road trauma.

The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath said the parlous state of rural and regional roads is a hot topic for her constituents.

"It's no surprise to locals that there has been an increase in serious injuries sustained from vehicle crashes in rural areas - our regional roads are shockingly neglected by the State Government," said Ms Bath.

"There has been an alarming surge in the number of Ambulance Victoria Code 1 rural road emergencies.

"Ambulance Victoria's annual report shows it attended 121,551 Code 1 road emergencies in rural Victoria last financial year - that's a shocking 38.5 per cent increase in only four years.

"The flow on effect of increasing road crashes is additional pressure on our already overstretched ambulance services and hospital emergency departments.

"Labor cannot ignore the fact that these country crashes are occurring at a disproportionate rate compared to metropolitan Melbourne."

Ms Bath said there's no amount of spin that can hide the fact Labor has almost abandoned road maintenance, while completed works are failing in no time.

"Road maintenance works in regional Victoria plummeted a staggering 95 per cent last financial year under the State Government, leaving surfaces plagued by potholes, crumbling shoulders and overgrown reserves.

"The South Gippsland highway at Lang Lang is a prime example, it's been patched and failed more times than locals care to imagine in the past 18 months.

"While urgent road safety upgrades such as the Phillip Island Road, San Remo; Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Bypass and duplication of Princes Way between Warragul and Drouin continue to be ignored.

"Labor can't manage money, can't manage our roads and regional Victorians are paying the price."



The Nationals Danny O'Brien and Melina Bath have been highlighting the deteriorating state of Gippsland roads and campaigning for the need for urgent maintenance.

Our roads are an international embarrassment

WHEN the Chinese government and undertakers are warning about the state of Victoria's roads, it is clear we have a major problem.

Last week, the Chinese consulate general implored Chinese tourists to avoid driving by themselves and painted a bleak picture of our roads network.

The warning to Chinese tourists was stark: "Roads in Victoria are winding and some sections of them are not in good condition".

Iconic funeral business Tobin Brothers has gone as far as warning drivers about potholes and the dangers of our roads in an advertising campaign.

The Liberals and Nationals raised Victoria's crumbling roads network, and the latest embarrassing warnings, in Question Time in Parliament last week.

The Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Melissa Horne, dodged and weaved when asked: "Why has the State Government let our roads deteriorate so badly that foreign tourists are now being warned not to drive on them?"

The Minister could not provide an answer.

There was also no answer forthcoming when the Minister was asked: "With foreign governments and undertakers warning about the dire condition of Victorian roads, will the Government now admit it has failed Victorian motorists?"

Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, said Victorians deserved answers.

"Our roads have become an international embarrassment and undertakers are sending out warnings, yet the State Government refuses to take action or accept accountability," Mr O'Brien said.

Expanding newborn screening

VICTORIAN newborns will now be screened for an additional rare and serious genetic disorder to ensure they get the treatment and care they need sooner.

Acting Minister for Health Ingrid Stitt announced on January 22 that testing for galactosaemia will be included in Victoria's newborn bloodspot screening program - run by the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services.

Commonly referred to as the 'heel prick test', the newborn bloodspot screening program is designed to help parents get their children early treatment for rare health conditions, so they can live long, healthy lives.

This latest addition sees the screening program now test for a total 32 conditions and is offered to parents of all newborns within their first 72 hours of life, at no cost.

Galactosaemia is a rare genetic condition that prevents the body from metabolising galactose, a type of sugar found in milk and other dairy products.

Gippsland Total Care are empowering independence and enriching lives

GIPPSLAND Total Care (GTC), a proud local registered NDIS service provider, is transforming the lives of individuals with disabilities by delivering professional, compassionate, and personalised care.

Rooted in the mission to empower people to live fulfilling, independent lives, GTC's exceptional team goes above and beyond to support clients in achieving their highest potential.

Owned and managed by experienced Registered Nurses, GTC was established with a steadfast commitment to providing timely, reliable, and empathetic care.

The team works closely with families and support coordinators to design tailored care plans that promote independence, health, and joy, ensuring every individual receives the support they need.

GTC's multidisciplinary team includes Registered and Enrolled Nurses, Support Workers, Social Workers, Dietitians, Gardeners, and Cleaners, all working together to provide comprehensive



Gippsland Total Care transform the lives of individuals with disabilities by delivering professional, compassionate, and personalised care.

care. This dynamic team offers a wide range of services to meet diverse needs, including:

Accommodation Options: GTC provides short-term and respite accommodation (STA), medium-term accommodation (MTA), and Supported Independent Living (SIL). Bookings for STA, MTA, and SIL are now open in the Bass Coast Shire, offering safe

and supportive environments tailored to individual needs.

Travel and Transport: Helping clients attend appointments, run errands, and stay connected to their communities safely and efficiently.

Household Support: Assistance with daily and high-intensity personal activities, ensuring clients can live comfortably and independently.

Therapeutic Supports: Services designed to promote mental and physical well-being, including in-home nursing care such as wound management, health monitoring, and medication administration.

Community Participation: Programs that encourage clients to engage in learning, creativity, and social or civic activities, fostering personal growth and community connection.

GTC's greatest strength lies in the dedication and compassion of its support workers, who are deeply committed to enriching the lives of their clients.

Their innovative and holistic approach ensures that every individual is valued and empowered, creating a positive impact not just on clients but also on the wider community.

By combining professionalism with a genuine care for each client's journey, GTC is proud to serve as a trusted partner in the region.

Through their extensive services and unwavering dedication, GTC is helping to create brighter futures for individuals and the communities they call home.

Care that comes to you

Our skilled team genuinely cares about every individual's journey, working closely with families and support co-ordinators to design flexible, personalised care plans that promote independence, health and joy in daily life.

Call us: 1800 973 776 or 0411 913 776
e: admin@gippslandtotalcare.com.au | w: gippslandtotalcare.com.au





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Countdown to the Foster Show

By Sammy Spark

ON SATURDAY February 22 the annual Foster Show is on once again and will be a celebration of the past year of accomplishments and talents in the community.

Bringing people together from Foster, South Gippsland and beyond for a fun day of competition, this year it is going to be a big one.

For those who've been perfecting their ANZAC biscuits, eyeing off their signature rose in the garden, or painting the picture of their dreams, get these entries ready for the exhibit shed.

Entries need to be submitted by 5pm Wednesday February 19, online via www.fostershow.com, by post to PO Box 150, Foster, 3960; in the entry Box at Foster Foodworks, or scanned and emailed to fostershow@gmail.com.

The only exception is photography entries, which are required to be submitted on a USB, by 5pm Friday February 14, at Paragreen Real Estate in Foster.

Entry drop off for the exhibit shed will occur between 8am and 1pm on Friday February 21, with judging commencing from 2pm.

Late entries will not be accepted. All the details for entries can be found via the schedule or website at www.fostershow.com.

For those looking for something fun to enter at this year's show, why not try out some of these: exhibiting poultry, with free entry for all classes, and this includes categories for farmyard or backyard chooks (and novices can show poultry), eggs, and even best decorated egg.

Ferret racing - entrants don't even have to do anything. Just email foster-show@gmail.com with their interest to name a race or a ferret and have a chance to win \$1000 prize money thanks to SG Offroad.

This year there is a specific category for the bloke's chocolate cake - for the guys with a great chocolate cake recipe, who might've been in the shadow of a great baker and never had a chance to show their talent. But be warned, the judges will know if grandma has been recruited to do it.

Wooden spoon character-decorate a wooden spoon.



The Foster Show has fun for the whole family, even learn how to crack a whip. Photos: Taylah Clark Photography.



Learn how to toss a sheaf at this year's Foster Show.

This one is for adults and kids, so get together on a Sunday arvo and get crafty with this kitchen utensil.

If any other exhibit category appeals, then get those entries ready as the countdown is on for the Foster Show.

Tickets for show entry can be purchased online or at the gate. Kids under 12 are free, kids between 13-17 are only \$5 entry. Adult entry is \$15, concession \$10.


Parking spaces near the showgrounds get snapped up quickly so there will be a shuttlebus available from: Foster Secondary College, VLine Bus Stop

in town, Foster Vet Clinic (Court St) and the Rail Trail Car Park.


Do not miss the action at the Foster Show, check out the timetable for the day, or the show day map of the grounds via the website.

Bring the whole family for a fun day out and be prepared to simply have a go. There's not many opportunities left in life to learn how to toss a sheaf, crack a whip or show a calf so make the most of your day out at the Foster Show.

The Foster Show is on Saturday February 22 at the Foster Showgrounds. For more information visit: www.fostershow.com



Community Consultation - decommissioning of oil & gas infrastructure in Bass Strait



An ExxonMobil Brand

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively. After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil and gas fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Community Information Sessions

If you'd like to know more about plans for **Decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait**, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions at the following locations:

Monday 17 February 2025 - Yanakie
Yanakie Hall
Millar Road, Yanakie

Tuesday 18 February 2025 - Foster
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre
Main Street, Foster

Wednesday 19 February 2025 - Leongatha
Leongatha Memorial Hall
6-8 McCartin Street, Leongatha

Monday 24 February 2025 - Lakes Entrance
On the Wharf Café, Bullock Island
Lakes Entrance

Tuesday 25 February 2025 - Yarram
The Yarram Country Club
322-340 Commercial Road, Yarram

Wednesday 26 February 2025 - Sale
The Criterion Hotel
90 Macalister Street, Sale

All the above sessions will run from **5.00pm - 7.00pm** with a **presentation** about Esso's operations with a focus on decommissioning projects.

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have. Please **register your attendance** by emailing: consultation@exxonmobil.com

If these dates and times don't suit, please contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone on 03 9261 0000.

The Esso Consultation Team will also be available to discuss all current activities, including:

- Bass Strait State Waters Environment Plan
- Bass Strait Environment Plan
- Gippsland Basin Geophysical and Geotechnical Investigations Environment Plan
- Jack-Up-Rig Plug & Abandonment Revision 1 Environment Plan
- Turrum Phase 3 Drilling Environment Plan

Like to be consulted about these activities?

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Complete the [Esso Consultation Questionnaire \(sli.do\)](#) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.


Refer to the NOPSEMA brochure [Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf \(nopsema.gov.au\)](#) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023.

Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

Please connect us with other interested people

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

To find out more information



For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, please go to the Esso Consultation Hub at: <https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>



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THE NATIONALS' Melina Bath has called for ongoing funding for Gippsland's 'homelessness and rough sleeping action plan' and a new team of six Assertive Outreach workers to support vulnerable individuals.

"Not a week goes by that someone doesn't raise concerns with me about the increase in homelessness in eastern Victoria - it's widespread and heartbreaking," said Ms Bath.

“We have tents beside the freeway, on the banks of waterways, under bridges, individuals living in bus shelters, park benches, even a public rotunda serves as a makeshift home – it’s tragic.

Ms Bath said the State Government's inability to deliver social and affordable homes has exacerbated the issue and added to the hardship of individuals and families.

“Local advocates want better service coordination, increased housing supply as well as mental health supports and increased resources to reduce domestic violence and crime.”

“The inclusion of a dedicated homelessness priority area in the revised national disability plan, and introduction of the Targeted Action Plan for 2025-2027 on Inclusive Homes and Communities is an important step to address a major problem,” said Homelessness Australia CEO Kate Colvin.

“People with poor mental health and psychosocial disabilities often need support to sustain their housing, and a home they can afford, but neither support, nor low-cost housing is available. This is why we continue to see people with psychosocial disability and other complex needs becoming trapped in homelessness or in exploitative and unsafe housing conditions.”

MANAGEMENT of the San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries has been transferred from Bass Coast Shire Council to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT).

“We look forward to exploring a legacy of history, reflection and compassion at these sites and will continue to work closely with community and stakeholders to understand their unique needs and to provide a seamless transition for families and the local community,” said SMCT.

The voluntary transfer means that responsibility for San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries now sits with SMCT which will apply its existing knowledge in cemetery and horticultural management to support the local community and families.

Burial services will be supported on Tuesdays and Thursdays when a member of SMCT's expert team will be on hand in person to support funeral directors and ensure the safe and respectful interment of loved ones.

Members of SMCT operations and customer experience teams have visited both sites on multiple occasions since the voluntary transfer was flagged and remain open to continued engagement with the community, council and other stakeholders. Current fees and purchases

For further information on the San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries go to smct.org.au/sanremo or smct.org.au/wonthaggi

An aerial delivery of building materials by helicopter is

The third stage of the project to the southern stairway is due to start in mid-May. A second helicopter lift has been scheduled after the shearwaters depart.



150275

**Outdoor Furniture
Pop-Up Shop**
**29 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi**

Note: If not open please come to our Graham Street Store

Men's Shed receives sustainability grant to boost solar energy

THE Sandy Point Men's Shed have successfully secured a \$19,050 grant to enhance their renewable energy capabilities and support their community electric bus. The funding, which was awarded through the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) will help to expand the solar array at the Men's Shed and install a battery-ready inverter, setting the stage for future energy storage upgrades.

Treasurer of the Sandy Point Men's Shed, Phil Cornwell said the grant comes after the group initially applied for a larger funding round through the FRRR program, hoping to include a battery storage system alongside expanded solar panels. While they were not successful in securing that larger grant, the group was encouraged to apply for the smaller round and ultimately succeeded in their bid for the \$19,050 funding.

"The funds will go toward increasing the size of the existing solar array, which has been generating renewable energy for the facility, and installing an inverter that is compatible with future battery storage," said Phil.

This upgrade ensures the group can better charge their electric community bus using clean, renewable energy as well as assist the Men's Shed to be up and running in the case of a power outage. The group's long-term goal is to maximise solar energy use, reduce their carbon footprint, and



The Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR) granted the Sandy Point Men's Shed with \$19,050 towards sustainable, clean, green community transport.

ensure the bus can be efficiently charged to serve the community.

The Sandy Point Community Bus is not only used for the Men's Shed; it is just housed at the Men's Shed with an e-charging point on Ocean View Parade. "The e-bus is a shuttle service that's available to the entire community, it's run by a group of dedicated volunteers who are committed to providing safe and comfortable transportation for residents and visitors in Sandy Point," Phil explained.

"The e-Bus is currently on a two-year trial," Phil noted.

"It was funded through state

and federal funding and Latrobe University are doing the study on its adoption and use. We're hoping at the end of the two-year trial that we've demonstrated that we have a genuine need for it and that it's being used productively."

The Men's Shed has already made strides toward sustainability, with an earlier solar installation funded by a grant from Bendigo Bank. As the Men's Shed looks for additional funding opportunities, the community group remains committed to expanding their sustainable energy use.

"We're looking ahead," said Phil. "This grant sets us on the

right path."

Sarah Matthee, Climate Solutions Portfolio Lead at FRRR, said that the Community Led Climate Solutions program empowers local people to lead local climate solutions.

"Local NFPs and community organisations want to play a bigger role in creating sustainable and enduring climate solutions for their communities. This program responds to that need.

"The intent is to empower and enable communities to lead change, by innovating and responding to local opportunities and challenges."

Marinus Link Industry Briefing

MARINUS Link (ML) will be holding an Industry Briefing in Leongatha where interested parties can meet the shortlisted proponents in ML's major civil construction tender and learn more about the project.

These sessions provide an opportunity for contractors and suppliers to receive a project update from ML leaders, connect with representatives from ML's shortlisted proponents and hear from key industry agencies including the Industry Capability Network (ICN).

Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and data interconnector between North West Tasmania and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria, enabling the flow of more electricity and data in both directions.

The project includes high voltage direct current cables, fibre optic cables, a communications station, and converter stations at each end - at Heybridge in Tasmania and Hazelwood in Victoria.

The project's cables span 345 kilometres (km). This includes 255 km of undersea cables across Bass Strait and 90 km of underground cables in Gippsland, Victoria.

The project is now conducting a major civils and construction tender called the 'Balance of Works' and has shortlisted two proponents and covers onshore civil and installation works, including constructing the converter station buildings and the land cable civil works.

This is the final step before ML will have secured all three major equipment and installation contracts for the project's first stage, with construction set to commence in 2026.

The shortlisted proponents have entered a 'development phase' which has commenced a competitive and collaborative process.

Subcontractors and suppliers are being strongly encouraged to participate during this phase as the proponents develop and respond to ML's Request for Offer.

Register via Humanitix for the Marinus Link Industry Briefing being held on Thursday February 20, 10 am - 12.30pm at the Leongatha Memorial Hall, 6-8 McCartin Street, Leongatha.

A strong foundation for success at Newhaven College

NEWHAVEN College considers the needs of every child as they make a 'new start' at whichever year level they join the school. Year 7 is primarily the year when academic expectations and the social pressures of school really step up a notch. The College's House structure and pastoral care focus are designed to provide support and encouragement every step of the way.

As students progress through the Middle and Senior Schools, the College's ethos of mutual respect between teachers and students becomes more apparent. A high standard of academic achievement is actively encouraged, with alternate pathways provided along the way. Catering to individual differences among students places great importance on each student being known and their needs met.

The Year 7 curricular and co-curricular program is designed to strengthen each student's self-esteem and sense of community equipping them with the qualities required for their senior years at school and beyond. Every student is encouraged to embrace new experiences and immerse themselves in college life by participating in the entire program. Students build self-confidence and a team spirit, during their time at Newhaven College.

Year 7 Scholarships are on offer for students entering Newhaven College in 2026. See details on the College website.

Families are invited to attend Newhaven College's Open Day on Saturday, March 15, 2025, between 10am and 2pm. Book via the website. For enrolment enquiries please contact Bec Anderson on 5956 7505.



The Year 7 curricular and co-curricular program is designed to strengthen each student's self-esteem and sense of community equipping them with the qualities required for their senior years at school and beyond.

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Year 7 2026 Academic Scholarships

Newhaven College is offering Academic Scholarships for applicants entering Year 7 in 2026. Tests will be held at the College Sat 1 March 2025. Applications are now open and close Mon 24 February 2025.

All enquiries should be directed to our Admissions Officer Bec Anderson on 03 5956 7505 or email bec.anderson@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE

1770 Phillip Island Road
Phillip Island, Victoria
newhavencol.vic.edu.au



President of the Leongatha Community Garden Neil Barrett has put a call out for a catchy name for their new supersized composter. ob01_0625

Competition to name supersized composter

THE LEONGATHA Community Garden (LCG) have been the lucky recipients of a supersized composter and they need help naming the behemoth. LCG recently unveiled their newly renovated machine which boasts a whopping 1770 litres of composting power.

It is a fibre glass tube that is three metres long and 1.5 metres in diameter, with a capacity to hold nearly 1.8 cubic metres of organic material.

It can transform kitchen scraps, garden clippings, and organic material into nutrient-rich compost in a matter of weeks.

The tube heats up quickly due to the activity of the microorganisms and rotates every couple of hours to process and transform the organic waste into black garden gold.

The machine previously belonged to a commercial business but had gone unused for the past ten years, and they were happy to gift the composter to the LCG.

After undergoing some repairs, getting new parts, and being cleaned and blasted, the composter was as good as new again.

Neil Barrett, President of LCG

said there will also be an opportunity for local cafes to add their coffee grounds and other organic waste to the composter rather than sending it to landfill, and LGC will be talking to businesses about this.

However, Neil commented that they need help naming the composter and want a name that is creative, catchy, memorable and fun that reflects the magic of composting.

It could be a descriptive name that hints at the composter's size, function, or impact or it could be a community-oriented name that connects to the values of sustainability and community.

The person who comes up with the winning name will receive a prize basket overflowing with goodies including fresh produce, locally created preserves, and handcrafted treats as well as a free membership to LCG.

People are welcome to visit the community garden, see the magnificent monster composter and to get inspired to brainstorm some amazing names.

Entries can be emailed to gath-acg@gmail.com. The competition closes on Thursday, February 20.



Community grant applications are now open through the Inverloch and District Community Bank.

Inverloch and District Community Bank supporting local initiatives

THE INVERLOCH and District Community Bank is now open for applications for 2025 community grants and sponsorships.

The branch, set up some 19 years ago, is owned by shareholders with strong local connections and has a fundamental goal of returning most profits back into the community. This is achieved through the community grants and sponsorship program which supports local organisations, events, projects and initiatives.

As the only bank in town the community bank has contributed nearly \$650,000 since its inception towards a large number and diverse range of community-based initiatives proposed by a broad spectrum of organisations, all wanting to improve their community.

During this time the bank has supported organisations such as Bass Coast Health, Inverloch Carols, Inverloch and

Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Clubs, Inverloch Arts Show, South Gippsland Yacht Club, the Inverloch Primary School, Tarwin District lifestyle festival, Bass Coast Cycle, Inverloch-Kongwak Football and Netball Club, the Leongatha Golf Club and many others.

Previously applicants would apply for funds on an ad hoc basis, it is now streamlined into specific funding rounds. The first round of funding will open on February 21, 2025, and close on March 31, 2025. The second round will be in the later part of this year. (Date to be announced).

It is important that applicants understand the need to apply well in advance for when funds are needed to enable both the bank and applicant to maximise the use of funding, said Bank Chair, Mark McCormack.

We are excited to call on organisations from our community to seek funding for a

worthwhile initiative that will benefit the community. It is why we exist as a bank in Inverloch, he said.

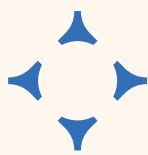
Mr McCormack said that the application process would remain the same with all application forms to be sourced from the bank in Williams Street, Inverloch.

All applicants must be customers of the bank, or potential customers, and must also be part of the Inverloch and/or surrounding communities; events and sponsorships must be locally based.

Other mandatory requirements are detailed on the application forms.

As the only bank in Inverloch we are an integral part of the community, and we take great pride in being able to assist where we are able. Our staff and the Board look forward to the next 12 months and encourage all local organisations to apply, he said.

Find out more about



GIPPSLAND SKIES

OFFSHORE WIND

Harnessing the power of offshore wind together.

Gippsland Skies invites you to attend our February community consultation sessions.

Come along to meet the team, share your feedback and learn about the planned marine investigations in the Feasibility Licence Area and proposed cable corridors. We will discuss how health, safety, environment and infrastructure integrity will be managed.

It was great to meet and listen to community members at our initial drop-in sessions in July 2024. We look forward to seeing you again in February.

FOSTER

Sat 15 February, 9am–12 midday
Foster War Memorial Arts Centre

SANDY POINT

Sat 15 February, 1pm–3pm
Sandy Point Community Centre

FISH CREEK

Thurs 20 February, 4pm–6pm
Fish Creek Memorial Hall



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Running dry as Australia records its second warmest year on record

CANDOWIE reservoir the main water supply for Phillip Island, Archies Creek and The Gurdies has dropped to 49% of capacity after the second warmest year on record.

Releasing its official record of Australia's climate, water and notable weather events for 2024 the Bureau of Meteorology confirmed it was warmer than average throughout the year for most of Australia.

Climatology specialist Nadine D'Argent said spring was the warmest on record, winter the second warmest and last summer the third warmest on record.

"It was much drier than usual in Victoria," said Ms D'Argent.

"Australia's climate is influenced by global patterns in the oceans and atmosphere.

"Sea surface temperatures in the Australian region as well as globally were the warmest on record in 2024."

According to Westernport Water the level of Candowie Reservoir can drop quickly when there is little inflow and a spike in demand from hot weather.

Westernport Water's water supplies are normally fed by rain but can be supplemented by water from the Melbourne water supply system and desalinated water.

Tourist locations that do not have a town water supply such as Venus Bay and Sandy Point report low water tank levels after a busy January with a



Candowie Reservoir the main water supply for Phillip Island at 49% capacity XB07_0625

large number of visitors.

Venus Bay Community Centre Manager Alyson Skinner said it is a feature of summer.

"People are having to buy top-up water."

"It is too early to tell if people are buying more water than usual," said Ms Skinner.

"If it keeps going like this people will notice it in their gardens.

"Some trees have died including banksias."

A water trailer provided by South Gippsland Water while an art cube was located in Venus Bay in January was welcomed by the Venus Bay Community Centre.

President of the Sandy Point Community Centre Danny Milton said Sandy Point jumps to a population of 3,500 over January requiring quite a few water tanks to be replenished.

"Water is being used wisely

but Sandy Point is managing at the moment," said Mr Milton.

Victoria had 529 mm of rainfall in 2024 which is 20% below average and in the lowest 10% of all years since 1900 for most of the state.

The annual average temperature for Victoria was 1.08 °C warmer than the long-term average making 2024, Victoria's equal fifth-warmest year on record.

Wonthaggi recorded very low rainfall for the year down to 77% of average rainfall.

The hottest day of the year was just before Christmas on December 16 when the mercury soared to 39.1 degrees in Wonthaggi, 38.9 in Pound Creek and 39.2 at Yanakie.

The coldest day for the year was on Monday July 8 when the temperature plummeted to minus 1.3 degrees in Yanakie

and 0.3 degrees in Wonthaggi.

Wilson's Promontory lighthouse recorded its strongest ever wind gust of 154km/h on Wednesday August 28.

Agriculture Victoria is continuing to monitor seasonal, economic and social conditions across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Farmers have been urged to access resources and information related to managing dry seasonal conditions including preparing for a drought.

The Victorian Government uses a drought preparedness and response framework to guide decisions about when, where and how to assist farmers and communities affected by prolonged dry conditions.

A range of drought preparedness and drought management tools and resources are available at agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

Follow the rules to save our water

PERMANENT Water Saving Rules are a series of common-sense rules that all customers supplied water by Westernport Water are obliged to follow day to day to ensure water is not wasted.

These rules are set out in legislative instruments known as Permanent Water Saving Plans and are in place on a permanent and ongoing basis, even when water restrictions are not required.

Permanent Water Saving Rules aim to promote efficient and sensible use of water without significantly restricting customer choice and flexibility.

Permanent Water Saving Rules:

Handheld hoses: A handheld hose must be fitted with a trigger nozzle and be leak-free. It can be used to wash your car and water your gardens and lawns at any time.

Residential or commercial gardens and lawns: A residential or commercial garden or lawn can be watered with a handheld hose at any time, or by means of a watering system between the hours of 6pm and 10am on any day.

Fountains and water features: Water cannot be used in a fountain or water feature unless the fountain or water feature recirculates the water.

Cleaning hard surfaces: Water cannot be used to clean hard surfaces (including driveways, paths, concrete, tiles, timber decking) except where cleaning is required as a result of a hazard or accident, or in the course of construction/renovation. Hard surfaces can be washed if staining to the surface has developed, but only once per season.

Pools and spas: Before filling new pools or spas with a capacity of 2000 litres or more, customers must fill out a Water Conservation Plan Application and have it approved by Westernport Water.

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— SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS —



Alec Miller of the Poowong Recreation Reserve Committee is delighted with the organisation receiving \$4,800 for oval surface improvements, being congratulated by Cr Steve Finlay. A04_0625



Fish Creek Football Netball Club's Leigh and Sharon Wright, Megan Vuillerman and Travis Manne welcome \$5,000 towards an electronic netball scoreboard, joined by Cr Scott Rae. A17_0625



Lesley Turton of Korumburra Amateur Swimming & Lifesaving Club is pleased with the \$10,000 grant that helped with resurfacing the heated swimming pool, being joined by Cr Steve Finlay. A06_0625



Cr Steve Finlay with Michael Dortmans of the Nerrena Community Hall and Reserve Committee of Management, which received \$2,220 towards its Nerrena Hall Renewal Project. A05_0625



Rotary Club of Leongatha received \$10,000 for equipment needed to stage its annual Art & Photography Show, Sue Dutton, David Panther, Mary Dortmans, Jol Dutton, Pam Gardner and David Leslie sharing their delight with Cr Bron Beach. A13_0625



Meeniyen Dumbalk United Football Netball Club was granted \$10,000 towards its netball facility upgrades, the club's David Trotman pictured with Cr John Kennedy. A07_0625



David Knowles of BooFiit joins Cr Bron Beach after a grant of \$3,010 was awarded to help run defence and empowerment training. A12_0625



U3A Mirboo North and District representative Cheryl Miscamble is acknowledged by Cr Bron Beach after the organisation was given \$1,000 for encouraging exercise among older adults. A10_0625



Cr John Kennedy congratulates Greig Barry and Caroline Small of Loch Public Hall Inc. on the organisation's \$3,500 grant towards repairing and painting the hall's exterior windows. A09_0625



Welshpool Recreation Reserve Inc. representative Madelaine Mason shares the pleasing moment with Cr Scott Rae after the announcement of \$5,000 funding towards the Welshpool Lawn Mower Race Day. A18_0625



Sue Fleming and Denia Gilheany of Foster & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society are pleased with the \$3,000 that will help with the Foster Agricultural Show schedule and pre and post Show tabloid printing, celebrating the moment with Cr Bron Beach. A11_0625



Nancy and Michael Reid of North East Windsport Club are pleased with a \$2,500 grant that will help keep costs down for participants in the Australian Open Blokart Championships at Waratah Bay. A19_0625



Mark Taylor and Noleen McGlead of Foster Bowls Club are grateful for \$10,000 to reduce the burden on the club in replacing its tired green, joined by Cr Brad Snell. A16_0625



Jaimee Giliam and Aimee Morehouse of Meeniyen Basketball Association welcome \$3,500 to help purchase uniforms, joined by Cr Brad Snell. A15_0625



Kristy Uren and Kristine Alkemade of Poowong Loch Junior Football Club happily accept \$5,240 to assist with the club's strategic plan, acknowledged by Cr Brad Snell. A14_0625



Leongatha Recreation Reserve Committee of Management representatives Graeme Winkler and Glenn Wright are happy the organisation received a \$4,980 grant to help with road and parking upgrade design, celebrating with Cr John Kennedy. A08_0625



Representatives of organisations receiving Community Grants and South Gippsland Shire councillors enjoy the moment. A20_0625

Community grants help get things done in South Gippsland

SIXTEEN organisations and groups shared in \$83,750 worth of funding when South Gippsland Shire Council's latest round of Community Grants was announced on Wednesday evening in Leongatha.

The grants were distributed across three categories, 'Developing Community Assets', 'Building Community Capacity and Culture' and 'Strengthening Community Sport'.

Four recipients were awarded the maximum \$10,000 amount, Korumburra Amateur Swimming & Life Saving Club one of those, the funding going towards resurfacing the Korumburra Heated Swimming Pool, the project budgeted at \$26,460.

Meeniyan Dumbalk United Football Netball Club got \$10,000 for netball facility upgrades costing a total of just over \$22,000.

By Andrew Palocz

A further \$10,000 went to Leongatha Rotary Club towards the purchase of equipment required for its annual Leongatha Art and Photography Show, such as new display stands and signage, the overall cost being \$65,615.

"We're over the moon," Leongatha Rotary's David Panther said, explaining that the funding will enable the club to put more money into its projects.

He noted a lot of the fittings required for the Art Show will also be loaned to other community groups.

Foster Bowls Club's Mark Taylor described its \$10,000 grant as "Manna from Heaven" as he broke from protocol to deliver a brief thank you speech to the council.

Afterwards, he told the Sentinel-Times the funding will bring the club within

striking distance of replacing its 16-year-old green that is being held together with silicon and has long surpassed its lifespan.

While the total project cost is over \$200,000, the club has been fundraising industriously over recent years, through initiatives such as its social 'Jack Attack' competition, dinners for local organisations including Rotary and Probus and wedding receptions.

Although most of the grant recipients were local, Wangaratta-based North East Windsport Club is an exception.

The club is hosting the Australian Open Blokart Championships in Waratah Bay, a place that offers more reliable wind than its normal Springhurst track.

Blokart is a popular class of compact land yacht manufactured by a New Zealand company of that name, with the

action at Waratah Bay taking place between March 20 and 24 this year.

The club's Michael Reid explained that the \$2,500 grant will assist it to keep costs affordable for participants, helping pay for catered lunches and a presentation dinner, that catering to be handled by local businesses, the Waratah Bay Caravan Park and the Fish Creek Hotel, keeping the money in South Gippsland Shire.

After enjoying a bite to eat and a positive vibe, happy grant recipients were treated to a look around the Art & Photography Show, Leongatha Rotary Club generously throwing open the doors.

The next round of the Community Grants Program is open until March 31.

Visit grants@southgippsland.vic.gov.au for information and to apply.

Mirboo North's 24-hour Music & Light Event

OVER 30 musicians from 12 churches across Gippsland gathered at St Mary's Mirboo North recently for 24 hours of continuous live music and community singing.

This event highlighted the power of teamwork and mutual support, especially across denominations, and was a gift to the community of Mirboo North which has been through so much in the last year.

Friday evening featured soloists on violin, piano and harp with a mixture of instrumental pieces and contemporary Christian music. Saturday morning featured traditional organ players and 'golden oldie' hymns for a community sing-along which was complete with scones, jam and cream. Saturday afternoon featured mixed genres including mountain folk songs on the bouzouki and nyckelharpa.

Many from the community and surrounding towns came to enjoy the music and shared singing. Some stayed for one or two brackets of music and there were some who stayed for almost the whole event and sang well into the night and early morning. The event featured times of deep joy and dancing, as well as times of rest and reflection.

During the event, a trailer load of locally sourced plants and trees was given to community members as a sign of hope and recovery. Almost every plant was picked up from Plant Hope during the event highlighting not only a community need but also the community's readiness to move forward and replant their gardens. Plant Hope welcome's further donations.

The idea for this event came from a local young lady Katherine who is only 14 years old. She wanted people in Mirboo North of all ages to have something uplifting and happy to look forward to.

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Stop telling women they are too young to have breast cancer

BREAST Cancer Network Australia (BCNA) is calling for greater awareness, more research, and tailored prevention efforts to address the steady increase in breast cancer diagnoses among women aged 25 to 49.

Young women diagnosed with breast cancer face unique challenges that impact their careers, relationships, family planning, and overall, wellbeing.

BCNA focuses on understanding the causes behind the steady increase in early-onset breast cancer. This includes better research into both modifiable factors, such as lifestyle, and non-modifiable factors, like genetic predispositions and high breast density. Increased access to affordable genetic testing and heightened awareness of individual risk factors are essential to empowering young women to take proactive steps for their health.

Health professionals, particularly general practitioners, play a pivotal role in recognising symptoms and providing timely advice to younger women.

The perception that breast cancer is predominantly an older woman's disease must change to ensure no woman's concerns are dismissed based on her age.

BCNA applauds efforts to improve data collection on breast cancer in younger women, which will guide future policy, research, and support initiatives. The organisation looks forward to the outcomes of the BreastScreen Australia Review, which will hopefully pave the way for more risk-stratified screening approaches to better support younger women.

BCNA encourages all women to know their bodies and recognise potential symptoms early.

Women with a family history of cancer should consider genetic testing to assess their risk.



70 attendees from a diverse mix of industries attended the recent Worth Every Dollar Seminar. Photo: Claire Davie

Worth Every Dollar Seminar a success

THE WORTH Every Dollar Seminar hosted by Bass Coast Shire Council last Thursday at the Phillip Island Vineyard and Winery was a huge success.

The seminar focused on working smarter and growing a business with purpose. 70 attendees from a diverse mix of industries attended from designers, artists, start-ups, construction, accountants, photographers to tourism

operators, creators, event organisers, and wellness/fitness professionals.

Keynote speaker Alexis Guttridge shared valuable insights, emphasising that “from action comes opportunity”—encouraging attendees to step outside their comfort zones and embrace new challenges.

The session was highly interactive, with the whole room jumping up to connect with activities like speed networking

to get businesses talking about what they do and why it's important.

Together, attendees explored ways to elevate their businesses and find new ways to enhance their offerings.

Attendees said:

“Thank you for the opportunity and the fabulous day!”

“The connecting and collaboration was amazing!”

“Thank you for putting on such a great event and getting

people together.”

The energy in the room was truly contagious, and the BCSC can't wait to do it all over again at their next event.

The BCSC are holding a follow up online workshop Creative Income, on Tuesday March 4, to put what Alexis spoke about into practice. The workshop is open to everyone to attend, let the BCSC know if you would like to RSVP a place.



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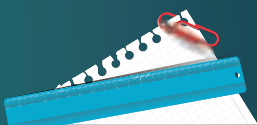
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New beginnings at Korumburra



New preps at Korumburra Primary School Sophie and Mitchell playing together.



Soane found some great toys to play with on his first day of prep at Korumburra Primary School.



New prep Jakob with the Korumburra Primary School Principal Nathan Pirouet, who welcomed 47 Foundation Students this year.



Ali, masterfully stacking cups on her first day of prep at Korumburra Primary School.

Confidence placed in student leaders at Leongatha Primary

THE 2025 STUDENT leadership team is in place at Leongatha Primary School (LPS), headlined by school captains Felix O'Leary, Ada Houston, Matilda Williams and Peyton Campbell.

With the addition of House and subject captains, a total of 26 Grade 6 pupils have taken on leadership roles.

"Our students were required to write an application and complete an interview as part of the leadership process," assistant principal Peter Slidders said.

The chosen leaders epitomise the school values of being a learner, and being respectful and resilient.

Over the course of the year the captains will partake in leadership training, support sports and whole school days, run assemblies, welcome guests and perform master of ceremony duties.

"We will also draw upon this student body to access their voice to drive whole school improvement," Peter said of the confidence LPS has in its young leaders.

With Strzelecki House now named Coghlan House in honour of retired principal Dot Coghlan, Lexi Rodwell and AJ Callahan are the inaugural captains of the new entity.

Tyler Stevic, Arya O'Malley and Hugo Fennell are in charge of Wightman House. Molly Francis and Kevin McRae captaining Johnston House, and Indie Hills and Nyah Zun the leaders of Herrald House.

LPS also has a new team of specialist captains across a range of fields.

Polly Nelson and Stella Clasby are Performing Arts captains, with Olivia White and Olivia Garcis-Farras providing leadership in Visual Arts.

Ella Luykx and Tahlia Raschle are Auslan captains, Emily Hulls and Harper Pocklington leading the way in the Library, Freya Winner and Taeden Giliam STEM captains and Ollie Heinrich, Finn Matheson and Tannah Lovie overseeing Sustainability.



School captains Felix O'Leary, Ada Houston, Matilda Williams and Peyton Campbell look forward to offering their leadership and encouragement to other Leongatha Primary School students.



Wightman House captains Tyler Stevic, Arya O'Malley and Hugo Fenell.



Sustainability captains Ollie Heinrich, Finn Matheson and Tannah Lovie.



Coghlan House captains Lexi Rodwell and AJ Callahan.



Performing Arts captains Polly Nelson and Stella Clasby.



STEM captains Freya Winner and Taeden Giliam.



Visual Arts captains Olivia White and Olivia Garcis-Farras.



Library captains Emily Hulls and Harper Pocklington.



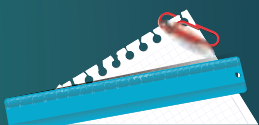
Auslan captains Ella Luykx and Tahlia Raschle.



Johnston House captains Molly Francis and Kevin McRae.



Herrald House captains Indie Hulls and Nyah Zun.



Bass Coast College Year 7 students Emma, Lexie, Flynn, Rahui, Paddy and Caitlin with Year 7 Coordinator Shem Hawking enjoying the first day at the Dudley campus B06_0525

Bass Coast College focussing on the future

Bass Coast College has welcomed 320 new Year 7 students this year.

As the sole government secondary school in Bass Coast the college said it was proud to be able to provide quality education to a total of 1,700 students.

Along with the new Year 7 students and a growing numbers of students in other years Bass Coast College also welcomed new staff members along with current team members stepping into new roles.

“As Bass Coast embarks on the new year, the college’s continued focus remains on fostering excellence in learning and wellbeing through a holistic approach to education.

“At the heart of our efforts is the commitment to creating a positive, inclusive, and engaging environment where every student feels supported to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.”

Bass Coast College is implementing several key initiatives in 2025.

Towards the end of 2024 staff began training in the Berry Street Education Model a framework designed to enhance student engagement

and wellbeing by addressing the complex needs of learners.

This model equips teachers with practical strategies to build stronger relationships, promote self-regulation, and create safe, predictable learning environments.

This work complements support for school wide positive behaviour.

“We look forward to seeing the positive impact this approach will have on our classrooms and broader school community.

In addition to these wellbeing-focused initiatives, Bass Coast College staff remain committed to delivering a dynamic and engaging curriculum that caters to the diverse needs of all learners.

“We are also continuing to build on the fantastic VCE results from last year and expand our VCE VM offerings and VET opportunities,” said the college principals.

“This year we are supporting students in an extensive senior school program with 39 VCE subjects and 9 VET studies delivered on campus, with plumbing, health services and hospitality introduced this year due to cater for the grow-

ing demand.

“To support this work, we have built strong leadership teams to work with students, staff and the community.”

Each campus has a Campus Principal, Alison Gill for the Wonthaggi Campus, Jesse Boyd, Dudley Campus, Matt Rose at San Remo and Paul Fawcett at the FLOW campus.

To lead support for students the mainstream campuses each have a Student Engagement Assistant Principal, Ross Bramley at the Wonthaggi Campus, Guy Thomas Dudley Campus and Bradley James San Remo Campus.

“Each of these Principals have experience and skills working with our young people and we are really excited to have them all on board to lead the coordination teams and support students and families.”

Darren Parker for many years College Principal has been on leave from the start of Semester 2 in 2024 and will continue his leave into Term 1, 2025.

From Semester 2, 2024 Leith Cummins has been Acting College Principal and will continue in this role for Term

1 in 2025.

Leith has been with the college for seven years starting as the Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning at Dudley, and Assistant College Principal for the last three years working closely with Darren Parker on college improvement and strategic direction.

While this arrangement is in place Emma Harris has been acting Assistant College Principal playing a significant role in the professional development of staff and working with the learning specialists in the college on identified strategic initiatives.

Emma was formerly Campus Principal at San Remo.

“We are proud of the achievements of our College and the significant success achieved by staff and students in recent years,” said Ms Harris.

“The growing student population, new campuses, the addition of many high-quality staff has been rewarding but throughout it all, the key focus has been on Bass Coast College’s academic and holistic support of its students.”

This academic and holistic approach remains the college’s very clear focus in 2025.

What next for old McBride Campus School site?

THE release of the former Wonthaggi Secondary School site bordered by McBride Avenue, Baillieu Street, McKenzie Street and Watt Street in Wonthaggi by the Education Department raises the question of what to do with the site next.

The old Secondary School site which is Crown land has been in total lockdown since July last year with a heavy mesh perimeter fence surrounding the degraded and vandalised buildings.

The Education Department says the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) is now working with state and local governments regarding the potential future use of the land but has failed to provide any guidelines.

“We work with local councils, communities, the Victorian Planning Authority and other stakeholders to monitor and plan for government education building needs,” said the VSBA.

“This way we can ensure all Victorian students have access to high-quality education and that current and future demand for schools is properly planned.

“When a site is no longer required for educational purposes the Education Department follows standard government policy to ensure the site can be repurposed for a productive use rather than remaining vacant.”

Bass Coast Council says new councillors are being briefed on options for the site.

Previous suggestions have included a civic hub to provide community services such as a library, learning services and an arts centre.

Another suggestion has been a mix of commercial, retail and residential developments.

It has even been suggested that the site could host buildings stretching up to six storeys high with any proposed medium to high rise housing development going out for public consultation.

Last year at a local government candidates forum in Grantville Cr John Temby criticised inaction over the former Wonthaggi Secondary School site which he believed would make a good library space or business incubator.

The YES Youth Hub Watt St Wonthaggi has called for better facilities for teenagers to engage and encourage younger people, and to tackle youth homelessness.

When VSBA no longer requires a piece of land it is declared surplus.

The land may be acquired by other government agencies or the local council, or it may proceed to public sale for purchase by private individuals or businesses depending on the zoning.

Other government agencies and local council have a first right of refusal to purchase such land, and local councils are able to purchase surplus education land for a reduced price subject to the land being used for a public or community purpose.

Former school sites in regional areas have in the past been re-developed for medium density housing including Geelong, Ballarat and Wodonga.

In Kyneton an old primary school site is currently being restored to create a new gallery, exhibition area and a city function space.

Bass Coast Shire Council has undertaken pre-feasibility studies for the old Secondary School site which include an exhaustive examination of the property’s condition, structural integrity, heritage and safety concerns.

Council says a decision to transfer management of the site will only be made after the identification of short, medium and long-term costs, and any possible risks associated with taking on the site to ensure a full understanding of the costs involved.

The Bass Coast Council Major Projects Team can be contacted on 1300 226 or by email at majorprojectsadmin@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Ready to start their education at Newhaven College

Excited for their first day of Prep at Newhaven College are L-R Jessica Costello, Olive Goessens, Jarvis Dunk, Axel Onley, Georgia Hill and Winter Shepherd.

KORUMBURRA SHOW

Korumburra turns Pygmy entrants into big Show success

FORGET Melbourne's claims to major events, with Korumburra smashing the record for the largest Pygmy Goat show in Australia on Friday evening.

Eleven studs and 64 goats were part of the action, enthralled a substantial audience, one of the classes of judging for does aged under six months attracting 18 entrants.

Stud operator Trish Joyce who introduced the event to the Korumburra Show's program was thrilled with the support from entrants, declaring the previous largest Pygmy Goat show in the nation featured around 20 goats and just two studs.

She was also delighted with the response from showgoers, how many were drawn to the cuteness of the goats and the level of interest people showed.

"It was massive; just the positivity from the public was beautiful," she said.

Despite the Pygmy name, many expressed surprise at just how small the goats were, their cuteness also attracting comments.

"They love to smooch up to you," Trish said, with one of her goats even nicknamed 'Smoochie'.

Trish said people were also shocked by how friendly the goats are.

Those entering their goats in the show commented on the set up of the pens, pleased with how they were organised.

"They were surprised how interested the public were to talk to them about their particular goats," Trish said, pointing out the array of colours and personalities of the animals on show.

She noted that while social media offers an opportunity to increase awareness of Pygmy Goats, nothing beats face-to-face interaction.

"Everyone was smiling and laughing and so happy," Trish observed.

The new event attracted lots of attention as it approached, with this newspaper not the only outlet seizing on the chance to promote a positive story.

Such was the appeal of the new goat show, a Swanpool breeder heard an interview with Korumburra A&P Society Danial Robbins about it on ABC radio as she made the long journey from near Benalla to the Korumburra Showgrounds.

"She couldn't believe they were talking all about the Pygmy Goats that were going to be at Korumburra," Trish said.

Still, once you see them it's not hard to understand why people are discussing the tiny animals, their cuteness almost off the scale, with friendly personalities making them ideal pets.

The Pygmy Goat colouring competition was also a winner, attracting about 70 entries, children bringing a likeness of the animals to life in an array of colours, both Korumburra Primary School and parents throwing their support behind the fun contest.

As for the Goat Show itself, there were plenty of chances to win the various categories, with competition divided into does, bucks and wethers, by age and percentage of pygmy genetics.

However, 'Trinity Blackberry' stood out as Best in Show, the doe being the first to have her name inscribed on the new perpetual trophy that will be retained by Korumburra A&P Society, the winner bred by Trinity Pygmy Goats stud in Berwick.

Trish, who runs Lals Haven Goat Stud in Jumbunna, took out the Most Successful Exhibitor section, calculated on points awarded for first, second and third placings, her entrant 'Sweet Caroline' the winner of the large doe class that featured 16 pygmy does under 89.99 percent.

It's a safe bet the pygmy stars will become an institution at future Korumburra Agricultural Shows, perhaps making the Friday spotlight their own.



Korumburra Agricultural & Pastoral Society committee members Nathan Hersey, Shirley Arestia, Sandy Carfrae, Kate Hart, Jo Cash and Danial Robbins are delighted with the success of the town's two-day Show, they and other volunteers having worked hard. A40_0625

Extended Korumburra Show a winner



Organiser of the Pygmy Goat Show Trish Joyce of Lals Haven Goat Stud in Jumbunna enjoys success with 'Patona Park Senator Smooch', informally known as 'Smoochie'. A32_0625



Bella and Koby Hoffmann are delighted to climb aboard a monster truck. A39_0625



Korumburra's Jan Appleton shows the winning jumper she knitted, having contested multiple categories in the Korumburra Show. A42_0625

KORUMBURRA Show's two-day format was well supported.

Friday delivered pleasant evening conditions as people enjoyed side show games, rides and entertainment, the night highlighted by the large contingent of Pygmy Goats that wowed a substantial audience with their cuteness and social nature.

Kids were captivated by Dinkum Dinosaurs, siding with a cheeky dinosaur against his brow-beaten handler and calling out instructions as if they were at a pantomime.

Magician Lachlan Wilde also engaged the younger crowd, involving them in his performance.

Jackson Rogers was happy to play his part, the local expressing confidence when Lachlan asked if a trick would work, impressed when the magician cut into an orange to reveal the missing playing card but not without skepticism about how the feat was accomplished.

While well into adulthood, David Hurst and David Bradshaw were having just as much fun as any kid at the Show, racing their electric remote-controlled cars around a grass track that included a jump, some of the vehicles from the 1980s.

The Korumburra Show offered an ideal opportunity to promote the sport locally, with plans to get a club going.

Local Simon O'Neill is keen to organise a monster truck event in Korumburra, displaying a couple of the stunning vehicles on both days of the Show.

While the Pygmy Goat action was confined to Friday, there were plenty of animals grabbing attention on Saturday, with the horses in action and judging of the sheep.

Natasha Pollard was in charge of Supreme Sheep 'Phoenix' from Blackpond Hampshire Downs in Langwarrin, the judges

praising the quality of the field, one saying he'd be proud to have a number of them in his paddock.

'Phoenix' backed up his title from last year, again proving to be a standout animal the judges couldn't fault, being labelled "an exceptionally good ram".

The exhibit hall was filled with the brightness and vibrancy of fruit, vegetables, cakes and flowers, people also admiring craft items and an exhibition of photography.

Jan Appleton was enthusiastic in her town's Show, happy to oblige the Sentinel-Times request by holding up her winning knitted child's jumper, having also entered cookery items including a Christmas pudding and muffins.

It was a real family affair, with Jan's husband entering the cheeseboard he crafted, and her granddaughter having origami on show.

"It wasn't the easiest pattern to follow," Jan said of her winning jumper, the pattern coming from Bendigo Knitting Mills.

Korumburra Agricultural & Pastoral Society committee member Nathan Hersey expressed delight on Saturday afternoon, reflecting on the two-day event.

"We've had a very good turnout, a lot of positive comments and we're really pleased that the Korumburra community has supported the show in this way," Nathan said, also crediting the substantial attendance from people further afield.

Postcodes taken at the entrance revealed showgoers came from a broad spectrum of places.

While committee members met many times and worked diligently to bring the Show together, the event wouldn't have been achievable without the contributions of the many other volunteers.

More photos online at sgst.com.au

Elsie's Florist delights in sharing the joy of Valentine's Day

ELSIE'S Florist is ready to help those in Leongatha and surrounds make it a great Valentine's Day for that special someone on Friday February 14.

While the tradition of red roses remains a popular way of expressing love, whether a single stem, a half dozen or dozen, others choose mixed bunches of colourful flowers.

"We'll have a lot of arrangements ready to purchase," Steve Webber said, with roses also available on the day.

"We can make classical or contemporary arrangements to order."

Elsie's stocks a range of Valentine's Day cards and other items ideal for the occasion such as teddy



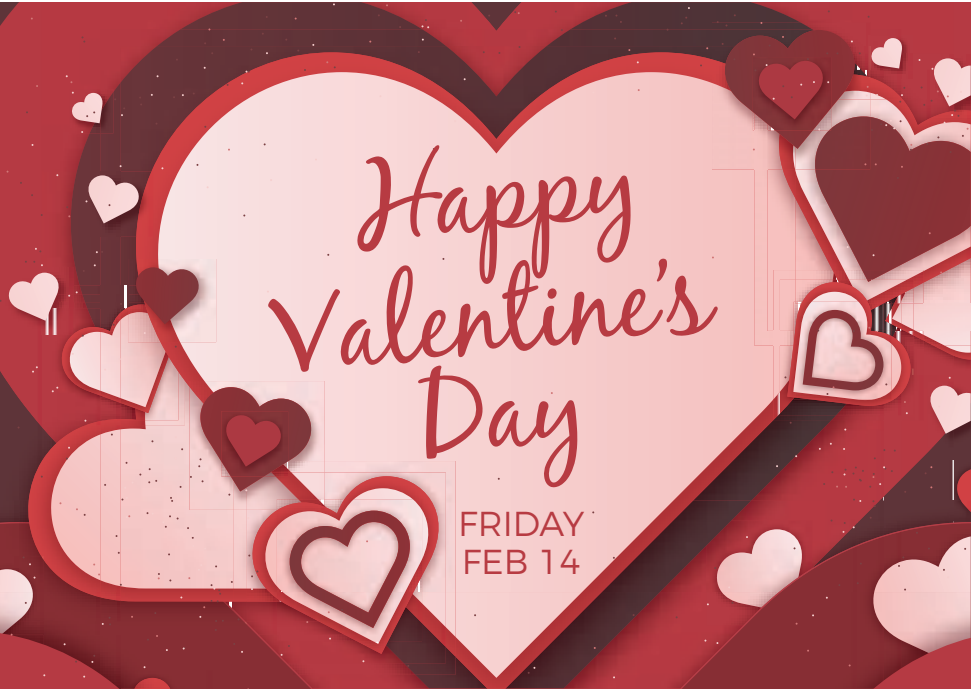
Steve Webber looks forward to helping people choose something special for Valentine's Day. A01_0625

bears with messages of love, chocolates and candles.

Pop into the store at 11 McCartin Street, visit elsiesfloristleongatha.com.au or call 5662 0463 to

find out what's available and order.

Elsie's Florist has been looking after Leongatha locals and those from other localities in the region since 2017.



Local and fresh at Korumburra Florist

KORUMBURRA Florist has broadened its range of local flower growers, supporting boutique producers in Allambee, Yarragon and Warragul while providing fresh blooms, owners Kathy Richards and George Hill are ready to help make Valentine's Day special.

That continues the store's strong focus on obtaining recently picked fresh Australian grown flowers rather than overseas offerings picked much longer ago.

Other available romantic items for the occasion include teddy bears, cards, wine and chocolates, the shop's variety of wines having expanded since last Valentine's Day.

Products sold in the store are sourced in the local region where possible, or otherwise from other parts of Victoria or elsewhere in Australia.

While Valentine's Day orders will be taken until 1pm on February 13, the store is open from 8am until 9pm on Valentine's Day unless sold out, with walk up customers well looked after.

"We've always got something ready," Kathy noted.

Korumburra Secondary College student Lily Jacobs has joined the team on a casual basis,



Send your message of love with a beautiful bouquet this Valentine's Day with the help of Kathy Richards at Korumburra Florist.

creating her own floral designs, with Kathy describing her contribution as "awesome".

Kathy and George continue to enjoy lots of local support, having opened their business in July 2023, Kathy having initially studied floristry as a hobby but glad to have turned it into a career and relishing the atmosphere of the shop.

"It smells great and it's fun, and people come in to chat all the time," the Ranceby local said.

She's looking forward to her second Valentine's Day, crossing her fingers all runs smoothly this time

after last February's monster storm and loss of power.

Korumburra Florist is ready to deliver a pleasing Valentine's Day outcome for customers, regardless of their budget.

Orders can be placed by visiting the store at 48 Commercial Street Korumburra, through the website at korumburraflorist.com.au or by calling 5655 2777.

Korumburra Florist delivers to numerous places in South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires, with delivery locations listed on the store's website, along with applicable delivery fees.



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Email. flowers@korumburraflorist.com.au

A golden milestone in love and commitment

Peter and Kathy McClusky of Coronet Bay marked a significant milestone on February 8, celebrating 50 years of marriage. The couple, who were married at Our Lady of Victories in Camberwell, took a special cruise through Noumea to commemorate their golden anniversary.

Reflecting on their journey, Peter and Kathy shared their gratitude for the good health and opportunities they have enjoyed throughout their decades together. "We have been blessed with good health and the opportunity to have 50 years together. Not everyone is fortunate," said Peter.



Peter and Kathy McClusky of Coronet Bay celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 8 and were married at Our Lady of Victories, Camberwell.

"Our happiest achievement has been to raise five children to be happy, purposeful good citizens," Kathy added.

Their love and devotion continue to inspire those



around them as they celebrate this incredible milestone. Together, the couple visited family in Brisbane before embarking on their anniversary cruise.

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Keeping people out of hospital and examining mortality in Gippsland

GIPPSLAND Primary Health Network (PHN) has released new primary care research about mortality rates, avoidable deaths and the cost of potentially preventable hospitalisations in Gippsland.

The research has been presented in two Health Insights papers, Primary Care: Mortality and health issues in Gippsland and Primary Care: keeping people out of hospital. The papers benchmark the findings against national data to provide an overview of Gippsland's health needs and identify key priority areas.

The data also emphasises the critical role of primary health care in preventing, detecting, and treating illnesses to prevent unnecessary hospitalisations and improve overall health outcomes. This helps reduce the burden on hospitals and specialised services in Gippsland.

The data showed:

- Life expectancy in Gippsland is 83.1 years for females (Australia 85.1) and 78.2 years for males (Australia 81.1).
- Avoidable deaths are 48% higher for males, with 148 deaths per 100,000 compared to 100 for women in Gippsland.
- Rural Australians are more than twice as likely to die from potentially avoidable causes.
- From 2018 to 2022, avoidable deaths for circulatory system diseases were 17% higher in Gippsland compared to national rates.
- There were 9,783 potentially preventable hospitalisations for people in Gippsland during 2022-23.
- The Independent Hospital Pricing Authority report showed preventable hospitalisations cost Gippsland \$48 million per year.
- The top reason for potentially preventable hospitalisations for Gippsland males was diabetes complications (965 admissions) and for Gippsland females was iron deficiency anaemia (868 admissions).
- Barriers for accessing primary care in Gippsland include the cost of healthcare, lack of availability of appropriate and accessible primary care options, extended wait times and difficulty understanding health information and services.

Gippsland PHN acting Chief Executive Officer Angela Jacob said the Health Insights papers will drive primary care initiatives and inform future planning and delivery of services for the community.

The data is part of a 2024 Health Needs Assessment that provides an opportunity for priority populations in Gippsland to share their stories. The Health Needs Assessment, which will be released in early 2025, will inform Gippsland PHN's work and help drive a measurably healthier Gippsland.

Free virtual women's health clinic coming mid year

A FREE virtual women's health clinic will become available this year – making it easier for Victorian women to access services like endometriosis and pelvic pain care, menstrual health, cervical screening, menopause care, breast health care and abortion.

The new clinic will launch before the middle of the year in a partnership between the Victorian Government and the community health organisation EACH – and it will offer free, expert medical advice, treatment and care for a range of women's health needs.

Led by specialist nurses, it will reduce barriers to care, including for women in regional and remote areas where access to services like contraception and abortion is hard due to distance from major towns.

"We know the gender health gap is real, especially for women living in regional or remote areas of Victoria – that is why we're establishing this virtual women's clinic to help break down the barriers to care," said Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas.

"Abortion care is healthcare, and while we have already made abortion more accessible, we know there is



A free virtual health clinic that offers expert medical advice, treatment and care for women in regional and remote areas will come online this year.

more to do – because Victorian women deserve to have a choice, no matter where they live."

The service is more important than ever – barriers and delays in accessing care can have detrimental impacts on a woman's health, their quality of life and the ability to participate in school and

employment.

Available via telehealth or online, it will deliver an initial health assessment and some treatment, while patients can also be connected with a GP or get referred to a relevant health practitioner as close to home as possible.

In addition to treating

immediate health needs, referrals can also be made to various mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, and family violence community support services.

It comes as the State Government's Mobile Women's Health Clinic van officially hits the road.

Operated by BreastScreen Victoria, the van is making free healthcare more accessible for all women and girls in rural and regional parts of Victoria including a focus on improved access to care for First Nations women.

It will deliver a variety of women's health services, including sexual and reproductive health advice, clinical services and referrals for medical abortion (MTOP), contraception, and referrals to other necessary specialists.

All services will be delivered by an experienced nurse or nurse practitioner who will work to build connections with women, their community and local health services.

Both the mobile and virtual clinics are part of the landmark \$153 million women's health package transforming the way women's healthcare is delivered in Victoria.

Nutritional medicine can improve your health, energy, and lifestyle

FIRST up nutritional medicine uses a holistic approach to health and wellbeing. It looks to address the deeper upstream causes of your health issues/concerns. As an example, let's take a look at supporting your detoxification system. Many people could do with supporting their bodies detoxification system.

A first step can be reducing/removing the inputs/stressors/toxins that your detox system is dealing with. This can include dietary and lifestyle changes – removing/reducing

highly processed foods, high omega 6 oils, food additives, etc. Incorporating physical movement/exercise acts as a natural masseur of your lymphatic drainage system.

You can also directly support the different components of your detox system with specific supplemental nutrients and complimentary medicine inputs. If you visualise your detoxification system as a river you first start to get the end of the river flowing and then work your way back up to the cellular level. Start with the Bowel, then the Liver &

the Kidneys, then the Lymph System, then the Extracellular Matrix. All of these can be supported.

More next month on the exciting new developments/approaches/supplements used to support improvements in a range of Neurological Conditions.

Adrian Ward – Nutritional Medicine Practitioner – Leongatha Health Hub.

RIGHT: Adrian Ward uses a holistic approach to health and wellbeing through nutritional medicine.



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The anti-therapist helping people transform their lives

SHANE O'Neill is an unconventional and innovative 'anti-therapist' who challenges traditional therapeutic methods to help individuals confront and overcome their personal struggles.

With a unique approach that blends direct confrontation, radical honesty, and a focus on personal responsibility, Shane has earned a reputation for catalysing profound personal transformations.

Shane's approach to anti-therapy is built on the premise that traditional therapy can sometimes reinforce dependency rather than foster true independence and self-sufficiency.

He employs a range of techniques designed to push clients out of their comfort zones, encouraging them to face their fears, confront their truths, and take active steps toward change.

"My philosophy is rooted in the idea that individuals have the power to transform their lives through self-awareness, decisive action, and a commitment to personal responsibility," explained Shane.

Key aspects of Shane's anti-therapy approach include:



Challenging traditional therapeutic methods is counsellor Shane O'Neill, whose approach asks for radical honesty, direct confrontation and personal responsibility from clients for rapid transformation.

Radical Honesty: Unflinching truth-telling to help clients see their situations clearly.

Direct Confrontation: Addressing issues head-on without sugar-coating or avoidance.

Personal Responsibility: Empowering clients to take ownership of their actions and outcomes

Shane specialises in working with clients who feel stuck in traditional therapy, or those

who believe therapy is not for them.

His areas of expertise include working with addiction issues, depression/anxiety, relationship issues, overcoming procrastination and self-sabotage, breaking free from limiting beliefs, enhancing personal accountability, addressing deep-seated fears and insecurities and cultivating resilience and self-reliance.

Along with lived experience, Shane has a Bachelor's Degree in Counselling and has worked with over 1500 clients as a Counsellor, Psychotherapist, and Drug and Alcohol Therapist.

Shane is based in Buffalo South Gippsland and supports clients predominantly online and offers a free 15 minute introductory session.

After the introductory session, if it's the right fit, a plan for moving forward is made with 60 or 30 minute weekly video sessions available, to do the work of identifying, discussing and exploring ways to implement behaviour change throughout the week.

For more information or to book a session go to: www.anti-therapyonline.com.au.



Mind Medicine Australia have successfully trialed psychedelic-assisted therapies with the number of patients treated set to increase this year. Photo: Mark Willims on Unsplash.

Innovative treatment for mental illness is changing lives

THIS FEBRUARY marks two years since the TGA announced that Australia would be the first country in the world to allow access to MDMA and psilocybin as controlled medicines, when used as a part of therapy.

Mind Medicine Australia (MMA) is the charity that successfully advocated for clinical access to psychedelic-assisted therapies (PAT) in Australia and successfully applied for the re-scheduling.

These breakthrough therapies are delivered through the TGA's established Authorised Prescriber framework, which has meant they are rolled out in a cautious and considered way.

Over the course of 2024, the number of patients who received treatment each month steadily increased with an estimated 80 patients received PAT in 2024.

MMA project that this number will increase dramatically in 2025 as the number of psychiatrists authorised to deliver PAT continues to increase.

Early outcomes look very promising and there have been no significant adverse events reported.

One of the patients, who experienced MDMA assisted therapy wrote: "After years of deep pain and emotional suffering, I participated in this treatment and for the first time in my adult life I am not reliant on pills to help me sleep. I have better relationships with everyone, especially my family who are part of my trauma. I'm not triggered constantly, and best of all, I am free to love my life. To just Live! This treatment was lifesaving for me after years and years of talk therapy and medication. This needs to be made available for everyone with Complex PTSD."

With PAT now accessible in Australia, MMA is working on challenges associated with the clinical roll out.

These challenges include affordability for patients, training and education for clinicians, and securing access pathways for MDMA and Psilocybin, which MMA will continue to work on to become a global leader and innovator in the field, providing advice to other nations.

Peter Hunt AM, Chair of MMA, said collective efforts have led to these world-leading achievements.

"The rescheduling of MDMA and Psilocybin marked a historic shift in the treatment paradigm of mental ill health, and we remain committed to fostering accessibility and understanding of these innovative therapies."

For fast facts and more information about Mind Medicine Australia and its mission to introduce psychedelic-assisted therapies to Australia, visit www.mindmedicineaustralia.org.

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Supporting you matters to us

Bail law failures
a pointer for
policy makers

THERE has been a lot of talk since Donald Trump was elected about unwinding the woke approach to policy making in favour of a so-called revolution in commonsense.

And certainly, we can all point to areas where misguided attempts at social engineering have led to policy failure.

Whether or not the changes to the bail laws by the present state government, in October 2023, was one of those areas of policy failure, should be up to an expert panel of legal and law enforcement professionals to decide, with community consultation on proposed changes.

But there was a strong focus on the state of the bail laws in Victoria, and law and order generally in the run up to the by-elections in Werribee and Prahran at the weekend.

Buckle up for more of that as we approach the next Federal Election in April or May this year and the November 2026 State Election where you get the feeling the campaign has already started, 21 months out!

Getting back to the bail laws, we should probably ignore the commentary by the politicians, on both sides, and focus on the concerns of the community and the opinions of experts.

Nick Papas KC, a former chief magistrate and crown prosecutor, also said bail is a “soft target” in any law and order debate and that behind every bail decision, particularly when young offenders or Aboriginal offenders are involved, a delicate balance needs to be struck.

But he has also says that the balance has been tipped too far in the favour of repeat offenders in Victoria.

And we’ve certainly experienced those problems locally.

It’s likely that the changes made by the government in 2023, placing mandatory conditions on magistrates when dealing with bail applications by young people, First Nations people, in family violence cases and with certain offences have contributed to the “revolving door” in Victoria’s courts.

The reality is that deciding who should remain in custody and who should be released into the community is often a very tough decision for magistrates, balancing the welfare of the offender and the prospect that incarceration could result in long-term problems for the community, with the imperative of community and victim safety.

All of their legal knowledge and experience is brought to bear keeping in mind the specifics of the case. And saddling them with too many mandatory requirements is fraught with danger.

Ultimately, as with all policy development, we have to rely on the experts, combined with genuine community consultation, but without the woke agendas and political interference.

Mobility scooter’s
plea to gardeners

As a mobility scooter owner and rider, I would like to ask gardeners who allow their plants to grow outside their garden fences to please keep these plants in good trim so scooter riders, pedestrians and parents with prams and pushers can safely pass on clear footpaths.

It is amazing how often a bush, over hanging tree or black berry bush will protrude.

Please consider other people. Thank you.

Nancy Joyce, Korumburra.

Vox Pop

What do you have planned for Valentine’s Day?



Bianca

“Hope to have a nice quiet dinner with my partner but we have little kids, so it is a bit difficult.”



Vanessa

“It’s me and my partner’s engagement anniversary so I hope he will bring me flowers.”



Emily

“Not doing much, going to Wilsons Promontory to relax, surf and spend time with the family ”



Brock

“Going out for dinner with my partner and after that a movie.”

Too old to govern, he says

Here in Australia’s High Court we have mandatory retirement of judges at 70 years of age. The reason is that it is believed that people over 70 years of age no longer have the critical thinking skills necessary to make complex decisions.

I believe that we should have mandatory retirement of all politicians when they reach the age of 70. Mr Broadbent is 74 years of age.

We need to look no further than to the USA and their old President.

On Friday he ordered the release of masses of water from two Northern California dams to put out the wildfires in Southern California. Firstly, the Southern California wildfires had been contained by Friday and secondly the water doesn’t flow south but out to sea.

Now the farmers have no water to grow summer crops.

The President promised to reduce the cost of living but his actions have done the opposite.

Frank Schooneveldt, Wonthaggi.

South Gippsland
not open for business

Did you know the reception office of the South Gippsland Shire is only open very restricted hours and days.

Surely a shire of its size could manage to give better service than this to ratepayers.

I have gone to the door even on so-called open times and they are very firmly closed.

Nancy Jensen, Korumburra

Editor’s note: The opening times for the South Gippsland Shire Council offices are: Leongatha Monday & Wednesday 10am-3pm, Korumburra (Community Hub) Tuesday & Thursday 10am-3pm. Friday closed.

Citizens’ lobby
calls for members

The Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly is launching a targeted marketing strategy to expand its current list of 80 people to 500 people over the next six months.

Strengthening democracy and building trust in council is clearly dependent on people feeling that they can be engaged and influence their ward councillors’ and council’s decisions. Council with its \$94m budget and 120 services is important to all of us and our communities.

It is important that all communities feel listened to and receive an equitable

share of discretionary funds that council allocates annually. It important that council and our councillors step up and make a genuine commitment to open, transparent and accountable performance.

It is heartening that council itself is aware of the need to improve engagement and consultation and we indeed have a commitment from our ward councillors along these lines.

To be heard however, requires the active support of a large group of people who obviously have the capacity to be heard and responded to. We will be conducting a series of workshops in the next three months on council’s vision for the future, it is four-year plan and its 2025-26 budget.

Council has a serious performance gap with less than 50% of people not supporting its overall performance. Working together with our ward councillors and council we can all contribute to improved performance by building a collaborative culture.

If you wish to be involved, can you please email your contact details to ecolore1@bigpond.com.

Together we can have far more influence than if we stand alone. Restoring confidence in the performance of council requires active engagement not only the council in seeking to consult and engage the community but the community itself. There will be no change if the people who feel left out are not prepared to stand up and be counted.

Andrew McEwen, Korumburra (co-convener Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly).

Took offense at
Cr Morgan’s accusations

Offended by Cr Mat Morgan’s Australia Day Comment posted by Michael Giles publisher of SGST ‘Point of View Section’ SGST January 12th, 2025.

Firstly, I am not keen on local councillors using local council as a platform for any political party, but this can be found in more councils these days. In Mat’s case I voted for him to fight for our three Rs, rates, roads and rubbish.

I am not opposed to Cr Morgan and his beliefs, even though they may be different to mine, as that is what makes Australia such a great place to live, ‘freedom of speech’. And as far as Mat marching in protest, that’s his right, but dare I say many voters in Bass Coast would not have cared if he hadn’t written anything about his plans and beliefs.

But what I took offence to (and hurt) was in his beliefs (reasoning) statement: “...perhaps we could try recognising January 26th respectfully, because it is a day of mourning for heaps of First Nations People, many of whom mourn

violence, slavery and the murder of their ancestors at the hands of our grandparents and great grandparents...”

My local ancestry history: The Misson’s (Statter Misson Road, Bass, used to be just Misson Road and Densley’s Road (Kilcunda) were some of the first settlers in the area. They both have generations buried at Corinella and Kilcunda Cemeteries.

Many years ago, we celebrated (with 60 other Missons worldwide) the Misson 150th year anniversary since the Misson Clan settled in the district. We began our four days of celebrations at the Corinella Cemetery with a Church of England service that my grandparents would have used back then.

Both families were very religious with strong Christian beliefs, both grandfather and great grandfather were local Church of England Ministers at Bass and Corinella, and my grandmother Gertrude Densley of a Sunday drove her ‘Cariole’ (single horse drawn carriage) over the hills to Kilcunda and Bass, where she fell in love with the Minister, my grandfather, to play the organ at their churches.

Grandfather and great grandfather were both councillors at the then Woolamai-Kilcunda Council (now Bass Coast) and as the history books say, they were real tough fighters for the voters in their electorate. (Something I feel very proud of each time I read about their presence at council meetings).

Cr Morgan I have my family history back to 1564, and I know that my grandfather and great grandfather took no part in any of the above, in fact they were renowned for giving and accepting all.

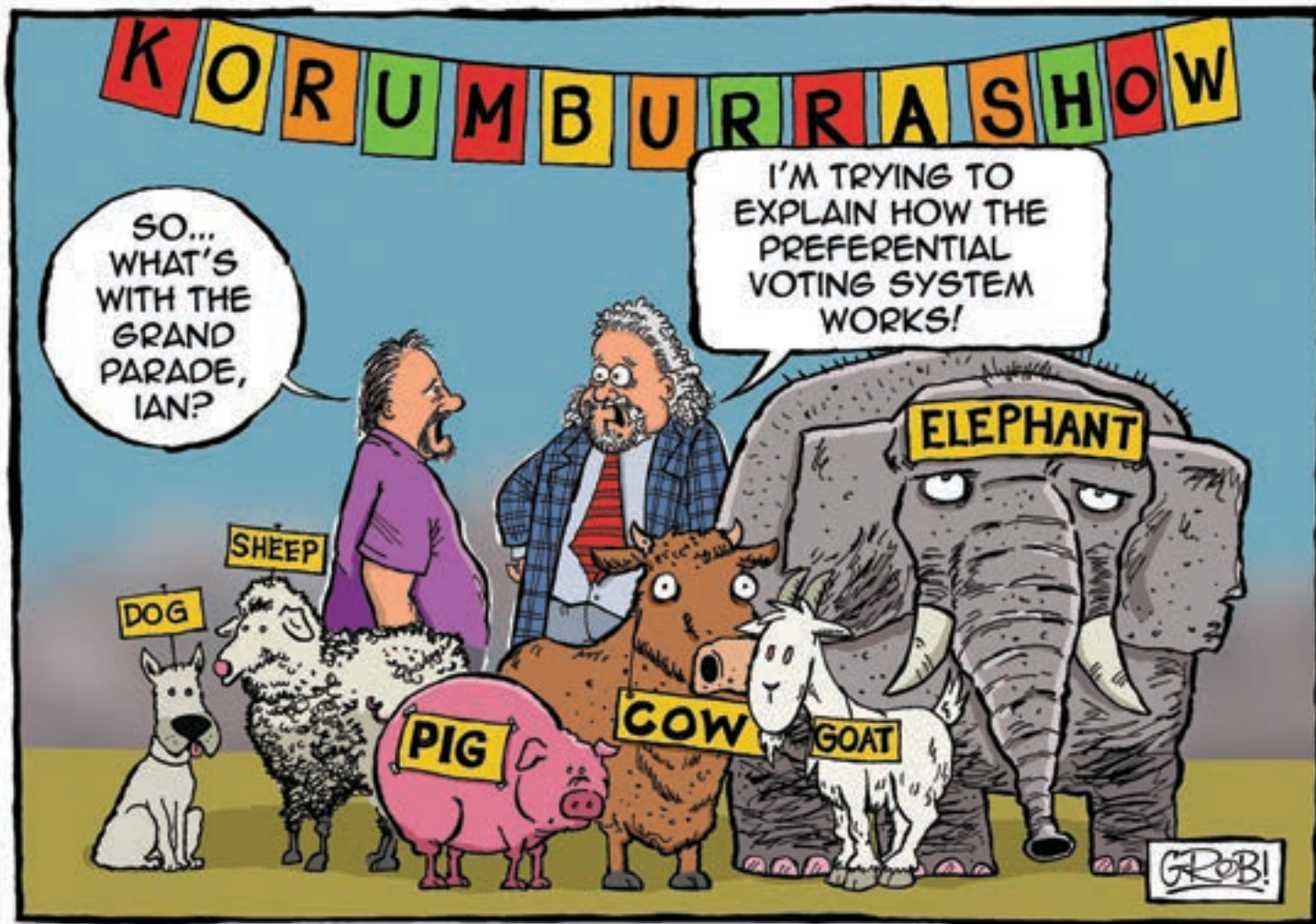
Cr Morgan, your generalisation statement I took personally, and I know my ancestors would also be very offended, and just maybe, you could clarify your statement, firstly by making a public apology in the SGST to myself and my Misson and Densley cousins and families.

I will write to Mat and invite him to join me to discuss other aspects of his comments

As I have Aboriginal family relations, I was best man at two weddings of the so-called young ‘stolen generation’. I taught one term of Aboriginal Studies at school, and my list goes on. And even perhaps talk about the three Rs with him.

George Misson, Inverloch.

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.



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

Delighted to be an Australian

How wonderful it was to be able to get out and about in Gippsland last weekend to join in local celebrations of our wonderful nation and what it is to be an Australian.

I was fortunate to attend events in Yinnar, Seaspray, Foster, Dumbalk and even a new citizenship ceremony in Sale where I was able to welcome 40 new Australians from 17 different countries including Pakistan, Russia, India, UK, Kuwait, the Netherlands, NZ, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia, Switzerland, USA, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Italy and Zimbabwe.

I was particularly moved to hear one of our new Australians quite literally squeal with delight as she took the oath of allegiance and accepted her certificate.

It is very easy to take for granted all the wonderful liberties we are afforded as Australians and seeing someone so excited to join our nation was a wonderful reminder of just how lucky we are.

Congratulations again to our newest Australians!

Danny O'Brien MP, Member for Gippsland South.

Town drains not good enough

I returned to Korumburra recently, to the funeral of a friend at St Paul's Church of England, Bridge Street. I parked opposite the church on the high side of Bridge Street.

I was disgusted at the condition of the shoulder of the street road, it was very dangerous to get out of a car.

There were such big drains, the proper drain being completely blocked off to this street is the only parking available. Surely, the shire could maintain the drain.

I saw one woman have a nasty fall getting out of her car because of the condition of the road's shoulder.

It is very obvious that the side of the street from the police station to Princes Road never has any clean-up, the other side has concrete paving and is swept it seems.

Joyce Smithly, Warragul.

Editor: Please note - No verification of name and address was available.

Defence civilian transition the problem

It is my view that there is no decline in national pride but there is a failure to manage the Defence-civilian interface.

You cannot have veterans committing suicide at record rates and have the wider community think Defence is a good career choice.

Veterans are in my view the backbone of Team Australia.

It also doesn't help that Defence feels entitled to civilian support but it doesn't sell the transferable skills acquired by Defence service and then in my experience largely abandons veterans on separation.

And finally, Defence doesn't work at passing on patriotic values to first and second-generation migrants who don't have relatives who served defending Australia in WW1 or WW2 in an inclusive way.

Kevin Walsh RFD (Veteran), Cape Paterson.

Rein in council excesses, he says

I read your article recently regarding the off-loading of the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries. One point you forgot to mention is the approximate cost off nearly \$4 million to offload it.

I cannot believe the council's attitude to the disposal of this town's history, advising cemeteries are not in our agenda.

Again, we have over inflated egos, forgetting what this town's history is all about, yet we can purchase art work (\$160,000 approx) to hang in the overpriced cultural centre (quoted \$17.1 million actual cost over \$31 million) and no explanation on cost blow out.

If this happened in private business heads would have rolled, but not in

the protected species in council.

So, what increase are we about to incur to pay for more council indulgence? The extravagance never seems to stop.

Lyall Broughton, North Wonthaggi.

Nobbled by nostalgia or worse

It seems to me that conservatives are hellbent on returning Australia to the 'Golden Years' of the 1950s. Struggling with ever-faster change and pinning for a return of the good old days, they seek to turn back the clock in the expectation that this will somehow restore a nostalgically remembered land of milk and honey.

I myself am pragmatically progressive.

In my view progressives have kicked an own goal as a result of well-intentioned overreach, so triggering some backlash.

When I was Mayor of Greater Dandenong, I didn't go for the then in-vogue 'Seasons Greetings' Christmas Cards. I sent religiously themed cards.

I did this after a discussion with my Lebanese Australian wife. She explained to me that in Lebanon it was common practice for Christians to celebrate Eid (Eid al-Fitr) with their Muslim friends and for Muslims to celebrate Christmas with their Christian friends. Both accepted and valued each other.

It is not British traditions versus Eastern traditions, it is both! In my view much of the so called 'Culture Wars' are in practice an attempt to return Australia to the discredited Integrationist social policy.

Given 48% of Australians are first or second-generation migrants and most are not of British heritage, such an approach is both unlikely to work and socially corrosive.

Major Kevin Walsh RFD RAINF (Ret'd), Cape Paterson.

Improving Dumbalk's water pressure

A NEW booster pump at the Dumbalk water tower has passed all the tests. It was officially connected to the reticulated main pipe on Thursday, February 6, increasing water supply pressure to the town.

South Gippsland Water crews will increase the water pressure in increments every week over the next two months to reduce any sudden impact on infrastructure.

Dumbalk residents should monitor their internal plumbing systems including any connected water appliances like dishwashers, washing machines, air conditioners and water tanks.

Plumbing related to things such as these can fail with higher pressure if they are not in line with Australian plumbing requirements.

South Gippsland Water Managing Director, Robert Murphy, said the \$195,000 upgrade to Dumbalk's water supply system was part of their ongoing commitment to continue delivering quality, sustainable water and wastewater services to the region.

"The booster pump is designed to make Dumbalk's water pressure more reliable," Mr Murphy explains.

"It will also let South Gippsland Water bypass water from the tower during planned and unplanned maintenance, resulting in fewer interruptions of the town's water supply."

South Gippsland Water first commissioned the Dumbalk water tower in the 1960s.

"Today, we need to ensure we continue to supply water pressure to the standard set by the Water Services Association of Australia," Mr Murphy said.

These renewal works are a high priority to keep the system working. The booster pump station will now be able to read the downstream discharge pressure and automatically adjust to maintain adequate pressure.

• FAITH FACTOR

Hope in the midst of disaster

Amanda Heart, Corps Officer, South Coast Gippsland Salvos

OVER the years, I've had the privilege of working in numerous recovery centres across the country, supporting communities devastated by bushfires, floods, and storms. In fact, even as I write this, I'm waiting to hear about deployment to the current floods in Townsville. It's exhausting work—physically, emotionally, and spiritually—but it's also life-giving. Sitting with people in their grief, listening to their stories, and offering comfort in their darkest moments is sacred work.

Disasters have a way of shaking our sense of security. In an instant, homes are lost, communities are shattered, and lives are forever changed. Yet, in these moments of heartbreak, I have also witnessed incredible resilience, kindness, and generosity. Strangers become family. Hope is found in a hot meal, a listening ear, or the simple presence of someone who cares.

God does not cause these disasters, but He is present in them. Psalm 34:18 reminds us, "The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Even in the ashes, the floodwaters, and the wreckage, God is at work—through the hands of first responders, through the volunteers who show up, and through the quiet prayers whispered in the night.

If you are navigating the aftermath of a disaster, know that you are not alone. God walks with you, bringing comfort, strength, and restoration. And if you are in a position to help, don't underestimate the power of your kindness. Sometimes, the greatest gift you can offer is simply showing up.

Even in the worst of times, hope remains. God's love is never washed away, never burned up, never broken by the storm. It endures—just as we do, together.

Visit our website:
www.sgst.com.au



Summer internship students Zara, Ella and Emily, worked in STEM roles in Gippsland Water's asset management, asset planning and environment teams.

Growing women in water workforce

GIPPSLAND'S Water's 2024/25 summer internship program has produced the highest rate of women participants in five years.

Six of the 12 students in this year's program were women, including three of the eight students who worked in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) roles across the organisation.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said it was a sign that initiatives like International Day of Women and Girls in Science (February 11) were raising the profile of STEM careers and highlighting pathways in STEM focused industries, like the water sector.

"This year we had three talented young women take on STEM roles in our environment and asset management teams as part of our internship program, along with a further three placed in other departments," Ms Cumming said.

"You don't need to be a scientist or engineer to work in the water sector, although there are many of those opportunities available.

Ms Cumming, a former litigation lawyer, said her own career trajectory in the water industry had been deeply rewarding.

"I love working in an industry that has far reaching impacts and can make a real difference in our community while providing an essential service."

Ms Cumming said the organisation hoped to inspire the next generation of female leaders in STEM to explore the water industry as their next major career step by providing new and rewarding opportunities.

"According to 2023 Australian Government data, women currently make up 37 per cent of enrolments in university STEM courses, but only 15 per cent of STEM-qualified jobs are held by women. This something we're passionate about changing," Ms Cumming said.

"Our most recent cohort of students has given us confidence we're on the right path.

"Employing more women in STEM is not just a goal; it's necessary to expand talent pools and bring in fresh perspectives."

Gippsland Water's annual Summer Internship program offers university students the opportunity to gain hands on experience in the water sector with three months of paid work. Applications open mid-year at www.gippswater.com.au/careers

Call to reduce noise pollution

ARE you being annoyed by noise from industry, construction, loud entertainment venues or just noisy neighbours? EPA Victoria has a quick guide on who to call when it's all too loud. CEO Lee Mieziis said excessive noise is not just annoying, it can harm your health and the environment, too.

"EPA, your local council and Victoria Police all play a role in enforcing the regulations, and it is not just about volume limits," Mr Mieziis said.

"Noise can cause harm when it disturbs sleep or interferes with rest and recreation. That's all part of the General Environmental Duty (GED), Victorian law that makes it everyone's responsibility to take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of harm to people and the environment."

Since the GED applies to everyone, the EPA urges you to remember that you might be the noisy one if you're not considerate.

"This summer, be kind to the environment and your community. Fulfil your environmental duty, assess how your activities may impact the environment, your community and your neighbours, and take whatever action is necessary," Mr Mieziis said.

Mum returns for a healing birth experience

JACINTA Simmons admits she was a bit nervous about having a second child after her first birth turned into an emergency caesarean.

But the experience at Gippsland Southern Health Service for baby number two turned into a redemptive and healing experience.

The Dalyston mum is now enjoying her expanded family after having a vaginal birth after the previous cesarean section (VBAC), with Elijah born on January 5 to become a little brother for Jensen.

"I had a rough time with my first baby with an induction that turned into an emergency caesarean," she said. "I was feeling awful after it."

Her second birth was a totally different experience. "This time was the flip side; I had a spontaneous labour and got skin-to-skin straight away and personal time with him."

Jacinta and her husband Brad had their first child in Wonthaggi and, happy with the support they received, followed Dr Sam Bell to Leongatha.

"We liked him previously and I wanted someone familiar and consistent for my appointments, and for if we needed a planned caesar, as he did an excellent job with my first," Jacinta said.

"Dr Sewellyn Gale was the doctor on call when we had Elijah and she was also excellent, kind, supportive and a wonderful addition to my care team."

Jacinta and her care team talked about options ahead of time, understanding that



Jacinta Simmons with baby number two Elijah, and little brother of Jensen.

GSHS can do VBACs but can't induce VBAC women. "Because I went into spontaneous labour and was full-term, it ticked all the criteria," Jacinta said.

"The other option was to go to Monash which would have been a whole new ballgame because of the

distance and the different vibe of a big hospital. We wanted a small-town hospital and I was so thrilled to be able to do the things I couldn't with our first."

Jacinta said the GSHS team supported the family all the way. "They were there for us going through the

whole experience," she said. "We felt like we connected really well with the midwives and had great time to spend with the doctor."

"We came in with a spontaneous labour and very quickly progressed through back-to-back intense contractions. It got very chaotic very quickly from my end but I still felt really looked after and cared for."

"It was all very friendly and personable and they made us feel at home."

Jacinta realises no pregnancy is the same so wasn't sure what to expect. "My mum had three very different births so I was always acutely aware that every pregnancy and birth is different," she said.

"When you're doing it, you think what if we had a repeat of last time and have to go to an emergency cesar."

The breakthrough came when the doctor told her she'd passed the point where she could have an emergency cesar. "The whole room knew that was a winning statement...we're doing this, this VBAC is happening. It was daunting but also 'yeah, let's go'. Everyone was on the same page - this was what we were aiming for."

The support carried through to recovery as well and follow-up care.

"We didn't feel rushed at any point," Jacinta said. "Every stage from the moment we walked in to recovery, they were happy to answer any questions. It was all 'we're here to help you in the way you want'."

Mentorship program open for local tourism professionals

THE KEN Hore Tourism Mentoring Program is celebrating eleven years of supporting emerging tourism leaders and application are once again open for the 2025 program.

The program is now in its 11th year and continues its mission to nurture and develop the next generation of tourism professionals in Gippsland, Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

Since its launch in 2014, the Ken Hore Tourism Mentoring Program has helped 64 tourism professionals build their skills, confidence, and networks, strengthening Victoria's tourism sector.

The program honours the late Ken Hore, who was a respected tourism leader known for his dedication to promoting regional tourism.

At the 2011 Victorian Tourism Awards, Ken received the award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual in acknowledgment of his tourism career.

To continue his legacy, the program provides hands-on learning experiences, one-on-one mentoring, and networking opportunities to help new and emerging tourism professionals grow their careers in the industry.

Applications are open to



2024 participants of the Ken Hore Tourism Mentoring Program on a Wildlife Coast Cruise.

individuals who have worked in tourism for five years or less and are currently employed in the Gippsland or Phillip Island tourism sector.

Applicants may be full time, part time or casual and can be working in any aspect of the private or publicly funded

tourism sector.

By investing in new talent and fostering innovation, the program ensures that Gippsland and Bass Coast remain vibrant and welcoming destinations for visitors from across Australia and beyond.

The program is led in

collaboration by Destination Gippsland, Destination Phillip Island and Bass Coast Shire Council. For more information and to apply, visit www.visitphillipisland.com.au/destination-phillipisland/ken-hore-tourism-mentoring-program



ABOVE: Local duo, No Promises will be appearing in Foster with Matt Scullion.
RIGHT: Golden Guitar winner, Matt Scullion will be coming to Foster.

Matt Scullion and No Promises set to shine in Foster

FOSTER is the place to be on Friday March 14, with an unmissable night of entertainment showcasing incredible local and national talent.

Golden Guitar winner Matt Scullion will take the stage, supported by popular local duo No Promises, for a cabaret-style evening sure to impress.

Matt, an acclaimed Australian singer-songwriter, has three albums under his belt and recently swept three categories at the 2025 Tamworth Songwriters Awards: Local Hero, People's Choice, and the song maker recognition of Songwriters into the Hall of Fame.

Opening the night, No

Promises brings their versatile playlist, blending country, pop, rock, and blues. Eric and Janine deliver music that crosses genres and creates great vibes for every listener.

Organised by the Yanakie Progress Association, representative Dave Johnson said today, "We are absolutely

thrilled to be able to bring these two great acts together on the one night. It is an event not to be missed".

Mark your calendars for Friday, 14 March 2025, the event is BYO food-and-drinks, tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for kids and can be found at trybooking.com/CYPAB.



Zucchini Frittata

By Meg Viney

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 1 large or 2 small zucchinis sliced
- 1 red capsicum OR a very handy jar of roasted capsicum (3 pieces, chopped roughly)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ½ cup grated parmesan
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- A sprig of fresh thyme (or ½ teasp dried)
- A knob of butter

Method

If you have fresh capsicum, cut in half and grill until the skin blackens, then place in a paper bag for 10 minutes, and you can then peel the skin off and remove the seeds. Slice into strips. The ones in the jar are very handy if you don't grow them though...

Beat the eggs thoroughly then add half the parmesan

In a large pan, sauté the zucchini, turning once, until softened and pale brown. Remove

In the remaining oil, or add more, sauté the onion with a pinch of salt, over a low heat, lid on, until soft and aromatic. Add the thyme.

Add all ingredients to the eggs. Melt the butter in the pan and pour in the egg mixture. Cook over a low-medium heat, gently lifting the edges to allow the uncooked egg to flow underneath and thus cook. Once cooked, top with the remaining parmesan and grill (be sure to put foil over the handle!) until just gold and bubbling.

Slide onto a platter. Serve just warm or room temperature with a salad and crunchy bread.



Korumburra Italian Social Club THE JOHNNY CASH & JUNE CARTER TRIBUTE SHOW

Saturday 15th February
Doors open 7pm show 8pm
Korumburra Italian Social Club
38 Bridge St, Koumburra Victoria
3950 0419 507 410



Send us your photos

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

Sentinel-Times

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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 ★



Author Kate Mildenhall will be presenting at the Inverloch Library on Friday February 28.

Author Kate Mildenhall coming to Inverloch

THE FRIENDS of Inverloch Library are thrilled to have booked incredible authors for the year, with the first one to visit being Kate Mildenhall on Friday February 28.

Kate is both a writer and teacher and has produced several books over past years with her latest book being for children.

Each of Kate's books present a very different reading experience in subject matter and trajectory but share the theme of being very well written.

Kate is the author of *Skylarking* (2016), *The Mother Fault* (2020) and *The Hummingbird Effect* (2023).

In 2024 she released her first picture book "To Stir with Love," which Paperplay in Inverloch have several copies of, as well as her other books.

Kate has been looking forward to coming to Inverloch to speak for quite some time and she is also planning to visit the primary school to talk about her new children's book.

For the past six years she has co-hosted *The First Time* podcast with Katherine Colette, interviewing hundreds of writers including Tim Winton, Helen Garner, Richard Flanagan, George Saunders, Charlotte Wood and many more.

Kate lives on Wurundjeri lands in Hurstbridge with her partner and two children. She is currently undertaking a PhD in creative process at RMIT University and working on her fourth novel.

Signed copies of Kate's books will be available for purchase on the night.

Kate Mildenhall will be presenting at the Inverloch Library on Friday February 28 from 6 pm.



Tap dancing at Studio Phoenix.

Studio Phoenix dancers light up the stage with places available for this year

THE WONTHAGGI Union Community Arts Centre was alive with young performer energy as Studio Phoenix Dance took to the stage for their 2024 Annual Concerts on December 14th and 15th. Across three breathtaking performances, students from both the Wonthaggi and Newhaven studios dazzled audiences with their passion, talent, and pure joy for dance.

From sophisticated tap rhythms to explosive hip hop energy, from the grace of ballet to the raw emotion of contemporary, each routine was performed with confidence and flair. The tiniest performers—our Ready Set Dance, Ready Set Ballet, and Tiny Phoenix dancers—melted hearts and proved that even the youngest stars can shine bright. Their energy and enthusiasm were infectious, leaving the crowd in absolute awe.

Every student, from wide-eyed beginners to powerhouse senior dancers, brought their A-game. But the magic wasn't just on stage. Behind the scenes, the camaraderie was just as heartwarming—quick costume changes were met with helping hands, words of encouragement were shared, and friendships deepened in the wings.

And let's talk about the costumes! Jazz performers



Dancers at last years concert.

sparkled with dazzling rhinestones, ethereal mermaid skirts floated through the enchanting Peter Pan ballet, and bold, dynamic theatrical and tap costumes added extra flair. Add in a professionally edited soundtrack and stunning lighting, and the result was nothing

short of breathtaking.

More than just a performance, the 2024 Studio Phoenix Annual Concert was a true celebration of the thriving Bass Coast dance community, showcasing the incredible talent, dedication, and love for the art form that continues to grow stronger each year.

2024: A Year of Triumph and Growth—Setting the Stage for an Even Brighter 2025

Beyond the concert, 2024 was a monumental year for Studio Phoenix Dance. Students soared in competitions, bringing home medals, and two dedicated dancers, Anabelle and Jade, earned places in the prestigious Transit Dance Youth program 'Elevate.' Every Saturday in 2025, they will train with some of Australia's top dance educators—an incredible achievement that highlights the exceptional training opportunities available right here on the Bass Coast.

With so many milestones achieved over the past year, 2025 is already shaping up to be even more exciting! The studio is buzzing with new faces, fresh goals, and big dreams waiting to unfold. If last year was a triumph, this year is set to be a showstopper.

And the best part? It's not too late to be part of the magic! Whether your child is a tiny tot eager to twirl, a teen ready to take the stage, or someone simply looking to dance, move, and grow, there's a place for them at Studio Phoenix Dance.

Email admin@studiophoenix.dance to enrol today, and follow us on social media for all the latest updates, performances, and behind-the-scenes magic!

Mirboo North Market secures funding for musicians



Benjamin Hall is the latest musician to play at the Mirboo North Market, which will have a solid lineup of live acts thanks to a recent grant.

THE ever-popular Mirboo North Market will now have a solid program of live music at the monthly event, thanks to a grant from OSMI, the developers of Delburn Wind Farm.

While the market often has live music when they can, the funding means the committee can lock in musicians for the year ahead.

"We're always on the lookout for new artists," said Doug Parke, who is in the process of securing musicians.

While there are some acts that are outside the committee's price range, they are happy to negotiate the right price for musicians looking for some local exposure.

In the past, the market has hosted artists such as Benjamin

Hall, Gavin Chatelier, Shardave, Jane Coker, Eric Collier and Borderline.

The funding from OSMI and subsequent entertainment will provide an additional incentive for people to attend the market, one of the aims of the organising committee.

With the market expanding from 40 stalls to about 100 stalls, in a matter of months and with a population of only 2500 people in Mirboo North, Doug commented they need to continue to draw people to the market from the surrounding area, to ensure it stays sustainable.

Another way the committee have been doing this is by running a successful Market Money program for almost 18 months,

which gives attendees the opportunity to win \$150 to spend at the market.

The program has direct benefits for attendees and stallholders, and committee members also have the chance to engage directly with attendees and receive feedback on the market and where people come from.

The Mirboo North Market is a vibrant community event with great food and coffee, live music, a selection of quality stalls including growers, bakers, merchants and makers and is situated right in the heart of the town.

It is held on the last Saturday of each month (except December), from 8.30am-1pm at Baromi Park, Ridgway, Mirboo North.



George Auddino, Andrea Stephenson and Gail Beer of Korumburra Rotary Club provide hospitality for Korumburra Show attendees on Friday evening. A25_0625



Korumburra locals Katie, Ben and Heath enjoy the Show on Friday. A26_0625



Imogen, Hunter and Matt Bromby take in sideshow alley at their local Show on Friday evening. A27_0625



Korumburra's Belinda and Daphne Hiddlestone are ready for a teacup ride at the Korumburra Show. A28_0625



Inverloch Edible Gardens volunteers Helen Carden and Julie Dunn with organiser Maddy Harford B26_0625



Bev and Liz from Inverloch enjoying the Edible Open Gardens Weekend B27_0625

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Stony Creek races, Korumburra Show (Friday), Edible Gardens Weekend in Inverloch, Norman Point Inverloch and Bass Coast College's swimming carnival.



David Hurst and David Bradshaw display 1985 vintage remote control cars, an RC10 and Kyosha Ultima at the Korumburra Show. A29_0625



Warragul's Mylah and Piper Schembri hold their five-month-old Leo and Turbo before they competed in Friday's Pygmy Goat Show in Korumburra. A30_0625



Matilda Henry and Anabelle Friswell were decked out in yellow for Bass Coast College's swimming carnival on Friday. tk01_0625



Thomas O'Mahoney and Jarrah Tagell competed in Bass Coast College's swimming carnival at the Korumburra outdoor pool on Friday. Tk03_0625



Maureen from Dumbalk with Sylvia and Jackie from Meeniyan at Stony Creek for Publicans Day B52_0625



Wayne and Sib making the most of race day at Stony Creek B56_0625



Lesley and Kathy from Port Albert at the Stony Creek Racecourse B49_0625



Inverloch Beachgoers Mark and Deborah keeping their distance from Sammy the Seal at Norman Point B20_0625



Michelle and Jack from Meeniyan enjoying Publicans Day at the Stony Creek Racecourse B53_0625



Matt and Merl from Meeniyan at Stony Creek for Publicans Day B51_0625



Jacquie and Glenys from Yarram at the Stony Creek races B50_0625

Sentinel-Times

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STUNNING design, superbly maintained to present as new, this property will delight even the most fastidious of buyers. Only a few minutes out of town via a sealed road, your private retreat enjoying a prime sheltered northerly aspect and delightful rural views, sitting proudly at the top of the block with a wide veranda on every side.

Step inside to the luxuriously appointed and expansive interior with soaring ceilings, abundant natural light, magnificent, polished timber flooring and a state of the art hydronic heating system, backed up with zoned reverse cycle air conditioning. Grand entrance foyer and wide hallway. The open plan living room, with exposed trusses and large areas of glazing, captures both the abundant natural light and delightful views. Doors open to a covered outdoor entertaining deck with glimpses of the Inlet and Wilsons Promontory. Superbly appointed kitchen with huge breakfast bar, integrated appliance cupboards and branded appliances. Separate home theatre room, the perfect space for family movie nights or to entertain guests. Four fitted bedrooms, the master suite adjoining an expansive ensuite. The stunning main bathroom features a frameless shower, freestanding bath tub, and separate w.c.

Outside the delights continue, with an under-home garage, studio or workshop space, Aussie barn, hothouse and storage shedding perfect for work, hobby or leisure use. Chook pen, vegetable garden, orchard, dam, and fenced paddock complemented by electric gates for easy access add the finishing touches for the ideal country lifestyle. Environmentally friendly features including a 6.6kW solar power and battery system, double glazing, triple insulation, and ample water storage, keep running costs to a minimum. A home to cherish for generations to come in this picturesque region. Andrea Adams 0429 822 801.



4 | 2 | 8

1.1ha

4 Gabriels Lane, Toora

For Sale \$1,250,000

Agent SEJ Real Estate

Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LIVESTOCK & REAL ESTATE
A NUTRIEN AG SOLUTIONS PARTNER

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

WELSHPOOL



- Approx. 1825m² in two lots.
 - 1930s homestead
 - Town sewerage and water
 - Easy walk to town, 4 mins drive to coast
- \$350,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

MARDAN



- Highly productive blue-gum grazing, ex. carrying capacity
 - 52ha/130 acres (approx.) undulating hill country
 - Absolute water security, start of Toomeys Creek
 - Springs, dams, troughs all in high rainfall region
 - 14 paddocks, stock yards and excellent shedding
 - Updated, beautifully presented 2 bed, 1 bath cottage
- \$1,720,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

FOSTER



- Secluded feel, in-town convenience, creek frontage
 - Updated character home - 3 bed
 - Approx. 2768m² in two lots.
 - Original timber shed w/conc. floor
- \$735,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

SANDY POINT



- Spacious 6 bed, 2 bath
 - Easy care finishes, wood heater, RC/AC
 - Opposite coastal reserve
 - Garage/boat shed, fenced
- \$780,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA SOUTH



- Coast to country living
 - 27ha/68 acres grazing
 - 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 car home
 - Study, sunroom & solar
 - Huge shed & space to grow
- \$1,650,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

RANCEBY



- Coming soon!
 - 23ha/60 acres (approx.)
 - Ideal turnout block
 - Close to Korumburra
 - Undulating hill country
- \$685,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MEENIYAN



- 24ha/60 acres (approx.) Grazing
 - Ideal beef or dairy turnout block
 - Flat to undulating, exceptional soil
 - Warm sheltered, Est trees & views
 - Stockyards, 3 paddocks and lane
- SOLD

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

THIS small acreage beautifully presented two-bedroom, two-bathroom home offers a peaceful lifestyle with breathtaking views that will captivate your senses.

Step inside to discover an inviting open-plan kitchen, dining and living area designed for modern living. Features include electric cooking, dishwasher, large breakfast bar, reverse cycle unit, gas heater and free-standing wood fire, the spacious layout is perfect for entertaining family and friends.

The main bedroom has a walk-through robe which leads into the beautifully renovated ensuite, opposite to this is the second bedroom, which is setup with its very own workstation area, ideal for those who choose to work from home. The main bathroom includes a bath, walk in shower, a separate toilet and laundry with storage.

Outside, you'll find a fantastic under-cover outdoor entertaining area, ideal for hosting gatherings or just enjoying a peaceful quiet evening. There is also a deck positioned in the perfect spot to relax and soak up those magnificent views. The established gardens enhance the property's charm and offer a sense of tranquility. With ample shedding available, you'll have plenty of storage for tools, equipment or hobbies, along with ample parking space. Located on a sealed road just 11 mins from the vibrant community of Mirboo North and 15 minutes from Leongatha, you can enjoy the perfect balance of rural convenience.

Don't delay your inspection, experience the fresh air, wide open space and views for days. What is there not to love about this property?

Contact Sharon on 0447 604 796 for more information or to arrange a private inspection.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist

2 2 6 4.74 acres

1630 Meeniyan-Mirboo North Rd,
Mardan
For Sale \$910,000
Agent Elders
Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



Elders

Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

eldersrealestate.com.au

new listing

Woodleigh2.88 Acres

Rebuild or Renovate

- 3 bed home ideal for renovation
- Large paddock with dam
- Close to wineries & beaches

Web ID: 300P108740

\$630,000

new listing

Korumburra South109 Acres

109 Acres of Options

- 17 main paddocks with electric fencing
- 14 troughs, 2 x dams
- Stock yard, disused dairy & 4 bay shed

Web ID: 300P6372

\$900,000

Foster2.67 Acres

Hidden Luxury

- Stunning 4-bed, 2-bath home
- 2 large sheds, stables & 92k rainwater
- Established gardens & orchard

Web ID: 300P166521

\$1.45 Million

Contact Agent73 Acres

Sustainable Lifestyle Property

- Country home with hardwood floors
- 2-bed studio perfect for guests
- Cattle yards, hayshed & 3 dams

Web ID: 300P54561

\$1.735 Million

Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796

HELEN ARESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523

CG1274V6

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | 37



4 2 4

62 The Esplanade, **Sunderland Bay**
For Sale \$1,350,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Cowes office 03 5952 2633

A ONCE in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure an exclusive property on the Esplanade, offering breathtaking 180-degree uninterrupted water views. While the spectacular location is undoubtedly the highlight, this exceptional home delivers far more than just a scenic outlook.

The residence features two spacious living zones and four generously sized bedrooms, including two with ensuites and one with a WC. Each bedroom is equipped with built-in or walk-in robes, offering plenty of storage space and comfort.

Upon arrival, a double carport provides access to a central concreted courtyard, which leads to an oversized double garage. This garage includes a loft and dedicated office space—perfect for working from home or pursuing hobbies.

Downstairs, the home offers three spacious bedrooms, two of which capture those coveted water views. The third bedroom overlooks the courtyard, and a large family bathroom serves this level. At the rear of the home, a substantial living/rumpus room with a bar provides an ideal space for relaxation or entertaining—the perfect setting for the kids to enjoy.

Upstairs, the open-plan kitchen, living, and dining areas are flooded with natural light and offer an uninterrupted view of the water. The modern kitchen is fully equipped, while the dining area is spacious enough to accommodate family and friends. From here, step out onto the full-sized deck and take in the spectacular views stretching from Cape Woolamai to Pyramid Rock.

The master bedroom, also located on this level, is a private retreat complete with a full ensuite.

Additional Features:

- Indoor spa for relaxation
- Ample undercover parking for up to four vehicles
- Fully fenced and secure property for privacy
- Low-maintenance design for easy living
- Just a short walk to the beach
- A versatile floorplan that can accommodate a variety of lifestyles

Properties of this calibre, in such a prime location, are rarely offered to the market. Act fast to secure your own piece of paradise. Call Alex Scott & Staff Cowes at 5952 2633 to arrange your private or virtual inspection today!

Discover your dream lifestyle

EXPERIENCE the perfect blend of comfort and nature in this stunning rural lifestyle property. Nestled on a generous 10 acres, this home offers a fantastic rural outlook that will take your breath away. Just a short 10-minute drive from Wonthaggi, you can enjoy both the serenity of the countryside and the convenience of nearby amenities.

With modern renovations almost completed, this is your chance to take control and finish this family home off with your own personal touch.

Boasting three spacious bedrooms and two modern bathrooms, this property is perfect for families or those looking for extra space. The open plan living area is designed for both relaxation and entertaining, while the spacious second living provides a comfortable area with dining space and fire place. Each room is bathed in natural light, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere throughout.

With ample parking for two cars, you can easily accommodate guests or store recreational vehicles and the two large water tanks ensure that you have plenty of water storage. Embrace the rural lifestyle you've always wanted, with plenty of space to enjoy outdoor activities and create lasting memories. Don't miss the chance to make this beautiful property your new home!

Selling by "Expressions of Interest" until 4pm on Friday March 7. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity—contact us today for more details.

3 2 2 10 Acres

1915 Loch Wonthaggi Rd, **Ryanston**
EOI Closing Fri, March 7 at 4pm
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
Wonthaggi Office 03 5672 1911



<div>NERRENA</div> <div></div> <div>285 Garvies Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Stunning northerly views on 1.6acLess than 10kms from LeongathaUpdated 3 bed 2 bath with shed<div>\$830,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>31 Mine Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Prime retail showroomHighway frontage / rear accessApprox 325m² of floor space<div>\$395,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>RHYLL</div> <div></div> <div>26 Lock Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Situated on 1840m² (approx.) allotmentUndercover deck, fully fenced4 bedroom, 3 bathroom<div>\$1,100,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>105 Merrin Crescent</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">2 bedroom fibro homeSubdivision approval¼ acre block<div>\$495,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>MIRBOO NORTH</div> <div></div> <div>46 Stubbers Lane</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">84 acres outstanding beef grazing propertyThoughtfully designed, 4 bed, 2 bathStock yards and ramp, two large sheds<div>\$2,450,000 - \$2,500,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>23 Bridge Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Grand period homePrime corner location3 bedroom, 3 living<div>\$695,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>SILVERLEAVES</div> <div></div> <div>112 Silverleaves Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Bright living leading to expansive deckAcross from beach walking track5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms<div>\$920,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>43 Cameron Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Large development blockCharacter filled homeClose to hospital<div>\$449,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div>OPEN SAT. FEB 15 at 11AM</div> <div></div> <div>4/39-41 Hassett Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Tastefully renovatedPrivate brick 2 bedroom unitClose to town, public transport and medical<div>\$419,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>24 Massimo Way</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Elevated positionEasy to manage 763m² blockModern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom<div>\$575,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>8 Pasadena Drive</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Double storey, 570m2 (approx.) blockPremium finishes, undercover balcony4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car<div>\$900,000 - \$930,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>5 Strickland Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Close to town centreHuge shed with lane access3 bedroom renovated house<div>\$569,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div>OPEN EVERY THURSDAY 4:30PM-5PM</div> <div></div> <div>10 Roughead Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Updated unique brick cottage, 3 bed, 1 bathZoned 'Mixed Use', top end of Roughead StHome-based business or office space<div>\$429,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>OUTTRIM</div> <div></div> <div>1075 Outtrim-Leongatha Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Secluded country retreat4 bedroom, 2 bathroom3,693m² block<div>\$950,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>49 Manna Gum Drive</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Centrally located, in-ground swimming poolFully fenced, established gardens4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 1 car<div>\$770,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div></div> <div>2/5 Cameron Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">2 bedroom unitClose to town and hospitalOpen plan living<div>\$445,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>

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

COWES

5952 2633

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441

Brian Silver 0407 347 509

Chase Waters 0423 272 819

Maree Malloy 0408 316 715

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

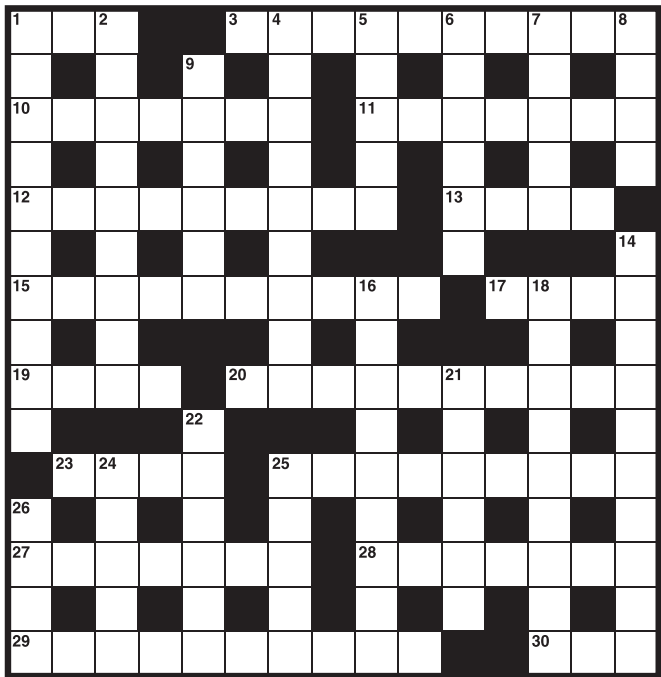
Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508

CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- 1

Small hard seed in a piece of fruit (3)
- 3

Free from contradiction (10)
- 10

Dead body (7)
- 11

Germane (7)
- 12

Extravagant (9)
- 13

Light globe (4)
- 15

Brightness (10)
- 17

Travel slowly to the airport terminal (4)
- 19

Greasy (4)
- 20

US science magazine, *National* – (10)

- 23

Molten rock (4)
- 25

Capital of Catalonia (9)
- 27

Suffer (7)
- 28

The travel industry (7)
- 29

As a whole (10)
- 30

Hearing organ (3)
- DOWN
- 1

Portable notebook (10)
- 2

Narrow-minded (9)
- 4

Stubborn (9)
- 5

Debonair (5)
- 6

Penman (6)
- 7

Kick out (5)
- 8

Long tooth (4)
- 9

Bondman (6)
- 14

Warning (10)
- 16

Rolled up tobacco and paper (9)
- 18

Ancient Greek goddess (9)
- 21

Thoroughfare (6)
- 22

Courting (6)
- 24

Assume (5)
- 25

Sheep's cry (5)
- 26

Celebration (4)

No. 267

WORDFIT

- 3 LETTERS
- APE

ASK

BIN

DAM

EEL

EVE

IRE

MAR

NOR

ODD

OVA

PAL

PER

REV

ROE

RUE

SEA

SPY

SUE

TNT

TVS

USE

VCR

VET
- 5 LETTERS
- AILSE

ALONE

ALTOS

ARENA

ARSON

AVAIL

BACON

BEAST

BERRY

BERTH

COATS

CRUST

DRESS

DULLS

EMITS

ERASE

ERODE

ESSAY

FENDS

GALAH

HATES

IDLES

INANE

IRATE

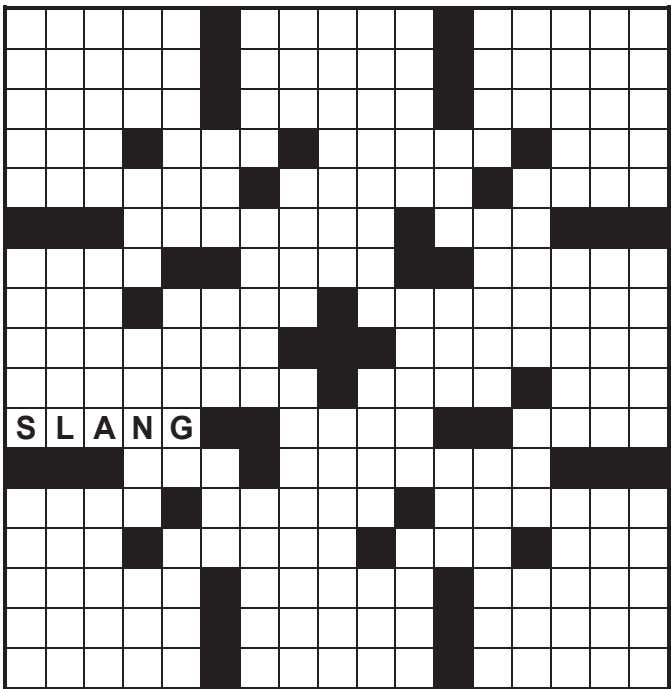
KANGA

KNEEL

LAPSE

LARVA

LEARN



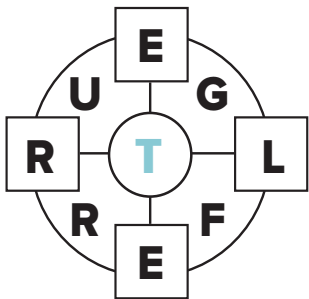
No. 176

9-LETTER

No. 267

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:
- 11 words: **Good**
- 17 words: **Very good**
- 23 words: **Excellent**

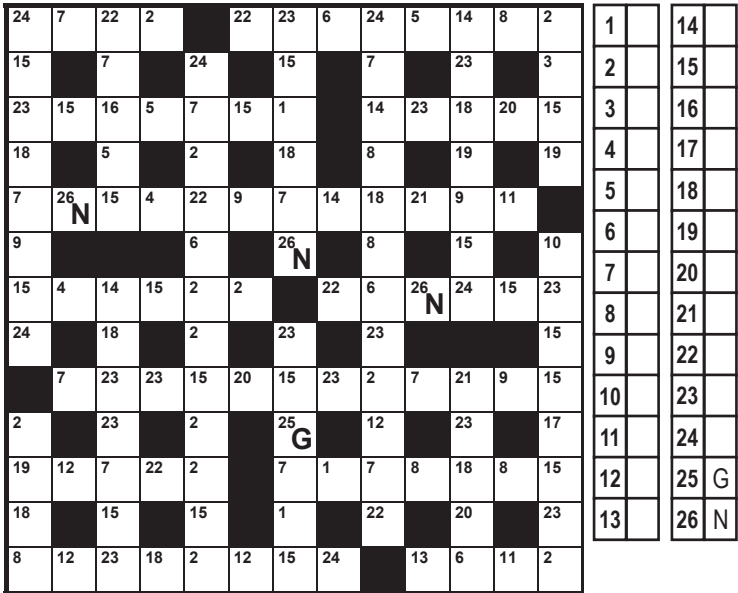


SOLUTION
tree, true, true, turf, regret, REGRETFUL, refuse, refuse, greet, leet, left, lute, flute, fret, gelt, glut, felt, ferret, fete, fleet, egret, elute, feet,

CODEWORD

No. 257

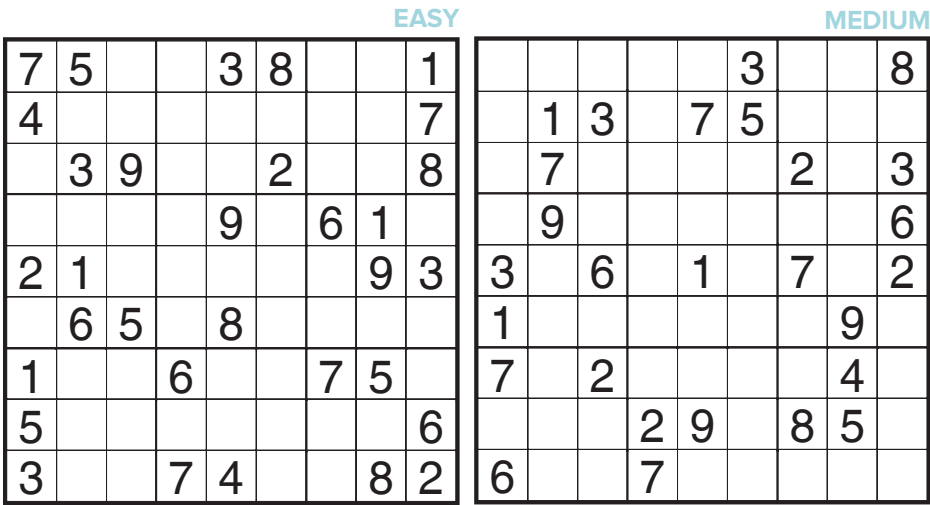
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



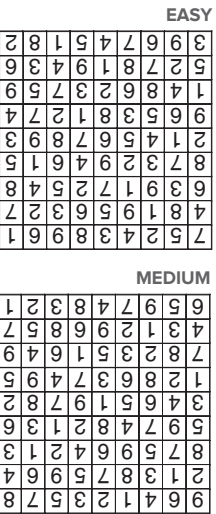
SUDOKU

No. 266

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1.

Which singer had a UK No.1 hit single with *When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going*?
2.

In cricket, in which year did South Australia first win the Sheffield Shield?
3.

Which James Bond actor starred in the 1988 film *Taffin*?
4.

Ops, or Opis, was the ancient Roman goddess of what?
5.

Which element comprises 71 per cent of the sun?
6.

Which tropic runs through Paraguay?
7.

In which European city was Erwin Schrödinger born in 1887?
8.

In which TV series did Betty White (pictured) star as Rose Nylund?
9.

What Russian alcoholic drink is made from cereals and stale bread?
10.

Shall We Tell the President? was written by which famous author?



ANSWERS: 1. Billy Ocean 2. 1893 3. Pierce Brosnan 4. Abundance and fertility 5. Hydrogen 6. Capricorn 7. Vienna, Austria 8. The Golden Girls 9. Kvass 10. Jeffrey Archer

WORD SEARCH

No. 177

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- ACYL

ALUM

AMINE

ANODE

ATOM

AZO

DDT

DIPOLE

DISTILLATION

DNA

EMF

ENZYME

ETHER

FAT

FIREDAMP
- FLUID

GAS

GLASS

IMINE

IODISE

IRON

ISOTOPE

JOULE

KETO

LIME

META

MICA

MODEL

MOLE

MONAD

NEON
- NICKEL

NITRATE

OHM

OIL

ORE

OSMIUM

OXIDE

PVC

RAYS

REDUCE

RESIN

RING

RNA

ROAST

SLAG

SMELT
- SOL

SPIN

STEEL

TALC

TCP

TEFLON

TIN

TNT

URANIUM

VINYL

VOLTA

WATT

ZINC

SECRET MESSAGE: It's not rocket science



Meet and greet at the Gippsland Red Meat Conference

THE GIPPSLAND Red Meat Conference is back for 2025 with the theme of: Now. Next. Later.

Agriculture Victoria Director Agriculture Services, Kate Linden said the theme encourages farmers to ask themselves when it comes to making improvements on their farm or in their business: What can I do now? What can I do next? And what can I do later?

"Agriculture Victoria is proud to partner with Gippsland Agricultural Group for this event that brings the red meat industry together to discuss topics important to them.

"The program is packed with leading industry speakers covering the topics that matter most to the farming community, including livestock markets, methane reduction, sheep production, optimising the success of heifers, sustaining a profitable red meat business and much more.

"From cutting-edge innovations to practical tools for success, attendees will leave with actionable insights, inspiration, and innovation," Mrs Linden said.

Guest speakers include:

- Simon Quilty from Global Agri Trends and Robert Herrmann from Mecardo
 - Professor Richard Eckard from the University of Melbourne
 - Nathan Scott from Achieve Ag Solutions
 - Dr Enoch Bergman from Swans Vet
 - Kathy Gabriel with her story 'From the High Country to Mongolia'
 - Ben Young from Chiltern Park Angus
 - Ken White, Chris Jehu and Michael Croatto from Business of Farming
 - Dee Commins, Deanne Sykes and Jess Knight with 'I'm a farmer too' highlighting the role women play in agriculture
 - Alfred Hackett and Amy Rogers with a virtual farm tour of their property in Gelantipy.
- The 2025 Gippsland Red Meat Conference is occurring on: Tuesday February 18, at the Riviera Convention Centre, 103 Bairnsdale Dargo Road, Bairnsdale.

Smart farms leading the way in agriculture

GREAT innovation in agriculture is being introduced to the Australian market through evokeAG and the 2025 Startup program is driving the future of farming.

A platform for showing visionary ideas and solutions through industry leaders, researchers and producers. EvokeAG is a platform for cutting edge innovation that is shaping farming and food production. The 2025 lineup can be found at www.evokeag.com

Whether it be soil health, 4AG robotics, farm management software or precision agriculture. The startup and scale up programs are advancing in technology to ensure safety and well-being on the farm. The Melbourne event is by Aqua-Terra – a focus on innovating soil monitoring with its IoT-based sensor system providing farmers with real time insights into soil moisture and temperature at depths of up to two-metres – all from a shallow 15cm installation.

Visit www.evokeag.com for more information on agriculture innovation – the future of farming.



Jarrod Bennetts sells for Everitt Seeley & Bennetts late in Thursday's Store Sale. A23_0625

Autumn break wanted soon but quality cattle hold firm

WHILE farmers hope for an Autumn break in the not-too-distant future, prices on top-quality cattle held firm at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale.

Everitt Seeley & Bennetts director and auctioneer Jarrod Bennetts spoke of the influence of dry conditions on prices in recent times, saying cattle have generally been getting cheaper in recent weeks but noting high quality animals are still fetching strong prices.

"Today you saw better lines of cattle hold firm (compared) to previous sales, and secondary lines and smaller lots probably slightly cheaper,"

he said, observing that the overall quality available at Thursday's sale was high.

As an example of strong pricing for good quality animals, he noted the 23 Angus steers sold for Burnside of Woori Yallock, weighing an average of 533 kilos and fetching \$1,940 a head at \$3.63 per kilo.

While Everitt Seeley & Bennetts had only a small run of heifers, Jarrod was pleased that the cattle sold to strong demand.

Sentinel-Times chatted to a Longwarry beef farmer who backed up Jarrod's view of prices for good-quality cattle, saying there is too much

focus on the negative aspects of the market.

Asked how urgently rain is needed around the South Gippsland region, Jarrod said, "It's always needed," explaining this season has been more in keeping with expectations.

"It's like a traditional summer again, after the last five years or so we've been spoilt with rain all the way through."

Jarrod highlighted hopes for an imminent Autumn break.

"If rain comes at the end of February, or early March everyone's going to be very happy," he said.

Podcast highlights developing food trends

CHANGED eating patterns due to the rising use of anti-obesity drugs, a shift towards in-home alcohol consumption and increasing demand for dairy products tailored to older consumers are among some of the top global trends in food and agriculture set to be felt in Australia in the next five years, according to a new series of podcasts from Rabobank.

In the podcast series – in which global strategists from the bank's RaboResearch division examine the top trends 'from farm to fork along the global supply chain for food and agriculture to 2030' – the global agribusiness banking specialist identifies a number of major macro factors set to impact right across the sector out to the end of the decade.

These include changing trade dynamics due to potential tariffs and government policies, an ageing global population, rapid innovation and adoption of AI across the supply chain and a continuing focus on sustainability – with 2030 approaching as the deadline for a number of policy and corporate climate targets.

In addition, a large number of other global trends are seen emerging in – or continuing to drive – specific parts of the food and agri supply chain, said podcast host RaboResearch Australia and New Zealand general manager Stefan Vogel.

"These range from, at consumer level, the growing prevalence of people using anti-obesity medication in the US and some European and Asian countries – and the resulting changed diets that are impacting shopping baskets – through to, at farm level, the expected rapid growth in many regions of the use of 'biologicals', natural products that enhance crop growth," he said.

The on-farm usage of 'biologicals' is expected to rise in the five years ahead.

These natural products can enhance plant growth and health by improving nutrient uptake, pet resistance and soil health.

Mr Vogel said the usage of biologicals is expected to become more readily accepted in traditional farming and to be used in conjunction with other conventional farm inputs to enhance their effectiveness.

"For example, biologicals are being used alongside nitrogen fertiliser to help take up nitrogen out of the soil and fix it to the plant," he said.

Mr Vogel said biopesticide derived from natural sources – such as bacteria and fungi – also have potential to control pests and diseases, with reduced impact on beneficial organisms and the environment.

At the dairy counter, an ageing global population is expected to drive demand for dairy products tailored to

older consumers.

"As people age, they often seek out products that support their health and wellbeing, such as protein shakes and medical nutrition," Mr Vogel said.

"This trend presents opportunities for the dairy industry to develop new products that cater to the needs of older consumers. This so-called 'active silvers' group of the population represents a growing category. China, for example, is expected to have 100 million more people over the age of 55 than it did in 2020."

In terms of dairy overall, the largest demand growth is seen in South-East Asia, Africa and other developing countries, Mr Vogel said, creating opportunities for dairy-exporting nations who potentially may struggle to keep up with this pace of demand growth through 2035.

Among other top trends in food and agri to 2030 discussed in the podcast series were the growing popularity of smaller, snack-sized fruits and vegetables – such as berries and cocktail tomatoes – and those with enhanced convenience qualities including pre-cut vegetables and easy-peel fruits, the increasing use of sustainable packaging such as recycled-moulded fibre, and an even stronger role expected to be played by climate risk and mitigation in companies' strategic and operational plans.

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, February 3, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$12 to \$44
Friesian Bulls	\$31 to \$68
Friesian Heifers	\$50 to \$54
Beef Bulls	\$90 to \$95
Beef Heifers	\$50 to \$155
Number of Calves:	57
Number purchased to rear:	21

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PRELIMINARY NOTICE ONLINE CLEARING SALE

A/C P & P Walker, Krowera

To be conducted on Auctions Plus to run from

Thursday, February 20 at 10am until Sunday, February 23 at 5pm

Assorted Farm equipment, Tools & Sundries.

Full listing & photos available via:

www.auctionsplus.com.au

Inspection available by appointment.



For further details contact:

Stuart Jenkin 0447 602 302

PRELIMINARY NOTICE CLEARING SALE

Truck, Tractor, Farm Machinery & Sundries Friday, February 28 at 10am

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Local farming news

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



www.sgst.com.au



Bird flu outbreak no threat to Gippsland dairy herds

AN OUTBREAK of avian influenza on a poultry farm in northern Victoria has been confirmed as the H7N8 strain not the highly contagious H5N1 bird flu virus that impacted dairy cattle in the United States.

Diagnostic testing performed by the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness at Geelong confirmed high pathogenicity H7N8 which is different again from avian influenza strains that impacted Victorian poultry farms last year.

Victoria's Acting Chief Veterinarian Cameron Bell said avian influenza is commonly spread by wild birds and unfortunately despite the poultry business in Euroa having excellent biosecurity controls in place the flock has been infected.

"The business acted quickly to identify the infection within the flock and is working closely with Agriculture Victoria officers to contain the outbreak," said Dr Bell.

Avian influenza is a viral disease of birds found globally.

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible the current risk to the public remains low.

"Every poultry producer is advised to have an on-farm biosecurity plan and know the signs of diseases that could affect their birds or animals," said Agriculture Victoria.

Poultry sheds, yards, aviaries and equipment should be kept clean and contact between poultry and wild birds



Latest influenza outbreak no threat to dairy cattle B57_0625

should be restricted including the water supply.

Bird owners should also ensure their footwear is clean, hands are washed before and after handling birds or eggs and new birds are quarantined before integrating them with the existing flock.

Consumers should not be concerned about eggs and poultry products from the supermarkets as they do not pose a risk and are safe to consume.

The Victorian Department

of Agriculture said the finding of H5 HPAI in cattle in the US did not increase the risk for livestock in Australia.

If this strain was to occur in Australia, the response would be in accordance with national arrangements including the nationally agreed response strategy AUSVETPLAN.

International experience and evidence are informing Australia's ongoing investment in H5 preparedness planning, response capability

and surveillance efforts.

Standard conditions apply for managing the risks of HPAI in goods for human consumption such as dairy ingredients in imported chocolate and cakes, and composite, highly processed or cooked food products.

Poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888, or to your local vet.

MARKET REPORT

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Prices steady for stores

Report by SGSAA

AGENTS yarded another good quality offering of 2500 head at last Thursdays VLE Leongatha store sale.

A generally similar size buying field attended and operated with the market finally finding a level with prices firm on last week's sale.

The bulk of the better end of the medium and heavy feeder steers are selling in the \$3.40 to \$3.80 bracket and \$3.50 to \$3.90 for the better weaners with a couple pens of lighter weights to \$4.00

Most of the better heifers were steady in the \$3.00 to \$3.50 bracket.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 Steers

Tarro Lodge 13 Angus	697kg	\$3.15	\$2200
Malabar 15 Angus	522kg	\$3.62	\$1890
C & R Hasthorpe 18 Angus	570kg	\$3.54	\$2020
Jorgensen Holdings 20 Angus	528kg	\$3.50	\$1850
C & R Hasthorpe 11 Angus	519kg	\$3.52	\$1830
Malabar 10 Angus	508kg	\$3.52	\$1790
RK & WJ Horner 14 Angus	505kg	\$3.48	\$1760
C & R Liston 20 Angus	484kg	\$3.49	\$1690
M Dean 22 Angus	478kg	\$3.64	\$1740
Strathbrae Equity P/L 13 Angus	472kg	\$3.82	\$1810
Sandy Hill Pastoral 10 Angus	459kg	\$3.48	\$1600
Boundary Road Investments 18 Angus	456kg	\$3.41	\$1550
J.Reid 15 Angus	446kg	\$3.69	\$1650
Strathbrae Equity P/L 11 Angus	445kg	\$3.67	\$1640
DR & JS Newman 10 Angus	441kg	\$3.35	\$1480
S & L Storti 20 Angus	436kg	\$3.81	\$1660
Strathbrae Equity P/L 22 Angus	432kg	\$3.58	\$1550
Vuiller Shorthorns 15 S/horn	432kg	\$3.44	\$1490
S & D Curtis 18 Angus	430kg	\$3.46	\$1490
KD, GM, GA, KA Olsen 21 Angus	421kg	\$3.49	\$1470
P.Evans 19 Angus	418kg	\$3.39	\$1420
Sandy Hills Pastoral 12 Angus	417kg	\$3.62	\$1510
M Dean 12 Angus	415kg	\$3.39	\$1410
Strathbrae Equity P/L 20 Angus	410kg	\$3.58	\$1470
F Walker 13 Angus	407kg	\$3.59	\$1460
R & C Barnacle (Rosebank) 18 Angus	402kg	\$3.58	\$1440
L & J Murphy 14 Angus	400kg	\$3.52	\$1410
R.Jakovljevic 18 Angus	394kg	\$3.54	\$1400
S & D Curtis 17 Angus	383kg	\$3.55	\$1360
P Feeney 10 Angus	381kg	\$3.54	\$1350
R Wight & Sons 22 Angus	378kg	\$3.83	\$1450
D Phelps 16 Angus	377kg	\$3.60	\$1360
Strathbrae Equity P/L 20 Angus	375kg	\$3.67	\$1380
R & C Barnacle (Rosebank) 15 Angus	369kg	\$3.68	\$1360
P & M Batters 20 Angus	368kg	\$3.67	\$1350
G & J Cope Family Trust 15 Angus	366kg	\$3.40	\$1250
R Wight & Sons 20 Angus	365kg	\$3.96	\$1450
Strathbrae Equity P/L 20 Angus	357kg	\$3.93	\$1410
Ezori Park 11 Speckle Park	353kg	\$3.39	\$1200
P.Evans 17 Angus	343kg	\$3.78	\$1300
R & C Barnacle 15 Angus	339kg	\$3.74	\$1270
Karson Park 21 Angus	337kg	\$3.67	\$1240
Northside Pastoral 10 Angus	335kg	\$3.54	\$1190
G Quinlan 11 Angus	333kg	\$3.65	\$1220
Sandy Hill Pastoral 11 Angus	320kg	\$3.80	\$1220
K & H Dusterwald 14 Angus	317kg	\$3.46	\$1100
J & W Gilmore 16 Angus	315kg	\$4.06	\$1280
P & M Batters 24 Angus	314kg	\$4.04	\$1270
SJ & DM Love 19 Hereford	306kg	\$3.43	\$1050
C & K White 11 Angus	300kg	\$2.85	\$860
Grazing 365 19 Hereford	289kg	\$3.31	\$960
CA & JC Toscano 10 Angus	289kg	\$3.35	\$970
R Wight & Sons 19 Angus	302kg	\$4.23	\$1280
CR Dixon 13 Angus	265kg	\$4.07	\$1080
SJ & DM Love 12 Hereford	264kg	\$3.59	\$950
CA & JC Toscano 10 Angus	244kg	\$3.47	\$850

Heifers

Rayfield Farming Services 16 Char	450kg	\$3.37	\$1520
KD, GM, GA, KA Olsen 15 Angus	416kg	\$3.28	\$1370
S & D Curtis 24 Angus	414kg	\$3.28	\$1360
J Derbyshire 12 Angus x	396kg	\$2.90	\$1150
L & J Murphy 18 Red Angus	393kg	\$3.48	\$1370
P.Evans 12 Angus	377kg	\$3.38	\$1280
I Ross 10 Angus	375kg	\$3.09	\$1160
F Walker 16 Angus	364kg	\$3.15	\$1150
S & D Curtis 19 Angus	356kg	\$3.28	\$1170
D Phelps 18 Angus	352kg	\$3.15	\$1110
P Feeney 13 Angus	348kg	\$3.01	\$1050
B.Dakin 12 Angus	341kg	\$2.75	\$940
Northside Pastoral 20 Angus	340kg	\$3.20	\$1090
DW.Hasthorpe 11 Angus	317kg	\$2.54	\$810
P.Evans 17 Angus	312kg	\$3.01	\$940
P & M Batters 28 Angus	308kg	\$3.50	\$1080
C Rodwell 11 Angus x	305kg	\$2.81	\$860
SJ & DM Love 15 Hereford	277kg	\$2.59	\$720
CR Dixon 15 Angus	255kg	\$2.78	\$710

Xbred & Dairy Steers

DJ Armstrong 12 Friesian	550kg	\$2.38	\$1310
Glen Alvie Dairies 13 Friesian	445kg	\$2.29	\$1020

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Making our farms safer with a focus on mental well-being

FARM safety covers a range of issues, including Occupational, Health and Safety, (OHS) bushfire action plans, mental health, and first aid, and the team at the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) can help get these systems in place.

Modern OHS systems offer tools and processes tailored to agricultural operations - taking the stress away from the everyday operation of the farm, including risk control, equipment management and incident reporting to prevent recurrence.

There is also training available to ensure workers can perform tasks safely.

Then there is the bushfire survival plan. The CFA advises creating a bushfire plan to protect family, workers and visitors, as well as a contingency plan in case fire impacts the land.

The plan should include livestock and pets. Several areas in Victoria have already been impacted this season. It is important to identify where to go in the case of an emergency.

The next message from the VFF is first aid. An issue can arise on the farm at any time, and immediate first aid response is critical for a positive outcome. The VFF offer first aid training that equips



The Victorian Farmers Federation help famers get their safety in order to help protect land management and mental health.

farmers and rural communities with skills to handle emergency situations before professional help arrives.

The VFF have also just launched a Back on Track program in 2025. This peer-guided mental health initiative is designed to support farming communities, helping those experiencing low

mood or depression. It offers flexible delivery over 10 weeks to suit rural needs and is available to anyone over the age of 15 in the areas in Gippsland.

Free mindfulness courses are also available, running from February 24 to March 23. This course is run over four weeks and is designed to

help farmers and rural residents manage stress, boost mental wellbeing and improve focus.

Life on the farm can be stressful so visit www.VFF.org.au to help get action plans in place and look after the health and wellbeing of those living and working on the land.

Data sheds new light on dairy breed preferences

Australia's largest database of dairy animal performance records from DataGene's Central Data Repository is shedding new light on the breed preferences of dairy farmers.

According to the latest statistics, Holsteins make up 70 per cent of Australia's national herd, down from 76 per cent a decade earlier.

Jerseys on the other hand have been undergoing a slow and steady rise in popularity. The national herd recorded a 2 per cent increase in the number of Jersey cattle during the past decade to a total of about 17.4 per cent.

However, 12 per cent of the national herd doesn't have a recorded breed, according to DataGene analysis.

Michelle Axford from DataGene said recording the breed, if it's known, assists the herd improvement sector.

"If the breed of a calf is known, say for example it's mostly Holstein, recording the breed increases the precision with which statistics can be delivered," she said.

"It also increases the chance of that animal getting a breeding value of its own, for genetic evaluation.

"However, if a dairy farmer doesn't know the breed it is better to leave this blank than record potentially inaccurate information or genomic test the animal for an accurate determination of the calf's breed."



Holsteins make up 70 per cent of Australia's national herd while Jerseys have been undergoing a slow and steady rise in popularity

DataGene's Central Data Repository grew by 6 per cent during 2023-24 to a total of 18.2 million animal records.

This growth has come thanks to DataGene's development of efficient, high throughput connections between dairies and the Central Data Repository with programs such as Ginfo - the national genetic information reference herd - and the dedication of Australia's dairy farmers to their herd recording.

DataGene is also investigating options to expand the Central Data Repository outside of herd recording with its DataConnect project.

DataConnect is a multiyear project where DataGene works with milking equipment manufacturers, on-farm software providers and corporate dairy companies to identify the best mechanisms to connect data to the Central Data Repository.

This project will improve the quantity and quality of

the information feeding into breeding tools such as Australian Breeding Values (ABV) increasing reliability and enabling the development of new ABVs.

To find out more, read DataGene's 2024 Herd Improvement Report at <https://www.datagene.com.au/about/corporate-reports/>.

For more information contact: DataGene 1800 841 848 or enquiries@datagene.com.au or www.datagene.com.au.

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23 Angus steers, 15-16 mths

A/c L & A Watt, Yarram (NUTRIEN)

14 Hereford steers, 14-16 mths, By Mawarra Bulls

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Elm Valley, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus heifers, 16 mths

A/c A & A Missen, Woodside (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths

A/c L & A Watt, Yarram (NUTRIEN)

13 Hereford heifers, 14-16 mths, By Mawarra Bulls

WEANERS

A/c G&L Simmons, Woodside (PHC)

50 Hereford steers

20 Hereford heifers

10 mths, Karoonda blood, weaned

A/c M Breen, Buffalo (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus steers, 10-11 mths, By Leawood Stud

Bulls, weaned 8 weeks

A/c H & J Bland, Yarram (NUTRIEN)

26 Charolais weaners, 10-11 mths, By Mt William

Bulls, yard weaned, vacc

A/c M & C Russell, Glen Forbes (SEJ)

15 Hereford steers,

10 Hereford heifers

12-14 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Ponderosa

blood

A/c N. Hayward, Burrumbeet (PHC)

25 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10 mths, by Langi Kal

Kal bull, ex TeMania blood cows, weaned

A/c C Zissis, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers

10 Angus heifers

12 mths

A/c JL Clancy, Nerrena (SEJ)

18 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10 mths, weaned,

VB, GF & ABF

A/c R & D Collins, Waratah (SEJ)

15 Angus heifers, 10 mths, Harris Farms blood

A/c R White, Fernbank (SEJ)

13 Angus Steers, 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred

A/c D & L White, Fernbank (SEJ)

13 Angus heifers, 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF,

NE Accred

A/c D & E Jenkin, Boorool (NUTRIEN)

12 Angus mixed sex, 12-13 mths

A/c D Heal, Foster (SEJ)

10 Angus mixed sex, 8 mths, Harris Farms blood

A/c N & J Arnup, Leongatha (SEJ)

6 Hereford Angus X steers, 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF,

NE Accred

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c KF & P Pocklington, Dumbalk South (SEJ)

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A/c J & M Moon, Yanakie (NUTRIEN)

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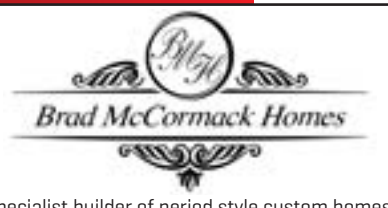
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Positions Vacant

Rose Lodge is a not-for-profit aged care facility located in Wonthaggi that is committed to providing high-quality care and support to our residents, and we believe that our dedicated and compassionate staff are the key to our success. We are always looking for talented and passionate individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others and share our values which are: **Community, Respect, Wellbeing, Accountability and Partnership.**

Rose Lodge offers a range of rewarding and meaningful career opportunities in the aged care industry and as a not-for-profit organisation, employees are able to access the benefits of salary packaging.

Rose Lodge is currently seeking applications for staff to work in the following roles:

- **Chef – Casual**
- **Food Service Assistant – FSA Casual**
- **Personal Care Assistant – PCA**

If this position sounds like the next step in your career, please apply now by sending your resume to HR@roselodge.com.au

For applications to be considered, applicants must hold:

- A current police check clearance
- Proof of qualifications (if applicable)

Rose Lodge is committed to providing equal opportunities to all employees in the community and is committed to building a diverse and inclusive workforce. Rose Lodge welcomes applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, people of any age or gender, people identifying as LGBTIQ+ and people with disability.

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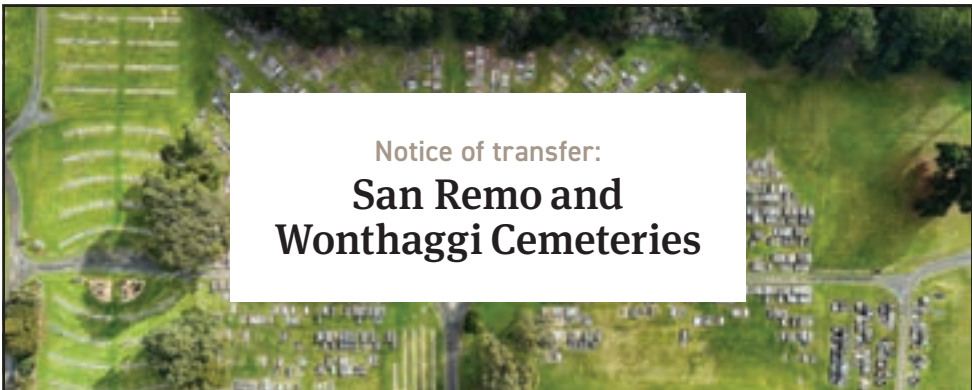
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of transfer: San Remo and Wonthaggi Cemeteries

On 1 February 2025, the management of San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries was voluntarily transferred to Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT) from Bass Coast Shire Council.

SMCT is proud to welcome these two beautiful cemeteries into our care. The voluntary transfer means the Bass Coast community will have access to the broader range of services and programs, extended customer service, and compassionate understanding of cemetery management offered by the experienced team at SMCT.

From 1 February 2025

- All enquiries regarding these beautiful spaces can be directed to SMCT.
- There is no change to the cemetery open hours. San Remo and Wonthaggi cemeteries are open from 8am to 6pm every day, and 8am to 8pm during daylight savings.

- Relationships with local contractors and funeral directors are upheld.
- An expert team member will be available as needed on-site on Tuesdays and Thursdays to support funeral directors and families.
- Our support team can be contacted seven days a week on 1300 466 904 or via email to enquiries@smct.org.au.

Any pre-existing memorial purchases or service agreements will of course be honoured, and we thank you for trusting us with your legacy and your loved ones.

Your legacy, our expertise

We thank those who have worked to support the Bass Coast community at these sites over the years, and look forward to exploring a legacy of history, reflection and compassion for you and your families.

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions at engagewith.smct.org.au/basscoast, or visit: smct.org.au/sanremo or smct.org.au/wonthaggi.



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Willow and Zephyr with parents Dan and Sian in their edible family garden at Inverloch B29_0625

A feast of home-grown produce in Bass Coast's edible gardens

SUMPTUOUS home grown produce abounded in Bass Coast's edible gardens over the weekend.

From Phillip Island to Inverloch, Coronet Bay to Kilcunda, Wonthaggi, Glen Forbes, and Dalyston gardens of all sizes were opened for the public to enjoy.

The PICAL garden in Cowes provided a fine example of a grass roots project that provides fresh food and healthy meals for the local community.

At Smiths Beach on Phillip Island Liz's garden delighted visitors with colourful flowers, well-tended vegetable beds and a bountiful orchard, while Barb's garden showed what can be achieved by a single person on a low maintenance bush block.

Following the edible garden trail to Cape Woolamai Marg and Pete's garden provided an example of what can be

done with an abundance of pots, and Jessica's garden provided bush-tucker learning opportunities showcasing native edibles and sustainable living.

At Coronet Bay Heike's garden provided a delightful example of a cottage garden promoting self-sufficiency, joy and healthy living while Greg's garden abounded in aromatic native edibles, herbs and spices.

Travelling further afield Eden Rise at Woolamai was well worth the journey as was Cynthia and Andrew's triangular food garden at Kilcunda with a fruit and nut alley nature strip, and Jon and Robyn's flourishing young orchard and productive vegetable garden on a farm at West Creek.

Wonthaggi gardens proved popular with the State Coal Mine historical cottage garden pretty as a picture, Rachel, Rob, Euan and Amelia's

family garden focussing on passion and sustainability and a delightful rambling cottage style garden open for the public at Orenda Permaculture.

Inverloch's three edible gardens were truly inspirational from a residential aged care garden and a charming cottage garden close to the beach, to a young family's food larder in the middle of town pumping out mouthwatering home produce that kids love to eat.

Made possible by Bass Coast Adult Learning and an army of volunteers the Bass Coast Edible Gardens weekend provided lots of useful gardening tips and advice and plenty of opportunities to purchase mouth-watering home produce fresh from the garden.

To see more go to basscoastediblegardens.com or search for Bass Coast Edible Gardens on Facebook or Instagram.



Nurse, Paula Viergrever has been the heartbeat of care at Gippsland Southern Health Service.

Caregiver returns for a life in aged care

HAVING spent a lot of her childhood living in nursing homes, there was a degree of inevitability about Paula Viergrever's career path.

For the past two decades, Paula has been the heartbeat of care at Gippsland Southern Health Service as a nurse at Koorooman and Alchera House, while also providing community-based nursing services.

While she has also worked in district nursing and alcohol and other drug care, Paula describes aged care nursing as her "calling".

And it's all thanks to her mother Sue whose own nursing career covered three decades with GSHS after introducing Paula to the world of aged care.

I could read my reader to any of them.

There were a couple in particular that I kept in contact with and would see after we left."

Sue also did night shifts in aged care nursing work and Paula would join her.

"It's pretty ironic when you think about it and look back and think 'gee, I used to live in a nursing home and now I'm still around one'," she said.

Paula didn't immediately move into aged care work. "I had children young and then worked cleaning houses for the shire before doing my personal care certificate and starting care in the home.

But nursing "ran through the family" and Paula's two sisters had become registered nurses.

She started her nursing career at age 33, following in the footsteps of her younger sisters.

The reasoning was simple "I've always loved caring for people."

"I love the work environment and I love working with the residents."

Now 57 and celebrating 20 years with GSHS, Paula has no plans to retire just yet. "I couldn't see myself doing anything else," she said. "It's all I know and I enjoy it."

And when she does eventually retire, Paula will more than likely keep visiting residents, just as she does these days with her little dog Charli, who has become a favourite at Alchera.

Paula says aged care has changed dramatically for the better from the days she was sliding down the railings in Sandringham.

"It's much better now," she said. "I don't know how the backs of the older nurses held out when they were lifting people without the supports that we have today. All the supports have made it a lot easier physically and now we have a lot of tools, guidelines and training for dealing with people."

Paula recalls another nursing home where her mother worked night shifts. "I can remember sliding down the big staircase railing. It wasn't like the nursing homes we have now. It was a very big old house with two or three residents to a bedroom and three storeys high.

"I was scared of sleeping in my room by myself because it was right at the top, almost like an attic."

Wherever she stayed, Paula loved the experience of interacting with the residents. "We moved from England when I was three so my grandparents weren't here, but I had plenty of others and was never short of someone to read with," she said.

"I'd often walk around and see all the residents.

Deb Leonard listens to Young Voices

A YOUTH forum organized by volunteers for independent candidate Deb Leonard has identified creative solutions to the key issues facing young people in the Monash electorate.

Transport, mental health, costs of living and climate emerged as the top concerns, with the young participants proposing forward-thinking policies to address these challenges.

The forum brought together students and staff from local schools and universities to ensure youth perspectives inform Deb Leonard in the upcoming federal election. "We need to listen to the innovative ideas of our young people to move beyond politics and develop genuine solutions," said Leonard. "I'm proud of my volunteers for creating this platform to amplify youth voices."

Forum participants highlighted the need to improve mental health services in the region. They called for more interdisciplinary mental health teams in schools, combining psychologists, paediatricians and social workers to better support student wellbeing.

Representatives from both public and private schools expressed concern that only private schools could access federal funding, while the need for better resources and support staff was far greater in public schools. Deb said this was one of the key inequities in federal funding which she plans to correct if elected.

There was agreement from the young people attending that they would prefer to stay in the local area but difficulties in connecting with employment and study opportunities and peers meant that they inevitably considered moving. One university student described how they would drive for over three hours a day so that they could attend a face-to-face university course rather than give up on their local connections.



Deb Leonard listening to local youth on issues.

The underutilisation of the Wonthaggi TAFE campus was identified as a missed opportunity to engage youth and provide pathways for those wishing to stay in the region.

Participants also proposed creating "third spaces" for free community events and resources to foster connection and combat isolation among young people in regional areas. As one school participant noted: "Strong connections make strong communities".

Costs of living outpacing income was a concern. Engaged youth put forward solutions including taxing large corporations and natural resource exports to raise the funds needed to provide funds needed to raise Centrelink payments to a liveable level, and provide a fairer tax system.

"It's appalling that in 2025, there are kids living homeless in our community," said Deb. "We're not giving people the basics they need to survive, let alone get ahead. This should be one of the highest priorities of government at all levels."

Understandably, the environment and climate change were key concerns for the young attendees. Disillusioned

and let down by successive governments not being accountable for their actions, they expressed the need for consequences for environmental damage and failure to act in accordance with recommendations of climate experts. "Governments need to be held accountable for their actions," said one young person.

On the issue of politics, all participants agreed that there needed to be more education around civics and the political system in high school, including how to access news from credible sources and critically evaluate information in the media.

"This is the kind of innovative, integrated thinking we get when young people are included," Leonard noted.

"Our young people have a vital stake in our region's future. Their voices deserve to be at the centre of this election conversation," Leonard said.

The youth forum is one of many community consultations informing Leonard's campaign as she seeks to be a strong independent voice for Monash in Canberra.

Media Contact: Kate Leonard 0418 139 792 / kate.leonard2@gmail.com



With an overall membership of 300 regular swimmers, the Phillip Island ‘Turtle smugglers’ were well represented in the Cowes Classic on Saturday.

Islanders double up in Cowes Classic



Placegetters in the women's division of the Cowes Classic on Saturday were Bethany Barrett of Wonthaggi 3rd, Zoe Adams of Sunset Strip 1st and Stella Crawford-Rust of Melbourne 2nd.



Placegetters overall and in the men's division of the Cowes Classic on Saturday were Justin Tilley of Surf Beach 1st, Liam Hemmingway Frankston 2nd and Tyler Phillips Ferny Creek 3rd.



Second fastest in the swim Liam Hemmingway leads the men's division off in the Cowes Classic on Saturday.



Justin Tilley of Surf Beach won it in transition at the Cowes Classic on Saturday when he was quickly into his shoes and on his way to a two-second victory on The Esplanade in Cowes.



Sunset Strip resident Zoe Adams claimed 5th place overall and 1st place in the women's division of the Cowes Classic Aquathon run in superb conditions last Saturday.



Car 30 Aston Rodrigues Compact Speedcars title winner. Photo: Napier Photography (Louise Norman).

Rodriguez crowned champion, bell is golden at Nyora Raceway

By Dean Thompson

NYORA Raceway's latest race meeting was an all-night open wheel spectacular with the Compact Speedcars competing for their state championship whilst Formula 500 drivers competed in the Golden Jacket Showdown.

Aston Rodriguez from Kyabram would achieve the state title milestone beating Australian champion Mitch Whiting in the run to the finish whilst Chad Bell scored a big win in the showdown.

Also on the night, Nyora's very own Ebony Hobson would win the latest Eastern Series Wingless Sprints round of racing, Cody Malley won the Junior Formula 500s, Chris Nankiville won the Open Outlaw Karts and Kade Foster was victorious in the Outlaw Box Stocks.

Rodriguez won the first of six qualifying races to put himself as close to the front as possible for the state title for Compact Speedcars whilst the wins were shared from there by Caleb Mills, Joe Lostitch, Mitch Whiting, Bree Simpson and Whiting a second time. A twenty-five-lap title decider had its thrills and spills, the biggest being Byron Smith from New South Wales coming undone. Rodriguez would cross the finish line over a second in front of Whiting, Trevor Perry, Mills and Ash Booker.

Rowdy Andreatta who began racing as a Nyora Junior Sedan competitor jumped into senior Formula 500 racing for the first time having spent a couple of seasons as a Junior 500 racer and started with a bang by winning the first of four qualifiers. Tyler Maggs, Mat Turner and Jackson McLean shared the rest of the victories in the Golden Jacket Showdown for the Formula 500s. However come feature time it would be Chad Bell storming to victory lane in front of McLean, Turner, Bailey Stephens and Maggs.

Last start Nyora Raceway Junior Formula 500 winner Hugo Chivell started his night of racing with a first up heat

win before Cody Malley. Rusty Ponting and Cruz Farrell from Pakenham Upper rounded out the winners in qualifying. Malley then continued his run of strong results in recent weeks by securing the feature race victory ahead of Ponting, Chivell, Cruz Farrell and Zac Stevens.

National Sprintcar racer Todd Moule started a rare weekend in Wingless Sprint competition by winning the first of six heat races in the latest Eastern Wingless Sprint Series. He was the first of six different winners with Tyler O'Leary, Clyde woman Ebony Hobson, Peter Logue, Thomas McDonald and Aron Lawrence being those that earned themselves victories. Hobson who learnt who race craft watching her father Lloyd at Nyora compete in Dirt Modifieds before the family invested in some Speedway Karts for herself and her brother to go racing, would win the feature event by less than half a second, just ahead of Ricky McCubbin, Logue, Kim Gosling and Ricky Mills.

The Outlaw Karts returned with the drivers keen to try out the three hundred metre infield track as opposed to the one hundred meeting infield circuit. It was a last-minute request and despite best efforts of the host club, things didn't go as planned. The Outlaws and Nyora have some plans for the three hundred metre circuit that should bring it up to scratch for the future. Chris Nankiville who won a final at Nyora already this year, once again claimed a victory when he beat Ryan Murcott, Ethan Bastian, Luke Hickson and Harry McCormack in the final.

In Outlaw Junior Box Stocks Kade Foster clean swept the nights racing winning both heats and then the final. Finishing second in the final was Aston Tuckett with Bohdi Doig and Freddie Carrigy closing out the finishers.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Torradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY February 11
▼ 4.19am 0.90m
▲ 10.39am 1.26m
▼ 5.05pm 0.39m

WEDNESDAY February 12
▲ 12.35am 1.40m
▼ 5.50am 0.87m
▲ 12.00pm 1.25m
▼ 6.21pm 0.39m

THURSDAY February 13
▲ 1.37am 1.45m
▼ 7.10am 0.78m
▲ 1.12pm 1.29m
▼ 7.23pm 0.38m

FRIDAY February 14
▲ 2.29am 1.50m
▼ 8.12am 0.67m
▲ 2.13pm 1.34m
▼ 8.15pm 0.37m

SATURDAY February 15
▲ 3.10am 1.54m
▼ 8.59am 0.56m
▲ 3.06pm 1.40m
▼ 9.00pm 0.39m

SUNDAY February 16
▲ 3.45am 1.56m
▼ 9.38am 0.48m
▲ 3.52pm 1.45m
▼ 9.40pm 0.42m

MONDAY February 17
▲ 4.14am 1.56m
▼ 10.12am 0.41m
▲ 4.32pm 1.48m
▼ 10.15pm 0.47m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



Bobby Arnold (L), Peter Gratton (S) and Stephen Muhi (2) were this week's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners. Absent: Jaye Allen-Dayle (3).



The Turkey Triples winners at the Wonthaggi Bowls Club were Marty Hanniford, Rob Dowling and John Duscher.



Jean Wylde, John Bird and Glenda Binch were the Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT was another day of high temperatures and high attendances for the indoor bowling on Monday.

The winners were Rhonda Rattenbury and Helen Gladstone.

They won with +16 – well done ladies.

The club now have a constant number of bowlers every week.

The winners on Friday were Les Stanbury and Brian Newman.

They had a very respectable score of +22 – well done to you both.



Rhonda Rattenbury and Helen Gladstone shared a win at Breakaway Bowls on Monday.



The Jack Attack winners at the Foster Bowls Club were the BMF'S, Jen, Dion and Benny.

FISH CREEK

IN what was an outstanding result for Fish Creek Bowling Club in the final round of weekend Pennant, all three divisions were able to achieve the results to put the club into third position on the ladder.

All three teams will now play at Fish Creek in the knockout final with Division 2 against Inverloch and Division 4 and 6 taking on Tarwin Lower.

Prior to Saturday, Division 2 would need to defeat Inverloch in all three rinks to make finals and they did this in great style with final scores being 66/16 to 44/0.

Division 4 also needed to defeat Phillip Island and came home with a comfortable 57/15 to 47/1 victory.

The Division 6 team ventured to Meeniyen, needing to win at least one rink.

The team won one rink but lost on the day 32/2 to 42/8.

Fish Creek's midweek Pennant side travelled to Lang Lang on a very hot Tuesday.

It continued its good form and won 63/14 to 55/2.

Barefoot bowls is also going great guns with lots of enjoyment by all.

Winners last week were Dave Vuillermine, Ash Zuidema and Andrew Boyd.

The encouragement award was received by David Butler, Jane Butler and Mark Wrigley.

The club asks everyone who has entered the 21 up and 100 up competitions to complete your first games by Sunday, February 16.

It would be great to see all supporters at Fish Creek on Saturday to cheer on the red and white in the finals quest.

FOSTER

WEDNESDAY night was round two of the Jack Attack competition.

The club was short of a few players but managed to tweak some teams to still play all the games.

It was great that the weather cleared up for a pleasant evening of bowls.

The winners were the BMF'S, Jen, Dion and Benny, winning the Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Ag Trans, another new sponsor for this season – thank you to them. Runners up, winning the

chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens, were Crackerjack, Ros, Scott and Lyndon.

The raffle is always good fun with everyone eager to win.

Prom Meats have jumped on board with a meat voucher prize every week, which is awesome.

Cellarbrations Foster donated the wine, and some extra goodies were from IGA and the club – it's a great mix of items.

Many thanks for everyone's support.

This week sees Foster celebrating Valentine's Day a little early.

Players are to dress in red or a valentines themed costume.

The club has only one week left of Midweek Pennant.

Last Tuesday saw Division 1 with a comfortable win over Toora, keeping it third on the ladder.

Division 3 battled it out with Meeniyen who showed why it is in top position on the ladder.

The team is comfortably sitting in fourth.

Saturday saw the last of the competition rounds.

Finals will start next weekend.

Division 3 have finished second on the ladder, finishing with a nice win over Korumburra under some trying weather conditions.

Sadly, Division 4 have finished in sixth place with a tough last game against the top team on the ladder Wonthaggi.

The club has done very well and had a great season.

It is looking forward to finals. Go Foster.

INVERLOCH

ALTHOUGH it was quite warm, 29 players enjoyed a social afternoon of bowls last Thursday.

Games were played in a combination of fours and triples.

On the day, two teams won both their games.

The team of Carol Waters, Joyce Arnold, Di Selby and Reg Varty were the winners on 35 points.

The runners up on 33 points were the team of Marilyn Mason, Cheryl Abbott, John Turner and Malcolm Marshall.

Well done to all.

KORUMBURRA

WITH the pennant season drawing to a close, the last few can change positions on the ladder.

In midweek, Korumburra hosted Wonthaggi, which was on top of the ladder, and needed the win.

Unfortunately, all teams went down.

Katrina Evans lost 17 shots to 21, Jo Lomagnio went down 14 shots to 24 and Jenny McVeigh lost 11 shots to 31, dropping them out of the four.

Division 2 travelled to Wonthaggi and had a loss.

Lena Harfield was the only winner, getting up 16 shots to 14, Jim Garnham lost 29 shots to 10 and Judith Nicholl lost 33 shots to 16, however they remain in fourth place.

In weekend Pennant, Division 1 hosted Leongatha and a win was essential to remain in the top two.

Robin Provan won 28 shots to 15, Charlie Edgerton won 24 shots to seven, and unfortunately Kevin lost 13 shots to 19, but it resulted with the team on top of the ladder – well done to all concerned.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

IT was another great day at Loch and District Bowls Club as 45 bowlers turned up to once again fight it out for teams of the week.

As always, the bowlers were greeted by Pauline and John as Peter and Rob prepared all the players into teams.

The host for the day was Trevor, who welcomed everyone to the club as Alex prepared the green for the day's play as well as tidied up after the day's play.

It was a lovely day for all players with a slight breeze to keep everyone cool.

However, over the day, the sun beat down and the temperature rose to very uncomfortable levels.

At lunch break, one player dropped out due to the heat, but the rest fought on.

Over the course of the day, a lot of fun was had by all players.

There was some excellent bowling as always and lots and lots of laughter from all corners of the rink.

The winners on a score of 35 were Bobby Arnold (L), Peter Gratton (S), Stephen Muhi (2) and Jaye Allen-Dayle (3).

Runners up also on 35 points – but on a count back just missing out – were Phil Wright (3), Derek Fenn (2), Tony Morris (L) and Louis Magri (S).

Best one game winners with a

score of 19 were Gillian Harper (3), Tony Heppleston (L) and Claire Sheers (S).

A big thank you to Trevor for keeping all bowlers hydrated from behind the bar as well as everyone who may have, in one way or another, helped with the day.

As the Pennant season is coming to an end this week, the club would like to wish all members success with their final game and good luck to those who make the finals.

Next week, the bowlers will be meeting up at Lang Lang to continue the competition.

So till then, please stay safe and above all, have fun.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy but good week at the club.

Tuesday saw Division 1 travel to Korumburra for an early start, with the temperature on the rise.

With a 9.15am roll up, the day went off well before the weather got hot.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 76 Korumburra 42.

Division 2 played host to Korumburra at Wonthaggi, in what could have been a danger game, with Korumburra in third position on the ladder.

All rinks played well to record a solid win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 76 Korumburra 42.

Division 3 ventured down the road to Tarwin, also with an early start to beat the heat.

Once again, all rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 71 Tarwin 48.

Tuesday night was perfect for barefoot bowls.

Perfect weather and good numbers made the night a success.

The Adams Family were the lucky team to win the lucky pick.

Next week is the last night for the year, and as always, it will be a good night.

Doors open from 4pm.

Wednesday saw a fine mild day for the Turkey Triples with both rinks full of bowlers enjoying the fantastic music provided by Wendy and her machine.

There were two teams that were four game winners.

The winners were Marty

Hanniford, Rob Dowling and John Duscher with a score of four wins and 33 shots up.

The runners up were Allan Ireland, Colin Ormerod and Bryan Donohue with a score of four wins and 16 shots up.

Best game went to the Mattock team with a score of 17 shots up.

The Naba award went to the Cimino team, who received a cap from the Wonthaggi Club.

Once again, the bowls club would like to thank the Wonthaggi Club for its support and sponsorship of the Triples.

Thursday, as always went off well with good numbers enjoying a game of social bowls.

Saturday saw Division 1 drive to Corinella, on a fine morning, for an early start with perfect weather for bowls.

Things didn't go according to plan with all three rinks going down.

It's time to reset, and start the finals next week.

The final scores Wonthaggi 52 Corinella 74.

Division 2 played host to Loch at Wonthaggi on a fine mild day.

A win was a must with ladder positions important.

All rinks played well to claim second spot on the ladder.

The final scores Wonthaggi 75 Loch 52.

Division 4 went to Foster looking to finish the season off with a win.

All rinks played well to record a solid victory.

The final scores Wonthaggi 69 Foster 54.

Division 5 won on forfeit.

Finals are next week.

All divisions are playing and will be ready to go.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant and Tuesday night bare foot bowls.

Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant finals start.

Friday night is still a good chance to catch up with members and friends. Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THE club had another great week of bowling with 46 players.

If you would like to come and join in the fun, please ring Jean-nie on 0438 719 083 or John on 0425 774 971.

On Tuesday, the club was happy to welcome Heather Stone back for the day – it was lovely to see her.

The winners on Tuesday with a plus five, winning two games were Pam Russell, Teresa Ireland, John Postlethwaite and Philip Fowler.

Runners up on plus two with a win and a draw were Heather Stone, Glenda Binch and Max Sweetnam.

Friday's winners on plus 13 were Jean Wylde, John Bird and Glenda Binch.

Runners up on plus seven were Jenny Bakker, Jos Kemper and John Rook.



Anne Tschiderer, Anne Poulton and Geraldine Prentice were Wonthaggi Golf Club's grade winners on Wednesday.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 4: Stableford: 47 players.
A Grade: Greg Shuttleworth (15) 39 points. B Grade: Joseph Salvatore (28) 43 points.
NTPs: first Greg Jones, seventh Pete Wallace, 10th Pete Wallace and 13th Joseph Salvatore.
Thursday, February 6: Stableford: 28 players.
A Grade: Barry Kerr (11) 39 points. B Grade: Tim Morgan (19) 37 points.
NTPs: first Mick Belvedere, seventh Barry Kerr, 10th Shayne Harland and 13th Greg Wilson.
Saturday, February 8: Sponsor: Harland Rendering. Men's Monthly Medal: 79 players. Monthly Medal winner: David Gow (23) 66 C/B.
A Grade: Clint Newcombe (9) 68 net. B Grade: Richard Johnson (18) 66 net. C Grade: David Gow (23) 66 C/B.
Scratch Winner: Steve Bromby (+1) 71.
NTPs: first Mat Wrigley, seventh Aydan Walters, 10th Iain Riddell and 13th Barry Kerr.
First round of men's Club Championships:
Gross (Scratch):
A Grade:
1: Steve Bromby -1 71 71
2: Mat Wrigley 1 73 73
3: Trippy Kennedy 2 74 74
B Grade:
1: Tim Fowles 12 82 82
2: Donald Van Rooye 11 85 85
3: Paul Hopkins 12 85 85
C Grade:
1: Richard Johnson 18 84 84
2: Ross Crawford 18 85 85
3: James Williams 16 86 86
D Grade:
1: Laurie Webster 19 87 87
2: Simon Perks 19 88 88
3: David Gow 23 89 89
Net:
A Grade:
1: Clint Newcombe 9 68 68
2: Trippy Kennedy 2 72 72
3: Steve Bromby -1 72 72
B Grade:
1: Tim Fowles 12 70 70
2: Jason King 14 71 71
3: Ray Ludenia 14 73 m73
C Grade:
1: Richard Johnson 18 66 66
2: Ross Crawford 18 67 67
3: James Williams 16 70 70
D Grade:
1: David Gow 23 66 66
2: Blake Walker 29 67 67
3: Don Hislop 29 68 68

Ladies

THE first split round of the Club Championships has brought with it great weather, along with terrific results.
Terry White Chemmart Pharmacy has been a long time and gener-

ous sponsor, and the club is very appreciative of this support and the beautiful trophies provided.
The club congratulates Merrissa Cosson (10) who had an outstanding round to set a new course record with a fabulous 76 off the stick.
This is a huge accomplishment with such a fantastic score, and the club is thrilled for Merrissa.
Merrissa was also the February Monthly Medallist (Tiny Teapot Café voucher), the Scratch Score and A Grade winner with 66net.
Merrissa is now off a handicap of nine – well done.
The A Grade runner up was Shelley Snooks (16), 76 net on a c/b from Heather Grist (22).
B Grade was won by Judy Webb (23) 67 net with Beryl Brown (30) runner up 68 net.
Third place went to Barb Twite (27) 70 net.
Maree Wittingslow (35) was the C Grade winner 68 net and close behind was Kath Welsh (34) 69 net.
Lyn Leppin (36) was third 72 net on a c/b.
Placegetters were Pam Evers (40) and Julie Brannaghan (25) both 72 net and Viv Enbom (36) 74 net.
NTP winners were Kerri Besley first, Merrissa seventh, Shelley 10th and Kath 13th.
The Thursday night Twilight Competition was won by Ian and Denise Gibson with a great score of 28 points.
Runners up were Dave and Viv Enbom with 23 points.
NTPs on the first went to Ian and Johanna VDH.
On Friday, Korumburra had a group of women play at Foster in the South Gippsland Golf Inc Maree Anderson Opening Day – well done to all our players for representing our club.
On Saturday, Korumburra had 11 women play in the Singles Championship split second round and the RB Monthly Medal sponsored by Luscious Cafe.
Winning the RB Medal on a three-way countback was Deb Wrigley (25) with 74 net.
Runner up was Kerri Besley (13) and next best was Johanna van den Heiligenberg (10).
NTPs on the first (Kellys Bakery Voucher) and 10th was Deb, seventh green Kerri and on the 13th Lyn McIvor.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, February 4: 4BBB Par event.
Tuesday's 4BBB Par round had a field of 52 members/guests take to the course.
Winners: Dean Kellett and Craig



The February and January Monthly Medals were awarded to Faye Le Page and Tanya Thorson respectively at the Meeniyah Golf Club.

Hams with a score of +11.
Runners up: Peter Clingin and Winton Knop with a score of +10 on a countback.
NTP fifth second shot: Winton Knop at 1.68m. NTP 14th: Trevor Steer at 3.50m. NTP 16th: Nicholas Byrne at 1.73m.
Thursday, February 6: Stableford.
Thursday's event was a Stableford round with a field of 90 members/guests take to the course, teeing off either the blue or yellow tees.
Overall winner: Craig Hutchinson (8) with the high score of the day of 44 points, an excellent score of 70 off the stick.
A Grade winner: Craig Hutchinson (8) with a score of 44 points. A Grade runner up: Josh de Groot (11) with a score of 38 points. B Grade winner: Ashleigh Hutton (16) with a score of 38 points on a countback. B Grade runner up: John Moore (18) with a score of 38 points. C Grade winner: Alan Sperling (28) with a score of 38 points. C Grade runner up: Ben Chapman (22) with a score of 37 points on a countback.
NTP fifth second shot: David Knight. NTP 14th: Ken Smirk. NTP 16th: Colin Bear.
Saturday, February 8: Men's Club Championship Stroke first round.
Saturday was a stroke event and the first round of the 2025 Club Championships with a field of 96 members/guests competing for this coveted award.
Overall winner: John Ryan (11) with the low score of the day of 74 off the stick.
A Grade winner: John Ryan (11) with a score of 74.
A Grade runner up: Nath Wardle (10) with a score of 77.
B Grade winner: Thomas Simon (18) with a score of 82 on a countback. B Grade runner up: Peter Read (18) with a score of 82.
C Grade winner: Steve Vuillermin (20) with a score of 84. C Grade runner up: Bernard Skerys (19) with a score of 88.
D Grade winner: Gerald Freestone (28) with a score of 107. D Grade runner up: Simon Kaiserman (28) with a score of 111.
NTP fifth second shot: Chad Clasby at 2.41m.
NTP 14th: John Moor at 1.91m. NTP 16th: Nath Wardle at 1.10m.

Ladies

THE first round of the women's Club Championships were held last Wednesday.
The A Grade winner with 98/28 70 net was Anna de Bondt with Dot Stubbs finishing in second



B Grade winner and Monthly Medallist Kath Davis with A Grade winner Heather Sullivan at the Woorayl Golf Club.

place with 95/24 71 net.
Tanya Starkey had an excellent 99/32 67 net to win B Grade with Jo McNaughton not too far behind with 104/35 69 net.
Down the line balls went to Jenny Fraser 104/34 70 net, Joy O'Sullivan 106/33 73 net, Bronwyn Debenham 104/30 74 net, Wendy Brown 104/30 74 net, Ev Indian 105/30 75 net, Deb Miller 103/27 76 net, Marianne Leaver 103/27 76 net and Colleen Touzel 97/21 76 net.
Players will have to wait for completion of the Saturday women to determine their placement in each of the four grades.
This year there will be both a net winner and a scratch winner in each grade.

MEENIYAN
THE February Medal Day event was played in pleasant weather, with a field of 16 players.
The winner of the medal was Faye LePage with 96-25=71 net.
Louise Vuillermin was the runner up with 72 net.
Down the line balls went to Dot Christie, Susan Straw and Veronica Park, all with 72 net.
Dot Christie won the putter with 27.
Tanya Thorson 66 net was presented with her January medal as well.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, February 4: Stableford.
A Grade: T/ Whitelaw (7) 34 points c/b. B Grade: D. Taylor (24) 43 points. DTL: P. Cummaudo 39 and S. McKenzie 38. NTP: fourth D. Taylor, sixth N. Whichello and 16th M. Payne.
Birdies: fourth D. Taylor and 16th M. Payne.
Saturday, February 8: Stableford.
A Grade: B. Bradshaw, (6) 41 points. B Grade: N. Bracecamp, (18) 39 points. DTL: N. Whichello 38, S. Mills, S. Woodall, P. Draper and A. Liebe 37 c/b. NTP: fourth T. Baker, sixth G. Shandley, 13th T. Baker and 16th B. Bradshaw.
Birdies: fourth T. Baker, sixth N. Whichello, 13th T. Baker, N. Baker and N. Rutledge, and 16th J. McFarlane.
Next Saturday: K. McCartin Foursome Championship Overflow will be a men's foursome.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: February 6, S.R 71.
Competition: Stableford 18-hole.
Winner: Ian McNish 35.
Runner up: Gino Hennequin 34.
BDTL to 32: Greg Street 33,

Glenn Hewlett 33, Graeme Crawford 33 and Glen Turner 32.
Results: February 6, S.R 36.
Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.
Winner: Kevin Bayley 21.
BDTL to 15: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 18, Willy Williams 15 and Blake Cornelis 15.
Results: February 8, S.R 72.
Competition: second round Championships Stroke.
A Grade: Dean Winning 65.
B Grade: Aaron Yann 69.
C Grade: Hamish Burns 62.
BDTL to 71 C/B.
Ball sweep: Eric Van Agtmaal 66, Kevin Bayley 66, Brad Andrew 67, Alan Cubbon 67, Sam Hovath 68, Jim McEachern 68, Ian Gilmour 69, Ben Martin 69, Blake Cornelis 70, Daniel Crellin 70. Peter Dell 71 and Cooper Lindsay 71 C/B.
NTPs: Norm Burne second, Scott Williams fourth, Daniel Crellin propin eighth, Stephen Judd 13th and Phillip Dynes money hole 17th.
Sunday, February 16.
Competition: Wonthaggi Golf Club 2025 Championships Final.
A Grade: I. Baker vs. M. Scott. A Minor: S. O'Halloran vs A. Cubbon. B Grade: M. Foster vs. B. Martin. C Grade: H. Burns vs. P. Liddle. D Grade: K. Cuman vs. S. Terrill.

Ladies
WEDNESDAY saw 28 players enjoy a "cooler day" for a round of Stableford before the three rounds of stroke for the 2025 Championships starting next week.
There were three grades with A Grade winner Anne Tschiderer (20)34 points, B Grade and round of the day Geraldine Prentice (24)41 points, and C Grade winner Anne Poulton (36)34 points.
NTP on second was Simone Lindsay, and eighth and 17th Andrea Grenville.

WOORAYL
FIFTEEN ladies assembled for February Monthly Medal, sponsored by Invisage.
The event was Stroke and count your putts.
Conditions were cooler and overcast.
A Grade's winner was Heather Sullivan 72net.
The B Grade winner and Monthly Medallist was Kath Davis 70net. BDL went to Elly Berryman, Bev Bridge, Lyn D'LANey and Pauline Lancaster, all with 75net.
NTP on eighth was Elly Berryman, 11th Pauline Lancaster and 17th Elly Berryman.
The putting was won by Pauline Lancaster 30 putts.

South Gippsland Golf Inc Opening Day

SIXTY-EIGHT golfers competed in the Maree Anderson South Gippsland Golf Inc Opening Day at Foster Golf Club on Friday in a 4BBB format.

No doubt all competitors were thankful for the cooler conditions.

Handley and Anderson Funerals of Wonthaggi provided a delightful array of potted plants for the winners and were thanked accordingly.

This generous sponsorship has been ongoing for 33 years.

Marg Johnson, representing Wonthaggi Golf Club, spoke of Maree Anderson's huge contribution both to the South Gippsland golfing district, to Wonthaggi Golf Club and she shared her own memories of golfing with Maree.

The winners of A Grade were Veronica Park and Heather Poletti from Meeniyang Golf Club with 50 points.

Kylie Collins and Geraldine Sinclair, from Foster Golf Club, were the runners up with 47 points on a countback.

B Grade was won by the Phillip Island pairing of Liz Gleeson and Marilyn John with 52 points.

Two shots away were Fay Quilford and Sue Woods from Leongatha Golf Club with 50 points on a countback.

Thanks must go to Fay for collecting all the wonderful plant prizes from Handley and Anderson.

Nearest the pins were Chris Rickard fourth (Korumburra), Anne McCalum sixth (Phillip Island), Ada Anglin 13th (Phillip Island.), Jean Hayes 15th (Woorayl) and Liz Gleeson 17th (Phillip Island).

The South Gippsland Golf Inc (SGGI) committee extend thanks to Foster Golf Club for hosting the 2025 Maree Anderson Opening Day the course providing plenty of summer run for all and acknowledge the contribution put in by first time ever captain Jenny Alexander, all made for an extremely pleasant day.

A reminder to players that the next district event will be the SGGI Bowl at Korumburra in just three weeks' time, February 28.

Given that this event was the first of the 2025 District events the SGG match committee welcomed the captains for the season: Susan Straw (Meeniyang), Janet Thompson (Woorayl), Rhonda Boyd (Phillip Island), Jenny Alexander (Foster), Kerri Besley (Korumburra), Janet Monk (Leongatha), Catherine Bolding (Wonthaggi) and Sue Brown (Welshpool).

There was good news also for the team of Linda Forrester, Lyn De'laney and Sherrill Winkler from Woorayl as the SGGI Bowl had been found after an extensive search.

It was officially presented to team member Sherrill and Woorayl captain Janet during presentations for their win in 2024.

Barb Twite provided an update on the very successful skills clinics that has been underway for 18 months with the third clinic currently in progress.

She also provided an overview of the upcoming Pennant season with Section 1 teams of Phillip Island and Korumburra playing the South Gippsland version of a Solheim Cup format.

Golfers will look forward with interest in seeing how this competition evolves.

In Section 2 there are six teams and in Section 3 four teams all playing handicap matchplay.

A memorial tribute along with a 'memory tree' created by Elly was made to those ladies who had passed away in the last 12 months, who were members of the clubs, graced the courses and were golfing friends.

They remember Gayle Reid (Foster), Connie Janssen, Gwen Evison, Janette Dixon, Marg Harper (Korumburra), Maureen Masterman (Korumburra and Wonthaggi), Marilyn Williams (Leongatha), Trish Latch (Welshpool), and Edna Watts and Eileen Brewster (Woorayl).



Bass Coast College congratulated its age group champions at Friday's swimming carnival.

Students dive into 2025 swimming carnival

STUDENTS from Bass Coast College made a splash at their swimming carnival last Friday.

Held at the Korumburra outdoor pool, the students took on the competitive races, donned their house colours and cheered on their teammates.

The age group champions were:

12-13 boys: 1. Walker Franks. 2. Tyson Ireland.

14 boys: 1. Jarrah Rutherford. 2. Noah McMillan. 3. Kai Sturt.

15 boys: 1. Finn Middleton. 2. Logan Laub.

16 boys: 1. Jarrah Tagell. 2. Darcy Gorsuch and Thomas O'Mahoney.

17 boys: 1. Seth McBean. 2. Isaac Meyer.

12-13 girls: 1. Jedda Tagell. 2. Eden Roberts.

14 girls: 1. Hannah Lucas. 2. Emma Paterson and Zoe Meyer.

15 girls: 1. Rebecca Barclay. 2. Amelia Lofgren.

16 girls: 1. Miah Roberts.

17 girls: 1. Abbey Clarke. 2. Milly Jobe.

18-20 girls: 1. Sarah Seuren.



Jarrah Rutherford had a great time competing in the kickboard race at Friday's swimming carnival. Tk13_0625

Competitive month for Wonthaggi Croquet Club

IT has been a busy few weeks to catch up on.

The weekend of January 18 and 19 had two players, Mike Butterfield and Virginia Wheeler, travel to Sale to compete in a level play singles tournament. Both played in Section 2 with Virginia winning four games and Mike, with five games, finishing equal second on games but pipped into third spot on a hoops count back.

Well done both players.

There were also a busy few days at Cairnlea, the Victorian Croquet Association headquarters, starting on January 24 and finishing on January 27.

The Australia Day Golf Croquet tournament was held on January 24 with Tom Lacey competing in Section 1 and unfortunately not winning a game and Sue Baker, who competed in Section 3, winning one game.

Tom Lacey and Paul Andrews both tackled the VCA Golf Croquet singles with Tom winning one game in his section and Paul winning four games in his.

Competing in the 'Plate' on the last day, Tom won two



Wonthaggi Croquet Club president Gerry Kool with Section 1 winners Janine Sisson and Andy Barbero.

games with Paul unfortunately not winning any.

These events at Cairnlea always attract some of the best players in the state and this makes competition very tough.

Sponsored once again by the Workmens Club, the external doubles tournament was held on February 1 and 2.

Attracting a field from many clubs in Victoria, this turned out to be a great couple of days despite the very hot conditions. Unfortunately play

had to be abandoned during the last round on Sunday due to the arrival of lightning and then a heavy thunder shower.

Section 1 was won by Andy Barbero (Wangaratta) partnered by Janine Sisson (Mornington) with Section 2 won by Rosie Scott (Traralgon) with Virginia Wheeler (Wonthaggi).

Many thanks to all members who assisted during the weekend in the kitchen, time keeping and getting the grounds up to scratch on the days

prior, Sue Cartwright as tournament manager –ably assisted by Stephen Wilbourne –and Tom Lacey who was run off his feet refereeing during the two days.

Thank you also to Haymes Paint Shop which, for many years now, have supplied the club with line marking paint.

Last, but by no means not least, the internal Sections 1 and 2 singles championships were held on Tuesday, February 4.

Two players only contested Section 2, Sue Baker and Neil Warburton, so it was to be the best out of three games.

Sue came up trumps.

Five members fought out Section 1 with Gerry Kool narrowly beating Paul Andrews on a hoops count back, both winning three games.

It has been a busy few weeks indeed with things not slowing down in the weeks to come.

Feel free to join in on any of the club days, Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, starting at 10am.

Croquet is a game for all.

The club is located on Wentworth Road near the swimming/sporting complex.

Solid start at Country Week for Leongatha & District

THE Leongatha and District Cricket Association has made a solid start to its Melbourne Country Week campaign, scoring 8/264 against Casey-Cardinia at Shepley Oval in Dandenong on Monday morning this week.

Casey-Cardinia were well placed a 3/214 (36 overs), chasing the victory total at

the time of going to press.

Tom Cameron, in his debut innings for the LDCA at Country Week, top-scored with 65 while Jack Curtis 52 not out, Madura Madusanka 41 and Ethan Lamers 39 also made good contributions.

But the outfield at Dandenong is fast and hard, and

the wicket conducive to good scoring so the team was aware it would take some defending.

It doesn't get any easier for the LCDA playing Geelong at the Henry Turner Reserve in Footscray on Tuesday and Bendigo at Casey Fields in Wednesday.

Mustafa Nader 2, Alexan-

der Geyer 11, Ethan Lamers 39, Mitchell Clark 12, Thomas Cameron 65, Madura Madusanka 41, Jack Curtis not out 52*, Jack Ginnane 7, Joel Brann 3, Aydan Williams not out 5*

Bowling: Lachie Wright 0/39, Joel Brann 0/45, George McCausland 0/15, Ethan Lamers 1/36



Celebrating Elaine Robinson's life-membership at the Woolamai Cup.

Picnic horse of the year Shahin wins the Woolamai Cup

FORMER picnic horse of the year and crowd favourite Shahin was cheered home by a record crowd of over two thousand at the Woolamai Racecourse to win the 2025 Alex Scott & Staff Woolamai Cup.

A cup first for jockey Leigh Taylor and trainer David Noonan the popular Shahin also won best presented strap-per and horse for the third year running, before taking out the cup

Life-membership was pre-

sented to Florence Elaine Robinson (nee Harrison) daughter of Tom Harrison a legendary part of the Woolamai Race Club in the 1930's.

Elaine started as a jockey at Woolamai aged 13 following in the footsteps of her sister Betty.

Betty and Elaine's father Tom Harrison Snr and brother Tom Harrison Jnr were both integral to Woolamai's racing history.

Elaine and her family still attend every race meeting at

Woolamai and are proud to be part of the Harrison racing dynasty carried on by jockeys Jade Darose and Craig Williams.

The crowd was kept well entertained by The Times and Imogen Price, and fashions on the field was a huge hit coordinated by It's All About the Sash.

Dalyston Football Club ran two bars, Topsy Pony served celebratory cocktails, and the Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club and Archie's Creek provided

the catering.

Sponsors TS Constructions, Green Valley Grains and the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club were thanked by the Woolamai Racing Club for their continued race-day support.

Woolamai Cup Results
Race 5 Open Handicap (1708m)

1st (6) Shahin

T: David Noonan

J: Leigh Taylor

2nd (10) Shez Steamin'

3rd (1) Hawkestone

Wonthaggi looks local for power boost in 2025

AS CLUBS kick their new season preparations into top gear, inbound recruitment is usually all the talk.

And on that score, Wonthaggi was hoping to sign experienced Port Melbourne campaigner Anthony Anastasio before he tragically damaged his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in recent weeks.

But the reality is that most of the Power's upside in 2025 will come from homegrown talent either returning from injury or after time away.

And top of the list of those returning from injury are key defender Kyle Reid and powerful onballer Brodie Mabilia, both back in full training and showing all the signs of getting back to their best ahead of the club's first 'home and away' game against Warragul at Wonthaggi on Saturday, April 5 less than eight weeks away.

Added to that, the club will be able to bank on the services of Ryan Sparks week-in week-out, after an impressive season with Collingwood in the VFL.

Others including Tom Murray returning from injury and young Jarvis Harvey returning after two years at Inverloch-Kongwak including 14 eye-catching games for the seniors in 2024, will further boost the Power, which frankly, doesn't need a lot to make it a force again in 2025.

After losing several top names to injury and promotion at the start of 2024, the



Wonthaggi Power will be fielding a full complement of teams in the Gippsland League this season including Under 18s and Under 16s. Power youth coach Glenn Jobe chats to his group at Under 16s training during the week.

Power lost five of its first seven games and looked set to struggle to repeat the heroics of the previous few years under favourite son, coach Jar-ryd Blair.

But the club blooded plenty of its own talent and saw pleasing improvement across the playing group through the season, so much so that they not only made the finals, but convincingly won their elimination final against Sale before going down to the eventual premiers Traralgon, on a steep improvement curve themselves, in the first semi-final.

President of the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club,

Peter Liddle, is delighted with how the season is shaping up on and off the track, and while the return of some homegrown talent is welcome, he's especially pleased with the numbers, talent and enthusiasm in the club's under-age ranks.

"We've already got good numbers turning up for training in the Under 16s and Under 18s and will be back to fielding teams in both competitions this year which is great," said Peter Liddle.

After joining forces to take the Under 16s through to the finals last year, coaches Glenn Jobe and Matt Pugh have taken charge of the Un-

der 16s and Under 18s respectively and are looking forward to a competitive year in both divisions.

After a training camp at Portsea in the next few weeks, Wonthaggi Power has a series of practice matches planned including:

- Saturday, March 15 Intra-club practice matches
- Saturday, March 22 Nar Nar Goon at Wonthaggi
- Saturday, March 29 Noble Park at Phillip Island (Newhaven College). Same day as the VFL Hawks game at Wonthaggi.
- Saturday, April 5 Gippsland League first round versus Warragul at Wonthaggi.



Jason Benbow CEO Stony Creek Racing Club B54_0625

Unsafe track forces second race day cancellation

SHATTERED is how Stony Creek Racing Club CEO Jason Benbow must feel after being forced to abandon his second race meeting in four weeks at Stony Creek.

"Race stewards ruled the track unsafe after overnight rain left patches of heavy track," said Mr Benbow

Problems with a new \$700,000 irrigation system have been a contributing factor leaving the track inconsistent and dangerous for racing.

"Stewards felt it was unsafe for racing after 8mm to 10mm of rain and there have been teething problems with the new irrigation system," said Jason.

It is the first season with the new irrigation system to put more water on the track.

The course was found by stewards to have dry patches and heavy patches.

Mr Benbow said overnight rain before the scheduled Publican's Day meeting was unexpected and he apologised to the public and racing community.

It was the second race meeting to be abandoned at Stony Creek this year.

Torrential rain and lightning just prior to the first race at Stony Creek four weeks ago also led to the complete day's racing being cancelled.

Mr Benbow says each abandoned meeting costs the club upwards of \$12,000 in direct costs including catering, and another \$20,000 to \$30,000 in lost income.

"Things are going to be tight," admitted Benbow with just one race meeting left before the current racing season ends.

"We have put money aside for a rainy day and now we will just have to use it."

In his first year as CEO Jason Benbow knows how tough the racing industry can be.

A Gippsland boy growing up in Cranbourne Jason always wanted to be a jockey. "I rode my first winner at Stony Creek," said Jason.

A race fall at Murray Bridge ended his career in November 2022.

When the stewards are of the opinion that the surface is unsafe Jason has no argument.

"The safety of jockeys and horses comes first."

The \$700,000 the club has spent on the new irrigation system is part of a large capital investment at Stony Creek including \$200,000 on new facilities for female jockeys and a \$150,000 upgrade for the race day office.

"It is mostly government funding with assistance from Racing Victoria," said Jason.

Two full-time staff employed during the racing season including Jason can swell to 20 employees on race days.

The second abandoned race meeting this year is a blow for staunchly loyal racegoers in Stony Creek, Meeniyan and beyond.

"It's upsetting because the club had done a lot of preparation for this meeting."

"Publicans Day at Stony Creek is always a big day."

The next race day at Stony Creek will be the Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup on Sunday March 9, for more information go to country.racing.com/stony-creek

ALLAMBEE MIRBOO AND DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOC.

Section 1 results: Inverloch 8.49 defeated Westernport Red 0.19; Koonwarra 4.43 defeated Korumburra 4.37; Westernport White 4.34 defeated Leongatha 4.31.

Ladder: Inverloch 101, Koonwarra 78, Westernport White 68, Leongatha 61, Korumburra 51, Westernport Red 25

Section 2 results: Korumburra 7.63 defeated Baromi 2.49; Outtrim v Leongatha – wash out.

Ladder: Outtrim 90.5, Korumburra 71, Baromi 67, Leongatha 53.5

Inverloch was the winner against Westernport Red.

Well done to the Westernport club for bringing new players into the competition.

The other two matches in Section 1 were close with four sets to all with only three and six games between the winners and losers.

Korumburra won well against Baromi, with its men winning all their sets.

The ladies' sets were more even, leaving it up to the mixed.

Korumburra combined their players well, winning two out of three mixed.

Outtrim and Leongatha couldn't finish due to weather but managed to get four sets completed.

Players are now off at Country Week enjoying the Swan Hill weather.

There will be no play next week.

If your club has not paid its affiliation fee, please do so next week.

If you need support, please contact the secretary Nicole de Longville or treasurer Susan Clark.

Details can be found in the front of your draw.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE CLUB

FEBRUARY 4 at Wonthaggi RSL: six tables competing.

North/South Master Point winners:

First: Ken Mckenzie and Marie Sands 57.88 average hand score. Second: Bruce Higgs and Sean Munley 56.00. Third: Mary Brewis and Faye Rowlands 55.65.

East/West winners:

First: John French and Deb Anglim 63.62. Second: Penny Loughran and Ruth Stevenson 63.12. Third: Neville and Phillip Chapman 57.00.

February 7 at Inverloch Angling Club: nine tables.

North/South winners:

First: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 62.43. Second: Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs 54.76. Third: John French and Deb Anglim 54.51. Fourth: Nev and Philip Chapman 51.85.

East/West winners:

First: Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 61.31. Second: Chris Hall and Doug McIntyre 56.55. Third: Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka 53.27. Fourth: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 50.00.

Jett-Setting from Wonthaggi to National Championship

LAST weekend, Wonthaggi basketballer Jett Garnham won the Under-20 Men's National Championship as a member of the Victorian state team.

The victory came after a decisive grand final clash against Queensland, with Victoria emerging on top 95-77.

"In the final game, the atmosphere was pretty surreal. As an athlete, you always dream of playing in these games, so I was just trying to soak it all in," Jett said.

The championship game capped off a flawless tournament run, with the team going undefeated and winning all seven of their games, including the finals.

"When we won, it was pretty surreal. All the hard work from everyone in the team had paid off. All those sacrifices we made were worth it, so it was a pretty special moment," he said.

Simply making the state team is a challenge, with Jett attending three separate tryouts, each followed by player cuts. More than 100 players from across Victoria started the process, but only a handful received the call from head coach Darren Best confirming their selection. Jett was one of them.

"To represent my state is an honour, to say the least. My role within the team was as a facilitator, lockdown defender, and floor general. I came off the bench to guard the opposition's best offensive guard and try to shut him down while also controlling the pace of the game to keep it in our favour," he said.

Jett credited the team's camaraderie and lack of egos as key factors in their national success.

But this achievement was no overnight success. It was nearly a decade in the making, beginning with Wonthaggi's under-10s program before he moved to a more competitive level, playing for the Melbourne Tigers in under-12s and later representing the Dandenong Rangers from under-14s to under-18s in the Victorian Junior Basketball League (VJBL).

"I started taking basketball seriously around 11 years old, after my first National Junior Classic tournament with the Melbourne Tigers. I had a strong tournament, leading the scoring,



Under 20 Victoria Navy Basketball Team



Wonthaggi's Jett Garnham and Phillip Island's Joel Robinson recently competed with Victoria's winning team at the National Championship.

and that's when I realised I was pretty handy at it and that I really enjoyed it," he said.

From that moment, Jett set a clear goal—to become the best basketballer he could be.

He expressed gratitude for the support he has received from his family and coaches throughout his journey.

"I've had countless people help me along the way, and while there are too many to name,

some of the key figures are my mum, Cathy, my dad Nick, brother Jenson and sister Eva. They've always kept me level-headed, reminding me that the opportunities I have are a blessing and that I can't take them for granted," Jett said.

On the coaching front, he credited Mike McHugh as the biggest influence on his career.

"Mike has been training me since I was around 10 years

old, sometimes multiple times a week. His knowledge of the game has helped shape me into the player I am today," he said.

Jett has no plans to slow down, continuing to pursue higher levels of competition. He will suit up for Keilor Thunder in the Youth League and possibly the NBL1.

"I'm hoping to just continue being the best version of myself, and wherever that takes me, I'll be happy with that."

Jett also gives back to the local basketball community. He is currently an assistant coach for the Wonthaggi Coasters under-16 boys alongside coach Lincoln Morris and trains several young players individually.

"I always try to give back to a community that has given so much to me."

When asked if he had any advice for young local basketballers, Jett offered these words of encouragement:

"If you truly want to do something, you can do it—you just have to put your mind to it. But if you want to be great at something, you will have to make sacrifices along the way. Keep a good circle of people around you, people who have your best interests at heart—ones who will be honest with you and tell you the truth, even when you don't want to hear it."

Outside of basketball, Jett enjoys spending quality time with family and heading to the beach to relax and clear his mind.

Come and celebrate with Leongatha and District Netball Association

LEONGATHA and District Netball Association are celebrating 60 years of netball this year with a celebration weekend to be held on May 17 and 18.

A celebration dinner will be held on Saturday night, May 17, at the Football Netball Function Rooms at the Recreation Reserve in Leongatha.

Current and past committee and club members are invited to attend.

The night will be in recognition of the contribution from many LDNA members over the last 60 years with the LDNA 60-year history book to be launched at the dinner event.

Dinner will be served and the bar will be opened.

Over the past year, 12 clubs

from across the district have competed in LDNA's winter competition.

"With special guests, we are expecting about 200 people to join us for dinner," said co-ordinator and LDNA life member Pat Kuhne.

To continue the celebrations, photo boards, a BBQ, old-time games and Net-Set-Go will be held Sunday morning from 10am, May 18 at the LDNA netball courts for the public.

Tickets for dinner will be \$80, and they can be purchased through LDNA-associated clubs or from the event coordinators at ldna60years@gmail.com.

History books can be purchased for \$25 with ticket sales, on the night of the dinner and at the Sunday BBQ if still available.



Join LDNA on May 17 for a night of celebration as they mark 60 incredible years! Honouring the legacy are M. Evinson, P. Kuhne, P. Smith, C. Cope, and J. Bloye. Don't miss an unforgettable evening.



Leongatha and District Cricket Association's U18s team was victorious against Latrobe Valley in the GCL final.

U18s secure GCL premiership

U15
Leongatha and District Cricket Association (LDCA) 78 defeated by Sale Maffra 5/82
Jobe Williams 22
Archie Moore 21
Cooper Newman 2/17
The U15 team unfortunately suffered a loss to Sale Maffra in the Gippsland Cricket League (GCL) final.
Some wet weather making the Leongatha turf unplayable saw the game moved to East Campus on synthetic.
Sale Maffra won the toss and made a brave call, sending the LDCA in to bat.
Its decision paid immediate dividends, ripping through the top order to have the LDCA reeling at 5/32 before Archie Moore and Jobe Williams batted very well to put on 37.
However, another collapse saw the LDCA bowled out for 78.
Needing early wickets to put Sale Maffra under pressure, Archie Luke delivered the goods, dismissing danger man Moncrieff, another edge off Jobe Williams was caught sharply by Tex Dyson in the slips.
At this point, Sale Maffra captain Xavier Hurley steadied the

ship with a well-made 43.
Two quick wickets for Cooper Newman with the score on 53 gave the LDCA a lift but congratulations to Sale Maffra who were too good on the day and completed the victory.
The LDCA boys had a great series and unfortunately had an off day.
Thanks to coach Dave Newman and manager Brett Debono for guiding the boys for the past two seasons – no doubt they have all learnt plenty from you.
Big thanks to Imperials Cricket Club for hosting the game at very short notice, Nerrena Cricket Club for providing the lunches, the families for their support and assistance, and Wonthaggi Toyota for its continued support of the U15 team.
U18
LDCA 6/222 defeated Latrobe Valley 143 all out
Harry West 58, Tadgh Gannon 48, Aydan Williams 46no, Riley Harris 29
Aydan Williams 3/21, Isaac Bolge 2/23, Ethan Smith 2/39
The U18 team travelled to Traralgon South for the U18

GCL final.
Unfortunately, a random wet spot on the pitch meant the pitch was unplayable.
After much discussion, common sense prevailed, and the game was transferred to a synthetic pitch at Maryvale.
With the lost time, the game was shortened to 45 overs each and after winning the toss Latrobe Valley (LV) surprisingly sent the LDCA in to bat.
Tadgh Gannon and Harry West got off to a great start batting brilliantly to put on 117 for the opening partnership.
Riley Harris was also in good touch before Aydan Williams finished off the innings with a hard-hitting knock, clearing the boundary four times to see the LDCA post a very good score.
LV got off to a bright start in the chase before a brief shower of rain saw 10 overs lost and the Duckworth Lewis System come into play.
LV's new total of 189 off 35 overs – still looking a very gettable total whilst Jaxon Murdoch was at the crease.
Ethan Smith then turned the game on its head with two quick wickets one being the

prized scalp of Murdoch.
Aydan Williams – player of the match – then bowled a great spell through the middle overs taking wickets and keeping the run rate down.
The continued loss of wickets saw the pressure build up and the return to the attack of Isaac Bolge saw him claim the last two wickets and secure the victory.
A great display by the whole team to back up their victory in the Cameron White T20 Cup last week.
Congratulations to a great group of lads, whose commitment and passion for rep cricket is unquestionable.
Team manager Brian Gannon has done a great job getting the boys together and playing great cricket.
Co-captains Tadgh Gannon and Aydan Williams have shown great leadership on and off the field and will be great assets to their clubs and the LDCA for years to come.
Thanks to all the families for their assistance and great support for the lads and Evans Petroleum for its support of the U18 team.

Kookas outplayed by Ringwood

THE South Gipps Over 60's Kookas road tripped it to the wonderful Mount Evelyn Reserve to take on the Ringwood Mountain Rats last Sunday.
Mr. Cricket Adams won the toss and Mr. Victoria Peter Miller and Peter Pulveriser Petrou strode to the crease.
Unusually, the Kookas were soon in more trouble than Don Trump's hairstylist, slumping to a disastrous 5/22.
While the carnage unfolded, Petrou scored a courageous 23.
Time to regroup – enter Joey, the Beard Burke with a blunt 26 and the Master Blaster Pieter Loos 17 to steady the ship.
With more work to do, Keith Pablo Houghton 17, Ol Grayza Wighty 28no and wonderful Warwick Hayes 38no anchored the innings.
The Kookas amassed a respectable 9/179.
After a sumptuous lunch, the Mountain Rats came out and proceeded to chew at the Kooka attack.
All bowlers tried their best but sometimes the opposition is too good.
Best of the trundlers were Joey Burke 1/16, Mike Professor Newton 1/26 and Keith Richards Houghton 1/31.
The club wishes Peter Miller and Brendon Thomas all the best for the upcoming State Championships in the Barossa.
Man of the match was Warwick Hayes for his fine batting and keeping.

Chance for local cricket clubs to cash in

Gippsland based cricket clubs are being encouraged to get their applications in to the Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF) to help improve local facilities and promote inclusion.
The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien said the ACIF, which is jointly funded by Cricket Australia and Cricket Victoria, is a wonderful opportunity for local clubs to secure funds for their much-needed infrastructure projects.
“The ACIF provided funding to over 60 projects in the 2023-24 season including four clubs right here in Gippsland.
“The Longford, Koonwarra Leongatha RSL, Toongabbie and the Leongatha Town Cricket Clubs have all benefitted greatly from the last round of funding and I am encouraging any other local clubs with an unfunded wishlist to get their applications in.
Mr O'Brien highlighted that the ACIF is open to all clubs, associations, schools, local government and cricket facility managers.
“Gippsland is a proud sporting community and its important that we have the facilities to support the community's passion.
“I am more than happy to provide a letter of support for any clubs looking to make an application.”
Applications are open now and close on Sunday 23 March 2025.
Further information on the ACIF including guidelines can also be found at: <https://www.cricketvictoria.com.au/clubs-support/grants/>

Goannas defeated by Richmond Union in a thriller

THE Goannas Over-50 team was to play a semi-final match at Sale Oval on Sunday, but due to the amount of rain that fell in Sale on Saturday and Sunday, the match was postponed, and hopefully will take place next Sunday.
The Gippsland Goannas Over-60 cricketers welcomed their Richmond Union (RU) Cricket Club counterparts to a cool and blustery Andrews Park in Churchill on Sunday.
There had been a little rain, and the weather was cool with a strong easterly breeze.
On winning the toss, the RU captain asked the Goannas to bat, and Chris de Vent and Ray Floyd opened the innings.
De Vent was first to go, bowled for four in the third over.
Col Carmody came in and was well caught at mid-off in the fifth over when the score was 2/20.
Captain Rino joined Smith, who shortly after retired on 17 from his 30 balls.
Ian Southall was then

stumped without bothering the scorers.
Mark Brown joined Rino, who soon retired for 12, and Ray Floyd joined Col and Southy in the duck parade.
The score was 4/51 after 17 overs, and 59 at the 20 over drinks break, with Neil Meredith and Brown at the crease.
Brown retired for 18, Jim Armstrong made a quick three before running himself out, Peter Anton joined Mero and these two both retired for 16 and 18 respectively.
Gordon Cowling hit out for 31 from 30 balls, Andy Slevin was two no, Barrie Nunn was bowled for one and Ray Smith returned to the crease.
He was stumped for 19 on the last ball of the innings, with the Goannas finally making 136 runs from their 45 overs.
Cowling and Southall opened the bowling for the Goannas and bowled steadily.
Southy had the opening bat lbw in the fourth over and Cowling bowled the number

three bat in his sixth over.
The score was then 2/36 after 12 overs.
Metlikovec came on and GC bowled his eight overs straight through, to finish with eight overs, 1/12.
Rino induced a false shot, and Meredith took a good catch at mid-off, for the score to be 3/61 at the drinks break.
Anton bowled four overs after Cowling, and was replaced by Meredith, who bowled the final eight overs from the southern end.
Armstrong bowled two, and Nunn three overs at the northern end, as Mero struck twice in his third over and again in his fourth.
The score 6/100 at the 32 over mark, and RU Vets needed 37 runs from eight overs.
Anton then came on from the northern end, as batsmen started to recycle.
The RU captain was hitting and running, and Goanna Andrew Smith, filling in for the opposition, supported him well. Anton removed them

both and the score was 136 when the ninth wicket fell, with one ball remaining in the game.
Shane Way had returned, after retiring earlier, and opening batsman Jeff Jones was also at the crease.
A single was scrambled from the last ball for Richmond Union to win a very close game.
The difference in the teams came down to RU only allowing the Goannas 12 extras, while the Goannas gave RU 27 extras in their innings.
Anton had bowled eight overs for the figures of 2/27 and Meredith took 3/22 from his eight overs.
Southall took 1/19 from five overs, and Metlikovec 1/18 from six.
Ray Floyd effected a good run out, while Cowling also took a catch for Mero.
The Goannas Over 60's have an away game against Warrandyte next Sunday, while the Over 70 team will play on Tuesday week at Sale Oval, against the West Gippsland Wombats.

C GRADE DIVISION 1

Club 8/252 d Town 79
Club – 1st INNINGS: W Speed 4, C Fraser 27, J Caddy 30, T Dudas-Jacobs 105, J Licis 22, M Chisholm 22, L McRae 3, A Babu 16*, C Prosser 10, S Liddle 0*
Bowling: T Strybosch 2/51, PJ Kallookkaran 1/40, M Hogarth 1/30 M Carter 1/34, S Vs 0/9, A Aeschlimann (c) 0/26, J Aeschlimann 0/19, J Cashin 1/20, H Aeschlimann 1/16, T Cashin 1/3
Town – 1st INNINGS: T Cashin 21, A Aeschlimann 4, M Carter 8, T Strybosch 19, S Vs 1, R Edward’s 0, PJ Kallookkaran 18, J Aeschlimann 1, M Hogarth 6, J Cashin 0, H Aeschlimann 0*
Bowling: L McRae 1/13, C Fraser 1/20, J Licis 2/22, S Liddle (c) 4/18 A Babu 0/5, J Shannon 0/2

Korumburra 5/208 d K-Bass 5/117
Korumburra – 1st INNINGS: S Harland 125*, J Wrigley 4, D Scott 3, R Gallagher 7, Fill-in 28, T Sorrell 18, T Morrison 6*
Bowling: S Tapscott 2/23, H Bettles 1/23, E Magnussen 1/34, A Joseph 1/31, C Henderson 0/23, N Miller 0/52, M Gold 0/12
Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS: J Hockett 43, Fill-in 26, J Reilly 0, C Henderson 29, C Bettles 4, H Bettles 1, L Magnussen 2*, M Gold 0, E Magnussen 0*
Bowling: B Riddell 0/14, T Sorrell 0/25, D Scott 0/11, S Harland 0/26, M Foote 0/17, J Wrigley 0/12, H Jefferis 2/5, L Gallagher 2/3

Nerrena 7/210 d OMK 7/200
Neerena – 1st INNINGS: B Trotman 7, B Gannon 30, G Murphy 0, E Berryman 15, C Baudinette 21, W Cocksedge 85*, B Stein 38, J Brown 0
Bowling: R White 1/18, O Fitzpatrick 1/16, A Halliwell 1/45, L Maskell 1/27, R Quaife 1/52, J Myers 2/46
OMK – 1st INNINGS: R White 53, R Quaife 85, O Fitzpatrick 21, P Harper 0, C Hart 23*, J Myers 7*
Bowling: B Salmon 1/37, C Baudinette 1/46, G Murphy 0/34, C Marinou 0/15, E Berryman 2/32, N Tucker 0/30

Phillip Island – BYE

C GRADE DIVISION 2

OMK 3/235 d MDU 4/233
OMK – 1ST INNINGS: T Eustace 128, R Wyatt 22, D Elford 35, M Whiteside 5*, A Perry 1*
Bowling: K Brown 0/24, L Webb 0/37, G Casey 0/12, D Thomas 0/12, C Hooper 0/34, G Cocksedge 2/24, S Riley 1/44, G Webster 0/21, G Batten 0/22
OMK – 1ST INNINGS: G Webster 5, T Bright 0, D Thomas 93*, C Hooper 94, G Cocksedge 6, S Riley 0*
Bowling: M Whiteside 2/41, J Battersby 1/46, R Eustace 0/31, P Jobling 0/27, D Elford 0/38, R Wyatt 0/16, T Eustace 0/26

Inverloch 5/258 d Nyora 161
Inverloch – 1st INNINGS: D Harris 57, W Stewart (c) 45, Private Player 84, M Asbury 31* Fill-in 15, J Foote 0, N McMillan 4.
Bowling: K Maclure 0/10, W Dixon 0/34, J Waixel 2/26, G Alsem 2/67, T Cavenagh 0/73, K Linford 0/26, J MacDonald 0/6
Nyora – 1st INNINGS: G Alsem 9, K Maclure 7, J Waixel 1, C Chandler 15, K Linford 41, A Minford 6, T Cavanagh 9, W Dixon 21, T White 27, K Wurzbacher 3, J MacDonald 0*
Bowling: C Butler 2/37, Fill-in 1/38, I Richardson 2/23, A Parker 2/17, H Williams 1/18, W Stewart (c) 1/17

P-Island 6/176 d Glen Alvie 7/153
Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: P Francis 10, J Manning 3, O Hodson 72*, S Carville 26, S Di Falco 2, S Sirirathnaje 28, M Cleary 12, J Parry 4*
Bowling: W Simmons 1/24, J Hynes 1/13, T Bolding 0/19, L Scholz 2/17, W Bridle 0/10, C Stewart 0/27, C Anderson 2/47, J Cuttriss 0/11
Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS: D McGuirk 6, O Luff 27, I Thorn 75* L Scholz 3, W Simmons 3, J Cuttriss 10, K Andersen 9, W Bridle 1, T Bolding 2*
Bowling: J Kleverkamp 2/23, S McMillan 0/41, P Francis 0/31, M Cleary (c) 3/17, S Sirirathnaje 1/16, O Hobson 0/13

Koonwarra Leongatha RSL – BYE

High scoring Club trample Town in convincing style

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

WITH Trae Dudas-Jacobs recording 105 runs and captain Sam Liddle claiming four wickets, Wonthaggi Club stood triumphant over Leongatha Town.

Playing at Wonthaggi’s McMahon Reserve, Club won the toss and went into bat.

Vice-captain Will Speed and Chris Fraser opened the batting. Travis Strybosch’s bowling form saw Speed caught out for four runs by Sakthy Vs.

Jed Caddy joined Fraser at the crease. Fraser’s wicket was next to go, falling to Max Carter for 27 runs. Fraser’s exit allowed Dudas-Jacobs to step up and make 105 runs alongside Caddy, who made 30 runs.

Dudas-Jacobs was eventually stopped by a catch from Ray Edwards off the bowling of Jack Cashin.

Justin Licis and Matrix Chisholm contributed 22 runs each.

Strybosch took the most wickets for Leongatha Town, claiming 2/51.

The rest of the wicket taking was shared between six bowlers.

Wonthaggi Club was set to defend 8/252, which it would do successfully.

Tim Cashin started Town’s innings well with 21 runs before Liddle claimed his wicket.

This turned out to be Town’s top score, with Strybosch adding 19 runs and 18 runs to Poly Joseph Kallookkaran.

Liddle took 4/18, and Licis and Jatin Shannon took two wickets each.

Town was bowled out with a score of 10/79.

Harland’s ton inspires Cobras

Shayne Harland’s impressive 125-run haul saw Korumburra rewarded with a win over Kilcunda-Bass.

The Cobras launched their winning way at the Poowong Recreation Reserve by winning the toss.

Harland opened the batting for Korumburra and was there to stay, as he was not out at the end of the innings.

Three wickets fell to Shaun Tapscott and Hunter Bettles before Iain Riddell made it to the crease.

Riddell added 28 runs before he was bowled out by Ash Joseph, and Thomas Sorrell contributed 18 runs before his wicket was claimed by Edward Magnussen.

Tapscott was Kilcunda-Bass’ top bowler, claiming 2/23.

Korumburra finished its 35 overs with 5/208.

Kilcunda-Bass made a strong start to the innings with its opening batsman Joel Hockett making 43 runs.

Batting fourth in the order, Chris Henderson contributed to the score with another 29 runs.

However, Korumburra bowlers Hudson Jefferis and Lukas Gallagher slowed run opportunities for Kilcunda-Bass, taking two wickets each.

Kilcunda-Bass played out its allotted overs but couldn’t compete with Korumburra’s score, finishing the day with 5/117.

Red Caps win a close one

Although OMK played competitively, Nerrena managed to hold



Wonthaggi Club’s Jed Caddy showed an array of attacking strokes against Leongatha Town at McMahon Reserve. B39_0625



Inverloch Stingrays Lucas McMillan retires 84no in C Grade against Nyora at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve. B46_0625

on to the victory.

Playing at Digger Park, Nerrena went into bat first.

Captain Brian Gannon opened well to put 30 runs on the board. Cameron Baudinette added 21 runs, but it was Wayne Cocksedge and Ben Stein who brought it home when they finished off the innings.

Stein made 38 runs before he was bowled by captain Jordan Myers and Cocksedge made 85 not out.

Myers had OMK’s best bowling figures with 2/46, with the rest of the wicket taking shared between five bowlers.

Nerrena finished its 35 overs with 7/210.

OMK was red hot early with opening batsmen Russ White and Robert Quaife making 53 and 85 runs respectively.

Number three bat Owen Fitzpatrick added 21 runs and number five bat Craig Hart made 23 not out.

However, OMK fell agonisingly short by coming to the end of its allotted overs with 4/200.

Nerrena bowler Eamon Berryman had the best bowling figures with 2/32.

Brendan Salmon and Baudinette claimed one each.

Phillip Island had the bye.

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

OMK seize the win

A HIGHLY competitive game was played out between MDU and OMK, with OMK just holding on to a win at the Dumbalk Recreation Reserve.

MDU won the toss and sent OMK in to bat first.

This worked in OMK’s

favour, as opening batsman Tom Eustace was in fine form.

Eustace made 128 runs before he was dismissed by Stephen Riley.

He opened with Ryan Wyatt, who made 22 runs, and Danny Elford contributed 35 runs.

Glen Cocksedge was MDU’s best bowler, taking 2/24.

OMK played out its allotted overs and recorded a score of 3/235.

MDU stepped up to bat but suffered a slow start as it lost opening batsmen Gary Webster and Tim Bright for five runs and a duck respectively.

However, the partnership of Dale Thomas and Craig Hooper had OMK very nervous.

Thomas made 93 not out and Hooper made 94 runs before he was stumped by Matt Whiteside off the bowling of Michael Whiteside.

Michael Whiteside and Jayden Battersby were OMK’s wicket takers.

In a thrilling finish, MDU just fell short of its target with a score of 4/233.

Inverloch score freely

A strong innings resulted in a win to Inverloch over Nyora.

Nyora won the toss and chose to bowl first at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve.

Opening batsmen David Harris and captain Warren Stewart had the Stingrays looking healthy early.

Stewart made 45 runs before he was bowled by Gareth Alsem.

Lucas McMillan was next up to the crease, and he went on to top score with 84 runs be-

fore he retired not out.

Harris made 57 runs before Alsem also claimed his wicket.

Michael Asbury contributed 31 not out.

Alsem’s bowling figures were 2/67 and Jaylen Waixel took 2/26.

Inverloch was set to defend 5/258.

Nyora had a shaky start to the innings, but Keith Linford put his team back on track.

Batting fifth in the order, Linford made the top score of 41 runs before he was caught by Stewart off the bowling of Isaac Richardson.

Tailenders William Dixon and Travis White added 21 and 27 runs respectively.

Inverloch bowlers Cameron Butler, Richardson and Aedan Parker claimed two wickets each.

Nyora conceded defeat with a score of 10/161.

Visiting Sharks too strong

Glen Alvie fell short of its goal against Phillip Island on Saturday.

Hosting Phillip Island, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bowl first.

Glen Alvie bowlers Jarvis Hynes and William Simmons were quick to dismiss Phillip Island’s opening partnership of Peter Francis and John Manning.

The score was 1/16 when Manning was bowled for three, which sent in Oliver Hodson.

Hodson led the charge to victory with 72 not out.

Shane Carville and Sachin Sirirathnaje added 26 and 28 runs respectively.

Glen Alvie’s top bowlers were Luke Scholz and Charlie Andersen with two wickets each.

Phillip Island reached 6/176.

Glen Alvie looked to be playing a similar game when Owen Luff and captain Ian Thorn made 27 and 75 runs respectively.

Luff was caught by Sebastian Di Falco off the bowling of Jai Kleverkamp and Thorn was not out.

However, the run rate slowed as Phillip Island captain Michael Clearly claimed 3/17.

Glen Alvie pulled up short with a score of 7/153.

Koonwarra/LRSL had the bye.

MDU eyes the win even as the Sharks circle

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

WITH a decent innings under its belt, MDU will be looking to dig deep next weekend to secure a win against Phillip Island.

Phillip Island ventured out to the Meeniyau Recreation Reserve, where the home team won the toss and chose to bat.

Heath Womersley claimed Tyrone Zukovskis' wicket for 15 runs, but the partnership of Troy Sinclair and Mike Olden combined well to put 54 and 47 runs on the board respectively.

Callum McCaughan and Kurt Sinclair later added 32 and 27 runs.

The bowling honours were shared between Jobe Williams and Justin Tran.

Williams took 3/33, putting pressure on the top and middle order, and Tran claimed 3/34, taking out the tailenders.

Tony Hornsby also performed well, claiming two wickets.

After playing 58 overs, MDU was bowled out 10/216.

Phillip Island opened its account, with Hornsby making 12 runs before he was dismissed by Jake Palmer.

Womersley and Thomas Blackwell had made five and three runs respectively and will continue Phillip Island's campaign on Saturday.

Phillip Island is currently sitting on 1/30.

OMK sets a target

OMK and Inverloch went head-to-head at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve.

Inverloch won the toss and asked OMK to bat first.

Captain Kris Kerr got the ball rolling for OMK with 25 runs, but Inverloch bowlers Callan O'Flynn and Dean Cashin were in decent form and swiftly wiped out the top order.

Middle order batsmen Dylan McMeekin and David Jeffries steered OMK back in the right direction with 31 and 28 runs respectively, but both were dismissed by Isaac Seuren.

Tailenders Nick Wylie and Luke Walker gave an exciting last-ditch effort, putting 31 and 27 runs on the board.

Walker was caught by John Richardson off the bowling of Will Rankin and Wylie was not out.

The resulting score was 10/190.

Inverloch's top bowlers for the day were Seuren and O'Flynn, claiming 3/54 and 3/31.

Inverloch will be given its opportunity to respond this Saturday.

Hit by the weather

The game between Nerrena and Korumburra was washed out after 31 overs.

Taking place at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, the Red Caps won the toss and chose to bat first.

Captain Damien Symmons opened the innings and was unmovable, making 75 not out.

Kade Berryman was caught by Philip Richards off the bowling of Liam Dole for five runs.

Dole also picked off James Kelly for 16 runs.



Kilcunda-Bass batsman in B Grade Division 2 Daniel Ferguson hung around to get 30 runs off 111 deliveries but ultimately top-edged this shot to Nyora fieldsman Tully Bernaldo off Daniel Blackney.

Joel Renden made 24 not out before the inclement weather set in.

Nerrena will finish its remaining 39 overs on Saturday before pulling out all the stops to bowl out Korumburra to avoid a draw.

Wonthaggi Club had the round 12 bye.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Town put the pressure on the Imperials

THE Imperials are feeling the challenge to hold back ladder leader Leongatha Town.

Playing at Scorpion Park, Town decided to bowl first after winning the toss.

Batting third in the order, Imperials captain Sam Vagg put 20 runs on the scoreboard before he was bowled by Trent McRae.

Unfortunately, the run rate continued to be slow with only Damon Ginnane managing to salvage the innings with the top score of 22 runs.

McRae was in decent form, claiming four Imperial wickets.

Two more wickets were taken by captain Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe.

By the 38th over, the Imperials were bowled out 10/132.

Town faced 32 overs of its innings.

McRae continued to dominate with 36 runs to open the account.

He was caught out by Andrew

Meyer off the bowling of Lucas Anderson.

Colin Bruce later added 27 runs, but the Imperials bowlers were determined to defend their score.

Anderson claimed 3/34, and two wickets were taken by James Jeffery.

Town will continue its innings on Saturday, currently sitting on 6/98.

Nyora tighten the screws

Kilcunda-Bass also has its work cut out for it against Nyora.

A slow start for the embattled Kilcunda-Bass side turned around when Daniel Ferguson and Joel Dickson stepped up to the crease.

Ferguson accumulated 30 runs and Dickson top scored with 50 runs, before both batsmen had their wickets claimed by Daniel Blackney.

For Kilcunda-Bass, Ferguson and Dickson's reign was the highlight, with a slew of ducks and quick dismissals to follow.

Michael Lynch was the standout bowler for Nyora, taking 4/31.

Tully Bernaldo claimed two wickets, along with Blackney. Kilcunda-Bass was bowled out 10/134.

Nyora launched its innings with Colin Knox making 19 not out.

Jordan Knox made four runs before a catch from Ray Gardiner saw his wicket claimed by Ben Rookes.

Colin Knox will be joined by Daniel Esler at the crease when Nyora continues its run on Saturday.

Nyora had made 1/23 at stumps.

Foster fight back late

After losing top spot on the ladder following round 11's defeat, Koonwarra/LRSL came in hot on Saturday.

Bowlers Campbell Riseley and Spencer Chadwick worked hard to keep Foster's run rate to a minimum, taking three wickets each.

Foster's opening batsman Jake Pilkington made a strong start with 35 runs before he was dismissed by Chadwick and the top score came from Donald Caldwell with 39 not out.

Foster ended its innings bowled out 10/143.

However, Foster was far from down and out.

Foster bowler Chris Ford responded to Koonwarra/LRSL's challenge by taking 4/13.

Ford ran through Koonwarra/LRSL's top order, including the dismissal of vice-captain Adam Drury for a golden duck.

Glenn Boxall opened the innings with nine runs and Nigel Grimes had made 10 not out at stumps.

Grimes and Nick Arnup will be at the crease when play resumes on Saturday, with Koonwarra/LRSL set to work hard from its score of 4/39.

Glen Alvie had the bye.



Michael Lynch was Nyora's go-to bowler in the match against Kilcunda-Bass in B Grade Division 2 at Bass on Saturday taking 4/31 off 16 overs.

B GRADE	DIVISION 1
OMK 190 v Inverloch OMK – 1st INNINGS: M Sawyers 12, K Kerr 25, M Andrew 11, A Trotto 2, T Nicholas 2, D McMeekin 31, D Jeffries 28, A Busana 0, B Maguire 9, N Wylie 31*, L Walker 27 Bowling: I Sueren 3/54, J Richardson 0/45, D Cashin 2/16, C O'Flynn 3/31, W Taberner 0/9, W Rankin 2/30	
MDU 216 v Phillip Island 1/30 MDU – 1st INNINGS: T Zukovskis 15, T Sinclair 54, M Olden 47, J Bright 0, S Mcrae 4, D Zuidema 0, C McCaughan 32, K Sinclair 27, A Dyke 5, A Richardson 0, J Palmer 4* Bowling: J Williams 3/33, H Arceo 1/38, H Womersley 1/29, T Senanayaka 0/14, J Tran 3/34, L Ferrari 0/27, T Hornsby 2/37 Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS: H Womersley 5*, T Hornsby 12, T Blackwell 3* Bowling: A Richardson 0/12, J Palmer 1/13, J Bright (c) 0/5, S McRae 0/0	
Nerrena 2/136 v Korumburra Nerrena – 1st INNINGS: D Symmons 75*, K Berryman 5, J Kelly 16, J Renden 24* Bowling: J Douglas 0/10, J Jorgensen 0/20, L Dole 2/52, S Dole 0/20, O Maskell 0/29	
Club - BYE	
B GRADE	DIVISION 2
Kilcunda-Bass 134 v Nyora 1/23 Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 14, G Miller 0, A McBride 3, D Ferguson 30, J Dickson 50, B Rookes 7, J Matser 3, R Gardiner 4, A Leighton 0, A Bedford 0, J Papworth 2* Bowling: R Whie 1/26, S Henry 1/7, L Brock 0/13, M Lynch 4/31, T Perkins 0/17, D Blackney 2/32, T Bernaldo 2/2 Nyora – 1st INNINGS: C Knox 19*, J Knox 4, D Esler 0* Bowling: B Rookes 1/8, A Bedford 0/15, A Leighton 0/0	
Town 6/98 v Imperials 132 Imperials – 1st INNINGS: K Gray 13, G Sauvarin 7, S Vagg 20, A Meyer 1, J Forrester 9, L Anderson 17, D Ginnane 22, C Rickard 14, C Bruce 4, N McLennan 8, J Jeffery 0* Bowling: L Gill 1/21, T McRae 4/42, L Hickey 0/22, P Jayasinghe (c) 2/10, R Gilliatte 1/8, E Smith 1/15 Town – 1st INNINGS: T McRae 36, L Hickey 2, L Bowman 7, P Jayasinghe 5, C Bruce 27, R Gilliatte 4, D Goss 9*, L Gill 0* Bowling: L Anderson 3/34, C Bruce 1/26, J Jeffery 2/28, N McLennan 0/8	
Koonwarra L/RSL 4/39 v Foster 143 Foster – 1st INNINGS: J Gay 3, J Pilkington 35, C Ford 6, B Davy 4, Fill-in 2, D Caldwell 39*, B Busuttill 10, B Gay 12, Fill-in 3, N Samat 2, B Cripps 2 Bowling: C Riseley 3/37, G Boxall 2/28, N Arnup 1/16, S Chadwick 3/18, B Thomas 1/23, I Darshana 0/9 Koonwarra L/RSL – 1ST INNINGS: G Boxall 9, A Boxall 4, B Anderson 1, N Arnup 6*, A Drury (vc) 0, N Grimes 10* Bowling: J Gay 0/13, Fill-in 0/10, C Ford 4/13	
Glen Avie – BYE	



Meeniyan's Mark Cantwell bowled a tidy opening spell. B33_0625

Grayson earns a ton for Kilcunda-Bass

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

CAPTAIN Matthew Grayson drove Kilcunda-Bass to a comfortable score against Nyora at the Nyora Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Kilcunda-Bass won the toss, sending in Cameron Davidson and Robert Wallace.

Reece Cordeux claimed Davidson's wicket for four runs, which sent Brad Wright to the crease.

Wallace and Wright paired well, making 22 and 73 runs respectively.

Grayson was the fourth bat, and he scored 100 not out, significantly uplifting Kilcunda-Bass' score alongside Wright.

Todd Smith added 24 runs late in the innings, which was welcomed by the Sharks as Nyora's Cordeux, Mitch Rowe and Aaron

Kaddatz wiped out tailenders Shaun Lucas, Harrison Berry and Ryan Brown in a slew of ducks.

Cordeux was Nyora's top bowler, taking 3/57, and Aaron Kaddatz took 2/42.

Kilcunda-Bass made 10/271 before it was bowled out.

Nyora will have its chance at bat on Saturday.

Slow going for Glen Alvie

Embattled Glen Alvie will need to hold its nerve to come away with a win over MDU this weekend.

Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bat but found it difficult to hit the scoreboard early.

Number five bat and Glen Alvie captain Ben McRae was the one to lead by example, correcting the course with a top score of 38 runs.

However, the only other

significant score was 10 runs contributed by opening batsman Archie Donohue, leaving Glen Alvie in danger.

Sembakuttige Chathura Lakshan caused the most headaches for Glen Alvie, claiming 5/32, including the dismissal of Raphael Spiteri-Stevens for a duck late in the innings.

MDU vice-captain Mitch McGrath was also a multiple wicket taker.

Glen Alvie was bowled out 10/105, setting MDU a modest target to chase on Saturday.

Match abandoned

The game between Foster and Inverloch was abandoned due to inclement weather.

They will go head to head in a one day match at the Foster Cricket Ground this weekend.



Glen Alvie's Harvey Smith letting one through to Meeniyan keeper Joel Sinclair. B31_0625



Glen Alvie's Archie Donohue facing up to Meeniyan in A2. B37_0625



Glen Alvie and Meeniyan break for lunch in Leongatha & District Cricket. B38_0625

A GRADE DIVISION 1

P-Island 9/252 v Koon L/RSL	Jack Ginnane c: ? b: J Hume..... 1
Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS	Aydan Williams c: ? b: J Hume..... 6
Connor Epifano retired not out25	Timothy Sauvarin c: ? b: B Wakishta .. 18
Lachlan Cleeland	Rowen McLennan
c: J Kennedy b: J Thomas69	c: M Madusanka b: R Hume54
Brodie Johnston	Nick Eddy b: B Wakishta 19
c: J Kennedy b: J Thomas 17	Luke Rogers
Daniel Mock c&b: J Rushton 78	c: J Giardina b: M Madusanka..... 14
Thomas Niven	Lachie Wright
c: H Scrimshaw b: J Thomas 12	c: R Abeysinghe b: M Madusanka..... 11
Jarrold Black	Campbell Reid lbw: M Madusanka..... 5
c: K Scrimshaw b: J Rushton..... 7	Archie Casey c&b: R Hume12
Kohen Beaumont	Isaac Bolge not out 9*
c: W Cashin b: J Rushton10	Extras (1w, 1lb, 4b) 6
Kurt Lane c: B Heppell b: J Rushton 7	Total 10 / 164 (70.1 Overs)
Timothy Niven not out 3*	Bowling: J Hume 15-6-44-3, R Hume
Zac Brown lbw: J Kennedy 2	8.1-2-19-2, B Wakishta 9-2-35-2 (1w),
George McCausland run out0	M Madusanka 22-10-24-3,
Extras (1w, 15nb, 6lb)22	F Livingstone 10-1-29-0,
Total 9 / 252 (72.3 Overs)	R Abeysinghe 6-1-8-0
Bowling: J Thomas 17-1-73-3 (15nb),	
B Smith 3-0-14-0, James Rushton 23-	
3-73-4, M Cooke 10-2-31-0, J Kennedy	
15.3-1-38-1, B Heppell 2-0-9-0,	
C Buckland 2-0-8-0 (1w)	

Club 9/212 v OMK	Korumburra 137 v
Club – 1st INNINGS	Nerrena 1/42
Mitch Thomas	Korumburra – 1st INNINGS
c: K Brann b: R Williams85	Andy Millar c: J Curtis b: J Trease 2
Alexander Geyer	Mustafa Nader b: J Trease20
c: N Creed b: R Williams 22	Tom Crocker lbw: T Wightman 14
Joel Brann c: E Lamers b: J Lamers 26	Ben Spicer b: J Trease36
Ryan Thomas	Rumesh Rangana
c: N Auddino b: J Lamers..... 9	c: T Cameron b: J Trease24
Jakeb Thomas lbw: R Williams 0	Jason Richards
Stewart Beaumont	c: J Curtis b: D Berryman 0
c: N Auddino b: R Williams..... 30	Aaron Damon b: J Trease 8
Gavin Britt c&b: R Williams 11	GSA Mudalige c: J Hoy b: J Trease 0
Fraser West b: R Williams 18	Mitch Young b: J Trease 11
Mark McCall lbw: R Williams0	Harry McNeil b: J Trease 16
James Sheerin not out 6*	James Dunn not out 0*
Jack Sheerin not out 2*	Extras (1lb, 5b) 6
Extras (1nb, 2b) 3	Total 10 / 137 (61.4 Overs)
Total 9 / 212 (65 Overs)	Bowling: J Trease 24.4-16-25-8, J Hoy
Bowling: T Pickering 6-0-27-0,	8-0-24-0, T Wightman 9-1-29-1,
P Dell 16-4-51-0, R Williams 27-7-63-7,	A Gannon 5-0-21-0, D Berryman
J Lamers 16-1-69-2 (1nb)	15-3-32-1

Imperials 164 v Town	Nerrena – 1st INNINGS
Imperials – 1st INNINGS	Jack Curtis not out31*
Kane Maskell	Loc Roberts c: A Millar b: H McNeil 5
c: M Madusanka b: J Hume 9	Tadhg Gannon not out 6*
	Extras 0
	Total 1 / 42 (13 Overs)
	Bowling: M Nader 3-0-17-0,
	GSA Mudalige 2-0-6-0, H McNeil 3-1-5-
	1, T Crocker 2-0-6-0, B Spicer 2-0-7-0,
	M Young 1-0-1-0

A GRADE DIVISION 2

Glen Alvie 105 v MDU	Kilcunda-Bass 271 v Nyora
Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS	Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS
Archie Moore c: T Nuwan b: S Bright.. 4	Cameron Davidson
Archie Donohue	c: J Henry b: R Cordeux..... 4
run out: J Sinclair, M McGrath 10	Robert Wallace
Matthew Dakin b: SC Lakshan 8	st: B Henderson b: A Simmons22
Matthew Donohue	Brad Wright
c: M McGrath b: SC Lakshan..... 5	c: B Henderson b: H Dolphin73
Ben McRae	Matthew Grayson not out 100*
st: J Sinclair b: SC Lakshan38	Jaydan Tregear lbw: A Thompson 1
Harvey Smith b: SC Lakshan 9	Ash Larcombe
Zack Scholz	st: B Henderson b: B Hayes 19
c: P Le Page b: M McGrath 3	Todd Smith b: R Cordeux24
Ryan Sinclair	Zac Crow b: A Kaddatz..... 7
c: P Le Page b: M McGrath 5	Shaun Lucas b: R Cordeux 0
Raphael Spiteri-Stevens	Harrison Berry run out: M Rowe 0
c: M McGrath b: SC Lakshan 0	Ryan Brown b: AKaddatz 0
Archie Luke st: J Sinclair b: S Browne .. 8	Extras (7w, 1nb, 4lb, 9b)21
Sam Watson not out 7*	Total 10 / 271 (74.1 Overs)
Extras (2w, 2lb, 4b) 8	Bowling: A Kaddatz 14.1-2-42-2,
Total 10 / 105 (74.2 Overs)	R Cordeux 19-3-57-3, Aidan Simmons
Bowling: S Bright 11-4-21-1 (2w),	7-1-34-1 (5w), A Thompson 15-4-41-1
M Cantwell 7-3-13-0, SC Lakshan 27-	(1w), H Dolphin 10-0-43-1, M Rowe
14-32-5, S Browne 20.2-12-20-1,	4-0-23-0 (1w, 1nb), Ben Hayes 5-0-18-1
M McGrath 5-4-6-2, Z Bright 4-1-7-0	

Foster v Inverloch
Day 1 abandoned.



Local identity Bill Yusko has competed in every Cowes Classic and was part of a big turnout by locals in Saturday's event.

Islanders double up in Cowes Classic

YOU'RE never too old to achieve a personal goal and 45-year-old Justin Tilley of Surf Beach on Phillip Island ticked off the long-held ambition of winning the Cowes Classic last Saturday with a two-second victory over Liam Hemmingway.

It set up a rare double for Phillip Island in their annual aquathon, over a 500m swim and 4km run course around the Cowes jetty and around the town when Sunset Strip resident Zoe Adams won the women's section, coming in 5th overall in a time of 0:21:22.3.

It has been quite a quest for

Tilley who finished second in 2024 in a time of 19.46.7, trimming 25 seconds off that time to take the win narrowly this year.

In previous years he has finished 3rd in 2023 in 19.47.9, 3rd in 2022 in 18.49.3, 8th in 2021 in 20.20.4, 13th in 2019 in 25.16.0, 2nd in 2018 in 18.10.3, missing in 2017 and finishing 5th in 2016 in 21.15.

The Cowes Classic was the second race in the Bass Coast Aquathon Series with the San Remo Channel Challenge to follow on Saturday, March 1.

The Cowes Classic attracted a field of 237 competitors this year, of whom 110 were locals

including a good number of Phillip Island Football Netball Club players who use the event annually as a warm-up for the season.

On that score, the conditions could not have been better, according to organisers, with calm waters on the front beach at Cowes and cool, cloudy skies above after a long, hot summer.

The top 10 placegetters (overall): 1st Justin Tilley (Mature Male) 0:19:21.0 (swim 0:07:48.9, transition 0:00:24.7, run 0:11:07.3), 2nd Liam Hemmingway (Senior Male) 0:19:23.8 (swim 0:07:45.1, transition 0:00:40.1, run 0:10:58.5), 3rd Tyler Phillips (Senior Male)

0:20:10.5 (swim 0:07:16.1, transition 0:00:45.5, run 0:12:08.9), 4th Dylan Muir (Senior Male) 0:21:15.5, 5th Zoe Adams (Senior Female) 0:21:22.3, 6th Mark Rowe (Mature Male) 0:21:27.9, 7th Mitchell Diston (Senior Male) 0:21:56.1, 8th Paul Taylor (Veteran Male), 9th Bailey Sutherland (Senior Male) 0:22:39.0, 10th Julian Harris (Senior Male) 0:22:52.4.

Top 10 local residents: 1st Justin Tilley (Mature Male) 0:19:21.0, 2nd Dylan Muir (Senior Male) 0:21:15.5, 3rd Zoe Adams (Senior Female) 0:21:22.3, 4th Mark Rowe (Mature Male) 0:21:27.9, 5th

Bailey Sutherland (Senior Male) 0:22:39.0, 6th Ayden Fawaz (Junior Male) 0:23:13.8, 7th Cameron Finlay (Junior Male), 8th Andre Hetebrueg (Senior Male) 0:23:24.8, 9th River Henderson (Junior Male) 0:23:25.5, 10th Finn Middleton (Junior Male) 0:23:27.5.

The team relay event (overall) was won by Justins Disciples including Jim Corbett and Luke Nicholson in a time of 0:19:11.7. They also won the local relay from Noah Williams and Jack Briggs in 0:20:25.0 and Paul Roberts and Carl Wright 0:21:37.5.

More photos on page 49

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