

# HIGH-VOLTAGE ELECTION

## How offshore turbines could spin the result in Monash

THE candidates are lining up for what looks set to be a high-voltage Federal election in Monash.

This week, veteran independent Russell Broadbent, the Liberals' Mary Aldred and Climate 200-backed independent Deb Leonard were joined by Labor insider and Kilcunda resident Tully Fletcher as the frontrunners.

With the Nationals, the Greens and a bevy of small-party candidates also set to nominate, there's likely to be a Melbourne Cup field contesting the pivotal

local electorate.

And while cost-of-living is the top issue nationally, Gippsland's role in the nation's renewable energy rollout is set to be brought sharply into focus during the campaign, tipped to be officially launched within weeks.

Nuclear energy in the Latrobe Valley has already been raised by the Coalition but as of last Saturday, the candidates have a shocking new issue with which to contend, the prospect that a 95km-long, high-voltage transmission line, running right

through the middle of South Gippsland to Waratah Bay, will need to be constructed to accommodate Gippsland's massive offshore wind farm developments.

Passing by Fish Creek, Meeniyan, Dumbalk, Mardan and Mirboo North on its way to the Latrobe Valley, on 55-metre high pylons, the likely 500kVA connector was touted by licensed wind farm proponent, Gippsland Skies, at a community consultation session in Sandy Point last weekend.

Continued page 5

President of the Sandy Point Community Group, Michelle Jelleff, with engagement officer for Gippsland Skies Maria Scarlett at a drop-in session at Sandy Point last Saturday, said she was completely unaware of a proposal for overhead transmission lines at Waratah Bay.

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Details on pages 22-23

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# Signs of life at Wonthaggi TAFE

THERE were signs of life last Wednesday, February 12, at the vacant building on the corner of Bass Highway and South Dudley Road, Wonthaggi that is the Bass Coast TAFE Campus of Chisholm Institute.

The handsome facility, that has languished unused since COVID, welcomed some of its first arrivals in months, not students starting new training and careers alas, but the Minister for Skills and TAFE, the Honourable Gayle Tierney, and her entourage, no less.

Those like Bass Coast College teacher and tertiary trainer, Malcolm Beasley, who has campaigned for the resumption of face-to-face TAFE courses here hopes it's a sign that an announcement about a brighter future for TAFE in Wonthaggi is imminent.

The Minister was in Wonthaggi to congratulate Bass Coast Adult Learning, just down the road from Chisholm, on its recent 'Learn Local Innovation Award' for the training support it provided to local building sector leader, Coldon Homes and Capeview Building Products.

It's the sort of partnerships with local business and industry you'd expect to see from the Bass Coast TAFE Campus.

Here's what Chisholm Institute says about its Bass Coast Campus on its own website:

"Located in Wonthaggi, the Bass Coast campus supports one of Victoria's fastest growing regional municipalities and its communities with education delivery in the region. Courses offered through Bass Coast range from education and healthcare to accounting and bookkeeping."

Minister Tierney also reportedly visited the Bass Coast TAFE campus as part of a



In Wonthaggi last Wednesday for a visit to Bass Coast Adult Learning and Chisholm Institute's Bass Coast TAFE Campus, Minister for Skills and TAFE the Hon Gayle Tierney (left) to the opportunity to have a roundtable discussion with education providers including David Millar (CEO Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery), Laura Macpherson (CEO TAFE Gippsland), Stephen Varty (CEO Chisholm Institute), Christine Henderson (Bass Coast Health Executive Director Acute Operations), Leith Cummings (Principal Bass Coast College) and Bass MP Jordan Crugnale.

general tour of Chisholm facilities across the south-eastern region.

Minister Tierney offered some hopeful news.

"It was great to be invited by the Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale, to visit Wonthaggi, and talk about how we are delivering skills for the region. Including at Chisholm TAFE's Wonthaggi campus - which is right now taking enrolments for Free TAFE courses in 2025."

Bass Coast TAFE lists five courses it will be offering "at Bass Coast" in 2025, including Cert III in Early Childhood Education & Care, Cert IV in School Based Education Support, Cert III in Individual Support (ageing & disability), Cert IV in Training & Assessment and Cert IV in Accounting & Bookkeeping.

According to Chisholm only two of those courses will be offered on site (if they get

sufficient enrolments).

The other three are being offered at the likes of Berwick, Dandenong and Frankston but only online to Bass Coast trainees who can't travel.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale welcomed the visit by Minister Tierney.

"It was really invaluable to have the Minister for Skills and Training, Gayle Tierney MP visit Wonthaggi. We discussed the future skills needs of the region with Bass Coast Health, Bass Coast College and the CEOs of TAFE Gippsland and Chisholm Institute," said Ms Crugnale.

"There are still some challenges and I will continue to work with the school, TAFEs and industry and of course both the Minister for Skills and Training and the Minister for Education to ensure our skills needs are met and we have the course offerings and career pathways that lead to

good in demand local jobs.

"We also visited the award winning Learn Local Bass Coast Adult Learning and the Chisholm Institute's Wonthaggi Campus. The campus is now taking enrolments for in-person learning in 2025.

"BCAL have their Term 2 Course Guide out now and run Cert III in Horticulture, Cert III in Information Technology, Cert II in Hospitality as well as Salon Assistant (1st level hairdressing).

"I want to thank David Leslie Centre Manager, Olivia Hurrell and the extraordinary team at BCAL for the insightful tour which showcased just how vibrant a learning hub it is, how connected they are to community and the Minister and I were thrilled to be able to congratulate them in person on their recent Learn Local Partnership Award with representatives from Colden Homes and Capeview."



Ron Zaghet from Leongatha with his biggest ever home grown tomato. B07\_0725

## Big red tomato rocks the scales at over one kilogram

MORE pink than red Leongatha's heaviest ever tomato a Japanese Big Beef F1 Hybrid has local home gardeners scrambling for the record books.

Weighing in at 1.3kg and measuring 49cm in circumference or just over three hand lengths Ron and Naomi Zaghet's big boy tomato is a sight to behold.

Ron's secret is chook manure and garden compost along with a home-made 5-2-1 fertiliser and a sprinkling of lime when the tomato seedlings are planted out in September.

"It's the biggest I've ever grown," said Ron.

The big beef tomato seeds were gifted to Ron by a friend.

"We give away plenty of seed to friends and other interested gardeners."

Watering his giant tomatoes up to three or four times a day in hot weather Ron hinted that to get the best results from tomatoes it was important to prune young plants to a single stem to take away all the suckers.

Ron also prunes his cucumbers with stunning results.

"I grow the cucumbers on a string and prune them heavily," revealed Ron.

Formerly dairy farmers from Nerrena, Ron and Naomi Zaghet's simple backyard garden abounds in seasonal vegetables with row after row of lettuce, beetroot, zucchini, egg plant, capsicum, basil and rockmelon.

"We are almost self-sufficient in home grown produce," said Naomi.

Not to mention the apricot tree and citrus trees heavy with limes and lemons.

Careful to protect his prized tomatoes from the birds with bird netting Ron said the biggest enemy of tomatoes was the cabbage white butterfly.

"They lay their eggs in the tomatoes."

Ron's advice for beginner and young gardeners?

"Use plenty of chook poo fertiliser and good quality compost."

## Police wrap up Wonthaggi shooting case, arresting pair

POLICE have arrested and charged two men in relation to a fearful shooting in a residential street of Wonthaggi in the early hours of Sunday morning January 12.

In the incident, a 42-year-old Wonthaggi man, who was shot in the back after a brief, verbal altercation in the street, was airlifted to the Alfred with non-life-threatening injuries.

Both men, a 28-year-old Wonthaggi North man and a 24-year-old-Leongatha man, have appeared in court to face

charges relating to the shooting and have been remanded in custody to reappear at the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on April 4 for committal mention hearings.

Court documents reveal the Wonthaggi North man was charged on eight counts, ahead of his appearance at the Latrobe Magistrates Court on Wednesday, January 15, including dangerous driving endangering life, recklessly causing serious injury, intentionally causing injury, prohibited person using a firearm,

driving while disqualified, and possession of drugs namely cannabis and 1-4 butanediol.

He was remanded in custody to appear at the Latrobe Magistrates Court on Friday, April 4.

He subsequently appeared in the Korumburra Magistrates Court on Thursday, January 16.

The Leongatha man appeared at the Korumburra Magistrates Court on Thursday, February 13, by video link, also charged in relation to the non-fatal shooting in

Wonthaggi last month.

He was arrested and charged on January 14 with an array of conduct and weapons related offenses at the time.

Last week, police announced he had also been charged in relation to a shooting in Wonthaggi on January 12, the new charges including intentionally causing serious injury and conduct endangering life.

He was also remanded in custody to appear in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on April 4 for a committal mention.

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## 6 Day Weather Forecast

### SOUTH GIPPSLAND



**TUE | Feb 18**

Shower or two.

Wind AM: Light

Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h

**12° 23°**



**WED | Feb 19**

Shower or two.

Wind AM: SW 15-25km/h

Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h

**13° 21°**



**THUR | Feb 20**

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h

Wind PM: Light

**14° 22°**



**FRI | Feb 21**

Mostly sunny.

Wind AM: Light

Wind PM: NE-SE 15-20km/h

**12° 29°**



**SAT | Feb 22**

Late shower or two.

Wind AM: NE 15-20km/h

Wind PM: N 15-25km/h

**19° 35°**



**SUN | Feb 23**

Showers.

Wind AM: NW 15-20km/h

Wind PM: W 20-30km/h

**17° 29°**

## IN BRIEF

### Wonthaggi wetlands set ablaze in extreme fire conditions

POLICE are investigating a grassfire in the Graham Street wetlands and parklands behind Wonthaggi Plaza.

Nearby residents watched with concern as firefighters battled strong winds and high temperatures fanning the flames ahead of a cool change.

A number of fire units were called from Wonthaggi and surrounding districts.

The fire was contained to a small area of rushes as police cleared walking tracks and access roads.

A helicopter was called in within minutes to help firefighters bring the fire under control.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information or anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious activity in the area is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)

### Bin fire, false alarm

WONTHAGGI fire fighters answered two callouts in Wonthaggi within a couple of hours of each other, on either side of lunchtime on Tuesday, February 11.

The callout in Biggs Drive around 12 noon was reported as a "bin fire" while the callout in O'Brien Crescent in Wonthaggi North was a "false alarm".

But the volunteer firefighters dutifully turned out anyway.

### False Alarm at Wonthaggi Plaza

SHOPPERS were briefly unable to enter Wonthaggi Plaza last Thursday 13 February, after a fire alarm was triggered on the premises.

Four fire trucks arrived at the scene after the alarm was triggered at 12:16 pm, and the building was quickly evacuated while firefighters investigated.

Fortunately, there was no fire, with the alarm believed to have been set off by a faulty detector.

### Grass and scrub fire in San Remo quickly contained

THE CFA San Remo Brigade responded to a grass and scrub fire about 11:54am in San Remo on Thursday, February 13. Crews arrived to find a grass fire spreading and crews worked quickly to contain it.

CFA spokesperson confirmed that CFA had one vehicle from the San Remo Brigade on scene and the incident was declared safe at 12:08pm.

### Talking about death won't kill you

THE Inverloch Death Café is run at Inverloch Community House, with the next event being held on March 14 from 3pm to 5pm. At a Death Café people, often strangers, gather in an accessible, respectful and confidential space to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death.

The purpose is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives. A Death Café is a group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counselling session.

This is a free event. Tea, coffee, water and cookies will be provided. Sign up via the Community House. Phone: 03 5674 2444.

### JB Hi Fi next in retail Wonthaggi boom

LAST Saturday, February 15 the crowds flocked to the latest big box retail store opening in Wonthaggi, the launch of the popular BCF camping and outdoors franchise, in the former Bunnings hardware location.

They joined sister store, Super Cheap Auto, and recent arrival Forty Winks at the remodeled centre for an event which featured a Rotary sausage sizzle, \$20 gift cards for the first 50 customers and other opening

weekend specials.

But the best may be yet to come with confirmation that Australia's largest home entertainment retailer, JB Hi Fi, is opening in the Wonthaggi Plaza, reportedly taking over the location presently occupied by Best and Less which is due to close on Saturday, March 22.

Founded in 1974 by John Barbuto, also known as "JB", JB Hi-Fi was acquired by The Good Guys in 2016 with the two brands now united under the JB banner.

### D-day for Stanley and McGrady Road residents

SOMEONE on the council will have to move an alternative motion to the recommendation set to be presented to councillors this Wednesday, allowing the applicant Hanson Australia Pty Ltd to go ahead and remove native vegetation from the road reserve along Stanley Road and McGrady Road at Grantville and Glen Forbes.

Failing that, 36 mature trees and a heap of bush will be removed, despite council receiving 54 objections raising issues including: Loss of native vegetation and woodlands, Air, noise, and light pollution, Insufficient consultation with Indigenous people and local arborists and loss of amenity for nearby homeowners.

It is expected that the public gallery at Wednesday's council meeting will be packed in significant test for the new council.

### Cowes Beach tenth best

Cowes Beach has been ranked the tenth best beach in Australia for 2025. The official list of Best Australian Beaches is compiled each year by beach expert, Brad Farmer AM, following a comprehensive study of the coastline around Australia's mainland and surrounding islands. "Cowes' buzzing seaside holiday vibe is complemented by one of Victoria's few north-facing beaches, tailor-made for picnics on the

grass or sand, beach games, soaking up the sunshine or water sports. These sheltered, sandy beaches in Cowes are in Western Port Bay, resulting in gentle, low swells, making them a popular choice for families," said Brad Farmer.

### Motorbike riders come to grief on Phillip Island Road

TWO impatient motorbike riders, who caused a traffic jam on Phillip Island Road last Saturday, February 15, made a rookie mistake that almost turned tragic.

According to a spokesperson for the Bass Coast Highway Patrol, the two riders came up behind a group of cars waiting for another driver to turn right, off Phillip Island Road, into Punch Bowl Road.

But, instead of waiting patiently for the momentary blockage to clear, the first of the riders has turned out and passed, not only the waiting cars on the right, but also the car waiting to turn, narrowly avoiding a collision with an on-coming car, travelling in a westerly direction.

A 20-year-old male Learner rider from Beaconsfield Upper has followed the more experienced rider in the same manoeuvre, attempting to pass the cars on the right but has collided with the rear taillight of the turning vehicle and fallen on to the road, sustaining minor injuries.

Police said the motorcycle has continued on, without its rider, and collided with a west-bound vehicle.

Initial reports were that one of the riders had been run over by the on-coming car, but emergency services arrived to find that, thankfully, it wasn't the case.

One of the riders has been issued with an infringement notice, for overtaking when unsafe to do so, but the outcome was a lot less serious than it might have been.



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# 'Deeply concerned,' says Responsible Renewables

COMMUNITY-based lobby group, Responsible Renewables, has come out strongly opposed to plans for a second cross-shore transmission line at Waratah Bay to connect with Gippsland's offshore wind projects.

The group is a collective of community members concerned about the impact of the offshore wind rollout on the local environment and said on Sunday, February 16 that they have "received new information from Gippsland Skies and Marinus Link regarding expanded infrastructure plans for the Gippsland offshore wind zone".

They have issued the following statement:

While the current onshore connection corridor at Giffard has a 2GW capacity, the zone's total planned capacity of 7GW-9GW will require additional connection points. Waratah Bay, adjacent to Wilsons Promontory National Park, is being investigated as well as the



**Waratah Bay was at its wild and untamed best at the weekend when 120km/h winds whipped up the waves against the backdrop of iconic Wilsons Promontory. The idea that you could have high-voltage transmission lines reaching down to the coast here would be anathema to most locals.**

entire area from McLoughlin's Beach to Seaspray. We have been advised that VicGrid will undertake public consultation by October 2025 and make the final decision on connection points.

Laura Jennings from Responsible Renewables stated, "We are deeply concerned about proposals to establish onshore

connections through Waratah Bay – an integral part of the Wilsons Promontory seascape. This directly contradicts Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen's commitment to protect the western side of Wilsons Promontory from offshore wind turbines and associated infrastructure."

"The environmental cost to Wilsons Promontory's

pristine coastline, marine ecosystem, and local environment is simply too high. While we support renewable energy development, it cannot come at the expense of protecting our irreplaceable natural heritage. This appears to be driven by multinational developers' profit motives rather than community interests."

## One of our own nominated by Labor for Monash



**The Labor Party has nominated South Gippsland local Tully Fletcher as their candidate for the seat of Monash.**

all workers are paid right and paid on time.

In a statement authorised by Steve Staikos, State Secretary Victorian Labor, Tully is recommended as someone who knows the area, its families, farms and businesses, and under-

stands the pressures that exist and the fact that many people are looking for a better deal.

Among Labor's priorities are bringing down the cost

"He'll fight hard to deliver the services, infrastructure, mobile coverage, and internet speeds we deserve."

As a keen motorbike rider Tully is aware how bad our roads can be and will make road safety upgrades a top priority for all drivers.

Among Labor's priorities are bringing down the cost

of living, protecting jobs and wages, and ensuring everyone in Gippsland can afford and access housing, health, education and care.

Tully believes Gippsland voters in Monash deserve a Federal MP who calls it like it is, shares our values, works as hard as we do, and gets things done.

"Monash voters have a clear choice this election: Peter Dutton-led Liberals who haven't delivered for Gippsland in two decades, or a fresh local Labor candidate raised in Gippsland, ready to tackle the cost of living, and fight for our fair share," said Mr Fletcher this week.

"The only way to get a better deal for Monash, fix the cost of living, and stop Peter Dutton is to vote for Labor. If you don't want Dutton, you must vote Labor," he said.

## High-voltage election: How offshore turbines could spin the result in Monash

### From page 1

They say they're considering two cross-shore corridors for their 2.5GW wind farm, to be located in Declared Area OEI-01-2022 Part 3, situated 30.4km south-west of Wilsons Promontory, the one already approved for further investigation by VicGrid, coming ashore 150km away between Giffard West and Seaspray east of Yarram and another, just 50km away, coming ashore at Waratah Bay.

A spokesperson for Gippsland Skies claims the EPBC process administered by the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the state government's renewable energy planning authority, VicGrid, had encouraged them to investigate such options in their feasibility studies.

But, as acknowledged by the President of the Sandy Point Community Group, Michelle Jelleff, one of only about 30 people to attend the Sandy Point drop-in session, hardly anyone knows about it.

"Some of our members might be aware of it but I didn't know they were scoping a separate location until I spoke to them today," said Ms Jelleff.

"It's still a long way off and presumably they'd have to go through a lengthy approvals process. It's unknown if the government would approve an alternative connection point."

The proposal for a second transmission corridor at Waratah Bay, needed by 2032, has been criticised as "deeply concerning" by community-based lobby group, Responsible Renewables.

They have issued the following statement:

"While the current onshore connection corridor at Giffard has a 2GW capacity, the zone's total planned capacity of 7GW-9GW will require additional connection points. Waratah Bay, adjacent to Wilsons Promontory National Park, is

being investigated as well as the entire area from McLoughlin's Beach to Seaspray. We have been advised that VicGrid will undertake public consultation by October 2025 and make the final decision on connection points."

Laura Jennings from Responsible Renewables stated: "We are deeply concerned about proposals to establish onshore connections through Waratah Bay – an integral part of the Wilsons Promontory seascape. This directly contradicts Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen's commitment to protect the western side of Wilsons Promontory from offshore wind turbines and associated infrastructure."

"The environmental cost to Wilsons Promontory's pristine coastline, marine ecosystem, and local environment is simply too high. While we support renewable energy development, it cannot come at the expense of protecting our irreplaceable natural heritage. This appears to be driven by multinational developers' profit motives rather than community interests."

Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien, the State Leader of the Nationals said it was "not an option South Gippsland will accept".

"The Victorian Labor Government said it would coordinate transmission through Giffard West to avoid the 'spaghetti effect' of multiple transmission lines. It can't now change the rules again," he said.

"Jacinta Allan and Lily D'Ambrosio can fix this now by simply saying no to a South Gippsland transmission line option and they should do so immediately."

VicGrid has been asked for comment.

The candidates for the Federal electorate of Monash will also be given their opportunity if the State Government leaves the South Gippsland high-voltage line option on the table.

**RUSSELL BROADBENT**  
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**Cancel Corinella short-stay rego, they say**

A GROUP of Corinella residents is so fed up with the behaviour of people visiting a short-stay accommodation place in the area that they've petitioned the Bass Coast Shire Council to cancel its registration.

A petition signed by 82 people is set to be tabled at this Wednesday's council meeting outlining problems that have been experienced including serious breaches of road safety, antisocial behaviour, repeated disturbance of the peace, environmental health issues and impact on amenity and mental health.

It is anticipated that council will receive the petition and allow it to lay on the table until the March meeting when a report and possible recommendations will be brought to council.

**Petition for Island road works**

THE latest in a whole swath of petitions from residents of Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach on Phillip Island, looking to have their drainage and private streets constructed and sealed, has hit the council table at Bass Coast.

It's a petition signed by 27 property owners abutting Anglers Road Sunderland Bay listed under 'Priority 43' (Sunderland Bay minor roads) on a list of 137 construction priorities in the Council's Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy.

Other roads in the Sunderland Bay minor roads group include Barry St, Bella Ct, Dover St, Elane St, Foam St, Gemma St, George St, Hill St, Jill St, Ozone Ct, Phillip Island Service Rd, Rowena Rd, Zephyr St, and The Esplanade.

Council's response to the petition will likely include investigating the preferred treatment options and potential costs to upgrade the road but works would be subject to consideration of the Urban Roads and Drainage Improvement Policy at a future meeting.

This and other petitions have come forward since the Bass Coast Shire Council abandoned its \$35 million Surf Beach Sunderland Bay road and drainage scheme in October 2023.

**Protect the coast, not the path, says Cr O'Brien**

HOPES for the development of the proposed Cowes to Ventnor Foreshore Trail will be on the line at the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting this Wednesday when council debates a Notice of Motion being put forward by Island Ward Councillor Tim O'Brien.

Cr O'Brien wants council to recognise the value of the fragile foreshore reserves, between Cowes and Ventnor, and vegetation and habitat they support rather than giving priority to developing a trail that might place more pressure on the natural environment.

"While tracks and trails in appropriate environments and locations can provide relatively low-impact tourism opportunities and activities, and can provide connection as well as amenity to residents, their siting, depending upon the environment they are traversing, must be the principal threshold consideration when planning such trails," said Cr O'Brien.

# How Bass Coast's dogs missed the boat

THE Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association, established in 2020 to provide a voice for dog owners, has expressed its concern that the shire council has missed the boat for 'New and Upgraded Dog Parks' fundings.

As part of its 'Open Space for Everyone Strategy 2021' the Victorian Government committed \$13.4 million to build and upgrade dog parks across the state.

In stage one, a select group of local councils was funded (\$7.685 million) to deliver six new dog parks and 13 dog park upgrades, mostly in suburban areas.

Round 2 of the same program, offering \$5 million, was seen as a chance for regional councils to cash in, with funding of between \$100,000 (unencumbered) and \$300,000 (co-contribution of \$200,000) available.

But former secretary of the dog owners' group, Anne Grose has raised her concerns that the Bass Coast Shire may not even have made an application for funding.

"I wrote to the council, and they responded saying they didn't believe the 'Carnival' site (Hilton Chadwick Reserve) met the criteria for funding. I've written again to ask if they've applied for any of the five funding rounds since COVID and so far, received no reply.

"I've had it verbally confirmed that the shire didn't apply for funding because they hadn't finished the dog park strategy, but I've had a reply from DEECA saying that a dog park strategy was not a prerequisite."

In response to a question from the Sentinel-Times, the shire has confirmed it did not make an application for funding.

"Council did not apply for a grant under this stream as no appropriate locations have been found. However, identifying these areas is a priority as part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan implementation," said a spokesperson for the shire.

Cheryl Owens, President of the Phillip Island Bass Coast



**They're waiting for improved dog park facilities at Phillip Island and also on the Bass Coast Shire mainland however, after the shire failed to apply for a grant, they could be waiting for a while.**

Dog Owners Association said this week that it would be "incredibly disappointing" if the shire hadn't made application for funding.

"We're concerned to retain and improve the dog parks we have now but there's no doubt that better facilities are needed right across the shire, especially in new developments."

Had the shire applied for and received a \$300,000 grant, and matched it with \$200,000 of its own money, a project in the order of \$500,000 would have been possible.

Here are the types of projects that would have been eligible:

"Funding will primarily be for purpose-built facilities for dogs and their owners to enjoy. This includes new dog parks, or upgrades, replacements, renewals and

additions to existing dog off-leash areas. Examples include (but are not limited to): play features, water bowls, fencing of all or part of the off-leash area, delineation of different areas for active and quiet dogs, replacement of granitic sand areas, refurbishment of existing fencing, signage supporting responsible pet ownership, vegetation buffers, shelter, bins, agility equipment, paths, shade, rocks and other nature-play elements.

"A component of funding may also be used for supporting infrastructure that benefits dog owners and other park users. Examples include: paths to improve connectivity, lighting to facilitate greater use, all abilities access, tree planting and landscaping for cooling and greening of the open space. Any supporting infrastructure

must be located within the existing open space or within 200 metres of the primary dog off-leash area."

"These are exactly the sorts of things we have been asking for, and frankly, the sorts of things needed in an area of strong dog ownership like Bass Coast," said Ms Owens.

The South Gippsland Shire Council has also been asked to respond to the question about whether they made application for funding in Round 2 which closed in October last year. Successful projects were to have been announced at the end of January, however, you won't find Bass Coast on the list.

It has been suggested that the cash-strapped Bass Coast Shire Council may not have applied for a grant because they didn't have the funds to match a significant allocation.



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# South Gippsland targeted for transmission lines

MANY people may be completely unaware, according to a spokesperson for the Sandy Point Community Group, that the Gippsland Skies consortium is considering bringing the transmission line from its proposed 2.5 GW wind farm, to be located south of Wilsons Promontory, onshore at Waratah Bay.

Such a development would see a line of 55-metre-high, 500kV transmission towers, about 2/3rds the height of the Bald Hills Wind Turbines, marching across farmland from Sandy Point, past Fish Creek, Meenyan, Dumbalk and Mirboo North to the Latrobe Valley in time to be operational by 2032.

It was one of the details gleaned from Gippsland Skies' representatives at a community consultation drop-in session at Sandy Point on Saturday, February 15, attended by upwards of 30 people, following a similar morning session attended by 25 people at Foster.

President of the Sandy Point Community Group, Michelle Jelleff, said she was unaware there was potential for a second shore crossing in Gippsland, other than the corridor identified by VicGrid for community consultation near Giffard east of Yarram.

"Some of our members might be aware of it but I didn't know they were scoping a separate location until I spoke to them today," said Ms Jelleff.

"It's still a long way off and presumably they'd have to go through a lengthy approvals process. It's unknown if the government would approve an alternative connection point."

Ms Jelleff said the process for her group would be to take the information to the members and provide them with the relevant details and links



Among those taking an interest in the Gippsland Skies offshore wind farm proposal during a drop-in information session at Sandy Point on Saturday were Sandy Point Community Power members Phil Cornwell and Chris Harvey with Giulio Pinzone of Gippsland Skies.

through their newsletter.

"We have a huge following on Facebook," she said.

Asked why she thought there had been a relatively small turnout at the Sandy Point drop-in session, Ms Jelleff said it might be the weather, but more likely people simply hadn't heard about the potential for a new transmission corridor at Waratah Bay.

"I don't know that the broader community is aware of it," she said.

## Community consultation

The final community engagement and consultation session in this round for Gippsland Skies' marine

investigations and management plan will be held at the Fish Creek Memorial Hall on Thursday, February 20, between 4pm-6pm.

All of the Gippsland feasibility licence holders will then deliver a second round of joint community engagement events to be held in Port Albert, Golden Beach, Sale and Leongatha during March.

The regional events will provide an opportunity for locals to meet and engage with the offshore wind developers behind Gippsland's proposed projects:

- Port Albert - Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 4pm - 6pm, Port Albert Mechanics

Institute

- Golden Beach - Thursday, March 13, 2025, 4pm - 6pm, Golden Beach Community Centre
- Sale - Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10am - 2pm, Nakunbalook, Sale Botanic Gardens
- Leongatha - Thursday, March 27, 2025, 4pm - 6pm, Leongatha Memorial Hall.

The organisers are encouraging local communities to attend to learn more about offshore wind, upcoming project plans, socio-economic benefits and share feedback.

See more details online at [www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)

## New Isle of Wight Hotel still awaiting approval

THEY'VE turned the first sod on what is being touted as a \$130 million investment in accommodation and entertainment that will transform Cowes, on the historic Isle of Wight Hotel site, but it doesn't mean it's full steam ahead with construction.

In fact, the Bass Coast Shire Council is yet to receive a final proposal from the South Melbourne-based Moda group which lines up with all of the council's 250 conditions, applied by council when they issued a Notice of Decision to Grant a Planning Permit in September 2023.

But progress is being made, we're told.

A spokesperson from council said last week that the shire was working with Moda on the council's requirements for the project.

Among them include 197 car parking spaces for staff and guests, protection of the historic Hoop Pine and Morton Bay Fig trees at the front of the property and a wide range of construction and operation requirements.

The sale of liquor, for example, is to be limited to Monday to Saturday 7am to 1am the following morning and on Sundays 10am and 1am the following morning with a maximum number of 2801 patrons (during Moto GP summer, and long weekends) and 300 staff at any one time.

Recently Moda published the latest images of the hotel development on its website.

"We're proud to share a first look of the proposed 'new' Isle of Wight on Phillip Island. Located at 9-10 The Esplanade, we're aiming to entirely rejuvenate the site and return it to the community as a new, much-loved focal point to be enjoyed by Phillip Island locals, holidaymakers and future generations alike.

"Inspired by the most vibrant Australian seaside resorts and iconic international beach venues, we envision the next chapter to be a diverse, mixed-use precinct which sets a new standard for hospitality and accommodation in Victoria."

The proposal calls for a 160-room hotel, ground floor food and beverage facilities including; bistro, public bar and beer garden, a signature restaurant, a large-scale event space, retail laneway, a state-of-the-art wellness centre and a rooftop pool deck that will take in the spectacular north-facing views over the foreshore and Western Port.

The development seeks to provide an estimated \$55M-\$76M boost to the local economy annually and provide 150 new employment opportunities.

It is tipped to be opened in 2027.

The developer is allowed to undertake earthworks on the site ahead of the ultimate signoff by council.

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Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre staff members Carmel, Brook, Anneli and Trevar. Ns33\_0725

## 100 reasons to celebrate Wonthaggi

THE community turned out in droves to mark the first of many events celebrating 100 years of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre on Saturday February 15.

It was certainly 'On at the Union' as the theatre came to life with a performance by the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band followed by a screening of Richard Lowenstein's renowned film, Strike-bound, which is about the area's coal industry during the 1930s and was released in the 1980s.

The night was kicked off with a Welcome to Country detailing the region's indigenous people and their cultural heritage.

There were many notable attendees such as Richard Lowenstein and cast members, with Bass Coast Shire mayor Rochelle Halstead also acknowledging

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale and other members of council in attendance.

"Tonight, we are making history, we are officially launching the 2025 program of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 100 years since the original union theatre opened its doors, bringing art, theatre, film and community celebrations to Wonthaggi and surrounds," she said.

"For 2025, this centre will revert to the original name of the Union Theatre for this centenary year, under the banner of 'It's On At The Union'.

"This year will be a spectacular showcase of talent; it is truly a once in a lifetime celebration."

Be sure to keep up with all the events happening at [basscoastculturalvenues.com](http://basscoastculturalvenues.com)

# Valentine's Day for all abilities at Phoenix Rise in Kilcunda

KILCUNDA proved to be the perfect romantic venue for an all-abilities Valentine's Day disco at Phoenix Rise a new \$3 million dollar private respite complex on the Bass Highway.

An initiative of Bass Coast Support Work Services the Phoenix Rise Valentine's Day disco was well supported by a large number of over 18 romantics and their support workers.

The disco was held in the stables of Phoenix Rise a former 40Ha equestrian training property now owned by Bass Coast Support Work Services.

The respite centre marks an important milestone for the local NDIS provider.

"I'm quite stunned at what we've created," said Managing Director, Erin Gardner.

"Overwhelmed."

The three million dollar property can provide respite accommodation for up to twelve people in two separate buildings close to Kilcunda and nearby beaches.

Bass Coast Support Work Services started from humble beginnings.

"We're only five years old," said Ms Gardner.

"I was made redundant after twenty years in retail management and started looking for something else."

"I tried Tupperware, then worked in childcare services."

"I saw a lot of gaps and decided to change it."

The Wattle Bank based registered NDIS provider currently employs 60 staff to co-ordinate



Bass Coast Support Work Services Managing Director Erin Gardner and Administration Manager Maddie Fellowes at Phoenix Rise an all abilities respite centre in Kilcunda B39\_0725

and provide support for NDIS, TAC and WorkCover clients.

"We held our first social occasion in November at the Dalyston Hall and it was a great success," said Ms Gardner.

Bass Coast Support Work Services is now planning an U18 children's disco.

"Participants come from Foster, Korumburra, Mirboo North, Wonthaggi, Kilcunda, Phillip Island and Welshpool," said Ms Gardner.

"It's a warm, welcoming environment where participants can make friends and connections outside the regular NDIS group."

Surrounded by beaming faces at the Phoenix Rise disco Erin Gardner can be rightly proud of what she has achieved in such a short space of time.

Bass Coast Support Work Services can be found on Facebook and Instagram, or [bcsws.com.au](http://bcsws.com.au)

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# Cash is still king for small businesses in Meeniyian

A CASHLESS economy dependent on EFTPOS machines has little support in towns like Meeniyian, plagued by internet and power supply interruptions.

A nationwide group formed to encourage the use of cash rather than rely on electronic payments Cash is King is fast gaining support across South Gippsland.

"We've seen what happens when the Internet goes down," says Marianne Sergeant owner of Swanlee giftware, art supplies and custom picture framing in Meeniyian.

Angela Bonser owner of All Forms of Design said cash allows you to trade every day of the year, but not so with EFTPOS machines.

"When the power is out or the Internet is down, you can't do business," said Ms Bonser.

"It's quite common in South Gippsland," she said.

"Meeniyian has a lot more outages than any other places.

"You just know that with a storm you're going to lose trade."

"And each time you use the ATM you are charged \$3 to take money out," said Ms Bonser.

With no bank in Meeniyian the Post Office provides a limited range of banking services but closes at midday on Saturday when the town is normally at its busiest with tourists.



Angela Bonser owner of All Forms of Design at Meeniyian

B15\_0725

"Large institutions and chain stores like the idea you can't use cash but not small business," said Angela.

"The big boys can negotiate a small transaction fee with the banks but for small business bank charges for EFTPOS transactions are a higher percentage."

"Australians are aghast when they see the record profits

made by banks.

"Every time you tap a card the bank is making money and can track what you spend," said Ms Bonser.

There is no rhyme or reason why people should not be able to use cash.

"I offer discounts for cash," said Angela.

"All the local traders prefer cash."

Ms Bonser said she understands small businesses may be concerned about theft and going cashless might solve that problem, but it is not in the best interest of customers.

"All these EFTPOS machines is why we've lost our banks in South Gippsland."

The single ATM in Meeniyian is susceptible to power outages and storms.

"There are no TAB cash windows at the Stony Creek racecourse anymore," said Angela.

"You need to use your phone with an online account.

"Only the bookies take cash."

The Cash is King group shares Angela Bonser's concerns.

"I always use cash where I can."

"Keep cash alive."

"We need cash when the technology goes down or a natural disaster."

Meeniyian has a lot of trouble with the Internet going out according to Marianne Sergeant.

"It goes down three or four times a year if not more," said Ms Sergeant.

"As soon as you lose the power you lose the Internet."

After the big storm in February last year Meeniyian was without power for four days.

"When you lose the Internet you lose EFTPOS."

For more information on Cash is King go to [facebook.com/groups/cashiskingaustralia](https://facebook.com/groups/cashiskingaustralia)

## Taxes crushing Victoria's rental market

VICTORIA'S rental market continues to go backwards revealing a statewide reduction of 20,000 rental properties in the past 18 months as property investors sell up.

The Nationals' Melina Bath said new or increased taxes has had a negative impact on rental property availability and individuals and families are finding it increasingly difficult to keep a roof above their heads.

"The State Governments taxation record is reckless, introducing 57 new or increased taxes, 30 of which directly target property owners and renters.

"There is no incentive for mum and dad property investors to remain in the market as the Government's increased taxes and red tape continues to hurt them financially.

"Ongoing failure to build and deliver an increase in social and affordable housing stock during a cost-of-living crisis is compounding the rental market pressures."

The Real Estate Institute of Victoria (REIV) has highlighted the exodus of investors as a direct result of punitive taxes, soaring interest rates, and bureaucratic red tape.

Victoria's rental market has fared worse than any other state - Queensland and New South Wales recorded slight increases in rental bonds, while Victoria suffered a four per cent decline.

Ms Bath said the State Government refuses to take responsibility for its actions which has pushed property investors out of the market, leaving renters to bear the brunt of its policy failures.

"The State Government must review its tax policies and implement measures to restore investor confidence to stabilise the rental market.

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**South Gippsland  
Shire Council**

## *South Gippsland Shire Council News*

### Exhibitions at Coal Creek

Coal Creek Community Park and Museum has been a heritage and cultural focal point in South Gippsland for more than 50 years. Located in Korumburra, Coal Creek is a popular tourist attraction and now has two distinct exhibition spaces: the Entry Gallery and the Auditorium.

This autumn, Coal Creek welcomes you to come and see the amazing line-up of artists exhibiting in these spaces. Current exhibitors include Rebecca Matthews Felted Dreams: Unveiling the Australia Landscapes and Out of the Box: Loch.

Felted Dreams is a mirage of colourful needle artwork depicting the everchanging Australian landscapes.

**Out of the Box: Loch** is a collection of works from the artists in residence during their stay in Loch. The eclectic collection of works promises to excite and delight viewers.

Be sure to make your way to Coal Creek to check out these incredible artists before the next lot of creatives bump in. These two exhibitions will be on display until Monday 13 March.

For more information about events and exhibitions happening at Coal Creek and around South Gippsland, please visit: [visitsouthgippsland.vic.gov.au/events](http://visitsouthgippsland.vic.gov.au/events)

### Community Training Calendar



Level up your community group with Council's FREE community training sessions.

These sessions provide participants with the opportunity to learn new skills and network with other like-minded individuals.

We encourage all South Gippsland community members, volunteers, community groups and non-profit organisations to register for these exciting training opportunities.

For more information and to register, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining)

#### 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](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)

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

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://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](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions)

#### COMMUNITY GRANTS

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

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

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

For more information and to apply, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants)

#### SHAPING SOUTH GIPPSLAND

The time to help shape South Gippsland is now! Your feedback will help us to review the Community Vision and inform development of the next four-year Council Plan.

There are plenty of opportunities to have a chat and provide your say at local events, Councillor pop-ups, community surveys and online. To have your say, please visit:

[www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au)

#### CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha  
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra  
03 5662 9200  
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**Cr Nathan Hersey is set to present his motion in relation to the State Government's Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund at Wednesday's council meeting.** A12\_0725

## Councillor Hersey expresses tax concerns

SOUTH Gippsland Shire councillor Nathan Hersey has hit out at the Victorian Government in a motion to be considered at Wednesday's public meeting, arguing council is being unfairly required to collect an increased emergency tax on behalf of the State and that the tax imposes a disproportionate burden on agricultural producers.

He is referring to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, stressing it represents a doubling of the Fire Services Property Levy and will unfairly impact regional ratepayers, particularly Victorian farmers.

He notes South Gippsland Shire has the most agricultural businesses of any local government area in the State as one of Victoria's key food bowls.

Cr Hersey stresses that while the tax is set to be collected by local government, it will be entirely passed to the State Government.

"Administrative burden will be too great, particularly for regional and rural councils, necessitating system upgrades and reconfiguration to raise a Victorian Government tax," he argues.

Cr Hersey explains that there is an exemption to be applied for emergency service volunteers in relation to their Principal Place of Residence but the current program used by council for managing rates is unable to determine which places that applies to.

Council staff will need to manage the calls from ratepayers requesting assistance and facing bill shock due to the doubling of a State tax, Cr Hersey anticipates.

He noted that having to manually enter data to apply exemptions will be difficult and time consuming for council staff.

His motion calls for a further report to be prepared, detailing the challenges for South Gippsland in administering the tax and the impact on ratepayers of the extra expense.

He also considers such a report should detail options to clearly inform ratepayers of what is a council charge and what is a State Government charge, suggesting that is an important consideration if the Victorian Government continues to force councils to collect taxes that are a State responsibility.

## Access and Inclusion Committee members sought

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is looking for more members to join its Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee has been created to provide advice to Council on issues of access and inclusion; promote inclusive practices; and contribute to the development of policies, strategies and plans. It is currently made up of 11 members, which are a combination of community members with lived experience of barriers to access and inclusion, and organisational representatives who work with access and inclusion issues.

The Committee is seeking more community member representation to ensure a broad spectrum of voices are being considered.

If you would like to find out more, or apply for this Committee, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/access-inclusion-committee](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/access-inclusion-committee)

If you would like to talk to someone about the Committee, please contact the Community Development team on 5662 9200 or email [community.development@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:community.development@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)



**Tahnae McCormack of South Gippsland Shire Council is congratulated on winning the 'Kathy Mitchell Award' by former VPELA president Kathy Mitchell and the organisation's current president Mark Sheppard who is also a director of Urbis.**

## South Gippsland planner recognised

WHILE South Gippsland Shire Council's Tahnae McCormack didn't set out to be a Statutory Planning Officer, with her eyes on a scientific career, she has found her current path rewarding, recently receiving recognition from the Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association (VPELA).

Tahnae was presented with the 'Kathy Mitchell Award', recognising excellence in a young or new professional working in the Victorian public sector.

She was nominated by Nick Moore, council's Acting Manager of Planning and Building Services and Lucas Gardiner, Director Future Communities.

The nominations highlighted Tahnae's leadership and professional development, along with her contribution to process improvement and knowledge of the agribusiness sector she applies in her role.

Tahnae outlined her approach to process improvement to assist planning applicants and council's ability to meet its responsibilities.

"I've done a lot of work in building templates and resources for assessing applications but also making resources available to assist applicants in understanding their application requirements," she said.

Tahnae reflected on the recognition she has received.

"It's a real honour to win the award," she said, delighted to have been nominated due to the contribution she is making through her work.

Kathy Mitchell AM is a past president of VPELA and has had a significant career in planning, especially in the public sector.

Long-term, Tahnae aspires to move into a leadership position in planning, having embraced recent opportunities to be an Acting Coordinator and mentor student planners.

She explained how she found her way into planning.

"While I was studying a science degree, I was working for another council in their environment team and the work I was doing there intersected with the planning department, so I had a bit of exposure to planning through that role," she said.

"I was lucky an opportunity came up at South Gippsland to have a go at planning, and when I started the role, I realised that I actually really liked it."

As well as the honour of winning the 'Kathy Mitchell Award', Tahnae received a 'VPELA Golden Ticket' which entitles her to membership and complimentary attendance at VPELA events for 2025.

"This brings some great opportunities for me to further develop my knowledge and skills as a planning officer with South Gippsland Shire Council, as well as make new connections and learn more about the diverse opportunities within the public sector," she said.

Tahnae expressed her appreciation to VPELA for its recognition of her work and to Nick Moore and Lucas Gardiner for nominating her.

## Korumburra Tennis Club upgrade proposal expected to gain council support

KORUMBURRA Tennis Club will likely receive a share of support at Wednesday's South Gippsland Shire Council meeting when councillors vote on a recommendation to endorse an application for a \$1 million grant to enable the building of a new pavilion.

The intended development would provide accessible and female-friendly facilities in line with modern expectations and consistent with council's recently adopted Fair Access to Recreation Facilities Policy.

It is noted the new facility would be sports wheelchair compliant.

Should a successful grant application be lodged through the

Victorian Government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, council would contribute \$475,000 and the club \$25,000 of the estimated \$1.5 million project cost.

The intention is to demolish the club's dated double-storey building, replacing it with a single-storey pavilion to be built in a different spot adjacent to the lower courts.

"Working with Sport and Recreation Victoria, Tennis Victoria and the Korumburra Tennis Club committee, concept designs and a preliminary cost plan have been prepared," council states in its meeting agenda.

## Mayor's Message



**Cr John Schelling**

HELLO South Gippsland.

On February 13, 2024, our region was rocked by an intense storm. What only lasted a few moments, caused some terrible damage to roads, homes and trees. Emergency services, Council teams, volunteer groups and community members joined together to clear roads and make townships safe and support our most vulnerable people. For many, this clean up continues and will for some time, but we all remember where we were and how we felt.

The greatest strength of a community is its people, and South Gippsland once again showed the power of people. Our community is something special.

A lovely celebration of the community spirit was held in Mirboo North on Saturday. Known as the Soiree, it was well attended despite the cooler weather.

I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in South Gippsland's storm response and recovery.

If you or someone you know needs support, please call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or any other counselling service.

### Community Training

After a successful year last year, Community Training opportunities are back in 2025.

These sessions are designed for community members, volunteers, community groups and not-for-profit organisations to build their skills in key areas.

Sessions for February and March are available to book now on Council's website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/community-training](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/community-training)

### Shaping South Gippsland Engagement

This is the second last weekend to come out and chat to us about the future of South Gippsland. Check out where you can find us below.

- Loch Bowls Club, 24 Smith Street on Friday 21 February from 5pm to 7pm.
- Foster Show on Saturday, February 22 from 9am to 12 noon.
- Toora Pear Party

at the Toora Pear Orchard, 18A Mill Street on Sunda, February 23 from 10am to 12 noon. Councillors will also be in the following towns on Sunday, February 23:

- Kongwak in Pioneer Park, William Street from 10am to 11am.
- Nyora at the Mitchell Street Playground from 11.30am to 12.30pm.
- Poowong at the Drivouin Road BBQ Shelter from 1pm to 2pm.

To see where we'll be 'popping-up' next or to complete your online survey, please visit: [www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au)

### Starlink Now in Mirboo North

Following the February 2024 storm, Council received a Tiny Towns Fund grant to deliver a Resilience Hub for Mirboo North. Working in partnership with the Mirboo Country Development Inc and the Community Foundation, a Starlink connection is now available at the Foundation.

Starlink was instrumental during the storm event to get our community connected while mobile and internet services were down, so I have no doubt this will be a welcomed addition to the town.

### GippSport

On Wednesday evening, GippSport held their first PlayWell Workshop in Leongatha. The workshop covered how clubs can make sports more inclusive and engaging for women and girls – something extremely important with the rise in those playing traditionally male-dominated sports.

Thank you to Cr John Kennedy for attending this workshop.

### MAV Campaign

The Municipal Association of Victoria are gearing up their advocacy work in the lead-up to the Federal election this year. To do this, they have created a campaign involving five Mayors from across the State – of which I am one. I am looking forward to using this opportunity to continue working hard for South Gippsland and sharing our opportunities and challenges.

## Leongatha Art Show's most successful year

THINGS have now wrapped up at Leongatha Memorial Hall with the 48th Art and Photography Show bumping out on February 9. It was probably our most successful show ever according to Committee Chair David Panther.

"We had more artists enter, more youth art than ever before, record box office and art sales," said David.

"I would like to thank all involved especially the hard -working committee who spend six months working towards each event. We get plenty of assistance from artists too, many enjoy spending time during the show working front of house. Our Rotary Club is very active too with many members and their partners assisting during the 3 1/2 weeks."

"Special thanks to our corporate sponsors and benefactors for their financial support. This allows us to offer great prizes. The South Gippsland Shire as well as the Leongatha schools and other educational organisations and their support of youth art entries is most appreciated."

The winning entry of the Phil Riseley People's Choice award was: Kathy Leek for 'Time to Reflect'.

The raffle was very well supported with all prizes donated and the proceeds going towards Rotary Projects. The businesses who supported the raffle are: In the Arcade, Henrietta's, Middys Leongatha, Hartley Wells – Betta Electrical and Panthers Menswear.

The winners were 1st – A McIvor , 2nd A de Leauw, 3rd J Coldebella, 4th G Collyer, M Cooper, 6th Z Bailley and 7th M.Carlisle

The 49th Art and Photography Show is being organised again by the Leongatha Rotary Club and will be from January 17 to February 7, 2026.

# South Gippsland Insurance Services rebrands to Austbrokers Countrywide



South Gippsland Insurance Services has rebranded to Austbrokers Countrywide with Fergus Warren taking over from Peter McAlpine.

SOUTH Gippsland Insurance Services has rebranded to Austbrokers Countrywide. The specialist insurance broker has long been established as the local expert of choice in the Gippsland area. Originally established in Leongatha by Peter McAlpine, the business has served the local community for over 20 years and continues to be a key insurance provider and risk advisor. Peter recently took the opportunity to move on to retirement, with Fergus Warren taking the lead, and the operations transitioning to become part of the Austbrokers Countrywide group. Fergus is proud of his local heritage and standing in the business community, with Austbrokers Countrywide continuing to operate from Bair Street in Leongatha.

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### Meet Fergus Warren

With years of experience in the industry and a deep understanding of the local area, Fergus is dedicated to ensuring you get the right insurance for your needs. Outside of work, Fergus has a passion for sport and plays for the Tarwin Football Club. When he's not playing footy, he is usually watching it and is a devoted Essendon fan – despite the latter being a bit of a challenge in recent years. As the local manager Fergus is always available to discuss your options and prides himself on making your insurance simple.

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 Deb Rielly

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The Rotary Club of Leongatha thanks all our sponsors, benefactors, schools, artists and visitors to our 48th Art and Photography Show. The Organising committee is most appreciative of the many volunteers who assisted during the 3 1/2 weeks of the show. Congratulations to all awards winners and the many artists who sold their art over the show.

Art Show Raffle Winners 1st Prize A McIvor, 2nd A. de Leauw, 3rd J Coldebella, 4th G Collyer, 5th M Cooper 6th Z Bailley, 7th MCarlisle  
Phil Riseley people's Choice – winner "Time to Reflect" - by Kathy Leek

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# Lots of support for budding South Gippsland Beekeepers

SOUTH Gippsland Beekeepers club is buzzing, with a membership of over 100, offering an array of interesting activities and the chance to gain important knowledge on looking after bees and ensuring you meet biosecurity standards.

Thursday's well-attended club meeting in Leongatha featured a visit from Karyn Di Florio, a Bee Biosecurity Officer for Agriculture Victoria, who ran through important requirements such as monitoring your hives and using processes like alcohol rinses to check for the presence of nasties such as Varroa Mites.

While talk of notifiable diseases, pests and reporting responsibilities might sound intimidating, there is plenty of support from within the club, experienced members happy to share their knowledge.

There were several new visitors at Thursday's meeting.

Buffalo's Kate Russell has long been interested in getting involved in beekeeping, having been given a hive years ago when in Melbourne and feeling the time is right now she is on a four acre country property.

"I love honey and I've always had a fascination for bees," she said, adding that South Gippsland Beekeepers club is fantastic with lots of people happily sharing advice.

Kate attended her first meeting prior to Christmas and has



**Peter Gatehouse and Colin Goodwin are a couple of the experienced beekeepers ready to share their knowledge with those getting started.** A02\_0725

been assisted to get her hive up and running.

"I've got a mentor already," Kate said of club secretary Anna Jones.

While acknowledging there's lots to learn, Kate feels well supported in doing so.

Established member Peter Gatehouse of Mirboo North runs beekeeping courses there for beginners, having kept bees for about 15 years, inspired by an ad in the local paper encouraging people to attend the club's first meeting.

He and his wife were interested in beekeeping due to their passion for gardening and now run Hill Top Hives.

Member Stan Glowacki is also

president of the Gippsland Apiarist Association and runs Jeerlang Apiary Supplies, making him a good person to chat to about the range of available beekeeping equipment such as the different types of hives.

He told the Sentinel-Times the beekeeping clubs in the area now work together to organise interesting activities for their members.

Thursday's attendees heard of an upcoming Gippsland Field Day in Moe at which people can learn from members of different Gippsland Beekeeping clubs.

Smoker safety, Varroa Mite detection techniques, understanding colony health and preparing

for winter pack downs are among the items on the agenda.

A separate Varroa Management Training Workshop is running the following day, February 24 in Traralgon as part of the National Varroa Mite Management Program.

As well as exposure to such important learning opportunities, joining your local beekeeping club also offers intriguing social outings such as a visit to the Botanic Gardens.

Peter of Hill Top Hives summed up the appeal of beekeeping, describing it as "an absolute joy".

"Bees are fascinating insects to watch; they don't work for their individual needs, instead working together as one 'organism' which is the colony or the hive," he said, suggesting people could learn a thing or two from the way bees live their lives.

Those interested in taking up beekeeping are encouraged to attend a meeting of the South Gippsland Beekeepers club, held on the second Thursday each month, a beginners group kicking off at 7pm before the 7.30pm meeting, most of the evening devoted to people's passion for beekeeping and club business formalities dealt with swiftly.

The club's president Andy Teitge can be contacted on 0437 035 558.



**The new stairs at the Carnival Stand of the Leongatha Recreation Reserve have been completed.**

## A century-old structure gets a modern upgrade

THE COMMUNITY of Leongatha and surrounds can now celebrate as the long-awaited new stairs at the Carnival Stand of the Leongatha Recreation Reserve have been completed.

This is the first time the stairs have been replaced in 104 years.

The Carnival Stand has been a cornerstone of local events and festivities since its establishment, witnessing countless celebrations, sports events, and community gatherings over more than a century.

The need for new stairs became increasingly apparent as the original structure showed signs of wear and tear, posing safety concerns for those using the stand.

The South Gippsland Shire Council stepped in with a grant, contributing to the cost of the new stairs which was pivotal in ensuring that the project saw completion.

The stairs have been designed to blend seamlessly with the historic aesthetics of the Carnival Stand, maintaining its nostalgic charm while providing a safe and sturdy structure for future generations.

"This is not just about replacing a set of stairs; it's about preserving a piece of our heritage and ensuring that the Leongatha Recreation Reserve continues to be a vibrant and safe space for our community," said a spokesperson from the Reserves committee of management.

With the new stairs now in place, the Carnival Stand is poised to continue its legacy as a central hub for community activities and stands as a testament to the town's commitment to preserving its history while embracing progress.

Glen Wright, the current chairperson of the Leongatha committee of management is currently painting parts of the stand to freshen it up as improvements continue to be made, both by Glen and members of the committee.

For bookings at the reserve contact Graeme at [leongatharecreserve@gmail.com](mailto:leongatharecreserve@gmail.com).

## Mirboo North and Foster Fire Stations remain unfunded

WHILE Yarram is one step closer to having a new fire station, Mirboo North and Foster Fire Stations are still without funding, despite having cramped, substandard facilities.

Funds were committed to Yarram Fire Station in the 2023-2024 State Budget after a commitment was made prior to the 2018 election, but unfortunately this was not matched by the State Government until five years later.

"The current Yarram station, like many others in the Gippsland South electorate such as those in Mirboo North and Foster, are too small and not fit-for-purpose.

"They simply weren't made to house modern fire trucks or address the health and safety needs of our

volunteers," said Danny O'Brien, The Nationals Member for Gippsland South and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services.

"Mirboo North CFA was told it would be receiving capital funding from the CFA in 2022 only to have those funds later withdrawn.

"The State Government has a worrying reputation of allowing infrastructure projects to blow out or fall by the wayside, so while it is great to see that steps are being made to see the Yarram fire station rebuilt, I will continue to monitor the project closely."

"I will continue to advocate for all of our local CFA volunteers to ensure they are provided the facilities and equipment that they deserve," said Mr. O'Brien.



**The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien is continuing to advocate for better CFA facilities at Mirboo North and Foster.**

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Gippsland winemaker William Downie selected to display his wine in France

## Winemaker secures a place in French wine museum

YOUNG GUN Gippsland winemaker William Downie has been given the rare honour of having his wines displayed in the French wine museum La Cité du Vin in Bordeaux.

Described once as the original enfant terrible of wine, Downie's groundbreaking wines will sit beside renowned Victorian winemakers such as Bests Great Western, Yarra Yering in the Yarra Valley, Brown Brothers, Chambers Rosewood Vineyards and Ten Minutes by Tractor on the Mornington Peninsula.

The world's largest wine museum in France, La Cité du Vin is a major tourist attraction welcoming more than 400,000 wine lovers every year.

The partnership with La Cité Du Vin follows the Wine Paris Vin Expo 2025 held last week.

State Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs, Danny Pearson said by promoting Victorian wines at one of the most influential wine museums in the world the Victorian Government was strengthening the state's reputation as a premium wine destination.

"Victoria is home to many of our country's most celebrated winemakers and this partnership is sharing their talent with the rest of the world and boosting their export opportunities," said Mr Pearson.

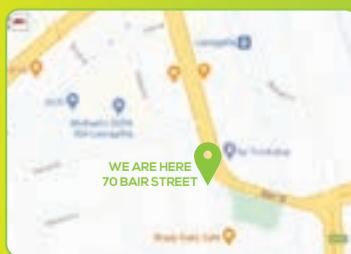
Born and raised in Gippsland William Downie was a two-time finalist in the Young Gun of Wine Awards and has been making wine for 15 years purchasing fruit from the Yarra Valley, Mornington Peninsula and South Gippsland.

Danny and his wife Rachel organically farm their property called Gundulain Farm with a vineyard, orchard and vegetable garden as well as pork, lamb, beef and poultry.

Credited with moving towards a purer, more fragrant style of Pinot Noir Downie travelled to Burgundy in France in 2001 and returned a year later with a new approach to the making of premium Pinot Noirs.

Downie has been making Pinot Noir under the William Downie label since 2003.

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# Korumburra animator treads the red carpet in Los Angeles

KORUMBURRA animator Shaun Freeman had a whirlwind trip to the United States to attend the Annie Awards in Los Angeles, having been part of a team working on 'Better Man', one of five films nominated for 'Best Character Animation - Live Action'.

The Award Ceremony was held on Saturday February 8, the Annie Awards recognising excellence in animation shown in American cinema and television.

With over 20 years' experience as an animator, Shaun works for production company W?t? FX, established by director Peter Jackson, the company responsible for the animation of all but one of the nominated films in the 'Best Character Animation - Live Action' section.

While W?t? FX is based in Wellington, New Zealand, it has a small hub in Melbourne, Shaun dividing his time between there and working from home in Korumburra.

Better Man tells the story of performer Robbie Williams, depicting him with the face of a monkey, the process of creating that face and bringing it to life taking a team effort, the monkey face springing from Robbie's observation that he feels like a performing monkey.

Shaun considers the novel approach proved a masterstroke, with people becoming more invested in the character than they would be if just seeing the face of the actor.

"To put Better Man together, it's not just a case of animating it; you need someone to do the modelling and someone to do the motion edits, the lighting, all that sort of stuff," Shaun



Shaun Freeman on the red carpet in Los Angeles with other members of the W?t? FX team, Luisma Lavin Peredo, Carlos Lin, Charlie Kim and Kaori Miyazawa.

explained, having been one of a contingent of W?t? FX representatives in LA.

"My job is to create the motion for the character, so when you see the film, if you see Robbie talking and laughing and emoting, we hand keyed that; it's like getting a stop motion puppet and animating the face," Shaun said.

Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes was named 'Best Character Animation - Live Action', being another production on which W?t? FX worked.

Better Man, directed by Aussie Michael Gracey has received glowing reviews and extensive recognition, having won Best Film at the recent AACTA Awards, where it also picked up Best Direction in

Film, and Best Screenplay, along with other honours.

The movie has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects.

"Of all the films I've worked on, I think it's my favourite," Shaun declared, noting it doesn't sugar coat Robbie Williams' story, sometimes not portraying him in a pleasant light, but strikes a balance between moments of humour and dour subjects such as addiction.

Attending the Annie Awards was a special experience for Shaun.

"I was just geeking out, meeting all these people I'd been studying and watching for many years," he said.

Fellow Australian Adam

Elliot, of Harvey Crumpet fame, was one of those people, having earned an Annie nomination in a separate category for Memoir of a Snail.

With Shaun having left for the United States on a Friday and being back home by Tuesday, he said jet lag didn't have time to set in, the jam-packed experience well worth it.

While Better Man hasn't fared well at the box office in America, Shaun stressed Robbie Williams is not well known there, and believes the film is still likely to perform strongly through streaming.

He encourages everyone to see the movie, although you will need to search for a cinema still showing it after its December release.

## New grants to power live music at festivals and local venues

THE MUSIC industry has new grant programs from the Victorian Government to support live music festivals and local venues to expand much-loved music events.

The Victorian Government's Live Music Festivals Fund, delivered by Music Victoria will provide grants to established Victorian festival's with more than 1,000 attendees of up to \$50,000.

The first round of the Live

Music Festivals Fund in September 2024 awarded grants to 22 festivals, with almost two-thirds from regional Victoria and this included the Ocean Sounds Festival held at Phillip Island.

At a time when the industry is facing a challenging operating environment, the grants will help organisers stage their events, creating local jobs for people on and off the stage, and attract music lovers to events

across the region.

The Live Music Festivals Fund also complements programs like 10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund, which is also now open for applications from music venues, with the Welshpool Hotel, Westernport Hotel, and The Lost Cewe in Phillip Island, receiving funding from previous rounds in this program.

Applications for the Live Music Festivals Fund open on Tuesday February 25 at 10am

and close on Tuesday, March 25 at 2pm. An online information session will be held on Tuesday March 4, to help people with their applications.

To find out more about the Live Music Festivals Fund visit [musicvictoria.com.au](http://musicvictoria.com.au). For information on other Victorian Government support for the music industry, including Music Works and 10,000 Gigs: The Victorian Gig Fund, visit [creative.vic.gov.au](http://creative.vic.gov.au).

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# SJD Homes donates to Deb Rielly Run for the Kids

SJD HOMES have recently donated \$2000 to the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids, an annual event being held in Kilcunda on Sunday February 23.

Deb Rielly was a much loved and inspirational part of the Bass Coast Community who sadly passed away in 2019.

As a paramedic and with a love of people, and outdoor activity, Deb devoted her life to helping others and in particular young people.

In 2012 Deb created the Keeping Kids on Track Fun Run to encourage families and young people to become more active and get out and about in the environment.

Money raised from the event was put back into the community and especially for projects that helped support kids.

Construction Manager of SJD Homes, Kim O'Connor, was a good friend and neighbour of Deb's and also worked alongside her in emergency management situations. They also sang together, sharing a love of music.

The donation is personally important to Kim, and it is also professionally important, as he said it aligns with the values of SJD Homes and what they do as a business, which is give back to the community.



SJD Homes donated \$2000 to the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids, with Kim O'Connor handing the cheque over to Deb's parents Barbara Slavin and Michael Anderson and Dalyton Football and Netball Club Event Manager Frank Angarane. ob02\_0725

"We love to be able support programs that help to get the kid that is sitting on the sidelines dreaming about playing sport but is unable to due to social or economic challenges, onto the ground and playing sport," said Kim.

Frank Angarane who is the event coordinator at the Dalyton Football and Netball Club and took over the event personally and as part of the club, at Deb's request when she became too unwell; with the name of the run subsequently being changed to reflect the legacy that Deb left behind.

"From the Footy Club's perspective, we're really proud to be part of the event and the connection with Deb Rielly. We're rapt that SJD Homes approached us and have come on board," said Frank.

"It is Deb's legacy that we continue and part of the proceeds of the event will go towards one of Deb's charities or one of the things she would have wanted to support. The family make a decision on where that goes."

Barbara Slavin, Deb's Mum commented that Deb was a strong,

determined and compassionate women who loved the Dalyton Football and Netball Club.

"I think what she did and what Franks taken on is a credit to her," said Barbara.

Everyone is welcome to join the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids, with tickets for a half marathon 21.1 km, 10km, 5km, 2km, Family Friendly Walk or Individual Walk event, and kids under 8 are free. To register, go to [www.raceroster.com/events/2025/98253/deb-rielly-run-for-the-kids](http://www.raceroster.com/events/2025/98253/deb-rielly-run-for-the-kids) or contact Frank on 0418 529 310.

## Cardell Accountants welcomes Michaela Salvato to the team

CARDELL Accountants are excited to announce that in January 2025, experienced Chartered Accountant, Michaela Salvato has joined the firm as a consultant, bringing with her over 30 years' experience in providing accounting and taxation services to Bass Coast Shire.

Michaela started her career at a "Big 4" accounting firm, before making the move to Phillip Island and working with Stephen Davie in Coves. In 2002 she established a boutique accounting and financial services firm, based in San Remo, and since then has worked with many small businesses in the region.

Michaela has also worked extensively within the community and not-for-profit area, particularly in the environmental and tourism sectors, with a variety of roles at Bass Coast Landcare Network, Three Creeks Landcare Group, Destination Phillip Island, and most recently as

an ongoing board member of the Phillip Island Nature Parks Board of Management Inc.

As a Chartered Accountant and Registered Tax Agent, Michaela has a Bachelor of Business in Banking and Finance, a Graduate Certificate in Financial Planning and a Certificate in Governance and Risk Management. Michaela is delighted to join Cardell Accountants who as Chartered Accountants, enjoy a reputation for providing expert taxation and accounting services and advice in the region.

The Cardell Accountants partners - Marcus Bond, Lyndal McKenzie, Jason Kennedy and Zachariah Fowler - are excited to welcome Michaela and her clients to the firm. On behalf of the partners, Marcus Bond stated, "Michaela brings a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are confident that her expertise will contribute to the continued strategic growth and success of Cardell Accountants."



Jason Kennedy, Michaela Salvato, Lyndal McKenzie and Marcus Bond of Cardell Accountants. Absent partner - Zachariah Fowler.

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**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria

Independent calls government to account on veterans issues

INDEPENDENT candidate for Monash Deb Leonard has met with representatives of Wonthaggi and Inverloch RSL branches to listen to their concerns over veteran suicide.

"I am holding the government to account over the timeline for the findings of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide," said Ms Leonard.

"I have had a great conversation with members of the Wonthaggi and Inverloch RSL and we see a sense of urgency," said Ms Leonard.

Wonthaggi RSL is seeking a \$100,000 grant to build a new deck at the rear of the RSL.

As a federal member Ms Leonard has undertaken to ensure clubs who need state or federal grants are aware of what is available.

RSL Vice-President Kevin Walsh said the Wonthaggi RSL needed a rear deck to provide social barbecues for veterans and a weekly foodbank from the RSL kitchen.

"The current toilets and decking are no longer suitable."

"The RSL can host up to 200 people on Anzac Day," said Secretary Toni Cornelius.

President Dan Lucas said Wonthaggi RSL needed to keep pace with population growth.

"We need adequate facilities to serve the community to provide social cohesion and multi-function spaces," said Mr Lucas.

"It is very important for the mental health of veterans to connect with other veterans."

Ms Leonard said the RSL was a space for the community to come together.

"People are frustrated the major parties are not responding to regional communities particularly at a federal level," said Ms Leonard.

A morning tea is held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Wonthaggi RSL for veterans who need support from other veterans.

The Wonthaggi and Inverloch branches of the RSL can be found on Facebook.

Open Arms is a free 24/7 counselling service for veterans can be called any time on 1800 011 046 or go to [openarms.gov.au](http://openarms.gov.au)

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has an all-hours support line on 1800 628 036 or go to [dva.gov.au](http://dva.gov.au)



## Water restrictions ruled out for Candowie

HISTORICALLY low water levels for Candowie Reservoir have not yet triggered water restrictions for Phillip Island, Archies Creek or The Gurdies.

With Candowie Reservoir sitting at 48.5% full or 2,166ML the water level remains at slightly less than the full supply level of Candowie before the reservoir was doubled in size in 2013.

Westernport Water also has access to significant volumes of carryover water allocated from the Greater Yarra Thomson system through its connection to the desalination pipeline from Kilcunda.

"Westernport Water has taken firm action over recent years to secure the region's water security ensuring sustainable and reliable resources to provide customers with the confidence that their water needs will be met today and into the future," said Geoff Russell, Manager Communications and Engagement.

"We have sufficient water to get us through the current dry period."

Permanent water saving rules remain in place across Victoria on an ongoing basis.

"These rules are a set of common-sense rules that are applied every day of the year to ensure Victorians use water efficiently and are designed to allow flexibility and choice regarding water usage, especially through the warmer months.

"Water restrictions are implemented based on the availability of water resources."

Westernport Water's Urban Water Strategy provides guidelines for considering water restrictions depending on the time of year and water volumes.

The Urban Water Strategy requires Westernport Water to take into consideration access to water from other sources such as the bulk entitlement from the Greater Yarra-Thomson System.

Westernport Water's Annual Water Outlook provides a forecast of water availability and demand for the upcoming year based on all available water sources and is available at [westernportwater.com.au/learning-centre/annual-water-outlook](http://westernportwater.com.au/learning-centre/annual-water-outlook).



The Bonsai Wellbeing Program aims to provide a medium of wellbeing for Inverloch RSL veterans and their families.

## Inverloch RSL launches Bonsai Wellbeing Program for Veterans and families

IN A TOUCHING tribute to the sacrifices of veterans and their families, the Inverloch RSL has launched an extraordinary Bonsai Wellbeing Program, masterfully guided by renowned bonsai sensei, Tim Reardon known as 'The Bonsai Fella'. This innovative program, generously funded by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), aims to provide a medium of wellbeing for Inverloch RSL veterans and their families, offering them a serene escape through the ancient art of bonsai.

Tim Reardon, with his profound understanding of the unique wellbeing needs of veterans and their families, serves as the guiding light of this program. His expertise and compassionate approach ensure that participants are not only

introduced to the meticulous techniques of bonsai cultivation but also to its deeply soothing effects. "Bonsai is not just an art form; it's a journey of patience, care, and connection with nature," Reardon explains. "It offers a tranquil retreat from the stresses of daily life and a meaningful way to honour our history."

A particularly poignant aspect of this program is the inclusion of a Lone Pine bonsai, a direct descendant of the Gallipoli Lone Pine. This tree holds immense historical and emotional significance, symbolising resilience and remembrance. Tim Reardon, with great reverence and care, tends to this bonsai, and his dedication has deeply moved participants, who have expressed profound

respect and affection for the tree.

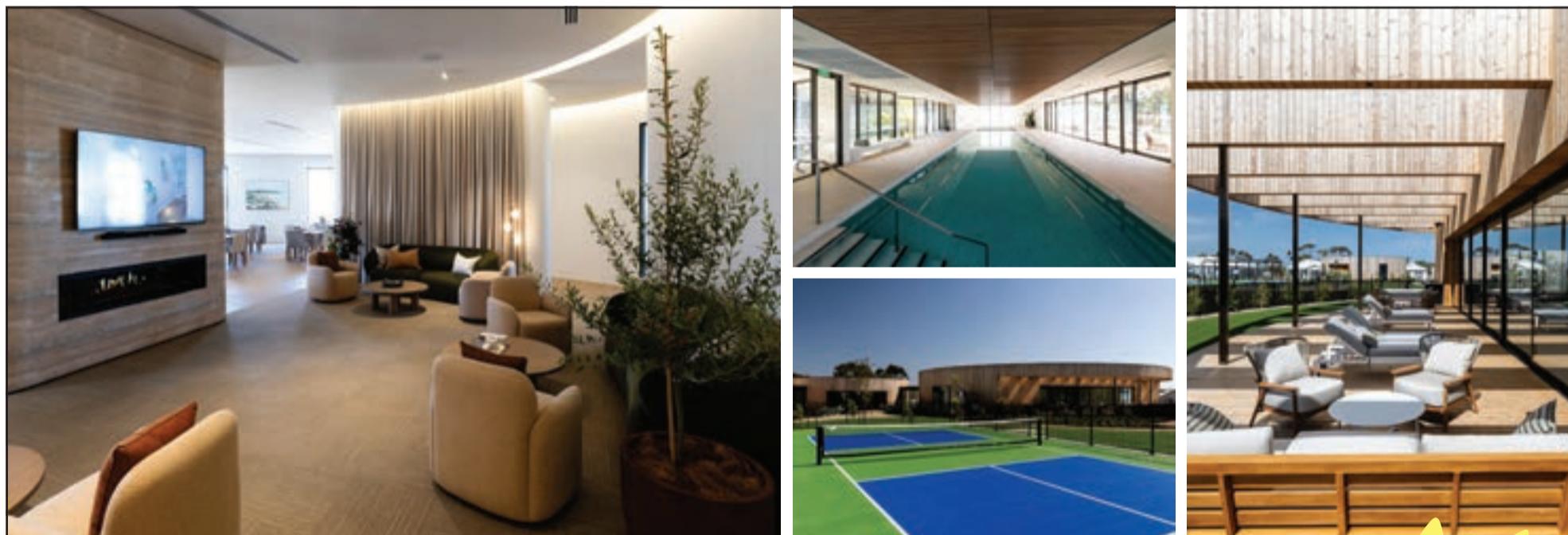
The Lone Pine bonsai is set to find its home at Inverloch RACV, where it will be prominently displayed in preparation for ANZAC Day. The placement of this bonsai serves as a living memorial, a reminder of the enduring spirit of those who served. For the veterans and families involved, this connection to such a significant piece of history is immensely meaningful. Inverloch RSL thank Inverloch RACV for their support with this.

Participants in the program have shared their appreciation for the calming influence of bonsai and the sense of community it fosters. "Working with bonsai has been incredibly therapeutic," said one veteran.

"It gives us a sense of purpose and a way to honour our past while finding peace in the present."

The Bonsai Wellbeing Program is more than a hobby; it is a symbol of hope, healing, and remembrance. Under the expert guidance of Tim Reardon, veterans and their families are discovering the beauty and tranquillity of bonsai, creating living tributes that will endure for generations.

Inverloch RSL's initiative is a testament to the power of nature in promoting mental and emotional wellbeing. As ANZAC Day approaches, the Lone Pine bonsai will stand as a powerful symbol of resilience and respect, a living link to the past, and a beacon of hope for the future.



### OVER 50s LIVING

## Our Clubhouse is Now Open!

We're excited to announce that the stunning Lifestyle Phillip Island Clubhouse is officially open. Featuring multi-million dollar amenities, including a state-of-the-art 25-metre pool, a fully-equipped Pilates studio, and a private cinema, it's the perfect place to relax, unwind, and enjoy.

 [lifestyle phillip island](#)

Come visit us at 498 Settlement Road, Cowes, and take a tour of the beautiful new Clubhouse as well as our state-of-the-art stunning display homes designed with downsizers in mind.

Discover why so many are choosing to make the move. For more information, call us at **1300 50 55 60**.

We can't wait to show you around!

**Lifestyle**  
COMMUNITIES

**Life.**  
**Unlimited.**





Mitch Mahoney, Maree Clarke, Cr Meg Edwards, Nicholas Hovington, Wade Mahoney, Cr John Temby, and Laura Brearley.

## 'Yawa (Long Journey)' by artist and curator Maree Clarke

YORTA Yorta, Wamba Wamba, Mutti Mutti, and Boon Wurrung multi-disciplinary artist and curator, Maree Clarke, was the chosen artist for the Berninnett Public Art Commission.

Maree hosted "Yawa (Long Journey)", a hands-on workshop at Berninnett from Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2 and was selected for her emphasis on community participation through a series of workshops, celebrating the unique local character and history by sharing traditional Aboriginal ways of travelling and living on the island.

Her vision for the commission centres around a stunning Murriini glass canoe, formed from glass sections created during public workshops at Berninnett, where the community had the opportunity to contribute to crafting and

arranging glass sections. The canoe references the long connection to the waterways, and travel. The Murriini glass at once captures the microscopic elements of the river reed, the play of light and colour reflects the sparkle of the local wetlands and ocean that surrounds Phillip Island.

The event kicked off with a morning talk by Maree, where she shared her past and upcoming projects, including the Australian Tapestry Workshop (New Footscray Hospital Commission) and Metro Tunnel.

There were over 200 RSVPs for the weekend, plus plenty of walk-ins escaping the heat.

Participants worked in small groups or individually, arranging glass sections to create their own patterns.

The workshop was a unique opportunity for attendees to sit with Maree and her family, fostering great conversations and storytelling.

There were 30 panels of glass sections completed over the three days—next stop: Canberra, where they will be blown into their final form.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead attended the workshop and was captivated by the artistry. "Imagine future generations looking up at this breathtaking glass canoe suspended in Berninnett's Grand Hall. It's representing our community's creativity and collaboration. I can't wait to see how the light dances through the glass, telling stories of First Nations culture while celebrating the pride we all share in this special place."



The front of the new St Paul's Drouin Campus.



Head of St Paul's Drouin Junior School, Rowan van Raay, welcomes new students and families on their first day of school.

## St Paul's Drouin is now open

WHAT AN exciting start it has been for families and staff at the new Drouin Campus of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School! 2025 marks the opening of a new kinder and primary school, with students from Pre-Kinder to Year 3 enjoying the stunning, elevated 36-acre site close to the M1 freeway entrance on the Melbourne side of Drouin.

Following a long tradition at St Paul's Warragul and Traralgon Campuses, Drouin Campus Prep students took part in a special 'Crossing of the Hats' ceremony on their first day. The "Almost A St Paul's Preppie" Prep gold hats, received during last year's

orientation, had the word "Almost" joyfully crossed off, symbolising the Preps' official entry into the school community.

It's been over 20 years since a new school has been built in the area, making this a much-anticipated addition to the community.

With high-quality educators and a growing campus, the Drouin Campus will now grow annually to reach Year 6. If you would like more information about the new St Paul's Kinder and Primary School at Drouin, please contact Bonnie Cameron, Enrolments Officer, on 03 5644 1233.

**St Paul's**  
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Hello Drouin!

Introducing St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, Drouin, a new Kindergarten and Primary school at our vibrant and welcoming new campus.

Discover a place to explore new skills where students engage in specialist programs including Physical Education, Library, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, STEM and Christian Studies. Our purpose-built classrooms are surrounded by outdoor play spaces, integrating with the beautiful natural environment and encouraging outdoor exploration in all seasons.

Would you like to find out more about our growing St Paul's community? Join us for a tour and discover the difference a St Paul's education can make for your child!

## School Tour

10am, Wednesday 26 February

Please visit [stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](http://stpaulsags.vic.edu.au) to register or contact our Enrolments Office now on 5644 1233.

Enrol now for 2026. Limited places available for 2025. Pre-Kinder to Year 3 in 2025, expanding annually to Year 6. via McGlone Road, opposite Kingston Heath Drive, Drouin

# Busy One Gippsland advocacy trip to Canberra

A ONE GIPPSLAND delegation to Parliament House in Canberra was led by the organisation's Chair, Cr Nathan Hersey of South Gippsland Shire Council, and its Deputy Chair, Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead, the group squeezing in an exhausting schedule on Monday February 10.

The delegation advocated for government support for the priority projects of One Gippsland, which is the peak advocacy body representing the Gippsland region, meeting with representatives of a range of MPs, as well as The Nationals Member for Gippsland Darren Chester.

One Gippsland representatives met with Kristy McBain, the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories.

"That was a really positive discussion and it was clear that there was significant interest in Gippsland and we had a strong message come back from the advisor that the minister is extremely impressed with One Gippsland and Gippsland as a region working together," Cr Hersey declared.

That feedback boosts confidence of future funding for the Gippsland region.

A meeting with the office of Senator Murray Watt, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, saw discussion

centre on how Gippsland as a region can work to support the transition to renewable energy.

That included talk of potential involvement by Federation University and TAFE Gippsland to help get the workforce ready to support that transition.

Catching up with the office of Kevin Hogan, Shadow Minister for Trade and Tourism, the focus was on the tourism needs of Gippsland, with in depth discussion about the Dinosaur Trail on the Bass Coast.

The Nanjet Gunaikurnai Cultural Tourism Project for 103 hectares of land adjacent to the entry to Wilson's Promontory National Park was another key topic, with One Gippsland keen to secure funding for the initiative.

One Gippsland also emphasised its desire to see a boost in international tourist numbers that are yet to fully recover post pandemic, with Bass Coast and East Gippsland Shires highlighted as areas where that needs to happen.

The potential for Port Anthony and Barry Beach Marine Terminal to support Gippsland's agricultural sector was also raised.

The office of Andrew Giles, Minister for Skills and Training, heard about the need for supporting Gippsland communities



Chair of One Gippsland, Cr Nathan Hersey of South Gippsland Shire Council, and the organisation's Deputy Chair Rochelle Halstead, who is Bass Coast Shire Mayor, led a delegation to Canberra to advocate for the needs of the Gippsland region.

in the energy transition, as well as the requirement to address a skills shortage in the region's aged care space.

A meeting took place with representatives of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Cr Hersey stressing the importance of that given Gippsland is one of the most susceptible regions to natural disasters in Australia.

"With the amount of fires, floods, storms and associated damage with things like landslides, it seems like something that we're always dealing with," he said.

That prompted talk of applying for grants, the introduction of emergency hubs in local areas to respond better to emergency situations and the need for emergency housing and emergency workforce,

along with the requirement for longer-lasting back up power for communications towers.

The need to simplify the process of rural and regional councils applying for emergency funding through NEMA was raised as a significant issue, with that then enabling more timely responses to natural disasters.

The office of Clare O'Neil, the Minister for Housing, and for Homelessness was urged to consider increased support for infrastructure related requirements.

"It's one thing to expect local government to support housing through the planning process, but when you're doing a new development in a rural area for new housing supply, it's not the same as doing a new development in a metropolitan area where all the services are," Cr Hersey said.

"We have to start from scratch with expensive things such as underground works, electricity, water, sewage, footpaths, kerb and channel, the whole works and all that costs a lot of money."

Housing needs for an estimated 6,000 workers coming to Gippsland to carry out energy transition roles was also stated by the One Gippsland contingent, which emphasised the need for firm plans to meet the requirement.

Government plans to deal with communications blackspots was the key issue raised with the office of the Minister for Communications Michelle Rowland, Cr Hersey highlighting there are an alarming 496 registered telecommunication (mobile) blackspots in the Gippsland region.

The need for emergency communication backup in the event of power outages was also discussed as was the potential need for increased mobile capacity in some areas during busy times.

Darren Chester, Shadow Minister for Regional Education, for Regional Development, and for Local Government and Territories, heard about projects One Gippsland would like to see funded.

While acknowledging "Darren knows the needs of Gippsland and is supportive of the area," Cr Hersey said conversation turned to ways in which the Federal Government could assist the local councils of Gippsland to remain financially viable long term in the rate-capped environment that prevails in Victoria.

The Sentinel-Times looks forward to reporting any positive outcomes in South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires that arise from the advocacy efforts of those from One Gippsland.

Find out more about



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



Can't make it in person?  
Scan the QR code to visit our website and learn more about Gippsland Skies.



## Living Lightly Bass Coast

February Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast

### Energy Evolution

#### Introduction to Solar

Thursday, 20 February – 6pm  
Online

| Free

#### Future Foods

#### Using and Avoiding Leftovers

Sunday, 23 February – 10am  
Garden Group of Wonthaggi Men's Shed

| Free

#### Garden Gems

#### Watering and Greening

Tuesday, 25 February - 6pm  
Online

| Free

#### Circular Solutions

#### Intro to Circular Economy

Thursday, 27 February – 6pm  
Online

| Free



Scan To Learn More Or To Stay Up To Date

Visit: [thecap.com.au](http://thecap.com.au) for more information

\*Dates and locations may be subject to change.

Visit [thecap.com.au](http://thecap.com.au) for the most up-to-date information.

# Victoria's biggest and best celebration of Australian garlic

THE South Gippsland Garlic Festival (formerly the Meenyan Garlic Festival) - Victoria's biggest celebration of Australian garlic - will be held at its new home in the vibrant South Gippsland town of Korumburra during the Labour Day long weekend of Saturday, March 8, 2025.

The festival, which began in 2017 in Meenyan (South Gippsland), will celebrate its fifth year in a new location (after a two year hiatus during the pandemic, and a year off in 2024), but with the same intention - to showcase and educate visitors about the huge array of garlic varieties grown in Australia, how to cultivate it at home, and how to use it in the kitchen.

Victoria is the perfect location for the event, as the state takes the lead in terms of production volume, with 32% of Australia's total fresh garlic (874 tonnes, \$6.8m value) grown here. Gippsland is also a hot spot for garlic growing, with the number of growers increasing year on year.

This year's festival will host 80 stallholders, including a dedicated Garlic Street, featuring Aussie growers like Garlic Kingdom and Pure Garlic, who will be selling fresh and preserved garlic products. There will be food vendors cooking up garlic dishes, plus local chef demonstrations, and an educational hub headed up by the Australian Garlic Industry Association - the Garlic University - which includes a presentation by industry authority Penny Woodward, and a series of presentations on small farm and commercial growing.



**South Gippsland Garlic Festival committee member Mel Griffith, Bluey and chef Atsuko Tanaka-Morrison are excited about the event coming to Korumburra.** A09\_0725

The Garlic Festival Bar will also make a return, where Gippsland winemakers, brewers, and distilleries - including Fleet Wines, Gurneys Cider, Burra Brewing, Mates Gin - will pour perfectly paired beverages for attendees, plus live local entertainment on the Festival Stage, free kids activities including a visit from Bluey, and more.

This year's Garlic Festival Kitchen, hosted by former Masterchef contestant and self-confessed garlic lover Simon Toohey, will welcome for the first time co-head chefs Jodie Odrowaz and Michael Clark from Messmates Dining in Warragul (recently awarded The Age Good Food Guide Regional Restaurant of the Year 2024), and Atsu Tanaka from local Korumburra Japanese

café Tsuko (at The Coterie). Alejandro Saravia, Gippsland Food and Beverage Ambassador, and chef/owner of Farmers Daughters and Morena restaurants will also return to the Kitchen. During live demonstrations, the chefs will cook up their favourite allium-based dishes, delivering a variety of Aussie garlic, with recipes garlic lovers can then recreate at home.

And it doesn't stop at the festival grounds - the entire town of Korumburra will join the celebrations, with pubs, cafes, breweries, bakeries, and small goods suppliers showcasing their own unique Aussie garlic creations and products on the day.

John Olliff, Chair of the Australian Garlic Industry Association, and long-time garlic

producer at Freshwater Creek Garlic, says the festival will be an educational hub, with presentations around growing, curing and storing garlic, plus a chance for punters to buy some of Australia's best garlic straight from the source.

"This is such an exciting event for the Garlic Industry Association of Australia, it presents an opportunity to provide information to all levels of garlic growers, or simply garlic lovers, and will showcase the varieties and characteristics of our exceptional Australian grown garlic.

"Rarely do so many growers come together to showcase such a rich array of garlic cultivars, with so many different flavours and uses.

"The 2025 festival is shaping up to be the best yet!" said Olliff.

The town of Korumburra is only 90 minutes from Melbourne, so garlic lovers could make a day trip, or if you're thinking about staying for the long weekend, why not also head to the Thorpdale Potato Festival on Sunday, March 9? Visit the website for more information and ticket availability.

## Details for South Gippsland Garlic Festival:

- Saturday, March 8, 2025 (Labour Day long weekend)
- Korumburra Showgrounds, Sanders Street
- Time: 9am - 6pm
- Tickets: Adults \$15, children \$5, family (2 adults 2 kids) \$35, concession \$10, children under 3 free
- Tickets available now via [southgippslandgarlicfestival.au](http://southgippslandgarlicfestival.au)

## Ghost camping trend hurts Gippsland's tourism industry

CONCERNS are being raised for Gippsland's local tourism industry following the emergence of a new trend being referred to as "ghost camping" under the State Government's free camping policy.

"Ghost camping" is the practice of booking a campsite and then not using it without cancelling your booking.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien said it appeared the trend is being driven by the State Government's ill-conceived free camping policy

which removed site booking fees in national parks such as Tidal River campground in Wilson's Promontory, among others.

"The campsites within our national parks are highly sought after and usually full over the summer, but a recent trip I took to Tidal River told a different story.

"The websites say the campground is full and the signs were up reading 'no vacancy' but the campground itself was full of vacant sites.

"When a website tells

prospective visitors the campsite is full then they clearly don't come and spend money in our local communities. But the campsites are not full."

Mr O'Brien recently shared photos of the vacant Tidal River sites to his social media where commenters were quick to share their similar experiences around the state.

One commenter highlighted that the problem is exacerbated by the inability to cancel a booking once made through the government's online portal.

"I will be writing to the Minister for Environment to share these concerns and request that an alternative model be considered such as a refundable deposit or the provision to re-let sites if someone doesn't show up within 24 hours.

"Something simply has to give as it is clear that the current model is not working and "ghost camping" has robbed many communities of vital summer income as visitor numbers have been artificially depressed."

## Korumburra building resilience

IN KORUMBURRA there are many places to feel a sense of belonging, whether it's with a church, at the footy, on the rail trail, in a garden, at a Landcare planting, on the tennis court, working on a classic car, in a knitting circle, art studio or gathering together at a local spot.

Hopefully, there's a place for everyone and Korumburra Staying Strong (KSS) is about encouraging people to come together and build on the strong community, to make new connections and increase the town's overall resilience.

In a resilient community everyone benefits in good times and in times of need and challenge if a strong underlying community is already in place.

KSS have hosted three community events since 2022 that invited people from the area to share ideas, and for community groups to promote themselves to new and established community members.

KSS events are well known for their enthusiastic turnout, not to mention the free donuts and BBQ and seeks to encourage connections and thereby increase resilience in Korumburra.

On Saturday March 1 at 11am-1pm in the grounds of the Community Hub and in Boston Place (below the Korumburra Community Hub) KSS are hosting their fourth community event.

On the day they are launching an important resource for Korumburra - a community focussed resilience plan.

This event will help prepare the community for the next storm or disaster when it occurs. The event will be packed with resources and ideas for what locals can all do.

- The community resilience plan will show how everyone can contribute before, during and after storm and emergency events
- Locals can help build on these plans with ideas and feedback
- Learn how to create a family emergency plan
- Find out what supplies are needed in case of a disaster
- Know how to stay informed during emergencies
- And of course, there will be a free sausage sizzle and donuts - otherwise it would not be a KSS event!

Many emergency services will be present to share what they can and can't do to help in an emergency and how we can help them best do their jobs including the CFA, Red Cross, SES, Vic Police, South Gippsland Shire Council, Salvation Army, AusNet Services and Ambulance Vic.

The event is also an opportunity to thank all volunteers for their contribution to the community.

All from the Korumburra community are invited to go along and be a part of the event. Tell neighbours, fellow sports club members, fellow church goers or mates from the pub.

## WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS!



We are proud to announce that Emma has officially joined the team and the salon is now taking bookings online.

**No time to call,  
no problem  
we now have**

**ONLINE BOOKINGS**

Just scan the QR CODE



## KORUMBURRA BE PREPARED

### Before – During – After Disasters

Community Event



**Saturday March 1 • 11 am - 1 pm**

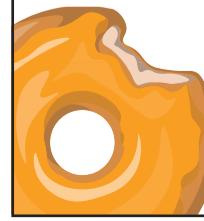
Korumburra Community Hub Grounds  
and Boston Lane (Below Hub)

**All welcome, enjoy FREE FOOD & DONUT**

**ADMIRE**  
HAIR & BEAUTY

17 McCartin Street, Leongatha  
Call for an appointment  
5662 0141

M0304



## Latest ambulance response times in the Gippsland Region

HARD working paramedics and first responders across Victoria are continuing to respond to around 100,000 critical 'Code 1' emergencies every three months.

Ambulance Victoria (AV) Executive Director Regional Operations Danielle North said demand on ambulance crews remains steadily high – with the last quarter of 2024 AV's fourth busiest on record.

"We have seen a 26.6 per cent increase in Code 1 cases since the COVID-19 pandemic began more than five years ago," Ms North said.

"October to December is commonly one of our busiest times, and last year was no exception as our crews were called to 99,799 Code 1 emergencies. This was also the third quarter in a row close to or above 100,000 cases.

"In the face of this sustained pressure, our highly skilled paramedics and first responders do a remarkable job providing best care to their communities, each and every day."

From October to December 2024, AV crews across Victoria responded to 64.9 per cent of Code 1 cases within the state-wide target of 15 minutes. The state-wide average response time to Code 1 emergencies was 15 minutes and 42 seconds.

In the Gippsland Region crews responded to 6,130 Code 1 cases between October and December 2024. In the Gippsland Region, paramedics in the Morwell major population centre attended 85.5 per cent of Code 1 patients within 15 minutes – which was the fourth best result in the state.

Gippsland Regional Director Paul James said "We know there is more work to do. AV continues to work with hospitals to promptly transfer patients and ensure all Victorians receive the right care at the right time."

"In 2025, we are rolling out new digital radios across regional Victoria and iPads to all our crews with a modern platform making it easier and faster to complete electronic patient care records."

Mr James said, "Our expert Secondary Triage team of nurses and paramedics also make a real difference by connecting patients with the care they need while helping free up crews for patients in time-critical emergencies.

"From October to December, 43,864 people across Victoria who did not need an emergency ambulance were instead connected to more appropriate care by paramedics and nurses in Secondary Triage.

"In 2023-24, paramedics referred nearly 43,000 patients to the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), with over three quarters cared for without transport to a physical ED.

"And our Medium Acuity Transport Service (MATS) crews dedicated for less-urgent calls attended 8,100 cases during the last quarter, freeing up more ambulances to respond to the most critically ill patients."

Mr James encouraged Victorians to do their part to ensure AV's highly skilled paramedics were available for patients most in need.

"In less urgent cases, there are many options people can access when they need timely medical care and health advice all day every day – but not an emergency ambulance or calling Triple Zero (000)," Mr James said.

"This includes the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), Urgent Care Clinics and other options such as your GP or pharmacist, or Nurse-On-Call on 1300 60 60 24."



Megan Miller, Deepi Pillai, Alexandra Gibbs, Emerald Aksenov and Miguel Burayag. (Georgia Hargreaves was not at orientation).

## New graduate nurses boost staffing at Gippsland Southern Health Service

SIX NEW graduate nurses are boosting care at Gippsland Southern Health Service as they launch into their nursing careers.

The nurses will spend the next 12 months with GSHS, working in both the general surgical ward and in specialty areas.

The recruitment represents a big upswing on 2024 when just two new graduate nurses started with GSHS.

Clinical nurse educator Virginia Bolge said the graduate nurse program introduced

first-year registered nurses to a diverse range of clinical experiences.

"It will be great for our health service," Ms Bolge said. "To attract six grad nurses will strengthen healthcare for South Gippsland. They bring fresh energy, dedication and a passion for patient care."

The graduate nurses will spend six months in the general surgical ward in Leongatha and six months on rotation through specialty areas of theatre,

urgent care and district nursing.

The nurses are being supported and mentored through the year, with an experienced preceptor allocated to each graduate.

They have undertaken a two-day orientation program, met staff and trained in practical competencies in areas such as basic life support, PPE and no-lift training. They have also learnt about medication safety, staff wellbeing, responding to clinical deterioration and

escalation of care.

"We're giving them good support to make sure the community can be confident they are being well cared for at all times at GSHS," Ms Bolge said.

Some previous graduate nurses have stayed on with the health service and GSHS hopes the latest influx will have lasting benefits. "There's always an opportunity for a discussion at the end of their grad year for ongoing employment," Ms Bolge said.

## Gippsland to be home to new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic

THE Victorian Government has announced that Gippsland will be home to one of 11 new Endometriosis, Pelvic Pain and Menopause Specialist Clinics, should the Government be re-elected.

These clinics will be part of the Australian Government's commitment to improving care for those affected by endometriosis, pelvic pain and menopause.

These clinics will:

- Improve access for patients to diagnostic, treatment and referral services for endometriosis, pelvic pain and menopause.
- Build the primary care workforce to manage these chronic and prevalent conditions.
- Improve access to new information and care pathways.

Senator Jess Walsh has said, women have spoken, and our government has listened.

"A re-elected State Government will ensure that women in Gippsland have better access to essential diagnostic, treatment, and referral services for endometriosis and pelvic pain."

This initiative is part of a

broader \$573.3 million package providing women with more choice, lower costs, and better access to health care.

This package includes:

- The first PBS listing for new oral contraceptive pills in more than 30 years, with the listing of Yaz® and Yasmin® saving 50,000 women hundreds of dollars a year.
- More choice, lower costs and better access to long-term contraceptives, with larger Medicare payments and more bulk billing for IUDs and birth control implants saving around 300,000 women a year up to \$400 in out-of-pocket costs.
- More Medicare support for women experiencing menopause, with a new Medicare rebate for menopause health assessments, funding to train health professionals, the first ever clinical guidelines and a national awareness campaign.
- The first PBS listing for new menopausal hormone therapies in over 20 years, with around 150,000 women saving

hundreds of dollars a year from the listing of Prometrium®, Estradiol® and Estrogen® Pro.

- Contraceptives and treatment for uncomplicated UTIs directly from pharmacies, with two national trials to benefit 250,000 concession cardholders who will be able to consult a trained pharmacist at no cost and, if medications are required, pay only the usual medicine cost.

The PBS listings of the contraceptive pills and menopausal hormone therapies will take effect almost immediately, saving Gippsland women and their families hundreds of dollars a year.

Existing GP clinics with the experience and expertise to deliver an Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic should reach out to the Gippsland PHN to discuss their suitability to apply.

For further details about these measures can be found in the More choice, lower costs and better health care for women – fact sheet, on the health.gov.au website.



Gippsland will be home to one of 11 new Endometriosis, Pelvic Pain and Menopause Specialist Clinics, should the Government be re-elected.

## Healthcare affordability and access challenges locally

IS the impact of rising costs causing limited access to bulk-billing health care?

Russell Broadbent, the Federal Member for Monash, is once again running for re-election. Mr Broadbent has confirmed he will continue to raise awareness about the growing challenges in Australia's healthcare system, particularly in regional areas.

His comments come as health services face increasing pressure from rising costs and inflation, leaving many patients struggling to access affordable care in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

Bulk-billing – a practice where

medical practitioners treat patients without requiring upfront payment – has been a cornerstone of affordable healthcare. However, with nearly 40% of GP clinics in regional areas like Bass Coast and Gippsland now struggling, many have been forced to abandon this practice or resort to mixed billing. As a result, those without a pension or healthcare card are facing significant cost for both face to face and telehealth general practice (GP) appointments.

The shift away from bulk billing is having a direct impact on patients. With fewer options available, many are increasingly turning to hospitals for care.

The loss of bulk billing means patients are incurring an out-of-pocket expense. "And with the cost-of-living increase, more and more people are needing that bulk-billing support," said Mr Broadbent.

For services, such as blood tests and scripts, patients are paying up front, and the wait lists are increasing with many clinics in Gippsland and Bass Coast heavily booked out.

Mr Broadbent noted it is very hard to get doctors across Gippsland. "Healthcare has always been a priority of mine, and that's why we supported the

cancer care in Wonthaggi and the health centre on Phillip Island.

"There has been a huge increase in population over the last five years, and the number of people is overwhelming the services that are available," said Mr Broadbent.

Despite these setbacks, there is hope. Hope that these efforts in putting funding into health care can meet the growing demand for care in these areas. Mr Broadbent confirmed that the Federal Government's role remains pivotal in addressing these healthcare challenges, including providing these services at an affordable cost.

# Music, food and more at Newhaven this Saturday

THIS Saturday, February 22 is the main fundraising and social event of the year for the Newhaven Primary School, it's Twilight Festival.

This beloved annual event is a lively celebration of music, food and entertainment for all ages, from 3pm to 7pm on Saturday.

What to Bring: Dress in your most colourful festival attire, pack a picnic rug or camping chair, extra cash as EFTPOS facilities are limited and get ready to soak up the atmosphere before the sun sets.

What's On: Enjoy a mouth-watering lineup of food trucks, browse market stalls showcasing local crafts and take part in family friendly activities. Plus, don't miss your chance to win exciting raffle prizes!

#### Live Music Lineup:

• Newhaven Primary School - Some very excited students have prepared special

performances to showcase their wonderful talents.

- The Slow Brew - A soulful local ensemble serving up smooth, groove-rich melodies that will get your feet tapping.
- Mark Howard - Phillip Island's own singer-songwriter, blending his signature mix of folky blues rock with heartfelt storytelling.

Why You Shouldn't Miss It: It's the perfect chance to enjoy the magic of live music and connect with the community under a beautiful twilight sky.

#### Event Details:

- Entry is a gold coin donation - Everyone's welcome!
- Cash Recommended - EFTPOS facilities are limited.
- Alcohol-Free Event - Let's keep it family friendly.

For more details, follow Newhaven Primary School on Facebook.



There's music, food and lots more at this Saturday's Newhaven Primary School Twilight Festival.

## 2433 people visited the Bass Coast edible gardens

THE annual Bass Coast Edible Gardens weekend recently was a major success.

A total of 2433 people visited the 16 gardens across the weekend, at an average of 155, and some gardens topping the 200-visitor mark.

Co-coordinator Maddy Harford, of Bass Coast Adult Learning, who shares the role with Sharon Willcox, couldn't have been more delighted with the visitor response or the standard of the gardens presented.

"Yes, very pleased. We try to have gardens open no more than two times-in-a-row so that they get a rest and to keep it fresh and the new ones that came in this year were terrific. We love our gardeners."

Bass Coast Edible Gardens "celebrates a shared passion for growing food, building community and promoting sustainability" and is a major fundraiser for Bass Coast Adult Learning Inc with all of the ticket price donated to the adult learning group.

Sponsors include Wonthaggi Garden Supplies, Bass Coast Shire Council, Townsend Nursery, the Country Gardener Wonthaggi and Bunnings Warehouse Wonthaggi.

**RIGHT:** Marg and Peter Dumergue of Cape Woolamai opened their garden to visitors during the annual Bass Coast Edible Gardens weekend recently.



## Building on success to create success at Foster Secondary College

SUCCESSFUL study habits lead to successful outcomes according to Foster Secondary College Principal Dean Duursma.

Welcoming new Year 7 students to the College and revealing the college captains and vice-captains for 2025 Mr Duursma said the school year had started very smoothly.

"New uniforms for the Year 7s and Year 12 rugby jumpers look impressive," said Mr Duursma.

"We are determined to listen to what students want and make sensible changes that support a collaborative and supportive culture.

"Year 7 Coordinator Kyle Materia is helping new students negotiate new classes, a range of teachers for each subject and the use of laptops."

New staff members include Ian Harris teaching psychology, humanities and English, Kristen Wallis teaching Year 7-10 maths, former student Georgia Wake teaching outdoor and environmental studies, PE and science, Mel Crynes art, media, Indonesian and English, and Andrew Murray teaching music and drama, and directing this year's college musical.

Reflecting on last year's impressive VCE results Principal Duursma said Foster Secondary College had again



**Foster S.C. 2025 Vice-Captains Reuben Bell and Lily-Ann Bright with College Captains Josh Dale and Luke Hannigan.** B13\_0725

rated among the top schools in Gippsland.

"We are also very proud of the high number of apprenticeships and traineeships our students have accepted," said Mr Duursma.

Student safety, anti-bullying and connectedness at Foster Secondary College is rated 15% to 25% better than the state average and 'like schools'.

Mr Duursma said staff will be focussing their attention on the implementation the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model

2.0, which requires professional learning and coaching.

Foster Secondary College is also having a sustained and intense information push on student attendance.

Research will be shared with parents that shows students are greatly disadvantaged academically and socially if their absence increases.

"Students who miss 20 days per year across their schooling adds up to over a year of missed learning across their school life.

"We need to reduce the number

of students who stay home after basketball tournaments or a big night of gaming because they are 'tired', birthday shopping trips, or because an assessment is due."

Mr Duursma appealed to parents and carers to contact the school for support to ensure students are coming to school every day.

For more information on Foster Secondary College go to [fsc.vic.edu.au](http://fsc.vic.edu.au) or search for Foster Secondary College on Facebook or Instagram.

BCH responds to patient surge during summer emergencies

A SURGE of patients seeking emergency care kept Bass Coast Health (BCH) staff busy over the Christmas and January holiday period.

Holidaymakers and local residents sought medical attention at BCH's Emergency Department (ED) at Wonthaggi Hospital and Urgent Care Centre (UCC) at the Phillip Island Health Hub, which are both open 24/7.

The ED in Wonthaggi saw 1,872 patients between December 22, 2024 and January 19, 2025, while the UCC in Cowes saw 1,587 patients during the same period.

Among the top reasons for presentation at the ED were open wounds and bites, chest pain, abdominal pain, infections, back pain and gastroenteritis.

At the UCC, viral infections, abdominal pain, removing surgical dressings and sutures, cough, leg cellulitis and chest pain were the major causes of people seeking help.

BCH Interim CEO Simone Alexander said the health service usually experienced an increase in demand over this holiday period as more people visit the Bass Coast to enjoy their summer break, in addition to the growing permanent population.

"We are well equipped with expert staff and state-of-the-art facilities to care for patients and are able to provide an extensive range of treatment for a variety of conditions," she said.

The ED is two years old and has many treatment spaces and a Short Stay Unit for patients requiring extended care. A Fast-Track unit enables patients with less complex conditions to be seen as soon as possible.

The UCC is well equipped by contemporary standards. By next summer, Island locals and visitors will be serviced by a new Urgent Care Centre to be included within the new Phillip Island Community Hospital.

"Our clinicians are skilled and knowledgeable, and know when to transfer patients with more serious and complex injuries or illnesses to other hospitals for more advanced treatment," Ms Alexander said.

"People presenting to ED and the UCC are asked to please be patient as there may be a delay if they have a non-urgent condition. Our staff help the sickest patients first and that includes patients who are brought to our health service by ambulance and are not visible to patients in waiting areas."

"We encourage people who are waiting to let the staff know if their condition worsens."

The Urgent Care Centre is at the Phillip Island Health Hub, 50 Church Street, Cowes. The Emergency Department is at Wonthaggi Hospital, 235 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. If you need immediate care, always phone triple zero (000) for an ambulance.

# FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY

Events to check out

By Sammy Spark

THINGS you should keep your eyes peeled for in the 2025 Foster Show include:

The cats are back in the basketball stadium, displaying some of Victoria's fanciest cats!

Spinning of yarn from a freshly shorn sheep! Watch the whole process from coming off the sheep's back into a scarf.

On-farm challenge results- for general viewers and especially for those who entered themselves. The presentations will be held in the football clubrooms. All exhibitors for these challenges will get a free cuppa and bacon and egg roll, sponsored by Gippsland Veterinary Group. These presentations will feature the best rural and town gardens of the area, the best commercial beef and dairy stock, and the best analysed silage. It will also feature presentations for the hay bale art competition, a favourite in South Gippsland. Check our Facebook page @fosteragshow the week before the show for your chance to vote for the best hay bale art.

The 'Calf Classic'- this will showcase poddy calves that have been hand-reared since Spring, 2024. This is a special event that will pay homage to the Calf Club competitions held in Hedley in the 1960s. A great chance for people young and old to form a human-animal bond and showcase their husbandry skills with cattle.

Giant pumpkins- grown from Atlantic seeds, last year's heaviest pumpkin weighed a whopping 85.9kg! Can our entrants beat it this year?

Sheaf tossing- ever been to the Foster Show and wondered what those people are doing on the oval, with a pitch fork in hand, tossing a sheaf of wheat over a bar? Sheaf toss! Come check out their amazing talent, or give it a go yourself. We will once again host the Victorian Championship Toss in 2025.

Foster Show on Saturday February, 22 at the Foster Showgrounds. For more information: [www.fostershow.com](http://www.fostershow.com).

# Foster Show this Saturday



**Presentations will feature the best rural and town gardens of the area, the best commercial beef and dairy stock, and the best analysed silage.** Photos: Taylah Clark Photography



The working dogs competing at the Foster Show.



By Sammy Spark

IT MAY be the end of Summer, but it is not the end of fun in South Gippsland. As we look forward to cooler weather, and a good soaking of rain come the change of season, we also look forward to one last glimmer of community celebration, the Foster Show. The 117th Foster Show will host a spectacular day event for families, friends, the community and beyond. Showcasing the district's talents and skills across agriculture, home crafts and competitions, the show is set to be a highlight of your year in 2025.

So, what can you expect this year? On Saturday 22nd February, thousands of people will flock to the Foster Showgrounds. The exhibit shed will be filled with produce, crafts, art, flowers and more. Information on entry requirements can be found via our website [www.fostershow.com](http://www.fostershow.com). If you are not one to plan ahead of time, but would like to have a go at a competition, we have plenty to enter on show day. Head to the Fashion Stage and strut your stuff, come in your favourite clothes, or dress up in something 'farm chic', 'sustainable' or 'best costume' for your chance to win. If you have been growing out a mullet, this year the Foster Show has included you on the Fashion Stage, with many great prizes up for grabs. If you've got a good yelling voice, try out the Spouse Shout or show off your best animal impersonation in a new class this year.

Want to just enjoy the day? Maybe you have a little one with you? Get in early to collect a free show bag (only 300 available), and follow our "Golden Brick Road" to fill it with goodies. Along the way catch free wildlife displays, magic shows, dancing displays, face painting, and all the cute animals in the animal nursery.

Foster Show on Saturday February, 22 at the Foster Showgrounds. For more information: [www.fostershow.com](http://www.fostershow.com).



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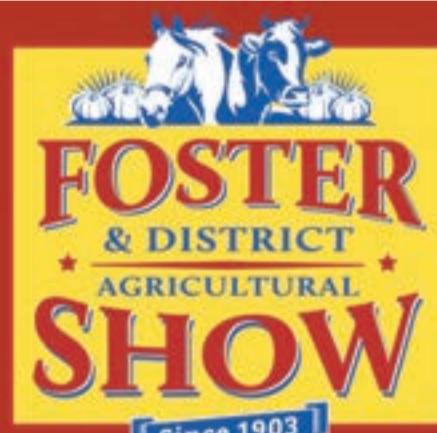
In addition to our regular sponsorship of the Cat Show and On Farm Challenges, we're thrilled to provide the 2025 On Farm Challenge Exhibitors' Show Day Breakfast! Winners will be announced from 9am in the Footy Clubrooms



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# FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY

## Don't miss a great weekend

THERE really is something for everyone at the Foster Show. No matter your age, whether you're there to compete or just catch up with old friends, travelling to the area and wanting some family fun for the day, the Foster Show is a unique and special country show for you. Tickets for show entry can be purchased online or at the gate. Kids under 12 are FREE in 2025, 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

By Sammy Spark

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 our website. We can't wait to see you there! And if you're still looking for action in South Gippsland after Show day, don't miss the Toora Pear Party from 10-4 at the Toora Heritage Pear Orchard or the Fish Creek FNC Show & Shine at the Fish Creek Footy Ground from 8am-1pm on Sunday 23rd Feb.

Foster Show on Saturday February, 22 at the Foster Showgrounds. For more information: [www.fostershows.com](http://www.fostershows.com)



The Foster Show showcases the district's talents and skills across agriculture, home crafts and competitions, such as the woodchop and working dogs. Photo: Taylah Clark Photography



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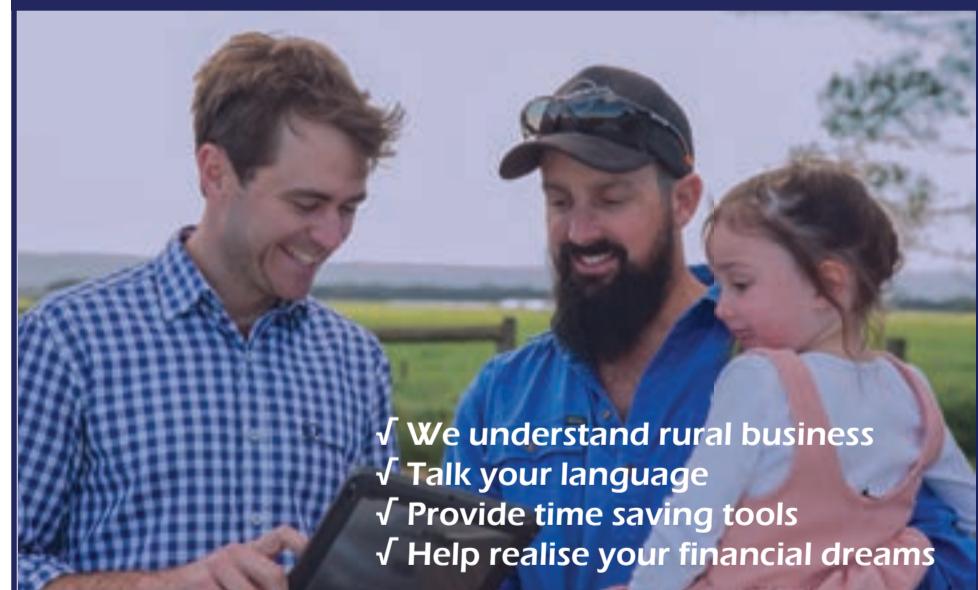
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Year 9 students Phoebe Helps, Mia Bowtell, Alexa Zalunardo and Mackenzie Marr take in the information provided to them by Uncle Steve Ulula Parker during the smoking ceremony.



Uncle Steve Ulula Parker performs a smoking ceremony for Newhaven College Year 9 students, marking the commencement of their learnings about Indigenous culture and environmental sustainability.

## New subject launches at Newhaven College's Year 9 Environmental Centre

NEWHAVEN College has proudly launched an exciting new subject at the Year 9 Environmental Centre, marking a significant step in enhancing students' understanding of the natural world and Indigenous culture.

As part of the launch, students were warmly welcomed to Country through a meaningful collaboration with Boonwurrung Elder, Uncle Steve Ulula Parker. The ceremony began with a traditional Smoking Ceremony, an ancient practice that cleanses the spirit and welcomes individuals onto the land, in a respectful and culturally significant way. This experience provided students with a deep connection to the Country they will be learning on throughout the year.

Following the ceremony, students participated in engaging sessions where they were introduced to traditional language and knowledge. Uncle Steve shared insights into the Boonwurrung people's history, culture and sustainable practices that have been passed down for generations. These lessons encouraged students to reflect on the interconnectedness of land, water and people while fostering a deep appreciation for Indigenous perspectives on environmental stewardship.

The new subject, integrated into the Year 9 curriculum, is designed to immerse students in hands-on learning about environmental sustainability, conservation and cultural heritage. The program will incorporate outdoor experiences, scientific inquiry and Indigenous knowledge systems to develop a holistic understanding of environmental responsibility.

Newhaven College is committed to fostering a curriculum that not only educates but also inspires students to be active stewards of the environment. This launch marks the beginning of a transformative journey for Year 9 students, empowering them with knowledge, respect and a sense of responsibility for the land they inhabit.

With the guidance of Indigenous leaders and environmental experts, students at Newhaven College's Environmental Centre will continue to explore, learn and grow in a way that respects and celebrates the rich traditions of the First Nations people. This initiative is a testament to the school's dedication to providing meaningful, experiential learning opportunities that shape future leaders in environmental conservation.

## Prep Water Bottle Initiative continues to make a splash in 2025

AS THE school year begins, Westernport Water is delighted to celebrate another successful year of its much-loved Prep Water Bottle Initiative.

Now in its ninth year, the initiative ensures that prep students start their education journey with a free, reusable stainless steel water bottle, reinforcing the importance of hydration and sustainability.

This year, 250 stainless steel water bottles were given to excited prep students across seven local primary schools, including Cowes Primary, Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary, Newhaven College, Newhaven Primary, San Remo Primary, Bass Valley Primary, and Powlett River Primary. Since the initiative's inception in 2017, an impressive 2,505 bottles have been provided to new prep students, helping them develop healthy hydration habits from day one.

At the heart of the prep water bottle initiative is the Choose Tap campaign, which highlights the health and environmental benefits of drinking tap water over sugary alternatives. Research shows that even a 2% drop in body water levels can lead to a 13% decrease in concentration, making proper hydration essential for students

learning and well-being.

"It's important to create healthy habits from day one and encourage students to keep hydrated throughout the school day," Westernport Water's Managing Director, Dona Tantirimudalige said.

"We are proud to continue our partnership with local primary schools to support the well-being and education of our community's youngest learners."

"Encouraging students to make tap water their go-to drink, not only supports their hydration but also fosters early lessons in sustainability."

Newhaven Primary School's prep teacher Bethanie Williams was appreciative about the scheme, "We are so grateful for the support of Westernport Water. Our prep children love their new drink bottles. They are learning to re-fill their bottles at our beautiful new drinking taps that have a water bottle refill station. This was also funded by Westernport Water. Thankyou Westernport Water for your ongoing support," Bethanie said.

Westernport Water extends its gratitude to all participating schools and looks forward to continuing this initiative for years to come.



Newhaven College: Agam, Pippa, Marcus and Akitav.



Bass Valley Primary School: Nola, Georgie, Lylah and Arlo.

## Newhaven College parent welcome evening



New parents of the College, Steve and Melissa Lee got to know other new parents Sarah and David Wakefield. Their students Callum and Isa are settling well into Year 7.

NEWHAVEN College was delighted to welcome parents and guardians for a social gathering on the first Friday of term.

Those in attendance were serenaded by Newhaven College's gifted Middle School teacher Aaron Chaston on guitar, creating a lounge-style atmosphere for the event. College staff and Parents and Friends Association (PFA) volunteers served drinks and canapes for around 120 guests, consisting of new and existing parents/guardians, college staff and teachers.

The incredible Performing Arts Wing foyer was the perfect venue for the event, with the box office drinks servery, great acoustics, plenty of parking and room to roam around and mingle.

Principal Tony Corr welcomed

all parents/guardians, staff and teachers to the new year at Newhaven College. Angel Chambers and Jo Vohland from the PFA facilitated a coin toss game, resulting in some fun prizes. The PFA looks forward to welcoming new parent/friend volunteers.

Principal Corr was pleased with the enthusiastic presence on the night.

"I would like to thank all parents and caregivers for their attendance. We know the key to success in a child's education is the partnership of school and home and these events help build that connection," he said.

Newhaven College would like to thank everyone who attended and made it a night to remember.



## Phillip Island Village School secures long-term future

LAST Wednesday marked a significant milestone for Phillip Island Village School (PIVS) as landholder Ruth Partridge and Principal Kate Eastcott officially signed a new long term lease, securing the school's tenancy on Berry's Beach Road, Ventnor.

Since opening in early 2016, PIVS has been dedicated to providing a respectful, empowering educational model. With the new lease in place, the school is

now looking ahead, hoping to expand its facilities with new buildings—pending the success of its capital works funding application.

LEFT: Joining Ruth and Kate for the signing of a new long term lease, were Lien Sim and students Scarlett, Avalon, Charlotte, Isis, and Isla, celebrating the bright future ahead for their school.



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## Human drivers still needed for now

WHILE fully autonomous vehicles are not yet legal on Australia's open roads, semi-autonomous car features such as Tesla's Autopilot are already in use here.

While road safety regulations are largely managed at the state and territory level, there is currently no uniform legislation across Australia specifically addressing accidents involving such vehicles according to legal firm Slater and Gordon.

"Semi-autonomous vehicles are classified as Level 2 automation and require human drivers to remain engaged and ready to take control when necessary," Head of Work and Road Claims at Slater and Gordon Bree Smith said.

She stressed that in incidents involving such vehicles, there are many questions regarding whether the human driver or the vehicle's automated system is responsible.

The law firm indicates the human driver is typically held responsible, as they are expected to supervise the vehicle's operation and intervene if needed, noting that if a defect in the vehicle's automated system contributed to the accident, there may be grounds to pursue a product liability claim against the manufacturer.

It appears there is still considerable work required on driverless technology, with Slater and Gordon highlighting a recent study by the University of Central Florida that found self-driving cars are five times more likely to be involved in an accident while driving in low-light conditions, compared to traditional vehicles.

Dealer Principal at Edney's Leongatha Darryl McGannon doesn't see fully autonomous vehicles on Australian roads in the near future.

"Most of the new vehicles on the market have driver assistance but at the end of the day you are responsible for the car," he said.

Bree of Slater and Gordon made it clear the legal situation regarding driverless cars will continue to evolve as the relevant technology does.

"As autonomous vehicle technology continues to evolve, so too will the legal frameworks governing their use, and it's something we all need to be aware of," she said.

For now, it seems an alert human driver is the best bet.



Nico Parisi of Foster with his treasured 1957 Ford Fairlane Skyliner convertible. B12\_0725

## Car 54 finally finds a home in Foster

CAR 54 Where Are You may have been a popular television sitcom in the early 60's but the real Car 54 has been found beautifully restored in a garage at Foster.

Nico Parisi fulfilled a lifetime ambition to own a piece of motoring history by purchasing a 1957 Ford Fairlane Skyliner convertible complete with retractable roof.

"My first car was a two-door LJ Torana," said Nico.

A growing family and succession of family sedans followed but when Nico noticed a 1957 Chevrolet in the driveway of a neighbour some years ago Nico's interest in classic cars was rekindled.

"I thought that looked interesting."

Initially searching for a left hand drive Cadillac, Nico scoured the Show and Shine circuit hoping to

find the car of his dreams.

"Show and Shine car meets are absolutely amazing."

"The common interest is cars," said Nico.

Switching his search to Chevrolets and Buicks, Nico eventually found a 1957 Ford Fairlane Skyliner on an auction site.

After one bid Nico's offer was accepted but it wasn't cheap.

Moving to Foster from Glen Waverly Nico joined the Tarwin District Auto and Machinery Club and his Fairlane Skyliner was given the Number 54.

Nico is also a member of the South Gippsland Historical Automobile Club and attends as many Show and Shine events as he can.

"You meet other enthusiasts, and we talk," said Nico.

Nico's open-top Fairlane Skyliner is now a common sight around Foster.

"One ten year old boy loved it so

much I let him sit in the car so he could pull the lever to operate the retractable roof."

Opening the roof is quite an operation in itself with the whirring of gears and steady throb of the Fairlane's big V8, the weighty roof slowly lifts from the windscreen to be tucked back behind the car in the trunk replaced by a racy, red, rear parcel shelf.

"The V8 sound is a big attraction."

"Cars these days all look the same," said Nico.

"In those days it was Ford versus General Motors."

Good classic cars are not easy to come by.

"You can buy a project car to restore but if you're not mechanical it is very difficult to get work done on the car," said Nico.

"I waited a year and a half to get a leaking seal fixed."

"Mechanics are getting fewer

and fewer."

"We need people interested in how to fix these cars."

"I finally found a very good mechanic in Foster," said Nico.

"It takes a bit of time to keep it clean."

"You don't take it out in the rain."

Nico says he would never sell the car.

"You don't do it to make money. I enjoy the car, and I enjoy the company."

You can see Nico and his Ford Fairlane Skyliner at the second annual Fish Creek Kangaroos Show and Shine on Sunday February 23 at Terrill Park in Fish Creek from 8am to 1pm.

All proceeds will go towards helping the Kangaroos rebuild their club facilities.

Search for Fish Creek Kangaroos 2nd Annual Show on Facebook and Instagram.



## Lang Lang Show n' Shine a success

DESPITE a less than perfect start to the day with power outage and a thunderstorm, the 2025 Lang Lang Show n' Shine plus Swap Meet turned out to be a great success.

Swap Meet stall holders were down a little but there were plenty of sales happening. In excess of 500 show cars parked on the oval with 80 being judged in the various classes. The lawn mower racing brigade put on their usual high octane action with young and old competing.

Perhaps the highlight of the

event was the jet cars and whilst the swirling wind curtailed early action the Holden Crewman, 'Shockwave' was fired up and put on a spectacular display of both smoke and flame. One lucky patron won the right to sit in the passenger's seat of Shockwave during the display and had a fantastic time.

LEFT: 1951 International Ute winner of the Peoples Choice Award at Lang Lang Show n' Shine.

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## OVER 20 FRESH VEHICLES NOW IN STOCK



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**35,990 DRIVE AWAY**

45,016kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV  
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**2017 Mitsubishi Lancer ES Sport CF**

**16,990 DRIVE AWAY**

142,657kms, 5 speed manual sedan  
SN: W102004



**2017 Mazda CX-3 Maxx DK**

**19,990 DRIVE AWAY**

147,947kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV  
SN: W102002



**2023 Suzuki Jimny Lite**

**35,990 DRIVE AWAY**

14,781kms, 5 speed manual 4x4 SUV  
SN: W101996



**2023 Kia Picanto GT-Line**

**24,990 DRIVE AWAY**

6,123kms, 4 speed auto hatch  
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**2012 Toyota RAV4 CV**

**16,990 DRIVE AWAY**

155,652kms, 4 speed auto 4x4 SUV  
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**2023 Toyota Hilux Rogue**

**62,490 DRIVE AWAY**

83,965kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4  
double cab SN: W101991



**2016 Toyota Hilux WorkMate**

**21,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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## Leongatha Toyota

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88,620kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4  
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**2021 Hyundai i30**

**23,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2020 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL**

**63,990 DRIVE AWAY**

64,091kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4  
SUV SN: L101289



**2022 Hyundai i30 N Premium**

**47,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2018 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL**

**51,990 DRIVE AWAY**

131,020kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4  
SUV SN: L101294



**2022 Isuzu MU-X RJ LS-T**

**41,990 DRIVE AWAY**

91,000kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV  
SN: L101290



**2019 Toyota Camry Ascent**

**31,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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



**2020 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MkIII**

**39,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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

**Wonthaggi Toyota**

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

**Leongatha Toyota**

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



**OH WHAT A FEELING**

## Sentinel-Times

### COMMENT

#### Energy madness has got to stop

IT SHOULDN'T come as a complete surprise that one of the international consortium looking to develop a 2.5GW wind farm, 50km south of Wilsons Promontory, is hoping to save money on the deal by landing the power on the beach at Waratah Bay instead of cabling it 150km east to Giffard West near Sale.

It's just business, right.

In fact, the selection criteria adopted by the state's transmission planning authority, VicGrid, is so heavily skewed in favour of keeping costs to investors (and consumers) down, it also wouldn't surprise to see them being allowed to build a new 95km, high-voltage powerline overhead from there to Loy Yang A to get the electricity into the grid.

Too expensive to put it underground, says VicGrid, although that's exactly what the government-owned Marinus Link Pty Ltd has agreed to do with the undersea cable coming across from Tasmania, passing 15 metres below the sand dunes at Waratah Bay and unseen all the way to the Latrobe Valley.

And don't be fooled by the focus-group-inspired name for the offshore wind power company that wants to do it, Gippsland Skies, a partnership between Mainstream Renewable Power (Dublin, Ireland) 35%, Reventus Power (London, England) 35%, AGL Energy (Sydney, Australia) 20% and Direct Infrastructure (Sydney, Australia) 10%.

They honestly couldn't give a stuff about the aesthetics. It's an investment pure and simple.

You'll also find Aker Horizons (Norway) and Mitsui & Co (Tokyo, Japan) in the ownership too, as well as Atlassian billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes who has made no secret of his preference for closing Loy Yang A ahead of the planned date in 2035.

Of course, all this fear and loathing could be for nothing if there's a change of government in Canberra in April/May this year, and in Victoria in November next year.

Which makes a complete mockery of adopting an energy policy for Australia that is anything other than bipartisan.

What? Are we going to continue to chop and change between renewables, coal, gas and nuclear, with outgoing government's nobbling their opponents on the way out the door, and so-called investors having the upperhand with everything while the politicians play politics?

It's an absolute disgrace!

The madness and waste of transitioning to an incredibly complicated mix of domestic, renewable and baseload power generation, and hoping it will work, with both hands tied behind our backs has got to stop.

And it's not just about being able to enjoy the awesome beauty of Waratah Bay, with the magic backdrop of Wilsons Promontory, in perpetuity. It's about country people not bearing the brunt of the government's grand plan for 82% renewable electricity by 2030.

#### We don't want your 'culture wars'

It seems to me that Conservatives are hell bent on returning Australia to the 'Golden Years' of the 1950s.

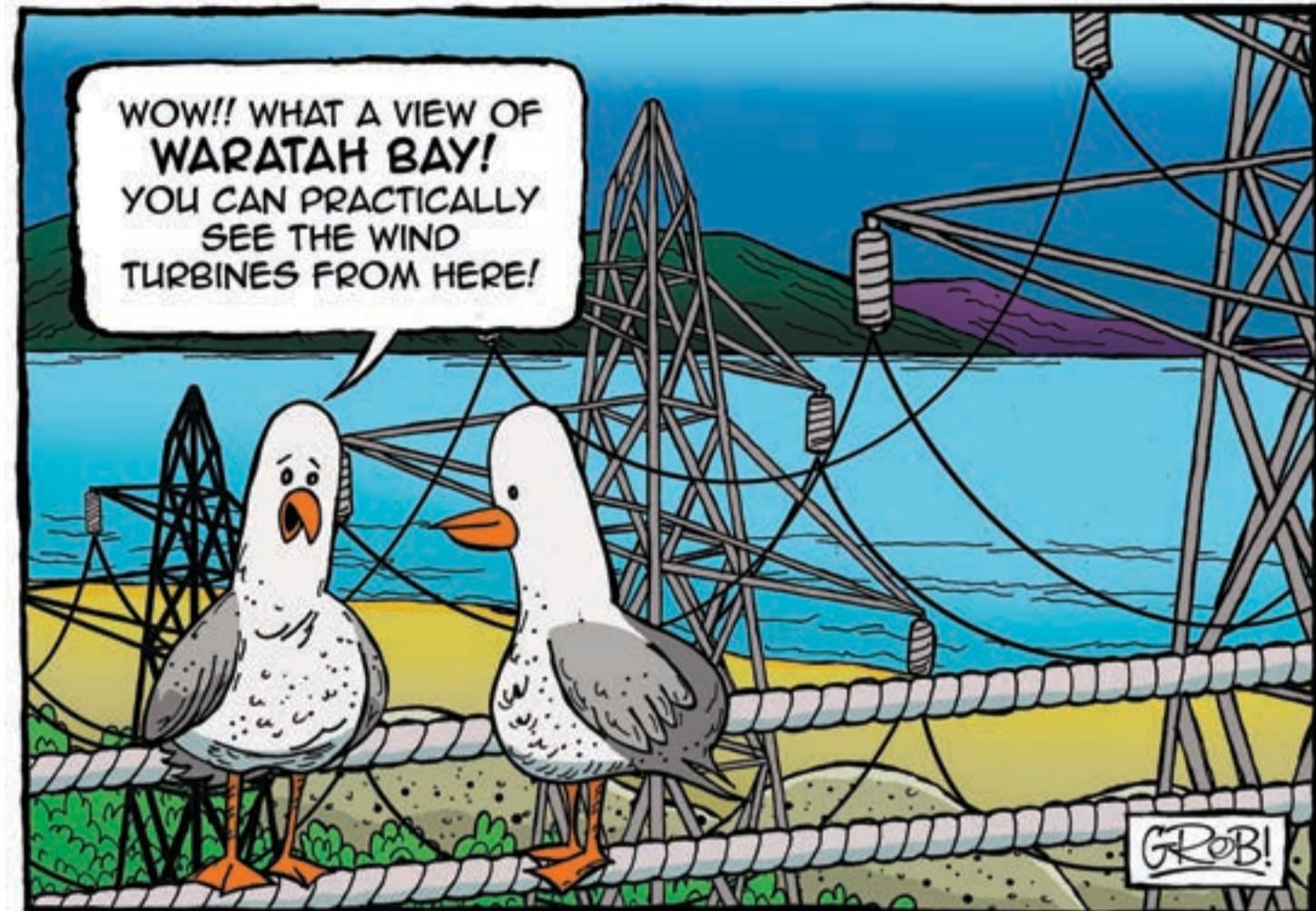
Struggling with ever-faster change and pinning for a return of the good old days, they seek to turn back the clock in the expectation that this will somehow restore a nostalgically remembered land of milk and honey.

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



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

that in Lebanon it was common practice for Christians to celebrate Eid 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.

**Kevin Walsh, Cape Paterson.**

#### Amalgamation reflection a lost opportunity

Regarding your recent article "Council amalgamation recalled with reflection on change" and in particular as it is described as an "amalgamation celebration event" and reference to "bloated staffing numbers".

To celebrate such an event and referencing staffing numbers as bloated in my view is insulting and disrespectful to many workers involved who suffered trauma, distress and upheaval as a result of what could easily be described as mass sackings within an industry.

Never has there been any evidence produced to prove the benefits of amalgamations, it seems as if though it has taken Foster 30 years to recover and as a reader recently pointed to the reduction in customer service at the shire office one is left wondering.

Perhaps the celebration was a poor attempt to redraw history, learn from the past about how not to make change without proper consultation and effective collaboration, the consequences of responding to a political decree about reducing state debt rather than benefiting communities, or to open up a discussion about the merits of a possible merger of the South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires.

**David Roche, Korumburra.**

#### Of theatre history, films and disputed ownership

Re Sentinel Times Tuesday, February 11, 2025 "Its on at the Union Theatre".

This interesting article had me searching through some of the old Powlett Express articles from the period which I am presently slowly indexing.

It raised the question in my mind which I cannot answer. Did the "Union Theatre" and the "Soldiers Theatre", operated by the then Wonthaggi R.S.S.L.A., both operate as a

picture theatre from 1925, giving Wonthaggi two movie venues at that time? Would be interested to know if that was the case.

I have a lot of information on the "Soldiers Theatre" which took over the Wonthaggi theatre in January 1922 as reported in the "Powlett" offering both movies and live performance, for example, "The Kid" with Charlie Chaplin, and, "Special Musical Treat, with Miss Amy Castles, in a "Grand return farewell concert", prices, 6, 4 and 2 shillings; book at Farrell's.

My first reference in the "Powlett" to the "Union Theatre", (and I am sure there are other references), is a report on 15th February 1927, where newspaper reports on a meeting called by the Mayor, J. H. Wishart and attended by 200 people to address issues surrounding the disputed ownership of the "Soldiers Theatre".

The Mayor requesting that any speaker must be prepared to swear their statement in a court of law. An interesting meeting to say the least.

The meeting called for the Government to institute a public inquiry. This dispute is reported on 27th July 1928 to be in the County Court, and case lost by the Wonthaggi R.S.S.L.A. This led to more acrimony, between the Sub branch and the "Powlett" reporter who wrote a column called "Truth in Journalism" with one sentence, "As to senility or vindictiveness... At which time there was a call to stay court proceedings. These men played it tough, but then they were tough men in a town with an interesting past.

**Rod Gallagher, Inverloch.**

#### One may be age related, one isn't

May I respond to two of the letters in the edition of 11/2?

Firstly, the ageist rash generalisation that people over 70 "no longer have the critical thinking skills necessary to make complex decisions", quoting the new US President as an example.

Donald Trump sprayed his frequent pronouncements all over the place before he turned 70. His judgements, if they can be called that, are not related to his age.

The people I know over 70 (myself included) all live active, functional lives requiring frequent critical-thinking decision-making.

Secondly, the complaint about Bass Coast Council paying \$4 million plus to have the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries managed by another entity in perpetuity, i.e. forever.

Hopefully the new managers will provide the compassionate, professional cemetery management the council, for various reasons, was unable to offer. And that will be money well spent.

**Jane Ross, San Remo.**

#### Vox Pop

##### How is the egg shortage affecting you?



**Kylie Osborne**

"It hasn't really impacted me because I just source eggs locally through friends and the farmers market."



**Taya Aarts**

"Mostly I haven't been affected but the supplier for my business only had caged eggs on one occasion, which I wouldn't normally buy."



**Kate Minett**

"It hasn't because I can still get eggs from my local store; I'm a dietitian and some of my patients have commented on the availability and cost."



**John Diaper**

"I hardly have eggs so it hasn't really affected me."

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.

# Mobile pantry supporting locals in need

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN initiative is making a difference for those struggling to afford necessities in Wonthaggi.

The Wonthaggi Owl Ute, a mobile pantry run by the Wonthaggi Owl Women – a branch of the Country Women's Association (CWA) – is providing vital support to people in need in the form of food and essential items.

The initiative was born out of necessity when the community pantry at Wonthaggi Library was closed. Carol Maygar, a representative of the CWA and member of the homelessness association, had been collecting food donations from Woolworths for the library's pantry. When the pantry shut down, she found herself storing food at home. This led to the idea of a mobile pantry that could travel where it was most needed.

Carol, along with her husband Rod Maygar, who assists with the Owl Ute every Monday, and Heidi Vanzet, Branch President of the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women, have been working tirelessly to keep the initiative running.

"The cost of living is driving an increase in demand for these products," said Heidi Vanzet. "There are people we hear about who are forced to choose between paying rent or feeding their family."



Rod Maygar, along with CWA members Heidi Vanzet and Carol Maygar with the Wonthaggi Owl Ute Mobile Pantry. W03\_0725

The Wonthaggi Owl Ute is stocked with donations from the local Woolworths, which contributes items when they do a cleanout. Carol also keeps the supermarket informed about how the mobile pantry is helping the community.

High-demand items include pantry staples, toiletries, and cleaning products. Tea, coffee, and sugar, preferably in smaller packets, are especially appreciated. However, refrigerated items are not accepted.

"We don't mind how many bags people take. People take what they need," Carol said. "We've got quite a few people who are coming back each time."

The mobile pantry serves a diverse group, including pensioners waiting for Centrelink payments, families struggling with rising mortgage costs, refugees, homeless individuals, and renters facing steep increases.

"You get everyone, from people needing just one meal to those needing food for a week," Carol added.

Despite operating for only one hour a week, the Owl Ute helps feed roughly 10 to 15 people each Monday. Donations are crucial to keeping the service running.

The Owl Ute operates from 10am to 11am every Monday in the Cheap as Chips carpark, opposite the police station.

Carol extended gratitude to local MP for Bass Jordan Crugnale for donating bags and toothbrushes. "These donations are great because they give people a solid bag to carry their food and other essentials."

Donations can be dropped off at the Wonthaggi Woolworths donation trolley, located just past the checkout area. Community groups or individuals who wish to donate larger amounts can contact 'The Wonthaggi Owl Ute – Community Pantry' via Facebook to arrange a donation.

With support from the community, the Wonthaggi Owl Ute continues to be a beacon of hope for those in need.

## ~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

### MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

#### Wednesdays

- 9.30 Men's Shed – located at the old Loco Shed, corner of Station St and Bridge St. Contact: John 0494 391 431
- 10am or 1.30pm Social Mah-Jong - Alternating mornings and afternoons, a game of tile strategy
- 1.30pm Milpara Singers - This is not a choir, it's a fun sing along with a great attitude.
- 1.30pm Milpara Book Club - reading around 100 pages weekly to discuss the book in depth.
- 4pm Learn English as a Second Language - improve reading, writing and speaking English.

#### Thursdays

- 9am Community Hospital Garden – located behind main entry car park.

Contact: Neil 0458 422 412

- 10.30am Korumburra Craft Group - Fortnightly get together to work on your own craft.
- 4pm Gippsland Gamers - nerdy role playing games.
- 6.30pm French Intermediate - improve and extend French language skills.

#### Fridays

- 10.30am Tai Chi for Arthritis - movements to improve your balance, flexibility and ability to move.
- 1pm Crafts with Barb - Bring along your own craft and enjoy a lovely afternoon in company.
- 1.30pm Let's Play 500 - complete beginner or dab hand at the game already, join the fun

To learn more and register, please visit the Milpara

Community House Office at the Lower Level of the Korumburra Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra, or Call on 5655 2524.

The Milpara Term Program is also available online at [milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://milparacommunityhouse.org.au)

The Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm or by appointment.

Our Services Australia agent is at the house Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 9:30 to 2pm.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 [www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/milparacommunityhouse)

### BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

Also starting this Friday is Certificate III in Horticulture started last week with some keen new students and a few continuing from last year. Computer Basics also started with a new group demystifying the digital world.

The Hairdressing course, Certificate II in Salon Assistant, has a vibrant new group of young people ready to get creative on each other's styles. Many of the participants in this course do it as part of their school studies, so students in senior years of secondary college are most welcome.

For those looking for broader job skills, the Employable Me course begins this Friday with a focus on the care economy and transferrable skills.

from a nearby farm was a very welcome sight. Thank you, Richard!

Volunteers will add it to the compost heap and dig it into tired soil towards the end of the summer growing season, as they prepare for the next round of planting.

Get involved at the community garden by contacting [tgordon@westnet.com.au](mailto:tgordon@westnet.com.au) or call BCAL on 5672 3115 for details. Visit on a Thursday between 10 and noon to talk to the friendly volunteers

#### WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

There is nothing like a pile of not-too-fresh cow manure to brighten an edible gardener's morning.

When volunteers arrived at the community garden last Thursday, there it was. Collected and delivered by garden friend Richard, the annual gift

#### WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The Woodies' annual awards are coming up soon. There are four categories: Most improved member,

Best item by a novice, President's award for personal achievement, and overall Best item.

Submissions closed last Friday with winners announced at a special function on Saturday, March 1.

Winners will receive a framed certificate and have the names added to perpetual trophies permanently displayed at the club.

For more information, visit [www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au](http://www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au) or pop in to the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 [www.bcal.vic.edu.au](http://www.bcal.vic.edu.au) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bcal.vic.edu.au)

## Inverloch VIEW Club meetings resume this month

AFTER a successful 2024 the Inverloch View Club's regular meetings begin again with the club AGM on Tuesday, February 25 2025. In the meantime, members have not been sitting on their hands but have been busy with social events in January and February, the latest being a garden party hosted by one of the members. This has become something of a tradition and was well attended and enjoyed by all who were present.

New members are always welcome so if you wish to discover more about the VIEW Club, its connection with the Smith Family and how you can participate in or support the Inverloch club? Contact President Heather on 0412 463 344.

General information about the Smith Family and VIEW club is available at the following websites:

- [www.view.org.au](http://www.view.org.au)
- [www.thesmithfamily.com.au](http://www.thesmithfamily.com.au)
- <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/get-involved/view-club>

### • FAITH FACTOR

## What does it mean that God works in mysterious ways?

Assistant Pastor, Karen Thorp of Grace Chapel, Archies Creek

GOD works in ways that are often deemed "mysterious"—that is to say, God's methods often leave people totally bewildered. Here is such a story.

One Saturday night, a pastor was working late and decided to call his wife before he left for home. It was about 10pm, but his wife didn't answer the phone. The pastor let it ring many times. He thought it was odd that she didn't answer but decided to finish off a few things and try again in a few minutes. When he tried again, she answered right away. He asked her why she hadn't answered before, and she said that the phone hadn't rung earlier. They brushed it off as a fluke and went on their merry ways.

The following Monday, the pastor received a call at the church office, which was the same phone he had used that Saturday night. The man calling wanted to know why he'd called on Saturday night. The pastor couldn't figure out what the man was talking about. Then the man said, "It rang and rang, but I didn't answer." The pastor remembered the mishap and apologised for disturbing him, explaining that he'd intended to call his wife.

The man said, "That's okay. Let me tell you my story. You see, I was planning to commit suicide on Saturday night, but before I did, I prayed, 'God if you are there, and you don't want me to do this, give me a sign now.' At that moment, my phone started to ring. I looked at the caller ID, and it said, 'Almighty God.' I was afraid to answer!"

The church the pastor attends is called Almighty God Tabernacle!

This man had enough sense to call out to God. The Bible addresses the issue of the heart in Romans 12:1-2 'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.'

May God bless you in mysterious ways too.



Meg Viney oversees a basketmaking session.

### Discover your creativity

NON-ARTISTS over the age of 16 can explore their creative side across a range of mediums through the Community Art Project at Inverloch's Warrawee Seniors Club, choosing up to three affordable classes.

Fibre artist Meg Viney, now an Inverloch resident, is responsible for the initiative, having enlisted ceramics teacher Kate Stuart and printmaker and painter Susan Hall to add variety to the available classes.

"The idea is about people who aren't artists having an opportunity to dabble in a few techniques and test their creative expression," Meg said, adding everyone is capable of creativity.

Making connections and supporting each other are other important aspects of the classes.

The sessions also help people source readily available materials around them.

"Instead of going to an art shop and buying stuff, what we're encouraging people to do is look around in their environment and see what things they can use," Meg said.

Her work as a fibre artist entails creating her own paper and felt, using available materials, which she uses to create artworks.

Meg was delighted to secure a \$2,000 Quick Response Grant through Bass Coast Shire Council that will contribute to tutoring, as well as paying for all materials and venue hire.

"We couldn't have possibly done it without the grant," she said of running the classes that will cost just \$10 each.

The Community Art Project is auspiced through Wonthaggi's ArtSpace Gallery that will exhibit some of the works created by participants.

Each class begins with a brief and simple meditation, the focus then shifting onto learning simple techniques that enable the students to overcome their inhibitions.

Bookings must be made through ArtSpace Gallery, either in person or by calling 5672 5767.

Once booked in for any of the classes, please email Meg Viney at [vineymeg10@gmail.com](mailto:vineymeg10@gmail.com) and she will advise you of any materials you need to bring to your chosen sessions.

#### Session details:

##### 1. Sunday March 16

Drawing - Explore line, tone, texture and mark-making methods. Then complete a drawing exercise that has proved successful when teaching drawing to people of all ages and abilities.

##### 2. Sunday March 23

Basketmaking - Make a simple twig basket from materials from the environment, with the project able to be finished during the class or at home.

##### 3. Sunday March 30

Colour Theory - This session includes explanation of primary, secondary and tertiary colour and learning to mix colours from the primaries and black and white; Joseph Itten's Colour Theory will be discussed.

##### 4. Sunday April 6

Painting - Specialist Susan Hall will teach students to create a small canvas using colour and expression.

##### 5. Sunday April 13

Clay - Kate Stuart will teach students to make a hand-constructed clay piece with a focus on mindfulness, the piece to be fired once completed.

##### 6. Sunday April 20

Feltmaking - Learn to make felt, whether flat felt or sculptured form; participants will also cut up plant fibres for paper making in the following week's session, those fibres being papyrus and red hot poker.

##### 7. Sunday April 27

Papermaking - We will discuss recycled paper and create plant fibre paper, making a few sheets each, with these allowed to dry over the week.

##### 8. Sunday May 4

Printmaking - Choose simple leaf printing and/or Lino cuts on handmade paper from last week, or printmaking paper supplied.

##### 9. Sunday May 11

Final artwork to exhibit at ArtSpace - Having explored multiple media, we choose how we would like to express ourselves with a final artwork to exhibit at ArtSpace. This gathering will run as a seminar session so participants can support one another with ideas and encouragement.

##### 10. Sunday May 18

Reassemble to share the works we have created, discuss how the experience has been for each person, and chat about an exhibition at ArtSpace Gallery.



The Garden Group of the Wonthaggi Men's Shed, Muesay, Jenny Parsons, Stella Hitchins, Jessica Harrison and Mary Bool will host a 'Living Lightly' free workshop on Sunday, February 23.

### Learn the benefits of reducing household waste at the "Living Lightly" workshop

THE Garden Group of the Wonthaggi Men's Shed will be hosting the first of this year's Living Lightly free workshops at 10am on Sunday, February 23, funded by the Bass Coast Shire Council.

Harriet Pellizer will be teaching the group about using and avoiding leftovers. The session will cover the impact food waste has on the environment and household finances.

Participants will learn different ways to make the most of leftovers and reduce household food waste.

Harriet is passionate about low waste living, with a deep connection to both South Gippsland and Melbourne. With 25 years of

experience in the hospitality and food industry, she previously owned and operated three businesses in Melbourne before moving to South Gippsland.

As a Trainer with Bass Coast Adult Learning, Harriet is involved with several community-based projects.

Outside of BCAL, she loves gardening, cooking, life on her farm, craft, and sharing stories, believing that these simple, creative activities foster personal well-being, strengthen communities, and bring joy.

Garden Coordinator Jessica Harrison said participants can also have a guided tour of the thriving Community Garden surrounding

the Wonthaggi Men's Shed and learn about their low waste activities.

"We are happy to host the first of a series of free 'Living Lightly' workshops at the garden," said Jessica. "We are passionate about reducing waste and looking forward to learning more."

Bookings are essential: Call Jessica on 0438174029 or visit <https://www.trybooking.com/CZDNQ>

Venue: Wonthaggi Men's Shed, Railway Precinct, central Wonthaggi.

Access: Enter from the Rail Trail, across Apex Park. Park near the old crane, accessible from the east side of the Big W carpark.

### Register now for Bringing Home the Bakery book launch

BOOK early to avoid disappointment might be good advice when Inverloch bakers Grego Montalbán Sánchez and Hanna Löfgren launch their new book 'Bring Home the Bakery' at the Inverloch library next month.

Bringing together two of life's greatest pleasures, freshly baked sourdough and a good cook-book Grego and Hanna have been encouraged by early online sales and glowing reviews.

"Grego is such a sensational baker."

"Gippsland is so very lucky to have him."

The long queues at The Invy Baker's stall at the Inverloch Lions Community Farmers Market show just how popular Grego's range of breads, buns and pastries have become.

Grego and Hanna also supply cafes throughout Bass Coast and South Gippsland including Green Hut, Wandilla, Zeal and Flow, Goschen Country Farm Gate, Folks Coffee, Udder and Hoe, Island Organic, Food Hub, Lean and Green, Lyon and Bair, The Arcade, and Little Oberon in Fish Creek.

Producing over 500 loaves a week from his family bakery Grego consumes a tonne of flour every three weeks.

"I start at 3am and work through to 3pm when I'm baking," said Grego

Grego's favourite pastry?



The Invy Baker Grego Montalbán Sánchez and wife Hanna Löfgren with their new book Bring Home the Bakery. B02\_0725

"Palmera de chocolate."

Whether you're an experienced baker or just getting started 'Bring Home the Bakery' reveals the tips, tricks, and joy of making delicious, crusty loaves from scratch.

Presented in collaboration with Paperplay Inverloch reservations are essential for the book launch on Friday March 14 at the

Inverloch library from 2pm to 3pm.

For bookings go to [eventbrite.com.au/e/the-invy-baker-at-inverloch-library-tickets-1229322800589](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-invy-baker-at-inverloch-library-tickets-1229322800589)

To guarantee your copy of 'Bring Home the Bakery' you can pre-order from [paperplayonline.com.au](https://paperplayonline.com.au)

The Invy Baker can be found on Instagram @theinvybaker

## Unite in song with special guest Clare Bowditch

GATHER your sisters, daughters, and girlfriends, and experience an uplifting choral celebration of women's stories, in a raw and colourful collaboration of women from across the nation in a powerful concert where 100 voices become one.

Nearly 100 incredible women will take centre stage as part of 100 Women, 100 Stories, a moving community choir project. The event will also feature multi-award-winning singer and Rolling Stone Woman of the Year, Clare Bowditch.

Composed by six award-winning female musicians, this song cycle is inspired by the real-life stories of women from all walks of life.

The House That Dan Built spoke to 100 women from across Australia. They shared stories of resilience, connection to community, and reflections on their lives.

The recorded interviews were given to six award-winning Australian female composers who wove those stories into a one-hour moving and poignant choral experience.

"This project is a powerful testament to the transformative role of arts, song, and culture in uniting communities and amplifying women's voices," said Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead.



Six award-winning Australian female composers wove stories into a one-hour moving and poignant choral experience, on at the Union Theatre, Wonthaggi on Sunday March 16.

"Through the universal language of music, 100 Women, 100 Stories celebrates the diversity, resilience, and shared experiences of women, while fostering a sense of connection and belonging. It's about more than just a performance—it's about inspiring change, honouring the stories that shape us, and creating a brighter, more inclusive future for all women and girls. We couldn't be more excited to see this magic unfold on stage at the Union Theatre, especially as part of our centenary celebrations,"

she said.

"We are delighted to be producing this event in partnership with Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, and Bass Coast Health. We have a long association with these organisations and of celebrating International Women's Day together and acknowledging the women in our community."

To mark this special occasion, guests will be treated to a delightful afternoon tea, with drinks available for purchase from the bar. This event

is about connection, community, and coming together to celebrate the power of women's voices.

Experience the magic from the seats and cheer on these incredible women as they share their stories through music. Everyone is welcome—this is a day for everyone to stand together.

### Event Details:

Union Theatre, Wonthaggi on Sunday March 16 at 3.30pm. Tickets available via TryBooking.

## PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

JOIN US FOR THE LOVE YOUR SISTER CHARITY GIG.

A NIGHT OF MUSIC, LAUGHTER, AND GIVING BACK. HIGH END RIFF RAFF ARE OUT TO MAKE IT A NIGHT THAT YOU WILL NEVER FORGET WITH AWESOME PUB ROCK COVERS.

ENTRY TO THE EVENT FROM 8PM BY DONATION WHICH GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO WIN SOME AWESOME PRIZES. SPREAD THE WORD - THIS IS AN EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!



THE CALEDONIAN HOTEL  
WONTHAGGI  
01.03.25



PROUDLY  
SUPPORTING...



## Zucchini Souffle

By Meg Viney

THIS is a treat for the family and can also be a lunch or supper dish.

Gruyere is expensive, so I use Maasdam, equally delicious in this dish.

Hopefully you make your own pastry. Really not hard. Just think of it as a pudding.

### Ingredients

- 500 gm small zucchini, sliced into 5mm rounds
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 chillies, chopped (or omit)
- 60 gm butter
- 500 gm tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- ½ cup cream
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup grated parmesan

### Method

In a heavy open, cook the zucchini, onion and chillies in the butter with a pinch of salt, until softened. Add tomatoes and continue to cook until the liquid is almost evaporated. Add the cream and a little white pepper and simmer until thickened.

Separate eggs and beat the yolks with a fork, then add into the zucchini mixture. Cool.

Beat the whites with a pinch of salt until holding stiff peaks and then fold gently into the cooled zucchini mixture.

Butter a soufflé dish (or pudding bowl) and spoon the mixture gently in.

Sprinkle with parmesan and cook in a preheated 190 oven for 25 or 30 minutes, until puffed, golden and firm.

Green salad and crunchy bread to accompany.

• Photo: Everyday Gourmet



WONTHAGGI BINGO

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 ★



Allen Davis and Anthony Horgan with clinker boat 'Percy' constructed from Huon pine at Inverloch B52\_0725



Vicki, Maria, Hailey and Sarah enjoyed supporting the pink stumps' fundraising effort. ns02\_0725



Belinda, Karen, Michelle and Katie had a great time at the pink stumps day event. ns04\_0725



Lou, Sheree and Heidi were among the hundreds of supporters for the pink stumps event. ns05\_0725



Shaun Ritson and Thomas Ketley with a Fireball at the Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta B54\_0725



Rob, Support Worker Jordy and Kaedin at the Valentine's Day all-abilities disco in Kilcunda B44\_0725



Fiona and Miraye in Kilcunda for the Kilcunda respite centre all-abilities Valentine's Day disco B36\_0725



Beth from Meenyan enjoying the all-abilities Valentine's Day disco in Kilcunda B38\_0725



Shelley from Wonthaggi celebrating Valentine's Day at the Bass Coast Support Work Services all-abilities disco B42\_0725

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Bass Coast Support Work Services all-abilities Valentine's Day disco in Kilcunda, Newhaven College Parent Welcome Evening, Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta, OMK Pink Stumps Day and Wonthaggi Union Theatre 100th celebration.



Cathie was proud to be part of the pink stumps day with Lauren, Chloe and Emily. ns11\_0725



Don Paproth, Irene Walsh, Jennifer Paproth and John Walsh were proud to be part of the Wonthaggi Union Theatre 100th year event. ns14\_0725



Brett, William and Skye were looking forward to the film. ns15\_0725



Parents Jessica and Brad Janson enjoyed reconnecting with Rachael and Allan Cameron over a drink and canape. Each couple has three students attending the College.



Principal Tony Corr welcomed new parents Tracey and Dave Costello. Tracey is also a valued member of the College Board.



Thank you to the event organisers Katrina Lawrence (Executive Assistant to the Principal) and Parents & Friends Association members Angel Chambers and Jo Vohland.



## Bass Coast property doing alright

PROPERTY research business Propertyology has just produced a report on the best and worst property investment performing areas in Australia, including Bass Coast among the best places to invest nationwide in the past five to 10 years.

While house prices have doubled in 29 townships over the past five years, and a further 50 have seen growth of between 70% and 90% in the same period, anything above 30% in five years is considered good.

Propertyology has found that property values in Bass Coast recorded an average growth of 47% in the five years to 2019 and a healthy 44% in the five years to the end of 2024.

It's latest growth spurt of 44% might not be up with Bendigo 50%, Shepparton 75% and Mildura 63% but all three of those centres had low growth numbers up to 2019, whereas Bass Coast maintained a healthy 47% in that period.

None of the top 29 double-growth towns were in Victoria with Queensland including Noosa and the Qld coast dominating.

## Builders welcome review of stringent lending rules

THE review announced by Treasurer Jim Chalmers into regulations around lending practices for first home buyers and developers is a welcome step for all involved in the building and construction industry and supply chain.

The announcement confirmed that the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and Australian Securities & Investments Commission will soon launch consultations and implement changes to help unlock more finance from the banks.

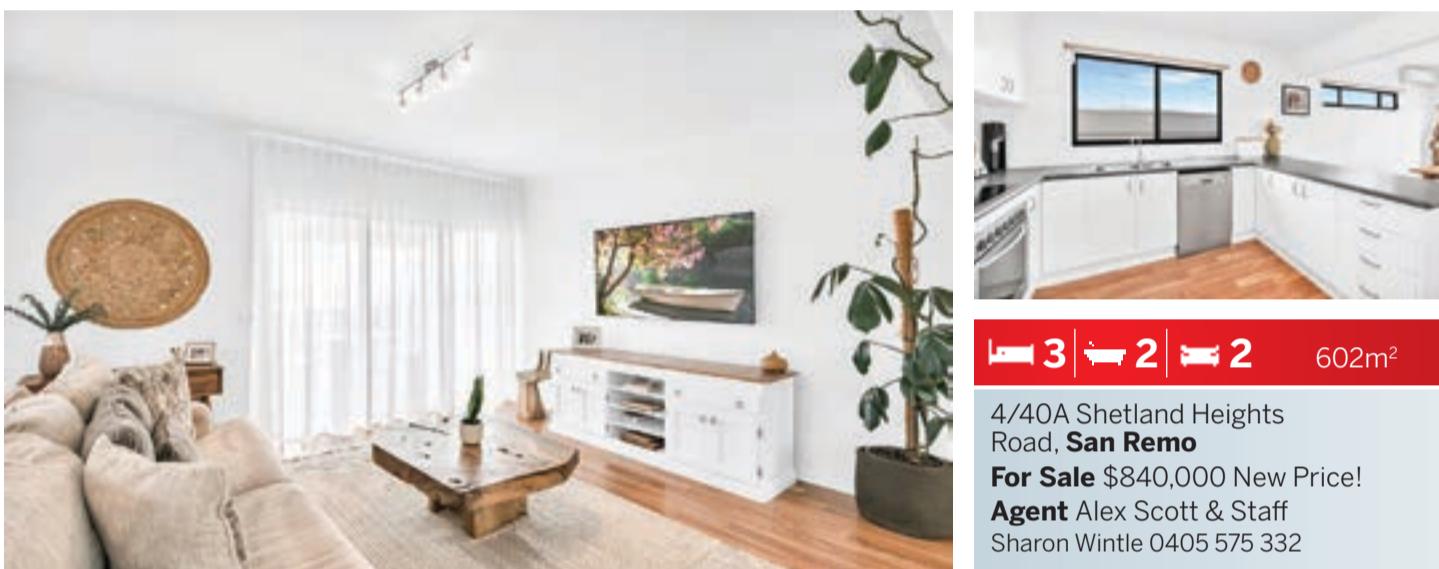
Master Builders Australia has long called for measures to encourage banks and other financial institutions to take a more realistic and sensible approach to lending and financing practices.

Bank lending practices have significant potential to cause adverse impacts for consumers, builders and all parties involved in the construction supply chain.

These impacts can exacerbate and amplify a range of existing pressures on builders and contribute to a raft of poor outcomes for industry ranging from even greater financial burden through to potential business insolvency.

Lending policies are also having a practical effect in inhibiting building activity, including approaches to valuation, sequencing and the mechanics of staged payments.

The entire building and construction industry will be looking forward to engaging in the review to highlight how unnecessary pressure arising from lending practices can arise and encourage the adoption of more realistic and pragmatic approaches for the future.



3 | 2 | 2 602m<sup>2</sup>

4/40A Shetland Heights Road, **San Remo**  
For Sale \$840,000 New Price!  
Agent Alex Scott & Staff  
Sharon Wintle 0405 575 332

## Negotiable price! All offers welcome on this stunning property

THIS charming double-storey 3-bedroom home is nestled at the end of a private cul-de-sac on a 602m<sup>2</sup> plot, offering a secluded and peaceful retreat. Accessed via a private driveway and fully fenced for privacy, the property includes a double carport for convenience. With panoramic views of the sparkling ocean, this coastal gem perfectly blends comfort with coastal charm, providing a tranquil escape from the everyday.

The upper level features a spacious open-plan layout, including a family lounge with large windows that capture stunning water views and

invite natural light and refreshing sea breezes. A wood fire and split system air conditioning ensure year-round comfort, whether you're cooling off in the summer or warming up on chilly winter nights. The modern kitchen with a breakfast bar is complemented by a dining area that flows seamlessly to a full-width covered entertaining area—ideal for enjoying the breathtaking ocean views.

The master bedroom, also on the upper level, boasts its own ensuite and twin robes, offering a private sanctuary with stunning outlooks.

On the lower level, two

further generous double bedrooms with built-in robes share a living space, perfect for family relaxation. A split system air conditioner provides additional comfort, and the family bathroom, separate toilet, and laundry offer practicality and convenience for everyday living.

Outside, the property is surrounded by a well-maintained garden and outdoor living space, providing the perfect setting for family fun, there is ample room for the caravan or boat, while the beach is just a short stroll away, so is San Remo foreshore shopping strip. The area boasts

scenic coastal walking tracks, surf beaches, and plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy. Residents can take advantage of the local primary school, newly appointed secondary college, medical centre, sports facilities, playgrounds, supermarkets, cafes, and an array of retail outlets—all within walking distance, making car ownership optional.

Whether you're unwinding at home or exploring the stunning coastal landscape, this home offers a serene and elevated lifestyle in a highly sought-after coastal township.

Daily inspections welcomed  
- Please call us to arrange.

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## Gippslube Automotive for sale

WE ARE proud to present this motor vehicle service and repair centre to you. Having been successfully operated by the current owner for over 21 years, it is a long-standing and trusted business in the local community with considerable goodwill and a secure and loyal customer base. It services a wide range of vehicles - cars and 4WD's - also offering manufacturer logbook servicing.

With prime highway frontage this modern garage consists of a large, immaculate four bay workshop, with an additional two bay workshop fitted out with an extensive number of complex tools and equipment, with an adjoining office, kitchen/meal room, reception area and ample parking in front and rear of the building.

Features include:

- Highway frontage
- Long term lease with negotiable terms or option to purchase freehold
- 21 years business experience with regular and loyal clientele
- Consistent weekly turnover
- Advanced warehouse facilities with a well-equipped workshop
- All equipment in good condition included
- Trades 5 days Monday to Friday, with the option of extending hours
- Outstanding investment opportunity

The owners of this business are to be commended for the presentation and meticulous attention to detail. An inspection is a must to appreciate this property.

It is being offered as a walk-in-walk-out sale for \$180,000 plus GST. Please call Kellie Thomas on 0434947449 for further details and to arrange your private inspection.



**Business** Approx 1,061m<sup>2</sup>

34 Yarragon Road, **Leongatha**  
**For Sale** \$180,000 +GST  
**Agent** Nutrien Harcourts  
Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449  
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au

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[nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha](http://nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha)



**Barry Redmond**  
Director / Estate Agent  
0477 622 292



**Kellie Thomas**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0438 647 449



**Matt Redmond**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0418 357 341



**Monique Wightman**  
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**INVERLOCH**

Stunning Lifestyle Property

- Spacious brick veneer open plan living home.
- Master in its own private wing with WIR and ensuite.
- Double gge, solar power, stockyards & infrastructure.

\$1,850,000 - \$1,890,000

**JUST LISTED**



**MIRBOO NORTH**

Tranquil Living on 2.4 Acres

- Private country style home on approx. 2.4 acres.
- Well appointed kitchen with plenty of storage.
- Stylishly renovated modern central bathroom.

\$799,000

**JUST LISTED**



**TOORA**

Immaculate Family Home

- Solid brick veneer home on approx. 3.6 acres.
- Spacious bedrooms, master with WIR and ensuite.
- Undercover alfresco area, shed and workshop.

\$750,000

**JUST LISTED**



**LEONGATHA**

Charming Period Style Home

- Stunning 1940's art deco home on approx. 1,200m<sup>2</sup>.
- Older style, well appointed kitchen.
- 3 bay shed, tool shed, separate studio/office space.

\$640,000

**NEW PRICE**



**LEONGATHA**

Gorgeous Townhouse!

- Neat & presented BV home in private, quiet location.
- Kitchen with electric cooking, island bench and storage.
- Single LU garage with direct access into home.

\$475,000

**JUST LISTED**



**MIRBOO NORTH**

Spectacular Family Home!

- Bespoke home on 5,000m<sup>2</sup> with lovely rural outlook.
- Kitchen with quality appliances and stone benchtops.
- Massive master bedroom with stunning ensuite.

\$975,000 - \$995,000

**JUST LISTED**



**LEONGATHA**

Immaculate Family Home!

- Neat BV home on large, elevated approx. 977m<sup>2</sup> block.
- Fully appointed kitchen with large step in pantry.
- Master bedroom with walk in robe and ensuite.

\$720,000

**JUST LISTED**



**LEONGATHA**

Stunning Home!

- Modern family home in established court on 871m<sup>2</sup>.
- Master suite with ensuite and generous walk in robe.
- Executive kitchen, parents retreat, cinema room.

\$950,000

**FOR SALE**



**LEONGATHA**

Charming Country Home

- Great sized family home on approx. 2.47 acres.
- Spacious kitchen with quality appliances.
- Outdoor living, shedding, fencing & water supply.

\$895,000

HM1631-V17



## Genuine Classic

WELCOME to 10 Porter Lane, a breathtaking lifestyle retreat nestled on an expansive approx. 14 acres of picturesque land only a short five minute drive from the township of Mirboo North. This stunning property offers the perfect blend of luxury, comfort, and natural beauty, making it an ideal sanctuary for families, nature lovers, or anyone seeking a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Step inside to discover a beautifully designed interior that seamlessly blends classical architecture with cosy living. The elegant kitchen boasts high-quality finishes including 900mm 'Falcon' oven and stove top making it a joy to cook and entertain. Adjoining the kitchen is the outdoor alfresco area that overlooks parts of the amazing gardens. The spacious living room adjoins another living area complete with a stunning fireplace, perfect for cozy evenings spent with loved ones. The kitchen and living areas all boast beautiful, raked timber ceilings.

Inside the home are three spacious bedrooms designed with comfort and relaxation in mind. The master bedroom boasts a walk-in-robe and ensuite, add to that the fully self-

Your dream lifestyle awaits!

contained bungalow nestled just a few metres from the main home meaning there is more than enough space for family and guests.

The property is surrounded by lush greenery, offering a serene outdoor environment. Enjoy the beauty of nature from your patio, perfect for summer gatherings or quiet evenings under the stars. The expansive lawn and garden areas complete with a citrus orchard, vegie gardens and various fruit, exotic and native trees provide endless opportunities for outdoor activities, gardening, or simply relaxing in the fresh air.

Also included on this approx. 14 acres of land are two large grazing paddocks, two spring fed dams, hay shed, old dairy and a two and a half bay shed with concrete floor and power. This property offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the beauty of the Australian landscape.

Don't miss your chance to own this exceptional lifestyle property at 10 Porter Lane, Mirboo North. Contact us today to arrange a private viewing and experience the beauty and tranquillity this home has to offer.

Your dream lifestyle awaits!



**3 | 2 | 4** 14 Acres

10 Porter Lane, **Mirboo North**  
**For Sale** \$1,295,000  
**Agent** Ray White Leongatha  
 Dave Trotman 0418 589 805

**Ray White**  
 Ray White Leongatha  
 03 5662 5800  
 15 Bair Street, Leongatha  
 raywhiteleongatha.com.au



**For Sale**

94 Ogilvy Street, **Leongatha**

**WHEN POSITION COUNTS**

- Opposite Primary & Secondary schools
- 2 living areas & updated throughout
- Covered entertaining deck
- Carport plus lock up garage

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

**\$550,000-\$575,000**

**5 | 2 | 3**

**For Sale**

81 Roughead Street, **Leongatha**

**CHARMING FAMILY HOME**

- Opposite Leongatha's sporting precinct
- Spacious bedrooms & updated bathroom
- Decking area overlooking yard
- Carport plus garage and fenced yard

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

**\$495,000**

**3 | 2 | 1**

**For Sale**

81 Boags Road, **Leongatha**

**MODERN LIVING WITH RURAL CHARM**

- 2094m<sup>2</sup> block with open plan home
- 2 living areas plus covered alfresco
- 3 bedrooms plus study
- Double garage plus 10x12m shed

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805

**\$995,000**

**3 | 2 | 4**

**For Sale**

12 Stony Creek Dollar Rd, **Stony Creek**

**PERFECT FAMILY HOME**

- Spacious home with 2 living areas
- 1,144m<sup>2</sup>, plus 1,144m<sup>2</sup> government lease
- Covered alfresco and large shed
- Located in the heart of Stony Creek

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805

**\$675,000**

**4 | 2 | 2**



**For Sale**

13 Owen Street, **Leongatha**

**BRAND NEW HOME**

- 500m walk to CBD on flat 410m<sup>2</sup> block
- Open plan home with all the mod cons
- Master bedroom with ensuite & WIR
- Under construction - completion in March

Dave Trotman 0418 589 805

**\$595,000**

**4 | 2 | 2**

**For Sale**

102 Brown Street, **Leongatha**

**WHEN QUALITY & LOCATION MATTER!**

- Contemporary home close to shops
- Open plan with solid fuel heater & A/C
- Outdoor entertaining deck & firepit area
- Blackbutt timber floors & double glazing

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

**\$850,000-\$880,000**

**3 | 2 | 2**

**For Sale**

2a Conway Street, **Leongatha**

**LOW MAINTENANCE, PRIME LOCATION**

- Low maintenance home on 486m<sup>2</sup>
- Open plan and ensuite to master bedroom
- Covered outdoor entertaining
- Short walk to shops and park

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

**\$550,000-\$575,000**

**3 | 2 | 1**

**For Sale**

585 Leongatha Yarragon Rd, **Wooron**

**LIFESTYLE OASIS, INCOME POTENTIAL!**

- 19.5 acres 10kms to Lgatha
- Open plan with stunning rural views
- 2 x fully equipped BNB cottages
- Established vineyard, orchard, olive grove

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

**\$1,480,000 - \$1,595,000**

**4 | 2 | 2**





# Dairy farmers continue call for fairer milk prices

By Andrew Paloczi

AS ELSEWHERE in Australia, local dairy farmers continue to question current milk prices paid by processors in light of high overseas dairy prices.

Leongatha South dairy farmer Ben Vagg who is the South Gippsland committee representative for Dairy Farmers Victoria (DFV) and a founding member of that organisation, has been fielding plenty of queries on the topic from others in the industry.

He stressed that Australian dairy farmers aren't getting paid at the rate international milk prices have risen to.

"DFV is asking for consistency in the messaging from the processing industry," Mr Vagg said.

That is a sentiment backed by Ben Bennett, president of Australian Dairy Farmers (ADF), who highlighted a double standard in how processors set prices, saying that is clearly illustrated by the discrepancy between farmgate prices in Australia and New Zealand.

He pointed out that early in 2024, the Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF) warned that milk price decreases were necessary due to lower overseas prices, citing New Zealand and the Global Dairy Trade Price (GDT) index as evidence.

"Ironically, now as prices start increasing overseas in New Zealand and on the GDT we do not hear the same rhetoric or willingness to increase



**Leongatha South dairy farmer Ben Vagg is determined to see the industry thrive long term.** A04\_0725

prices accordingly," Mr Bennett wrote last month on the ADF website.

Mr Vagg said the surging GDT combined with a weakening Australian Dollar meant processors are "running out of excuses" not to lift the farmgate price.

Krowera dairy farmer Andy Thomas is appreciative of a recent step up in price from Australian Dairy Farmers Corporation (ADFC), which he supplies, but said milk

prices paid to dairy farmers could be better across the board.

"Costs have risen enormously from power to rates,

feed, even down to fencing products, and if these milk companies want to continue to get more milk and for dairy farmers to continue in the industry, they have to try and give them more money," he said.

Mr Thomas acknowledged milk companies are under pressure but argues they can do better, pointing out dairy farmers are under pressure too.

"Our costs have skyrocketed and our milk price compared to last year is probably on a par, if not a bit lower," he said, pondering what other industry has had a price or

wage drop, noting that's what farmers have to put up with.

Mr Thomas argues that with the current low value of the Australian dollar, Aussie farmers should be getting more.

Still, he is pleased to see ADPC leading the way with a step up that will hopefully apply pressure to other processors, leading to better pricing for Australian dairy farmers in general.

ADPC's recent step up amounted to an extra 20 cents per kilo of milk solids, making it a market leader with an average of \$8.40 per kilo of milk solids, the organisation's general manager advising suppliers that the revised price will be backdated to July 1, 2024.

Burra Foods has a current average range of \$8 to \$8.50 per kilo of milk solids, while Saputo's range is between \$8.15 and \$8.30.

DFV believes the ADPC's step up announcement leads the way for other processors to push towards and above the \$8.50 mark per kilo of milk solids.

Mr Vagg, who supplies ADPC, said it is encouraging that it understands the complexities and challenges dairy farmers face, despite not being a post farmgate milk collector, with farmers supplying milk to the organisation's partner companies, ADPC acting as a broker.

He believes that there is an appetite to grow the dairy industry in Australia but everyone needs to work together to achieve that.



**Winner of Junior Handler 10-14 Years and the Junior Judging Competition in the beef section Jack Chase with junior judges.**

**Great junior participation in Korumburra cattle sections**

KORUMBURRA Show organisers were pleased with the strong junior participation in cattle competition, and with the overall number of animals entered.

While dairy numbers were slightly down, entries were up in the beef section, with about 15 animals in each of those categories and the sheds full.

"We had a clipping and handling demonstration on the Friday night for the kids," Chief Cattle Steward Ian Cash said, cattle judging taking place on the Saturday.

There was junior judging in both dairy and beef, with the young winners going onto the State final where they'll have the opportunity to earn a spot in the Australian final.

Ian was delighted with the junior participation, the dairy and beef sections each attracting about eight kids.

There was a collection of heifers on show, suited to their young handlers.

## Cattle Results:

Dairy: Grand Champion Dairy Cow – Precision Hanske Princess (Beth Scott), Junior Handler 10-14 Years – Ella Braumane, Junior Handler 15-24 Years – Scott Mackie, Junior Judging Competition winner – Madisyn Kenzie

Beef: Grand Champion Beef Cow – Lakota (Grylls Cattle Co.), Grand Champion Beef Bull – Buchanan Park Timothy (Allan and Jill Furbrough), Junior Handler 10-14 Years – Jack Chase, Junior Handler 15-24 Years – Sienna Grylls, Junior Judging Competition winner – Jack Chase

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**

Est. 1886

36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

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Jack Curtis

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Truck, Tractor,  
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**Friday, February 28  
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A/c - K. Fisher

510 Korumburra-Warragul Road, Korumburra

2000 Model Toyota Dyna with a large steel tray 4.45m long x 2.4m wide diesel motor, Grey Fergie tractor with ROPS and good tyres, Hayes Tractor slasher 4ft near new, 20ft shipping container with whirly bird, set of harrows, Super spreader, Electric fence unit, Round bale feeder, 3PL tractor bucket, ATV trailer, Stock yard gate, Posts and strainers, 24 x treated pine rails 150mm x 50mm x 4m long, Roller door 1 x 5m long, Roller door 1 x 2.4m long, Corrugated iron, Steel post 75mm x 75mm x 4.3m long x 8, Timber slabs camphor laurel, Temporary fence panels and concrete blocks, Rigging equipment, 44 gal drums, Castor wheels, Motorbike ramp, Wood and metal shelving, 4 x antique dingo traps, Plastic hen cages, 3 x vintage outboards Seagull/Victa jet/Volvo Penta, Plasma cutter, Router table with router, Biscuit joiner to join timber, Work bench, Spotlights, 8kva petrol generator, Compressors x 2, Steel cut off saw and bench, Band saw, Large metal toolboxes x 4, Drill press, Mower, Whipper snipper, Scaffold, Metal lockers, Large industrial fan, Extension leads, Power tools, Socket sets, ass. nuts, bolts, screw and nails, various hand tools, Metal Filing cabinets, Plastic table and chairs, Office furniture, Pine kitchen dresser, Dining room cabinet, LUX cast iron wood stove, Large professionally made spit roaster, Gas BBQ, cooker, light and accessories and tools, various garden tools.

### A/c John Corrigan - Property Sold:

David Brown grader blade, Jarrett carryall, Saw bench, Tractor belt pulley (Fiat), Tractor jib, Rotary drainer, Harrow drawbar.

### Outside Vendors Welcome

Refreshments available, Buyers I.D. required, number system will operate, NO buyer premium.

**Terms:** Card, cash or cheque day of sale unless prior arrangements are made.

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**Linda Jefferis and Fiona Glover throw their support behind Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.**

## Wattlewood Angus takes on cancer

WATTLEWOOD Angus near Lang Lang is joining the fight against cancer, supporting the Cancer Council through a charity fundraiser sale on March 7 that offers the pick of two Wattlewood HBR Angus Heifers.

All proceeds from the sale of the chosen animal will be donated to Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, the choice being between the strikingly impressive pair of 'Wattlewood Barunah' and 'Wattlewood Acacia'.

Angus Australia, ABS Australia and the Cattle Shop have combined to form an impressive package for the buyer.

That package consists of an ABS Australia semen

voucher and artificial insemination services from Australian Bovine Conceptions when the winning bidders chosen heifer is ready to be joined.

Angus Australia has thrown in a membership, a registration for her first calf and a genomic test, along with a few items of Angus Australia merchandise for the proud new owner.

Should that owner wish to continue showing 'Wattlewood Barunah' or 'Wattlewood Acacia', they'll have a few handy items from the Cattle Shop that will help with that pursuit.

Transport of the chosen heifer to her new home will be arranged, the overall package making this

an ideal opportunity for a budding young cattle breeder or an astute stud Angus breeder wanting to add a quality female to the herd.

Wattlewood Angus owner Fiona Glover was inspired by friend Linda Jefferis to support the Biggest Morning Tea, with Linda hosting a gathering for the cause, her 14th year of fundraising for cancer research and prevention and support of families impacted by the disease.

The charity fundraiser heifer sale will take place during the Wattlewood Bull Sale at the Lang Lang farm property on Friday March 7, with the chosen heifer to be sold at 12pm.

## Farmers urge for caged egg phaseout pause

THE VICTORIAN Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on the state and federal governments to pause the proposed national phaseout of conventional cages by 2036 until a reliable supply of eggs to the community and businesses can be guaranteed.

VFF Egg Group President Meg Parkinson said ongoing impacts of avian influenza is severely hampering the supply of eggs to consumers and all forms of egg production must be utilised to maintain future supply.

"Recurring avian influenza outbreaks has demonstrated the need for a robust and resilient egg industry. We need a supply chain that is designed with consumers in mind and their needs. This includes eggs from all production systems such as barn laid, cage and free range and enables consumers to choose how their eggs are produced and at the same time ensuring supply of eggs is as resilient as possible."

"Caged egg systems provide a safer internal environment, significantly reducing the risk of avian influenza transmission



**The VFF is calling for a pause on the proposed phaseout of conventional cages by 2036 due to the avian flu.**

through contact with wild birds. The impending phaseout of conventional cages, coupled with a lack of clear transition planning from governments, has created uncertainty within the industry."

"Australian egg farmers invest considerably in strict biosecurity protocols and uphold world-leading animal welfare standards, ensuring consumers have access to the best possible eggs," Ms Parkinson said.

Ms Parkinson added that action was needed to ensure a steady and reliable future supply of eggs.

"We're calling for the state

and federal governments to pause the proposed national phaseout of conventional cages. If not, future shortages will also drive-up egg prices, placing additional financial strain on Australian families.

"The VFF urges governments to work closely with industry to develop a practical transition plan that ensures egg supply remains stable and affordable for all Australians. Until such a plan is in place, the proposed phaseout must be paused to avoid unintended consequences for food security and local farmers," Ms Parkinson said.

## CATTLE

160

## WARRAGUL

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**Friday 28th February, 11.00am  
Lardner Park, Warragul**

### SELLING:

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## The hidden cost of pasture residues

ACHIEVING the ideal grazing residue on kikuyu dairy pastures can be challenging, even for motivated farmers.

Early findings from Dairy UP research have shown there are times when the pasture on offer is too high, leaving greater than desired residuals of more than 1700 kg DM/ha leading to a potential loss in regrowth. And in the autumn when growth is slow, residuals can be far lower than the recommended 1700 kg DM/ha.

The Dairy UP team has been monitoring 15 farms using rising plate meters at five locations on each farm, with results compared to satellite-derived data.

The findings are consistent with previous research which showed a potential loss in regrowth rate of 25% for the following grazing where residual dropped to less than 1,300 kg DM/ha.

Project lead Professor Yani Garcia said the results highlight the hidden cost of less-than-ideal grazing residuals. "The challenges that occur when growth rates change rapidly with seasonal conditions," he said.

"At key times it can be hard to stay with a set rotation length and/or stocking pressure – we need to recognise conditions that slow or speed growth rates and respond quickly," he said.

Dairy UP is exploring new management options to grow and utilise more Kikuyu over summer but moving pasture research forward is not without challenges.

"Satellite imagery is helpful but it needs more refinement and more research," he said.

"For example, as the regrowth of ryegrass or kikuyu reached canopy cover, the satellite measurements of greenness – and so growth – were less accurate because the reflection of light waves didn't change, but biomass continued to increase."

The results were encouraging but Professor Garcia said that without adding the rising plate meter data, the variations were too high to confidently adjust supplements and grazing.

However, the team believes there is potential in pursuing the use of satellite imagery. The number of satellites in orbit has increased, providing greater accuracy and the ability to miss cloudy days.

"There's now a real opportunity to automatically measure and monitor pasture growth," he said.

The use of advanced sensing technologies is part of a suite of Dairy UP projects that aim to unlock the potential of Kikuyu pastures used by dairy farmers. Other projects are investigating kikuyu varieties, kikuyu poisoning (toxicity) and carbon from kikuyu pastures.

More information: [www.dairyup.com.au](http://www.dairyup.com.au)



Matthew Hyland, Simon Henderson and Michael Russell at Thursday's Store Sale in Leongatha. A11\_0725

## Smaller numbers but some healthy prices at Leongatha VLE

THURSDAY'S Leongatha Store Sale was a quieter affair with just over 1,300 head of cattle available.

Auctioneers, Jimmy Kyle of SEJ and Simon Henderson of Phelan & Henderson & Co weren't phased by the lower numbers, pointing to the large quantities of cattle sold at Leongatha VLE this year.

Simon speculated that a number of people are now sitting on store cattle in the expectation of better prices when the break comes, pointing out the market will pick up quickly when there is widespread rain in Victoria.

"We did see some large yardings through January, bearing in mind that we had some significant rain mid-December that kept the season going along nicely, and the store

market picked up significantly the last few weeks of December before we closed for the Christmas break," he said.

However, rain locally since that mid-December period has been sporadic, with many places missing out, Simon noting much of South Gippsland has had virtually no rain for the last couple of months.

Jimmy also suggested that some farmers contemplating selling stock are hedging their bets, waiting on good rain arriving locally to push prices up.

There was some healthy competition between feedlot buyers at Thursday's sale, an example being a pen of 12 steers from AJ and NM Roberts of Pound Creek, weighing an average of 530 kilos.

"Look at this for a pen of

steers," Jimmy declared of the well-bred animals before fetching \$2,070 a head at \$3.90 per kilo, attributing that strong price to competition between two major feedlot buyers.

Simon highlighted a pen of Angus weaners from Burrumbeet past Ballarat, weighing an average of 319 kilos and drawing \$1,300 a head at \$4.08 per kilo.

Sentinel-Times also chatted to Michael Russell of Glen Forbes, who was happy with the price he got for a pen of 14 steers, weighing an average 420 kilos and being knocked down for \$1,540 a head at \$3.66 per kilo.

"It's what they're making at the present time," he said.

## Demand for hay surges as dry conditions continue

HAY deliveries to lifestyle farmers and the racing industry have tripled over the past few weeks across South Gippsland and the Bass Coast.

Prices from the shed remain steady but most suppliers are anticipating a shortage of hay as the dry weather continues across western and southern districts.

With hay being transported across state lines and over longer distances transportation costs threaten to push up fodder prices for both hay and chaff.

Clare and Scott Gray from C&F Stockfeed in Meeniyan say the increased demand is predominately coming from horse owners and dairy farmers with calves.

"Normally we hold our hay back until winter," said Scott.

"This year sales have tripled over a normal year from January onwards."

"It's the driest I've seen it on this property," said Clare.

Supplying hay for the last ten years and chaff for two years Scott Gray has noticed an increase in demand from lifestyle farmers.

"Small square bales appeal to horse and hobby farmers and now account for 90% of our business," said Scott.

To cater for the increased



Daisy with parents Clare and Scott from C&F Stockfeed in Meeniyan B30\_0725

demand Scott Gray has developed his own mini-square baler.

"Very large square bales are usually sliced, wrapped and palleted for the lifestyle market."

"What we do is compress and wrap existing small bales."

"Two of our small bales will go into the back of a Mercedes Benz," said Scott.

Where possible Clare and Scott try to buy local but with feed supplies fast drying up C&F Stockfeed are now sourcing good quality hay from elsewhere in Victoria at Beaufort, Kaniva

and Bridgewater.

"Summers always used to be dry," said Scott.

"This year there was no spring rain."

"Calculating 15 square bales to a round bale lifestyle farmers typically take two or three round bales at a time," said Scott.

Scott's unique mini-baler can pack 22 bales onto a pallet at \$18 a small bale.

"Less mess and more space in the horse float," said Clare.

For more information on hay and chaff availability you can find C&F Stockfeed on Facebook and Instagram, or phone 0448 859 689.

## MARKET REPORT

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### Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, February 10, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$20 to \$43
Friesian Bulls	\$25 to \$52
Friesian Heifers	\$42
Beef Bulls	\$65 to \$100
Beef Heifers	\$42 to \$230
Number of Calves:	47
Number purchased to rear:	21

### Lardner Park Store Sale Report

Beef Bulls	\$300 to \$1180
Beef Heifers	\$200 to \$900
Number of Calves:	250

## STORE SALE

VLE - LEONGATHA

## 1500 CATTLE 1500

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

### GROWN STEERS

A/c Tracy Hill Farms, Foster (ELDERS)
40 Angus steers, 14-18 mths, GF & ABF
10 Hereford steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c Wallan Past Co, Wallan (ELDERS)
40 Angus steers, 2½ yo, Adameluka blood, VB, GF & ABF
A/c D&G Hunter, Moe (ELDERS)
40 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, VB, Leewood blood, NE Accred, GF & ABF
A/c J.L.T. Farming, Lang Lang (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus steers, 16-20 mths, By Stud Angus "Wattlewood" Bulls
A/c Hendricks Farms, Yarram (ELDERS)
26 Angus Steers, 2 yo, GF & ABF
A/c Tarwin Meadows (ELDERS)
24 Hereford steers 18 mths, Ex Yea bred GF & ABF

### GROWN HEIFERS

A/c WR Miller, Neerim South (ELDERS)
25 Angus & Ang/Hfd X heifers, 20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c S&S Storr (ELDERS)
25 Angus heifers, 16 mths, GF & ABF

### WEANERS

A/c T Warren (ELDERS)
50 Angus mix sex weaners, Battersby blood
A/c Groves Estate (ELDERS)
50 Angus mix sex weaners, 6 mths, weaned 3 weeks, Banquet blood, NE Accred
A/c D&G Seton, Yarram (ELDERS)
Property Sold
40 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, GF & ABF
A/c Deep Creek Farm, Woodleigh (ELDERS)
12 Hereford steers, 10-11 mths
20 Hereford heifers, 10-11 mths
Meikle blood, weaned, very quiet, VB, GF & ABF
A/c G.S Past (ELDERS)
25 Angus Steer weaners, 12 mths, Merlewood & Morunga blood, NE Accred
A/c R&M Bowron, Walkerville (ELDERS)
20 Angus heifers, 10-11 mths, Merlewood Angus blood, weaned, VB, GF & ABF

### COWS & CALVES

A/c Derbyshire, Woodside (ELDERS)
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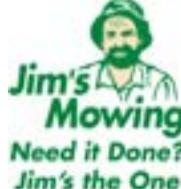
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LB1201

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### SECURITY



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- Alarm monitoring

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Leongatha, Korumburra & district

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND & SURROUNDING AREAS

JA2255

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JEN1989

LB1034

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025 | 41

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## DEATHS

## FOR SALE

## USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**CHURCHILL,  
Tyron David:**  
23.10.1973 - 12.02.2025.  
Dearly adored son of  
Greg and Bev.  
A star in the sky was  
shining bright.  
We never got the  
chance to say  
good night.  
Farewell our beautiful  
boy, you will live in our  
hearts forever.  
--Dad and Mum.

Please see  
[www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au) for funeral details.

**CHURCHILL,  
Tyron David:**  
Much loved partner of  
Chrisannya, mate of  
Jack, adored and loved  
father of Tori-Lee,  
Brayden and Riley.  
Adored pop of Hannah.  
Farewell our loved one.  
You will stay in our  
hearts forever.

**ECUYER,  
Rodney:**  
23.11.1950 - 11.02.2025.  
Dad,  
After 15 months you're  
finally resting  
peacefully.  
The memories we  
made with you in your  
final days will be  
treasured forever.  
Thank you.  
Thank you for being  
my dad.

Thank you for  
everything you did for  
me, and thank you for  
being the best pa to  
Keira, Zahli and Logan.  
Go and enjoy a cold  
beer with Granddad.  
Love you forever.  
--Rachael, Alex, Keira,  
Zahli and Logan.

**KAVANAGH,  
Maxwell John (Max):**  
15.04.1951 - 16.02.2025.  
Loved father of Adele  
and Liam, Danielle and  
Vanessa (dec.).  
Son of Bill and Betty  
(both dec.).  
Loving brother of Peter  
and brother-in-law of  
Marion. Uncle to Jesse,  
Beth and Clare.  
Friend to many.  
Now at Rest.

We take comfort Max is  
now free of pain and  
anguish and will always  
live on in our  
memories.  
Private Cremation.  
Service at a later date.

**MAGOR,  
John Reginald:**  
04.06.1934 - 15.02.2025.  
Loved and respected  
father of Steven.  
Dad, you will be sadly  
missed.

**MILLER,  
Kenneth (Lyle):**  
24.02.1948 - 15.02.2025.  
Passed away  
surrounded by  
his family.

Much loved husband  
of Joan.  
Proud father and  
father-in-law of Zoe  
and Aaron, Nikki and  
Michelle.

'Pabie' to his dear  
grandchildren Evie,  
Ayla, Isabella and James.

**MILLER, Lyle:**  
17ft, 2 single beds, all  
fittings and  
accessories in  
excellent condition.  
Rego: U74 463.  
0418 727 616

## GARAGE SALES

**INVERLOCH:**  
1 Louisa Court,  
Saturday, February 22,  
8.30am - 2.30pm.  
Moving sale.

**LEONGATHA:**  
20 Willow Grove,  
Saturday,  
February 22, 2025.  
9am-12pm.  
Furniture, bric-a-brac,  
clothing and shoes.

**FARM  
MACHINERY**  
**INFORMATION  
WANTED:**  
Information regarding a  
Whoppa-Choppa's  
hydraulics.  
Contact:  
0459 793 004.

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CAR REMOVAL  
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Changes?**

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adults too NDIS  
and Medicare  
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P: 0425 764 733

**Lifeline**  
HELP IS AS  
CLOSE AS THE  
TELEPHONE

**13 11 14**

## PERSONALS

**LANGWARRIN:**  
Male 70-year-old  
widower and slim build.  
Seeking adventurous  
lady, 60 plus, for  
camper trailer  
companion to Darwin  
and back down the  
West Coast.  
Leaving in May.  
Brian 0451 776 821.

## ADULT SERVICES

**ESCORT  
LINDA**  
Mature  
Country Lady  
for Mature Gents  
*Naughty & Nice*  
Out calls in  
the region.  
In calls - Friday  
Feb 21 & 28  
**0439 263 764**  
swa10270xe

**CLASSIFIED  
DEADLINE  
12 NOON  
MONDAYS**  
**Call  
5672 1888  
to place  
an advert**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

## ANNUAL MEETING

of Foster and District  
Probus Club Inc,  
to be held on  
March 3, 2025,  
10.00am  
Foster Bowls Club  
Station Road, Foster.  
ALL WELCOME

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government

Energy,  
Environment  
and Climate Action

## FOREST ACT 1958

Notice is hereby given that it is in the intention of the Department  
Energy, Environment and Climate Action to dedicate the following lands  
as Reserved Forest under Section 45 (1) of the Forest Act 1958:

- Crown Allotment 2015 and 2022 Parish of Gunyah Gunyah
- Crown Allotment 2007, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2025 Parish of Binginwarri
- Crown Allotment 2014 and 2015 Parish of Bulga

Following dedication, these lands can further be proclaimed to form part  
of the Brataulung Forest Park under Section 50 (1) of the Forest Act 1958  
Further information can be obtained by contacting Lauren Kew at  
[gippslandregionalforestplanning@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:gippslandregionalforestplanning@deeca.vic.gov.au)

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~ Chapel facilities available ~

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Let Us Create That Final Gift

## MILLER:

A Memorial Service to  
Celebrate the Life of  
Mr. Kenneth 'Lyle'  
Miller will be held at the  
Inverloch RACV  
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Road, Inverloch on  
MONDAY,  
February 24, 2025  
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Local resident.  
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**Lifeline**  
HELP IS AS  
CLOSE AS THE  
TELEPHONE

**13 11 14**

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Brian 0451 776 821.

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Mature  
Country Lady  
for Mature Gents  
*Naughty & Nice*  
Out calls in  
the region.  
In calls - Friday  
Feb 21 & 28  
**0439 263 764**  
swa10270xe

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS

**Call  
5672 1888  
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# Sentinel-Times classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### KORUMBURRA INDOOR POOL

We are urgently seeking community members who are passionate about the pool's future to join the committee of management. No day to day tasks required, just your enthusiasm and fresh ideas.

**We can't do this without you!**

Please call Noelene on 0438 551 605 or email korumburraheatedpool@outlook.com



**Making a real difference in the lives of people across Bass Coast.**

If you can give, please give where you live.  
[www.bccf.org.au](http://www.bccf.org.au)



### WONTHAGGI RSL SUB BRANCH

*Serving veterans and the local community*  
60 Graham Street, Wonthaggi VIC 3955  
President Dan Lucas 0432 417 401

**AGM**

Sunday, March 16  
at 1pm at the RSL

HM12345

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### ECOLIV

Ecoliv Buildings is Victoria's leading sustainable prefab modular builder delivering projects all over Australia.

Our growing team located at our central construction facility at The Gurdies requires new team members to support continued business growth and expansion.

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All applications to  
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WV0230

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### PBE Real Estate

#### Administration Assistant

PBE Real Estate are seeking an experienced Administration Assistant to join our team. 15 hours per week.

Please email [pbevenusbay@gmail.com](mailto:pbevenusbay@gmail.com) for further information.

VW0224

## ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

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

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

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

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

### HIGHVIEW ACCOUNTING & FINANCIAL

#### Receptionist / Administration Assistant

We have an exciting part-time Receptionist/ Administration Assistant role available at our Wonthaggi office (minimum 20 hours per week, with potential for full time). This position is ideal for a well-organised team player who can prioritise tasks and work independently and offers the chance to be an integral member of the team.

##### Responsibilities:

- Reception duties including answering incoming calls and greeting clients
- Collection and distribution of incoming and outgoing mail
- Scanning and filing client documents
- Maintenance of the client database
- Emailing client invoices and following up outstanding payments
- Collating and lodging client taxation forms
- Oversee ASIC Compliance
- Setting up new clients and entities on the ATO portal and client database.

##### Key Requirements:

- Previous experience in similar administration role, preferably within professional services e.g. Accounting, Financial Services or Legal is desirable but not essential. Most important, is that you have strong administrative skills
- Positive and energetic attitude towards the role is non-negotiable
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- You will be reliable, proactive and have a positive attitude
- Basic to intermediate skills in the Microsoft suite of products. In addition to this, previous experience with industry-related programs (HandiSoft, Xero, BGL & CAS etc) is advantageous but not essential
- Excellent attention to detail and organisation skills are a must
- Ability to take initiative and willingness to take on tasks at various levels
- Ability to work with minimal supervision

*Think you've got what it takes?  
We'd love to hear from you!*

Email your CV and cover letter to our HR Manager, Rosanne Brownlee, at [rosanne@highview.com.au](mailto:rosanne@highview.com.au).

HW12345

## SITUATIONS VACANT

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at [www.Sgst.com.au](http://www.Sgst.com.au)

Email your job adverts to:  
[ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

**Sentinel-Times**

### KORUMBURRA MEDICAL CENTRE

#### Medical Receptionist

Part Time

We are looking for a friendly motivated, professional and reliable receptionist, who can work well in a group environment with great customer skills and has knowledge of office protocols.

Available for a variety of shifts at our Korumburra practice on weekdays and some weekends.

For further information please request a job proforma at [reception@korumburramedical.com.au](mailto:reception@korumburramedical.com.au).

To be considered for the position, please submit a cover letter and resume to the Manager at [reception@korumburramedical.com.au](mailto:reception@korumburramedical.com.au).

Applications close:  
Thursday, February 27, 2025

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

## DEADLINES

Classified single column  
Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column  
Fridays 3.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

## TO ADVERTISE

Phone:  
**5672 1888**

Email:  
[ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)

In person:  
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi  
36 McCartin St, Leongatha

Mail:  
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

**Office Hours:**  
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

### Payments accepted:



### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

### The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**

# TAFE Teachers pay and conditions to improve

TAFE teachers' pay and conditions will improve under the State Government, to help attract and retain the very best teachers in the country.

The Australian Education Union (AEU) last week endorsed a new in-principle agreement that will see TAFE teachers get wage increases, a modern classification system and more time for assessment and professional development.

Four in five future jobs will come through our TAFE system, and in 2025 there are about 90,000 new students embarking on their training through TAFE.

The in-principle agreement between the AEU and Victorian TAFE Association backs the existing workforce and encourages a new generation of TAFE teachers by delivering:

An upfront pay rise and then additional 1.5 per cent increases every six months over the life of the agreement, and changes to the classification structure that provides additional benefits to increase attraction and retention.

Ensuring the time allocated for teachers to do in-class assessments is counted towards teaching, which is critical for competency-based training.

An increase in the



**TAFE teachers are set to get wage increases.**

number of hours available for correction, assessment, preparation, planning and engagement, so students get more support and higher quality training.

Improved parental leave and cultural leave, and the introduction of grandparent leave and foster parent leave.

The deal is more encouragement for those considering a career in TAFE teaching and follows the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment being added to the Free TAFE list – removing tuition fees for people wanting to pursue this career path.

The Victorian Budget 2024/25 provided funding for a modern HR system for staff across the entire TAFE Network. That system is now helping with

recruitment as well as supporting the professional development of TAFE teachers and staff.

The State Government's \$4.6 billion investment in TAFE supports Victorians to get the skills they need for free, working closely with TAFEs across the state to make sure course offerings match the in-demand skills, creating a pipeline of workers for the jobs of the future in housing, renewable technology and the care economy.

The in-principle agreement is now subject to a vote by TAFE teachers and then approval by a Fair Work Commission process. Find out more information about a career in VET training visit: [www.vic.gov.au/tafe-teacher](http://www.vic.gov.au/tafe-teacher)

## Employment

Complete jobs listing online | [www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)

## Administrator/Accounts Coordinator

**Part Time Role: Tuesday - Friday's, 6 hours per day**

### Are you Looking for a change?

My client, an agricultural business based at Glen Forbes, Victoria is looking for an experienced Administrator/Accounts Co-ordinator to join their team. My client has been in business for more than 20 years, providing agricultural services to farmers and the meat industry.

This isn't just another office job - it's your chance to take ownership of a pivotal role in a family-run business that values reliability, collaboration, and excellence.

### Why This Role Is Made for You

You'll thrive here if you're someone who loves keeping everything running like clockwork. Your days will be a mix of accounts coordination, data entry, customer service, and general office administration, where you'll work closely with the Office Manager. Ideally you are tech savvy, enjoy the challenge of working through technology issues that arise from time to time. The systems and processes are already in place and running well, so you can just focus on managing your workload. Your contribution will be appreciated and you will become part of the team!

From data entry jobs, day to day administration, processing invoices, reconciling accounts, and debtor management to weekly payroll for a small team, you'll take on responsibilities that showcase your MYOB and Excel skills and attention to detail.

### What's In It for You?

- Above Award Pay:** \$28-\$30 per hour + super (negotiable for the right candidate).
- Work-Life Balance:** Part-time hours (Tuesday to Friday, 9am-3.30pm) with some flexibility available (with start and finish times).
- Supportive Environment:** Be part of a family-run business where your initiative and contributions are valued, and your voice is heard.
- Make an Impact:** Play a crucial role in keeping our office/accounts under control. And, if you've got ideas for improving systems and processes, we want to hear them—and implement them.
- Growth Opportunity:** Contribute to projects that allow you to gain valuable new skills and knowledge.
- Team Spirit:** Work with a tight-knit team who have your back and celebrate success together.

### Step Into a Role That Makes a Difference

If you're experienced in office administration and accounts coordination, proficient in MYOB and Excel and skilled in multitasking, this could be your next great move. My client is looking for someone who thrives in a fast-paced, high-volume environment and brings a can-do attitude to the team.

### Ready to Join the Team?

We'd love to hear from you!

Apply now and show us why you're the right person for this key role.

For more information, please call Elisa Nudelman on **0401 574 060** and/or to apply for the role, please email your cover letter and resume to [inspirepeopleconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:inspirepeopleconsulting@gmail.com).

**Applications Close: Monday, March 3 at 6pm**

Applicants must have Australian permanent working rights to apply for this role.



Gippsland Water Board member Felix Ohle and Board Committee independent Aboriginal delegate Laurie Marks.

# Fresh perspectives welcomed at Gippsland Water

GIPPSLAND Water has welcomed Glenn Pellegrin to its Board as an Independent Aboriginal Delegate and Laurie Marks as Board Committee independent Aboriginal delegate.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said Mr Pellegrin's appointment would further strengthen the recognition and inclusion of First Nations perspectives as part of Gippsland Water's decision-making processes.

"Glenn's insights will broaden our understanding of the priorities of First Nations people and help to reflect those in our projects and initiatives. We're thrilled to have him joining us," Ms Cumming said.

"Having a diverse range of viewpoints ensures our Board's decisions align with what our customers and local communities' want."

Mr Pellegrin, a proud Ngarrindjeri/Narungga man, said he was passionate about advocating for local First Nations communities.

"The Board Delegate position is an opportunity for me to follow in the footsteps of Elders who care for all Mob, help address systemic issues and achieve positive outcomes," Mr Pellegrin said.

"My previous experience has included multiple roles at Melbourne University, Aboriginal Housing Victoria and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

"I look forward to working alongside the Gippsland Water Board, and

continuing to draw on my strategic mindset, passion, and experience."

Laurie Marks will sit alongside Gippsland Water's Board subcommittees as Board committee independent Aboriginal delegate.

Mr Marks lives in West Gippsland and has worked in the Latrobe Valley. He said the new role would add to his existing experiences as a member of local Boards and organisations.

"Serving on local Boards has deepened my connection to the community and its diverse needs, and I look forward to adding to my journey with this new role," Mr Marks said.

"My experiences include chairing boards with a focus on sports partnerships and hubs, and I'm passionate about critical issues like men's health."

Ms Cumming said Gippsland Water was proud of its ongoing partnership with the Gunaikurnai and Bunurong people, the Traditional Owners of the land it operates on.

"We recognise the Traditional Owners' strong cultural connection to the land waterways and the importance of collaboration."

Gippsland Water is one of several Victorian water corporations to appoint an independent Aboriginal Board delegate.

For information about Gippsland Water's work with First Nations communities, visit: <http://www.gippswater.com.au/traditionalownersandcultural-heritage>



Gippsland Water Board Chair Tom Mollenkopf AO, independent Aboriginal Board delegate Glenn Pellegrin and Managing Director Sarah Cumming.

# Wooden dinghy regatta at Inverloch attracts a class field of classic sailboats

BLUSTERY wind, driving rain and a hail-shower could not deter true sailing enthusiasts from the first day of the Wooden Dinghy Classic Regatta at Inverloch.

Entertained late into the afternoon by the Wonthaggi Citizens Band lovers of classic sailing dinghies ignored the chilly conditions to admire and compare their classic sailboats.

Former Commodore Simon Wilson presented prizes for the best presented boats at a special classic regatta dinner held inside the South Gippsland Yacht Club boatshed.

Traditional wooden dinghies have a strong following including Fireballs, Mirrors, Sabres, Sabots, Sailfish, Shearwater, Herons, McGregor Canoe, Flying Ant, Arctic Tern, double ended Skerry and of course Inverloch's own locally designed Moth.

Perfect conditions for sailing on Day 2 resulted in two races being scheduled.

Highly competitive racing, several broken rudders and more than one upturned dinghy kept spectators on the beach well entertained.

The Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta is an annual showcase



Clancy and her mother Lucy fixing a broken rudder on wooden dinghy Charlie Brown B78\_0725

of sailing timber boats built and raced between the 1940's and 1980's.

The next race series for the South Gippsland Yacht Club will be the Inverloch and District Community Bank Labour Day weekend on Sunday March 9 and Monday March 10.

Sailing is always subject to weather conditions.

Look for the South Gippsland

Yacht Club on Facebook or go to [sgycinverloch.com.au](http://sgycinverloch.com.au)

## Race Results Inverloch Classic Regatta

Race 1: Dan Bentley (Flying Ant)

Race 2: Jonathan Pullman (Moth)

Race 3: Matt Keily (Moth)

Overall Race Series:

1st Warren Jones Sailfish)

Gwen 12 Cup: Andrew Chapman & Polly Parise

Dennis Ginn Cup. 1st Placed Boat Overall: Jonathan Pullman (Moth)

Best Presented Boats:

Best Presented Sailfish: Bentley Con "Lucy". Best Presented Moth: Alan Davis "George". People's Choice: Anthony Horgan "Allie" (Clinker). Best in Show: Kelvin Gedye "Lily" (Moyn 10).

## Amy's already covered 27km of her 30km goal

AMY Hodson is absolutely crushing it in the Starlight Foundation Super Swim Challenge.

Swimming every single day since February 1, already covering 27 kilometres, and fundraising \$6,985. This is an outstanding achievement for anyone, let alone a 12-year-old! Her dedication and effort is truly inspiring.

Being in the top 10 fundraising individuals nationwide is no small feat, and it's clear that her hard work is making a big impact. The second half of the challenge will surely bring even more milestones and successes.

Amy's Mum Robyn wished to share her gratitude by saying a huge thank you to all the family, friends, and community who have supported Amy so far. "Let's keep that energy going!"

"If you see her in or out of the pool, don't forget to cheer her on. And if you haven't already, it's not too late to donate or share her story to be part of this magical event. Amy's effort and the Starlight Children's Foundation are definitely worth celebrating!"

"Keep it up, Amy!" Visit <https://superswim.org.au/a-hodson> to donate today.

**RIGHT: 2025 Super Swim Hero Amy Hodson**



## Round 2 of Victorian Open Titles cancelled due to forecasted poor surf

THE second round of the Victorian Open Titles has been cancelled due to predicted strong winds and large swell this coming weekend.

Due to be held on the Mornington Peninsula, the event will be cancelled with the remaining event on the three-part series to be the decider. The series rankings will now take into account the opening and final event in deciding state champions for 2025.

In the instance of a tie on the final rankings for state champion, a surf off will be held with the top two surfers at the conclusion of the final event on Phillip Island.



Second stop in the three-event series cancelled, due to strong onshore winds and large swell. The final event to be held on Phillip Island March 23. Xavier Huxtable is in pole position going into the final round of the Victorian Open Titles next month.

Photo: Liam Robertson / Surfing Victoria

The series is the pathway event to the Rip Curl Pro Victorian Trials, giving one Victorian a spot in the main event at the Rip Curl Pro in both Mens and Womens divisions.

## 2024/25 Victorian Open Series

Round 1 – Bells Beach – Complete. Round 2 – Mornington Peninsula – Cancelled. Round 3 – Phillip Island – March 22, 2025.

The Victorian Open Series is presented by Kieser Australia and supported by Cancer Council Sunscreen, Surf Better Now and Surfing Victoria.

## Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surfing Titles

THE Woorangalook Victorian Koori Surf Titles was held at Point Roadknight in February, Anglesea with more than 140 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from across the state gathering to celebrate the annual event which brings together communities in a fun weekend of surfing and culture.

The event saw representation from Geelong, Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast, Phillip Island, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton Yarra Valley, Metropolitan Melbourne, East Gippsland, Swan Hill, Warrnambool, Portland and Hamilton.

Opened on Saturday by Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Corrina Eccles the event was cleansed with a traditional smoking and mixing of the water's ceremony.

Competition followed and participants were greeted with clean conditions in the more protected area of Point Roadknight beach, with the assistance of surf coaches and volunteers in the water.

Tyler Duell (Phillip Island) took out the Under 18 boys, whilst Delilah Chisolm (Torquay) was crowned Open Women's Champion, Jordie Campbell (Sandy Point) Open Men's Champion, Ange King (Torquay) Over 35 Women's, Corrina Eccles (Torquay) Over 45 Women's, Rhys Collins (Point Leo) took out the Over 35 and Over 45 Men's divisions.

Open Men's and Women's Champions receive the additional honour of representing the Victorian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community after gaining a wildcard into the 2025 Rip Curl Pro Trials at Bells Beach.

"This weekend is always my favourite of the year, and for me it's more about connecting with communities from all over Victoria and spending the day sharing the ocean with friends and family. There is nothing better than seeing kids catching their first waves and seeing the smiles on their faces." Jordie Campbell, Open Men's Champion.

The Strong Brother, Strong Sister and DHELK DJA Encouragement Awards of a surfboard were presented to Seth Monican (Portland) and Ella Jones (Yarra Valley).

## Winners:

- U/6 Mixed: Jarli Austin (Hamilton)
- U/10 Girls: Lili Lovett (Geelong), U/10 Boys: Waari Evans (Torquay)
- U/13 Girls: Delilah Chisolm (Torquay), U/13 Boys: Munarra Graham (Shepparton)
- U/16 Girls: Grace Tournier (Geelong), U/16 Boys: Charlie Chisholm (Torquay)
- U/18 Boys: Tyler Duell (Phillip Island)
- Open Women: Delilah Chisolm (Torquay), Open Men: Jordie Campbell (Sandy Point)
- Over 35 Women: Ange King (Torquay), Over 35 Men: Rhys Collins (Point Leo)
- Over 45 Women: Corrina Eccles (Torquay), Over 45 Men: Rhys Collins (Point Leo)

## TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
February 18	February 19	February 20	February 21	February 22	February 23	February 24
4.40am 1.55m	5.06am 1.53m	5.32am 1.50m	6.01am 1.47m	12.29am 0.69m	1.04am 0.76m	1.43am 0.84m
10.44am 0.37m	11.14am 0.34m	11.45am 0.32m	12.15pm 0.32m	6.33am 1.42m	7.07am 1.37m	7.45am 1.31m
5.08pm 1.50m	5.42pm 1.50m	6.16pm 1.48m	6.55pm 1.45m	12.47pm 0.34m	1.21pm 0.36m	2.00pm 0.39m
10.47pm 0.52m	11.20pm 0.57m	11.54pm 0.63m		7.39pm 1.41m	8.30pm 1.36m	9.30pm 1.32m

Email us your fishing photos  
[news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)



**Jack Attack winners, the Pioneers, Maggie, John and Bev at the Foster Bowls Club.**



**Leongatha Bowls Club president Bill Symmons congratulates the Fish Creek team of Paul Kerr, Ray Watkins and Peter Davis, who won Sunday's Triples event.**



**The Jimmy Smith Perpetual Shield winners at the Wonthaggi Bowls Club were Dave Ashby, Daniel Earl and Dennis O'Keefe from Drouin.**

## BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT'S the start of another week of indoor bowls and it was enjoyed by all attendees.

Winners were Linda Newman, Jenny Bakker and Pam Russell.

The ladies had a winning score of plus 34.

Well done ladies, you really gave it to the men.

Fridays arrive too soon it seems as if it was Monday all over again.

A great day of bowls was had by all the winners being the married couple of Brian Newman and Linda Newman with +11.

Well done to you both – Valentines Day could have had something to do with it.

## FISH CREEK

IT was a fantastic weekend for the Fish Creek Bowling Club with all three teams winning their semi-finals and advancing to the preliminary finals next Saturday.

The bowlers played at Fish Creek and there was a big crowd of supporters to cheer the home sides on.

After the games, players were served up a meal of the famous Bokka burgers.

Division 2 recorded a great win 78/16 to 40/0 over Inverloch.

Division 4 played Tarwin Lower and built up a big early lead but it came down to the last end with final scores 57/14 to Tarwin 56/2.

Division 6 in its first season defeated Tarwin Lower 44/10 to 31/0 with all players contributing.

Midweek Pennant finished its season last week and had a great win over Phillip Island 77/12 to 64/4.

Fish Creek has finished the year in style with a big improvement throughout the season.

The barefoot bowls sponsored by Southern Stockfeeds and Brandt once again saw a terrific evening with winners being Nick and Maryanne Taylor and Brod Courtney.

The encouragement award was received by Dot Devlin, Ben Watt and Sally Watt.

Sunday saw the Invitational Triples sponsored by Leongatha Optometrists with winners being Paul Kerr, Ray Watkins and new bowler Peter Davis.

Runners up were the Thorpdale side of Brendan Jennings, Ross Kennedy and Dan Van Zuylen.

Best last end was won by the Port Welshpool team of Errol and Sarah Gregory, and Andrew Stimson.

It would be great to see all the Fishy supporters barracking for Division 2, 4, and 6 in next weekend's Pennant preliminary finals.

Please contact the club to find out venues.

## FOSTER

IT was another great night at Jack Attack last week.

It was a little warm with the sun still beating down, but that didn't deter anyone.

The dress up theme didn't really take off, but the Not Kaboodle team, Nicole, Ben and Tania, as usual didn't disappoint, dressing up as Cupids.

It was great to see two newer teams take to the podium.

The winners for the evening were the Pioneers, Maggie, John and Bev winning Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Manna Gum Community House – another new sponsor to jump on board.

Term programs were out on the tables for everyone to check out.

Runners up were the Chipolatas, Geoff, Carla and Craig, winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

Another great raffle draw, lots of prizes, with the regular meat voucher prize donated by Prom Meats.

Wine was donated by Cellarbrations at Foster, goodies from IGA Foster + Liquor and munchies donated by the club.

It's round three and bowlers are halfway through the competitions, and the ladders are pretty close.

There are some teams with good shots up, but there isn't much in the points – anything can happen.

The February Triples were sponsored by Foster Service Centre.

Twenty teams were entered making for a great day of bowls.

It was a hot, gusty, trying day but everyone enjoyed themselves.

One team won all their four games, giving them the winning prize.

That was the Meeniyian team of Alan Hanks, Jim Lye (a ring-in from Leongatha) and Bob Graham.

There were five teams with three wins vying for the next prize.

Runners up on points were the Fish Creek team of Bill Symmons, Don Cripps and Bruce Cooper.

Full sponsorship money from Foster Service Centre allowed for a third placing – a big thank you for its support.

In third place was the Foster team of Phil Facey, Nancy Parry and Jim Parry.

Three teams had to miss out with only a one and three points difference.

The 'best game' wine prizes sponsored by IGA Foster + Liquor went to the combo team of Marg Pearson, Col Pulham and Jenny Roffey.

The encouragement prize, club

drink vouchers, went to the Port Welshpool team of Ted Allot, Craig Patterson and David – yet another successful full day on the green.

Foster looks forward to seeing you all again next month.

Pennant finals have begun.

Foster has Division 3 Saturday, and Division 1 and Division 3 midweek playing in semifinals.

Last Saturday saw Foster play Meeniyian in the semifinal.

The weather was a bit ordinary, with bouts of sunshine.

The club had two rinks down, but the third one was well up keeping the overall score fairly close.

Towards the end, there was a margin of only three.

Sadly, Foster was unable to build on this and ended up losing overall.

No worries though, Foster now has another chance to fight back.

Foster will be playing Corinella in the preliminary final.

Keep up the great work, Foster.

## KORUMBURRA

THE week started with both midweek teams having to win to make the finals.

Division 1 travelled to Corinella and got up overall by one shot.

Charlie Edgerton had a 25 to 18 shot win, Jo Lomagno won 24 shots to 17 and Ben Peachey went down 15 shots to 28 in a thrilling win.

In Division 2, Korumburra hosted Leongatha.

Unfortunately, Korumburra was soundly beaten.

Lena Harfield was the only bright light, winning 19 shots to 18.

Jim Garnham went down nine shots to 31 and Judith Nicholl went down 13 shots to 26.

Good luck to Division 1, which will travel to Foster on Tuesday to play in the first semi-final.

In Saturday Pennant, after a good win last weekend, Korumburra hosted Wonthaggi.

Robin Provan led the way, winning 25 shots to 13, Rob Cosson got up 19 shots to 15 and Charlie Edgerton lost in a 23 to 22 thriller and earned a week's spell.

On Friday night, the club had more than 90 people for its monthly counter tea with Tracey and co putting on a great meal.

## LEONGATHA

THE Leongatha Optometrists sponsored the Triples event held at Fish Creek on Sunday, February 16.

With eight full rinks, everyone enjoyed great conditions for this annual event.

The winners were Paul Kerr, Ray Watkins and Peter Davis (Fish Creek) with 63 points.

Runners up on 62 were Brendan

Jennings, Dan Van Zuylen and Ross Kennedy (Thorpdale).

Best last game went to the Port Welshpool team of Errol and Sarah Gregory and Andrew Stimson with plus nine.

Thanks to Leongatha Optometrists for their ongoing support.

## WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy week, starting with Sunday and the Jimmy Smith Perpetual Shield being played on a fine but windy day.

Two full greens were a great result for Fred and his team.

Teams from Melbourne to Traralgon and in between were happy to compete, plus a good number of teams from Wonthaggi.

There were three teams that were four-game winners, with the winners being a team from Drouin.

They were Dave Ashby, Dennis O'Keefe, and Daniel Earl, with a score of four wins, 36 shots up, and 33 ends on countback from a team from Wonthaggi.

That team consisted of Frank Seaton, Jan Jeeves, and Michael Raman, who also had four wins and 36 shots up but only 28 ends.

The team in third place was Allan Ireland, Julian Wildenberg, and Rob Shaw, with a score of four wins and 19 shots up.

The best game went to the Ben Lucas team from the Dandenong Club with a fantastic score of 31 shots up.

Once again, the club would like to thank RMBL for its sponsorship of this very popular event.

Tuesday saw the final matches of midweek Pennant before the finals next week.

Division 1 played host to Tarwin at Wonthaggi on a fine, sunny morning.

All rinks played well to record a solid win.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 82, Tarwin 50.

Division 2 travelled to San Remo, looking for a win to seal the top spot on the ladder.

Things didn't go according to plan, as San Remo was also looking for a win to have a chance to make the finals.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 52, San Remo 65.

Division 3 played host to Foster at Wonthaggi, with third spot on the ladder in its keeping.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 69, Foster 49.

All seven Pennant teams are in the finals, which is a very good result for the club.

Tuesday also saw the final night for the barefoot bowls season.

It was a great night, with the Funny Farm team winning the

shield for this year.

No social bowls on Wednesday or Thursday.

Saturday saw Division 1 travel to Korumburra to do battle, with the weather being a threat.

At the end of the day, the weather was okay, but the result was not.

All rinks tried hard but just fell short on the scoreboard.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 50, Korumburra 65.

Division 2 ventured down the road to Tarwin on a windy day with rain and hail during the match.

All rinks fought hard, but the home team used the conditions a little better.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 42, Tarwin 70.

Division 4 played host to Port Welshpool at Wonthaggi on a windy day with the threat of showers.

All rinks played well to record a solid win and book their place in the grand final.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 78, Port Welshpool 47.

Division 5 also played at home, hosting Phillip Island.

Once again, all rinks played well to record a very good win and book their place in the grand final.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 63, Phillip Island 48.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant finals start, with Division 1, 2, and 3 all playing in the finals.

Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant.

Don't forget Friday night features a special three-meal barbecue.

There are only 50 places available, so get your name in early, or you may miss out.

## WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT was an amazing, competitive week of bowling on both days with some really close results.

Tuesday's winners on a count back with a plus seven were Teresa Ireland, Mary Spooner and Carol Thorpe.

Runners up, also on plus seven, were Thelma Kavanagh, John Rook and John Bird.

On Friday, there were two teams on a win and a draw.

The winning team on plus eight were Lia Smith, Jos Kemper and Phylis Peterson.

Runners up on plus three were Helen Rook, Mary Spooner and Jeannie Slocombe.

The club had a total of 48 players competing with numbers remaining steady each week.



Woorayl's winners of the South Gippsland Bowl, Lyn De'Laney, Sherrill Winkler and Linda Forrester, were finally presented with the bowl this week.

## KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 11.

Stableford: 46 players.

A Grade: Guy Fields (4) 39 points. B Grade: Scott Burgess (24) 39 points.

NTPs: first Guy Fields, 10th Ian Cash and 13th Guy Fields.

Thursday, February 13:

Stableford: 31 players.

A Grade: Wayne Knights (15) 37 points. B Grade: Don Olden (26) 46 points.

NTPs: first Guy Fields, seventh Chris McConnell, 10th Dianne Maskell and 13th Jake Fowles.

Saturday, February 15:

Sponsor: Leongatha Meat and Fish Supplies.

Daily Stroke Event: 68 players.

A Grade: Donald Van Rooye (11) 68 net.

B Grade: Zac Scholte (15) 71 C/B. C Grade: Brae Byrne (25) 69 net.

NTPs: first Steve Bromby, seventh James Williams, 10th Jake Fowles and 13th Tim Fowles.

Second round of Men's Club Championships:

Gross (Scratch):

A Grade: 1: Steve Bromby -1 71 70 141, 2: Mat Wrigley 1 73 75 148, 3: Billy Wrigley 2 79 78 157, 4: Shayne Harland 1 77 80 157, 5: Trippy Kennedy 2 74 83 157

B Grade: 1: Donald Van Rooye 11 85 79 164, 2: Tim Fowles 12 82 84 166, 3: Paul Hopkins 12 85 83 168, 4: Malcolm Garnham 11 85 85 170, 5: Greg Wilson 13 86 86 172, 6: Ian Cash 11 90 83 173, 7: Steve Duffield 11 88 85 173

C Grade: 1: James Williams 16 86 91 177, 2: Chris McConnell 17 88 90 178, 3: Wayne Knights 15 89 90 179, 4: Richard Johnson 18 84 96 180, 5: Mick Belvedere 16 91 90 181, 6: David Enbom 15 86 95 181, 7: Ross Crawford 18 85 96 181

D Grade: 1: Laurie Webster 19 87 90 177, 2: Jack Clink 21 91 92 183, 3: Simon Perks 19 88 101 189, 4: David Gow 23 89 101 190, 5: Bob Newton 22 94 99 193

Net: A Grade: 1: Steve Bromby -1 72 71 143, 2: Mat Wrigley 1 72 74 146, 3: Clint Newcombe 9 68 78 146, 4: Roy Fleming 7 72 77 149, 5: Barry Kerr 10 73 78 151, 6: Guy Fields 4 73 79 152, 7: Billy Wrigley 2 77 76 153, 8: Blayne Spokes 10 75 78 153, 9: Trippy Kennedy 2 72 81 153

B Grade: 1: Donald Van Rooye 11 74 68 142, 2: Tim Fowles 12 70 72 142, 3: Paul Hopkins 12 73 71 144, 4: Greg Wilson 13 73 73 146, 5: Malcolm Garnham 11 74 74 148, 6: Kingy King 14 71 79 150

C Grade: 1: Chris McConnell 17 71 73 144, 2: Richard Johnson 18 66 78 144, 3: James Williams 16 70 75 145, 4: Ross Crawford 18 67 78 145, 5: Mick Belvedere 16 75 74 149, 6: Wayne Knights 15 74 75 149, 7: David Enbom 15 71 80 151

D Grade: 1: Laurie Webster 19 68 71 139, 2: Jack Clink 21 70 71 141, 3: David Gow 23 66 78 144,

4: Blake Walker 29 67 80 147, 5: Don Olden 26 77 71 148, 6: Peter Hornibrook 25 75 73 148, 7: Scott Burgess 24 73 76 149, 8: Bob Newton 22 72 77 149

## Ladies

IT was an early start for all women playing the second round of the Singles Championships last Wednesday.

With the warm weather it was great to be in the clubhouse early to escape the heat.

The leaderboard is also heating up heading into the final championship round this week.

Merrissa has a steady lead in A, as does Judy Webb in B Grade.

In C Grade, Maree Wittingslow has a four-shot lead ahead of Viv.

Good luck to all players.

A big thank you to daily sponsor WEF Accounting for the lovely trophies and supporting the event each year.

Well done to the daily event winners - A Grade Trudi Mantell (22) 70net c/b from Merrissa Cossen (9) 70net, B Grade Chris Rickard (27) 72net and runner up Beryl Brown (30) 73net, and C Grade Viv Enbom (36) 72 net and runner up Colette Pearl (35) 73net.

BDL went to Johanna VDH (11) 71 net, Heather Grist (22) and Pam Evers (39) both with 74net, and Lorraine Knox (41) 75net.

NTPs on the first was Lyn McIvor, seventh Merrissa, 10th Julie Brannagan and the 13th Shelley Snooks.

Congratulations to Thursday Twilight winners Scott Burgess and Mandy Seater scoring a nice 26 points.

Scott also partnered Colette Pearl, coming runners up with 23 points.

NTPs on the 13th green went to Ian Gibson and Mandy Seater.

On Saturday, the club had a handful of women play in wintery conditions - well done to you all.

Winning with 73net was Heather Grist (22).

Runner up was Trudi Mantell (21), 75net. BDTL went to Kerri Besley with 77 net.

## LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, February 11: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had a field of 59 members/guests take to the course.

Overall winner: Nicholas Byrne (12) with the high score of the day of 40 points

A Grade winner: Nicholas Byrne (12) with a score of 40 points. A Grade runner up: Gordon Morrison (15) with a score of 36 points on a countback.

B Grade winner: Ben Chapman (21) with a score of 38 points. B Grade runner up: Neale Gillin (18) with a score of 37 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Josh de Groot. NTP 14th: Craig Hutchison. NTP 16th: Peter Read.

Thursday, February 13:

Stableford.

Thursday's event was a Stableford round in warm conditions with a field of 72 members/guests take to the course, teeing off either the blue or yellow tees, with golfers enjoying some high scoring.

Overall winner: Renato Monacella (14) with the high score of the day of 42 points on a countback.

A Grade winner: Renato Monacella (14) with a score of 42 points on a countback. A Grade runner up: Craig Hams (9) with a joint high score of the day of 42 points but pipped at the post by Renato despite an excellent round of 73 off the stick, three over par.

B Grade winner: John French (18) with a score of 40 points. B Grade runner up: Fred de Bondt (20) with a score of 39 points.

C Grade winner: Bob Smith (31) with a score of 39 points. C Grade runner up: Brian Wall (35) with a score of 37 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Peter Brownlie. NTP 14th: Peter Stivic. NTP 16th: Christopher Leaver.

Leongatha Club Championship: Last Sunday, the final round of the men's and women's Club Championships was contested in windy and cool conditions. This year, winners in both scratch and net categories were recognised.

The prestigious Senior Champion award was reinstated, with an eligibility increase to 70 years of age.

Rebecca Thomas took out the Women's Open Club Championship with 84, 83, 81 /248, an impressive performance: her 15th consecutive win.

Rebecca also won the net event with 248/7/227.

Anna de Bondt won the B Grade Championship with three steady rounds of 98, 98, 102/298.

The net event was also won by Anna, 298/28/214, well ahead of the rest of the field.

C Grade's Championship was won by a relative newcomer to the club, and her first time playing in a Championship, Jo McNaughton. Jo had 104, 99, 114/317. Jo also won the C Grade net event with 212 net.

The prestigious D. M Stubbs Trophy, presented by life member Dot Stubbs was also won by Jo McNaughton.

The winner of this event has the best net score over the three rounds of the championship, across all grades.

Reinstated Senior Champion was won by Kay Dumbleton with a final score of 286.

The Men's Club Champion for 2025 is Michael Thomas with rounds of 77, 79, 75 and a total of 231.

This is Michael's ninth Championship win.

Alan Starkey was the net winner with 210.

The B Grade Championship and the net event were won by Thomas Simon.

He was also the Junior Champion and won the RE Cameron

Dawn Judkins, Marg Ryan and Anne Tschideler were the grade winners in Wonthaggi Golf Club's 2025 Ladies Championship. Marg also won the February Monthly Medal.



Woorayl Golf Club's B Grade winner Lyn De'Laney with A Grade winner Jean Hayes.

event for the best net score across all four grades.

A day out for TP, as he is affectionately known.

Ben Chapman is the 2024 C Grade Championship winner with a final score of 271.

As seems to be the pattern Ben was the net winner with 202.

The D Grade Stableford Championship event was won by Mark Allison scoring 107 over the three rounds.

Ex Mirboo North member Ray Matthews is the 2025 Senior Champion with a score of 254.

## MEENIYAN

THE Meeniyan ladies held their Opening Day on Wednesday with several new-to-golf ladies joining in for a 12-hole Ambrose sponsored by Lyn Jennison.

Everyone enjoyed the 12 holes and then enjoyed a lovely, shared lunch.

The winners of the day were Sue Hoskin, Irene Holm and Madeline Buckley.

Down the line balls went to Heather Poletti, Pam Erving and Michelle Jelleff, along with Susan Straw, Gail Browne, Nancye Hammatt and Cathy McKnight.

## MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, February 11: Stableford.

A Grade: D. Ellwood (13) 38.

B Grade: L. Weaver (18) 37 c/b.

C Grade: M. Moore (23) 38 c/b.

DTL: N. Whichello 37, A. Quirk, T. Tomada 36, J. Connan and S. Hill-Smith 35 c/b.

NTP: fourth S. Hill-Smith, sixth A. McCarthy and 16th M. Payne.

Birdies: fourth M. Payne and sixth A. McCarthy.

Saturday, February 15: K. Martin Memorial Mixed Foursome.

Mixed winners: Tom Traill and M. Beruldsen (30) 73 net.

Men's winners: J. Taylor and S. Evison (27) 74 net.

DTL: M. Payne and M. Thompson 75, and S. Hill-Smith and D. Taylor 76.5.

NTP: fourth M. Thompson, sixth J. Taylor, 13th M. Payne and 16th N. Whichello.

## WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: February 13, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Graeme McLeod 38.

Runner up: Ian Johnson 38.

Ball sweep: Tim Skate 37, Chris Wilkinson 36 and Kevin O'Brian 36.

Results: February 13, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Mark Nicholson 17.

Ball sweep: Secondo Tiziani 17, Ken Cuman 16 and Andrew Hooton-Shandley 16.

Results: February 15, S.R 71.

Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Glen Hewlett 39.

B Grade: Inoke Baudromo 36.

C Grade: Ben Clark 36.

Balls down the line to 32 C/B: Graham Ryan 36, Phillip Studham 35, Hamish Burns 34, Ian Baker 34, Kevin Jamieson 33, Mark Casey 32, John Walsh 32 and Ian Johnson 32.

Eagle: Julian Wintle seventh.

NTPs: Les Brewer second, Ian Baker fourth, John Walsh propin eighth, Jason Sartori 13th and Sam Dennis money hole 17th.

Wonthaggi Club Championship:

A Grade: Open Champion: I. Baker, Runner up: M. Scott. A Minor Champion: A. Cubbon., Runner up: S. O'Halloran. B Grade Champion: B. Martin., Runner up: M. Foster. C Grade Champion: H. Burns, Runner up: P. Liddle. D Grade Champion: S. Terrill., Runner up: K. Cuman.

## Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the first of three stroke rounds for the 2025 Ladies Championship and February Monthly Medal.

The day was hot so well done to the 29 ladies who completed playing.

There were some great scores, and the medal was decided by countback.

The A Grade winner was Anne Tschideler 93(29)73 net.

B Grade and the medal went to Marg Ryan 96(26)70 net from Sharon Patullo 101(31)70 net.

C Grade's winner was Dawn Judkins 104(33)71 net.

BDL went to Sharon Patullo 70, Layla Robertson 74, Marg Johnson 75, Simone Lindsay 75, Mervyn Dear 75 and Anne Walker 75.

## Leongatha Golf Club upgrades Driving Range

The Leongatha Golf Club has recently completed significant upgrades to its driving range, improving the facility for golfers of all skill levels.

The \$30,000 project was completed in under a month and includes premium synthetic turf mats and safety netting, providing a superior practice environment.

While the upgrade represented a substantial financial commitment, Leongatha Golf Club General Manager Kate Rowe believes it was well worth the investment.

"Range usage is a huge direction of golf," said Ms Rowe. "The range will not only be extremely useful for practice but also for our two professionals to conduct golf improvement work, including clinics and junior development programs."

The driving range offers a convenient alternative for time-poor golfers, allowing them to practise without committing to a full round. Non-members can purchase a bucket of 100 balls to hit for \$20, making it an accessible and efficient way to refine their game.

Driving ranges are rapidly growing in popularity, and the newly upgraded facility caters to a broad audience, from seasoned golfers to beginners and those simply looking for an entertaining experience. The club's next planned improvement is the installation of a roof, thus creating a fully all-weather facility. This upgrade is planned to occur within the next couple of years.

"The upgrade provides a level, consistent playing surface, and the mats offer a 'turf feel'—it's like playing off grass but without the divots," Ms Rowe explained. "Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and range usage has increased by 50%."

The club secured a \$10,000 grant from the Victorian Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to support the project. Local businesses Diggin It Excavations and Bass Coast Concreting assisted with the upgrades while also sponsoring the project. Other sponsors include Wonthaggi Removals, Wonthaggi Toyota, Specsavers Wonthaggi, SG Homes, Esplanade Hotel Inverloch, Punjabi Pantry Leongatha, The Grove, and Mitchell & Co Traditional Butchery Wonthaggi.

Volunteer efforts played a crucial role in the project's success. Project manager Peter Brownlie, a dedicated volunteer, designed the upgrades and coordinated local trades working on the upgrade. Volunteers also re-laid the turf and installed safety fencing. Another long-term dedicated volunteer is Andy Bassett, who takes on the time-consuming task of collecting all the balls from the range multiple times a week.

The upgraded facility is a full-length 250-metre driving range, located at 855 Koonwarra-Inverloch Road, halfway between Leongatha and Inverloch.

With these upgrades, the Leongatha Golf Club continues to improve local golfing opportunities.

## South Gippsland Bridge

FEBRUARY 11 at Wonthaggi RSL: seven tables competing.

Master point winners:

North/South pairs: First: Phillip and Nev Chapman 64.58. Second: Alan Johnston and Fay Rowlands 55.83. Third: Carol Sowden and Mary Brewis 48.75.

East/West winners: First: Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 58.93. Second: John French and Debbie Anglim 58.93. Third: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 53.57.

February 14 at Inverloch Angling Club: 10 tables.

North/South pairs: First: John Quayle and Matti Shub 67.65. Second: John French and Debbie Anglim 57.71. Third: Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 54.70.

East/West pairs: First: Moya Crowley and Mike Dooley 63.41. Second: Kathy Dowd and Anne Somerville 57.19. Third: Chris Hall and Tom Kudelka 56.33.



Dalyston Football Netball Club's 2015 Senior premiership team. Pictured back from left, Anthony Gennaccaro, Patrick McKenna, Scott Sibly, Matt Rosendale, Kurt Thomas, Bret Thornton, Brad Fisher, Tylah Osbaldeston, Shannon Coldebella, third row, Robert Dowsett (head trainer), Matt Schreck, Clay Tait, Harry Wright, Liam Wall, Chris Graham, Daniel Belston, Joe Magro, Kevin Francis (trainer), Joshua Dunlop (runner), second row, Peter Carew (team manager), Anthony Carew (trainer), Joe Alexander, James Ross, Kainen Schrape, Jack Legione, Joe Ray-Angarane, Tom Davey, Dean Wylie, Tom Brosnan (stats), Nellie Angarane (trainer), front row, Noel McRae (committee), Kyle Kirk, Chris Samargis, Paul Dunlop (president), Michael Kraska (captain), Paul Brosnan (playing coach), Brett O'Halloran (assistant coach), Blake Carew, Kristian Butler, Glen Parker, Jim Akers (timekeeper), front from left, Rylie and Lucas McRae. Absent: Logan West. Photo credit: Foons Photography Wonthaggi.

# Dalyston's premiership history retold in new book

by Tayla Kershaw

DALYSTON'S former Senior squad will be celebrating its 10-year premiership reunion during round one of the 2025 season.

To mark the milestone, premiership player Blake Carew has spent the last two years compiling the club's journey to the 2015 grand final in a book he hopes to have on sale before the big event.

"The book came about because I didn't have anything to show for the day," Blake said.

"I had the newspaper from that week and a team photo, but that was it. It was originally going to just be about that year, and I was going to compile each game and have a small magazine ready, but it grew legs."

The finished product is a recap of the 10 years leading up to the premiership, featuring photos, interviews with coaches and prominent club members, player profiles, honour boards, articles, ladder changes, and rundowns of how the club and the league were shaping up each year.

It is a story of redevelopment and success, as Blake recounts the club's brush with demise at the start of the book.

"There was a fair story behind the 10 years leading up to the premiership. The club nearly folded in 2005. There was an off-field issue – a fight at a function led to half the team leaving overnight and they plummeted to the bottom of the ladder," he said.

"They didn't win a game the next year – not even close. That's where it all started, and it rebuilds from there."

Blake said he particularly enjoyed recording the journeys of the squad's younger members, who are mentioned early in the book as Fourths players and made it all the way through to the premiership team.

"I tried to build the book so you can see who was there at the start and



made it all the way through to the premiership. You get to see how the whole list comes together. There were only three players in the first year who ended up playing all the way through, but each year there are more pieces of the puzzle. It'll be a cool thing for the players who were there, as well as those who came in towards the end. They wouldn't have known about any of this early stuff and when they read it, they might appreciate the win even more," he said.

Dalyston went undefeated in the home and away season and in the finals during 2015.

For Dalyston supporters, the victory was a long time coming.

"In 2012, we lost the grand final, but we came out of nowhere to make that," Blake said.

"We weren't expected to win that year, but from there the expectation was that we were going to win. We picked up Brad Fisher from Carlton and when you've got that calibre of a player, you should be winning, but it took us a while."

"In 2013, we went out in straight sets and in 2014 we lost the grand final to Phillip Island, which we should've won. We won straight through, had weeks off and played pretty poorly."

Come 2015, Dalyston was poised to play Fish Creek in the premiership clash.

Fish Creek had come from the same beginnings as Dalyston in 2012 – it had come out of nowhere to win in the finals and earn a spot in the big dance.

The match was close in the first

quarter, but Dalyston kicked away to record an 83-point win – the league record at the time.

Blake said he intended for the book to be a small memento for the players to look back on, but felt the club's story was something that needed to be told.

To paint the whole picture, Blake took the time to interview the coaches who contributed towards those 10 years of footy, as well as the committee members and life members of the time.

"There's so many people I've gotten information from. Getting to talk to some of my previous coaches was pretty cool," he said.

"I've put in profiles of the committee members and tried to make it inclusive of everyone who contributed to the success, not just the players. It became a book for the club, and I think everyone is going to love it."

The book also features photos taken by Kilcunda photographer Paul Landells.

"When I went and interviewed (Paul), he had found a memory card full of photos from the grand final that nobody had seen before," Blake said.

"The club has come along for the ride too. I set up a past players' Facebook page and people have been posting their photos."

The reunion is set for round one, with most of the squad expected to return.

"Everyone should be coming back. We've got a few flying in from Western Australia and Queensland, which is great," Blake said.

Blake is currently going through the motions of finding a publisher for the book.

Once a price has been established, Blake is planning to do a presale.

He is hoping it will go towards projects within the club, including the purchase of a new trophy cabinet and an honour board for the netballers.



Alvaro Bautista (1) and Remy Gardner (87) will be at the pointy end of the pack come World Superbike race day next weekend.

## World Supers Downunder

THE SPECTACULAR Motul FIM 2025 World Superbike Championship launches at Phillip Island for round one next weekend, February 21-23.

After exhaustive testing regimes in the off season the riders and teams will be raring to go at the seaside circuit providing an exciting series of races.

One notable change to the longer race format is the now mandatory pit stop all riders must make after the completion of 11 laps. The reasoning behind this rule change is focused on the abrasive new surface of the track which has increased tyre wear resulting in a loss of traction. With a new dimension, the addition of a mandatory pitstop mid race for a change of rub-

ber, riders and teams will be required to perform slick changes to be competitive. Longer race distances have therefore been reduced to 20 laps.

The lone Australian rider, Remy Gardner will pilot the GYTR GRT Yamaha alongside team mate Dom Aegerter. Reigning World Superbike champion, BMW's Toprak Razgatlioglu has refused the temptation of being lured into the frenetic world of MotoGP competition and he will start a hot favourite for this year's title. The Ducati assault is headed up by Nicolo Bulega and three time World Supers Champion Alvaro Bautista for Aruba Racing. World Supersports rider

Yari Montella has graduated into the Superbike category along with British Superbike race winner Ryan Vickers who are both riding Ducati's. A notable omission from this class has been Spanish rider, Michael Ruben Rinaldi who steps back into World Supersports to ride the Yamaha R9 and Philip Ottel riding a Ducati V2 Panigale. For the Pata Yamaha team, six time World champ Jonathan Rea and Andrea Locatelli are sure to be competitive when the lights go out.

In the World Supersports class, Australians Luke Power riding the MV Augusta F3 800 RR and Oliver Bayliss riding a Triumph Street Triple RS 765 will have their work cut out against a throng of Ducati Panigales

and Yamahas. Italian rider Stefano Manzi will be the one to beat with his depth of experience and knowledge of the Island track.

With a race program including World Superbikes, World Supersports, Australian Superbikes and Australian Supersports fronting the grid there will be action aplenty to keep fans on the edge of their seats. Practice and qualifying commences on Friday followed by a ten lap Superpole and two twenty lap events for Superbikes over the weekend. With the prospect of a new season in the offing riders will be leaving nothing in the tank at round one so get down to the Island for a great weekend's racing.

## Give soccer a go at Play Well Come and Try session



Beginners and seasoned players are welcome at the Come and Try session at Mirboo North Secondary College on February 21.

READY to hit the pitch, build confidence and have a blast with other fierce females who love the game?

Play Well South Gippsland Soccer – Come and Try is the perfect chance to give soccer a go in a fun, supportive and welcoming environment.

This event is proudly run in partnership with the Gippsland Soccer League.

It will be held at Mirboo North Secondary College from 5.30pm to 7pm on Thursday, February 21.

The event is aimed at participants in U12s, U15s and open age.

No experience?

No worries!

This session is all about learning new skills, making

new friends and having fun – whether you're a total beginner or a seasoned player.

Participants are also welcome to stick around afterwards for a free barbecue and a chance to connect with other girls and women who love the game.

"This opportunity has been made possible through the Australian Sports Commission Play Well grant, which the South Gippsland Shire Council was successful in receiving. With the support of GippSport, there will be AFL and cricket come and tries in the following months," GippSport program officer Emma Foley said.

For more information and how to register, contact Emma Foley at [emma@gippsport.com.au](mailto:emma@gippsport.com.au).

## Korumburra's Kyle Webster leads off ProMX round at Wonthaggi

ROUND one of the ProMX Championship, supported by the Victorian Government via its Significant Sporting Events Program and the Bass Coast Shire Council, is coming up at Wonthaggi on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23.

Wonthaggi has established itself as the first-choice location for the opening round in the Penrith ProMX Championships, presented by AMX Superstores, with its spectacular track again set to kickstart hostilities in Australia's premier motocross series.

With ongoing support from the Bass Coast Shire Council and new support from the Victorian Government, all attention will turn to the Gippsland-based

venue for an extended two-day round as it hosts the ProMX opener for the fifth successive year.

As is the case with the start of every new season, the anticipation will be intense as all riders – some in new teams and surroundings – start with a blank canvas as the battle to become Aussie motocross champions begins in earnest.

For reigning MX1 champion Kyle Webster, Wonthaggi is also his home round as he lives just up the road in Korumburra.

Run by the Dandenong Motorcycle Club, the schedule includes practice, qualifying and racing with action from Australia's best riders.



Reigning MX1 champion Kyle Webster of Korumburra will start his defence at Wonthaggi at the first ProMX Championship round at Wonthaggi on Saturday and Sunday, March 22 and 23.



Dave Healey secured a thrilling win, taking home the San Remo Butchers meat tray.

## Phillip Island Darts League set for its biggest, season yet

THE Phillip Island and District Darts League is locked, loaded, and ready to fire into an electrifying 2025 season after a record-breaking annual general meeting on Monday night.

With a massive 10 teams gearing up for battle, this year promises to be bigger, bolder, and more thrilling than ever—a true showdown of dartsing excellence.

The annual general meeting was packed with passionate players, all eager to relive an incredible 2024 season before setting their sights on an even more action-packed future.

With 10 teams stepping up to the oche, the Darts Centre will be alive every week, with all five boards in full swing—guaranteeing an atmosphere buzzing with tension, excitement, and the occasional wayward dart.

Steering the ship once again is the battle-tested committee, re-elected for another year of leadership.

Scott Lethbridge remains as president, the mastermind behind the madness.

Vince Palladino returns as vice president, always ready for a strategic shot—on and off the board.

Meredith Parker continues as treasurer, because someone needs to count more than just the scores.

Chris Chivers stays on as secretary, making sure everyone knows where they're supposed to be and when.

With business wrapped up, the real action began—an intense, high-stakes singles competition that had the crowd on the edge of their seats.

Anders Geier and Dave Healey went dart-for-dart in a thrilling final battle, with Dave clinching a two-to-one victory and claiming the legendary San Remo Butchers meat tray.

The crowd erupted—because nothing says victory quite like a prize of premium cuts.

The adrenaline keeps flowing this Monday night with the Owen Walton Drawn Doubles Competition.

Want in? Register at 7pm for a 7:30pm start and get ready for another night of twists, turns, and dartsing glory.

## Riverside Tennis Association

Round 12 Results, round 13 was a washout.

Section 1/2 Doubles: Drouin Maroon 8 – 53 defeated Warragul Blue 1 – 29, Warragul White 6 – 48 defeated Poowong 3 – 36, Hallora 8 – 52 defeated Trafalgar 1 – 19, Neerim District 8 – 53 defeated Drouin Gold 1 – 28, Moe - Bye

Team - Points: Drouin Maroon 103.5, Moe 85.5, Warragul White 81.5, Neerim District 76.5, Hallora 76.5, Warragul Blue 55, Drouin Gold 44.5, Trafalgar 38.5, Poowong 36



Leon McDonald flew for his 50th Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun.

## Double milestones celebrated

THE 230th Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun was wet with an occasional gust of wind.

The unfavourable weather didn't deter 20 fantastic participants and the crew of volunteers from showing up and enjoying their Saturday morning.

Two double milestones were celebrated this week.

Henry Collins was presented with the 25th cape as he has volunteered at 25 parkrun events and completed the five-kilometre course 25 times as the volunteer tailwalker.

Thank you, Henry, for enjoying the purple cape and decorating cupcakes so parkrunners could share their appreciation with you, your family and parkrun.

Henry even introduced his friend, Noah to parkrun.

The second cape wearing participant was Leon McDonald, who also volunteered to check the course earlier in the morning and continued to run five kilometres afterwards, even stopping to help barcode scan at the end of his run.

Leon is an exclusive Grand Ridge Rail Trail participant, volunteering 25 times and completing the course 50 times.

The parkrunners are thankful for his partner telling him about parkrun shortly after they moved to Mirboo North.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers, Henry Collins, Steph Collins, Leon McDonald, Rob Gray, Helen Reeves and Julia Groves this week.

The parkrunners always welcome anyone keen for five kilometres of walking, running or helping every Saturday morning.

## SGB at the Gippsland All Juniors Trials

IT WAS a wild weekend of racing for the SGB swimmers, heading off in two different directions for the weekend.

Eight of the experienced swimmers headed to MSAC at Albert Park to compete at the 2025 Mattoli Open Championships. The entry list was full of Olympians, National Champions as well as the SGB swimmers who enjoyed racing against the tough competition, holding their own and enjoying the experience.

Meanwhile, 55 swimmers raced at Sale at the Gippsland All Juniors Trials. The top eight swimmers in each stroke over 50m, for age groups 8-16 years, will now head to the State Finals in March to compete against the other regional districts' top 8s. 26 of the swimmers progressed to the next level.

The weather was far from ideal, with heavy rain pelting swimmers as they raced and the wind whipping up waves making it a challenge, but the swimmers gave their best - many not wanting to get out of the pool after racing, as it was warmer in than out.

Coaches Sam and Lorri were so impressed with their efforts. "These are some of the worst conditions I have seen swimmers compete in. These little eight year olds, trying to swim butterfly over 50m, some for the first time, have shown such resilience and I am so proud of them", said Lorri.



LDCA's U14 cricket team defeated Warragul in the annual match on Sunday.

## LDCA records excellent win

Both boys retired after making half centuries.

The middle and lower order continued to tick the scoreboard over to post a very good score.

The LDCA's turn to bowl saw some good early bowling by Toby Nicholas, Max Johnston and Oliver Bolge before the early introduction of Frazer Livingstone.

This young leg spinner put on a masterclass.

His control combined with a great variety of deliveries was a pleasure to watch.

One particular wrongun spun back sharply through the batter's defence to rattle the stumps.

The sight of young left arm quick Blake Ton charging in was certainly a flash back for the few unlucky enough to play against his dad.

All the LDCA boys were given a chance to have a bowl and they all performed well, the boys showed great energy in the field with some fine catches and ground fielding.

Archie Dynes and Sebastian Di Falco shared the wicket keeping duties with both boys showing plenty of talent.

Thanks to Lucas McMillan for coaching and John Richardson for scoring, and Warragul and District Cricket Association for coming over to play.

These games continue to be

an important part of the Rep program.

Thanks to Korumburra Cricket Club for the use of its facilities and allowing the boys to gain valuable experience playing on turf.

Thanks also to Manders Plumbing and Gasfitting and MJA Accounting for their continued support of the U14 team.

LDCA 7/191

Archie Williams 52 retired, Max Johnston 50 retired, Jed Caddy 19, Archie Dynes 11, Warragul DCA 8/130, Frazer Livingstone 5/4 8 overs, Blake Ton 1/3 3 overs, Toby Nicholas 1/17 6 overs, Oliver Bolge 1/24 6 overs



Wonthaggi Gun Club Vice-President Alister Gammaldi in training for the State finals B28\_0725



Brendan McRae from the Wonthaggi Gun Club trap shooting B26\_0725

## New clubhouse for Wonthaggi Gun Club attracts State trap finals

WONTHAGGI Gun Club is about to start work on a new \$700,000 clubhouse as part of preparations to host the Victorian State Ball Trap finals in September.

Wonthaggi World Trap Champion Wayne Parkes and former Wonthaggi junior champion, Olympian and Commonwealth Games team member Laetisha Scanlan will both be in the hunt for medals at the state finals.

Laetisha Scanlan most recently won the Women's Trap gold medal at the 2023 ISSF World Cup Championships in Lonato, Italy.

Wayne Parkes won the 2002 World Trap Championships in New Zealand with an overall score of 886/900.

Wonthaggi Gun Club was

initially chosen as a training ground for the cancelled 2026 Commonwealth Games and built 75 years ago the clubhouse was well overdue for replacement.

Funded by the Commonwealth Games compensation fund the new clubhouse will be relocated further away from the Wonthaggi to Cape Paterson Road to minimise noise and has been designed to meet state international training standards.

"It's a completely new building with male and female toilets, facilities for disabled shooters and a whole new training ground," said Wonthaggi Gun Club Treasurer, Jackson McCarthy.

Three times Commonwealth Games gold medalist and multiple World Cup

medallist Laetisha Scanlan started her shooting career as a 15-year-old at the Wonthaggi Gun Club.

Originally joining the sport as an activity she could share with her father, Laetisha quickly discovered a talent for the sport and decided to pursue trap shooting competitively.

Winning trap pairs gold at the 2010 Commonwealth Games Laetisha narrowly missed out on a place in the Australian Olympic team for the London games in 2012.

Scanlan went on to win her first World Cup in 2013 and secured three top 10 finishes on the 2014 World Cup circuit including a World Cup gold medal in Tucson, USA.

Winning a silver medal at

the 2015 Acapulco World Cup in Mexico Laetisha qualified for a spot in the Australian Olympic Team for Rio in 2016 where she lined up with teammate Catherine Skinner to make it through to the final six top qualifiers.

Skinner went on to win gold for Australia and Scanlan shot 10/15 targets to finish fifth.

After 19 years competing around the world Laetisha is now back at the Wonthaggi Gun Club where it all began.

The next major club competition dates for the Wonthaggi Gun Club are the Budge Shield on Saturday March 1 and the Triangle Shield on Saturday April 5.

You can find the Wonthaggi Gun Club on Facebook or go to [wonthaggigunclub.com](http://wonthaggigunclub.com)

# Pink stumps raise thousands

WHAT could be better than champagne, good food and company? Doing it all for charity in pink!

The annual OMK pink stumps day once again raised tens of thousands for the McGrath Foundation while promoting breast cancer awareness.

Now in its 10th year, the event continues to grow in popularity with more than 200 attendees from far and wide on Saturday February 15, at the Outtrim recreation reserve.

The fundraiser often holds a personal significance for many who've been impacted by cancer, whether through their own journey, a close relative or friend.

Organisers were thrilled with this year's event which featured the McGrath Foundation's ambassador and director Tracey Bevan.

"She was Jane McGrath's best friend and when Jane was first diagnosed with cancer, she was there all through the way, and the two of them together decided they would do some fundraising and it's grown into what it is now," organiser Andrea Curtis said.

"She also recognised that we're the highest fundraiser in Australia."

Andrea highlighted the event featured unique items to mark their 10th year, with funds raised through a raffle

and ticket sales.

"We repeated what they've done most years and then added a few little different features as well to have more of an opportunity to raise more money and awareness," she said.

"Every year the tickets often do sell out, usually within 24 hours, they didn't take long."

The event had visitors from interstate as well as several women from Warrandyte who run their own pink stump events and helped support the day.

Andrea noted they are also looking into ways to restart the cattle project.



**Katie, Sandra and Nicole** organise their own pink stumps day events in Warrandyte and were proud to support OMK's day. Ns28\_0725



**OMK's** cricketers embraced the pink stumps' spirit. Ns32\_0725



**On a day when wickets were hard to come by** OMK's Jake Cochrane took 5/75 off 10 overs during the Bairnsdale onslaught on Thursday.



**Leongatha gets a wicket at Country Week.** Photos: Stewart Chambers/Pakenham Gazette.

## Leongatha cricket drops back to Division 2

MELBOURNE Country Week ended in cruel fashion last Thursday, for the Leongatha and District Cricket Association Team, after a promising start to the week in the elite Provincial division.

Where Leongatha went within an ace of downing eventual semi-finalists Casey Cardinia on Day One before claiming the scalp of Bendigo on Day Three, they hit a rampant Bairnsdale side in the relegation playoff on Thursday and could do little to stave off demotion to Division Two in 2025-26.

A week full of promise ended in disappointing circumstances, but as every cricketer can tell you, there's sometimes no stopping a team that gets off to the flyer that Bairnsdale did in that match.

Going at better than a run-a-ball, Bairnsdale's openers Connor Mitchell 70 off 59 and Brodie Anderson 113 off 133 set the tone with an opening stand of 136, and it continued from there with all their batsmen swinging from the rafters to make a whopping 9/366 off 50 overs (300 balls).

There was no coming back from there.

OMK's Jake Cochrane was the hope of the side with the ball taking 5/74 off 10 overs in the heat of battle while Dylan Clark chipped in with 3/23 off two.

But as disappointing as it was to slip back to Division Two, there were plenty of good performances during the week and a lot of good cricket to look forward to next year with the challenge again of getting back into the top division.

The highlight was a great team effort by Leongatha on Day One against Casey Cardinia, with Tom Cameron top scoring with 65 on debut.

If anything, our bowling lacked penetration all week, but Casey Cardinia only just made the required runs with a four off the last delivery.

Leongatha managed only a modest total of 219 against Geelong on Tuesday and they polished them off in 25 overs.

Wednesday featured a narrow win over Bendigo with Mitchell Clark the hero of the day with a stoic innings of 62 not out as wickets tumbled around him. Ethan Lamers 48 and a crucial cameo by Joel Brann 16 at the end helped get them home.

Bowlers Ron Abeysinghe 3/11 off 6.3 and Ethan Lamers 3/34 off 10 set up the opportunity.

But it's a tough gig competing against the best in the state in country cricket and dropping back to reset is no dishonour. Onwards and upwards in 2026!

## Warrandyte defeat the Goannas Over 60s in 40th over

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-50 cricket team were able to get on the park at last, for what turned out to be their last game of the season.

The postponed semi-final game against the SE Vets took place at Sale Oval on a very cool Sunday.

Goannas captain Graeme Rankin won the toss and decided to bowl first.

The better bats for SE were Andrew Kahofer, 47, run out, from 94 balls, Grant Chatfield, 52x, 76 balls and Christian Stacey, 30x from 17, in their score of 5/177 from their 40 overs.

Successful bowlers for the Goannas were Steven Rogers, 6 overs, 1/26, Chris Malone, 7 overs, 1/22 and Paul Hennessey 7 overs, 2/11.

Chris Anders had a good day behind the stumps with a catch, a stumping and a run out.

In reply, Rankin and Simon Forbes each made 12, with Anthony Bloomfield, 24, Rogers, 16, Malone 17, John Daddo 9x and Anders 13x the best of the batsmen as the Goannas struggled to 124 runs, for the loss of nine wickets from their 40 overs.

It was a disappointing season for the Goannas as three of the scheduled seven games did not take place, with two wins and two losses being good enough to make the semi-final, which was the Sunday loss to SE Vets, who the Goannas had defeated in round five.

The Goannas Over-60 team travelled to Warrandyte for the round 14 game at the weekend.



**Goanna Peter Anton from Toongabbie attacks the Warrandyte bowlers.**

Although the forecast was for a dry day, there was quite a bit of rain on the trip west, and a few showers during the game.

Acting captain Ray Floyd won the toss and decided to bat, sending Jim Armstrong and Rob Taylor in first. Both retired after 30 balls, Armstrong for 30 runs and Taylor for 18.

Ray Smith, nine, also retired and Col Carmody was the first dismissal, stumped for 6 when the score was 56.

Mark Brown followed soon after and when Floyd was caught for 10 the score was 3/68.

Bernie Symons, 18, and Peter Anton 20, both retired and Neil Meredith was next out, also stumped, for 20 from 25 balls when the score was 4/134.

Chris de Vent and Andy Slevin followed quickly allowing Taylor to return to the crease, joining Ian Gibson as they took the score to 6/155 at the end of the 40 overs.

Taylor was 21 and Gibson nine when the innings ended.

The Warrandyte bowling was tight, but luckily, they did drop a few catches.

In reply, Warrandyte were able to pass the Goannas' score in the 40th over, with

eight wickets down.

Successful bowlers were Anton, 8 overs, 1/33, Symons, 6 overs, 1/26, Murray Moore 8 overs, 2/23, Brown 3 overs, 1/18, Meredith 8 overs, 1/25 and Taylor, 4.1 overs, 2/19.

The Goannas will travel to Hamilton for an (unscheduled) game against a combined Hamilton and SW coast team next weekend, while the Over-70 team will play at Sale Oval on Tuesday this week against the West Gippsland Wombats.

Both teams have another game scheduled for early March.

## The courageous Kookas go down to the Geelong Supercats

THE OVER 60s Kookaburras were looking to rebound from defeat when they took on the Geelong Supercats on Sunday. Special thanks to the legendary Brian Dennerly who created a "Belter" at Thomson's Reserve. Mr Cricket Adams won the toss and the Kookas took the willow. Wonderful Wazza Hayes 10 not out and Robbie Francis go the Kookas Away.

The Supercats were bowling quicker than Mayor Schelling's smile! Peter Perfect Little, was more than up for the challenge with a sublime 24 not out. Mr Cricket Adams continued to steady the ship with a fine 21.

Enter Joey Burke 10 and then it was hammer time with Master Blaster Loos clubbing 40 not out off 30 balls. Reliable Pete Water falls 7 not out, finally got the Kookas to a hard fought 10/125. After a very tasty lunch, the Kookas propelled the pill.

Unfortunately, the Super Cats smelt blood and proceeded to dispatch the Kookas to all parts of Thompson Reserve. Best of the trundlers were Pieter Loos 1/10, Mike Demons Forever Newton 0/8 and Joe Tiga Burke 0/12. TBig Cats easily marching to 1/130 off 20 odd overs.

Man of the match Pieter Loos. Special congratulations to Robbie Francis who was deservedly made a legend of the mighty Korumburra Cricket Club. So the once rampaging Kookas will look to bounce back in the name of friendship, fun and the incredible game of cricket.

## Game-changing support for gender equity in sport

All six Gippsland councils have now adopted Fair Access Policies, ensuring women and girls get the same opportunities to play, lead, and thrive in sport. But creating real change takes more than just policy—it takes action! That's where the Change Our Game Community Activation Grants come in.

These grants provide funding to help clubs run initiatives that promote gender equity, such as female-friendly programs, leadership opportunities, and inclusive events. Whether your club is looking to boost female participation, support women in leadership, or create a more welcoming environment, GippSport can help!

GippSport have successfully secured and delivered these grants for clubs, councils, and associations across Gippsland—helping them turn great ideas into lasting impact. If your club wants to take the next step in gender equity, now's the time to act!

## Free girls footy come and try session!

ARE YOU ready to give footy a go? The Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition is hosting a free Girls Football Come & Try session, and welcome all to come along.

Whether you've kicked a ball before or this is your first time, this session is all about having fun, building skills, and getting involved in footy.

During these sessions there will be expert coaching from AFL Victoria's Participation Team, meet likeminded girls who share a passion for footy and there will be exciting prizes up for grabs, including a brand-new size 4 leather football.

This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in something bigger, build confidence, and enjoy the thrill of footy in a supportive environment.

Whether you dream of joining a team or just want to have a go, come along. On Sunday, March 2, from 10am – 12 noon at the Leongatha Velodrome.



OMK bowler Patrick Jobling sends down the delivery that would dismiss Koonwarra L/RSL's opening batsman Shane Paterson for eight runs. The catch was taken by Mathew Walker. Tk03\_0725

## Nerrena holds its ground

### C GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA and Korumburra battled it out, while the other two C1 matches were abandoned due to the weather on Saturday.

Playing at the Nerrena Recreation Reserve, the home team won the toss and chose to bat.

Captain Brian Gannon made an excellent start to the innings, opening the account and accumulating 55 runs before he was caught by Rhys Butler off the bowling of Darren Scott.

Billy Trotman was run out by Noah Belvedere for 17 runs at 1/60, bringing in Gerard Murphy who kept the runs hitting the scoreboard with 22.

Korumburra bowler Patrick Beadel upped the pressure from then on, storming through Nerrena's batting order.

Badel claimed 4/37, including the dismissal of Chris Williams for a golden duck.

Tailender Cameron Baudinette secured the game for Nerrena, making 44 not out.

Nerrena made 7/180 and sent in Korumburra.

Shayne Harland with Iain Riddell opened for Korumburra and made 32 runs.

Riddell was dismissed by Brendan Salmon for six runs, which allowed Belvedere to come in and put 25 runs on the scoreboard.

Badel continued his high intensity game with 42 runs before his wicket fell to Baudinette.

Baudinette went on a similar run towards the end of Korumburra's innings, taking 3/16, including the dismissal of Timothy Morrison for a golden duck.

Korumburra finished the day with a score of 6/117.

The matches between Kilcunda-Bass and Wonthaggi Club, and Leongatha Town and Phillip Island were abandoned.

OMK had the round 10 bye.



OMK's Michael Whiteside took three Koonwarra L/RSL wickets in Saturday's C2 match. Tk02\_0725



Glenn Matthies at the crease for Koonwarra L/RSL in Saturday's C2 match. Tk06\_0725

### C GRADE, DIVISION 2

#### OMK claim the win over Koonwarra L/RSL

ONLY one C2 match was played out this week due to Saturday's challenging weather.

In windy conditions, OMK welcomed Koonwarra L/RSL

to Digger Park, where the home team ultimately secured the points.

Koonwarra L/RSL's one win for the day was the toss, and it asked OMK to bat first.

Alvis Pikson put on a strong performance for the Cougars, claiming three of the five OMK wickets to fall.

Ryan Wyatt and Andrew Perry opened for OMK.

Perry was dismissed by Tyson Lund for one run after facing 10 balls, but Wyatt went on to make 21 runs.

Batting third in the order, Mathew Walker contributed the top score of 42 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Pikson.

Captain Michael Whiteside added 17 runs. Noah Furness contributed 20 runs, and Mark Wightman and Matt Whiteside closed the innings with 21 and 34 not out respectively.

At the end of its 35 overs, OMK had set the target at 5/182.

OMK bowlers Patrick Jobling and Michael Whiteside stormed through the top of Koonwarra L/RSL's order.

It was Dan Isgro and captain Kevin Thorne who managed to put Koonwarra L/RSL back on course with 33 and 37 runs respectively.

Michael Whiteside was OMK's top bowler, claiming 3/17.

Koonwarra L/RSL fell short with a final score 9/124.

The matches between Phillip Island and Inverloch, and MDU and Nyora were washed out.

Glen Alvie had the round 10 bye.

# Red Caps outlast the Cobras

## B GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA amassed 202 runs before it decided to declare against Korumburra on Saturday.

Weather once again threatened the match, but play was able to get underway at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve,

Nerrena's innings was washed out after 31 overs the week before, so the Red Caps had the opportunity to complete its remaining 37 overs.

Before the wash out, opening batsman and captain Damien Symmons had made 75 runs.

He retired not out this week.

Joel Renden continued to bat, making 44 runs before his wicket fell to Shane Dole.

William Croatto added 21 runs later in the innings.

Bowling honours were shared between Shane and Liam Dole, claiming four each.

Nerrena declared at 9/202 in the 47th over.

Korumburra played 40 overs but could not reach Nerrena's total before stumps.

Opening batsman Caleb Turton put 20 runs on the board, followed by fourth bat Mathew Allen top scoring with 39 runs.

For Nerrena, Mitchell Croatto was the top bowler, taking 3/19.

Korumburra's final score was 6/117.

## Womersley leads the way

MDU put up a fair fight, but Phillip Island was up to the challenge.

Heath Womersley opened for Phillip Island, focused on the target of 10/216.

He made 80 runs before he was caught by Daniel Field off the bowling of Tyrone Zukovskis.

Max Arceo added 50 runs to the tally, seeing Phillip Island get over the line.

MDU Simon McRae did all he could to slow Phillip Island's run rate, taking 4/60.

The game went to Phillip Island with a final score of 7/217.

## Stingrays' tail survives

A close contest was waged between Inverloch and OMK, with Inverloch ultimately emerging the victors.

OMK had made 10/190 the previous week, which Inverloch managed to pass in the 68th over.

Captain Brett Debono and Walter Taberner opened for Inverloch.

Taberner made 17 runs before his wicket was claimed by Trevor McGeachin.

Dylan Clark joined Debono at the crease, and the pair made 60 and 25 runs respectively.

The score had reached 4/140 when Clark was bowled by David Jeffries, which sent in Archie Terlich.

Terlich added a handy 22 runs, which made the difference for the Stingrays, as fewer runs made it to the scoreboard in the second half of the innings.

OMK bowler Mitchell Andrew claimed 3/61 and McGeachin took 2/41.

Inverloch's winning score was 9/191.

## Wonthaggi Club had the round 12 bye.



Inverloch's Dylan Clark made 60 runs for his side. Ns20\_0725



Leongatha Town bowler Rory Gilliatte sends one down to Imperials batsman Lucas Anderson in the B2 match. Tk07\_0725

## B GRADE, DIVISION 2

### Imps celebrate success

THE Imperials rose to the occasion and bowled out Leongatha Town to claim a first innings win on Saturday.

It seemed the Imperials would be up against it when they were bowled out 10/132 the previous week, but wickets shared between Lucas Anderson, James Jeffery and Martin Reidy saved the game.

Town had played 32 overs the previous week and resumed the match from 6/98.

Reidy demolished Town's bottom order, claiming three wickets.

Anderson took the last wicket of the innings, taking his figures up to 4/40.

Town's top scores were 36 runs from Trent McRae and 27 runs from Colin Bruce made on day one.

Town was bowled out 10/111.

The Imperials went back into bat.

Opening batsman Kristian Gray was dismissed by Lachlan Gill for two runs, but Gary Sauvarin and captain Samuel Vagg managed to get 16 and 17 runs on the board respectively.

Fourth bat Andrew Meyer

helped the Imperials pick up speed with 20 runs.

Anderson and Cameron Bruce were the stars of the day, making 44 and 34 runs respectively.

Bruce was not out at stumps. Town's top bowler was captain Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe with 3/8.

Two wickets were claimed by McRae.

The Imperials' second innings score was 7/164.

### Ford cleans them up

Foster reigned supreme over Koonwarra/LRSL, with bowler Chris Ford taking an incredible eight wicket haul.

Foster had set the target at 10/143 and successfully defended the score.

Koonwarra/LRSL had made 4/39 before stumps the previous week.

A quiet start to the innings turned around with middle order batsman Nigel Grimes, who made 19 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Ford.

Isuru Darshana and Sam Hughes added 13 and 14 runs respectively.

Ford smashed through the batting order, recording bowling figures of 8/37.

Jack Gay was the only other wicket taker, claiming 2/33.

After 49 overs, Koonwarra/LRSL had lost the match with a score of 10/104.

### Too few to protect

Nyora outplayed Kilkunda-Bass to take the points on Saturday.

Nyora resumed its innings, aiming for Kilkunda-Bass' score of 10/134.

Opening batsman continued his run with Daniel Esler.

Knox made Nyora's top score of 58 runs before he was run out.

Esler was quickly dismissed for three runs, bringing the score to 2/30.

Esler's dismissal started a string of low scores, caused by Kilkunda Bass bowlers Andrew Leighton, Ben Rookes and Chris Peckett.

Rookes and Peckett took Kilkunda-Bass' bowling honours with 2/43 and 2/13 respectively.

Batsman Daniel Blackney set Nyora back on the winning course, making the difference and securing the win with 34 not out.

Nyora's winning tally after 53 overs was 7/141.

### Glen Alvie had the round 12 bye.

## B GRADE

## DIVISION 1

### Inverloch 9/191 d OMK 190

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: B Debono 25, W Taberner 17, D Clark 60, J Richardson 11, A Terlich 22, J Rowe 10, I Seuren 4, J Mottram Carter 8, S Hayes 9, D Cashin 5\*, C O'Flynn 0\* Bowling: M Andrew 3/61, B Maguire 0/16, T McGeachin 2/41, K Kerr 1/34, D Jeffries 1/18, N Wylie 1/6

### Phillip Island 7/217 d MDU 216

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: H Womersley 80, T Hornsby 12, T Blackwell 20, T Asurumuni 5, M Arceo 50, L Ferrari 5, J Tran 5, A Finlayson 7\*, J Williams 7\* Bowling: A Richardson 0/14, J Palmer 1/22, J Bright (c) 0/5, S McRae 4/60, D Field 0/19, Fill-In 1/26, D Zuidema 0/14, C McCaughan 0/15, T Zukovskis 1/11

### Nerrena 9-d/202 d Korumburra 6/117

Korumburra - 1st INNINGS: T M Allen 14, C Turton 20, S Dole 11, M Allen 39, Z Barrett 0, P Richards 13\*, L Dole 1, J Douglas 6\* Bowling: W Croatto 0/11, R Clark 1/14, J Checkley 1/24, S Murphy 0/19, M Croatto 3/19, T Harris 1/16, C Dougherty 0/6

### Club - BYE

## B GRADE

## DIVISION 2

### Nyora 7/141 d Kilkunda Bass 134

Nyora - 1st INNINGS: C Knox 58, J Knox 4, D Esler 3, M Lynch 11, L Row 13, R White 4, S Henry 4, D Blackney 34\*, L Brock 7\* Bowling: B Rookes 2/43, A Bedford 1/52, A Leighton 1/32, C Peckett 2/13

### Imperials 132 & 7/164 d Town 111

Town - 1ST INNINGS: T McRae 36, L Hickey 2, L Bowman 7, P Jayasinghe (c) 5, C Bruce 27, R Gilliatte 4, D Goss 9\*, L Gill 5, Fill-In 2, K Gilliatte 1, D Wilson 0\* Bowling: L Anderson 4/40, C Bruce 1/26, J Jeffery 2/28, N McLennan 0/8, M Reidy 3/3 Imperials - 2nd INNINGS: K Gray 2, G Sauvarin 16, S Vagg 17, A Meyer 20, F Botha 5, L Anderson 44, C Rickard 0, C Bruce 34\* Bowling: T McRae 2/52, L Gill 1/20, Fill-In 1/32, C Bruce 0/3, P Jayasinghe (c) 3/8, R Gilliatte 0/22, D Wilson 0/13

### Foster 143 d Koonwarra L/RSL 104

Koonwarra L/RSL - 1ST INNINGS: G Boxall 9, A Boxall 4, B Anderson (c) 1, N Arnup 11, A Drury 0, N Grimes 19, I Darshana 13, S Hughes 14, C Riseley 7, S Chadwick 1, B Thomas 0\* Bowling: J Gay 2/33, Fill-in 0/24, C Ford 8/37

### Glen Avie - BYE

## C GRADE

## DIVISION 1

### Nerrena 7/180 d Korumburra 6/177

Nerrena - 1st INNINGS: B Gannon 55, B Trotman 18, G Murphy 22, C Marinou 1, J Donohue 4, W Cocksedge 7, C Williams 0, C Baudinette 41\*, E Berryman 12\* Bowling: B Ridell 0/28, S McKinnon 0/27, D Scott 2/31, N Belvedere 0/12, P Beadel 4/37, L Gallagher 0/24, M Foote 0/9

Korumburra - 1ST INNINGS: S Harland 32, I Riddell 6, N Belvedere 25, D Scott 2, P Beadel 42, R Gallagher 1\*, T Morrison 0, M Foote 3\* Bowling: E Berryman 0/17, B Salmon 1/20, C Baudinette 3/16, C marinou 1/21, J Donohue 0/24, C Williams 0/18

### Kilkunda Bass v Club

#### Match Abandoned

### Town v Phillip Island

#### Match Abandoned

### OMK - BYE

## C GRADE

## DIVISION 2

### OMK 5/182 d Koon L/RSL 9/124

OMK - 1st INNINGS: R Waytt 21, A Perry 1, M Walker 42, Michael Whiteside 17, N Furness 20, M Wightman 21\*, Matt Whiteside 34\* Bowling: T Lund 1/33, S Paterson 0/9, A Piksons 3/36, I Godage 0/14, R Collins 0/30, K Thorne 1/23, M Caruana 0/15, D Isgro 0/16

Koonwarra L/RSL - 1st INNINGS: S Paterson 8, S Anderson 8, M Caruana 0, G Matthies 1, R Collins 4, D Isgro 33, K Thorne 37, A Piksons 2, I Godage 13, D Yuthmika 1\*, T Lund 0\*

Bowling: P Jobling 2/14, Michael Whiteside 3/17, J Battersby 0/30, A Halliwell 1/20, L Maskell 1/33, Private player 0/4, Matt Whiteside 1/2

### Phillip Island v Inverloch

#### Match Abandoned

### MDU v Nyora

#### Match Abandoned

### Glen Alvie - BYE

# SCOREBOARD



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## LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Koby Brann (OMK) 45 ; Joel Brann (Club) 7/41

A2: Mitch McGrath (MDU) 40 ; Ben McRae (Glen Alvie) 3/25

B1: Heath Womersley (Phillip Island) 80 ; Simon McRae (MDU) 4/60

B2: Colin Knox (Nyora) 58 ; Chris Ford (Foster) 8/37

C1: Brian Gannon (Nerrena) 55 ; Patrick Beadel (Korumburra) 4/37

C2: Mathew Walker (OMK) 42 ; Michael Whiteside (OMK) 3/17

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### LADDERS

RD 12

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
<b>A GRADE, Division 1</b>					
Nerrena	120	2.255	Inverloch	96	1.440
Club	102	1.563	Nyora	90	1.282
Phillip Island	90	1.703	MDU	78	1.067
OMK	78	1.101	Kilcunda-Bass	66	0.750
Town	66	0.725	Foster	60	0.955
Imperials	56	0.718	Glen Alvie	30	0.684
Korumburra	54	0.862			
Koonwarra L/RSL	18	0.378			
<b>B GRADE, Division 1</b>					
Nerrena	90	2.269	Town	84	1.176
Phillip Island	90	1.778	Koonwarra L/RSL	84	1.162
Club	90	1.205	Imperials	78	1.270
Inverloch	54	0.736	Foster	78	0.903
OMK	48	1.055	Nyora	60	1.358
Korumburra	36	0.570	Glen Alvie	30	0.723
MDU	24	0.435	Kilcunda-Bass	18	0.622

### LADDERS

RD 10

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
<b>C GRADE, Division 1</b>					
Club	84	1.434	Inverloch	84	2.028
Nerrena	78	1.556	Phillip Island	72	2.418
OMK	72	1.922	MDU	60	1.063
Korumburra	54	1.309	OMK	42	0.897
Kilcunda-Bass	36	0.852	Glen Alvie	36	0.766
Phillip Island	24	0.613	Nyora	36	0.503
Town	12	0.238	Koonwarra L/RSL	30	0.561

### NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

#### ROUND 13 (DAY 1) - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

##### A GRADE, Division 1

P-Island v Imperials	Cowes	Ashleigh Stride
Club v Korumburra	Wonthaggi Turf	Warren Williams
OMK v Nerrena	Outtrim	Ken Scrimshaw
Koon L/RSL v Town	Leongatha Turf	Shane Moore

##### A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v MDU	Nyora	Glenn Plymin
Inverloch v K-Bass	Inverloch Turf	Michael Thomas
Foster v Glen Alvie	Foster GC	Brad Phillips

##### B GRADE, Division 1

K'burra v Inverloch	Korumburra	Graham Wightman
Nerrena v OMK	Nerrena	Geoffrey Parkinson
Club v Phillip Island	McMahon	Ian Salmon
MDU - BYE		

##### B GRADE, Division 2

K-Bass v Glen Alvie	Bass 1	Neil Graham
Imperials v Foster	East Campus	Tyson Tootel
Town v Koon L/RSL	Scorpion Park 1	Noel Grayden
Nyora - BYE		

#### ROUND 11 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

##### C GRADE, Division 1

Phillip Island v K-Bass	Rhyll	TBA
Club v Nerrena	Wonthaggi SC	TBA
Korumburra v OMK	Poowong	TBA
Town - BYE		

##### C GRADE, Division 2

Koon L/RSL v Nyora	Koonwarra	TBA
MDU v Phillip Island	Meeniyian	TBA
Inverloch v Glen Alvie	Inverloch FG	TBA
OMK - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Doug Pell 0404 301 333 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421



Tom Cameron had his eyes locked on the ball as he batted for Nerrena on the weekend. Tk12\_0725

## Skipper's seven secures Club win

### A GRADE, DIVISION 1

THE bowling combination of captain Joel Brann and Ryan Thomas ensured Wonthaggi Club had a convincing win over OMK at the Outtrim Recreation Oval.

While OMK hosted its Pink Stumps Day, the cricketers were vying for the Blair Hunter Cup, which ended up in Club's hands.

Club had made 10/212 and it was OMK's time to bat.

A slower start saw Ryan Williams and Ethan Lamers dismissed for 10 runs and a duck respectively.

However, opening batsman Zavier Lamers and captain Koby Brann made an attempt to steer the ship back in the right direction with 32 and 45 runs respectively.

Unfortunately for the Diggers, these were the most impactful scores of the day.

Brann and Thomas upped the intensity and dismissed the bottom of the order in quick succession.

Brann claimed 7/41, including the dismissal of Travis Pickering for a golden duck just before the close of the innings.

Thomas took 3/21.

OMK was bowled out 10/119 and Joel Brann was named man of the match.

### Cougars skittled

Koonwarra/LRSL was no match for the might of Phillip Island on Saturday.

Phillip Island went into Saturday's game fired up to defend its total of 9/252, and the Cougars could not respond with the same momentum.

Playing at the Cowes Recreation Reserve, Anthony Hunt opened for the Cougars and made 14 runs.

The Phillip Island bowlers ran through the top order but captain James Rushton batting at number



Mitch Young bowling for Korumburra against Nerrena on Saturday. Tk13\_0725

four managed to add 15 runs.

The top score came from Jason Kennedy, who made 27 runs while the tailenders were lost for ducks.

Thomas Niven was Phillip Island's best bowler, taking 3/21.

Timothy Niven and Jarrod Black claimed two wickets each.

Ultimately, Koonwarra/LRSL was bowled out 10/73.

### Red Caps win again

After a slow start due to the weather, Nerrena continued on its winning way to claim the points from Korumburra.

Nerrena resumed its innings from 1/42, chasing 10/137.

Jack Curtis opened for Nerrena, making 32 runs before he was run out early on day two.

### Weather prevails

The Imperials and Leongatha Town recorded score of 10/164 and 1/39 respectively after day one the previous weekend.

However, the clubs decided to abandon the match due to poor weather conditions on Saturday.

Leongatha & District Association  
Recognition Round 12  
February 8 & 15, 2025

**Kilcunda Bass  
CC Nominate:  
James Mahood  
(aka Hoodie)**



JAMES' journey with the Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club is a testament to lifelong dedication and passion for the sport. Starting his cricketing career in the under-16s during the 1984/85 season at just 12 years old, James quickly made his mark. By the 1987/88 season, he was already playing senior cricket, and by 1989, he had broken into the A grade team. Over 39 seasons, James has played an incredible 422 senior games for the club, becoming a mainstay on the field. Renowned for his crafty off-spin bowling, he has taken 430 wickets and contributed over 3000 runs, helping the club secure three premierships along the way.

However, James' contributions extend far beyond his on-field achievements. A committed clubman, he served on the committee for 30 years, including 20 years as treasurer. His involvement in junior coaching, umpiring, and support for the newly formed women's competition has further cemented his legacy. Always ready to lend a hand, James has been a key figure in fundraising and organising club events. In recognition of his extraordinary dedication, James was awarded life membership in 2010—a well-deserved honour for a true club stalwart. His lifelong commitment to Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club is a shining example of what it means to be a club man through and through.

**Koonwarra  
Leongatha RSL  
CC Nominate:  
Ross Drury**



ROSS Drury's unwavering commitment to the Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club (KLRSL CC) has made him a cornerstone of the club for over 50 years. His contributions, both on and off the field, have earned him the respect and admiration of everyone in the club. As a player, Ross was known for his reliability as a wicketkeeper and opening batsman, often staying at the crease for extended periods, helping his team accumulate crucial runs. His dedication and skill were recognised in 1985 when he was awarded Life Membership of the Koonwarra Cricket Club. Ross was also a vital part of the C grade premiership team in 1989/90, where he made 37 runs as Vice-Captain. His coaching achievements are equally impressive, leading teams to premierships in 1975/76, B Grade in 1982/83, and the U16 team (alongside Rob Wood) in 1983/84. Even though Ross no longer coaches, his impact on the club remains strong. He is a mentor to many players, offering valuable guidance to seniors, women, and juniors alike. His presence at games and training sessions, where he shares his tips and tricks, continues to inspire the next generation of cricketers. Ross's dedication extends beyond the field. He volunteers his time to help with events, maintains the clubrooms, and provides support and advice to the committee. His tireless efforts and unwavering support for all the club's teams make him a true legend of KLRSL CC. Ross Drury's influence on the club is immeasurable, and his nomination for recognition during the 2024/2025 season is a fitting tribute to his remarkable contributions. The club is fortunate to have someone like Ross, whose passion and commitment continue to inspire and shape its future.



MDU's Tharindu Nuwan blasts the ball. Ns24\_0725

## MDU claims a win amongst the washouts

### A GRADE, DIVISION 2

MDU defeated Glen Alvie in the only A2 game to be completed in round 12.

Playing in Wonthaggi, MDU had Glen Alvie's total of 10/105 in its sights.

Paul Le Page and vice-captain Mitch McGrath opened, but Le Page was caught by Archie Moore off the bowling of Matthew Dakin for 10 runs.

His dismissal saw Semabakutte Chathura Lakshan step up to the crease.

McGrath and Lakshan went on to make 40 and

33 runs respectively, which was what was needed to win the game.

The bowling efforts were shared between Glen Alvie's Ben McRae and Matthew Dakin.

McRae helped to burn through the top order and was responsible for the dismissal of both McGrath and Lakshan.

Dakin slowed the run rate for the final batsmen before MDU's win, including the dismissal of Tharindu Nuwan for a duck.

MDU's winning tally was

6/110.

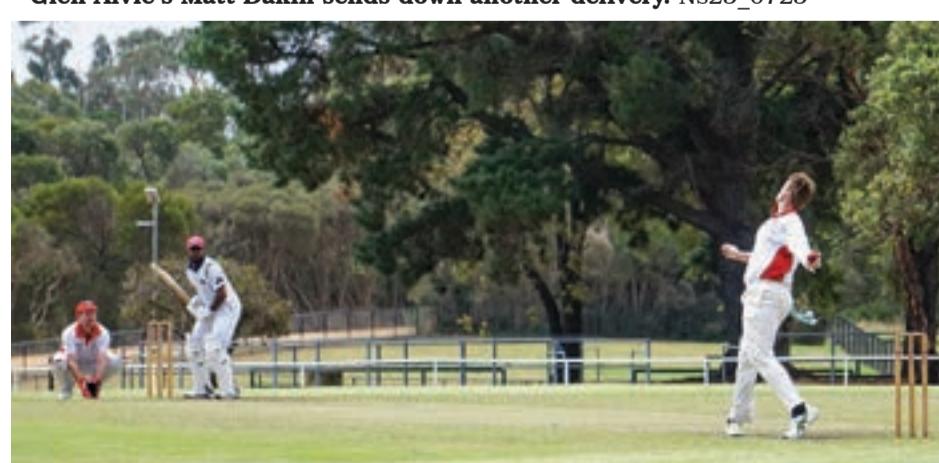
Kilcunda-Bass made a strong start to its game against Nyora when it made 10/271 the previous week.

However, inclement weather on Saturday made conditions at the Nyora Recreation Reserve unplayable and the game was abandoned.

The match between Foster and Inverloch was also completely abandoned due to poor weather conditions at the Foster Cricket Ground during both weeks of round 12.



Glen Alvie's Matt Dakin sends down another delivery. Ns25\_0725



MDU and Glen Alvie battle it out on day two. Ns27\_0725

### A GRADE

### DIVISION 1

#### Phillip Island 9/252 d Koon L/RSL 73

Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS	
Anthony Hunt lbw: J Black	14
Mitchell Scrimshaw b: T Niven	3
Kayden Scrimshaw c: J Black b: GM McCausland	3
Callum Buckland c: L Cleeland b: T Niven	5
James Rushton c: J Black b: M Royal	15
William Cashin c: M Royal b: K Lane	1
Jason Kennedy c: K Beaumont b: T Niven	27
Matt Cooke c: L Cleeland b: T Niven	0
Harry Scrimshaw c: M Royal b: J Black	0
Joshua Thomas not out	1*
Blake Smith c: L Cleeland b: T Niven	0
Extras (3nb, 1b)	4
Total 10 / 73 (50.2 Overs)	
Bowling: T Niven 11-4-13-2, M Royal 10-4-10-1, G McCausland 5-1-15-1 (1nb), K Lane 9-6-4-1, D Mock 4-1-7-0, T Niven 6.2-1-21-3 (1nb), J Black 4-2-2-2	

#### Club 9/212 d OMK 119

OMK – 1st INNINGS	
Ryan Williams c: J Thomas b: J Brann	10
Zavier Lamers c&b: J Brann	32
Ethan Lamers b: J Brann	0
Koby Brann c: J Brann b: R Thomas	45
Jake Cochrane b: J Brann	12
Noel Creed c: F West b: R Thomas	7
Clayton Quaife c: J Thomas b: R Thomas	1
Jacob Lamers c: Jack Sheerin b: J Brann	0
Nicholas Auddino c: R Thomas b: J Brann	0
Travis Pickering lbw: J Brann	0
Peter Dell not out	0
Extras (4w, 4lb, 4b)	12
Total 10 / 119 (61.4 Overs)	
Bowling: J Brann 23-9-41-7, F West 10-3-20-0 (1w), M McCall 9-4-13-0, J Sheerin 8-0-16-0 (1w), R Thomas 11.4-3-21-3 (2w)	

#### Imperials 164 v Town 1/39

Town – 1st INNINGS	
Ron Abeysinghe not out	21*
Mark Hardy lbw: L Wright	4
Jesse Giardina not out	9*
Extras (2lb, 3b)	5
Total 1 / 39 (16.2 Overs)	
Bowling: L Wright 8.2-2-17-1, I Bolge 8-4-17-0	
Match abandoned.	

#### Nerrena 4/139 d Korumburra 137

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS	
Jack Curtis run out: J Richards, R Rangana	32
Loc Roberts c: A Millar b: H McNeil	5
Tadgh Gannon b: B Spicer	22
Jarrod Hoy c: GSA Mudalige b: B Spicer	40
Thomas Cameron not out	25*
Mitchell Clark not out	14*
Extras (1lb)	1
Total 4 / 139 (32 Overs)	
Bowling: M Nader 3-0-17-0, GSA Mudalige 3-0-13-0, H McNeil 6-1-26-1, T Crocker 2-0-6-0, B Spicer 10-0-50-2, M Young 8-0-26-0	

### A GRADE

### DIVISION 2

#### MDU 6/110 d Glen Alvie 105

MDU – 1st INNINGS	
Paul Le Page c: A Moore b: M Dakin 10	
Mitch McGrath c: R Spiteri-Stevens b: B McRae 40	
SC Lakshan c: S Watson b: B McRae 33	
Joel Sinclair lbw: B McRae 2	
Wayne Prosser c: W Luke b: M Dakin 12	
Steve Arnup not out 1*	
Extras (3w, 2lb, 7b) 12	
Total 6 / 110 (35 Overs)	
Bowling: M Dakin 13-1-40-3 (3w), A Luke 8-1-11-0, B McRae 10-3-25-3, W Luke 5-0-25-0	

#### Kilcunda-Bass 271 v Nyora

Day 2 abandoned.

#### Foster v Inverloch

Match abandoned.

# Local cricket

South Gippsland  
and Bass Coast

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Koonwarra/LRSL's Melissa Buckley was an asset out on the field. Tk18\_0725



Phillip Island's Grace was named player of the match after the semi-final against Inverloch.

## Phillip Island to take on Koonwarra L/RSL in grand final

PHILLIP Island and Koonwarra L/RSL will go head-to-head in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association's women's grand final on Sunday.

For Koonwarra L/RSL, this will be a chance to go that extra step after finishing runner up in the 2023/24 season.

In the semi finals played over the weekend, Phillip Island defeated Inverloch, and Koonwarra L/RSL defeated Leongatha Town.

The wintery blast on Saturday didn't prevent the Phillip Island and District Cricket Club's (PIDCC) women's semi-final against Inverloch starting on time on Sunday.

In true form, Captain Bec lost the toss, and the Island women were sent out to field.

Young Gun Sienna opened the bowling with class and Winnie with pace.

Grace soon claimed the first wicket through Jane's catch at square leg.

Kate then had a sensational over with two wickets, including clean bowling the opposition and a catch by B at point.

Jess also claimed two wickets of her own, with a run out and a nick caught in the safe hands of wicket keeper Rosanna. Jane and Sienna's second overs claimed a wicket each, while B, Claudia and Bec restricted the Inverloch run rate. At the end of the innings, Inverloch were 81.

Grace and Sienna opened the batting in great form, with Grace hitting three well placed boundaries.

The Island were 22 after four overs.

The dynamic running of Jane and Kate, as well as several perfectly placed boundaries by each batwoman, saw the Island's total reach 51 after 8 overs.

Jess and Claudia kept the scoreboard ticking over, and B and Bec continued the run scoring with B whacking two boundaries.

The Island was 86 with one pair to go.

Rosanna and Winnie ran well, with Rosanna hitting a boundary through mid-wicket.

The Island cruised past the Inverloch total, with a 30-run victory.

Congratulations to Grace, receiving the Leongatha and District Cricket Association semi-final player of the match.

Congratulations to Grace and Kate; top scoring with 16 and 14 runs.

The pick of the bowlers was Kate 2/11 (3), Jess 2/12 (2) and Grace 1/8 (2).

Congratulations to Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre player of the match Kate.

Koonwarra L/RSL entered this season's grand final with a seven-run win over Leongatha.

The match was highly competitive, with both teams laying it all on the line to earn a ticket into the grand final.

Playing at Scorpion Park, Koonwarra L/RSL had its winning streak underway with a successful toss.

It chose to send Leongatha Town into bat first.

For Town, Nat Challis led with a strong start, putting 20 runs on the scoreboard.

Other top performers were Kate Oates and Kathryn Stewart, both contributing 13 runs.

Bowling honours went to Koonwarra L/RSL's captain Britney Thomas and Fiona Christensen, who each took two wickets.

Leongatha Town swapped to fielding, having amassed a score of 107.

Koonwarra L/RSL put some exciting scores on the board – none more so than vice-captain Gabrielle Perry, who made 21 runs during the innings.

Perry's bowling and fielding finesse also saw her stand out, resulting in the player of the match accolade.

A highlight for Koonwarra L/RSL was the final partnership of Jodie Arnup and Kathy Zacharopoulos, who made 12 and 14 runs respectively.

It was their last few overs that secured the win for their team.

Wicket taking was shared between Town bowlers Brenda Stewart, Sarah Knox, Lucy Carter and Nat Challis.

Koonwarra L/RSL's winning tally was 104.

The game was played in a friendly, encouraging atmosphere, which was greatly appreciated by all involved.

Koonwarra L/RSL is looking forward to meeting Phillip Island in the grand final.

The 2023/24 runner up is keen to get a premiership under its belt, and defeated Phillip Island in their most recent meeting.

Phillip Island has been an excellent competitor all season and Koonwarra L/RSL is looking forward to the challenge that awaits.

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