

Sentinel-Times

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

SUPERCCELL STORM HITS MIRBOO NORTH – INSIDE

Thanks for coming...



...but what happens next?

THE schools are back, not without problems however, power has been restored to at least half of the town, including the main street, mobile phone services are reasonable, water supplies are back at capacity, and transport routes have been reopened...

At Mirboo North, where the town was levelled by a storm cell of biblical proportions last Tuesday afternoon, February 13, they've made great inroads into a massive clean-up effort that will be on-going this week, and next, according to SES Incident Controller Matt Taranto.

So, what happens now? The next phase in the disaster response for Mirboo North started last Friday with a warmly-received visit by the Premier Jacinta Allan, her Energy Minister Lilly D'Ambrosio and Opposition Leader John Pesutto.

Continued page 2

ABOVE: One of the first people to raise the alarm from an isolated Mirboo North last Tuesday, after the devastating supercell hit the town around 5pm, was former fire captain Mark Bourke, and he gave the Premier Jacinta Allan and Energy Minister Lilly D'Ambrosio a first-hand account from outside his damaged home in Balding Street when they visited last Friday. See story inside.

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SUPERCCELL STORM HITS MIRBOO NORTH



Local MPs Danny O'Brien and Melina Bath with Opposition Leader John Pesutto chat with residents of Balook Street Mirboo North impacted by last Tuesday's devastating storm.



There's a road in there somewhere. An example of access problems for residents of the affected areas in and around Mirboo North.



The staff of Gippsland Water have been hailed as heroes of the response, for issuing a warning about low water levels, supplying emergency water, repairing a main and getting supplies back to normal within days last week.



Thanks for coming, but what happens next?

From front page

Premier Allan started by promising fast access to 'Prolonged Power Outage Payments' through AusNet of upwards of \$1920-a-week and cooperation between local councils and the government on waiving the green waste levy in 21 local government areas, but in Mirboo North's case, more needs will be addressed, she said.

"One of those needs has been addressed today in terms of the green waste levy fee waiver, but we know that as the assessment continues there's going to be the need to have ongoing conversations in terms of the sorts of supports that are needed here," Premier Allan said.

In answer to a question from the Sentinel-Times, Ms Allan said she had already had a conversation with South Gippsland Mayor Cr Clare Williams and CEO Kerry Ellis, who had conveyed to her some of the immediate needs of the community.

True to her word, Premier Allan spoke on Sunday about engaging the government's lead contractor to remove the piles of damaged building materials and debris from the town, while also inviting the mayor and CEO to State Parliament on Tuesday, to attend Question Time and to meet with Minister for Emergency Services, the Attorney General Jaclyn Symes.

"We have been given excellent access to the government by Premier Allan and we'll have an opportunity this week to advocate directly on behalf of the people of Mirboo

North and others in our community impacted by this storm event," said Kerry Ellis this week.

As well as funding waste removal contractors, Ms Ellis said the shire would be looking for immediate support to provide the works and services needed by the community now, plus an additional package of support for other services.

Premier Allan is expected to formalise her commitment to debris removal later this week.

There's a lot to do, 20 homes in the town have already been assessed as uninhabitable and more may follow, while there's serious damage to many others.

Emergency services have responded to 897 incidents in South Gippsland in the past week.

A week on from the storm damage a wider picture is available of the damage sustained in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

"Our teams including SES, FFMV and CFA crews are working together to get through job tasking on the ground," SES Incident Controller Matt Taranto said.

"Calls coming in have slowed down as the immediate emergency response transitions to a recovery effort.

"Over the last week we had 897 jobs and that is now down to 20 active jobs, as at Monday, February 19."

The focus for teams in the next week is to continue clearing town and road closures, he said, opening school bus routes and then moving towards assessing forested and public land, to make these

areas safe.

Hundreds of personnel from right across Victoria are still working in the field daily; SES, CFA and DEECA crews have come from Portland, Geelong, Cann River, Footscray, Kinglake, Wonthaggi, Korumburra, Loch and Tidal River.

"As emergency services crews remove branches over homes, tarp rooves and gained access to homes, a huge clean-up effort will remain for residents," he said.

District 9 CFA Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer Emma Conway warned of unnecessary burn-offs.

"Our region remains under the Fire Danger Period," she said, "and there are significant fines and penalties for burning off without a permit."

"Given the extent of damage in Mirboo North and surrounds, CFA will consider each permit application on its merits and assess the risk to community, especially as we monitor the next drying cycle and weather conditions over the week.

"We urge residents to take advantage of the free green waste disposal options at local transfer stations as a first resort."

Permits can be applied for via firepermits.vic.gov.au

- Emergency response: The South Gippsland Shire's Mirboo North Relief Centre is open at 96 Ridgeway Street. SES emergency number 132500, AusNet 131799 and Telstra 132200.
- Assistance: Beyond Blue 1300 224 636, Lifeline 131114, Head-space 1800 650 890.



The Premier Jacinta Allan gets a briefing from emergency services at the Mirboo North fire station on Friday.



Nine-year-old Riley Gourlay has become something of a symbol for Mirboo North's help-yourself recovery after he gashed his leg on a chainsaw during the cleanup last week. We hasten to add it wasn't going at the time!

Riley provides a symbol of Mirboo North's recovery

THERE are just as many heart-warming stories from the catastrophe that hit Mirboo North last week as there were harrowing tales and young nine-year-old Riley Gourlay's experience was one of them.

Riley was out with his dad Marcus and one of his mates, helping an older resident of one of the hardest hit streets, Wells Road, to clean up and get access to her home when he had a nasty fall.

"They'd just about finished when Riley tripped over the chainsaw, not while it was going thankfully, and got a nasty gash on the calf of his left leg.

"It bled a fair bit and needed eight stitches but thankfully he's going OK now," said concerned mum, Beck Gourlay.

"They'd cleared away some fallen trees and were just packing up when it happened."

Beck posted a note on Facebook, to let people know Riley was alright, and the story was met with an avalanche of support, seeing Riley's willingness to help as being emblematic of the resilient, help-yourself attitude of the Mirboo North community which has seen them achieve so much in such a short amount of time.

But with much, much more still to do.

Here are some of the responses:
Mel Issa: Oh goodness, Riley! You're a tough little guy! I hope you feel better soon, and I bet you'll have a great scar that you can tell people all about when you're older!

Cheryl Lock: Well done Riley, a credit to your parents.

Paula Vella: Well done for giving your time and love to another person Riley! A true legend!

Mary Carter: There's hope for the future with little youngsters like your little fellow. Riley, get well soon and better landings from now on.

Nine-year-old Riley is in Grade 4 at the Mirboo North Primary School and will no doubt have a story to tell when he gets back to school this week.

We echo the above responses: "You're a legend, Riley."



The pooches at Poowong's Gippsland Paws and More were oblivious of the pandemonium going on after the power went out last Tuesday.

Communication breakdown causes chaos at kennels

THE biggest thing about the four-day power outage at the Gippsland Paws and More 'luxury accommodation for dogs and cats' at Poowong last week wasn't the loss of power.

It was the lack of communication; by text, mobile phone or email that caused chaos.

"We were alright without power. We've had that plenty of times and we're ready for it," said Sam Tonkin, finally catching her breath on Sunday.

"It was just a matter of

moving the generators around for the water, the fridges and other services.

"The problem was not being able to contact anyone."

The luxury kennels had 20 dogs and 10 cats onboard when the storm hit about 4.30pm and the power went out, and they were expecting more to arrive in the ensuing days.

"We couldn't contact them, and they couldn't contact us. Some people wanted to cancel their bookings. Others wanted to come and pick up

early. It was tough to know what was going on."

The power came back on at about 4pm on Friday and things got back to normal, progressively, over the weekend.

"It was a lot more work, of course, without the power, but the lack of communication was the big one."

The "guests", the pampered pooches and pussies, were totally oblivious of the pandemonium and still managed a lovely holiday at perfect Poowong.

Where there's a generator, there's a way

THE Sulo bins were tumbling down the main street, debris from stripped trees covered cars and you couldn't see the footpath from the shop window as the winds reached cyclone force and rain and hail swept through the town.

Amazingly, though Craig Young's Butchery at 90A Ridgway, Mirboo North was mercifully unaffected and after an emergency dash to Melbourne to get a generator on Wednesday, because there were none left in the area, he was back up and operating on Wednesday morning with little or no loss of meat.

"No, no damage. We were incredibly lucky," said Craig on Sunday, back in the shop throughout the day making up for lost time, supplying meat to the IGA Supermarket and getting his own freezers and display cabinets set up again for Monday trade.

"We were in the shop at the time. The storm hit and it just kept going harder. At one stage we couldn't even see the footpath from the window with the white hail, rain and debris flying past.

"After it was over, there were Sulo bins strewn around, which had been ready for bin day on Wednesday, and all the cars in the street were covered in the leaves that had been stripped from the trees.



Mirboo North butcher Craig Young lost a day's trade but with an incredible amount of luck and some hard work he was up and running again on Thursday morning. Just as well, his snags have gone down a treat at emergency response BBQs around the town.

"There was surprisingly little damage to the trees in the street, apart from a few branches off up near the library, but yeah, no power of course."

With the generator in place, and a late night getting produce ready on Wednesday night, Craig's front door was open again on Thursday morning,

ready to meet the demand that followed for gas BBQ meals in the days while the power was off in town.

"Just incredibly lucky. We lost a bit of the small stuff and some things we chucked out to be on the safe side, but no, once we got the generator we were right. Very thankful for that," said Craig this week.

Storm appeal for Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

ONCE again in Gippsland we are dealing with the forces of nature following the storm event earlier this week. It is estimated that more than 100 residents may be adversely impacted by the high winds and associated downpour.

"These are devastating circumstances for the families affected and it is important that GERF respond promptly to assist them with vital financial support in their time of need," GERF President Andy Tegart said.

Mr Tegart announced that Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund is launching an appeal to raise funds to support Gippsland residents impacted by the current storm emergency.

"We recently provided more than \$150,000 to residents impacted by flash flooding and it is highly likely that we will distribute at least that amount for this current event.

Assessments are currently underway by Municipal Recovery Managers and we would like to be in a position to respond promptly when referrals for financial assistance come through" Mr Tegart said.

Donations to the appeal can be easily made via the GERF website gerf.org.au and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Mr Tegart said "Every dollar donated to the appeal is distributed to those affected by the storm and individuals and businesses in Gippsland have always been very generous in their support. Your donation will be helping us to help others in their time of need".

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund has been supporting Gippsland residents impacted by natural disaster since 1978 and is run completely by volunteers.

Grey Nomads, we need your help!

JOHN Westbury is a retired journalist with some 40-years' experience and in that time has covered disasters of all types. Although retired he writes the E Magazine for What's Up Downunder which is associated with the TV programme What's Up Downunder.

He also is admin for four big caravan groups including Royal Flair Caravan Club Australia, Caravan Lawn Bowlers Club Australia, and two other big caravan clubs.

As we go to press John is organising some caravans to come to Mirboo North this coming Wednesday to help those who are up against it in many ways from the recent devastating storms.

"Mirboo North is a great town that always extends a welcome to caravaners passing through and I believe it is time we give back something in appreciation. I already have some items for the bowls club and have reached out to all members of the caravan clubs to join me and roll up our sleeves to help get the town back in shape.

"We are assured there will be spaces for caravans, and we have asked members that they bring self-sufficient vans only as we appreciate power and water is a problem for locals."

"We only have a few at present and need more, so, any caravanners in your area please help us help Mirboo North. They need help to tow trailers and if you tow a van than a trailer will be easy. There are other jobs they need help with, and I am hopeful we will see the ladies and men join us, as there are several jobs that everyone can help with," John said.

If you can spare a couple of days, John can be contacted via his Facebook page or give him a call on 0400 28 00 99.



Mirboo North Tigers launch \$30,000 appeal on Gofundme

WANNA do something to help Mirboo North?

Jump on the 'MNFNC Recovery' page on Gofundme, look for Tigers' President Joe Piper's name, and donate to their recovery effort.

They're looking for donations totalling \$30,000 to get some new goal posts after the devastating storm of last Tuesday but they've also lost the netting behind the goals, the netball fence and copped extensive damage to the equipment stored inside the A&P Shed which was totalled in the blast.

But they're not sitting back waiting for a handout.

The club has cancelled footy and netball training this week but instead will be forming up teams of players to tackle a list of clean-up jobs that need doing around the town.

"They'll be getting their exercise this week by doing something physical to help the community,"

said MNFNC Committee member Stacey Harriage.

But there are some things you can't fix with a chainsaw and muscle, including the supply of new goal posts, snapped off at the height of the ferocious storm blast, hence the crowd-funding appeal.

Here's what Joe Piper had to say on the Gofundme page:

"The MNFNC has been severely impacted by the storms that tore through our beautiful town. The goal posts at both ends of the ground have been snapped in half with the ferocity. Fences have been torn down, buildings have been damaged. It will take time to recover.

"We have started a Gofundme aiming to get help to replace the goal posts, netting and fences so that we can have a pre-season.

"Plans beyond that are unknown. Most of our members are busy repairing their homes, businesses

and taking care of their community.

"We are proud to live in a community like Mirboo North. Everyone bands together in times of crisis."

So, get on to the 'MNFNC Recovery' page and make a donation today to help the Tigers roar again.

Incidentally, Stacey Harriage's home is located on Wells Road, up behind the swimming pool, and was among the hardest hit on the day.

"We've got broken windows, water has come into the house and it's going to take a lot of work to get our two acre block looking nice again. But we had CFA people from Dr-ouin and Warragul call in today to see if we needed help, which was fantastic," said Stacey.

"The emphasis is on the clean up now but there's a lot of recovery ahead for Mirboo North."

You'll find the Mirboo North FNC Gofundme page at gofundme.com/f/mnfnc-recovery



Such was the ferocity of last Tuesday's stormy blast at Mirboo North that the goal posts at both ends of the local football ground snapped off but they lost a lot more besides.



Member for Eastern Victoria Region Melina Bath MP, Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien MP, Mary Baker of The Friends of the Mirboo North Pool, Member for Eastern Victoria Region Dr Renee Heath and Leader of the Opposition John Pesutto surveyed the damage at the site of the recently upgraded facility.

Mirboo North rallies after devastating storm

FRIDAY afternoon's Mirboo North Town Hall meeting was so well attended it was held in two rounds, speakers first taking the stage inside then venturing outdoors to deliver their messages for those who couldn't fit into the hall.

Audience members heard from representatives of the police, SES, South Gippsland Shire Council, and the AusNet CEO.

"We're bringing further resources from other parts of the State," SES Incident Controller Jackson Bell said after speaking about the initial response to the storm.

"One of the things I want to recognise publicly is Trent (Venten) and the Mirboo North CFA; the public acknowledgment is important and whilst the SES can't be in every community, the CFA particularly is the lifeblood," Mr Bell said.

He noted the local CFA provided the earliest response before other emergency service personnel could access Mirboo North.

Hundreds of others from a range of agencies and emergency service organisations have since arrived to help, with key

efforts focused on clearing roads and restoring power, with assessing damage to properties another important task.

Mr Bell stressed that the meeting provided the opportunity to bring together representatives of key agencies to provide information and chat to people about their circumstances.

"Our job, within this room, particularly for the agencies, is to support the next steps," he said, acknowledging it won't be a quick fix.

"I am here to listen, to understand and to get a resolution for you."

During the meeting, speakers reflected on the loss of life of a local farmer during the storm, offering their condolences to family and other community members.

A common theme throughout the meeting was the resilience the Mirboo North community has displayed and people's willingness to pitch in and help each other.

South Gippsland Shire Council was represented by Mayor Clare Williams and CEO Kerryn Ellis.

"It is bloody heartbreaking," Cr Williams declared of the storm's impact,

urging people to contact council to outline their needs.

"We're here and we're listening," she said.

The Mayor highlighted that while most South Gippsland towns were initially left without power and phone reception, and a number suffered significant infrastructure damage, Mirboo North was the most impacted.

CEO Ellis said council has had 108 outdoor staff members out and about around the shire, including Mirboo North, in the aftermath of the storm, with the team having cleared 126 blocked roads by Friday.

Other council staff have helped with arranging food parcels and deliveries, and organising hot meals.

Ms Ellis noted council received 153 requests for support prior to phone reception being reestablished and 200 more since, with council staff going door to door during the communication outage.

She spoke of council's efforts to convey the severity of damage to Mirboo North to relevant state agencies.

Continued page 5



Divisional Commander Peter Fusinato speaks about police having a constant presence in Mirboo North as the community deals with the aftermath of last week's storm. A30_0824

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Dunes blow for Cape Paterson developers

PLANS by developers to add as many as 980 additional houses in a new growth area north of Seaward Drive at Cape Paterson have been dealt a number of blows as the State Government gets set to establish 'Protective Settlement Boundaries' around most of the towns in Bass Coast.

At this Wednesday's council meeting, a new report, prepared for the Department of Transport and Planning by Peter Haack Consulting, following a directive by the Minister, raises doubts about the suitability of a "regionally significant" dunes area, on the eastern side of the growth area, for housing.

At best, according to the Haack report, this area may be able to accommodate low density housing in the future, not the sort of residential block yields the developers were hoping for.

When considering the 'recommended extent of development' the Haack report says this:

"The analysis demonstrates that the form of the low dunes to the southeast corner of the Study Area, which also run to the northwest through the Study Area, are rare in the hinterland area and the region. The vegetated section of the dunes in the very south-east corner are particularly of regional interest and worthy of protection."

The report goes on to offer an alternate scenario for the dunes area:

"...an alternative scenario would be to allow very low-density, environmentally sensitive development on the area of dunes between the sensitively designed residential development area and Cape Paterson Road".

It's not all good news for those opposing any form of residential development north of Seaward Drive, either within the existing settlement boundary growth area or beyond it.

The Haack report recommends that an expansion of Cape Paterson housing can occur beyond Seaward Drive "as a logical extension of the Cape Paterson settlement"



The residential expansion study area north of Seaward Drive Cape Paterson and the sensitive dune area in yellow.

and further, that an additional parcel of land, to the north of the Eco Resort might be added to compensate for the loss of developable land within the existing settlement boundary.

As well as the release of the Haack report this week, as part of the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) assessment of Bass Coast, the Bass Coast Shire Council is set to formalise its complete opposition, at this Wednesday's meeting, to any residential development beyond Seaward Drive.

In a report prepared for the council's consideration this week is the following response to the Haack report and the government's preferred option for Cape Paterson:

"Council was disappointed the draft SPP did not resolve the long-standing contention surrounding the Cape Paterson settlement boundary and that the required work to inform a decision was not undertaken by the Department.

"It was clear to Council that:

- Bass Coast Landscape Assessment Report Vol 1, Bass Coast Landscape Assessment Report Vol 2, and Bass Coast Township Character Report suggested that the expansion

of the settlement north of Seward Drive is inappropriate and will be to the detriment of the village character.

- The community has provided strong support for Cape Paterson being a low-growth coastal village and wanted the existing boundary to be contracted to exclude Cape Paterson north of Seaward Drive.

- A shire wide residential land supply and demand assessment and housing strategy had not been undertaken to understand if the land north of Seaward Drive was required to secure a municipal supply of land. Council required further technical work be undertaken before a decision can be made about the location of the protected settlement boundary."

The Council believes that approval of Wonthaggi's north-east development precinct, adding a further 5000 centrally-located home sites to the shire is a game changer and expansion of Cape Paterson beyond Seaward Drive is not needed.

Councillors will be asked, at this Wednesday's council meeting to formally endorse their complete opposition to any Cape Paterson expansion,

while also making some determinations about San Remo expansion and limiting growth at Ventnor on Phillip Island along these lines:

"Council strongly recommends the Minister for Planning:

- Does not extend the Ventnor protected settlement boundary (PSB),
- Does not extend the PSB north of Seaward Drive in Cape Paterson, and
- Extends the San Remo PSB to Punchbowl Road, only including land north of the ridgeline.

Council has also "accepted the proposed PSB for all settlements, except for Cowes and Silverleaves, San Remo, Grantville, Inverloch, Cape Paterson and Newhaven. Council required further strategic work be undertaken before it would support the proposed PSB at the above-mentioned locations."

A spokesperson for the Cape Paterson Ratepayers and Residents Association, Pete Muskens, has cautiously welcomed the response from the council but said there is still a long way to go in offering Cape Paterson's sensitive landscape the protections it needs.



Fire in French Island National Park

A FIRE on French Island, believed to have started from a lightning strike during Tuesday's storm, posed no threat to properties or infrastructure.

The fire was contained, with three aircraft and ground crews working to put it out.

Forest Fire Management crews and Bass Coast Group CFA firefighters worked the following day on blacking out approximately two hectares in the French Island National Park on the northern side of the island.

Transport was supported by Hastings Coast Guard, with four vehicles assisting French Island CFA, including Wonthaggi Tanker 1 and Ultra Light, Kernot Tanker 1 and Bass Ultra Light.

Arrest follows reckless driving rampage in Wonthaggi

POLICE have arrested a man after a dangerous driving event in Wonthaggi on February 16.

It was reported that a car was spotted driving at excess speed along the Bass Highway about 11.35pm.

Officers were told the car was then seen driving erratically in Wonthaggi's CBD, before deliberately driving at pedestrians on Gordon Street.

It is believed the car then took off along Gordon Street, where it was involved in a collision with another vehicle, before colliding with a third car a short time later.

No one was injured.

A 21-year-old Corinella man is assisting police with their enquiries.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au or contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100.

Smiths Beach house fire

A TWO-STOREY home at Smiths Beach was engulfed in flames on Thursday February 15.


Local CFA crews arrived on scene after the alert was raised by neighbours around 12.53pm.

Five units from Phillip Island, San Remo, Kilcunda and Wonthaggi attended, with the house fully engulfed by the time firefighters arrived.


The fire is still under investigation, however, it's believed the fire started in the kitchen when power returned to an appliance after the power outage.

It's understood the residents were not home at the time and had left the property when the power went out with neighbours hearing the alarm when the power came back on.

Cowes police attended the scene with nil interruptions to traffic and no injuries, whilst firefighters donned breathing apparatus.



Russell Broadbent MP
Federal Member for Monash



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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

TUE Feb 20	WED Feb 21	THUR Feb 22	FRI Feb 23	SAT Feb 24	SUN Feb 25
Possible shower.	Partly cloudy.	Possible shower.	Shower or two.	Possible shower.	Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light	Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light	Wind AM: N 25-35km/h Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h	Wind AM: W-SW 20-30km/h Wind PM: W-SW 20-30km/h	Wind AM: SW 15-25km/h Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h	Wind AM: Light Wind PM: Light
14° 27°	16° 29°	21° 32°	14° 21°	12° 19°	11° 21°

IN BRIEF

Storm cancels the OMK Pink Stumps Day

OUTTRIM Moyarra Kongwak's renowned Pink Stumps Day event, scheduled for Saturday, was reluctantly cancelled due to the ramifications of the recent weather event.

"We understand the disappointment but due to the enormity of the event, our limitations with resources and the uncertainty of essential services, the decision needed to be made," OMK said in its Facebook announcement on Thursday. "Our priority is our communities, families and their homes."

One of the event's organisers Amy White elaborated on the reasons for the cancellation.

She said uncertainty about when the power would return, along with mobile reception for EFTPOS were factors.

So were the catering challenges entailed in food ordering and storage in the circumstances.

"We had to make a call last night, a tough one, but I think it's the right one," Amy said on Thursday.

With the caterer not having yet ordered the food and with the cancellation made before the marquee was erected, substantial costs have been avoided.

It wasn't practical to re-schedule Pink Stumps Day to a later date given the cricket season is approaching its end.

"So, we'll just roll it on to 2025 and celebrate bigger for our 10-year anniversary," Amy said.

Despite the setback, OMK will still make a substantial contribution to the McGrath Foundation this year, recently raising \$27,000 toward the cause through the Pink Stumps Cattle Sale.

Online auction and raffle

sales will boost the total.

Ticket refunds will be communicated in the coming days the club stated.

Council rejects CEO review changes

THE Bass Coast Shire Council is set to reject proposed changes to the way it reviews the performance of its CEO following the abrupt departure of the previous CEO Ali Wastie.

A petition signed by 39 people has called on council to make it a responsibility of the shire's Audit and Risk Committee to review the performance of the CEO, instead of a separate committee of council.

But the council is set to reject the proposal, saying it has already adopted best practice in reviewing its CEO.

No reason is given for the need for the proposed change.

Council rejects 45 objections

THE proposed development of an 831 square metre site at 30 Grossard Point Road, Ventnor featuring two large dwellings is set to receive council approval at this Wednesday's council meeting despite attracting 45 objections.

The subject site is located on the corner of Grossard Point Road and Bowcombe Crescent where it is proposed the houses, of 8.597m and 8.208m in height, will take up a total building area of 375 square metres, or 45.1 per cent of the land.

Objections to the project include that it is an overdevelopment of the land, that the views of others will be blocked, that it is inconsistent with the 'Guidelines for building in Phillip Island's small townships' and will that there will be problems

created by more traffic.

Among other reasons for dismissing the objections, a council report notes that VCAT regularly states there is no legal entitlement to a view.

Sunderland Bay Surf Beach petitions get action

A REPORT is to be prepared for the Bass Coast Shire Council on the potential for various works to be carried out in the Sunderland Bay-Surf Beach estates following the failure of the special charge roads and drainage improvement scheme last year.

No later than the June 2024 Council Meeting, a report is to be presented on the feasibility of the following works:

- Sealing of Batman Street Surf Beach
- Infrastructure Improvement Sunderland Bay Road & Batman Street Surf Beach
- Glen Street, Surf Beach, road and drainage upgrade
- Road Upgrades to Links Street, Surf Beach
- Dover Street, Sunderland Bay, road and drainage upgrade

Among other things the petitions stress that the Surfies Point carpark, at the end of Batman Street is the busiest section of the estate, and council as part of the special charge scheme was meant to meet the cost of sealing the carpark.

No news on Berninneit isn't good news

IN AMONG the information contained in the Bass Coast Shire Council's December 2023 Quarterly Performance Report is a brief report on the completion of the so-called "redevelopment of the former Cowes Cultural and Community Centre".

However, the report provides no breakdown on the final cost of the project or an assessment of operating costs at the new Berninneit Centre to date.

Perhaps this will come with the January to March quarterly report.

The report also notes that the proposed Wonthaggi to Inverloch shared pathway, set to play a critical role in the health and wellbeing of the community, is due to be completed in late 2025.

Man dies during storms in Darlimurla

POLICE will prepare a report for the Coroner following the death of a man in Darlimurla on Tuesday.

Emergency services were called to a property on Boolarra-Mirboo North Road, about 6pm on Tuesday 13 February.

It's understood a man was working on the property when he was struck by debris.

The 50-year-old Darlimurla man died at the scene.

WorkSafe will investigate the exact circumstances surrounding the incident, however the death is not being treated as suspicious.

Animal welfare support for fire and storm victims

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Premier Allan promises assistance in Mirboo North

HAVING inspected the extraordinary damage in Mirboo North from Tuesday's storm, while chatting to locals, emergency service personnel and representatives of South Gippsland Shire Council, Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan on Friday announced a couple of assistance measures.

She did so at a press conference near the Mirboo North Fire Station, having toured sites such as the town's much loved and severely impacted swimming pool.

'Prolonged Power Outage Payments' for those electricity customers who will be without power for at least a seven-day period was the first such measure outlined.

"Those payments are \$1920 a week for up to three weeks for residents, and a \$2927 payment per week for businesses," Premier Allan said.

She explained that for those wanting to organise access to these grants, the arrangements need to be made through their power distribution business.

Ms Allan added that Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio, who accompanied her on her Mirboo North visit, has made it clear that the government wants these payments to be processed as easily as possible for customers to access.

The Premier also declared support for local councils to aid in the mammoth clean-up effort required.

"The (green) waste levy will be waived for storm-impacted areas, so that's around 21



Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan speaks during the Mirboo North press conference, accompanied by Victorian SES Chief Officer Operations Tim Wiebusch and Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio. A27_0824

local government areas, and as you can see, there's a lot of work to get things to the local tips to get into the waste systems and that's why we are waiving those waste levy fees through until the 30th of April," she said.

The Sentinel-Times asked the Premier about her expectations in the longer term about what's going to be needed and what the State Government will have to supply to get the community back on its feet.

She responded that in her conversation with South Gippsland Shire Mayor Clare Williams and CEO Kerryn Ellis, they conveyed to her some of the immediate needs of those in the South Gippsland

Shire more broadly, and the local community.

"One of those needs has been addressed today in terms of the green waste levy fee waiver, but we know that as the assessment continues there's going to be the need to have ongoing conversations in terms of the sorts of supports that are needed here," Premier Allan said.

Council CEO Ellis later told the Sentinel-Times that council is advocating to the State Government and Emergency Management Victoria to broaden waste disposal assistance to include hard rubbish, wanting state coordination to clear that waste.

Council is also calling for that

assistance to extend to picking up the waste from people's properties.

"There's been a lot of focus on the community swimming pool which is a fabulous place for the local area and it's obviously been badly hit, so we need to have those assessments done and then we will sit down and work with the shire in terms of what is needed into the future," Ms Allan said.

The Premier also stressed that a range of supports can be provided, depending on the needs of each family, household and business.

She directed community members to the 1800 560 760 recovery hotline run by Emergency Recovery Victoria, a dedicated agency to work with local communities during the recovery period.

During their Mirboo North press conference, Premier Allan and Minister D'Ambrosio stressed that much of Victoria was severely impacted by Tuesday's storm event.

Ms Allan responded to a journalist's question about slow triple zero response times in the aftermath of the storm.

"All of our agencies increased their capacity in preparedness for Tuesday and there were more call takers put into triple zero in readiness," she said.

The Premier added that while there were at least 50 percent more people to take the calls, something like 15,000 triple zero calls were made as the storm hit many parts of the state.

What Mark said to the Premier

FORMER Mirboo North CFA Captain, Mark Bourke, was one of the first people to come out on ABC Radio last week and call for some serious help for Mirboo North after a super storm cell hit the town last Tuesday afternoon.

He told the Premier Jacinta Allan when she visited last Friday and he's still saying it... "we need help!"

And while he's been awestruck by the efforts of the locals, to help themselves, the emergency services and agencies like Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Shire and AusNet to clean-up and get the town up and running again, there's a lot more to do now and in the medium to long term.

"I just told her what happened and she mostly listened. It was good of her to come down and support the community and see first-hand the damage," said Mark today.

He was at home at the time, with his wife in the front room, but stepped back into the house when front windows blew in.

"We lost some tiles and got some water damage inside, the outside area at the back just got shredded, the shed damaged, the fences and the trees but the house is generally OK.

"You could feel the force of it when it hit, definitely, but it's a bit of a blur now with what's gone on."

He's still without power, like more than 700 others in and around Mirboo North, but he appreciates there's a lot of restoration work for AusNet, especially on the north side of town, before the power can be restored.

"Initially AusNet told us two weeks but they're talking Thursday now.

"The main street and parts of the town, mainly on the south side, have the power back but the hardest hit areas still need a lot of work.

"We've got a caravan, solar panels and a gas stove. We're alright without a generator and I've got to give a shout out to Gippsland Water, they've been magnificent.

"There was a real chance the town could have been without water which would have been a disaster. They fixed a broken main in a matter of hours, had emergency supplies out straight away and kept us informed as best they could about conserving water until they were back up to capacity.

"They're one of the heroes of this but there've been quite a few," he said.

His chat with the Premier, and advocacy behind the scenes by South Gippsland Mayor Cr Clare Williams and CEO Keryn Ellis, is set to bear fruit with some announcements this week about State Government support to remove waste and debris, plus additional emergency grants to fund projects and services including welfare, housing and further emergency response where it's most needed.

Mirboo North rallies after devastating storm

from page 1

"Our sense was that people didn't realise how significantly Mirboo North had been impacted, so we made a lot of calls to make sure people knew what was going on," Ms Ellis said, adding it is great to have state agency boots on the ground.

Victoria Police was represented at the meeting by divisional commander Peter Fusinato, who spoke of the challenges presented by damage across so much of Victoria, but said the impact across South Gippsland Shire, particularly Mirboo North, was understood.

"We've made sure you've got 24/7 police presence here to support you," he said, encouraging people to chat to police they see in town about anything they need.

AusNet CEO David Smales was challenged by an audience member about the organisation's response time to get boots on the ground, but his thorough explanation of the situation and the steps involved in returning power safely won most people over.

Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien and Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh also

spoke.

Mr O'Brien expressed his pride in what Mirboo North community members have done for each other and assured people that while no State of Emergency has been declared following the storm, action is being taken.

"The Minister for Emergency Services rang me yesterday and she said that process of activating disaster recovery arrangements is underway; that's why personal hardship grants are now available and the Premier's just announced power outage grants as well, but there can be other things including

business support," he said.

He added there are criteria for that support.

Mr McIntosh also spoke about available assistance and the fact Premier Jacinta Allan talked earlier in the day to the South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor and CEO to establish their needs, citing the waiving of the green waste levy as a step taken in response to requirements.

Once speakers finished, community members chatted to various agency representatives and emergency service personnel, the meeting appearing to be a success.

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Mayor's Message

Cr Clare Le Serve

I HOPE are you are recovering after last week's terrifying storm, although I know many of you are still doing it very tough.

The Bureau of Meteorology said it was going to be wild, but no warning could have properly prepared us for when the skies suddenly went dark on Tuesday, and the wind and hail smashed into our beautiful region.

In its wake was a trail of shredded trees and debris, and for the most unlucky they had broken rooves to fix and smashed memories to gather up.

At the time of writing this many homes and businesses were still without power and phone coverage and we have been working hard, along with Bass Coast Health, the Red Cross and many emergency services to provide as much support possible.

We were all touched in some way by the lost power and mobile phone coverage. It's amazing how reliant we've become on modern technology and it certainly makes it challenging to communicate vital messages. Council adapted by using whatever communication tools were available including posters, door knocking and word of mouth.

What I would particularly like to draw attention to today is the inspiring way our community came together to recover from everything Mother Nature threw at us.

Our first responders were magnificent as they always are, clearing paths with their hands and chainsaws, checking on the more vulnerable members of community and bringing an immediate sense of calm in a sea of chaos.

Power workers were quickly on scene to make lines safe and then get them connected as fast as they could.

I saw neighbours pitching in to help one another and businesses finding ingenious ways to stay open to keep serving their community. There were teenagers on the streets, freed up by the closure of school and the sudden silence of their much-loved mobile devices and now lending a hand with brooms and wheelbarrows.

Neighbours took it in turns to look after each others young children so critical work could be completed safely and quickly. Others made sure to visit vulnerable members of our community and to offer help.

Council staff worked through the night and through the next days across the region to get essential services working again and providing portable power. Wonthaggi Hospital and its emergency generator became a base of operations and council executives.

Make no doubt this was a terrible weather event and many people will continue to need all our help to fully bounce back from the devastation – and we will give this helps until they no longer need it.

But long after the sound of the approaching storm recedes in my thoughts, the enduring memories I shall have will be how a resilient community came together and helped each other get through it together.

Thank you Bass Coast. You did us proud.

Island voters duded under new ward plan, he says

PHILLIP Island's 15,839 council election voters would have their vote significantly devalued under a redistribution model revealed by the Victorian Electoral Commission last week.

And according to local public affairs advocate Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai, it's not good enough.

"You can't be taking a proposal to the people which disadvantages Island voters by 15 per cent," said Mr Jolly this week.

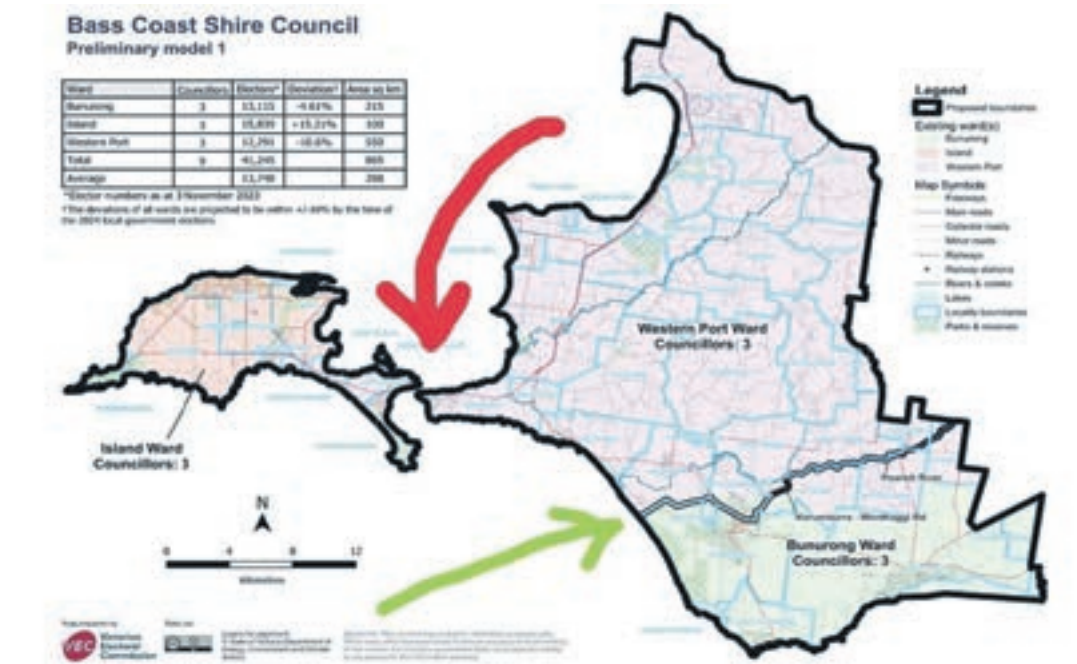
"My solution would be to keep the whole Island together, as proposed in Model 1 but for the VEC to give the Island ward four councillors, Western Port 3 and Bunurong (Wonthaggi & Inverloch) two.

"If the new north-east residential area of Wonthaggi grows more quickly than projected, they could change it back in four years time."

Under Model 1 revealed by the VEC last week, Phillip Island's 15,839 Island voters would elect three councillors while just 12,291 voters in a slightly altered Western Port Ward would also get three seats at the council table.

Mr Jolly says that's unfair and would remain unfair even if Wonthaggi does grow rapidly.

The townsfolk of Inverloch and Wonthaggi will also do well under the proposed Model 1 published this week for public consultation, getting three councillors to represent them in the Bunurong Ward for only 13,115 electors.



Under a new model for Bass Coast Shire Council wards, all of Phillip Island would be included in the 'Island' ward with Newhaven annexed from Western Port and added to the Island ward (red arrow). The realigned boundary between Western Port and Bunurong wards would follow the Bass Highway (White Road) through Wonthaggi.

The only advantage for Phillip Island is they'll all be in the same boat together, one ward for all Island residents. It's clear, it's simple, but it's also a hefty 15.21 per cent more voters than average to get the same result.

If, however, the Island folk don't want their voting power to be diluted ahead of the October elections, they might opt for Model 2 which would see the 600 Islanders in the Newhaven area staying with the Western Port ward which includes San Remo, the Waterline areas of Coronet Bay, Corinella, and Grantville plus a large swath of the shire's rural hinterland, Dalyston and North Wonthaggi.

It's not a huge improvement though with the 15,279 voters on Phillip Island only getting three councillors as against three in Western Port for their 12,851 voters and three Wonthaggi and Inverloch voters for 13,115 voters.

Those who want to comment will need to make a submission before 5pm on Wednesday, March 6.

Submissions can be received online (vec.vic.gov.au) via the Public Submission Tool. By email to BassCoast.WardReview@vec.vic.gov.au. By post Ward boundary review panel Victorian Electoral Commission Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

There will be an online public hearing, at which you can speak in support of your submission at 2pm on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Full details at: Bass Coast Shire Council | Victorian Electoral Commission (vec.vic.gov.au)

Never mind the quality, feel the width

IT'S the Bass Coast Shire Council's first official meeting of the year, after an eventful summer it needs to be said, and they've been presented with meeting papers that Mosstrooper couldn't jump over.

Not only is there a 100-page agenda including the presentation of the draft Bass Coast Neighbourhood Character Study and draft Bass Coast Housing Strategy to be endorsed for public consultation but there are no fewer than nine attachments totalling 763 pages.

Local public affairs commentator Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai wants to know how councillors and members of the public are supposed to read such a tome, between the tabling of the agenda last Friday and the meeting at 1pm this Wednesday, February 21.

Key reports in the agenda include the housing strategy and also the Department of Transport and Planning's assessment reports for the Bass Coast Shire Distinctive Areas and Landscape planning review, looking at Cape Paterson and San Remo town

expansion, and also Ventnor.

That report is 267 pages on its own.

There are also 418 pages in the Draft Bass Coast Neighbourhood Character Study, Draft Bass Coast Housing Strategy, and Draft Bass Coast Residential Canopy Cover Improvement Strategy.

Among the other attached reports to be tabled at this week's meeting are the quarterly finance report projecting a \$400,000 deficit for shire operations this financial year, which could have amounted to a \$1 million operational

loss if not for the extra Financial Assistant Grants received from the Federal Government.

There's a planning application for two dwellings on a block on Grossard Point Road, a road discontinuation report, review of the complaint handling policy, and councillor expenditure among others.

Cr David Rooks and Cr Rochelle Halstead clocked up the most professional development expenses, \$10,326 for Cr Rooks and \$12,409 for Cr Halstead, presumably doing the Australian Institute of Company Directors' course.

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6 | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

We'll help Mirboo North get what it needs, Pesutto

THE Opposition Leader John Pesutto visited Mirboo North last Friday saying that the town needed more than just a "flying visit" to help it through what was likely to be many months, if not years of recovery.

And he pledged to do what he could to see that the town and the community got what it needed, immediately, and in the longer term.

Speaking outside the Mirboo North Swimming Pool, where he assessed the damage with South Gippsland Shire Recreation Officer Ian Murphy together with state MPs Danny O'Brien, Melina Bath and Renee Heath, he said the determination and resilience of the Mirboo North people was a fine example of the Australian spirit.

• Question: Can you tell me your observations on the damage that you've observed today.

"The damage has been heartbreaking for so many families and organisations here in Mirboo North," Mr Pesutto said.

"I think everybody is shocked when you come into the town and just see the path of destruction that the storm created.

"So, it's very extensive and will take many, many months, maybe even years for a full cleanup and then replanting in many cases, to occur.

"There are many hazards which remain but what strikes me more than the extent of the damage is the level of resilience and that strength of local character that's come through in the people we've met, whether it was Libby, Peter and Paul we met or Damien and Jasmine and their young daughter, Rosie, whether it was Brad, working with his colleagues, Rowan and Lesley; really resilient people who demonstrate what's great about our country in our state."



State Opposition Leader John Pesutto chats with South Gippsland Shire recreation officer Ian Murphy at the damaged Mirboo North Swimming Pool.

• Question: So, tell me a little bit about a couple of examples, perhaps of what sort of resilience you've seen?

"Just a determined demeanour get on with the job of the cleanup. Not let it break them. Yes, people are upset and absolutely, but what gives you that level of confidence that this local community will come through and come through strongly is that I've seen people take leave from their jobs to help.

"I met a worker with Saputo, he's taken time off so he can help some friends clean up their property; his property isn't affected, and that's a beautiful story of friendship and people coming together at the hardest of times."

• Question: Tell me as Opposition Leader what it is you'd like to see from the government in terms of assisting the community here and other storm-hit locations around the area.

"For all communities that have been affected by this week's storms, and fires

for that matter, we need urgent levels of support, and we need to understand that a little level is not enough. There are people who are encountering all sorts of out-of-pocket costs, so we need to make sure that all of the dangers which remain are addressed because we've got many trees that are hazardous. Even if they are standing upright, they may well possess hazards for residents and people in the local community. So, we need to make sure that work is being done urgently and that there's a plan for debris, in whatever way it's used, that contractors are engaged without delay.

"We can't just come this week, pay a flying visit and think that does the trick. These communities... are going to need ongoing support with the cleanup, restoration and then replanting, in the case of vegetation that they've lost, beautiful vegetation that's been lost. That will need to take place over many weeks and many months."

AusNet CEO takes the stage as generator powers part of town

AUSNET CEO David Smales fronted up to the vast audience at Mirboo North Town Hall on Friday, delivering a progress report and outlining the extent of the challenge faced in reconnecting power to the town and elsewhere in South Gippsland Shire and Victoria more broadly.

He acknowledged the traumatic experience people are facing and addressed an attendee's question as to why it took so long for AusNet to have a presence in town.

"There is a lot of pre-planning needed," he said, declaring there has been no lack of intent on the part of AusNet workers.

The AusNet CEO noted that the company has been dealing with an unprecedented situation.

"The storm damage on Tuesday afternoon was the biggest impact on our network that we've ever seen," he said, explaining that 350,000 customers were at one stage without power, approximately 45 percent of AusNet's clients, with 330,000 having electricity restored by Friday afternoon.

David noted that initially the extent of

damage across Victoria had to be assessed and planning undertaken.

He explained that on Friday power was eight kilometres short of reaching Mirboo North, having had to come through Morwell and Leongatha, with a two kilometres section still needing replacement poles and restringing.

The CEO announced positive news that the large generator installed opposite the Town Hall was expected to be powering between 150 and 200 Mirboo North properties from Friday, with the intention being to extend that on Saturday.

David indicated that connecting the generator was not a straightforward process.

"You have to isolate part of the network around the town, do some engineering works to make sure it's safe and can carry the capacity," he said.

He stressed that before power can be supplied to properties, each must be inspected to make sure there are no safety issues.

The community response to the CEO's explanation appeared largely positive, with David receiving applause at the end of his speech.

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Magnificent effort by the Leongatha SES Unit

AMONG the first boots on the ground after a catastrophic storm flattened the town of Mirboo North last Tuesday was the State Emergency Unit with direct responsibility for the town, Leongatha.

According to Leongatha Unit Controller, Matt Saario, the unit had logged 1600 calls for emergency help by lunchtime on Sunday, many of them coming after Mirboo North got temporary mobile reception restored on Thursday and Friday.

"It has easily been the most number of calls for help we have received at Leongatha SES as a result of one incident," said unit controller Matt Saario.

"We consistently had between 15 and 20 members there on Tuesday and Wednesday, then two crews of 10 on Thursday and one crew or five or six on Friday and Saturday."

By then, SES incident command out of Warragul had taken over and crews started arriving in Mirboo North from all around the state.

"It was mostly damage to houses, cars and property, from the wind and also from trees, fallen trees, and helping people get access in and out of their homes."

"We had a number of houses where they completely lost their roofs or were extensively damaged. Trees had fallen right across roofs, on cars, shed and fences."

"There was a bit of water damage, but it was mostly the wind."

"An incredible amount of trees have come down, in and around the town," said Matt.

He had nothing but praise for his team, who he said had contributed 100s of hours over the past week.

"We're just tabulating that, but the effort has been fantastic."

Not bad from SES members who are volunteers and put off doing their own jobs to answer the call.

"A couple of good outcomes for us is that no one was injured and we have picked up a couple of young members as a result. We could do with more."

Matt said the unit's supplies of plastic for tarps, sandbags and other consumables including chainsaw chains and supplies, plus the unit's fuel supply budget had been heavily taxed by the response and he would certainly be making application for special emergency event response.

"It's just been a magnificent effort by all involved, particularly the people of Mirboo North themselves who just got in there straight away," said Matt Saario of the Leongatha SES.

Emergency Service personnel reflect on Mirboo North



CFA Sector Commander for Mirboo North David Corrigan takes a moment out of his busy schedule to provide an update of the town's situation on Friday. A34_0824

CFA Sector Commander for Mirboo North, David Corrigan spoke to the Sentinel-Times just prior to Premier Jacinta Allan's visit to the town on Friday.

"It's an SES run incident out of Warragul and it's a combination of agencies, including Fire Rescue Victoria, CFA, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Victoria Police and a plethora of private contractors," he said of the coordinated efforts taking place.

David said Victoria Police conducted welfare checks as soon as possible in the storm's aftermath.

He spoke of the severe impact of the weather event on the Strzelecki Highway, which he described as having been "completely blocked".

By Sunday, the closed section of Strzelecki Highway on the Leongatha side of the Mirboo North township had reopened,

initially with a 40km/h speed limit.

David said on Friday that while most road clearing was complete, further trees were still being lost.

He commended locals on their response to the crisis, saying the community has been resilient and many have assisted with clearing their properties.

Later at the Premier's press conference, Victorian SES Chief Officer Operations Tim Wiebusch commended the local emergency service response to Tuesday's storm.

"The local response agencies have done an amazing job because for the first 24 hours they were on their own, so to Trent, the captain of the CFA at Mirboo North, well done to your team for banding together with the other emergency services to look after your

community until we could cut our way here," Tim said.

"We've now got Forest Fire Management Victoria, we've got SES crews from around the state as far as Chiltern and Tallangatta here helping with the emergency response and getting trees off properties as best they can."

Tim noted that SES and CFA volunteers from further afield have the support of their employers who have released them for a number of days to help communities that aren't in their local area, commending that gesture.

He said while initial Statewide requests for assistance had been whittled down from 5000 to 300, that 80 of those remaining were in Mirboo North alone, with ABC radio reporting on Monday that local figure had dropped to 34.

GSHS teams come together through storm crisis

HEALTH professionals have banded together to provide continuous safe care for people during one of the worst storms to hit the area in living memory.

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) lost power and phone coverage when the storm blasted through the district last Tuesday, but managed to continue providing services through the challenges.

Doctors, nurses and senior hospital staff slept on site during the blackouts to ensure care wasn't interrupted.

CEO Lou Sparkes said GSHS staff and partners had rallied together to manage the situation in the face of difficult circumstances.

"I was very impressed with how well the service coped and how well our partners have worked together," Ms Sparkes said.

The huge windstorm hit the Korumburra hospital about 4pm Tuesday and then hit Leongatha. "I've never seen anything like it. It was like a tornado, and it immediately knocked out power to both hospitals," Ms Sparkes said.

The Leongatha hospital operated on generator power until Wednesday night and Korumburra relied on generators until mid-Thursday afternoon. Generators also powered the health service's



A euphoric Angela Williams, Executive Director Medical Services, when the power was restored late last week.

aged care facilities.

"The generators kicked in straight away without a problem," Ms Sparkes said.

"However, given we were on generator power, we did cancel elective surgery."

However, the difficult situation was further complicated about four hours after the windstorm hit when the phone towers went down.

"We lost all connectivity and that was our biggest challenge," Ms Sparkes said.

But that was when the community spirit really kicked in.

In-patient beds in both campuses were full with patients but doctors, nurses and

hospital management slept in offices to remain on sight for any emergencies.

"Five doctors from Leongatha Healthcare and Korumburra Medical Centre spent the night on site on Tuesday night and Wednesday night also with senior GSHS staff to keep the service safe and continue to provide services. We had a lot of staff who came into help even though they weren't rostered," Ms Sparkes said.

"We had huge support from our community, and it went really well."

"Many of the executive team slept in their offices overnight and we had doctors scattered

all around the place."

Some staff members had no choice and stayed in the hospital because their homes had been damaged by the storm.

GSHS provided showers and breakfasts for staff who had lost power at their homes and helped some people in the community who needed food.

Both urgent care centres remained open throughout the blackouts.

GSHS also provided charging from its generators for the local ambulance services.

"I really want to thank the staff and medical practices for supporting us to ensure we managed to provide a safe service to the community," Ms Sparkes said.

GSHS management held regular command meetings during the crisis and followed a renewed draft business continuity plan.

"The draft plan proved to be very helpful, and we will be adding things that we have learnt from this experience, so we are ready for the next extreme weather event."

Ms Sparkes also thanked Victoria Police, SES and the shire for their support.

"Our focus always remains on providing essential care and support to our community whatever challenges we may face."



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lchs.com.au/careers



Celebration to devastation but Mirboo North community unites

MIRBOO North & District Community Foundation has proved an important hub for the town's community, with a range of service providers and council staff on hand offering assistance.

It's been a great spot for people to gather, have a chat, charge devices, connect to the internet and grab a bite to eat.

Generously donated fruit and vegetables have been provided, along with Salvation Army food packs.

At night, lines have formed for hot meals, with organisations such as Sikh Volunteers Australia stepping up to assist the Mirboo North community, worst hit by Tuesday's storm.

Jaswinder and Sukhwinder Singh of Langwarrin represented the organisation on Friday, bringing a food van to Mirboo North and serving much-appreciated vegetarian food.

Karen Anton and Vanessa Cook were among those at the Community Foundation.

"We came for the hot food out the front, and to have them come down to us, we're very grateful for that," Karen said, with the pair having ventured indoors to pick up some fresh produce.

"This is above and beyond and it's all about the community coming together and helping each other," she said of the setup at the foundation.



Mano and Rosie Romano and Charlie Calafiore of the Mirboo North Italian Festa team, with Rosie the coordinator of that event, pitch in to feed locals at Friday's Baromi Park barbecue. All_0824

Karen also expressed her appreciation for the barbecue lunch hosted by those from the Mirboo North Italian Festa crew.

Charlie Calafiore was one of those manning the barbecue on Friday.

Mirboo North born and bred, he was delighted to see people out and about enjoying each other's company and food.

"People are talking and interacting; some have been isolated for a while, so they come and chat to each other," Charlie said.

He commented that the Mirboo North community has a knack for

pulling together, something he recalls vividly from the 2009 bush fires.

Charlie reflected on the sudden transformation that came over the town just a couple of days after this year's Italian Festa.

"I think the community is in shock because within 48 hours we've gone from celebration to devastation.

Local Heather Butler said there is a "can do" spirit in the town.

"We do festivals, fierce storms and we have attitude to match," she said.

SES incident controller Jackson

Bell attended the barbecue before the afternoon's Mirboo North Town Hall meeting, keen to chat to as many locals as he could and establish their needs.

"My job is to lead the response to the significant incident in South Gippsland and bring all the (necessary) services and overcome a lot of challenges for the community," Jackson said.

He elaborated that has involved bringing in resources and coordination with various agencies such as South Gippsland Shire Council, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and others in the health sector.

"Part of it is bringing it all together so that we're all working as one and helping this community," Jackson said.

As far as extra resources are concerned, he noted SES crews arriving from not just other parts of Gippsland but elsewhere in Victoria.

"There's additional work to be done, particularly in the ongoing restoration of power and the opening of Strzelecki Highway," he said of the overall challenges various organisations were then working to overcome.

Jackson stressed that further organisation will be required in what is certain to be a protracted incident.

"We need to ensure that the community feel well supported by emergency services," he said.

No more gas, they say

GENERATORS were buzzing around town and more people than usual were outside walking their dogs and playing in the front yard with children last Tuesday and Wednesday. Two shops were open in Wonthaggi for dinner – zero lights appeared to be on, but that doesn't matter when you can still take cash payments and cook up a burger, whilst others filtered through a darkened Woolies.

There is definitely a need to explore renewables and transition to them, but after Tuesday's supercell storm, that in some parts of the district looked more like a tornado ripped through, the biggest question is without gas how will some put a meal on the table in the future?

Let's face it, not everyone can afford the \$10,000-\$15,000 it costs on average to add a battery to the home; and that is on top of the cost of solar panels.

The Victorian government last year announced a ban on reticulated natural gas for new residential developments from January 1, 2024, as part of its plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions and switch to renewable energy. The gas ban applies to new homes, apartments, and subdivisions with existing homes and renovations encouraged to adopt electric appliances over time.

The government says that all-electric homes are cheaper, more efficient, and healthier than gas-powered ones, and that is certainly the case when zero electricity is flowing through too.

All four units at AGL's Loy Yang A power station in the Latrobe Valley went offline on Tuesday.

According to the ABC it's believed to be after Loy Yang A tripped due to two transmission towers physically collapsing, preventing them from transmitting electricity through the lines.

And whilst power has been restored to some, it remains out for others, with food in fridges and freezers now well and truly going to waste, only exacerbating the cost-of-living crisis.

As for the immediate future last Tuesday, it was time to pull out the gas bottles and BBQ or light the gas stovetop.

Cyclonic winds rip roof off Poowong home

ON TUESDAY afternoon Poowong resident Tracey Thomas went outside to watch her daughter cross the road after school and noticed large storm clouds approaching the township.

They went inside and not long after the epic storm hit with gusts of wind picking up to lash the town and rain bucketing down.

Tracey began filming the storm – loud cracks, bangs and pops can heard along with wood splintering and structures breaking.

Cyclonic winds ripped the roof off Tracey's home.

Rain then began to gush straight into the family's living area, through a large gap left by a ripped off sun light.

"I was absolutely terrified," said Tracey.

Within a matter of minutes, the rain also began to soak through the ceiling and, worried it might cave in, Tracey and her children

sought refuge in the car and drove to a safer spot.

An hour later upon returning they found the yard littered with sheets of tin, wooden beams and insulation from the roof.

Pieces from the roof were also strewn in the paddocks next door and beams of wood had splintered off and impaled into the ground.

The children's large trampoline was in several pieces with the mat found twisted up at least 50 metres from the back yard.

Tracey's landlord, also a Poowong local, organised a number of community members to quickly help secure the roof with large tarps.

She is very grateful for the efforts of all the locals in assisting to keeping her family safe and dry in the absence of emergency services.

Tracey was also thankful the wind wasn't blowing towards the school given the storms occurred when children were walking home.



Tracey was terrified as rain gushed in through the roof where a sun light had been. ob05_0824

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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Storm Recovery

Last Tuesday, a strong storm hit South Gippsland which caused widespread damage to trees, infrastructure and homes. Loss of power and mobile coverage impacted almost every township, and most residents were personally impacted in some way.

But despite all of these challenges, South Gippslanders rallied to support those around them. It didn't matter if those people were family members, friends, neighbours or strangers, a helping hand was extended.

Thank you to the many emergency services, contractors, businesses and community members who helped out

with the initial response and are still helping now. Your support has been invaluable and words can't express our appreciation. Council teams have also been working hard with logistics, staffing relief points, vegetation removal, community support and road clearing and inspections.

There is still a long way to go. Trees are still down everywhere and the damage will take a long time to repair, but the clean up has started and is already significantly progressed.

For storm updates, including support information, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormevenueupdate

Important Notice: Rates



Rates payments were due last week.

However, due to the problems presented by the storms, Council is extending the payment period until 28 February (unless you have a payment plan in place).

See Council's website for payment updates: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 21 February 2.00pm
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council's website at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates

To watch the 'open' part of the meeting live or when it suits you, visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

Please contact the Governance Team for questions about Council Meetings

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

SUSPENSION OF ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

The South Gippsland Road Management Plan has been suspended while Council and the community respond to the 13 February 2024 storm event.

Council makes every endeavour to meet all aspects of the South Gippsland Council Road Management Plan. However occasionally, there will be situations that impact Council's business activity and affect our ability to deliver the service levels outlined in the Plan. The 13 February 2024 storm event is one such event.

The South Gippsland Road Management Plan has been temporarily suspended (as per section 4.11 Exceptional Circumstances) for a period of three months, due to our inability to meet the required service levels.

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

RFT/395 – Meeniyah and Poowong Stadiums Re-Roofing Project

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

RFT/396 – Bena Public Toilet Facility

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 27 February 2024.

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

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha

03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Meeniyan and Dumbalk voters to join Venus Bay

ON THE face of it, at least, the single proposal put forward by the Victorian Electoral Commission for a new ward structure in the South Gippsland Shire appears to have gone out of its way to disadvantage the voters of Coastal Promontory Ward.

Where previously there were fewer ratepayers and residents eligible to vote in Coastal Promontory than the other wards, in fact only 7949 were eligible to vote at the 2021 election, there could be as many as 12,773 voters when South Gippsland goes to the polls in October this year.

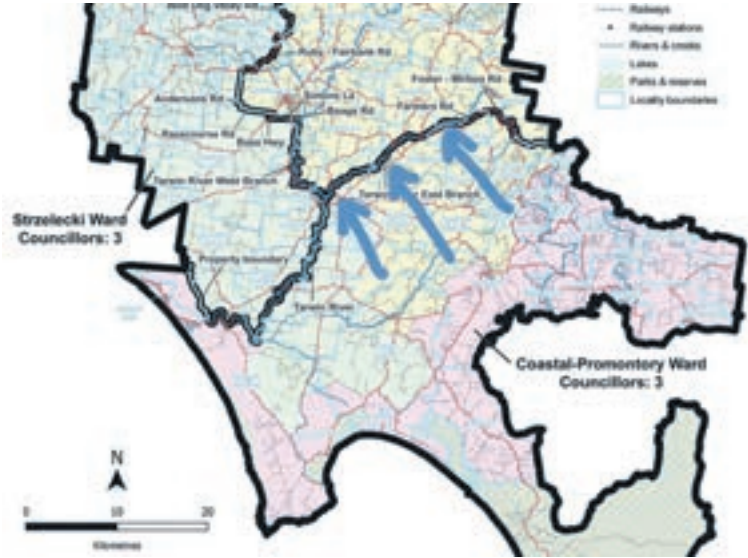
But they still only get three representatives.

The reason why there could be significantly more people eligible to vote in the Coastal Promontory ward this time around is that the VEC is proposing to shift the boundary north, to include Meeniyan and Dumbalk in a ward that already includes Venus Bay, Sandy Point, Foster and Fish Creek.

It would leave the Leongatha dominated Tarwin Valley Ward (9376 voters) and the Loch, Poowong, Nyora, Korumburra ward of Strzelecki (8752 voters), each getting three councillors at the table for considerably fewer votes.

But it's not as bad as it looks, when you consider that at the 2021 Census, just 24.3 per cent of the 1736 dwellings in Venus Bay were listed as permanently occupied (423 homes) and only 19.7 per cent of the 677 dwellings in Sandy Point.

All those property owners are ratepayers and therefore eligible to vote but while many of them don't, on paper at least, the new proposal put forward by the VEC does devalue the votes of all people in Coastal Promontory; including those in Meeniyan, Fish Creek, Foster, Toora and Welshpool as much as it does the property owners in



The townships of Meeniyan and Dumbalk would be added to a bigger Coastal Promontory Ward under a new South Gippsland Shire voting proposal.

Venus Bay and Sandy Point, by as much as 45 per cent compared with the voters of Tarwin Valley.

Here's what the VEC had to say about their 'Preliminary Model'

"After considering various options, the panel decided to put forward one model (for South Gippsland). The model was considered to affect a minimal number of voters, essentially shifting the current northern boundary of Coastal-Promontory Ward further north to rebalance its lower voter population relative to the two northern wards of Tarwin Valley and Strzelecki.

"While the panel explored other options, the preliminary model was the only structure considered appropriate for the communities of South Gippsland Shire. This is because the concentrated populations in the towns of Leongatha and Korumburra, coupled with the sparse population distribution throughout the centre of the shire, severely limits the ability to create sensible ward boundaries that adhere to the legisla-

ed +/-10% requirement.

"Of the models considered, this was the most stable for the purposes of adhering to the +/-10% requirement during the 2024 local government elections, but also has a reasonable chance to remain within legislated deviations for the 2028 elections too.

"An additional challenge to creating ward boundaries for South Gippsland is the high prevalence of council-enrolled voters found mostly in the south along the coastline, with notable concentrations around Venus Bay and Sandy Point. This factor further limited the options for creating sensible ward boundaries.

"Due to these constraints, the panel viewed other models that, while compliant with the Act, would likely not satisfactorily cater to communities of interest. This included options for splitting the coastal areas between wards, and options combining the disparate locations of Wilsons Promontory and Leongatha.

"In the preliminary model, the northern boundary of Coastal-

Promontory Ward now follows the Tarwin River and Tarwin River-East Branch for almost the entire length, with small deviations from the river in the east using roads, trails and property boundaries. This was regarded as a good outcome when considering the prominent nature of the river in the area, which presents as a strong and easily recognisable boundary.

"The panel also noted that most boundaries between the current Strzelecki and Tarwin Valley wards would remain in place in the preliminary model, with only very minor adjustments near Leongatha. This too was considered a good outcome as electors would likely be familiar with these boundaries, including the use of Tarwin Valley River-West Branch, roads, and property boundaries.

"The panel noted that shifting the Coastal-Promontory Ward boundaries further north might result in some communities that have less in common with the coastal area of the shire being included in a ward with these coastal areas. This shift would mean the more central towns of Meeniyan, Stony Creek and Dumbalk would now be contained within the southern CoastalPromontory Ward. While the panel acknowledged this could have potential drawbacks, and that these towns might constitute communities of interest more aligned with the north, it was felt that such change was necessary to sensibly rebalance all wards to adhere to the +/-10% requirement."

Those who wish to make a submission must do so by 5pm on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 and can opt to be heard at an online public hearing at 10am on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

See details: South Gippsland Shire Council | Victorian Electoral Commission (vec.vic.gov.au)



HELLO South Gippsland.

My heart breaks for our community. Almost all of our townships were impacted by the storm event last Tuesday, with some still facing impacts to power and internet connectivity.

Like they always do, our community has rallied around each other to provide support. We have also been lucky enough to receive offers of support from those outside our region who were devastated for our towns.

Council staff were and continue to have their feet on the ground in the community sharing up-to-date information, especially to communities with no reception.

With phone towers being knocked out, communications were extremely challenging not just for Council to the rest of the community, but between loved ones and neighbours.

Word of mouth and paper versions of updates were the go-to resource, and I want to thank everyone who has helped us share the updates.

Local SES, CFA crews and Victoria Police have been working tirelessly to support our community. Clearing roads, doing welfare checks and even providing a place for people to charge devices has been very welcomed.

The Salvation Army, Sikh Volunteers Australia, community houses, private businesses and more have been offering food relief such as hot free meals and food hampers. Keeping some of our hardest hit community members fed while they continue to clean up during a difficult time.

This has been a massive response from multiple agencies and I am really proud of how we have all worked together.

As time passes by, more and more personal stories of this event are coming to light. The psychological impact of this event cannot be underestimated. I encourage you to please talk to someone about what you have experienced to ensure you are getting the support you need.

Council continues to advocate for our region to ensure we get what we need from relief to clean up. We will keep you updated as much as possible.

Payments and Updates

Emergency Relief Payments are available through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for those who have experienced significant damage to their homes.

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund is also taking applications from those impacted, and is encouraging donations from those that want to help.

For more information on the emergency payments available and for the latest updates, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/stormeventupdate



South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerry Ellis, second from right, stands alongside Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan who heard from council of the pressing need for State Government assistance to clear hard waste resulting from the recent storm. Mayor Clare Williams, Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio and Upper House Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh are also pictured. A08_0824

Premier Allan hears of need for State Government assistance

MIRBOO North community member Sandra Kavanagh raised a pertinent question about waste disposal at the town's Friday Town Hall meeting, asking what assistance is available for residents to clear hard rubbish resulting from Tuesday's storm.

Having lost her Balook Street roof, she is concerned about the danger posed by the twisted corrugated iron should strong winds arise and is keen to clear the hard waste.

Sandra queried whether hard

waste can be disposed of for free, as is the case for green waste and spoiled food during the current two-week amnesty introduced by South Gippsland Shire Council that applies at the shire's transfer stations.

Council CEO Kerry Ellis explained to the Sentinel-Times that council is lobbying the State Government and Emergency Management Victoria, expressing her appreciation of Friday's Mirboo North visit by Premier Jacinta Allan.

"To be frank, it exceeds our capacity as a council to process all of that," Kerry said of the vast quantity of hard waste caused by the storm.

"So, this morning when I met with the Premier and later today with Emergency Management Victoria, we made it very clear to them that similar to the bushfire situation we need state coordination to clear that waste, and we'd be looking for the state to pick it up from people's properties so that they don't need to

transport it."

The council CEO is optimistic she will be able to make a positive announcement about that by early this week.

Kerry empathises with the challenge people are facing. "I can reassure them that we are advocating hard and clearly to the state that it's a state level issue just because of the sheer volume," she said.

She said both the Premier and Emergency Management Victoria were receptive.

CONVERSATIONwith Claire



Last week's emotional rollercoaster

By Claire Chitty

THE recent wild storm impacted our region in ways never seen before, leaving approximately 220,000 homes and businesses without power for days. We were camping in East Gippsland when heavy rain and wild winds brought down oak trees and plunged the area into darkness.

Like many vehicles, our petrol gauge was close to empty, but fortunately one small town, unaffected by the black-out, had petroleum. Petrol stations in larger settlements were closed, excluding Leongatha where desperate drivers, hoping to refuel, formed a tight queue around the block at the only operational service station.

We passed parked cars on the highway with shattered windscreens, feeling their pain, yet nothing prepared us for the destruction inflicted upon Mirboo North. We were speechless as we witnessed massive trees torn from the earth, their roots unceremoniously hanging in the air. Vegetation in the low-lying gully had branches completely slashed as if a giant hedge trimmer had pruned the entire woodland. Severed powerlines dangled haphazardly or lay lifeless on the footpaths where rescue workers diligently cleared roads. Luckily, most homes were spared extensive damage as teams of volunteers converged on the village to help with the clean-up and provide bottled water to stunned residents.

Locals impacted by the storm raced to suburbia for petrol, generators, gas, candles and other essentials whilst others anxiously listened for news updates via old fashioned radios. Friends with generators, generously shared space in their freezers and brewed cups of coffee which was gratefully received. Neighbours, no longer bound to technology, came out of their homes to talk to one another, and surplus fresh produce was gifted to those in need.

And, as with all natural disasters, the unharassed winds brought people together. Stories were exchanged of near misses as cars dodged falling trees trying to escape, faced with the dilemma of whether to stop and possibly be squashed or, make it to safety. Digital currency versus cash, the regret of food spoilage and our reliance on technology were hot topics. Clearly, towns, businesses, schools and households were affected but it could have been worse; fire and flood are far more detrimental.

Conversations turned to how we need to re-think how to do life differently rather than taking things for granted, and the importance of forward planning, including preserving food and sharing resources.

On a positive note, we felt more at peace and relaxed as we truly connected with one another, despite the uncertainty when electricity would be restored. Four days later, a resounding cheer was heard around the neighbourhood as appliances sprang into life; washing, cooking, vacuuming.

As we reflect on the last few days, despite the challenges, I'm reminded of Monty Python's 'Look on the bright side of life.' Not only are we incredibly blessed to live in an affluent country where we can flick a switch and have instant access to light, the importance of building connection and community is always something to strive towards and be grateful for.

Ways to communicate when the powers out and the network crashes

RECENT and current power and network outages have given good reason to prepare and plan for events which may become more common in the future given the increasing volatility of the weather and impact on infrastructure.

Having a plan and appropriate equipment in place to maintain a two way exchange with loved ones and emergency services is crucial for saving time, worry, hassle and in some instances even lives.

There are a number of ways to stay up to date with current conditions and to maintain communication with others as detailed by preparesolutions.com, when the whole network crashes.



An Amateur Radio is a wireless method of communication that can be used to contact others and is often used in times of natural disasters. Photo: Jo Naylor CC BY-NC 2.0.

Radio

A battery operated analogue radio will transmit news broadcasts and will inform where and when power and phone reception will be restored. Broadcasts will also inform of emergency situations and if people should stay in place or leave areas.

Landlines and Payphones

While landlines and pay phones are now few and far between, depending on how they are connected, if there is an unpowered handset, these phones will still work during a power/service outage.

CB Radio

A Citizen's Band (CB) radio is a public, two-way radio service that operates on multiple channels, over short distances.

Users can communicate across a range of up to 30 kilometres, either

from permanent base stations or via handheld transceivers.

Walkie Talkies

Walkie Talkies are an easy and dependable way to communicate, providing those communicating are on the same frequency.

A high-quality walkie talkie can have a range of up to 160 kilometres and there are a variety of brands to choose from.

Satellite Communicators

There are a range of Satellite Communicator devices on the market, ranging from a satellite stick that works in conjunction with a mobile phone, to a single handheld device.

These devices have varying capabilities but generally include interactive SOS, two-way text

messaging, location sharing, one-touch check-in, detailed weather reports and GPS technology.

Amateur (HAM) Radio

An Amateur Radio is a wireless method of communication that can be used to contact others and is often used in times of natural disasters.

However, these radios require training and a licence to use them. There are clubs placed all over Victoria with Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club operating locally, who do offer courses on how to use an amateur radio.

Ensure a battery source or back up power is available for the equipment that requires it. Prepare and plan before an event and share details with loved ones to ensure communication can be maintained in times when its most needed.

Power still out for some East Gippsland homes

SIXTY-two residents of Raymond Island near Bairnsdale were still without power on Sunday, five days after cyclonic winds swept through the area at about 5.30pm last Tuesday.

Other than Mirboo North and Yarram, Bairnsdale was one of the hardest hit areas in Gippsland with the roof torn off the East Gippsland Historical Society's heritage-listed building, powerlines out across the town and hundreds of trees snapped off at the base, throughout the district and around the town.

Bob Yeates who prints the Bairnsdale Advertiser and a number of publications on his huge Goss Community press in the town's CBD said his business only lost power for three hours, barely stopping the presses, but others weren't quite so lucky.

"Yes, a lot of the town was without power for days. I understand they've had to throw out a lot of spoiled food.

"I had one win though. The flowering gum fell down in our yard, and a huge branch flew over the fence from the neighbours and I didn't know how to get rid of it.

"But a couple of the shire's trees also came down out the front, so I cropped mine up, put it on top and the council took it all away. My rates finally put to good use!"

Mr Yeates said a ferocious wind swept through the town at about 5.30pm but was gone in only a few minutes.



RIGHT: Trees like this one were down all over Bairnsdale, one of the other places hit hard by Tuesday's storm, with power off in many places until Friday.

IT'S OUR COUNTRY RACING

Stony Creek Cup

Sunday 10 March - Labour Day long weekend

Food trucks - live music by Hurricane Duo
Funky Farm wildlife shows - face painting - pony rides
Influence Clothing Fashions on the Field
Reserved tables & umbrellas and Trackside Marquee on sale

 Stony Creek Racing Club

For more info, bookings & bus timetables:
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Local service at Yellow Brick Road Phillip Island

WHILE yet to establish an office, Yellow Brick Road is up and running on Phillip Island under branch principal and experienced mortgage broker Joe Reilly, offering a commitment to local and ongoing service for its loans clients.

Joe lives in Cape Woolamai, having moved there in 2019 after around six years in Coronet Bay.

He brings 23 years' experience with CBA, having a strong background in home loans and commercial business lending, and more recently working for a couple of years with a Melbourne-based mortgage broker.

Deciding it was time to set up a business locally, Joe considered another franchise or going it alone, deciding the brand name, marketing and back office support provided by Yellow Brick Road is ideal.

With current cost-of-living challenges making it more important not to be paying too much on your existing home loan, Joe outlined why he is in a position to help with refinancing.

"We're not dealing with just one bank; we've got a panel of lenders we have access to, so we can shop around to get the best rates and deal for our clients," he said.



Joe Reilly of Yellow Brick Road Phillip Island and Marty Reidy of Yellow Brick Road Leongatha. A10_0824

Joe noted that rates aren't the only consideration, with a focus on ensuring clients get the best product for them.

That includes overall loan features, such as the level of flexibility and options such as an offset account or redraw.

When establishing his business, Joe chatted to branch principal and mortgage broker at Yellow Brick Road Leongatha, Marty Reidy for advice.

While the pair are running their businesses independently, they are working together when beneficial, such as for advertising.

Marty sees their cooperation as a great opportunity to strengthen the brand throughout the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shires, creating greater awareness of what Yellow Brick Road offers.

"We're here for the long run," he said, contrasting that with recent rural bank branch closures.

Being locals leads to a strong focus on community, while Yellow Brick Road provides the support of one of the largest franchised networks in the mortgage broking industry.

Marty described Yellow

Brick Road as offering a "relationship-based service".

"We take care of everything," Joe said, explaining the business deals directly with the bank on a client's behalf.

He stressed that Yellow Brick Road's service continues well after settlement of the loan.

"The relationship goes on for years," Joe said, stressing clients are looked after for the journey.

While that may entail future client aspirations, such as buying an investment property a few years down the track, it could be as simple as ensuring they continue to get the best deal on their existing loan.

Yearly reviews of each client's interest rate situation are conducted to determine whether they should be getting a better rate, with Marty explaining what action Yellow Brick Road can take to help clients continue to get the best deal on their interest rates.

"We might be able to renegotiate that rate with their current lender, and if their current lender is not able to do anything we might say, "Ok, would you consider going to somebody else?"

Yellow Brick Road offers more than home loans, with commercial loans, asset finance and car loans among the other services available.

Petition protects pub performers

THE PUBLICANS of Mirboo North Hotel were distressed and saddened to be informed that the hotel's existence was under threat and their liquor license could be revoked, due to repeated noise complaints.

Live music events are often held on Sunday afternoons in the hotels outdoor space - designed during COVID so the community could continue to meet.

Zarn Kilpatrick and Dave Sims, the owners, also sought to support local musicians by providing a place for them to showcase their talents in a fun, family-friendly environment that everyone could enjoy.

"It's a great place for everyone to meet and socialise and it's family friendly. Inside it's not the same atmosphere, in the bar," explained Zarn.

The events typically go from 2pm - 5pm and noise levels have always been maintained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Authority guidelines.

Late last year Liquor Control Victoria (LCV) informed the publicans they had to cease holding outdoor events due to a series of ongoing complaints, allegedly made by one person. The complaint was never addressed directly with Zarn and Dave and the police had never attended. The publicans subsequently had to cancel all future music events planned for the venue.

There were further complaints made when music had not even been played.

When locals got wind of the issue and realised they would no longer be able to enjoy an afternoon in their local beer garden with live music, they voiced their consternation online.

A Facebook post on February 1 alerted the wider public to the news, racking up 173 sad, angry and surprised reactions, 14 shares and 252 comments, the majority of which expressed dismay at this decision and calls for a petition were made.

A Mirboo local, Laura Michael, organised an online petition 'Save the Mirboo North Hotel - Save Live Music!' It received 700 signatures overnight, and 1894 over the course of a week.

When Zarn found out about all the comments of support and the creation of the petition she realised how strongly the community were behind them and said she was quite overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for the community.

Zarn believes people power and the passionate voice of the community helped to have the original decision to ban live music at the venue overturned.

She was contacted on Monday February 12 by LCV to inform her that live music will be once again allowed at the venue, outside, on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

LCV said they were required to overturn their decision as they weren't able to access the property or properties from which the complaints were made, thereby rendering the complaints void.

"I wasn't expecting this. I was expecting to have to keep on fighting," Zarn said.

"I am absolutely stoked and extremely happy with the outcome," she said.

"I'm proud of the town for backing us. I believe music is for everyone and should be available for everyone."

Sandy Point's bus to run on its first scheduled service

THE SANDY Point Bus Management Committee (SPBMC) is getting ready to launch a scheduled service for 'Sandy,' their new Community E - Bus.

Sandy is a shuttle service that transports residents and visitors from Sandy Point, Waratah Bay and the surrounding areas to where they need to be.

The vehicle is a fully electric 10 seater bus with wheelchair lifting and carrying capabilities.

On Friday March 1 the first official drive of Sandy on its newly scheduled service will run.

A scheduled service will be in place for Mondays and Tuesdays, with volunteer drivers available for the rest of the week, however services on these days may depend on bookings.

La Trobe University are also undertaking a two year pilot program of the service and are asking bus users to fill



The Sandy Point communities new electric bus 'Sandy' will run on its first official scheduled service on Friday March

out a survey to help understand who will be using the bus, why, where they want to go and when, in order to help develop longer term schedules and services.

La Trobe will help SPBMC to manage results, data and information from the trial and

will then be helping to manage the best possible outcome for the community.

The bus has been running over the past couple of weeks and Danny Milton, a member of SPBMC and Project Engagement Officer for La Trobe University said that it had so

far been used for a variety of purposes.

They had taken ad hoc bookings and had also had requests for transport to places such as bowls in Fish Creek, shopping in Foster, medical appointments and socialising in Leongatha and to the V/Line connection as well as to and from private social functions in various places.

There won't be any standard fees for the bus service, but the SPBMC, who are a non-profit organisation are looking to see that bus users becomes non-executive members of the committee and then make a donation.

Sandy is fully electric but she hasn't yet been run too low and drivers have never had to charge the bus for more than two and a quarter hours, when they dropped down to about 39 per cent charge.

To find out more about Sandy and inquire about a booking go to sandypointbus.wixsite.com/ebus.



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A guide to eye health for kids

AS THE kids settle into school for 2024, it's the perfect time to ensure your child is set up for a successful academic journey. With the increasing use of digital devices among kids, safeguarding their vision is paramount. Here are some essentials for maintaining optimal eye health and learning opportunities for the upcoming school year.

The Digital Dilemma:

The surge in digital device usage is linked to a rise in short-sightedness (myopia) among children, posing potential risks to their eye health. Research underlines some critical points:

- Myopia is on the rise due to digital device use, carrying significant eye health risks.
- Vision problems in children are associated with reduced attention capacity compared to their peers.
- Learning difficulties in children often stem from underlying vision problems, making optometry a crucial player in improving academic outcomes.
- A study in Queensland found that 25 per cent of tested primary school children had confirmed vision problems, correlating with lower NAPLAN scores.

Why Regular Vision Checks Matter:

Ensuring regular vision checks for all children is vital. At Leongatha Optometrists, our experienced Optometrists take a holistic approach to children's eye tests. We consider various factors, including brain function, ocular muscles, nerves, psychology, learning ability, and development.

What You Can Do:

Book your child's eye test online at leongathaoptometrists.com.au or call us at 5662 3485. Our friendly team is ready to assist you in prioritising your child's eye health.

Managing Myopia

Myopia, or short-sightedness, can hinder a child's ability to see distant

objects clearly, impacting classroom performance and overall well-being. Regular eye exams play a crucial role in ensuring success in academics, sports, and play activities.

Leongatha Optometrists use the industry-leading myopia control options available in Australia, and being independent means we are able to use special spectacle lenses, contact lenses and eye drops to control myopia. The most effective treatment depends on the binocular vision of the child which will be assessed by our Optometrists.

Signs to Watch For:

Parents should remain vigilant for signs of vision issues, including squinting, headaches, eye rubbing, and excessive proximity to objects or the TV. Optometrist visits can swiftly identify problems, enabling the formulation of effective plans.

Recommended Steps for Parents:

1. Get a Vision Check: Optometry visits are painless, covered by Medicare, and can even be enjoyable for kids.
2. Get Outside: Ensure your child spends at least two hours outdoors daily, a crucial factor in myopia prevention.
3. Get Some Variety: Limit screen time, adopt the 20/20/20 rule, and encourage breaks to promote eye health.
4. Get Further Away: Discourage holding books or devices too close and maintain a Harmon working distance.
5. Get More Sleep: Aim for over nine hours of sleep per day, avoiding late-night device use.

Equip your child for a successful school year by prioritising their eye health. At Leongatha Optometrists, we're dedicated to supporting your child's vision and learning journey. leongathaoptometrists.com.au

Mention this ad in store during the months of February and March to receive 20 per cent off myopia control aids.

Kinder kits a hit at San Remo preschool

JORDAN Crugnale MP visited San Remo Pre-School recently to deliver the creative kinder kits to the delight and enthusiasm of the three-year-old children. All 44 of them will take one home which are designed to encourage continued learning.

The kits help parents and carers support their children to thrive in their first year of kinder with activities to develop language and social skills, and express emotions and creativity.

The illustrated kinder kit activity box is made from recycled materials – designed and built for flexible, long-term use. The box folds into an easel, includes a chalkboard, and can be laid out flat as a space for imaginative play.

The kit includes Tinta crayons, chalk, Ultimatum felt puppets, Tiger Tribe shape shakers, Seed Collection alfalfa seeds, a Hardie Grant jigsaw puzzle map of Australia featuring First Nations placenames and state flora and fauna emblems, Cherub Baby balancing gems, and Flip Make Play family playing cards. Children also receive two books by Australian authors from the following list: Birds In The Bush by Auntie Fay Stewart-Muir and Jeannette Rowe, which can be read in Boon wurrung and English; I Just Ate My Friend by Heidi McKinnon; Heads and Tails by John Canty; and Where is Galah? by Sally Morgan.

The 2024 kinder kit comes with an illustrated family guide featuring simple and creative ways to engage children in activities that help them to play, learn and develop. Additional tips and ideas, plus online resources, including how-to videos



Three-year-old kindergarten students Casper, Navy and Millah with Bass MP Jordan Crugnale during her visit to San Remo Pre-School. Z01_0824

and Auslan readings of the Kit's books, are available via a handy QR code.

"These kits are fun, encourage inquisitiveness and creativity and are about children discovering themselves and the world around them through play. It's fabulous they get to take them home to share with their families who are an integral part of their learning journey."

"Thank you to the San Remo Preschool team who have been extraordinary in welcoming the new group of children – there is plenty to do, areas to explore, books to check out and paint stations all set up and importantly includes a few necessary quiet zones," said Jordan.

Each item in the kit is age-appropriate, child-safe, and inclusive, and has been recommended by education experts to

help families make play-based learning part of their child's everyday life.

All kinder kit suppliers are Australian – with many Victorian businesses, creative talent and makers proudly represented in the kit's design and items.

Kinder kits are part of the Labor Government's \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms – giving every Victorian child the very best start to their education, while saving families money and supporting parents back into the workforce.

"We are also supporting our community with our Free Kinder initiative where families are saving up to \$2500 per child every year and also means more than 28,000 Victorians, the majority of whom are women, have greater flexibility to return or start work if they choose."

San Remo to embrace nature with expanded bush kinders

CHILDREN in Bass will have the chance to learn and play in the great outdoors, thanks to an expansion of bush kinder programs by the Allan Labor Government.

Jordan Crugnale MP recently announced that San Remo Kindergarten will receive one-off grants of \$6000 to offer a bush kinder program in 2024.

Bush kinder programs are delivered outdoors at places including parks, bushland, and beaches – giving children a unique opportunity and freedom to learn through play

with natural materials in outdoors.

"Bush kinder programs are not just fun and educational, they also help to keep kids' active outdoors and connect them with our natural environment – boosting their health, wellbeing and development," said Jordan.

The \$6000 grants will help kindergartens buy the equipment they need to run programs that focus on getting outside, playing with natural materials, and learning through activities such as climbing trees and watching wildlife.

Kindergartens without access to a suitable off-site location can use their grant funding to enhance the biodiversity of their existing outdoor environment.

Bush kinder programs funded in this grant round start at the beginning of Term 3, 2024.

Applications for the 2025 round of another 150 bush kinder grants will open in the second half of 2024.

To find out which kindergartens are receiving a bush kinder grant, visit vic.gov.au/bush-kinder-grants-program.

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The team at Sunscape Solar have all your household batteries, solar panels and hybrid system needs covered offering special pricing as part of the bulk buying initiative.

Discounted batteries and solar panels on offer

THE Mycelia Energy Collective, a local charity and social enterprise based in Bass, in partnership with Sunscape Solar in Grantville are offering special pricing on household batteries, solar panels and hybrid systems through their first solar and battery bulk buy program. Earthworker Cooperative heat pump hot-water system representatives will also be participating.

The bulk buy was announced in early February, a week before the recent state-wide power outage, and will be valid throughout 2024 to members of the Mycelia Energy Collective.

The program has been designed to reduce barriers for people who are interested in owning a battery or solar panel system or installing a heat pump hot water system, but haven't managed to take the leap. The partners are providing trusted local advice, information on what rebates and no-interest loans you may be eligible for, and support identifying the right systems for your household needs and budget.

Communication and Engagement Manager for Mycelia, Sierra Dunton says: "We designed this bulk buy in response to our member survey; people expressed an overwhelming interest in owning household batteries and needing trusted sources of information on what their options are.

"Cost and access to reliable information are major barriers for people. There is so much info out there to wade through, that for many, making a confident decision can be quite challenging."

Mycelia's bulk buy program offers three different price points and different solar and battery sizes, so more people have an opportunity to start generating their own power, possibly even storing it in a battery for evening use or power outages.

"As far as getting the right advice, our partners at Sunscape Solar are great to work with and really prioritise trust and customer relationships," says Sierra.

"The Earthworker hot water tank is manufactured in Gippsland and has a

15-year warranty, which is considerably better than most similar systems.

"I think people living in regional areas are starting to sense the ongoing cost of not having a level of energy resilience. The impacts for some are massive and we're looking at the possibility of outages becoming more frequent. If you've been considering a battery, we really encourage you to get in touch to get some specific info about what might work for you and what it might cost so you can make the right decision."

Speed Date an Energy Expert – Sunday March 3, Kilocunda Community Hall

If you are interested in purchasing household solar or battery or a heatpump, you're invited to a Speed Date an Energy Expert Event on Sunday, March 3. Experts from Sunscape Solar, Earthworker Energy Manufacturing Cooperative and the Mycelia Energy Collective will be there to help identify what battery or solar system is right for you, what it'll likely cost you (out-of-pocket) and how to be more resilient during the next power outage.

30 minute one-on-one sessions with Sunscape Solar and Earthworker Cooperative reps are available throughout the day for individualised advice. Or you can drop-in anytime from 9.30am – 4pm to speak to the team at Mycelia about becoming a member and the other services they offer. To make a booking and for bulk buy pricing, email info@mycelia.org.au or visit fb.me/e/3f4BoDN9A

Join the Mycelia Energy Collective

Discounted bulk buy pricing on batteries and solar is available to Mycelia Energy Collective members only. If you're interested in joining, jump online to compare their rates with what you're paying now. Swapping energy providers takes about five minutes. The time for change is now – thepeoplesgrid.com/collectives/mycelia-energy-collective

Sunday, March 3rd

Kilocunda Community Hall
9.30am - 4pm

Speed Date an Energy Expert

Interested in buying a household battery, solar panels or a heat pump hot water system?

Book a session with an expert for free advice on the best options for your home energy needs and budget. Find out about rebates and no-interest loans and out-of-pocket costs.

Mycelia Energy Collective members receive discounted prices on batteries and solar!

30-min 1-on-1 sessions available:

- Sunscape Solar - household solar and batteries
- Earthworker Cooperative - heat pump & solar hot water systems

Mycelia Energy Collective will be there all day so come talk to us about becoming a member!

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DESCRIPTION	CAPACITY	PRODUCT CODE	PRICE
Rigid	300 Kg	R2007	\$18.95
Swivel	300 Kg	S2006	\$21.95
Swivel + Brake	300 Kg	S2006B	\$24.95

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DESCRIPTION	CAPACITY	PRODUCT CODE	PRICE
Rigid	600 Kg	R3007	\$32.95
Swivel	600 Kg	S3006	\$40.95
Swivel + Brake	600 Kg	S3006B	\$50.95

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100mm Rebound Rubber Wheel

DESCRIPTION	CAPACITY	PRODUCT CODE	PRICE
Rigid	150 Kg	R4043	\$31.95
Swivel	150 Kg	S4042	\$35.95
Swivel + Brake	150 Kg	S4042B	\$41.95

100mm Polyurethane Tyred Nylon Centred Wheel

DESCRIPTION	CAPACITY	PRODUCT CODE	PRICE
Rigid	200 Kg	R4045	\$30.95
Swivel	200 Kg	S4044	\$39.95
Swivel + Brake	200 Kg	S4044B	\$48.95

100mm Nylon Wheel

DESCRIPTION	CAPACITY	PRODUCT CODE	PRICE
Rigid	200 Kg	R4033	\$31.95
Swivel	200 Kg	S4032	\$38.95
Swivel + Brake	200 Kg	S4032B	\$51.95

Mark your calendar for the Questacon Science Circus tour

QUESTACON'S Science Circus is touring the Gippsland region of Victoria to visit local primary schools from February 13 to March 2.

While in the region, the Science Circus will offer a range of free events for the community, including Pop-Up Science Centres that deliver spectacular science experiences.

Making an appearance on March 2 at SPLASH Leongatha from 10am to 4pm, the Science Circus' Pop-Up Science Centre is filled with over 30 hands-on science exhibits and unforgettable science shows that run regularly throughout the day.

"We're excited to bring Questacon to the Gippsland region and provide opportunities for the community to engage with STEM" said Finlay Gordon, Science Circus Coordinator.

"Science and technology play a huge part in our daily lives and the pop-up science centre offers the whole community an opportunity to get hands-on and explore science for themselves."

You can freeze your shadow, test your reflexes, see how fast you can really throw and even explore angular momentum by spinning yourself silly.

Questacon's science communicators will help you discover more about science and how science impacts the world around us.

Visiting a Pop-Up Science Centre is a great opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to share, discover and engage with science together.

Visiting a Pop-Up Science Centre is free; however pre-booking is essential. Book at premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=QUESTACO20

The Questacon Science Circus is a proud initiative of Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre and Founding Partner, the Australian National University.

A small school with a big heart



Prep students Emmy Lee and Eden Manallack embraced their first class on their first day of school.



Jasmine Turton, Jemima Aitken and Isabel Goss were excited to start their last year of school on the Year 12 Forum Day.

OUR children deserve a happy, nurturing environment right from their very first day at school. Newhaven College considers the needs of every child as they make a 'new start' at any year level.

The Junior School takes pride in nurturing Prep to Year 4 children in their early years of learning, to produce happy, considerate, empathetic and well-rounded young people. Small class sizes and a strong academic focus in a caring and values-based environment allow young learners to develop confidence, resilience and a 'have a go' attitude.

As students progress through the Middle and Senior Schools, they discover the College's ethos is based upon mutual respect between teachers and students. A high standard of social and academic achievements is actively encouraged. Catering to individual differences among students places great importance on each student being known and their individual needs met.

Strengthening each student's self-esteem and sense of community equips each of them with the qualities required for their senior years at school and beyond. Newhaven students build self-confidence and a team spirit. Every student is encouraged to embrace new experiences and immerse themselves in College life by participating in the vast co-curricular program. You never know, your child might find a passion for Music, Drama, Public Speaking, Surfing, Equestrian, Cultural Exchanges or a wide variety of House Competitions.

Newhaven College is located at 1770 Phillip Island Road in the heart of Phillip Island. Your family is invited to visit on Saturday March 16 between 10am and 2pm.

For enrolment enquiries please contact Belinda Manning, at 5956 7505.



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**2025 Year 7
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Newhaven College is offering Academic Scholarships for applicants entering Year 7 in 2025. Tests will be held at the College Saturday, 23 March 2024. Applications are now open and close Friday 15 March 2024.

For information and to apply, visit www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/enrolments/scholarships

All enquiries should be directed to our registrar Belinda Manning on 03 5956 7505 or email belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu.au



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40 proud years for Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre

WONTHAGGI Neighbourhood Centre (WNC) had plenty of reasons to celebrate their 40th birthday on the weekend showcasing their incredible commitment to the community.

There was plenty to do for all with food stalls, activities and entertainment with the family named after Mitchell House in attendance to mark the occasion.

Sue Macaulay, who has long been involved with WNC, spoke of original objectives that led to the establishment of the house.

“The aims were to establish a welcoming and supportive environment where people of all ages would feel free to drop in, thereby encouraging mutual support and friendship and lessening isolation,” she told a healthy crowd.

“Obviously, our aim was to offer occasional childcare through the voluntary involvement of people in the community.

“The objectives work to create a place which enables parents to share childbearing responsibilities and to support one another.

“And to foster links of friendship and support between people living near one another, to create a place where children can play learn and to relate and communicate with people of all ages, thereby developing confidence and independence.”



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale and WNC manager Leslie Adams were proud to celebrate the centre's 40th birthday. Ns01_0824

In attendance at the event was Kendra Mitchell, whose parents Mitchell House was named after and were instrumental in creating WNC.

According to the Wonthaggi Historical Society, Ross (father) was an Apexian and Lorraine (mother) was the first president of WNC.

They were tragically killed in a car accident in 1982.

“To have a legacy like this, that's such an important part of the community, is an

absolute honour. I'm so proud of it, it's incredible,” Kendra said.

Sadly Kendra's brother passed away in 2017, but fortunately one of the manager's at the time was a celebrant and they were able to hold his memorial funeral there.

“That was amazing, it's (Mitchell House) just a really special place,” she said.

Over the years, WNC at Mitchell House has grown and grown to meet the needs of

the community especially during COVID lockdowns and the current cost of living crisis.

This includes the Wonthaggi Food Collective, which began in late 2018.

The collective buys bulk foods and household items for the community to then purchase.

There are always plenty of activities and programs on offer at WNC, be sure to visit wonthaggi-neighbourhood-centre.com for more information.

Month-long festival to celebrate young Victorians

THE skills and achievements of Victoria's young people will be on show right across the state later this year at a month-long festival supported by the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Youth Natalie Suleyman announced on Thursday an investment of \$220,000 to deliver up to 110 events across the state for and by young Victorians.

Grants of \$2000 are available for youth organisations, local government and schools to partner with Victorians aged 12 to 25 to create a wide variety of events for young people in their communities.

Youth Fest kicks off in September and this investment will support young people to organise and deliver events, showcase their skills, share ideas, build social connections, and expand their networks.

Applications are open until March 15. To apply and find out more visit youthfest.vic.gov.au.

Warm welcome for new pastor

WONTHAGGI Baptist Church extends a warm welcome to the Induction Service of Pastor Sandro Schietroma.

We would like to welcome our local Churches, friends and community members to join with us; it is a time to worship, celebrate, commit their ministry and fellowship together.

Pastor Sandro along with his wife Susan have ministered in regional country Churches throughout his career, coming to us after serving at Warrnambool Kardinia Church for over 10 years.

They come with a strong sense of God's calling.



Adventure awaits in Drouin



Is it time for your child to begin their educational adventure? Whether starting Kindergarten or Prep, St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's new Drouin Campus may just be the perfect place!

Opening in 2025, St Paul's will offer a vibrant, contemporary and welcoming Early Learning Centre and Primary School in Drouin. Expanding annually to reach Year 6, all students will then be guaranteed a Secondary School place at our Warragul Campus.

To discover the difference a St Paul's education can make for your child, please contact our Enrolments Officer, Bonnie Cameron, on 5623 5833 or email enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au

Enrol now for 2025

Apply now for Pre-Kinder to Year 2

Express your interest in Year 3 to Year 6

stpaulsags.vic.edu.au/discover/drouin



Give back to make a real difference

DESTINATION Phillip Island partnered with the regenerative tourism alliance under the company Regeneration Projects and the Love Phillip Island Millowl campaign had businesses and community members volunteering their time on Monday morning cleaning up the Cowes foreshore.

The collaboration is trialing an environmental initiative to get the community involved in being active on Phillip Island, whether that be volunteering at a beach clean-up day, donating to plant a tree with Phillip Island Landcare, or helping future proof the little penguin habitat.

Serena Cabello of Destination Phillip Island shared that on Monday morning, volunteers were signing up at the Cowes pop up event – willing to take a bag and pick up rubbish during their morning walk, they would then dispose of it appropriately either at home or onsite in Cowes, where the Bass Coast Shire Council team were there to assist with correct disposal.

Only half an hour into the community event, two bags of rubbish had been filled with volunteers finding glass, beer cans, cable ties from local markets and general waste, both on the foreshore and caught up in the bushes.

Serena shared that although the foreshore in direct sight looks quite clean, it is still important to share the message of disposing rubbish appropriately.

“Volunteers can assist in cleaning up the beaches by registering online.

“The Cowes event was managed by Destination Phillip Island, but Phillip Island Land Alliance have organised one in each area, with local coast care groups asking for more volunteers to lend a hand,” said Serena.

For more information on how to get involved, go online to visitphillipisland.com.au and help care for the wildlife by supporting a local environment project.

SES volunteers strive to lead

PHILLIP Island and San Remo towns are rapidly evolving and with the increase in emergency services required to accommodate a greater population, the Sentinel Times spoke with couple Ellie Bate and Elder Bejar who recently signed up as volunteers for the San Remo SES unit.

Ellie, Elder and their two-year-old daughter Mia moved to Phillip Island in July last year; sharing that after 10 years of living in New Zealand they made the decision to relocate to Australia to be closer to family.

“I initially joined the SES late last year and our Unit Controller Mandy Chancellor was adamant she wanted more women to get involved and therefore provided amazing support to Ellie – a new mum to Mia – to get her onboard to join the unit,” said Elder.

“We chose to join SES to engage in the community and meet likeminded people, put our current skills to good use, and learn a new skillset,” Ellie explained.

The pair volunteered in smaller roles in New Zealand. Ellie was part of Dogwatch Sanctuary Trust in Christchurch helping with the rehoming of abandoned and surrendered dogs and Elder had volunteered for a number of years for 180 Degrees Trust as a youth mentor for ‘at risk youth’ on the Southern Alps Traverse.

They both have long history in tourism, with Elder (originally from Peru) a guide his entire working career, guiding



San Remo SES volunteers Ellie Bate, and Elder Bejar with two-year-old daughter Mia. Z06_0824

hiking and biking trips in South America, New Zealand, the Himalayas, and Europe.

“I have guided hiking and biking trips in New Zealand too, although I have also been in operations and logistics roles, sales, and customer service,” said Ellie.

With the pair currently taking a break from tourism before they launch their very own tour company, guiding trips in Peru and Nepal, Elder is working construction here on Phillip Island, whilst

Ellie is an employee at the renowned Rusty Water Brewery.

As well as taking on these new roles here on Phillip Island and becoming parents to little Mia, the pair are still selflessly finding the time to volunteer for their new community.

“We’re both currently still in the preoperational phase at the SES, as we’re waiting to get through the induction. Elder will then be operational, and I will be a mix of both,” said Ellie.

“Mandy has been so supportive, especially in encouraging me to join the unit. She is very passionate that there is a place for anyone at the SES regardless of whether they’re working full time or even a new mum with a young family – just like myself.

“There is a place for anyone no matter your skillset or circumstance, so if you’re thinking of becoming a volunteer and joining the SES, I highly recommend that you just do it!” said Ellie.



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All-Electric Homes: Wednesday, 6 March, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Going all-electric is an essential step in making your home as sustainable as it can be, and yet it is hard to know where to start and what steps to take.

Electric Vehicles: Wednesday, 13 March, 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Electric vehicles are finally arriving in Australia. So what sort of home setup is required, and what are things to look out for when thinking about buying one?



BASS COAST



South Gippsland Shire Council

Western Port Ferries offer adventure

ADVENTURE awaits aboard Western Port Ferries, with the business' vessels connecting Cowes on Phillip Island with French Island and the Mornington Peninsula's Stony Point.

Sentinel-Times travelled to French Island on MV Naturaliste, named after French ship Le Naturaliste, which was captained by Jacques Hamelin who named French Island in 1802.

An enthusiastic group of members of the Avan Club of Australia, who were holidaying in Cowes in their A-shaped caravans, enjoyed the chance to venture to French Island, some bringing their canine companions on the journey.

Warragul's Lyn Duffy, one of the Avan group, said on the way over that she was looking forward to lunch at the French Island General store.

She was delighted to hear members of the Ferguson Tractor Club would be stopping there during their French Island Tractor Trek, her father having owned a Fergie.

Captain of MV Naturaliste, Toby Lever, has enjoyed his almost six years with Western Port Ferries.

"I love being on the water; it's a great office," he said.

"You meet lots of good people and see wildlife including dolphins, seals and penguins, and whales during the winter months."

Toby added that every day is different and outlined some of what people can look forward to on French Island.

"It's great if you enjoy walking or bike riding; there's no traffic on the roads and it's all dirt roads," he said.

He again highlighted wildlife, noting French Island contains many koalas and echidnas.

"There are snakes as well but they tend to keep out of the way," the captain said.

The French Island General Store has buses to transport ferry passengers

from the jetty to its pleasant setting.

The store not only offers meals and groceries but also hires bikes, eBikes and even a car for those wanting to explore the island.

There is also a winery, French Island Vineyards, which offers wines including Pinot Noir, Pinot Grigio and Shiraz.

French Island, about a third larger than Phillip Island, has a population of 105 people and doesn't fall under the auspices of any shire council, although its general store operator Tanya Le Serve is the daughter of Bass Coast Shire mayor Clare Le Serve.

Car registration only recently became a requirement for those whose vehicles remain on French Island.

There is no provided power or water on the island, with residents reliant on generators and catching rainwater.

For those wanting to stay, there is a campground on the island.

Whilst onboard Captain Toby also outlined Western Port Ferries' Stony Point service.

"We're an extension of the train line that runs from Frankston to Stony Point," he said, explaining the ferry connects to Phillip Island and French Island from there.

While awaiting their return journey from French Island to Cowes, Errol Lobo and daughter Yasmin of Melbourne's Heathmont, spoke of their adventurous day after travelling over on the early ferry from Cowes at 7.40am.

Both explored on foot, initially trying to find the Pinnacles.

"It's a different environment, very peaceful and nice to see how they work on the island and how it operates," Yasmin said.

The pair both commented on the kindness and helpfulness of the locals.

Soon MV Naturaliste had whisked its troupe of Avangers and others back to Cowes to reflect on a great trip.



MV Naturaliste arrives in Cowes, ready for the next load of French Island explorers. A22_0824



Warragul's Lyn Duffy looks forward to arriving on French Island. A23_0824



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Inverloch veterans recently found healing and connection through a kayaking and sand art day at Port Smythe.

Well-being program promotes mental health of veterans

THE Inverloch RSL recently organised a captivating well-being program event for veterans, which included a kayaking and sand art day at Point Smythe. The aim of the event was to promote the welfare and mental health of veterans and to showcase the Inverloch RSL Sub Branch's outstanding work in creating innovative experiences for the veteran community.

A group of local veterans embarked on a thrilling kayaking adventure, paddling their way across the waters of Anderson's Inlet from Inverloch to Point Smythe. Expert trainers from Offshore Surf School provided guidance and support to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all participants. The serene and peaceful surroundings heightened the sense of calmness throughout the journey. After kayaking, the veterans participated in a therapeutic sand art activity led by creative arts therapist, Dr Carla van Laar. Working within a giant circle to create an over-sized mandala, participants crafted intricate patterns and designs using sand sculpture and found objects. Participants reported that this process assisted them to express themselves and find inner peace.

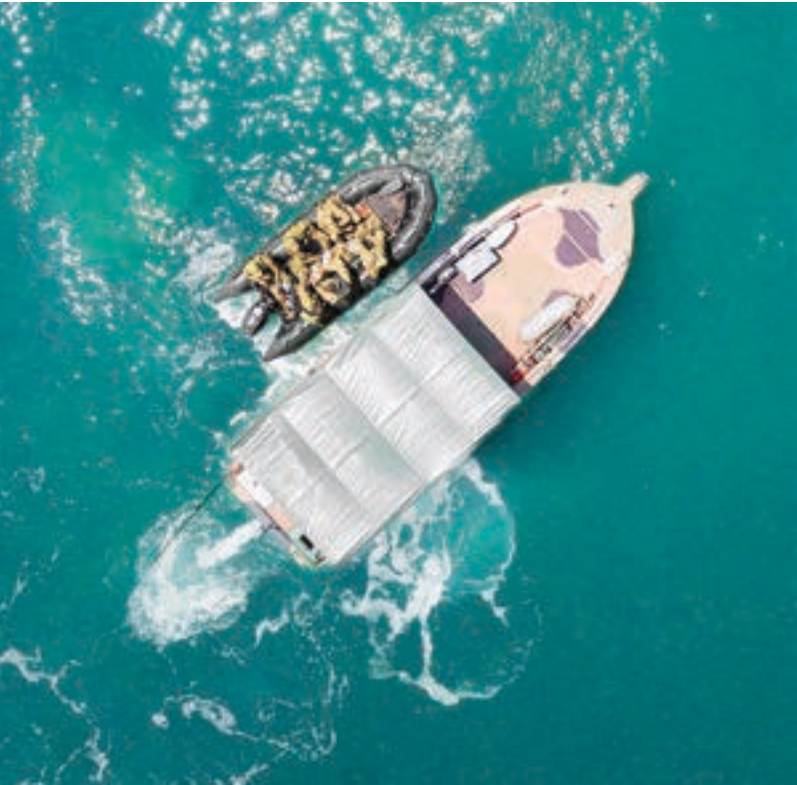
Dr. van Laar, a leader in the field of creative mental health, commended the recent Inverloch RSL well-being program event. She explained, "There is plenty of research showing that physical exercise, time in natural environments, and engaging in creative activities promotes relaxation, reduces stress, and enhances overall mental wellbeing. The most important evidence for us though, is the self-reporting and testimonials from our veteran participants themselves. The contrast between how they feel before and after engaging in a day like the kayaking and sand art adventure to Point Smythe is compelling verification. The Inverloch RSL's well-being program allows veterans to experience the calming beauty of Mother Nature, engage in meaningful experiences together, and reconnect with their inner resources".

The success of this well-being program event is a testament to the remarkable work being done by the Inverloch RSL Sub Branch. Their commitment to organising unique and engaging activities reflects their deep understanding of the diverse needs and interests of the veteran community. By designing events that combine physical exertion, artistic expression, and connection with nature, the Sub Branch actively contributes to the overall well-being of veterans and their families. The Inverloch RSL Sub Branch continually strives to promote a sense of camaraderie, support, and belonging among veterans. Through their innovative programs and initiatives, they create environments that foster the growth of strong social connections, promote mental and emotional well-being, and remind veterans of the importance of self-care and self-expression.

Army signaller puts his training to the test



Australian Army soldier Signaller William Horvath from Joint Task Force 629 onboard the Bandicoot Landing Craft located off the coastline of North Western Australia during Operation Resolute.
Photos: Corporal Madhur Chitnis.



An Australian Army Zodiac watercraft and Regional Patrol Craft with soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment onboard conduct a patrol in the Kimberley Marine Park region in North Western Australia during Operation Resolute.



Soldiers from the 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, conduct a surveillance patrol through the Kimberley Marine Park in North Western Australia as part of Operation Resolute.

DEPLOYING on his first operation so early in his military career was a welcome surprise for South Gippsland born and bred Signaller William Horvath.

Having qualified as a battlespace communication specialist last September, the rapid transition from training to deployment marked a significant and unexpected opportunity.

After 14 months' initial employment training at the School of Signals, Signaller Horvath posted to the 1st Combat Signal Regiment last year.

With just four days' notice, he deployed to support Operation Resolute in the Kimberley Marine Park region of Western Australia, attached to the 5th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, in December.

Operation Resolute is the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contribution to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

"First operation, first ever field or anything outside of initial employment training. It's extremely exciting to sort of cut your teeth straight away on the tools," Signaller Horvath said.

"Being a signaller offers a perfect balance between technical trade skills and thriving in a field operational environment. Operating independently has been a robust challenge, allowing me to apply and refine the trade skills I worked hard to acquire during training."

During his deployment, Signaller Horvath provided a detached, dismounted radio system for beyond-line-of-sight communications for the ADF contingent stationed in the Kimberley Marine Park, linking back to the Joint Operations Room located 600km away at Robertson Barracks, Darwin.

He collaborated with the Australian Border Force crew, conducting reconnaissance of their vessels to assess communications suitability.

"I've been ensuring 24x7 communications for the task unit commander, enabling seamless connectivity with both higher headquarters and our lower command elements. It's been a dedicated effort to maintain effective communication across the board," Signaller Horvath said.

Born in Wonthaggi, the 25-year-old grew up in Leongatha. Always harbouring a desire to join the Army, the road to enlistment proved challenging. His first attempt during high school in 2015 faced a setback because of medical issues.

He embarked on a plumbing apprenticeship, eventually becoming a registered plumber, successfully running his own business for seven years. In 2022, he finally realised his dream, enlisting as a battlefield communications specialist.

By Corporal Madhur Chitnis

"Mum, Dad and my family are immensely supportive of my endeavours," Signaller Horvath said.

For the first time, the young signaller spent Christmas away from home while deployed on Operation Resolute.

"The current deployment has been over Christmas and naturally I had to cancel my leave to see my parents, but they're well and truly understanding," he said.

Signaller Horvath treated the challenges during the deployment as an opportunity to enhance his confidence with the various communications set-ups he built throughout the operation.

"I took this as a strong opportunity to sort of sink or swim, quite literally, being on the ocean. Our Army communication suites aren't necessarily designed for operating on ships. Working in the littoral environment has presented a formidable challenge, and I've been learning something new almost every second," he said.

While operating on the ocean provides favourable conditions for the propagation of radio signals, thanks to the conductivity of salt-water, it also presents a challenge.

This is particularly true for marine vessels like the Maritime Vessel Bandicoot.

Metal is an ultra-conductive material that can impact radio frequencies.

When marine vessels constantly change direction, it poses a challenge for battlespace communication, as radio antennas are directional.

"I must be cognitive of the radio hazard being emitted from the radios and consider the safety of both the military and Australian Border Force embarked crew, as well as the civilian crew aboard the vessel," he said.

Signaller Horvath said with new waveforms and capabilities continually being discovered, and technology advancing rapidly, it was an exciting time for battlefield communications specialists.

"I take immense pride in performing this job. Following Operation Resolute, I aim to make use of the knowledge I have gained to contribute to 1st Combat Brigade's transition to its increased operations within a littoral environment. I want to share my insights and continue to build relationships in my new unit," Signaller Horvath said.

"I'm currently posted here for the next five years. I absolutely love Darwin and the people I work with. Darwin has given me a lot very early in my career. 1st Brigade has provided me opportunities very early on, so I'll certainly stick around and try to give back to it."

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Sleek new showroom at Edney's Leongatha

A SECOND sleek, bright and new showroom housing and displaying the latest range of Hyundai vehicles is now open at Edney's Leongatha.

The showroom is in addition to the Nissan showroom upstairs and houses seven vehicles from the Hyundai range, including fully electric and hybrid vehicles.

Customers can browse the latest vehicles in comfort and style and discuss the finer points over a coffee in the contemporary lounge area of the showroom.

The new all-electric 2024 Ioniq 5 and Ioniq 6 are both on display at the showroom for this week only. Customers can pop in to test drive and experience the hushed glide of these award winning vehicles.

The rising interest in electric/hybrid vehicles will also see Hyundai extend their range to include two new hybrid models in their Santa Fe and Tucson lines coming later on in the year.

Hyundai's very popular and award winning small SUV – the Kona, with its contemporary styling is now also available in hybrid and electric models as well.

The local dealership have



Darryl McGannon and Brad Beyers from Edney's Leongatha at their brand new showroom featuring the latest Hyundai range, and the all-electric Ioniq 5 and Ioniq 6 vehicles, available to test drive for this week only. ob11_0824

also welcomed a new salesperson, Brad Beyers, who is skilled at taking care of customers and discussing the full range of vehicle features.

Long term sales consultant, Heather Walker is also available for sales and welcomes

new and old customers to come in for a chat and to check out their range.

Edney's are in the process of becoming a delivering dealer for the Ioniq range of Hyundai electric vehicles, which should be finalised soon - they

are currently ordered online.

Dealer Principal Darryl McGannon invites all customers to come in and have a look at their new, modern showroom and to check out the latest range of vehicles to see what would suit their needs.

Tom Bramich is ready to race again after injury

TOM Bramich is without a doubt looking forward to this weekend, not only is it his favourite track, but he will be competing in the first round of the Australian Supersport Championship, which will be held in conjunction with the World Superbike Championship.

Excited to be back on track and get back into the swing of things is an understatement after Bramich spent the second half of last year out of the Championships due to a knee injury.

"It's always nice to look forward to round one, especially being in conjunction with the World Championship and a lot of eyes on the Australian championship," Bramich explained.

"I'm looking forward to getting out on track and getting back into the swing of things. I've been off the bike for about six months now with a knee injury, this will be my first race back. There's a lot of anticipation, I'm a bit anxious, but really looking forward to it and hopefully it sets us up for the year ahead."

Bramich admitted that his



knee is still a concern, but a strict physio regime, he hopes will pay off when he gets back on the bike. However, it isn't without risk, as the repercussions if he crashes or re-injures his knee are great.

"I haven't ridden a bike at all because the pre-rupture rate and the danger of a rupture in my ACL is really high. If I crash, there's a really high chance that I'm going to redo it, so I literally haven't touched the bike since the start of September.

"My surgeon and physio were pretty apprehensive and definitely gave me a lot of warning about the repercussions if it doesn't go how we want or if I have a crash. I'm definitely coming back early, but if I miss the

start of the season, then the rest of the season is sort of pointless," he said.

Bramich, who grew up with his father racing through the 90s, said his strategy for the first round is to ride smart and get as many points as he can, without pushing the limits to the extreme. He is confident in his bike and his team, and he is grateful for the support of his sponsors and his family.

"Every year is a challenge just to get to the grid. It's a huge team effort and a lot of sponsors that have to come together and they take a lot of people. I can't thank The Apex Group, Carl Cox Motorsports, Füsport, Elliott Brothers Racing enough. Without these people, these

challenges would be far greater, so I'm very lucky to have really good support and they help me get through the financial challenges of our sport.

"Mum and dad are still a big part of it, and they make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. They try and do some of the jobs, take some load off my shoulders and keep the team running like a well-oiled machine."

Having practically grown up on the island at his grandparent's holiday home, surfing, cycling and playing golf amongst his top hobbies locally, Tom is looking forwards to being back on a track he loves, on an island he tries to spend as much time as possible on.

"My ultimate goal is to become a staple of the Australian Superbike Championship within one of the factory teams on the grid," he explained, noting that in the short term he just wants to be one of the main contenders for the Supersport Championship.

Catch Tom and the Australian and World Supersports and Superbikes this weekend on Phillip Island.

The final test days before lights out

RACING is getting closer but before then, there's the small matter of two Official Test days at the iconic Phillip Island circuit.

As the 2024 MOTUL FIM Superbike World Championship edges closer, and we're now just days away from lights out in Australia, there's two more test days to put in the history books. The Official Test took place at the legendary Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit on Monday for WorldSSP riders and take place today (Tuesday) for the WorldSBK competitors prior to the round, with the entire WorldSBK field and all WorldSSP riders competing in the full season getting a chance to refine their packages for Australia.

The Official Test is the last chance for the 23-strong WorldSBK field to refine their machines for the Grand Ridge Brewery Australian Round kicking off this Friday. It'll be the first time Jonathan Rea (Pata Prometeon Yamaha) rides his YZF-R1 machine in Australia, as it will be for Toprak Razgatlioglu (ROKiT BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team) on his M 1000 RR and Axel Bassani (Kawasaki Racing Team WorldSBK) on the ZX-10RR. While Team HRC have kept the same line-up for 2024, with Iker Lecuona and Xavi Vierge staying, they have a new bike for this year. The last tests proved tricky so they will be hoping to make a step forward at Phillip Island. Nicolò Bulega (Aruba.it Racing - Ducati) will try his Panigale V4 R at the iconic circuit for the first time as he prepares for his maiden WorldSBK campaign.

Rookies Tarran Mackenzie and Adam Norrodin (both PETRONAS MIE Racing Honda) will be hoping to have the full 2024 Honda package for their second WorldSBK test of 2024, while other rookies – Andrea Iannone (Team GoEleven) and Sam Lowes (ELF Marc VDS Racing Team) – will continue their adjustment to WorldSBK. For Dominique Aegerter (GYTR GRT Yamaha WorldSBK Team), it will be his first test day of 2024 after missing the Jerez and Portimao tests through illness.

One topic coming into the Official Test is the fact Phillip Island has been resurfaced, with the test the first time the WorldSBK field will try it ahead of racing. Of course, there are other things that will be spotted too. Teams may be trying different items on their machines to extract the maximum performance and secure the best possible results to kickstart their 2024 campaign in style. For some, it'll be a test to continue adapting to their machines while, for others, it will be making sure everything is set up for the Australian Round.

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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Incentives needed for emergency volunteers

AS MAGNIFICENT as the response from our emergency services has been, especially from CFA and SES volunteers, at Mirboo North, and other areas impacted by last Tuesday's storm, a couple of issues stand out.

Response to climate change and the importance of our emergency service volunteers.

Of course, there's also the need for a public briefing and report on what went right and what went wrong with the response, at Mirboo North in particular, as a learning experience, rather than a finger-pointing exercise.

But two things stand out from the event last Tuesday.

If there are going to be more of these extreme weather events as a result of global warming, and there certainly seems to be something in that after many people said they haven't experienced such a destructive storm cell in South Gippsland before, then we need to be better prepared.

Bureau warnings need to include information about the potential for destructive storm cells to develop, with updates on where and when these events may impact.

The community needs to be better educated about the potential impact of these extreme storm cells and how to be prepared, and local government needs to look more closely at the varieties of trees which survived this event, consider what varieties are planted and where in built-up areas, and their density close to houses.

The other issue is that we are going to need a lot more volunteers for our local emergency services, especially the fire brigade and SES, but also the likes of Red Cross.

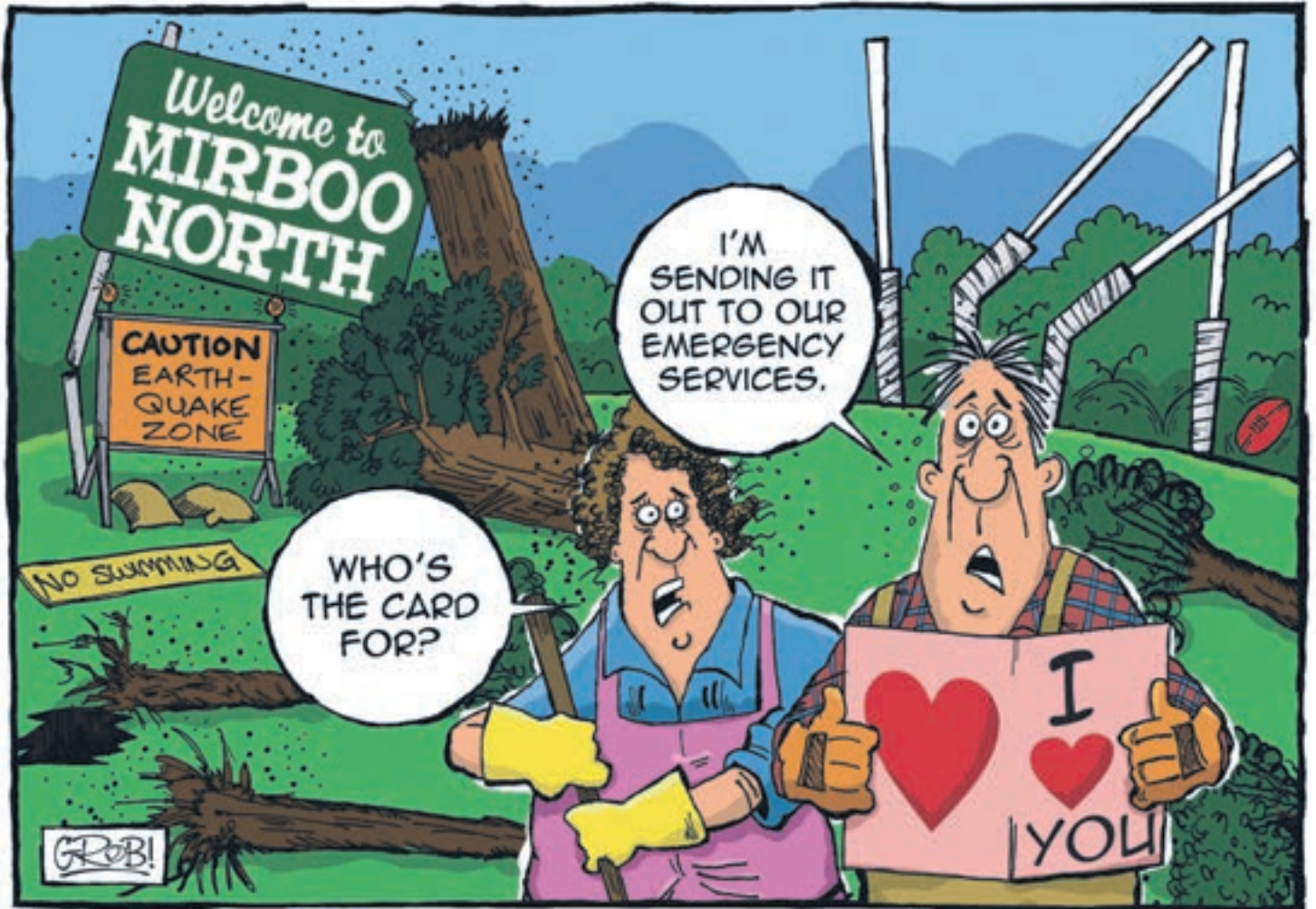
But how can this be achieved in these days of falling volunteerism due to a range of factors, including cost-of-living pressures, competing interests and the pandemic changing our approach to community involvement.

One way to increase volunteer involvement in emergency services may be to offer tax breaks based on time committed to training and callouts, while also including a component of emergency service training and service, along the lines of jury duty or something similar, as a way to introduce more people to this vital work.

These may simply be thought bubbles, but government has to come up with a much more comprehensive response to climate change, including planning policy for coastal areas, that goes well beyond the photo opportunities around solar farm projects and multi-billion dollar offshore wind turbines.

And it's time the government came clean on how it intends to manage the transition from the Latrobe Valley's coal-fired power stations to renewables set to ramp up in earnest just four years from now with the shutting down of 30 per cent of our capacity at Yallourn W in 2028.

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



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.

Thank you BCSC for the services

WEDNESDAY was a bleak day and it reminded us how much we are dependent on electricity. I am all electric, so I was grateful when the power was restored. I want to commend the Bass Coast Shire for making power stations available in their Inverloch office and also on the outside of the hub. I want to commend the staff at the Inverloch council offices for their patience with so many people crowding their little office where the service was available.

I want to thank them for their kindness because without mobile phones we are pretty much cut off. In what was a challenging time, this community service was so much appreciated. Thank you.

Dilene Hinton

Highlighting the amazing work of the Foundation

I'D like to congratulate Carol and Deb of Bass Coast Community Foundation on the amazing work this Foundation does.

These ladies came to Anderson's Inlet Probus to explain the Foundation. We were clearly informed of the Board and of the wonderful work they do assisting the people of Bass Coast Shire.

They fund projects which benefit local people which assist raising the aspirations of young people, improving the lives of women and children, and helping people manage their money better in these difficult times, as well as many other worthy projects.

I encourage Bass Coast residents to support this worthy cause with a small donation. Well done Carol and Deb. Contact can be made by phone on 049 311 0802.

Jill Widmer, Inverloch

Funny old weather lately

AFTER last Tuesday's (February 13) appalling weather, and the widespread damage and destruction around Victoria I had the thought that now, finally, the naysayers in the community will accept that climate change is a scientific fact and that unless we change our ways significantly, these severe weather events can become the norm.

I am tired of hearing the ignorant comments from people who glean their misinformation from their personalised phone algorithm or their equally ignorant right

wing self-interested political representatives carping on with their toxic unfounded theories on climate change.

If you think that buying a gennie and stocking up COVID style on tinned food is all you need to do, then we are truly up that proverbial creek.

A friend, who works at one of the local supermarkets, was part of a team throwing out all the meat, chicken, fish, frozen food and dairy products into a huge dumpster bin after the power outage.

During the disgusting process of chucking out hundreds and hundreds of kilograms of food, the person next to him sneered and said, 'this will show those xxxx'n greenies!'

The mere fact that someone could somehow blame or connect a movement that is trying to salvage what is left of our forests and clean up the terminal mess that is now our environment with Tuesday's violent weather event, just beggars belief.

It's probably too late now anyway, and it will give no one any pleasure to view the destruction of our planet and say we told you so. The earth is now like the Titanic, sailing gently on towards the climate change iceberg.

Name withheld

Life support needs more attention

MY PARENTS are now into five days without power, and I have the below questions which hopefully Russell (Broadbent), Danny (O'Brien), Jacinta (Allan) and Madeleine (King) will table in parliament.

1. Why is this the third time for greater than five consecutive days we lost power in the last two and a half years as in my fifty-year history we have lost a day due to storms but the third time for greater than five consecutive days in under three years is now a joke.

2. Why do I lodge life support for mum and dad in Whitelaw because mum has limited life with Parkinsons PSP, and all medical reports given to AusNet but in a storm we don't hear from AusNet as the Life Support system fails the elderly and sick.

3. Is the next storm a big storm or obviously the system has been run into the ground with privatisation and profits go overseas and not back into infrastructure and maintenance as the government get hit with bills to fix a privatised system.

4. Lucky last is why aren't AusNet supporting their life support customers.

Darren Clarke

Electricity supply needs an overhaul

IS THERE any recognition by our decision makers, that after the statewide electricity supply outage, the entire power supply system needs an overhaul?

For instance, why is it that those with roof top power generators had to suffer their own power generator being disconnected by some remote flick of a switch? Surely, with technology, and will, there has to be way that the power being produced can be utilised when some problem elsewhere comes into play.

At the very least food spoilage would likely be eliminated. Two freezers and there goes \$1000+. Sure, installations were/are subsidised, but those mini power stations still cost the property owner \$7040. My last bill showed a feed-in tariff of just \$0.27. That is not the full picture, but I have the feeling that I won't ever get a return on my investment.

Are we Australians, and our bureaucrats, really so stupid that we can't do better than the current failed system?

The PRC Military will be laughing their heads off as they observe what just happened! We are sitting ducks! Go figure!

John McCombe, Leongatha



Walkerville South beach, for about half an hour, the sun had a massive ring around it creating an amazing aura recently! Photo: Jed Pye.

Embroiderers to bring the craft to young ones

AN OLDER generation of local accomplished embroiderers are bringing their skills, talents and knowledge to a younger generation interested in learning the craft.

The ladies from the Victorian Embroiderers Guild, Leongatha branch, will be holding free, fun and creative classes to teach beginners how to embroider.

School aged children and up can join the experienced tutors on the first Saturday of each month, to create bookmarks, flowers, leaves, and learn a range of stitching techniques and patterns with all needles and materials supplied.

Embroidery is the art of decorating a material with a needle and thread to form designs and patterns that are limited only to the imagination and patience of the embroider.

At their AGM, held last week, some of the members work was on display, with colourful quilts, cards, pouches, book covers, table runners, wall hangings, 3D flowers and gold leaves showing off the sheer wealth of talent and versatility of those in the room.

The guild started with only six members a few decades ago and has grown to over 50 members that come from as far as Traralgon, Loch and Wonthaggi.

They meet bimonthly in Leongatha and once a month in



Lynn Huguenin, Pauline Lancaster, Rosalie Green and June McIndoe show off their talented members work, and will be holding free classes to teach beginners the age old craft. ob01_0824

Cape Paterson and occasionally host international tutors teaching specialised or traditional embroidery methods, such as stump work, gold work and Dorset buttons.

Guild member Rosalie Green said there is a huge talent bank within the group and she enjoys the advice, support and encouragement she receives from the other members.

Many of the embroiderers are working on pieces for their next exhibition which will be held in January 2025 with 'Nature in all its Glory', as the theme.

Members hold a large embroidery exhibition every two years, with the previous being a huge success, seeing over 500 people coming through the doors on the first day alone.

The embroiderers are happy to welcome new members and invite anyone to come along to two or three meetings to try it out before becoming a paid member, which is \$82 per year.

For anyone interested in attending the beginners classes contact Ann Kenny on 0414 701 318 or for other enquiries contact June McIndoe on 0421 432 048.

LIFE Moments



ROME Staley was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on January 31, weighing 3.76kg. He is a son for Rhys and Laura Staley of Inverloch, and a brother for Charlie, 5 and Eden, 3.

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

• FAITH FACTOR

Where did the power go?

By Pastor Jeff Robertson, Connections Church Inverloch

I'M writing this just a few hours after the power went out across huge regions of our state. Hopefully power has been restored days ago by the time you get to read this, but either way I hope you're doing alright and looking after your neighbours!

The loss of electricity is a pretty stark reminder of how much we rely on being connected to our source of power. Even many simple tasks are suddenly a whole lot harder. The light switch doesn't work. The internet doesn't work. We can't charge our phones by just plugging in to any wall socket. Sure, we can adapt – but many familiar, daily tasks are just not as simple as they ought to be.

I think this a great analogy of our need to be connected to God – our source of life, love, and salvation. Yes, we can try to adapt to life without Him. But He's the source, so it makes it so much harder to live when we're disconnected from Him. He gives life – not just biological life-signs, but fulfilment, meaning, purpose, contentment, and peace. He pours out His love to us – personified in His Son Jesus dying on the cross for us.

Yes, we can live without Him. But we miss out on so much when we try. Jesus said, "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me." (John 15:4)

When we disconnect from God, we lose the connection and power that we're meant to have in life – making life harder both for us, and the people around us. So I encourage you to connect with Jesus, and remain in Him – so you can have the power you're meant to have, and be fruitful in the things that matter most.

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

We have another busy few weeks ahead at Milpara Community House this term!

Highlights coming up in our program over the next few weeks include:

- Backyard Chicken Keeping on Wednesdays 12pm.
- Easy Steps Computers for Beginners on Thursdays, 9.30am.
- Learn French Thursdays, 6.30pm.
- Modern Qigong, starts

Thursday February 22, 9.30am.

- Power Yoga kicks off on Thursday February 22, 6pm. Bookings are essential: milparacommunityhouse.org.au/bookings-and-activity-page/ or for more information call us on 5655 2524.

We are also seeking expressions interest for Toastmasters, Sewing Class, Mandarin, Spanish and Book club, check out our website or call us for details.

We are open Monday to Friday from 9.30am-4.30pm.

Our Centrelink Agent is open Tuesdays 10am-2pm, and Wednesdays and Thursdays 10am-1pm.

And our Foodbank is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays 9.30am-3pm

Please remember to bring your own bags.

Our Term One program is out now, with lots of new classes and workshops, as well as

many of your favourites returning. If you didn't receive a program in your letterbox, you can find it on our website milparacommunityhouse.org.au/ or contact us on 5655 2524.

We look forward to seeing you at the Hub.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

IT WAS a challenging week last week, but BCAL's wonderful students soldiered on. Luckily for the Horticulture students, they didn't need power to be out in the garden so they enjoyed a practical session last Wednesday. Even the Hairdressing course got to have an orientation and welcome session.

Places are still available in these two courses. If you like the idea of Horticulture but aren't ready to make a long commitment, why not try the Introduction to Permaculture on Fridays? The course is presented by Rick Coleman, who has a passion for Permaculture and a legend in the field.

One course that needed to be postponed was the evening First Aid course. The good news is the course starts this

week and there is still time to get in.

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

■ WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Time has caught up with the community garden. Established about 15 years ago, many of its raised wooden beds are now in need of repair or complete overhaul.

The task goes onto the long list of jobs volunteers will take on this year, including mulching pathways, clearing weeds from the gravel entrance and main walkway, fruit tree maintenance, dealing with woody waste from trees and shrubs, as well as all the usual planting, feeding, harvesting and general plant

care that goes into a productive food garden.

Top of that list is always compost making – a never-ending, essential task, which provides the lifeblood of the garden.

It's a pretty busy space where helpers are always warmly welcomed.

You can find out more via email at tgordon@westnet.com.au or by dropping into the garden on a Thursday between 10 and noon.

■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

Last week the Woodies were visited by Michelle from Well-Ways Wonthaggi to talk about mental health.

Members were very appreciative of her presentation. They came away feeling empowered to talk about

anything that may be worrying them. They also were giving tools to manage distress and an understanding that we are not alone when facing problems.

While the workshop is a great way for people to come together around a shared interest, they find they have shared experiences as well, and people who understand. Building a sense of community is as important as anything else made in the shed.

For more information about joining the Woodcrafters, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or visit the store at the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au



Horses are back on the program at the Foster Show after missing out due to ground works last year.



Woodchopping remains a popular attraction at the Foster Show. *Photo: Taylah Clarke Photography*

Packed program of old and new at Foster Show

A MIX of traditional and new activities and exhibits ensures a great day out for all at the Foster & District Agricultural Show on Saturday, February 24, the event in its 116th year.

It showcases the region's agriculture and brings the community and people from afar together for a true country show experience.

The Foster Show committee is proud of continuing to build the show while remaining true to its roots in highlighting the best livestock, craft and produce.

There is plenty for the kids, with showbags, magic shows, an animal nursery, a wildlife display and 'Tiny Gardener' workshops just some of the fun.

"Australian whipcracking champion Emiliqua East will be doing demonstrations but she is also going to run kids workshops this year," Foster Show secretary Denia Gilheany said.

Adults accustomed to making themselves heard might fancy their chances in the 'Spouse Shout' competition, something new this year and based on the Iowa State Fair 'Husband Calling' event.

"It's whoever can yell the loudest or the most effectively at their other half," Denia said.

Additions to the show over recent years have proven popular, the Young Farmers Challenge one such event that will continue, with participants battling it out in a series of agriculturally inspired practical and theoretical challenges.

The Giant Pumpkin contest brings out the competitive

nature of local green thumbs, with Denia among those striving for glory this year.

Those who had less luck with the size of their pumpkins are set to try their fortunes in the best decorated pumpkin section.

Horses return to action this year after being sidelined by oval resurfacing for the 2023 Foster Show.

A cat show is one of this year's additions, with entered cats to be on display throughout the day after judging.

Foster Show's traditional Pet Parade offers everyone the chance to involve their animal companions in the day's entertainment.

A scarecrow competition has been introduced.

Group entries are encouraged, from schools, garden groups and other organisations but individuals can also enter one or more scarecrows.

Those wanting to do so are encouraged to call Show secretary Den on 0425 728 525 or email fostershow@gmail.com to advise how many scarecrows they are entering, with judging set to take place on Show morning.

Fashions on the Field continues, having previously drawn a crowd to check out the local and recyclable fashion on display.

The popular dog high jump is also on the program, along with working dog displays.

Woodchopping is an enduring tradition.

Local baking, crafting and gardening prowess will be evident in the exhibit shed, which will be open throughout Show Day, with judging held on Friday evening.

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FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY



Paul Hamilton of Trinity Pygmy Goats won award winning prize for Best Goat at the Foster & District Agricultural Show last year. Z35_0923



Show favourites will return with the ever popular Sheep Display.

Bring on the Foster Show this weekend!

ON SATURDAY, February 24, thousands will gather at the Foster Showgrounds for the fantastic Foster Show. Foster Show secretary, Denia Gilheany said "last year was a successful show, with lots of comments about it being a traditional agricultural show which is nice to hear". This is something the show committee are proud of, and hope to continue to build the show whilst keeping true to its roots in providing a showcase of the best livestock, craft, and produce.

New additions to the show over last few years have proven popular, like the Young Farmers Challenge, organised by 2023 Runner

By Sammy Spark,
Foster Show Society

Up National Rural Ambassador Alexandra Pattinson – "The YFC attracts a crowd of young adults battling it out in a series of agriculturally inspired practical and theoretical challenges, with an emphasis on safety and education". The Giant Pumpkin display has brought out a competitive nature in our local green thumbs, and Fashions on the Field has drawn a crowd as people support local or recyclable fashion for their presentations. New to 2024, the Scarecrow competition and Spouse Shout

will provide ongoing entertainment for all involved.

The heart of the Foster Show is the traditional competitions. Our ever popular Dog High Jump boosts a crowd, the Sheep Display highlights the life of wool, the Exhibit Shed showcases local baking, crafting, and gardening extraordinary; horses parade in the main arena, and strength is sported in the Woodchop! There is something for everyone.

A great family day out, the Foster Show has a great program for kids in 2024. Starting with our Golden Brick Road showbags with activities for kids, magic shows, animal nursery, wildlife

display, library and book reading, Tiny Gardener workshops, Bricks 4 Kidz Lego workshops, showday competitions and more! Whilst you're there, check out the Avenue of Agriculture, working dog demonstrations, whipcracking displays, Pet Parade, cat show, donkeys, vintage tractors and sideshow alley. The Foster Show are excited to be hosting the 2024 Victorian Sheaf Tossing Championships. With classes for novice and female competitors, you too can learn to hurl a burlap sack of wheat at great heights! Who knows, maybe you will take home a prize?

Planning for show day is easy,

with plenty of information available at fostershow.com or via our Facebook page facebook.com/fosteragshow. Tickets can be purchased online or at the gate. Kids under 12 are free in 2024, so bring the entire family for the day out! As parking can get a bit tight, there will be shuttle buses available from Meeniyan, Fish Creek and Toora on the day. Do not miss the action at the Foster Show, with all the information you need on our website. Spending the day at the Foster Show is a fantastic way to experience a farming community, with lots of fun and friendly faces. We'll see you there!



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Ways to stay active and social in retirement

By Anglicare

THE health benefits of staying active and social as you age are hard to ignore. From lowering your risk of depression and enhancing your social wellbeing to improving strength and stamina. But as we go through the different stages of life, maintaining a healthy and social lifestyle can be challenging.

Walk and talk

It is estimated that one out of five older Australians suffer from social isolation which can contribute to depression and may affect mental and emotional health. Walking with a group will help you get to know your neighbours, explore your local community and connect with new people. In the cooler months, see what indoor activities your local fitness centres have to offer.

Join a book club

Starting or joining a book club is the perfect way to make new friends. If you can't find a book club near you, reach out to those around you that have similar interests and would be happy to get together to discuss books over morning tea or refreshments.

Find a fitness buddy

Exercise at every age is important but for those over the age of 65, it's essential to maintain independence, recover from illness and reduce the risk of



disease. According to government statistics only around one in 10 Australians over the age of 50 exercise enough to gain cardiovascular benefit. Finding a fitness buddy or joining an exercise class that interests you will make exercising more enjoyable.

Become a volunteer

One of the greatest aspects of retirement is having the freedom to choose how you would like to spend your time. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and give back to your local community. Apart from helping others, you'll be enhancing your own wellbeing through a sense of fulfilment and belonging.

Boost your brain power

Show your competitive and strategic side by organising a games night. You could bring board games, hold a poker

night or put on a trivia event. Card and board games can be a fun way to establish a weekly or monthly social event and exercise your brain without exerting too much energy.

Learn a new skill

While older often means wiser, it's never too late to learn something new. Retirement can be the perfect time in your life to learn something you've always had an interest in, such as an instrument, language or creative activity.

Get into the garden

Gardening has proven health benefits for both mind and body including stress-relief and brain health. Some studies suggests that daily gardening can reduce the risk of dementia by 36%. If you don't have your own garden, see if your local area has a community garden you can help with.



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short walk or enjoy a meal at a local café. Within close proximity to Phillip Island and the greater Bass Coast and only 25 minutes from Wonthaggi, the village really is the perfect sea-change for those looking to downsize but still remain within 90 minutes of the Melbourne CBD.

Village residents enjoy a number of excellent facilities, such as our saltwater inground pool, BBQ areas, large off-leash dog area, community facility and tea-room and plenty of access to the foreshore.

Contact our Village Manager on 5678 8232 for more information, or to organise a tour of our lovely village – we can't wait to show you the Frenchview Lifestyle Village lifestyle!

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CEO role shared at Woorayl Lodge

LEONGATHA'S Woorayl Lodge aged care facility has confirmed it will continue with co-CEOs, an arrangement that has operated there since the departure of previous CEO Barry Westhorpe in December, with Andrew Ross and Jaimee Brydon now sharing the role.

They have already been doing so in a fill-in capacity but have earned support to take on the opportunity on an ongoing basis.

Both Andrew and Jaimee were established members of the Woorayl Lodge team, as business manager and director of nursing respectively, responsibilities they will continue while being joint CEOs.

"There's a lot more work involved but we're getting more staff," Jaimee said, explaining that a quality and compliance manager is starting in March and an HR manager is coming onboard just before then.

Andrew's official title is CEO (Corporate Services), while Jaimee's is CEO (Clinical Services).

Andrew spoke about what appeals to him about his new responsibilities.

"It's a challenge but I enjoy getting into the nuts and bolts of the organisation and playing a more active part in the direction we're heading in the future," he said.

Jaimee summed up what appeals to her about combining CEO and director of nursing responsibilities.

"I like that it is a leadership role but I still get to work with the staff and the residents in a clinical setting," she said, adding that direct involvement with the residents



Woorayl Lodge's joint CEOs Jaimee Brydon and Andrew Ross are enjoying their additional responsibilities. A14_0824

continues on a daily basis.

She said that level of interaction wouldn't be possible as a sole CEO.

Andrew and Jaimee are enjoying being more involved in Woorayl Lodge's planned Boags Road development, which is intended to be completed in three stages, providing much needed extra beds, with the existing lodge experiencing great demand.

"We've got 40 permanent beds and one respite bed and we've currently got 28 on our permanent waiting list," Jaimee said, with stage one of the Boags Road development intended to provide a similar

number of beds to the current facility.

A government grant will be required, combined with self-funding and community fundraising to enable stage one of the development to get underway.

While this scribe has heard many glowing reports from Woorayl Lodge residents, a recent upgrade on the My Aged Care website from a three star to four star facility is official recognition of what the lodge offers.

Although staffing continues to be a challenge in the current climate, Woorayl Lodge has a strong team vibe, not generally having to call on agency staff.



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Founded in 1956 by the Leongatha Rotary Club Woorayl Lodge is a community owned Not-For-Profit Aged Care facility.

We are a diverse team who work together to ensure our residents are treated with respect and receive the best care available to them while being happy and at home in their *new home*.

Woorayl Lodge is a My Aged Care Certified 4 Star which achieved: 5 Star Compliance, 4 Star Resident Experience, 4 Star Quality, 3 Star Staffing

Woorayl Lodge has 41 beds, 40 for permanent residents and 1 respite bed, we also have 29 Independent Living Units for seniors looking to downsize but not ready to enter permanent care.

Woorayl Lodge gratefully accepts donations from businesses, associations, groups, and individuals with all donations over \$2.00 being tax-deductible.

We would be lost without the tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers and Auxiliary members who have been offering assistance and fundraising for us since 1972. Being part of an Auxiliary in a small community is a very rewarding experience and any help you can offer would be welcomed.

If you are interested, please see our administration staff.

Want to join the Woorayl Team? We have casual shifts available in all areas, so please email your Resume and cover letter to enquiries@woorayllodge.com.au

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FOR over 30 years, Park Lane Living has dedicated itself to offering affordable lifestyle living without compromising on exceptional design, community spirit, and outstanding services. Their homes are meticulously crafted to offer retirees a stress-free environment, promoting ease and relaxation while preserving cherished lifestyles.

The commitment to transparency is evident in a fee structure devoid of hidden costs, ensuring homeowners maintain ownership and capitalise on property value appreciation.

Distinguishing itself from other providers, Park Lane Living fosters vibrant communities with engaging amenities that cater to diverse interests. Whether residents seek social activities, pursue newfound passions, or connect with peers, Park Lane Living communities provide a dynamic array of options. Importantly, unlike competitors imposing Exit and/or Deferred Management Fees, Park Lane Living refrains from deducting a percentage of the sale price, ensuring financial benefits, including property value appreciation, remain with homeowners.

Located a short walk from town shops and health facilities, Park Lane Living Wonthaggi, the "village by the sea", offers residents a relaxed lifestyle within a close-knit

community. The emphasis on affordability is reflected in various retirement living options, with amenities such as an indoor heated pool, on-site management, and a pet-friendly policy.

Recognising retirees seek more than just a home, Park Lane Living homes are designed as havens of comfort, combining quality construction with features catering to unique needs.

Addressing economic challenges associated with downsizing, Park Lane Living in Wonthaggi presents an exclusive offer available until March 31, 2024, providing a \$10,000* saving on newly built or off-the-plan custom homes. Along with Park Lane Living's 'No exit or deferred management fees' policy, this truly is a rare opportunity in downsizing. This limited-time offer aligns with their commitment to crafting communities tailored for those aged over 55.

Interested parties can explore possibilities on the website, detailing the exclusive offer and providing glimpses into currently built and under-construction homes. Seize the opportunity to secure an affordable dream downsizing experience and embark on a new chapter of comfortable lifestyle living with Park Lane Living.

Visit parklaneliving.com.au for further exploration.

Sentinel Time's lifelong reader, Jean Foote shares her story

REMINCISING on the past; those days as a young girl playing in the streets of Leongatha, riding her bike to the old Korumburra State School, and babysitting the children in the township whilst their parents went off to work – these were the early years of the Sentinel-Times eldest reader, Mrs Jean Foote.

South Gippsland has always been home for Jean and each week, she has the paper delivered so she can read through the stories and happenings of the local area.

Jean recently sat down with a Sentinel-Times reporter to share her own story of growing up in South Gippsland from the 1920's.

"I learnt to walk in Leongatha," Jean said. "I grew up in Jeffery Street, and then we moved to Gray Street."

During the discussion with Jean about her past, Jean reflected on the homes she grew up in, in South Gippsland.

"In Leongatha, our home had a big orchard, it was full of fruit trees, and mum used to make a lot of jam. We had chooks that would run around everywhere, and a big rooster."

Jean's mum was a housewife who spent a lot of time in the garden with Jean and volunteering for the church.

"Mum did a lot for the church, she was a good organ player and played the piano at the Church of England," Jean explained.

"Dad then got a job as a blacksmith in Korumburra, so we moved there, and he worked where the shire offices are."

Jean shared that the streets were quiet in those days, and she would ride her bike everywhere.

"I loved my bike, I remember riding those hills," Jean laughed. "I would collect groceries for the old lady next door, she would yell out 'Jean, do you have time to go to the butchers for me before school', so I'd jump on my bike and she'd give me the change from her meat," Jean reflected.

During her early days at school in Korumburra, Jean would again ride to and from; she'd wake up at 6am to get to the local tennis courts with a friend, she was also a good runner.

During her time living in Korumburra as a young girl, Jean recalled the horses on Commercial Road that her father would make horse-shoes for.

After leaving school, she became a



Lifelong resident of South Gippsland, Jean Foote with granddaughter Sarah Walker. Z05_0824

housecleaner and a nanny before retaining her long-term job at the local Korumburra Hospital.

"I used to look after people's children while they were at work," said Jean.

"And then I would deliver meals to patients and work as a cleaner on the wards at the hospital."

Jean wasn't interested in getting her driver's licence and would have a taxi pick her up, taking her to and from her shifts at the Korumburra Hospital.

"We lived far from the hospital," Jean reflected.

Jean's only grandchild Sarah Walker visits Jean in Korumburra whenever she can and shared that because her grandma didn't drive, it was known that she walked everywhere.

In her early twenties, Jean met her late husband Gilbert Foote at the cinemas – formally known as 'the pictures', Jean laughed as she reflected on her first-time meeting Gilbert in town.

"I was watching Battle of Britain – a film on how the people of England were surviving the war, the rationing, the blackouts, and the air-raids. I sat beside a little lady, and she said 'Dear, that's my son down there with his friends.' 'Oh, yes,' said Jean. 'I don't care,' she laughed.

As they were leaving the film, the lady's son came up behind Jean and said 'hello, I saw you sitting with my mum, I'm coming into

town tomorrow would you like to meet me in the street.'

Jean smiled as she reflected on her meeting with Gilbert, then sharing that Gilbert would travel into town each week to meet Jean and the two of them would get an ice cream.

Gilbert Foote was from a family in Outtrim. Granddaughter Sarah shared that her grandpa was one of 10 children. Jean was an only child and said, 'there were all these Foote's everywhere,' she laughed.

Gilbert and Jean were then married at the Church of England in Korumburra before welcoming their two children, daughter Linda, and son Peter.

Gilbert built their family home in George Street, Korumburra over 70 years ago, and both Linda and Peter were students at Korumburra State School, before they moved to Melbourne to pursue their careers. Linda then had Jean's only grandchild, Sarah.

Sarah too now lives in Melbourne, and travels to South Gippsland as often as possible to visit her grandma Jean, together they spend their time playing games and sharing stories of the past; where Sarah discovered her grandpa was a coal miner in Outtrim and a volunteer at Coal Creek in Korumburra.

Jean Foote still lives in Korumburra today. She will turn 98 on April fools' day and is still a last-ing reader of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times.



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Inspections by appointment - Call us for more information.



Gardeners are invited to make a three minute film (or less) on the theme 'Garden' for this years screening of CROPFEST held in Toora.

CROPFEST to screen local short films on Gardens

ALL GARDENERS are invited to create a short film on the theme of 'Garden' which will be shown on the big screen in Toora this March for CROPFEST.

The film fest is an opportunity for gardeners to show an aspect of their garden in a fun and creative way that entertains, inspires and celebrates gardening.

"Everyone is invited to make a little three minute video and they can be romantic or fun or exciting or hysterical or historical," explained Bryan Watterson, founder of CROPFEST.

Filmmakers can use their phones to create a film of any genre, except for horror as it's a family friendly screening.

"This year, we'll hopefully attract some who missed out, or didn't get around to making their movies last year," said Bryan.

Bryan began CROPFEST last year, as a homage to the three decades long TROPFEST and to support and bring together local gardening enthusiasts.

CROPFEST includes a wide range of short films this year including movies from professional filmmakers, children and their grandparents, budding filmmakers to a comedy about a big garlic harvest.

Bryan is encouraging everyone who's interested to get filming and send in their entries as they are needing a few more films.

They don't have to be complex or highly professional because it's purely for fun and isn't a competition.

"Some people just starting out in their gardens might just show the life of a snail, or something like that," said Bryan.

Films need to be entered by Wednesday February 21 to be shown at this years CROPFEST and can be submitted on USB, or email if the file size allows, or by other arrangement with the organisers.

Everyone is invited to the go along to watch the films, to join in and be part of the fun.

There may also be a screening of local documentary, 'The Earth Speaks', a film about a dairy farm being turned into a forest in the Strzelecki hills.

CROPFEST will kick off at the Toora Hall on Friday March 1 at 6.30pm. Attendees are welcome to bring their own picnic rugs, food and drinks.

For more information contact Bryan Watterson on 0428 555 067 or bryanwatterson2020@gmail.com or Josh on 0468 766 164 or joshsouthwell@outlook.com.

Glamming up the gardens in Poowong with marigolds

THE RESIDENTS of Poowong are glamming up their gardens in anticipation of the upcoming 150th birthday celebrations of the town, happening over the weekend of April 19 - 21.

The Poowong Garden Club have been handing out marigold seeds to those in the main township to plant and grow in their front gardens or in pots.

By April the flowers will be in bloom, bringing a lively and cheerful atmosphere to the town.

An abundance of marigold seeds helped the garden club to form the idea, and Linda Harvey, President of the Garden Club is hoping everyone will participate.

She is also enthusiastically growing a few extra pots of the flowers herself to add to the town's hopefully abundant blooms.

Members of the Poowong Community Garden are also on board and advocating to the Shire to have some landscaping and tidying done in the town prior to the big event.

The Community Garden will be open over the event weekend and people are invited to wander through, eat something from the BBQ and chat to the members about growing vegies.

Many other happenings will be on, kicking off with a dance on the Friday night.

A popular five-piece band will be playing old time tracks and



Noel Gregg, Linda Harvey, Christina and Paul Robinson are gearing up for Poowong's 150th celebrations with marigold seeds handed out and planted across the township. ob07_0824

new vogue to keep dancers on their toes throughout the evening.

Saturday will see Poowong play their home games of football and netball against Nyora and Saturday night will see the launch of the 150th anniversary book of Poowong at a community dinner.

The book has been updated with an additional 25 years of history and developments and stories from Poowong's families are included.

There will be a service on Sunday morning in the hall and displays of old time farm machinery will be featured at the old

Poowong Pioneer Chapel.

Many of the town's facilities will be open across the weekend including the primary school, library, CFA, and the pub, for visitors to wander through and have a chat to locals.

It is also hoped the milk bar which, according to locals, has finally been handed over to new owners, will also be open.

The Poowong Gardening Club and the Poowong Community Garden are always happy to welcome new members and for those interested can contact: Christina Robinson on 0438 041 012.



Amanda Scotney, writer, poet, short film maker and founder of Minds Shine Bright will be guiding a free 'Light and Shadow' themed writers workshop in Inverloch.

Light and Shadow - A free thematic writers' workshop

LAST year, two local writers placed in a 'Storm' themed writing competition run by Minds Shine Bright and as a result a free writers workshop will be held in Inverloch.

The Bass Coast Writers member Gayle Beveridge-Marien placed in the top ten in the competition with her story 'The Lightning Traveler' and Sarah Rasmussen from Korumburra was the fourth prize winner with her imaginative story 'House of Feathers.'

Both stories have since been published in the competition's anthology and as a result of two locals placing in the competition, Amanda Scotney, writer, poet and short filmmaker of Melbourne based Minds Shine Bright offered to present a free writers thematic workshop locally.

The Bass Coast Writers will be hosting the event and both Gayle and Sarah will be reading a short excerpt of their stories at the workshop.

The theme is 'Light and Shadow', which is this year's Seasons writing competition theme and it will prepare writers for competition entry, but it's not a requirement for attendees with anybody interested in fiction writing invited to join in.

Tips and tricks for competition writing will be imparted and writers will explore the topic of light and shadow through prompts from photos and quotes, and from working through the light and shadow thematic wheel.

Amanda will guide the process, providing valuable feedback and tips to enhance writing skills.

This event offers a great opportunity to connect with fellow writers, and share ideas in a supportive environment, to expand literary horizons and let imaginations run wild.

This in-person event will kick off at 1.30pm at Inverloch Community House Inc., The House in the Hub, 16A A'Beckett Street, on Thursday February 29.

The workshop is free but bookings are essential as places are limited. Afternoon tea will be provided.

For bookings: tinyurl.com/BCWritersWorkshop or ring Gayle Marien on 0414 627 155.

Achieve your dreams with free CCG courses

MAKING the decision to pursue further education can often be daunting, filled with uncertainties and financial concerns. As your local registered training provider for over four decades, Community College Gippsland (CCG) recognises the challenges that the local community faces when it comes to deciding to study. In an effort to remove some of the barriers and facilitate educational aspirations, CCG has announced the introduction of tuition fee-free courses.

This initiative aims to support those who are aspiring to study. Whether it is for personal growth, to gain on-the-job training, to upskill and improve knowledge, to explore career paths or to return to work, this decision is specifically to foster accessible education and support the areas that are based on local skills in demand. CCG is dedicated to providing opportunities for individuals to enhance their skills, knowledge, and employability without the burden of tuition fees.

"With the introduction of fee-free courses, we aim to make the decision to study more accessible and achievable for everyone," said Dale Gemmell, CEO at CCG.

"We understand that embarking on a learning journey can be daunting, particularly with financial concerns. Our goal is to reduce this burden and empower individuals to pursue their educational aspirations."

The tuition fee-free courses offered by CCG cater to a wide range of interests and career paths. Whether individuals are seeking to acquire new skills, enhance existing ones, or explore



There has never been a better time to upskill or undertake new studies with free courses available by CCG.

different fields, there are options available to suit diverse learning objectives in Community Services, Early Childhood Education, Hairdressing and Horticulture. Additionally, the programs are designed to align with local skills in demand, ensuring that learners are equipped with relevant competencies to succeed in the regional job market.

"Our programs are crafted to meet the needs of both learners and the local workforce," Dale explained.

"By offering tuition fee-free courses that are tailored to address skill shortages and industry demands, we aim to support economic growth and facilitate career development within the community."

One of the key advantages of the tuition fee-free courses at CCG is the flexibility they afford to learners. With enrolments open throughout the year, individuals have the opportunity to embark on their educational

journey at their convenience. This flexibility enables learners to balance their studies with other commitments, whether they are working professionals, parents, or individuals with diverse responsibilities and needs.

As CCG paves the way for accessible education through tuition fee-free courses, it reaffirms its commitment to empowering individuals, supporting local skills development, and fostering community prosperity. By reducing financial barriers and providing opportunities for lifelong learning, CCG aims to make achieving educational dreams a reality for all who live within Baw Baw Shire and surrounding areas.

For more information about fee-free courses and enrolment opportunities at Community College Gippsland (CCG), interested individuals are encouraged to visit ccg.asn.au or contact CCG on 5622 6000 or info@ccg.asn.au.



Rita, Cassie and Margaret of the 'WonAleles' playing their ukeleles at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre's 40th birthday on Saturday.



Ellen and David Hubble helped entertain the crowds at the 40th birthday.



Koa, Mal and Nadia enjoyed the 40th birthday celebrations.



Bert and Kay Davis were busy lending their time to help with raffles at the 40th birthday.



Terry and children Scarlett and Ned enjoyed all that was on offer at the birthday celebrations.



Michelle and John of Wonthaggi Life Saving Club enjoyed chatting with locals at the birthday celebration.



Daniel was scooping up delicious ice cream for delighted customers at the 40th birthday for Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre.



Leongatha Golf Club women's captain Rebecca Thomas and general manager Kate Rowe enjoyed the fine day for the annual club championship.



Andrew Chapman and Bonnie Parise relished the day at the Inverloch Dinghy Regatta.

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre's 40th birthday, Inverloch Dinghy Regatta, golf championships and the Ferguson Tractor Club French Island Tour.



Karl and Tony of the Wonthaggi Lowland Highlanders were ready to impress the crowd.



Lilian of Mamacita's Coffee was serving up hot beverages at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre's 40th birthday.



David Thomas had a great time sailing at Anderson Inlet on his boat 'Sally' that he crafted himself when he was 18.



Kalyn and Kendra Mitchell with Barbara (aunty) and John Mollard were proud to see the Mitchell House legacy continue to benefit the community.



Leongatha Golf Club men's captain Garry Rotteveel and A grade player Michael Thomas.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's Ian Baker and Michael Scott were keen to hit the course on Sunday for the club championships.



Deckhands Kyle Hannath and Mason Little. A25_0824



Yasmin and Errol Lobo get ready to return to the mainland after exploring some of French Island on foot. A26_0824



Australia's finest wind quintet (four shown) and FutureMakers alumni will take to the stage on March 3 in Meeniyan Hall.

Classical music line-up revealed

PROM Recitals has unveiled its line-up for the 2024 season, with five classical music performances to captivate the Bass Coast and South Gippsland communities.

Prom Recitals, a group of local volunteers that came together several years ago to bring classical music to the region, have organised five recitals – all on Sunday afternoons starting March 3. They are:

- Arcadia Winds Quintet, celebrating International Women's Day with "Music She Wrote 4.0".
- Trio Anima Mundi (one of Australia's best-known chamber groups, Grand

- Piano, Violin and Cello).
- Ziggy & Miles Johnston (classical guitar duo).
- CelloZ (four of Australia's most intrepid cellists).
- Spina & Begninetti (piano duo on tour from Europe).

The first one of the year, the Arcadia Winds Quintet, will be on Sunday March 3 from 2.30pm in the Meeniyan Hall.

The concert will celebrate International Women's Day, with the quintet performing a program of works by mainly Australian women composers which has been entitled "Music She Wrote 4.0".

Arcadia Winds is made up of Lily Bryant - flute; Rachel Bullen - oboe; Clare Fox -

clarinet; Matthew Kneale - bassoon, and Claudia Leggett - horn.

Arcadia Winds are trailblazers for Australian wind music.

Awarded a fellowship at the Australian National Academy of Music upon their formation in late 2013, they became Musica Viva Australia's inaugural FutureMakers musicians from 2015-17.

They have brought their brand of energetic, joyful, and spontaneous performance to festival stages around Australia and overseas.

The Adelaide Review wrote: "Captivating from the moment they took to the stage. Playing with great gusto and

passion, these five uber talented musicians...stole the hearts of everyone in the crowd."

They will perform five pieces:

- Valerie Coleman (USA) - Tzigane.
- Naomi Brown (Australian composer) - Miracle Fair (World Premiere).
- Anne Cawrse (Australian composer) - Honeybee.
- Holly Harrison (Australian composer) - Shapeshifter (for solo bassoon).
- Elizabeth Younan (Australian composer) - Shoreditch Grind.

Tickets (\$55 adults, \$20 children) are available through TryBooking at trybooking.com/CONOV



'Who I Am' presented at Wonthaggi Community Union Arts Centre

AMPLIFY presents film screening 'Who I Am.'

HEADSPACE Wonthaggi hosted a small community group of LGBTQIA+ members (AMPLIFY) aged 12-25, who were successful in receiving the 2023 Healthy Equal Youth Grant.

This grant has enabled the group to put on two educational and empowering events through 2023 which have received motivating and praising feedback.

The AMPLIFY team shared they are very excited to present their next and final event which is a short film screening of 'Who I Am'.

'Who I Am' is a 23-minute documentary following a transgender teen who is also Autistic.

Research shows that people who are neurodivergent are more likely to be trans or gender diverse. After being bullied at school, 14-year-old Charlie (pronouns he/him/it) finally comes out to his mum, setting him on a path of navigating the first steps of his transition - the social transition - and ultimately settling into his identity with a new name Aether.

Meanwhile his mum Anthea goes on her own journey to embracing her child for all that he is. The story is told through observational moments, intimate reflections from the whole family, and Aether's own original animated characters, The Fallens, coming to life.

AMPLIFY are providing two session times of the film, so that it is accessible for after work and school times. Please note that the screenings will also be sensory friendly with subtitles.

The event is free and appropriate for all ages, and the audience are encouraged to come a little earlier before the screening to explore the foyer where there will be free popcorn for attendees, Pronoun stamp making machine and a gallery wall of previous events... "we also have goodie bags," said Sophie of Headspace.

Amplify presents: Who I Am @ Wonthaggi Tickets, Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, Wonthaggi | TryBooking Australia

ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL

AND THE CARAVAN MUSIC CLUB PRESENT

Date	Event
SAT 24 FEB	CHECKERBOARD LOUNGE
SAT 24 FEB	CLAIRE ANNE TAYLOR + JETHRO PICKETT
SUN 25 FEB	LUKA BLOOM
SAT 2 MAR	JOHNNIE GOES TO CHURCH ALBUM LAUNCH
SUN 3 MAR	JAZZ PARTY
THU 7 MAR	THE WHITETOP MOUNTAINEERS (USA)
FRI 15 MAR	HUSSY HICKS
SAT 16 MAR	GABY MORENO
SUN 17 MAR	MIA DYSON + GUEST CHARLIE OWEN
THU 21 MAR	DON WALKER & BAND
FRI 22 MAR	MAHALIA BARNES & THE SOUL MATES
SUN 24 MAR	STEVE POLTZ 'THE 22ND TIME'S A CHARM' TOUR
SAT 6 APR	THE STETSON FAMILY + THE YEARLINGS
SUN 7 APR	ED KUEPPER
SUN 21 APR	KEVIN WELCH & THE WEEPING WILLOWS
FRI 26 APR	CHARM OF FINCHES

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WONTHAGGI

BINGO

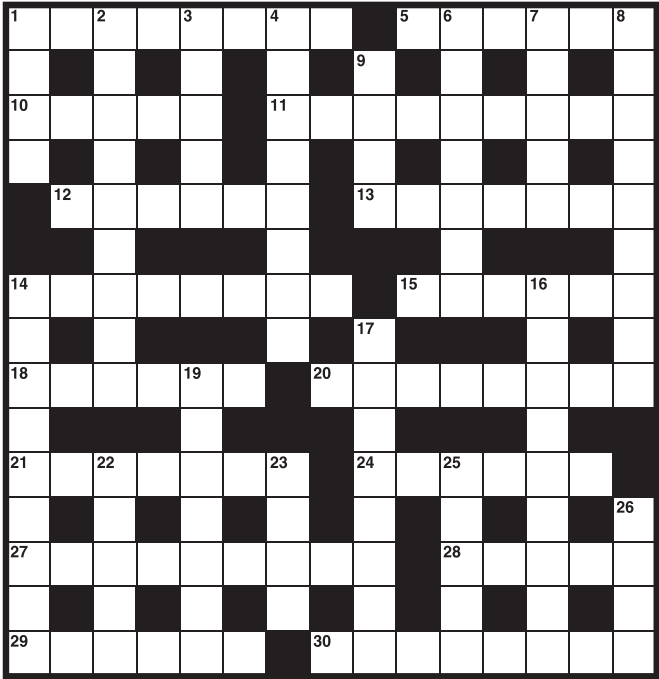
WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 8pm - 10pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★ LUCKY NUMBER JACKPOT

CROSSWORD

No. 215



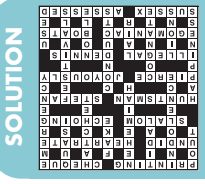
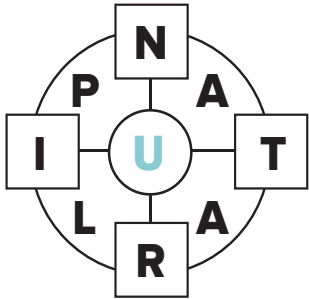
- ACROSS**
1 Copying (8)
5 Bank order (6)
10 Disconnected (5)
11 Speed of pulse (5,4)
12 Downhill ski race (6)
- DOWN**
13 Repeating (7)
14 Large Australian spider (8)
15 Former prime minister of Sweden, – Löfven (6)
18 Perforate (6)
20 Gleeefully (8)
21 Against the law (7)

9-LETTER

No. 215

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural words ending in “s”.

- Today's Aim:**
14 words: **Good**
21 words: **Very good**
29 words: **Excellent**



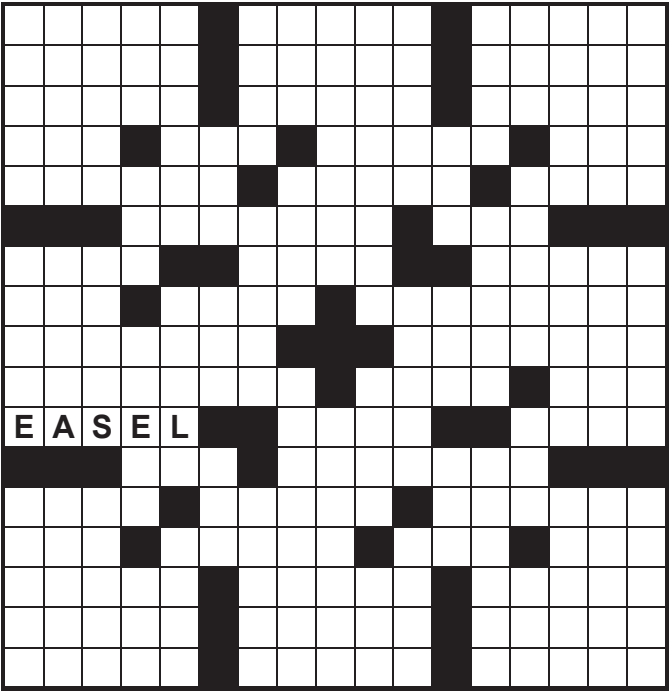
- 24 Comic character, – the Menace (6)
27 Pathological self-admirer (9)
28 Watercrafts (5)
29 English county (6)
30 Appraised (8)
- DOWN**
1 Show sullenness (4)
2 Laziness (9)
3 Of the tide (5)
4 Book of the Hebrew Bible (8)
6 Small axe (7)
7 Resembling (5)
8 Crisis (9)
9 Sham (4)
14 Pleasure (9)
16 Carnivals (9)
17 Leads an orchestra (8)
19 Related (7)
22 Fierce animals (5)
23 Den (4)
25 Illustrious (5)
26 Accustomed (4)

WORDFIT

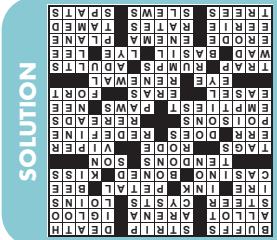
No. 125

- 3 LETTERS**
ADS
BEE
DEW
DIE
EGO
ERA
ERR
EYE
FLU
FOE
INK
IRE
ITS
LAP
LEE
LYE
MEW
NEE
NON
ONE
SON
TRY
WAD
WAY
- 5 LETTERS**
PAWS
RODE
SACK
TAGS
TRAP

ADORE
ALIBI
ALLOT
ARENA
AROMA
BASIC
BASIL
BONED
BUFFS
CYSTS
DEATH
DOILY
DRESS
EASEL
EERIE
ENDER
ENEMA
ERASE
ERODE
FLEES
GRIPS
HOSES
IGLOO
KNIFE
LLAMA
LOINS
OVERS
PASTE
PETAL
- 4 LETTERS**
BEES
BOOS
DILL
DOES
ERAS
FORT
KISS
LASS
PANS



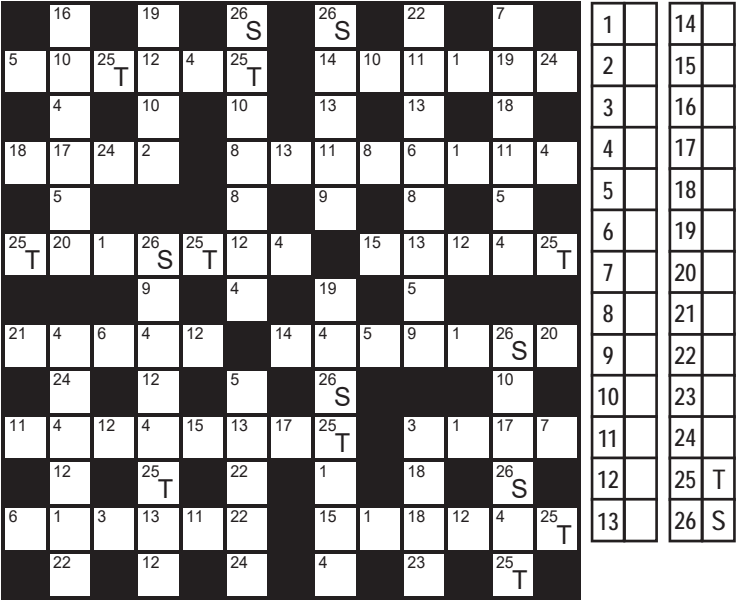
- PIANO
PLANE
RARER
RATES
RESET
RUMPS
SEEDS
SLEWS
SPATS
STEEP
STEER
STRIP
TAMED
TENET
- TEPEE
TONES
TREES
TWEET
ULTRA
USERS
VIPER
- 7 LETTERS**
POISONS
RENEWAL
REPLETE
REREADS
RESPOND
TENDONS
- 8 LETTERS**
EMPTIEST
INTENSER
REDEFINE
TERMINAL



CODEWORD

No. 165

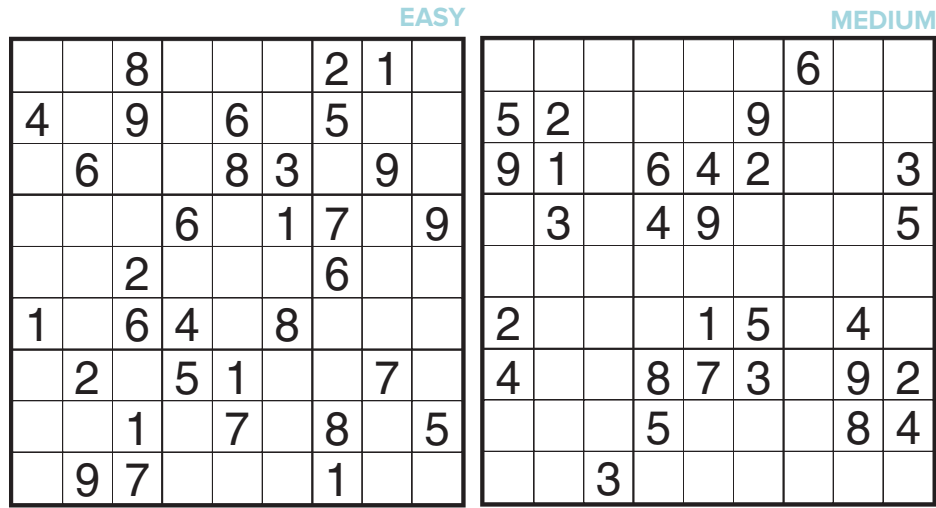
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



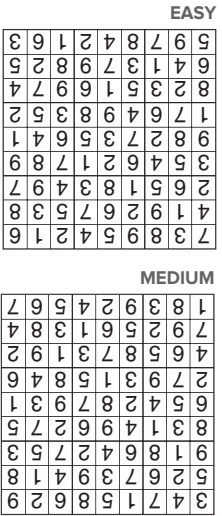
SUDOKU

No. 215

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. Which prime minister committed Australia to the Vietnam War?
2. Is a rhea a bird, a flower or a type of scarf?
3. Amy Poehler (pictured) starred as mid-level small town bureaucrat Leslie Knope in which US sitcom?
4. Which Australian-British author created the character Mary Poppins?
5. Is croup typically experienced by children or the elderly?
6. Referring to the explosive, TNT is an abbreviation of what?
7. Who played Sheldon Cooper on *The Big Bang Theory* (2007-2019)?
8. In the board game Risk, which continent is worth the most?
9. The classic children's character Paddington Bear was said to be a migrant from which country?
10. What is put inside a chicken breast to create the dish chicken kiev?



WORD SEARCH

No. 125

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- ARGUS
BLUE
BRIMSTONE
COMMA
DINGY SKIPPER
DUKE OF BURGUNDY
FRITILLARY
GATEKEEPER
GRAYLING
HAIRSTREAK
HEATH
LULWORTH
MARBLED
- MEADOW BROWN
MONARCH
PAINTED LADY
RED ADMIRAL
RINGLET
VICEROY
WALL
WHITE ADMIRAL
WHITE-LETTER
WOOD WHITE

SECRET MESSAGE: A symbol of beauty and transformation



A tranquil lifestyle on 8.35 acres

WAKE up to the sound of nothing but birdsong at this picturesque 8.35-acre property located between the popular townships of Koonwarra, Leongatha and Inverloch.

The house itself is a generous sized brick veneer home boasting a master suite with walk-in robe, modern ensuite with walk-in shower, double vanity and under floor heating to keep you warm on those winter mornings whilst the remaining three bedrooms are all a fantastic size and feature handy built-in robes and have a lovely outlook.

The impressive kitchen is the heart of the home and has been updated to feature plenty of bench space, dishwasher and a chef's dream - the Falcon oven with gas cook top.

A sunken lounge provides gorgeous views of native trees and paddocks and is complete with solid fuel heater and attractive timber lined ceiling. A HRV

ventilation system provides a cost effective and allergy free way to heat and cool the home.

The central main bathroom and sizeable laundry have both also been renovated completing this comfortable family home with all the hard work done. A covered outdoor entertaining area is accessed from the dining area and offers a peaceful place to relax overlooking the garden.

Car, boat and caravan accommodation is taken care of with a double carport at the front of the home, as well as a second double carport space plus caravan carport located next to the lock up shed.

Outside is a true oasis of native, established gums as well as an array of fruit trees including apple, pear, fig, pomegranate, lime, plum, orange, cherry and mandarin just to name a few. Couple this with the fenced vegetable garden

and chicken coop and you are almost self-sufficient!

Fenced into four paddocks, the land is well watered with a dam and troughs to all paddocks and two paddocks with horse shelters. The bush paddock provides a stunning outlook and is home to birds, kookaburras, koalas and loads of other wildlife.

If a peaceful and private lifestyle is what you are looking for, then look no further. Contact us to arrange a private inspection and you will not be disappointed!

4 2 4 8.35 acres

80 Wintles Road, **Leongatha Sth**
For Sale \$1.4m-\$1.5m
Agent Ray White Leongatha
Kasey Bowman 5662 5800

For Sale

13 Tarwin Ridge Blvd , **Leongatha**

RESIDE OR SUBDIVIDE

- Entertainers dream with open plan family area
- Superb outdoor entertaining area
- Manicured parklike gardens on 5889m²
- 14.4m x 9m shed with mancave

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$1,400,000 3 2 10

For Sale

16 Eleanor Court, **Leongatha**

FAMILY HOME IN QUIET LOCATION

- Spacious & modern open plan home
- Solar panels & security system
- Enclosed outdoor entertaining area
- Spacious 914m² block in quiet court

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$777,000 4 2 2

For Sale

49 Parr Street, **Leongatha**

SIZE, SPACE AND ROOM TO GROW

- Spacious 1326m² block close to schools
- Open floor plan with plenty of living space
- 5 generous size BRs, master with ensuite
- Additional block of 706.35m² available

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$695,000 5 2 2

For Sale

5 Carmodys Road, **Leongatha**

ON THE TOWNS EDGE

- Neat as a pin & well built
- Spacious interior & plenty of car accom.
- 2 paddocks, cattle race/ramp & hay shed
- 3.58 flat acres located just 1km to Leongatha

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$899,000 3 2 4

For Sale

118 Sweeneys Lane, **Dumbalk**

50 ACRES WITH FAMILY HOME

- Perfectly positioned to capture the views
- Modern & functional family home
- Excellent river flats & heavy blue gum country
- 6 minutes to Meeniyan

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$1,025,000 3 2 2

For Sale

34 Parr Street, **Leongatha**

GREAT POTENTIAL & GREAT VALUE

- Spacious living area & updated kitchen
- Elevated views & plenty of natural light
- Carport plus garage with separate access
- Family friendly neighbourhood close to schools

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$495,000 3 1 2

Ray White.

Michael Hanily



Paige Matthews



Dave Trotman



Kasey Bowman



Ray White Leongatha
03 5662 5800
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
raywhiteleongatha.com.au



Applications open for Rabobank business programs

MORE than 1300 of Australia and New Zealand's most progressive farmers have graduated from Rabobank's Business Management Programs over the past 25 years. And this year, more will have the opportunity to join their ranks, with applications now open for the 2024 intake of the programs.

Tailored for farmers at different stages in their career, the two programs on offer – the Executive Development Program for farm business owners or senior managers and the Farm Managers Program for up-and-coming farmers – are designed to equip participants with the latest in business management thinking.

Announcing the opening of applications for 2024, Rabobank regional manager Australia and New Zealand Mark Wiessing said both programs provide an excellent opportunity for leading producers to gather and learn from each other.

Applications are open until March 22, 2024, for the Executive Development Program and Farm Managers Program as follows:

- The Farm Managers Program, June 16 to 21, 2024 in Yarra Valley, Victoria.
- The Executive Development Program, August 25 to 30 2024 followed by the second module from July 27 to August 1, 2025, both in Sydney and New South Wales.

For further information or to apply, go to rabobank.com.au/agribusiness/business-management-programs



Treacy Dairy Supplies portable milking system in action in Mirboo North.

Treacy family take action for farmers during the storm

TREACY Dairy Supplies took immediate action to assist dairy farmers through the storm last Tuesday, delivering their portable milking system to six farms across South Gippsland.

Owner of Treacy Dairy Supplies Ted Treacy spoke to the Sentinel-Times and confirmed that he actioned the portable milking system to one farm on Tuesday evening and then a further five properties since the storm caused a power outage to nearby farms.

"The portable milking system

is an effective system for farmers that don't have access to generators," said Ted.

"Dairy farmers can benefit from portable milking systems, which reduce the risk of mastitis and improve cow comfort in the event of a power outage."

The portable milking systems are delivered to the dairy farms on a tandem trailer, where the farmers will then action to milk their heard.

"On Tuesday evening we hadn't yet lost our phone connection, so we were able to book in a few

farmers that had already lost power," said Ted.

"We then spoke to the farmers over the phone, asking them to have their herd ready for milking to efficiently get our two portable milking systems to six farms across South Gippsland."

Many farms had access to generators after the catastrophic storms hit South Gippsland, but Ted confirmed those that may lease a property and haven't made that investment into generators really benefit from the

portable milking system.

"We were so glad to be able to help these farms milk their cattle, it really is crucial to the future of their health," said Ted.

Ted confirmed that his son Wayne Treacy has been on the ground helping these farmers during this crucial time. Treacy Dairy Supplies is a family run business and is located in Leongatha.

To hire a portable milking system or any required dairy equipment during the power outage call 5662 2306.

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

Paul Vassil
(Formerly Vassil Electronics)
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0408 515 184

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
Dean Bailey	0438 531 672	Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Kaleb Jans	0487 155 471	David Holden	0428 749 390
WARRAGUL		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 943 473
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
		Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Clifford	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		LANG LANG		Michelle Lunney	0457 120 277
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898		

SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



Showcasing opportunity at dairy beef field day

WITH dairy beef consumption increasing internationally and emerging in Australia, a field day in Victoria will bring together producers, researchers, and supply chain members to discuss possibilities for the industry.

Held on one of the Growing Beef from Dairy Pilot Producer Demonstration Sites in Woodleigh, Victoria, the event will help dairy and beef producers consider potential target markets for surplus dairy calves and hear the latest on breeding, feeding, and managing animals for these markets.

Event hosts Will and Sarah Jelbart will provide insight into their operation at the field day and discuss how they have integrated dairy beef into their business.

Event co-organiser Callen Thompson from AgSTAR Projects said Will and Sarah had been growing out dairy beef animals to target weights successfully for several years on both pasture and with the use of supplement feeding.

“They have successfully introduced Wagyu genetics and sell into a high value supply chain,” Mr Thompson said.

The field day and Pilot Producer Demonstration Sites, supported by GippsDairy’s Extension Advisor Kristen Davis, are part of a broader Growing Beef from Dairy project funded by Dairy Australia and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), he said.

“MLA and Dairy Australia are working together to tackle the challenge of surplus dairy calves by funding the Growing Beef from Dairy Project, to up-skill beef and dairy producers in identifying and meeting target markets for their surplus calves,” Mr Thompson said.

“The field day brings together experts from across the supply chain to discuss markets, genetics, nutrition and consumer demands through a series of interactive presentations and panel discussions.”

The day will help connect beef

and dairy producers, calf rearers, genetics companies, milk, and meat processors to build relationships and share perspectives.

“One of the recommendations in the Growing Beef from Dairy project is the need to build and maintain relationships along the supply chain,” Mr Thompson said.

Correcting misconceptions and sharing the latest knowledge will also be a key outcome of the field day.

“Various studies have demonstrated the eating quality of well bred, fed and managed dairy beef which holds its own against traditional beef,” Mr Thompson said.

“Events like this field day are important of changing the misconceptions of dairy beef animals.”

The Growing Beef from Dairy Field Day runs from 9.30am to 3pm on Wednesday, February 21, 2024. To find out more and RSVP visit: mla.com.au/gbfd-woodleigh

Anthrax detected at second property in Shepparton

ANTHRAX has been detected at second beef cattle property in the Shepparton region, following an initial detection at a neighbouring property last week.

One cow has died, while the remaining livestock are being vaccinated.

A total of ten beef cattle have died across the two properties. Agriculture Victoria veterinarians and animal health staff are working closely with livestock owners in the region to assist with surveillance and vaccinations if necessary.

Victoria’s Chief Veterinary Officer Dr Graeme Cooke said the second detection was not unexpected in northern Victoria, particularly during summer, assisted by the long survival of the anthrax bacteria in soil.

‘Local farmers, veterinarians and Agriculture Victoria are well prepared to handle these incidents, with quarantine and biosecurity arrangements in place and vaccinations underway for potentially exposed livestock,’ Dr Cooke said.

Anthrax is not a concern for the public:

- Anthrax does not spread rapidly and is not contagious for humans
- There is no general public health risk associated with anthrax
- Any risk is confined to people who handle dead livestock such as farmers, veterinarians and knackery workers
- The Department of Health undertakes risk exposure assessments of individuals who have potentially been exposed and may offer treatment depending on the risk assessment.
- There is no impact on local produce or food safety.

Farmers are urged to report any cases of unexplained deaths to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888, to your local vet, or to Agriculture Victoria animal health staff on 136 186.

An Anthrax factsheet on the Agriculture Victoria website is available answering frequently asked questions and providing more information.

VLE LEONGATHA STORE SALE 3000 CATTLE 3000

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024 - Starting at 10am

GROWN STEERS

A/c R & Y Connley, Omeo (SEJ)
50 Hereford steers, 14-16 mths, By Mawarra Bulls, 2 X 7in 1, Dectomax 2/11/23

A/c Dr Hall, Fish Creek (SEJ)
30 Angus steers 18-20 mths, Temania bloodlines, VB, GF, ABF

A/c Hookey Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, Leawood blood, EU Accred, NE Accred

A/c Western Park (ELDERS)
29 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, Fernleigh blood, one mark, very quiet, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Fine Line Merino (ELDERS)
22 Angus steers, 15-18 mths, Fernleigh blood, VB

A/c Sam Walker, Glen Alvie (ELDERS)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF & ABF

A/c Meljar Pty Ltd, Ruby (ELDERS)
18 Angus x steers, 17 mths VB, GF & ABF

A/c Melaleuca Past Trust, Ruby (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus steers, 16 mths

A/c Merlewood Angus P/L, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
17 Angus steers, 17 mths

A/c Leveque Nom, Korumburra (SEJ)
16 Angus steers, 18-20 mths

A/c S Crutchfield, Mirboo Nth (SEJ)
15 Angus steers, 22-24 mths

A/c S & E Moriarty, Strzelecki (SEJ)
15 Angus steers, 22-24 mths

A/c M & J Chatfield, Toora (PHC)
15 Poll Hereford steers, 15-16 mths, Meikle blood

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Brookeville Angus, Benambra (Nutrien)
90 Angus heifers, 18 mths, Dunoon & Bowman blood

A/c Von Pace Past P/L, Giffard (Nutrien)
40 Angus & Angus Hereford X heifers, 15-16 mths

A/c Meljar Pty Ltd, Ruby (ELDERS)
34 Angus x heifers, 14-16 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c G & B Pocklington, Dumbalk North (SEJ)
10 Black Baldy heifers, 15 mths

14 Hereford heifers, 15 mths

NE Accred

A/c A Orchard, Mirboo North (ELDERS)
20 Angus heifers 16 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Hookey Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus heifers, 18-20 mths, Leawood blood, EU Accred, NE Accred

A/c F & K Matthews (ELDERS)
20 Charolais/Limousin cross heifers, 18 mths

WEANERS

A/c P&N&D&M Moore Yarram (PHC)
100 Angus & Angus/Hereford X steers 9-11 mths, weaned, Drenched Dectomax, Arrest, Vac 5in1 weaned Feb by Yancowinna, Lawson Stud Angus Bulls, Top calves NE Accred.

A/c Stuart Investments. Stacey's Bridge (PHC)
50 Hereford steers, 7-11 mths, debudded

40 Hereford heifers, 7-10 mths, debudded

Weaned Jan EU Accred, drenched 7in1 Twice, By Mawarra & Karoonda Bulls

A/c G&L Simmons Woodside (PHC)
50 Hereford steers, 8-11 mths, dehorned

15 Hereford heifers, 8-10 mths, dehorned

Weaned Dec, Drenched Vac 5in1, B12 & Colbalt, Cydectin by Karoonda Stud Bulls, very quiet

A/c K D Opray Hedley (PHC)
60 Angus Steer weaners, 10-12 mths, weaned, All Vendor Bred, had all treatments, by Leawood, Te Mania Bulls, forward condition, top steers

A/c D&K Belcher "Wonga Park" Woodside (PHC)
40 Hereford steers, 9-11 mths

20 Hereford heifers, 9-10 mths

Weaned Jan, Drenched & Vac 5 In 1 twice & Pinkeye Vac by Karoonda & Mawarra Bulls, very quiet.

A/c Von Pace Past P/L, Giffard (Nutrien)
50 Angus steers, 12-13 mths, weaned

A/c MR Higgins, Glemaggie (SEJ)
20 Angus Hereford x steers

30 Angus Hereford x heifers

13-14 mths, By Innesdale & Bowman Angus Bulls

A/c R, V & R Dowel, Leongatha South (SEJ)
50 Poll Hereford steers, 10-12 mths, weaned 1/1/24, Karoonda, Newcomen, Injemira Bulls, NE Accred, Drenched Eprinex 30/01/24

A/c BM & SM Higgins, Glenmaggie (SEJ)
20 Angus Hereford x steers

20 Angus Hereford x heifers

13-14 mths, By Innesdale & Bowman Angus Bulls

A/c Dixon & Barlow Yarram (Phc)
15 Angus steers, 10-11 mths

25 Angus heifers, 10-11 mths

McInnes Bulls, Drenched, 2x 5in1

A/c Filsell Agg (ELDERS)
15 Angus steer weaners

25 Angus heifer weaners

10-11 mths, Harris blood

A/c Deep Creek Farm (Elders)
14 Poll Hereford steers, 12 mths, Meikle blood, weaned, very quiet, VB, GF & ABF

26 Poll Hereford heifers, 11-12 mths, Meikle blood, weaned, very quiet, VB, GF & ABF

A/c JCJ & LM White, Bairnsdale (NUTRIEN)
40 Charo mixed sex, weaned, Te Mania blood

S & J SCHMIDT (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Euro x heifers, 14 mths

20 Euro x steers, 14 mths

A/c RJ & EF FOAT WOODSIDE (PHC)
18 Poll Hereford steers, 10-11 mths

18 Poll Hereford heifers, 9-10 mths

Weaned Jan, Drenched 5in1, By Meikle Bulls.

A/c Lester Farms, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus Hereford X steers, 14 mths

A/c Wine Valley (ELDERS)
30 Angus steers & heifers, 9-12 mths, Te Mania blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c JL Clancy, Nerrena (SEJ)
15 Angus heifers

15 Angus steers

13 mths, weaned

A/c Thomas Georgiou (ELDERS)
28 mixed sex Poll Hereford weaners, 12 mths, Madelle Poll Hereford bloodlines

D & M Trigg Woodleigh (Phc)
20 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, By Eagle Rock & Langi Kal Kal Bulls

A/c A Pocklington, Mirboo (SEJ)
20 Hereford steers, 13 mths, VB, NE Accred

A/c D & L White, Fernbank (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, NE Accred

A/c Leebrook Livestock, Stratford (Nutrien)
20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, Pinora & Mawarra blood, Vacc & Drenched, Piliguard, NE Accred

A/c Geoff Sharp, Tyers (ELDERS)
20 Angus m/s weaners, 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c A Pigot, Pearsondale (Nutrien)
20 Angus mixed sex, Pinora blood

A/c M Pretty Bingenwarri (Phc)
15 Red Angus X steers, 11-12 mths

S & C Jones (Alex Scott)
15 British White steers, 14 mths

A/c Ripplebrook Park (ELDERS)
13 Angus steers, 10 mths, Temania blood, weaned, GF, ABF

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c J&J Wong, Mountain View (ELDERS)
4 Wagyu F2 steers, 15-20 mths

A/c L&L McKenzie, Calrossie (PHC)
30 Friesian steers, 18 mths

A/c C & J Harris, Korumburra (Sej)
30 Friesian steers, 15-16 mths

COWS & CALVES

A/c Bj O'Loughlin, Mirboo Nth (Nutrien)
25 X 25 Angus cows & calves, mixed ages, calves 4-6 wks

A/c D & R Scott, Stony Creek (Alex Scott)
6 X 6 Angus heifers and calves

7 X 7 Red Angus heifers and calves

Both lots with Hereford calves at foot 4 mths and re joined to Speckle Park Bull last 6 weeks.

Very quiet heifers

A/c Wade Theodore, Woodside (PHC)
5 X 5 Hereford heifers, 3 yo with July drop Hereford calves at foot, not rejoined, Quion Hill bred

A/c J&J Wong, Mountain View (Elders)
3 X 3 Wagyu F1/F2 cows & calves

2 Wagyu F1/F2 heifers, PTIC 4-5 mths to Wagyu Bull

2 Wagyu F1/F2 heifers, Dep to Wagyu Bull For 8 wks



5662 4033

5662 2291

0429 050 349

5658 1894

5655 1133

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS



Opportunities abound for STEM students

STUDENTS at all levels of education with a passion for STEM are benefitting from Agriculture Victoria's broadening education program.

Agriculture Victoria research higher education manager Ms Kendra Whiteman said a program for PhD students has been running in partnership with La Trobe University (LTU) and the University of Melbourne (UoM) since 2012.

"We currently have 65 PhD students under supervision as well as a large cohort of Masters students who started this summer. More recently, interest in our partnered PhD program has broadened," she said.

"We are now partnering with more universities to provide industry-based PhD research and industry internship opportunities, including Federation University, Victoria University, University of Tasmania, Deakin University and RMIT.

"We have received excellent feedback from everyone involved in the process – students, supervisors, staff, tertiary institutions and our stakeholders.

"Supervising students is mutually beneficial. They bring fresh knowledge from their study to our research and in return gain much from working side by side with our expert agricultural research scientists in a multi-disciplinary and hi-tech environment.

"When they finish their study, they leave us with a very practical skillset for working in applied agricultural research, with exposure to modern scientific equipment and techniques, plus professional development opportunities like contract management and scientific communication skills.

"Many of the students we supervise have had the opportunity to present their research to industry stakeholders, including some national and international events, or have had their work featured in industry publications or the wider media."

Ms Whiteman said as well as the tertiary partnerships, the popular, in-house Get Into AgSTEM Program for primary and secondary students runs statewide throughout the school year.

At the AgriBio Centre for AgriBioScience in Bundoora, Melbourne, and across all regional SmartFarms, Agriculture Victoria also supports secondary school work experience and provides placements for TAFE students to promote agriculture as a career of choice.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Lardner Park Calf Market Report
Monday, February 12, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$20 to \$35
Friesian Bulls	\$32 to \$69
Friesian Heifers	\$200 to \$270
Beef Bulls	\$80 to \$180
Beef Heifers	\$65 to \$130
Number of Calves: 108	
Number purchased to rear: 49	

Phelan & Henderson & Co.

STOCK & STATION AGENTS

- Prime & Store cattle sales at VLE Leongatha
- Auctions Plus Sales
- Live Heifer Export Orders
- O/Hooks sales to Processors
- Rural Property Real Estate



PH0737

Jake Anthony 0467 297 794
Simon Henderson 0428 740 750
David Phelan 0429 050 349

French Island Ferguson tractor trek



Some of those on the Ferguson Tractor Trek on French Island get set to head off after their lunch break, with the event's organiser Russell Sanders in the foreground with the black cap. A15_0824



Anthony Schellekens relaxes by his 1963 Massey Ferguson during the lunch stop. A17_0824



Charlie Cook arrives at the French Island General Store on his 1972 Massey Ferguson. A16_0824

FRENCH Island made a splendid setting for Saturday's tractor trek organised by the Ferguson Tractor Club of Australia's South Gippsland area coordinator Russell Sanders.

Woolamai-based Russell said there were hundreds of phone calls involved in organising the event and lots of preparation, but he was clearly relishing the adventure when the 22 tractor drivers on the trek stopped for a pre-arranged lunch at the French Island General Store.

Russell arrived on his 135 multi-power 1969 Massey Ferguson, his 1963 35X tractor also on the journey with another driver.

"I grew up with tractors, I've always had machinery and I've just kept going with it," Russell said of his enduring passion, with most of the trek participants retired farmers.

He is delighted that some young people joined in.

Charlie Cook of Dalyston is one of those young tractor enthusiasts, participating in the trek on his 148 multi-power 1972 Massey Ferguson, which he found on Marketplace and restored, having now owned it for about a year.

Work included adding front weights, with the overall project aimed at getting the tractor to look like it did when originally purchased new at a Hampton Park dealer.

"I'm pretty particular," Charlie said when speaking about his commitment to tractor restoration and getting everything just as he wants it.

"My father's had Massey Fergusons and tractors are a hobby of mine and I'm happy restoring them; I've got a 135 one and a 550," Charlie said.

He got his 135 when he was aged just 16.

Anthony Schellekens, another of the younger brigade on the French Island Tractor Trek, bought a plough for his 1963 Massey Ferguson MKII tractor during a farm visit on the way to the General Store lunch stop.

Of the 22 tractors on the trek, seven were Fergusons and the rest Massey Fergusons, the brand having become Massey Ferguson in 1957.

Tractors were transported to French Island by barge from Corinella, with only four able to be carried at once.

16 made the trip on Friday, with the others coming across on Saturday morning.

After enjoying the General Store meal, the tractor drivers headed off for another farm visit and the delights of the French Island Vineyards.

The 84-kilometre trek ended back at the barge for the return journey to the mainland.



Australian saleyards are bustling with sheep-and-cattle.

A weight of numbers

THE first three weeks of February have seen some very solid throughput numbers presented at east coast saleyards, particularly for cattle. Average weekly cattle yardings across the eastern seaboard saleyards has sat at around 73,000 head which is 82 per cent higher than the saleyard volumes seen for the start of February in 2023 and 78 per cent stronger than the five-year average trend for the first three weeks of February.

The stronger than normal cattle turn-off has impacted prices with the national heavy steer indicator easing from a recent peak of 312c/kg lwt to 280c/kg, a decline of around 10 per cent. However, considering the strong supply being presented the price easing isn't too bad and is probably being supported by the strong start to beef export flows in 2024.

Weekly saleyard throughput for sheep and lamb was strong into February too. Average weekly east coast lamb and sheep volumes during the first three weeks of

By Matt Dalglish | episode 3

February 2024 have both been 28 per cent higher than levels seen in February 2023. Comparing the February yarding levels to the five-year average trend shows that sheep volumes have been stronger in percentage terms.

East coast sheep have averaged weekly yardings of around 125,000 head this February which is 64 per cent higher than the five-year seasonal pattern. Meanwhile, east coast weekly yardings of lamb have averaged 226,000 head during February, which represents saleyard throughput levels that are 47 per cent higher than the five-year pattern for February.

The higher supply of sheep and lamb have impacted prices too. The trade lamb indicator has eased 18 per cent from the January peak of 775c/kg cwt to sit at 636 cents presently. Meanwhile, the mutton indicator has dropped 33 per cent in recent weeks from a peak of 313c/kg cwt to 209 cents.

Caring for your living Christmas Tree

DECIDING to have with a living Christmas tree rather than an artificial one or cutting one down has many great benefits.

They're sustainable, they reduce the carbon footprint, they're environmentally friendly, they get to grow with people and their families and they create another great tradition at Christmas.

However, keeping the tree alive all year so it can be used once again the following year, can be a challenge for some.

Many people accidentally kill the tree and the whole growing with the family or sustainability sentiment turns into a big old fail of droopy branches and scattered brown needles.

Monique Wilson from Greener Life Inverloch shared a few key pieces of advice to help people look after their tree so it makes it through to see another Christmas.

The biggest mistake people make according to Monique, is moving the tree from inside, where it's been for a week or a month in a stable unnatural microclimate, to straight out into sunlight.

As living Christmas trees are most often pine trees, Douglas Fir trees or Australian natives, all of which are sun loving, people assume they will be fine outside.

But as the tree has been in a microclimate, where it's also likely been over or under watered and then gets thrown outside into a completely different climate, it perishes.

The best thing to do is to move the Christmas tree from inside to the outside slowly, into the shade and then partial shade and then full sun, so it doesn't get a shock and can adjust to the changing climate, explains Monique.

It should also be given a good drenching, providing the water can drain away, and a big dose of Seasol or similar that helps the plant move from one microclimate



to another.

Once Autumn comes around and it's not so hot anymore, it can be placed into the position it's going to live for the rest of the year.

To keep the tree growing with the family, it should also be re-potted in Autumn to one size larger where it will generally grow to the pot size.

Before repotting the plant should be happy and healthy, so it can settle in before the coldness of winter hits.

A potting mix appropriate to the tree should be used – if it's a native, a native potting mix should be used.

Monique recommends using a premium potting mix that has Australian standard red and white ticks to ensure quality and contains a rewetting agent, all of which will be indicated on the bag.

When spring hits the trees will be in fine form to grow and when Christmas rolls around in Summer the tree will be healthy and ready to be decorated for another year.

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For full details and farm address, visit lelygippsland.com.au

The South Gippsland Robotic Dairy Farm Open Day is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of its Support Regional Trade Events Program.



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SPORTS

Wooden dinghies set sail for regatta

THE Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta, hosted by the South Gippsland Yacht Club, couldn't have asked for better weather and winds over the weekend.
The wooden dinghy regatta saw droves of competitors turn out for the annual event, proving it is still popular for sailing enthusiasts.
Dozens of dinghies set out on Anderson Inlet with calm winds and beautiful sunny weather across the weekend, with spectators venturing down to the surf get a glimpse.
At the event was Bonnie Parise, who proudly built her own mini dinghy which contains all the essentials for a delicious picnic, including a portable gas stove!
The family attach the mini dinghy to their main boat and whip out all their favourites whenever they feel.
Her grandfather Andrew Chapman proudly explained the project had largely been undertaken by Bonnie, who drew and measured all the designs to create it.
Bonnie highlighted she was inspired to undertake the project during lockdowns, when homeschooling was the norm.
Her family are all involved in sailing with her parents even taking part in the regatta on the day.
Building on the success of past years, the purpose of the regatta is for owner/sailors to get these boats on the water and to display to the public the variety of timber dinghies that were once common along Victorian beaches, but now quite rare.
The event focuses predominantly on racing dinghies of the era of the 1940s-80s and in particular the Moth.
These are typically made of timber construction.



'Just a minute' was in among the action. Ns24_0824



Bonnie Parise sits next to her very own 'mini dinghy' that she designed and crafted herself thanks to the guidance of her grandfather Andrew Chapman. Ns20_0824

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Ladies fishin' in the bay

Nikki Bryant was thrilled with her catch in Kilcunda.

Cat Baird on board Ladies Fishing Charters San Remo.

Jacinta Shelley braved the big swell for a weekend of fishing at the end of January.

Michelle Birchall caught tuna in Kilcunda over the Australia Day weekend.

Ava Holland and Steve Noble take top honours at Phillip Island

AVA Holland (Mornington Peninsula) and Steve Noble (Cape Paterson) have taken top honours at Phillip Island over the weekend at Round 2 of the Victorian Open Series.

Vying for the title of State Champion and a coveted spot in the Rip Curl Pro Trials, surfers were greeted with fun albeit challenging waves all day at the primary location of Cape Woolamai.

Holland finished the final with a heat total of 11.83 (out of a possible 20), to best Round 1 winner Emily McGettigan (Torquay) who finished on 7.23 points.

"The waves were super fun out there today when you got them," said Holland.

"It was sometimes tricky to find the right waves out there, but I'm stoked to get the win and am looking forward to the next event at my home break!"

Finishing in third and fourth were Sara Hickson (Mornington Peninsula) and Sophie Wilkinson (Mornington Peninsula).

Steve Noble showed his



Steve Noble showed his intimate knowledge of Cape Woolamai. Photo: Tom Graham / Surfing Victoria.

intimate knowledge of Cape Woolamai in the final finishing with a heat total of 14.20 points ahead of in-form surfer Lucas Hickson (Mornington Peninsula). Hickson held the two highest heat totals of the day, however could not score enough in the final to best Noble.

"It was certainly challenging

out there today," said Noble.

"Finishing on the low tide made it tough but it was good to get a couple of turns out there and get the win."

Finishing in third and fourth was Jack Basset (Barwon Heads) and Isiah Norling (Barwon Heads).

Full results can be viewed via liveheats.com/surfingvictoria

The series will now head to the Mornington Peninsula for the final round of the series on March 17. Entries are still open at surfingvic.com/live

The Victorian Open Series is supported by Park Lane Holiday Parks, Danny Green's Coward Punch Campaign, Cancer Council Sunscreen, earLAB and Surfing Victoria.

SGB swimmers dominate in All Juniors Competition

IT WAS time for the juniors to shine at Sale, as 53 South Gippsland Bass swimmers competed at the All Juniors Competition.

The top eight for the region will be going on to compete next month at the semi-finals at MSAC.

It was an outstanding effort with 39 swimmers going on, 73 per cent of South Gippsland Bass (SGB) swimmers qualified and a number of others are emergencies.

It is a time for the younger swimmers to shine, with age groups ranging from eight-year-olds all the way through to 16 years old.

Coaches Sam and Lorri were impressed with how well the swimmers performed, especially the under eight and nine age group, where it is quite daunting for them to be swimming 50 metres, some for only the second or third time.

The juniors really showed

off the work they have put in over the summer training and learning to race, the smiles on their faces was evidence that the effort had been worth it.

There was great camaraderie amongst the team, as those making the top eight were read out, with cheering for all the SGB swimmers.

It had been a tough week for swimmers, with many of their training sessions cancelled but they used their resilience and many trained at the beach instead.

Gippsland as a region is very dominant in swimming with many who make the top eight going on to make the finals from the semi-final.

Many who miss out in Gippsland would have made it if it was on qualifying times or they were in a different part of the state, but being in the top eight for the region in the larger age groups is a superb effort.



Abbie, Jayden and Caitlin celebrated a great day out at the All Juniors Competition.

Ten fish caught in monthly comp

WONTHAGGI Angling Club held its monthly competition on Sunday, February 18.

Ten fish weighed in. Sponsor of the month was AWM Electrical and Data Suppliers.

The monthly winners were: Veterans: Allan Bentick Bream 1.154 grams. Senior Male: Nick Richards

Flathead 570 grams. Senior Female: Deb Senior Whiting 339 grams. No juniors weighed in. Next competition: March 17.

RIGHT: The Wonthaggi Angling Club's monthly competition winners were crowned on February 18.



Darts league gears up for exciting season ahead

THE annual general meeting of the Phillip Island and District Darts League was a resounding success last week, with a strong turnout and spirited discussions aimed at enhancing the league's operations.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the announcement of the league's expansion to accommodate nine teams for the upcoming season, a testament to the league's growth and popularity.

The AGM also saw the election of the new committee for 2024, with Chris Chivers assuming the role of secretary, Meredith Parker as treasurer, Vince Palladino as vice president, and Scott Lethbridge continuing as president.

The newly elected committee members were voted in by the members, signifying a vote of confidence in their abilities and commitment to the league's welfare.

Following the formalities of the AGM, members engaged in a friendly singles knockout, with Laurie Jones emerging victorious, showcasing impressive form early in the pre-season.

Looking ahead, the league is gearing up for the Owen Walton Trophy, a drawn doubles competition scheduled for Monday, February 19th.

The event promises an evening of camaraderie and competitive spirit, with raffles and prizes awaiting the winners.

League president Scott expressed his anticipation for a thrilling event and encouraged all members to attend for a night of darts and fun.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

RESULTS: Inverloch, February 16: seven tables competing.

North/South master point winners:

First: John Currier and John Sutton 61.01 per cent.

Second: Phillip and Neville Chapman 57.14.

Third: John French and Debbie Anglim 56.55.

East winners:

First: Moya Crowley and Mike Dooley with a very healthy 63.69.

Second: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 62.2.

Third: Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka 54.17

A reminder social bridge for learners is being held at the Wonthaggi RSL with a 9.15am arrival for a 9.30am start.

Anyone interested in learning this great game in a most relaxed and helpful atmosphere please contact Alan Johnston on 5674 1838.

The highlight of the previous week's game was the pairing of two "younger" members, namely Phillip Chapman and John Sutton who came second.

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
February 20

1.46am
0.75m
8.07am
1.37m
2.21pm
0.33m
9.54pm
1.37m

WEDNESDAY
February 21

2.37am
0.83m
9.02am
1.28m
3.17pm
0.41m
10.59pm
1.33m

THURSDAY
February 22

3.44am
0.89m
10.10am
1.21m
4.30pm
0.46m

FRIDAY
February 23

12.06am
1.32m
5.11am
0.89m
11.26am
1.18m
5.45pm
0.48m

SATURDAY
February 24

1.10am
1.36m
6.38am
0.83m
12.37pm
1.20m
6.52pm
0.46m

SUNDAY
February 25

2.01am
1.40m
7.44am
0.73m
1.39pm
1.25m
7.46pm
0.45m

MONDAY
February 26

2.40am
1.45m
8.30am
0.63m
2.31pm
1.32m
8.30pm
0.44m

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Foster Golf Club's Par event winners Rae Knee and Geraldine Sinclair.

FOSTER Ladies

IT WAS a perfect day after what had been very challenging weather. The winner of the Par event was Geraldine Sinclair once again, with (25) +4 – on a roll, Geraldine. B Grade's winner was Rae Knee with a great +3. Kylie Collins took out BDLs on the sixth and 17th. The nine-hole winner was Susan Anderson with 14 points. BDL went to Jan Best (24) +2 and Kylie Collins square on a C/B. Thank you to Michelle Sait Bennett for sponsoring the day. Next week: February 2 – First round of the Singles/Knockout Stableford.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 13. Stableford: 34 players. A Grade: Blayke Spokes (16) 43 points. B Grade: David Gow (26) 36 points. NTPs: first Jaarl Enbom, seventh Bill Anderson and 10th David Gow. Thursday, February 15: Stableford: 24 players. Winner: Brian Clasby (15) 40 points. NTPs: first Barry Kerr, seventh Steve Duffield, 10th Mark Johnson and 13th Barry Kerr. Saturday, February 17: Men's Club Championships round three daily result: 71 players. Sponsor: Doc Dixon and Vinnie Sorrell. A Grade: Tim Fowles (14) 67 net. B Grade: Pete Wallace (18) 66 net. NTPs: first Billie Wrigley, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th Steve Bromby and 13th John Wilson. Men's Club Championships round three: Scratch: A Grade: Steve Bromby 219, Mat Wrigley 229, Billie Wrigley 236, Tim O'Neill 240 and Jacob Wrigley 240. B Grade: Shane Pouw 251, Barry Kerr 252, Paul Hopkins 253, Clint Newcombe 253 and Tim Fowles 256. C Grade: Blayke Spokes 261, Peter Wallace 262, Richard Johnson 276 and Chris McConnell 278. D Grade: Nick Moore 278, Chris Gallagher 289, Peter Hornibrook 293 and Marty Deleeuw 299. Men's Club Championships round three:



Grade winners at Korumburra, Karen Sorrell and Heather Grist were very happy to be the recipients of the generous trophies provided by WEF Accounting. Absent: Julie Brannaghan.

Nett: A Grade: Steve Bromby, Steve Rose, Tim O'Neill and Jacob Wrigley 222, Guv Fields 225 and Mat Wrigley 226. B Grade: Tim Fowles 211, Barry Kerr 219, Paul Hopkins 220, Shane Pouw 221 and Clint Newcombe 223. C Grade: Blayke Spokes 207, Peter Wallace 208, Chris McConnell 224 and Richard Johnson and Mick Beveledere 228. D Grade: Doc Dixon and Nick Moore 215, Chris Gallagher 143, and Marty De Leeuw 218. Men's Senior Club Championships (55+) round three: Scratch: Guv Fields 246, Steve Rose 247, Barry Kerr 252, Paul Hopkins 260, and Ian Gibson and Neil Spargo 266. Sunday, February 18: Men's Club Championships round four: Scratch: A Grade: Steve Bromby 292, Mat Wrigley 305, Jacob Wrigley 315, Billy Wrigley 315 and Tim O'Neill 319. B Grade: Clint Newcombe 334, Shane Pouw 338 Tim Fowles 340, Paul Hopkins and Barry Kerr 341. C Grade: Blayke Spokes 344, Peter Wallace 354, Mick Belvedere 375 and Jake Fowles 376. D Grade: Nick Moore 373, Chris Gallagher 394 and Marty De Leeuw 395. Men's Senior Club Championships (55+) round four: Scratch: Guv Fields 326, Steve Rose 329, Barry Kerr 341 and Paul Hopkins 348. Men's Club Championships round four: Nett: A Grade: Jacob Wrigley 291, Tim O'Neill 295, Steve Bromby 296 and Steve Rose 296. B Grade: Tim Fowles 280, Clint Newcombe 294, Paul Hopkins and Barry Kerr 297 and Shane Pouw 298. C Grade: Blayke Spokes 272, Peter Wallace 282 and Jai Van Dyk 302. D Grade: Marty Deleeuw 287, Nick Moore 289, Doc Dixon 293 and Jack Clink 308.

Ladies

THE club sends a huge thank you to the fantastic grounds staff and volunteers who helped clean up the course early Wednesday after the massive storm on Tuesday afternoon so the second split round of the championships could be played. The club was most appreciative and the course was a credit to all who



Korumburra Golf Club's Men's Club Championships placings were Junior Billy Wrigley, D Grade Nick Moore, Club Champion Steve Bromby, C Grade Blayke Spokes and B Grade Clint Newcombe.

assisted. Thank you to the Korumburra businesses who were able to open and provide much appreciated services through the power outage and the club also feels for those who were unable to continue trading. The club extends its thoughts to the Mirboo North community after the storm left so much destruction to the lovely town and surrounding areas. Last Wednesday's daily event was very generously sponsored by WEF Accounting, Williams, Edwards and Findlay and the club thanks this local business for its ongoing support. Heather Grist was the winner in A Grade, 72 net and Shelley Snooks was runner-up, 74 net, on a c/b. B Grade was won Julie Brannaghan 72 net and Trudi Mantell was close behind, 73 net. Karen Sorrell won C Grade, 71 net and Pam Eyers was runner-up on a c/b, 74 net. BDTL went to Kerri Besley and Lorraine Knox, both 74 net and Viv Enbom, 75 net. Kerri had the best Scratch Score with 91. Virginia Wagner won the nine-hole comp with 14 points after a c/b with Marg Harper and Lynne Schwennesen. NTPs went to Diarne Maskell first, Sherrin Solly seventh and Julie Brannaghan 13th. The twilight winners on Thursday were Jenni and Jaarl Enbom 30 points and Denise and Ian Gibson were runners-up 24 points. Gibbo was also NTP on the 13th. Saturday was a Stroke round with some of those playing nominating this as the third round of championships in the split round. The daily event was won by Jenny Blackmore (26), 74 net after a c/b with Lorraine Knox (40). BDTL went to Shelley Snooks (18) 76 net and Heather Grist (22), 77 net. Shelley also had the best Scratch Score with 94. NTP winners were Judy Webb first (Kelly's Bakery voucher), Trudy Olden 10th and Diarne Maskell 13th.

LEONGATHA TUESDAY, February 13: Stableford. This Stableford event was called off during the round due to heat and strong winds.

Thursday, February 15: Par. Thursday was a Par round playing off the black tees with a field of 70 members/guests commencing with a 9am shotgun start. Overall winners: 1. Andy Bassett (26) with a score of +4 on a countback. 2. Michael Thomas (4) with a score of +4 on a countback. 3. Ross McRobert (17) with a score of +4. 4. Ken Smirk (16) with a score of +2 on a countback. 5. Malcolm Gin (11) with a score of +2 on a countback. NTP fifth second shot: Craig Hutchinson at 1.98m. NTP 14th: Peter Clingin at 3.84m. NTP 16th: Malcolm Gin at 1.06m. Saturday, February 17: Men's Club Championship second round. The second round of the Club Championship stroke event had a field of 57 members and played in sublime golfing conditions. Overall winners: 1. Matthew Bowey (9) with a score of 76. 2. Mark Wilson (11) with a score of 80. 3. Malcolm Gin (11) with a score of 81 on a countback. NTP fifth second shot: Chad Clasby at 1.48m. NTP 14th: Barry Attwood at 1.00m. Saturday, February 17: Mixed Stableford event. The mixed Stableford event had a field of 47 members/guests. Overall winners: 1. Ken Wardle (22) with a score of 44 points. 2. Mick Reinhard (23) with a score of 40 points on a countback. 3. John Ryan (10) with a score of 40 points. Great score by Mark Lindsay with an eagle at the sixth hole. NTP 16th: Will Norden at 1.00m.

PHILLIP ISLAND TUESDAY 6th February Mens Stroke Mid week Monthly Medal 18H Medal Winner: Charlie O'Geary (19) Nett 69 A Grade winners: A-1 Steven Sloss (14) Nett 72 A-2 Barry Gibson (12) Nett 73 C/B B Grade winners: B-1 Charlie O'Geary (19) Nett 69 B-2 Alf Micallef (16) Nett 71 C/B C Grade winners: C-1 Darren Linkins (27) Nett 72 c/b C-2 Bryan Pirouet (23) Nett 72 BDL to Nett 75 NTP: Fifth Alan Schache, seventh Tom Tyrell, 10th

Brady Ross, 17th Steven Sloss Mens 9 Hole Stableford Winners: Peter Pillar (35) 18 pts c/b , Steve Rieger (20) 18 pts C/B BDL to 15 pts Wednesday 14th February Womens 4BBB 18H Winners were Lorrain Hammon and Vicki Roff-Smith 45 points c/b to Vicki Ramage and Robyn Docker BDL to 41 points c/b Womens Nine Hole Stableford winner was Diana Holmberth with 21 points BDL to 15 Thursday 15th February 18 hole Stableford A Grade winners: A-1 Daniel Pearce (4) 39 Points C/b A-2 Peter Cartwright (5) 39 points B Grade winners: B-1 Terry Crumpton (13) 37 Points B-2 Kristian Phillips (16) 36 Points c/b C Grade winners: C-1 Warren Hahnel (19) 38 Points C-2 John O'Brien (20) 37 Points BDL to 35 Points C/B NTP: Fifth Peter Cartwright, seventh Brendon Corvino, 10th John Gains 17th Daniel Pearce Open Nine Hole Stableford Overall winner: Brian Baker (19) 20 pts, Maria Kirwin (39) 19 pts c/b to Robert Leak (30) BDL to 17 pts Saturday 17th February Mens 18 hole stableford Overall winner: Matt Larkin (13) 39 pts c/b A Grade winners: A-1 Daniel McConnon (6) 37 c/b A-2 Barry Grazules (7) 37 pts B Grade winners: B-1 Matt Larkin (13) 39 pts c/b B-2 Cameron Pedersen (16) 39 pts C Grade winners: C-1 William Lang (19) 38 pts c/b C-2 Chris Disher (22) 38 pts BDL to 36 pts C/B Great Score: Barry Grazules - Eagle on the 18th Hole NTP: fifth Steve Earl, seventh Morgan Ward, 10th Max Walton, 17th Ian Smith Womens 18 Hole Stableford A Grade Winner: A-1 Sue Brown (23) 39 pts, A-2 Liz O'Neill (31) 37pts BDL: to 34 pts C/B NTP: Fifth Lesley Meadowcroft, seventh Ada Anglin, 10th Barb Hayden, 17th Ros Reid Open Comp nine hole Stableford Winner: Patrick Owens (17) 19 pts from Steve Rieger (20) 18 points BDL: to 17 pts Sunday 18th February open stableford Winner was Josh Ryan (27) with 37 points from James Kirk (28) 35 points c/b

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: February 15, SR. 71.
Competition: Stableford 18-hole.
Winner: Jonathon Wade 36.
Runner up: Jonathon Elliot 36.
BDTL to 35 C/B.
Ball sweep: Paul Cornelis 36, Colin Banks 36, Joshua Kilgour 36, Peter Young 35 and Philip McCrimmon 35 C/B.
Results: February 15, SR. 34.5.
Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.
Winner: Bob Cornelis 20.
BDTL to 17 C/B.
Ball sweep: Paul Cornelis 18 and Willy Williams 17 C/B.
Results: February 17, Stableford 18-hole.
Winner:
A: Bradley Smedley 39.
B: Peter Hanley 40.
C: Andrew Brown 41.
BDTL to 36 C/B.
Ball sweep: John Geyer 40, Norm Burne 40, Steve Terrel 39, Willy Williams 38, Garry Bates 38, Andrew Hooton-Shandley 37, Inoke Baudromo 36, Ian Gilmour 36 and Alan McLean 36 C/B.
NTP: Peter Thompson second, A. Hooton-Shandley fourth, Eric VanAgtmaal propin eighth, Kevin Jamieson 13th and Sam Dennis 17th money hole.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was a game of stroke for the February Monthly Medal and the first round of the 2024 Ladies Championships.
It was back to old school when sending the field out – no power (no printed cards), no phone network, no internet and no apps.
Grab a generic card and count all your shots until the ball is in the hole.
Some did it very well, especially Donna Brosnan with a great 107(38)69 net with the round of the day, the Medal, C Grade, and putting (26).
A Grade and scratch winner was Yvonne Everitt 89(16)73 net and B Grade's winner was Geraldine Prentice 97(25)72 net. NTP on second was Wendy Cross and eighth Lisa Brusamarello.
BDL went to Dot Garry 73, Layla Robertson 74, Chris Yann 74, Simone Lindsay 75, Heather Wintle 77 and Anne Tschiderer 77.

WOORAYL

THERE was a great gathering at the Woorayl Golf Club on Sunday, February 18, of 32 players (16 pairs) to participate in the qualifying round for the A E Smith Mixed Canadian Foursomes Board event.
The top four scores went on to further rounds.
The course was in fabulous shape considering the hammering it took from the cyclonic winds on Tuesday - thanks to all members who have helped with the clean-up, especially the greens superintendent Greg Bancroft.
It was wonderful to have the sponsor and club member Joan Smith along with a number of her family playing in this long-standing event at the club.
Joan and her family were warmly thanked for their continued generous support.
The winners of the day were Dee Walters and Damien Symmons (15.75) with a great score of 67.25.
Coming in as runners up were the pairing of Sherrill and Ross Winkler (18.375) on 69.625.
Down the line balls went to Michael and Anne Grist (13.125) with 69.625, and Joan and Josh Smith (25.125) 71.875.

The next round will see Dee/Damien play Joan/Josh the other match will have Sherrill/Ross playing Michael/Anne.
Nearest the pins were the eighth Anne Grist and Trent Walters, and 17th Elly Berryman and Trent Walters.
WONTHAGGI CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
WONTHAGGI'S Men's Golf Champions were decided on Sunday in the match play format.
Congratulations to all players for qualifying in the finals: D Grade Bruce Betts defeated Ken Cuman; C Grade Connor Ireland defeated Gary Bates; B Grade Steve Brann defeated Jim Jordan; A Minor Mark Tiziani defeated Dean Winning; Open Michael Scott defeated Ian Baker.

LEONGATHA CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

THE final round of the Club Championships was contested in near perfect conditions last Sunday.
This was the first time that the men were given the opportunity to select either a Wednesday or a Saturday to play any of the three rounds.
The women had been given this opportunity for the last three years: which allowed those that work mid-week to compete in this prestigious event.
Women's captain Rebecca Thomas took out the Women's Open Club Championship with 81.79.79 and a total of 239 – an impressive performance.
Colleen Touzel was runner up with a final score of 272.
Colleen Touzel, club president, won the B Grade Championship with steady rounds of 93, 93 and a personal best score of 86 (272).
This was her first ever Championship win after 27 years.
Janet Monk was runner up with a final score of 290.
The C Grade Championship was won by Neryl Hopcraft, who had rounds of 101, 107, 104 total of 312, just two shots ahead of the runner up, Kylie Debono on 314.
The D Grade Championship was a Stableford event and was won by Nicole Whiteside, with three excellent rounds of 35, 45 and 40 with a final total of 120 points. Cheryl Borg was runner up with 94 points.
Nicole also won the prestigious D. M Stubbs Trophy, presented by life member Dot Stubbs with a net 204.
The winner of this event has the best net score over the three rounds of the championship.
Colleen Touzel was the runner up with 209.
The Men's Club Champion for 2024 is Michael Thomas with rounds of 71, 84, 77 and a total of 232.
The runner up was Matt Bowey.
B Grade's Championship was hotly contested, with a playoff between the men's captain Garry Rotteveel and vice captain Josh de Groot.
Garry won after two holes.
Garry also won the R. E. Cameron Trophy for the best net score over the three rounds of the Championship.
Bert Borg is the 2024 C Grade Championship winner with a final score of 272.
Jeffrey Brewer was the runner up.
The D Grade Stableford Championship event was won by Andy Bassett with 99 points and runner up was Ian Miller on 96.
The Junior Stableford Champion for 2024 is TP (Thomas) Simon, with three excellent rounds of 30, 39 and 37.



Michael Thompson was sharp in the A grade championship. Ns25_0824

Championships tee off

IT WAS game on as club championships got underway at Leongatha and Wonthaggi golf clubs on Sunday.
Known as the most 'prestigious' golfing event of the year, competitors battle it out in various grades to be crowned the champion.
At Leongatha, general manager Kate Rowe explained there are competitions for men, women and juniors.
"This year was special as this was the first year we allowed completely equal play-

ing rights, so men could play on Wednesdays, which was a first for the club championships," she said.
"They could play their first and second round either on a Wednesday or a Saturday."
Kate noted there was a promising increase in competitors this year, with Wednesday also giving them the flexibility to play instead of a Saturday when many other sports are played.
"It's really good for women as well. Women were allowed to

play Saturdays anyway, we've had that for a couple of years.
"Leongatha Golf Club is part of the women in golf charter, and part of the charter is to offer multi rounds to women to help working women so they could choose and not have to take time off work on a Wednesday."
While at Wonthaggi, it was much the same story, as they were expecting to have dozens in attendance for the presentations with a solid crowd of almost 50 on the course.



Pictured back from left, Wonthaggi Golf Club's 2024 Men's Club Championship runners up Ken Cuman, Gary Bates, Ian Baker, Dean Winning and Jim Jordan with champions, front from left, Bruce Betts, Connor Ireland, Michael Scott, Mark Tiziani and Steve Brann.



The A E Smith Mixed Canadian Foursomes winners were Dee Walters and Damien Symmons at Woorayl Golf Club. They are pictured with Joan Smith (left).



Best one game winners were Raff Merante (3), Ruth Waring (2), Michael Dady (S), Derek Fenn (L)



Inverloch Bowling Club's Thursday Social Bowls winners were Rob Howard (skip), Craig Selby, Joyce Arnold and David Turnbull.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Jimmy Smith Triples Perpetual Trophy winners were Frank Cimino, Allan Jordan and John Migliorisi.



The Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls Friday winners were John Postlethwaite, Jean Wylde and Mario Toffolon.

INVERLOCH

LAST week was certainly an interesting one at Inverloch with scorching weather on Tuesday, followed by a storm which caused power and communications blackouts.

As a result, Corporate Bowls was cancelled on Wednesday.

Midweek Pennant saw the temperature reach the magical 36 degree mark after play had finished.

Division 1: Inverloch 64 Toora 41.

Division 2: Inverloch 54 San Remo 52.

Division 3 (4): 24 Korumburra 50; Inverloch (3) 43 Loch 25.

Weekend Pennant saw the last round before finals.

Division 1: Inverloch 49 Wonthaggi 75.

Division 2: Inverloch 63 Leongatha 56.

Division 3: Inverloch 41 Tarwin Lower 79.

Division 4: Inverloch 40 Corinella 76.

Regional Singles are being played this week at Inverloch Bowling Club on Thursday from

6-9pm.

Thursday Social Bowls saw bowlers experience more civilised weather than Tuesday.

Winners with two wins on two wins and 35 was the team of Rob Howard (skip), David Turnbull, Joyce Arnold and Nell Van Grunsven.

Runners up on two wins and 33 points was the team of Reg Varty (skip), Yvonne Kee and Nancy Stevens.

KORUMBURRA

IN an indifferent week, Korumburra was unable keep the momentum into the finals.

In midweek, Division 1 got a wakeup call, going down to Wonthaggi.

Jenny McVeigh had the only winning rink, winning 17 shots to 15.

Jo Lomagno went down 18 shots to 20 and Judith Nicholl lost six shots to 31.

In Division 3, it was the opposite. Erica Hayes won 29 shots to 15 and Cheryl Moore won 21 shots to nine against Inverloch.

In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 travelled to Mirboo North to find out who finished on top of the ladder and came home losers.

Rob Cosson lost 23 shots to 26, Shane O'Loughlin went down 22 shots to 36 and Peter Spark went down nine shots to 31 – not a good day.

In Division 2, Korumburra hosted league leaders Phillip Island, needing to win at least one rink.

Rob Sund lost 35 shots to nine, Ben Peachey lost 12 shots to 22 and Hayden Rees lost 21 shots to 24 – looks like relegation for next year.

In Division 4, Korumburra hosted Loch.

George Hams won 34 shots to 12, Alan Cherrett won 31 shots to 12 while Geoff Barber went down 14 shots to 21.

The club enjoyed a pizza night to finish the pennant season after the game on Saturday night.

LEONGATHA

ROUND 13 of the Midweek Pennant competition for the Division 1 side was played last Tuesday against Corinella. Leongatha won on one rink but was defeated on the other two rinks, which resulted in a win to Corinella with an overall score of 64/42 shots.

With the final round to be played on Tuesday, Leongatha won't feature in the finals and will finish the season in seventh position.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Jacqueline Carter skip (Corinella) was defeated by Carol Harry skip (Leongatha) 17/19 shots.

Barbara Oates skip (Corinella) defeated Jenny Miller skip (Leongatha) 21/13 shots.

Helen Fox skip (Corinella) defeated Marj Person skip (Leongatha) 26/10 shots.

Round 14 of the weekend competition was played in pleasant conditions.

Leongatha in the Division 1 contest against Phillip Island lost the battle across all three rinks.

The overall score was 44/71 shots.

Individual rink scores were as follows: John Newcombe skip (Phillip Island) defeated John Hall skip (Leongatha) 19/18 shots.

Kevin Brown skip (Phillip Island) defeated Paul Michael skip (Leongatha) 20/18 shots.

Peter Forrest skip (Phillip Island) defeated Anthony Collier skip (Leongatha) 32/8 shots.

Leongatha Division 2 side travelled to Inverloch Bowling Club knowing that it had to win convincingly to complete the season in the final four, but were denied that scenario with a deficit of one point.

Inverloch's final tally on the ladder was 125 points as opposed to Leongatha's 124 points.

The overall score for the game was 63/56 shots in favour of Inverloch.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Doug Archer skip (Inverloch) drew with Ron Symmons skip (Leongatha) 22/22 shots.

Neil Everitt skip (Inverloch) defeated Rod Jackson skip (Leongatha) 20/12 shots.

John Sutcliffe skip (Inverloch) defeated Vito Serafino skip (Leongatha) 21/22 shots.

Leongatha Bowls Club's Division 4 side enjoyed success against a side from Meenian Bowls Club.

Leongatha won on two rinks but the well experienced lead Dudley Harrison set the tone for the opposition, which enabled Meenian to record a three shot margin on that rink.

The overall score was 70/40.

Individual rink scores were as follows: John White skip (Leongatha) was defeated by Daryl Sinclair skip (Meenian) 15/18 shots.

Alan Moxey skip (Leongatha) defeated Margaret Tosch skip (Meenian) 27/9 shots.

Susan Wakefield skip (Leongatha) defeated Dawn Poletti skip (Meenian) 28/13 shots.

Bankers is still being played on Saturday and new bowlers are most welcome.

The Invitation Triples that was scheduled for last Wednesday was cancelled because of the power outage.

South Gippsland Homes have sponsored a Triples event to the tune of \$650 prize money, which will be held on Saturday, arch 23.

Single entries only.

The event will be open to Bare Foot Bowlers, Try Bowls attendees and club members only.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

IT was a sad farewell to the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club clubhouse on Thursday.

The group has visited and been welcomed within it for many years and were sorry to be saying farewell – but progress must go on.

The weather was absolutely perfect for a game of bowls – temperatures in the low 20s, no wind to speak of, but maybe slightly too much sun for some, but it was a lovely day for it, nonetheless.

Thirty-two of the family of bowlers turned up for the day's fun.

There was lots of laughter across the greens, and lots of friendly banter as usual.

Thank you to David for opening up and preparing the green prior to game time – also for his hard work in the bar and in the kitchen.

Thank you to Luke and Laurie for helping to clear up the green and inside after everyone went home.

This week's winners on 36 points were Peter Gratton (S), Rob Jeffreys (3), Jim Noonan (2) and Shane Wright (L).

Runners up on 34 points were Peter McWilliams (S), Robyn Coulson (3), Neil Andreatta (2) and Shirley Corcoran (L).

Best one game winners were Michael Dady (S), Raff Merante (3), Ruth Waring (2) and Derek Fenn (L).

Next week, the bowlers will be meeting at Lang Lang and, as always, the group asks that all bowlers be on site by 10am to allow the hardworking Peter time to arrange the teams.

Until then, the group wishes all members a safe week and also a successful final week of play prior to the finals in pennant.

Good luck to all.

WONTHAGGI

IT was a busy week, starting on Sunday with the Jimmy Smith Perpetual Trophy being played on a fine sunny day.

Both greens were full, which is a good result for the club.

Teams came from Melbourne, as well as good support from local clubs.

The format for the day was two bowl triples over four games over 12 ends.

The winners on the day were a team from Wonthaggi being Frank Cimino, Allan Jordan and John Migliorisi with a score of four wins and 29 shots up.

Runners up were another Wonthaggi team being Trevor Teer, Bryan Donohue and Mike Yates with a score of four wins and 20 shots up.

Third place went to Andy

Robertson's team from Korumburra with a score of three wins and 28 shots up.

The best game went to Bev Lucas and her team from the Dandy Club with a score of 15 shots up.

A huge thanks to sponsors RMBL for their support of this great event.

The club must thank Fred Kellow for his work over 12 months to make the event happen.

Tuesday Pennant saw Division 1 travel to Korumburra on a hot, windy day.

With an early start, the bowlers were able to play the match before the heat got too bad.

All three rinks played well, with two having tough games, and the other having a good day.

The final scores Wonthaggi 66 Korumburra 41.

Division 2 travelled to Meenian but failed to finish their match because of the heat to end up with a draw.

Thursday saw a good number for social bowls with the weather a little cooler.

Saturday saw Division 1 play host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi for the final game of the season.

All rinks played well with one having a good day.

The final scores Wonthaggi 75 Inverloch 49.

Division 2 travelled to the village of Loch with a simple plan which was win and they will play in the finals.

However, Loch had the same plan, also to make the finals.

All rinks played well and, after a battle all day, Wonthaggi was able to secure a solid win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 56, Loch 48.

Division 3 travelled down the road to Meenian looking for a win to finish the season off well.

After a tight battle all day, Wonthaggi just fell short at the end.

The final scores Wonthaggi 49, Meenian 57.

Division 4 played host to Phillip Island at Wonthaggi, also looking to finish the season off well.

After a good battle all day, Wonthaggi just fell short to a very good team.

The final scores Wonthaggi 51 Phillip Island 69.

Bowls this week: Tuesday Midweek Pennant play the last game with both Division 1 and Division 2 playing at home at 10am, Wednesday social bowls at 1pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and on Saturday Pennant finals start with Division 1 and Division 2 playing at home.

Don't forget to look at the Facebook page for information about the Pennant break up next Saturday night at 6pm after bowls.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

AFTER another disruption to the week, the bowlers were fortunate enough to play on both Tuesday and Friday.

There were 22 bowlers on Tuesday and 20 on Friday.

Tuesday's winners with an incredible plus 23 were Maggie Scapin, Sylvia Mattock, Helen Rook and John Stewart.

Runners up on plus 13 were Betty Huitema, Gwen Clancy, Linda Newman and Brian Newman.

Friday saw a closer competition the winners on plus nine were John Postlethwaite, Jean Wylde and Mario Toffolon.

Runners up on plus four were Helen Rook, Lia Smith, Jan Clark and Brian Newman.

All teams won both their games.



Members of the Leongatha Lightning Under 18 Boys Team which won silver at the Basketball Victoria Country Championships at Bendigo last weekend. They are, from left, back, Xavier Bolge (assistant coach), Fletcher McLennan, Willem Duursma, Isaac Bolge, Lucas Allen, Hamish Gill, Connor Richards, Kyle Materia (coach) and Shelley Fixter (manager), front, James Tuckett, Aydan Williams, Tom McKenzie, Tom Vuillermin and Archie Fixter.

Victorian silver for Leongatha Lightning boys

THE Leongatha Lightning Under 18 Boys team made a mighty run at the holy grail of Victorian country basketball last weekend, the premier division of Basketball Victoria's Junior Country Championships, and in the most thrilling of circumstances, they've come away with a silver medal.

But in the see-sawing, high-class final against the red-hot favourites of the competition, Ballarat, on Sunday at Bendigo, it could so easily have been gold.

The Leongatha team, which draws talent from around the district, led the final to half time, by 26 to 19, before Ballarat turned it around to lead 40 to 39 at three quarter time. The lead then changed several times in the run to the line with Ballarat hitting a couple of three pointers over the closing stages to take the lead and then stretch the final score to 59-54, a five-point victory that didn't give a true indication of the closeness of the contest.

Hundreds of local basketball fans watched the semi-final against Geelong and the final against Ballarat on livestream but it was frustration at the extreme when the coverage went down with 30 seconds to go, with Ballarat leading by two points. With 15 seconds left, Ballarat iced the game with a three.

Even so, it was a magnificent campaign by the Lightning boys, who had to pull off some incredible wins along the way, first against Phillip Island in the last pool match on Saturday when Tom Vuillermin found Willem Duursma for a three-pointer at the end to break the deadlock and see them through to a semi-final

against another powerhouse program Geelong on Sunday morning.

Again, the match was a high-class thriller, this time with Willem Duursma finding Tom Vuillermin for a three-point shot that sailed through the air while the final buzzer sounded and swished through for the winner, with Geelong leading by two before the shot went up.

It was pandemonium as the boys had won through to the final against Ballarat and they really looked the part, with end-to-end action in the final, and top-standard shooting throughout by both teams.

It really could have gone either way, with every player on the roster playing their part, but given the circumstances, a silver medal was a huge badge of honour for a smaller program against the state's biggest names in basketball.

Officials have since praised the efforts of the boys and also warmly congratulated on their demeanour both on court and off throughout a thrilling weekend.

Leongatha's success was all the more meritorious because they have been able to do less than 2/3rds of the training that there competitors have been able to do due to the problems with the roof on the Splash stadium which has seen the Leongatha Basketball Association cancel more matches than they've played in an horrendously disjointed domestic season.

Basketball Victoria is aware of the problems with the stadium at Leongatha, as are the other major associations and were in awe of what the Lightning boys have achieved at the weekend.



In thrilling finale to the semi-final, Leongatha Lightning player (24) Tom Vuillermin puts up a shot, just as the final buzzer sounds, and drains a three-pointer to go ahead of Geelong by one and put the locals into the Victorian Country Championship final.



Tom Toparis to complete his third FIM World Supersport Wildcard at Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit. Photo: Russell Colvin.

Eight hours of World Superbikes testing underway

THE teams have landed, the paddock is set, and the atmosphere is building in the lead up to the MOTUL FIM Superbike World Championship, Grand Ridge Brewery Australian Round taking place on February 23 to 25 at Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit; but first, the Official Test must take place.

Amendments in the Official Test schedule saw World Supersport complete their track time on Monday, February 19 only, with their first four-hour testing block taking place from 9.10am to 1.10pm, and their second four-hour testing block happening from 1.40pm to 5.40pm.

Yesterday's World Supersport Official Test includes our Aussie talents of Oli Bayliss [D34G Racing], and wildcard Tom Toparis [Stop & Seal Racing].

While yesterday was dedicated to the World Supersport riders, today will see a full day of World Superbike action, starting from 9.10am.

Official key test times:
Tuesday, February 20
09:10-13:10 – WorldSBK Free Practice 1
13:40-17:40 – WorldSBK Free Practice 2

27 Supersport riders take to the tracks

In WorldSSP, everyone who is taking part in the full season – and not the WorldSSP Challenge – was on track at the test yesterday. It was the first chance to see how rivals stacked up against each other as well as some new and returning faces. After fighting for the title last year, Stefano Manzi (Pata Yamaha Ten Kate Racing) has a new teammate as Glenn van Straalen joins the Dutch team and they look to win the title. At the Aruba. it Racing WorldSSP Team, Adrian Huer-tas fills the void left by Nicolo Bulega. Lucas Mahias (GMT94 Yamaha) makes a full-time return to the Championship, as does Hikari Okubo (Vince64 Racing Team by Puccetti). Can Oncu (Kawasaki Puccetti Racing) is back after winter surgery as he looks to get back to his best, while there are other big changes on the grid.

Class veteran Federico Caricasulo has a new home, linking up with Motozoo ME AIR Racing after their switch to the MV Agusta F3 800 RR from Kawasaki machinery. Niki Tuuli joins the EAB Racing Team which will run the Ducati Panigale V2 this season, after a change from the Yamaha R6. Tom Booth-Amos will race in the full season with PTR Triumph, alongside Ondrej Vostatek while 2022 title contender Lorenzo Baldassarri is back as he joins the Orelac Racing VerdNatura squad after one season in WorldSBK. John McPhee and Jorge Navarro lead the new WRP-RT Motorsport by SKM-Triumph project and there are two rookies at the PETRONAS MIE Racing Honda team: Kaito Toba and Khairul Idham Bin Pawi, who get their first action alongside rivals in Australia. Wildcard Tom Toparis (Stop & Seal Racing) will also take part in the test; the Australian Round will be his first race in the WorldSBK paddock since 2019.

Pop along for come try

The FCGRC is holding a 'come and try' day on Saturday, February 24 from 10am-3pm. The cost is \$50pp which includes 10 rounds of ammunition, equipment use, range fee and insurance. Bookings are essential, please email presidentfcgrc@gmail.com. If you have thought about trying a new sport or haven't shot for a while come along and try your hand at Sporter hunter class, Target Rifle or F class shooting. Fitzroy Caulfield Grantville Rifle Club encourage licensed shooters who have their own equipment to come along on this day, a \$20 range fee will apply. "We hope to see some new faces."

Wonthaggi showcases doubles tournament

THE Wonthaggi Croquet Club held its Level Play Doubles tournament last weekend. A very competitive field of 32 players from Portland, Queenscliff, Mornington, Ringwood and throughout Gippsland entered. For many, it was the first time they have played in Wonthaggi since the club has had its new pavilion. As expected, all games were hard fought and skill levels were high. Division 1 winners were Chelsea and Jack Williams from Queenscliff, with Penny Morrison-McGill and John Carr runners up (Morwell and Mornington). Division 2 winners were Mary Tabrah and Stephen Beitz (Sale and Leongatha), with runners up Antoinette Green and Ed Chatwin (Portland and Ringwood). Special thanks to the tournament sponsors The Workmen's Club and Haymes Paint Shop, Wonthaggi. Many thanks also to all our members who assisted on the weekend with the catering, time keeping, refereeing and of course the tournament management. Near future activities include the internal Hi/Lo doubles on February 20, a visit from RSL members on February 25 and Country Women's Association on February 29.

Riverside Tennis Association

ROUND 12 Results:
Section 1/2 Doubles: Hallora 8 - 55 defeated Warragul 1 - 23; Moe 5 - 42 defeated by Drouin Maroon 4 - 46; Neerim District 4 - 35 defeated by Poowong 5 - 38; Drouin Gold 5 - 40 defeated Trafalgar 4 - 36.
Ladders: Drouin Maroon 95, Moe 91.5, Neerim District 73, Warragul 67, Hallora 64, Poowong 53.5, Drouin Gold 43, Trafalgar 41
Section 1 Singles: Trafalgar 0 - 0 - 15 defeated by Moe White 4 - 8 - 49; Drouin 3 - 6 - 43 defeated Moe Blue 1 - 3 - 35; Moe Red had the bye.
Ladder: Moe White 42.5, Moe Red 38.5 Moe Blue 33.5, Drouin 24, Trafalgar 14
Section 2 Singles: Trafalgar 5 - 44 defeated Warragul 1 - 15; Moe 4 - 42 defeated Drouin Gold 2 - 27; Pax Hill 5 - 45 defeated Drouin Maroon 1 - 19.
Ladders: Trafalgar 67, Pax Hill 65, Moe 39, Drouin Maroon 38, Drouin Gold 33, Warragul 10
Round 13 Results:
Section 1/2 Doubles: Warragul 1 - 26 defeated by Moe 8 - 54; Drouin Maroon 8 - 52 defeated Drouin Gold 1 - 21; Hallora 5 - 46 defeated Neerim District 4 - 47; Poowong 2 - 34 defeated by Trafalgar 7 - 53.
Ladders: Drouin Maroon 105, Moe 101.5, Neerim District 79, Hallora 69, Warragul 68, Poowong 55.5, Trafalgar 50, Drouin Gold 44
Section 1 Singles: Moe White 3 - 6 - 31 defeated Drouin 1 - 4 - 31; Moe Blue 4 - 8 - 48 defeated Moe Red 0 - 0 - 0 (forfeit); Trafalgar had the bye.
Ladders: Moe White 46.5, Moe Red 38.5, Moe Blue 37.5, Drouin 25, Trafalgar 14
Section 2 Singles: Warragul 2 - 27 defeated by Moe 4 - 43; Drouin Gold 1 - 26 defeated by Drouin Maroon 5 - 46; Trafalgar 2 - 39 defeated by Pax Hill 4 - 37.
Ladders: Pax Hill 70, Trafalgar 69, Drouin Maroon 44, Moe 44, Drouin Gold 34, Warragul 12.



Woolamai Whirlwind was won by Dr Coto and ridden by Caitlin King. Photo: Tazzie Eggins Photography

Caitlin King takes the Woolamai Whirlwind

LAST Saturday's Woolamai races saw the third running of Victoria's shortest thoroughbred race, the Woolamai Whirlwind over the unique distance of 888 metres. The race was won by Dr Coto and ridden by Caitlin King. Ironically Dr Coto and trainer Rob Gillahan travelled the longest distance of all candidates to win the shortest race, as they are based at Ensay north of Bairnsdale. The race was sponsored by the appropriately named 888 Racing, operated by trainer Dean Binaisse at Mornington. Due to power outages in the district, contingency plans were quickly formulated with committee members having generators at the ready in case the power was still off at the track on Saturday afternoon. However, power was restored by Friday afternoon and the meeting went ahead as planned with a healthy crowd in fine weather under the famous elm trees. Other winners included Crafty Goddess in the first for in-form jockey Henry Jaggard who also won the fourth on top weight Largeincharge. Kahungunu won the second for Jack Virgona, and Shahin made it two out of three combining again with jockey Sophie Clayfield in the third and See it All defeated Woolamai Cup winner Popeye The Sailor for Mal and Brenda Watts of Catani to win the last. The final meeting for the season will be on St Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17.

Last-gasp win saves Leongatha's country week

THERE are two boxes you want to tick at the annual Melbourne Country Week Cricket carnival, according to Leongatha and District Cricket Association team manager Kristian Gray. And when Leongatha Imperials' captain Jack Ginnane cracked a six off the last ball of Friday's qualifying final against Wangaratta, during a crucial ninth wicket partnership of 37 runs with Nerrena stalwart Tim Wightman, it was job done on one of those at least. We seem to remember Jack Ginnane doing something similar in 2020 when he hit a four to secure a one-wicket win over Bairnsdale in a Division Two final at Country Week. "When you go down to Country Week you've got two boxes you want to tick, especially when you are in Provincial (the highest division across country Victoria). One is to stay up in that division and not get relegated and the other is to win it if you can," said Gray this week. "We knew we were facing the toughest group up there last week with last year's winner Ferntree Gully our first game and regular winner Geelong in there too, also Warrnambool. "And honestly, we thought we were in a really good position on Day 1 against Ferntree Gully when our bowlers had bowled really well, and we cleaned up their tail leaving them with 198 on a pitch where the par score was probably more like 240." Simon Kirton 4/49 and Joel Brann 3/27 secured the breakthroughs at the top of the Ferntree Gully batting and Ethan Lamers took 3/23 in the middle stages to further restrict the scoring. "But we kept losing wickets at the wrong time ourselves and ultimately came up 42 runs short. It was the one we needed to win, and it was probably the one that got away," he said. It was tougher day on Tuesday against Geelong and a century by their opener Sam Hall, a player who has caused problems for Leongatha in the past, set them up for a big country week total of 8/294. Leongatha's innings was cut short after 22.1 overs when the storm front, which hit Mirboo North later in the day, went through. "It was nothing like what you had down here, but the wind was quite strong and before we could get the covers on, the wicket did get some rain on it and we lost the match on Duckworth-Lewis rules," said Gray. "The Round Three match on Wednesday, February 14, was supposed to be at the Brighton Beach oval against Warrnambool but no one put the covers on overnight, and play was abandoned without a ball being bowled." The good thing about that though was that Leongatha finished in third place in Pool A and crossed over to play Wangaratta from Pool B on Thursday, a team that had performed well across three games without winning any of them, to decide who stayed in the Provincial division next year. It was to be Leongatha's best overall performance of the week and they lived to fight another year in the Provincial division. Leongatha won the toss and sent Wangaratta in to bat, the thinking being that if they chased in the crucial last match, at least their destiny was in their own hands. This time if was Phillip Island's Shiran Rathnayake who came to the party in a big way, taking a match-winning 4/16 off his 10 overs, and with Joel Brann, Jake Cochrane, Tim Wightman and co chipping in, the LDCA kept the wickets coming and bowled Wangaratta all out for 182 in the last over at Croydon Park. Mitchell Clark 44 off 109 balls anchored a solid start by Leongatha, especially in a 86-run second wicket partnership with Daniel Mock 29 who had performed well during the week. The team lost their way in the middle stages but Jack Ginnane 27 and Tim Wightman 15 brought it home with a ninth wicket partnership of 37. Needing two off the last ball, Ginnane finished it with a flourish, cracking a six to win it. Leongatha and District stay up in Provincial (Division One) next year with the chance to win the whole thing next year, not an unrealistic goal given Ferntree Gully played off in the final, ultimately won by perennial favourites Geelong (hardly a country association, it must be said).



INVERLOCH couple, Callum Asbury.

"As someone who had no passion for cricket and now representing their state, all I can say is give it a go, you'll surprise yourself. I know I did." Julia said.

Brendan Fevola, seven times leading goal kicker, two Coleman Medals and three times All Australian. His company is also donating all of the beer for the occasion.

Leigh Montagna, media personability and former St Kilda champion, over 250 games, twice All Australian.

Neil Balme, two-time AFL/VFL premiership player, all Australian coach and highly regarded administrator.

David Parkin, premiership player, premiership coach, AFL Hall of Fame.

Belinda Snell, former Opals World Championship gold and bronze medallist, WNBA, European and WNBL champion.

Kate Eddy, Melbourne Vixens premiership player, National Netball Championships player, vice captain of the Australian Netball World Youth Cup team 2017

- Des Dowling one of Australia's most versatile standup comedians.

The event will conclude with an auction to include the following lots:

- Cricket bat signed by Ricky Ponting
- Collingwood jumper framed and signed by the 2023 Premiership Team
- Fully catered suite at Marvel Stadium for any 2024 AFL match

And much more...

Hurry. Tickets for this one-off fundraising event are in limited supply at trybooking.com/CPBNW

For more information contact the club fcfncre-build@hotmail.com

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The rampaging Kookas go on their merry way in a run fest

THE KOOKAS road tripped it to Canterbury (wherever the hell that is?) to take on the Canterbury Cougars.

The Kookas, with skipper Mr Cricket Adams won the toss and chose to fling the willow - and that they did!

Peter, number one supporter Petrou and Waza 'bus driver' Hayes smashing the Cougars in a similar fashion to last Tuesdays tornado!

Petrou 30 not out and Hayzey 36 not out, Peter 'perfect' Little, 22 not out and Tony 'tiger' Lathan 14 not out kept the tornado at fever pitch!

Prez Neil White 20 not out and Gary Adams 38 not out, then continued the thunderstorm!

Geoff 'Sunderland till I die' Burnie finished off with a powerful 21.

The Kookas steamrolling to 5/241.

After a magnificent Canterbury tucker treat, the Cougars got their claws out.

As Jack Dyer or Kevin Bartlett would say, it was on for young and old.

At drinks the Cougars were sort of on target at 0/121?

But the Ol Kookas love a fight and as they say in the cricket trade – they kept it tight.

Finally holding the gallant Cougars to 6\230 for a courageous win!

Best of the trundlers were Geoff Birnie 2/22, Gaza Adams 2/30 and Joey Burke 1/25.

Man of the Match to Gary 'Mr Cricket' Adams and Kooka Effort Award to Waza Hayes who drove there and back, kept for 40 overs and blasted 38 of 25 balls. He is a machine!

So, a titanic game, next week it's off to Endeavour Hills, where yep - we will Endeavour to play stella cricket and have a ball.

Our thoughts reach out to our great South Gippians who have been in any way affected by the horrific weather events last Tuesday.

Gippsland Goannas a miss

UNFORTUNATELY, the Gippsland Goannas missed out on their games this weekend as the Geelong Club had several injuries and several players away on the VCV South Africa cricket trip.

Both the Over-60 and Over-70 teams were due to come to Gippsland for a double header, similar to the recent games between the Goannas and the Vic Country club at Bendigo, but the two games were forfeited to the Goannas.

The Over-60 team has a home game next Sunday against the Glen Waverley Over-60's, while the next and last game for the Over-70 team will be an away game against the Yarra Valley veterans on Tuesday March 5.

Nyora's ladies unite for their Pink Day



Tamara, Martess and Christine Hance united in pink for Ladies Day at Nyora Cricket Club. Photos: GLS Photography.



Natalie and Steve Henry with AFL Great Robert 'Dipper' Dipierdomenico.



Toni Attenborough with 'Dipper' and his famous number 9 jumper raffled at the Nyora Cricket Club Ladies Day fundraiser.



Kristy Uren, Tennille McDonald and Natalie Minaric helped the Nyora Cricket Club raise funds for the McGrath Foundation.

Butler claims five scalps to help Inverloch tame the Sharks



Phillip Island's top-scorer Peter Francis scoops over point with good effect. Ns13_0824



Zack Hughes lines up the shot. Ns14_0824

C GRADE

INVERLOCH'S Cameron Butler attempted to stifle Phillip Island's run, taking five wickets on Saturday.

Phillip Island travelled to the Inverloch Recreation Reserve and won the toss, choosing to bat first.

Opening batsman David Fusinato had Phillip Island heading in the right direction with 35 early runs.

Peter Francis later top scored with 36 runs.

The rest of the batting order struggled as multiple wickets fell to Butler and Matthew Marston.

Butler took 5/32 and Marston took 2/18.

After 57 overs, Phillip Island was bowled out with a score of 10/124.

Wickets were also taken by Wayne Chapman and Jay Mottram Carter.

Inverloch will have its chance to bat this weekend.

Glen Alvie to fend off the Cougars

GLEN Alvie is tasked with defending its score this Saturday against Koonwarra L/RSL.

Koonwarra L/RSL won the toss and chose to send Glen Alvie in first.

Glen Alvie had a quiet, consistent innings with Daniel McGuirk making the top score of 28 runs.

David Hynes added 25 runs towards the end of the batting order.

Wicket taking was shared between the Koonwarra L/RSL bowlers.

Spencer Chadwick, Campbell Riseley, Shane Paterson and Tom Collins claimed two each.

Glen Alvie finished the innings 10/129.

Koonwarra L/RSL opened its account and made 2/29 after nine overs.

Collins scored 11 runs before he was dismissed after a catch from Owen Luff.

Alexander Stanley and captain Kevin Thorne had reached nine and six runs respectively to remain not out at stumps.

The Cougars will continue its innings this Saturday.

The match details for the games between Leongatha Town and Korumburra, and Kilcunda-Bass and MDU, were unavailable before going to print.



Koonwarra L/RSL's Michael Thomas decides to let it fly past. Ns07_0824

Sharks dominate MDU on first day

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

PHILLIP Island is hungry for an outright win after making short work of MDU's batting order.

MDU won the toss at the Ne-whaven Recreation Reserve and chose to bat first.

Captain Craig Hooper was the standout for his team, putting 22 runs on the score-board.

Other notable contributions came from Zak Bright, Gary Webster and Wayne Prosser, with 18, 16 and 12 runs respectively.

Bright was not out at the end of the innings.

Phillip Island bowler Jobe Williams did the most damage for MDU, taking 4/16.

Three wickets were also claimed by captain Kurt Lane.

MDU finished its innings with 10/99.

Phillip Island played its innings with Lane contributing a whopping 136 run effort and was not out at stumps.

Thomas Blackwell added 29 runs.

Wickets fell to MDU bowlers Mike Olden, Bright and Ty-rone Zukovskis.

Phillip Island faced 25 overs, resulting in a tally of 3/195.

Stingrays battle the Imps

INVERLOCH will also be vying for an outright win following a slow innings from the Imperials.

Captain Kristian Gray kept the Imps in it with 38 runs, before he was bowled by Archie Terlich.

Cameron Bruce contributed 19 runs to the score.

Multiple wickets fell to In-verloch bowlers Terlich, Isaac Seuren and Ty Debono.

The Imps faced 44 overs and recorded a final score of 7/78.

Inverloch was quick to reach this total, with captain Brett Debono and Seuren scoring 58 and 16 respectively.

Both were not out at stumps.

A wicket to James Forrester dismissed Riley Harris, who made two runs.

Inverloch faced 26 overs to reach their tally of 1/81.



Will Cashin hits a solid shot. Ns11_0824

Cobras stay competitive

KORUMBURRA went into battle against OMK on Saturday.

Playing at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, the home team won the toss and chose to bat.

Wickets fell to OMK bowler Rueben Foster with Robert Quaife at the ready for a catch, which dismissed the opening partnership.

Korumburra co-captains Philip Richards and Shane Dole put the Cobras back on track, making 35 and 45 runs respectively.

Barry Wyatt was OMK's top bowler, taking 3/54.

Foster and captain Kris Kerr claimed three wickets each.

Korumburra finished the day with 10/173.

The match details for the match between Koonwarra L/RSL and Leongatha Town were unavailable before going to print. Koonwarra L/RSL's score was 10/208.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Strong performance for Wonthaggi Club

WONTHAGGI Club produced a handy score against third-placed Phillip Island on Saturday.

Playing at the Rhyll Cricket Ground, Club won the toss and chose to bat first.

Opening batsman Jy Hull led the charge for Club, hitting 73 runs before he was dismissed by David Womersley.

The top of the batting order worked hard, with 43 runs to Chris Fraser, 44 runs to Luke McGuirk and 39 not out from Jed Caddy.

Matt Sharp rounded out the innings with 21 not out.

Phillip Island bowler Tony Hornsby had an impact on Club's reign, taking 4/61.

Andrew Tolley was another multiple wicket taker.

Club played out its 70 overs, resulting in a final score of 9/249.

Phillip Island will have its turn to bat this weekend.

OMK play classy innings

OMK played a strong innings at Glen Alvie's home ground on Saturday.

The away team won the toss and chose to bat.

Opening batsman Justin Greenwood made a statement, hitting 87 runs before a catch from Archie Donohue dismissed him.

Bradley Hayes continued Greenwood's run, putting another 85 runs on the score-board.

Sam Matthews and Jordan Myers rounded out the innings, making 35 and 23 runs respectively, both not out.

Nathan Thatcher was Glen Alvie's top bowler, taking 4/84.

Other wickets fell to Jack Brown, Archie Luke and Archie Moore.

OMK recorded a total of 7/275.

Glen Alvie will have its opportunity to bat this weekend.

Cobras under pressure

KORUMBURRA is under the pump to defend its score against Nerrena.

The Cobras won the toss and went into bat first.

Tim Morrison top scored with 32 runs, with Noah Belvedere adding another 30 runs.

Nerrena's star bowlers were Scott Checkley, claiming 4/13, and Charlie Dougherty with 3/15.

Korumburra finished its innings with 10/130.

In reply, Nerrena made 1/93.

Helms made 52 runs before retiring, and Gannon hit 32 not out.

Korumburra bowler Tom Sorrell took 1/22.

Nerrena will continue its innings this Saturday.

Foster eye Sharks' score

KILCUNDA-Bass faced Foster on Saturday.

Playing at home, Foster won the toss and sent Kilcunda-Bass in to bat first.

Kilcunda-Bass' opening batsman Brett Joseph made a strong start with 40 runs.

This ended up being the top score, with Darcy Clay and Allan Bedford later making 29 and 31 runs respectively.

Ben East and Jake Pilkington were Foster's best bowlers, each claiming three wickets.

Kilcunda-Bass finished its innings with 10/167.

Foster opened its account but struggled to get many runs on the scoreboard.

A private player made 12 runs, but Pilkington and Brandon Busuttl were both dismissed for ducks.

Kilcunda-Bass bowlers Rohan Duff and captain Bradley Waldron took one wicket each.

Foster had made 2/14 at stumps and will continue its run this Saturday.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Imperials 7/78 v Inverloch 1/81

Imperials - 1st INNINGS: C Reid 5, C Bruce 19, J Ballagh 1, K Gray 38, J Forrester 1, F Botha 10, M Reidy 0, C Honeysett 2*
Bowling: J Richardson 0/15, I Seuren 2/8, C O'Flynn 1/14, T Debono 2/12, C Newman 0/22, A Terlich 2/6

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: R Harris 2,

B Debono 52*, I Seuren 18*
Bowling: M Reidy 0/24, J Forrester 1/24, J Ballagh 0/17, F Botha 0/12

Korumburra 173 v OMK

Korumburra - 1st INNINGS: T M Allen 12, J Wrigley 7, P Richards 35, S Dole 45, P Beadel 22, C Turton 0, T Dole 0, A Damon 1, M Olden 14, M Loader 13, J Douglas 0*
Bowling: R Foster 3/17, N Wylie 0/22, B Wyatt 4/31, J Hayes 0/14, K Kerr 3/54, B Maguire 0/18, A Busana 0/10

MDU 99 v Phillip Island 3/195

MDU - 1st INNINGS: G Webster 16, T Zukovskis 6, M Olden 5, W Prosser 12, C Hooper 22, S Browne 7, J Bright 0, A Dyke 1, Z Bright 18*, Private player 0, R Prosser 2
Bowling: T Niven 0/14, H Arceo 1/23, H Womersley 2/16, J Williams 4/16, K Lane 3/24, T Blackwell 0/0
Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: M Arceo 11, H Womersley 4, T Blackwell 29, K Lane 136*, O Duggan 0*
Bowling: M Olden 1/41, Z Bright 1/24, C Hooper 0/41, S Browne 0/47, T Zukovskis 1/34, W Prosser 0/3

Koonwarra L/RSL 208 v Town

No results provided.

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Kilcunda-Bass 167 v Foster 2/14

Kilcunda-Bass - 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 40, B Waldron 3, S Williams 16, R Gardiner 1, R Blackney 1, D Clay 29, A McBride 8, A Bedford 31, J Mahood 18*, T Stacey 5, R Duff 1
Bowling: B East 3/31, G Collis 1/35, E Smith 2/38, Private player 1/19, J Pilkington 3/32, M Allott 0/2
Foster - 1st INNINGS: Private player 12*, J Pilkington 0, B Busuttl 0, T Garvey 0*
Bowling: R Duff 1/0, A McBride 0/8, D Clay 1/0, B Waldron 0/4.

Club 9/249 v Phillip Island

Club - 1st INNINGS: J Hull 73, C Fraser 43, L McGuirk 44, J Caddy 39*, L Sawyer 0, J Sheerin 7, L Ton 1, B Ton 8, J Shannon 1, B Caddy 7, M Sharp 21*
Bowling: A Tolley 2/39, T Allan 0/36, T Asurumuni 0/11, D McCausland 1/43, D Womersley 1/34, T Hornsby 4/61, A Williams 0/20

OMK 7/279 v Glen Alvie

OMK - 1st INNINGS: R White 6, J Greenwood 87, S Handley 8, B Hayes 85, S Matthews 35*, G Lomagno 9, T Walker 2, P Harper 0, J Myers 23*
Bowling: J Brown 1/23, A Russell 0/49, A Luke 1/31, N Thatcher 4/84, D Hale 0/11, A Moore 1/36, T Bals 0/21, A Donohue 0/6, H Smith 0/9.

Korumburra 0/15 v Nerrena

No results provided.

C GRADE

Phillip Island 124 v Inverloch

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: G Excell 4, David Fusinato 35, D Mani 1, Drew Fusinato 0, P Francis 36, S Sirirathnage 0, Z Hughes 4, M Cleary 13, S McMillan 4*, B Marshall 3, J Allan 1
Bowling: C Butler 5/32, M Marston 2/18, W Chapman 1/25, J Brown 0/8, JM Carter 1/16, J Smith 0/8.

Glen Alvie 129 v Koonwarra L/RSL 2/29

Glen Alvie - 1st INNINGS: P Roberts 14, R Luke 8, V Kumar Gopal 4, I Thorn 16, D McGuirk 28, C Stewart 2, L Scholz 2, OLuff 8, N Pugh 3, D Hynes 2, W Bridle 4*
Bowling: S Chadwick 2/26, C Riseley 2/16, B Thomas 1/27, S Paterson 2/13, T Collins 2/15, R Collins 1/13, A Piksons 0/11
Koonwarra L/RSL - 1st INNINGS: S Paterson 0, A Stanley 9*, T Collins 11, K Thorne 6*
Bowling: D Hynes 1/4, W Bridle 0/13, N Pugh 0/5, L Scholz 1/6

Town v Korumburra

No results provided.

Kilcunda-Bass v MDU

No results provided.

Nyora - BYE



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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Daniel Mock (Phillip Island) 163* ; Lewis Rankin (Inverloch) 7/48

A2: Matthew Donohue (Glen Alvie) 66 ; Jake Staley (Foster) 6/37

B1: Kurt Lane (Phillip Island) 136* ; Jobe Williams (Phillip Island) 4/16

B2: Justin Greenwood (OMK) 87 ; Tony Hornsby (Phillip Island) 4/61

C: Peter Francis (Phillip Island) 36 ; Cameron Butler (Inverloch) 5/32

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NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES
& UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 13 – DAY 2
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

A GRADE, Division 1

OMK v Korumburra

OUTTRIM

John Schelling

Club v Town

WONTHAGGI TURF

Ian Salmon

Imperials v Inverloch

INVERLOCH TURF

Graham Wightman

Nerrena v Phillip Island

LEONGATHA TURF

Ashleigh Stride

A Grade, Division 2

Club v Nerrena

McMAHON

Ken Scrimshaw

Kilcunda-Bass v Foster

BASS 1

Brad Phillips

MDU v Glen Alvie

MEENIYAN

Les White

Nyora v Koonwarra L/RSL

NYORA

Warren Williams

B GRADE, Division 1

Inverloch v Imperials

EAST CAMPUS

Geoff Birnie

Korumburra v OMK

KORUMBURRA TURF

Geoff Parkinson

Town v Koonwarra L/RSL

SCORPION 1

No Umpire

Phillip Island v MDU

NEWHAVEN

Neil Grabham

B GRADE, Division 2

Phillip Island v Club

RHYLL

No Umpire

Glen Alvie v OMK

GLEN ALVIE

No Umpire

Foster v Kilcunda-Bass

FOSTER GC

No Umpire

Korumburra v Nerrena

POOWONG

No Umpire

C GRADE

Glen Alvie v Korumburra

DALYSTON

Michael Heenan

Inverloch v Phillip Island

INVERLOCH

No Umpire

Town v Korumburra

LEONGATHA SC

No Umpire

Kilcunda-Bass v MDU

BASS 2

No Umpire

Nyora - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective

umpires can contact

Jason O'Reilly 0439 688 575

or Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136



Korumburra's Tom Crocker put on a strong performance on day one. Ns03_0824

Two ton effort from the Sharks

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

TWO centuries have set Phillip Island up well for a win against the embattled Nerrena.

With top of the ladder pitted against the bottom, Nerrena managed to gain the first win when it won the toss and chose to send the Sharks in to bat first.

Thomas Niven was the first batsman sent back to the sideline. He was caught by Hayden Funnell for a duck after facing 16 balls.

This saw captain Daniel Mock step up to the crease and dominate. He reached 163 runs before the end of 75 overs and was not out at stumps.

Opening batsman Lachlan Cleeland made 28 runs before his dismissal, which sent in Shiran Rathnayake.

Rathnayake added 113 runs to the scoreboard before he was stopped by a catch from Caine Salmon.

Twenty-eight more runs were later added by Eli Richards.

Timothy Wightman was Nerrena's top bowler, taking 2/90.

Other wickets were claimed by Josh Trease and Ryan Clark.

Phillip Island ended its innings with a whopping 4/355.

Nerrena will have the opportunity to bat this weekend.

Club poses tough opposition

WONTHAGGI Club gave a competitive performance against Leongatha Town on Saturday.

Club won the toss and chose to bat first.

The early dismissal of the opening partnership allowed Ben Walsh and Ryan Thomas to step up. They contributed 46 and 55 runs respectively.

Batting sixth in the order, captain Joel Brann ensured a comfortable final score for his



OMK's Peter Dell sends it fast down the pitch. Ns06_0824

team, top scoring with 58 runs before he was bowled by Darcy Hume.

Hume ensured the tail end of the batting order made very little impact on the scoreboard, claiming 5/54.

The other wicket takers were Pamuditha Geemal Rajapakshage and Rhett Hume, who took two wickets each.

Town will set out to surpass Club's score of 10/232 this weekend.

Imps feel Rankin's wrath

INVERLOCH bowler Lewis Rankin produced a classy performance, taking 7/48 to put the pressure on the Imperials.

Despite this, the Imperials gave a consistent effort and ended its innings with a respectable total of 10/196.

Playing at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve, the Imperials won the toss and chose to bat first.

Damon Ginnane and Dimithri

Weerakkodi Arachchige batted well for the Imps, making 49 and 43 runs respectively.

Both were dismissed at the hands of Rankin.

The remaining three wickets were taken by Andrew Donohue and Harry Butcher with figures of 2/47 and 1/37 respectively.

The Imps will be tasked with defending their score as Inverloch steps up to bat this Saturday.

OMK stand firm against the Cobras

OMK will be aiming for an outright win after a dismal innings from Korumburra.

Korumburra travelled out to Outtrim and won the toss, choosing to bat first.

Opening batsman Tom Crocker gave the Cobras a strong start, making 35 runs.

However, this turned out to be the top score for the innings.

Captain Harry McNeil and Hemal Ratnayake were the only

other batsman to make an impact on the scoreboard, adding 14 and 12 runs respectively.

OMK bowler Jake Cochrane caused the most damage to Korumburra's batting order, claiming 4/18.

Mudassar Riaz and Ethan Lamers took two wickets each.

Korumburra finished its innings with 9/84. OMK had a steady innings but managed to pass the Cobra's tally after 24 overs.

Lamers opened the batting for OMK and made the top score of 38 runs before he was bowled by Crocker.

Peter Dell rounded out the innings with 14 not out, and Clayton Quaife and Paul Fermanis added 13 runs each.

Crocker was determined to keep OMK under the pump, taking 3/20.

Nadeesha Belpage was another multiple wicket taker, taking 2/16.

OMK managed a score of 8/104 at stumps.



Nyora Cricket Club ready for action on Pink Stumps Day 2024. Photo: GLS Photography.

Nerrena post a competitive total for Club

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

THE Nerrena underdogs proved to be a challenge for Wonthaggi Club on Saturday.

Playing at Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve, the away team won the toss and chose to bat first.

Zack Trease opened well for Nerrena, putting 59 runs on the scoreboard before he was run out.

Kade Berryman and Shaun Sparks also performed well, adding 35 and 28 runs respectively.

Club bowler Heath Dobbie ensured it wasn't an easy run for Nerrena, claiming 4/65.

Other wickets were shared between Ryan Birkett, Sean Roche and Sam Liddle.

Nerrena ended its innings with a score of 10/219.

Club opened its account and faced 11 overs.

David Britt and Roche opened the batting for Club, making 14 and eight runs respectively.

Both were not out at stumps and will continue their run this weekend.

MDU keeps its eye on the prize

MDU will be looking to chase down Glen Alvie's score of 10/193 this weekend.

Going head-to-head at the Meenivan Recreation Reserve, Glen Alvie

chose to bat first.

The opening partnership of Matthew Donohue and Scott Peatling performed well.

Donohue top scored with 66 runs and Peatling contributed 27 runs.

Notable batting figures were also recorded by vice captain Nathan Findlay and Matthew Dakin, with 26 and 21 runs respectively.

MDU's Mitch McGrath kept Glen Alvie's final tally within reach, claiming 6/72.

Sam Bright also had a good day on the field, taking 3/38.

MDU will have its opportunity to bat this Saturday.

Cougars challenge Nyora

TOP of the table Nyora was rattled by fourth placed Koonwarra L/RSL on Saturday.

The Cougars sent Nyora in to bat first and set the tone of the match.

Captain Henry Dolphin opened the batting for Nyora and amassed 30 runs.

Aaron Kaddatz later added 63 runs before he was stumped by captain James Ruston.

Jake Hackett accumulated 21 runs, but the rest of the batting order was quietened by a strong Koonwarra fielding side.

Koonwarra L/RSL's top bowler was Isuru Darshana, taking 3/27.

Jason Kennedy also claimed two

wickets.

Nyora ended its innings with 10/182.

Koonwarra L/RSL will be aiming for this total this weekend.

The Cougars had the opportunity to launch its innings and played 6.5 overs before stumps.

Matt Cooke and Rushton opened the batting, with Rushton making 11 runs.

Neither were out at the end of the day.

Koonwarra L/RSL is sitting on 0/15.

Staley claims six

ALTHOUGH Kilcunda-Bass started strong, six wickets from Foster bowler Jake Staley stifled the Sharks' run on Saturday.

Travelling to Bass, Foster won the toss and chose to bowl.

Opening batsmen Cameron Davidson and Todd Smith showed Kilcunda-Bass' competitive side, adding 53 and 22 runs respectively.

Aaron Conron later added 21 runs, but Kilcunda-Bass struggled through the rest of the innings.

Staley dominated the bowling with Josh Toner also taking two wickets.

Kilcunda-Bass finished its innings with 10/132.

Foster will go in to bat this weekend.



Nyora's Gavin Hackett prepares for a ball from the Cougars's Jason Kennedy. S2_0824

A GRADE	DIVISION 1
Korumburra 9/84 v OMK 8/104 Korumburra – 1st INNINGS Tom Crocker c: N Creed b: J Cochrane35 Jason Richards c: Z Lamers b: J Cochrane7 Jacob Whiteside c: K Brann b: J Cochrane0 Nadeesha Belpage c: E Lamers b: J Cochrane3 Hemal Ratnayake c: C Quaife b: P Dell12 Matthew Allen c: K Brann b: E Lamers .4 Harry McNeil c: J Cochrane b: M Riaz 14 Daniel Whelan not out2* Scott Head c&b: E Lamers1 Bryce Riddell b: M Riaz1 Extras (4nb, 1lb)5 Total 9 / 84 (50.1 Overs) Bowling: M Riaz, 11.1-2-21-2 (1nb), Z Lamers 3-0-15-0 (2nb), P Dell 15-5-25-1, J Cochrane 14-6-18-4 (1nb), E Lamers 7-4-4-2 OMK – 1st INNINGS Jake Cochrane b: N Belpage0 Ethan Lamers b: T Crocker38 Koby Brann c: M Allen b: H McNeil9 Mudassar Riaz b: N Belpage7 Clayton Quaife c&b: T Crocker13 Jacob Lamers c: T Crocker b: H Ratnayake1 Noel Creed lbw: T Crocker..... 3 Paul Fermanis c: N Belpage b: B Riddell13 Zavier Lamers not out2* Peter Dell not out14* Extras (1w, 1lb, 2b)4 Total 8 / 104 (24 Overs) Bowling: N Belpage 6-0-16-2, H McNeil 5-0-43-1, T Crocker 7-3-20-3, H Ratnayake 4-0-13-1 (1w), B Riddell 2-0-9-1	Bowling: J Trease 17-5-50-1, J Hoy 14-0-53-0, R Clark 15-1-81-1 (1w), M Clark 9-0-43-0, T Wightman 16-0-90-2, D Berryman 4-0-26-0 (1nb) Imperials 196 v Inverloch Imperials – 1st INNINGS Luke Rogers b: L Rankin4 Nick Eddy c: J Butcher b: L Rankin23 Timothy Sauvarin c: L Rankin b: H Butcher6 Mark Lafferty c: D Clark b: L Rankin..... 8 DW Arachchige c: L Rankin b: A Donohue43 Jack Ginnane c: W Taberner b: A Donohue20 Damon Ginnane c&b: L Rankin49 Samuel Vagg c: D Clark b: L Rankin26 Gary Sauvarin c: J Butcher b: L Rankin15 Klayton McGrath not out0* Lucas Anderson b: L Rankin0 Extras (2w)2 Total 10 / 196 (70.3 Overs) Bowling: L Rankin 17.3-1-48-7, C Asbury 4-0-35-0, H Butcher 12-4-37-1, A Donohue 27-9-47-2, J Dugard 7-2-10-0, J Dennerley 3-0-19-0 Club 232 v Town Club – 1st INNINGS Mitch Thomas c: J Williams b: R Hume 7 Stewart Beaumont c: J Giardina b: R Hume14 Ben Walsh c: DLMP Gallage b: D Hume46 Ryan Thomas run out: J Hume, J Giardina55 Alexander Geyer c: J Giardina b: PG Rajapakshage8 Joel Brann b: D Hume58 Lochlan Mclean c: J Hume b: D Hume11 Harry West c: ? b: D Hume12 James Sheerin b: D Hume6 Fraser West not out10* Mark McCall c: ? b: PG Rajapakshage ..0 Extras (5lb)5 Total 10 / 232 (74.4 Overs) Bowling: PG Rajapakshage 22.4-3-54-2, R Hume 8-3-15-2, D Hume 14-1-54-5, J Hume 12-1-39-0, R Abeysinghe 8-3-15-0, J Williams 7-0-33-0, DLMP Gallage 3-0-17-0
A GRADE	DIVISION 2
Nyora 182 v Koon L/RSL 0/15 Henry Dolphin c: N Arnup b: J Kennedy30 Daniel Esler b: J Thomas0 Jake Henry b: N Arnup4 Jake Hackett c: M Cooke b: J Kennedy21 Aaron Kaddatz st: J Rushton b: I Darshana63 Gavin Hackett c: K Scrimshaw b: M Cooke11 Bailey Esler c: K Scrimshaw b: C Buckland0 Aidan Simmons c&b: I Darshana14 Aaron Thompson run out: J Rushton ..5 Lochie Row not out14* Mitch Rowe c: ? b: I Darshana10 Extras (3w, 4nb, 3lb)10 Total 10 / 182 (67.4 Overs) Bowling: J Thomas 6-3-5-1, N Arnup 6-2-15-1, A Mehmood 3-0-11-0, J Kennedy 17-1-56-2, I Darshana 14.4-1-27-3 (1w, 1nb), M Cooke 12-5-24-1, N Trotto 4-1-26-0 (1w, 1nb), C Buckland 5-0-15-1 (1w, 2nb) Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS Matt Cooke not out0* James Rushton not out11* Extras (4b)4 Total 0 / 15 (6.5 Overs) Bowling: A Kaddatz 3.5-2-5-0, M Rowe 2-0-6-0, H Dolphin 1-1-0-0	Glen Alvie 193 v MDU Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS Matthew Donohue lbw: S Bright66 Scott Peatling c: ? b: J Palmer27 Matthew Dakin c: P Le Page b: M McGrath21 Stephen Kennedy c: K Sinclair b: M McGrath19 Ryan Sinclair c: M Martin b: M McGrath8 Nathan Findlay c: S Arnup b: S Bright26 Ben McRae c&b: M McGrath2 Wayne Luke c: S Arnup b: M McGrath..0 Andrew Dakin c: T Sinclair b: S Bright12 Zack Scholz c&b: M McGrath8 Sam Watson not out0* Extras (3w, 1nb)4 Total 10 / 193 (73.2 Overs) Bowling: S Bright 23-10-38-3, M Cantwell 5-0-16-0 (1w), J Palmer 7-1-21-1 (1nb), M Hooper 6-1-22-0 (2w), M McGrath 24.2-5-72-6, S Arnup 8-1-24-0 Nerrena 219 v Club 0/26 Nerrena – 1st INNINGS Zack Trease run out59 Billy Trotman c: M Davey b: S Roche6 James Kelly c: S Roche b: H Dobbie ..15 Kade Berryman c: L McRae b: H Dobbie35 Joel Renden c: S Roche b: S Liddle4 Shaun Sparks run out: J Burns28 Mitchell Croatto c: M Davey b: R Birkett0 Dave Trotman run out: J O'Reilly31 Tyson Harris b: H Dobbie13 William Croatto c: S Liddle b: H Dobbie10 Jaxon Checkley not out4* Extras (2w, 5nb, 3lb, 4b)14 Total 10 / 219 (63.4 Overs) Bowling: R Birkett 19-4-63-1 (2nb), J Burns 5-1-17-0, S Roche 11-2-29-1, H Dobbie 21.4-4-65-4, S Liddle 5-1-29-1, L McRae 2-0-9-0 (1w, 3nb) Club – 1st INNINGS David Britt not out14* Sean Roche not out8* Extras (2w, 2nb)4 Total 0 / 26 (11 Overs) Bowling: J Checkley 6-1-10-0, M Croatto 3-0-12-0 (2w), W Croatto 2-1-4-0 (2nb)



The Inverloch Stingettes 2024 women's champions Liza Burrows, Nicole Creaser, Keely Dennerley, Cathy Felstead, Jessica McDonald, Amy McRobert, Jacqueline Newman, Georgia Slidders, Mackenzie Slidders and Holly Williams.

Stingettes go back-to-back

THE Inverloch Stingettes retained their title after a thrilling grand final clash against rivals Koonwarra L/RSL on Sunday.

Playing at Leongatha's Scorpion Park, this grand final showdown was a high stakes rematch after Inverloch won the 2022/23 premiership.

Inverloch began its winning way by winning the toss, choosing to let Koonwarra L/RSL set the tone of the game by sending them into bat first.

Koonwarra L/RSL went into the match confident and proved it was not to be counted out, making a strong start to the innings.

No wickets fell until the seventh over.

Mel Gheller gave an impressive performance, top scoring for Koonwarra L/RSL with 47 runs.

Kathy Zacharopoulos and Rachel King added 30 and 26 runs to the scoreboard.

Inverloch's top bowler was Mackenzie Slidders, taking 2/2

off two overs.

Keely Dennerley and Cathy Felstead claimed a wicket each.

Koonwarra L/RSL finished its innings with an exceptional total of 145 – the highest score for the season.

Inverloch stepped in ready to take on the challenge.

What resulted was a nail-biting finish that came down to the last over – no one knew who had won until the scorers made the final call.

The Stingettes had a good, consistent innings, which saw Jess McDonald top score with 32 runs.

Liza Burrows and Holly Williams contributed 26 and 19 runs respectively.

Koonwarra L/RSL's bowlers did all they could to stop the runs ticking over on the scoreboard.

Teagan Hughes was the star bowler, claiming 2/18 off two overs.

Wickets were also taken by King

and Britney Thomas.

In the end, Inverloch also made a total of 145.

Once the allowance for wickets taken were added to the score – Koonwarra L/RSL four and Inverloch six – the final scores were 149 to 151.

The Inverloch Stingettes proudly celebrated the incredible back-to-back victory.

The league acknowledged Les White and Geoff Parkinson for umpiring the grand final.

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