

Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

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Oh what a beauty!

Alana and Liam Sage, won the John Davies Memorial Trophy & Best Pumpkin Exhibit

2025 Foster Show!

Local councils cry foul over fire levy

LOCAL farmers, in particular, are going to be slugged thousands of dollars more on their rates notices this year.

The owners of commercial and industrial land, and to a lesser extent, homeowners, will also be harshly dealt with.

But neither the Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead nor former South Gippsland Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey is prepared to cop the flack.

Speaking on the same day last Wednesday, at their respective council meetings, Cr Halstead and Cr Hersey chose different but equally effective ways to put the pressure back on the State Government over a dramatic hike in the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), formerly the Fire Services Levy (FSL).

Cr Halstead vacated the chair at last week's meeting to argue for two motions to be put at the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) State Conference on May 16, 2025, including:

"The Municipal Association of Victoria calls on the State Government to assume direct responsibility for collecting the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), ensuring a more streamlined and efficient process for all stakeholders."

Cr Hersey moved that the shire immediately write to the Premier of Victoria, the Treasurer of Victoria, the Victorian Minister for Local Government and to our local Victorian Parliamentary representatives formally objecting to collecting the new state government tax and making five key points about the levy, including that it unfairly targeted regional communities, particularly Victorian farmers.

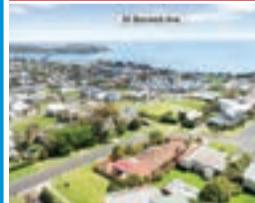
They've both declared that it is no longer appropriate, likely not even possible, for local councils to continue collecting the controversial levy.

According to recent reports, the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund is set to increase by a whopping \$616 million in 2025-26, raising the total collected across the state from \$1.033 billion to \$1.649 billion for the cash-strapped Victorian State Government.

It will take an additional \$5.2 million from South Gippsland Shire ratepayers alone.

Continued page 5

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Former Chief Fisheries Officer sounds alarm over cuts to Victoria's Fisheries compliance

RETIRED Chief Fisheries Officer Kevin Brown has voiced strong concerns over the 'proposed' restructuring of the Victoria Fisheries Authority (VFA), warning that cuts to fisheries compliance officers could lead to disastrous consequences for the state's marine resources and the fishing industry.

Brown, who served for decades in various roles within fisheries, including as the Chief Fisheries Officer, argues that the move is politically motivated and budget-driven, and that it will ultimately open the door to illegal fishing, organised crime, and a decline in sustainable fisheries management.

Brown's comments come in response to the Victorian government's plan to replace fisheries officers with a new team of "engagement officers" focused on education rather than enforcement. According to Brown, this shift is not just misguided—it is an abandonment of the essential compliance framework that has kept the state's fisheries in a sustainable condition for years.

In the interview with the Sentinel-Times, Brown expressed disbelief when he first heard about the changes, suspecting the decision to be part of a cost-saving initiative driven by a lack of understanding from those in power. "There's no way this can be explained away as anything other than a politically motivated cost-saving exercise by people who don't know what they're doing and don't know they don't know," Brown said.

During his time in fisheries, Brown was responsible for overseeing fisheries compliance across the state, including managing teams of officers who monitored fishing activities to ensure sustainable practices. He said that the current proposal would dismantle a highly successful enforcement framework, leaving the fisheries vulnerable to exploitation.

The key issue, according to Brown, is that fisheries officers are integral to the detection and prevention of illegal fishing practices, which include poaching and unsustainable fishing methods that can deplete critical marine resources such as abalone and rock lobster. These species are highly valued, and Brown fears that organised crime groups will exploit the lack of oversight.

"The crazy thing is that the



Retired Chief Fisheries Officer Kevin Brown speaks up about the detrimental impact the VFA budget cuts will have on the fishing industry.

crime unit that they say is going to be running—that's been running for 35 years—that's already in existence, and it's downsized," Brown said. "Those people are desk-bound analysts. They work on information provided to them by fisheries officers across the state on the ground. They're the eyes and ears of the organisation."

Brown pointed out that the state's existing compliance network has been in place for decades, with officers working on the ground to gather intelligence, spot trends, and take enforcement action. Information gathered by fisheries officers is analysed by a specialised team of analysts who then work with officers to carry out operations. This system has been essential in maintaining the health of the state's fisheries.

The proposal to replace enforcement officers with engagement officers who will focus on educating the public, Brown argues, will do little to combat illegal activities or catch serious offenders. "People will break the law if they know they won't be caught," Brown said, explaining that those who break the rules for financial gain will increasingly see little risk in doing so. "It will go from 44 boats poaching in marine parks to 440," Brown warned as an example.

Brown's decades of experience have led him to a clear understanding of how compliance programs must be structured to work effectively. He stresses that any successful compliance program requires three key components: clear rules, the

genuine threat of apprehension, and penalties for non-compliance. Without these elements in place, he argues, the entire compliance system collapses.

The Victorian government's proposed changes, according to Brown, will remove the critical enforcement element, leaving the program reliant on education alone. While he agrees that education is important, he argues it can never replace the need for enforcement. "People may go into the shop front, and I have no problem with education. It's a normal part of a compliance program," he said. "But if you take away any one of those three components, you don't have a compliance program."

Brown also questioned the logic behind the government's claim that 90% of fishers in Victoria are compliant with regulations, suggesting that these numbers are inflated and fail to account for the more serious offenders who engage in organised, large-scale illegal fishing. "Out of that 10%, a small percentage genuinely don't know they're breaking the law, but most are fully aware they're doing the wrong thing and choose to break the law because there's a financial benefit," he explained.

Brown also has concern for those financially distressed by these 'proposed' cuts, particularly for the officers who are at risk of losing their jobs. With many of these officers having years, if not decades, of experience in fisheries management, the loss of their expertise will be a blow to the state's ability

to maintain sustainable fishing practices. Not to mention the financial strain on families of officers who could face job loss amid a cost-of-living crisis.

"Many of these officers have mortgages, families, and they've dedicated their lives to protecting Victoria's marine resources. Now they're being told their jobs no longer exist," Brown said. He described the situation as devastating for individuals and families who have built careers in the fisheries sector.

Brown too spoke on the long-term impact on Victoria's marine conservation efforts, particularly in light of commitments made by the government to the abalone and rock lobster industries. He pointed out that when marine parks were introduced, fishers were promised that they would receive financial compensation in exchange for losing access to fishing areas. In return, they were guaranteed a fully funded compliance program to ensure the sustainability of the remaining fishery areas. The proposed cuts, Brown argued, directly undermine these commitments and threaten the viability of these industries.

Without enforcement officers, Brown warned, there will be no way to monitor the sustainability of catches, particularly for high-value species like rock lobster, which are heavily sought after on the global market.

"There is the potential for irreversible damage," he said. Including the matter of safety issues, such as the failure to inspect life jackets, which could lead to fatalities.

State governments gutting of fisheries puts waterways at risk

The Victoria government is gutting front-line fisheries compliance, dramatically weakening enforcement efforts, leaving marine environments, recreational fishers and boaters at greater risk.

It has slashed the number of Fisheries Officer positions from 27 to just nine across Port Phillip Bay and Western Port – Victoria's busiest fishing and boating regions.

In total, 35 people will lose their jobs in a cost-of-living crisis, bringing staffing from 192 to 157.

Fisheries officers are already carrying a vacancy rate close to 30 per cent across the state and under the restructure some of these vacancies won't be filled.

There are just over 50 fisheries officers in Victoria; 20 years ago, there were 72.

Over seven million people live in Victoria, and more Victorians than ever before enjoy recreational fishing, and boating around Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

The five stations impacted make up more than 50 per cent the state's Fisheries Officers, with the Central region producing the bulk of the state's offence briefs, tickets and warnings as a result of the higher number of inspections and more offenders than other regions.

"Labor is dismantling fisheries enforcement, leaving our waterways vulnerable to illegal fishing, marine damage, and safety risks," Mr Groth said.

"Instead of protecting our fisheries, they're rebranding enforcement officers as 'Engagement Officers' and shifting the focus away from compliance. This is nothing more than a cost-cutting measure dressed up as reform."

"With more Victorians fishing and boating than ever before, now is the time to strengthen enforcement – not cut it to the bone," Mr Groth said.

"These cuts mean fewer inspections, less oversight, and a greater chance of illegal fishing and environmental damage. It's a slap in the face to the responsible fishers who do the right thing and expect the rules to be enforced fairly."

"The Liberal and Nationals will always stand with recreational fishers and boaters to ensure sustainable fish stocks, responsible management of our marine environments, and safe, well-regulated waterways," Mr Groth said

Fast Facts:

- The 27 Fisheries Officer positions would be reduced to 9. (Loss of 18 FOs)
- In total, 35 job losses, bringing staffing from 192 to 157.
- Current vacancies in the central region won't be filled.
- All Fisheries Officers across the state will re-titled Fisheries Engagement Officer.
- There are just over 50 fisheries officers in Victoria; 20 years ago, there were 72.
- Job focus would shift away from enforcement.
- Central region produces the bulk of the state's offence briefs, tickets, warnings because of the higher number of inspections and more offenders than other region.

More on page 45.

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A new voice for Monash

Celebrating International Women's Day

CELEBRATE International Women's Day 2025 with Bass Coast Shire Council at RACV Inverloch Resort on Friday, 7 March. Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, will be hosting a lunch with keynote

LIBERAL

Authorised by G Blackwood, Liberal Party, 14 Chesterfield Ave, Warragul VIC 3820.

6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



TUE | Feb 25
Cloud clearing.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h
13° 26°



WED | Feb 26
Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: NW 15-25km/h
13° 31°



THUR | Feb 27
Possible shower.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: S 15-20km/h
15° 25°



FRI | Feb 28
Possible shower.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: W-SW 15-25km/h
15° 25°



SAT | Mar 1
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h
13° 22°



SUN | Mar 2
Cloudy.
Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h
Wind PM: S-SE 15-25km/h
13° 20°

IN BRIEF

No free lunches

LOCAL government activist Dean Hurlston, president of Council Watch had a question for the Bass Coast Shire Council on the agenda at last week's council meeting.

What is the approximate cost per public Council meeting for Councillor and staff meals, refreshments and beverages? (If applicable).

Bass Coast CEO Greg Box said that approximately \$200 was spent "on catering for Councillors".

10 questions on Silverleaves

THERE were no fewer than 10 questions at community question time at the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting last week raising specific issues about the erosion problems at Silverleaves.

They all got the same answer. Stefan Frey wanted to know why is Silverleaves is getting funding for coastal protection while residents elsewhere weren't receiving assistance "when homeowners knew the risks of shoreline erosion".

Others wanted to know what to do when flooding occurs, whether the shire had applied for State and Federal government assistance and if the rock wall had made the situation worse for some residents.

The council responded saying "A significant portion of Silverleaves has had a Land Subject to Inundation Overlay since 2017..." See council minutes.

Maybe our dinosaurs walked to South America

NEW research into dinosaur fossils found at Inverloch and in the Otway Group, in 1987 and 2004 respectively, have confirmed the existence of a certain type of dinosaur previously unknown here.

In a breakthrough paper published last week in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology by PhD candidate Jake Kotevski and other colleagues at the Museums Victoria Research Institute, including Tom and Pat Rich, Kotevski provides first-time evidence that Carcharodontosaurus lived in Australia, here in Victoria.

"Collectively, the new theropod remains described herein strengthen the evidence for mid-Cretaceous faunal interchange between Australia and South America across Antarctica, and highlight the presence of carcharodontosauroids and unenlagines at high latitudes in the late Early Cretaceous."

Celebrating International Women's Day

CELEBRATE International Women's Day 2025 with Bass Coast Shire Council at RACV Inverloch Resort on Friday, 7 March. Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, will be hosting a lunch with keynote

speaker Hacia Atherton.

This year's theme, 'March Forward', highlights the importance of gender equality. The focus will be on Women in Trades. While the number of women active in the Victorian labour market continues to grow, they make up only 2% of the workers in Australian construction. We must all support initiatives to ensure women can become fully qualified well-paid tradespeople. Our speaker, Hacia, founder of Empowered Women in Trades, will share her inspiring journey of resilience and breaking barriers in male-dominated fields.

Help shape future of Woorayl Lodge – your input matters!

WOORAYL LODGE, proudly serving the Leongatha community since 1960, is renewing its Strategic Plan, and wants your input to help ensure that plan reflects community needs.

What started with just three permanent residents has grown into a thriving facility with 41 private rooms in its residential aged care section and 29 independent living units.

Despite this growth, Woorayl Lodge remains a community-owned and operated facility, run by a voluntary Board.

The Strategic Plan, which will guide the Lodge's operations and growth for the next five years, is being created with the input of residents, families, and the broader community.

"It's essential that we're aligned with the community's needs and aspirations," the Lodge's Co-CEO Andrew Ross said, encouraging people to have their say.

"We invite all members of the community to complete a short survey by 5pm, Wednesday March 5, and as a thank you, everyone who participates will be entered into a draw to win one of three vouchers for local businesses."

To take part, visit the Woorayl Lodge website at www.woorayl-lodge.com.au and follow the link to the survey.

Dogs 7700, wombats 1

WOMBATS were on the agenda at last week's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting courtesy of a community question from native animal activist Eve Kelly.

Ms Kelly wanted to know if there was an ecological survey undertaken before a 24/7 off-leash dog exercise area was established on the foreshore at San Remo.

"The dunes provide habitat for wildlife including wombats and their joeys. Before improved signage is arranged, will the council consider reassessing the hours, to give the wombats a break, particularly between the hours of 7am-9pm?"

Council responded by saying that it regularly reviews off-leash regulations and the development of new Domestic Animal Management Plan this

year will provide an opportunity for public input.

But with 7700 dog registrations in the shire, and counting, it may be that more dog exercise areas will be needed in and around Bass Coast towns, rather than less.

Esso, Mitsui and Woodside to invest nearly \$200 million into the Gippsland Basin

A CLOSE to \$200 million dollar investment has been announced by Esso Australia to bring much-needed additional gas online from the Kipper 1B project in the Gippsland Basin.

The project is a joint venture between Esso Australia and Mitsui (MEPAU A).

Woodside Energy will utilise the massive VALARIS 107 jack-up rig currently moored offshore and serviced from Barry Beach to drill and install one subsea well into the Kipper field and upgrade the West Tuna platform.

Kipper 1B follows the successful completion of the recent Kipper Compression Project and the West Barracouta project that came online in 2021.

"Esso Australia continues to invest in multiple projects that ensure our Gippsland operations sustain gas production well into the 2030's," said ExxonMobil Australia Chair Simon Younger.

"Projects like Kipper 1B are vital to help meet the country's energy security needs by bringing new supply online which will be used exclusively for Australia's domestic market."

"Natural gas is the safety net of our energy system ensuring reliable, affordable power for homes and businesses while providing the stability needed to transition to a lower carbon future."

Drilling into the Kipper field is set to begin later this year simultaneously with the West Tuna platform upgrades.

The project when completed is expected to expand capacity from the Kipper field delivering crucial gas supplies to the market ahead of winter in 2026.

Wattlebank black spot claims another two vehicles

A NOTORIOUS stretch of road near the corner of Lynnes Road and the Inverloch-Kongwak Road at Wattle Bank has claimed two more victims.

The two car collision at 4pm resulted in both vehicles being towed from the scene.

It is the third serious motor vehicle accident for the year at the same intersection.

Single car incident

A MAN in his 20's was transported by road to Bass Coast Regional Hospital on Sunday night at about 9:00pm after a single vehicle accident occurred.

Paramedics and emergency services responded to reports

of an incident in North Wonthaggi on Heslop Road and Wentworth Road when the car reportedly ran into a tree.

The man sustained non-life threatening injuries and is in a stable condition.

Waterline Community Library is on the Move – 24/7 Access Coming Soon

MYLI – My Community Library, in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, is pleased to announce that Waterline Community Library is relocating to a brand-new space at Unit 3, 1524 Bass Highway, Grantville. With building works now underway, the library is set to open its refreshed doors to the community in early April.

This move is an exciting opportunity to enhance our services and create a space designed to support our growing programs, activities, and resources. We're also pleased to confirm that StoryTime will continue at the new location, along with a range of other programs for all ages.

As part of this move, Waterline Community Library will introduce 24/7 access for members. To take advantage of this feature, members must complete an application form and attend an in-person induction session. Once these steps are completed, they will receive a fob for entry, providing flexible access to library resources at any time. Pre-registration for 24/7 access is now open: <https://myli.au/waterline24-7>

Myli and Bass Coast Shire Council appreciate the community's patience and support during this exciting transformation. Regular updates will be shared on the library website and Facebook page as the opening day approaches.

For more information, including details on pre-registering for 24/7 access, visit myli.au/waterline.

One-on-One Business Mentoring Clinic - Thursday 6 March

Need some support for your business? 45 minute one on one mentoring sessions provide general business advice for those who are planning, starting or growing a business. From financial viability and cash flow to management and marketing, these sessions are a great opportunity to get tailored support.

Sessions will be held on Thursday March 6 from 10.00am to 3.00pm by virtual meeting either via Zoom, Skype or Phone. Book a spot now via:

SBMS Events: South Gippsland Small Business Clinic (SGPV10TBA2636)

Tarwin Lower Red Cross 2025

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 4 at 1.30pm in the Tarwin Lower Health Centre, School Road, Tarwin Lower.

Postergate: How Council is killing community involvement at Berninnett

THERE'S a deepening controversy over the Bass Coast Shire Council's unwillingness to display handmade posters or pull-up promotional signs, created by Grade 5 students at Newhaven Primary School, in the Berninnett cultural centre at Cowes to highlight the blight of roadkill on Phillip Island's wildlife.

The issue, which has been simmering away since the shire's administration told roadkill activist, Ron Day, that it was policy not to display such material in the new cultural centre, was the subject of a community question from Linda Marston, at last week's council meeting.

"As part of the 'KIDS as Catalysts' program some Newhaven primary students created posters promoting awareness of Wildlife on Phillip Island. They were unable to exhibit these at Berninnett for free. As BCSC is partnered with this program, shouldn't Council promote such projects as examples of young leadership?"

The shire's CEO Greg Box responded by agreeing that the Council does provide support and access for KIDS as Catalyst program.

"However," he said. "Not every request is able to be accommodated. The group was advised that the best option was to hire a community space in the building. Staff also spent some time with the group advising how best to promote their work and provided key contacts within media."

Mr Day, who is a member of Island Voice and a member of the Phillip Island Conservation Society, said it was regrettable in the extreme that shire wouldn't display the posters, or at least allow the professionally produced pull-up banners to be used.

"I think it's pretty dreadful that a community centre couldn't support the worthy efforts of a group of 11-year-old local students to highlight what is a serious problem on the Island, the number of wildlife being killed on our roads," Mr Day said.

"Following my interest in this issue, I was asked along to the school to assist them with their work which produced a wonderful outcome. The posters have been displayed around the area to raise the profile of the threat to wildlife and Phillip Island Nature Parks ordered a number of the pull-up banners, inspired by the kids, but professionally made by Print It Fast at San Remo.

"Why the shire wouldn't allow them to be displayed at Berninnett is beyond me. A lot of people around the area say it just proves it's a cultural centre for the shire not a community centre."

Mr Day, who is continuing with his project recording roadkill on a 3.6km section of the Cowes to Rhyll Road, said that following on from a study between 2019 and 2021 when there were 1200 wildlife deaths recorded, there had been 60 wildlife kills there in January 2025 alone.

"It's not the only place on Phillip Island where there's a problem with roadkill but it's easily the worst."

A speed reduction on Cowes-Rhyll Road from 80km/h to 70km/h during the day and 50km/h at night is being called for.

Local councils cry foul over fire levy

From page 1

An 80.5 hectare grazing property, for example, presently on the market at Tarwin Lower for \$2.9 million, which previously attracted a Fire Services Levy of \$1108 on last year's rates notice, will see a rise to \$2683 this year – more than double!

Commercial dairy farmers in the region could be expected to pay \$5000 or more just for the emergency services levy alone.

Cr Hersey said he believed the new tax, to replace the FSL, had been "introduced by stealth", without consultation leaving local councils ill-equipped to differentiate between general ratepayers and active emergency service volunteers and life members, who won't be required to pay the levy on their principal place of residence (farm or house).

"That's not something that our system will even manage. So, we're looking straight away at costs involved in upgrading our IT systems, and also, an additional burden on our staff who would be required to input that data, likely manually," he said.

The turnaround time for this to be implemented is by July this year, which is an extremely short turnaround, again, without consultation with local communities."

In a cost-of-living crisis, he said the increase in tax could tip more people over into applying for special circumstances rate relief.

"This is a very significant tax that's going to impact rural and regional communities a lot more than other areas of the state, mainly metropolitan areas. All properties in South Gippsland will be affected, but our farmers would be disproportionately impacted as the fund comes into effect in South Gippsland, mindful that 80% of our workforce is directly employed in agriculture, and we have the most registered agricultural businesses out of any local government area."

Cr Hersey said the district's farmers were already contributing strongly to the economy



It was a big week for Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, taking the state government on over doubling the emergency services levy and officiating at the World Superbikes on Phillip Island at the weekend.



All in favour say 'Aye'. Both the Bass Coast and the South Gippsland shire councils have voted to push back on collecting the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) on behalf of the state government with the levy set to generate an additional \$616 million this year.

and its food and fibre needs, but despite the value of farmland, their operations weren't overly profitable.

Cr Halstead said she feared the community would blame local councils for doubling the emergency services levy when it was all the state government's doing.

"This is a critical notice of motion that I think the whole local government sector is going to get involved in. We are going to be sending out our rate notices very soon, and

on those rate notices, the fire services levy will be doubled," said Cr Halstead.

"This is not something that this council has imposed upon our community. This is a state government charge, an increase in their charges that is going out on rate notices in Bass Coast, which I believe gives our community the impression that it is one of our increases."

Cr Halstead said it was an attempt to use local government as a shield, while

hitting ratepayers with an additional tax. She said state government supplied the levy data to councils when they could just as easily collect the levy themselves.

"The local government sector feels very strongly about pushing back on this, and I really hope that this council will come out loud and strong on this," she said.

As well as moving a motion calling on the State Government "to assume direct responsibility for collecting the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund", Cr Halstead will also be taking forward two other motions to the MAV's state conference, one calling on the government to accept responsibility for action on coastal erosion and to urgently review the Development Facilitation Program via which they are taking control of and fast-tracking local development applications.

Cr Halstead and Cr Hersey were recently elected chair and deputy chair of Gippsland's peak government advocacy body, One Gippsland, with Cr Halstead also nominating for a seat on the Board of Directors of the MAV.

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\$980,000 pathway funding a win-win for Phillip Island

IT WAS a case of one door closes and another door opens, across two days last week, for the Bass Coast Shire Council with a \$1 million pay day at the end of it!

At the urging of Phillip Island councilor Tim O'Brien, the council removed the proposed Cowes to Ventnor foreshore trail from its list of priority projects at its meeting last Wednesday, to recognise the value of the fragile nature of the foreshore reserve between Osborne Road Cowes and Grossard Point Ventnor.

Then, the very next day, on Thursday, the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, announced that Bass Coast was to receive \$980,000 for "a new shared path to link the townships of Cowes and Ventnor for visitors and locals alike" via Ventnor Road.

As well as providing an alternative to the controversial foreshore route, the 2.5-metre-wide concrete shared path, ultimately running 4.5-kilometres between Cowes and Ventnor will also benefit connection to the Hilton Chadwick Reserve when it is finally developed as the sporting and aquatic precinct the whole community wants to see.

"Victorians will have more opportunities to walk, cycle and actively move through their communities thanks to support from the Albanese Government," Minister King said in her announcement last week.

"From Melbourne to the Yarra Ranges, we're investing in active transport options right across Victoria to shape the way locals and visitors move around our great towns."

"Whether you're on a motor scooter, pushing a pram, walking or cycling, we're making it easier for people to get to school, work or local services, without having to jump in the car," said Ms King.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, welcomed news of the funding for stage one of the path, running 2km along Ventnor Road.

"This is a fantastic investment in Phillip Island's active transport network. Shared pathways like this not only provide safer connections between townships but also support healthier, more sustainable ways for people to get around," Cr Halstead said.

"We know there is strong demand for better walking and cycling infrastructure in Bass Coast, and this funding will help us deliver a high-quality path that meets the needs of both locals and visitors."

The Ventnor Road shared path was one of only 19 projects funded under the Australian Government's new Active Transport Program, which is investing \$21 million to improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across Victoria.

Construction is expected to commence following the detailed design phase.

Threatened plants block sand miners' application

THE homeowners of the bushy Adams residential estate, south of Grantville, have won the first round.

But long-time residents like Janet Grimes are still up for the fight.

At last Wednesday's council meeting, a majority of Bass Coast Shire Councillors heard the objections raised by 58 submitters and rejected an application by Hanson Australia Pty Ltd, to cut down 36 mature native trees in the roadside reserve "to facilitate the construction of pedestrian footpaths and road improvements along Stanley Road... in order to enable critical sand resources to be obtained".

Mrs Grimes says a lot has changed since Hanson got their original permit in 1996, not the least being the building of 85 homes and the increase in population in the adjoining estate.

"In the 35 years since they made application to establish a sand mine here, the whole environment in this area has changed," said Mrs Grimes.

"The loss of habitat has been huge. And since the bushfire went through this area, more has been destroyed."

She welcomed the rejection of Hanson's application but suspected they'd appeal to VCAT.

Cr Jon Temby led the debate against the application at council last Wednesday.

He claimed that far from there being just 36 or 37 trees at risk, because of the way the biggest trees were counted, there were actually "1000s of



People opposed to the clearing of native vegetation to widen and seal a road to one of Hanson Australia's sand mines at Grantville packed the public gallery at last week's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting.

important habitat plants and trees earmarked for removal".

He said the existence or likely existence of endangered trees and plants within the area designated for clearing, including the Strzelecki Gum, listed as Critically Endangered in the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, plus examples of the Cobra Greenhood Orchid (Pterostylis grandiflora) and Green Striped Greenhood (Pterostylis chlorigramma) along the road reserve, part of a colony within the Adams Estate itself, were enough to require an environmental effects statement to be prepared prior to the works going ahead.

"In addition, disturbance of Stanley and McGrady roads is likely to have an impact on the small area nearby where the incredibly rare and critically

endangered Tea Tree Fingers Fungus is found," Cr Temby told the Sentinel-Times this week.

He received plenty of passionate support from around the council table.

Cr Tim O'Brien said he didn't believe "punching a double lane through" Stanley Road was the only solution and urged council to "hit this one out of the park".

"And let's just remind ourselves, no one gets a royalty for the sand that's carried out of Grantville. It just disappears, so that community gets very little compensation for the amount of disturbance from trucks and dust, and I don't see any 'Hanson Child-care Centre' being built in the area."

But it wasn't unanimous. Cr Jan Thompson expressed

concern about the cost to council, and to the ratepayers, of rejecting the application, saying it could cost council \$20,000 to fight the application at VCAT, noting only 10 of the 58 objections had come from Adams Estate residents.

"This sand mining licence and other open licences should have been retrospectively rescinded when the State Government stopped any new sand mining licences in Western Port region. This would have ensured that we as a Council didn't keep assuming the burden of pointless legal costs," she said.

Cr Brett Tessari voted to reject the miner's application but said they'd continue to use the road for sand extraction, and he'd prefer to see them pay for upgrading the road than the council.

Record 42 questions raised at Bass Coast Council meeting

QUESTIONS about the coastal erosion crisis at Silverleaves on Phillip Island, why the council refused to allow local students to display their art at Berninnett, the cost of the mayor's electric car and the opening up of council briefing sessions...

There were a record 42 community questions put to the Bass Coast Shire Council at its first meeting of the year last Wednesday.

Why so many questions? Avid council watcher Graham

Jolly of Surf Beach, who was in the council chamber to hear the proceedings, said missing the January meeting might have accounted for a backlog but he suspected that wasn't the only reason so many were included in the meeting papers.

"There's no doubt the previous regime stopped some of the community questions from going public. I had a lot of people contact me and say their letter didn't get read out," said Mr Jolly.

"Certainly, not all the questions about the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay road and drainage scheme reached the council meeting," he said.

"If this is an indication of a more open and transparent council then good."

But fellow council watcher, John Trigt, wanted to see more candid answers to questions and for all community queries to be addressed individually.

"People make a big effort to write and raise issues with

council and they should all be responded to with the best information council has available," said Mr Trigt.

The number of letters which came forward indicates a high degree of engagement on issues including the Phillip Island speed review, where dogs can and can't exercise, the waiving of 900 car parking spaces for the proposed Isle of Wight development, sewerage overflows into Western Port and 30 years neglecting sporting facilities on Phillip Island.

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Sam's raft of rubbish floats change into town

HE'S built a raft entirely out of the rubbish he's found on the beach and he's sailing it all the way from Tasmania to Sydney. Maybe further.

Picture Tom Hanks and 'Wilson' on their raft in Cast Away (only bigger with a better sail) trying to escape the Manuca Islands in Fiji.

Samuel McLennan, a 48-year-old business coach and personal mentor from Hobart, made it as far as Sealers Cove at Wilson's Promontory early last week but he might already have had the hairiest moment on the whole trip.

"At one stage the winds were blowing at 50 knots, with a 5 metre to 7 metre swell running. We got to Deal Island too early to get into the harbour and almost got swept right past it," said Sam as he was heading off on the next leg of his trip, to Port Welshpool.

"The currents and the wind were the hardest. I'm not concerned about the raft."

When does he expect to get to Sydney?

"I don't know. I'm going into Port Welshpool now and we'll probably stay there for two or three weeks and then head off up the coast."

Sam had a support boat for the treacherous crossing of Bass Strait, but he was on his own for the run into Port Welshpool. What happens after that is yet to be decided.

"It would be nice," he said of the possibility that someone will follow him in a support craft."

So, why is he doing it.

Clearly, he wants to draw attention to the rapid increase in the amount of rubbish in the environment, especially

in the ocean, and fears that it will ultimately kill every living thing, including us.

But he's also concerned for the direction we're headed as a society, including lack of leadership, the rising levels of mental health problems, lack of housing, lack of corporate and government responsibility and many other things.

"I work in business development, and as a business improvement mentor.

"I also help homeless people. As a homeless person myself once, I feel I know something about the challenges."

In fact, while the challenge of building a raft from ocean and coastal rubbish has the obvious message for corporates of taking responsibility for their waste, Project Interrupt is also about urging people to get on board and make a difference themselves.

This could mean getting involved in beach cleaning activities through initiatives such as #ZeroDebrisTassie via the projectinterrupt.com website.

Or it could mean contributing to the cause financially through the My Cause website and Sam's rubbish raft journey.

Some of the proceeds will also go towards Sam's work with the homeless, some towards supporting ocean and beach clean-up initiatives.

While he's at Port Welshpool you're welcome to call in and say hello, he's then off to Lakes Entrance and further up the east coast. It's likely that the quest will continue on from there and generate more interest as he goes.

Both issues could do with plenty of publicity and action which is what Project Interrupt is all about.



There's all sorts of objects, choking the ocean, that have found their way on to Sam McLennan's raft to adventure.



You can check out Samuel McLennan's raft of rubbish at Port Welshpool this week. Tell us if you'd go to sea with him.

VicGrid leaves South Gippsland towers on the table

VICGRID, the State Government authority which is coordinating the planning and development of Victoria's transition to renewable energy has failed to rule out a second transmission crossing on the Gippsland coast.

Following a community drop-in session at Sandy Point on Saturday, February 15, at which approved feasibility licence holder, Gippsland Skies, revealed plans to scope out connection to two cross-shore corridors, the Sentinel-Times asked VicGrid to comment.

VicGrid CEO Alistair Parker responded:

"VicGrid has made it clear to Gippsland Skies and to all offshore wind proponents that those wishing to connect to the first stage of the offshore wind transmission need to do so at the shared connection point near Giffard. No decisions have been made on further transmission requirements. VicGrid is solely responsible for planning offshore wind transmission infrastructure. The Victorian Government has also made it clear that offshore wind farms will be required to connect underground to the VicGrid connection points."

However, while the first stage of offshore wind energy development has a target of 2GW, the government ultimately wants 9GW from Gippsland and VicGrid has failed to reject the proposal from Gippsland Skies to scope a second transmission crossing at Waratah Bay.

Locally based community lobby group, Responsible Renewables, has expressed its "deep concern" about such an outcome for South Gippsland especially given the promise by Federal Energy Minister Chris Bowen that the coastal area, west of Wilsons Promontory would be protected from renewable infrastructure.



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Everyday Victorians suffer as Labor goes to Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD heroes take priority over everyday Victorians as our crumbling roads continue to be a horror show.

Potholes were fixed ahead of the closure of Calder Highway to allow A-Lister Liam Neeson and crew to film scenes for a new movie on a smooth surface.

Victorians are forced to navigate potholes daily, but the State Government is only prepared to act when it's "lights, cameras, action".

Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, in Parliament last week asked the Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Melissa Horne: "Why do Hollywood superstars get better roads in Victoria than Victorians?"

Ms Horne offered nothing but deflection.

The Minister was also asked: "Will any proceeds from the movie's production be put towards fixing potholes, or do we need Liam Neeson to shoot scenes on every road in the state in order to get them fixed?"

In a damning stat the State Government can't hide from, last year's roads maintenance budget was 16 per cent less than it was four years ago.

Data from the Department of Transport and Planning shows the area of road "rehabilitated or resurfaced" in regional Victoria fell to just 422,000 square metres in 2023/24, down from nine million the year before and 11.5 million in the prior year.

Mr O'Brien said the favouritism towards the Hollywood set summed up the State Government's attitude to fixing our roads.

"Liam Neeson's new movie is called The Mongoose. Who looks the goose here?" Mr O'Brien said.

"The government needs to get back to basics and fix potholes, not become fixated by celebrities and bright lights."

"The Calder Highway is a vital transport route for Victorians, but it took a film crew - not the safety concerns of everyday road users - for the government to act."



The Greens have endorsed semi-retired teacher from Kardella South Terence Steele as their candidate for Monash.

Steele throws his hat into Monash for The Greens

SEMI-retired school teacher from Kardella South, Terence Steele, has joined the expanding field of candidates to contest the Federal seat of Monash as the endorsed Greens candidate.

The Greens gained a 2.7% swing in Monash at the last election and will be hoping to win a significant share of the vote again at this election.

Terence and his wife Linda have owned a small rural property in South Gippsland for over 20 years.

"The beautiful region that we call home is under threat from climate inaction by both major parties. I became aware of the devastating effects as an avid gardener and recognised that to affect real change, I

needed to get involved," said Mr Steele.

"In a wealthy country like ours, we should have world-class public health, education, and affordable housing. I joined the Greens movement for a fairer future, so my children and grandchildren can live in a better world.

"The Greens are also the only party fighting to save our farms from fracking.

"We are facing the very real threat of a Dutton government bringing nuclear to Gippsland. I was present at the first-ever anti-nuclear demonstration in Australia and The Greens will be doing everything we can to keep Dutton and his dangerous

agenda out of government."

But, in a media statement to announce Mr Steele's candidature, a spokesperson for the Bass Coast Greens appeared to be clearing the way for independent candidate Deb Leonard.

They acknowledged that "some regular Greens volunteers were moving over to her campaign" but that they had "demonstrated in Parliament that we're capable of working constructively with the cross-bench and Teal MPs to secure better outcomes for everyday people".

"Here in Monash, we'll be focussing on keeping Dutton's Liberal candidate out of office and are happy to see a strong independent candidate putting up a good fight."

Interest rate cut 'a drop in the ocean'

THE Reserve Bank of Australia cut interest rates by 0.25% to 4.1% last Tuesday, but we're not out of the woods yet.

Speaking after the rate cut announcement, RBA Governor Michelle Bullen, said the Reserve Bank was simply removing the added 0.25 per cent restriction they applied in November 2023.

She said 4.1 per cent remained a "restrictive" interest rate setting aiming to get inflation back to the middle of the inflation band between 2.0% and 3.0%.

Ms Bullock also poured cold water on the prospect of future rate cuts until the direction of the economy is clear, including stubbornly high employment numbers remaining high.

Locally, the cut hasn't kicked off dancing in the street.

"It's not going to affect us much because it's a drop in the ocean. It's nice but the concern is all the stuff that goes on behind the scenes, the taxes and the cost of running a business," said Leongatha business operator Darren Eastwood.

But it's the first rate cut since 2020 and many are tipping an early election call as a result, from the Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, for as soon as Saturday, April 5.



Adventure awaits in Drouin!

The doors to a new Kindergarten and Primary School are now open - welcoming families from Drouin and surrounds to the vibrant learning community that is St Paul's.

Our students from Pre-Kinder through to Year 3 are thriving in a beautiful, nurturing environment with exceptional, caring educators supporting them to work toward their goals.

Are you ready to discover all our new campus has to offer? Come along and meet our teachers, discover best-practice approaches to learning and stroll with your child through our beautiful classrooms and nature play areas.

Kinder & Prep Discovery Morning Tuesday 18 March

Kindergarten session 9.15am, Prep session 10.30am

Please visit stpaulsags.vic.edu.au to register or contact our Enrolments Office now on 5644 1233.

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Pre-Kinder to Year 3 in 2025, expanding annually to Year 6.

via McGlone Road, opposite Kingston Heath Drive, Drouin

State Coal Mine whistle is back

RIGHT on the stroke of midday the familiar blast of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine whistle was greeted with great delight by a large crowd of onlookers, former coal miners, family and friends of the State Coal Mine, sponsors and Bass Coast Shire councillors gathered around the Poppet Head in Apex Park.

"The whistle's back," the crowd called out barely heard under the noise of the whistle.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead cut a coal black ribbon to mark the occasion with former coalminers Dan Carr and Reg Wilson.

Ian Sullivan a former carpenter at the State Coal Mine remembered the whistle blowing several times a day.

"It was 7am, 8am, 12 noon, 12.30pm, 3pm and 4pm," recalled Ian.

A whistle blast at eleven-thirty at night once acted as a warning for single girls in Wonthaggi to be home by midnight.

Another rumour confirmed by Rose Lodge Aged Care in Wonthaggi is that a recording of the whistle is played at midday each day to summon residents to lunch.

When the whistle failed last year Friends of the State Coal Mine wasted no time in taking the whistle down for repairs.

Volunteer Michael Bohmer said restoration of the whistle took longer than first anticipated as the rods securing the bells to the manifold were severely corroded.

"A lengthy process was used to submerge the whistle in penetrating oil continually removing,



Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead delighted to hear the whistle blow again with former coalminers Dan Carr and Reg Wilson and Wonthaggi Workmens manager Rod Bye. B25_0825

heating and working on undoing the assembly to avoid any damage to the bells and manifold," said Mr Bohmer.

Initially new replacement rods were to be manufactured using stainless steel.

Further research by volunteer engineer Steve Randles discovered the rods were made of mild steel to act as a sacrificial anode designed to corrode first, preserving the brass manifold and bells for at least another 100 years.

Coalminer Dan Carr thought the whistle would be impossible to repair.

"It took three men three weeks to take it apart.

"Many of the parts had to be scrapped and replaced.

"No doubt in my mind it will now last another 150 years," said Danny.

Manufactured by John Danks the mine whistle once summoned men to work and signalled their lunch break.

The steam boilers at the State Coal Mine produced twice the pressure the whistle operates at today.

Identical to the whistle used on the Titanic it is not the first time the State Coal Mine whistle has been out of action.

"Whistle is Back!" screamed the headline of the day in March 1913.

The Powlett Express in 1914 listed seventeen different whistles at different times of the day, later reduced to ten times a day.

Reportedly a saucer shaped deflector was added to the tower during the Second World War so the whistle could be heard as far as Kongwak,

Tarwin Lower and Eagles Nest.

Welcoming the whistle back to Apex Park Wonthaggi resident Janie Boyle said her Pop 'Tibby' was a coalminer.

Duncan Boyle said many of his family members also worked at the coalmine.

"My father used to blow the whistle," said Florence Crawford from Bass.

Thanked for helping to restore the mine whistle were the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club who helped finance the restoration and the businesses who made the restoration possible. Covered In Paint, Ampelite Dandenong, Engineering Products Of Australia, Precision Plating Dandenong, Bass Coast Council, Kennards Hire and the dedicated staff and volunteers at the State Coal Mine.

Newhaven Jetty 'a top priority' for work, they say

THE fight to save the Newhaven Jetty was taken to a new level on Wednesday with the petition-generated debate occurring in the Legislative Council of State Parliament.

The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria and sponsor of the community petition, Melina Bath, led the debate on behalf of residents.

Ms Bath told parliament the government had barricaded the much-loved Newhaven Jetty by stealth and withheld information on its closure.

"Labor should be focusing on addressing community concerns and working on an acceptable timeline for reopening," Ms Bath said.

"The petition, debate and accessing of freedom of information (FOI) documents have all been needed to uncover facts, apply pressure and call on the government to work with community for an acceptable outcome."

Ms Bath said the State Government now had the opportunity to answer critical questions, order engineering assessments and commit to the jetty's reopening in an acceptable timeframe.

"The FOI documents reveal the jetty was number two on an internal priority list, but Labor denied the request for structural integrity and load-bearing assessments in April 2024.

"Bass Coast residents are devastated they remain locked out of their valued recreational fishing platform."

Ms Bath thanked petition instigator 'Women In Fishing' advocate, Amanda Keilar, Saltwater Phillip Island owner Ben Dennis and Newhaven Residents Association Lisa Webster who attended parliament for the 'Save Newhaven Jetty' debate.

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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Local Business Drop-ins

Throughout March, Council's Economic Development team will be dropping into local businesses to introduce themselves and drop off flyers designed to help your business thrive. These visits are a fantastic opportunity to have a conversation, explore available options and receive the support you need.

In addition to this support, the team will also be sharing upcoming workshops and mentoring sessions. These sessions can help you upskill in areas such as social media, customer growth, finances, day-to-day business operations and so much more!

Council's website is a one-stop-shop for business workshops, webinars and training. In March, you

won't want to miss the following opportunities:

- **Small Business Online Mentoring Sessions: Thursday 6 March**
Book a 45-minute session from 10.00am to 3.00pm.
- **Social Media and Content Marketing: Tuesday 18 March**
Learn to create compelling content and engage your audience from 5.30pm.

We can't wait to connect with and hear from our local businesses!

For workshops and information about how Council can support your business, please visit:

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



Time is running out to provide your feedback on the South Gippsland Shire Council Plan and the 2040 Community Vision.

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

Our final in-person Councillor session will be held at the Old Ferry Terminal in Port Welshpool this Friday 28 February. If you aren't able to provide your feedback in person, please do so at the link below.

www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Details will be available on Council's website:

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

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

COMMUNITY GRANTS

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

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

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

For more information and to apply, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

SOUTH GIPPSLAND JOBS EXPO

Mark it in your calendars, the annual South Gippsland Jobs Expo will be happening Thursday 20 March.

This is a FREE event with stallholders across a wide variety of industries where you will have the opportunity to chat with local businesses that are currently recruiting.

More information can be found at:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/JobsExpo

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Hopes for funding of new Korumburra tennis pavilion

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council has committed to contributing \$475,000, excluding GST, to the planned Korumburra Tennis Club Pavilion Redevelopment should a funding application for \$1 million from the State Government succeed.

The funding will be applied for through Round 2 of the government's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, specifically the Community Facilities Stream.

Councillors strongly backed the recommendation to pursue the funding and commit to a council contribution to the project if successful, with all those present at Wednesday's council meeting voting in favour apart from deputy mayor Sarah Gilligan; Cr Clare Williams was unable to attend.

Declaring Korumburra has had the lion's share of investment by council over the last three years, Cr Gilligan questioned allocating almost half a million dollars to another capital works project for the town.

While praising the intended project and Korumburra Tennis Club, she stressed there needs to be an equitable approach taken to meeting community needs across the shire.

"I'd like to see it in comparison to the big pot of needs, and it's really hard, in my heart, to allocate close to half a million dollars to one particular interest group when we haven't done all of that budget work and looking at the needs across the whole shire," she said.

While Cr Gilligan lives in Venus Bay, Korumburra based councillor Bron Beach acknowledged the need for an equitable approach



Cr Bron Beach is keen to see an equitable approach across the shire. A11_0825

across the shire.

"I invite the opportunity for us as a group of councillors to look to the needs of other communities outside of Korumburra which has been so fortunate to have such amazing infrastructure in recent times," Cr Beach said.

Cr Nathan Hersey said council has an obligation to keep its buildings at sufficient standard, with the Korumburra Tennis Club pavilion a case in point.

He argued the structure would soon come up for renewal anyway, so there is an opportunity to expedite that process and save money in the future.

"We need to be nimble and agile when it comes to looking at



Cr Sarah Gilligan wants shire-wide needs to be determined before funds are allocated to specific projects. A10_0825

opportunities that can fund the services and infrastructure we have in our community," Cr Hersey said.

He argued not applying for the State Government funding would be a lost opportunity for council and the community, with the funding needing to be applied by March 17.

As reported in the February 18 edition of the Sentinel-Times, the intended Korumburra Tennis Club development would provide accessible and female-friendly facilities in line with modern expectations and council's recently adopted Fair Access to Recreation Facilities Policy.

Should the project go ahead, the club would contribute \$25,000.

Cr Rae urges you to have your say on weeds

KNOWN for his imaginative props, Cr Scott Rae showed off a bunch of weed flowers, pointing out those wanting council to do more roadside spraying should have their say in its current 'Shaping South Gippsland' survey before it ends on February 28.

The same applies to anyone else wanting to contribute their ideas for consideration as the latest Council Plan is developed, council also wanting to ensure its 2040 Community Vision for South Gippsland still reflects the community's aspirations.

While his bunch of Ragwort, Californian Thistle and Agapanthus were picked alongside a VicRoads' highway, Cr Rae conceded "These flowers are also available on shire roadsides and on private land."

"Council is currently doing a community engagement and I need you all to engage with us," he urged.

Cr Rae stressed that no matter how busy you are, it's important to provide your feedback, adding that otherwise "The classic squeaky wheels are over-represented" in the data gathered.

"Just talking won't give me the data or the mandate to ask for more weed control to be included in the coming Budget, do the survey," he said.

Visit yoursaysouthgippsland.vic.gov.au to complete the survey.

There is a final councillor pop-up event in relation to 'Shaping South Gippsland' on Friday February 28 at the Old Ferry Terminal in Port Welshpool, running from 10am until 12pm.



Cr Scott Rae displays a pretty bouquet of weed flowers. A51_0825

Mayor Schelling continues to advocate for energy benefits

SOUTH GIPPSLAND mayor John Schelling is calling on the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to direct its advocacy efforts to helping ensure communities in the region receive deserved benefits from locally based renewable energy projects.

He is one of 10 Victorian mayors chosen to submit their priorities to the MAV to help guide its advocacy in the leadup to the Federal election, with resultant communications targeted at relevant electorates, being Monash in our region.

"It's all about making sure that the proponents who get the jobs recognise there are people in Gippsland who are going to be affected, and we've been working

hard with them all and with VicGrid to ensure that our people are being looked after and we can turn it into a plus," Cr Schelling said.

He reflected on the huge benefits that flowed into South Gippsland communities in the 1960s and 1970s through job opportunities arising from Barry Beach and its part in supporting oil and gas rigs and associated infrastructure.

Looking ahead to wind energy projects, Cr Schelling labelled it an opportunity to grow as a region.

However, he noted that can't be to the detriment of the area's current economic drivers.

"We want to make sure our agricultural land is protected," he said.

The need to compensate local communities for disruption is also seen as important.

Cr Schelling is well placed to comment on Gippsland more broadly as he travels extensively in the region.

He has already met with three of the candidates for the Seat of Monash, in Deb Leonard, Mary Aldred and Russell Broadbent and will no doubt seek to catch up with others running, Labor's Tully Fletcher having recently joined the race.

A few more are expected to throw their hats in the ring soon, with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese set to lock in an election date in the near future.

Deputy Mayor's Message



Cr Sarah Gilligan

MAYOR Councillor Schelling is off representing our community at the South East Australian Transport Strategy group meeting, and asked me to do this week's Message.

This Message is a great opportunity to get quick updates on some of the things happening at Council and in the community, and I'm excited to be doing that today. However, if you ever want more information, check out Council's website or Facebook page.

February Council Meeting

The February Council Meeting was held last Wednesday and there was a great turnout in the Chamber of interested locals.

This month, Councillor Hersey put forward a Notice of Motion regarding the new Victorian Government Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund. This is a new tax that councils are expected to collect on their behalf through rates notices, none of this money will come back to the councils who collect it. The Notice of Motion asks Council to write to the Premier of Victoria, Treasurer of Victoria, Minister for Local Government and our local members to formally object to Council collecting the increased tax.

It also asks for Council staff to provide a report to Council on the impact and challenges of administering the tax and how we can more clearly express what is a Victorian Government tax, and what is a Council charge.

There is a lot of cost shifting that happens between the Victorian Government and councils across the state, but this is different. This is a deliberate move to get Council to take the flack for this extra tax when community members are already struggling with cost of living pressures.

I would like to thank Councillor Hersey for bringing this to Council, and to all my fellow Councillors for taking a stand. I hope other councils across the State follow suit to show the Victorian Government that this won't fly.

To view the meeting recording or read through the Agenda, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetings

Shaping South Gippsland Engagement

There are just a few days left to provide your feedback in the Shaping South Gippsland engagement. This is an opportunity not to be missed, giving you the chance to tell Council what you would like to see happen over the next four years.

So far, there have been some terrific conversations

at pop-ups around our region – so thank you to those who have turned up – but we know we could hear more. I'd particularly like to encourage those of you living in our smaller communities to jump online and have your say. Our small towns contribute so much to our shire.

Please complete the survey or come along to the Port Welshpool Old Ferry Terminal on Friday, February 28 between 10am and 12 noon to let us know your thoughts. The survey can be completed online at: www.shapingsouthgippsland.com.au

Based on this feedback, the Council Plan, Budget and other key Council documents will be released for review in April for further engagement.

Wildlife Deaths

I was shaken to my core to hear about the deliberate and cruel deaths of a dozen or so wombats in Venus Bay and Walkerville. To be clear, this act is a serious criminal offence and there will be consequences, my heart breaks for the coastal communities who work so hard to protect our incredible wildlife.

Unfortunately however, deliberate or not, there are far too many animals killed on our roads. Even if you think "there is no way there will be any animals on this road", think again. Please slow down and stay alert when driving, particularly during the night and at dawn and dusk. Together we can all reduce the number of animal deaths on our roads.

If you know anything about the deliberate deaths of wombats in Venus Bay or Walkerville, please get in touch with Inverloch Police on 5674 1202. We need to ensure the culprits are held to account and send a strong message that this is not okay in South Gippsland – this is not who we are.

Events in South Gippsland

South Gippsland is blessed to have so many amazing events happening all times of the year. From markets that celebrate local producers and makers, to world-class acts like the upcoming gig at the Tarwin Hall 'Jones, Steel & Jackson', we are privileged to call South Gippsland home.

If you are looking for something to do, make sure you check out the Visit South Gippsland website: <https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au> Event organisers, accommodation providers and business owners can also list their event or business for free on the site, so take advantage of that extra promotion.

Fences that divide

By Daniel Prior, Partner, Prior Law

THE boundaries set out in the certificate of title for each property around Victoria indicate where the legal ownership of the land starts and stops. However, as most people would be aware, often the title boundary does not accord with the fence or the occupation of the land on the ground.

Sometimes this can be the result of an error in the Title. For example, a title may indicate that it has a frontage of fifty feet, when in actual fact the title was supposed to show a frontage of fifty-two feet. The land occupied matches the 52 feet. An error on the title like this may have been made sometime in the past and the proper distance not transcribed. This type of error can be usually be readily fixed because it would ordinarily not involve amending your neighbour's boundary.

Sometimes there are errors or corrections needed to be made to titles because the titles were issued at a time when measurements of the land were done by description rather than survey.

The more common scenario that people would already probably be aware of is where a fence does not align with the title boundary. That is, a property owner is in possession of part of their neighbour's land by virtue of the fact of the fence enclosing the land. In more densely settled areas there has been an increasing number of applications for people to amend their title boundaries to claim the land that is possessed by them. In large part this is because people are wishing to build on title boundaries and do not want to give up the land that they thought they had purchased when they looked at the land they were purchasing. It is common for people to say to us that when they were buying the land, they thought they were buying the land as fenced – that is not correct.

There is a general perception that the land that is described in your title is yours regardless of whether someone has been in possession of the land contrary to you or not. Under the *Limitations of Actions Act 1958*, if a

party has been in possession of your land for 15 years you are no longer able to ask for it back. The neighbour may then be able to claim that land from you and seek the Registrar of Titles to change the ownership of the land from you to them.

I act for both sides of adverse possession disputes. Some applications I will act for those that are claiming land and other applications I act for the person being claimed against. It almost always brings whatever cordial relationship between the neighbours that existed, to an end. And even though the person claiming the parcel might be entitled to do so, the person being claimed against finds that hard to except, and figures that they are effectively stealing the land.

In more rural areas, with rural fencing, adverse possession is less common. But this is not because the fences are more accurate - there is no shortage of fences off title alignment. The difference appears to be that neighbours seem more willing to let sleeping dogs lie and don't wish to upset the relationship between them and their neighbour. That harmony is often only disrupted when one of the properties is being sold, and someone decides to get a survey.

I have written previously about the requirements of the vendors to make disclosures to prospective purchasers when they are selling their property. Fencing discrepancies, when known to the vendor, are one such thing that need to be disclosed. Given the discrepancy needs to be disclosed, it is often advantageous to engage a surveyor, and a lawyer, well in advance of selling the property so that any discrepancy can be rectified and any assessment as to an adverse possession claim can be addressed. If the situation can't be addressed, at least the purchaser is told of the issue before buying so that they are aware of what is going on.

If everyone is happy for the fence to be erected on the title boundary, great result. But where this isn't happening, it is best not to attempt a resolution of fencing issue without legal advice, as an acknowledgement to your neighbour of their title to the land (whether title of their land as described on title or their possessory ownership of the land) can create other dramas other than the fence that divides.



Brenton Williams and Ryan Dowd of Bj's Earthmoving, Leon Holderhead and Matt Knox of South Gippsland Quarries and Adam Maher of Beveridge Williams at Thursday's Marinus Link gathering. A09_0825

Don't miss Marinus Link local work opportunities

By Andrew Paloczi

GIPPSLAND contractors and suppliers interested in becoming part of the Marinus Link project were urged to register promptly, with many turning up to hear from project leaders and shortlisted proponents at Leongatha Memorial Hall on Thursday.

Marinus Link is a proposed undersea and underground electricity and data interconnector that will run 345 kilometres from Hazelwood in Victoria's Latrobe Valley to Heybridge in Tasmania.

It is currently in the design and approvals phase with construction due to commence in early 2026, those in charge forecasting the project will create between 300 and 400 jobs in Gippsland, in areas such as construction, manufacturing, electrical surveying, project management, engineering, rural fencing and technology.

While there will only be a handful of ongoing jobs, some contract maintenance positions will arise down the track.

"Today is a call to action," Head of Community Stakeholder Engagement for Marinus Link, Mark Lindsay said, explaining that business operators interested in registering their details and capabilities for the project must do so by close of business on Friday March 7.

Expressions of interest are being taken by the Industry Capability Network (ICN) through its Gateway database.

Thursday's session and another in Morwell offered an ideal opportunity for attendees to connect with project leaders and proponents and learn more about the kinds of work that would be available through the development of the Marinus Link and associated infrastructure.

Heybridge is a small Tasmanian town east of Burnie and is intended to be the site of a

converter station, the other to be situated in Hazelwood, with undersea cables crossing Bass Strait and making land between Sandy Point and Waratah Bay, a further 90 kilometres of underground cabling connecting to Hazelwood.

Jimmy Harry and son Josh who run the Waratah Bay Caravan Park were among the many interested attendees.

Jimmy is a commercial builder and keen to explore work opportunities for the Marinus Link project, including the need for associated temporary accommodation, and also owns vessels that could serve as pilot boats.

Fencing contractors, Welshpool's Jake Mabilia and Travis Glover of Nyora were representing their business TJ Agri and are interested in pursuing opportunities such as installing temporary fencing, declaring they would submit an expression of interest.

Both found Thursday's session informative.

Brenton Williams of Leongatha based Bj's Earthmoving described the Marinus Link as a huge project for South Gippsland, hopeful it will provide lots of work for locals.

"There is going to be a huge amount of civil works in this project; every time they go under a road, the road's going to have to be fully reconstructed," he said, keen to put his business in the running for such opportunities along with trenching work.

South Gippsland Shire Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan spoke of the need for energy reliability in South Gippsland, stressing the area currently rates as one of the worst in Victoria in that department.

"I live in Venus Bay and I know about power vulnerability," she said.

Mr Lindsay detailed how Marinus Link will offer flexibility, able to transfer energy in either direction depending on need and helping provide reliable and affordable energy.

"Connecting into the valuable hydro resources in Tasmania is an essential part of our solution as we transition here on the mainland," he said.

Mr Lindsay elaborated that when the sun's shining and the wind's blowing in South Gippsland and we're producing more energy than we need, we can send it south for Tasmanians to use and store, and at other times the power can flow the other way.

He stressed that Marinus Link is all about moving energy, not generating it.

He noted the first stage of the project is intended to take about four years, being commissioned in 2030, with that stage providing a capacity of 750 megawatts.

Stage 2 to double that capacity would require a separate approvals process.

Expression of Interest process:

To submit an Expression of Interest, businesses must have an ICN Gateway company profile.

Search online for 'Gippsland project opportunities'.

Once in 'Gateway', choose 'Gateway by ICN Setup Wizard' if your company doesn't yet have a Gateway profile.

Otherwise, select 'Work Package', then 'Gippsland Projects EOI Updates', then 'Expression of Interest', at which point you will be asked to log in.

If you require assistance registering your business with ICN Gateway or submitting an Expression of Interest, contact ICN Industry Adviser Colin Young on 0438 753 428 or Gateway Customer Service Officer Bonnie Grossi on 9864 6700.

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Council not willing to cop flack for State's actions

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council will formally object to council collecting an increased emergency services tax on the State Government's behalf, councillors voting unanimously on Wednesday to take that action.

Some councillors spoke out strongly on the issue, lashing the Government's efforts to conceal the tax as a council charge, Cr Scott Rae pulling no punches.

He accused the Victorian Government of using council staff to do its dirty work.

"Call me cynical but what better way to collect a tax when you're already unpopular and facing an electorate that's over your misappropriation of public money," Cr Rae said.

He noted that the new Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund charge will appear on people's rate notices, leading them to blame council and councillors for the added expense.

"Thank you Spring Street, I look forward to the people that'll spit on me on the street while I try to explain 'This isn't our tax,'" Cr Rae declared.

He stressed that he supports funding the emergency services but argued the tax is disproportionately applied.

"A broad acre grazing operation will pay more than an industrial site in metropolitan Melbourne and I can assure you that a farmer won't be getting equitable turnout of emergency services in the case of a fire as an industrial site in metro Melbourne," Cr Rae said.

He questioned the available exemption for emergency service volunteers on the primary place of residence, noting many family-owned farming operations have multiple turnout blocks or sites and that farmers often live in town.

Furthermore, he expressed concern about "financially motivated new recruits" to the emergency services who lack the required commitment to their roles.

Cr Rae concluded by stating his full support of Cr Nathan Hersey's motion on the issue that called on council to write to the Premier of Victoria along with the State's treasurer and Minister for Local Government to object to council collecting the tax.

The reasons for that motion were detailed extensively in the *Sentinel-Times*



Cr Nathan Hersey is strongly opposed to council having to collect the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund charge on behalf of the State Government, with Cr Sarah Gilligan one of those speaking in support of his motion. A02_0825



Cr Scott Rae lashed the Victorian Government for getting council to do its dirty work. A03_0825

on Tuesday February 18, with key issues being council having to collect a tax entirely passed on to the State Government, the disproportionate burden on agricultural producers and the need for council system upgrades that would be required.

A further report will now be prepared for council, examining the challenges for South Gippsland Shire in administering the tax.

The report will also outline options to clearly inform rate payers of what is a council charge and what is a State Government charge.

Like Cr Rae, Cr Hersey spoke of the disproportionate impact on those in the agricultural sector that the rise in emergency services charges will have compared to the current Fire Services Levy.

He said that while the average increase on the Fire Services Levy across South Gippsland would be 79.32 percent, that

increase jumps to 139.24 percent for primary production land, with some increase applying to every parcel of land in the shire.

"I don't think it's appropriate that we be collecting this in any shape or form but if the State continues to push this onto us, at the least we need to know what the impact is to our community and how to address it," Cr Hersey said.

Cr Sarah Gilligan said while councils have had to deal with a lot of sneaky cost shifting from higher levels of government, there is nothing sneaky about the latest move, describing it as "blatant".

"We need to have the councils of Victoria standing up against this," Cr Gilligan said, noting the State Government has no trouble collecting land taxes and has the appropriate systems in place.

"It seems there is only one reason and that is that we will take the flack," she said.

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Help police identify those responsible for Venus Bay wombat deaths

VENUS Bay residents are in shock after ten dead wombats, believed to have been deliberately killed, were discovered on the roadside on Tuesday February 18.

Leading Constable Owen Gough said police have been advised that three four-wheel-drives may have been involved.

"They were seen driving into Venus Bay about 10.30 last night," Leading Constable Gough said, last Wednesday and is calling for anyone with dash cam footage that may have captured the vehicles to provide it to police, or anyone with information.

"If we can identify the offenders, the Conservation Regulator has a compliance team which will investigate," he said, stressing 'destruction of native wildlife' is a serious offence that can incur significant penalties.

"There are a lot of people upset about it," he said, adding some locals are very distressed.

One longtime resident of Venus Bay, Peter Kavanagh is outraged by the deliberate destruction of the wombats and said this isn't the first time it has happened.

"In the past 20 years, just about every year, at some point, probably around this time, suddenly, there's a heap of dead wombats," said Peter.

"We've always reckoned that somebody's just coming down here and deliberately hunting the wombats down with their car."

Peter lives in the Third Estate and drives through the First and Second Estates to get home and last Wednesday counted a total of 10 dead wombats on the side of the road.

Even more bizarrely Peter

noticed the wombats had been moved.

"They were all on the side of the road, right at the edge of the bitumen. They'd been placed there mostly, because, if you're running around hitting them, you might have hit them in the middle of the road or wherever, but they've all been put there. It's too consistent."

"And unusually I think they were all facing the road."

Peter believes it is a very deliberate act rather than a case of heightened activity of wombats leading to accidental roadkill; and he believes there may have been more hit that escaped into the bush to die.

"This is sport," said Peter.

"This is outside school holidays. This is outside any holiday. This is during the week. This is when there's no traffic down here at Venus Bay. Now I don't think, I know, that somebody comes down here for the express purpose of pursuing and running over and running down any wildlife they can find."

Peter would like to see the perpetrators dealt with.

"They need to know how the general public feels about them and what sort of low lives they are," said Peter.

"They need to be caught, and they need to be made aware of what they're doing."

Anyone with information or footage is encouraged to call Inverloch Police Station on 5674 1202 to speak to Leading Senior Constable Gough or Sergeant Brad Heber. Anonymous reports and offers of dashcam or other CCTV footage can also be made to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the Crimestoppers website.

History-making petition calls for no more national parks

LAST week the Liberals and Nationals tabled the largest petition in Legislative Council history as anger brews about the State Government pushing ahead with the expansion of national parks.

More than 40,000 signatures have been received for the No New National Parks petition, which stands up for the rights of those who want to keep accessing our state forests for traditional bush activities.

In a massive show of support, almost 34,000 concerned bush users signed up on-line, making it the largest e-petition in Victorian history for both houses of parliament.

Many concerned bush user groups will gather on the steps of parliament today to make a significant statement and raise awareness of their fight.

Affected groups include those involved in dispersed camping, hunting, four-wheel driving, hiking, horse-riding, mountain biking, prospecting and fishing.

We do not need more padlocked national parks, which are poorly maintained and a fire risk.

Neglecting public land leads to overgrown tracks and the proliferation of invasive weeds and feral pests, which degrade the environment and pose a threat to native flora and fauna.

Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, tabled the petition.

"The State Government's



More than 40,000 signatures have been received for the No New National Parks petition, which was tabled by Melina Bath last week.

flawed policies are not saving vulnerable species, through neglect and mismanagement it is placing them and Victorians at a greater risk of bushfire," Ms Bath said.

"The Liberals and Nationals will actively manage our public land for better environmental and recreational outcomes.

"Our historic petition is a voice for Victorians who cherish our bush and immerse themselves in nature through the traditional outdoor activities of dispersed camping, hunting, four-wheel driving, hiking, horse riding, mountain biking, prospecting and fishing."

Offshore Geophysical Surveys

Advice to Mariners

The Gippsland Skies Offshore Wind Project (the Project) is located off the south coast of Gippsland approximately 30km from Wilsons Promontory and 50km from Cape Liptrap. We are undertaking geophysical surveys to inform the Project's feasibility during which a 500m safety zone for approaching vessels will be managed. This notice provides an initial overview of our planned geophysical surveys with updates to be provided in due course.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Offshore geophysical surveys are required to map the seafloor and identify geological features on and below the seabed. The surveys will run 24 hours per day for approximately 12 weeks (subject to weather and other conditions). The first survey campaign will cover the Project's Feasibility Licence Area. A range of environmental control measures will be implemented during the survey program to avoid or minimise potential impacts to the marine environment. Future surveys to be carried out in respect of the Project's proposed offshore

export cable corridors will be the subject of separate notice at the relevant time.

ACTIVITY PERIOD

The surveys are expected to take approximately 12 weeks (subject to weather, etc), and are currently proposed to commence in mid-March, subject to weather and operational conditions. Gippsland Skies will provide further information about the exact start date once this is confirmed with our contractor. We will also notify mariners once the surveys are complete, or in the event of a significant change to operations.

ACTIVITY LOCATION

The initial geophysical surveys will take place within the Project's Feasibility Licence Area, which is located within Declared Area OEI-01-2022, Part 3. A map and geographic coordinates are provided in Figure 1. The vessel is planned to undertake the surveys at a speed of no greater than 4 knots and operate along pre-determined survey lines.

SAFETY ZONE

Gippsland Skies kindly requests that all vessels approach no closer than 500m of the vessel due to the use of submerged trailing equipment.

VESSEL CONTACT DETAILS

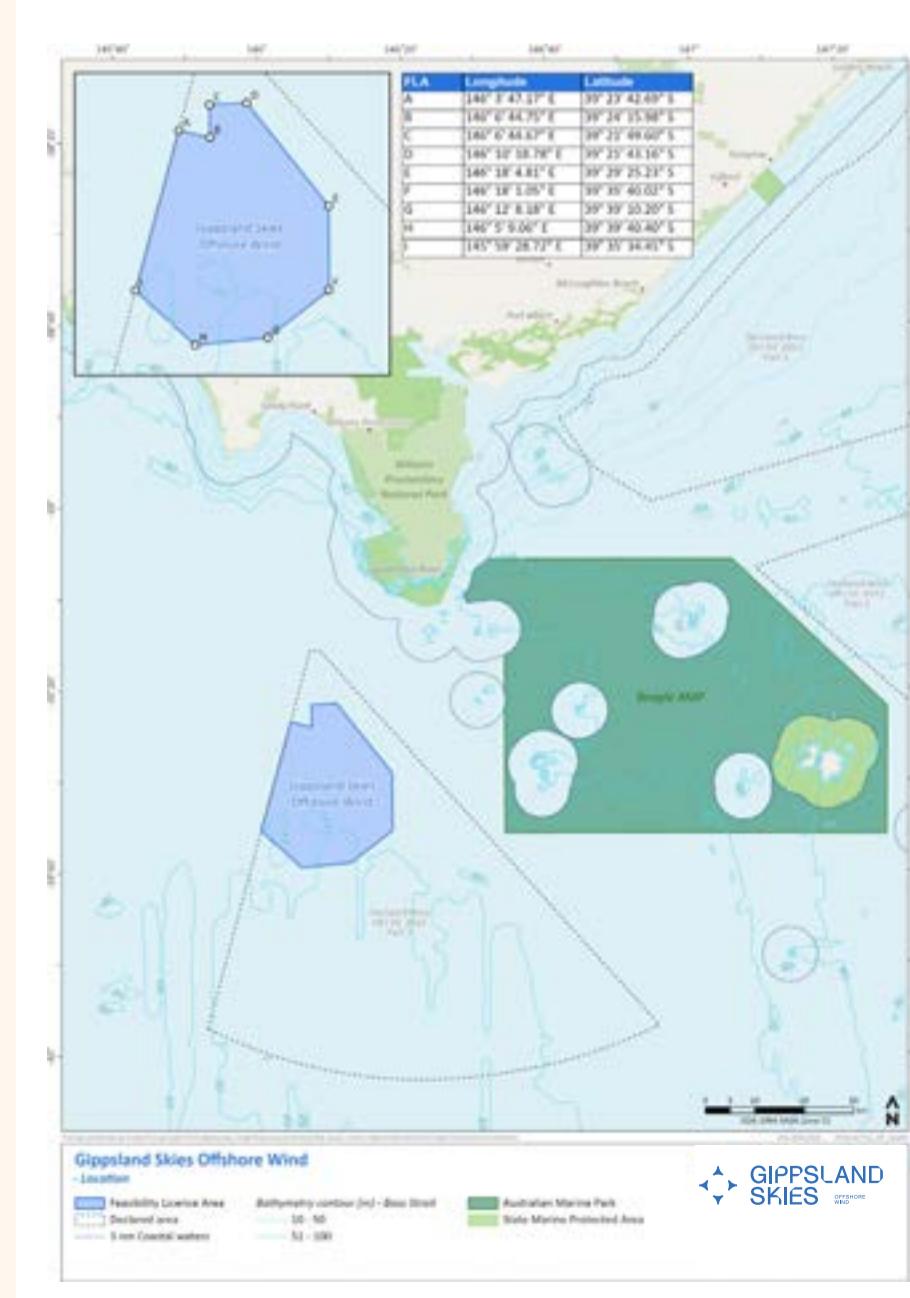
Vessel contact details will be provided once confirmed.

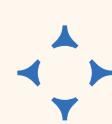
GENERAL SAFETY ADVICE

The vessel engaged in the marine investigation activity will exhibit appropriate lights and shapes prescribed by the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea relative to their operations. The vessel engaged in the activity will also transmit an Automatic Identification System (AIS) message.

Further notice will be issued before the surveys commence.

For further information, contact Ingrid Huitema at 0498 029 396 or email at ingrid.huitema@gippslandskies.com.au



 **GIPPSLAND SKIES**
OFFSHORE WIND

Sad day for the town with no pub

THERE'S nothing so lonesome, morbid or drear than a town with no pub.

They may be putting on a brave face but there's no doubt local residents in Toora, and the many people who visit the town are missing their favourite watering hole at the Royal Standard Hotel.

It was with great sadness that the Royal Standard Hotel advised patrons earlier this month that due to financial difficulties the Toora pub had entered into liquidation.

The company running the Royal Standard Hotel said it was being wound-up, and the pub's assets sold to pay outstanding debts to creditors.

The owners apologised for any inconvenience and thanked the local community and staff for their support and efforts over the past eight years.

"It's been a great ride with you all," posted the owners.

A registered liquidator has been appointed to manage the administration process.

"Moving forward it is hoped to secure new management and have the pub operating again," said the owners.

Staff have been overwhelmed by messages of support and love.

Christina and Chris from Upper Beaconsfield sitting outside the locked doors of the Royal Standard Hotel said they will miss their Guinness on tap at the Toora pub.

"It's sad, this is a beautiful little town.

"We stayed several weeks



Christina and Chris will miss their Guinness on tap at the Toora pub B56_0825

ago and enjoyed it so much we decided to come back, but the pub was closed."

Sheryl Jones from the Toora Bazaar Market is also saddened by the closure of the pub.

"Really sad."

"Every town needs a pub," said Ms Jones.

"Guys go to the pub and people go there for social functions."

"It's the oldest pub in the area."

"We really can't lose it."

Shelley Panton from the Panton Store hopes a new owner for the Toora pub will bring new life into the town.

"No-one wants to see the pub closed."

"It's a bad time for the current owners but it's an opportunity for someone else to take it on."

"Hopefully it won't be long before a new operator sees

the scope in the region," said Ms Panton.

Ellen Fabel from Foster remembers the good times at the Royal Standard Hotel.

"It's sad, I've had some really lovely dinners down there."

Stephen Scoglio from the Tooradeli says a town needs a pub.

"The more businesses in town the better."

"We're just hoping it gets back up and running as soon as possible."

"We're waiting for the bakery to find a baker and the pizza shop is for sale."

"If they were all up and running it would be great for the town."

Toora resident Lachy Bowden is disappointed the Royal Standard Hotel has closed.

"The town feels like it has lost a real asset."



A town needs a pub says Stephen Scoglio from the Tooradeli B62_0825

"It's a shock to the system."

"I hope the pub re-opens," said Mr Bowden.

"Hopefully someone will come through and renovate it and inspire the town."

"The Toora RSL and Toora Bowls Club have both extended their trading hours."

Marcus Welsh blamed governments for ridiculous alcohol taxes.

"Publicans have no choice but to pass it on to the customers," said Mr Welsh.

Shelley Panton posted on Facebook that we have our fingers crossed for you all that someone comes along and buys the pub very soon and the doors can open again.

"There is an angel out there who would love this opportunity to revive the old dame."

Who wants to buy a pub?

You can find Love the team at Toora Pub on Facebook.

Jobs boost as Esso recycles oil rigs

The dismantling and recycling of Bass Strait oil rigs is expected to generate hundreds of local jobs for a largely home-grown workforce within two years.

Esso has spent more than \$2 billion plugging offshore oil wells over the past six years and is now preparing to transport the abandoned platforms to Barry Beach Marine Terminal.

To be lifted from the sea by the mammoth Valaris 107 jack-up vessel each of the decommissioned rigs will be hauled onto barges and towed to Barry Beach.

Esso plans to have all 12 abandoned platforms relocated to Barry Beach by the first quarter of 2028 ready to be recycled by Gippsland based CMA Contracting.

According to Esso Project Manager Richard Perry 60,000 tonnes of steel will be recycled on forty hectares of previously used, and currently vacant land at Barry Beach.

CMA Contracting has been contracted to start the recycling phase from late 2027.

Esso estimates it will take approximately three years to complete the recycling.

With each of the twelve oil and gas platforms towering sixty metres and weighing 5,000 tonnes the recycling phase of the decommissioning project will create 50 to 80 jobs through to 2030.

Contractor Qube currently has around 30 personnel at Barry Beach for day to day operations supplying and supporting an offshore workforce of 400 to 500.

"Qube will prepare the terminal site to receive the decommissioned platforms generating another 30 to 40 jobs in 2026," said Mr Perry.

Each of the barges used to transport the decommissioned platforms to Barry Beach measures approximately 130 metres long by 30 metres wide and have been specifically chosen to avoid any deepening or widening of the port or channel.

The main skills that will be required for the recycling phase according to Esso are boilermakers, heavy equipment operators and electricians with additional specialists to manage hazardous waste such as asbestos.



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Exciting events at your local library

THERE'S plenty happening at Myli – My Community Library, with a fantastic mix of author events, creative workshops, social meetups and more.

Join a Book Chat session at our libraries in Phillip Island, Inverloch, Waterline, Wonthaggi, Leongatha or Foster, or drop into a monthly movie screening at Korumburra, Mirboo North, Wonthaggi and Leongatha. Korumburra Library's Chatty Café is the perfect place for a cuppa and conversation, with upcoming topics including jewellery and craft, gardening, and a discussion on The Reluctant Deckhand by Lorraine de Kleuver.

Over at Leongatha Library, unwind at our adults-only craft evenings—March's session will focus on making junk journals, and no experience is needed.

Need help with your device? Our Tech Sessions at Korumburra, Inverloch, Wonthaggi and Mirboo North offer one-on-one support for all your tech questions.

Book lovers won't want to miss our upcoming author talks at Inverloch Library. The much anticipated launch of Bringing Home the Bakery with the Invy Baker is sure to be a popular event. On March 22, Anne Buist and Graeme Simsion will visit to discuss The Oasis.

If you prefer to join from home, don't miss the exclusive online event on March 11, where journalist, musician, and activist Paulie Stewart OAM will chat with Claire Halliday about his memoir, All the Rage. His story explores his incredible journey from fronting the punk band Painters and Dockers to his work in humanitarian causes.

Kate Mildenhall will be joining us on Friday 28 February to chat about her latest book celebrating grandmothers and their secret recipes. This event is presented by the Friends of Inverloch Library and tickets are \$15. Tickets must be purchased in advance at myli.au/kmfoi.

At Wonthaggi Library, the Chess Club meets every Monday for a relaxed and friendly game, while our monthly Jewellery Making sessions are perfect for craft lovers—just bring your own supplies!

Film fans can also look forward to the Monthly Saturday Film Chat with Tim and Neil, where each session explores a different film genre, favourite scenes, and what makes great storytelling on screen.

For more information on free events at your local library, visit myli.au/events or call us on 1800 44 6954. Whether you're here to learn, create, or connect, we look forward to seeing you at the library!

Have a heart Bass Coast Shire

A CORINELLA pensioner with a serious heart condition wants to know why he can't have a clear, level footpath around his home so he can ride his motorised scooter to the general store.

A heart attack some years ago has left Mr Buck unable to walk more than one hundred metres without becoming breathless.

Overhanging palm trees and a recently graded culvert drain have made Graeme Buck's motorised scooter near impossible to navigate along the unsealed grass and dirt track around his century old home.

"I've lived here for 41 years," said Mr Buck.

"Why can't I have a decent footpath like others in the town?"

Mr Buck has been using a motorised scooter for ten years.

"I can't use the road because of the number of cars on the road."

"There is no footpath to go to the shop."

Even using a ride-on mower

to mow his nature strip has become hazardous for Mr Buck.

"I can't use the mower anymore because of the uneven ground," he complained.

A recently graded culvert drain alongside Mr Buck's property also made him angry.

"It's hard to get anything done around here."

"The stormwater will never run along these drains."

Bass Coast Council has told Mr Buck the culvert drain is now a VicRoads responsibility.

"I asked for a concrete culvert and received a four-page reply explaining why that can't be done," said Mr Buck.

"It's the main road into town."

Recently warned by his doctors that his health was deteriorating Mr Buck cannot understand why the low hanging palm trees around his home can't be trimmed and the walking path levelled and cleared of rocks.

"That's not too much to ask is it?"



Corinella resident Graeme Buck wants a clear pathway for his motorised scooter. B03_0825

Peri Urban Councils ask for housing help from governments

PERI Urban Councils Victoria (PUCV) has taken to Canberra its push to secure government funding to open up land for housing developments and provide community infrastructure in Victoria's high-growth zones.

Led by new Deputy Chair Cr Brett Tessari from Bass Coast Shire Council, the delegation met with federal ministers and shadow ministers responsible for regional development, local government, infrastructure and housing.

Cr Tessari said the delegation welcomed the opportunity to discuss its policy proposal in person with decision makers last week.

"Our municipalities are the gateway to regional Victoria and we are on the frontline of rapid population growth, but our low rate base limits our ability to fund the critical infrastructure we need," Cr Tessari said.

"We want to support growth and be part of the solution to the housing crisis, but we do need government to partner and invest in essential infrastructure for new housing developments, such as roads, water and power," Cr Tessari said.

"We also need government



Cr Brett Tessari from Bass Coast Shire Council, led the PUCV delegation meeting with federal ministers and shadow ministers responsible for regional development, local government, infrastructure and housing.

investment in public facilities, such as libraries, pools and sports venues, to ensure areas of new growth are vibrant and connected communities," Cr Tessari said.

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

• a federally administered Capital Investment Fund that provides grants to peri urban councils for community infrastructure (such

as sports facilities, libraries and community centres); and

• a State Government administered Development Contributions Plan (DCP) Future Fund that allows peri urban municipalities to borrow against DCP agreements to fund early-stage infrastructure projects such as water, sewerage and drainage.

The combined population of Victoria's eight peri urban municipalities is well over 300,000. By 2031, that number is expected to grow by at least 30 per cent.

Cr Tessari said peri urban areas were popular among

people wanting to leave the city and settle in local towns and villages, which offer a range of diverse lifestyle, tourism, agricultural and economic pursuits.

"Our limited rate base has reduced our ability to effectively plan for high levels of urban growth and provide services and facilities for new residents," Cr Tessari said.

"PUCV members are looking forward to continuing the conversations we have had with our parliamentarians this week so we can plan for the future together," Cr Tessari said.

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Sean celebrates 10 years of volunteer service at Maru Koala and Animal Park

SEAN Kelleher recently marked a significant milestone in his life—10 years of dedicated service as a volunteer at Maru Koala and Animal Park. Joining him in the celebration were Stuart Daniel, the park manager, and Dylan Rielly, the volunteer coordinator, as they honoured Sean's contribution to the park and the animals.

Over the past decade, Sean has become an integral part of the Maru team. He has assisted the keepers in various activities, from kangaroo talks to animal care, gaining a wealth of experience and learning new skills along the way. His passion for science and wildlife conservation is evident in his commitment to the park, especially when it comes to caring for injured animals.

One of Sean's key responsibilities is helping the keepers assess and care for all the wildlife, including the injured wildlife. Recently, he was involved in caring for a baby possum, ensuring the animal's safety and well-being. If any injuries are detected, the animals are quickly taken to the Gippsland Veterinary Clinic for treatment. Sean's training and hands-on experience have made him a valuable asset to the team, where he regularly observes and participates in the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned animals. "It's great to be a part of the release of treated wildlife."

The training volunteers like Sean receive at Maru gives them a strong foundation in animal



Maru Koala and Animal Park volunteer Sean Kelleher with Stuart Daniel (Park Manager) and Dylan Rielly (Volunteer Coordinator) celebrating Sean's 10 year of service.

care. As part of this, volunteers not only help with daily tasks but also learn how to handle and care for various animals, which may include keeping a close eye on the kangaroos that have been raised in captivity or are being released back into the wild.

Sean's journey at Maru began with Interactive Australia finding him work experience. This volunteer role has helped Sean

with social interaction through his connection with keepers and other volunteers.

One of the animals Sean has formed a special bond with is Luna, an albino kangaroo born at the park. Raised by hand, Luna is known for her gentle and curious nature, which makes her a favourite among visitors. The park's dedication to caring for these animals is reflected in the way they raise

kangaroos like Luna and her father Ice (also an albino) in a controlled, compassionate environment.

"Luna is very friendly, she loves a pat and eating from your hand," said Sean.

The celebration of Sean's 10-year service was marked by a luncheon, where his contributions to the park and his passion for wildlife conservation were celebrated by all.

Tourism Industry conference

DESTINATION Phillip Island is holding a key industry event this March - The Next Wave: Growth, Wellness & the Power of AI.

This will be a dynamic event bringing together operators, innovators, and thought leaders, to explore emerging trends and gain insights into what's coming next.

As the world is changing, so is the way we travel, work, and connect. AI is transforming experiences, wellness is becoming a priority not a luxury, and sustainable growth is driving innovation across industries.

Two world class keynote speakers will be presenting.

Global marketing expert Katrina McCarter will demonstrate how to future proof business through understanding six generations of consumers, backed by data driven insights.

Australia's leading futurist, Steve Sammartino will show how AI can become a business ally for organisations quick, smart and brave enough to embrace it.

There will also be two panel discussions focused on how businesses can be leveraging the region's emerging wellness offering, and marketing and storytelling, where attendees will gain practical insights and strategies to meet evolving consumer needs and tap into new market opportunities.

Ticket includes tea and coffee on arrival, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea and tickets can be found at trybooking.

See the program at visitphillip-island.com.au/destination-phillip-island

To be held on Tuesday March 25, 9am – 4pm at Penguin Parade, 1019 Ventnor Rd, Summerlands, Phillip Island.

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

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Inspiring the future of Landcare

SOUTH Gippsland Landcare Network invites you to a free and interactive workshop exploring the synergies between community interests and Landcare, strengthening local Landcare groups and increasing participation. The day includes:

- An interactive workshop facilitated by Jenny O'Sullivan to build bridges between people's diverse interests and Landcare opportunities
- Tour of Korumburra Landcare Group's new nursery with the wonderful and inspiring Jim Ahon
- Light lunch and refreshments provided

Facilitated by Jenny O'Sullivan this workshop is open to all community members. Jenny is well known for her role in promoting sustainable, productive agriculture, particularly in Gippsland where she and her husband run a 680 ha beef and sheep property.

Over the years, Jenny has helped develop and deliver many initiatives to encourage people to adopt sustainable management practices. She is passionate about developing the capacity of people and has extensive experience facilitating meetings and running leadership and mentoring programs.

Details:

- Ideas Passion Mashing Workshop facilitated by



Everyone is invited to a free and interactive workshop exploring the synergies between community interests and Landcare, strengthening local Landcare groups and increasing participation.

Jenny O'Sullivan and nursery tour with Jim Ahon.

- Sunday, March 2, 10am-12.30pm at the Korumburra Landcare Group's nursery at Bena (address on registration)
- Cost: Free! Lunch provided.
- All welcome although there will be targeted discussion at the workshop for the Loch, Nyora, Mt Lyall, Poowong or Tricholm areas.
- Registration essential: Inspiring the future of Landcare - Nursery Tour and Landcare Ideas Workshop



Red Cross members enjoying last year's morning tea fundraiser at the Woorayl Golf Club.

Support Red Cross at Leongatha's community coffee morning

THE Leongatha Red Cross branch is inviting the community to a fundraising Coffee Morning at the Woorayl Golf Club as part of Red Cross Calling month.

The event, set for Tuesday, 11 March at 10am, aims to raise funds to support Red Cross initiatives in Australia and overseas.

Member of the Leongatha Red Cross Committee, Lois Young is thrilled to see the event return to the Woorayl Golf Club, which has hosted it throughout recent years.

"It's a nice atmosphere, everyone can sit and have a chat and buy some raffle tickets. It's a really nice morning out," Lois said.

For just \$5, attendees will gain entry and go in the draw for a door prize. The event will feature a stall selling homemade cakes, fresh vegetables, plants, jams and more, as

well as a raffle with a variety of donated prizes.

Guest speaker Wendy Caple, a dedicated Red Cross Emergency Services volunteer, will share crucial information on emergency preparedness. Her talk will focus on what people should have ready in case they need to evacuate quickly and how to stay prepared.

Wendy has played a significant role in providing psychological aid during emergencies and has spoken at schools about disaster preparedness.

Leongatha Red Cross Unit Secretary, Cathy Curwood, highlighted the history of the event. "Our morning teas originally started at Lois Young's home in 2015. As numbers grew, we moved to the RSL Annex in 2017 and then, in 2019, to the Woorayl Golf Club, which has generously

provided its rooms free of charge."

Over the years, the event has welcomed guest speakers covering a range of topics. Past speakers include Wendy Caple, who spoke about Emergency Services during the Mallacoota floods, Carissa Bevis on the Gippsland drought, and Regional Board Convenor Sandy Ridge, who shared her journey with Red Cross from her early days in England.

The Red Cross Calling campaign is a national fundraising initiative that runs throughout March. Funds raised help Red Cross provide support to people facing hardship, both locally and internationally.

All members of the public are encouraged to attend. "We love to see anybody," Lois said. "It's a great way to support the Red Cross and enjoy a wonderful community gathering."

Join us!

Tour a Landcare nursery and workshop ideas for your Landcare group!



Inspiring future Landcare workshop

Sunday, March 2
10am-12.30pm
Korumburra Landcare Group Nursery, Bena



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Help design Foster's skatepark

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is seeking community feedback on potential locations and ideas to help shape the design of a new skatepark in Foster. A pre-design workshop will be held at the Foster Basketball Stadium (Station Road, Foster) on Thursday February 27 from 4 pm to 6 pm.

This workshop is the first in a series of opportunities for community members to share their vision and help shape a skatepark that meets the needs of users. Once the initial draft designs have been developed, they will be distributed for further community feedback and refinement before they are presented to Council to determine the next steps.

"The initial phase of developing a new skatepark in Foster presents an opportunity to gather community feedback on the current skatepark's strengths and areas for improvement. We are eager to hear your thoughts on preferred features for both beginner and advanced skaters. Your input is crucial in creating a space that is functional and enjoyable for everyone," said Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council, John Schelling.

SGSC are confident that with the community's support and enthusiasm, a vibrant and dynamic space for skaters can be designed.

Come along and get involved to help shape the future of this new community facility.



The Outram Masonic Lodge recently supported the launch of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with a \$5000 donation to the library.

Dolly's library starts in the community

A PROGRAM to inspire vulnerable children in the South Gippsland region to expand their reading has officially rolled out.

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) has introduced the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to the region to deliver books monthly to children aged 0-5 years.

The Imagination Library is a free book gifting program supporting vulnerable or high-risk families with high-quality, age-appropriate books sent monthly in the mail.

The program also provides tip sheets for parents or caregivers to help them enhance book time at home.

Within the first few weeks, seven children from the South Gippsland area have signed on to the program and numbers are expected to grow. The children will continue to receive monthly books until

they turn 5-years-old.

GSHS allied health staff and the paediatric team have developed inclusion criteria and are working with maternal child health nurses, supported playgroup facilitators and midwives to identify and refer appropriate children into the program. GSHS is also supporting South Gippsland Supported Playgroups with books to model to parents how to get the most out of book time in the community.

GSHS Allied Health Manager Sara Mullery said there had been some fantastic outcomes from the Imagination Library in other regions and she expected great results for South Gippsland.

"There is strong evidence of this program improving the quality and enjoyment around book time and longer-term positive outcomes

around literacy, language, attachment and confidence," she said.

GSHS will collect data at key milestones throughout the project to demonstrate its positive impact for the South Gippsland community.

The program is funded by GSHS along with key community fundraisers including Freemasons, South Gippsland Shire Council, Uncle Bobs Club, Koringal Women's Service Club, KCDA, Lyrebird Auxiliary and the Korumburra Lions. The Outram Masonic Lodge recently supported the launch with a \$5000 donation to the library.

United Way Australia coordinates the program in Australia and will mail the books to children registered in South Gippsland. More than one million books have been sent to Australian children over the past decade.

Mirboo North Telstra customers face disruptions this week

MIRBOO North locals will experience Telstra mobile disruptions from today, until Thursday February 27, as one of the two mobile base stations will be switched off.

Customers should receive texts advising of the disruption.

Landline services, NBN internet services, and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted.

Locals can continue to make calls and send texts during disruption to mobile services by switching on Wi-Fi Calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows your mobile to make and receive mobile calls while connected to Wi-Fi.

Telstra encourage business owners to talk to their bank about connecting their EFTPOS terminals to their NBN or Wi-Fi connection to prevent delays in processing transactions.

The disruptions are part of upgrades to the stations that services Mirboo North to increase 4G and 5G capacity for the community.

The upgrades are said to improve the mobile site's capacity, meaning faster downloads, smoother streaming, and less congestion.

Telstra Regional General Manager for Eastern Victoria, Jenny Gray said, "We know how important mobile connectivity is for Australians, whether you're in the city or the country."

"As data use over our mobile network continues to grow, adding additional 4G and 5G capacity to our mobile site in the area will help deliver faster downloads, smoother streaming, and less congestion for customers."

"While disruption is required while the upgrade is underway, we'll only be switching off the site when we need to and will have it back online and working better than ever as quickly as possible."



GIPPSLAND SOUTHERN
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Snake Bite First Aid & Safety:

Free community education session

Thursday, February 27, 5.30 – 6.30pm

GSHS Korumburra Campus (Resource Centre)

Thursday, March 6, 7 – 8pm

GSHS Leongatha Campus (IPCC Centre)

This interactive session is ideal for families, outdoor workers, nature lovers, and anyone who wants to feel prepared.



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Market Stall & Enquiries: KorumburraWHT@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook - Korumburra Working Horse and Tractor Rally

Powlett River Primary grant to enhance outdoor learning environment

POWLETT River Primary School (PRPS) has been awarded \$298,909 through the Victorian Government's 2024-25 State Budget Capital Works Fund, one of 58 schools selected to receive funding for building projects aimed at enhancing school environments, improving conditions, and promoting inclusion. PRPS will use the grant to create an outdoor inclusive learning area.

Principal Wendy Nicol said this funding will help create an outdoor learning space that features different zones using as many reclaimed materials in construction as possible.

"Students will help in designing the zones, but we expect they would like an imagination station for loose parts construction, an outdoor stage, a sound scape zone, a meeting place and a quiet zone," said Wendy. "Pathways will lead to the various zones of which students will help name."

The school had a lot of support in their application from the community, including letters from parents, students, staff and local MP Jordan Crugnale. "Parent Holly Russell helped bring the ideas together in a design for the application," said Wendy.

"This outdoor learning area will enhance the school's OUTSIDE program. OUTSIDE (Outdoors, Understanding, Teamwork, Skills, Immersion, Discovery, Exploration) is a program designed by the school's staff to help students develop resilience, social skills and to learn about themselves, others and the world."

The idea came from staff learning about the importance of being outside and the importance of play in a child's development, and this grew from the thinking behind bush kinder programs, secondary outdoor school programs, and other research about wellbeing.

In 2025 OUTSIDE will be twice a term with the aim to have the program one day a week in 2026.

The planning stage of the project will start soon; the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) has started the tender process for a design consultant."

School kids at risk

WONTHAGGI Police expressed their disappointment on social media last Friday about five people driving at excessive speeds on Korumburra Road, in the 40km/h school zone near St Joseph's Primary School.

Just a little bit over? No, one of them more than 20km/h above, as follows:

- 56km/h. A 40-year-old female from Korumburra. \$395.00 fine.
- 64km/h. A 42-year-old male from North Wonthaggi. \$395.00 fine.
- 53km/h. A 60-year-old male from North Wonthaggi. \$395.00 fine.
- 57km/h. A 61-year-old female Kongwak. \$395.00 fine.
- 55km/h. A 38-year-old male from Wattle Bank. \$395.00 fine.

School zones are hotspots for kids and police, so be warned.

Cape Barren Geese fly north for the summer to Corinella

'HAVE you ever seen one of these wonderful birds?' Parks Victoria asks on Facebook.

Margaret Ryan has seen plenty of Cape Barren Geese right across from her home in Corinella.

Named after Cape Barren Island in Bass Strait the Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*) is a very large, pale grey goose with a relatively small head.

They are unique to Australia and are often seen in pairs.

At Coronet Bay you are more likely to see Cape Barren Geese in large groups.

Very common on Phillip Island and Churchill Island and to some extent around Venus Bay and Tarwin Lower the Cape Barren Goose is a recent visitor to Corinella.

"We often saw kangaroos in town," said Ms Ryan.

"Kangaroos with the cows and around the houses but not Cape Barren Geese."

According to Ms Ryan a handful of Cape Barren Geese first arrived a few years ago but at last count that number had grown to 35 geese.

"They are huge, but they're not a nuisance," said Ms Ryan.

"I've seen them up close at Phillip Island."

Cape Barren Geese are part of the Phillip Island Wildlife Plan.



Margaret Ryan on the lookout for Cape Barren Geese from her home in Corinella B39_0825

migration patterns, impacts and growth," said DEECA.

"The research is beginning to uncover information not previously known about the species and will continue until 2027 which will subsequently inform future management strategies."

The Cape Barren Goose is described as a grazing bird, predominantly eating common island tussock grass as well as spear grass and various herbs and succulents.

Legumes and pasture grasses are also on the Cape Barren

Goose's menu.

Cape Barren Geese are now fully protected in all states and territories.

The geese were once hunted to near extinction for food and eggs and culled as agricultural pests.

The 21st Spring Cape Barren Goose survey for Phillip Island (Millowl) was undertaken in early November 2024 by a team consisting of volunteers, interns, local landholders, Bunurong Land Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks.

A PhD project from the University of Melbourne commenced in August 2024.

100 GPS loggers were fitted to track the movements of geese with another 200 numbered plastic collars planned to be attached over the next year.

To date extensive movements of geese have been recorded.

Some geese have travelled almost 100 kilometres from Rhyll to a reservoir near Morwell while others reached Yanakie near Wilsons Promontory about 95 km from Phillip Island.

More reading on the Cape Barren Goose can be found at cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/clelandwildlifepark/docs/September-2023.pdf or the Australian Museum at australian.museum/learn/animals/birds/cape-barren-goose/

Inverloch stamp and coin fair a must see for avid philatelists



Inverloch stamp collector Janet Davies preparing for the Anderson Inlet Stamp and Coin Fair. B50_0825

A COLLECTOR of stamps since she was young Inverloch philatelist Janet Davies has a simple warning for stamp collectors keen to attend the annual Anderson Inlet Stamp and Coin Fair on March 8.

"Be careful not to buy something you already have."

Make a list is Janet's advice, and bring a pair of tweezers and a magnifying glass.

Keen stamp collectors will know the feeling.

Numismatists and philatelists can find pre-decimal stamps and coins, first day covers, special issues from the Australian Mint, and rare collectables hard to resist.

"I started collecting stamps when I was a girl," said Janet.

Among Janet's lifetime collection are stamps from Australia and the territories including Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica.

"My daughter was a student in Costa Rica for twelve months.

"From the letters, I received I built up quite a collection of Costa Rica stamps."

Among Janet's rare stamps are penny and halfpenny stamps from an era when a penny or one cent stamp was the cost of sending a letter.

Janet has armfuls of stamp albums including five albums of Australian stamps and three from Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

"Some club members have very large collections," said Janet.

The Anderson Inlet Stamp Club Stamp and Coin Fair will be held at the Inverloch Uniting Church Hall in William Street on Saturday March 8, from 9am to 3pm.

Money raised from the sale of stamps and postcards will go towards the Uniting Church

Frontier Services Fund to provide relief for those suffering from physical, emotional, spiritual or economic distress in Australia and overseas.

Grants of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 have recently been made for relief work in Zambia, bush chaplains and construction of buildings in the Solomon Islands.

Each week metropolitan volunteers spend hours sorting donated stamps.

"Occasionally they find a stamp worth many dollars," said Janet.

The Uniting Church stamp collectors charity is called 'Sammy the Stamp'.

The Anderson Inlet Stamp Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Uniting Church in Williams Street at 1.30pm.

New members are always welcome.

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South

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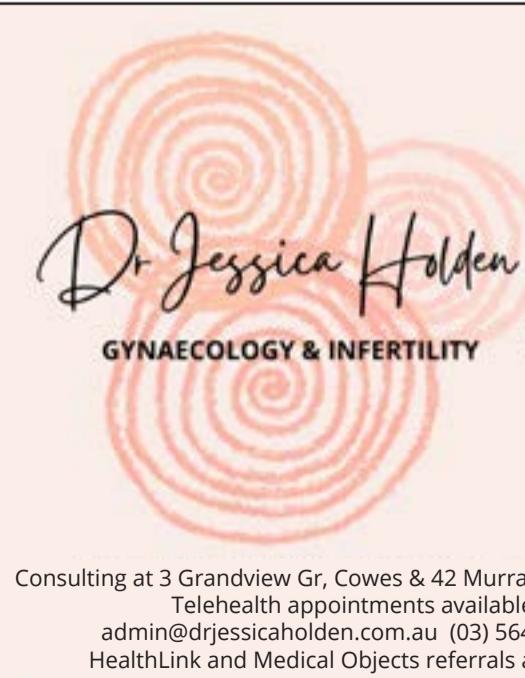
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Passing of former mayor acknowledged

FORMER Mayor of the Bass Coast Council and larger-than-life local character, Neville Goodwin OAM, has passed away at home with his family on Tuesday, February 18, aged 82.

A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at the Wonthaggi Town Hall, McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi on Wednesday, February 26 commencing at 2pm.

However, the tributes have already started to flow with the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi and the Bass Coast Shire Council among the first to acknowledge his passing.

"Neville has been an absolute pillar of our community and had a true unwavering passion for improving the Bass Coast community, serving on many boards, a former Mayor of Bass Coast Shire and an exceptional Rotarian," the club posted on social media last week.

Present-day mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead continued the tributes at last Wednesday's council meeting.

"The Bass Coast community has lost a dedicated leader, tireless advocate and true community champion with the passing of Neville Goodwin. Neville's legacy is one of unwavering service, generosity and commitment to the people and places he cared so deeply about," said Cr Halstead.

"Neville played a pivotal role in shaping the Bass Coast we know today as a commissioner during the amalgamation of councils and later serving as a councillor for the shire between 1992 to 1994, that was at the Shire of Bass and the Bass Coast Shire Council between 2003 and 2008 including multiple terms as mayor.

"Neville was a passionate advocate for his community. He worked at every level to ensure residents were supported, infrastructure was improved, and the region continued to thrive.

"Beyond his work in local government, Neville's contributions to the community were vast. He was a driving force behind many important initiatives, serving as a board member of Bass Coast Health, a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi, a leader within the Grandville Hall committee, and a long-standing board member of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum."

Cr Halstead also recognised the role of Neville's wife Lyn while extending heartfelt condolences to the whole family.

"Neville's legacy will live on in the many lives he touched, the projects he championed and the community he helped build. Vale Neville Goodwin."

\$2 billion halfway mark on Bass Strait decommissioning project

By Bruce Wardley

HAVING spent over \$2 billion on early decommissioning works across its offshore operations in Bass Strait Esso has permanently plugged and abandoned more than 150 wells.

Six massive offshore vessels have been commissioned including the Skandi Darwin multi-purpose support ship, a Helix Q7000 semi-submersible, two rigs 22 and 47, a HWT600 hydraulic workover rig and the enormous VALARIS 107 jack-up rig.

Mindful of concerns expressed by environmentalists over leaving steel pile jackets on the ocean floor, or the dumping of waste steel into Bass Strait, Esso claims to have adopted world's best practice for the removal of the rigs leveraging its global experience from decommissioning campaigns in Canada, U.S.A. and the U.K.

Environmental organisations from across Australia including the Wilderness Society last year joined the Maritime Union of Australia in calling for stronger regulation from Australia's oil and gas regulator (NOPSEMA), to ensure offshore fossil fuel companies clean up their abandoned operations.

"The process of safely



Richard Perry, Esso Decommissioning Project Manager, Isabelle Laming, Nicholas Hancock, Esso Public Affairs and Calvin Teh, Esso Logistics at Barry Beach Marine Terminal.
B26_0825

decommissioning our offshore facilities is very complex and requires many years of planning but we have a core commitment to executing the Bass Strait project safely and protecting the environment," said Esso.

The decommissioning process has now reached an important milestone.

Each of the decommissioned rigs is being prepared to be lifted from the sea by the mammoth Pioneering Spirit and then safely transferred onto barges or heavy transport vessels and brought into Barry Beach for recycling by CMA Contracting.

A vital part of the decommissioning process has been the

removal of oil from the platforms to be sent to the Longford plant for processing.

"A concrete plug has been placed at the level of the cap rock for each well providing a permanent barrier between the surface and the reservoir," said Esso Project Manager, Richard Perry

The Barry Beach Marine Terminal is unique but relatively shallow at 70 metres at the quay wall.

To avoid potential adverse impacts to the environment Esso has adjusted its initial strategy which would have involved deepening and widening the port and upgrading the

quay wall to bring in larger vessels.

"The most efficient approach would have been to bring large vessels directly into the terminal," said Mr Perry.

Esso will now use shallow draft barges or vessels to bring the oil rig topsides into Barry Beach.

The amount of regrowth vegetation to be removed has also been significantly reduced within the Barry Beach site and none will be touched outside the existing port facility.

The number of piles at the quay has been substantially reduced to minimise noise.

Richard Perry said international best practice will be adopted from similar projects in the North Sea and Denmark.

"We have been responsibly working in Bass Strait for more than 50 years and are very much aware of the seasonal movement of whales and the whale breeding season.

"We will meet the highest international standards.

"Controls to monitor noise and observation strategies will be put in place before we start."

For more information on Esso's community consultation program go to corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach

Austin Healeys on show at the Leongatha Reserve



A huge selection of Austin Healey will be showcased on Wednesday March 5 at the Leongatha Reserve.

in the Peking to Paris rally and the Italian Mille Miglia.

Some competition Healeys are near standard to comply with motorsport regulations, such as those racing in Historic Racing categories, while some are heavily modified such as the Baker SuperSebring, and the Steve Pike recreated

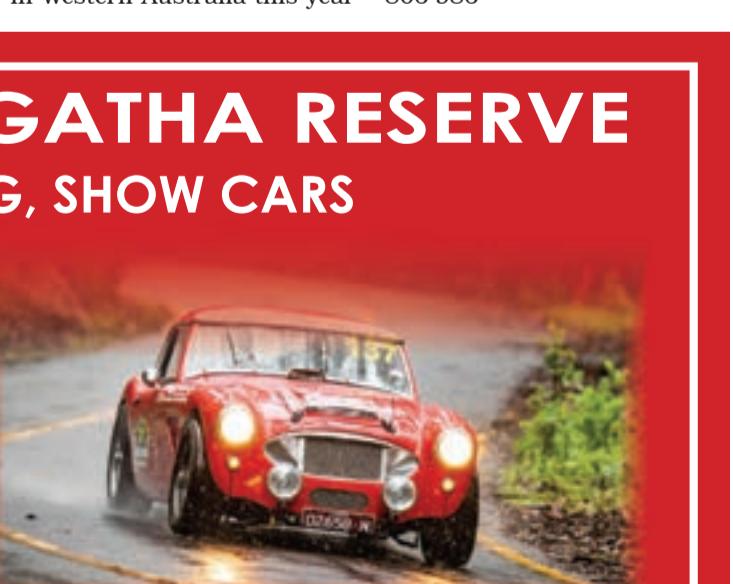
Bonneville Streamliner.

The Austin Healey Owners Club of Victoria is organising the event as part of its national 'rally' where owners come to meet from all corners of Australia for a few days together to celebrate their vehicles. Last year the event was in Western Australia this year

it is in Gippsland.

The car display will be at the Leongatha Reserve, Roughead Street, Leongatha, starting at midday and will conclude at 2.30pm, there is no entry fee and everyone is welcome.

For further information: Mandy Parry-Jones mob 0409 806 986



HISTORIC CAR SHOW LEONGATHA RESERVE

AUSTIN HEALEYS: RACING, RALLYING, SHOW CARS



**Cars from
Bathurst**

**Targa Tasmania
Historic Racing
Classic Adelaide
Peking to Paris**

**Wednesday 5 March 2025 Leongatha Reserve
12 Noon to 2.30pm Entry is Free**

OVER 20 FRESH VEHICLES NOW IN STOCK



2022 Mitsubishi Outlander LS ZM

35,990 DRIVE AWAY

45,016kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W102007



2017 Mitsubishi Lancer ES Sport CF

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



2017 Mazda CX-3 Maxx DK

19,990 DRIVE AWAY

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2023 Suzuki Jimny Lite

35,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2022 MG MG3 Core

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

11,539kms, 4 speed auto hatch
SN: W102013



2017 Toyota RAV4 GX

26,990 DRIVE AWAY

118,105kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: W102010



2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland

32,990 DRIVE AWAY

120,224kms, 8 speed sports auto SUV
SN: W102009



2016 Toyota Hilux WorkMate

21,990 DRIVE AWAY

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

Leongatha Toyota

USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



2020 Ford Mustang GT FN

61,990 DRIVE AWAY

55,652kms, 10 speed CVT auto
coupe SN: L101303



2021 Hyundai i30

22,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2020 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL

63,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2016 Mitsubishi ASX LS XB

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

100,846kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV
SN: L101301



2018 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL

51,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2020 Toyota Hiace LWB

33,490 DRIVE AWAY

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



2019 Toyota Camry Ascent

30,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2020 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MkIII

37,990 DRIVE AWAY

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

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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

Toyota Finance

Toyota Used Cars

OH WHAT A FEELING

FOSTER SHOW

New dog high jump record at the Foster Show

NEVER before had the Foster Show seen a high jump like it.

Scrambling up the face of the muster dog high jump faster than lightning young Kelpie Twix cleared 2.65 metres before springing into the arms of owner Andrew Bradley.

An easy 1st place for Twix who made the final jump unchallenged it was the highest jump judges had ever seen at the Foster Show and possibly a new world record.

Credit was also given to minor placegetters Storm trained by Rory and Mailee from Benalla, and Frankie trained by Maddi McCallum of Glenmaggie both clearing two metres.

The Foster Show never fails to entertain and surprise.

The biggest pumpkin this year was a whopping 153kg Atlantic Giant grown by Phillip MacCauley from Cora Lynn.

"Not as heavy as previous years," said Mr MacCauley.

"The best is yet to come.

"My biggest pumpkin was 385kg.

"I have a couple weighing over 240kg I'm saving."

Equestrian events are always of a high standard at the Foster



A new record as Andrew Bradley and Twix take 1st place in the high jump at the Foster Show B72_0825

Show.

1st place in the Open Showjumping 1m was won by Jules Fulkerson from Fish Creek riding Voharen.

2nd place in the Open Showjumping 1m was awarded to Mark Smith from Cranbourne riding D.P. Felix and a creditable 3rd place went to young Sophie Newton from Koonwarra riding Woody.

1st place in the Open Driver section went to Kerry Buckleigh

with her Shetland Pony Green Valley Kookie and 2nd place went to Fiona Mottram with mule Daisy.

The exhibition shed provided a showcase of beautiful home-grown vegetables, dahlias, jams, preserves, baked goods and sewing.

The Calf Classic provided some breathtaking moments as young handlers guided their hand-reared calves around the show ring.

Ferret Racing was another highlight of the show with the biggest challenge for handlers getting their ferrets back into the race boxes after each heat.

The Bendigo Bank woodchop competition run by the South and Central Gippsland Axe-men's Association was again as exciting for onlookers as it was for the axemen competing.

Backmarkers ruled the day from what seemed insurmountable time handicaps.

The working dog trials although slightly overshadowed by the Phillipson's Dog High Jump attracted a strong field of competitors with the working dog action continuing at the Beloka Kelpie Stud in Welshpool on Sunday.

Showbags were popular along with dancing displays, magic shows, whip-cracking, a wildlife display, animal nursery, facepainting and a MyLi library crafting workshop keeping even the youngest showgoers well entertained from early morning to late afternoon.

You can find all the results from the Foster Agricultural Show on Facebook or foster-show.com



1st place Open Driver Kerry Buckleigh at the Foster Show with Shetland Pony Green Valley Kookie and Judge Deb Hoffrichter. B85_0825



Tilly and Ella riding Freckles and Bella both winners at the Foster Show. B65_0825



Mark Smith from Cranbourne riding D.P. Felix at the Foster Show. B88_0825



Phillip MacCauley with a whopping 153kg Atlantic Giant pumpkin. B67_0825



2nd place Open Showjumping 1m Mark Smith and D.P. Felix from Cranbourne. B90_0825



3rd place Open Showjumping 1m Sophie Newton and Woody from Koonwarra. B92_0825



Best Mullet 2025 Foster Show
Jase from Foster B84_0825

Local boy wins best junior mullet

DEFINED as a hairstyle worn especially but not only by men, a typical mullet is cut short at the front and sides and left long at the back.

Taking his place in history by winning the first Foster Show mullet competition Foster boy Jase needed no introduction to the fashionable hairstyle that took the 80's by storm and is still popular today.

Jase will go into the record books as the inaugural winner of the 2025 Foster Show Best Junior Mullet.

Sure to be a big crowd pleaser at the Foster Show in future years the almost impossible task of choosing the best mullet went to Sarah Haven from Haven Hair Skin Body, Jason Benbow CEO Stony Creek Racing Club and Welshpool Hotel Licensee Skye Dubignon.

A celebration of South Gippsland's glorious mullets the first Foster Show Best Mullet competition attracted entrants of all ages.

Adults with mullets in the large crowd of curious onlookers kept their crowning glory well disguised under hats including Jason Benbow.

"Our aim is to make Foster the mullet capital of the world," said organiser Kate.

"We were born for this moment."

Boys it seems prefer a mullet instead of a regular visit to the hairdresser.

Youngest mullet Gordy won the hearts of many including the judges.

A family of brother mullets Taddy, Kit and Max were accompanied by their Dad Troy.

Also sporting mighty fine mullets Cody and Patrick from Toora were well placed in the final judging, but in the mane event it was Jase from Foster who stole the show.

Look for Magnificent Mullets Foster Show on Facebook



Patrick from Toora competing in the best mullet at the Foster Show B81_0825



Youngest mullet Gordy winning hearts at the Foster Show B73_0825

Your Healthcare, Your Voice



Join Our Open Community Forum to:

- Learn how the Health Reform aims to benefit you and your family
- Understand what these changes mean for local healthcare
- Share your ideas & ask questions—be part of the conversation

WHEN & WHERE

Korumburra

Wednesday, 5th March, 5-6pm

The Korumburra Italian Social Club

Leongatha

Thursday, 6th March, 5-6pm

The IPCC, GSHS Leongatha Campus

**Be part of the conversation
and help shape the future
of local healthcare!**

Meet our CEO and Board Members, ask
questions, and share your thoughts—
because your voice matters.



Sentinel-Times COMMENT

How did we find ourselves in this state?

THESE'S so much going on at State Government level, impacting police leadership, the sacking of front-line Fisheries officers, the doubling of the old Fire Services Levy, a review of the public service and more, it's hard to know where to start.

But it's further evidence that the state's finances are in a dire position, and we're told, headed towards a record debt of \$188 billion by 2028.

To give you an indication of how bad that is, the government planned to spend a total of \$98.3 billion in the entire 2024-25 state budget.

But as much as the government has announced that it is embarking on an independent review of Victoria's Public Service (VPS) leading to up to 3000 public sector workers being made redundant, it's important not to get distracted by the smoke and mirrors.

For example, despite receiving a commitment of only \$2.2 billion from the Albanese Government towards the cost of the Suburban Rail Loop, a project that is expected to cost \$200 billion, mind you, the Premier has refused to back down and delay the project in favour of providing more funds for the basics.

It indicates that certain areas of government spending will be declared off limits by the powerful unions and others, leaving the government to target low-hanging fruit, like Fisheries enforcement officers, land managers and other services beyond the tram tracks.

The public service review, they say, will zero in on waste and inefficiency, while ensuring the needs of Victorian families come first including funding for "good schools, good health and safe communities".

"By reducing spending on waste, inefficiency and areas that aren't the priority for Victorians in a cost of living crisis, the review will make sure Government keeps investing where it matters most: the frontline."

But if those Fisheries enforcement officers, who were given their marching orders last week, aren't considered the frontline in marine conservation, it's hard to draw much confidence about the government's spending priorities, and whether this review will really lead to fundamental change.

And where does it leave the commitment at the 2022 state election to fund stages 2 and 3 of the Wonthaggi Hospital expansion to the tune of \$290 million?

Even at this stage, the government looks set to kick that can down the road, and if there is a change of government in 2026, who knows if we will ever get that funding.

What's certainly clear is that there's more bad news on the way as the Alban Government limps its way past the Federal election in April/May this year and on to its own day of reckoning in November 2026.

Why, for example, when the police and other authorities know where all the illegal tobacco is being sold in the state don't they crack down on these outlets controlled by organised crime and shut them down? Probably because they haven't got the manpower, while priorities including family violence, youth crime, traffic and major crime have first call.

You may find that the obvious need for action on Inverloch's beach erosion problems goes the same way.



TAFE in Bass Coast

It's great news that free TAFE courses will be available again in Bass Coast from July. Chisholm hasn't held face-to-face courses at their Wonthaggi campus since 2010 and we now have five courses available for our community: Accounting & Bookkeeping, Training & Assessment, School Based Education Support, Individual Support Ageing & Disability, and Early Childhood Education and Care.

Please let everyone who might benefit from these courses know that they can enrol in via the website www.chisholm.edu.au. Let's show Chisholm's that there IS a demand for training in our community!

Thanks to Malcolm Beasley for bringing this situation to light through his change.org petition (which now has over 900 signatures), senior students of Village High School for their advocacy work with Deb Leonard (independent candidate for Monash), Melina Bath MP for raising the issue in Parliament, and Jordan Crugnale MP for following through with Skills and Training Minister, Gayle Tierney MP, who visited the area last week.

Community action makes a difference!
Fiona McKenzie, Principal, Village High School

Stop flogging Gippsland to get your power

Re: Powerlines entering South Gippsland from Bass Strait.

There is absolutely no need for any powerlines to enter South Gippsland from Bass Strait.

We have had to accept very poor planning in Victoria's two previous planning efforts with BassLink and the proposed new power supply from northern Tasmania.

In both cases, pleadings were made that costs prevented the principal organisations from burying the powerlines once they entered the Victorian mainland.

Whilst one is in place (Basslink) and one has advanced planning, it is now time to seriously consider submerging any future powerlines with their origins from within Bass Strait or from across Bass Strait.

There is a redundant power station located at Anglesea. All submarine cabling from offshore wind towers should be di-

rected through a specified marine channel to a resurrected electrical distribution centre located to the hinterland of Anglesea.

This distribution centre has a historical connection to Victoria's electrical distribution network through the Portland connectors (west) and Melbourne (east). Why haven't any of the politicians focussed community attention on this option?

Gippslanders have borne the brunt of energy supply to Melbourne and Victoria for over a 100 years and what have Gippslanders received in reply, from coal through oil to gas, very little industrial development.

The aluminium industry went to Portland, textiles to Geelong.

It is time to protect what we have inherited in Gippsland. Make the electrical cabling from offshore wind farms be marshalled through Bass Strait to Anglesea, regardless of cost this time!

Douglas Baud, Alberton West.

Too early to speculate about transmission routes

I write in response to the article 'South Gippsland targeted for high-voltage link to offshore wind' (Sunday, February 16), which mentioned Southerly Ten and the Kut-Wut Brataualung offshore wind project.

Proposed to be located around 45km offshore, this is an early-stage project focused on meeting either Victoria's 2035 or 2040 target to get more power into the grid as coal plants retire over the coming decades.

At this stage we don't have any transmission plans for Kut-Wut Brataualung. It is far too early to speculate about where and how this future project could connect to the grid, which will be informed by government planning through the Victorian Transmission Plan over the coming years.

We look forward to consulting and working with local communities to shape this project - just as we have done with Star of the South. There will be many opportunities to get involved and we'll share new information about Kut-Wut Brataualung as it becomes available.

In the meantime, our local Gippsland team are on-the-ground and available to discuss our projects in person, via phone 1800 340 340 or email info@southerlyten.com.au.

Erin Coldham, Chief Development Officer, Southerly Ten.

NAH... I'VE GOTTA GET AS MANY AS I CAN WHILE THERE'S STILL SOME LEFT!

Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

Vox Pop

"What are your thoughts on rooftop solar?"



Leanore Wight

"I don't have rooftop solar. We've been travelling and we've just moved back into our property, but we do plan to get it."



Elly Carter

"Rooftop solar is a wonderful idea. It's good for the environment and it saves money."



Peter Young

"We've got rooftop solar; it works well for us. I'd be inclined to put a battery in as well."



Anne Palmer

"I don't have it. My partner wants to get it, but I'm worried it's not worth it because of the lack of sun in winter. I am certainly considering it though."

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.

Inverloch Community House hosts 'Death Café' to foster open conversations about mortality

THE Inverloch Death Café, hosted at the Inverloch Community House, is offering a unique and thoughtful space for people to gather and discuss death in an open, non-judgmental, and confidential environment. The next event will take place on March 14 from 3pm to 5pm and is open to everyone.

At the Death Café, participants can enjoy cake and tea while engaging in group-directed discussions about death - an often-taboo subject in society. The goal is not to focus on grief or counselling, but to promote awareness of death and help individuals make the most of their time by exploring their own beliefs and concerns about mortality. The conversation is informal, with no specific agenda or objectives, and is facilitated in a respectful and supportive atmosphere.

Jytte Thompson, an end-of-life doula who has been living in Inverloch for four years, supports individuals in their journeys through life and death. Jytte, originally trained in Germany; her non-medical role as a doula focuses on providing emotional and practical



Jytte Thompson is hosting the next Death Café on March 14 from 3pm until 5pm at the Inverloch Community House.

support for both patients and their caregivers.

"A doula's role is to hold a person's hand, ask important questions, advocate for their interests, and ensure they are satisfied with the care they are receiving," Jytte explained. "Just like a birth doula, I offer a supportive presence not just for the patient, but for the caregivers as well, often helping them navigate difficult decisions and providing respite when needed."

Although end-of-life care and support services like those provided by Jytte are well-established in larger cities, they remain largely unknown in

smaller regions like Gippsland. "In Gippsland, people don't yet know they need me," she says. "I sit with their loved ones, offer non-medical support, and help people feel more at ease during a very difficult time."

At a February Death Café event, held at the Community House, Jytte facilitated a conversation with 12 participants. Initially, the group had expected only two or three attendees, but the turnout exceeded expectations, reiterating Jytte's thought that there is a need for open, unpressured discussions about mortality. The event provided an opportunity for people to discuss practical concerns like

wills, medical care, and fears about death in a safe and supportive environment.

"Some people were nervous at first, but everyone ended up smiling and sharing openly. It was a beautiful atmosphere, with people learning from each other's experiences," says Jytte. "It showed me that people don't have these conversations enough. The Death Café breaks down the barriers and offers a welcoming space."

This is a free event with tea, coffee, water, and cookies provided. The Community House encourages people to sign up in advance by calling 03 5674 2444.

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

Here's what you can look forward to:

Emergency Planning: Learn how to develop an emergency plan tailored to your family's needs.

Accurate Information: Discover how to access reliable information during emergencies.

Preparation Tips: Get practical advice on how to prepare for various emergencies.

Community Feedback: Provide your input on the draft Korumburra Community Emergency Plan.

This event is family-friendly, with plenty of activities for children. Bring the whole family and enjoy free food and donuts while you learn how to keep your loved ones safe.

The Korumburra Be Prepared event is powered by the

collaboration of Community for Community, with support from the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with your neighbours and local emergency services, all while having a great time.

To learn more and register, please visit the Milpara Community House Office at the lower level of the Korumburra Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra, or call on 5655 2524. You can also find the Milpara Term Program online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au.

Don't miss out on this chance to be part of a safer, stronger Korumburra. We look forward to seeing you there!

Milpara's regular classes and activities are running throughout the week. Our Term

Program is available online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au or you can pick one up at the Milpara Community House Office at the Lower Level of the Korumburra Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra, or give us a call on 5655 2524.

The Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm or by appointment. Please bring your own bags.

Our Services Australia agent is at the house Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9:30 to 2pm.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/milparacommunityhouse)

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

The councillors spent double the allocated time for the visit, meeting with staff and students. They witnessed a wide array of BCAL's classes including English as an Additional Language, Certificate III in Horticulture, Computer Basics, and NDIS Cooking.

But that's just a fraction of what BCAL offers. All the visitors agreed BCAL is one of the region's best kept secrets.

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

■ WONTAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Volunteers began clearing out dry and depleted warm season vegetation at the garden last week.

While no new plants will

go back in yet, the clear-out helps identify what might go where rain comes and cooler days. It also frees up a few plots ready to be taken up by interested local growers.

There are plots of various sizes suitable for growing vegetables, herbs and flowers. Most of what's needed to grow your own is on site, including advice and company from fellow food gardeners.

For more info, please contact BCAL on phone 5672 1335, or email tgordon@westnet.com.au or drop by the garden on a Thursday between 10 and noon to see for yourself.

■ WONTAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The jewellery making group

mentioned a few weeks ago is now up and running.

There are currently six crafters in the groups and the numbers are growing. They are currently making rings, earrings, pendants, bangles, and necklaces.

All the items are made primarily of wood with some pieces including resin or metal only as decoration.

The best thing about it is it uses tiny pieces of wood which would otherwise be discarded.

For more information, visit www.wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or pop in to the workshop.



The Diocese of Sale 2025 Assembly

TWO HUNDRED and twenty delegates from Catholic parishes, schools, and organisations across the Diocese of Sale recently gathered for a Diocesan Assembly focused on defining the pastoral priorities and actions for the next five years.

The Diocese of Sale covers a vast and diverse geographic area, extending from Narre Warren through to Phillip Island and across to Mallacoota.

The 2025 Diocesan Assembly marked the culmination of a seven-month consultation process.

The consultation process was conducted in two phases. The first phase asked everyone in the Diocese to reflect on where God's Spirit has been active among them over the past five years.

The second phase asked people to identify which pastoral priorities and actions the Holy Spirit is calling the Diocese to put into action during the next five years.

Feedback was received from 65 parish groups, 25 individual submissions, and approximately 1,200 student responses. The feedback was then synthesised into an Assembly Working Document.

Over the two-day Assembly, delegates engaged in prayerful listening and spiritual conversations to affirm the strengths and best practices of the Diocese, identify the significant challenges being faced, and discern which pastoral priorities are needed to leverage the movement toward becoming a more Christ-centred, synodal and missionary Church.

The recommendations from the Assembly will be presented to Bishop Greg and the Diocesan Mission Council to help form a Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

• FAITH FACTOR

Hope in an uncertain world

Rev. Graeme Liersch, Rector Wonthaggi/Inverloch Anglican Church

HAVE you noticed how there has been an increased level of passenger plane crashes over the last month? In the USA alone there have been four since the 29th of January, and only last week another passenger plane crashed while landing in Toronto, Canada, with all surviving.

Yet, despite these crashes, thousands of people each day show their faith in flying by boarding planes and flying to their destination. In doing this they show the hope they have in the airline industry and the hope they have in air-craft.

It is fascinating how people can put their hope in tangible human made things, that can break, but struggle to have hope in one another, the things of life and God. Essentially the intangible.

I often have questions thrown at me such as, "How could you possibly bring a child into this World?" And/or, "How could God, if there is one, allow terrible things to happen in this World?"

I also see many that struggle to cope with the loss of a loved one or friend. Generally, at the basis of their situation, is the lack of 'Hope'. They see little purpose in life other than to eat, drink, be merry and procreate.

Turn your mind now to active Christian people that you know, do you see something different in them? Do you go to them for help? What is it that they have that you may not?

Answer: They have 'Hope' in an uncertain World. What is this 'Hope' and where can you get it? This 'Hope' is centred on their faith in Jesus Christ. With Jesus there is this 'knowing' that there is something far better beyond this world when we die.

As such, Christians tend to die well, are more upbeat about their current situation, and look forward to the future.

Want some 'Hope' in your life? Find a Christian friend to talk with or come and see me or one of the Pastors/Ministers in the district.



Last tickets are available to see Ziggy Alberts in San Remo this April. Photo Credit: Janneke Storm

Ziggy Alberts coming to San Remo this April

IF ALBUMS are snapshots of an artist's creative journey, then Ziggy Alberts output paints a portrait of one that has had many different and exciting turns.

The award-winning Australian artist is truly a global citizen these days, with his music and words giving him the opportunity to do laps around the world.

From his early days busking on the streets of Australia's Byron Bay, Alberts has always understood the power of direct connection with his audience. His rise has been driven not only by his emotionally resonant folk songs but by his determination to bring his music to fans face-to-face.

Now a decade into his career, he has grown his fanbase the old-fashioned way: by playing show after show, year after year, turning small rooms into sold-out venues across the globe.

With the close of another summer season, Ziggy now reaches a new milestone – the release of his seventh album, *New Love*.

"This album marks a return to simplicity, to a time when life was led by magic and adventure, and finding joy in chaos. We tested every song, making sure they were right for the live space, and kept the process pure without overcomplicating things. We made sure to preserve the magic of the record, resisting the urge to overproduce. It's a spiritual sequel to *Laps Around The Sun*, in that sense it is simplistic and anthemic by choice which is really hard to do, so I'm very proud of that," said Ziggy.

The album's structure, split between a warm, folk-inspired Side A and a more expansive, rock-and-country-influenced Side B, mirrors the duality of life.

Ziggy is touring Australia and coming to the Westernport Hotel, San Remo on Wednesday April 2 with Rod Coote as part of his 'New Love' Australian Tour. Last tickets are available.

For more information on Ziggy's 2025 'New Love' World Tour go to ziggylberts.com.



Fire twirling performances will be one of the highlights at the Inverloch Equinox Festival.



A high-energy didgeridoo beats performance by Ganga Giri will be part of the free Saturday night gala event.

Inverloch Equinox Festival: March 21-23

AS THE summer sun softens and the air begins to cool, Inverloch is set to celebrate the Autumn Equinox with a vibrant festival honouring themes of harvest, well-being, and the beauty of nature.

This celestial event, marking the moment when day and night are of equal length, offers a time to pause, reflect, and embrace the shifting seasons.

The inaugural Inverloch Equinox Festival, happening across

The Glade, The Hub, and throughout the town, invites both locals and visitors to experience Inverloch's charm by day and by night.

From guided nature walks and horsemanship experiences to outdoor bush poetry and stargazing, the festival provides a unique opportunity to connect with the natural world. The Well-being Expo offers new knowledge, insights and healing opportunities, while food lovers

can indulge in seasonal produce from Inverloch's cafes, delicious food trucks, and fresh-shucked oysters paired with local wines and gin.

Saturday night there will be a spectacular and free gala event and as the sun sets, the festival's energy will ignite with and feature a jaw-dropping fire show, a high-energy didgeridoo beats performance by Ganga Giri, live local music under the autumn sky,

market stalls, kids' activities, and an adults-only chill-out area.

Whether seeking adventure, relaxation, or a deeper connection to nature, the Inverloch Equinox Festival has something for everyone.

Some events require booking, visit the festival website to explore the program and secure a spot. For more information, visit <https://www.inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au/>.

Felted landscape masterpieces on display at Coal Creek



Rebecca Matthews creates landscape masterpieces using dry needle wool felting, and an exhibition of her work, *Felted Dreams: Unveiling the Australian Landscape*, is on now at Coal Creek Park and Museum.

REBECCA Matthews is a mixed media artist with a passion for fibre arts and exploring the beauty and vibrancy of Australian landscapes using the technique of dry needle wool felting.

Felted Dreams: Unveiling the Australian Landscape is an exhibition of Rebecca's art work currently featured at the Coal Creek Park and Museum.

Rebecca uses this needling technique to shape, intertwine and layer vibrant coloured fibres to create masterpieces.

With a love for travelling, both around the country and locally, nature inspires Rebecca to transform her observations into works of art, with a particular affinity for Phillip Island, Yanakie and the wider Gippsland region.

"We have this biting richness to colours. They can be soft and they can be hard and sharp and that's one of the things that I love about the Australian landscape."

"I love to play with scale and size and felting is something that is flexible and offers movement."

Felting traditionally uses wool, which has fibres with unique properties that allow them to easily felt or mat together, as they have a natural crimp and when agitated, they interlock with each other.

The varied and intense colours of the wool and felting medium translate beautifully into engaging seascapes, urban landscapes, sunsets and even pet portraits.

While the US and the UK have a strong cottage industries in which dry needle felting is a renowned

practice, Rebecca explains the artform hasn't caught on as much in Australia.

Rebecca believes it's nice for others to see there are different ways of creating works of art, and she enjoys pushing back against the traditional and formal concepts, language and ideals around what is considered 'art'.

The world of art has historically been a male dominated space, based largely around paintings and sculpture, while needle craft, because it was generated by women was not considered to be art, remarked Rebecca.

"Needling pushes against the creative norms, as it sits between craft and art."

When Rebecca entered the Royal Melbourne Show with her felting work, the exhibition team were unsure where to place the works as they believed they were 'paintings' but because they were needle work were considered 'craft'.

Rebecca offers dry needle felting workshops and said it's an artform that uses the senses and is forgiving, flexible and fun and is an easy way for others to learn, as it's not technically difficult but creates great art.

"With painting you have to wait for it to dry and need patience for the process, but you don't get that with felting."

Felted Dreams: Unveiling the Australian Landscape is on display at Coal Creek from now until Monday March 13.

Open 10am – 4pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday plus public holidays. Free entry.

Mad Hatters this March in Poowong

GET READY for the return of a legendary event! After 30 years, Mad Hatters is back in Poowong, and you won't want to miss it.

This iconic live music extravaganza is set for March 1st, 2025, 8pm at the Poowong Public Hall. Dust off your fanciest hat, pack your esky, and prepare for a night filled with incredible tunes, dancing, and whimsical fun!

Join us for a night headlined by the retro rock sensations Temper Temper, the soulful melodies of Anna Scionti, and the crowd-pleasing duo The Fossils & Trevor Holland. It's all about the vibe, so don't forget to bring your unique hat and your favourite "Drink Me" potion (BYO, no glass, please).

Camping is available for just \$10 a night around the Rec Reserve, but remember to keep off the actual oval – the Queen of Hearts insists. For bookings, call Clint at 0429 626 330. And of course, merchandise will be available, so get your t-shirts, hoodies, and beanies to commemorate this fantastic event!

Mark your calendars and get ready for a mad celebration like no other.

For more information contact: Jim Forbes on 0418 561 807 or go to: www.madhatters2025.com



Showing at the Bass Coast Surf Film Festival is one of ten films, 'Yama.' Photo Maddy Meddings

Experience ocean thrills and stories at the annual Bass Coast Surf Film Festival

OVER TWO days in March, the Bass Coast Surf Film Festival will bring a selection of carefully curated Australian and International films to the surf and surf interested community in our region.

Ten feature-length and short films will be shown across three sessions on Friday March 14 and Saturday March 15, at Berninnett Cinema, 91 Thompson Ave, Cowes, on Phillip Island. The sessions start 7.00 pm Friday, 4.00 pm Saturday and 7.00 pm Saturday and cost \$20 per session or \$50 for a weekend pass covering the whole festival. Tickets available through Trybooking.

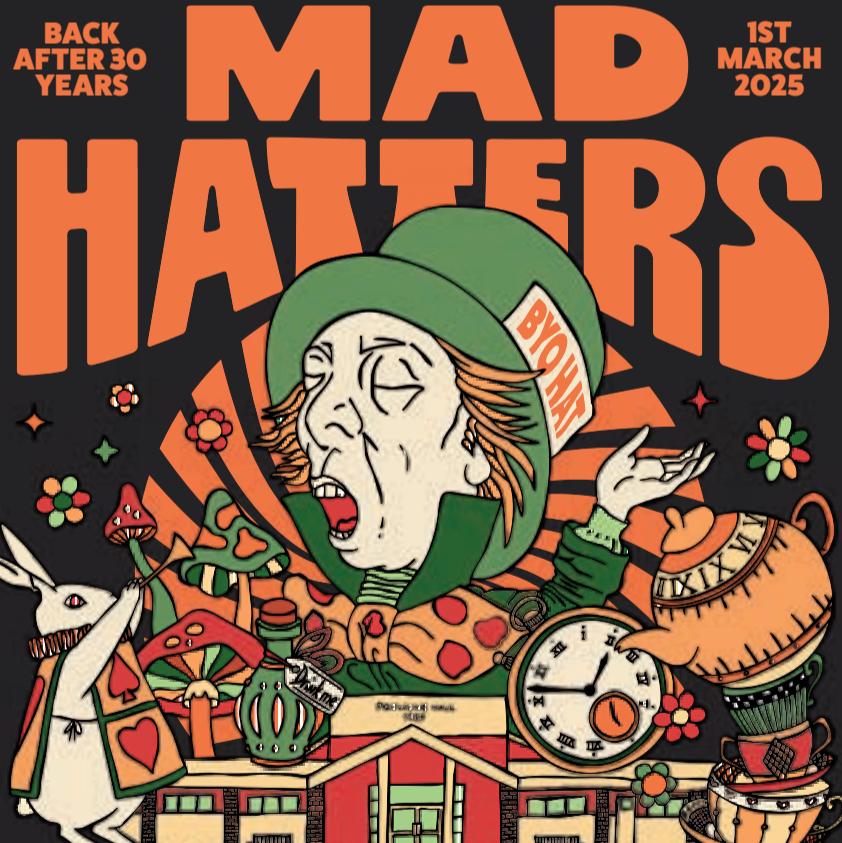
2025 is the second year

Phillip Island has hosted the annual festival and the event has grown to showcase more films and will also include extra community fun, with local surf legend Mal Gregson speaking to introduce the festival on Friday night, local band Foxy Junes playing on Saturday evening, a free raffle, plus a presentation of surf memorabilia courtesy of Phillip Island's National Surf Reserve.

"The films capture the spirit of the ocean in different, exciting ways. From 'You Should Have Been Here Yesterday', celebrating Australia's early surfing culture, through short, independent films 'Book of Hunter', 'Sleepwalking', 'Over the Undertow', 'Creatures of

Habit', 'Sayung Indonesia', 'Surfing with Kelp and Sharks' and 'Yama, to 'Place of Thorns', which tells the story of one of the world's most incredible waves, Mexico's Puerto Escondido, and 'Great Ocean Love', about local women's connection to the water along Victoria's Great Ocean Road, there is bound to be something for everyone. Watching these films on the big screen with surround sound is like being in the water with the surfers," Festival organiser Anneli McKinnon said.

"If you love the ocean, you'll enjoy the films, and you'll really love experiencing them here, with a like-minded community."



**TEMPER TEMPER
ANNA SCIONTI
THE FOSSILS & TREVOR HOLLAND**

POOWONG PUBLIC HALL

TICKETS & MERCH AVAILABLE AT WWW.MADHATTERS2025.COM

JA21486

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group presents 'Emilia Perez'

THE BASS Coast Fine Film Group is proud to present 2025 Oscar nominated and 2024 Cannes Jury Prize winner, 'Emilia Perez', a liberating fever dream that defies genres and expectations through song and dance, and bold visuals. From auteur director Jacques Audiard, this odyssey follows the journey of four remarkable women in Mexico, each pursuing their own happiness.

Character development and performance in 'Emilia Perez' are undeniably ambitious, with the film centering around a transgender drug cartel leader, Emilia, played by Karla Sofia Gascón. This unique casting choice not only highlights the importance of representation in cinema but also adds depth to the narrative as it explores themes of identity and transformation. The film sets up an intriguing premise by placing Emilia in a position where she seeks to transition into living as a woman while navigating her ties to the criminal underworld.

The cinematography in 'Emilia Perez,' crafted by Paul Guilhaume, presents a striking visual experience, that may not appeal to all viewers. The use of unflattering lighting, dominated by yellows and lime greens, creates a gritty ambiance that reflects the chaotic world of the characters. This choice emphasises the film's operatic drama. The visual aesthetics contribute to a sense of disarray, reinforcing the film's portrayal of a telenovela-style fantasy that juxtaposes glitz with the darker realities of its characters' lives. This contrast is intended to enhance the emotional stakes, and it often results in a garish presentation.

At the heart of 'Emilia Perez' lies a multitude of themes, including identity, ambition, and the quest for happiness amidst chaos. The film juxtaposes the personal journeys of its four main female characters, each navigating their own struggles within the backdrop of a tumultuous Mexico. The narrative attempts to address deeper issues, such as the complexities of gender identity and societal expectations.

Screening at the new time of 10.30am, on Sunday March 9 at The Union Theatre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. BCFFG members entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

To find out more, visit the website: basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season, and follow the links to the film.

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire.



10.30am SUNDAY 9th MARCH
EMILIA PEREZ

2025 Oscar nominated & 2024 Cannes Jury Prize Winner "Emilia Perez", is a liberating fever dream that defies genres and expectations through song and dance, and bold visuals. From auteur director Jacques Audiard, this odyssey follows the journey of four remarkable women in Mexico each pursuing their own happiness.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

@ THE UNION THEATRE
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com



**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm**

**Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo**

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



Newhaven's Jenny Merrick and Penelope Rowe of Harmers Haven are set to tackle the 5km distance in the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids. A19_0825



Gaby Hynes of the Bass Coast Breakers is ready to take on the 10km run, saying she needs to finish in time to start work at 11am. A20_0825



Isabelle Wells is ready to support Harry Whalan as he gets ready to set off on the 5km run. A21_0825



Neville and David Cann are ready to run 5km. A22_0825



Toby Rawson and Leicani Trotta enjoying best mullet at the Foster Show B76_0825



Bernadette and Joe Brady from Mornington at the Foster Show B77_0825



Lane, Alex and Sarah Dubignon all enjoying the Foster Show B79_0825



Oscar Heidobro and Neve Sharry from Melbourne at the Foster Show B83_0825



Jess Lynch, Krystin Wurzbacher and Emma Kaddatz dressed in pink for Nyora Cricket Club's Pink Stumps Day on Saturday. Tk01_0825

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Foster Show, Wonthaggi State Coal Mine whistle, Pink Stumps Day at Nyora Cricket Club and Deb Rielly Run for the Kids.



Tayla, Sophie, Rhonda and Chelsea from the Lester family at the Foster Show B78_0825

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888



Mick Nys and Christy Horton attended Pink Stumps Day at Nyora Cricket Club. Tk03_0825



Jayde Vlasveld, Stephanie Thomas and Sarah Turner supported Nyora Cricket Club's Pink Stumps Day on Saturday afternoon. Tk04_0825



Georgie Snell and Jacinta Chisholm at Nyora Cricket Club's Pink Stumps Day. Tk05_0825



Former Wonthaggi coalminer Dan Carr and George Scott OAM welcoming the return of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine whistle B08_0825



Former coalminer Reg Wilson and Frank Cengia witnessing the return of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine whistle B07_0825



Ian and Marg Sullivan at Apex Park for the return of the State Coal Mine whistle in Wonthaggi B09_0825



Libby Carr watching brother-in-law Dan Carr introduce the return of the State Coal Mine whistle to Apex Park B16_0825



3 | 1 | 2 2.18 acres

65 Trease & Robbins Rd, **Mardan**
For Sale \$880,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632

THERE is a story to be told here, where a love of the old school has created a unique and special home, and just like in the story books this one is found by crossing a little bridge, meandering to the end of a country lane, where the river runs, and the distant hills cradle you, in the Dumbalk Valley.

The farmhouse still retains the charm of a classic weatherboard with ten foot ceilings and Baltic pine timber floorboards.

The home features:

- Weatherboard home on title 2.18 acres in addition to the river lease with frontage to the Tarwin River East branch.
- The kitchen is the heart of the home with a beautiful Esse wood stove, a gas/electric oven, walk in pantry and plenty of room for a sprawling dining table and chairs to relax.
- Lounge room come music room, with wood heater that leads into a cosy library / sitting room, the perfect place to relax and read or simply ponder life looking out into the garden.
- Three spacious bedrooms.
- Updated combined bathroom and laundry.
- Together with the Esse wood stove, a reverse cycle air conditioner, ceilings fans and Nobo

heaters the home is kept warm and cool all year round.

Step outside on the verandas that sweep you out into the garden. A combination of low maintenance, ever evolving plantings to productive, colourful and delicious vegetable and berry beds, a variety of orchard plantings complete with a frog pond and the most beautiful spacious chook house to complete this country harvest garden.

There is a permanent water licence of 2.2ml per year to pump from the river for stock and domestic purposes, providing absolute water security for you to be truly self-sufficient.

The sheds vary, all telling a story of yesteryear from potting and woodsheds, carports to a studio and the sheep shearing and feed pens all dressed up to look like an old gold mining town. Cleverly done, bringing joy to this story telling garden and home.

There's more, to see and feel. The serenity, here at the end of a country lane, with your very own river! Situated 17 min. to Mirboo North, 20 min. to Leongatha and two hours to Melbourne.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligence-checklist



Your local
Real Estate &
Livestock Specialists
www.sej.com.au

ANDREA ADAMS
0429 822 801
aadams@sej.com.au
FOSTER
Ph 5682 2800



IRENE WALKER
0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au
LEONGATHA
Ph 5662 4033



TOORA



- Immaculate 2 bed, approx. 582m²
- Covered rear deck, views to Prom
- Large master, excellent storage
- Parking apron, space for a shed STCA

\$480,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

WOORARRA EAST



- Farmhouse on 26 acres approx
- Gently undulating land, fenced paddocks, stables.
- 4 bed, modernised bathroom
- Dbl garage, 12x7.5 shed, feed shed

\$795,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

RANCEBY



- 23.10HA / 57 acres Grazing
- Close to town, ideal turnout block
- 5 paddocks inc. hay paddock
- Good quality steel stock yards
- Dams (4), undulating hill country

\$685,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MARDAN



- Highly productive 52HA / 130 acres
- Water security, Toomeys Ck
- Springs, Dams, troughs
- 14 paddocks, stock yards, sheds
- Updated lovely 2 bed cottage

\$1,720,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

FOSTER

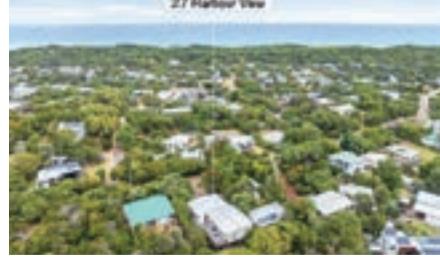


- 1x2-bed unit plus 1x1-bed unit
- Approx. 1428m², edge of town
- 1-bed with disabled access
- Currently tenanted for immediate income

\$410,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

SANDY POINT



- Highset home in quiet spot, 5 mins walk to beach
- Under home storage, flat parking
- Elevated deck with treetop views
- 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms

\$650,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA SOUTH



- Coast to country living
- 27HA / 68 acres grazing
- 3bed, 2bath, 3car home
- Study, sunroom & solar
- Huge shed, room to grow

\$1,650,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

COMING SOON!

STONY CREEK / DUMBALK
40HA / 100 acres grazing

KARDELLA SOUTH
W/B Home on 4 acres

KORUMBURRA
Commercial investment

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



109 acres of options

PRIME opportunity for those seeking a well-maintained piece of undulating to hill country just one hour and 15 minutes from Melbourne's south eastern suburbs. The property is equipped with power to the disused dairy, featuring a concrete holding yard (100 head). The solid four bay shed provides ample protection for machinery and hay storage. At the property entry are the newly constructed stockyards and crush overlooking the hay shed, disused dairy, and farmland. With excellent infrastructure, this is the ideal property for those looking to escape city life while still being within easy reach of Melbourne and only five minutes from local amenities in Korumburra.

The property comprises of 17 main paddocks all with electric fencing and excellent boundary fences. There are multiple hay paddocks that can produce around 50-100 round bales a year.

Plenty of water for stock with two main dams and a diesel piston pump at one of the dams which pumps to the header tank. There is a permanent creek running through the middle of the property and 14 water troughs.

Working improvements include disused dairy with power and calf nursery. Large 20m x 14m machinery/hay shed and one bay includes concrete floor. Stock yards and race with a forcing yard.

An option to purchase the adjoining 57-acre (approx.) title to then apply for a potential building permit for the collective 109 + 57 acres (subject to council approval).

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligence-checklist



Land

109 acres

130 D M Scotts Road,
Korumburra Sth
For Sale \$900,000
Agent Elders
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487



Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

eldersrealestate.com.au



Korumburra 773m²
Elevated Block Home
• 3 beds, 1 bath home in great location

sold



Nyora 200 Acres
Country Living
• Ideal for a variety of farming activities

sold



Ryanston 3.05 Acres
Sensational Coastal Views
• 3.05 acres of prime real estate

sold



Mountain View 84 Acres
• Rolling Hills
• 1938 - built home
• Ideal for Livestock



BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487



SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796



HELEN ARRESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523



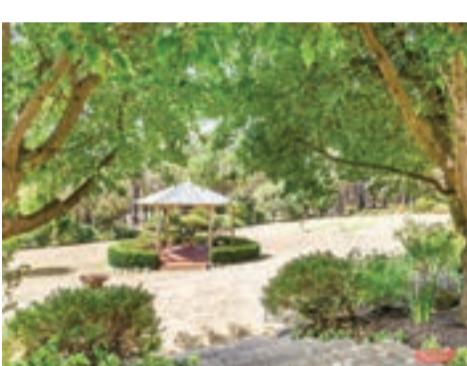
NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



Where vision meets nature in Mirboo North



3 | 2 | 5 5 Acres

3 Gilfedder Terrace, **Mirboo North**

For Sale \$1,080,000 - \$1,150,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
 Dan Huther 0418 334 801
 Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
 Tony Giles 0407 528 192

WELCOME to a truly extraordinary lifestyle property—the result of visionary craftsmanship and passionate dedication to creating something remarkable. This property is more than just a home; it's an experience waiting to unfold.

Your enchantment begins the moment you arrive. The post-and-rail front fence sets the stage, leading your eyes to the sandstone brick home with its full-length front veranda and impeccable outdoor entertainment area. All of this is nestled amidst lush, meticulously maintained gardens and framed by the serene beauty of views of the Strzelecki State Forest. With a north-facing aspect, the home is bathed in natural light, creating an inviting and harmonious atmosphere.

Step inside, and you'll find an open-plan living space designed for comfort and connection. Bright, airy, and spacious, the interior offers seamless flow and functionality. The well-appointed kitchen is a centrepiece, featuring a breakfast bar, walk-in pantry, 900mm stainless steel gas cooktop with an electric oven, a stainless-steel range hood, a dishwasher, and a generous meal preparation area.

The outdoor entertaining area is the crown jewel of this property. Double doors open to connect indoor and outdoor spaces, offering the perfect venue for hosting or relaxing. Surrounded by the pristine environment of the Strzelecki Ranges, this space brings you closer to nature in a profound way. Picture yourself with your feet up in the charming gazebo—a magical spot to unwind or gather with friends and family.

Comfort is a priority, with both a freestanding wood heater and reverse-cycle air conditioning providing year-round climate control. The thoughtfully designed sleeping

arrangements ensure privacy and functionality. The master suite, positioned at one end of the home, boasts an ensuite and a walk-in robe. At the opposite end, two additional bedrooms share a central family bathroom, complete with a stepless shower, wall-mounted ceramic vanity, and a bathtub.

For those with a green thumb, this property offers exceptional horticultural opportunities. Grow your own fresh produce with ease, thanks to the well-established orchard and raised garden beds. Ample rainwater storage and excellent fencing make this property as practical as it is beautiful.

The garage next to the house spans 9.3m x 5.9m and provides two vehicle bays and a dedicated workshop area, with a concrete floor and power. Complementing this is the American-style three-bay barn which measures 10m x 8m, complete with a concrete floor, power, and an insulated roof. The central bay offers a clearance height of approximately 3.8m, making it ideal for a large caravan, horse float or boat.

Conveniently located just a short drive from Mirboo North town centre, on a sealed road with the school bus stopping right at the front gate which services both primary and secondary schools. If you're ready to embrace a new way of living, look no further. This is the lifestyle property you've been dreaming of—a perfect blend of practicality and natural beauty. Don't miss the opportunity to make this extraordinary property your own.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.

This one ticks all the boxes

WELCOME to this exquisite two-storey sandstone brick home, nestled in the heart of Dalyston on a sprawling 3045sqm block. With meticulous attention to detail, this residence boasts a charming sandstone brick facade, surrounded by manicured landscaped gardens that create a serene atmosphere. The property features decorative paths and driveways, enhancing its appeal and providing a warm welcome.

Step inside and discover a spacious layout designed for comfort and convenience. The downstairs area includes a second living room, two large bedrooms with walk-in robes, a fully equipped laundry, and a bathroom featuring a luxurious corner spa bath. Upstairs, the heart of the home awaits with a well-appointed kitchen showcasing stainless steel electric cooking appliances, ample storage, and a breakfast bar. The open-plan dining and living area effortlessly flows to a large outdoor decking, perfect for summer evenings spent entertaining family and friends.

Outdoors, you'll find ample space for children to play and pets to roam. The property includes a large double garage servicing the main home, an expansive 20m x 6m workshop garage complete with a built-in mancave, and a 10m x 5m garage/workshop that is ideal for a caravan or boat. With easy access to beautiful beaches, shops, schools, and recreational activities, this home offers the perfect blend of coastal living and modern convenience. Don't miss your chance to own this stunning property.



3 | 2 | 6 3045m²

12-18 Walker Street, **Dalyston**
For Sale \$990,000 to \$1,080,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Mick Chambers 0418 349 783



LEONGATHA



36 Jeffrey Street

- Blonde brick home in desirable Jeffrey St
- 3 bed 1 bath home with double carport
- Great floorplan, in need of a renovation

\$465,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



9 Mair Crescent

- Spacious Family Home
- 4/5 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Under house workshop

\$550,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



5 Brazier Street

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Family home with spacious backyard in booming Grantville

\$579,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



13 Dunn Street

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- 1/4 acre block
- Partly renovated

\$535,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA SOUTH



OPEN SAT. MARCH 1, 11.30AM-12 NOON

KORUMBURRA



233 Racecourse Road

- 4.5 acres with established trees
- Convenient 5 min drive to town centre
- Stone-build family home with huge shed

\$1,075,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

23 Bridge Street

- Grand period home
- Prime corner location
- 3 bedroom, 3 living

\$695,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

CORINELLA



23 Hughes Street

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car garage
- Never lived in beautiful home
- Looking to be loved

\$895,000-\$920,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



63 Broome Crescent

- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- 1/4 acre block
- Rear lane access

\$530,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

MIRBOO NORTH



OPEN SAT. MARCH 1, 10-10.30AM

KORUMBURRA



3 Gilfedder Terrace

- 5ac aprx. lifestyle prop, 3 bed 2 bath 5 car
- Beautifully maintained with garden
- Shedding, separate paddocks and more

\$1,080,000 - \$1,150,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

24 Massimo Way

- Elevated position
- Easy to manage 763m² block
- Modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom

\$575,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

CORINELLA



1 Kilburn Street

- 4 bedroom, 1 bathroom with carport
- Alluring family home
- Investment potential with room to grow

\$622,000-\$633,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



53 Gordon Street

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom
- Rendered brick home
- Corner block

Auction: Sat, March 8 at 12 noon

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



NEW PRICE

16 Greenwood Parade

- Located opposite parklands and rail trail
- 3 bed WB home plus 2 bed unit to the rear
- Priced to sell, book your inspection today

\$535,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

OUTTRIM



1075 Outtrim-Leongatha Road

- Secluded country retreat
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- 3,693m² block

\$950,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



5 Hopkins Drive

- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom with carport
- Popular listing
- Back on market

\$469,000

Contact: Grantville Office

KILCUNDA



10 Bellevue Court

- 3 bedrooms plus office
- 2.5 acres
- Unparalleled views

\$1,475,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Tony Giles 0407 528 192
Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

GRANTVILLE

5678 8433

1505 Bass Highway

Angus Hall 0466 326 487

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



Prime Cattle sell strongly at Leongatha

TUESDAY'S Prime Cattle sale delivered strong prices, Rohan McRae of Elders saying cows brought in up to 30 cents more per kilo and it was a dearer market in general.

The total yarding of 2,800 was similar to the previous week.

"Trade cattle were 10 or 15 cents dearer, manufacturing steers gained 10 or 15 cents, heavy heifers gained 15 to 20 cents, and cows gained 15 to 30 cents," Rohan said.

He believes the improved prices are partially due to so many cattle having been sold in recent times due to drier conditions since Christmas, leaving less available, with longer-term local conditions also playing a part.

Rohan highlighted the fact such a large area has been dry for a long time, including the Western District, contrasting that with the overall season for local cattle.

"Our cattle are presenting in best slaughter condition, so they're probably getting a better result out of the cattle at Leongatha than they might at other saleyards around the state," he said.

"The cattle coming through our market are out of South and West Gippsland and they are showing the residual benefits of (having) a full season under their belt; so, it's been dry January and February but pre-Christmas we had a very good season and cattle are still showing the results of that."

Rohan also noted the abundant recent rain in East Gippsland, commenting that rain in general helps the market.

Wattlewood hitting the target with their breeding objectives

AFTER a successful Beef Week Open Day, great results continued for Wattlewood when their entry in the Beef Week On Farm Heifer Challenge team of 10 heifers placed 3rd in the state wide competition. The judge, Duncan Newcomen assessed over 20 teams on structure, temperament, consistency, maternal potential, growth and true to breed type. Their 'brothers' are a part of Wattlewood's Annual On Farm Bull Sale on Friday, March 7.

The 2025 Wattlewood Angus Bull Sale catalogue includes progeny of Sterling Pacific, SITZ Dignity, Sydgen Enhance, Sterling Pacific, the crowd favorite, Baldridge Command and Baldridge Alternative, and newcomer E & B Wildcat.

As always, the Glovers pride themselves on producing 'Ready To Work' bulls with a quiet demeanour and structural integrity. The 35 bulls have not only been Genotyped, Semen Tested, but also comply with all the Immune Ready Guidelines which include tested PI. Negative had their vaccinations and boosters of 7 in 1, Pestigard, Vibrovax and Rhinogard, making them a sound prospect to go straight out with the cows with confidence.



Beef Week Heifer Challenge contestants Fiona and John Glover and Rachael Cochran.

dence.

From 9.30 am on Friday the 7th of March, Wattlewood will commence their Sale Day with inspections of the 35 quality bulls on offer and morning tea. The sale will then start at 12 noon, with the offering of the 2025 Wattlewood Angus 'Pick Of the Pair' Charity Heifers where all proceeds of this package will be donated to

The Cancer Council's 'Biggest Morning Tea'.

"The heifers we have chosen to donate, happen to be the top of the Autumn 2024 drop and will not disappoint any breeder looking to potentially adding one of these beauties to their herd". Fiona says. The auction will then flow on to the 35 HBR bulls and of course, all this will be

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**Annual Bull Sale:
Friday 7th March, 2025 at 12 Noon**

Address: 'Wattlewood' 75 Heads Road, Lang Lang 3984



Fiona & John Glover: 0416 216 951 E: fiona@wattlewoodangus.com.au
www.wattlewoodstud.com.au

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WARRAGUL

Lardner Dairy Sale

Friday 28th February, 11.00am – Lardner Park, Warragul

Entries Incl:

8 Holstein & Holstein cross cows springing to Hereford & Charolais to calve from 6th March for 4 weeks.
 A/c S&F Fiddelers

50 empty Holstein heifers 15- 18 mths mostly A.I. by Larcrest Contender, Wilara Harvest, DeSu 112128 Tailor, Progenesis Kristoff. Vet checked sound herd replacements.

A/c V. Stephens

8 Holstein heifers 8-9 mths by MVP son. Herd av 490 KGMS off steep hill farm.

A/c Various vendors

Approx. 20 milkers & springers.

NOTE Herd dispersal sale of AG & JM Wagner CANCELLED

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MARKET REPORT

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Store sales lift

By SGSA

AGENTS yarded a larger offering of 2400 store cattle at last Thursday VLE Leongatha store sale. The quality of the offering was again very good with plenty of weight in the grown steers with a large crowd in attendance. The market was strong with good gains on all grades with prices lifting \$50 to \$100 on recent sales with odd sales more with renewed interest on the secondary types and cows and calves which has been lacking for a while.

With strong gains seen in the fat market across the board this week and recent handy rainfall, local graziers were very keen to put a few cattle back in the paddock and competed strongly against the regular feedlot orders.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025

D Hendriks 12 Angus	690kg	\$3.73	\$2580	
Wallan Pastoral 15 Angus	656kg	\$3.88	\$2470	
D Hendriks 12 Angus	645kg	\$3.73	\$2410	
Wallan Pastoral 13 Angus	645kg	\$3.77	\$2430	
R.D & B.M Girling 12 Charo	608kg	\$3.19	\$1940	
J. McIlwaine 15 Angus	582kg	\$3.91	\$2280	
Wallan Pastoral 12 Angus	573kg	\$3.92	\$2250	
Glendale 14 Angus	569kg	\$3.93	\$2240	
C.Farr 11 Angus	516kg	\$3.69	\$1910	
Tarwin Meadows 14 Hereford	505kg	\$3.66	\$1850	
Glendale 11 Angus	498kg	\$3.81	\$1900	
D & G Hunter 16 Angus	489kg	\$4.08	\$2000	
KR & JA Damon 10 Angus	470kg	\$3.87	\$1820	
F Fotopoulos 14 Angus	469kg	\$4.00	\$1880	
J & LN Tribuzi 19 Angus	469kg	\$3.64	\$1710	
P.Melville 25 Angus	466kg	\$3.68	\$1720	
A.Radford 10 Hereford	465kg	\$3.54	\$1650	
Westburne 10 Hereford	435kg	\$3.58	\$1560	
D & G Hunter 14 Angus	422kg	\$4.02	\$1700	
Ankaa P/L 12 Angus	422kg	\$3.69	\$1560	
Tracy Hill Dairies 14 Angus	420kg	\$3.95	\$1660	
DJ & LJ Young 16 Angus	412kg	\$3.98	\$1640	
N Reeves 16 Speck Park	399kg	\$3.35	\$1340	
DC & GM Seton 22 Angus	397kg	\$3.65	\$1450	
Lyroat Nom 16 Angus	388kg	\$3.96	\$1540	
A. Chakuan 11 Angus	385kg	\$3.60	\$1390	
HR & YC Hughes 10 Red Angus	384kg	\$3.43	\$1320	
GS Pastoral 22 Angus	378kg	\$3.73	\$1410	
Tracy Hill Dairies 13 Angus	375kg	\$3.71	\$1390	
B.Richardson 10 Char	372kg	\$3.57	\$1330	
DJ & LJ Young 14 Angus	365kg	\$3.94	\$1440	
T Warren 15 Angus	346kg	\$3.90	\$1350	
DC & GM Seton 16 Angus	345kg	\$3.88	\$1340	
Heifers				
WR Miller 14 Angus	428kg	\$3.38	\$1450	
Tracy Hill Dairies 13 Angus	408kg	\$3.30	\$1350	
S & S Storr 16 Angus	400kg	\$3.40	\$1360	
Westburne 10 Hereford	375kg	\$3.12	\$1170	
B.Armitage 11 Angus	366kg	\$3.33	\$1220	
DJ & LJ Young 24 Angus	348kg	\$3.70	\$1290	
Argee nom 16 Angus	338kg	\$3.54	\$1200	
J & K Tierney 16 Angus	323kg	\$2.84	\$920	
JM.McIlwaine 15 Angus	323kg	\$3.31	\$1070	
RJ & MJ Bowron 15 Angus	306kg	\$3.03	\$930	
Deep Creek Farm 13 Hereford	305kg	\$3.04	\$930	
Xbreed Steers				
D.W.Hasthorpe 12 Angus X	302kg	\$3.64	\$1100	
Cows & Calves				
G & D Quinlan 11 x 11 Angus			\$2250	
G & D Quinlan 9 x 9 Angus			\$2200	
J & M Derbyshire 2 x 2 Angus/FF x			\$1975	
J & M Derbyshire 7 x 7 Angus x			\$1975	
Joined Heifers				
DM & MJ Goldthorpe 15 Angus Hereford			\$1875	

Uplift in global dairy production costs, but Australia remains among lowest-cost producers

THE COST of producing milk in Australia continues to compare favourably with other dairy-exporting regions, despite a structural lift in global milk production costs across the past five years, according to a new report by agribusiness banking specialist Rabobank.

In the report, The cost of milk: dissecting milk production costs, Rabobank says dairy farmers in many dairy-exporting regions have felt the pressure of increasingly higher milk production costs over recent years with the average total cost for milk production across eight major exporting regions increasing by around US6c/litre from 2019 to 2024 (up by 14 per cent) with over 70 per cent of the increase occurring since 2021.

Australia, though, was still one of the lowest-cost producers in 2024, the report said, despite labour costs in Australia increasing significantly over the past five years.

And Australia has also been among the regions generating the best gross milk price margins since 2019.

Report author, RaboResearch senior agricultural analyst Emma Higgins said globally, dairy production cost increases have been broad-based.

"The majority of the cost pressure has been on-farm working expenses rather than other ancillary costs, such as servicing debt, taxes and depreciation," she said.

"The latest dramatic cyclical cost jump, beginning in 2021, has occurred amongst a unique backdrop, differing from other price hike cycles. Feed and fertiliser cost increases at the farmgate resulted from inclement weather, the fallout of the Ukraine war, rising energy prices, trade disruptions, elevated shipping costs and broader supply chain disruptions.

"This coincided with monetary policy cycles shifting in response to COVID-induced inflation. Interest rates lifted rapidly, increasing the cost of servicing new and existing debt, alongside the resulting general overhead cost



Emma Higgins RaboResearch senior agricultural analyst, said globally, dairy production cost increases have been broad-based.

inflation. At the same time, labour costs moved structurally higher in response to either a combination of policy settings or staffing shortages in most producing regions."

The report says milk production costs lifted across the eight key exporting regions in 2021-2022, and remained elevated through 2023 until 2024, when all areas experienced relief, narrowing the cost band back to 2019 levels.

"Feed expenses have been the largest culprit in cost increases, with average feed bills across the eight regions rising 19 per cent from 2019 to 2024," Ms Higgins said.

"Feed bills started to pull back due to yield improvement and good weather in 2024, while fertiliser costs have also retreated as supply remains ample for demand. Interest rates are declining in many regions as the easing cycle for monetary policy begins."

Ms Higgins said key cost categories varied by region.

Of the eight regions assessed, the report says, labour cost increases have been the most significant in Australia across the last five years – jumping by over 50 per cent in local currency since 2021 – while interest rate pressures have also been felt.

Looking ahead Ms Higgins said the dairy sector globally had experienced significant price and cost volatility over the past decade.

"And it is fair to say that will not change in the future, as the geopolitical environment becomes more unstable, giving rise to the risk of higher inflationary settings, weaker economic growth, climate variability and a potential decline in international trade," she said.

"Continued cost structure management, relative to milk output, will be required to maintain dairy farmers' economic resilience in a potentially turbulent business operating environment – something Australian dairy

farmers have demonstrated in previous commodity price down cycles."

Ms Higgins said RaboResearch anticipated a variety of implications for dairy value chains will likely exist in the years ahead.

"These include a volatile operating environment and increased regulatory pressures which will raise the complexity of dairy farming businesses, consolidation and rationalisation of dairy industries in certain regions, and a need for dairy producers to optimise dairy cow nutrition and increase focus on genetics and consideration of input use," she said.

"Ultimately, dairy producers will need to maintain strong milk margins to fund such productivity improvements within an increasingly-complex business environment. As such, dairy exporters and traders will require a stronger understanding of supply dynamics and profitability drivers for dairy farmers."

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2024 was the largest lamb production year on record.

Largest annual sheep and lamb slaughter in decades

THE LATEST quarterly statistics on livestock slaughter and meat production from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) have shown that 2024 was the largest year for lamb and sheep slaughter in decades.

Numbers analysed by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) show that 26.6 million lambs were slaughtered in calendar year 2024, which is the largest number ever. Sheep slaughter also reached 11.7 million head, the largest since 2006.

According to Market Information Manager at MLA, Stephen Bignell, the record slaughter rates are significant for a number of reasons.

"These elevated slaughter rates seen in 2024 are due to a combination of a large national sheep flock with higher percentages of sheepmeat breeds being processed, and generally drier conditions seen in South Australia and Victoria," Mr Bignell said.

Total lamb production for the year reached 634,706 tonnes. This makes 2024 the largest lamb production year on record, 6% above 2023 lamb production figures.

"In the past two years production has lifted by 18%. This is due to genetic improvements in the flock but also the demographic shift towards

sheepmeat and shedding breeds, which is driving fertility and thus leading to productivity gains in the national flock," Mr Bignell said.

For the previous quarter to December 2024, mutton production hit 90,847 tonnes, which was the largest quarterly sheep production since 1997.

"Across the country towards the end of last year we saw mutton production soar," Mr Bignell said.

"Favourable prices at the end of the year drove this increase. Lamb prices reached \$10/kg while mutton was at 300-440c/kg, making it more desirable to process mutton as opposed to lambs for many producers."

Cattle

For Q4 last year, adult cattle slaughter reached 2.13m head, which was 16% above the same quarter in 2023.

Over the whole year, 8.3 million cattle were processed, which was the largest throughput since 2019 and 18% higher than 2023.

All states lifted on the previous year, with Tasmania's rate lifting 4% and Western Australia at 10%. New South Wales and Queensland had similar lifts at 15% and 16% respectively.

"The largest lifts were seen in Victoria which

had a 27% increase and South Australia which had a 56% higher slaughter rate compared to 2023," Mr Bignell said.

"Dry conditions across the southern band of the country have forced stronger turnoff across those states as producers move to destock by selling interstate or processing excess cattle."

Despite 2024 slaughter being 10% below the previous slaughter record, production last year reached record volumes. Over 2.57 tonnes of beef was produced, up 16% on 2023, and enabling the record exports seen last year.

The average adult carcass weight (cwt) lifted 2.6kg from the previous quarter to 310.8kg cwt, although this was 2.8kg below December 2023.

A reduction in female turnoff is the reason for these lighter weights with female slaughter reduced 6% and the female slaughter rate (FSR) down 52.2% to 51.8%.

The industry uses 47% FSR as a benchmark as to whether the industry is in a restock, steady or destocking phase. A quarterly FSR of 51.8% is the third consecutive quarter above this benchmark, which indicates the cattle herd has entered a destocking period.

Strong start for Australian agricultural markets

THE LATEST Monthly Commodity Insights report from Bendigo Bank Agribusiness flags a strong start for Australian agricultural markets in 2025.

Cattle markets are expected to see some upside amidst strong export demand, particularly from the US. Tightening global supply will continue to support dairy prices over coming months.

"Cattle prices could see upside in February, with Australia recently overtaking Canada to become the largest supplier of

imported beef to the US. Barring any further supply chain issues from wet weather in Queensland and further processing bottlenecks, exports are likely to rise due to strong ongoing demand from the US and rising availability of local supply."

Dairy also looks to be a bright spot with tightening global supply continuing to support global dairy prices in coming months, Mr Burgess observed.

"However, concerns remain with local production beginning to falter,

putting pressure on processors to lift farmgate prices as dry conditions spread in southern dairy production regions," he said.

"Lamb prices have eased as we enter 2025, after peaking just prior to the Christmas break with the lamb market expected to be relatively steady in February, gaining support from continued high processing rates, although strong supply of lambs and dry conditions in key growing areas will limit upside," Mr Burgess concluded.

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, February 17, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x \$20 to \$45
 Friesian Bulls \$34 to \$87
 Friesian Heifers \$39 to \$60
 Beef Bulls \$42 to \$100
 Beef Heifers \$40 to \$115
 Number of Calves: 97
 Number purchased to rear: 38

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GROWN STEERS

A/c J Daraio, Cardinia (SEJ)
 45 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, East Gippsland Bred
 A/c M & C Beavis, Kardella (SEJ)
 26 Angus steers, 16-18 mths
 10 Hereford steers, 16-18 mths
 A/c Wildwood Pastoral, Inverloch (SEJ)
 30 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Merlewood blood
 A/c G & K Leeton, The Gurdies (NUTRIEN)
 26 Angus steers, 18 mths
 A/c Scott Bentley/Blue Gum Angus (PHC)
 24 Angus steers, 15 mths, By Landfall New Ground N90 Sire, Banquet/Rennylea blood
 A/c M & J Chatfield, Toora (PHC)
 20 Poll Hereford steers, 16 mths, pure "Tarwin" blood
 A/c Faulkner Lees, Mardan (PHC)
 20 Angus steers, 16 mths, "Langi Kal Kal" blood
 A/c TG & RE Rees, Strzelecki (PHC)
 20 Poll Hereford steers, 15 mths
 A/c Prada Pty Ltd, Kardella Stn (SEJ)
 15 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths, East Gippsland bred
 A/c Sam Smith Media, Whitelaw (PHC)
 12 Angus steers, 26 mths, "Rennylea" blood

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c J Daraio, Cardinia (SEJ)
 20 Angus heifers, 15-16 mths, VB, GF, AF, Sired by Te-Mania Paraded P276 (\$16,000)

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 100 Angus steers, 10-12 mths
 80 Angus heifers, 10-12 mths
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 A/c P&N&D&M Moore, Yarram (PHC)
 80 Angus & Angus/Hereford X steers 9-11 mths, weaned, drenched Dectomax, Arrest, Vac 5in1, Jan By Lawson, Bowman & Mawarra Stud Angus Bulls, Top calves, NE Accred
 A/c Stuart Investments, Stacey's Bridge (PHC)
 45 Hereford steers, 7-11 mths, debubbled
 35 Hereford heifers, 7-10 mths, debubbled
 Weaned Jan, EU Accred, drenched, 7in1 twice, By Mawarra & Karoonda Bulls
 A/c D&K Belcher, "Wonga Park", Woodside (PHC)
 45 Hereford steers, 9-11 mths
 25 Hereford heifers, 9-10 mths
 Weaned Jan, drenched & Vac 5 in 1 twice & Pinkeye Vac, By Karoonda & Mawarra Bulls, very quiet



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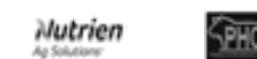
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 16 MG mixed sex, 14-15 mths
 A/c L&L McKenzie, Calrossie (PHC)
 10 Hereford/Friesian X steers, 24 mths

COWS & CALVES

A/c J Daraio, Cardinia (SEJ)
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V0144

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V0219

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LB0384

DEATHS

BITTELMANN, Horst Theodor Willi (BILL):
03.10.1932 - 17.02.2025.
A life of quiet dignity, fierce independence, gratitude and simple pleasures.
Loved and missed by family and friends near and far.
Jacqui Hammerton. Ron, Lisa and Dean.

BOSTON (née Fowles), Maureen Ann:

Born on February 21, 1960. Passed away February 13, 2025.

Loving wife of Graeme (dec.), adored and cherished mum of Christopher, Sarah and Jack.

Loved mother-in-law of Hannah and Alex, and friend-in-law to Caitlin.

Forever treasured nan of Olivia, Rhys and Blake.

Mum and dad together at peace way too soon.

Eldest daughter of Ann and Kevin (dec.) Fowles.

Rest peacefully beautiful.

Treasured sister of Chris and Peter, aunty to Mick and Kimmy, Britt and Mitch, Katelyn and Ryan, Jake and Anki.

Great aunt to Charlotte, Sam, Laine, Arlo, Dixie and Ivar.

Thanks for being the fun aunty.

DEATHS

BOSTON (née Fowles), Maureen Ann:
Loved oldest sister of Peter and Debbie, aunty to Amy and Mitch, and Jared. Great aunt to Finley. Catch ya later Maus.

Cherished caring eldest sister of Lynn and Troy, aunty to Abby and Zac.

Thanks for the years of laughter.

Loved daughter-in-law of Doug and Dorothy Boston. Sister-in-law of Allan and Emma. Aunty to Ryan, Abby and Nicola.

CALDWELL, Trevor John (Choco):

29.10.1947 - 21.02.2025.
Loving father to Linda father-in-law to Andrew.

Granddad to Benjamin, Brett, Beau, Jade, Blake, Brendon and Jewel.

Great granddad to Victoria, Sebastian and Leonardo.

Gone but not forgotten.

You will be in our hearts forever.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS Call 5672 1888 to place a notice

DEATHS

CALDWELL, Trevor John (Choco):
Peacefully on February 21, 2025.
Much loved father and father-in-law of Simone and Peter. Cherished grandad of Tayla and Jake.

Great grandad of Hudson, Mila and Henry xxx

Dad, you may be gone, but we will carry our memories of you forever in our hearts.

Dad, you will be sadly missed.

With love, Darren, Mary, Billie and Ty.

CALDWELL, Trevor John (Choco):

Cherished brother of Sandra (dec.) and brother-in-law of Roy (dec.).

Loved uncle to Paul, Gayle, Geoff, Jonah, Bridie and Chloe (Zoe).

He lived with a twinkle in his eye and left us with countless stories to cherish.

Sadly missed.

CALDWELL, Trevor John (Choco):

On February 21, in Queensland.

Now at peace - after a life well lived.

R.I.P. big brother.

Maureen, Daryl and family.

DEATHS

CALDWELL, Trevor John (Choco):
Loved brother and brother-in-law of Margaret and Noel, loved uncle of Greg and Jenny, Mark and Vicki, Joanne and Thorsten, Michelle and Alan and families.

"One of a kind"

God Bless.

GOODWIN, Neville Wayne OAM:

24.09.1942 - 18.02.2025.
Passed away peacefully at home with family as was his request.

Loved husband of Lyn.

Loved father of Wayne and Rachelle and their partners Janette and Jeff.

Loved pop of Daniel.

Many thanks to the palliative team of the Bass Coast Regional Hospital.

GOODWIN, Neville OAM:

Members of the Wonthaggi Branch of the Liberal Party record with sadness, the passing of Neville.

He was a decades long member and supporter of the Liberal Party.

Neville was a tireless worker for the Liberal Party locally and he will be greatly missed.

Members of the Wonthaggi Branch extend our sincere condolences to Lyn and family.

--Elwyn, Jean and family.

MITCHELL, Terence John:

Passed away February 19, 2025, with his loving daughter Terri-Ann by his side.

Devoted husband to Beverley.

Loving father to Belinda, Rebecca, Terri-Ann, Johnny, Crystal and Bree-Anna.

A father figure to Kylie (dec.), Bj and Finnlae.

Beloved pa to Harley, Taylah, Maddison, Warren, Lily-Ann, Logan, Holly, Evie and Brooklyn.

Proud great grandpa to Abel and fur-babies Mo and Chaos.

Cherished father-in-law to Michael, Nathan, Sharon and Cody.

Forever in our hearts.

DEATHS

GOODWIN, Neville Wayne OAM:
24.09.1942 - 18.02.2025.
With much sadness, but many happy memories we acknowledge the passing of Neville, a very loyal, caring and helpful Matthews family friend of 35 years standing.

Neville, strongly supported by wife Lynette, was a very sincere "people person", always ready to help anyone in what ever way he could. He did this through service clubs, politics and many other meaningful ways such as at Bass, then Bass Coast Councils which included 4 terms as Bass Coast Mayor, the only person to serve 4 terms as Mayor.

He was also a Government Appointed Commissioner at Wyndham City Council.

As we remember the many years of sharing great times and functions and places travelled to with Neville and Lyn, we think of the hilarity and funny comments etc made along the way.

After suffering very poor health in recent years we now say goodbye dear friend, no more suffering, thanks for the memories, R.I.P.

Much love and best wishes always to Lyn, Wayne and Janette and Daniel, Rachelle and Jeff.

--Elwyn, Jean and family.

MITCHELL, Terence John:

Passed away February 19, 2025, with his loving daughter Terri-Ann by his side.

Devoted husband to Beverley.

Loving father to Belinda, Rebecca, Terri-Ann, Johnny, Crystal and Bree-Anna.

A father figure to Kylie (dec.), Bj and Finnlae.

Beloved pa to Harley, Taylah, Maddison, Warren, Lily-Ann, Logan, Holly, Evie and Brooklyn.

Proud great grandpa to Abel and fur-babies Mo and Chaos.

Cherished father-in-law to Michael, Nathan, Sharon and Cody.

Forever in our hearts.

DEATHS

SUCKLING, John Thomas:
Passed away peacefully on 20.02.2025.

Loved husband of Gwenda.

Father of John, Kerry, Julie, Wayne, Michelle, Colin, Peter and Stephen.

Pop to all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Gone fishing.

Loved and remembered.


SUCKLING, John:

Wonthaggi RSL regret the passing of our past president John Suckling, aged 92. We extend our deepest condolences to the family and thank John for his contribution to our branch.

Lest We Forget.

FUNERALS

BITTELMANN:
A Funeral Service to celebrate the life of Horst Theodor Willi Bittelmann (Bill) will be held at 2pm on Thursday, February 27, 2025, in the Birch Room at Springvale Botanical Cemetery.

Interment of ashes will be held at a later date at Inverloch Cemetery.

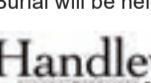

Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

BOSTON:

A Funeral Service to Celebrate the life of Mrs. Maureen Ann Boston will be held at the Korumburra Amenities Complex (Korumburra Showgrounds), St. Gippsland Hwy, Korumburra on Friday, February 28, 2025, commencing 1.30pm.

This Service will be livestreamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

At the conclusion of the Service a Private Burial will be held.


Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

BURNS, Brian William (Ben):

20.01.1936 - 25.02.2021

Four years have passed.

It doesn't get any easier.

Miss you heaps.

Love Barbie and the Burns Clan.

BONE, Roma:

30.12.1932 - 27.02.2024.

One year has gone already. Loved and remembered always.

Kerryne, Deb and families.

BARRY WAKLEY SCULPTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS

"Memorials of Distinction"
Solid Granite monuments in many colors and designs to suit any budget.

Letter cutting and renovation.

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FUNERALS

CALDWELL, (Choco):
Memorial for Choco will be held at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, Friday, March 7, commencing at 2pm.

GOODWIN:
A Memorial Service to Celebrate Neville's life will be held at The Wonthaggi Town Hall, 8 Baillieu St, Wonthaggi on Wednesday February 26, 2025, commencing at 2pm.

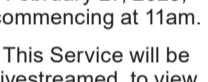
MAGOR:
A Funeral Service to Celebrate the life of Mr. John Reginald Magor will be held at the Bena Hall, Main Road, Bena, on Friday, February 28, 2025, commencing 11am.

Private Cremation.

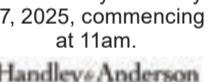

Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

MITCHELL:
A Gravemore Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Terence (Terry) John Mitchell will be held at Poowong Cemetery, 646 Loch-Poowong Rd, Poowong on Thursday, February 27, 2025, commencing at 11am.

This Service will be livestreamed, to view the Service please go to www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au


Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

SUCKLING:
An Informal Gathering for Mr. John Thomas Suckling will be held at the Graveside, Wonthaggi Cemetery on Thursday February 27, 2025, commencing at 11am.


Handley
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

IN MEMORIAM


BURNS, Brian William (Ben):

20.01.1936 - 25.02.2021

Four years have passed.

It doesn't get any easier.

Miss you heaps.

Love Barbie and the Burns Clan.

BONE, Roma:

30.12.1932 - 27.02.2024.

One year has gone already. Loved and remembered always.

Kerryne, Deb and families.

BONE, Roma:

30.12.1932 - 27.02.2024.

One year has gone already. Loved and remembered always.

Kerryne, Deb and families.

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Wonthaggi office

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Would suit doctor, nurse or schoolteacher.
Bedroom and study, own bathroom and own fridge.
Shared kitchen and car space.
\$1000 a month, bills included.
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MEETINGS

AGM

COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF COAL CREEK KORUMBURRA

Tuesday March 18
at the Korumburra Golf Club,
Warragul Road, Korumburra
commencing at 10am.
Visitors most welcome.
Helen Taylor Secretary.

Re: BARBARA ELIZABETH KENNEDY, deceased
Would anyone holding or knowing the whereabouts of any Will of Barbara Elizabeth Kennedy, late of Inverloch Coast Care Community, 119 Cashin Street, Inverloch, deceased, who died on 18 August 2024 please contact:
State Trustees Limited A.C.N. 064 593 148, 1 McNab Avenue, Footscray VIC 3011 (Ref. No. 6842083-434-PETERC)
Tel: 03 9667 6444 Email: probate@stl.com.au



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Naughty & Nice

Out calls in the region.
In calls - Friday Feb 21 & 28

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**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
12 NOON
MONDAYS**

PUBLIC NOTICES

Lifeline
HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE
13 11 14

SPEAKER:
MR. Ian Whitehill.
Sunday, March 9, commencing 1pm.
At the Uniting Church Hall,
Pearl Street, Leongatha.
Everyone welcome.
Bring a friend to hear about this wonderful work.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF A MANAGER

This Notice is to inform the general public that Daniel John Prior of Prior Law, 28 Bair Street Leongatha, Victoria, 3953, has been appointed as the Manager of the sole practitioner law practice of the late William Edmund Ryan, trading as 'William E Ryan', which carried on practice at 5b Church Street, Leongatha Victoria, 3953. The appointment was made by the Victorian Legal Services Board, effective from 17 February 2025.

Kindly direct all requests, concerns, and inquiries regarding the said Law Practice to 250301@priorlaw.com.au.

A further Public Notice regarding the practice will be issued in due course.

Daniel Prior
PRIOR LAW

HM12360

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Calvary Strzelecki House Team leader (Enrolled Nurse) - Mirboo North

Our Aged care home is looking for multiple team leaders who can provide high-quality care to our residents.

Main responsibilities are coordinating care needs of residents across the home including medication management, nutrition and hydration, pressure care management. Lead/supervise care on the shift, within their designated wing or area. Perform medicine related tasks in accordance with scope of qualification, state or territory legislation, regulation and Calvary policies, procedures for delegation and supervision.

Relevant qualifications:

- Diploma of Enrolled Nursing (with APRHA Registration to administer medication) OR
- Certificate IV in Ageing Support (including HLTHPS007 Administer & Monitor Medicines) OR
- Certificate III in Individual Support with willingness to undertake training to obtain required qualifications

For further information please contact Agedcare.recruitment@calvarycare.org.au
Phone: (03) 5667 9100

Your benefits:

NFP salary packaging benefits, discounted health insurance and gym memberships and paid parental leave.

Join Calvary where "Being for Others" is our mission and our difference

Continuing the Mission of the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary

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Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



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36 McCartin St, Leongatha



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Office Hours:
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Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

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Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales', training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.



VV0234

SITUATIONS VACANT

Email all resumes to
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HM12354

RACV Roadside Patrolman Mechanic

- Full time or part time permanent positions available
- Full time \$90,000 – \$120,000 per year + 11.5% super + overtime + bonuses
- Phone and or data package allowance
- Service vehicle, fuel card, tools, equipment, uniforms, PPE & training provided
- Start from home options
- Free time between job options

About the Role

Automove P/L specialises in Emergency Roadside Assistance and Towing Services. An exciting opportunity is available to join our South Gippsland Team. We currently have multiple patrolman vacancies to service the Wonthaggi & Foster areas.

Enjoy the benefits of working outside of a workshop and on the road in a sea side location.

For more information contact
 Automove P/L by emailing
ben@automove.co

Administrator/Accounts Coordinator

Part Time Role: Tuesday - Fridays, 6 hours per day

Are you Looking for a change?

My client, an agricultural business based at Glen Forbes, Victoria is looking for an experienced Administrator/Accounts Co-ordinator to join their team. My client has been in business for more than 20 years, providing agricultural services to farmers and the meat industry.

This isn't just another office job - it's your chance to take ownership of a pivotal role in a family-run business that values reliability, collaboration, and excellence.

Why This Role Is Made for You

You'll thrive here if you're someone who loves keeping everything running like clockwork. Your days will be a mix of accounts coordination, data entry, customer service, and general office administration, where you'll work closely with the Office Manager. Ideally you are tech savvy, enjoy the challenge of working through technology issues that arise from time to time. The systems and processes are already in place and running well, so you can just focus on managing your workload. Your contribution will be appreciated and you will become part of the team!

From data entry jobs, day to day administration, processing invoices, reconciling accounts, and debtor management to weekly payroll for a small team, you'll take on responsibilities that showcase your MYOB and Excel skills and attention to detail.

What's In It for You?

- **Above Award Pay:** \$28-\$30 per hour + super (negotiable for the right candidate).
- **Work-Life Balance:** Part-time hours (Tuesday to Friday, 9am-3.30pm) with some flexibility available (with start and finish times).
- **Supportive Environment:** Be part of a family-run business where your initiative and contributions are valued, and your voice is heard.
- **Make an Impact:** Play a crucial role in keeping our office/accounts under control. And, if you've got ideas for improving systems and processes, we want to hear them—and implement them.
- **Growth Opportunity:** Contribute to projects that allow you to gain valuable new skills and knowledge.
- **Team Spirit:** Work with a tight-knit team who have your back and celebrate success together.

Step Into a Role That Makes a Difference

If you're experienced in office administration and accounts coordination, proficient in MYOB and Excel and skilled in multitasking, this could be your next great move. My client is looking for someone who thrives in a fast-paced, high-volume environment and brings a can-do attitude to the team.

Ready to Join the Team?

We'd love to hear from you!

Apply now and show us why you're the right person for this key role.

For more information, please call Elisa Nudelman on **0401 574 060** and/or to apply for the role, please email your cover letter and resume to inspirepeopleconsulting@gmail.com.

Applications Close: Monday, March 3 at 6pm

Applicants must have Australian permanent working rights to apply for this role.

vv0233

vv0236



PROPERTY MANAGER

Part time

Our Inverloch office wishes to appoint a dynamic experienced Property Manager to become a part time member of our progressive rental department.

You should possess excellent customer service and communication skills, as well as qualifications and experience in Property Tree and all residential and commercial real estate management.

Proficient computer skills, the ability to multi-task and a passion to grow the business are essential.

Excellent package and above award remuneration.

All enquiries strictly confidential.
 APPLICATIONS BY EMAIL TO:
marniredmond@alexscott.com.au or
 contact Marni Redmond on 0403 525 413
 7 a'Beckett Street, Inverloch, 3996

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BOTTLE SHOP MANAGER

McCartins Hotel is on the lookout for an enthusiastic and motivated Full-Time Bottle Shop Manager to join our team at the Thirsty Camel Drive-Through Bottle Shop.

Key duties include overseeing daily operations, managing stock levels, ordering inventory, training staff, and providing excellent customer service.

Experience preferred but not essential.

To apply: Send your resume to stuartw@mccartins.com.au or apply in person at McCartins Hotel.



Calvary

Hospitality
 Healing
 Stewardship
 Respect

Calvary Strzelecki House - Lifestyle Coordinator - Mirboo North

Lifestyle coordinator to join our aged care home on permanent basis in Mirboo North.

Main responsibilities include Organising and executing activities for the residents, assist residents with their daily activities. Take residents for trips and events outside of the facility. Ensuring documentation is completed and up to standard

Certificate IV Leisure & Lifestyle or other relevant qualification.

Your benefits:

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Retail Sales Person

Based in Leongatha
 Full-time, including two
 Saturday mornings per month

We're looking for a positive, customer-focused team member to join us! If you have a passion for interiors and love helping people find the perfect flooring and window furnishings, this role could be for you.

You'll be providing expert advice on design and colour, assisting customers with quotes and orders, and keeping our showroom looking its best. Full training is provided through our Carpet Court Training Academy and supplier network—so while experience is great, a great attitude is even better!

Ready to join a friendly team that supports your growth? Apply today! Drop your resume in person or email to leongatha@carpetcourt.com.au For any questions about the role contact Gaby - 0432 772 769

vv0235



Woolworths extends Quiet Hour to five days a week

ACROSS Gippsland Woolworths have expanded their low-sensory Quiet Hour to five days a week, an experience designed to reduce anxiety and sensory stress for customers with specific needs.

During Quiet Hour, most Woolworths stores will lower lights, turn down music or radio, turn off beeps at the register and turn off oven buzzers for an hour, every Monday to Friday between 10:30am and 11:30am.

Quiet hour was developed in consultation with disability service provider Life Without Barriers and launched in 2019 one day a week to meet the need in the community for a low-sensory shopping experience. Since then, the initiative has rolled out to over 900 stores across Australia, providing customers with a less stressful shopping experience and increasing their independence.

During this hour, temporary changes are made to the store, including turning off bakery ovens or chicken cooker buzzers, reducing volume on store phones and registers on the trading floor, clearing store entry ways, reducing lighting and in-store music, removing roll cages from the shop floor and; stopping all PA announcements (excluding cases of emergencies).

Jeanette Fenske, Woolworths Director of Stores, said: "We continue to receive positive feedback from customers on the initiative, and our teams take great pride in ensuring the stores are quieter and less stressful for customers during this time.

"Quiet Hour is now an integral part of how we aim to assist independence in our stores, in addition to the opportunity provided by Direct to Boot and delivery options for many customers.

"The expansion of Quiet Hour to five days a week has been trialled over busy shopping periods such as Christmas, and we are proud to now be able to meet customer needs with this five days a week."

Life Without Barriers Chief Executive Claire Robbs said: "The expansion of Quiet Hour at Woolworths from one to five week days is a fantastic initiative that recognises and is actively responding to different needs of many people in the community.

"Life Without Barriers has been delighted with Woolworths leadership to give people more options to do their shopping in store and increase their independence in an environment that is not stressful and overwhelming to them."

Wonthaggi View Club New Committee 2025

VIEW Clubs of Australia are a valuable part of the Smith Family. At the annual meeting on February 17, past President Carmel thanked the outgoing committee for their help and contribution during the year and presented the new committee with their badges.

The new committee are Sue Rose, Margaret Morgan, Ann Warren, Sue Hooper, Dorothy Harland, Margaret Sutherland, Jean McBride, Marilyn Wallace, Pam Shackelford and Marg Drummond.

The Wonthaggi Evening View Club sponsors six children throughout their education. This is achieved from fundraising activities held at meetings and during outings.

New members are welcome to come along and join in, either at a dinner meeting or on one of our monthly outings. Please contact Ann Warren on 0409 061 172 or Dot Harland on 0407 823 597 to have a chat about the club.

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Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at

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Email your job adverts to: ads@sgst.com.au | DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times

Helping local sporting clubs to get more people involved

GRASSROOTS sports clubs are the heartbeat of our local communities, and a new round of grants has been released for clubs to upskill staff and volunteers.

More than \$3,000 from this funding round has helped the Woolamai Beach Surf Life-Saving Club better respond to mental health issues in their community by upskilling volunteers, coaches and lifeguards in youth mental health first-aid.

Head of Member Wellbeing at the Woolamai Beach Surf Life-Saving Club Erin Close, said,

"This grant will support the roll out of our Youth Mental Health First Aid initiative that's aimed at helping to educate our members on how to support one another and themselves, ensuring that mental health is a priority in our life-saving efforts."

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence last week announced further applications are open for the Sporting Club Grants Program.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for clubs to improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers, coaches and officials, as well as grants of up to \$4,000 to help clubs deliver new programs to the community.

Clubs can also apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to purchase uniforms and equipment, and \$750 travel grants are also available to participate in competitions away



Young Woolamai Beach SLSC patrol members Felix Thompson, Maya Drohomirecki and Mia Davies will benefit from the recent grant.

from home.

Since 2014, the Sporting Club Grants Program has injected almost \$18.4 million into the community and supported thousands of clubs across the state - improving the experience of local

community sport for everyone involved.

The program is backed by the Regional Community Sport Development Fund that is delivering infrastructure upgrades as well as the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure

Fund to help more regional Victorians get active and be part of their local sporting club.

Applications for this round close 27 March 2025. For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au.

Mass dismissal of Fisheries puts waterways at risk

THE Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has recently made significant workforce cuts that are sparking widespread outrage among both recreational and commercial fishers in the state. In a move that critics are calling the "largest act of environmental vandalism," the VFA has cut 27 Fisheries Officer positions down to nine, making 18 trained officers redundant and announced the closure of five vital fisheries offices, including the Queenscliff complex.

The redundancies have left the fishing community reeling, particularly because these officers played a crucial role in enforcing fishing regulations, safeguarding marine environments, and ensuring compliance with fishing laws across Victoria. The VFA's spokesperson stated that the authority would focus more on community engagement and education about responsible fishing, while still maintaining efforts against major fishing crimes.

CEO of VFA Travis Dowling confirmed on ABC (RAF) that a proposal for potential changes is under staff consultation and nothing is finalised yet; however out of the 27 fisheries officers made redundant, nine will be re-titled to fisheries engagement officers with a focus on education.

However, the move has been widely criticised by the Bass Coast community for potentially leaving the state's fisheries vulnerable to poaching,

overfishing, and environmental degradation. Fishers argue that the loss of so many compliance officers at a time when their presence is most needed is detrimental to both the ecosystem and the future of fishing in Victoria.

John Willis of Boating Industry Association of Victoria Port Phillip Bay and Westernport Fishing The Victorian Game Fishing Club spoke on the issue stating that this is a direct result of the State government's absolute mismanagement.

"I personally call on all Victorian fishers to make an immediate impact by contacting their local representatives to express their disgust and refuse to pay any more Recreational Fishing License (RFL) or other Victorian Fisheries Authority fees until this foul decision is reversed!"

"Remember that your Victorian RFL fees fund a major part of The Victorian Fisheries Authority budget, including the wages of fisheries officers and every survey of recreational fishers has always returned an outcry for more compliance officers on the ground, not less!"

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Sam Groth shared a statement last Tuesday, February 18, stating the five stations impacted make-up more than 50 per cent the state's fisheries officers, with the Central region producing the bulk of the state's offence briefs, tickets and warnings as a result of

the higher number of inspections and more offenders than other regions.

Many fear that without sufficient fisheries officers to monitor and regulate activities, both recreational and commercial fishers will be left unprotected, leading to a significant loss of marine life.

Long term resident Tammy Humphry was outraged with the news, holding a meeting at the Cowes Yacht Club last week prior to the official announcement, stating, 'what happens to the penguins on Phillip Island if the marine life is wiped out, what happens to the historic fisherman who have run their vessels in Bass Strait for generations because illegal fishing will swarm the waters.'

In speaking on ABC Mr Dowling discussed the significant reduction in staff at the Victorian Fisheries Authority from 27 to nine due to a decline in commercial fishing. Sharing that the authority aims to target non-compliant fishers, who pose a greater threat to sustainability, through a new fisheries crime unit using advanced tools like drones and night vision goggles.

ABC questioned whether these 18 fisheries officers would be redeployed to the crime unit.

"I'll just say, like all government agencies, we have to make savings. We're looking at the best way to do that," said Mr Dowling. "We will have a reduced budget, absolutely, but we've worked through that

to try to ensure that we have as limited impact on our fisheries as we possibly can."

As part of the restructuring, the VFA is shifting to a model with only three new office locations. These will focus on community engagement, but it remains unclear how much attention will be given to enforcement. The community remains alarmed that these budget cuts will open the waters to the black market.

The decision has sparked anger among fishing communities, and many are calling for the government to reverse the redundancies. As the state prepares for upcoming elections, the issue is becoming a rallying point for those concerned about the future of fishing in Victoria.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale responded sharing, "I very much appreciate the time community members have taken to write to me raising their concerns regarding the proposed restructuring of the Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) and as a strong advocate for the fishing and boating community in our area, I will be taking all correspondence to the Minister for Outdoor Recreation.

"The VFA have presented a Clause 11 proposal which is currently out for consultation with affected staff members and the relevant Union (CPSU) - as such I need to respect this internal process and am unable to comment further at this time."

Fisheries fiasco a backwards step

THE NATIONALS Melina Bath has sought answers from the State Government on its plan to slash the number of Fisheries Officer positions by 27 to just nine across Western Port and Port Phillip Bay.

In parliament Ms Bath called on the Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Hon Steve Dimopoulos to outline how he intends to regulate fishing compliance after the Victorian Fisheries Authority was ordered to make budget cuts.

"Western Port locals expressed valid concerns about the future of recreational and commercial compliance and the sustainability of fishing grounds.

"There is a sentiment that strong compliance and fishing enforcement officers go hand in hand. "People are genuinely shocked that the State Government is cutting local jobs and selling off fisheries' boats."

Ms Bath said the decision was budget driven with Labor scrambling to save money due to soaring state debt.

"This week the Auditor General's latest report showed a further \$15 billion cost blow out in Victoria's poorly managed finances.

"The economic and social prosperity of our coastal communities in eastern Victoria is linked to the effective regulation of our beautiful marine ecosystems.

"No one in my electorate wants to see our recreation and commercial fishing industries negatively impacted through a lack of responsible fishing management.

"Budget cuts to fisheries enforcement must not lead to an increase in illegal poaching."

Ben Considine and Bea Conroy take top honours on Phillip Island

BEN Considine and Bea Conroy have claimed the opening round of the Victorian Longboard Titles on Phillip Island, edging one step closer to the Wildcard spot into the WSL Bells Beach Longboard Classic later this year.

In typical fashion, Considine was dominant across the event claiming at least an excellent ride in all but one of his heats.

"It feels great to get a strong start and take the win at Phillip Island, I had a really good nine months break from contests travelling after the WSL Bells Beach WSL tour contest last year and I just feel I've come back with a really fresh approach and super excited to get back into the contests."

"Phillip Island was my third contest for the year, and I feel each heat is just building off the next and I'm developing some really good momentum, so I can't wait to take that to Noosa soon and then the final round of the Victorian State titles to hopefully secure that place for the bells wildcard!"

In the final, Considine finished on a heat total of 17.77 with two excellent scoring rides. He took down Thomas Fahey (Mornington Peninsula, 11.96 points), Nathan Rivalland (Jan Juc, 11.66 points) and Tas Dunton (Mornington Peninsula, 10.44 points).

Bea Conroy also cruised through to the finals on the fun lefthand bank at Surfers Point Beachbreak.

Locking in a heat total of 11.84, Conroy took down local Ebony Maier (Cape Woolamai) who finished in second on 8.53 points.

Natalie Van Der Heyden (Cape Woolamai) finished in third on 6.67 with Rori Reytjes (Torquay) in fourth on 5.90 points.

The final round will be held at Point Impossible on the Surf Coast on May 17 & 18. Entries are open now via surfingvic.com/events.

Full results can be found at [www.surfingvic.com/live](http://surfingvic.com/live)

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

18/2 at Wonthaggi RSL-6 tables competing

Winning Master Points: 1st Alan Johnston and Lois Dwyer 60.42, 2nd Bronwin Sund and Mike Dooley 59.38, 3rd Faye Rowlands and Marie Sands 56.77, 4th Ruth Harvey and Sue Edwards 55.73, 5th John French and Debbie Anglim 51.56

21/2 at Inverloch 11 tables- a great roll up with some of our new learners already master point winners

North/South winners: 1st John Quayle and Matti Shub 67.48, 2nd Mike Dooley and Moya Crowley 59.11, 3rd Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 55.96, 4th Judy Walker and Grant Austen 54.62, 5th John French and Deb Anglim 51.56

East/West winners: 1st Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 61.78, 2nd Maureen Stiles and Penny Loughran 58.10, 3rd Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 53.15, 4th Lois Dwyer and Robyn Egan 52.88, 5th Julie and Ian McPhee 52.29.

AM&DTA TENNIS

Section 1 Results: Westernport White 6.44 defeated Koonwarra 2.32, Leongatha v Inverloch - Mutual Forfeit, Westernport Red v Korumburra - No score received.

Ladder: Inverloch 101, Koonwarra 80, Westernport White 76, Leongatha 61, Korumburra 51*, Westernport Red 25*

Section 2 Results: Korumburra 6.56 defeated Leongatha 3.38, Baromi v Outtrim - Mutual Forfeit

Ladder: Outtrim 92, Korumburra 79, Baromi 67, Leongatha 58

There is only one round to play until finals - it seems this season has flown by. In a very uncommon occurrence, both Leongatha v Inverloch and Outtrim v Baromi mutually agreed to forfeit. With a mutual forfeit, neither team gets points. Westernport White were winners against Koonwarra by 12 games. Koony only managed to win one men's and one mixed set. Unfortunately, no score was received from Westernport Red and Korumburra. Once a score is received, the ladder will be updated.

In Section 2 Leongatha and Korumburra played after chasing fill-ins all week. Well done to juniors Zac Dowell and Declan Russell - a big step up but the boys did well to keep the Korumburra men honest.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS

ROUND 13 Results

Section 1/2 Doubles: Hallora 3 - 34 def by Warragul White 6 - 48, Trafalgar 1 - 28 def by Moe 8 - 55, Drouin Gold 8 - 53 def Poowong 1 - 23, Neerim District 3 - 41 def by Drouin Maroon 6 - 50, Warragul Blue - Bye.

Ladder: Drouin Maroon 117, Moe 101, Warragul White 89.5, Neerim District 85, Hallora 85, Warragul Blue 66, Drouin Gold 60, Trafalgar 45, Poowong 42.5.

Section 1 Singles: Drouin Maroon 3 - 6 - 35 def Drouin Gold 0 - 1 - 19, Trafalgar 3 - 6 - 36 def Drouin White 0 - 0 - 13, Moe Red 3 - 6 - 32 def Moe Blue 0 - 1 - 15, Moe White - Bye

Ladder: Moe White 53, Moe Blue 46.5, Moe Red 35.5, Trafalgar 31.5, Drouin Gold 31, Drouin Maroon 26.5, Drouin White 21

Section 2 Singles: Drouin Maroon 1 - 27 def by Neerim District 5 - 42, Trafalgar 3 - 44 def Warragul 3 - 39, Drouin Gold 6 - 48 def Moe 0 - 29

Ladder: Trafalgar 78, Neerim District 70, Warragul 63.5, Drouin Gold 61.5, Drouin Maroon 38, Moe 23



2024 Worrangalook Koori Surfing Titles. Surfing Victoria strive to be a leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sport participation and understand that working in this space comes with a responsibility to be accountable to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Photo: Surfing Victoria.

Surfing Victoria launches its first Reconciliation Action Plan

SURFING Victoria is proud to release its first Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan.

The Innovate RAP has been formally endorsed by Reconciliation Australia and aims to build on Surfing Victoria's 27 year commitment to address racism and inequality across society and improve relationships and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Victoria.

Surfing Victoria's vision is that the Victorian surfing community will be a place where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are respected and celebrated with pathways to participate equitably at all levels of our sport and active recreation.

"Surfing Victoria is thrilled to launch our first Reconciliation Action Plan," said Surfing Victoria Chair, Ashleigh Wall.

"The RAP is a milestone in our long-standing commitment to honour, celebrate and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

through meaningful opportunities and pathways as part of Surfing Victoria."

Surfing Victoria will support reconciliation by

- Creating opportunities for participation in the sport and or active recreation of Surfing and Stand Up Paddleboarding.
- Providing leadership and guidance to the Victorian sport and recreation community on reconciliation and inclusion.
- Promoting cultural awareness, understanding and respect among our staff, Board, affiliates, and stakeholders by encouraging participation through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community events, programs, cultural ceremonies, and opportunities to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Maintaining strong relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and community organisations

and community leaders.

• Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in employment pathways within the sport and broader surfing industry.

- Foster future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and role models to inspire participation and increase cultural safety within the programs.

• Acknowledging and understanding the barriers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people participating in sport and recreation and committing to reduce these barriers.

"I'm incredibly proud of Surfing Victoria's first Reconciliation Action Plan, said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"We are in the Indigenous Surfing Program's 27th year, which is amazing. The commitment to the program as an entire organisation from all staff to Board members is a testament to the organisation's love of the program.

Being able to utilise surfing as a tool for positive change shows surfing is something much more than just a "sport". The RAP now provides the framework for moving forward to ensure we can have the best outcomes possible."

Members of Surfing Victoria's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group:

- Ashleigh Wall - Chair of Surfing Victoria & Partner At Mast Lawyers
- Adam Robertson - CEO of Surfing Victoria
- Elley Harrison - General Manager of Surfing Victoria
- Jordie Campbell - Head of Programs Surfing Victoria & RAP Champion
- Rhys Collins - Traditional Owner and Relationships Manager at Melbourne Water
- Kate Sullivan - Surfing Victoria Board Member & Manager Integrated Planning at Surf Coast Shire Council
- Cal Viney - Surfing Victoria Board Member & Barrister at the Victorian Bar

Vikings triumph to claim Owen Walton doubles trophy

MONDAY night was a thrilling evening at the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League! An impressive 39 dart enthusiasts gathered to compete for the esteemed Owen Walton Drawn Doubles Trophy. The knockout format provided an exhilarating prelude to the upcoming season, with players engaging in intense 801 doubles matches.

The final match, a best-of-three series, was particularly captivating. The pairing of fellow "Vikings" Anders Grier and Paul Duff faced off against Dave "Grummo" Grummisch and Jamie "Mav" Martin.

Despite being a newcomer to the league, Paul showcased remarkable skill and

composure under pressure. Together with Anders, they secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory, clinching the title in a match that had spectators on the edge of their seats.

The evening's excitement extended beyond the dartboards. Meredith was the fortunate winner of the meat tray raffle, generously provided by our local sponsor, San Remo Butchers.

Their support adds a delightful touch to our events, and we are grateful for their continued partnership. As we look ahead to Round 1 of the new season next week, anticipation is high. Good luck to all teams; it's shaping up to be an exhilarating year of darts!



The pairing of fellow "Vikings" Anders Grier and Paul Duff secured a hard-fought 2-1 victory.



Meredith was the fortunate winner of the darts meat tray raffle, generously provided by local sponsor, San Remo Butchers.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woorlami (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY	February 25
2.30am	0.90m
8.36am	1.25m
2.52pm	0.42m
10.42pm	1.30m

WEDNESDAY	February 26
3.34am	0.94m
9.48am	1.20m
3.59pm	0.44m
11.54pm	1.33m

THURSDAY	February 27
4.57am	0.92m
11.15am	1.20m
5.17pm	0.45m

FRIDAY	February 28
12.56am	1.39m
6.22am	0.82m
12.40pm	1.27m
6.35pm	0.43m

SATURDAY	March 1
1.47am	1.47m
7.27am	0.67m
1.48pm	1.39m
7.39pm	0.43m

SUNDAY	March 2
2.32am	1.54m
8.16am	0.51m
2.46pm	1.52m
8.32pm	0.41m

MONDAY	March 3
3.14am	1.60m
9.01am	0.35m
3.40pm	1.63m
9.20pm	0.42m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



The two winning teams at Monday's Breakaway Bowls consisted of John Stewart, Jan Murphy, Peter Grenville, Rhonda Rattenbury, Gordon Peters, Linda Newman and Ken Webb.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

WHAT a day of bowls with two teams fighting for the result.

Alas, there can be but one victor – usually.

Not on Monday, though – the two teams could not be split, both on +1.

The teams were John Stewart, Jan Murphy, Peter Grenville, Rhonda Rattenbury, Gordon Peters, Linda Newman and Ken Webb.

Well done to all concerned.

Another day of great company and inspirational bowling was held on Friday.

Well done to the winners, who were Peter Novak, Helen Gladstone and Graeme McAlpine.

Well done to Pete on his first win, finally defeating his wife Pat.

FISH CREEK

IT was another successful weekend for the Fish Creek Bowls Club with two out of three preliminary final wins to send the Division 2 and 6 teams into this Saturday's grand final to be played at Cowes.

Unfortunately, Division 4 went down to Port Welshpool by 13 shots on a hot day at Leongatha.

Fish Creek couldn't sustain the early pressure and then was not able to get back into the game.

Division 2 have really hit top form at the right time of the year and recorded a convincing win over Wonthaggi 73/16 to 37/0. Fish Creek now takes on neighbours Tarwin Lower in the big one.

Division 6 has been an outstanding story this year.

It is the first time the club has fielded this team and to make the grand final is a huge achievement.

Fish Creek had a comfortable win over Toora and now play San Remo with nothing to lose.

There was great support last week and look forward to a big red and white crowd at Phillip Island on Saturday.

The barefoot bowlers have been enjoying great weather on a Tuesday day with plenty of fun on the green.

Last week's winners were Sharon, Marty and Karen whilst the encouragement prize went to George, Allysa and Amanda.

The next club event is the monthly barbecue on Friday, March 7, where the season will be celebrated, and hopefully a couple of flags.

Everyone is welcome.

All the best to competing clubs for this weekend.

FOSTER

IT was another great night at Jack Attack – two short of a full house of players and the weather stayed kind.

Winners for the night were, Harriets of Fire, Travis, Simon and Andy, winning Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored

by Foster Cars and Off-road.

The runners up were, Hospital Facilities, Martin, Benny and Paul, winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

The ladder results are on the Facebook page.

The usual awesome array of raffle prizes were won all around the room.

See you all again next week for round five.

After that, there is one more round of the competition, then the presentation night and a final dress up for St Patrick's Day – a week early.

Foster had a great result for its Saturday Pennant.

It came home with a win against Corinella in the preliminary final.

It's off to the grand final next Saturday to play against Meenihan.

Well done to all players – that's an awesome start to the Pennant finals.

The club wished its midweek Pennant all the best yesterday.

INVERLOCH

AUTUMN Ivy Bowls is an eight-week competition of 28 teams of pairs.

It will be held from 7-9pm with an entry fee of \$10 per person.

Dates are April 1, 8, 15 and 29, and May 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Register quickly or miss out.

Contact John Sutcliffe.

Celebrate Equinox at Inverloch Bowls Club on March 21.

The gates open 7.15pm.

It will be held from 7.30pm-9.30pm at a cost of \$12 per game.

Sunset will be at 7.27pm.

This is a fun event for family and friends.

Club Championships final results:

Ladies Singles: Lorraine Dowson.

Ladies' Pairs: Lorraine Dowson and Anne Tschiderer.

Men's Singles: Martin Hannaford.

Men's Pairs: Andrew Rowe and Martin Hannaford.

Mixed Pairs: Lorraine Dowson and Martin Hannaford.

Ladies' Minor Singles: Carol Waters.

Ladies' 100 Up: Joy Brown.

Men's Minor Singles: Bruce Corrigan.

Men's 100 Up: Chris O'Donnell.

Inverloch Bowling Club's Social Day on Thursday started off as a rather cool day but soon fined up with the usual Inverloch breeze.

There were 31 players playing two games of 10 ends.

Two teams won both their games.

The winners for the day was the team of Chris O'Donnell, Rob Howard, Karen Orford and Pat Mackay.

Runners up were Keith Cousens, Terry Seaward, Peter Gentsch and Diane Hallas.



Joyce Occhipinti, Steve Suckling and John Evison were the South Gippsland Indoor Bowls Association winners.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were John Gilliland, Fred Kellow and Steve Bruyen.

KORUMBURRA

THE Pennant season is drawing to a close with only the Saturday Pennant Division 1 side left in the grand final.

The Division 1 midweek side were unable to win at Foster to remain in the finals race.

Ben Peachey went down 27 shots to 15, Charlie Edgerton lost 26 shots to nine, while the only bright light was Joanna Lomagno who had 21 shots to 20 win – there is always next year.

Neil Green has had a spell in hospital and the club wishes him all the best for a speedy recovery.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND INDOOR BOWLS

THE South Gippsland Indoor Bowls Association had a social night held at the Mardan Community Hall on Wednesday, February 20.

Twenty-four members from Buffalo, Outram, Dumbalk and Mardan attended and enjoyed a relaxing evening of close matches, lots and chats and laughter.

The association encourages new members and everyone is welcome to come and play.

Mardan and Buffalo meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm at their community halls, and Outram meets on a Monday evening at 7:30pm at the Outram Community Hall.

Should you want further information, please call Jenny on 0437 412 201.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

FOLLOWING last week's cancellation due to the weather, it was great to see 43 players turning up at Corinella on Thursday.

The weather was perfect, rising to a mild 21 or 22 for the day.

Chris prepared the green for us, before as well as after the game.

He also selflessly looked after all the thirsty bowlers over the day.

The bowlers were welcomed by Pauline and John as Peter and David prepared the teams.

They are so appreciated for all the hard work they put in week after week.

On the green, there was lots of laughter and banter across all the rinks.

Some excellent bowling could be seen almost everywhere.

There were a couple of wrong bias bowls, but these are always welcome as they assist the Royal Children's Hospital each year.

This week's winners on a wonderful score of 36 were Rob Paganoni (S), Frank d'Unieenville (2), Gillian Harper (3) and Elaine Williams (L).

Runners up on a score of 32 were Peter Thorley (L), Michael Dady (S), Raff Meranti (3) and Bill Williams (2).

Best one game for the day on

a score of 19 were Frank Grant (L), Brenda Moloney (3) and Louis Magri (S).

Thanks also goes to Margaret for all her efforts in the kitchen – it is lovely to have so many volunteers each and every week.

The club looks forward to seeing many of its members win Pennant finals, so for the next three weeks or so it will just say "good luck" to all players.

To all those who don't quite make it in the finals, what a great year it was for you all.

Next week, the club will be meeting once again at San Remo.

Please be on site by 10am to allow the organisers time to arrange the teams.

Till then, good luck and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy, but good week.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi on a fine, mild day.

With the finals underway, there was a little more at stake.

All rinks played well, securing a solid win and advancing to the grand final.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 75, Inverloch 45.

Division 2 played Leongatha at Leongatha, also in good weather.

Wonthaggi faced a team that was ready to play, with strong bowlers and the advantage of their home ground.

However, Wonthaggi has a second chance and an opportunity to reset and bounce back next week.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 36, Leongatha 79.

Division 3 hosted Foster at Wonthaggi in a tightly contested match.

Wonthaggi fought hard but just fell short at the end of the day.

All rinks played well, but this marks the end of the season for Division 3.

It was a great effort, with new bowlers gaining valuable experience – an encouraging sign for the future.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 51, Foster 63.

Wednesday social bowls saw a great turnout.

Two teams won both their games.

The winners were John Gilliland, Fred Kellow, and Steve Bruyen with two wins and 31 pts.

The runners up were Veronica Griffiths, Lyn Tagell, and Ray Hin with two wins and 27 pts.

Wonthaggi also welcomed visitors Simon and Wendy from the Peninsula, who joined the club for the day.

Thursday social bowls was once again a success, with a good number of members enjoying a game.

Saturday brought mixed results, with Divisions 1 and 2

playing at Leongatha.

Division 1 played Mirboo North in what turned out to be an epic match.

On a warm-to-hot day with a slight breeze, both teams remained close throughout.

After a break for the heat, the scores were locked together until the last end.

With the scores tied at 48 shots each going into the final rink, Wonthaggi managed to secure the win – decided by a measure. Final scores: Wonthaggi 49, Mirboo North 48.

Division 2 played Fish Creek in hot conditions.

Fish Creek played well and proved too strong on the day.

All rinks fought hard but fell short in the end.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 37, Fish Creek 73.

With three Saturday teams making the grand final next week, it's a great result for the club.

Upcoming bowls schedule:

Tuesday: Division 2 plays in the preliminary final at Korumburra at 10am.

Wednesday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Friday: coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Grand Final Day.

Friday night was a great success, featuring a barbecue and salad for mains, followed by a choice of three desserts.

Fifty people enjoyed a fantastic evening, made possible by a lot of hard work.

Roger Lee also had reason to celebrate, winning the members' draw of \$80.00, along with a meat tray supplied by Wonthaggi Meat Supply.

Grand Final Day – Saturday:

Division 1 will play at Phillip Island.

Division 4 will play at Loch.

Division 5 will play at Loch.

Please check the venues during the week.

Good luck and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THIS week, Tuesday saw some really good bowling and some not so good, which resulted in a whole lot of laughs.

There was 22 players on the day.

The winners on plus seven, winning two games, were Maggie Scapin, Mary Spooner and Pam Russell.

Runners up on a win and a draw were Fred Demenech, Steve Rosenberg and Steve Kenny.

Friday saw 26 players compete.

Both teams won two games each.

The winners on plus eight were Teresa Ireland, Jenny Bakker and Jan Milkins.

Runners up on plus four were Glenda Binch, Sylvia Mattock and Mario Toffoloni.

The ladies are really showing the men how it's done at the moment.



B Grade's 2025 champion Donald Van Rooye at Korumburra Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 18. Stableford: 34 players.

A Grade: Ethan Lamers (8) 38 points. B Grade: Don Olden (22) 36 points.

NTPs: first Mark Marotti, 10th Chris Clements and 13th Neil Spargo.

Thursday, February 20: Stableford: 23 players.

A Grade: Guy Fields (4) 37 points. B Grade: Zach Walker (18) 34/CB.

NTPs: first Iain Riddell, 10th Tim Fowles and 13th Greg Wilson.

Saturday, February 22: Sponsor: Doc and Paul Dixon, and David Sorrell.

Daily Stroke Event: 61 players.

A Grade: Billy Wrigley (3) 70 net. B Grade: Greg Wilson (13) 69 net. C Grade: Blake Walker (25) 69 net.

NTPs: first Ian Gibson, seventh Jake Cochrane, 10th Jacob Wrigley and 13th Jake Cochrane.

Sunday, February 23: Sponsor: Team Korumburra. Daily Stroke Event: 33 players.

A Grade: Steve Bromby (+1) 65. B Grade: Blake Walker (28) 70. C Grade: Blake Walker (25) 69 net.

NTPs: first Barry Kerr, seventh Greg Wilson, 10th Trippy Kennedy and 13th Blayne Spokes.

Final round of Men's Club Championships:

Gross (Scratch): A Grade

1: Steve Bromby -1, 71, 70, 70, 65, 276

2: Billy Wrigley 2, 79, 78, 73, 71, 301

3: Shayne Harland 1, 77, 80, 84, 73, 314

B Grade

1: Donald Van Rooye 11, 85, 79, 91, 85, 340

2: Greg Wilson, 13, 86, 86, 82, 88, 342

3: Malcolm Garnham 11, 85, 85, 83, 89, 342

C Grade

1: James Williams won on four-hole playoff 16, 86, 91, 92, 90, 359

2: Wayne Knights 15, 89, 90, 91, 89, 359

3: Chris McConnell 17, 88, 90, 98, 91, 367

D Grade

1: Laurie Webster 19, 87, 90, 93, 95, 365

2: Jack Clink 21, 91, 92, 99, 94, 376

3: Bob Newton 22, 94, 99, 93, 93, 379

Ladies

THE Singles Championships have been played over the last three weeks.

Congratulations to everyone who played in the Saturday or Wednesday competitions.

There was a great field of women turn up each week.

Well done to all grade winners.

Congratulations to women's Club Champion Merrissa Cosson,



Korumburra Singles Championships winners were Merrissa Cosson (A Grade Club Champion and net), Barb Twite (Seniors and net), Judy Webb (B Grade Champion and net), Viv Enbom (C Grade net), and Maree Wittingslow (C Grade Champion).

who defended her title to hold onto the silverware for another year.

A Grade Scratch winner was Merrissa Cosson with rounds of 76/79/82.

Merrissa (10) also won the net with rounds of 66/69/72.

B Grade Scratch winner was Judy Webb with rounds of 90/98/100.

Net winner was Barb Twite (27) with rounds of 70/77/63.

C Grade Scratch was decided in an exciting playoff between Maree Wittingslow and Dianne Maskell both finishing with 227 after three rounds.

Well done to Maree who sank the putt and parred the first hole to win the playoff and seal the C Grade Championship cup. Scratch winner was Maree with rounds of 103/111/113.

Net winner was Viv Enbom (36) with rounds of 74/72/74.

Seniors Trophy was awarded for the best net Score and goes to Barb Twite with 210.

The Norrie Little Memorial Trophy awarded to the player with the best net score across all grades went to Merrissa with 207.

The daily competition was sponsored by Beryl Brown and the club thanks Beryl for her ongoing support.

A winner: Shelley Snooks (16) 69net. R/up: Kerri Besley (13) 72net.

B winner: Barb Twite (26) 64net. R/up: Heather Grist (22) 72net.

C winner: Dianne (33) 72net. R/up: Julie Cole (52) 75net c/b.

BDL: Julie Brannagan 73 net, Merrissa Cosson 74 net, Viv Enbom 75 net and Trudi Mantell 76 net.

NTPs: first and 13th Merrissa, and 10th Johanna VDH.

Thursday Twilight winners were Deb Wrigley and Johanna van den Heiligenberg with 22 points on a c/b from Mark Marotti and Betty Thomson.

NTPs on the first green were Johanna and Mark.

On Saturday, Korumburra had nine women play a Stableford game which was a nice change after three weeks of Stroke.

Winning with 38 points was Heather Grist (21). R/up with 36 points was Shelley Snooks (15).

BDL went to Lorraine Know (41) 35 points.

NTPs were on the first Lorraine and 10th Johanna VDH.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, February 18: Ambrose Fours Event.

Tuesday's Ambrose Fours Guest Day had a field of 74 members/guests take to the course.

Overall winners: Rick Graham, Philip Heath, Stuart Smith and John Smith with a score of 57.125. R/up: Alan Starkey, Michael O'Rafferty, Jeremy de Silva and Chad Clasby with a score of 57.375.

NTP 14th: Ken Smirk at 6.25m. 16th: Ken Smirk at 2.56m.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's 2025 Men's Club Championship winners were C Grade Hamish Burns, B Grade Ben Martin, A Minor Alan Cubbon, D Grade Steve Terrill and Open Ian Baker.

Hooton-Shandley 15.

Results: February 22, S.R 71.

Competition: Par.

A Grade: Jason Sartori +4.

B Grade: Miles Foster +3.

C Grade: Don Paproth +3.

BDL to +1 C/B.

Ball sweep: Dale Burgess +3.

Phil Studham +2, Michael Scott +2, Joshua Kilgour +2, Greg Sutherland +2, Ian Gilmour +1, John Geyer +1, Graeme Campbell +1 and Alan Wright +1 C/B.

NTPs: Don Paproth second, Ian Gilmour fourth, Bill Blanch pro pin eighth, Michael Scott 13th and Ross Lovett monkey hole 17th.

Tricia Berryman (24.375) on a score of 74.625, Heather and Ray Sullivan (14.250) with 75.75 along with Michael and Anne Grist (12.0) on 77.

The next round will see Dee and Trent Walters to play Paul McRae and Tricia Berryman with Josh Smith and Jean Hayes matched against Inge and Luke Giliam.

Nearest the pins were the eighth Inge Giliam and Michael Grist, and 17th Inge Giliam and Luke Giliam.

Thanks to everyone that helped in making the event a memorable one.

WOORAYL

Gena Roughead Bowl

IT was perfect weather for the Gena Roughead Bowl held on Friday, February 21, at the Woorayl Golf Club.

The winning team was Meenian 2 Susan Straw 32, Heather Poletti 36 and Sue Hosking 32.

A Grade's winner was Elly Berryman 38 Woorayl.

The B Grade winner was Jo Graeme 37 Meenian.

C Grade was won by Kath Davis 35 Woorayl.

BDL went to Adriane Anglin 36 Philip Island, Jean Hayes 36 Woorayl, Heather Grist 34 Korumburra, Maree Taylor 34 Phillip Island, Maree Whittingslow 34 Korumburra, Faye LePage 33 Meenian, Jane Trease 33 Meenian, Patsy Britt 33 Wonthaggi, Jan Beaumont 33 Wonthaggi, Debra Orr 32, Phillip Island, Karen Sheerin 32 Wonthaggi and Sherrill Winkler 32 Woorayl.

NTP: Patsy Britt eighth Wonthaggi, Pauline Britt 11th Woorayl and Louise Vuillermin 17th.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY

Stroke

2025 Club Championships

RESULTS

WEDNESDAY was the second round of stroke of the Ladies 2025 Club Championships.

RESULTS

2025 Club Championships

The weather while chilly was great for a round of golf on the course which is in pristine condition.

RESULTS

It's amazing what a decent drop of rain can do.

RESULTS

2025 Club Championships

RESULTS

There were 27 players in three grades.

RESULTS

A Grade's winner Yvonne Everett (19) 72 net.

RESULTS

B Grade's winner Chris Hamilton (30) 74 net on C/b Layla Robertson 74.

RESULTS

C Grade's winner was Heather Wintle (36) 72 net.

RESULTS

BDL went to Anne Tschiderer 73, Merryn Dear 73, Layla Robertson 74, Marg Johnson 75, Dawn Judkins 75 and Sharon Patullo 77.

NTP on second was Chris Hamilton, eighth Donna Van Veenendaal and 13th Geraldine Prentice.

RESULTS

It's amazing what a decent drop of rain can do.

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RESULTS

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Wonthaggi Boxing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club's new president Jak Wardley is encouraging people to come along and train at the gym, which offers the opportunity to work on skills and fitness in a casual setting. Tk01_0725

Community vibes the key for boxing club success

HEALTH, fitness and a sense of community has helped to establish the thriving boxing club in Bass Coast.

Despite the decline of boxing and fight clubs along the coast, Wonthaggi Boxing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club is going from strength to strength with a laidback, welcoming environment and consistently low membership fees.

Now under a new committee with a new president at the helm, the club is going into 2025 with a vision of offering a space for people to hone their skills and increase their fitness in a casual setting.

"We are a volunteer club. It's heavily subsidised by (Bass Coast Shire) council and we really appreciate having the space and being able to keep costs down for our members. The money left over at the end of the year goes into a kitty and we try to save that up for when we need new bags, mats or renovations," president Jak Wardley said.

"However, because it's a volunteer club, we can't offer scheduled coached classes. It gets to be too much for everyone."

"Our committee agreed to cease coached classes, so the way the club is going to run – at least in the first half of 2025 – will be boxing on Mondays and Wednesdays, which is open for all members. Boxing is self-run to a degree, so come on in, do your skipping, put your gloves on and start moving around the bags."

"If there is a more experienced member around who wants to help or if two people want to spar and there's somebody to supervise, that's perfectly fine – that's what we want to see. We just want to emphasise that the sessions are independent, but the support from our members is

always there."

The club is also open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for jiu jitsu.

These sessions will be more structured due to the nature of jiu jitsu.

On Tuesdays, the club will run a Gi class, while Thursday nights will be a No-Gi class – more of an MMA style class.

"Whether people want to wrestle, grapple, box, kickbox, the Thursday nights will be more of an open night," Jak said.

All members who have paid their \$120 membership fee for the year can come down on any of the four days and use the facilities.

For high schoolers, the cost is \$60 a year.

The age range at the club generally spans from 16 to 60 years old.

The club is happy to accommodate younger participants, but members are reminded that scheduled classes are not offered.

"All coaches – myself, Cade, Brad and Tom Burdekin – have Working with Children checks and level one boxing accreditation. Some of our guys are going for level two boxing accreditations, funded by the club," Jak said.

"There's always someone qualified at the gym, but at the same time they are there to train as well. All the coaches are actively training, which is great."

"Every now and then, someone will come in who wants to volunteer their time to hold pads or wants to run a night, which is fantastic, but for the start of the year at least, there will be no formal classes. Just come on down and join in."

The club has gear for people to borrow, but members are encouraged to bring along

their own gear if they intend on training regularly.

James Heenan will continue taekwondo on Friday nights.

"Jimmy uses our space but he has his own pay structure. His members aren't our members, but we give them the space because he and Steve had an agreement when no one was using the gym on Fridays," Jak said.

"We're keeping that going because Jimmy is a good bloke, and they treat our gym with respect."

Jak has been part of the club for five years and has taken over the presidency from Steve Dunn and Aaron Rigby.

The secretary is Cade Zun and the vice president is Billy Caddy, supported by a strong committee consisting of Brad Meldrum, Sam Allan and Lana Brusamarello.

Jak said the club is looking to foster an environment that delivers a family vibe and continues to encourage those with interest in pursuing boxing and jiu jitsu.

"I've always been around boxing and jiu jitsu gyms since I was 12. The guys who want to train and want to fight will no matter what. In jiu jitsu classes in Melbourne, you get kids who will sleep on the mats. They love it and they are there rain, hail or shine. Our plan moving forward is to be open to those who want to train. This isn't a sport just for men or women – we want everyone to come in and feel welcome and motivated," Jak said.

"There are a lot of guys who are getting to the level in jiu jitsu now where they will be approaching belt promotions. I was recently promoted to purple belt."

The club is affiliated with

Checkmat Australia and Traralgon's Ty Humphrey, who will likely be the one to grade the local club members.

"For a lot of the guys, if they want to be graded by the end of the year or halfway through the year, we would want to see them starting to compete. I've done a bit competing in national and weekend championships, and that's how I was graded through my white, blue and now purple belt," Jak said.

"We really want to promote our white belts to compete at these tournaments and we will coach them."

"We're still learning, but we want to teach these guys as much as possible. Watching has been really good for my own personal growth. Everyone says you learn more when you teach, and I've found that."

Membership growth has been strong, and attendance has been consistent at the gym, so the club is also focused on making some minor renovations this year.

"I believe council has approved us to remove the (centre) wall. It'll give us 50 or 60 square metres of extra jiu jitsu space, which the boxers will be able to use as well," Jak said.

"We aim to develop all members as we continue to grow, and we will continue to work towards a positive environment that supports health and wellbeing, while encouraging competition training as much as possible."

To get involved with the club, simply come along to one of the training nights – walk ins are always welcome.

For more information, there is a Wonthaggi Boxing and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club Facebook and Instagram page so people can see what the club is all about.



Sand bar crossings should not be attempted at the entrance to Anderson's Inlet.

Sand bar crossing at Anderson's Inlet extremely dangerous

GIPPSLAND Ports have upgraded their warning for attempted crossing of the sand bar at Anderson's Inlet in Inverloch as extremely dangerous.

Gippsland Ports Harbour Master Capt. Bevis Hayward warns recent surveys have revealed very shallow water and no defined channel between the outer reaches of the Anderson Inlet bar and Inverloch boat ramp and jetty.

"Shoals less than a metre deep have also emerged upstream from the Inverloch boat ramp within Anderson's Inlet," said Capt. Hayward.

Gippsland Ports has reminded mariners that the ocean entrance to Anderson Inlet is dynamic and can change in position and depth over a very short period.

"Bar Crossings at Inverloch are regarded as extremely dangerous and can cause serious personal injury or death when unfavourable environmental or safety conditions exist."

Unfavourable conditions include inexperienced vessel operators, experienced persons operating unfamiliar vessels, large swells caused by weather events that close off the bar entrance with breaking surf, the run of the ebb tide which lifts and shortens sea conditions on the bar increasing the risk of swamping or capsizing, poor visibility including the position of the sun, changes in sea and swell conditions and the presence of other vessel operators.

"Sea conditions change from long distance weather events centered in the Southern Ocean or Bass Strait," said Capt. Hayward.

"Passage through the Anderson's Inlet entrance and bar should only be attempted by experienced persons with sound local knowledge and only at times of fair weather and smooth seas at higher water with no influence from the ebb tide."

"There are no aids to navigation to guide vessel operators through the Anderson Inlet entrance or across the bar and the best available water may be different from one day to the next."

"If in doubt, don't go out," said Capt. Hayward.

Bar crossing advice and safety equipment requirements can be found in the Victorian Recreational Boating Safety Handbook at safetransport.vic.gov.au/on-the-water/boating-safety-handbook/

The latest bathymetric survey can be downloaded from the Gippsland Ports website at

gippslandports.vic.gov.au/publications/bathymetricsurveys/



World Superbike race winner Nicolo Bulega flies the Italian flag in celebrating one of his three wins over the weekend. Photos: Peter Cleeland



Englishman Tom Booth-Amos leads Stefano Manzi in the World Supersports race two. Photo: Peter Cleeland



Ducati riders, Alvaro Bautista, Nicolo Bulega and Andrea Iannone shared the podium for their efforts in race.



The Prosecco shower had the raucous crowd enthralled as the winning riders and manufacturers toasted Ducati's dominance at the World Superbikes on Phillip Island.



Ducati rider Nicolo Bulega blasts off the start line in a dominant display of riding.

World Superbike Season Opener

By Peter Cleeland

THE LONG awaited return of World Superbikes to the Phillip Island circuit for the season opening round one was warmly embraced by enthusiastic crowds on the weekend. With a rain interrupted testing schedule in both Spain and Portugal in the off season most of the Superbike teams were severely underdone in their preparations for this event.

Testing on Monday saw six riders in the gravel with six time World Superbike champion Jonathan Rea sustaining multiple fractures in his left ankle, current reigning champion Toprak Razgatlioglu having an horrific high side at Siberia and a number of other riders having issues with bike set ups.

Tuesday's, two hour testing session was reduced to 15 minutes of dry track time due to persistent showers which must have frustrated all concerned.

Italian rider, Nicolo Bulega (Ducati) had topped the timesheets with a 0.114 second gap to Toprak Razgatlioglu (BMW) and Andrea Locatelli (Yamaha) 0.510 seconds further back. Australian rider, Remy Gardner (Yamaha) was 1.331 seconds back in eleventh spot with a lot of work to do.

Sizzling Saturday

Riders and spectators faced trying conditions as the mercury shot up to well over 30C with track temperature closer to 50C.

Superpole Saturday, a 15 minute shoot out to sort out grid positions for race one saw how pronounced Ducati's dominance was over the rest of the manufacturers. Bulega again topped the timesheets with reigning champion Toprak Razgatlioglu pushing his BMW into second place with Andrea Iannone rounding out the front row on his brightly coloured Ducati.

World Superbike Race One (20 laps) Ballistic Bulega!

The time sheets gave an indication of Bulega's dominance over the field but nothing could have prepared the spectators for the performance the Italian rider displayed. When the lights went out the rest of the field were left to fight over the scraps as Nicolo Bulega launched the Ducati into an unassailable lead. By mid race Bulega had a commanding lead over Razgatlioglu, Redding, Bautista, Iannone and Petrucci. Mandatory pitstops for tyre changes did nothing to halt Bulega's rhythm as he opened

up a six second lead with the ensuing pack jostling for the minor placings.

BMW's second rider, Mark Vande Mark had a spectacular high speed lose at the end of the main straight mid race which catapulted his bike end over end through the air with it coming to rest against the tyre wall. Fortunately, the rider was able to walk away with the assistance of track medics. His bike was totalled!

At the chequered flag Bulega's lead was a comfortable 4.88 seconds from Turkish rider Toprak Razgatlioglu and Alvaro Bautista. Ducati had filled five of the first six places. Australian Remy Gardner, who had a poor preparation lost control of his bike on lap one in turn 4, a disappointing result for all concerned.

World Supersports Race One (20 laps) Manzi Magic!

Unlike the Superbike race the World Supersports shake down was an enthralling encounter with many lead changes that resulted in the first four riders crossing the line 1.447 seconds apart. Pata Racing's Stefano Manzi on the Yamaha R9 was made to battle hard for the victory by Jaume Masia who he passed at turn 10 on the final lap. Due to pitstop infringements incurred during the mandatory tyre change Masia was dropped to sixth place with Tom Booth-Amos (Triumph) taking second and Marcel Schrotter (Ducati) taking third. Australians, Oli Bayliss secured a very creditable seventh placing and Luke Power twelfth on his home track.

Super Sunday

The weekend crowd of 49,512 took some well earned relief from the previous days scorcher as the south west wind kicked in early to give all concerned some well deserved respite from the heat.

World Superbike Superpole (10 laps) Bulega Blitzes Field

Nicolo Bulega followed up with another masterclass in the sprint version of Superpole, a ten lap dash or sprint to sort out the contenders from the pretenders. While Bulega skipped away at the front mayhem and carnage eventuated as first Toprak Razgatlioglu and Alvaro Bautista ran off the track to dash their hopes. Then Bautista made a proper job of things falling at

turn 6 to finish in the kitty litter. Ducati again filled five of the first six places with Andrea Iannone and Danilo Petrucci completing an Italian trifecta.

World Supersports Race Two (20 laps) Tom Triumphs!

Englishman Tom Booth-Amos freshly promoted from World Supersport 300 riding a Triumph 765 got the better of race one winner Stefano Manzi to record his first win in the class by 0.671 seconds. Bo Bendsneyder riding a Yamaha was a close third 1.125 seconds behind Booth Amos. Australian Oli Bayliss would have been happy with his second seventh placing overall completing a good weekend for the Triumph rider. Bayliss came away with 18 points for his efforts and fourth place overall in the championship.

World Superbikes Race Two (20 laps) Bulega Three in a Row.

A carbon copy of the first two races where Nicolo Bulega careered away from the field and controlled the race winning by a margin of 2.6 seconds from team mate Alvaro Bautista and Andrea Iannone. Englishman, Scott Redding enjoyed his change of manufacturers swapping from BMW last year to Ducati where he came fourth in this race. In fact, Ducatis' filled the first six places in this event. Hapless Australian rider Remy Gardner threw his Yamaha down the road towards the end of the race to complete a disastrous start to the season.

Australian Superbikes Waters Destroys Opposition

Troy Waters completed the perfect weekend on Ducati Panigale V4 winning three races from three starts by convincing margins from Ant West and Mike Jones. Waters used the long legs of the Ducati to open up substantial leads in each event and then cruised home to take the chocolates!

A big shout out to the marshals who donate their time and knowledge to ensure this world class event is conducted safely and professionally. To the Linfox organisation congratulations on the fantastic presentation of the best racing circuit in the world. As new World Superbike Ryan Vickers stated, it's absolutely awesome, there's not another track like it in the world!



WorldSBK riders Andrea Iannone, Garrett Gerloff, Dominique Aegerter and Bahattin Sofuooglu made the most of their day off on Wednesday in Phillip Island to enjoy a Thunder Cat boat ride and discover the iconic Phillip Island Sea Caves. They were joined by local WorldSSP heroes Oli Bayliss and Luke Power, before enjoying lunch at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op.

Superbike riders provide a splash of publicity

THE ACTION, ahead of the three rounds of the 2025 Superbike World Championship at Phillip Island last weekend, started early in the week with practice on Monday and Tuesday, then a day of promotional activities as part of the media launch on Wednesday.

The riders all headed to the San Remo Jetty for a supercharged ride on the Thunder Cat with the assembled media trying to keep up on the Wildlife Coast Cruises pleasure boat.

After a thrill-seeking, site-seeing adventure, the riders and their guests tasted some fresh local seafood against the backdrop of the San Remo Bridge and jetty

at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op where locally caught crayfish and other seafood graced the menu.

According to Kim Storey of Destination Phillip Island it was all part of the publicity for the big race weekend, taking the event and Phillip Island around the world, with plenty of positive spinoffs for the local area.

"We've seen a strong recovery in international visits during the summer in what was otherwise an unspectacular season for domestic overnight stays," said Ms Storey.

"We had great day visitor numbers through January, but the domestic visitors came here for

shorter stays this year and reports from our accommodation members are pretty consistent there.

"But it's been the same across Victoria.

"We are grateful that the Superbikes riders and crews want to engage with us, and during the race weekend there's also plenty of publicity for Phillip Island and what's on offer here."

After the preliminaries at San Remo, it was back to the track on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for a great weekend of racing with plenty of thrills and spills to delight the crowd, but with the super safe GP circuit coming to the fore in protecting riders from serious injury.



Aussie World SSP rider Luke Power gets his hands on some of the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op's best seafood during a media launch for the superbikes last week.



With two podium finishes at Phillip Island, Italian Andrea Iannone came away with a strong result for his Pata Go Eleven Ducati racing team. Here he fronts the media launch at San Remo on Wednesday.



It was a picture-perfect weekend for Nicolo Bulega who secured the hat trick of wins. C06_0825



It was a triple treat this weekend for Victorian Josh Waters and McMartin Racing in the Australian Superbikes! Josh secured victory in all three races. Pictured with Josh Waters is Craig McMartin. C01_0825



It was Prosecco all round with podiums taking place in the paddock this year as opposed to the straight. Nicolo Bulega enjoys the moment. C07_0825



Danilo Petrucci was stoked with his third in Sunday's Tissot Superpole. C04_0825



Korumburra golfer Steve Bromby has an incredible streak of 12 straight A Grade Championships at the club, claiming his latest title on Sunday with a record-breaking round of 65.

12th straight title and a record for Bromby

STEVE Bromby took out his 12th straight Korumburra Golf Club Championship at the weekend and did so with a flourish on Sunday, with a fabulous, record-breaking round of 65, unblemished by a single bogey.

In that sort of company, it wasn't a demerit for up-and-coming youngster Billie Wrigley to finish second across the four rounds.

As well as the new course record on Sunday, the championship series finished with a playoff in C Grade.

Well done to all players over the past four rounds and congrats to all grade champion winners.

Results: A Champion - Steve Bromby 276, R/Up Billie Wrigley 30, Net Aggregate - Steve (+1) 280, R/Up - Billie Wrigley (2) 293.

Senior Champion - Barry Kerr Rnds 83/88/83/89. Junior Champion - Billie Wrigley Rnds 79/78/73/71.

In Sunday's daily comp we had 33 players play. We thank our sponsors 'Team Korumburra' for the great KGC, club covers! A Grade - Steve Bromby (+1) 66net. B Grade - Blake Walker (28) 70net. BDTL: Billie Wrigley 69net, Bob Newton & Shane Harland 71net, players 73 - 75net.

NTP's: 1st Barry Kerr, 7th Greg Wilson, 10th Wayne Kennedy, 13th Blake Spokes.

For more result see page 48.

Kickstart your footy journey with a free girls come and try session

ARE you ready to give footy a go? The Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition is hosting a free Girls Football Come & Try session, as part of the Play Well South Gippsland campaign.

Whether you've kicked a ball before or this is your first time, this session is all about having fun, building skills, and getting involved in footy. Participants from all over South Gippsland are welcome and information about your local club will be available on the day.

Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition Operation Manager Bobbie Lee Blay is excited by the day.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in something bigger, build your confidence, and enjoy the thrill of footy in a supportive environment. Whether you dream of joining a team or just want to have a go, this session is for you."

Why You Should Join:

- Expert Coaching from AFL Victoria's Participation Team
- Meet Like-minded Girls who share your passion for footy
- Exciting Prizes up for grabs, including a brand-new size 4 leather football

On Sunday, March 2, 2025 at 10am - 12pm at the Leongatha Velodrome.

For more information go to www.gippsport.com.au/playwell or to get involved contact Gene Parini at GippSport on 0428 358 335 or gene@gippsport.com.au.



Wonthaggi Road Runners Simon Harris, Shirley Dell, Skylah Taylor and Felicity Castellan are ready for action. A15_0825



Jack Legione, and Hamish and Deb Bell are ready for the 5km run. A13_0825

Runners relish Deb Rielly event



Bill Barry takes out the Half Marathon in a time of 01:26:42. A17_0825

THE DEB Rielly Run for the Kids was a great success on Sunday with about 230 participants, mostly from the local district, the introduction of timing and a half marathon helping boost numbers from 160 last year.

After a scorcher in 2024, milder weather played its part.

Deb Rielly was a highly regarded community member who started the event, then known as Keeping Kids on Track.

It was renamed in her honour after she passed away in 2019, Dalyston Football Netball Club, which had always been involved in the run, then taking charge of it before a COVID-induced hiatus.

"We were happy with the way it went," Magpies committee member Frank Angarane said of Sunday's action.

"It was great to see competitive runners in amongst families and kids, all out there to enjoy the day," he observed.

Funds raised will contribute to Dalyston Football Netball Club's junior program as well as causes close to Deb's heart that will be determined by her family, with which the club remains highly engaged.

"That might be a scholarship or helping a kid or family," Frank said by way of example.

As far as the Magpies are concerned, the funding will be a tremendous help in facing the

expenses entailed in providing more junior opportunities.

"We're highly focused on developing our junior program," Frank said, stressing the club won't exist without juniors.

The increased opportunities have included more grades, such as the introduction of an under 14 mixed footy team last season.

Bill Barry won the Men's Half Marathon, edging out Davin Field by just 13 seconds, Anna Cardillo triumphing over that distance in the women's competition just 16 seconds ahead of Nagiska Mayes.

Matt Walkerden was the winning male over 10km, his time of 00:38:06 just ahead of Mitchell Dorling's 00:39:50.

Michelle Harris the best of the women over that distance in a time of 00:48:38, well ahead of the female runner-up Claire Jobling.

Jesse Lumby was the quickest male over the 5km distance despite competing in the category for those aged 15 to 17, beating home a couple of considerably older runners, Claire Hunt the fastest female over that distance.

Caroline Beischer got the better of the men over 2km to win in a time of 00:08:45, Benjamin Rielly next best in 00:09:10.

All up, it was a great day, the event sure to continue to grow in support while maintaining its strong family focus.

Tutu fun and community spirit at Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun

WITH the play words being the theme of this week's parkrun event (22nd= two two=tutus) across the country many people put that tulle to good use. In case you forgot or missed this opportunity, there will be two more TuTu parkrun days this year in March and November so add them to the calendar now!

The Mirboo North market day brought along many visitors from our nearby Churchill event with 44 participants running, walking and floating this weekend. Together we celebrated Greg's 100th parkrun and applauded Des Farley on his unofficial 400th parkrun event. Three people also recorded their first parkrun, joining in with friends and family.

Annie has spoiled us with fantastic photos from the event and the rail trail. You can check them out on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail Facebook page as there are just too many to publish with this week's run report!



Linda levitating down the trail in her tutu for 22/2.



Adrian flying down the trail in his red tutu

Phillip Island Classic 'Festival of Motorsport' is once again an international event

WITH entries from every state in Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the USA, the Phillip Island Classic once again takes its place in the world of historic racing as an outstanding event attracting crowds of almost 30,000 over the three day event March 7-9, 2025.

Attracting the large crowd at this family friendly event will be some cars not previously seen before in Australia and they will certainly not disappoint the expected bumper crowd.

The recently arrived spectacular 917-30 Porsche, one of the fastest cars of the 1970's, will compete over the weekend in March. The Porsche 917 cars dominated the Can-Am series in 1973 and this 5374cc flat 12 cylinder, air cooled turbocharged 917-30 Chassis 005 will be one to watch.

Also racing will be the 1958 Mk1 Prototype Lola which raced at Goodwood in the TT, taking pole position in 1958. The wonderfully styled and nimble Lola owned by Mrs Susan Ahlers since 2013, is presented in its original polished aluminium body that has never been painted. This first ever Mk1 Lola was built by the famous British entrepreneur, engineer, founder and chief engineer of Lola cars, Eric Broadley. Eric is regarded as arguably the most influential automotive designer of the post-war period. The Lola will be driven at Phillip Island by Billy



1961 #00 MacDonald Corvette special will be at the Phillip Island Classic 'Festival of Motorsport.'



Datsun 510 1971 Ernie Nagamatsu will be at the Phillip Island Classic 'Festival of Motorsport'

Bellinger, founder of UK based JB Sports Engineering, a driver of many years' experience working on Morgans and historic sports and racing cars. A production Lola Mk1 was raced by Sam Dymond, Penrite at the 2024 Phillip Island Classic

Probably the most famous Morgan in the world, the 1962 Morgan Plus 4 – TOK 258 of Keith Ahlers, powered with a two litre Triumph TR4 engine raced and won its category in the 1962 Le Mans 24 hour race. It was the only Morgan entered in a field of 55 cars of which only 18 finished. This world famous Le Mans car will be driven for the first time at Phillip Island by Keith Ahlers, owner and widely experienced British race

car driver who has also won the FIA Historic Sports Car Championship in 2016, 2017 and 2018 driving a Cooper Monaco King Cobra.

Keith owns and races a number of prestige historic race cars and believes in racing them and presenting widely them to the public wherever possible.

Engineer Billy Bellinger looks after, prepares and often races various classics including Keith Ahlers' Cooper King Cobra, Morgan Plus 4 TOK 258, Morgan SLR and Moss Box Plus 8.

From the USA the Phillip Island Classic 'Festival of Motorsport' will feature the #00 Corvette Special AKA Old Yella V Sports and the 1971 Datsun 510 of Ernie and Elaine

Nagamatsu. The Datsun 510 revolutionised sedan racing in America in the early 1970's and the #00 Corvette was been produced as a tribute to the original 00 Corvette raced by legendary Dave MacDonald. Both will race at Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit for the first time in Australia.

The event will also feature some of the finest 5 litre super cars with the likelihood of one the strongest fields in this category ever seen at Phillip Island in highly competitive racing.

Tickets for this major event will be available at the gate over the weekend and also online via the VHRR website www.vhrr.com.au - Phillip Island Event.

Stony Creek to crown top jockeys

STONY Creek Racing Club (SCRC) will crown a King and Queen of the Creek on Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day, recognising the leading male and female riders throughout the club's season.

Traditionally, race clubs have Leading Rider and Leading Apprentice categories for their season, based on the jockeys who accumulate the most points, with three points for a win, two for second and one for third.

"These new titles are a modern interpretation of the traditional categories, and something we hope will create a legacy for generations of riders to come," SCRC CEO Jason Benbow said.

"Racing is one of the few sports in the world where men and women compete on an equal playing field, with the opportunity to earn the same prize, based on performance," Jason said, that perhaps suggesting both genders should battle it out for a single crown.

Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day, the club's signature event, will be on Sunday March 9, with the popular Fashions on the Field competition one of the highlights.

The fashion contest is likely to be as keenly contested as the ontrack action, having a strong community focus this year with categories open to residents of South Gippsland only for 'Local Lady of the Day', Local Gentleman of the Day, Best Dressed Local Family and Best Dressed Local Group.

"After a challenging season, we're calling on our local community to rally around Stony Creek as they always do, and bring us home a winner," CEO Benbow declared as the club gets set to bounce back after having to cancel its last couple of meetings.

For more information and bookings visit country.racing.com/stony-creek



Come and join us for MDU's

JUNIOR FOOTY INFO/REGISTRATION PIE NIGHT

Come and meet everyone, get all the details of the upcoming season and sign up to be a part of our Club. Dinner will be on us too, with pies for the kids. This is for all Under 10, 12 & 14's who are thinking of playing this year. All new players are welcome.



Thursday, March 20



From 5pm



Meenigan Rec Reserve

Bring your energy, your passion, and your love for football — Let's make this the best season yet! Remember, if you have any questions or queries to give Junior Football Coordinator Dave Trotman a call on 0418 589 805.

Join our Facebook Group to stay up to date with us this season!



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Goanna's Over 70s

THE GOANNA'S 'Seniors', the Over-70 team, welcomed the West Gippsland Wombats to the Sale Oval today for their scheduled round 9 game. It was cool and breezy, but at least the sun was shining as Gordon Cowling won the toss and decided the Goannas would bat first.

Warren Dummett and Garry Rose took the score to 15 before Rose was bowled, in the 7th over.

Steve Lincoln joined Dummett, who then retired on 16 after 30 balls. Lincoln, retired on 22, and Murray Moore, retired on 24, took the score to 67 in the 19th over.

Then the rot set in, with the Goannas losing 8 wickets while adding just 16 runs. Dummett returned, and was out for 22, Ian Gibson and Lincoln proceeded to take the score beyond 100, before Steve was bowled for 32, leaving Gibbo unbeaten on 8. The Goannas final score of 105, from 32 overs was one of the worst scores recorded by the team in its four year history. Michael Newton, 3 for 8 and Rod Pallot, 2/15 were the best of the Wombats bowlers.

After a fine lunch, of salad rolls, the Wombats headed to the crease. Spider Phillips holed out to Andrew Smith at mid-off, there were only 6 runs scored from the first 8 overs, bowled by Cowling and Neil Meredith, and Cowling bowled Gavin Sharp in the 9th over as the Wombats reeled to 2/9. Moore replaced Cowling and immediately induced a false shot by Keith Houghton, well caught by Garry Rose at mid-wicket. The Wombats were in big trouble at 3/18 after 11 overs.

Unfortunately, that was the end of the penny section for the Goannas as Pallot, Neil White, Fred Debono, Peter Loos and John Martindale all retired, allowing Newton and Russell Ferguson to see the Wombats home in the 32nd over. The Goannas are taking a team to a beautiful little ground at Byaduk, just south of Hamilton in Western Victoria, next weekend to play a combined Hamilton/SW Coast/Mt Gambier team as the Over-60's have a bye. Both teams have one more game remaining in the regular season after that.

The Over 60's Kookas are denied an assured win by the weather

THE mighty South Gipps Kookas were looking to bounce back from a rather quiet patch against the Endeavour Hills heroes last Sunday. Peter 'perfect' Little won the toss and the Kookas were ready to rumble. Ol' Grayza Wighty proceeded to play a disgraceful shot - worse than the non-question time at the South Gipps Shire meetings. 'Teflon' Tony Latham 9, and Waza 'bus driver' Hayes, 14 navigated the Kookas back on the road.

Dave 'tough' Tessari 12 was joined by 'blitzkrieg' Joey Burke, who well blitzkrieged 40 off 37 Balls! The Kookas were cookin'. Ian 'the stylist' Thorne, 17 and Peter 'perfect' Little 31 not out, put fuel on the fire. With 'timeless' Jimmy Armstrong and Mr 'reliable' Brendon Thomas 7 taking the Kookas to a commanding 184. Then, once again the weather turned worse than Don Trump's Ukraine pronouncement and play was unfortunately abandoned, with the rampaging Kookas assured of an inspiring win (like the Tigz 3 flags in 4 years!) Next it's Echuca time, where fun, friendship and the added champion partners will see the Kookas lovin' cricket even more!



Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club proudly celebrated 30 years since the successful amalgamation of two great clubs over the weekend.

Koonwarra L/RSL 30-year amalgamation anniversary

ON FEBRUARY 22, the Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club proudly celebrated 30 years since the successful amalgamation of two great clubs. Held at the Dakers Centre, with doors opening at 7 PM, the night was a fantastic gathering of past and present players, supporters, and community members.

Many greats of the club came down to enjoy the night, revel in the company of their fellow teammates, and impart knowledge onto the younger generation, which made up a significant part of the attendance. The evening was expertly hosted by Sam Hughes, who provided plenty of laughter and entertainment throughout the night. A highlight of his MC duties was presenting the

By Will Cashin

statistical leaders since the merger, delivering the numbers with his signature humor and ensuring plenty of laughs along the way.

A lineup of special guest speakers shared memorable stories and reflections on the club's journey. Glenn Matthies, a key event organiser and club great, entertained the crowd with his humor, while Nick Arnup, the present-day president, provided insight into the ins and outs of today's club, highlighting how far we have come and key improvements that have been implemented, as well as those on the horizon. Geoff Holland, the club's first-ever president, reflected on the early days of the merger

and spoke about how far he has watched the club grow over the years.

John Schelling, president of the league, spoke not only about the club's impact on the league but also about its ability to bring the community together. He also highlighted how the club's development pathways are nothing short of supreme, noting the success of players like Sam Hughes, Lachie Sperling, Harry Hoekstra, and Chelsea Moscript, who have all gone on to play at a very high level. He emphasised that their achievements are not just a testament to their talent and hard work but also to the strong pathways the club has helped put in place.

Shane Moore, widely regarded as one of the best cricketers

the club has ever seen, reflected on his days with Leongatha RSL and post-merger. He touched on how both teams had to put their pride aside and search for equality in the amalgamation to build the strong foundation and future the club enjoys today.

A display of memorabilia highlighted the club's rich history, reminding everyone of the dedication, achievements, and community spirit that have shaped its success.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this milestone event so special. Here's to many more years of cricketing excellence and camaraderie at Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club!

All welcome at Venus Bay Angling Club

VENUS Bay Angling Club offers a friendly environment and is always keen to welcome new members whether they fish or just want to enjoy the social side of the club.

Saturday night barbecues during monthly fishing competitions are popular, as well as other club events, such as an upcoming lunch at the local pub, and sometimes movie nights, with plans being made for a trivia evening.

The majority who come along on a Saturday night are social members and through that a lot of them have become friends, club member Roslyn Shelley said.

While social members often develop an interest in fishing, there's no pressure to do so.

We're open to anybody and we'd love to have some families back in the club, Roslyn said, explaining that was the case prior to the pandemic.

The desire to encourage family participation led the club to run children's fishing days, most recently in January when about 30 kids had a ball fishing

and enjoyed a barbecue for them and their parents, a couple of the families joining the club.

For those keen to give fishing a go but unsure how to begin, there's always friendly advice available at Venus Bay Angling Club.

If people want to learn how to fish, they're welcome to come down on a Friday between 4 and 6pm and talk to our members, Roslyn said.

Even those who know how to fish but are new to the area can benefit from the helpful advice, with those who own a boat wise to learn about the challenging local tides.

It's tricky getting out around the inlet and you've got to stick to the buoys because there are a lot of shallow spots, Roslyn said.

A tide monitor developed and fitted by a local is proving invaluable for angling club members and others with boats.

The monitor connects to a phone app, enabling people to see when the tides are suitable to get in or out.

It's been a real boost to everyone with boats, Roslyn said, saying it is a simple matter of scanning a QR code and installing the app.

Those who don't pay attention to the tidal situation might easily find themselves stuck out at sea for a potentially uncomfortable night, angling club members often warning those who are setting off too late.

The next fishing competition takes place over the Labour Day weekend, beginning Friday March 7 and running until Monday March 10.

The winner will be announced at Monday's final weigh in, taking place between 2.30 and 3pm.

Visitors are welcome to enter, with the \$5 fee including Saturday night's barbecue that starts at 6pm at Gerald's Shed.

Juniors can enter the competition for free.

Venus Bay Angling Club Membership costs \$50 for families and \$40 for singles, covering you for all monthly competitions and barbecues.



Roslyn Shelley shows off her prizewinning 50cm flathead after Venus Bay Angling Club's most recent fishing competition.



Tennille Macdonald, Natalie Mlinaric and Kristy Uren organised the Pink Stumps Day event at Nyora Cricket Club on Saturday. Tk07_0825

Pink Day excites at Nyora Cricket Club

NYORA Cricket Club hosted its Pink Stumps Ladies Day on Saturday.

Despite the heat, more than 100 people turned out to support the important cause and enjoy a fun afternoon at the club.

Now in its fourth year, the club was looking to raise \$10,000 at this event.

This is off the back of a highly successful 2024 event, where more than \$12,000 was raised for the McGrath Foundation.

During the afternoon,

there were lots of fun activities for those who attended, including quizzes, games, raffles and a speech by Jem from Intimo with helpful information about breast cancer.

Prizes for the raffles were generously donated by the community.

The afternoon ran into an after party, where DJ Starlight provided entertainment and the A2 cricketers could join in the festivities.

The A2 match between Nyora and MDU was played

out during the event.

"It's nice to do something for the ladies and for the community," Nyora Cricket Club's Natalie Mlinaric said.

"There were a lot of people here who are not part of the cricket club, so it's nice to have a day where people can come and catch up with their girlfriends, relax and enjoy the day."

The Nyora Cricket Club thanked those who supported another highly successful event.



Wilbur Collis, Dave Howarth, Shane Hume, Daryl Smith, Hoss Grenstein and Freddy Challis enjoyed the Pink Stumps Day at Nyora Cricket Club on Saturday afternoon. Tk08_0825

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Koonwarra Leongatha RSL co-captains Gabby Perry and Britt Thomas are delighted to accept the premiership cup. A43_0825

Cougars claim women's premiership



Mel Gheller proved decisive in the Cougars' Grand Final win with her score of 33 and tidy bowling. A44_0825



Grace Webster goes on the attack for Phillip Island, the opener blazing 22 runs from just 11 balls. A48_0825



Rosanna Martino helped get Phillip Island close to victory with her knock of 18. A49_0825

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JA22893

C GRADE

DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 4/165 d K-Bass 4/153

Kilcunda Bass – 1ST INNINGS:
J Huckett 61*, J Dickson 20, A Joseph 14, C Bettles 5, V K Gopal 39, H Bettles 7*
Bowling: J Allan 1/23, J Marshall 1/28, P Cleary 0/28, L Ferrari 1/38, D McCausland 0/14, Z Hughes 1/17

Phillip Island – 1ST INNINGS:
W Paterson 19, L Ferrari 14, B Marshall 8, A O'Brien 36, D Ivey 66*, D Fusinato 11, J Marshall 1*
Bowling: H Bettles 1/26, A Joseph 2/44, J Dickson 0/28, V K Gopal 0/26, H Huckett 0/16, M Gold 0/12, T Gold 0/13

Nerrena 5/166 d Club 6/165

Club – 1ST INNINGS: W Speed 5, C Fraser 7*, J Caddy 0, J Licis 100, M Chisholm 8, C Prosser 0, L McRae 32, A Babu 1*
Bowling: B Salmon 0/18, C Marinou 2/17, B Trotman 3/26, R Harrison 0/16, J Donohue 0/14, C Williams 0/30, G Murphy 1/41

Nerrena – 1ST INNINGS: B Gannon 15, B Trotman 17, G Murphy 72, C Marinou 26, W Cocksedge 20, C Williams 11*, B Salmon 2*
Bowling: J Shannon 0/11, C Fraser 0/25, L McRae 2/15, J Licis 0/45, S Liddle 0/23, M Sharp 2/27, A Babu 1/18

OMK 9/203 d Korumburra 179

OMK – 1ST INNINGS: S Handley 57, C Hart 57, B Hayes 49*, A Halliwell 4, D Elford 12, L Bourke 8, R Waytt 0, L Maskell 0, M Whiteside 0, D Wylie 0, C Walker 1*
Bowling: T Sorrell 1/40, S McKinnon 0/36, P Beadel 0/38, D Scott 3/37, O Maskell 2/41

Korumburra – 1ST INNINGS: S Harland 30, I Riddell 3, J Wrigley 57, P Beadel 11, D Scott 41, R Gallagher 7, T Sorrell 1, O Maskell 0, H Jefferis 1, L Gallagher 0, S McKinnon 0*
Bowling: S Handley 1/29, L Maskell 3/33, D Elford 1/47, B Hayes (c) 3/18, A Halliwell 1/30, L Bourke 1/14, D Wylie 0/4

Town – BYE

C GRADE

DIVISION 2

MDU 4/176 d Phillip Island 5/172

Phillip Island – 1ST INNINGS: J Manning 21, P Francis 53, S Niven 30, S Sirirathnage 3, M Cleary 19, S Carville 5, J Parry 22*, S Di Falco 9*
Bowling: S McRae 1/41, L Webb 0/35, K Sinclair 1/18, G Cocksedge 0/16, S Riley 3/23, C Hoober 7/36

MDU – 1ST INNINGS: D Thomas 17, T McGrath 9, G Cocksedge 38, C Hoober 25, K Sinclair 32*, S McRae 26*
Bowling: S McMillan 1/20, S Sirirathnage 0/11, J Parry 0/22, S Di Falco 0/14, M Cleary (c) 2/28, P Francis 1/43, L Cleary 0/20, J Manning 0/9

Glen Alvie 2/196 d Inverloch 2/194

Inverloch – 1ST INNINGS: D Harris 41, W Stewart 79, L McMillan 28, M Ashbury 16*, N McMillan 8*
Bowling: J Hynes 0/18, T Boldring 1/33, L Ton 0/22, O Luff 0/10, P Loos 0/20, C Andersen 0/32, K Andersen 1/27, A Moore 0/28

Glen Alvie – 1ST INNINGS: O Luff 2, D Hynes 67, I Thorn 82*, D McGuirk 11, J Cuttriss 20*
Bowling: C Butler 0/36, I Richardson 1/20, Private Player 0/27, A Hall 0/38, M Asbury 1/30, K Atyeo-Peters 0/14, N McMillan 0/29

Koonwarra L/RSL d Nyora

Koonwarra L/RSL won by forfeit.

OMK – BYE

Red Caps fall over the line

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA continued on its winning way with a victory over Wonthaggi Club in a close contest on Saturday.

Playing at the Wonthaggi Secondary College, Nerrena sent Club into bat first.

This looked to be a good decision with the dismissal of vice-captain Will Speed for five runs and Jed Caddy for a duck.

However, fourth bat Justin Licis stepped up to the crease and made a ton before he was stopped by a catch from Brian Gannon off the bowling of Gerard Murphy.

Lucas McRae added 32 runs before the end of the innings.

Opening batsman Chris Fraser made seven runs but was not out at the end of Club's allotted overs.

Billy Trotman had Nerrena's best bowling figures, taking 3/26, including the dismissal of Caddy and McRae.

Club set the target at 6/165.

Gannon and Trotman opened for Nerrena and made a modest start with 15 and 17 runs respectively.

Trotman's wicket was the first to fall, taken by McRae at 1/29.

Murphy entered and went on to top score with 72 runs.

This, combined with the efforts of Christos Marinou and Wayne Cocksedge, would win the game for Nerrena.

Marinou and Cocksedge made 26 and 20 runs respectively.

McRae and captain Sam Liddle took two wickets each for Club.

The single wicket was taken by Alan Babu.

Nerrena just got over the line with a score of 5/166.

Island win in 23 overs

Kilcunda-Bass played a solid innings, but Phillip Island managed to go a step further to claim the points.

Phillip Island won the toss at the Rhyll Cricket Ground and asked Kilcunda-Bass to bat.

Joel Huckett and Joel Dickson were the stars of the show for Kilcunda-Bass, opening the account and making 61 and 20 runs respectively.

Huckett was not out at the end of the innings.

Phillip Island's wicket taking honours were shared between Jackson Allan, Jaxen Marshall, Lawrence Ferrari and Zack Hughes.

Kilcunda-Bass had made 4/153 at the end of its innings.

Phillip Island made a steady start with opening batsmen Wade Paterson and Ferrari making 19 and 14 runs.

Getting Phillip Island across the line were Andy O'Brien and David Ivey.

O'Brien accumulated 36 runs before he retired not out and Ivey top scored with 66 runs.

Kilcunda-Bass' top bowler was Ash Joseph, taking 2/44, with the single wicket claimed by Hunter Bettles.

Phillip Island's winning tally was 4/165.

OMK overcome collapse

OMK successfully defended its total of 9/203 against Korumburra, despite an embattled second half of the innings.

OMK went into bat first, with



Warren Stewart shapes to pull for Inverloch during his impressive knock of 79, retiring not out against Glen Alvie which won the C2 match. A34_0825



Kent Andersen bowls for Glen Alvie during its C2 win over Inverloch. A35_0825

opening partnership Scott Anthony Handley and Craig Hart combining well to contribute 57 runs each.

At 1/86, Handley was the first out after he was bowled by Darren Scott.

Captain Brad Hayes stepped up to the crease and made 49 not out.

Thomas Sorrell claimed Hart's wicket at 2/149 and it was downhill from there for OMK, including the dismissals of Ryan Wyatt, Liam Maskell, Matt Whiteside and Donald Wylie for ducks.

Scott was Korumburra's top bowling performer, taking 3/37, with two wickets taken by Owen Maskell.

Korumburra's Shayne Harland opened well with 30 runs, and third bat Jacob Wrigley put 57 runs on the board.

Forty-one runs were contributed by Scott.

However, OMK's Hayes and Maskell ensured Korumburra would not threaten the Diggers'

score by taking three wickets each.

Korumburra fell short when it was bowled out 10/179.

Leongatha Town had the round 11 bye.

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Upsets shake C2

GLEN Alvie took the points from top of the table Inverloch on Saturday.

Glen Alvie started on its winning way by winning the toss at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve.

Choosing to bowl first, David Harris and Warren Stewart went into bat for Inverloch.

The pair made 41 and 79 respectively, which helped drive the score to 2/194.

The two wickets were taken by Glen Alvie bowlers Tai Boldring and Kent Anderson.

Inverloch played out its 35 overs and swapped over.

Owen Luff was quickly

dismissed for two runs for Glen Alvie, but David Hynes and captain Ian Thorn put the away team back on the winning path.

Hynes retired not out with 67 runs and Thorn made 82 runs.

Daniel McGuirk made 11 runs before he was bowled by Michael Asbury and John Cuttriss saw out the innings with Thorn, making 20 runs.

Glen Alvie's winning score was 2/196 off 30 overs.

Steady MDU too strong

MDU also had an exciting win over second-placed Phillip Island.

Phillip Island won the toss at the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve and chose to bat.

John Manning and Peter Francis opened well for Phillip Island, making 21 and 53 runs respectively.

Third bat Steven Niven added 30 runs and tailender Jon Parry finished strong with 22 not out.

For MDU, Stephen Riley had the best bowling figures, taking 3/23.

Simon McRae and Kurt Sinclair claimed a wicket each.

Phillip Island was then sent out to defend 5/172.

Dismissing captain Dale Thomas and Tim McGrath for 17 and nine respectively might've been a confidence boost for Phillip Island, but MDU played a steady innings that would be enough to make it over the line.

Glen Cocksedge top scored with 38 runs before he was bowled by Michael Cleary, and Craig Hoober made 25 runs before his wicket fell to Francis.

Simon McRae and Kurt Sinclair finished off the innings for MDU, making 32 and 26 not out.

In the 33rd over, MDU had the win with a score of 4/176.

Nyora forfeited its game against Koonwarra/LRSL.

OMK had the round 11 bye.

Local cricket

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



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Foster's Neil Henry gets in behind a delivery during his B2 knock of 42 opening the batting against Imperials. A24_0825



Cameron Bruce sends one down for Imperials, taking a tidy 1/34 in his nine overs in the B2 match against Foster. A25_0825

Huge innings for the Stingrays

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

INVERLOCH smashed out its first innings against Korumburra on Saturday.

The Stingrays travelled to the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, where they won the toss and produced a challenging score of 6/347 for the Cobras to chase.

Walter Taberner and captain Brett Debono opened Inverloch's account.

Taberner made 49 runs before his wicket was claimed by Noah Belvedere and Debono just fell short of a ton with 99 runs.

He was caught by Trevor Allen off the bowling of George Edwards.

The opening partnership had already made a statement, but fourth bat Jack Rowe ensured there was more to come.

Rowe made 113 and was not out at the end of the innings.

Belvedere was Korumburra's top performer, taking 4/49.

Korumburra will step up to bat on Saturday.

Berrymans hits century

Nerrena also put up a hefty score against OMK.

Playing at the Nerrena Recreation Reserve, the Red Caps won the toss and sent in vice-captain Damien Symmons and Kade Berryman to set the tone of the match.

Symmons made 34 runs before he was bowled by Ben Maguire, but Berryman had made 106 before he was stopped by Adam Busana.

OMK bowlers Maguire, Busana and Trevor McGeachin ran through Nerrena's middle order, but the last couple of batsmen of the day ensured the Red Caps came away with a threatening score.

Charlie Dougherty made 32 runs before he was caught by David Jeffries off the bowling of Alex Rose.

Captain Michael Croatto and Tyson Harris made 32 and 36 not out.

At the end of Nerrena's 70



11-year-old Liam Meyer relaxes while waiting to help out Imperials as a substitute fielder. A27_0825

overs, it had made 8/303 with OMK set to chase this score on Saturday.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Town earns its place at the top

LEONGATHA Town will be looking to cement its place at the top of the B2 ladder after a first innings win against second-placed Koonwarra/LRSL.

Koonwarra/LRSL won the toss at Scorpion Park, choosing the bat first.

Town bowlers Lachlan Gill and Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe made it difficult for Koonwarra/LRSL to make its mark on the scoreboard, claiming three wickets each.

The Cougar's third bat Nick Arnup top scored with 44 runs before he was bowled by Colin Bruce.

Matthew Boswell made 28 runs, but Koonwarra/LRSL's batting order was riddled by a number of ducks caused by Jayasinghe and Gill.

After 44 overs, Koonwarra/LRSL was bowled out 10/114.

Town launched into its innings with opening batsman Mark Hardy making 65 not out.

Louis Read dismissed Trent McRae for one run and Luke Bowman stepped up to make 27 runs before his wicket was taken by Arnup.

Dobbie destroys Sharks

Phillip Island will be digging deep to defend 10/120 against Wonthaggi Club this weekend.

Phillip Island won the toss and chose to bat at Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve.

Max Arceo and Heath Womersley opened, making 23 and 27 runs respectively.

These turned out to be the top scores for the day, with Tony Hornsby later contributing 22 runs.

Club bowler Heath Dobbie was merciless, taking a whopping 7/40 from the shellshocked Sharks.

Bryce Evans was the only other wicket taker, claiming 2/27.

Phillip Island was bowled out after 57 overs.

Club opened its first innings with David Britt and Harry West both making nine not out.

They now have the week to prepare before continuing their run.

MDU had the round 13 bye.

Bruce finished off the innings with Hardy, making 19 not out.

Town won the first innings after passing Koonwarra/LRSL's score, making 2/122 off 26 overs.

It will be looking for an outright win this weekend.

Imps keep Foster honest

The Imperials will be looking to chase Foster's score of 10/207 on Saturday.

Foster won the toss and chose to bat, sending in Billy Davy and Neil Henry.

Davy made 25 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Kristian Gray and Henry made 42 runs before he was caught by Andrew Meyer off the bowling of Cooper Rickard.

The top score came from Paul Jervies, who made 61 runs before his wicket was also claimed by Rickard.

Rickard had the Imperials' best bowling figures, taking 3/50.

Meyer claimed two wickets.

The Imperials will have their opportunity to bat this weekend.

Glens hold tight rein

Kilcunda-Bass is set to defend 10/150 against Glen Alvie this Saturday.

Playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve, Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and chose to bat.

Alister McBride opened for the Sharks and made 38 runs before he was run out by Darcy Hale.

Fifth bat Andrew Leighton top scored with 52 runs, but these turned out to be the most significant scores of the day.

Nate Luff went on a run to knock out the second half of Kilcunda-Bass' batting order, claiming 3/26.

Lachlan McRae also took three wickets and two wickets were claimed by Tony Bals.

Kilcunda-Bass was bowled out in the 62nd over, leaving time for Glen Alvie to open its innings.

Glenn Moore and Jack Brown played eight overs and will resume play this weekend.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Inverloch 6/347 v Korumburra

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: W Taberner 49, B Debono 99, J Richardson 14, J Rowe 113*, J Mottram Carter 21, S Hayes 11, I Seuren 2, W Chapman 0*. Bowling: J Douglas 0/41, G Edwards 1/69, N Belvedere 4/49, A Damon 0/60, T Dole 0/17, J Jorgensen 0/27, T M Allen 0/22, C Turton 0/7, M Allen 1/36

Nerrena 8/303 v OMK

Nerrena - 1st INNINGS: D Symmons 34, K Berryman 106, J Kelly 0, R Clark 14, J Renden 15, C Baudinette 12, E Berryman 7, C Dougherty 32, M Croatto 32*, T Harris 36*. Bowling: M Andrew 0/31, D Wylie 0/19, B Maguire 2/30, T Nicholas 0/38, T McGeachin 2/14, A Busana (c) 3/87, D Jeffries 0/43, A Rose 1/34

Phillip Island 120 v Club 0/25

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: M Arceo 23, H Womersley 27, T Asurumuni 6, J Williams 1, D Womersley 0, A Williams 18, A Finlayson 3, T Hornsby 22, K Wilkinson-loines 6, T Allan 1, H Arceo 0*. Bowling: J Williamson 0/16, S Roche 0/11, M A M Nizar 0/3, S Tessari 40/13, H Dobbie 7/40, B Evans 2/27 Club - 1st INNINGS: D Britt 9*, H West 9*. Bowling: J Williams 0/12, H Arceo 0/4, H Womersley 0/3, T Allan 0/0

MDU - BYE

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Kilcunda-Bass 150 v Glen Alvie 0/4

Kilcunda-Bass - 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 7, A McBride 38, Z Crow 3, R Gardiner 3, A Leighton 52, E Magnussen 1, J Matser 2, R Duff 6, C Henderson 6, J Papworth 5, C Peckett 7*

Bowling: L McRae 3/25, N Luff 3/26, D Hale 1/34, L Scholz 0/7, T Bals 2/14, G Hynes 0/13, J Glen 0/15, J Brown 0/7

Glen Alvie - 1st INNINGS: G Moore 3*, J Brown 0*. Bowling: R Duff 0/1, C Peckett 0/3

Foster 207 v Imperials

Foster - 1st INNINGS: B Davy 25, N Henry 42, D Caldwell 1, BH Busuttil 9, T Garvey 2, P Jervies 61, D Garlick 23, B Gay 4, L Welsh 4, R Jorgensen 0, B Cripps 12*. Bowling: L Anderson 1/34, C Bruce 1/34, N McLennan 1/40, J Jeffery 1/26, C Rickard 3/50, K Gray 1/8, A Meyer 2/8

Koonwarra L/RSL 114 v Town 2/122

Koonwarra L/RSL - 1st INNINGS: A Boxall 3, G Boxall 14, N Arnup 44, A Drury 1, L Read 0, B Anderson 0, M Boswell 28, C Riesley 0, S Anderson 0, S Chadwick 6, B Thomas 2*

Bowling: L Gill 3/16, L Hickey 1/24, P Jayasinghe 3/12, T McRae 1/21, L Ashton 0/13, F Livingstone 1/7, C Bruce 1/14

Town - 1st INNINGS: M Hardy 65*, T McRae 1, L Bowman 27, C Bruce 19*. Bowling: L Read 1/16, C Riesley 0/14, G Boxall 0/16, M Boswell 0/23, N Arnup 1/20, B Thomas 0/20, S Chadwick 0/5

Nyora - BYE

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A1: Mitchell Clark (Nerrena) **144*** ; Lachie Wright (Imperials) **4/59**

A2: Callum Asbury (Inverloch) **135** ; Chris Ford (Foster) **6/40**

B1: Jack Rowe (Inverloch) **113*** ; Heath Dobbie (Club) **7/40**

B2: Mark Hardy (Town) **65*** ; Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe (Town) **3/12**

C1: Justin Licens (Club) **100** ; Brad Hayes (OMK) **3/18**

C2: Ian Thorn (Glen Alvie) **82*** ; Craig Hoober (MDU) **7/36**

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LADDERS

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1					RD 11
Nerrena	90	1.508	Inverloch	84	1.919
OMK	84	1.795	Phillip Island	72	2.078
Club	84	1.353	MDU	72	1.084
Korumburra	54	1.212	Glen Alvie	48	0.791
Kilcunda-Bass	36	0.852	OMK	42	0.897
Phillip Island	36	0.647	Koonwarra L/RSL	42	0.561
Town	12	0.238	Nyora	36	0.503

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 13 (DAY 2) - SATURDAY, MARCH 1 - 1PM START

A GRADE, Division 1

P-Island v Imperials	Cowes	Ashleigh Stride
Club v Korumburra	Wonthaggi Turf	Warren Williams
OMK v Nerrena	Outtrim	Ken Scrimshaw
Koon L/RSL v Town	Leongatha Turf	Shane Moore

A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v MDU	Nyora	Glenn Plymin
Inverloch v K-Bass	Inverloch Turf	Michael Thomas
Foster v Glen Alvie	Foster GC	John Schelling

B GRADE, Division 1

K'burra v Inverloch	Korumburra	Graham Wightman
Nerrena v OMK	Nerrena	Geoffrey Parkinson
Club v Phillip Island	McMahon	Ian Salmon
MDU - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2

K-Bass v Glen Alvie	Bass 1	Neil Graham
Imperials v Foster	East Campus	Tyson Tootel
Town v Koon L/RSL	Scorpion Park 1	Noel Grayden
Nyora - BYE		

ROUND 12 - SATURDAY, MARCH 1 - 1PM START

C GRADE, Division 1

OMK v Club	Digger Park	TBA
Nerrena v P-Island	Leongatha Vel.	Les White
Kilcunda-Bass v Town	Bass 2	TBA
Korumburra - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2

Glen Alvie v MDU	Glen Alvie	TBA
P-Island v Koon L/RSL	Rhyll	Steve Williamson
Nyora v OMK	Poowong	TBA
Inverloch - BYE		

JUNIOR SEMI FINALS - SUNDAY, MARCH 2 - 10AM START

UNDER 17s (50 Overs)

Inverloch v Glen Alvie	Inverloch Turf	Ashleigh Stride
Imp/Ner. v P-Island	Leongatha Turf	Michael Thomas
		Glenn Plymin

UNDER 15s (40 Overs)

Glen Alvie v P-Island	Glen Alvie	Les White
Foster v Kor/Nyora	Foster GC	Geoffrey Parkinson

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Doug Pell 0404 301 333 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

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C1: Justin Licens (Club) **100** ; Brad Hayes (OMK) **3/18**

C2: Ian Thorn (Glen Alvie) **82*** ; Craig Hoober (MDU) **7/36**



Mitch Scrimshaw drives for Koonwarra Leongatha RSL early in its A1 clash with Leongatha Town, making 24 as an opener. A28_0825

Challenges set by Red Caps and Club

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

A DOMINATE display from Mitchell Clark demonstrated why Nerrena is on top of the ladder at the tail end of the home and away season.

Nerrena took on OMK at the Outtrim Recreation Oval on Saturday.

The Red Caps began their successful day with a winning toss, choosing to bat first.

Although opening batsman Loc Roberts was lost early for three runs, the partnership of Jack Curtis and Tadgh Gannon performed well and put 43 and 37 runs on the board respectively.

Fifth bat Clark changed the stakes of the game, stepping in to make an impressive 144 not out.

Tailender Mitchell Croat contributed a whopping 93 runs to end the innings, creating quite a challenge for OMK to try to overcome this weekend.

For OMK, Ryan Williams had the most bowling success, taking 3/83.

Jacob and Ethan Lamers claimed two wickets each.

Nerrena's eye watering tally was 8/350.

OMK will have its turn at bat this weekend.

Alex goes big

Alexander Geyer also had a strong performance for Wonthaggi Club.

Playing against Korumburra at Wonthaggi's home ground, Mitch Thomas and Geyer opened the



Buwaneka Wakishta delivers for Leongatha Town, claiming an impressive 2/13 from nine overs as Scorpions dismissed Koonwarra Leongatha RSL for 149. A30_0825

make 10/192 on Saturday.

Phillip Island welcomed the Imperials to the Cowes Recreation Reserve, where the Imperials won the toss and chose to bat.

The Cougars played a modest innings with opening batsman Lachlan Cleland was dismissed by Isaac Bolge for 14 runs, leaving Kurt Lane and Brodie Johnston to work together to put up Phillip Island's best scores for the day.

Opening batsman Lachlan Cleland was dismissed by Isaac Bolge for 14 runs, leaving Kurt Lane and Brodie Johnston to work together to put up Phillip Island's best scores for the day.

Lane made 37 runs before a catch from Timothy Sauvarin off the bowling of Wright sent him off, and Johnston made the top score of 39 runs before his wicket fell to Sauvarin, thanks to a catch from Luke Rogers.

Kohen Beaumont added 25 runs to the scoreboard.

As well as Wright, Sauvarin also had a good day bowling for the Imperials, taking 3/37.

The Imperials had the opportunity to open their account.

Phillip Island bowler George McCausland dismissed the opening partnership of captain Jack Ginnane and Kane Maskell for two and six runs respectively.

Klayton McGrath and Bolge were at the crease at stumps and will continue their innings this Saturday.

The score sits at 2/10 off nine overs.

Scorpions sting hard

Koonwarra/LRSL is set to defend its total of 10/149 against Leongatha Town.

At the Leongatha Recreation Reserve, Koonwarra/LRSL won the toss and chose to bat.

The Cougars played a modest innings with opening batsman Mitchell Scrimshaw putting 24 runs on the board early.

The top score went to Callum Buckland later in the innings with 30 runs.

Jason Kennedy contributed 23 runs.

Town's best bowling figures went to Madura Madusanka with 3/8.

Buwaneka Wakishta and Ethan Smith took two wickets each.

Town is ready to bat with its eye on Koonwarra/LRSL's score this weekend.



Jack Butcher bats during his knock of 54 for Inverloch, which had an impressive first day against Kilcunda-Bass. A38_0825

Tons of fun in A2 result in big totals

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

IN front of the large Pink Stumps Day crowd, Nyora amassed an impressive total of 9/312 at its home ground.

Playing against MDU at the charity day event, Nyora won the toss and went into bat.

Opening batsman Bailey Henderson led the charge, making 95 runs before his wicket fell to Sembakuttige Chathura Lakshan.

Jy Hull added 23 runs, but it was Aaron Kaddatz who showed Nyora was in it for the points, making 130 not out.

A slew of ducks through the second half of the batting order threatened to rattle Nyora, but tailender Reece Cordeux added a late 46 runs.

Lakshan dominating the bowling for MDU, taking 5/64.

He was responsible for two ducks and not only the dismissal of Henderson, but Hull and Cordeux as well.

The rest of the wickets were shared between Sam Bright, Mark Cantwell and Scott Browne.

MDU is set to bat this weekend.

Ashbury hits form

Callum Asbury also played a strong game for Inverloch against Kilcunda-Bass at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve.

In the lead up to his tour in India with the Australian Men's Deaf Team, which he is set to leave for on Wednesday, Asbury dominated for the Stingrays with 135 runs.

He opened the batting with Riley Harris, who made 32 runs before he was bowled by Brad Wright.

Asbury then partnered well with Jack Butcher, who made 54 runs before his wicket fell to Ryan Brown.

Fifth bat Jacob Strickland added 40 runs to the scoreboard.

Brown and Jaydan Tregear were Kilcunda-Bass' best bowlers, taking two wickets each.

Inverloch will defend its tally of 5/317 on Saturday.

Donohue steadies the ship

Matthew Donohue saved the day for Glen Alvie with 100 runs against Foster.

Travelling to the Foster Cricket Ground, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bat.

Opening batsman Archie Donohue was dismissed for a duck by Jack Gay, and Archie Moore and Matthew Dakin went on to make 17 and 14 runs respectively.

Donohue was the fourth bat and managed to make his ton before he was stopped by Chris Ford.

Ford had an impressive run for Foster, taking 6/40.

Glen Alvie batsmen Harvey Smith, Wayne Luke and Andrew Dakin did what they could to contribute to the score, adding 32, 25 and 27 runs respectively.

Smith and Luke were dismissed by Josh Toner, who recorded bowling figures of 2/59.

Foster will be looking to chase down 10/242 on Saturday.



Callum Asbury acknowledges spectators after reaching his century for Inverloch in its A2 match against Kilcunda-Bass. A39_0825



Jadan Tregear bowls for Kilcunda Bass, capturing 2/77 off 15 overs on day one of his side's A2 clash with Inverloch. A40_0825

A GRADE

P-Island 192 v Imperials 2/10

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS

Lachlan Cleeland	.....	14
c: K Maskell b: I Bolge	.....	37
Kurt Lane	.....	39
c: T Sauvarin b: L Wright	.....	1
Brodie Johnston	.....	1
c: L Rogers b: T Sauvarin	.....	1
Daniel Mock	.....	1
c: I Bolge b: L Wright	.....	1
Thomas Niven	.....	1
c: C Reid b: T Sauvarin	.....	1
Jarrod Black	.....	1
c: A Casey b: T Sauvarin	.....	1
Kohen Beaumont	.....	1
c: J Ginnane b: L Wright	.....	25
Max Royal c: I Bolge b: L Wright	.....	8
Timothy Niven	.....	9
c: J Ginnane b: A Williams	.....	20
Zac Brown b: A Williams	.....	14
George McCausland not out	.....	7*
Extras (2w, 4lb, 5b)	.....	11
Total 10 / 192 (65.1 Overs)		
Bowling: L Wright 20-2-59-4, I Bolge		
10-2-27-1, T Sauvarin 21-5-37-3 (1w),		
A Williams 7-1-1-23-2, J Ginnane 2-0-		
21-0, K McGrath 2-0-6-0,		
A Casey 3-1-10-0 (1w)		

Imperials – 1st INNINGS

Jack Ginnane lbw: G McCausland	....	2
Kane Maskell b: G McCausland	....	6
Klayton McGrath not out	.....	1*
Isaac Bolge not out	.....	0*
Extras (1nb)	.....	1

Total 2 / 10 (9 Overs)

Bowling: G McCausland 5-2-8-2 (1nb), T Niven 2-1-1-0,		
M Royal 2-1-1-0		

Club 3/282 v Korumburra

Club – 1st INNINGS

Mitch Thomas	.....	74
c: M Young b: S Dole	.....	74
Alexander Geyer not out	.....	133*
Joel Brann b: M Nader	.....	46
Ryan Thomas	.....	16
c: A Millar b: H McNeil	.....	11*
Jakeb Thomas not out	.....	11*
Extras (1nb, 1lb)	.....	2

Total 3 / 282 (75 Overs)

Bowling: M Nader 9-4-18-1, H McNeil		
10-1-31-1, T Crocker 2-0-11-0, B		
Spicer 24-7-71-0, M Young 15-1-66-0,		
S Dole 11-1-47-1, L Dole 4-0-37-0		
(1nb)		

Total 10 / 149 (71.4 Overs)

Bowling: J Hume 13-3-32-0, R Hume		
9-4-2-26-1, B Wakishta 9-2-13-2,		
E Smith 12-3-39-2 (1nb),		
M Madusanka 14-8-8-3, DLMP		
Gallage 9-4-13-1, R Abeysinghe 4-1-11-0, S Clark 1-1-0-0		

A GRADE

Nyora 9/312 v MDU

Nyora – 1st INNINGS

Bailey Henderson	.....	95
c: ? b: SC Lakshan	.....	95
Michael Lynch	.....	3
c: S Browne b: M Cantwell	.....	3
Henry Dolphin lbw: S Bright	.....	4

Jy Hull c: Z Bright b: SC Lakshan	....	23
Aaron Kaddatz not out	.....	130*
Jake Henry b: SC Lakshan	.....	0
Benn Hayes run out	.....	0
Aidan Simmons	.....	0

c: M McGrath b: SC Lakshan	....	0
Aaron Thompson b: S Browne	....	2
Reece Cordeux b: SC Lakshan	....	46
Mitch Rowe not out	.....	1*
Extras (1w, 3nb, 2lb, 2b)	.....	8

Total 9 / 312 (75 Overs)

Bowling: S Bright 15-1-40-1, M Cantwell 5-1-16-1 (1w), S Browne		
19-3-63-1 (1nb), Z Bright 6-0-37-0 (1nb), SC Lakshan 20-2-64-5 (1nb), M McGrath 10-1-88-0		

Total 10 / 242 (72 Overs)

Bowling: J Gay 16-7-38-1, Private		
Player 8-1-31-1, C Ford 18-6-40-6,		
J Toner 15-3-59-2, O Rook 8-2-32-0 (1w), E Smith 6-0-26-0 (1w), J Pilkington 1-0-6-0 (3w)		

Total 5 / 317 (75 Overs)

DIVISION 1

Nerrena 8/350 v OMK

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS

Jack Curtis	43
c: Z Lamers b: J Lamers	3
Loc Roberts b: J		

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Koonwarra players enjoy their premiership success. Back: Michelle Boyd, Jodie Arnup, Kathy Zacharopoulos, Melissa Buckley, Taz Boden, Kim Peters, Fiona Christensen, Carmen Dettmer, Teagan Hughes. Front: Melissa Gheller, Gabby Perry, Brittany Thomas, Karla Williams, Beth Drury and Aleisha Wrigley. A42_0825

Cougars claim deserved women's premiership

BRITT Thomas withheld searing pressure to deliver Koonwarra Leongatha RSL premiership delight, conceding just four runs off the Grand Final's last over and taking a wicket with the closing ball, when a Phillip Island six would have levelled the scores.

Co-captain Thomas bowled Rosanna Martino to seal the triumph, the wicket giving Koonwarra Leongatha RSL an extra run and a winning margin of seven runs, Thomas finishing with 1/16 off her three overs.

She admitted to feeling plenty of nerves with ball in hand for the deciding over.

"I just trusted my skills," Thomas said when asked how

she got the job done.

Her co-captain Gabby Perry was relieved it worked out to be third-time-lucky for the Cougars, delighted not to have given another runner-up speech after Koonwarra Leongatha RSL lost the previous two Grand Finals.

Perry also played an important role as the Cougars looked to defend their strong initial total of 124, taking 2/14 off three overs and being on a hat trick after bowling both Bianca Hellmuth-Pask and Rebecca Overeem.

Despite the heroics of the skipper, Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's Mel Gheller was deemed best afield in recognition of her commanding 33 runs off just 18 balls that included five fours and

a six, and her figures with the ball of 1/10, having bowled Claudia Prescott.

Perry made 17 with the willow, Kathy Zacharopoulos another handy contributor for the winning team with 14 runs.

The Cougars discipline with the ball proved decisive, conceding just 13 extras to Phillip Island's 29.

Overall though, it was a commendable effort from the Sharks in just the side's second season.

Sienna Macmillan impressed for the narrowly beaten team, her four overs costing just 20 runs and yielding the wicket of Melissa Buckley whom she bowled.

Jessica Reed was the other

wicket-taking bowler for the Sharks with 1/14 off her two overs, run outs accounting for the other couple of wickets Phillip Island captured.

Those wickets gave the chasing team four runs before it began wielding the willow.

Opener Grace Webster led the way with the bat for Phillip Island, managing 22 at a strike rate of 200, hitting four boundaries.

Martino's 18 runs at better than a run a ball as part of the Sharks' final pair helped ensure it was game on until the end.

It was a match that will long be remembered by players and enthusiastic supporters.

While the modified format of

the women's game has worked well in its early seasons in the Leongatha & District Cricket Association, it is likely the rules will soon shift towards a more traditional approach.

LDCA president John Schelling noted the Association's Gippsland Cricket League women made a Semi Final playing traditional rules, but it will ultimately be up to the clubs what format next season's LDCA women's competition takes.

Still, that's a discussion for another day, Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's premiership joy set to occupy the spotlight for some time, the success thoroughly deserved with the Cougars taking eight wickets in an impressive display.

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