

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

# Sentinel-Times



## LOCAL REFEREE TAKES CHARGE IN BIG V YOUTH

It was a big day of basketball at the Bass Coast Community Stadium in Wonthaggi on Saturday with a pre-season double header for NBL1 teams Ringwood and Frankston in the Men's and Women's and also a Men's Big V Youth match as well. And there were a couple of handy spinoffs for the local association including two well-attended clinics with the stars.

"It's all good experience," said Charlotte Morris, a Level 1 referee, as she chatted with some local youngsters; Harvey, Jackson and Baxter, before the game.

# HOT AND BOTHERED

- Why a hot long weekend is a worry for Bass Coast

ROYAL Life Saving Australia's Summer Drowning Report 2023-24 was released last Friday, March 1, recording 99 drowning deaths across Australia between December 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024.

It's an increase of 10 per cent on the 90 drowning deaths last summer and a five per cent increase on the five-year average of 94 drowning deaths.

But in Victoria there has been a 23 per cent increase in summer drownings, up

from 22 last year to 27 this year, which is well above the five-year average of 19.

Tragically, the Bass Coast local government area has punched well above its weight, and with a hot, holiday long weekend looming, there's expected to be one last crowd burst for our beaches.

In 13 days over the summer, from Friday, January 12, when two people drowned at Smiths Beach and Kilcunda, and Wednesday, January 24, when there was a mass drowning at Forrest Caves on

Phillip Island, six visitors to Bass Coast have lost their lives.

Another man in his 50s drowned while freediving with friends near Port Welshpool, on January 12, after he lost his fins.

Anecdotally at least, there has also been a significant rise in the number of incidents where further tragedy was averted after surfers, off-duty surf lifesavers and others intervened.

Continued page 3



## International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024

See pages 27-31

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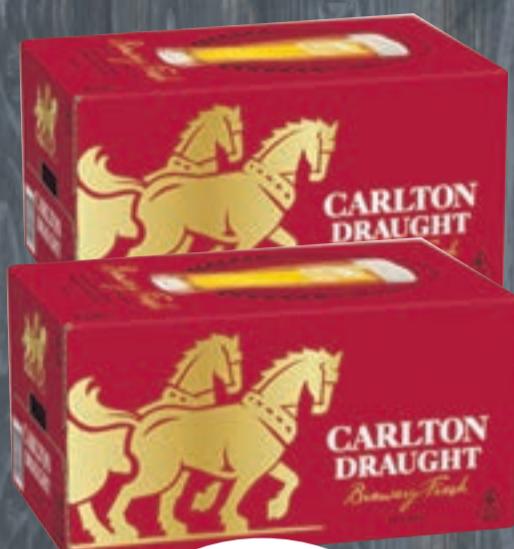
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PRICE FREEZE

# Hot and bothered

- Why a hot long weekend is a worry for Bass Coast

## From page 1

Such was the case on Thursday, February 22 when Phillip Island surfers Niamh Moore and Leigh Conway were "in the right place at the right time" and affected the rescue of a three-year-old child and her parents after they were swept out in an inflatable ring at Smiths Beach.

The NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib, has moved quickly to address the problem in his state, by bringing together rescue organisations, researchers and government agencies for an experts' roundtable on Monday this week, March 4.

Local public affairs activist, Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai, believes the Victorian Government should be doing likewise.

"Of course they should. It's been an absolute tragedy what has happened down here this summer and it's not just the families of the victims who've been affected," Mr Jolly said this week.

"The first responders, our surf lifesaving club volunteers and emergency services people; they've all been impacted by what's happened and the local community too. They're still talking about it.

"I went down to Anzacs (beach near Cape Woolamai) this week and that warning sign is still half submerged in the sand.

"And when is Phillip Island Nature Parks going to roll out its new signs.

"There's a hot holiday weekend coming up and no one seems to have done anything in response.

"I've petitioned the coroner to do a proper inquiry into the situation here."

We asked Bass MP, Jordan Crugnale, for a response.

She said she supports a similar initiative in Victoria to the 'Coastal Water Safety Roundtable' held in NSW yesterday and will be making representations along those lines in State Parliament this week, sitting from Tuesday, March 5 to Thursday, March 7.

NSW Emergency Minister Dib was quoted in the ethnic press in NSW this week about bringing together emergency services and relevant agencies.



Local emergency service personnel couldn't help but be affected by the mass drowning at Forrest Caves last month, and they'll be on alert at the prospect of one last big surge of visitors to the beach this long weekend.



Is Victoria dragging the chain when responding to the disastrous summer on our beaches?



This sign at Anzacs Beach on Phillip Island has been buried in the sand for months.

for Life Saving Victoria.

Mr Jolly would like to see more direct messages on beach signs locally and more funding for local surf clubs to extend their patrols.

As it stands, Woolamai surf lifesavers will only be patrolling between 1pm-5pm on the hottest day, Saturday, and between 10am-4pm on Sunday and 10am-4pm on the holiday Monday.

"The authorities should be actively directing visitors away from dangerous beaches to patrolled locations and places like Cleeland Bight Beach, off The Cranny, which I would like to see patrolled through the summer as a safe swimming option," he said.

The State Government says they have already boosted funding to Life Saving Victoria, said a spokesperson.

"We have had a similar scenario here this summer with drowning numbers up. We'll work closely with Life Saving Australia on the learnings that come out of this and look at setting up something similar in Victoria," said a spokesperson.

The State Government says they have already boosted funding to Life Saving Victoria, said a spokesperson.

"Since coming into Government, we have doubled our investment in Life Saving Victoria. Our record investment includes yearly funding for necessary training, equipment and water safety as well as an additional \$40 million to open new state-of-the-art lifesaving clubs," said a spokesperson.

"Victoria's lifeguards and lifesavers go above and beyond to educate and protect the community and save lives – we thank them for their vital service.

"We urge anyone visiting Victoria's beautiful waterways this summer to put their safety first – swim between the flags, never swim alone or when you've been drinking and always wear a lifejacket if you're on a boat, fishing, or not a confident swimmer."



Lifejackets remain mandatory at an expanded number of rock fishing locations while results of a safety trial are evaluated.

Lifejackets still a must for rock fishers

THE Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has completed a two-year trial on the pros and cons of making lifejackets mandatory at high-risk rock fishing locations on a permanent basis.

However, while the trial was officially over on the last day of February, it has been extended, VFA Chief Executive Officer Travis Dowling said last week, to ensure the safety of recreational fishers across Victoria while trial results are evaluated to determine longer-term arrangements.

"We know lifejackets save lives and we urge rock fishers to wear one no matter where they are right along the coast because no snapper is worth your life," Mr Dowling said.

"The new and extended zones have been identified through the two-year trial and will be added to the high-risk locations, meaning these important rules remain in place while we review the data and consider preventative measures."

The trial was spectacularly successful at Punchbowl Rocks near San Remo on Monday, November 13 last year when a fisherman, who was in the water for several hours, after being washed off the rocks while trying to retrieve a fish, was rescued by police helicopter.

One of the first responders said the man was wearing an approved PFD which almost certainly saved his life.

Now, almost everyone wears a lifejackets at Punchbowl rocks and the other dangerous rock fishing locations in the area.

The VFA has identified four new locations as high-risk zones where lifejackets will now be mandatory while the trial evaluation is taking place.

They are Jump Rock near Lorne and Phillip Island's Sunderland Bay, Kitty Miller Bay and Cowries Rock Platform.

High-risk zones at Punchbowl Rocks and Potters Hill Road, near San Remo, will be extended to include all rock platforms between Bore Beach and Kilcunda.

Existing zones at Pyramid Rocks on Phillip Island, Artillery Rocks (west of Lorne), Sheoak Falls (south of Lorne) and Cape Bridgewater (near the blowholes car park), remain classified as high risk, with fishers requiring a compliant lifejacket.

Updated signage in several languages is being added to access tracks.

To find out more and view maps of the high-risk zones, visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/rock-fishing](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/rock-fishing)

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State Member for Gippsland South

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## CONTENTS

Entertainment	<b>36-37</b>
Puzzles	<b>38</b>
Farming	<b>40-43</b>
Trades & Services	<b>44-45</b>
Classifieds	<b>46-48</b>

## FEATURES

International Women's Day	<b>27-31</b>
March Garden Guide	<b>39</b>
Footy Tipping	<b>56-57</b>

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## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY:	Advertising closes at 3pm on Fridays
CLASSIFIEDS:	Advertising closes at 12.30pm on Mondays
The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times is published on Tuesdays.	

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

## ONLINE

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# DEADLINE CHANGES

Due to the Labour Day long weekend the deadlines for the next issue of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, to be printed Wednesday, March 13 will be as follows:

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING

**Deadline: 3pm • Friday, March 8**

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**Deadline: 12 noon • Tuesday, March 12**

Please note our offices are closed on Monday, March 11

## 6 Day Weather Forecast

### SOUTH GIPPSLAND



**TUE | Mar 5**  
Sunny.  
Wind AM: E 15-20km/h  
Wind PM: Light  
**11° 27°**



**WED | Mar 6**  
Partly cloudy.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: Light  
**15° 29°**



**THUR | Mar 7**  
Cloud clearing.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h  
**13° 23°**



**FRI | Mar 8**  
Partly cloudy.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h  
**14° 28°**



**SAT | Mar 9**  
Sunny.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: NW-NE 15-20km/h  
**16° 35°**



**SUN | Mar 10**  
Possible shower.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: NW 15-20km/h  
**19° 28°**

## IN BRIEF

### More local productions to South Gippsland

THE Allan Labor Government is enhancing access to arts and culture in South Gippsland, bolstering investments in fresh comedy, music, circus, and theatre experiences for both local residents and visitors to savour.

Minister for Creative Industries, Colin Brooks, has unveiled support for 15 community groups through the Small Regional Presenters program. These initiatives will breathe life into community halls, mechanics institutes, and theatres across the region. This year's program aims to empower community groups and not-for-profit organisations, enabling them to bring creative performances to their local communities, facilitated by Regional Arts Victoria.

In Fish Creek fans of comedy, music, and history are in for a treat with Piano Palooza, presented by Fish Creek Memorial Hall Inc. Meanwhile, music enthusiasts in Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay will each enjoy a night of folk/acoustic music performances in the Small Halls.

The latest investment will also bring a diverse program of musical, comedy and storytelling of Piano Palooza and the all-women circus show Casting Off to the community halls of Strzelecki and Mirboo.

For further details and to explore the full list of the latest Small Regional Presenters recipients, visit the official Creative Victoria website.

### Blaze Aid fencing for Mirboo North

ALREADY, without advertising that they are coming to town to set up camp, the volunteer-driven fencing organisation Blaze Aid has 22 farmers needing help with their fencing.

They're now liaising with the South Gippsland Shire Council for a suitable camp site,

and expect to be established in the area within two weeks.

"One of the main things we have to do is find a suitable place to set up camp; somewhere with power, toilets and showers and access to a kitchen for catering purposes," said Blaze Aid's Mirboo North co-ordinator Peter Jones.

"Once we're on site, we can put out the word for extra jobs and also for volunteers.

"We do welcome local volunteers, and you don't have to have any experience because we have team leaders who will show you what to do.

"But certainly, many hands make light work. If we have a big crew we can do 100s of metres of fencing in a day.

"We do get a lot of grey nomads, students and backpackers too. The travelers can use their time at the camp as part of their 88-day visa requirement.

"But we provide all the meals and somewhere to stay, with the emphasis on enjoying yourself while you're here.

"But right now, the priority is setting up the camp."

Those wanting help can contact Blaze Aid via email at: [bacamp@linksmart.com.au](mailto:bacamp@linksmart.com.au) or they can jump on the Blaze Aid website to find out more.

### Dispensary generator stolen

THE Miners' Dispensary's generator was stolen in the early hours of the morning of Wednesday, February 14. Consequently, the dispensary lost around \$60,000 worth of stock.

Patients who were expecting to collect their refrigerated medicines were inconvenienced. Patients who were booked for COVID and Shingles vaccinations during the week of the power outage were unable to have their planned vaccinations.

The staff now have refrigerated items back in stock, and the incident is under investigation.

### Frankston woman killed in Friday morning crash

POLICE are investigating the circumstances surrounding a fatal crash near Kongwak last Friday morning.

Emergency services were called to Inverloch-Kongwak Road, about 2.5km north of Lynnes Road, just before 6am after a car was discovered off the roadway.

It is believed the car left the road and rolled into a paddock sometime early in the morning, while travelling through a curved section of the road.

On arrival, crews located the deceased driver, a 27-year-old Frankston woman, in the vehicle.

The exact circumstances surrounding the crash are yet to be determined and investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed the crash, with dashcam footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

### What about the new Island tip?

THE Bass Coast Shire Council has bought a site for a new transfer station on Phillip Island, planning to move its facilities out of Cowes, but when?

Kym Lightfoot wrote to council seeking an update on progress at the Gap Road site: "Council purchased the Gap Road property on Phillip Island with the purpose of having a new transfer station. What process actions has council undertaken towards the building of the Transfer Station currently?"

Shire response: "Funds have been allocated in the Long Term Financial Plan and the project is currently in the scoping stage."

Phillip Island's \$12 million 'big battery', prompted by the Totally Renewable Phillip Island group (TRPI), is so far the only development on the Gap Road site.

### Pools 'shovel ready' or buried?

AFTER the opening of the Cowes cultural centre in November last year, at a cost of \$31.3 million, it seems that twin plans for aquatic centres at Cowes and Wonthaggi are on the back burner.

No so, said the council in answer to a question from Kym Lightfoot.

"Would council please provide a listing of the stepped processes council must undertake that would enable the building of an Aquatic Centre in Cowes within the next three years?"

Council response: "In 2022, Council advocated to State and Federal Governments for funding through election promises to progress the Aquatics Project. Council was unsuccessful in achieving funding through either State or Federal Governments. Advocacy continues throughout 2023/24. The aquatics projects are shovel ready and relies on all levels of Government funding to progress further."

### Community Bank provides relief

WHEN disaster struck so close to home, the Board of the Community Bank Mirboo North & District was keen to help make a difference to the lives of those locals who have found themselves in need. The Board was quick to decide to make a generous \$50,000 donation to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF).

Community Banks return their profits to their communities, and so it is ultimately thanks to the customers of the local branch that such a generous donation is made possible.

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) has launched an appeal for financial donations to provide storm-affected Gippslanders with immediate support and is hoping to raise a total of \$500,000.



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# The enormous clean up for Mirboo North

TRUCKS and large machines rumbled along the streets in and around Mirboo North last week as the town clean-up continues with volunteers, council, government and private contractors working alongside one another.

Huge piles of fallen gums still line the roadsides of Mirboo North and two weeks after there remains evidence of the storm in every street, to varying degrees.

Some houses have their roofs caved in, unliveable, some have tiles ripped off with tarps covering holes, and one has a tarp covering the entire roof.

Logs, large trees and tree branches, sheets of tin, structural material, water damaged furniture and other items remain stacked in front yards, along driveways, and on nature strips.

Dump trucks, excavators, bulldozers, backhoes and loaders are aplenty around the most affected parts of town with more being floated in.

Danny Forrester, with CUT360, who are working as council subcontractors, said he had been on the job for eight days straight and they were working their way down Wells Road clearing trees and debris from along the roadside and nature strips.

"It's going to take a while" he said, of the entire clean-up.

Just around the bend on Old Thorpdale Road, gum trees lay in lengthy mounds on the roadside and in the front yard opposite.

The yard belongs to local woman Vera.

Fortunately, when the storm hit, Vera wasn't home as a large gum tree smashed into



**Blaze Aid already has 22 fencing jobs in the Mirboo North area after last month's devastating storm, and they'll soon put out the word for more jobs and more volunteers.**

the roof above the bedrooms and hail poured in causing immense damage to her home.

A large gum tree had fallen onto her driveway, blocking access and many more had fallen across her yard, damaging sheds.

The top of a large cypress hedge at the rear of her property had also snapped off.

"The reserve fell on me," she said simply.

Services had been quick to clear the tree from her house and driveway and the remnants are stacked up in her yard, along with a small hill of mulch.

"I've probably got enough mulch now to last me a lifetime," she said.

Vera is wondering if her front fence line will be cleared of the large fallen gums, as it

is, to her knowledge, not defined.

The insurance assessors have been and for now she is staying with family as her power has been switched off as a safety precaution.

She looks up warily at the splintered gums trees that remain next to her property and talks about a path that she used to wander through, that is now just a pile of debris.

Last week the South Gippsland Shire Council began a curb side collection of green waste and other waste and Council CEO Kerryn Ellis commented on work being undertaken.

"Our outdoors team has cleared about 140 roads so far and we've got about 180 roads still to clear, and there are in excess of 1200

kilometres of road that require full inspection to determine whether they're safe or need further work," Ms Ellis said.

"We received 1150 calls over the past week and an additional 477 relating to trees and road hazards and we're working through responding to those as best we can."

Machines were also busy mulching trees in the fenced off reserve near the public swimming pool.

Hansen Yuncken, a Melbourne based construction company has been appointed by the state and federal government to also assist in clean-up operations.

And local volunteers are still working hard helping out friends and neighbours in a cohesive, community driven and supported effort.

## \$6000 dog attack declared minor

A LEONGATHA resident was walking her dog in a residential street when she was rushed at by two dogs coming out of a nearby property, she was then bitten and bowled over.

Bev\* who is in her late seventies, sustained bites to her hand, fingers, thumb and elbow as she tried to defend her own dog.

She ended up on the ground unable to move her arm properly and covered in blood. Bev called her husband to come and get her, who also called an ambulance.

The dog owner retrieved the two animals, stating they were just playing, put them in the car and drove away.

Bev subsequently underwent a shoulder reconstruction as a result of the fall.

The surgery left the couple \$6000 out of pocket, Bev in a sling for six weeks, and having to undergo countless hours of physiotherapy to regain full range of movement in her arm.

A Council Officer attended a few days later and assessed the bites Bev sustained, which

had mostly healed by then.

According to Bev, the officer did not take her fall or shoulder injury into account and declared the incident as minor.

This was confirmed by the South Gippsland Shire Council who stated in writing that: The dog owner has received infringements; however Council will not be proceeding with prosecution of a serious attack.

The reason cited for this is that under The Domestic Animals Act 1994, a burden of proof has to be clearly established.

South Gippsland Shire Council confirmed that Menacing and Dangerous Declarations are also managed under the Act and stated that: At this stage there is not enough evidence for Council to commence the process of a declaration in relation to this animal.

A couple of weeks prior to the incident the same dog had rushed the couple's own dog, causing it an injured spine resulting in a limp, and a visit to

the vet and anti-inflammatory were needed.

"That dog is well known around here for being nasty," said Bev's husband.

In the South Gippsland Shire Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025, it states that a dangerous dog is one that a council has declared dangerous because it has bitten a person or animal, causing serious injury or death.

However, between 2021-2022, 37 dog attacks or rushes were reported to South Gippsland Shire Council and only three dogs were Registered Declared Dogs - known to be dangerous, menacing or of a restricted breed.

The couple are frustrated with the council for not acting, despite evidence the dog is dangerous, with no fencing in the dog owners front yard to prevent similar incidents happening in the future.

"The one dog which is known to be quite vicious and horrible needs to be euthanised, or it has got to be under some sort of strict control," said

Bev's husband.

The couple would like to at least see changes made to leash laws for dogs outside their homes, which is a view supported by 64 per cent of people in South Gippsland, according to South Gippsland Shire Council's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025.

Council has stated that during the consultation for both the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2025 and the General Local Law 2024, Council received feedback in relation to dogs on leash in South Gippsland.

But for Council to implement this as law, it has to be Gazetted as a Council Order under the Act and this is not included in Council's General Local Law.

South Gippsland Shire Council state that further consultation to consider the development of this Order is proposed to commence later this year.

\*Name changed for confidentiality.



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## Mayor's Message



Cr Clare  
Le Serve

Recently I met with Bass Coast Climate Action Network where we discussed the urgent need for stand-alone solar powered battery systems in community centres in all our towns so that community members can charge phones, run communications and support each other.

In a timely series, Bass Coast Shire Council and South Gippsland Shire Council have partnered with non-profit organisation Renew to deliver a series of webinars presented by experts and focused on making your home and community more sustainable. Webinars are free and run for 90 minutes, including question time. If you have missed any of them, there are recordings available online.

If you're keen to get off fossil fuels or curious to learn more about electric vehicles Council are proud to be supporting a special event on 9 March at Corinella at the Totally Renewable Tenby. I will be speaking at this event along with a range of EV owners and the founder of Carloop to update community on regional charging and other work Council are doing in this space.

Last week Council held the Developing Bass Coast Forum which was well attended with discussions around self-sustainability in the home and workplace and inspiring positive speakers.

We have Councillor Information sessions coming up. Have you ever thought about becoming a Local Councillor? Being a local councillor lets you give back, shape change, and represent your neighborhood and have an impact on your community.

Become a local councillor and help drive positive change.

This weekend of course the Cowes Classic was held which has now entered its 31st year! It was very well attended and was great to see all the active community members swimming and running in this annual event that we support and celebrate.

On the topic of sports, we are proudly hosting an International Women's Day event this Friday at Silverleaves Resort where Nicole Livingstone OAM will be our keynote speaker along with local sports identities.

International Women's Day is a time for inspiration and change. Every year since 1911, this global day marks the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women, while calling to accelerate women's equality. For this year's Bass Coast event our theme is "Inspiring inclusion" and we will focus on women in sport at a professional and community level.

Wherever you are this Friday, I'd encourage you to get along to the many events happening or please just to reflect on what it means to inspire inclusion and how you can be a part of positive change in the community.

# Recognising the need for sustainability and affordable housing in Bass Coast

THE community were updated on the Wonthaggi North East precinct, affordability housing strategy and economic development framework during a sustainability development forum at the Wonthaggi Golf Club last Wednesday.

Hosted by the Bass Coast Shire Council and welcoming residents, and business owners. CEO Greg Box encouraged the community to network during a buffet breakfast before hearing from guest speakers Wade Bashaw, Dr Rachel Goldlust and Brendan Condon.

Dr. Rachel Goldlust, Mr Bashaw and Mr Condon discussed the importance of balancing social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity in the coastal region.

They emphasised the need for sustainable building practices and innovations, such as tree-lined streets and protected views, while acknowledging the need for industrial and



Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Greg Box with guest speakers of the sustainability forum Wade Bashaw, Dr Rachel Goldlust and Brendan Condon. Z14\_1024

commercial land.

Later, during a question panel Dr. Goldlust and Mr Condon discussed the importance of building resilient homes that can withstand the impacts of climate change and rising energy prices.

Dr Goldlust highlighted the benefits and challenges of electrification in housing

and emphasised the need for a circular economy approach to meet the challenges of the future.

Mr Greg Box stated that the climate change action plan target with net zero emissions by 2030 sets clear direction for council to promote more sustainable residential development in the region and

intersects with council's other plans and strategies.

The first of those for council is the Wonthaggi North East precinct - a comprehensive project designed to foster the growth and development of Wonthaggi, and extending from the existing township into a green and connected new community.

With the intention to build more sustainably into the future, the panel discussed ways in which developers and council can work together to develop a sustainable precinct that will help with lowering the cost of household bills into the future.

However, this plan raised the concern of housing affordability during the current housing crisis, with resident and architect Barbara Moje asking the panel to focus on the demographic of the town and consider high density development to help with low-income earners and single households, as Bass Coast is currently dealing with a rise in homelessness.

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Inverloch beach path along the road

CONCERNED about a lack of progress on the extension of the Inverloch foreshore pathway, Terry Parkin put this question to the Bass Coast Council at their February Meeting.

"Why is council again consulting with the Inverloch community on the continuation design of the shared pathway all the way to the Surf Club when previously the council and the community agreed to the design that council has partly built which is a safer option?"

Shire response: "The options for design in the 2019 community engagement for the shared pathway alignment were conditional on consents and permits being issued under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018. Council was able to secure these consents and permits for the 3a section of pathway between Veronica and Ozone streets, but not for the 3b section of pathway between Ozone and Goroke streets.

"This has resulted in the 3b section being limited to construction within the road

reserve and reducing the amount of design options available to Council."

But, will it be safe for pedestrians?

### Council meetings at Berninnett?

RESTRICTIONS on the number of people attending Bass Coast council meetings would be a thing of the past, according to Louise Lyell, who put a suggestion to council in February.

"When will council relocate council meetings to the purpose-built Cowes Community Centre so that residents do not have to RSVP for one of the maximum six seats currently available in the not-for-purpose Wonthaggi Council Chambers. I believe patronage would increase at council meetings through better accessibility?"

Response: "Berninnett is a cultural centre, not a purpose-built location for Council meetings, although Council meetings may be held there. The Council Chamber has been reconfigured to provide increased

seating for the public gallery at Council meetings."

Council watcher John Trigt, who was recently denied a seat in the council chambers asked a similar question.

### Pump track update, please

COUNCIL watcher, John Trigt, has written to council asking when the Cape Woolamai Pump Track will be built.

"Can the mayor advise the youth of Cape Woolamai the timeline and status update on the proposed pump track for Cape Woolamai and will it be considered in this in this year's budget."

Response: "Council has convened a community reference group to deliver the Mountain Bike, BMX, Pump Strategy. This Strategy will inform the delivery of new infrastructure across the Shire and is anticipated to be completed by mid-2024."

The short answer then, not provided by council, is 'No'.

The draft annual budget is usually produced in April

each year.

Mal Pinkerton put a similar question to last week's council meeting.

### WHAT is the 'Capital Advancement' fund?

BASS Coast Ratepayers group officer, Graham Jolly, appears to have put his finger on another Bass Coast Shire slush fund offering little or no accountability about where the funds end up.

At February's council meeting he asked about six unnamed 'Capital Advancement' projects in the shire's capital works budget, each with funding allocations against them but no more detail. What are they for? he asked.

Shire response: "Capital advancement is an additional contingency set up in response to significant volatility in the construction industry. Any unspent funds will be used to fund projects in the 2024/25 Capital Works Program."

It might be interesting to ask if any Capital Advancement funds went towards the \$31.3M cost of Berninnett.

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# Now, Berninneit's a Passivhaus building

FINALLY, we have the real answer to a question asked of the Bass Coast Shire Council on May 17 last year about when 'the German windows' for the Cowes Cultural Centre would be arriving.

Fact is they arrived almost four months after Berninneit was officially opened, in November last year, which we are told is standard practice for windows in the construction sector, as the supply chain notoriously causes lengthy delays.

Here's what Terry Parkin asked about the windows at Bass Coast Council question time on May 17, 2023:

Terry Parkin, Cowes Cultural and Community Centre Windows. "Would council please advise when will the very special air sealed windows and doors that are being made in Germany for the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre will be delivered to the site of the new build."

Council response: "McCorkell Constructions are responsible for coordinating the supply, delivery and installation of every element of the build. They will continue to work with suppliers to ensure items are delivered in line with



Almost every window and door in the new Berninneit cultural centre was removed last week to make way for new set of Passivhaus-compliant windows and doors. What happens to the old ones?

project timelines."

The Sentinel-Times was asked to find out about the construction activity going on at the Cowes cultural centre last week and Deputy Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead was able to confirm that "new doors from Germany are being fitted, the ones there were temporary until the Passivhaus windows arrived".

Council had the perfect opportunity to update

the community on the late arrival of the Passivhaus windows at last month's council meeting when it received two questions about when the Passivhaus assessment would be available.

Clearly one of the reasons why the council hasn't received its Passivhaus certificate is because they were still waiting for the Passivhaus doors and windows.

It is understood that the cost of the windows is part of the original contracted amount, and the principal contractor wears the cost of the delay.

But an issue for a council that prides itself on elite waste reduction, recycling and sustainability is what happens to the temporary windows and glass doors removed to make way for the German windows?



## What a milestone!

MAYOR Cr Clare Le Serve and her husband Neil Le Serve celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with children Brent, Tanya and their family and friends on Saturday, March 2 in their Corinella home. Photo: Nici Cahill - Snapshot Photography.

## Set sail for school in Drouin

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

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

To discover the difference St Paul's can make for your child, please contact Bonnie Cameron, Enrolments Officer on 5623 5833 or email [enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)

### Enrol now for 2025

Apply now for Pre-Kinder to Year 2  
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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

## EPA fines farmer over dairy effluent in waterway

EPA Victoria has fined a farmer in the Fish Creek district \$1923 for allowing more than 1000 litres of dairy effluent to flow into a waterway that leads to Shallow Inlet.

EPA officers conducting a proactive inspection discovered effluent draining from an effluent pond through a pipe and into an unnamed waterway.

They also found signs that a nearby sump had overflowed, leaving pools of effluent on open ground.

The fine is the latest in a series of infringement notices issued by EPA officers as they conduct proactive inspections on dairy farms across Gippsland.

EPA Gippsland Regional Manager Jessica Bandiera says the mismanagement of dairy effluent is a problem right across the region, and the proactive inspections of dairy farms will continue.

"Dairy effluent must not be allowed into waterways. It is high in substances that can be toxic and pose a risk to the environment, stock and people's health," Ms Bandiera said.

"Properly managed on the farm, it becomes useful fertiliser, but flowing into a waterway it is a hazard to wildlife and neighbouring farms," she said.

EPA and other agencies offer advice for landholders on how to comply with the law and make sure dairy effluent is a valuable resource and not a threat to the environment.

"EPA officers can give landholders compliance advice for minor issues, or issue regulatory notices listing the required actions to fix a more pressing problem, but EPA won't hesitate to issue fines where serious mismanagement makes it necessary," Ms Bandiera said.

Every Victorian has a duty under the law to take reasonable actions to protect the environment, and in this case, the landholder has been issued with an EPA Improvement Notice requiring the dairy effluent system to be modified to prevent any further discharges into waterways.

For information about managing dairy effluent go to [epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/effluent-dairy-farm](http://epa.vic.gov.au/for-business/find-a-topic/effluent-dairy-farm)

### • OBITUARY ~ Rodney Emmerson

# Man of music and flowers

THE late Rodney Emmerson often picked 15,000 daffodils, from his own award-winning plots, on a farm just outside Leongatha, ahead of the town's time-honoured daffodil festival, to promote the event beforehand, and also as part of the magnificent display mounted each year in the Memorial Hall.

But as much as his name is synonymous with the Leongatha Daffodil Festival, for which he was the driving force for more than 50 years, Rodney Emmerson's selfless contribution to the town and the district went well beyond the humble green and gold bloom which has become the symbol of the town.

As mourners at his funeral service in Leongatha heard on Friday, March 1, he was for 68 years, from the age of 17, organist at St Andrew's Uniting Church in Leongatha, often playing for three services on a Sunday, morning and evening at Leongatha and also at St Andrew's Union Church in Tarwin Lower.

He also played for countless weddings, funerals and events; donating back any proceeds to the church.

He was also a key figure, with head shire gardener at the time, Richard Lester, in the rejuvenation of one of Gippsland's most treasured horticultural assets, Moss Vale Park at Berrys Creek.

Rodney James Emmerson, the son of dairy farmers Ernie and (Isabella) Jean Emmerson, older brother of Glenice and Joan, was born at Fish Creek on October 21, 1938 and attended the Fish Creek Primary School and Foster High School before moving to



**The late Rodney Emmerson will be sorely missed when the Leongatha Horticultural Society stages its 75th anniversary Leongatha Daffodil & Floral Show later this year, pictured with his sister Joan Michael at last year's event. A15\_3723**

Leongatha at 13 years of age in 1951.

He had already been travelling there by train for piano lessons since the age of nine.

Something else that might have prompted the move was the first Leongatha Daffodil Show, staged two years earlier, at the initiative of Rodney's father Ernie, and by 1957 becoming a major event in the town. It will celebrate its 75th anniversary this year.

Rodney's interest in propagating daffodils started early when he was given some daffodil bulbs, and by 1951, according to fellow Leongatha Horticultural Society leader, Sue Thompson, he started to buy daffodil bulbs in an effort to produce some award-winning blooms.

But, after winning champion daffodil for the first time in 1955, a severe bout of daffodil disease wiped out his collection and his progress, and he started again, maintaining a strict regime of biosecurity to protect the plants from then onwards.

An excellent student at school, he won the Victorian Alliance Française award for the best French pronunciation before going on to work in the State Bank in Leongatha and later in Melbourne.

Nephew Rohan Michael recalled Rodney telling him that he was taught how to fire a pistol and carried one around with him while completing funds transfers in Melbourne.

"I can assure you that no bank

employees would be allowed to wander around with guns in Melbourne's streets today," said Rohan while delivering part of the eulogy on behalf of the family.

On moving back to Leongatha, to work on the farm, Rodney expanded his involvement in the leadership of various horticultural organisations regionally, and also branched out into plant breeding. With local grower, Dolly Horn of Leongatha North, between 1975 and 1983, he grew a new, cross-pollinated Magnolia from seed, later to be named Dolly Horn, which won numerous awards before going into commercial production.

While Rodney was awarded the John Pascoe Fawkner Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria for exemplary service to horticulture, he declined nomination for others, including the South Gippsland Shire Citizen of the Year award, content to remain humble and self-effacing despite his immense knowledge of horticulture.

Rodney Emmerson died at Woorayl Lodge in Leongatha on February 18, 2024, after a brief stay, and the family expressed its sincere gratitude to staff for their care and attention. Rodney was 85.

A feature of the funeral service at St Andrew's Uniting Church in Leongatha was the organ music by Dorothy Warren and two exquisite floral arrangements by Maureen Quigley and Dawn Green which graced the altar at the church.

Rodney is buried at the Leongatha Cemetery within sight of his daffodils on the edge of town where a parcel of land has been set aside as a botanic garden.



## Crack and down she came

THE tranquil late Sunday ambience of Marine Parade in San Remo was broken around 5.30pm, quite literally when one of the old Cypress Pines, opposite the Beachside Bakehouse (near IGA) lost one of its big branches.

One of the first on the scene was Bass Coast Deputy Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, who was meeting with friends outside the San Remo Hotel.

"We were just sitting there when there was this almighty crack. A few people said I should go down and have a look, so I did."

What Cr Halstead found was

several small branches of the old tree on the ground, but also a huge, broken branch perched precariously across another branch and likely to fall anytime.

"I called the SES and got on to Unit Manager Mandy Chancellor. They offered to come down but acknowledged it was too big for them so we called the shire's afterhours number.

"They were very good getting here quickly and cordoning the area off. We then got a cherry picker in to make the area safe.

"There have been concerns about these trees in the past. Imagine if a car was parked

underneath or someone walked past.

"I think we need to be having a look at all these old Cypress pines and seeing if they need to come down."

All's well that end's well but maybe, consider not parking under one of these trees especially on a windy day.

**RIGHT: San Remo Unit Manager Mandy Chancellor surveys the damage to one of the old Cypress Trees along Marine Parade San Remo and found it was too big a job for the local volunteers.**



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**South Gippsland  
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## South Gippsland Shire Council News

### Animal Registrations

Now is the time to renew your pet's registration!

Keep your four-legged friends safe and secure by registering them with South Gippsland Shire Council.

Owning a cat or dog in South Gippsland requires registration with Council to ensure they can be returned to you if they become lost. Your animal registration fees also help to provide important pet-related services within South Gippsland, such as animal control and community education about responsible pet ownership.

When you register, you

must provide evidence of microchipping and desexing which your vet can give to you.

Responsible pet ownership is so important for not only our fur families but our community as well.

Renewal registrations must be paid by 10 April each year. New dog and cat registrations can be made anytime throughout the year.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet)

### Community Training Calendar



South Gippsland Shire Council offers FREE workshops throughout the year for South Gippsland community groups, not-for-profit organisations, clubs, and volunteers.

These workshops are focussed on building capacity and sustainability for these groups as well as providing them with tools to develop new skills, strengthen their community group, and network with others.

The 2024 South Gippsland Community Training Calendar is now available on Council's website.

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

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 20 March 2.00pm  
(Council Chambers, Leongatha)

Dates are also listed on Council's website at:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeting-dates)

To watch the 'open' part of the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:

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

Please contact the Governance Team for questions about Council Meetings

### STORM UPDATES

Keep up to date with the latest storm related information at Council's website:

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

### IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

Council impounded the following vehicle on 16 February 2024 from Swanson Street, Korumburra in accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

**1999 Grey Trailer**

**Registration Number:** U06055

Unless the vehicle is collected and relevant fees paid within 14 days of the date of this notice, the vehicle will be offered for sale to the public.

For enquiries, please contact the Community Safety team on 5662 9200 during office hours.

### REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

### RFT/402 – Building Maintenance Services Contract 2024-2026

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 19 March 2024.

### RFT/398 – Mount Lyall Road, Nyora – Road Rehabilitation

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 19 March 2024.

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal:

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

### CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha

03 5662 9200

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

# Woorayl Lodge builds towards Boags Road project

THERE are hopes for extra aged care beds in Leongatha by mid-2026 as Woorayl Lodge management continues progress to bring stage 1 of its planned Boags Road facility to fruition.

The first stage is intended to add about 40 beds to existing capacity, with the current McCartin Street facility having 40 permanent beds, and one respite bed, with a waiting list of 30 for permanent beds.

The buildings will be created in pod form, with eight to 11 rooms per pod, with an office and kitchen to be included in stage 1.

"Each pod will be designed to be able to manage high care residents," Co-CEO Jaimee Brydon said.

While a council permit has been issued, management is awaiting the outcome of an application for funding through the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program.

Stage 1 has been budgeted at \$22 million, with \$8.25 million of that to be provided by the grant, if successful, and that figure to be matched by Woorayl Lodge and the remaining approximately \$5.5 million to be generated through fundraising.

Should the grant application be successful, work would need to get underway by May this year, with a two-year time frame anticipated



for stage 1 works.

That build time would allow fundraising efforts to continue during building, with money raised going towards the later fit-out costs.

As for the sought after Federal grant, management will pursue funding through round 2 of the same program if unsuccessful in round 1.

Discussions have been taking

place with builders and consultants to enable construction to get underway in a timely fashion once funding is secured.

Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien was an interested visitor on Thursday, hearing about the stage 1 plans, but is not able to campaign for State Government funding with facilities such as Woorayl Lodge falling in the Federal domain.

**ABOVE:** Woorayl Lodge CEOs Andrew Ross and Jaimee Brydon with member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien and a model similar to the planned overall development at Boags Road. A12\_1024

## Substantial Koonwarra Landfill cost variation detailed

A SUBSTANTIAL contract variation for the construction of a new cell at the Koonwarra Landfill site has been explained, following the announcement of an almost \$774,000 increase in the cost of the project, which was initially just under \$2 million excluding GST.

The contract variation was approved by South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis after consultation with the mayor and councillors on December 6 last year.

Council's director of sustainable infrastructure, Tony Peterson, responded to the Sentinel-Times' request for details on the project and the reason for the substantial increase in

the contract amount for the construction of Cell 5.

"Cell 4, which is the active cell, is reaching the end of its life and will probably be at capacity sometime this year, which is why we need to build the next landfill cell," Tony said.

He anticipates the new cell, the final one for the site, being in service for approximately 10 years.

Tony explained that expected timeframe to fill the new cell, once complete, is based on council's ability to improve its waste management.

There are plans to implement a system that takes food and green organics out of landfill, as well as introducing recycling improvements that

will also reduce landfill volumes.

Construction of the new cell is being undertaken by Goldsmith Civil and Environmental Pty Ltd, with that business specialising in landfill construction and having built the last two cells in Koonwarra.

"The contract variation was due to the removal and disposal of unsuitable subgrade material, and the sourcing and carting of suitable clay liner material," Tony said.

"Prior investigation had been undertaken on the site; however, after the completion of the bulk earthworks component of the contract, the existing clay seams identified in the investigation did not provide the

required quantity of suitable clay liner material."

Tony explained that construction of a landfill cell is heavily audited under the EPA regulations, with an environmental auditor overseeing the whole process and guiding any required changes.

"Where the cell is being built, we had to move about 15 metres of material above it, so even though we'd done a lot of bores, when you're drilling down to that depth it's hard to get a good picture of material," he said.

He elaborated that an impermeable clay liner, meeting precise specifications, is required for the landfill cell to be compliant.

## Herb's mini golf dream tees off

KORUMBURRA's newest thrill was officially opened on Sunday, March 3, by Cr Nathan Hersey and Cr Jenni Keerie to a packed crowd.

The new Korumburra Mini Golf centre is the result of hard work and investment by Herb and Lorna Treacy.

Cr Nathan Hersey officially opened the venue, which will be in full swing from tomorrow (Wednesday March 6), congratulating Herb and Lorna for their significant effort and creating a space for locals and visitors to come together for enjoyment and recreation.

"Herb and Lorna have a big heart for Korumburra and for young people"

Cr Hersey said.

"I want to congratulate Herb and Lorna on putting their money where their heart is and creating a fantastic space for, particularly, our young people to come together in safety and out of the rain in the wet months."

The indoor mini golf will complement the indoor play centre, Magilla's, already operating at the site on the South Gippsland Highway (9 Mine Road, Korumburra.)

**RIGHT:** Councillors Nathan Hersey and Jenni Keerie with Nathan's son Hugo at the launch of Herb and Lorna Treacy's Korumburra Mini Golf Centre last Sunday.



## Mayor's Message



Cr Clare Williams

HELLO South Gippsland.

The clean-up continues in our region, and likely will for some time. I'd like to thank everyone who has and continues to roll up their sleeves and support South Gippsland.

On Tuesday, a Community Update Meeting was held in Mirboo North. Updates were provided to the community by Emergency Recovery Victoria, the Incident Control Centre, the CFA and Council. Other agencies were in attendance including the Department of Families Fairness and Housing, Agriculture Victoria (DEECA), SES, AusNet, Telstra and the Department of Education. All agencies were available after the meeting to answer questions from the community. Council also held a BBQ afterwards. Thank you to those who attended this meeting and participated respectfully.

Earlier in the week, the Chief Executive Officer and I showed Steve Dimopoulos MP (Minister for Environment, Tourism Sport and Major Events, and Outdoor Recreation) and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Secretary John Bradley around Mirboo North. Later in the week, we also had Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt MP and the Minister for Water and Housing Harriet Shing MP come to the region. They, along with all other local members and Ministers who have visited, wanted to understand the impact to the region and was a prime opportunity to highlight what we need from the state government to help our community.

## Shop Local

While I was in Mirboo North on the weekend, I had many discussions with people from outside the Shire who heard about the devastating storm event and wanted to support the town. People from the Mornington Peninsula and eastern suburbs of Melbourne have been coming down and spending money at local businesses.

Businesses have been hit hard due to the storm event and Boxing Day floods, so it is great to see people coming up and spending their money across South Gippsland.

I encourage you to shop locally to support our businesses, and if you know someone who wants to come and see us, let them know we'd love to see them.

## Events

The Foster Agricultural Show was held on Saturday 24 February and saw a massive number of people enjoy this amazing event. Locals and visitors alike flocked to Foster and found themselves with a smorgasbord of events for everyone.

The next day the Toora Pear Party was yet another great family day where people were able to get out and enjoy the weather.

To view other events happening in South Gippsland, please visit: [www.visitgippsland.com.au/events](http://www.visitgippsland.com.au/events)

## Animal Registrations

If you've got a dog or cat, it needs to be registered with Council. Registering your animal ensures that your beautiful animal can be returned to you quickly if they become lost.

Registering a new animal can be done at any time of the year, but renewals are only open now until 10 April.

For more information, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/register-your-pet)

# Newhaven College's 2024 student leaders



Year 12 Leadership for 2024, bright and ready for the year, pictured with Head of Senior School and Vice Principal Jason Scott and Principal Tony Corr.



Newhaven College's 2024 Middle School Leadership bring many skills to Years 5-8 year levels.



Head of Junior School Cath Huther with 2024 Junior School Leadership, who are excited to take on new responsibilities and challenges in the year ahead.

NEWHAVEN College nurtures the whole child, to build the inner confidence they need to ground them through adult life. Students are encouraged to look at the world beyond themselves and aim to make a meaningful difference. Some of the students who represent these values are recognised as leaders among their peers.

At the College's first all-school assembly, our Year 12 Leadership team was inducted by Principal Mr Tony Corr. Each student was welcomed on stage, and applauded by their fellow students, teachers and families. The four College Captains represented their cohort by hosting the assembly. A new initiative for 2024 was the introduction of 'meet the people'. College Captain, Tahlia Williams explained, "Meet the People involves students from the Year 12 leadership team shaking hands with the students from the year level the leadership team started in. This exciting addition intends to build on our community, friendships and connections between sub-schools at Newhaven College."

The 2024 Year 12 Leadership team consists of: College Captains – Alice Mabilia, Max Arceo, Tahlia Williams and Tom Bird; House Captains – Will Campbell, Becky Heffer, Sienna Michie, Jack Ryan (Bass), Daniel Caffieri, Neave Dunstan, Jade Ruffin, Leo Savona (Clarke), Ella Berry, Archer Herbert, Sonny McMillan, Sienna Steiner (McHaffie), Claire Banks, Heidi Driscoll, Finn Russell, Amelia White (Sambell); Sport – Harry Butcher, Lily Mewett; Drama – Jemima Aitken, Dean Lyle; Music – Liam Fury, Jasmine Turton; Visual Arts – Chloe Harris, Philippa Thompson-Lord; Wellbeing – William Bar Bar, Georgia Reich; Social Justice – Tilia Peres-Anderson, Gabriel Winterson; Environment & Sustainability – Tahlia Lindley.

As part of the first All School Assembly,

several high achievers from 2023 VCE were welcomed back and congratulated. Dux of College Tess Papas and proxime accessit Saffi Campbell Walker spoke passionately about their time at Newhaven College and what exciting adventures lay ahead.

Middle School presented their 2024 student leaders at their first assembly. Head of Middle School, Mr Ralph Arceo, explained the importance of leadership and how to lead by example. The Middle School Leadership for 2024 are: Captains – Amara Pittorino, Finn Campbell Walker; House Captains – Nelly Fox, William Bruce, Maise van der Walt, Heath McLean (Bass), Amelia Baxter, Marasai O'Keeffe, Yasmin Gloria, Angus Kennedy (Clarke), Phoebe Helps, Millie Thom, Harvey Leary (McHaffie), Mia Bowtell, Savannah Bennett, Bede Prideaux, Bella Rose Grant (Sambell); Drama – Koa Humphris; Environmental – Mia Tillotson; Music – Georgia Sanders, Hamish Dakers-Hock; Public Speaking and Debating – Scarlette Hill; Wellbeing – Tierlin Hamley; Sport – Isabella Stead, Hayden Fenwick; and Visual Arts – Zoe Arnott, Equestrian – Olivia Curtain.

Junior School's 2024 student leaders were inducted at their first assembly. All the students in attendance offered their support with riotous applause. The Junior School Leadership for 2023 are: Captains – Chloe Shapardon, Edward Lee; Vice Captains – Eden Hallas, Leith Cameron; House Captains – Cooper Bennett, Sage van der Walt (Bass), Ava Mannix, Sam Martindale (Clarke), Rose Deery, Jude Foster (McHaffie), Olivia Clark, Evelyn McCabe (Sambell) and Wellbeing Captains are Evie Felstead, Ava Kelly, Charli Pope and Billy Vecino.

The college community congratulates our 2024 student leaders and looks forward to seeing them all develop their leadership skills over the coming year.

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QR code

INVERLOCH-KONGWAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

# THE GREAT FETE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

Inverloch Primary School

Join us  
10am-2pm

Food Entertainment Stalls

A community and school fundraising event

f Event Info  
[@inverlochkpsfete](http://@inverlochkpsfete)

Inverloch Kongwak Primary School acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waters on which we live, work and learn, the Bunurong/Boonwurrung people. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community members.

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ea  
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## New round of community grants open

THE Dyson Group of Companies, incorporating the legendary Cobb & Co brand, is pleased to announce the launch of the next round of the Dysons Community Grants.

This program, now in its fourth year, has been established to provide grants in support of the many sporting, educational, welfare and community groups around Victoria, and to date more than 80 grants have been distributed.

Program Manager, Grant Deacon, said the program aims to support a range of community-based organisations at grass roots level.

"The Dyson Group is very happy to be able to support so many community groups. We are pleased that our grants can make a difference to so many people who work and volunteer with these groups by helping them with their special projects."

There are two rounds of grants annually, each with \$10,000 available (maximum grant \$1000). Eligible organisations include pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, sporting clubs, not-for-profit groups, charities, welfare agencies, local societies and volunteer emergency services.

Grant said, "so many community groups rely on volunteers to deliver their services. We are so grateful for their work and excited to be able to support them. The applications we receive demonstrate the aims and achievements of so many hard-working people."

This next round of grants opens on March 1 and closes March 31, 2024.

All details, including terms and conditions, pre-application guidelines and an online application form, can be found at [dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants](http://dysongroup.com.au/about/community-grants)

# Thompson Ave roars to life



An array of cars will be on display this Friday as the main Thompson Avenue strip shuts for the traditional Cowes Car Show.



Cowes Car Show Group C Cars.



Cowes Car Show Bathurst winning Monaro.

FAST becoming a tradition for the Phillip Island Classic is the Cowes Car Show on Friday afternoon (March 8). Starting at 4pm and stretching through to mid-evening (8pm).

But this isn't just any car show. The event, proudly presented by Bowden's Own and held in association with the Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsports and the Bass Coast Council, is a free car show centred on the main drag of Cowes.

In attendance each year are several classic historic race and road cars that are sure to get the blood pumping. Some of the cars even make their way straight from the track!

This year's Phillip Island Classic - Festival of Motorsport will be celebrating 50 years of the mighty L34 Torana and as part of this celebration, we will have a gaggle of race-prepared L34 Torana's on show at the Cowes Car Show as well as a collection of Group C race cars.

Thompson Avenue will be shut down to all traffic for the duration of the event to give onlookers the chance to get up close and personal with these magic machines.

Also on sale at the event will be merchandise and discounted Sunday race tickets!

So grab your sunhat, camera and kids and head along to Thompson Avenue.

The 2024 Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport will take place this weekend (March 8-10) at the famed Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit. Tickets at the gate. Patrons under 17 years of age are free to enter if accompanied by an adult.



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# COWES CAR SHOW

Friday 8th March 4pm to 8pm

Sponsored by 

VHRR Merchandise & discount Sunday race Tickets available



In Association with the 

All Invited to Attend Thompson Ave Cowes



Inverloch Tourism Association vice president Nicole Griffiths, South Gippsland Conservation Society, Ed Thexton and Inverloch Tourism Association president Glenn Morris at the Eagles Nest lookout.

## Eagles Nest is nearly invisible

INVERLOCH'S iconic Eagles Nest is a spectacular sight viewed by tens of thousands of visitors each year.

It is one of the great places for visitors and locals to take in the wonderous coastline vistas and view the rock outcrop and cliff caves.

However, this experience has been lost due to excessive fast-grown vegetation which has grown so high that it has almost blocked the majority of lookout views.

Inverloch Tourism Association president Glenn Morris is pushing hard for the problem vegetation to be trimmed and invasive species to be removed.

"We can't stand by and see this fantastic coastal vantage point be overwhelmed with vegetation such that nobody can actually see Eagles Nest let alone the coastal views up towards Shack Bay and Cape Paterson," he said.

"Parks Victoria are aware of the issue, but nothing has been done at the moment and we are approaching Easter when visitors to Inverloch and the coastal road will be denied a memorable lookout.

"We even have volunteers willing to help with selective vegetation removal/trimming should lack of available manpower be the reason for inaction."

The issues are exacerbated by the fact that visitors are now climbing over the safety barrier and positioning themselves close to the cliff edge in order to take the signature photo of the rock pillar.

This is placing members of the public at a high risk of a fatal fall.

"We saw this firsthand during a visit two weeks ago and I was shocked given how windy it was on the day. Some visitors are

clearly ignoring the risk and climbing over the safety fence barrier then walking around the shrubs to the cliff edge to get the iconic photo. The worn dirt pathway between the safety barrier and cliff edge suggests many visitors are risking their lives going to such efforts. Selective trimming/removal of vegetation (to reinstate the views) is the immediate best way to ensure members of the public don't take their lives into their own hands," Mr Morris said.

Ecotourism attractions play a large part in the appeal of Inverloch as a destination to visit.

Ongoing management of such attractions is essential.

The community is naturally concerned if it is denied the ability to enjoy the Eagles Nest Lookout.

"It is time to instigate proactive plant growth management to preserve views from Eagles Nest and, in fact, all lookouts on the coastal road," Mr Morris said.

"Lookouts are designed to attract visitors, so it is essential that the relatively small amount of vegetation that potentially blocks the views, is regularly checked and proactively managed. We have other points at the lookout where new vegetation can be planted without affecting the views. This will more than compensate for what is removed. For now, Inverloch just needs one of its prime tourism vantage points restored back to the state before the vegetation overgrowth occurred over the past 12 months.

"We don't want fatalities – we just want our fabulous Lookout reinstated to its former glory."

## Rural support for pre-service teachers

THIRTY-NINE pre-service teachers were on placement across several Bass Coast Schools as part of Monash's Teaching Academy of Professional Practice program recently.

Inverloch Childcare Centre, Leongatha Childcare Centre, Phillip Island Early Learning Centre, Bass Coast Specialist School, Bass Valley Primary, Cowes Primary, San Remo Primary, Wonthaggi Primary, Leongatha Secondary College, Mirboo North Secondary College, Bass Coast College and Foster Secondary College were dedicated school mentors for the Monash pre-service teachers (PST).

A number of these education services in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland have worked with the university for the past seven years, inviting the PST's on placements.

There are 39 PST's currently living in either Inverloch or Phillip Island together and completing their placement in one of these schools/centres. Each year close to 120 PST teachers go into placement in the region across early childhood education, Primary and Secondary.

The benefits to local communities and schools are as follows:

- A significant increase in PST's sense of self efficacy with regard to their teaching practice and capabilities.
- A marked increase in PST likelihood to apply for a rural teaching positions.
- An increased understanding of how schools/centres in rural settings support the health and wellbeing of the community.
- Professional learning for PSTs and school mentors.
- Solving the rural teaching crisis and the potential for future employment of PST.

The program runs twice a year, for three

weeks in February and three weeks in November. It's been incredibly popular among PST's who consistently voice how immensely rewarding their experience is, developing their teaching in a welcoming rural school and community, and debriefing with peers in their shared accommodation.

Na Eh Wa Po (Rebecca) is an international student from Myanmar who had some interesting comparisons between the class she is working in at Cowes Primary School and her classes of 65 students at home. She's doing a great job of getting involved in the school and teaching.

"At uni we planned three lessons on probability, but we don't get to spend that much time on one topic. We have to be resourceful and collaborative with other teachers which is helpful for creating lesson planning."

Ralema Fairhead is teaching in the grade six class also at Cowes Primary School. Ralema was able to describe how this experience has been able to bring her academic subjects to life.

"At university we get to plan units and individual lessons, so it's really cool how we're able to see the whole process on placement. How to plan for the week, term and year and how it relates to and depends on the students."

"Integration has been core for students retaining knowledge and this has been a valuable hands-on experience and so important to see how effective it is in the classroom," said Ralema.

Sarah Tyrrell, Vice Principal at Cowes Primary School, has taken in many Monash students as a part of this program over the years. The next placement will take place in November.

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265mm [10.5"]  

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280mm [11"]  

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260mm [10"]  

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- Combination Plier 200mm (8")
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## Climate collaboration meeting a success

THE ENERGY Innovation Co-operative recently hosted a day of collaboration and discussion, marking the commencement of a transformative series of gatherings focused on climate action within the region.

The event saw robust discussions among participants on key issues including community resilience, energy literacy and the integration of new technologies developed locally.

Representatives from 16 diverse organisations attended, encompassing manufacturing companies, environmental groups, educational institutions, renewable energy collectives, local and state government bodies and tourism groups.

This wide-ranging participation underscored the event's significance as a unifying platform for various sectors committed to climate action and building resilience in the region.

The importance of the communities energy literacy and education programs for the community in particular older generations and primary and secondary school students was discussed. Initiatives are needed to empower the whole community to understand energy transition and build knowledge and skills to contribute to a sustainable and resilient future.

Exciting advancements in new technologies emerging from the Gippsland area were explored, highlighting the region's potential as a leader in innovation and sustainable practices.

Emphasised was the collective aspiration to enhance community resilience against the backdrop of recent storm activity and power and communication outages.

It was unanimously agreed by participants that a subsequent gathering, featuring a more formal meeting agenda, will be hosted in the coming months.

This next step will look to build on the momentum achieved during the inaugural meeting, further solidifying the foundation for meaningful collaboration and action.

## Legacy still benefiting children's hospital

LOCH Village Market, on Sunday March 10, continues the area's proud tradition of supporting the Royal Children's Hospital.

While Poowong Apex Club is now disbanded, it long ran annual family fun days at Loch Memorial Reserve raising money for the hospital.

Items owned by the club will be sold at Sunday's market, with all proceeds from that going to the Royal Children's Hospital Appeal, along with donations at the gate.

Noel Gregg, a member of the Strzelecki Lions Club which runs the Loch Village Market praised the contribution the Poowong Apex Club made through its fundraising event that ran until the COVID pandemic hit.

"They've been very successful in raising funds for the Royal Children's Hospital," he said of the Apex Club's contribution over the years.

Noel said the Lions Club is happy to play a small part by enabling the dispersal of former Apex Club items and resultant fundraising for the cause.

**Loch Village market**  
at the Loch Railway siding

**This Sunday,  
March 10  
8am-1pm**

*All donations this month to the Royal Children's Hospital*

Contact Noel  
**0447 398 822**  
 Lions Club of Strzelecki

# Men's Sheds in Venus Bay and Leongatha receive government grants

THE Allan Labor Government has announced the latest round of the Men's Shed Funding Program, aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of communities across Victoria. Among the 28 Men's Sheds to receive a grant are the Leongatha Men's Shed and the Venus Bay Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed.

The Leongatha Men's Shed, under the South Gippsland Shire Council, will receive a grant of \$21,921.

The \$21,921 will go towards solar panels on the roof and security screens on the doors and windows.

"We're absolutely thrilled to get it and it's a bit of icing on the cake," President Max Wood said of the grant, noting there had been a couple of break-ins recently, although fortunately no major loss or damage.

Mr Wood is unsure the exact savings from the solar panels but acknowledges "it's going to assist", especially with the recent installation of a large dust extraction system.

The Venus Bay Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed, also under the South



**Leongatha Men's Shed and Venus Bay Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed's are amongst the 28 Men's Shed across Victoria to receive funding in the latest round of grants.**

Gippsland Shire Council, will receive a substantial grant of \$64,260, for a 12x5 metre extension to an existing shed.

"Membership is going crazy at the moment - 53 members in the same community," Venus Bay Tarwin Lower and District Men's Shed

president John Hyett said.

"We need more social space and that is what this funding will go towards."

The Men's Shed is also speaking with local community groups exploring how they can share the new space which will include a dedicated office/meeting area.

Open Wednesday and Saturday from 10am to 1pm people can support the Men's Shed with a selection of locally made wooden goods in their little shop at 190 Lees Road, Venus Bay.

Men's Sheds provide a welcoming place for people to connect, socialise, and work on common projects together. They play a crucial role in improving the mental health of their members by reducing social isolation and promoting inclusion. Members share their skills, learn new ones, and make new mates in their local area.

The members of these sheds support their local communities in various ways, including running first-aid courses, making toys for children, and making equipment for community service organisations like the Country Fire Authority.

The Labor Government has proudly provided 487 grants to Men's Sheds since 2015, benefiting more than 360 communities across Victoria. For more information and to view the full list of grant recipients, visit providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mens-shed-program.

## Bass groups encouraged to apply for grants

THE Allan Labor Government currently has a number of grants and programs across many sectors that are now open or coming up soon. Areas include Road Safety, Sport and Recreation, Youth, Libraries, Agriculture and the Creative Sectors.

Local Councils, water authorities, private companies also administer community grants for their respective areas and focus.

"These grants provide a range of opportunities for local community groups, clubs, organisations, creatives and industries to support them to achieve their goals across a number of streams and programs - I encourage everyone to glean through them, and as always reach out to my office for a letter of support or further assistance if you need," Jordan Crugnale MP said.

A snapshot of current State grants include:

- Community Road Safety

Grants: Victorian councils, schools and not-for-profit organisations can now apply for the 2024/25 program.

- Living Libraries Infrastructure Program: Applications have opened for the Labor Government's \$2.2 million program to improve libraries across Victoria supporting local libraries to deliver more programs and spaces, upgrade facilities and provide mobile library vans.

- Youth Fest Grants: Local governments, community organisations and schools can apply for grants of up to \$2000 to fund events across the state during Victorian Youth Fest in September 2024.

- Enabling Tourism Fund: supporting regional and rural Victorian tourism projects to reach investment-ready status by funding planning activities such as feasibility studies and design for future investment.

- Distillery Door Program: Seeks to enhance the

Distillery industry with four available streams: Skills Development, Boosting the Visitor Economy, Infrastructure and Safety and Export Capability.

- The TAC Road Safety Grant Program: designed to support community groups and organisations to develop and implement effective community-based road safety projects.

- Sporting Club Grants Program: for uniforms, equipment and resources that improve accessibility and engagement; support for athlete travel, strengthening volunteering, and new sport or recreation programs.

- Sport and Recreation Victoria also have funding including the new Youth Aquatic Accreditation Program to financially assist young people aged 16 to 25 years to undertake accreditation to ensure they are qualified to teach swimming and water safety. Other streams include:

Emergency Sporting Equipment, Significant Sports Events, Regional Sporting Infrastructure and more.

- Creative Industries has a funding calendar of opportunities which currently under review and an e-newsletter to subscribe to so as not to miss out.

For updated information on all state government funding please visit: [vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs](http://vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs)

### Local Council Community Grants

Bass Coast Shire: [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/community-grants](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/community-grants)

OTHER: Telstra: Connected Communities Grant program up to \$10,000 available to not-for-profits in regional and rural Australia that provide access to information, technology, education and facilities for the purpose of building both social capital and digital capability.

**Rotary Club of INVERLOCH**  
  
**EASTER MARKET**  
Saturday, March 30  
9am – 1.30pm  
@ The Hub, Inverloch  
Stall holders invited  
Contact: [tillyhutton2013@gmail.com](mailto:tillyhutton2013@gmail.com)  
0418 918 652

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Contact David 0411 413 716 



## Free race day for storm affected locals and emergency services

THE STONY Creek racing club is celebrating the community of Mirboo North by offering a free day at the races for 100 people.

In conjunction with Country Racing Victoria, the Club will be providing general admission and a lunch and drink package to storm affected residents and those who assisted in the aftermath.

"It's just our way of connecting with the community and giving back to the local community that supports us and our events," said Chief Executive Officer, Adam Olszanski.

"Each year Country Racing put together an initiative which allows us to be selective with how we go about distributing funds."

"There's different ways other ways clubs do it, but with Country Racing's help we've decided to put it towards something that's fairly recent and fairly close to us, Mirboo North being only two towns away."

The club would like to bring some cheer to the community of Mirboo North and its helpers after the devastation caused by the storm and are hoping locals will come and enjoy a positive and fun family day out.

The Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup is the clubs biggest race day event and off track there will be plenty of entertainment for the children, as well as live music on the lawn and fashions on the field with some great prizes to be won.

On track there will be an eight race card featuring the \$85,000 Ladbroke's Cup. The race is expected to attract some of the state's best Country Cup performers for a competitive and exciting race day.

The Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup will be held on Sunday, March 10 and the first race is scheduled for 1.05pm.

If you are a Mirboo local or assisted in the aftermath to get your ticket go to [mirboonorth.stonycreek.com.au](http://mirboonorth.stonycreek.com.au). There is a maximum four tickets per person.



The Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup is on this weekend – do not miss a fun filled family day out at the races.

## A day of excitement and community celebration

GEAR up for a day of thrills, spills, and family entertainment as the Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup race day approaches this Sunday, March 10. CEO Adam Olszanski guarantees a jam-packed day of excitement, promising something for everyone.

"It's very family-focused," says Olszanski, emphasising the array of activities lined up for the day. From pony rides, sports activities, and face painting to on-field action, there's fun galore.

Former jockey Chris Symons will showcase his Funky Farm, an educational environmental show featuring Australian wildlife. "There'll be plenty of opportunities to get up close with those animals," assures Olszanski.

Music enthusiasts can groove to live performances by the Hurricane Duo, while fashionistas can strut their stuff at the Fashions on the Field event, sponsored by Influence Clothing.

"The President's Luncheon will be a highlight, bringing together racing officials, local politicians, and club committee members to celebrate the day," remarks Olszanski.

Despite the dry weather, the course is in top shape. "It's looking very green! We've got the sprinklers going all



daylight hours to ensure a perfect racing surface," says Olszanski.

### Key times for race day (on track):

- 11.30am Gates Open
- 1.05pm Racing kicks off with the 1100m Maiden Plate.
- 4.40pm Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup
- 5.15pm Race 8 (last race of the day)

### Off the track:

- Funky Farm Wildlife Shows 1.15pm, 2.25pm and 3.40pm

### Influence Clothing Fashions on the Field:

- 1.15pm Most Fashionable

- Junior
- 1.45pm Most Fashionable Suit
- 3pm Most Fashionable Dress and Best Millinery

Foodies will be spoiled for choice with food trucks and the canteen run by the Stony Creek Football Club offering affordable fare. The race day is a community effort, supported by various local clubs.

With gates opening at 11.30am and the first race at 1.05pm, the Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup promises a day of racing thrills, family fun, and community camaraderie. Don't miss out on this exciting event.



The Go Girls Foundation are the second recipient of Stony Creek Racing Club's Community Fund.

## Go Girls recipient of racing clubs fund

THE STONY Creek Racing Club (SCRC) have announced the second recipient of their Community Fund and it's the Go Girls Foundation.

The Go Girls Foundation empowers women at risk who have experienced family violence, social isolation and homelessness by assisting them to become work ready and financially independent.

They are the second recipient of the newly introduced Community Fund by the committee of the SCRC, which is a meaningful way for the club to give back to the South Gippsland community.

Their first recipient was the Meeniyan Primary School. The funding will be used to refurbish the schools science and art room, including new flooring and shelving to improve its functionality for students and staff.

The aim is for the SCRC to contribute to projects with direct benefits to local people.

Sarah Bourk, a SCRC committee member and Community Fund Chair recently met with Go Girls CEO and Founder Michelle Jobson.

"As a committee we have done a lot of work in upgrading the racing experience with a particular focus on attracting women and families, so we are delighted to make a contribution to a program which is driving real change and helping local women to be their best," said Sarah.

The next Go Girls Program commences in April across South Gippsland and the Bass Coast, through a series of workshops, retreats and events, providing a supportive and inclusive environment to empower women to create a vision for their own future.

Information sessions for the program will be held on Thursday March 28 in Wonthaggi. For more information contact Michelle Jobson on 0406 998 612 and visit [gogirls.org.au](http://gogirls.org.au).

IT'S OUR COUNTRY RACING

## Stony Creek Cup

Sunday 10 March - Labour Day long weekend

Food trucks - live music by Hurricane Duo

Funky Farm wildlife shows - face painting - pony rides

Influence Clothing Fashions on the Field

Reserved tables & umbrellas and Trackside Marquee on sale



For more info, bookings & bus timetables:  
[www.stonycreek.com.au](http://www.stonycreek.com.au) or (03) 5664 0099

 Stony Creek Racing Club

 country racing It's a Great Day Out®

## Community Bank announces Recovery Grants Program

THE Community Bank Mirboo North & District is delighted to announce a Recovery Grants Program. This Recovery Grants Program supports the recovery, well-being and resilience of communities impacted by the recent storm damage.

It will fund local groups and community organisations (including schools and sporting clubs) to repair physical damage to infrastructure, as well as to deliver activities and events that will assist the community to recover, reconnect and build capacity for future resilience.

Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Costs associated with cleaning-up premises or equipment and undertaking essential repairs to resume operations.
- Community, sporting, arts and culture participation projects and activities.
- Community capacity building, training and education initiatives directly related to recovery from the storm damage and building resilience to future disasters.
- Development or reinvigoration of spaces such as community gardens, yarning circles and cultural or recreational areas.

The program is open for applications from March 1 until 31 May 31, 2024, or until the funding is exhausted.

Organisations can apply at any time until the program closes. Applications will not be accepted after the end date. The link to the online application form can be found on our Facebook page @communitybankmirboonorthdistrict

Notification of a grant outcome will be approximately two weeks after submission date. Please note if an organisation starts an activity before notification and is ineligible or unsuccessful, the Community Bank Mirboo North & District is not responsible for any costs incurred.

To set up a time to discuss your project during business hours please contact Anne Marie Dieperink at [sr-cell@bigpond.com](mailto:sr-cell@bigpond.com) or 0428 844 298.

The Community Bank Mirboo North & District is a locally owned social enterprise that distributes its profits back to the community. This is how your banking can make a real difference to the community in which you live. Community Bank Mirboo North & District have been able to distribute close to \$2 million back to our local district.

If you want your banking to make a difference, contact our friendly branch team on 5668 1231 or pop into the branch in Mirboo North and speak to our friendly staff.

# Support for farm clean-up goes missing

FARMING properties impacted by the recent storm event at Mirboo North and elsewhere in South Gippsland, and Boxing Day floods have been left in the lurch with no funding support available through the state or federal governments.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien said it is understandable that local farmers, some of whom are facing clean-up bills of up to \$100k for fence and tree clean-up alone, feel as though they have been forgotten by the Governments.

Mr O'Brien said he had written to the Minister for Agriculture asking that funding be made available for these farmers as a matter of priority.

"In addition to clean-up costs, I am aware of farmers who have lost or suffered significant damage to crops of potatoes and snow peas, while the Mirboo North nursery experienced almost 100 per cent plant damage.

"There are clean-up grant arrangements in place which were used following the large storms in June and October 2021 which should be made available now to assist these farmers when they need it most."

Mr O'Brien said the problem was caused by criteria in the current disaster funding arrangements which requires



**The Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien with Mirboo North potato grower Jesse Giardina and a crop of damaged potatoes.**

a certain percentage of a region to be directly affected by the natural disaster before there will be clean-up assistance from the state and federal governments.

"Unfortunately, we now face the same situation we did a month ago when local farmers who were severely impacted by the 2023 Boxing Day floods also missed out on much needed recovery funding support."

"It is clear to me that the current funding arrangements are letting our local farmers down and change is needed. The threshold

requirement simply doesn't make sense to me when there are some events, which may be highly localised, that can't be managed or insured against.

"Farmers do their best to be prepared and take precautionary action but it's impossible to prepare for severe, localised natural disasters and they really need recovery funding support."

Mr O'Brien said he had also raised this matter in Parliament with the Minister for Emergency Services and will continue to advocate for a change.



**Vera's house was partially destroyed by falling gumtrees from the reserve next door, which are now piled high in her yard. ob08\_1024**

## \$\$ SUMMER CLEARANCE \$\$



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## Tom McIntosh MP

MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

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📞 (03) 5940 5010

📍 Unit 1, 23 James Street, Pakenham VIC 3810

facebook.com/TomMcIntoshMP

Authorised by T McIntosh, Unit 1, 23 James Street, Pakenham.

## Donations support storm victims

GIPPSLAND Emergency Relief Fund is still busy providing emergency financial support to Gippsland residents impacted by the recent storm event.

"The focus has been on supporting those whose property is uninhabitable or has suffered severe damage. We are also ensuring that vulnerable residents such as the elderly and those with special needs are provided with prompt support," Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) president Mr Andy Tegart said.

GERF receives referrals from the relevant local shire or city, and so far, more than 30 families across Gippsland have been provided with financial assistance.

Donations to the GERF Storm Appeal are standing at \$256,207 and already \$134,500 has been distributed.

"GERF is working very closely with local government recovery teams, and we expect there will continue to be a regular stream of referrals over the next week or two, so GERF will continue to rely on the generosity of donors large and small. This event could eventually see up to \$500,000 in disbursements," Mr Tegart said.

GERF has been well supported by a large range of individual donors, some large corporate donations and very pleasingly a wide range of local community groups have responded to the appeal providing donations to assist community members.

GERF is particularly grateful to AusNet Services (\$100,000) and Community Bank Mirboo North (\$50,000) for their substantial donations.

All these magnificent donations will assist families right across Gippsland.

Donations to the appeal can be easily made via the GERF website ([gerf.com.au](http://gerf.com.au)) and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

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

GERF has been supporting Gippsland residents impacted by natural disaster since 1978 and is run completely by volunteers.





Clean up efforts ramped up in Mirboo North last week. ob20\_1024

## Clean up ramps up in Mirboo North

THE CLEAN-UP effort of green waste and debris along roadsides, kerb side and in the yards and streets of Mirboo North and surrounds, ramped up last week.

Contracted crews from local, state and commonwealth government began to help local volunteers and local contractors last week with the clean-up effort.

The South Gippsland Shire Council has engaged 12 contractors for the removal of debris and eight of these are working on green waste.

Several streets were nominated as first points of collection with others being named in due course.

Contractors will also start assessing storm building debris for hazards.

South Gippsland Shire Council is working with Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) to determine impacts and develop a further plan for debris collection, with Hansen Yuncken being appointed as lead contractor.

"The lead contractor and a package of clean-up supports were recently announced to help eligible residents with clean-up including the removal of green waste and hazardous trees," said a spokesperson from ERV.

"We are supporting eligible people in Mirboo North impacted by the February 2024 Victorian storms to clean-up their properties, so they can focus on their recovery journey."

ERV commented that eligibility and guidelines are currently being finalised and registrations will be made available on the Emergency Recovery Victoria website at [vic.gov.au/february-2024-victorian-storms](http://vic.gov.au/february-2024-victorian-storms).

"Every emergency is different and while it's difficult to estimate how long the clean-up process will take, we can assure those who have been affected by the storms that ERV will be there on the ground to support the community," said the ERV spokesperson.

Skip bins are available in various locations across Mirboo North for the disposal of storm-related waste such as building debris.

For other types of waste, individuals are advised to take it to the Transfer Station.

Fallen trees in the reserve near the Mirboo North Pool (Baths Road Reserve) and in the pool grounds, are also being mulched by council contractors.

The mulch will be transported to Council's depot in Leongatha and used in parks, reserves and community facilities around the shire, including Mirboo North.

People affected by the storms can also access the Recovery Support Program by calling the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or filling out an online registration form at [vic.gov.au/recovery-support](http://vic.gov.au/recovery-support).



The roof caved in at this property due to the supercell storm. Ob13\_1024



Piles of mulch and trees surround properties in Mirboo North. Ob14\_1024

## The Nats push for Mirboo North CFA station upgrade

THE NATIONALS are yet again calling for funding for a Mirboo North CFA station upgrade in the May state budget.

Speaking in state parliament, The Nationals MPs Danny O'Brien and Melina Bath made certain that the State Government was reminded of the desperate need for an upgraded Mirboo North fire station.

The current station was built in 1978 with an annex extension added in 1995 which was wholly funded by volunteers and the community.

"The station is antiquated – there's significant occupational health and safety issues including vehicle appliance doors which cannot be opened at the same time and firefighters are forced to squeeze into their trucks", said Ms Bath.

"The storms that ripped through the Mirboo North during February highlighted the critical role CFA volunteers play as first responders in local emergencies.

"The town was essentially cut off during the storm and its aftermath and CFA volunteers were the heroes, a fact the Premier was happy to recognise at a press conference.

"Making public safety a priority, brigade members rallied with chainsaws to remove trees and open up access roads – they even set up their own 'starlink' satellite unit for communications, borrowed from the home of a volunteer."

During her debate, Ms Bath acknowledged Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien for his persistent advocacy on behalf of the Mirboo North brigade.

"Danny O'Brien first called for a new CFA station in 2015 and since that time The Nationals have voiced the need for this community infrastructure upgrade no less than 15 times in parliament.

"Mirboo North CFA volunteers continue to play a key role during Gippsland's emergencies from bushfire to storms and it's time they were rewarded.

"The Premier is prepared to acknowledge Mirboo North CFA volunteers in words – but the best way she could show her gratitude is to action funding for a fit for purpose station in this year's budget."

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# SJD Homes spectacular super centre opening

THE beds are made, and the barbecue is on, it's time to celebrate the opening of SJD Homes newest display home super centre at 330 White Road, Wonthaggi.

Award winning, modern, quality, and sustainable homes SJD are the experts in new home construction and bringing their customer's dream homes to life.

"We are very excited," SJD Director Simon Dunstan explained.

"I've been coming down to Inverloch for 14 plus years and the main drag coming into Wonthaggi has such a great profile – funnelling everyone through the area. We thought we would go the extra yards, because there was a lot more involved with planning permits/local council, but we are really rapt with the results, and it has given Wonthaggi a lift coming into town."

Offering house and land packages, investment properties, knockdown rebuilds, SJD are specialists in building environmentally sustainable homes providing prospective homeowners with a diverse range of options tailored to their unique lifestyle preferences.

From spacious family homes to elegant coastal retreats, the new Wonthaggi Display Home Super Centre showcases a variety of floorplans and design elements aimed at capturing the essence of modern living.

"We've tried to cover all bases with the collection on display," Mr Dunstan explained.

"We've got a really nice, reverse-living two storey, which is designed for areas like San Remo, where you are overlooking the coastline. At the other end of the spectrum is a product that is ideal for first home buyers or investors – really nice finishes and everything you can expect in an SJD home. The other two are two of our best-sellers that we have had over our journey and are popular with second and third home buyers."

The Caversham 314's classic and timeless layout provides functionality to the modern family and feels like home the moment you walk through the door. This impressive floorplan features a master with 'his' and 'hers' walk-in robes, theatre, large open-plan kitchen/meals/family area, four generous bedrooms, and large alfresco.

The Patterson 332 is a generous family home featuring one of SJD Homes' largest kitchens and walk-in-pantries at its heart, grand outdoor living, three internal living areas, four bedrooms,



Modern luxury meets functionality in the spacious and stylish Caversham kitchen.

and huge master ensuite including a bath, double vanity, and a luxurious 1.8m shower. The Patterson truly is modern family living at its finest.

The Portsea 376 is your dream coastal retreat. This reverse living home features a spacious outdoor living downstairs and a rear balcony upstairs for entertaining all year long. The Portsea features two living areas – one for the parents, and one for the kids – as well as a grand master suite, and the practicality of an additional three bedrooms, including a guest suite. This luxurious family home is perfectly catered to the coastal charm of

Wonthaggi.

The charming Maldiva 223 combines affordability with high-quality living in a modern, family-oriented setting. With four spacious bedrooms, two bathrooms, a family room, and a dedicated theatre room, there's room for everyone to relax and enjoy quality time together. The heart of this home is the large, modern kitchen, that flows into the dining room, family room, and outdoor living area. The Maldiva 223 sits in our Haven by SJD Homes range, where affordable living meets quality construction. Haven by SJD Homes reimagines buying your first

home or investment property.

Walking through the homes with the Sales Manager last week, Mr Dunstan is incredibly proud of how they have come together.

"We are excited, especially given the feedback we have already received – I guess I am like a proud father!"

As Wonthaggi continues to thrive and evolve, SJD Homes stands ready to partner with residents every step of the way, from concept to completion. With a steadfast dedication to quality, integrity, and customer satisfaction, SJD Homes looks forward to playing a pivotal role

in shaping the future of housing in Wonthaggi and beyond.

"We have a lot of pride in what we do," Mr Dunstan added.

"A lot of our business is referral work – either from previous customers that have built with us before or family and friends... People are really happy with what they get – and one of the things that is important for us is that we are getting a lot of people going wow this is a process we have really enjoyed."

"We try to put ourselves in our purchaser's position knowing that for many it's the most money they probably ever going to spend."

Wonthaggi has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. As the demand for quality housing continues to rise, SJD Homes recognises the importance of adapting to meet the evolving needs of residents in the area and are proud to offer a one-stop-shop for local's home building journeys.

This expansion not only represents a milestone for SJD Homes but also reflects the company's dedication to fostering sustainable growth and development within local communities.

"Building More Than Homes" is the ethos of the SJD brand. As one of the first certified Carbon Neutral builders in the industry, SJD are passionate about making change in the industry and positively influencing the lives of those in our local community, through the homes they build and beyond.

"We are making commitments to social housing, the environment – which is also extremely important to us – and last year we raised/donated over \$100,000 to various charities, and that is just the tip of the iceberg."

"Our intention is that every community we build in, we want to immerse ourselves in it and genuinely give back to the community – it's really important."

Eighteen months ago, Mr Dunstan presented SJD's social housing project 'Homes for Homes' to local council.

"That is just one of many initiatives that we are going to bring down."

"It's not just talk – it's about doing".

As the doors of the new display homes open, SJD Homes invites the community to celebrate with them at the official Grand Opening event on Saturday, March 9 – showcasing not only their four beautiful new homes, but also free coffee, barbecue, live music, and free kids' entertainment.

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## New framework to power Gippsland

TAFE Gippsland recently launched the Clean Economy Workforce Transition Framework for Gippsland project, which explores and outlines the key steps involved for worker working in traditional energy production into renewables.

The project was funded through the State Government's Clean Economy Workforce Capacity Building Fund and involved TAFE Gippsland working together with Star of the South, Federation University and Energy Australia Yallourn.

"Local education and training is key to building a local offshore wind workforce, so we're proud to partner with TAFE Gippsland on the Workforce Transition project," Star of the South CEO Charles Rattray said. "Creating local opportunities is a measure of success for Star of the South."

The project aim was to explore the opportunities and build training and transition pathways for industries and individuals who want to stay in the energy sector and transition into clean energy.

"With our partners, we have investigated clean energy opportunities and built education and training pathways that will ultimately keep our energy employees local and enable Gippsland to continue to prosper and provide energy for the rest of the state," TAFE Gippsland CEO Laura Macpherson said. "This will enable industries to consider if they are ready for the transition and if not, what they can do to ensure they are."

Energy Australia Yallourn transition leader Lisa Gooding said the initiative is about helping people. "Energy Australia is committed to becoming net zero by 2050 by investing in clean and renewable technologies as well as creating transition pathways for our workforce to the jobs of the future," she said.

Federation University director regional strategy and engagement, Eastern Region, Professor Andrew O'Loughlin said providing the opportunity for thermal energy works to transition across to the renewable energy sector is an important strategy to continue moving away from the fossil fuel generation.



Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc Display Day. Photo: Gerard Bruning.

## Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc Display Day lights up Leongatha Rec Reserve

THE Annual Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Display Day was held last Sunday, March 3, at the home of the South Gippsland branch at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve. This was the first time the event has been held away from the central clubrooms in Toner's Lane, Morwell.

Seventy-nine entrants put on a wonderful display which included cars, trucks, stationary engines, motor bikes and tractors. Entrants came from across Gippsland, with all branches of the club represented.

Trophy winners of each

class on the day were: Veteran – Jerri-Lee Miler's 1909 De Dion Bouton, Vintage – Sandra Rickard's 1929 Nash, Classic 30's – Leon Watchorn's 1935 Ford Coupe, Classic 40's – Sam Capes 1947 De Soto Coupe, Historic 50's – Martin Carruthers 1955 Sunbeam Mark 3, Historic 60's – Leon Watchorn's 1964 Holden EH, Historic 70's – Des Judd's 1974 HJ Monaro, Historic 80's + – Tineka Holton's 1985 Citroen 2CV, Utility – Leon Watchorn's 1956 Holden FJ, Light Commercial – Barry Ferguson's 1974 Holden 1 Tonner, Heavy

Commercial – Paul Spencer's 1977 Kenworth, Motor Cycle – Rob Miller's 1913 TT Rudge, Stationary Engine – Maree & Ian Nicholas's Ronaldson Tippett mixer, Tractor – John Denbrok's David Brown 880.

The Junior Encouragement award was won by Tom Moon, The President's Encouragement Award went to John Vuillermin with his 1927 Chev. Jerri-Lee Miller's 1909 De Dion Bouton was voted the Vehicle of the Year, and the Exhibitor of the Year was awarded to Leon Watchorn, not only for the cars he showed, but for the extra

exhibits he displayed alongside each of his cars.

A big thank you to all who brought along exhibits, whether to be judged or just for display, also to the members of the public who visited, and to the Club members whose help ensured the day ran smoothly.

A special thanks to the sponsors of the BBQ, raffle, and auction – Marriott's Leongatha, Repco Leongatha, BJ & RJ Testing, and Aldi. The proceeds will be sent to support the work of the Prostate Cancer Awareness Foundation of Australia.



## OPEN MORNINGS and meet the Principal

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For further information or to register please visit our website or contact the College:  
03 5662 4255  
ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

Mary MacKillop  
Catholic Regional College

# A new approach to being fire wise

THE SOUTH Gippsland Landcare Network, along with the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife, is excited to announce the start of the South Gippsland Fire Wise Project.

The Fire Wise Project aims to improve, share, test and demonstrate the understanding of how numerous species of indigenous plants can be retained or planted in strategic locations around the built environment, to better protect assets from bushfire and enhance local biodiversity.

With a mix of educational materials, seminars, property planning, seed collecting and plant propagation courses, the project will raise the profile of fire planning and 'fire wise' awareness within the community.

It will also include two demonstration sites along the Great Southern Rail Trail, at Loch and Meenyan.

The demonstration sites will include a diverse mix of native fire wise plant species, planted in both a garden and a shelterbelt arrangement.

The Fire Wise Project is spreading and adding to knowledge that grew out of some pioneering research that Lakes Entrance Community Landcare initiated in 2021.

They found that many native plant species are fire-retardant and/or have fire-resistant properties that make them a good choice for properties in fire-prone areas.

Such plants can reduce

wind speed, absorb radiant heat and trap embers.

The Fire Wise Project is funded by the Australian Government's Preparing Australian Communities program in partnership with the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife (FNPW).

FNPW is an environmental charity organisation that has been assisting communities to restore and conserve Australia's natural environment for more than 50 years.

"We are thrilled to be part of this exciting project that will increase fire safety awareness and also assist in protecting and enhancing our native flora and fauna," FNPW CEO Ian Darbyshire.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network is extremely excited about this project and the skills and knowledge that will be gained.

It will enable works to further integrate fire planning into land management planning and advice programs.

With a changing climate, this is an essential service to be provided to the community.

This project will run until March 2025.

To keep up to date with this project, look out for project updates at [sgln.net.au](http://sgln.net.au) or for further information, contact Cassie Wright at [cassie@sgln.net.au](mailto:cassie@sgln.net.au).

This project received grant funding from the Federal Government through the Preparing Australian Communities local stream.



Cassie Wright from South Gippsland Landcare Network with fire wise plant Austral Indigo.

## Water saving campaign launched

GIPPSLAND Water is encouraging customers to take a responsible approach to water use through its new 'Reduce Your Use' campaign.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said although local water storages are in good condition at the end of summer, water is still a finite resource and should be used wisely.

"Water conservation is everyone's responsibility and as the population grows, so does the demand for water – every drop counts," she said.

"Using water responsibly is not only better for the environment but can also help save money on bills."

Ms Cumming said some of the best ways to save water were easy to do and cost effective.

"You can easily save water by using the half flush on the toilet, planting native and drought resistant plants, avoiding watering your garden when rain is forecast, and waiting until your dishwasher is full to run a cycle," she said.

"You can also consider buying water saving appliances, and get leaky taps fixed as soon as possible.

"We also offer a showerhead exchange and a trigger nozzle program to help our customers save water at home."

Other resources available on Gippsland Water's website include water saving activities for children, a guide on permanent water saving rules and more tips to save water at home.

"Reduce Your Use" is one of four new annual community education campaigns to be delivered as part of Gippsland Water's 2023-28 Price Submission.

To access water saving resources and learn more about permanent water saving rules, visit [gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse](http://gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse).



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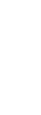
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Funding has opened new doors for cancer survivors with survivorship nurse Tanya helping bridge the gap.

## New program supports cancer survivors

A NEW program at Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) is helping people to get their lives back on track after surviving cancer.

The Cancer Survivorship program is for people who have had cancer or who are close to finishing their treatment.

Survivorship nurse Tanya Cook says the service bridges the gaps for survivors.

"It's not district nursing, not chemotherapy, not palliative care, it's about bridging the gaps to help people to live well and thrive after cancer and be supportive if they get into trouble."

Five patients started using the service last week after GSHS received funding from Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Services for the program.

Ms Cook said people have intensive medical and nursing support until they finish their cancer treatment but often need ongoing help.

"They still have specialist and doctor appointments but don't necessarily have the intensive support they had before. We found as nurses and health professionals that they may still have physical, social, financial or emotional symptoms from their cancer or treatment."

"People today are surviving a lot longer after cancer and we don't want local people to have long-term chronic health problems or issues that can be prevented by a nurse-led service to help after their cancer treatment."

Ms Cook does a holistic assessment of each person, looking at their physical, emotional, social and any other needs they face after having cancer and treatment. People can be seen at Korumburra, Leongatha, Tarwin Lower or Foster health services and home visits can be arranged for people who live in the South Gippsland local government area who have difficulty accessing the service.

Ms Cook has more than 30 years of nursing experience, including working as a district nurse, McGrath breast care nurse and as a stomal therapist, giving her a good understanding of health systems across South Gippsland.

"I can give people practical advice and link them into services, including online, and social supports if they need. Some patients have come from other regions and don't know the local services so I can offer advice and be someone to ring if they get in trouble."

Ms Cook can assist clients with accessing doctors, screening services, telehealth appointments, and help people to access transport, referrals, financial and counselling support as close to home as possible.

"I bring things back to everyday language and it's a big relief for people when I can link them in with services," she said.

Access to the program is via a referral and people can contact 5654 2737, gateway@gshs.com.au, or fax 5667 5634.



Student Wellbeing team members at Leongatha Secondary College Colleen Asling (student wellbeing counsellor) and Sandra Challis (mental health practitioner) with students at the Health and Wellbeing Day. A07\_1024

# Wellbeing in focus for students at Leongatha Secondary College



Ebony (youth access worker), Harriet (community engagement officer) and Birri (First Nations social and emotional wellbeing officer) of Headspace. A08\_1024



Orange Door practitioner Renee and senior practitioner of Anglicare integrated family services Dermot. A09\_1024

LEONGATHA Secondary College again ensured its students know there are plenty of available support services they can call on if needed, with the school holding its second Health and Wellbeing Day on Wednesday.

The relaxed outdoor event gave students the chance to enjoy a barbecue and other food while chatting to representatives of various help services available in Leongatha.

Headspace, Anglicare, The Salvation Army, Uniting, and Youth Access Clinic were among the organisations at the event.

Sandra Challis, a mental health practitioner and part of the wellbeing team in Leongatha, who was a driving force in organising the day, spoke of the value of students familiarising themselves with available services and some of the people providing them.

She said that makes it less daunting to engage with service providers should the need arise.

Harriet, a community engagement officer for Headspace said the Health and Wellbeing Day is ideal to engage with all the kids at the school, letting them know the organisation is available to assist in their area.

"Headspace comes to Leongatha once a week at the Youth Access Clinic next door to the school," Harriet said.

"We want to get the word out there that if they are experiencing any stress or anything has taken a toll on their wellbeing, that we are here for them and we have the tools to support them."

Dermot O'Hara, a senior practitioner for Anglicare's integrated family services was on hand to let students know the organisation is there to support families in the community.

Uniting's Bella Green said the organisation offers free counselling with no waitlist, available at school or at its Leongatha office.

While there was lots of valuable information available, event organiser Sandra spoke of a winning strategy to get young people engaged.

"A bit of food helps," she said of its ability to get students involved in the session.

She expressed her appreciation for the South Gippsland Shire Council sponsorship of the barbecue, and the contribution of Foodbank which provided other tasty and healthy options.

Year 8 student Ella Sellings was pleased with what the Wellbeing Day offered in terms of information.

"It's good we have this because if kids need someone to talk to, they know where they can go and it raises awareness for mental health," she said.

## Cardiac services to expand at Latrobe Regional Health

CARDIOLOGY services at Latrobe Regional Health are about to get a significant boost with the expansion of the Cardiology team.

"The expansion of the team will allow us to provide seven days a week care to inpatients, rather than the previous focus on day procedures for outpatients," LRH Cardiology Director Dr Derk Pol said.

Gippsland has the highest incidence of cardiovascular disease in Australia and current analysis shows that only 10 per cent of local patients received care locally.

"At the moment the overwhelming majority of cardiac patients are treated in Melbourne. When you look at Oncology or Dialysis that number is closer to 100 per cent of local patients seen and treated locally.

"This expansion will allow us to see more local people here at LRH. The plans for future expansion of services will mean that in

years to come, it will be unusual for a Gippsland patient requiring cardiac intervention, not to be seen locally," Dr Pol said.

The benefit for local patients to be seen closer to their home is well known with less stress for the patients, family and quicker recovery.

"We want patients to be able to have the best possible care locally. I remember seeing a patient a couple of weeks ago. He had a referral from a GP and a positive stress test. We took him in to the Cardiac Catheter Lab and gave him a stent. He was home the next day and we saw him in our clinic two weeks later, and he's saying: 'You've changed my life! I was in pain every day. It was so good to be able to drive 10 minutes to the hospital, get great care from everyone and then be driven 10 minutes to get home. No trip to Melbourne where I wouldn't know anyone and in a big hospital away from family and friends'".

"We want patients to be able to have the best possible care locally. I remember seeing a patient a couple of weeks ago. He had a referral from a GP and a positive stress test. We took him in to the Cardiac Catheter Lab and gave him a stent. He was home the next day and we saw him in our clinic two weeks later, and he's saying: 'You've changed my life! I was in pain every day. It was so good to be able to drive 10 minutes to the hospital, get great care from everyone and then be driven 10 minutes to get home. No trip to Melbourne where I wouldn't know anyone and in a big hospital away from family and friends'".

As part of the expansion cardiac specialists have either been recruited or have agreed to increase their time providing services at LRH.

"There is obviously a lot of demand for cardiac specialists and while we have two local cardiologists, complementing these doctors with others cardiologists who will extend their hours, allows us to offer the local community more services which of course improves health outcomes for people," Dr Pol said.

By being on site at LRH more frequently, specialists will have greater involvement with patients, attend ward rounds and team meetings, provide support to colleagues and overall, build a more positive culture for the Cardiology team and LRH.

One other aspect of building the bigger service is ensuring local GPs are aware the services they have historically referred to Melbourne are increasingly

available in the Latrobe Valley.

"People are starting to realise we do have a department here now. Traditionally, local GPs would have sent patients to Melbourne, but more are becoming aware that patients can have a pretty full suite of interventions locally without going down to Melbourne, and that we are constantly expanding those services to offer local people more."

The expansion of the Cardiology team coincides with the opening of LRH's Stage 3A expansion featuring new operating theatres, surgical wards and services for women, children and babies.

"It's a pretty exciting time for us at LRH but also the community," LRH Chief Executive Don McRae said.

"The expansion of the Cardiology team is one part of a broader expansion of services which will see us offer more for locals and improve the quality of life for Gippsland."

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# Leongatha Toyota

## USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



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CVT auto  
4x4 SUV  
SN: L101130

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**DEMO**  
2023 Ford Ranger XLT  
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ute CID 687



**DEMO**  
2023 Ford Ranger Raptor  
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16,721kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4  
double cab CID 688



**2020 Ford Ranger FX4 PX MkIII**

116,211kms,  
6 speed CVT  
auto 4x4  
double cab  
L101025

**45,990**  
DRIVE AWAY



**DEMO**  
2022 Ford Ranger XLT  
**64,990** DRIVE AWAY

19,941kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4  
double cab CAN 385

## Wonthaggi Toyota

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

## Leongatha Toyota

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



## OH WHAT A FEELING



Entertainment was enjoyed at the Scott's Pioneer Church, Mardan, on February 25.

## Superb afternoon at Scott's Pioneer Church

A PLEASANT Sunday afternoon was had by approximately 50 people at the Scott's Pioneer Church grounds, Mardan, on Sunday, February 25.

A barbecue lunch was proudly cooked by two fellas from the Leongatha Men's Shed.

The scene was set amongst the church grounds in the shade of the trees – a picturesque back drop was a view of rolling paddocks.

The entertainment was from local singers and musicians, including several from the treble "F's and some soloists on flutes and a French horn.

It was nice to hear the innocent giggling, laughter and running around of children who enjoyed the chicken dance and hokey pokey.

The occasional witty joke from Sam Nicita set the relaxed mood.

The beautiful old church building is a remarkable building.

It is in superb condition and something the Mardan community should be proud of.

## Setting women up for financial success

LOCAL group Women for Change have kicked off this year's fundraising campaign for International Women's Day (March 8) to raise funds to deliver a program in local secondary schools that sets women up for financial success.

Aligning with the Bass Coast Community Foundation, Women for Change chair Nina Barry-Macaulay said the group's fundraising focus aligns with the theme of this year's International Women's Day which is 'Count Her In: Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress'.

"We know that, as well as the gender pay gap and the missing out on superannuation and career opportunities when taking on primary care giving roles, for many women there is a need also to increase education around managing money," she said.

"This year, we're fundraising to support places for local girls to participate in the Centsible Teen Talk program, to be rolled out through local secondary schools."

The program is designed to help teenagers aged 15-19 become more aware of financial literacy and learn the basics of financial management so they are more equipped to make smart financial decisions throughout their lives.

"Women for Change would love to fund 100 local girls through this program in 2024 – which means we need to raise \$5000 from willing donors," she said.

If you are interested in supporting the Centsible Teen Talk this International Women's Day - you can donate to Women For Change via the Foundation's website at [bccf.org.au](http://bccf.org.au).



Phillip Island Circuit General Manager David Bennett, Leesa Willmott, Colin Willmott, Sharon Willmott, Pam Willmott, Kerry Willmott and Phillip Island Circuit Commercial Manager Luke Sibson. C03\_1024

# Sister trio pedal their way to a cure



Bikes at the ready Kerry, Leesa and Sharon set off for their first kilometres for the 2024 Ride for Sight. C04\_1024



The sisters have the support of Ian de Bruyne (right) who is completing his 30th event this year. Photo: First Ride for Sight event 30 years ago.

EXCITEMENT filled the air as three dynamic sisters from South Gippsland kicked off their second exhilarating Gippsland Lions Ride for Sight challenge at the iconic Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit on Friday (March 1).

Against a backdrop of radiant sunshine, Sharon Oats of Inverloch, Leesa Willmott of Kilcunda, and Kerry Fitzgerald of Leongatha, all fervent businesswomen, revved up for action on the track.

Each year, Lions Ride for Sight, supported by Lions Clubs from across Gippsland, raises funds for the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA), exceeding \$1.2 million to date, to finance research into new treatments and therapies for eye disease, aiming to end preventable blindness.

The sisters' incredible efforts last year saw them shatter records, raising an astounding \$30,800 – the highest sum ever collected by an entrant. This year, fuelled by their unwavering passion, they aim to surpass their previous achievement, setting their sights on a fundraising target of \$20,000. With an impressive \$10,400 already secured as of Saturday, the trio are poised to make waves once again to support a cause close to their heart.

"There is still another month to go – but this year we really wanted to put the extra hard yards in," Sharon Oats explained.

"We are going to ride 400 kilometres in the nominated ride, and we will also do the multi-day ride covering 170 kilometres."

The First Lions Ride for Sight was held in 1994, running from Mallacoota to CERA headquarters in Melbourne. This year's event, the 30th anniversary, will be held from Friday March 22 to Sunday March 24 with a ride from Moe to Cowwarr (between Traralgon and Heyfield) and return.

"It's very important to our family because my parents and all three of my sisters have macular degeneration or early stages. Dad's legally blind, and Mum (Pam) has wet macular, which requires injections in her eye every six weeks."

As Sharon explained, sister Kerry takes the day off work and drives

Pam, down to her appointment in Frankston.

"The Centre for Eye Research are actually trying to develop an eye drop, which would counteract that injection."

A welcome initiative for the family.

"We are very passionate about the Lions Ride for Sight – it does bring more awareness when we go for a ride, people stop and talk to us about macular degeneration, and getting your eyes checked."

"We are really proud to be able to raise money for the Centre for Eye Research who do amazing research – developing new drugs, and the likes..."

Dad, Colin Willmott, explained the family had all been a part of the fundraising efforts over the years for the cause close to their heart.

Lions Ride for Sight Chairman Paul Drinkwater, from the Moe Lions Club, says the event is special for Gippsland Lions with the Lions aiming to raise \$60,000 this year.

"It's a real honour to be involved. If I'm asked to do it again next year, I just continually want to do it. It's a challenge but the CERA cause is very close to me, like a lot of people."

"I want to make it bigger and better," he says. "It's very exciting, and it will be a good challenge this year."

Cheering the trio on from the sidelines on Friday were loving parents Colin and Pam, former Lions Ride for Sight chairperson Ian de Bruyne (who is completing his 30th event this year) and current Lions Ride for Sight chairperson Paul Drinkwater, CERA Fundraising Specialist Brownyn Sugden alongside family.

As for lapping their first 4.45 kilometres.

"It was awesome riding around the track – it's so smooth and felt so good. A big thank you to Phillip Island racetrack for letting us take the time to do the lap."

Lions Ride for Sight are still on the lookout for volunteers to assist with the multi-day event, in particular marshaling, to put your hand up contact Paul on 0450 260 679.

To contribute to the Three Sisters head to the 30th Lions Ride for Sight or [bit.ly/4c9pEMa](http://bit.ly/4c9pEMa) or sign up and complete the challenge yourself.



# International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024

## Mayor Cr Le Serve celebrates 12 years in leadership

WOMEN in rural areas face significant challenges, including lack of childcare options and limited leadership opportunities; however, Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve shared her story on how she overcame these encounters and endeavoured to make a difference.

Empowering women is crucial, and Cr Le Serve shared that she has certainly faced her challenges in life, but through her 12 years in council, and during her term as Mayor - she'll continue to advocate for her community.

On March 2nd Clare and her husband Neil celebrated 50 years of marriage. She moved from Melbourne to the country and married a dairy farmer in 1974, before becoming a young mother on their land in Bass.

"It was this one particular day that changed things for me," Clare reflected.

"A young lady came knocking on the door and asked if I'd like to join a community craft class. I was a new sleep deprived mother, milking cows and didn't think I had time to do craft, but she then stopped me in the street again. I went inside the Bass Valley Community Centre, where a group of women offered to hold my baby and make me a cup of tea."

It was then that Clare saw



**Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve shares her story and says that empowering women is a fundamental part of her leadership.** Z15\_1024

the importance of community connection. She joined the Bass Valley Community Centre and listened to the women share their fundamental need for long-term childcare.

Clare began advocating for childcare and before and after school care in the region - working with other parents on feasibility studies, putting together business cases and writing grant proposals.

During this time, the family farm was sold in the midst of a crisis in the dairy industry and Clare began working with South Gippsland Personnel Group in Corinella as their assistant manager.

"It was meaningful work, enriching the lives of partici-

pants with a disability and getting them into the workforce," said Clare.

However, in 1993, Clare was in a serious car accident, causing her to be in recovery for over 10 years. "It was after my accident that I honoured the value of people with a disability in the workforce even more so than before. Knowing that they've certainly got great ability to contribute to their community.

It was after rehabilitation and a decade of recovery that Clare stood for council in 2012 and continued advocating for the Bass Valley Children's Centre - holding the official opening alongside

former Mayor Cr Pamela Rothfield in 2017.

"Leadership comes from within, and I always had an interest in politics, but I never would have dreamt that my career path would have taken me to local government."

"I got to the point where I figured I might as well put my own hand up and really lobby for what the community wants. I've run in the state election twice, and that was really about making Bass a marginal seat," said Clare.

It's now been 12 years since Mayor Cr Clare Le Serve stood for council and she said that the Bass Valley Children's Centre is certainly a highlight of her career, alongside the new Berninnett centre.

"If I could say anything to the women in the community, it would be to make sure you're okay, and then you can go out and help others."

In her term as Mayor, Clare is focused on the importance of a team approach and completing unfinished business within local government, as well as the need for a whole community approach to listening and communicating.

"As we celebrate International Women's Day, it's not about alienating men, but about working together."

Empowering women and bridging the gap

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day (March 8) is much more than just celebrating women. It's recognising incredible women within communities, raising awareness and highlighting issues and pushing towards a world where equality is the norm, no matter who you are.

This year's theme is Invest in women: Accelerate progress.

The world is facing many crises, ranging from geopolitical conflicts to soaring poverty levels and the escalating impacts of climate change. These challenges can only be addressed by solutions that empower women. By investing in women, we can spark change and speed the transition towards a healthier, safer, and more equal world for all.

From microloans that are changing the lives of thousands of women and their family in rural African nations to the GoGirls Foundation on our very own doorstep, empowering women brings with it a hugely positive flurry of background benefits. Reducing inequality strengthens economies and fosters stable, resilient societies, providing all individuals with the chance to achieve their full potential.

One of the persistent financial issues, particularly in later life, for women is their superannuation balances.

In Australia, the disparity between men's and women's super is a continual issue predominately due to four key reasons:

Career breaks and part-time work: Many women take career breaks to raise children or care for family members. During these breaks, they often contribute less to their superannuation. Women are also more likely to return to work part-time after having children, which affects their superannuation contributions.

Pay gap: Despite progress, the gender pay gap persists. On average, Australian women are paid 12 per cent less than men; lower earnings directly impact super contributions. In a positive step forwards the gap is down one per cent from 2023 (13%) and the lowest gender pay gap 'on record'.

Job quality and advancement: The world is changing but women do face job quality issues, including stress, limited advancement opportunities, and lack of flexibility and job security. These factors affect overall income and, consequently, superannuation savings.

Long-term impact: Over time, these factors accumulate, resulting in a significant super gap at retirement. Closing this gap requires addressing systemic issues, promoting equal pay, and supporting women's career progression.

It's crucial to continue advocating for gender equality and financial empowerment to bridge the gap and ensure a more equitable future for all.

And, last but not least, let's celebrate the businesses and companies who are providing incredible opportunities for women, especially those returning to work after children, it's not easy stepping back into the workplace or juggling many roles, but the employers who make it possible, they are part of the unsung heroes, as this editor can attest to.

As Gippsland Women's Health highlights 'Gender Equality is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities. Equality can be described as sameness.'

## A ray of sunshine in the real estate industry

This International Women's Day, we're celebrating the unstoppable Sarah Doolan, a dynamo in the world of real estate. As a Reception/Property Manager at Ray White Inverloch, Sarah is a shining example of how women can thrive in a competitive industry.

Sarah's journey with Ray White began with a simple yet powerful motivation - the company's commitment to empowering women. She was drawn to the brand's resources and connections, and the opportunity to join a female-led office was a game-changer.

"Whether it's lifting each other up with our successes or supporting each other in our lows, there's no point where you don't feel appreciated," she shares.

But the path to success wasn't always smooth. Sarah faced challenges, particularly in acceptance. Seeing men in similar or lower positions getting more opportunities was tough. But she learned to overcome this, understanding that her goals might take more time to achieve.

From a young age, Sarah's dream was simple - to be happy. She believes that being in the right environment, especially at work, is crucial to happiness. Balancing personal and professional life is not easy, but Sarah has found her rhythm, emphasising the importance of having a supportive group at work and ensuring enough sleep, "you can't balance anything if you're running on no energy."

"I find running or going to training (also) clears my head," Sarah added.

Investing in herself and her career development has been a breeze for Sarah with the company offering numerous resources and seminars, providing endless opportunities for knowledge gain. But Sarah also stresses the importance of investing time in oneself.

"Get to know and like yourself because at the end of the day you have to spend the most time with yourself," she advises.

Sarah is a firm believer in supporting and mentoring others. In a competitive industry, she strives to be kind

and share her experiences so others can learn from them. She also encourages young women to explore the real estate industry, emphasising that the only major qualification required is a Certificate IV in Real Estate Practice, which can be obtained through various means, including a traineeship or an online course.

"I'm working towards obtaining my Real Estate license so then I will be fully qualified in real estate. This has been a goal of mine since the start and so I'm currently in the middle of completing a Diploma of Property."

As for those who inspire Sarah...

Two women in her industry. Megan Harris, for her caring and supportive nature towards clients and the team, and Angela Limanis, an award-winning sales agent and auctioneer.

"In an industry that is predominantly run by men Angela's powerful presence and drive in the world of auctioneering is truly inspiring.

"I had the opportunity to



**Supporting and mentoring each other is a crucial way women can support one another.**

meet her at a Leading Ladies in Real Estate conference in Melbourne, and she was explaining that she used to be a very shy girl in school and always reserved with things she did, but now has brought her passion into confidence in herself through her work. I really resonated with this and enjoy watching her career achievements."

This International Women's Day let's celebrate the women, at the start of their careers, the end, and those in the middle, who are making waves in their respective fields.



# International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024

## What's on around International Women's Day

**Southern Business Women's Network – Thursday March 7 at 6.30pm-10.30pm, RACV Inverloch**

This IWD, we encourage you to have fun and dress to express yourself! It's time to get that outfit from the back of your closet, because this is the occasion you can wear it.

Join SBWN for a delicious two course meal (alternate drop) and enjoy listening to the spectacular Melanie Dale, and have a little fun along the way.

**Bass Coast – Friday March 8 at 12.30pm-3pm, Silverwater Resort**

BASS Coast Shire Council invites you to celebrate International Women's Day at Silverwater Resort, San Remo. Join us for a special lunch with keynote speaker Nicole Livingstone OAM. Hear inspiring stories from Nicole, an Olympian and former head of AFL Women's Football. Plus, a panel of local women in sport will share their experiences.

Bookings essential – [bit.ly/3P4Pg2V](http://bit.ly/3P4Pg2V)



**Mayor Williams ready for International Women's Day**

SUPPORTING women and reminding them that they can do anything when they put their minds to it is at the heart of International Women's Day. South Gippsland Shire Mayor Clare Williams believes.

"The whole day for me is about empowering women in leadership, and it isn't just about gender equality, it's about embracing diverse perspectives, nurturing everyone's creativity and building that more inclusive and innovative world we're a part of."

Cr Williams said that as a female she faced challenges with the way she was presented in another publication while running for council.

"During the campaign, there were all these articles about me, that I'm a young woman, I don't know enough," she said, adding that she was portrayed as lacking the ability to lead.

She pointed out that since the community showed faith in her at the election, she's progressed from being a councillor to deputy mayor and now mayor.

"I'm proud of the growth I've had but it has not come without the support of the people around me, both men and women," Cr Williams said.

On International Women's Day, she looks forward to catching up with girlfriends before heading to the Southern Business Women's Network event at RACV Inverloch, at which guest speaker Melanie Dale of 'Let's Get Layered' will feature.

That event has South Gippsland Shire Council sponsorship.

# Vulva vessels created to make statement



**Anna Curtis' statement pieces made from clay - vulva vessels - are on exhibition now at Meeniyian Art Gallery.**  
Photo: Charlotte Jane.

AS SOON as Anna Curtis, a ceramist from Sandy Point heard about the Meeniyian Art Gallery's Fired Up Exhibition, she knew it was made for her.

"It was really perfect in terms of the work that I already produced."

Anna has been working with clay for about nine years and creates simple, functional pieces by wheel or hand that can be used every day, some that celebrate feminism in the rawest form.

"I've been making pieces of work that are in the exhibition, for a number of years now - vulva vessels - which I've been making with clay and fire in the kiln, and they're a statement around showcasing women's voice."

Fired Up is a group exhibition that showcases and celebrates women's creativity and amplifies the fire of feminism that burns within them to offer unique perspectives, experiences, and artistic prowess that portray the essence of feminist ideals.

"Art gives us another medium to be able to express those values that maybe can't be expressed properly through other means," said Anna.

Anna creates work that are both pieces of art and practical vessels that provide a tangible and physical sculptural expression of her values.

"There's only so much

**By Courtney O'Brien**

that can be expressed with words or with pictures or with conversations, but having a 3D sculpture or otherwise expression, I think, is a really important way to send a message."

Fired Up intentionally coincides with International Women's Day which falls in March; this year's theme is Inspire Inclusion, and Anna explains that feminism for her isn't just sexual and isn't just her own personal experience as a woman.

For her, it encompasses the whole gamut of womanhood, whether that is someone who is biologically a woman, or women from the trans community.

"For me, feminism is creating equal and equitable opportunities for all women, regardless of race, gender identity or school, or biological sex as well. For me, it's really about anti-sexual feminism and creating those rights across all facets of being."

Producing statement pieces from clay is a way for Anna to bring some of these ideals into the world in a unique and wonderful form that others can also enjoy and perhaps reflect on as well, as they sip from a vulva vessel.

Anna's work can be seen in the Fired Up Exhibition at the Meeniyian Art Gallery from now until Monday April 1.

## Wilma receives Senior Citizens Club life membership



**Christine Marshall (daughter-in-law), recent life member awardee Wilma Marshall and Stephen Marshall (son).** CO2\_1024

WILMA Marshall was awarded a life membership with the Wonthaggi Senior Citizens Club last Friday.

With many friends and family in attendance, Wilma said she was humbled to receive the award.

"I don't know whether I deserved it or not. But I felt very honoured to be given a life membership and I thank the Senior Cits' very much for doing this for me."

Wilma grew up in Kongwak but left when she was young and returned to Wonthaggi with her husband in 2000 to retire.

A year after that, in 2001 they joined the Seniors Citizens Club and Wilma hasn't looked back.

"We were welcomed into the club and it was just a lovely time. Then the following year, we were both on the

committee and I stayed on the committee right up until last year."

For the last five years Wilma has also been president, until last year when she handed over the baton.

Over the years Wilma has won a few trophies with the most memorable of these being the Ladies Club Champion on for bowling in 2012.

"I was lucky enough to win that, the others must have been playing particularly bad that day," laughed Wilma.

Wilma plans to continue playing and still enjoys watching and chatting with the other club members.

"I was really blessed to have such great friends in the early days, even now, I've got wonderful friends that look after me and they're always there for me. I feel very blessed," said Wilma.



# International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024



Women from Wonthaggi and surrounds completed the free, community funded, Go Girls program last year, where they were empowered to dream, believe, receive and achieve.



Celebrating achievements and progress towards gender equality on International Women's Day.

## Committing to inspire inclusion

EACH International Women's Day is a time to come together to acknowledge, reflect and celebrate women's contributions and achievements in our family, our community, our society. A day that we focus in on every other day as we galvanise our collective efforts to progress gender equality and opportunity for all Victorian women and girls.

When women and girls are inspired to be included, there is a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.

We see it at our local Surf Clubs, in our SES Units, Sporting Clubs, Schools, community organisations, Councils, service agencies, local businesses all creating the space, the support, the environment and leading the way with programs, initiatives and leadership opportunities – we are all the better for it when we are at the table bringing our learnings, our history, culture, experiences and story.

The Allan Labor government has an unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for women and girls, our Gender Equality Strategy and Australia's first ever Gender Equality Act is about action and outcomes – 110 of them to be delivered across government over the next four years as a start.

We continue to invest in programs and services to increase participation and create opportunities for women and gender diverse Victorians of all ages and backgrounds.

In fields including manufacturing, energy, STEM, construction through to supporting apprenticeships, Emerging Leaders, free tuition and scholarships in areas like nursing, midwifery, mental health and more. We focus in on the gender pay gap, housing, women's health, parenting, housing.

Our Change our Game initiative works towards leveling the playing field for women and girls in sport and active recreation, you will also see more public art of inspirational women by women.

We are undertaking an Inquiry into women's pain, have free pads and tampons in all government schools, underway also are the big systemic reforms like Best Start – Best Life.

We've come a long way - always more to do.

We are community and we have a story to tell.

Thank you to all the amazing inspiring people that are walking this inclusion journey with us.

Happy International Women's Day

## We inspire inclusion

At Westernport Water we understand and value women's inclusion, and together, we forge a better world.

We acknowledge and celebrate all women who work in water.



**jordan  
crugnale mp**

STATE MEMBER FOR BASS  
jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au  
T 03 5672 4755 JordanCrugnaleMP  
9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995

HM1274



# International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024



Seventy-eight per cent of Ray White Inverloch's team are women. Women who are inspiring and empowering each other.

## Women leading women

THERE are few offices, in a once-male-led industry, that has a lions share of women. It's awe-inspiring. But what makes Ray White Inverloch even more inspirational is the two women at the forefront of the business.

"I was incredibly lucky to get the opportunity to start the business with my mum (Fiona McMahon-Hughes). She was the inspiration to get into the industry and try something new," Olivia Hughes said.

"She has amazing drive, passion and will always support and help people around her. She always manages to juggle so many things with absolute ease. She is nothing short of amazing!"

A licensed estate agent and office manager is a far cry from Olivia's childhood dream of being a newsreader, which she would never dream of now.

"Being a part of Ray White we are so

lucky to be able to be involved in many networking, professional and personal development opportunities.

"Celebrating other people's successes, growth, and building each other up is an amazing way to support other women. I am lucky to be able to train and support young women to strive in their roles."

As for the work-life balance.

"I always love to have a holiday or weekend away in the pipeline to look forward to and strive for."



6 Williams Street, Inverloch

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

5662 9533

HM11275



"More women need to be brave and just have a go."

## Empowering women in finance

LYNDA Sainsbury, the heart of LS Finance, has always had a passion for numbers. With over 23 years in banking, she took the plunge into self-employment, becoming a successful finance broker. Now, she's taken a step back from the main street and proving once again that women can excel in the industry from anywhere.

"I've gone back to being mobile," Lynda smiled. "This not only enhances my work-life balance but also makes my services more accessible for my clients."

"We can work from home (or anywhere in the world) via our laptops and phones. We can have a family and work flexible hours."

Lynda is not just a broker; she's a mentor and an inspiration. "I recommend women follow their passion," she says, "It takes courage and hard work, but it's paid off for me."

Despite the industry being male-dominated, Lynda believes in the power of women and is proud to be a part of this change.

And if she's not mentoring the next generation of finance brokers, both male and female, she is helping women become financially savvy.

From the comfort of your own home, Lynda offers her wealth of knowledge and guidance. Whether you're refinancing or a first-time home buyer, she can compare across 35 lenders under one roof.



107A Graham Street, Wonthaggi

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

LS Finance

5672 2606

HM11276



Taking on a new role as Property Manager is a testament to one of Sharon's favourite actions – seeing women promoted in business.

## Opportunities abound at Elders

"I AM excited to be changing roles within Elders," Sharon Turton smiled as she explained how an opportunity five years ago has allowed her to grow from a Sales Support Officer to Property Manager.

"I am really looking forward to the new role change and grateful to Elders for giving me this opportunity. I am born and bred in Korumburra so my local knowledge and passion will be very helpful."

Diverse personalities in the industry haven't stopped Sharon, who celebrated 25 years with Elders last year, and balances her personal and professional life by sharing day-to-day duties with her family.

"An agent's representative certificate is required for the role, but you can also complete your real estate agent license if you choose to own, operate or manage a real estate business. Real estate traineeships are available, along with work experience opportunities."

Sharon invests in herself through training courses, learning from others, and setting goals. As a mentor, she fosters a supportive team environment, celebrating achievements and holding weekly meetings.

"My younger work colleague Katrina Griggs is inspiring. She started out like me and has progressed within the company throughout the years, she has great determination, very enthusiastic and loves what she does, always striving to achieve the best results for her clients and a fantastic team person."

**Elders Real Estate**

11 Commercial Street, Korumburra  
37 Bair Street, Leongatha



0439 383 091



Akers Eyewear founder Leonie and optometrist Jenni are proud to be part of a family-owned business where women are breaking barriers.

## Women at the helm at Akers

LEONIE Akers' transition from employee to small business owner is a testament to the power of embracing change and following one's passions.

The only female optical technician in her cohort 44 years ago, Leonie has broken gender barriers and proved her expertise in the once male-dominated field. And, eighteen years ago, she embarked on a new chapter by founding Akers Eyewear.

"It becomes a part of who you are," Leonie smiled, reflecting on her journey.

"The opportunity came about when I was working for a local optometrist. I thought it was time for a change."

Running a small, independent practice has been her biggest challenge, but she has never wavered from her core principles of a community-based, family-owned, and locally focused business.

And today, she is supported by a number of her own employees, including a

female optometrist.

Balancing a busy practice is made easier for Leonie by spending time outdoors on the family farm where "you're learning something new all the time!"

Leonie proudly notes that Akers offer bulk-billing appointments and are proud partners with The Victorian EyeCare Service.

"The Akers family name has been synonymous in Wonthaggi business spanning over 100 years. Keeping that tradition alive amidst challenges is truly special," Leonie emphasised.

"Follow the dream. Don't be scared – you can do more than you think."



19 Murray Street, Wonthaggi

[akerseyewear.com.au](http://akerseyewear.com.au)

5672 1965

JA22160



# International Women's Day

Friday, March 8, 2024



The calendar is complete for 2024 with plenty of exciting events and workshops on the cards for Southern Business Women's Network.

## A community for women

THE Southern Business Women's Network is a vibrant community committed to fostering connections, providing opportunities for established and aspiring business owners and industry professionals to connect and learn. We welcome a diverse group of women from a wide variety of professions and ages.

The 2024 calendar of events is complete, commencing with celebrating International Women's Day with guest speaker, Melanie Dale from Let's Get Layered. In April, we'll hear from Kelly Osborne who went from working in a business to buying into it! Then in May, Kellie Stirling will help us explore midlife. Every month we offer either an amazing female guest speaker or workshops to gain skills and all events involve networking and a fun time out.

This year we are offering many member-only benefits with reduced prices

for members from our business sponsorship packages.

Members will be offered first preference to certain events throughout the year that have limited numbers.

In October we'll also be offering a member's only retreat. Why not become a member now to take advantage of the benefits? All new members are welcomed so you'll never sit alone.

To find out more please call any of our committee members for more information. We hope to see you at an event soon.



PO Box 768, Leongatha, 3953

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

Southern Business Women's Network Inc

GG1009



South Gippsland Water is a very inclusive company, with open and accepting team members, team leaders, and managers.

## An unexpected career journey

STRATEGIC Maintenance Planner for South Gippsland Water was not on Nadine Cripps radar. Despite a love of the ocean, science didn't take her fancy.

"I spent most of my younger working years in hospitality, traveling and working interstate and overseas," Nadine said.

"One small family-run BnB I worked at in England in my late 20's employed local ladies, some of whom were in their 70's and 80's! That was my wake-up call, I did not want to be working in hospitality in my 80's."

Returning to Australia Nadine embarked on a career change enrolling in a Certificate 2 in Engineering, which led to an Apprenticeship as a Mechanical Fitter in the local ship building industry at the age of 30.

Scepticism has been Nadine's biggest challenge, from men and women, and from her lecturers.

"My first day at TAFE I could tell some of the lecturers were a little reluctant to have an older female student in their class of mostly teenage boys. By the end of that week I was treated differently, but in a positive way. The lecturers could see that I had the learning capability and determination to achieve, I was encouraged and nurtured."

"Every individual has a different story, a different background, a different skill-set, and has had different experiences in their life – get to know your co-workers."



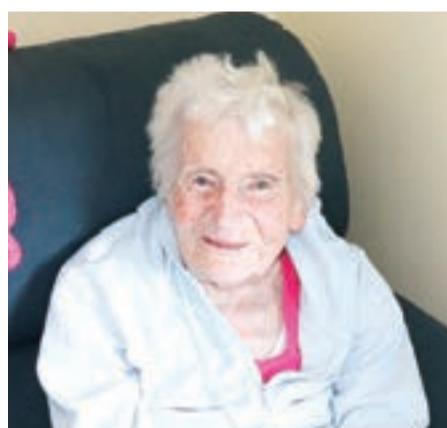
14/18 Pioneer Street, Foster

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



1300 851 636

GG1010



Advice from the wise women who have walked the path before us from Hillside Lodge and Alchera House.

## Listening to women before

In recognition of International Women's Day, Gippsland Southern Health Service has paid tribute to some of the women who helped to make the region what it is today.

GSHS's aged care residences Hillside Lodge and Alchera House are home to several women who have more than 90 years of life experiences to reflect upon.

Alchera resident Mary Pickersgill, 94, was a teacher who married an ex-serviceman who was allotted a dairy farm. She moved to the farm and together they raised 15 children! Her advice to younger generations is "think through what your principles are and stick to them, even if people make fun".

At Hillside Lodge, Noelle Poyner, 96, remains passionate about sharing her Aboriginal heritage, and was recently gifted a wallaby skin from GSHS's

Aboriginal Liaison Officer Sonia Weston. "It's important for us to acknowledge, we should let everyone know, its special". Noelle worked as a nurse for 17 years and today she loves planting and gardening around Hillside.

GSHS CEO Lou Sparkes said everyone could benefit from hearing the stories from people who have lived long and interesting lives.

"These women in our aged care facilities, like so many in our community, have great lived experience and we enjoy sharing their stories with them."



66 Koonwarra Road  
Leongatha, VIC  
[www.gshs.com.au](http://www.gshs.com.au)

03 5667 5555



Christie Nelson Real Estate has seen great success in less than a year as Christie offers a personalised and local service from Leongatha.

## Christie Nelson sees success

CHRISTIE Nelson took the leap early last year to venture into real estate on her own and it's taken off faster than she ever imagined in terms of listings and sales.

Support from industry players, clients, the community and her network stemming from being a past President of the Southern Business Women's Network, is what Christie attributes to part of her success.

"I've been very humbled by the people who've followed me along as an independent business woman, and I think what you put out there is what you attract to you as well."

Christie prides herself on maintaining a high level of personalised communication between vendors and purchasers and always strives to get the best result for everyone.

"It's as much about the people as it is the property," explains Christie.

The versatility of properties across Gippsland and serving a broad clientele which spans a large area has been a focus of Christie's.

"The fact that I can list properties anywhere from Loch to Korumburra to Leongatha, Meenyan and beyond, that's been a good thing for my business."

For other women considering venturing out on their own, Christie advises, "Back yourself and just put yourself out there and the rest will follow."



2/52A Bair Street, Leongatha  
[www.christienelsonrealestate.com.au](http://www.christienelsonrealestate.com.au)

0407 812 904

HM1277

## Sentinel-Times

### COMMENT

#### Happy International Women's Day this Friday

THIS Friday, March 8 is International Women's Day, an opportunity for women at work, women in education, women in the community and women at home to come together... for what?

There doesn't have to be a specific reason to get together for an event that traces its history back to the early 1900s, when simply winning the right to vote had only just been achieved in Australia a few years earlier, in 1902.

Clearly, we've come a long way since then on a number of fronts but, as we saw last week, when the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) published its report on pay gaps at Australian companies, with 100 employees or more, there's still a way to go.

The report identified that 62 per cent of those companies have gender pay gaps that are above the desirable level of five per cent or less, predictably in favour of men.

It stands to reason, to some extent, that the pay gap reaches its highest differential of 31.8 per cent in the construction sector and closes to just 1.9 per cent in the food services sector, but it certainly puts the spotlight on all employers to assess their own situation, ask questions and consider a response.

Valuing the all-important homecare role, calling out the damaging practice of stereotyping, which is often at the root of family violence, and actively promoting inclusion, which is the theme of International Women's Day 2024, are all areas for improvement and reasons to talk and act.

But there's a lot about the differences that men and women, people of all backgrounds and interests regardless of gender for that matter, bring to the table and we should value and encourage that.

You take a look at the Fish Creek 'Rising from the Ashes' fundraising night last Saturday night, and you see that in action. While the men largely took the lead role in organising the event, and the women in catering, there was a significant crossover with a number of key organisational roles taken on by the women in the club, and a good number of the club's men involved in getting the food and drinks out.

While the prevalence of men in the trades, for example, and women in business and as leaders on the home front, will play into the contribution each can make to the success of a community effort like that, it should be enjoyed and celebrated, so long as everyone is included and gets the chance to learn, experience and contribute across the board.

On a side note, however, why do we as a community put up with the discrimination suffered by women in some ethnic and religious groups, here in Australia and around the world, while fighting the good fight on women's rights generally?

#### Thank you BP

THE recent storm and loss of power, while having many negative impacts, showed the willingness of many to help others in need in the community.

A number of local businesses went beyond the usual commercial considerations, and we would specifically like to acknowledge the owners and staff of BP Leongatha.

With plenty of uncertainty many scrambled to get fuel for vehicles and generators, some waiting in queues for two hours.

## Vox Pop

### What would you like to see for your town in the future?



**Neil Green**

Wonthaggi

"We need more social housing. More opportunities for young people – they need housing affordability. We need to keep families and communities together and not drive them out of their town."



**Barbara Moje**

Wonthaggi

"I'd like to ensure there is housing affordability for low-income earners and single households. This can be achieved through building high density in the centre of town."



**Duncan Watkins**

Corinella

"I just want to see our town keep its character. Stop cutting down the trees where the birds are chirping, stop developing the land that the animals are living amongst. Let's keep Corinella as the semi-rural town that it is."



**Jacky Veltman**

Corinella

"I don't want our town to lose its character and become just like metropolitan Melbourne. We don't have the infrastructure here in Corinella for developers to just keep sub-dividing and overpopulating the streets."

Thanks go to BP Leongatha for going the extra mile, running generators, arranging additional fuel deliveries and their extra (ever patient) staff.

**Vuillermin and Finlay families, Leongatha**

#### Films go west after Berninneit opening

(RE letter 'What about our Arts Centre', SGST February 27).

Films in Wonthaggi have been 'sporadic' for a long time. Council spent a lot of money upgrading the building (WUCAC) and recently upgraded the screen, I believe. And yet, apart from school holidays, films have only been screened on one day-a-week and the centre is often closed on other days. Who made that decision? Why? What a waste of a community facility which could be as vibrant as Berninneit is supposed to be.

How are films selected for showing? Who decides? Is there any consultation with the community? Will WUCAC and Berninneit show the same films or offer more variety?

Many films, but not all, are available with captions for those with hearing difficulties. Generally, there is only one screening with captions so, if you are not free, bad luck. Given the demographics in Bass Coast, this is an access and equity issue.

The theatre itself is excellent and the staff are all lovely, very friendly and helpful but, I question some of the decisions that have been made and wonder what policies and guidelines are being applied. Is there a plan for the future of cinema in Wonthaggi? Surely, we deserve the same level of service as Cowes?

P.S. I've been making these comments to Council since 2017 and addressed Council in November 2018. I've attached my speaking notes FYI. I have never received any explanations or answers to the questions I've repeatedly raised (notes included online at sgst.com.au).

**Anne Heath Mennell, Tenby Point.**

#### In defence of holiday homes

RECENTLY visiting relatives in Bass Coast we were discussing the anonymous letterboxing of private houses basically demanding people give their holiday house away to someone who needs it (in whose opinion?)

The conclusion of the locals at the BBQ gathering was they had no problem with the owners of holiday homes, excepting for making the shops hectic!

They regard holiday house families as respectful, approachable, tidy, in good

cheer etc., etc.

The holiday house owners are also great for the economy. Not only do they hire local painters, handymen, roof plumbers, landscapers, cleaners and so on – they are prompt payers! Many gardeners have permanent ongoing contracts.

Further to this is the active lifestyle of the holiday homers seen getting about in local cafes, wineries, pubs, and art studios.

The locals' particularly love it when a holiday home has a clean out and not only puts great stuff out on the nature strip for free – they put the address up on social media. Thanks mate!

Compulsorily replacing these welcome neighbours' with dependants' of the government who expect everything to be handed to them without contributing? No thanks.

**Kelvin Rogers**

#### Passivhaus, they say?

AT THE council meeting, February 21, in community question time two questions were submitted one by Mr John Kuzma and one by Mario Boffa regarding Passivhaus house certification for the Berninneit in Cowes.

The questions:

1. Would council please provide a copy of the Passivhaus Certification issued for Berninneit in Cowes.

2. Would council provide each singular Passivhaus test result figures that determined the issuing of the certificate.

Response:

Final Passivhaus certification is a detailed process and involves significant testing and assessment. Final test results are approved in Germany. It is anticipated that results will be available in May.

Berninneit was opened on October 28, 2023, by the then mayor Cr Michael Whelan, who stated the building was a Passivhaus building.

We noticed there was a heap of activity in the last few weeks prior to the opening of Berninneit, seldom seen on Bass Coast shire projects. It may relate to the mayor Cr Michael Whelan, in his desire to open the Berninneit centre prior to stepping down as Bass Coast mayor in November.

On Wednesday February 27 I visited Berninneit and noticed a flurry of construction activity with a contractor removing temporary doors installed to allow for the opening off Berninneit in October with Passivhaus doors that had just arrived on site from Germany this week.

Cr Michael Whelan and the then C.E.O must have been aware of this issue and

approved the installation of the temporary doors to facilitate the October opening of the Berninneit centre.

The question Bass Coast ratepayers should ask is what is the cost to the ratepayers for the installation and removal off the temporary doors and are Bass Coast ratepayers prepared to condone wasting money this way?

As to, has the building been Passivhaus certified or has it been all hot air at the moment, why haven't we been given the truth and proper transparency?

**John Trigt**

#### Let's clean up together

THE Clean Up Australia Day initiative provides a great opportunity for locals to get involved in their local community and take care on their environment.

I want to thank those who were involved in local clean-up initiatives including the one that took place at Venus Bay Beach One.

While the official Clean Up Australia Day was held Sunday, March 3, events will be taking place all through March and can be led by local community groups, schools and even individuals who are willing to organise a clean-up site.

I understand that Poowong Consolidated School will be hosting an event to clean-up the Poowong CBD on Wednesday, March 6.

To join this or another local clean-up event (or even register your own) visit [cleanup.org.au](http://cleanup.org.au). Those who register will be sent a "clean up kit" to assist with the running of their event. There are also T-Shirts available for those who want to look the part.

As your local Member of Parliament, it brings me great pride to see members of our community showing initiative and making a difference in such a way.

Thank you to everyone who is hosting or taking part in helping to care for our environment and keeping our home beautiful.

**Danny O'Brien MP, The Nationals State Member for Gippsland South, Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Shadow Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation**

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.

## ~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

### YES YOUTH HUB

THE YES Youth Hub is a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for young people aged 12 to 25 living, working, and playing in the Bass Coast. We are located at 76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi and our Drop-In is open on Monday to Wednesday between 2.30pm – 5.30pm. Young people are always welcome to come down and check out the space during Drop-In.

This week marked the start of the pilot "Corinella Youth Group". The YES Youth Hub, in partnership with GippSport, Corinella and District Community Centre (CDCC) and Bass Coast YMCA, will be running the group on Thursdays between 4.30pm – 6.30pm (for six weeks).

This is a great chance for young people in the area to make new friends and try some recreation, arts and cultural activities close to home. If this works, we could look at making it a permanent fixture on the CDCC calendar.

Please contact Emma (emma@gippsport.com.au) if you or a family member might be interested in joining.

The YES Youth Hub would like to thank the young people involved in the film screening of 'Sapa' at the Phillip Island Boardriders Club on Saturday night.

It raised funds for a Sri Lankan man of that name and his family, a group of young Australians returning the kindness he showed them during their visits to his homeland. Saturday's gathering promoted socially conscious travel and was sponsored by the State Government's FReeZA program.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club and Bass Coast YMCA. A huge shout out to the YES Youth Hub's own, Jerrie Liberati (Skate and FReeZA Co-ordinator) who worked with this group of young people to provide a safe youth-friendly event that was alcohol, drug and smoke free. FReeZA is based around music, art and culture, with all its events curated by young people.

"That's why we've collaborated with these young people, because they had this cool idea to do a film screening," Jerrie said. The diverse evening included a smoking ceremony conducted by Steve Parker and live music from 'Soulutations' and 'The Fillmores'.

In other news the young people at the YES Youth Hub have been trying their hand at creating small comic books this week. We are hoping to build up enough material to start a magazine for youth by youth in Bass Coast. We also provided some tasty afternoon tea thanks to some generous donations from Bass Coast Housing Matters and the Salvation Army.

On Monday evenings our staff are funded by YMCA Open Doors to provide a community meal for young people. This week we were treated to Sweet and Sour Chicken.

So, if you (or a young person you know) find yourself in need of a feed next Monday and are aged between 12 – 25 years old, I highly recommend popping down to the YES Youth Hub between 4.30 PM – 5.30 PM. If you miss out, you can find portions in the Youth Pantry freezer.

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram on the following handle @YESYouthHub



76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi  
PH: 0477 224 430   
@YESYouthHub



### BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

IT WAS a full house for the First Aid Level 2 update last Friday. It's recommended that First Aiders update their CPR every year and Level 2 – the standard level for workplaces – must be updated every three years.

The full First Aid course starts again next week on Tuesday, March 12. The four sessions include CPR, Level 1 and Level 2.

People sometimes ask why the full course is 12 hours. The reason is that they only way to make the course shorter is by leaving important information out. BCAL prides itself on the quality of courses. When it comes to training which could save a life, there is no room to skimp.

First Aid is one piece of training which everyone can benefit from. You never know when you might be called on to help in an emergency. One of BCAL's First Aid students last year put his training into practice the very next day.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit [beal.vic.edu.au](http://beal.vic.edu.au) or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

#### WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Visitors may notice a large gap towards the back of the garden where plot number 18 used to be.

Also known as Elise's old plot, the double, raised bed's rotting timber sides have been taken down and worn-out soil removed, to make way for one or two half water tanks, which will – in time, become productive raised plots.

There's lots more to be done to rehabilitate the space, including getting rid of invasive roots and the dreaded plastic weed mat, installed more than a decade ago to control the couch grass that has slowly but surely taken over.

Volunteers set up a similar, experimental half tank plot in early summer and the results are very positive; a lovely harvest of basil, mixed lettuce and bright zinnias enjoyed by all.

Visit the garden on Thursday mornings between 10 and noon or contact [tgordon@westnet.com.au](mailto:tgordon@westnet.com.au) for more info.

#### WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

One of the members of the carving group is working on a very special piece at the moment, a mural.

Since last year, he has been creating a relief carving over a metre long with multiple scenes from his life. The piece features natural bark edges, keeping the original beauty of the wood, while augmenting it with his life story.

Some people write their autobiography. Some people carve it.

For more information about joining the Woodcrafters, visit [wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au](http://wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au) or visit workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi  
PH: (03) 5672 3115   
[www.bcal.vic.edu.au](http://www.bcal.vic.edu.au)

### WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

WITH our Monday Meditation Group, Tuesday Yoga and seated Yoga on Thursdays, we have quite a suite of health and wellbeing programs at the moment. We also have Al Anon, NA and AA sessions – just check our latest program for details. And, of course, don't forget our Peace Education Program 12pm – 1pm on Tuesdays. It runs for the whole of first term, and you can join at any time.

This coming Saturday, March 9, is the next Wonthaggi Food Collective meet up and distribution. They will be set up at Mitchell House from 10.30am to Midday. To find out more email [wonthaggicoop@gmail.com](mailto:wonthaggicoop@gmail.com) or contact Mitchell House.

Housing Matters, a group who advocates for secure, affordable and sustainable housing for all in the Bass Coast Shire, organises a monthly renters' rights session here at Mitchell House. These sessions are on the second Thursday of the month and the next event is Thursday March 14, 3pm – 4.30pm. To book for free, confidential advice with friendly lawyers from the Gippsland Community Legal Service, contact Mitchell House on 5672 3731.

Bass Coast Refugee Sponsorship Group is holding a fundraiser at the Warrawee Club in Inverloch on Saturday March 23, 7.30pm – 10pm. You'll see the posters up around town, but you can also contact WNC or come in to Mitchell House for more information. You're sure to have a great time whilst raising funds for a great cause.

And, of course, it's during this week every year that we celebrate International Women's Day. With this year's IWD theme being Count her in, Invest in Women, Accelerate progress, WNC has invited Deb Watson from the Bass Coast Community Foundation (BCCF) to come along to Mitchell House to talk with us about the Centsible Financial Literacy Programs.

We will hear from Deb about the importance of financial literacy in supporting women to be independent, empowered and financially secure, plus the role of BCCF in bringing these essential life skills to girls and women on the Bass Coast. The event at Mitchell House is on Thursday March 7, 7pm – 8.30pm, with light refreshments provided. To RSVP call 5672 3731.



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi  
PH: (03) 5672 3731   
[www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com](http://www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com)

## March is Red Cross Month

THE Leongatha Red Cross Unit will be holding a coffee morning on Tuesday, March 12 commencing at 10am at the Woorayl Golf Club in Leongatha. The morning will cost \$5 and includes a morning tea along with bottomless cups of tea or coffee. There will be a \$5 raffle which will give you a chance to win one of several items and also a cake stall.

The unit are delighted to welcome Sandy Ridge as guest speaker for the event. Sandy has worked extensively in Red Cross both in England and locally and is currently zone chairperson and a Divisional Board Member for Red Cross Victoria.

Funds from the morning will go to headquarters to support vulnerable people in disaster zones.

Please come along and enjoy a friendly cuppa whilst learning more about Red Cross through Sandy.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact Lois on 0428 686 273, or Cathy on 0427 196 095.

## LIFE Moments



**DARCY** John Holloway was born February 5 at 3.19pm at Leongatha Hospital to proud parents Emily Darmanin and John Holloway. Darcy is a baby brother to Brodie (4 years) and Billie (2 years). Also shown are thrilled grandparents Michael and Tania.



**MAALI** Ihipera Parry was born February 15, 2024, at 5.03pm at Leongatha Hospital to proud parents Maydia Parry and Joshua Pahi. Maali is a new baby sister to Paddy (2 years 7 months).



**CLEO** Raine White was born February 2 at 5.50pm to proud parents Poppy Trewin and Cobey White.

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)



## Emotional wellbeing

By author Claire Chitty

IN 2023, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, reported approximately 17% of people or 3.4 million people had mental health issues, with 50% of them aged 18 – 24 years.

Another report, "In 2020 – 2022, of the 19.8 million Australians aged 16 – 85 years, 42.9% (8.5 million people) had experienced a mental disorder at some time in their life: 28.8% (5.7 million people) had experienced an Anxiety disorder such as Social Phobia or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder" [National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing, 2020 - 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)]

Mental health is a complex issue. Professionals grapple with the cause: Is it biological factors, a chemical imbalance in the brain, or a traumatic life experience? Or does it stem from childhood events, ancestral trauma that is passed down through family lineage, or parents too busy, too exhausted and overwhelmed to spend quality time during the formative years with their children?

Or do drugs, violent computer games and inappropriate exposure of adult themes to children who are too young to emotionally assimilate these concepts play a role.

Or is social media, cyber bullying and FOMO the main culprits?

Maybe, it is a combination of the above mentioned, exacerbated by 24-hour technological access to information, both beneficial and detrimental that has seeped into the collective consciousness, further exacerbated by lockdowns, isolation and pressure to conform and fit into 'society'.

Therefore, the question is, how do we rectify this prevalent condition?

Fortunately, thanks to the 'It's okay not to be okay' program, established in 2016, lessened the stigma of mental health through increased awareness. Support resources, both online and in person, reassure individuals they are not alone in their struggle.

As a kinesiologist and women's circle facilitator, as I see it, the individual needs to be willing to end suffering, and address and heal core issues, physically, emotionally and mentally.

I'm a big fan of emotional freedom technique, a tool that self-empowers individuals to safely clear and heal past experiences, without reliving the trauma. Once the basics are mastered, EFT or tapping can be done any time and any place with amazing results.

On a physical level, exercise and natural remedies, including lavender and chamomile essential oils (external use only and avoid if pregnant or lactating) is calming in a bath, diffuser or inhaling from a cotton ball. Replacing caffeine with soothing herbal teas (passion flower, rooibos and valerian) is similarly beneficial.

I'm also an advocate for breath work, centering and meditation.

Mentally, forgiveness of ourselves and others, plays an important part, enabling a liberation from past perceived events.

Another essential tools include retraining the brain and affirmations whilst being kind and gentle with yourself.

Sometimes, a short-term low dose anti-depression medication, combined with mindfulness professionals to get to the root cause, may help break the cycle.

And finally, we cannot ignore this epidemic of anxiety and depression, but we can rethink how we do life by building positive community through respect, compassion and support. The recent power outages may have been inconvenient for many, yet neighbours rallied together offering assistance, a positive step towards unity and healthy interactions.



Bass MP Jordan Crugnale and SES Unit Controller Mandy Chancellor thanked the unit volunteers for their dedicated service to their community. Z16\_1014

## San Remo SES thanks dedicated volunteers

SAN REMO SES unit controller Mandy Chancellor celebrated the achievements of the SES volunteer members who have overcome obstacles, in a time of crisis.

"It's important to recognise the collective efforts of our community. Celebrating success is not just about acknowledging the accomplishments

of a few, but rather about recognising the hard work and determination of everyone involved," said Mandy.

"By doing so, we can inspire others to persevere and achieve their own goals."

Bass Coast has experienced significant growth, and with it the SES unit now have 22 members.

The unit is open to welcoming both men and women to undergo training for operational and non-operational roles, and Mandy is dedicated to providing a flexible environment for the unit volunteers.

Mandy gathered her crew to the station on Thursday evening to say thank you! An ice-cream truck was onsite

serving gelati in all flavours; it was chance for the volunteers to reflect on all their hard work over the past few months.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale joined the volunteers to say thank you for servicing the community, and for turning up without question at all hours of the morning in the time of an emergency.

## Expo to showcase Inverloch's community groups

INVERLOCH Community House and Inverloch Tourism Association is holding the 2024 Community Expo on Friday, March 22, between 4pm and 7pm.

The Expo will be similar to the highly successful 2022 Expo and aims to connect residents with the broad range of community groups available in Inverloch.

The Expo will be held on the grassed recreation oval area – where the carnival was recently held – and select stalls will also be sited within the adjacent Scout Hall.

Food stall vendors will be available at the Expo and, as

in 2022, a free barbecue will be run on the day for community group exhibitors and attendants.

"The Expo is a great way for Inverloch residents to learn about the vast array of services/groups available to be involved in within our vibrant town," Inverloch Tourism Association president Glenn Morris said.

"More than 50 community groups will be represented ranging from sports groups, recreation and arts, through to volunteering service organisations. Staff will be available from each organisation to talk to Inverloch residents

about how to be involved. I am continually amazed at how much there is to tap into depending on your interests."

Gero Gardener from Inverloch Community House expects this event to be bigger than the inaugural expo held in 2022.

"We are thrilled to have the support of the Inverloch Recreation Reserve and Scout Group to hold the event within the reserve. We also are very appreciative of the support from Alex Scott and Staff Inverloch, and Bass Coast Shire Council who are supporting the event," she said.

"We are hoping to attract all

demographics as there will be community groups suitable for all age groups. Food and hot beverages will also be available so there is no need to worry about the kids and adults going hungry."

A contingency plan is in place should Inverloch's fickle weather decide to turn wet on the day.

Bringing together the community is vital and events like the expo will offer an effective way for the community to find out about groups that may interest them."

Visit [facebook.com/Inverloch-TourismAssociation](http://facebook.com/Inverloch-TourismAssociation) for updated information on the expo.

## Fixit Café up and running at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed



MaryAnne was a happy customer at the last Fixit Café.

THERE was a real buzz at the first Fixit Café for 2024 with twelve customers presenting their goods for repair while supporters and volunteers added to the happy atmosphere. Ash was kept busy serving coffees and donated cakes.

Lamps, mixers, electrical shears were all checked out by our three sparkies, including Glenn who was a welcome sight after a long absence. Graeme comes from Bena and tackles all manner of clocks.

MaryAnne was delighted with the alteration to her bar stool which consisted of the legs being shortened by Chris in the Men's Shed, with Jim's help.

A crucial job is welcoming customers, making sure their names are recorded and that

they understand the importance of recording the weight of their item, and the outcome of the repair. This is in order to keep track of how much is saved from landfill. Jillian, a new volunteer, sailed easily into this job and left time for others to weigh goods and take photos.

Apart from electrical goods, other goods which can be mended include wooden articles, garden tools, knives, clothes, bicycles, mowers. It may take a while to track down a fixer and a customer may have to book in for the following month – depending on who is available. Goods brought in must be small enough to be carried. Fixing is free, but, if possible, a

donation is much appreciated to help with running costs.

It's essential to book repairs in advance so that the right 'Fixer' will be on hand to help. Fixit Café Wonthaggi is an activity of the Wonthaggi Men's Shed but to book telephone Mitchell House at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre on 5672 3731 or call in there between 9.30 and 4pm.

The next session of the Café is Sunday March 17 between 11am and 1pm.

You will find it by entering the Big W carpark near Dan Murphy's, taking the left hand turning past the Goods Shed and follow the Fixit Café sign to the Wonthaggi Men's Shed. Visitors are welcome to check it out and new volunteers and fixers will help spread the load.



San Remo SES volunteers Rod Cameron, Joe and Lina Esposito with Daniel Blackney. Z09\_1024



David Cox, Bri Reid, and Bianca Peters thank their fellow volunteers for their service to the community. Z11\_1024



Bass MP Jordan Crugnale attended the San Remo SES unit on Thursday evening with SES Unit Controller Mandy Chancellor to thank the volunteers for their service. Z12\_1024



San Remo SES volunteers Grace Rose-Wattke, Flynn Swanwick and Matt Calissi at the thank you evening - recognising each other's commitment to their community. Z13\_1024



Friends Evie and Mardi were participants in the 5th Penguin Dash kids aquathon in the under 12's division. Z17\_1024



Eden Blake and Heidi Szymanski took part in the Cowes Penguin Dash aquathon. Z18\_1024



Maddison Leed and Isla Humphrey ran through in 1st and 2nd place in the under 14's Penguin Dash. Z19\_1024

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at San Remo SES thank you evening, Bass Coast Sustainability Forum, Three Sisters Lions Ride for Sight launch and the Penguin Dash and Cowes Classic.



Tad Hendry, Marie Pearson, Tony O'Connell and Brendan Condon at the Bass Coast sustainability forum. Z01\_1024



Christian Slattery of Climate and Sustainability with Bass Coast, Lauren Van Strijp of Economic Development with Bass Coast and Dr Rachel Goldlust. Z02\_1024



Zoe Geyer of Westernport Water with Simon Woodland of Sustainable Environment and Teresa Mahood of Economic Development discussing the changes within Bass Coast. Z03\_1024



Narelle Hahn and Lincoln Morris of Beveridge Williams attended the Bass Coast sustainability forum at the Wonthaggi Golf Club. Z04\_1024



Karli Dipaola and Caroline Wright volunteered their time as marshals for the Phillip Island Penguin Dash. Z20\_1024



Jeffrey Powell, Nick Maher, and Brad Wright completed the Cowes Classic on Saturday afternoon. Z21\_1024



Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club volunteers Cooper Campbell and Sophia Hurgerford at the Cowes Classic. Z22\_1024



Colin Willmont and Lions Ride for Sight former chairperson Ian de Bruyne watch as Kerry, Leesa and Sharon launch their March ride. C05\_1024



Lions Ride for Sight Chairman Paul Drinkwater and Centre for Eye Research Australia Fundraising Specialist Bronwyn Sugden at Phillip Island Circuit. C06\_1024

### Kingswood set to rock the Riverview

THE Riverview Hotel is gearing up to light up the dance floor with two exciting acts from this Friday.

Kicking off the lineup is Melbourne's own rock sensation, Kingswood, scheduled to perform on March 8. Renowned for their dynamic performances and genre-blending sound, Kingswood guarantees an unforgettable night of music and camaraderie.

With a reputation for pushing the boundaries of rock, Kingswood delivers high-energy performances that captivate audiences. Their eclectic mix of classic rock, indie, and blues has garnered them a dedicated fan base, and their upcoming show at the Riverview Hotel promises to be no exception. Fans can anticipate a blend of new material and classic hits at The Ides of March '24, all delivered with the passion and intensity that defines Kingswood.

Following up on April 13 are Gippsland's beloved duo, The Pierce Brothers. After successful sold-out shows abroad, Jack and Patrick are celebrating the 10th anniversary of their acclaimed EP, The Night Tree, which catapulted them into the global spotlight. They're hitting the road with their new album for over 31 shows across Australia.

Describing a Pierce Brothers show is difficult, but one thing's for sure - you'll remember it for all the right reasons.

To catch Kingswood and The Pierce Brothers at the Riverview Hotel, head to [linktr.ee/riverviewhotel](http://linktr.ee/riverviewhotel).



Jazzparty with special guest Tracey Mumma Miller were utterly captivating at the Caravan Club in Archies Creek. Z48\_1024

### Live 'n' local and partying at Archies

TRACEY Mumma Miller performed live as a special guest with Jazzparty at the Archies Creek beer garden on Sunday evening, delivering a compelling live set with daughter and vocalist Loretta Miller.

Jazzparty are an eight-piece ensemble, and they lit-up the stage for the afternoon festival with co-writer and saxophonist Darcy McNulty showcasing music written by Tracey Miller.

Tracey reflected on the story behind her lyrics, sharing the tale of each song and absorbing the audience with her powerful vocals and centre stage presence.

Loretta and Darcy both shared their longing for their families during the pandemic. Loretta expressed nostalgia for the time when her children were younger and she could spend time with them, while Darcy articulated the tension

between wanting to see loved ones and the restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

Both musicians highlighted the challenges of being apart from their families during this time, and presented a song written by Tracey called 'Miss you'.

Tracey then shared her song 'Stuck' - written after failing to be picked up in the town of Wonthaggi, a feeling that led her to feeling both frustrated

and inspired.

Jazzparty performed live on stage from 3pm, with the audience enjoying a glass of wine, a gin-tonic and woodfired pizzas from Trulli - an all-aged event sharing blues, and rock n roll.

The Caravan Club will host The Whitetop Mountaineers (USA) on March 7 from 7pm and Hussy Hicks on March 15. Tickets available at [caravanmusic.com.au](http://caravanmusic.com.au)

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### Oscar nominated shorts to screen this weekend

By Talking Pictures

A SPECIAL release of the 2024 Oscar nominated short films will screen this weekend at the Bass Coast Council's cultural venues in both Cowes and Wonthaggi. Presenting a rare opportunity to be viewed on the big screen, two compilation feature-length programs, one live action, the other animation will be shown.

The live action shorts include exceptional Benedict Cumberbatch in Wes Anderson's "The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar" together with films from Denmark, Canada, and USA. The animations include films from Iran, France/Israel and USA. The live action shorts screen in Wonthaggi on Saturday 4pm and Cowes Sunday 5pm. The animated program screens Wonthaggi Sunday 11am and Cowes Saturday 1.30pm. Check website to confirm details.

The 96th Academy Awards will be held on Monday March 11 from 11am.

#### Diary Dates

This Wednesday the Phillip Island Movie Club screens Aki Kaurismaki's quirky romantic comedy "Fallen leaves". Hailed as a quiet gem, "Fallen Leaves" won the Jury Prize at the 2023 Cannes Film Festival and will screen at the Berninnette.

Coming up on March 15, the Tarwin Lower Film Society is screening an affectionate French rural character piece "Conversations with my Gardener". Starring two French cinema icons Daniel Auteuil and Jean-Pierre Darroussin, the film captures the mechanics of an unusual male friendship between a Parisian painter fleeing Paris and a country man of great sensibility. Subscription required, available at the door. Check website for details.

The Wonthaggi International Film Festival (March 22-24) hosts eight films over one weekend. Highlights include the compelling and compassionate "Goodbye Julia" the first Sudanese film to ever win an Award at the Cannes Film Festival, Oscar nominees "The Anatomy of a Fall" and "The Zone of Interest" – both starring Sandra Huller, and two excellent Australian documentaries "The Narrow Bridge" and "Road to Patagonia". Check the WUCAC website for more information.

For movie news, views and reviews, catch Bill Ten Eyck and Paul Coulter "Talking Pictures" Wednesdays at 11.05am on South Coast FM, live or streaming.

### Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)

**Sentinel-Times**

*It won't cost a cent to see them in print!*

### Win tickets to Elmo's Circus Dream

THE wait is over! Elmo and all your Sesame Street favourites have announced 2024 tour dates, and they are heading to regional Victoria! First stop is Shepparton before heading to Wonthaggi Union Community Arts on March 14 for two shows: 10.30am and 1pm.

This thrilling theatre show takes you on an enchanting journey with Elmo and his friends as they discover their hidden talents and dreams at the circus. Get ready to be entertained by their amazing acts, catchy songs, and heart-warming moments that will leave you smiling from ear to ear.

It all begins with Elmo's enchanting bedtime story about the circus. As Elmo falls asleep, he is magically transported to his dreamtime circus where he is warmly greeted by his friends Abby, Cookie Monster, Grover, Bert, and Ernie. The show bursts into high energy as the talented cast sings and dances to the iconic Sesame Street theme song, but with a twist – they are embarking on an exciting adventure to the circus! With their vibrant costumes and catchy tunes, they express their deep desire to join the circus and become part of its magical experience. From hilarious clowning and daring stunt



attempts to mesmerising dog acts and captivating dance routines, the stage comes alive with their boundless energy, skill, and infectious enthusiasm.

But the excitement doesn't stop there! Brace yourself as internationally renowned circus performers take the stage, showcasing their extraordinary talents. Prepare to be spellbound by their impressive acrobatic displays, jaw dropping juggling acts, and mind-bending illusions that will leave you in awe at their incredible feats.

'Elmo's Circus Dream' is more than just a show – it's an immersive experience that ignites the imaginations of children, encourages self-expression and teaches valuable life lessons in a fun and engaging way. Get ready to be dazzled as the magic of the circus unfolds before your eyes, leaving

you with unforgettable memories and a renewed belief in the power of dreams.

Don't miss out! Get your tickets now ([trybooking.com/events/landing/1178674](http://trybooking.com/events/landing/1178674)) and join Elmo and his Sesame Street friends at Elmo's Circus Dream – it will leave you beaming from ear to ear and believing that anything is possible!

#### Want to win tickets?

The Sentinel-Times have five family passes to give away to five lucky families.

To go into the draw to win email your name, contact phone number and address to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au) with the subject: Elmo's Circus Dream.

The winners will be drawn at random on Tuesday, March 12 and published on our social media channels (and contacted by telephone).



### Baklava

By Meg Viney

EVERY time I have made this it disappears a hurry, so it is a good idea to only serve what you are happy to have disappear. The Greeks make a huge batch, but I will give you a size that fits into a standard lasagne dish.

#### Ingredients

- 200gm butter
- 200 gm filo pastry (one packet is usually 300gm)
- 200 gm blanched almonds, chopped
- 200 gm shelled walnuts, chopped
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspr ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspr allspice
- 1 dozen whole cloves

#### Syrup

- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/3 cup sugar
- Small piece of cinnamon stick
- 1 teaspr grated orange peel
- 1 teaspr vanilla essence

#### Method

Make the syrup by combining all ingredients in a small pot and simmer 10 minutes. Allow to cool.

If you have not used filo before follow the instructions for using it so that it does not dry out (tea towel over the sheets).

Melt the butter in a small pot. Using a pastry brush, grease a lasagne dish, then, one at a time, buttering each sheet with melted butter, place 8 sheets of the pastry into the dish – you are covering the base and sides of the dish.

Mix the chopped nuts with the spices and sugar, then place a thin layer of the nut mixture over the buttered sheets. Continue with the same layering of one buttered filo sheet and a layer of nuts until the nuts are used up. Then place a further 3 buttered sheets to cover the dish. Brush the top sheet with butter as well.

Using a clean razor or Stanley knife, cut the top sheets into triangles (or squares if that is easier!), and place the cloves dotted on the top.

Bake on 180 for about an hour and a half until golden and puffed. When you remove it from the oven, pour over the cooled syrup and allow to soak through the Baklava.

Allow to cool for several hours before serving.

### Fired Up for feminism at Meeniyian Art Gallery

IN RECOGNITION of the dynamic and unyielding passion that women bring to the world, Fired Up is a group exhibition at the Meeniyian Art Gallery, coinciding with the month of International Women's Day 2024.

A powerful showcase that both celebrates women's creativity and amplifies the fire of feminism that burns within them, Fired Up is a tribute to the unwavering commitment of women worldwide who have tirelessly fought for gender equality and social justice.

Each artist in this exhibition channels her unique perspective, experiences, and artistic prowess to portray the essence of feminist ideals.

Their works resonate with

the strength, resilience, and unbreakable unity of women who have risen above adversity to inspire change.

Focusing on artistic mediums that use fire in the process of creation, Fired Up pays homage to the fires of feminism that continue to blaze.

Fired Up invites you to experience the transformative power of art in advancing the cause of gender equality.

This exhibition underscores the crucial role that women play as torchbearers for justice, equality, and progress, both within the art and society at large.

Curator of the exhibition, Jasmin McNeill said that attendees will enjoy the diversity of artists and the different

ways they express their femininity. "Throughout the exhibition each artist has written a statement about their work and how it relates to feminism."

The exhibition runs until Monday April 1. A Meet the Artist event will be held at MAG on Saturday at 2pm.

The Fired Up Exhibition features artists, Sian Adnam, Laurel Billington, Catherine Blamey, Ruth Bruton, Anna Cuttriss, Ann-Maree Gentile, Kim McDonald, Libby Witchell, Regina Dudek, Carmel Duffy, Nicky Fraser, Emma LeMar, Nadine Lineham, Ann Parry, Andrea Hall, Wendy Reeve, Wendy Kenworthy-Smith, Cindy Tong and Liz Wearne.

**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm**  
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# Back for its 63rd Autumn Show



Time to restock – do not miss a bargain in the club's nursery after taking in the show's delights.



There will be plenty of delights to tantalise the tastebuds, eyes and senses during the show.



There is something for all exhibitors in the 63rd Autumn Show.

THE Welshpool & District Horticultural Society is excited to be able to hold their 63rd Autumn Show on Friday March 8 and Saturday March 9. The weather gods have certainly thrown up some massive challenges for the Welshpool Community this Summer when the township and surrounds were severely flooded in the "Boxing Day Floods" and then copped the brunt of the "Valentines Day Storm" which cut off power, telephone and internet connections for several days and left a trail of destruction to buildings, trees and gardens in its wake!

Our Autumn Show is one way to demonstrate the resilience of our community ... and our gardens... to all our visitors! We are looking forward to equalling or bettering the success of 2023 Spring Show when we had over 800 entries and an amazing crowd of visitors! So please come along and help us to make this Show the Biggest and Best and the Happiest Show ever!!!

The Show Theme is "Rustic Delights"!

The Show will be held at the Welshpool Memorial Hall, South Gippsland Highway Welshpool, on Friday March 8 1.30pm to 5pm and Saturday March 9 from 10am to 4pm.

The Show will be officially opened at 2pm on Friday 8 by Sue Thompson, President of the Regional Horticultural Societies of Gippsland and well respected show judge and exhibitor.

Admission to the Show will be \$5 per adult and no charge for children. Come and enjoy our wonderful country style

refreshments and purchase some very reasonably priced plants from the extensive variety in our onsite club nursery at the rear of the Hall. Eftpos facilities will be available.

The Show schedule/program clearly explains the various definitions to help entrants with their entries and club members and section stewards will be readily available to answer queries from entrants and visitors.

Don't miss the popular "Public Choice" Section of the Schedule. The topic this Show is "Rustic Delights" which should encourage some fantastic entries. Make sure you come and vote for your favourite Public Choice entry!

Money raised from the Public Choice votes this show are going towards the Welshpool Flood Relief Fund.

We welcome entries from adults, children, novices and "first timers"!

Come and "Have a Go" ... just bring your flowers etc to the Hall before 10am on Show day Friday March 8 and members will help you stage and display them. Vases are available if needed. First timers don't need to ring beforehand to lodge their entries but all other entrants must notify the Assistant Show Secretary, Prue Fleming by 6pm on Wednesday March 6. There is no entry fee for exhibitors.

Show schedules/programs both printed copies and a digital version are available from the Show Secretary Frances Grylls 0481 385 122 and Prue Fleming our Assistant Show Secretary on 0418 775 717.

## Celebrating food with Harvest Festival

THE STUDENTS at Poowong Consolidated School celebrated and made the most of the food they and the school community grow by hosting a Harvest Festival in February.

Together the students cooked all day and then held a stall to sell their baked goods, leftover fresh produce, bunches of flowers and lemon cordial, which was free to try.

Over 148kg of fresh, excess produce was donated from the school community for the festival, which the students transformed or sold to avoid it going to waste.

All but a few bunches of herbs, a few bags of lemons and a handful of beans were cooked, processed, eaten or sold fresh over two days with a total of \$359 raised.

The biggest beetroot that grew in the school garden was a whooping 3.9kg and some of these were turned into beetroot brownies, while the countless number of zucchinis were transformed into delicious zucchini cake.

There was a focus on working together as a community and using produce in simple and fun recipes to create something delicious.

"The whole day was absolutely buzzing, students were incredibly engaged, each grade had an hour to cook and move between different recipe stations,



An abundance of lemons were turned into lemon syrup for lemon cordial.

we had wonderful parent volunteers and loved teaming up with the experience of our local CWA and learning from them too," commented Science Teacher, Lauren Dobie.

The whole school enjoyed fruit salad at lunchtime, with quite literally countless kilograms of fruit consumed and the students brought along their own cups and spoons to limit plastic waste.

Students have recently been learning about the

**Welshpool & District Horticultural Society Inc.**  
**63rd AUTUMN SHOW 2024**



**Friday, March 8 • 1.30pm - 5pm**

Official Opening by Sue Thompson at 2pm

**Saturday, March 9 • 10am - 4pm**

**Welshpool Memorial Hall, South Gippsland Hwy, Victoria**

**Admission \$5, Children free**

**Plants for sale from onsite Club Nursery**

**Show Secretary - Frances Grylls 0481 385 122**

**Assistant Show Secretary - Prue Fleming 0418 775 717**

**Email: pruefleming@bigpond.com**

**Entries Notified to Prue by 6pm Wednesday, March 6**



## Consultation on animal welfare laws extended

THE Victorian Government has extended the consultation period on the draft Bill for the new animal care and protection laws.

Victorians now have until Monday March 25 to have their say on the Bill – which will replace the current Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA Act).

Executive Director of Animal Welfare Victoria, Dr Trevor Pisciotta, said the extension gives interested people and organisations more time to make a submission, following recent extreme weather events.

"We've been committed to engaging with key stakeholders and the Victorian community throughout these reforms – this is the third and final round of consultation."

"Regional communities have already strongly influenced the form of the Draft Bill, which will help to maintain the trust of our trading partners, consumers and the community in Victoria's animal-based activities and industries," Dr Pisciotta said.

Adding the POCTA Act is nearly 40 years old and does not always reflect current community expectations, developments in animal science or changing industry practices.

"These laws will strengthen Victoria's reputation as a humane and responsible producer of food – while being fit-for-purpose for modern day farming practices," Dr Pisciotta said.

Key changes include minimum standards of care and requirements around husbandry procedures – which already feature in the existing codes of practice and Australian Standards and Guidelines for Animal Welfare.

The proposed laws recognise animal sentience – that animals can have positive and negative experiences. Being explicit about this won't change how Victorians need to treat their animals, or whether they can be owned or used by humans. It won't create any legal rights for third parties, and it won't give animals legal rights.

Dr Pisciotta encourages interested community members, groups and organisations to make a submission and complete a survey about future regulations.

"Please visit the Engage Victoria website, where you will find supporting materials to help you make a submission, including a guide to the draft Bill and a list of Frequently Asked Questions," Dr Pisciotta said.

For more information and to make a submission visit [engage.vic.gov.au](http://engage.vic.gov.au)

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# Victorian Government called to assist storm-hit farmers

By Andrew Paloczi

MIRBOO North farmer Jason Harris has taken aim at the Victorian Government for failing to assist farmers with the substantial cleanup and repair costs incurred from the February 13 storm.

"They show up and get their photo in the paper and think they're doing something but they're doing nothing," Jason said.

"They're helping the council but they're not helping the farmers."

Jason estimates the cost of clearing trees and repairing fences on the approximately 140-acre beef farm at \$100,000, explaining that while building damage should be covered by insurance, that doesn't apply to clearing trees and fence repairs.

"There's kilometres of fence wrecked; that's a whole new fence along the highway," Jason said, explaining that you'd usually expect a single tree to come down on a fence, something that is easily repaired.

Jason contrasted the current situation with the State Government's willingness to assist farmers following 2021 storm damage, saying that while he didn't need to make a claim then, payments of up to \$75,000 were made available to farmers.

He has taken time off from his role as a director at Ray White Leongatha to work with his father clearing trees and repairing fences.

Sentinel-Times was driven around the Harris property, inspecting the numerous cypress trees that had come down over fences and elsewhere.

A number of paddocks remain out of use due to the damage.



**Mirboo North farmer Jason Harris stands near one of the numerous trees that came down on his cattle property during the February 13 storm, with extensive damage done to fences. A13\_1024**

Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien has written to the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Emergency Services urging them to provide assistance for primary producers impacted by the recent storm damage but there is nothing forthcoming at this stage.

The State Government has been contacted for comment.

Jason said he has made multiple efforts to request assistance through South Gippsland Shire Council, with farmers having been advised by Agriculture Victoria to contact their local council for assistance with clearing on-farm green waste and debris.

"I called once, emailed on Monday (February 26) and dropped into the community centre in Mirboo North on Thursday and spoke to two council workers who said someone would contact me," he said on Sunday.

South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis addressed the issue of response times.

"In terms of us getting back to people, I absolutely acknowledge that it is taking a while and that's because of the volume of requests that we're receiving and also the fact we're having to liaise with State Government and some voluntary agencies to try and coordinate support being available; so we appreciate people's patience and will come back to them when we can," Kerryn said.

She spoke of the advocacy efforts council has been making on behalf of farmers, including during the visit she made to the Victorian Parliament with South Gippsland Shire mayor Clare Williams, with the pair speaking to a number of ministers.

"We were making sure the ministers we met with were aware that farmers are not part

of the main programs that are offered and we wanted the State Government to understand that a lot of our farmers have had significant damage, very large trees down, fences damaged, and wouldn't necessarily be eligible for the standard program," the CEO said.

"We don't have capacity to assist people on their private property but we are advocating hard to State Government that it's not just people in the township that will need support, it is farmers as well."

She noted that Agriculture Victoria has been in contact with farmers in South Gippsland Shire, particularly in Mirboo North, adding that council is also working closely with Gipps Dairy which is offering support.

Agriculture Victoria has been contacting farmers individually to establish how they are going and what support they need, Kerryn explained. The organisation also had a presence at a further Mirboo North community meeting last week.

The CEO is confident that progress is occurring in relation to farmer assistance.

"I believe Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) is now factoring in some support for farmers on private property as part of their cleanup program, which is exactly what Clare and I were advocating for," Kerryn said, with hopes of an announcement in the short term.

She stressed that the huge volume of green waste farmers are faced with after the storm is the reason council is advocating to ERV about providing support for farmers.

"We're awaiting a statement from ERV as to exactly what the scope of that program will be."

**ALEX SCOTT  
AND STAFF**  
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## *Livestock Sales*

### KORUMBURRA

David Ryan 0408 311 895  
Dean Bailey 0438 531 672

Dick Faulkner  
Brian Vuillermi

### FOSTER

0408 595 174  
0429 436 040

### LEONGATHA

Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063  
Kaleb Jans 0487 155 471

Rob Ould - Livestock Manager

0408 595 183

### WARRAGUL

Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265  
Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816  
Jordan Sim 0448 058 435  
Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590

David Holden  
Alan Bolding  
Dale Atherton

0428 749 390  
0419 723 255  
0428 888 300

### PAKENHAM

David Setches - Livestock Manager

0409 443 473

### WONTHAGGI

Phillip Hanley 0417 140 508  
Cal Nation 0439 334 163  
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Glenn Barwick  
Morgan Croucher

0408 975 476  
0457 001 877

### GRANTVILLE

Brian Silver 0407 347 509

Tim Gibson

0420 306 599

## *Real Estate Sales*

### KORUMBURRA

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

### MELBOURNE LAND

0474 781 711

### LEONGATHA

Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244

Emily Clifford 0422 622 299

### COWES

0419 337 441

### WONTHAGGI

Tony Giles 0407 528 192

Dan Huther 0418 334 801

### VENUS BAY

0417 631 252

### GRANTVILLE

Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413

Tom Gibson 0438 574 472

### PAKENHAM

0419 885 489

### INVERLOCH

Tom Gibson 0438 574 472

Michelle Lunney 0457 120 277

### KOO WEE RUP

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

Michelle Lunney 0457 120 277

**SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE**



# Sheep flock to decline as lamb slaughter breaks record

AFTER three years of consecutive growth, the Australian sheep flock is set to decrease by 2.9 per cent to 76,500,000 in 2024, according to the latest Sheep Industry Projections from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA).

During the 2020-2022 rebuild phase, producer focus on productivity and genetics has led to impressive marking rates across the sheep flock. However, the shift from beneficial weather conditions to average conditions in 2023 led to elevated turnoff of unproductive breeding stock, resulting in a 46.7 per cent lift to sheep slaughter.

According to Stephen Bignell, Manager of Market Information at MLA, as the sheep turnoff will mostly be limited to older, unproductive ewes, this year's lamb cohort is expected to remain solid, but slightly smaller, than previous years.

"The current resilience of the sheep flock means that high lamb slaughter will have a less intense impact on the national flock size than in previous maintenance periods. Meaning that there will be a decrease in overall flock numbers, but not



**Amidst sheep flock adjustments, 2024 sees a resilient lamb cohort maintaining solid numbers. Manager Stephen Bignell predicts a stable future, with record sheepmeat supply anticipated globally.** Photo: Sean Thoman | Unsplash

as dramatic as in comparative years," Mr Bignell said.

"After 2024, the flock is expected to stabilise and remain above the ten-year average."

Slaughter and production are projected to peak, causing record supply of Australian sheepmeat into the global market.

This comes after Australia produced the most lamb on record in the calendar year 2023, with 599,461 tonnes of lamb being produced in 2023, putting it 11.6 per cent higher than 2022,

which was another record year.

As the largest exporter of sheepmeat, high Australian production will increase globally traded sheepmeat volumes.

"Economic resilience in the United States and emerging markets will drive demand for lamb, while the outlook for consumer demand in China remains uncertain."

"Regardless, a shortage of competitor proteins will encourage imports of sheepmeat in high protein consumption markets."

Lamb production is set to break a new record in 2024, beating the previous year's record achieved in 2023.

It is projected that lamb production will reach 621,000 tonnes in 2024, a nine per cent or 54,000 tonnes increase compared to 2023 figures. If this eventuates it will be 21.3 per cent or 109,359 tonnes above the 10-year average.

Next year, the lamb production forecast is set to ease to 587,000 tonnes and then rise in 2026 by 19,000 tonnes to 606,000 tonnes due to improved carcass weights.

Mutton production will be the largest since 2006, set to produce 254,000 tonnes in 2024 up by 3.14 per cent on 2023 volumes. Production will remain elevated in 2024 due to a small lift to slaughter.

In 2025, fewer breeding ewes will be turned off. The forecasts for 2025 and 2026 will reach 229,000 and 207,000 tonnes respectively, as the industry moves towards a transitional period where production will stabilise.

To view the Sheep Industry Projections report, visit [bit.ly/42X81uB](http://bit.ly/42X81uB)

## No growth expected in beef consumption

WITH limited or negative real wages growth expected in 2024, coupled with the higher cost environment, Rabobank expects global beef consumption will at best remain steady and possibly decline through 2024, with some variations.

In its Q1 Global Beef Quarterly, the agribusiness banking specialist notes beef's premium status, despite a significant portion sold as lower-priced ground beef, with sales vulnerable to economic pressures. The report says this situation poses important questions for those in the supply chain around margins and trade – "can prices be maintained or pushed higher to make up for the loss of consumption or do retail prices have to ease to encourage higher consumption?"

The bank says, in a market where beef production growth is limited, the consumer may be willing to tolerate higher prices at the expense of some consumption, therefore maintaining demand. "On the other hand, in a market with growing supply – such as Australia – lower prices may be needed to encourage consumption."

Report lead author, Rabobank senior animal proteins analyst Angus Gidley-Baird said these supply and demand dynamics may swing beef trade flows towards the United States.

Mr Gidley-Baird expects Chinese import demand for beef to remain sluggish, at least in the first half. With strong import demand though in the United States, along with lower domestic supplies, beef trade is already being diverted to the US.

"Brazil's exports to the US in January 2024 were ahead of 2023 and Australian volumes to the US were up 127 per cent year-on-year," he said.

"So, if China's recovery is better than expected, global beef markets could become quite tight, fuelling price rises."

Although the prospects of increasing global beef demand may not be strong in the year ahead, the bank retains a positive outlook on the market.

"With US production declining and the country's economic outlook being reasonable, the US is likely to lead the beef price-setting market," Mr Gidley-Baird said.

"This is likely to draw increased volumes from Australia, New Zealand and Brazil, along with trade from Canada and Mexico."

## Australia

Mr Gidley-Baird said the Australian market is still resting in producers' hands.

"With increasing cattle inventory levels and weak consumer demand – except in the US market – Australian cattle prices remain heavily reliant on producer sentiment and marketing activity," he said.

The Rabobank report said in Australia, large and increasing volumes of cattle in the system mean buyers have plenty of choice and, while consumer markets are weak, there is no need for processors to chase cattle. Therefore, any floor in the market is being generated by producer marketing activity.

"The dry conditions and pessimistic producer sentiment in 2023 saw cattle prices drop 40 to 50 per cent in the first 10 months of the year," Mr Gidley-Baird said. "Since rain in November and again in January this year, producer sentiment has turned around and prices have lifted by more than 50 per cent since October and are close to where they were at the same time in 2023."

With increasing production, Mr Gidley-Baird said, Australia's exports have been growing. "Volumes in 2023 were up 27 per cent year-on-year, with large increases to the US (up 84 per cent), China (up 30 per cent) and South Korea (up 18 per cent)."

Volumes to Japan, dropped five per cent reflecting the high beef inventory levels and weak consumer demand in that country.

"We expect consumer markets – particularly Australia's Asian export destinations – to remain weak for the first half of 2024 before stocks are cleared and flows start to recover," he said.

## VLE - LEONGATHA

# STORE SALE 2500 CATTLE 2500

**FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024 - Starting at 10am**

### GROWN STEERS

**A/c Lester Farms, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)**  
40 Angus steers, rising 2 yo  
**A/c Melaleuca Pastoral Trust, Ruby (NUTRIEN)**  
30 Angus steers, 18 mths  
**A/c B&S Phillips (ELDERS)**  
23 Angus steers, 15-18 mths, Fernliegh & Harris blood  
**A/c S&L Storti (ELDERS)**  
20 Angus steers, 15 mths, Battersby blood  
**A/c Von Pace Past, Giffard (NUTRIEN)**  
16 Angus Steers, 16-17 mths  
**A/c Filsell Agg (ELDERS)**  
10 Angus steers, rising 2 yo, Harris blood  
**A/c Camlee, Foster (SEJ)**  
8 Angus steers, 2 yo, Merlewood blood  
**A/c W & A Walker, Koonwarra (SEJ)**  
20 Charolais X steers, 18 mths  
**A/c Vuiller Poll Shorthorn, Yanakie (ALEX SCOTT)**  
14 Poll shorthorn steers, 14-16 mths, drenched 12/23

### WEANERS

**A/c NP and JA Chandler, Hedley (PHC)**  
50 Angus steers  
25 Angus heifers,  
10 months by Langi Kal Kal stud bulls, weaned  
**A/c Von Pace Past, Giffard (NUTRIEN)**  
40 Angus steers, 12 mths  
**A/c Ross Lawson, Tanjil Sth (NUTRIEN)**  
40 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths

### A/c Telegraph Pastoral, Hedley (Elders)

25 Angus steers, 12 mths  
12 Angus heifers, 12 mths  
Fernliegh blood, weaned, NE Accredited, VB, GF & ABF  
**A/c Camlee, Foster (SEJ)**  
15 Angus steers, 12 mths  
15 Angus heifers, 12 mths  
Merlewood blood  
**A/c GM Kensley, Nerrena (NUTRIEN)**  
26 Angus mixed sex, 12-13 mths, Sires Inc Prophet & Quantum, Drenched Dectomax 11/2

### A/c Ford Davis & Sons (ELDERS)

25 Angus mix sex weaners, Banquet bloodlines

### A/c Sandy Creek livestock, Stradbroke (ELDERS)

25 Angus mix sex weaners, Battersby blood, VB, GF & ABF

### A/c D & L White, Fernbank (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, NE Accredited

### A/c B & J Henwood, Bravington (NUTRIEN)

16 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, Innesdale blood, GF, AF & VQ

### A/c C Christensen, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

12 Angus steers, 12 mths

### A/c P Milner (ELDERS)

12 Angus heifers, 12 mths, Battersby blood

### A/c Filsell Agg (ELDERS)

10 Angus heifers 12 mths, Harris blood

### A/c Lawson McCulloch, Tanjil Sth (NUTRIEN)

4 Angus mixed sex, 10-12 mths

### A/c Amber Creek Farms, Fish Creek (NUTRIEN)

30 Limo X mix sex, 8-10 mths

### XBRED & DAIRY

**A/c A & L Van Kuyk, Agnes (SEJ)**  
40 Montbeliarde / Friesian steers, 14-16 mths  
**A/c L Tumino, Cranbourne Sth (NUTRIEN)**  
30 Angus/Friesian X steers, 20 mths

## MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

### Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, February 26, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x ..... \$23 to \$57  
Friesian Bulls ..... \$30 to \$100  
Friesian Heifers ..... \$190 to \$330  
Beef Bulls ..... \$40 to \$240  
Beef Heifers ..... \$40 to \$240  
Number of Calves: **70**  
Number purchased to rear: **30**

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- Prime & Store cattle sales at VLE Leongatha
- Auctions Plus Sales
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- O/Hooks sales to Processors
- Rural Property Real Estate



**Jake Anthony 0467 297 794**

**Simon Henderson 0428 740 750**

**David Phelan 0429 050 349**

LB1302



**SEJ**  
5662 4033

**Nutrien**  
Ag Solutions  
5662 2291

**SEJ**  
0429 050 349

**Elders**  
5658 1894

**ALEX SCOTT**  
MEAT & BEEF  
5655 1133

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

LB1302



## Gardiner Foundation New Zealand study tour mentor opportunity

THE Gardiner Foundation, in collaboration with the Australian Dairy Conference, is excited to announce the opportunity for a dedicated individual to join the upcoming New Zealand Study Tour as a Mentor.

This eight-day tour, scheduled for April 14 – 21, 2024, will immerse young dairy professionals from across Australia in a comprehensive exploration of New Zealand's South Island, covering leading dairy farms, research facilities, industry bodies and leadership initiatives.

Gardiner Foundation General Manager, People and Community Development, Jenny Wilson said, the New Zealand Study Tour Mentor will play a pivotal role in the journey, providing guidance and support to the participants throughout the tour and beyond.

"The mentor will play a crucial role in shaping the experience of our participants. We're looking for someone with a deep understanding of the dairy industry and a passion for mentoring to join us on this remarkable journey," Ms Wilson said.

The Gardiner Foundation seeks an individual with a passion for developing others and an adeptness in fostering respectful discussions. Previous involvement in Gardiner Foundation programs is highly valued, but not essential. Responsibilities include guiding the group, facilitating discussions, ensuring safety and providing post-tour linkages to development opportunities.

"This is a great opportunity for someone to elevate their leadership skills. We expect this to be a rewarding experience, and for the selected mentor to really benefit from working with young people while exploring New Zealand's dairy industry and dairy communities," Ms Wilson said.

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit a cover letter highlighting their enthusiasm for mentoring and their relevant experience in the dairy sector, along with their resume, to Ross Bawden at [ross.bawden@gardinerfoundation.com.au](mailto:ross.bawden@gardinerfoundation.com.au).

Applications close at 5 pm on Friday March 15, 2024.

To download the full position description visit [gardinerfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Gardiner-Foundation-NZ-Study-Tour-Mentor-PD.docx](http://gardinerfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Gardiner-Foundation-NZ-Study-Tour-Mentor-PD.docx)

## Top of the breed for rib and rump fats



**Lot 6 Wattlewood Touchdown T14.**



**Wattlewood Acacia R13 – Dam of Lot 27 J Wattlewood Tempting T32.**

AFTER overwhelming interest and visitors to Wattlewood's Beef Week and Bull Sale Preview Day at the end of January, John and Fiona Glover have switched focus and are now working towards their Annual On Farm Bull Sale on Thursday March 14 at 4pm.

The couple have 31 bulls catalogued for their sale with the stud's slogan of "Ticking All The Boxes", and that they are. The bulls have all gone through the Immune Ready Program which has been developed and endorsed by the leading cattle industry bodies in Australia, where sale animals are tested P.I. negative for BVDV, vaccinated with 7in1, Pestigard, Vibrovac and Rhinogard. The bulls are also semen tested and are genotyped with a sire/parent verification.

These 'ready for work' quiet bulls have also had a couple of lessons on the halter, making them even easier to handle so you don't have to be a "big time cattlemen" to enjoy owning any of these animals.

Some of the sires that are represented in this year's sale include the \$280K sire, Texas Iceman R725, Rennylea Prospect P550,

Millah Murrah Quixote Q96, Sydgen Enhance and Alpine Muzza M245.

Wattlewood's breeding philosophy is to have structurally correct, quiet animals that perform. While the Glover's have never concentrated on EBV's, Wattlewood have potential stud and herd sires available that are among the best in the breed for birth weight, growth, structure, carcass EBV's and the various Angus Indexes; with one sale bull also ranked number one in the Angus Breed for fat.

Fiona states "We pride ourselves on the relationships that we have developed with our bull buying clients over the years and appreciate hearing how well the bulls are working for their new owners".

"It is great to get an insight to what our breeders are trying to achieve and help them accomplish this when selecting the next wave of genetics that will be used over the strong female base that we have.

For any enquiries that you may have, to request a catalogue or view the bulls that are available prior to the sale, Fiona can be contacted on 0416 216 951.

## Dairy Australia's upgraded 2024 Forage Value Index released

AUSTRALIAN dairy farmers will be able to make more informed decisions when choosing ryegrass cultivars for their pastures following the release of Dairy Australia's 2024 Forage Value Index (FVI) including the new Forage Quality Rating just in time for the ryegrass sowing season.

First introduced in 2017 and updated each year, the FVI is a resource for farmers and producers which independently ranks varieties of ryegrass according to their potential contribution to overall farm profit. Given seasonal yield difference between varieties can be significant, this can contribute to substantial variation in profit per hectare each year.

The 2024 FVI includes for the first-time new data on perennial ryegrass varieties with

the introduction of the Forage Quality Rating.

Dairy Australia's FVI Lead, Ruairi McDonnell, explains that having access to the new Forage Quality Rating will help farmers be able to choose perennial ryegrass cultivars which can lead to higher milk production.

"The new Forage Quality Rating shows that there is substantial variability between cultivars in metabolisable energy (ME) concentration, which ultimately will lead to varying milk production potential for different varieties," said McDonnell.

"Farmers can look at the Forage Quality Rating for each cultivar on a seasonal basis at different stages of the year, as well as on an average yearly basis.

"The Forage Quality Rating shows that perennial ryegrass pastures are at their highest energy levels in winter and early spring, before declining in energy through late spring and summer," McDonnell added.

"Farmers can now use this information to assist with ration formulation decisions by using the seasonal ME concentration for the varieties used on their farm."

McDonnell also said that an improved statistical method was utilised in formulating the FVI this year which would make them even more valuable for farmers.

The data used to create the FVI is sourced from the Pasture Trial Network – a collaboration of seed companies, Meat and Livestock Australia

(MLA) and Dairy Australia, which conducts independent trials across the country. The lists for each species are then generated by Datagene using robust statistical methodology.

The FVI ratings system is based on global best practice and was developed in close consultation with farmers, the seed industry and fully qualified internationally recognised experts.

Farmers can download the 2024 FVI tables now to plan their autumn pasture sowing at [dairyaustralia.com.au/fvi](http://dairyaustralia.com.au/fvi).

The detailed Pasture Trial Network individual trial results from across a broad range of Australian dairy regions are also available on the MLA website for farmers to consider those results in any seed purchasing decisions.

## Lot 10 Wattlewood Top Gun T66

+1 BW, Top of the breed for Rib & Rum Fats, +4.2 IMF & +10.6 EMA

## WATTLEWOOD ANGUS

*ticking all the boxes*

- ✓ Herd Book Registered
- ✓ Semen Tested
- ✓ Sire Verified
- ✓ Genotyped
- ✓ P.I. Negative
- ✓ Naturally quiet
- ✓ Immune Ready (vacc. 7in1, Pestigard, Vibrovac & Rhinogard)
- ✓ Free of Known Genetic Defects (by pedigree or testing)

**ANNUAL BULL SALE: Thursday March 14, 2024 Starting at 4pm**



## Draft shapes up ahead of sales

DEMAND is high for Angus bulls, as the New Year sees confidence return to the beef price. Summer rainfall has given breeders assurance and as the Autumn Bull buying season is fast approaching, Bowman Performance Genetics expects to see a bumper turnout for their Annual On-Property Bull Sale, Thursday March 14 at 1pm.

Stud Principal, Glenn Bowman is excited about how this year's draft is shaping up and encouraged that his vision for the herd is coming to fruition. A huge amount of research and consideration goes into making a herd for stud breeding, including researching pedigrees and travelling to view each of the sires and their relatives globally. It's a labour of love to create bulls that the market wants.

Mr Bowman was keen to point out, "that as market knowledge grows, the buyer becomes more discerning, and this is great news for the beef industry."

The whole aim for Bowman Performance Genetics is to have the most profitable cattle in the supply chain and this is achieved in several ways:

- Generational knowledge and years of experience in knowing what an animal should look like, as well as utilising modern technology such as genomics, breed plan,



**Bowman Performance Genetics anticipates a bumper turnout for their Annual Bull Sale, with high demand for Angus bulls.**

semen testing, AI and Embryo Transfer (ET), to take the best of your herd and increase your rate of gain. Understanding the merits of elite cow families, recognising the best performing dams – ones that mother the best calves (doing ability) and breeding from them, thus incorporating pedigree, performance and looks. Said plainly: "Cattlemen-ship".

- Investment in genomic testing the entire herd increases

profits for the producer as it highlights every aspect of an animal's breeding and key market traits.

- Success with the large-scale commercial herd at Mr. Bowman's Rosedale operation at 'The Ridge', reinforces that the Stud genetics work. Popular amongst feedlot and backgrounding buyers, there is ready proof of the breeding efficiencies and the cattle's growth and MSA targets.
- Profitable cattle come from

an exceptional base; the stud's foundation herd was sourced from the best in the breed – Millah Murrah.

- Finally profitable cattle can be achieved from the highest level of client support, through breeding advice, technical knowledge, farm consulting, education, mentoring and marketing. Keeping clients at the forefront of the industry.

After years of this consistent approach and maintaining integrity in the product, Bowman Performance Genetics is continually attracting large scale and reputable producers from around the country.

Gippsland's largest sire line-up achieves an increasing Angus Breeding Dollar Index Value, whilst adding thickness and carcass content. The first sons of Millah Murrah Nectar N334, Sitz Intuition (USA), Banquet Quarter Pounder Q252 and Landfall Blackstone Q1171 will be offered here in Gippsland. Added to this powerful mix will be sons of Murdeduke Quarterback Q011, Millah Murrah Paratrooper P15, Baldridge 38 Special (USA) and Musgrave 316 Exclusive (USA).

This year's draft of 80 Bulls will be on sale at 'Crystal Brook', 100 Sawyer Road, Neerim South. For more information, please visit [bowman-genetics.com](http://bowman-genetics.com).

## Disaster Relief Fund open for farmers

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has opened applications and is encouraging donations for the VFF Disaster Relief Fund (VFF DRF) in the wake of devastating bushfires and thunderstorms that have hit farmers hard throughout February.

VFF President Emma Germano said many regional communities have been left reeling after a series of devastating natural disasters and the activation of the Fund aims to help farmers doing it tough.

"From Gippsland to the Grampians and now areas near Ballarat, many of our regional communities have been hit incredibly hard by severe thunderstorms and devastating bushfires.

"Farmers have lost farm sheds, kilometres of fencing, stock, machinery and that's just from early assessments. We know there will be more, so we're getting on the front foot and opening our disaster relief fund applications," Ms Germano said.

"Assessment of the applications will begin immediately, and we hope to be able to begin pay-outs very soon."

"We're also collecting donations, if you are willing and, in a position, to contribute. The VFF would like to express our gratitude to those who have already donated and thanks everyone who contributes, no matter how big or small," Ms Germano added.

The VFFDRF Committee will oversee the collection of donations from the community, assessment of applications, and approval and distribution of individual grants to farmers up to the value of \$5000, for impacts from storm or bushfire that occurred from February 9, 2024.

Applications will be assessed individually based on the level of impact, vulnerability, urgency and evidence and will be open until March 10. Evaluation of each application will begin immediately and the VFF will advise as soon as possible on application outcome. To be eligible to apply, you must be a farmer and must demonstrate sufficient need for financial assistance.

"When the fund was last enacted in 2020 after devastating bushfires, donations helped restore thousands of kilometres of damaged fencing, repaired pasture, replaced troughs and tanks and also contributed to fixing infrastructure."

"As some parts of Victoria begin the clean-up and assess the damage from recent wild weather, our thoughts again go out to those battling bushfires that continue to impact communities near Ballarat," Ms Germano said.

Further information, including donation, application and full eligibility criteria is available on the VFF website at [vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelieffund/](http://vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelieffund/)

## Farm performance focus at GippsDairy annual event

GIPPSLAND'S major annual agricultural event, the GippsDairy Muster, returns for its third year on Thursday March 14, on-farm in Trafalgar.

The GippsDairy Muster provides farmers and service providers with the opportunity to establish new connections and share their knowledge and alternates between convention-style and on-farm event.

The theme of the 2024 GippsDairy Muster is Pastures | Pathways | Performance and will feature a line-up of local and international speakers including industry experts and local dairy farmers.

This year's event will showcase the latest trends, technologies, and practices in dairy farming and provide insights from industry experts and local farmers optimising pastures, planning business succession, and improving overall farm business performance.

Farm hosts Graeme, Louise and Stephanie Paul, Belinda Egan, and Simon Reid will share their dairying stories and current farming system.

The event keynote speaker Dawn Dalley, a senior scientist at DairyNZ, will be discussing national and international drivers behind environmental regulations

for water quality and greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand. She will also share research and adoption of farm system change opportunities to achieve nutrient loss reduction targets with a focus on winter crop options for Gippsland.

Attendees will be able to select two breakout sessions featuring a panel of speakers including the farm hosts, other Gippsland dairy farmers, and industry specialists.

The line up of sessions include Productive Pastures, Pathways and Progression, Stepping Back: Planning for the future of your farm, and Performance in a Changing

Environment.

For more information and to view the event program, visit [dairyaustralia.com.au/gippsdairymuster](http://dairyaustralia.com.au/gippsdairymuster)

To register for the 2024 GippsDairy Muster, visit: [trybooking.com/events/landing/1176855](http://trybooking.com/events/landing/1176855)

GippsDairy would like to thank its gold sponsor Gardiner Dairy Foundation, and silver sponsor Baw Baw Shire Council, with additional support from Bega, Burra Foods Australia, Commonwealth Bank, Fonterra, GEA, Gibsons Groundspread, Jersey Australia, Lely Gippsland, ProDairy and West Gippsland Catchment Authority.

**Lot 3 - Bowman Quarterback T8**



**38 Bulls suitable for Heifers/ Cows**

**BOWMAN**  
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**80 HBR ANGUS BULLS**

**- By Cattlemen For Cattlemen -**



Glenn  
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FOCUS - Leading MSA & Breedplan Performance  
BREEDING - Millah Murrah foundation genetics  
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**Top 8% Calving Ease, Top 3% IMF**

# TRADES & SERVICES



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#### Zap's Blinds

Free measure & quote  
"We come to you"

- ★ Hollands
- ★ Sunscreens
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- ★ Timber & aluminium Venetians

Servicing Gippsland - Mark & Rachael Zappa

**0419 526 080** AH: 5672 3874

JEN1143

### CLEANING SERVICES



- Domestic
- NDIS cleaning

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South Gippsland

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### BLINDS

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- ★ Canvas awnings
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Builder

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### CONCRETING



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Small jobs - no problem

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# TRADES & SERVICES



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Contact Pat: 0438 025 720  
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- Lawns- small acreages, large residential blocks
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\*For the first 10 clients only, the offer ends February 29, 2024.

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Servicing Gippsland

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Vacuum Gutter Cleaning  
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## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy 30th Birthday

LUKE JOYCE



You are a beautiful man  
Lots of love -- Dad, Patsy and Graeme, Marilyn and Ian, Rob and Lyn, Chop and boys, Kerrie and Brendan, Ron, all your cousins and family

"Happy birthday little one"  
Love Dad xxx

## DEATHS

BOAG (nee Stringer), Patricia 'Pat':

18.12.1922 - 01.03.2024.

Late of Hampton, Stony Creek and Rhyll.

Dearly loved wife of Len (dec.).

Loving mother and mother-in-law of Barbara and Gerard, John and Fay, and Norma and Bruce (dec.).

Adored Grandma/Nana Trish to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**BONE (nee Hasson), Roma Joy:**

Passed away suddenly at home on 27.02.2024.

Loved wife of Max (dec.).

Dearly loved mum of Kerryne and Debbie.

Respected mother-in-law of Denis (dec.) and Brian.

Loved nan of Kellie and Marcus, Kate and Sean, Jye and Sara, Stacey and Sarah.

Nana Roma to Archie, Ivy, Alby, and Billy.

Friend of Sam.

*Forever in our hearts. Never forgotten.*

**BONE, Roma:**  
Dearly loved sister-in-law of Charlie and Irene (dec.).

Aunty to Jeanette, Graeme, Cheryl (dec.) and Paul, and families.

Loving memories to cherish.

*Sleep peacefully.*

## DEATHS

**BONE, Roma:**

Admired and respected friend of Margaret and Noel Hade and family.

Time to rest Roma.

**BUTTERWORTH, Geoffrey James:**

04.01.1951 - 22.02.2024.

Passed away peacefully at the Leongatha Hospital.

Loved brother of Ron (dec.), Eileen and Keith.

Beloved son of Les and Ellen. (both dec.).

Will be sadly missed.

**EMMERSON, Rodney:**

Dear Friend of Steve and Deb Lovie and family.

Many happy memories to hold.

Hope not too many weeds in God's Garden.

*Rest Peacefully.*

**SINNBECK, Jason Wayne:**

Passed away suddenly at home aged 54 years.

Loving son to Darrell and Hendrika (both dec.).

Half-brother to Merryn, Cherylin and Graeme (dec.).

Loved cousin and nephew of many.

*Forever in our hearts.*

## DEATHS

**PURCHASES, Jean Isabelle:**

Jean Isabelle Purches (known to many as "Moo") of Mirboo, Victoria aged 92 years, sadly passed away Wednesday February 28, 2024.

Loving wife to William (Billy) (dec.).

Loving sister to Bert (dec.), Florence (dec.), Len and Heather and sister-in-law to Noel.

Adored mother to Christine and Debra and mother-in-law to Kien Seng. Nanny to Troy, Jenny-Lee, Tom, Yasmin, Jelena, Sasha and Cathy.

Beloved stepmother to John, Jenny and Angela. Mother-in-law to Peter, Lyn and Melissa. Nanny to Jason, Timothy, Emma, Amy, Stephanie, Simon (dec.), Tessa, Zoe, Lisa, and Michael.

Great and great, great grandmother to many who loved her.

Our shining light will always be missed.

She has left our loving arms but will forever remain in our hearts.

## FUNERALS

**BONE:**

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Roma Joy Bone will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, **TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY** March 6, 2024, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

**Handley & Anderson**  
5672 1074

## BEREAVEMENT THANKS

**CLARK, Joan:**

Joan's family would like to thank everyone for the cards, expressions of sympathy and attendance at the service of celebration for Joan's life.

Thank you to the Wonthaggi Baptist Church and the Wonthaggi Club for their support during our bereavement.

Special thanks to Rose Lodge for the wonderful care of Joan, the place she called "home" for the past eight months.

-- Peter and Jeanette, Robert and Jean, Stephen and Diane, James and Jenny and families.

## GARAGE SALES

**FISH CREEK:**

1791 Prom Road, Saturday and Sunday March 9 and 10, 10am - 1pm.

A bit of everything!

Ph: 0455 777 334.

**INVERLOCH:**

1 Sylvia Court, Saturday, March 9, 9am. **HOUSEHOLD GARAGE SALE!** Cash only.

**WONTHAGGI:**

107 Hagelthorn Street, Saturday March 9, 7am - 1pm.

**MOVING HOUSE SALE!**

Kitchen ware, washing machine, king bed frame, bedside tables, cabinets, odd furniture, camping gear, old fishing rods, pool balls and cues and odd tools.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**CORINELLA COMMUNITY MARKET**

Community Market, Smythe Street, Harold Hughes Reserve

**Saturday, March 9, 9am-1pm**

All enquiries to 0490 852 753

**ISLAND CRAFT MARKET**

**Thompson Ave. Cowes**

**Saturday, March 9 9am - 2pm**

Stall holders wanted - craft only

**Inquiries: Monica 0412 710 276**

**Mental Health is vital in these crazy times.**

**Jason Crestani, Psychologist is still open!**

Over 25 years experience. Local resident. Specialises in children & also sees adults!

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

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Ph: 0455 777 334.

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**MOVING HOUSE SALE!**

Kitchen ware, washing machine, king bed frame, bedside tables, cabinets, odd furniture, camping gear, old fishing rods, pool balls and cues and odd tools.

**USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS**

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**FREE CAR REMOVAL WE PAY YOU\***

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LBC5057 \*Conditions apply

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We can remove farm scrap metal for free. Towing now available.

**Call Shane 7 days a week 5678 2002 or 0407 599 616**

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## FUNERALS

**PURCHASES:**  
A Memorial gathering to Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Mrs. Jean Purches will be held at the Mirboo Recreation Reserve, 19 Clear Creek Road on Saturday March 16, 2024, commencing at 1pm.

**Handley**  
Phone: (03) 5662 2717

## FILING CABINETS

**Brand new with an anti-tilt safety feature**

Available in 2, 3 and 4 drawers.

Over 8 colours to choose from.

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Small squares, this season, good quality, \$10 per bale, free delivery.

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Lambs September

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Ewes approx. 100, 2022.

Ewes approx. 80, 2021.

Two Australian White rams.

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Very low maintenance

sheep, good ragwort

eaters.

Prefer evenings

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## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:

(a) The cash price of the motor car; and

(b) Whichever of the following is applicable...

• If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or

• If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**@ Lifeline**

**HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE**

**13 11 14**

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### DAIRY FARM HAND POSITIONS:

One calf rearer, one milker required.

Kongwak.

No accommodation.

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Permanent part time with flexibility at Milly and Romeo's in Koonwarra.

Please phone Maria -

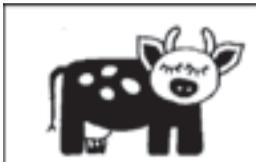
0417 743 28.

### TRADESMEN:

Painter, Labourer and Chippy or Carpenter required.

# Sentinel-Times Classifieds

## SITUATIONS VACANT



Leongatha Community Preschool Centres Inc.

### Bookkeeper

8 hours per week.

Bookkeeping experience required and qualification preferred.

**Application close Friday, March 15, 2024**

For more information contact president.lcpsc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



### Motor Mechanic

Edney's of Leongatha is seeking a qualified motor mechanic to join its expanding Nissan/Hyundai dealership. The successful applicant will be given the latest dealership training throughout their employment while working in a friendly & modern environment. If you are looking for a change of environment, a great place to work then this is for you.

**Come & join our team.**

3rd & 4th year apprentice will be considered.

Forward hand written applications to:  
Edney's Leongatha  
Attention: Nick McRae  
PO Box 72, Leongatha, 3953  
nick@edney.com.au



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12.

**We are seeking applications to join our collaborative team to commence in Term 2**

### SECONDARY TEACHER

Humanities & Science. Fixed term temporary contract for Term 2 2024, part time.

### SECONDARY TEACHER

Science & Maths. Temporary fixed term parental leave cover, full time, Term 2 until 10 December 2024, with possible extension.

### PRIMARY TEACHER

Grade 5. Temporary fixed term contract Term 2, until 10 December 2024, full time.

**Applications close 4pm Friday 22 March 2024**  
Applications (cover letter & CV) to be submitted to: recruitment@newhaven.vic.edu.au

*For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website [www.newhaven-col.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven](http://www.newhaven-col.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven)*

For additional details, please contact Leisa Lomax, Human Resources Manager on 5956 7505

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

## Beachside Bakehouse SAN REMO

### CASUAL BAKERY SHOP ASSISTANT

Shifts may include:  
**5-10am, 6am-1pm, 10-3.30pm**

On the hunt for casual shop staff. We're flexible, but you need to be too. Previous experience is preferred but not essential. Job tasks include – coffee making, food prep, customer service, money handling, use of electronic POS, open and closing procedures etc.

Interested?  
Call Emily on 0439 449 140 or email us [beachsidebh@outlook.com](mailto:beachsidebh@outlook.com)



An Australian Government Initiative

### Expression of Interest

#### Community Advisory Committee Members

Gippsland PHN is part of a national network of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia. PHNs are funded to work towards the objective of meeting the health needs of the most vulnerable people in the community or those most at risk of poor health outcomes. Gippsland PHN works closely with community and the primary health sector to identify opportunities to improve health outcomes in Gippsland, through better coordination and support of health services and by commissioning new services to address identified health needs.

Gippsland PHN is seeking expressions of interest for **Community Advisory Committee members** to commence 1 July 2024 for a three-year term.

We are looking for individuals who would like to provide input and advice on improving health care services for consumers in Gippsland.

Gippsland PHN is seeking Committee members from a range of backgrounds, with different perspectives of the health sector:

- Are you a consumer, carer and/or patient of the primary health care system?
- Do you have lived experience of a disability or care for someone with a disability?
- Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- Do you have a multicultural background?

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

#### How to apply

All potential nominees should review the online information and complete the Expression of Interest link available at

<https://gphn.org.au/about-us/caceoi/>  
For more information, please email [company.secretary@gphn.org.au](mailto:company.secretary@gphn.org.au)

**Applications Close: Sunday, March 17, 2024**

## SITUATIONS VACANT



### LEONGATHA Secondary College

### Student Support

Leongatha Secondary College is seeking a motivated and enthusiastic employee to join our Student Support (SSP) team. Our SSP staff are employed to provide support to students and teachers, specifically to support students with disabilities in general education classes.

No formal qualifications are mandatory for this position, although a certificate in Education Support would be an advantage. This family leave position has been advertised at 0.88FTE time fraction, working 5 days per week. 33.74hrs/week.

This student support position is to commence 25/03/2024.

All applications (including covering letter and response to selection criteria) are to be uploaded to the Departments Recruitment Online Platform where you will find full details on this Job Vacancy ID 1403562.

Any queries phone Gabe Windsor on 0437 090 195.

Applications close March 10, 2024.



Carinya Lodge Homes Inc (Carinya) is a community-managed aged care and retirement living not-for-profit organisation. We run a profitable 60-bed aged care facility alongside 52 independent living units. Carinya's mission is to provide respectful, innovative, quality service and accommodation for senior people within our local community, enabling them to live with dignity and independence in a caring environment that will foster pride, integrity, and growth for residents and staff.

Currently, we are recruiting for the below positions;

### Volunteer Committee of Management Members

Expressions are invited for community members who are interested in contributing to the governance of Carinya on our Committee of Management. We are interested to hear from individuals with skills and experience in one or more of the following fields:

- Experience in marketing strategy and performance in a community setting.
- High level of business acumen and risk management.
- Financial Management.
- Proven track record of being an innovator to deliver improved business results.
- Clinical Qualification EN/RN/Allied Health/GP/ Pharmacist.
- Project management or land development.

If you would like to express your interest in joining Carinya's Committee of Management, please provide the following:

- A Resume that includes 2 professional referees.
- A cover letter including:
- What you would bring to Carinya, and
- Why are you interested in joining the Carinya Committee of Management

This is a volunteer position.

For a role statement or more information, please get in touch with the CEO – at [cindy@carinylodge.com.au](mailto:cindy@carinylodge.com.au)

### Registered Nurse - Full-time

Accommodation and Relocation Assistance available to eligible applicants

Graduates are welcome!

For more information or a position description please contact [recruit@carinylodge.com.au](mailto:recruit@carinylodge.com.au)

*Carinya Lodge is dedicated to equality and embraces diversity. We encourage applications from diverse backgrounds, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, individuals with disabilities, and people of all cultures, genders, sexual identities, ages, and ethnicities.*

## DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.30pm

Classified double column

Fridays 4.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

## TO ADVERTISE



Phone:  
**5672 1888**



Email:  
**ads@sgst.com.au**



In person:  
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi  
36 McCartin St, Leongatha



Mail:  
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

**Office Hours:**  
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

**Payments accepted:**



### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

### The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**



Applications are warmly invited for the position of:

## Director of Business

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced Director of Business who is committed to making a significant contribution to the continuing growth and development of Newhaven College.

The position requires:

- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in financial management and reporting
- A purposeful leader, who displays qualities of trust, respect, integrity and confidentiality
- An outstanding communicator who fosters collegiality, building capacity in all stakeholders

**Applications close Monday 18 March.**

Please go to the Director of Business listing on SEEK for more information.



**NEWHAVEN COLLEGE**



### SITUATIONS VACANT

#### Cleaners

Required for school cleaning in Bass area.

Part time shifts commencing 3pm Monday to Friday.

Must have or will get WWC and Police check.

Federal Award rates apply, training available to right candidates.

Please send resume to [customerservice@sebastiangu.com.au](mailto:customerservice@sebastiangu.com.au)

LB1261

### PUBLIC NOTICES



#### Alumni Reunions Classes of 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014 & 2019

are invited to return to Newhaven College to celebrate their 5, 10, 20, 30 & 40 year reunions

**Saturday 16 March**

To book your ticket visit [www.trybooking.com/CPLJO](http://www.trybooking.com/CPLJO)



## Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

#### Administration/Accounts (Maternity Leave)

The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times is looking to employ an administration accounts person to work in its busy Wonthaggi office.

The position is 3-4 days/week, with flexible work hours offered.

The ideal candidate will have excellent organisational skills and the confidence to work unsupervised.

#### Duties include:

- General administration
- Accounts payable & receivable
- Payroll & BAS
- EOM processing and reporting
- Accounts reconciliation
- Classified advertisement bookings

Experience essential.

**Please email cover letter and resume to [jim@sgst.com.au](mailto:jim@sgst.com.au)**

*Only suitable applicants will be contacted, and an appointment will be made as soon as the right person is found.*

JA22156

### HERITAGE ACT 2017

Registered Heritage Place No H1571,  
Permit Number P38485  
**KORUMBURRA RAILWAY STATION  
COMPLEX STATION STREET  
KORUMBURRA,  
SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT an application under Section 93 of the Heritage Act 2017 for a permit for works to develop the rail corridor in and adjacent to the Korumburra Railway Station Complex, as part of the Great Southern Rail Trail extension project, has been lodged with the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.

A copy of the application is available for inspection at [www.heritage.vic.gov.au](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au) or at the offices of Heritage Victoria between the hours of 10am and 4pm, by appointment only. Telephone (03) 7022 6373 to make an appointment.

Any person may lodge a submission in respect of the application within 14 days of publication of this notice. Submissions must be in writing and addressed to Heritage Victoria PO Box 500 Melbourne 8002. Please note that any written submission received will be treated as a public document.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HERITAGE VICTORIA



JEN2313

### PUBLIC NOTICES



#### CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education. To donate, go to [gofund.me/b6e777cb](http://gofund.me/b6e777cb), or search [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) for "Caring for Sams Children".

## LIVE LOCAL, WORK LOCAL

In Wonthaggi

Training Provided  
Competitive Pay  
Great Employee Benefits



**APPLY NOW**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Comment on Environment Plan



Beach Energy (Beach) supplies the ongoing natural gas needs of Victorian homes, business and industry, through production at the Otway Gas Plant near Port Campbell and the Lang Lang Gas Plant, 80kms south-east of Melbourne CBD.

To ensure ongoing supply, Beach is planning to drill exploration wells, and decommission old wells (called plug and abandonment). Subject to internal and external approvals, the project would operate in Commonwealth waters south of Port Campbell and in the Bass Strait. A map of these locations, timings and other details can be found using the QR code below.

An Environment Plan (EP) for the activities has been prepared in accordance with the regulations administered by the National Offshore Petroleum Safety Environment Management Authority (NOPSEMA).

The EP can be viewed on NOPSEMA's website. In accordance with the regulations the public are invited to make comment in relation to information in the EP.

Scan the QR code for more information.

For further information about this project, visit [engage.beachenergy.com.au](http://engage.beachenergy.com.au)



READ MORE

GD24-0039

# Full steam ahead for independent living skills

THANKS to support from the local community, Inverloch now has a weekly NDIS-funded Independent Living Skills program supporting young adults with disabilities.

The Inverloch RSL jumped at the opportunity to provide its kitchen for the weekly program, which started in early February.

Sub-Branch President Ross Gabb said, "The Inverloch RSL prides itself on helping veterans and community groups and organisations that operate with the same intentions as ours."

"Teaching teenagers how to manage basic life skills is something we all should be doing; this will assist them to have a future life balance.

"We are glad we can be of assistance."

The Inverloch program is the culmination of a long-held dream for chef, hospitality trainer and cooking school owner Marlene Hoff.

Marlene's business 100 Mile Foodie encourages the development of independent living skills by teaching clients about

nutritious food choices, using a hands-on approach.

"I'm delighted to see this program up and running in Inverloch, and at such a great central location," Marlene said.

"There are many people in both the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire who live with a disability. They should be given as many opportunities as possible to live independently within their community."

The Inverloch 100 Mile Foodie program features full-day dietitian and chef created classes, held on Wednesday each week.

Participants learn to prepare and cook healthy recipes in a fun, social environment.

If their goal is supported paid employment, the food hygiene, food safety, knife skills and food preparation skills taught in this program will build an important foundation for future work prospects.

Places are still available. If this sounds like something that would benefit a young person in your life, contact Marlene on 0432 274 907 for details.



Participants at the first day of the Independent Living Skills program at Inverloch RSL early in February.

## Easter maker's market coming to Meeniyian

A GROUP of local artists known as CLAY.made started a collective last year.

Their intention was to generate events enabling artists and makers to connect, exhibit and sell their work.

So far, they have held two successful market days at Meeniyian Town Hall and will make this an ongoing event throughout 2024.

The Mostly CLAY.made Easter Makers' Market will be held on Saturday, March 30, from 10am until 2pm.

As the name suggests, the Mostly CLAY.made Easter Makers' Market covers a wide range of ceramics, from functional to decorative, using hand building and wheel thrown techniques.

Other art represented includes jewellery, woodworking and metalworking, cards and prints,

all by various local and Melbourne based makers.

Locally grown cut flowers and plants will again be available from Sivila at Deep Creek Nursery.

Proving a hit on past market days are the Devonshire Teas, with delicious, warm scones made on site by the Meeniyian CWA. A new addition at Easter will be a raffle, with a chance to win a hamper of handmade goodies to tempt and delight.

Proceeds of the raffle will go to a Mirboo North community group to support their recovery.

Tickets will be sold on the day.

CLAY.made can be found on Instagram @clay.made\_south\_gippsland.

Follow along for more information or to get in touch if you'd like to be involved in future events.



CLAY.made has held two successful markets in Meeniyian so far.

## A new committee for Inverloch VIEW club

THE new Inverloch VIEW Club committee for the 2024-25 year consists of Di (secretary), Jill (assistant treasurer), Helen (vice president), Joy (program officer), Karen (assistant secretary), Heather (president), Tricia (program officer), Clare (LFL liaison officer), Rosa (publicity officer), Kaye (digital media) and Margi (delegate). The new committee is looking forward to a year of fun, friendship and working to raise funds in support of the Smith Family Charity, who do so much to assist disadvantaged children and their families throughout Australia. Anyone interested in becoming a VIEW Club member can call Heather on 0412 463 344 or visit [view.org.au](http://view.org.au) for further information.



Patient Carmel Sampson receives dialysis on-board the Big Red Kidney Bus with Haemodialysis Nurse Stacey.

## Patients enjoy a holiday thanks to dialysis bus

PEOPLE receiving haemodialysis were able to stay for longer while visiting the Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

The Big Red Kidney Bus mobile dialysis unit was at Wonthaggi Hospital during January and February, and provided 38 dialysis sessions to 10 patients.

Haemodialysis is a medical procedure that cleans the blood of patients with kidneys that are no longer working properly, enabling patients to continue to enjoy life.

However haemodialysis is a commitment, requiring several treatments a week, limiting patients' travel plans.

That's why the Big Kidney Bus gave patients, such as Carmel Sampson of Rosebud, new opportunities to travel and enjoy the company of family for longer.

"I booked in for three sessions on the bus and it meant I got to stay with my daughter and her family for a week. It's the longest that I've stayed with them since I've had dialysis," she said.

"Otherwise it's hard to visit them for so long when I've got dialysis three times a week."

Other patients to board the bus came from as far as New South Wales and the Grampians region of western Victoria.

The Big Red Kidney Bus is operated by Monash Health and Kidney Health Australia, and will return to Wonthaggi Hospital in early 2025.

The bus provides dialysis sessions in addition to the dialysis service Bass Coast Health provides to regular, local patients at Wonthaggi Hospital.

## Harvesters clean up Wonthaggi

ORGANISERS from the Wonthaggi Harvesters Community Garden participated in a clean-up initiative - Clean Up Australia - along the rail trail from Harvey Norman to Billson Street on Sunday afternoon.

The likeminded residents made a remarkable effort to donate their time to clear the litter that overflows from the nearby Wonthaggi Woolworths.

Member of the Wonthaggi Harvesters Community Garden Lisa Kelly said there is an influx of litter that gets caught in the shrub along the rail trail and in the nearby streets.

"I have spoken with the Bass Coast Shire Council waste department to address the issue with Wonthaggi Woolworths - the issue lies with disposable packaging and disposable wipes for the trolleys," said Lisa.

"Our volunteers also cleared litter trapped in Woolworths carpark."

"It was a successful clean up, and I thank the 10 volunteers who gave their time."

## ALLAMBE MIRBOO &amp; DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOC

RESULTS: Section 1: Inverloch 8.48 defeated Koonwarra 0.13; Westernport 8.48 defeated Korumburra 0.19; Leongatha bye.

Ladder: Inverloch 95.5, Westernport 91, Koonwarra 60.5, Leongatha 52, Korumburra 45.

Section 2: Leongatha 6.64 defeated Korumburra 3.44; Outtrim 7.66 defeated Baromi 2.37.

Ladder: Outtrim 104, Leongatha 85.5, Baromi 84, Korumburra 32.5.

Inverloch and Westernport finished the season once again as the top two teams in Section 1, and both finished the season with big wins over their opponents.

Well done to Patrick Biro and James Sage, who played for Korumburra this season and mostly played against teams that have some more experienced players than them.

With the Leongatha team having the bye, Koonwarra saw an awesome opportunity to get Keerah Pocklington to fill in.

Outtrim travelled to Baromi and had a win.

Well done to the Baromi side for calling on all reserves to get a team on the court.

Leongatha also had a win to finish off the season against Korumburra. It was a great game with a tiebreaker and an 8/6 to keep the score alive.

Well done to all teams through the season.

Next week there is no play so you can all have a rest before moving into the finals.

The finals this year will be played in Leongatha.

Section 1 – Inverloch v Leongatha and Westernport v Koonwarra.

Section 2 – Outtrim v Korumburra and Leongatha v Baromi.

All teams must supply a raffle prize for the presentation night this year.

The presentation night will be held after the grand final on Saturday, March 23, at the Korumburra Middle Hotel.

Tickets will be on sale the first week of the finals.

## RIVERSIDE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

RIVERSIDE – grand final results: Section 1 Mixed: Moe 5 – 45 defeated Drouin Maroon 3 – 33.

Riverside – semifinal results:

Section 1 Singles:

Moe White 4 – 8 – 50 defeated Moe Blue 0 – 0 – 26; Moe Red 2 – 5 – 41 defeated Drouin 2 – 4 – 30.

Section 2 Mixed: Neerim District 4 – 38 defeated by Hallora 5 – 40; Warragul 7 – 54 defeated Drouin Gold 2 – 30.

Section 2 Singles:

Trafalgar 5 – 45 defeated Pax Hill 1 – 28; Drouin Maroon 4 – 37 defeated Moe 2 – 28.

Preliminary finals will be played on Saturday, March 16, at Drouin Tennis Club.

Section 1 Singles: Moe Blue vs Moe Red.

Section 2 Doubles: Neerim District vs Warragul.

Section 2 Singles: Pax Hill vs Drouin Maroon.

## TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY	March 5
▼ 12.30am	0.71m
▲ 6.33am	1.40m
▼ 12.40pm	0.30m
▲ 7.47pm	1.43m

WEDNESDAY	March 6
▼ 1.06am	0.78m
▲ 7.09am	1.35m
▼ 1.18pm	0.31m
▲ 8.45pm	1.38m

THURSDAY	March 7
▼ 1.48am	0.84m
▲ 7.56am	1.30m
▼ 2.08pm	0.34m
▲ 9.53pm	1.34m

FRIDAY	March 8
▼ 2.46am	0.89m
▲ 9.04am	1.26m
▼ 3.13pm	0.38m
▲ 11.09pm	1.34m

SATURDAY	March 9
▼ 4.04am	0.88m
▲ 10.34am	1.24m
▼ 4.34pm	0.42m
▲ 11.09pm	1.34m

SUNDAY	March 10
▼ 12.19am	1.39m
▲ 5.32am	0.79m
▼ 12.09pm	0.42m
▲ 6.01pm	1.30m
▼ 7.17pm	0.42m

MONDAY	March 11
▼ 1.17am	1.46m
▲ 6.51am	0.64m
▼ 1.25pm	1.43m
▲ 7.17pm	0.41m



Under 16 girls Sandy Point's Lillian (2nd), Evie of Cowes (3rd), Cape Woolamai's Savannah (4th) and Chloe from Jan Juc (1st).

THE Juniors returned for day two of the Woolworths Junior Surfing Titles, with the location being moved to the protected corner of Torquay Surf Beach. This location change provided the perfect playground for the remaining Under 16 and 14 competitors, as nicely groomed 2-3 ft walls wrapped around the point.

Across the high to mid tide, the opening rounds through to the semi-finals ran with some exceptional performances being displayed as they went into the final heats of the event.

A highlight from the earlier heats included a perfect 10-point ride from Remy Filer (Jan Juc). This perfect score came from an upside-down backhand snap into a series of strong connecting carves before hammering the end section to finish the wave. With this powerful surfing on the judges' minds, the tone was set for all the other competitors heading into the finals.

In the Under 14 Girls final, Rose Holland from Dromana dominated early with two mid-range scores. Anise Pruvot from Jan Juc took the lead with a 4.60-point ride, but Holland secured the win with a 6.17-point ride shortly after.

In the Under 14 Boys final, it was a close start with all surfers scoring minor points. Harlem Pec from Jan Juc took the lead halfway through with a 5.83-point ride, breaking away from the pack. With a couple of minutes left on the clock, Teddy Robertson (Torquay) found a larger section to hit and put up a tail slide after a carve to score a 5.60-point ride and take the lead with one minute to go.

Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point) started off the Under 16 Girls Final with various carves out the back to score a 4.83 and take the early lead. Bassed continued to get busy on the inside, slightly improving her lead throughout the earlier stages of the heat.

It seemed as if all the girls saved their best for last with Evie Lutz (Cowes) swinging midway out and flowing her way from a carve to a strong snap off the end section to obtain a 6-point ride. As the final seconds drew closer, Muscroft scrambled out the back, only looking for a 2.16 to get into first. Her opportunity to jump Bassed arose when a small bump stood up next to her, allowing Muscroft to do just enough to win the final on a 9.10 combined heat total.

"It took me a while to get a wave but once I got one, it was good," said Muscroft.

"Going into that final wave all I wanted to do was not stuff it up, of course!" she continued.

"It feels good to take out the final and it's a good help for my confidence going into the next round."

Lillian Bassed came in sec-

ond on an 8.83 combined heat total with Evie Lutz and Savannah Bennett (Cape Woolamai) placing third and fourth.

In the Under 16 Boys final, Remy Filer started strong with a 6.17-point ride. Jarvis Barrow from Jan Juc impressed with an 8-point ride, while Jack Lindsay also showcased his skills with a 6.50-point ride.

As the final minutes ticked away, the top three battled fiercely for the win. Barrow seemed to hold the advantage with the highest score, but Filer clinched the victory with a combined heat total of 11.54, leaving Lindsay in second place with 9.50 points.

"It was hard conditions but there were definitely some good ones out the back on the sets that were coming through," stated Filer.

"It was all fun competing with my mates out there," he added.

"It feels great to take out the event; I'm really happy with the result."

Jarvis Barrow and Dom Kellett placed third and fourth respectively.

**Finals Results:**

**U16 Girls** 1st - Sarah Hick-

son (Rye), 10.83. 2nd - Ava Holland (Dromana), 8.17. 3rd - Mia Holland (Dromana), 4.84. 4th - Dahlia Feldman (Wallington), 4.16.

**U18 Boys** 1st - Max Bassett (Barwon Heads), 11.20. 2nd - Rye Cicero (Sandy Point), 10.74. 3rd - Sam Paterson (Inverloch), 8.23. 4th - Jarrah Cicero (Sandy Point), 7.00.

**U16 Girls** 1st - Chloe Muscroft (Jan Juc), 9.10. 2nd - Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point), 8.83. 3rd - Evie Lutz (Cowes), 8.53. 4th - Savannah Bennett (Cape Woolamai), 3.20.

**U16 Boys** 1st - Remy Filer (Jan Juc), 11.54. 2nd - Jack Lindsay (Jan Juc), 9.50. 3rd - Jarvis Barrow (Jan Juc), 8.83. 4th - Dom Kellett (Jan Juc), 6.56.

**U14 Girls** 1st - Rose Holland (Dromana), 11.00. 2nd - Anise Pruvot (Jan Juc), 7.77. 3rd - Sophie Day (Rye), 5.10. 4th - Lily White (Blairgowrie), 4.04

**U14 Boys** 1st - Teddy Robertson (Torquay), 10.27. 2nd - Harlem Pec (Jan Juc), 9.16. 3rd - Dusty Rayner (Inverloch), 9.13. 4th - Samuel Abetz (Jan Juc), 3.20.

Final results and scores from the event can be accessed via [surfingvic.com/live](http://surfingvic.com/live)



Visit our website: [www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)

## Aggregate draws great results

ON Saturday, March 2 Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC)

held its Aggregate 4 competition

at Summerlands, organised by

Club Captain Ash Easton and

his team.

Results: Senior Mens (28-45):

1st Adrian Maier, 2nd Jack

Matthews, 3rd Bill Hosking

Senior Womens (35+): 1st

Dannielle Baylis, 2nd Michelle

Fincher

Masters (45-60): 1st Adrian

Maier, 2nd Dumpy, 3rd Drew

Johnstone

Legends (60+): 1st Mal Gregson, 2nd William Yusko

Open Women: 1st Dannielle Baylis, 2nd Michelle Fincher, 3rd Jade Ricardo

Open Men: 1st Ash Easton, 2nd Carl Wright, 3rd Dylan Thomas James.

**LEFT: PIBC Life member**

**Mal Gregson winner Masters (60+).** Photo: PIBC Treasurer

Jo O'Reilly Stubbs.

Email us your fishing photos  
[news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)

# Get your teams together for the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids

Preparations for the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids are well advanced, and the organisers are encouraging sporting clubs, schools, workplaces and other groups to register as a team. The team with the most participants will win a cash prize of \$250. The Deb Rielly Run for the Kids is in memory of Deb Rielly who devoted her life to supporting the community and creating opportunities for disadvantaged young people.

To register as an individual online go to [raceroster.com/events/2024/85147/deb-rielly-run-for-the-kids](https://raceroster.com/events/2024/85147/deb-rielly-run-for-the-kids).

The run which takes place on Sunday, March 10, will start at the main Kilcunda Foreshore car park beginning

at 9.30am. It will be possible to register on site up until 9.15am and teams will also be registered on site.

Runners and walkers will all cross the iconic trestle bridge and take in the fantastic Bass Strait coastline.

Deb was passionate about being fit and getting out and about in our amazing environment and this event hopes to encourage as many people as possible to get active and appreciate our surroundings.

Online registrations have been steady with the most interest being in the 10km run. Though it will be possible to register on site participants are encouraged to register online to help streamline the process on race day.



Don't miss your opportunity to take in the iconic scenery and raise monies to support the community in memory of a much-loved local icon.

## Sue and Tom win the Shield

THE Wonthaggi Croquet hosted members of the Wonthaggi branch of the RSL for a hit and barbecue last Sunday, February 25.

This is part of the RSL Active initiative.

The weather was perfect, and a great time was had by all.

One family unit took part with the two children really getting into the action.

Tuesday, February 27, saw six pairs vie for the Memorial Shield.

Conditions were rather hot but by lunchtime, the usual barbecue, all games had been played deciding the two pairs to play off in the final after lunch.

A very tight struggle, lasting 90 minutes, had Sue Baker

and Tom Lacey pip Marjorie Prendergast and Michael Barber seven hoops to six.

Well played and thanks to all the competitors on the day.

A special thanks to, in the absence of the regular barbecue chef, goes to Bert Orr for his work on the Sunday and John Cartwright (Big John from Southcoast FM) on the Tuesday.

Remember, the club days are Monday 4pm till late, and Wednesday and Saturday from 10am.

Please come and have a go.

**RIGHT: Wonthaggi Croquet Club's Memorial Shield winners Sue Baker and Tom Lacey with president Gerry Kool (back).**



The meat tray raffle, donated by San Remo Butchers, was won by Jamie this week.

## Off to a flying start

THE Phillip Island & District Darts League kicked off its regular season on Monday night, buzzing with energy at the darts centre. New faces and teams joined the returning players, filling all four boards with competitive spirit.

The night saw some impressive victories: Storm dominated Dart Vaders (6-1), Vikings shut out the Jammers (7-0), Joes Hornets stung the Mustangs (5-2), and That's All bested the Riverboys (6-1).

The league also extended a warm welcome to Boutique Tails Dog Grooming, a new silver sponsor.

While the Riverboys enjoy a bye this week, the competition is poised to intensify as Round 2 gets underway.



## Is underwater hockey in your future?

THE Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club held their final 'Come and Try' session series - an event sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire Council. Participants joined in on come and try coaching, alongside a mini tournament, followed with pizza at the YMCA.

## PHILLIP ISLAND TENPIN BOWLING

2S COMPANY: 1st place on 9pts Pinpushers, 2nd place on 7pts Jail, 3rd place 5pts Tinabe

ABL: 1st place on 27pts Kool Kats, 2nd place on 26pts Fairlanes, 3rd place on 24pts Knackers

Business League Early 1st place on 7pts Wooly Balls, 2nd place on 7pts Happy Hour, 3rd place on 5pts Balls Deep, 4th place on 4pts Old Timers

Business League Late: 1st place on 8pts JD's, 2nd place on 7pts City Lights, 3rd place on 7pts S&R Clarke Auto, 4th place on 3pts Team Rich

This week's tops scores:

Men: Jack Aitken 226 + 221, Steve A Clarke 211 and Zach Stewart 198

Woman: Karen Klym 181, Mary Dardha 171 and Jenny Anne 149

## PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS to Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read on winning the 2024 Phillip Island Life Member Shield. Congratulations also go to Claire Murphy on being awarded the Richard Meares Encouragement Award for 2024.

Results: W/E March 3.

Annual general meeting and Life Members Shield: February 26.

1. Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read (70 per cent); 2. Lois Dwyer and Ann Gibson (67.67 per cent); 3. Marnie Myall and Paul Waylen (65 per cent).

Nationwide: February 28.

1. Marnie Myall and Caroline Shaw (57.87 per cent); 2. Molly Dowling and Miranda Sage (55.56 per cent);

3. John Farr and Bronwyn Sund (55.09 per cent).

Casual Tuesday night Bridge: all welcome.

If you are looking to learn Bridge, brush up on your skills or you just feel like a social game, please come and join in.

For further details, call Jill on 0438 248 578.

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

RESULTS: February 27 at Wonthaggi: six tables competing.

First: Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour 57.29 per cent. Second: Chris Hall and Denise Allott 56.73. Third: Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 55.21. Fourth: John French and Deb Anglim 54.69. Fifth: Lois Dwyer and Marie Sands 52.31.

March 1 at Inverloch: first week of club championship pairs - eight tables competing.

North/South pairs:

First: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 61.90. Second: John French and Deb Anglim 58.04. Third: Philip and Neville Chapman 50.89. Fourth: Chris Hall and Tom Kudelka 50.00.

East/West pairs: First: Lois Dwyer and Robyn Egan with an excellent 64.58. Second: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 59.23. Third: Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 57.44. Fourth: Faye Rowlands and Richard Poole 54.11.

It is very pleasing to see some former 500 players attending the 9.30am Thursday morning teaching and supervised play sessions at the RSL Wonthaggi, prepared to challenge themselves in learning the great game of bridge.



**Tom Nisbet and Troy Knight took part in Saturday's Cowes Classic with their children Harrison Nisbet and Matilda Knight participating in the Penguin Dash. Z32\_1024**

## Little Penguin Dash sets new record

THE Little Penguin Dash kids aquathon hit a record high this year with 140 registrations; children aged between seven to 14 years were keeping active and taking part in the fifth kids Bass Coast Series event.

Special events co-ordinator Ron Nicholson said numbers for the event are continually growing.

"The more kids get involved, the more their friends want to take part too."

The beach biathlon saw the children competing in age-group heats, with two different length courses 150-300 metre swim and 500 metre-one kilometre run for ages 7-10 years and 11-14 years.

Jett Fawaz was first over the finish line in the under 10's completing the course in five minutes, and 40 seconds, with Daisy Giliam-Rodda trailing right behind.

Seven-year-old Eden Tom and Frankie Hayes were following shortly behind, keeping an impressive pace for their age group.

William Speakman, Maddison Leed and Isla Humphrey led the 14-year-age group for their final Little Penguin Dash race before they

take on the Cowes Classic next year.

"The Little Penguin Dash had 30 more registrations than its previous year. All of the five years of the Little Penguin Dash have surpassed the previous record so it's just an event that's growing as each year progresses," said Ron.

All children receive a t-shirt, cap, and medallion for their participation.

"It's great to see the kids walking around with their t-shirts on and their medallions around their neck - proud of their achievements," said Ron.

Parent volunteers Karli Dipaola and Caroline Wright were at the finish line on The Esplanade presenting medallions and cheering with the crowd in support of the children's participation.

The Little Penguin Dash isn't a biathlon that is timed for place; however, the clock was running for the children to set their personal best. All proceeds for the Bass Coast Series event support volunteers at the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club and Phillip Island Football Netball Club.

## McClusky wins the Bass Coast Series



**Callum McClusky wins the 31st Cowes Classic and third aquathon for the Bass Coast series. Z33\_1024**

given away, completely sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire."

"The Bass Coast Series is something that's helped propel the events to new records because people like to feel they've done all three events and had a really good summer of fitness and health," said Ron.

Ron explained that the Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club (WB-SLSC) and the Phillip Island Football Netball Club work together to host the event.

"The lifesaving club provides all the water safety personnel, and the football club provides all the marshals on the running course - with each providing volunteers to help out in the race centre."

Ron emphasised the importance of their partnership and how it benefits the community, with each club receiving 50 per cent of the proceeds.

"One of our local over 40 competitors Justin Tilley has come second overall in the whole event, which is a fantastic effort."

Overall, there were 20 categories in the Cowes Classic. Including juniors, seniors, masters, veterans, and super veterans - male, female, open and local, and there were 20 awards presented, with one for each category.

Deputy Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead presented this year's awards, and Ron explained that "The person who has accumulated the most points over the three events in each of those 20 categories, will receive a cheque for the winner of the Bass Coast Series. That's a total of \$4000

# Gena Roughead Bowl won on countback

THE Gena Roughead Bowl Stableford event, now in its 48th year, was played on Friday, February 23, at Woorayl Golf Club. The bowl named in Gena's honour is acknowledgement of the champion golfer she was at Woorayl, having won 14 Club Championships, was club captain and at the District level achieved many wins.

Of particular note are her 10 singles championships.

She also travelled further afield playing with Southern Golf Club and in seven years only lost three pennant matches.

Gena also held District positions of Handicapper and Country Teams Manager and taught many golfers over her years in the game.

Her contribution to both Woorayl and South Gippsland saw her awarded life memberships to both organisations.

This year, there were 16 teams from throughout the district who competed for this coveted trophy on a cool and windy day. The course was in wonderful condition considering the 'hammering' it had taken from the destructive cyclonic winds in the week prior.

Club members were thanked for the time and effort that had been put into cleaning up the fallen trees, limbs and debris to have the course playable.

It was a very close finish with two teams on 103 points the winner on a countback was Korumburra from the Woorayl No. 1 team.

The Gena Roughead Bowl and prizes was presented by our sponsor of the day Barry Charlton and Cheryl Hulls owners of Berry's Creek Gourmet Cheese, to Heather Grist 30 points (22) and sisters Kerri Besley 36 points (17) and Shelley Snooks 37 points (18).

This is only the second time Korumburra has won the bowl since its inception in 1977.

In the individual grades, it was congratulations in A Grade to Shelley Snooks



**Sponsors Barry Charlton and Cheryl Hulls with Gena Roughead Bowl winners from Korumburra Kerri Besley, Shelley Snooks and Heather Grist.**



**C Grade winner Sherrill Winkler, sponsors Barry Charlton and Cheryl Hulls, A Grade winner Shelley Snooks and B Grade winner Heather Poletti at the Gena Roughead Stableford event.**

(Korumburra) 37 points (18), on a countback from Elly Berryman, B Grade Heather Poletti (Meeniyian) 39 points (23) and C Grade Sherrill Winkler (Woorayl) 36 points (37).

Nearest the pins went to eighth Faye Le Page (Meeniyian) and 17th Elly Berryman (Woorayl).

Balls down the line 38 points Pauline Lancaster (Woorayl), 37 points Elly Berryman (Woorayl), 36 points Jillian Chandler (Phillip Island), Jean Hayes (Woorayl), and Sharyn Rayson (Woorayl).

Appreciation was expressed by all for the valued sponsorship of Berry's Creek Gourmet Cheese and the beautiful blue ribbon award winning cheeses that were available for tasting.

Thanks to all at the Woorayl Club for their hospitality with a highlight being the wonderful salad bar lunch prepared by the ladies.

## Meeniyian team wins Doreen Black Plate



**The Doreen Black Plate winners Tanya Thorson, Heather McCaughan and Jo Graeme with Noel Black.**

Geraldine Sinclair.

BDTL went to Diana Holmberg 44, Jenny Riseley 42, Louise Vuillerman 41 and Jenny Mountford 39 C/B.

Golfers were once again pleased to have Noel Black present the plate to the

winners.

The club is also extremely appreciative to have Natural Living Foster sponsoring this important day on the golfing calendar.

Thank you Shelly Brewer for your generosity.

**FOSTER****Ladies**

IT was a small field for the last Wednesday of February, with the forecast of extreme heat deterring quite a few.

Thankfully, it was not as bad as predicted.

Great scores were recorded by Kylie Collins (20) 41 points, and Jenny Alexander BDTL (40) 39 points.

Rae Knee won the nine-hole competition with 18 points.

**KORUMBURRA**

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 27.

Stableford: 38 players.

A Grade: Ian Gibson (15) 39 points. B Grade: Murray Webb (22) 41 points.

NTPs: first Greg Jones, seventh Steve Duffield, 10th Mat Wrigley and 13th Murray Webb.

Thursday, February 29: Stableford: 15 players.

Winner: Barry Kerr (11) 40 points. NTPs: first Barry Kerr and seventh Guv Fields.

Saturday, March 2:

Monthly Medal Sponsor: Ross Dowel.

Monthly Medal winner: Wally Hopkins (26) 64 net.

A Grade: Donald Van Rooye (11) 67 net. B Grade: Wally Hopkins (26) 64 net.

Scratch winner: Mat Wrigley 73 off the stick.

NTPs: first Paul Hopkins, seventh Craig Kerr, 10th Tim O'Neill and 13th Roy Fleming.

**Ladies**

KORUMBURRA had a large field playing on quite a hot day for the first round of the Gloria Burgess Memorial Trophy. Thankfully, cloud cover provided better than expected conditions.

It was also wonderful to welcome back a number of members.

With the course in excellent shape, there were many terrific scores recorded.

The A Grade winner was Heather Grist (22) 39 points and runner up on a c/b was Kerri Besley (16) 37 points.

Julie Hillberg (24) won B Grade 38 points after a 3-way c/b, with Jenny Blackmore (25) runner up.

Pam Eyers (41) had an outstanding 46 points and Maree Wittingslow (43) also had a great 41 points to be next best in C Grade.

BDTL went to Lorraine Knox (40) and Chris Rickard (27), both with 38 points, Judy Webb (23) and Deb Wrigley (26), both 37 points and Lyn Perks (28), 36 points on a c/b.

NTPs were Sherrin Solly first, Merrissa Cosson seventh and 13th and Shelley Snooks 10th.

Last Saturday week, March 24, the club had an Ambrose event for the Member/Guest Day and unfortunately there weren't so many playing as many of members were away.

The Member/Guest comp was won by Jenny Blackmore/Kerri Balingal.

The Member/Member winners were Lynette McIvor/Johanna van den Heiligenberg and Heather Grist/Lee Clements were the runners up.

NTPs were Judy Webb seventh, Johanna 10th, Heather and 13th.

Well done to the Section 2 Pennant team last Monday, with a win, 4/1, against Lang Lang.

Section 3 begins Monday, March 4.

The Thursday twilight winners were Julie Cole/Joseph Salvatore 24 points, with Johanna van den

Heiligenberg/Bob Stiff, runners-up, 23 points.

NTP on the 10th was Tim O'Neill and on the 13th was Dianne Maskell.

The club had a team travel to Foster on Friday to enjoy participating in the Doreen Black Plate.

Well done to Julie Hillberg (23) who had a great score of 69 net to win the RB Monthly Medal on Saturday and the Luscious Café voucher.

Runner up was Lorraine Knox (39), 74 net.

BDTL went to Kerri Besley (17), 76 net and Merrissa Cosson (10), 77 net.

Merrissa also had the best Scratch Score with 87.

NTPs were Judy Webb 10th and Heather Grist 13th.

**LEONGATHA**

TUESDAY, February 27: Par event.

As always, Leongatha Golf Club has a variety of course events with Tuesday's Par round played off the yellow tees.

A field of 63 members/guests relished challenge playing a shorter course.

A Grade winner: Nath Wardle (8) with a score of +6.

A Grade runner up: Timothy Danks (11) with a score of +2 on a countback.

B Grade winner: Timothy McCarthy (6) with a score of +1 on a countback.

B Grade runner up: David Richards (17) with a score of +1.

C Grade winner: Craig McKay (22) from the Mirboo North Golf Club with a score of +4.

C Grade runner up: Bob Smith (30) with a score of +1.

NTP fifth second shot: Antony Roberts at 5.25m. NTP 14th: Nath Wardle at 3.90m. NTP 16th: Peter Horman at 2.00m.

Thursday, February 29: Invy Espy Stableford event.

The Thursday competition welcomed the excellent sponsorship by the Inverloch Invy Espy Hotel for this popular Stableford round, played off the golfers' choice of tee.

Eighty-six members/guests began with a 9am shotgun start in quality course and weather conditions, reflected in the high scores registered.

A Grade winner: Alan Starkey (11) with a score of 40 points. A Grade runner up: Antony Gedy (10) with a score of 36 points of a countback.

B Grade winner: Geoffrey McDonald (17) with a score of 37 points. B Grade runner up: Nicholas Byrne (17) with a score of 36 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Gary McGrath (18) with a score of 38 points. C Grade runner up: George Hendry (18) with a score of 37 points.

D Grade winner: Hans Hoefer (29) with a score of 42 points. D Grade runner up: Brian Wall (36) with a score of 38 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Winton Knop at 1.02m. NTP 14th: Andrew Cox at .28m. NTP 16th: Peter Brownlie at 1.21m.

Saturday, March 2: Monthly Medal Stroke and Mixed Stableford events.

This Saturday was a joint round with results for the Monthly Medal Stroke and Mixed Stableford events with an excellent field 99 members/guests carding high scores across all grades.

Mixed Stableford:

A Grade winner: Brendan Simon (13) with a score of 37 points. A Grade runner up: Craig Hutchinson (8) with a score of 36 points of a countback.

B Grade winner: Alan Starkey

(14) with a score of 38 points. B Grade runner up: Michael O'Rafferty (16) with a score of 37 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Bryan Roylance (22) with a score of 40 points. C Grade runner up: TP (Thomas) Simon (23) with a score of 39 points on a countback.

D Grade winner: Nicole Whiteside (42) with a score of 44 points. D Grade runner up: Jacob Roylance (31) with a score of 40 points on a countback.

Congratulations for a great score by Ethan Woodall with an eagle on the 13th.

NTP fifth second shot: Brad Phelps at 1.90m. NTP 14th: Mark Billows at .48m. NTP 16th: Gerry Carour at 1.54m.

Monthly Medal Pro-Stoke (net): Overall winners:

1. Nicole Whiteside (42) with a net score of -8. 2. Bryan Roylance (22) with a net score of -4. 3. TP (Thomas) Simon (23) with a net score of -3 on a countback.

Congratulations to the new caretaker course superintendent Cal Gray and his team for the outstanding course presentation.

**Ladies**

MOST of the women elected to play early to avoid the forecast hot day.

Conditions were warm but not too unpleasant for the Stableford sponsored by Inverloch Esplanade Hotel.

Of the 26 players in the field, three players all finished on a very commendable 39 points – Kay Dumbleton, Janet Monk and Jenny Fraser.

Kay Dumbleton won on a count back from runner up Jenny Fraser.

Balls down the line went to Janet Monk 39 points, Fay Quilford 38, Karen de Groot and Jan Brownlie 36, and Maryanne Gartner and Lynda Bassett on 34.

Second shot on the fifth was won by Kay Dumbleton.

Ev Indian had the best score in the nine-hole competition with 19 points and Trish Miller in second place on 18 points.

**WOORAYL****Ladies**

WEDNESDAY'S event was 4BBB Stableford, first round of the Di and John O'Connor Board Event, sponsored by Hartley Wells Betta Electrical.

The winners were Linda Forrester and Sherrill Winkler 45 points.

Runners up were Ann Poole and Elly Berryman 43 points.

BDL went to Joan Smith and Jodie Marke, and Bev Bridge and Anne Grist 42 points.

NTP on eighth was Ann Poole, 11th Jenny Riseley and 17th Sharyn Rayson.

**WONTHAGGI**

RESULTS: February 29, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Warwick Judkins 41.

Runner up: Frank Huber 38.

BDL to 36. Ball sweep: Glenn Hewlett 37, Andrew Hooton-Shandley 37, Chris Wilkinson 37, Ian Murrells 36 and Phillip Dynes 36.

Results: February 29, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole. Winner: Ken Cuman 20.

BDL to 18 C/B. Ball sweep: Vin Tuddenham 19, Graham Ryan 19, Secondo Tiziani 19 and Norm Burne 18 C/B.

Results: March 2, SR. 72.

Competition: MM stroke and Putting 18-hole. Winner: A: Simon O'Hallourn



**Korumburra's Grade winners in the first round of the Gloria Burgess Memorial Trophy were Pam Eyers, Julie Hillberg and Heather Grist.**



**Wonthaggi Golf Club's 2024 Champions and Donna Brosnan, Marg Johnson and Geraldine Prentice.**



**Woorayl Golf Club's winners were Linda Forrester and Sherrill Winkler, and the runners up were Ann Poole and Elly Berryman.**



**A Grade winner Veronica Park from Meenyan with Foster ladies captain Beth Curram and Foster ladies president Frances McGleed.**

69. B: Miles Foster 68. C: Ashley Chetland 67 (Monthly Medal).

BDL to 71 C/B.

Ball sweep: Frank Huber 68, Phillip Dynes 69, Norm Burnes 70, David Garry 70, Frank Loughran 70, Warwick Judkins 70, Glen Moresco 71, Mat Johnson 71, Inoke Baudromo 71 and Sam Dennis 71 C/B.

NTPs: Michael Scott second, Paul Cornelis fourth, Phillip Dynes eighth propin, Warwick Judkins 13th, and Mat Dawson 17th monley hole.

Putting: Mat Johnson 26 putts.

**Ladies**

WEDNESDAY was the third and final round of the 2024 Ladies Championships.

With the weather forecast for dire conditions, fingers were crossed as the girls hit off at 8.30am.

Luckily, the rounds were completed without the hot and windy conditions eventuating.

Daily event winners were A Grade Marg Johnson 86(12)74 net, B Grade winner Dot Garry 102(32)70 on c/b from Geraldine Prentice and Robyn Wilkinson C

Grade winner was Donna Brosnan 102(35)67 net.

BDL went to R. Wilkinson 70, G. Prentice 70, M. Walker 74, K. Sheerin 74, C. Bolding 75, L. Robertson 75 and C. Sartori 75.

NTP on second was G. Prentice and eighth A. Tschiderer.

Club Champions 2024

Marg Johnson with rounds of 91,87,86 total 264 is the 2024 Open Ladies Champion from Catherine Bolding 282.

B Grade Champion is Geraldine Prentice with scores of 97,103,95 total 295 from Lisa Brusamarello 310.

C Grade Champion and the story of the Championships is Donna Brosnan 107, 107, 102 total 316 from Simone Lindsay 322 Donna not only kept shooting low rounds, but she also dropped three shots over the Championships – she managed quite well.

Handicap 54-hole winners:

A Grade: Marg Johnson 228.

B Grade: Dot Garry 214.

C Grade: Donna Brosnan 202.

Donna also won the overall best 54 holes net against all grades (at a canter) the Pearl Kewming Award.



**South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners David Smith (S), Jenny Smith (L), Mark Hanrahan (3) and Sue Wright (2).**



**Jim Nunan (L), Gillian Harper (3) and Peter Borrardale (S) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group runners up.**



**The South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group best one game winners were Frank D'Univille (3), Tony Morris (L) and Peter Gratton (S).**



**The Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls winners were Judy Sweetnam, Jenny Bakker, Linda Newman and John Bird on Friday.**



**The Wonthaggi Bowls Club bowlers part of the Strzelecki South Fours team were Joy Phillips, Caroline Donohue and Jan Jeeves with Robyn Dennis from Phillip Island.**



**The winning team in Leongatha Bowls Club's Monthly Triples was John Newcombe, Kevin Browne and Graeme Cornell.**

## INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH Bowling Club President presented seven of members with their Super Veteran Badges on Sunday.

Neil Everitt, Graham Turton, Harry Dunn, Nic Van Grunsven, Joyce Allan, Rob Howard and Doug Archer were pleasantly surprised with their badges.

Social bowls saw 37 players complete for the day's honours.

The hard luck story of the day went to the team of Reg Varty (skip), John Turner and Cheryl Abbott, which finished with two wins and 30 points.

Runners up were Harry Dunn, Peter Gentsch, Jill Kennedy and Doug Archer (skip), who finished with two wins and 32 points.

With two wins and 34 points, the team of Jenny Slatter, Karen Orford, Chris O'Donnell and Nic Van Grunsven became the winners on the day.

## KORUMBURRA

THE week started off on a bright note with the Division 1 Midweek Pennant side getting away with a big win against Foster at Foster.

Jo Lomagno got up 29 shots to 17, Judith Nicholl won 23 shots to 13 and Jenny McVeigh won 22 shots to 19 to advance to the preliminary final against Phillip Island – well done to all concerned.

After such a good showing the previous week, Korumburra went to Loch to face Phillip Island with great anticipation. However, Korumburra was brought back to Earth with a thud.

The only bright light was Charlie Edgerton, who got up 17 shots to 14.

Shane O'Loughlin went down 14 shots to 27 and Rob Cosson lost nine shots to 34 – not a good way to finish the season but a great improvement on last year when it ended on the bottom.

## LEONGATHA

ROUND 14 of the Midweek Pennant competition for the Division 1 side was played on the 20/2/24 against the Inverloch Bowls Club.

Leongatha's Division 1 side was able to complete its season with a victory across all three rinks, which gave the participants reason to celebrate.

The overall result was 65/42 shots.

Individual rink scores were as follows:

Marje Pearson skip (Leongatha) defeated Anne Tschiderer skip (Inverloch) 21/9 shots.

Jenny Miller skip (Leongatha) defeated Pamela Sutcliffe skip (Inverloch) 22/12 shots.

Carol Harry skip (Leongatha) defeated Carol Hughes skip (Inverloch) 22/21 shots.

Last Wednesday, the forecast was for high temperatures and the match committee deliberated before making a final decision to run the Monthly Triples event sponsored by Southern Smiles Dental.

A small number of teams withdrew, which left 18 teams in the draw and fortunately the weather conditions were not as predicted, and the show proceeded.

The Philip Island crew of John Newcombe, Kevin Browne and Graeme Cornell were successful with a score of four wins + 47 shots.

Leongatha Bowls Club welcomed John and his team to the Triples event because they have a history of returning to the Island with the chocolates and the challenge is there for opposition teams to destroy that tradition.

The runner up team was the Fish Creek combination skipped by Graeme Hosking with a score of 3.5 wins + 26 shots up.

The ladies worked tirelessly in the catering department and the bowlers appreciate their input.

Saturday's Bankers session is still operating, and potential members are showing an interest in becoming bowlers with a desire to enjoy the game of lawn bowls.

Last Friday night, the club staged the Kitty Club function which was enjoyed by the attendees thanks again to the ladies who worked in the kitchen.

On Saturday, two preliminary final matches were played at Loch Bowls Club where Phillip Island Bowls Club participated and won both of them.

What a wonderful facility Loch have now resulting from the new green, overhead lights and structural improvements that have been made to the site.

This coming Saturday, the grand finals of the Saturday Pennant Competition will be played and Leongatha Bowls Club will not be represented which is disappointing so the incentive is to be competitive next Pennant season.

## MIDWEEK

IT was another lovely summer day to meet up with friends to once again fight it out for team of the day.

This week 44 bowlers met at Corinella with the promise of a mild to warm day.

Terry prepared the rinks and was wonderful enough to look after both the bar as well as the kitchen – thank you Terry.

Before the day of fun, the weather was a little threatening and a bit cool, but nothing became of the threats and it turned out to be a lovely summer day.

A fair amount of laughter was heard from all corners with some great competition.

Scores appeared to be quite low as teams seemed to be very well matched.

Not a lot of wrong bias bowls to be seen, but still some money going to the charity jar – keep it up ladies and gentlemen.

Good to see visits from some members who couldn't actually play, with visits from Sonya, Allan and Steve – lovely to see them.

The winners on a score of 35 were David Smith (S), Mark Hanrahan (3), Sue Wright (2) and Jenny Smith (L).

Runners up on a score of 30 points were Peter Borrardale (S), Gillian Harper (3) and Jim Nunan (L).

The best one game winners on 24 points were Peter Gratton (S), Frank D'Univille (3) and Tony Morris (L).

As always, a huge thank you to Peter and Pauline for all the hard work they do, both on site as well as the background work they do from home.

Let's not forget president John for his masters of ceremony duties each week.

Next week, the group will be meeting at San Remo by 10am to once again fight it out for team(s) of the week.

Meanwhile to those still in the running for Pennant premiers, the group wishes you all the best, and look forward to seeing members win the trophies – good luck to those players.

Stay safe and see everyone next week.

## WONTHAGGI

ONCE again, it was a good week at the club.

Tuesday saw Division 1 and Division 2 playing in the second semi-final at Wonthaggi with both teams up against Phillip Island.

On a fine sunny day, Division 1 was ready for a scrap against a strong team from Phillip Island.

All rinks played well to record a solid victory – a good result under the pressure of finals.

The final scores Wonthaggi 90 Phillip Island 38.

Division 2, also playing Phillip Island, had to work hard to record a good result.

The final scores Wonthaggi 61 Phillip Island 45.

It was a very good result for the club with both Divisions 1 and 2 straight into the grand final.

Wednesday social bowls was called off because of the weather forecast for a very hot day.

Thursday saw 28 bowlers grace the greens on a fine sunny morning, enjoying a taste of autumn weather.

Saturday saw Division 2 travel to Loch for the preliminary final against Phillip Island.

On a fine sunny day, perfect for bowls on the new synthetic green at Loch, Wonthaggi was ready to go.

After a battle all day, Phillip Island was able to get to the line to record a win.

All rinks played well for the club.

The final scores Wonthaggi 45 Phillip Island 57.

Bowls this week: Tuesday, there is no Midweek Pennant as Wonthaggi have a rest before the grand final next week. Wednesday is Turkey Triples Day, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and on Saturday Wonthaggi host the grand finals, which will be a very big day.

There was a bit of good news, with three Wonthaggi bowlers with a Phillip Island bowler winning the Strzelecki South Fours recently.

The team was Joy Phillips, Caroline Donohue, Jan Jeeves and Robyn Dennis.

Well done and good luck further down the track.

Have a good week and good bowling.

## WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THERE was an incredible turn up on Friday to help celebrate Wilma Marshall receiving her life membership of the club. Since joining the club in 2001, she has worked tirelessly from committee to all other aspects of the club.

Congratulations Wilma on this well-deserved honour.

Getting back to bowling – there were 27 players on Tuesday.

The winners on plus 10, winning two games were Maggie Scapin, Helen Rook, Fred Demenech and Bill Featherson.

Runners up on plus six with a win and a draw were Pam Russell, Glenda Binch and Max Sweetnam.

There were 32 players on Friday.

The winners on plus five, winning both games, were Judy Sweetnam, Jenny Bakker, Linda Newman and John Bird.

Runners up with a win and a draw were Jean Wylde, Chris Rose, Laurie Culp and Fred Demenech.

# Aislin progresses in Paris selection

REIGNING National ISSF Women's Skeet champion and Rio Olympian Aislin Jones has retained a narrow lead in the domestic event series and secured a place in the international team for the Olympic qualification event in Doha, Qatar and the World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan in late April/early May.

The Yarra Valley Grand Prix saw a tense battle for the win between top ranked Leongatha shooter Aislin Jones and second ranked, Laura Coles of Western Australia at the fourth and final event of the domestic qualification series at Melbourne Gun Club in Lilydale on the weekend. Day one of competition opened with Aislin holding a four-point lead from the three events prior.

Some context to how tight the competition is lies in the leaderboard for the series, which after the first three events had Jones tied with two time Olympian Chloe Tipple from NZ on 357, followed by Tokyo Olympian Laura Coles on 353 and Brittany Melbourne trailing on 339.

At the conclusion of the day one and the first 75 targets of the 125 target event Coles had pulled that back to an Olympic selection ranking tie across the top three after shooting 73/75 for the day to Jones and Tipple's 69 a piece leaving the trio tied on 426 points.

Day 2 of competition would see a match of mental will and stamina play out. The pressure of the final domestic selection event and tied scores has to be well managed if it's not to impact performance. A shift in focus, even briefly to outcome rather than remaining focussed on the next target can easily convert to lost targets.

With the Melbourne Gun Club's complex tree lined backdrop making target acquisition in overcast conditions difficult, Jones' plan for the second day as the light dropped was to trust that all of the work, she had put in at Korumburra Gun Club's very complex backdrop would stand her in good stead.

"I don't think I've shot at



**Chloe Tipple (NZ) bronze, Aislin Jones Gold, Laura Coles (WA) Bronze.** Photo: Shooting Australia

Korumburra in great light yet. The targets are always hard there. If I can shoot well at Korumburra I can shoot well here," she observed in her usual quiet manner going into the day.

That faith in her process and ability resulted in two more consistent rounds of 23/25 which combined with the three 23/25 from the first day to give her a final total of 115.

Coles failed to back up her day one 73, shooting just 41/50 in the final rounds and tied with Jones on 115 and back to four points down on the Olympic selection table with only finals bonus points left to secure. Chloe Tipple took top place out of qualifying into the final with a 117, while the tie necessitated a shoot off between Coles and Jones to determine their starting order. Going just one pair into the shootoff, Jones claimed her right to the second place into the final with Coles clearly under pressure missing both targets in her pair.

As the light deteriorated in the afternoon all competitors opted for lighter lenses to help dig the targets out of the background, with tints that enable the target to stand out a little more than to the naked eye.

A tough final ensued as the

wind picked up making the pairs of targets both varied and unpredictable. Jones maintaining a narrow lead of two targets over Coles after the first 20 targets of the 60-target final.

Coles couldn't match the local leader or the Kiwi challenger in the final stages though and finished the final with the bronze medal and four bonus points for selections. Tipple and Jones completed the final targets to determine gold and silver with Jones claiming the win on 48 to Tipple's 46, more importantly maybe was the additional six points in the Olympic selections that winning gold provided.

Jones has been working hard on the physical fitness aspect of the sport and believes it's standing her in good stead.

"I've been a bit of a regular at DF Fitness in Leongatha to work on my core strength particularly for shooting. That's important in skeet so you have good control of the shotgun on these fast-crossing targets, especially in Pairs," she said.

"Other work I do there is to build fitness for my distance running which is more recreational. I love getting out on the rail trail to Koonwarra with my dog Ted, but while

it's important for running but it'll help with my stamina and dealing with the heat when it's hot in Doha, Baku and hopefully Paris too."

Jones was pleased but reserved after the win.

"I'm really pleased that I backed myself and the plan that my coach Lauryn and I put together over the past few months worked well. It was tough here but that can happen anywhere, and everyone has to shoot in the same conditions," she said.

"I'll go to Doha now and to Baku for the final two events and continue to work hard there and stick to our plan. They were the last two ranges I shot last before going to the Olympics in Rio in 2016 so hopefully that's a good sign."

The final standings for the domestic series were as follows. Chloe Tipple NZ 479, Aislin Jones VIC 478, Laura Coles WA 472, Brittany Melbourne VIC 446. The top three placed Australians now head to Qatar and Azerbaijan where the points from those events will be added to the totals above to determine who gets the sole place to represent Australia in Paris.

Aislin's fundraising to support her campaign continues at [tinyurl.com/AislinParis2024](http://tinyurl.com/AislinParis2024)

## Runners and volunteers honour Poppy Mae

'POPPY'S Run' participants set out from Leongatha on Sunday raising funds for Red Nose Australia in memory of Poppy Mae who was born sleeping on November 12 last year.

Around 100 friends and family of Poppy Mae's parents Lewie and Jordy Rankin rallied together to take part in or support the event.

Her dad Lewie and several of his mates completed a full 42km marathon, starting in Leongatha and taking in Buffalo, before finishing in Meenyan, while others tackled the 21km or 5km course.

Over the past three months over \$36,000 has been raised for Red Nose Australia in Poppy Mae's honour, thanks to the wider community.

The Invy Espy, Marriots and Bay Built Homes received a special mention from organisers, being the major sponsors for the run, with those in charge of the Powlett River Campdraft also thanked for their generous donation.

Red Nose Australia provides support for bereaved parents and families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth and child loss.

The organisation also helps fund research into possible causes and prevention of sudden unexpected death in infancy and stillbirth, having contributed over \$18 million to that cause since 1988.

With six babies on average born still in Australia every day, Jordy and Lewie have set out to do what they can to prevent other parents from going through what they have.

They plan to make 'Poppy's Run' an annual event to continue to raise awareness and to keep Poppy's legacy alive.

## Olyslagers' gold in Patterson's absence

AT THE top of the world of women's high jump it's anyone's game on the night, between the best three exponents: Victoria's Eleanor Patterson, NSW's Nicola Olyslagers and Ukraine's Yaroslava Mahuchikh.

At the world indoor athletics championships in Glasgow last Saturday, March 2 it was Nicola Olyslagers' turn to stand on the top of the dais after she completed a last-gasp clearance at 1.99 metres to knock the reigning world champion, indoor and outdoor, Yaroslava Mahuchikh off her perch.

The victory wasn't a surprise with Olyslagers having equalled the Oceania record of 2.03m outdoors in January this year, and together with Mahuchikh the only jumper to have cleared 2 metres in 2024.

Eleanor Patterson who was entered for the event announced through Athletics Australia that she had remained home "to concentrate on her preparations" for Paris but in this most fickle of sports, any minor glitch in the preparation can force a late change in plans.

All that matters now is for Eleanor to focus on lining up at Stade de France on Sunday, August 4, 2024 for the high jump final at the Paris Olympics knowing it's anyone's gold on the night.

## Nominate sport stars

GIPPSLAND Sports Academy welcomes new nominations for the Gippstar Awards.

The Gippstar awards are presented throughout the year, with nominations closing for the January and February awards today (Tuesday, March 5).

Athletes can be nominated in the following categories: Team of the Year, Club of the Year, Special Achiever Award, and Gippsland Sporting Champion.

It is a great opportunity to recognise the sporting achievements of Gippsland's athletes.

Nominations can be made online via the Gippsland Sports Academy website [gippsland.org.au/gippstar-award-nomination-forms](http://gippsland.org.au/gippstar-award-nomination-forms).



**Wonthaggi junior basketballers Tyra, Pyper, Ella and Bribie check out how the big girls go about it after their clinic with the players from NBL 1 teams Ringwood and Frankston last Saturday.**

## Basketball booming at Bass Coast Community Stadium

IT JUST shows what top-class facilities can do to local sport and engagement with the community!

That's the story of the Bass Coast Community Stadium, built in Wonthaggi as part of the Senior Campus development at the Bass Coast Secondary College, where basketball at all levels is going from strength to strength.

Last Saturday, the local association hosted a pre-season triple-header for the NBL 1 clubs Ringwood and Frankston in the Men's, Women's and Men's Youth Big V competitions and before the action started on court, there was time set aside for two junior clinics with the stars, Girls Clinic (7-16 years) at 12 noon and the boys 1pm-2pm.

"Basketball is going strongly. We've got a good domestic competition and rep teams in the Under 16 and Under 18 boys and an Under 18 girls headed to the country championships on March 16 and 17.

"We certainly wouldn't have been able to host anything like this four years ago. It's the third time we've hosted NBL 1 teams," he said.

# FOOTY TIPPING

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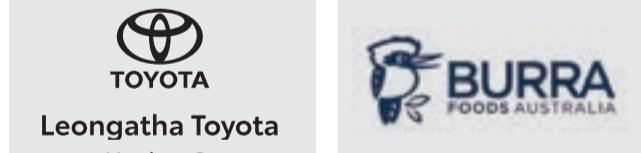
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The U14 girls division will be taking to the pitch this winter with matches starting in six weeks. C20\_1024

## Get out the footy boots girls

Exciting times are on the horizon for female football enthusiasts in South Gippsland, as training gets underway in the U14 Southern Gippsland Junior Football competition.

Following a pivotal competition meeting in early February, all clubs have unanimously agreed to introduce a dedicated U14 Girls division for the upcoming 2024 season. This decision marks a significant milestone, offering girls in the region a chance to participate in football like never before.

The introduction of the U14 Girls division means that young female athletes will now have their own platform to showcase their skills and passion for the sport. Scheduled to play on Sundays, the season will consist of 14 rounds followed by an exhilarating final series, mirroring the format of the established Mixed Competition. Matches are set to start on April 21, six weeks away!

For aspiring female footballers, this announcement opens doors to a world of possibilities at Wonthaggi, Dalyston, Leongatha, Phillip Island, Korumburra-Bena, Kilcunda-Bass and Inverloch-Kongwak.

There are still plenty of spaces to fill, so reach out to your local team for more information or call Bobbie Lee Blay on 0417 035 913.

## Local athlete's cross country desert odyssey

FROM Wonthaggi to Muscat, Oman, and now back in Melbourne, Ben Beischer, a university student, recently represented Australian Universities in the World University Cross Country Championship, a gruelling 10km race across the Arabian desert.

Growing up in Wonthaggi this young athlete's journey is nothing short of remarkable.

Ben's passion for athletics ignited during his days at the Wonthaggi Little Athletics Club. Alongside his brother, he competed regularly in both track and cross-country events at the local South Coast Athletics Club.

After moving to Melbourne for his studies, Ben continued with the sport developing his skills from the early steeplechaser practising over hay bales at home to become a real distance athlete.

Last year, at just 21 years old, Ben achieved a remarkable feat — a top-ten finish in the open men's race at the Australian Cross Country Championship. His breakthrough times over 15km and 10km on the road caught the attention of selectors, earning him a coveted spot in the Uniros team.

Representing Australia in Muscat was a moment of pride for Ben, who wore the green and gold with honour. Despite the demands of training and competition, he remains committed to balancing his athletic endeavours with his studies.

In the recent championship in Oman, Ben's crossed the finish line with bib number 106, clocking an impressive time of 0:30:39 and securing 17th place overall.



Among those enjoying the 'Rising from the Ashes' night were Alex Ellis, Bianca Farrell and Deanne Staley.



One of the organisers of the Fish Creek Football Netball Club fundraiser Jordy Shaw was delighted with the turnout, chatting to Matt Smith and Holly Lebroy.



Stony Creek's Stuart Eddy catches up with 287-game St Kilda legend Leigh 'Joey' Montagna who was a guest speaker at the 'Rising from the Ashes' fundraising night.



Stars of the night, Olympic silver medallist Belinda Snell and Vixen's key defender Kate Eddy catch-up with some of the workers at Fish Creek's big fundraiser Jasmine Manne, Lauren Gale, Abbey Shaw, Elysha Shaw and Beth Pratt.



New Mirboo North FNC President Andy McArthur catches up with the Liberal candidate for Monash Mary Aldred at the Fish Creek fundraiser last Saturday night.



Enjoying the Fish Creek Football Netball Club 'Rising from the Ashes' fundraiser are Phil Cordoma, Zoe Dellaportas and Steph Shaw with Ange Macri providing the fine fare.



Levi Cocksedge and Jacob Wrigley have a chat to football legend Brendan Fevola one of the guest speakers at the Fish Creek fundraising night.



The South Gippsland Council and staff were praised for their assistance to the Fish Creek FNC at the fundraising night. They were represented by Dianne and John Schelling, Adrian Darakai, Jenni Keerie and Scott Rae.



Carlton greets David Parkin and Brendan Fevola catch up at the Fish Creek FNC fundraising night at the Leongatha Memorial Hall.



Inverloch's Riley Harris batting against Phillip Island in the semi-final. Z40\_1024



Sharks Tim Niven bowling against Inverloch in the semi-final. Z41\_1024

## It's finals time for the U17 and U15s

By Scott Checkley  
LDCA Junior Chairman

### UNDER 17

The all-Leongatha Semi at the Leongatha Rec saw some great cricket played in front of the big crowd. Imps batting first posted a very good score with Man of the Match Clayton Quaife batting brilliantly, he was well supported by Xavier Lamers and Aydan Williams. Ethan Smith getting three wickets with his leg spin did a good job for Town. Smith and Lou Read got the Town innings off to a steady start both batting very patiently but the loss of Smith sparked a collapse of 6/23. Jack Aeschlimann then played a great counter attacking innings hitting the ball hard, highlighted by two big sixes to the Roughead St side of the oval. Imps bowling was very disciplined, Aydan Williams bowling with good pace to claim four wickets.

It promised to be a great game and it certainly did deliver, with Inverloch coming

away victors in an epic Semi-final that both teams should be congratulated on.

Man Of the Match Riley Harris opened with Andot Mankong and a 50-run opening stand had them in good shape, a few quick wickets had them on the back foot at 3/84 but a good partnership between Harris and Archie Terlich of 63 ensured Inv would post a good total, Harris batting extremely well once again showing his class and great temperament. Tim Niven the best of the Island bowlers with three wickets.

Phillip Island's chase started well with Max Arceo looking in good touch despite a few wickets falling around him. When Arceo was dismissed and the in form George McCausland shortly after the Island had stumbled to 4/54 Tim Niven and Justin Tran then batted very well to add nearly 50 and put the Island back in the game, steady wickets again started to fall and Niven who had delivered under pressure with the bat on several occasions was again the key to getting the

Island home, in a tense final few overs it was Ty Debono who held his nerve, and in the last over with the Island needing 8 to win he claimed the last wicket to give Inverloch a berth in the Grand Final.

### UNDER 15

Phillip Island claimed a spot in this year's GF with a good win over Korumburra.

Jobe Williams was named Man of the Match batting brilliantly for 53 retired with some classic cover drives the feature, Archie Williams again showing his great talent with a well made 36. Hudson Jefferis bowled very well for the Burra to claim three wickets, Korumburra's innings struggled to gain any momentum with young left armer Jackson Allan bowling brilliantly for his five wickets including the big scalp of Gooch first ball. Jayden Douglas batted well for the Burra for his 28.

Glen Alvie showed that they are a very good team, batting first the top order all making contributions to set the very good total of 178,

openers Moore and Donohue setting the tone early with patient and well-paced innings setting it up for big hitters, Man of the Match Jack Brown and Harvey Smith to finish off the innings, Fin Stechway and Hudson Guymer bowled well to claim a wicket each for NER/MDU. The chase got off to a tough start for the combine with three early wickets lost, Archie Luke proving to be a handful for the batters, Riley Prosser and Eamon Berryman having a good partnership through the middle, Berryman continued his great season with a well compiled 46 and young Josh Allen showing plenty of promise for the future with his sound technique before being run out, Codi Duscher claimed three wickets in a good spell of bowling.

Well done to everyone for a great Semi Final Day. The support at all games was fantastic, thanks to the LDCA Umpires for continuing to support Junior Cricket and the venues for hosting. We look forward to a great Grand Final day next Sunday.

### UNDER 17

#### Imperials 198 d Town 109

Imperials - 1st INNINGS: Clayton Quaife 71, Xavier Lamers 42, Aydan Williams 23, Klayton McGrath 16  
Bowling: Aydan Williams 4/12, Connor Richards 2/1  
Town - 1st INNINGS: Jack Aeschlimann 44, Ethan Smith 17, Lou Read 13  
Bowling: Ethan Smith 3/55, Hugh Livingstone 3/20, Frazer Livingstone 2/30

#### Inverloch 7/169 d Phillip Island 165

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: Riley Harris 86, Archie Terlich 23, Leni Jacobs 10  
Bowling: Ty Debono 2/37  
Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: Tim Niven 59\*, Max Arceo 22, Justin Tran 21  
Bowling: Tim Niven 3/31

### UNDER 15

#### Phillip Island 8/135 d Korumburra 96

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: Archie Williams 36, Jobe Williams 53 retired, Ethan Rhee 14  
Bowling: Jackson Allan 5/17, Brydon Marshall 2/11  
Korumburra - 1st INNINGS: Jayden Douglas 28, Flynn Belvedere 11, George Edwards 11  
Bowling: Hudson Jefferis 3/9

#### Glen Alvie 3/178 d Nerrena/MDU 9/107

Glen Alvie - 1st INNINGS: Jack Brown 50 retired, Archie Moore 38, Archie Donohue 28, Harvey Smith 27  
Bowling: Codi Duscher 3/14, Archie Luke 2/11, Luke Sholz 2/1  
Nerrena/MDU - 1st INNINGS: Eamon Berryman 45, Riley Prosser 16, Josh Allen 10  
Bowling: Hudson Guymer 1/37, Fin Stechway 1/28

## NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

### LDCA JUNIOR GRAND FINALS

#### UNDER 17's - 10am Start

Imperials v Inverloch  
SCORPION PARK  
Ash Stride / Ian Salmon

#### UNDER 15's - 10am Start

Phillip Island v Glen Alvie  
OUTTRIM RESERVE  
Les White / Geoff Parkinson  
Reserve Umpire Michael Heenan



U15 player awarded Man of the Match: Jobe Williams  
Phillip Island 53 retired.



U15 player awarded Man of the Match: Jack Brown Glen Alvie 50 retired with umpire Micheal Heenan.



U17 player awarded Man of the Match: Riley Harris  
Inverloch 86.



Under 17's player awarded  
Man of the Match: Clayton  
Quaife Imperials 71.



Glen Alvies captain Ian Thorn scored 31 runs against Phillip Island. Z24\_1024



Peter Cleary bowls for Phillip Island against Glen Alvie, with batsman Ryan Luke. Z25\_1024



Town's Poly Joseph Kallookkaran takes his turn at bowling on a tough day for his team in the field with MDU making 5/308 off 60 overs.



Dylan Zuidema and Wayne Cocksedge figured in a century-plus partnership as they took the Town bowling apart on the small Scorpion Park 2 Oval on Saturday.

## Sharks rattle Nyora

### C GRADE

TOP of the table Nyora was challenged by Kilcunda-Bass this weekend.

Kilcunda-Bass travelled out to Nyora, where it won the toss and decided to send the home team in first.

Colin Knox opened the batting for Nyora and made 20 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Kevin McLean.

A bowling onslaught from McLean, Ashley Joseph and Joel Dickson kept Nyora quiet until Jarrod Shields stepped up to the crease.

Shields redirected the ship, making 80 runs before his wicket was claimed by Joseph.

McLean claimed 3/26, Dickson took 3/27 and Joseph took 2/20.

Nyora was bowled out with a score of 10/157.

Kilcunda-Bass opened its account and faced 17 overs.

Peter Miller made 24 runs before his wicket fell to Daniel Blackney.

Gregory Miller made 38 runs.

Sitting on 1/69, Kilcunda-Bass will be vying for its target this Saturday.

### Strong performance from the Stingrays

A STRONG start to the innings has Inverloch in a good spot in its

two-day match against Koonwarra L/RSL.

Hosting the Cougars at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve, the Stingrays won the toss and chose to step up to the wicket first.

Opening batsmen David Harris and captain Warren Stewart put their best foot forward, making an early 42 and 24 runs respectively.

However, it was a 77-run haul from Shaun Hayes that really drove Inverloch to its comfortable position.

Leni Jacobs added another 37 runs later in the innings.

Wicket taking was shared between Britney Thomas and Adam Thorne, who both took 3/56.

With the Cougars ready to bat on Saturday, Inverloch is sitting on 8/257.

### Glen Alvie go in to battle

GLEN Alvie put up a fight against Phillip Island on Saturday.

Phillip Island won the toss and chose to send in the away team first.

After facing four balls, Glen Alvie lost opening batsman Daniel McGuirk for a duck.

However, the partnership of Ryan Luke and captain Ian Thorn turned it around for Glen Alvie, as they made 41 and 31 runs

respectively.

Twenty-nine runs were added by Wayne Bridle later in the innings.

For Phillip Island, Dean Mani was the top bowler, taking 3/30.

Multiple wickets were also claimed by Peter Cleary and Peter Francis.

Glen Alvie wrapped up its innings with 9/175, and Phillip Island will bat this weekend.

### MDU flex its muscle

MDU secured an impressive 5/308 against Leongatha Town on Saturday.

Town won the toss and sent MDU into bat first.

Opening batsman captain Dale Thomas made a good start to the innings, batting 39 runs.

Coming in at number four Wayne Cocksedge made his mark with 83 runs.

The MDU attack continued with Dylan Zuidema coming in at the tail end of the order, making the top score of 88 not out.

Forty-eight runs were also contributed by Glen Cocksedge.

Town's wicket taking was shared between five bowlers – Travis Strybosch, Cameron Dowling, Hugh Livingstone, Poly Joseph Kallookkaran and Max Carter.

MDU will defend its score against Town's reply this weekend.

## The Kookaburras fly high to shoot down the Bombers

### OVER 60s

THE Kookas took on the mighty Bombers in the last round of the season at the pristine Korumburra Recreation Reserve. Thanks go to Glenn Barrett/Clackers and Melissa for their magnificent venue and support.

Mr. Cricket Adams won the toss and the rampaging Kookas strode to the wicket with intent.

Wazza "The Machine" Hayes and Australian Rep Miller blasted off.

Wazza scored a brisk 12no. and Maestro Miller a blistering 41no. off a lazy 29 balls.

Tony Teflon Latham (19) and Pete Pulveriser Petrou (12) kept the hammer down.

President White continued his fine form with a stylish 22no. and Joey Francis Burke clubbed 35no from 30 balls.

With a late hard hit 20no from Geoff Slugger Birnie and good tail end support, the Kookas posted a formidable 6/223.

Forget last week's play lunch, it was great tucker for lunch and the Kookas were fuelled up for action.

Mr Cricket Adams and Geoff Birnie took the new nut and kept it tighter than Cr Johny Schellings meetings roster.

Enter the Tiga twins - Ol Grayza Wighty somehow snared three wickets in three overs and Burkey Burke was sublime in his 2/24.

The Bombers were now only flying on one engine but hung on gamely as eight bowlers trundled away, finally landing 124 runs short on 9/119.

Man of the match was Joey Burke.

That win put the Kookas, once again, very close to the top of the statewide Over 60's ladder.

To finish off the season with a bang, the Kookas head north for the Echuca Over 60's State Championship.

Watch this space for the thrilling conclusion to another great year from the South Gippsland Over 60's Golden Oldies.



South Gippsland Veterans Cricket Club the Kookaburras will play off in the Over 60's State Championship.



Phillip Island's Heath Womersley offers the perfect defence in his goal of getting to stumps with the minimum loss of wickets against Imperials in B Grade Division 1.

## Bowring leads the Stingrays' charge

### B GRADE, DIVISION 1

JOHN Bowring ensured Inverloch posted a competitive score despite the onslaught from MDU's bowlers on Saturday.

MDU won the toss and chose to send the away team into bat first.

Opening batsman and captain Brett Debono had the Stingrays off to a good start with 29 runs.

However, the bowling finesse of Zak Bright and Tyrone Zukovskis saw Inverloch struggling to put runs on the board.

Bright and Zukovskis claimed 3/39 and 3/38 respectively.

Coming in at number eight, Bowring steered the ship in the right direction and made 73 not out.

Inverloch closed its innings with 10/177. MDU will challenge the total this weekend.

### OMK challenge Town

OMK is eying off Leongatha Town's total in the wake of Saturday's match.

Playing at home, OMK won the toss and chose to bowl.

Town suffered a slow start to the innings, gradually gaining momentum.

Noah Fixter top scored with 38 runs.

Twenty-two runs were added by Fletcher McLennan.

OMK bowler Barry Wyatt was relentless, claiming 5/33.

Other wickets were shared between four OMK bowlers.

Town was bowled out with a score of 10/128.

OMK batted 15 overs and made a total of 2/36.

Opening batsman Luke Jones made 27 not out.

Town bowler Levi Hickey ensured to keep the pressure on the Diggers, taking 2/21. OMK's innings will continue this Saturday.

### Team effort for Koony

KOONWARRA L/RSL played a consistent innings against Korumburra.

A team effort resulted in a score of 8/196 for the Cougars.

Korumburra had won the toss and chose to send the Cougars into bat first.

The opening partnership of Anthony Hunt and William



Phillip Island's Dave Womersley pulls one to the boundary on his way to the highest score of 82 against Nerrena at the Leongatha Velodrome Oval last Saturday.

### B GRADE, DIVISION 2

#### Sharks put up a contest

A FAIRLY consistent innings resulted in a handy score for Kilcunda-Bass in its two-day match against Glen Alvie.

Playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve, the home side won the toss and chose to bat.

The opening partnership of Brett Joseph and captain Bradley Waldron provided a confident start to the innings, producing 20 and 24 runs respectively.

The runs continued ticking over with Robert Blackney (33 runs), Steven Oates (38 runs) and James Mahood (35 runs).

Kilcunda-Bass finished off its innings on a nice note as Allan Bedford top scored with 53 not out.

Glen Alvie kept things competitive with bowlers Lachlan McRae and Darcy Hale claiming 2/33 and 2/32.

Kilcunda-Bass played out its allotted 70 overs, resulting in a score of 7/253.

Glen Alvie will bat this Saturday.

#### Phillip Island clash with Nerrena

PHILLIP Island produced a competitive score in the battle between second and third on Saturday.

Coming up against Nerrena, the Sharks won the toss and

chose to set the pace of the game.

Sarith Angelo opened well, scoring 29 runs.

Coming in at number four, David Womersley made a statement to Nerrena, top scoring with 82 runs before a catch from Jack Donohue saw him dismissed.

It wasn't over, with Andrew Tolley coming in at number seven and hitting 71 runs.

Eamon Berryman was Nerrena's top bowler, claiming 3/29.

Cameron Baudinette, Scott Checkley and Roy Checkley were also multiple wicket takers.

Phillip Island ended the day bowled out 10/252, with Nerrena ready to play its innings this weekend.

#### Cobras take on Club

KORUMBURRA travelled to Wonthaggi to face Club on Saturday.

The Cobras were the first to bat and Paul Dixon top scored with 61 runs.

Noah Belvedere contributed 45 runs to the tally.

For Club, Scott Williams was the standout bowler, putting the pressure on the Cobras and taking 5/25.

Alan Babu also performed well, claiming 3/45.

After 65 overs, Korumburra was bowled out 10/194. Club is set to bat this weekend.

Foster forfeited its two-day match against OMK.

### B GRADE

### DIVISION 1

#### Inverloch 177 v MDU

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: A Mankhong 3, B Debono 29, J Donohue 1, W Rankin 3, G Eddy 12, J Rowe 8, T Debono 5, J Bowring 73\*, J Mottram Carter 5, C O'Flynn 5, M Marston 4  
Bowling: M Olden 1/43, Z Bright 3/39, T Zukovskis 3/38, C Hoober 2/21, Private player 1/11, R Prosser 0/8, W Prosser 0/10, M Hoober 0/3

#### Town 128 v OMK 2/36

Town - 1st INNINGS: A Fixter 6, E Smith 9, L Ashton 0, S Clark 20, N Fixter 38, L Hickey 0, F McLennan 22, J Schelling 0, A Hickey 4, D Goss 0\*, V Peiris 0  
Bowling: A Trotto 1/27, R Foster 1/15, N Wylie 0/9, H James 0/13, K Kerr 0/4, B Wyatt 5/33, J Hayes 1/6, B Maguire 1/9  
OMK - 1st INNINGS: A Trotto 4, L Jones 27\*, J Hayes 0, D Creed 1\*  
Bowling: L Hickey 2/21, F McLennan 0/13, E Smith 0/2

#### Imperials 90 v Phillip Island 1/26

Imperials - 1st INNINGS: C Reid 18, G Sauvarin 10, J Ballagh 6, F Botha 5, K McGrath 25, C Bruce 0, D McLennan 0, M Reidy 10, J Jeffery 9, I Bolge 0, K Gray 0\*  
Bowling: H Arceo 1/24, J Williams 2/9, A Williams 0/20, H Womersley 2/6, K Lane 3/8, M Arceo 2/19  
Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: H Womersley 7\*, M Arceo 5, H Peppard 9\*  
Bowling: M Reidy 1/15, K McGrath 0/6, J Ballagh 0/2, J Jeffery 0/0

#### Koonwarra L/RSL 8/196 v Korumburra

Koonwarra L/RSL - 1st INNINGS: A Hunt 36, W Cashin 31, H Scrimshaw 19, M Scrimshaw 0, L Read 27, B Anderson 27, A Drury 35\*, M Boswell 0, J Geary 0, S Chadwick 2\*  
Bowling: M Olden 1/42, M Loader 0/30, P Edwards 1/27, S Head 2/53, B Riddell 3/32, T Dole 0/3

### B GRADE

### DIVISION 2

#### Phillip Island 252 v Nerrena

Phillip Island - 1st INNINGS: S Angelo 29, T Asurumuni 0, T Hornsby 15, D Womersley 82, D McCausland 13, T Allan 5, A Tolley 71, W Paterson 4, J Parry 14, A Williams 1, J Allan 0\*  
Bowling: C Baudinette 2/25, W Croatto 1/54, S Checkley 2/27, B Croatto 0/13, P Johnston 0/39, R Checkley 2/32, J Donohue 0/29, E Berryman 3/29

#### Kilcunda-Bass 7/253 v Glen Alvie

Kilcunda-Bass - 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 20, B Waldron 24, R Blackney 33, S Oates 38, R Gardine 9, J Mahood 35, A Bedford 53\*, A McBride 6, B Rookes 14\*  
Bowling: L McRae 2/33, H Driscoll 1/48, Private Player 0/31, C Duscher 0/27, T Gunn 1/28, D Hale 2/32, V Kumar Gopal 0/1, C Andersen 1/31, Private player 0/3

#### Korumburra 194 v Club

No further results provided.

#### OMK d Foster

OMK won on a forfeit.

### C GRADE

#### Inverloch 8/257 v Koonwarra L/RSL

Inverloch - 1st INNINGS: D Harris 42, W Stewart 24, J Smith 17, W Chapman 0, S Hayes 77, M Woods 1, J Belli 12, L Jacobs 37, C Butler 10\*, J Foote 0\*  
Bowling: Private Player 0/29, S Paterson 0/11, T Collins 1/25, B Thomas 3/56, A Thorne 3/56, T Lund 0/1, A Piksons 1/32, R Collins 0/17

#### Glen Alvie 9/175 v Phillip Island

Glen Alvie - 1st INNINGS: D McGuirk 0, R Luke 41, I Thorn 31, L Scholz 14, J Burke 2, C Stewart 10, W Bridle 29, O Luff 9, A Moore 6, N Luff 6\*, K Simpson 19\*  
Bowling: P Cleary 2/37, M Cleary 1/25, P Francis 2/24, J Johnston 1/29, D Mani 3/30, B Marshall 0/25

#### Nyora 157 v Kilcunda-Bass 1/69

Nyora - 1st INNINGS: C Knox 20, J Knox 11, K Linford 2, B Pugh 0, D Blackney 8, W Dixon 5, J Shields 80, K Maclure 0, L Brock 15, A Linford 0, A White 1\*  
Bowling: K McLean 3/26, A Joseph 2/20, J Dickson 3/27, K Anand 0/13, S Williams 0/43, J Matser 0/12, P Hammer 1/10  
Kilcunda-Bass - 1st INNINGS: G Miller 38\*, P Miller 24, S Williams 0\*  
Bowling: K Maclure 0/29, L Brock 0/12, D Blackney 1/15, T Perkins 0/29, W Dixon 0/0

#### MDU 5/308 v Town

No results provided.



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## LEONGATHA &amp; DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Ryan Thomas (Club) 130 ; Max Royal (Phillip Island) 7/50

A2: Matthew Donohue (Glen Alvie) 124 ; Jack Weston (Foster) 4/54

B1: John Bowring (Inverloch) 73\* ; Barry Wyatt (OMK) 5/33

B2: David Womersley (Phillip Island) 82 ; Eamon Berryman (Nerrena) 3/29

C: Jarrod Shields (Nyora) 80 ; Kevin McLean (Kilcunda-Bass) 3/26

## NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES &amp; UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 14 – DAY 2  
SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024

## A GRADE, Division 1

## Town v OMK

SCORPION 1

Ash Stride

## P-Island v Imperials

NEWHAVEN

Ian Salmon

## Korumburra v Club

KORUMBURRA TURF

John Schelling

## Inverloch v Nerrena

INVERLOCH TURF

Ken Scrimshaw

## A Grade, Division 2

## Koonwarra L/RSL v Club

LEONGATHA TURF

Warren Williams

## Foster v MDU

FOSTER GC

Graham Wightman

## Glen Alvie v Kilcunda-Bass

WONTHAGGI TURF

Brad Phillips

## Nerrena v Nyora

NERRENA

Les White

## B GRADE, Division 1

## Imperials v Phillip Island

EAST CAMPUS

Geoff Birnie

## Koon L/RSL v Korumburra

KOONWARRA

Neil Grabham

## OMK v Town

OUTTRIM

No Umpire

## MDU v Inverloch

MEENIYAN

Geoff Parkinson

## B GRADE, Division 2

## Club v Korumburra

McMAHON

No Umpire

## Kilcunda-Bass v Glen Alvie

BASS 1

No Umpire

## OMK v Foster

DIGGER PARK

No Umpire

## Nerrena v Phillip Island

LG VELEDROME

Michael Ryan

## C GRADE

## Town v Meeniyian

SCORPION 2

Michael Heenan

## Inverloch v Koonwarra L/RSL

INVERLOCH

No Umpire

## Phillip Island v Glen Alvie

RHYLL

No Umpire

## Nyora v Kilcunda-Bass

NYORA

No Umpire

## Korumburra - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.  
Any prospective  
umpires can contactJason O'Reilly 0439 688 575  
or Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136

## LEONGATHA &amp; DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Ryan Thomas (Club) 130 ; Max Royal (Phillip Island) 7/50

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C: Jarrod Shields (Nyora) 80 ; Kevin McLean (Kilcunda-Bass) 3/26

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# Thrills and crazy spills in final round of cricket

## A GRADE, DIVISION 1

WITH three teams vying for two places in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association finals, starting in little more than a week's time, and two in the drop zone, there were some crazy plays and some thrilling highlights on Saturday.

And vying for the top of the highlights was the pair of centuries by Wonthaggi Club brothers Mitch and Ryan Thomas who shared a 103-partnership in the middle stages of the Club innings at Korumburra with each going on to make 100s.

Mitch Thomas opened the innings with 113 off 144 and enjoyed the moment of posting the three figures with his brother up the other end before holing out off Yashan Vithanage.

Ryan Thomas then put on a brutal display of hitting to completely decimate the Korumburra bowling line-up with 130 off 106 balls including 16 fours and two sixes, sharing the moment with Stuart Beaumont who went on to useful supporting role with 42 not out.

It was the first time the brothers have scored a ton each in an A Grade match for Wonthaggi Club, but over the club's long and successful history, with 23 premierships in 43 years, we're told there have been a couple of other brothers who've done likewise.

Can you tell us who they are? Bonus points for when and in what circumstances.

## Imps stun the Sharks

The other highlight, or low-light of the day, depending on your perspective was the disastrous batting performance by Phillip Island on the sometimes tricky, new synthetic deck at Newhaven.

Right-arm medium pacer Lucas Anderson got the game going Leongatha Imperials' way with three of the talented top four for the Island out in short order; Lachie Cleeland 2, Tom Niven for a duck and the danger man Daniel Mock for eight and with Lachie Wright finding rhythm with his pace, trouble turned to disaster with Shiran Rathnayake gone for 6 and both Eli Richards and Kohen Beaumont posting ducks.

Tim Sauvarin and Jack Ginnane cleaned up the rest and by despatching the Sharks within a couple of hours, they caught out Brodie Johnston who was competing in the Penguin Dash swim and run event in Cowes.



**Another one bites the dust! Phillip Island's George McCausland is out bowled by Jack Ginnane as they head to an all out score of 37.**



**In a rare sporting achievement, Wonthaggi Club brothers Mitch and Ryan Thomas peeled off dual centuries at Korumburra on Saturday to have their team in fine shape going into yet another finals campaign.**

He was "timed out" by the umpires when plans for two sports in a day went astray.

However, the crucial, last-round contest for Imperials' hopes of regaining their place in the top four isn't over yet with Imperials managing a response of 115, principally on the back of a fine 38 by Nick Eddy and some dour efforts further down the list.

Imps hold a 61-run lead going into Day Two next week, with

Phillip Island's openers Tom Niven 1 and the villain of the hour, Brodie Johnston 14 getting their side off to a positive start.

The equation for Imps is relatively simple, contain the Sharks' scoring next week and then either polish off the target to avoid the dreaded "reverse outright" or simply occupy the crease for the rest of the day and they'll be in the finals, likely at the expense of OMK.

Then guess what, Imps would play Phillip Island again with the runaway leaders of the competition unlikely to put in that sort of performance again.

## Town off and running

IN THE other A Grade Division 1 game with a spot in the finals on the line, Leongatha Town's much-vaunted batting line-up produced the goods, led at the top of the order by enormous servant of the club, Amila Ratnaike, 75 off 108 balls, in his last home-and-away match for the club after announcing his retirement during the week.

The captain Jesse Giardina gave the stability to the innings with 71 off 145 balls when opening and there were some fine contributions down the order by Ron Abeysinghe 45, DLMP Gallage 60 and Panda Jayasinghe 34 on the way to 9/324 off 75 against some top bowling, it must be said, headed by the lightning pace of Mudassar Riaz 1/57 and the guile of Peter Dell 3/36.

OMK have the job in front of them next week, but if they reach 325, they're in.

## Nerrena take on Inverloch

In the drop zone, Inverloch and Nerrena are engaged in a worthy battle for each of these proud clubs to avoid relegation to A Grade Division 2 next year with Nerrena putting up a hard-fought 9/181 off their 75 overs, with Darcy Berryman 24 and Josh Trease 10 contributing potentially a match-winning partnership at the end.

Nerrena battled it out against Inverloch on Saturday.

The Red Caps travelled out to Inverloch's Thompson Reserve and won the toss.

Loc Roberts opened the batting well, making 24 runs despite losing Hayden Funnell for a duck, bowled by Isaac Seuren.

Nerrena captain Mitchell Clark came in at number four and top scored with 79 runs.

For Inverloch, Jesse Dugard was the standout, taking 4/36.

Lewis Rankin was also a multiple wicket taker.

Inverloch will fancy its chances of reaching the gettable total next Saturday but with the ultimate pressure of relegation on their minds, it's very much anyone's game.

It has been one of the most action-packed last A1 rounds for many years and raises prospects of a thrilling final series ahead.



Luke Anstey occupied the crease for Wonthaggi Club in their A2 match against Koonwarra-L/RSL but couldn't penetrate a well-set field, ultimately out caught off Callum Buckland for 8 runs off 57 deliveries.

## Glen Alvie in a good spot for semis

### A GRADE, DIVISION 2

AN impressive 124-run haul from Matthew Donohue has Glen Alvie sitting comfortably in its two-day match against Kilcunda-Bass.

Playing at Wonthaggi's Butch West oval, Glen Alvie won the toss and stepped up to the wicket first.

Donohue opened the batting for Glen Alvie, making his ton before he was bowled by Todd Smith.

Captain Stephen Kennedy later contributed 89 runs before he was dismissed by a catch from Cameron on Davidson.

Wickets were shared amongst the Kilcunda-Bass bowlers, with Smith, Harrison Berry, Owen Thomas and Matthew Grayson taking one each.

Glen Alvie closed its innings with a score of 5/276. Kilcunda-Bass will bat on Saturday.

### Nyora eye another win

LADDER leader Nyora produced a solid innings against Nerrrena, including a ton from Jake Hackett.

Hackett proved unstoppable, coming in to bat at number four and making 109 runs.

He was not out at stumps.

Captain Henry Dolphin had opened the batting and made 37 runs.

Another 25 runs was added by vice captain Jake Henry.

Nerrrena's top bowlers were Jaxon Checkley and Tyson Harris, who took 3/46 and 3/43 respectively.

Zack Trease was also claimed multiple wickets.

Nyora recorded a total of 9/249 at the end of its innings.

Nerrrena will bat on Saturday.

### MDU show competitive edge

PAUL Le Page led the charge for a competitive score for MDU in its two-day match against Foster.

Playing at Foster, MDU won the toss and went into bat.

The away team suffered a slow start, with the opening partnership quickly dismissed by Foster bowler Jack Weston.

Le Page stepped in and made 119 runs before his innings was ended by a catch from Jake Staley.

Mark Cantwell added 32 runs late in the innings and was not out.

Weston was Foster's top bowler, claiming 4/54.



Koonwarra-L/RSL's Jason Kennedy took 13/15 off 11 overs to help reduce Wonthaggi Club to 121 runs all out at the Leongatha Turf last Saturday.



Justin Licens 26, equal top-scored for Wonthaggi Club in A Grade Division 2 before holing out to Koonwarra's Michael Thomas off Jason Kennedy.

Eddie Smith took 2/20.

MDU ended the day with 9/234, with Foster ready to bat this Saturday.

### Club battle it out

WONTHAGGI Club will need to dig deep to defend its total from Koonwarra L/RSL.

Club won the toss and chose to bat.

Sean Roche and Justin Licens top scored, each making 26 runs.

Vice captain Jason O'Reilly contributed 15 runs.

Koonwarra L/RSL bowlers Jason Kennedy and Nathan Trotto enjoyed

a successful day, taking 3/15 and 3/13 respectively.

Callum Buckland claimed 2/4, cleaning up the bottom of the order and ending the innings.

Club is set to defend 10/121.

Koonwarra L/RSL opened its account.

Captain James Rushton and Michael Thomas opened the batting, making 12 and 10 runs respectively.

Both were not out at stumps, leaving Koonwarra L/RSL sitting on a total of 0/23 ahead of Saturday's second day.

### A GRADE

#### Town 7/321 v OMK

Town – 1st INNINGS

Jesse Giardina c: N Auddino
b: E Lamers ..... 71
Darcy Hume c: E Lamers b: P Dell ..... 1
Amila Ratnayake c: C Quaife b: M Riaz ..... 75
Ron Abeysinghe c: P Fermanis
b: E Lamers ..... 45
DLMP Gallage lbw: P Dell ..... 60
P Jayasinghe c: K Brann
b: J Cochrane ..... 34
Rob Eddy not out ..... 14*
Josh Williams c: J Cochrane b: P Dell ..... 6
Luke Bowman not out ..... 4*
Extras (1nb, 3lb, 7b) ..... 11
<b>Total 7 / 321 (74.3 Overs)</b>
Bowling: M Riaz 19-7-57-1 (1nb), P Dell 12-5-36-3, J Cochrane 9.3-0-55-1, J Lamers 10-1-33-0, E Lamers 18-2-87-2, N Auddino 2-0-8-0, T Wyatt 4-0-35-0

#### Nerrena 9/181 v Inverloch

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS

Loc Roberts lbw: J Dugard ..... 24
Hayden Funnell b: I Seuren ..... 0
Timothy Wightman lbw: JDugard ..... 11
Mitchell Clark c: L Rankin
b: J Dugard ..... 79
Tadgh Gannon c: J Butcher
b: C Asbury ..... 3
Josh Checkley c: C Asbury
b: L Rankin ..... 13
Jarrod Hoy run out: L Rankin ..... 6
Darcy Berryman not out ..... 24*
Caine Salmon b: J Dugard ..... 1
Ryan Clark c: J Strickland b: L Rankin ..... 0
Josh Trease not out ..... 10*
Extras (1w, 6nb, 2lb, 1b) ..... 10
<b>Total 9 / 181 (75 Overs)</b>
Bowling: L Rankin 21-4-53-2 (2nb), I Seuren 8-2-11-1 (1nb), C Asbury 17-5-41-1, J Dugard 16-3-36-4 (3nb), C Newman 7-2-19-0, J Dennerley 6-0-18-0 (1w)

#### Club 4/402 v Korumburra

Club – 1st INNINGS

Mitch Thomas c: Z Barrett
b: Y Vithanage ..... 113
Emmet Dempsey c: Z Barrett
b: Y Vithanage ..... 45
Ben Walsh c: T Crocker b: H McNeil ..... 41
Ryan Thomas lbw: N Belpage ..... 130
Stewart Beaumont not out ..... 42*
Joel Brann not out ..... 11*
Extras (2w, 6nb, 2lb, 10b) ..... 20
<b>Total 4 / 402 (75 Overs)</b>
Bowling: N Belpage 9-0-43-1, H McNeil 15-0-91-1 (2nb), T Crocker 10-1-57-0,

### A GRADE

#### MDU 9/234 v Foster

MDU – 1st INNINGS

Steve Arnup lbw: J Weston ..... 0
Mitch McGrath c: M Jones b: J Weston 4
Paul Le Page c: J Staley b: E Smith ..... 119
Matt Olden c: E Smith b: J Weston ..... 4
Joel Sinclair st: M Jones b: H Griggs ..... 21
Troy Sinclair c: M Jones b: E Smith ..... 23
Sam Bright c&b: J Best ..... 8
Kurt Sinclair b: J Weston ..... 6
Mark Cantwell not out ..... 32*
Andrew Richardson lbw: J Toner ..... 6
Jake Palmer not out ..... 5*
Extras (2w, 3nb, 1lb) ..... 6
<b>Total 9 / 234 (69 Overs)</b>
Bowling: J Weston 17-3-54-4 (2w, 1nb), R Johnston 9-3-24-0, J Toner 10-2-46-1, J Staley 18-2-57-0 (1nb), H Griggs 3-0-16-1, E Smith 7-1-20-2 (1nb), J Best 5-0-16-1

#### Club 121 v Koon L/RSL 0/23

Club – 1st INNINGS

David Britt c: I Darshana
b: J Kennedy ..... 12
Sean Roche c: J Kennedy
b: A Mehmoed ..... 26
Jai Williamson c: J Kennedy ..... 0
Jason O'Reilly b: N Trotto ..... 15
Heath Dobbie c: J Rushton b: N Trotto 2
Justin Licens c: M Thomas
b: J Kennedy ..... 26
Chris Fraser b: I Darshana ..... 6
Rohan Todd lbw: N Trotto ..... 0
Luke Anstey c: N Arnup b: C Buckland 8
Lucas McRae lbw: C Buckland ..... 8
Jatin Shannon not out ..... 4*
Extras (2w, 2lb, 10b) ..... 14
<b>Total 10 / 121 (64.1 Overs)</b>
Bowling: J Thomas 8-3-11-0, I Darshana 8.1-2-9-1, N Arnup 5-2-11-0, J Kennedy 11-3-15-3, A Mehmoed 11-3-33-1, A Mujtaba 7-2-13-0, N Trotto 9-4-13-2 (2nb), C Buckland 5-3-4-2

#### Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS

James Rushton not out ..... 12*
Michael Thomas not out ..... 10*
Extras (1lb) ..... 1

### DIVISION 1

#### Y Vithanage 25-5-98-2 (1nb),

H Ratnayake 8-1-32-0 (2w), J Whiteside 2-0-9-0, N Christensen 3-0-25-0, D Whelan 3-0-35-0 (3nb)

#### Phillip Island 37 & 0/17

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS

Lachlan Cleland c: L Wright

b: L Anderson ..... 2

Thomas Niven c: DW Arachchige

b: L Anderson ..... 0

Daniel Mock b: L Anderson ..... 8

Shiran Rathnayake c: DW Arachchige

b: L Wright ..... 6

Eli Richards c: L Wright ..... 0

Kohen Beaumont b: L Wright ..... 0

Max Royal c: N Eddy b: T Sauvarin ..... 9

Zac Brown c: DW Arachchige

b: T Sauvarin ..... 1

George McCausland b: J Ginnane ..... 2

Timothy Niven not out ..... 0\*

Brodie Johnston timed out ..... 0

Extras (4w, 1nb, 4lb) ..... 9

**Total 10 / 37 (25.1 Overs)**

Bowling: L Wright 9-3-14-3 (1w), L Anderson 8-4-15-3 (3w), T Sauvarin 4-1-3-2-2, J Ginnane 4-2-2-1 (1nb)

**Imperials – 1st INNINGS**

Luke Rogers c: K Beaumont

b: M Royal ..... 0

Nick Eddy c: T Niven b: M Royal ..... 38

Timothy Sauvarin c: L Wright ..... 0

Mark Lafferty c: D Mock b: M Royal ..... 8

DW Arachchige c: L Cleeland

b: M Royal ..... 10

Jack Ginnane c: L Cleeland b: M Royal ..... 4

Damon Ginnane c: L Cleeland

&lt;p

Email your reports to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)



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Co-presidents of the Fish Creek Football Netball Club, Ray Stefani and Nick Shaw, with Carlton legend Brendan Fevola, and the 'Everyday Australia' beer he donated for the night. Nick and Ray warmly praised everyone who contributed to the success of the night.



Fish Creek FNC life member and former president (1991, 92, 93) Lou Seuren can just make out the date on one of the senior premierships cups won during his time, but destroyed in last November's fire.

## Fish Creek reels in Fev

CARLTON great, sometimes bad boy, Brendan Fevola has taken his support for the Fish Creek Football Netball Club's recovery, after the disastrous fire of November 2023, to a new level.

Going beyond donating dozens of cans of his new 'Everyday Australia' beer for the 'Rising from the Ashes' fundraising sports night last Saturday night, he told a packed room of revellers at the Leongatha Memorial Hall that he would pull on the famous Kangaroos' jumper this season, for free, in yet another fundraising effort.

And in so doing, he committed his wingman on the night, 287-game St Kilda legend, Leigh 'Joey' Montagna, to a spot in the Fish Creek twos!

"I'm going to need an extra, extra large jumper and a nor-

mal-size pair of shorts and Joey will play in the Twos," he told a jubilant crowd.

Will they have them? You bet!

Speaking at the end of the night, to give out their thank yous for the incredible amount of support the club received in putting on the night, club presidents Ray Stefani and Nick Shaw said they would definitely find a spot for both Brendan Fevola and Leigh Montagna in the senior team for a feature fundraising match during the season.

With the auction of holidays, AFL entertainment packages and sporting memorabilia to follow, it was a popular way to end a highly entertaining and successful fundraising night.

So far, the final amount raised is undisclosed, but would be upwards of \$30,000 raised

on the night not including the \$26,000 pledged from the annual Fish Creek Hall summer holiday fundraising effort and \$6000 from the Fish Creek Community Development Group.

With the work already done, and funding from other sources, Ray Stefani said the club would have its temporary rooms open in time for the start of the season and would be able to host all of its home games this year.

But he left no one under any illusions that there is still a long way to go.

"Everything about Fish Creek comes back to that old saying, little town, big heart and the same goes for a lot of other small-town clubs and I include Mirboo North in that too. Despite the job they have ahead of them, after the tornado which struck

the town, they've been able to send some support over here for us tonight," said Mr Stefani.

New Mirboo North FNC President Andy McCarthy and several others supported the night.

"But we've still got a long journey ahead of us to rebuild our rooms," Mr Stefani said.

Co-president Nick Shaw joined in, thanking the many people and local businesses who had contributed to the success of the night, paying tribute to the Traralgon Football Club who had bought a table and sent over 12 representatives of the club, which was still battling back after their rooms were destroyed by flooding a few years ago.

He pledged reciprocal support for a function they were planning.

The night was a highly enter-

taining affair with guest speakers Neil Balme, David Parkin, Belinda Snell, Kate Eddy, Brendan Fevola and Leigh Montagna providing their insights into sport and their own careers, covering a variety of subjects including the concussion related injuries.

A highlight of the night was the performance by one of Australia's best stand-up comedians Des Dowling.

Auction results included: \$6000 & \$5000 for 2 x AFL hospitality packages (12 people), \$1900 golf package (4 players) at Cathedral Lodge and Golf Club in the north east of Victoria, \$2100 for a signed 2023 Collingwood football jumper, \$950 for a signed Ricky Ponting bat, and \$1200 for the Steven Bradbury 'last man standing' memorabilia.

See pics page 58.

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